



C6: Projecting armed conflict and unrest under climate change scenarios

Host: **Elisabeth Gilmore** (*Clark University, USA*)

Co-hosts: Håvard Hegre (*Uppsala University, Sweden*), Drew Bowsby (*Pardee Center for International Futures, USA*)

Rapporteur: Maria Martin (*PIK, Germany*)

Summary of themes covered in workshop

- Possibilities for modelling conflict, and especially the climate component therein
- Quantitative conflict forecasting models that may be especially well suited for modeling conflict and climate include efforts at PRIO/Uppsala on long-term forecasts, VIEWS and International Futures
- Existing conflict forecasting reveal that the socio-economic risks for conflict might be going down even as climate risks increase.
- Discussion:
 - The role and importance of and how to extend the modeling on other perceived elements in conflict, such as resources, food prices, access to weapons, and inequality.
 - The stability of these relationships over time and the relative importance of climate in the future.
 - Climate may have very different impacts depending on the type of conflict (e.g. it is important to clearly identify the type of conflict under consideration)

Most controversial question that came up in this workshop?

Does conflict forecasting provide any useful information for the development of policy solutions?
How can this link be enhanced?

Results of the discussion

There are gaps between academic and practitioners. Potential directions include:

- Improve the shared socioeconomic pathways (SSPs) used by the climate research community by including political factors (like conflict)
- Enhance the consideration of opportunities for environmental cooperation as an alternative to conflict.

Research gaps identified

- More research on potential policy opportunities to prevent conflict – for example the research on environmental cooperation.

There is the need for better data to empirical analysis, e.g. disaggregation of different types of violence, different types of conflict termination and agreements, and the indirect effects of climate impacts on socioeconomic conditions that lead to violence, such as economic performance and food prices.

Next steps

- Improve the ability to identify near-term hotspots for rapid intervention
- More systematic consideration of the causal pathways from climate risks to conflict and cooperation
- Better translation of the forecasting results to the policy community

Other

NA

3-5 keywords that characterize the session

Conflict, complex, climate, solutions, gap