

Heidi

Define your research question

Public level

I study how and why groups of countries - called international organizations - succeed and fail to resolve conflicts around the world. Because conflicts last a long time and are hard to end, organizations like the UN and NATO have to make tough choices about where to send troops and how to spend money. In my research, I focus on explaining what these organizations learn from their efforts to resolve these conflicts and how they try to change so as to save more human lives.

Disciplinary level

Discipline: Political Science

My research identifies the conditions under which international organizations, such as the UN or NATO, are effective and ineffective in international conflict management. My work involves large numbers of elite interviews (e.g. 100+) and survey experiments. My two areas of expertise are in international organizations and international security.

Sub-field level

Subfield: International Relations

My research lies at the intersection of international organizations and international security. I seek to identify conditions under which international organizations (e.g. UN, NATO) are effective and ineffective in international conflict management. Building on organizational learning and organizational theory research, I identify bureaucratic dysfunctions and examine informal and formal processes that facilitate effective and ineffective decision-making in these organizations. I have published two books and articles on efficiency, institutional memory, organizational learning and gender mainstreaming in international organizations.

Lab level: How do you talk about the work with your co-authors and research assistants?

(Not applicable to my research)

Elevator Pitch

Headline

I study how and why groups of countries - called international organizations - succeed and fail to resolve conflicts around the world. Examples of these organizations include the United Nations, NATO and the European Union.

Elaboration

My research involves interviewing and conducting survey experiments on large numbers of political and military elites (such as high-level military officials and ambassadors) so as to understand how bureaucratic problems within international organizations help or hurt their ability to be effective. Few studies have taken such a close look at the people within these organizations and how - as individuals - they affect the organizations' performance.