MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE
for Political and Social Science

Inaugural Meeting of the Department of Political Institutions and Conflict

Harnack-Haus, Berlin | April 8–10, 2026

Wednesday, April 8

15:30-18:30 Welcome address and introduction

18:30-19:30 Welcome dinner

19:30-20:30 Evening briefing

Thursday, April 9

Conference Sessions

09:00–11:00 **Welcome and Paper Session I: Identity and political representation**

Welcome: **Ursula Daxecker** (Max Planck) and co-presenter **Pawas Pratikshit** (UvA)
Introducing the Department Themes and Research Program

Paper 1: **Ruth Carlitz** (UvA)
Rendering Gender Visible in Climate Finance: The Political Economy of Gender Tagging
Discussant: Alex Scacco (Hamburg)

Paper 2: **Oliver Heath** (Royal Holloway)
Do Local candidates reduce ethnic polarization? Evidence from India
Discussant: Krzysztof Krakowski (KCL)

11:00–11:30 *Coffee Break*

11:30-12:30 Steering group session

12:30–13:30 *Lunch*

13:30–15:00 **Paper Session II: Political violence in democracy**

Paper 1: **Hanne Fjelde** (Uppsala)
Pre-analysis Plan: Whose rights are worth defending? Organized violent crime and public support for liberal democracy
Discussant: Imke Harbers (UvA)

Paper 2: **Andrea Ruggeri** (Milan)
The State and the Citizen Dilemma Exposure to Political Violence, Individual Liberties and Community Safety
Discussant: Hanne Fjelde (Uppsala)

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15:00-15:30 *Coffee Break*

15:30-18:30 **Paper Session III: Democratization and political development**

Paper 1: **Imke Harbers** (UvA)
Birth Certificates and Ballots: How Mexico's Transition to Democracy Expanded Legal Identity
Discussant: Andrea Ruggeri (Milan)

Paper 2: **Ankita Barthwal** (Max Planck)
How Colonialism Shaped Party Development in India
Discussant: Ruth Carlitz (UvA)

18:30–19:30 Dinner

19:30–21:00 Evening discussion

Friday, April 10

Conference Sessions

08:45–09:15 Steering group session

09:15–10:45 **Session IV: Legacies of violence**

Paper 1: **Gerald Schneider** (Konstanz) & **Alexa Timlick** (Konstanz)
Lifting the veil of violence: Inequality after war
Discussant: Enzo Nussio (Zurich)

Paper 2: **Enzo Nussio** (Zurich) & **Krzysztof Krakowski** (King's College London)
Surviving Peace: What Kills Ex-Combatants after Armed Conflict
Discussant: Gerald Schneider (Konstanz)

10:45–11:15 Coffee break

11:15–12:00 **Final Session**

Ursula Daxecker (Max Planck) & **Moritz Dyczek** (UvA)
Explaining Why Populist Parties Campaign with Violence and How Voters Respond
Discussant: Oliver Heath (Royal Holloway)

12:00-13:00 Lunch

13:00-14:00 Concluding discussion

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Participants	Steering group
Ankita Barthwal, Research Fellow at Max Planck Institute for Political and Social Science	
Ruth Carlitz, Associate Professor of Political Science at University of Amsterdam	✓
Ursula Daxecker, Professor of Political Science at University of Amsterdam & Max Planck Institute for Political and Social Science	✓
Moritz Dyczek, Research Associate in Social and Behavioural Sciences at University of Amsterdam	
Hanne Fjelde, Professor of Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University	✓
Imke Harbers, Associate Professor of Political Science at University of Amsterdam	✓
Oliver Heath, Professor of Politics at Royal Holloway, University of London	✓
Krzysztof Krakowski, Lecturer in Political Economy at King's College London	✓
Enzo Nussio, Professor of Political Science at University of Zurich	
Pawas Pratikshit, Graduate Researcher at University of Amsterdam	
Andrea Ruggeri, Professor of Social and Political Sciences at University of Milan	✓
Alexandra Scacco, Professor of Political Science esp. Comparative Political Science at University of Hamburg	✓
Gerald Schneider, Professor of International Politics at University of Konstanz	✓
Alexa Timlick, Research Assistant at University of Konstanz	