Bringing Peace from Above?  
State Capacity, Civil War De-Escalation and The Composition of the Stock of Military Equipment  
Nauro Campos, Martin Gassebner & Tobias Korn

Does Civil War (De)Escalation depend on military capacity? What are the correlates of de-escalation?

This paper:
- Investigate (de)escalation patterns in Dynamic Ordered Probit Setting (following Bluhm et al. 2016)
- Use detailed data on military inventory to measure state capacity more closely
- Look at landscape-effects and indiscriminate violence using disaggregated conflict data (Croicu & Sundberg 2017)

Research so far:
- Conflict Onset & Offset instead of (de)escalation (Blattman & Miguel 2010)
- State Capacity important in Civil Wars. But existing Proxies are limited (Besley & Persson 2014, Acemoglu et al. 2015)
- State Capacity and Landscape determine Civil War Duration & Indiscriminate Violence (Holtmann 2016, Schutte 2017)

Empirical Approach and Main Results

Weapon Categories and Variation

Empirical approach

\[
c_i(t) = x_i(t) \beta + \epsilon_i(t) \gamma_0 + \epsilon_i(t) \gamma_1 + \epsilon_i(t)
\]

where \(c_i(t)\) is an ordered conflict measure, \(x_i(t)\) include the model's regressors, and \(\epsilon_i(t)\) incorporates the conflict history. \(\gamma_0\) are year fixed effects and \(\mu_i\) indicate Mundlak FE.

Conflict (De)Escalation

Key Result: Only Attack Helicopters are associated with shorter conflicts

The Role of Landscape

For 1SD increase in attack helicopter stock, fighting becomes 8 percentage points more likely to take place in urban area

Indiscriminate Violence: Attack Helicopters increase civilian casualties

ACES Poster Session, January 4 2018, Atlanta
Contact: korn@mak.uni-hannover.de