

Adam Scharpf - CV

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Employments

- 09/2025 - present Associate Professor of Comparative Politics.
Department of Political Science,
University of Copenhagen, Denmark.
- 05/2022 - 08/2025 Assistant Professor of Comparative Politics.
Department of Political Science,
University of Copenhagen, Denmark.
- 03/2018 - 04/2022 Postdoctoral Research Fellow.
German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Germany.

Education

- 09/2012 - 03/2018 Ph.D. in Political Science (*Summa cum laude*).
Graduate School of Economic and Social Sciences,
University of Mannheim, Germany.
Committee: Sabine C. Carey, Kristian S. Gleditsch, Nikolay Marinov.
- 10/2009 - 05/2012 M.A. in Politics and Public Administration.
University of Konstanz, Germany.
- 10/2005 - 04/2009 B.A. in Political and Administrative Science.
University of Konstanz, Germany.

Additional Research Training

- 07/2014 Olympia Summer Academy, Olympia, Greece.
Course: "Conflict & Political Violence."
Instructors: Stathis N. Kalyvas, Laia Balcells, Jonah Schulhofer Wohl,
Yvan Guichaoua.
- 02/2014 University of Mannheim, Germany.
Course: "Applying Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to Armed
Conflict Research."
Instructor: Jan Ketil Rød.

- 10/2013 Graduate School of Decision Sciences, University of Konstanz, Germany.
Course: "Forecasting Conflict."
Instructor: Philip A. Schrod.
- 08/2012 ENCoRe Training School, ETH Zürich, Switzerland.
Course: "SQL and PostGIS."
Instructors: Nils B. Weidmann, Andreas Forø Tollefsen.
- 08/2012 Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis, UK.
Course: "Non-parametric and Semi-parametric Methods."
Instructor: Luke J. Keele.
- 08/2011 Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis, UK.
Course: "Spatial Econometrics."
Instructor: Jude C. Hays.
- 08/2011 Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis, UK.
Course: "Discrete Choice Models in the Social Sciences."
Instructor: Garrett Glasgow.

Research Visits

- 03/2014 Visiting Doctoral Student.
Department of Government, University of Essex, UK.
- 10/2010 - 07/2011 Visiting Master's Student.
Department of Government, University of Essex, UK.
- 09/2008 - 02/2009 Visiting Bachelor's Student.
School of Economics and Political Science, University of St. Gallen, Switzerland.

Book (Peer-Reviewed)

- 2026 Making a Career in Dictatorship: The Secret Logic Behind Repression and Coups. New York: Oxford University Press (with Christian Gläsel).

Articles (Peer-Reviewed)

- 2025 "Dictatorships and Western Public Relations Firms." *Security Studies*, 34(4): 751-788 (with Christian Gläsel and Alexander Dukalskis).
- 2025 "Who Gets Targeted with Soft Power? Evidence from Henry Kissinger's International Seminar." *World Politics*, 77(3): 604-649.
- 2025 "Foreign Training, Course Content, and Political Militarization." *World Politics*, 77(2): 288-337 (with Jesse Dillon Savage).
- 2025 "Does Sportswashing Work? First Insights from the 2022 World Cup in Qatar." *Journal of Politics*, 87(1): 388-392 (with Christian Gläsel and Pearce Edwards).
- 2023 "The Political Effects of Witnessing State Atrocities: Evidence from the Nazi Death Marches." *Comparative Political Studies*, 58(14): 3143-3178 (with Alexander De Juan, Christian Gläsel, and Felix Haass).

- 2022 "International Sports Events and Repression in Autocracies: Evidence from the 1978 FIFA World Cup." *American Political Science Review*, 117(3): 909-926 (with Christian Gläsel and Pearce Edwards).
- 2022 "Career Pressures and Organizational Evil: A Novel Perspective on the Study of Organized Violence." *International Studies Review*, 24(3): 1-23 (with Christian Gläsel).
- 2020 "Why Underachievers Dominate Secret Police Organizations: Evidence from Autocratic Argentina." *American Journal of Political Science*, 64(4): 791-806 (with Christian Gläsel).
- 2020 "Why Governments Have Their Troops Trained Abroad: Evidence from Latin America." *International Studies Quarterly*, 64(3): 734-747.
- 2020 "Grist to the Mill of Subversion: Strikes and Coups in Counterinsurgencies." *European Journal of International Relations*, 26(4): 1032-1060 (with Belén González and Christian Gläsel).
- 2020 "Capturing Group Alignments: Introducing the Government and Armed Actors Relations Dataset (GAARD)." *Research & Politics*, DOI: 10.1177/2053168020971891 (with Sabine Otto and Anita R. Gohdes).
- 2018 "Ideology and State Terror: How Officer Beliefs Shaped Repression During Argentina's 'Dirty War.'" *Journal of Peace Research*, 55(2): 206-221.
- 2014 "Forecasting the Risk of Extreme Massacres in Syria." *European Review of International Studies*, 1(2): 50-68 (with Gerald Schneider, Anna Nöh, and Aaron Clauset).
- 2013 "Die Blutspur des Vetos: Eine Prognose zur Gefahr von extremen Massakern in Syrien." *Zeitschrift für Friedens- und Konfliktforschung*, 2(1): 6-31 (with Gerald Schneider, Anna Nöh, and Aaron Clauset).

Chapters (Editor-Reviewed)

- 2024 "The Authoritarian Security Apparatus: Officer Careers and the Trade-offs in Command." In *Research Handbook on Authoritarianism*, Natasha Lindstaedt and Jeroen J.J. den Bosch (eds.): Edward Elgar, 111-126 (with Belén González and Christian Gläsel).
- 2022 "Pro-Government Militias and Conflict." *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.013.33> (with Sabine C. Carey and Neil Mitchell).

Policy Papers

- 2022 "The Recipient Dilemma of Foreign Military Training." *On Track*, 29: 33-46.
- 2020 "Dangerous Alliances: Populists and the Military." *GIGA Focus Latin America*, 1: 1-12.
- 2020 "Die gefährliche Allianz zwischen Populisten und Militär." *KoBra Brasilicum*, 257: 38-39.
- 2018 "The Return of the Military." *GIGA Focus Latin America*, 7: 1-11 (with Sabine Kurtenbach).

Blog Posts

- 2026 "The Secret Police Playbook: How DHS Reflects Historical Lessons from Dictatorships." *Can We Still Govern?* (with Christian Gläßel).
- 2025 "PR Firms are Working for Brutal Regimes, and Getting Away with It." *The Loop* (with Alexander Dukalskis and Christian Gläßel).
- 2025 "The Kissinger Files." *The Storied Teller*.
- 2024 "What Do Dictatorships Get from Hosting Sports Events?" *JoP Blog* (with Christian Gläßel and Pearce Edwards).
- 2022 "Why Hosting the World Cup May Have Worsened Human Rights Abuses in Qatar." *Political Violence at @ Glance* (with Pearce Edwards and Christian Gläßel).
- 2022 "The Repression behind International Sporting Events." *Inkstick* (with Pearce Edwards and Christian Gläßel).
- 2019 "Why Underachievers Dominate Secret Police Organizations: Evidence from Autocratic Argentina." *AJPS Blog* (with Christian Gläßel).
- 2018 "Making Sense of Trump's War against the Islamic State." *Political Violence at @ Glance*.

Podcasts

- 2024 "Whitewashing Dictators." *Dissidents and Dictators*, Casey Michel: Human Rights Foundation (with Alexander Dukalskis).
- 2023 "Global Sport and Denmark - Small Country, Big Impact." *The Ticket*, Katie Holmes: Australian Broadcasting Company.
- 2022 "Sports and Autocrats." *Berlin Security Beat*, Centre for International Security: Hertie School Berlin (with Christian Gläßel).

Media Appearances & Features

The Economist, The Times, The Washington Post, The Boston Globe, Haaretz, Neue Züricher Zeitung (NZZ), Die Zeit, Der Spiegel, Deutsche Welle (DW), Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen (ZDF), Der Tagesspiegel, Buenos Aires Herald, Danish Broadcasting Corporation (DR), Politiken, Weekendavisen, Kristeligt Dagblad, Altinget, Journalisten, Ekstra Bladet, Tipsbladet, Morgenbladet, Krautreporter, Basler Zeitung, Berner Zeitung, Der Bund, Tagesanzeiger, Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk (MDR), Deutschlandfunk (DLF Nova), Der Kurier, La Presse, Le Devoir, Courrier International, Kompas, Sri Lanka Guardian, Südkurier, Mannheimer Morgen, Schwäbische Zeitung.

Awards

- 2024 Best Article Award, Democracy & Autocracy Section, American Political Science Association (APSA).
- 2024 Teacher of the Year 2023, Department of Political Science, University of Copenhagen.

2017	CDSS Young Scholar Award, University of Mannheim.
2017	Stuart A. Bremer Award, Network of European Peace Scientists (NEPS).
2016	Dina Zinnes Award, International Studies Association (ISA).

Grants

Research Grants

2024	Research Grant (Co-PI), Independent Social Research Foundation (ISRF). (€8,100)
2024	Seed funding (Co-PI), Department of Political Science, University of Zurich, Switzerland. (€7,700)
2024	Research Grant, Social Science Data Lab, University of Copenhagen, Denmark. (€3,900)
2023	Research Grant (Co-PI), German Research Foundation (DFG), Germany. (€313,000)

Travel Grants

2017	Travel Grant, Network of European Peace Scientists (NEPS), Italy. (€350)
2016	Travel Grant, Program on Order, Conflict, Violence, Yale University, USA. (\$1,000)
2016	Travel Grant, University of Mannheim, Germany. (\$400)
2015 - 2016	Travel Grants, International Studies Association, USA. (\$700)
2015	Graduation Scholarship, University of Mannheim, Germany. (€7,000)
2015	Travel Grants, University of Mannheim, Germany. (€1,430)
2014	Short-Term Scientific Mission Grant, ETH Zürich, Switzerland. (€550)
2014	Travel Grant, University of Mannheim, Germany. (€2,300)
2014	Olympia Summer Academy Scholarship, Navarino Network, Greece. (€500)
2012 - 2015	Travel Grants, ETH Zürich, Switzerland. (€1,500)

Scholarships

2012 - 2013	Graduate Scholarship, Ministry of Science, Research and Culture Baden-Württemberg, Germany. (€14,400)
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Invited Talks

05/2026	Department of Politics & Public Administration, University of Konstanz, Germany.
04/2026	Department of Political & Social Sciences, Zeppelin University, Germany.
11/2024	Democracy & Development Speaker Series, Aarhus University, Denmark.
09/2024	SPIRe Seminar Series, University College Dublin, Ireland.
02/2024	CIS Colloquium, University Zurich & ETH Zurich, Switzerland.
10/2023	Department of Sociology & Political Science, NTNU, Norway.
04/2023	School of Economics & Political Science, University of St. Gallen, Switzerland.
03/2023	Department of Political Science, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland.
02/2023	Department of Social Sciences, Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany.
11/2022	Department of Government, Uppsala University, Sweden.
09/2022	Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg, Sweden.
05/2022	Political Economy Seminar, Hertie School, Germany.
11/2021	Department of Political Science, University of Oslo, Norway.
07/2021	Department of Governance, Technical University Munich, Germany.
06/2021	Institute of Political Science, Leuphana University Lüneburg, Germany.
06/2021	Department of Politics, York University, UK.
03/2021	Department of Political Science, University College London, UK.
01/2020	Geschwister-Scholl Institute for Political Science, Ludwig-Maximilians University Munich, Germany.
03/2019	Institute of Political Science, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany.
06/2017	Institute of Political Science, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany.
03/2014	Department of Government, University of Essex, UK.
12/2013	Hessische Stiftung Friedens- und Konfliktforschung, Frankfurt, Germany.

Conferences

P=Paper, P=Paper presented by co-author, D=Discussant, A=Attendance, V=Virtual.*

2026	SVPW (P,D).
2025	APSA (P*).
2024	APSA (P*), DPSA (P,D), DVPW (P*), Play the Game (P), Money in Politics (P).
2023	APSA (P*), DPSA (P,D).

2022	ISA (P,P*), Money in Politics (D), DPSA (P,P*,D).
2021	EPSA (P,D,V).
2020	APSA (P), DVPW-IR (P*,D).
2019	APSA (P), EPSA (P), ISA (P), AFK (P).
2018	APSA (P*), ECPR (P), ISA (P*), NEPS (P).
2017	EPSA (P), ISA (P), PSSI (P), NEPS (P).
2016	ISA (P), AFK (P).
2015	ISA (P).
2014	MPSA (P).
2013	APSA (P*).

Workshops

O=Organization, P=Paper, P=Paper presented by co-author, D=Discussant, A=Attendance, V=Virtual.*

2026	University of Münster (P*), Florida State University (D,V).
2025	University of Konstanz (P*,D), University of Southern Denmark (P,P*,D).
2024	Aarhus University (P,D), University of Oxford (P,D), Hertie School Berlin (O,P,D).
2023	Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (D,V), Pre-EPISA Mini-Conference Glasgow (O,P,D), University of Southern Denmark (P,D).
2022	Aarhus University (P,D).
2021	University of Potsdam & Goethe University Frankfurt (P,V), University of Münster (P*,D,V).
2020	Florida State University (D,V), Oxford University (D,V), Hertie School Berlin (P*,D,V), Uppsala University & German Institute for Global and Area Studies (D,V).
2019	University of Konstanz (A), German Development Institute (P), Oxford University (P*).
2018	German Council on Foreign Relations & German Federal Foreign Office (P), German Institute for Global and Area Studies (O), University of Münster (P).
2017	University of Essex (P), University of Mannheim (O), Oxford University (P*), University of Konstanz (P), University of Konstanz (P).
2016	Yale University (P), University of Konstanz (D), Conflict Consortium (P,V).
2015	Institute for Economic Analysis Barcelona (P), German Development Institute (P).
2014	University of Osnabrück (P).
2012	Peace Research Institute Oslo (A).

Roundtables

05/2022 Virtual roundtable on the Promises and Pitfalls of Foreign Military Training. Conference of Defence Associations (CDA) Institute, Ottawa, Canada.

Research Experience

Field Work

10/2015 - 11/2015 Expert Interviews and Data Collection in Argentina.

University of Mannheim

09/2015 - 02/2018 Doctoral Researcher, Repression and the Escalation of Violence (RATE) Project (ERC Grant No. 336019), Sabine C. Carey.

09/2013 - 08/2015 Doctoral Researcher, Chair of Political Science - International Relations, Sabine C. Carey.

University of Konstanz

09/2011 - 12/2011 Copy Editor, European Union Politics (EUP).

01/2010 - 12/2010 Research Assistant, Gerald Schneider.

Teaching Certificates

2023 Teaching and Learning in Higher Education Program (175 hours), University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

2022 University Teaching and Supervision Course for Academic Staff (18 hours), University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

Teaching Experience

University of Copenhagen

2023, 2024, 2025 Seminar (Master's level): "Comparative Authoritarianism and Political Violence."

2022, 2023, 2024 Seminar (Master's level): "Autocratic Politics."

2022, 2023, 2024 Lecture (Bachelor's level): "Comparative Politics."

2022, 2023, 2024 Lecture (Bachelor's level): "Public Administration"

2023, 2024 Lecture (Bachelor's level): "International Relations."

2025 Lecture (Bachelor's level): "Comparative Methods."

German Institute for Global and Area Studies

2020 Seminar (Doctoral level): "Philosophy of Science, Causation, and Explanation."

University of Hamburg

2020 Seminar (Master's level): "Administrative Evil? Bureaucracies in Democracies and Dictatorships."

University of Mannheim

2015 Seminar (Bachelor's level): "Military, Militias, and Rebels: Analyzing Armed Actors in Civil War."
2014, 2015 Seminar (Bachelor's level): "Visualizing Data and Statistical Results in Stata."
2014 Seminar (Master's level): "Causes and Perpetrators of (Extreme) Political Violence."
2014 Seminar (Bachelor's level): "Armed Conflict and Political Violence."
2013 Seminar (Bachelor's level): "Peace and Conflict."
2012 Seminar (Bachelor's level): "Stata Refresher."
2012 Lecture (Bachelor's level, Teaching Assistant): "Data Analysis."
Instructor: Sean Carey.

Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis

2013, 2014 Teaching Assistant: "Advanced Quantitative Data Analysis."
Instructor: Vera E. Troeger.
2012 Teaching Assistant: "Pooled Time-Series Cross-Sectional Analysis."
Instructor: Robert Walker.
2011 Teaching Assistant: "Introduction to Quantitative Data Analysis."
Instructor: Sona Golder.

University of Konstanz

2010 Lecture (Bachelor's level, Teaching Assistant): "Introduction to International Relations." Instructor: Gerald Schneider.

Professional Activities

Review: Journals

American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, British Journal of Political Science, Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Comparative Political Studies, Conflict Management & Peace Science, Contemporary Politics, Democracy & Security, European Journal of International Relations, European Political Science Review, Foreign Policy Analysis, Government and Opposition, International Interactions, International Security, International Studies Quarterly, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of Global Security Studies, Journal of Peace Research, Journal of Politics, Journal of Politics in Latin America, Kölner Zeitschrift für Soziologie und Sozialpsychologie, Latin American Research Review, Political Studies, Political Research Exchange, Research & Politics, Security Studies, Social Science Quarterly, Terrorism & Political Violence, World Politics, Zeitschrift für Friedens- und Konfliktforschung.

Review: Publishers

Princeton University Press.

Review: Organizations

European Research Council (ERC), Swedish Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF).

Memberships

American Political Science Association (APSA), International Studies Association (ISA), Swiss Political Science Association (SVPW).