

Jana Kissling

ETH Zurich | Haldeneggsteig 4, 8092 Zurich, Switzerland

jana.kissling@icr.gess.ethz.ch | www.janakissling.com | ORCID: 0000-0002-2822-7333

Education

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|---|---|
| Ph.D. in Political Science | Nov. 2023 – May 2027
(<i>expected</i>) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ETH Zurich, Switzerland, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences• <i>Committee: Lars-Erik Cederman (chair), Scott Straus, Livia Schubiger</i> | |
| M.A. in Comparative and International Studies | Sep. 2021 – Oct. 2023 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joint Degree ETH Zurich and University of Zurich, Switzerland• <i>with distinction</i> | |
| B.A. in Social Sciences | Sep. 2018 – June 2021 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• University of Zurich, Switzerland Major: Political Science, Minor: Law• <i>summa cum laude</i> | |

Honors, Grants & Affiliations

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| • Doc.CH Dissertation Grant, Swiss National Science Foundation (CHF 190'300) | 2024 – 2027 |
| • ETH Master Thesis Distinction, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences | 2023 |
| • ETH Excellence Scholarship & Opportunity Programme (ESOP) (nominee) | 2021 |
| • Highest Honors for Bachelor Thesis, University of Zurich | 2021 |
| • Peter Dolder Prize, Foundation for Democracy (nominee, 300 CHF) | 2018 |
| • Affiliate, Immigration Policy Lab (IPL), ETH Zurich and Stanford University | 2022 – |

Publications

- **Jana Kissling** and Hannah Smidt. 2023. “(UN-)Protected Elections – Left for Good? Withdrawal of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and Its Effects on Violence During Electoral Periods in War-Affected Countries.” *International Peacekeeping* 30(2): 165–197.
- Hannah Smidt and **Jana Kissling**. 2022. “A Dangerous Farewell? What the Withdrawal of Peacekeeping Missions Means for International Security.” *DeFacto Expert*, 12/22 (german).

Working Papers

- **Jana Kissling**. Dangerous Links: Cross-Border Kin and Forced Displacement from a Spatial Perspective. *Research article*.
- Marko Kljajić (Harvard) and **Jana Kissling**. The Economic Consequences of Ethnic Cleansing in Africa. *Research article*.
- **Jana Kissling**. How Ethnic Cleansing Affects Collective Identities Across Borders. *Book chapter*.
- **Jana Kissling**. Add Fuel to Fire? The Transnational Effects of Ethnic Cleansing on Armed Conflict. *Book chapter*.
- **Jana Kissling**. How Ethnic Inequalities affect Local Civilian Protection by UN Peacekeepers. *Research article*.

Datasets

- **Jana Kissling** and Lars-Erik Cederman. [Geo-Located Ethnic Forced Displacement Dataset \(GeoEFD\)](#).

Projects in Progress

- Deep learning-based mapping of conflict damage (with Valerie Sticher, ETH Zurich; Jan Dirk Wegner, University of Zurich; and the ICRC)

Conferences & Talks

The Economic Consequences of Ethnic Cleansing in Africa

- Empirical Studies of Conflict/ReCIPE, Paris School of Economics (France) Nov. 2026 (*expected*)
- Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis, University of Essex (UK) Aug. 2026

Add Fuel to Fire? How Ethnic Cleansing Affects Armed Conflict

- American Political Science Association (APSA), Boston, MA (USA) Sep. 2026
- European Political Science Society (EPSS), Belfast, Northern Ireland (UK) June 2026
- Conflict and Change PhD Workshop, University College London (UK) May 2026

Cross-Border Kin and Forced Displacement from a Spatial Perspective

- Swiss Political Science Association (SPSA), University of Zurich (Switzerland) Jan. 2026
- American Political Science Association (APSA), Vancouver (Canada) Sep. 2025
- European Political Science Association (EPSA), Carlos III University, Madrid (Spain) June 2025
- Conflict Colloquium Seminar Series, ETH Zurich (Switzerland) May 2025

Research Experience

International Conflict Research Group, ETH Zurich

Principal Investigator Feb. 2024 – Oct. 2026

- [Geo-Located Ethnic Forced Displacement Dataset \(GeoEFD\)](#)
- Lead data collection for 103 countries in Africa, MENA, and Asia (1990 – 2021)
- Instruct and supervise a team of 5 research assistants, analyze source texts
- Manage technical infrastructure for data documentation and storage

Research Assistant to Dr. Andreas Juon

Feb. 2023 – Oct. 2023

- [Dominant Nationalist Movements \(DNM\) Dataset](#)
- Coding expert for Angola, Zimbabwe, Namibia (1945 – present)
- Collect and analyze source texts, document dominant nationalist movements

Research Assistant to Prof. Lars-Erik Cederman

Feb. 2022 – May 2023

- [Nationalist State Transformation and Conflict \(NASTAC\) Dataset](#)
- Coding expert for Germany, Austria, Hungary (1815 – 1945)
- Collect historical sources, code ethnic power relations and nationalist claims

Immigration Policy Lab, ETH Zurich

July 2022 – Aug. 2022

Research Assistant to Prof. Dominik Hangartner and Prof. Judith Spirig (UCL)

- Collect data on exclusionary attitudes and religious segregation (1866 – 1893)
- Fieldwork in Swiss archives and newsrooms, digitize historical voting ballots

Teaching

Lectures and Seminars

Lectures for B.A. in Public Policy, ETH Zurich

- Conflict Research II: Territory, Nationalism, and Conflict March – May 2026
- Conflict Research I: One-Sided Violence and Terrorism Oct. 2025
- Nationalism and the Return of Geopolitics: Guest Lecture on Ethnic Cleansing April 2025
- Design course material, deliver presentations, course administration (~50 students)

Seminar for M.A. in Comparative and International Studies, ETH Zurich

- Political Order and Conflict: Guest Seminar on Ethnic Cleansing April 2025
- Organize and lead discussion, grade project proposals (~10 students)

Tutorials

M.A. in Comparative and International Studies, ETH Zurich

Sep. – Dec. 2024

- Methods I: Research Design, Qualitative Methods and Data Collection
- Instruct peer discussions, supervise and grade assignments (~30 students)

B.A. in Political Science, University of Zurich

Sep. 2021 – Jan. 2023

- International Politics and International Political Economy
- Lead sessions on spatial models and international organizations (~120 students)

Teaching Assistance

Chair of International Relations and Political Economy, University of Zurich

Sep. 2021 – Aug. 2023

- Teaching assistant to Prof. Stefanie Walter
- Manage course platform, design and organize tutorials, grade coursework

Service & Memberships

Reviewer: International Peacekeeping, Journal of International Development, Democratization 2024 –

Representative: Teaching Commission for B.A. in Public Policy, ETH Zurich 2022 –

Mentoring: Students of the M.A. in Comparative and International Studies, ETH Zurich 2024 –

Professional Associations:

- European Political Science Society (EPSS), Network of European Peace Scientists (NEPS) 2026 –
- American Political Science Association (APSA), Swiss Political Science Association (SPSA) 2025 –

Policy & Professional Experience

Cantonal Parliament of Aargau, Switzerland

Sep. 2020 – May 2027

Assistant to Parliament Secretary

- Keeping of the minutes in plenary sessions
- Translate speeches to German, verify legal texts, supervise audio-transcription

International Organizations, Geneva, Switzerland

Sep. 2022

Visiting Student

- Fieldwork at the International Organization for Migration, Swiss Mission to the UN Office
- Create policy memorandum on organizational procedures and current challenges
- Conduct interviews and on-site discussions with project managers and employees

Skills

- **Software:** R, Stata, L^AT_EX, ArcGIS, Git, Subversion
- **Languages:** German (*native*), English (*proficient, C2*), French (*advanced, C1*), Italian (*intermediate, B2*)