

Leslie Aileen Virginia Fischer

University of St.Gallen

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Education

- 2023 – present **P.h.D. Researcher in International Affairs and Economics** at the Institute of Political Science, *University of St.Gallen (HSG), Switzerland*
- Supervisor: Prof. Tina Freyburg, *University of St.Gallen*
- Co-supervisor: Prof. Livia Schubiger, *ETH Zurich*
- 2023 **M.A. in Political Science and Administration**, *University of Constance, Germany*
- Specialization in “International Administration & Conflict Studies” and “Research Methods in Politics and Public Administration” (*graduated with honors*)
- 2021 **B.A. in Political Science and Administration**, *University of Constance, Germany*
- 2020 **Exchange Semester**, *University of Antwerp, Belgium*

Academic Positions

- 2023 – present **Research Assistant**, *Comparative Politics, University of St.Gallen*
- 2022 **Research Assistant**, *International Politics – Global Inequality, University of Constance*
- Social and economic cost perception of climate change by the media: Dataset construction, coding (Prof. Gabriele Spilker and Assistant Prof. Lisa Lechner, University of Innsbruck)
- 2021 – 2023 **Research Assistant**, *Development Research Group, University of Constance*
- Book project “Worse Than War: The Global Costs of Violence”: Data management, codebook and analysis in R/STATA (Prof. Anke Hoeffler and Prof. James Fearon, Stanford University)
- 2020 – 2021 **Research Assistant**, *Chair of International Politics, University of Constance*
- Book project: Literature review, translations.
- “Latin American Revolts Dataset” (LARD): Dataset construction, coding rules, codebook (UT Austin and University College London).

Teaching Positions

- 2025/26 **Teaching Assistant** for the class “Comparative Politics” (Prof. Tina Freyburg), *University of St. Gallen*
- Discussion-based seminar on conceptualization and measurement, endogeneity, regression analysis, qualitative covariance analysis
- 2025/26 **Teaching Assistant** for the class “Quantitative Methods” (Dr. Timon Forster), *University of St. Gallen*
- Application session in R: descriptive statistics, sampling, point and interval estimation, hypothesis testing, regression, and causal inference
- 2024/25 **Teaching Assistant** for the class “Comparative Politics” (Prof. Oliver Strijbis), *University of St. Gallen*
- Techniques and tools needed to read academic research effectively and to write clear, well-argued critical reviews
- 2022/23 **Teaching Assistant** for the class “International Politics and European Integration” (Prof. Dirk Leuffen and Dr. Tim Wegenast), *University of Constance*
- Discussion-based seminar centred on applying theoretical concepts from the lecture to current events
- 2021 **Teaching Assistant** for the class “Introduction to Political Theory” (Jun. Prof. Aurélie Bardon), *University of Constance*
- Discussion-based seminar centred on weekly readings of key theoretical texts

Working Experience

- 2020 **Student Assistant** at the International Office, *University of Constance*
- 2020 **Internship** at the Baden-Württemberg State Representation, *Berlin, Germany*
- 2018 Interpretations and Translations
- 2016 **Internship** at Südwestrundfunk: Radio, television, and internet broadcasting, *Ulm, Germany*

Volunteering

- 2022 **Workshop Instructor** for the Research Workshop “Spatial & Network Data Visualisation with R”, *CorrelAid*
- 2016 **Workshop Instructor** on German Military Graveyard (WWI & WWII), *European Voluntary Service (EVS), Ysselsteyn, the Netherlands*

Awards/Funding

- 2025 **Conference Grant**, Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Science (SAHSS)
Participation in the 59th North American Meeting of the Peace Science Society (International) 2025 in Orlando, Florida (CHF 1,000)
- 2025 **Greenbox Funding**, University of St.Gallen
Field experiment during the 2025 Women’s European Football Championship (CHF 9,000)
- 2024 **Stuart A. Bremer Award**, Network of European Peace Scientists (NEPS)
Best graduate student paper “Gendered War Experiences: A natural experiment on the political consequences of institutional non-responsiveness to conflict-related sexual violence”
- 2024 **Christiane-Rajewsky Award**, German Association for Peace and Conflict Research (AFK)
Best master thesis “Victimized societies and voter turnout: A natural experiment assessing the price of indifference to conflict-related sexual violence”
- 2022 **Project Funding**, Student Council at the University of Constance
Data collection in the German federal archives

Manuscripts under Review/Revise and Resubmit

From Collective Vulnerability to Political Alienation: The Salience of Violence in Nearby Communities

From Collective Victimization to Partisan Gains: The Role of Issue Ownership
(with Doug Atkinson)

From War to Representation: Mass Conscription and Women’s Entry into Political Office
(with Doug Atkinson, Kevin Fahey & Vanessa Tuttle)

Status-Based Pride: Social Hierarchies and the Politics of National Success

Seeing What Others See: The Social Logic of State Reputation
(with Filippo Pasquali)

Manuscripts in Preparation

Connecting Arms: Operational Territorial Control of Military Branches

Legacies of Resistance: Luxembourg After World War II (WWII)

Not Just a Game: Racism and the Politics of Perception in Women’s Football
(with Tabea Ernst)

Presentations at Conferences/Workshops/Research Seminars/Invited Talks

SPSA 2025, Peace Science (International) 2025, ETH Zurich Conflict Colloquium 2025, International Relations & Data Science Research Group Meeting at ETH Zurich 2025, SEPS Research Seminar 2025, NEPS 2025, EPSA 2025, Peace Science (International) 2024, NEPS 2024, EPSA 2024, Fragile Lives 2024, Workshop on Conflict Dynamics 2024, SEPS Research Seminar 2024, GESIS Workshop on Geodata and Spatial Regression Analysis 2024, Democracy Studies Forum 2024, Swiss Summer School on Democracy Studies 2023

Professional Activities/Additional Training

Referee Services	Conflict Management and Peace Science
Didactic Training	<i>Department of Politics and Public Administration, University of Constance</i>
Ethics Training	Social & Behavioral Research Investigators/Mentors, <i>Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI)</i>
Latin	<i>Heidelberger Pädagogium, Heidelberg</i>
NET	Narrative Exposure Therapy (NET) adapted to the special needs of traumatized offenders and communities, <i>VIVO International</i>

Softwares

STATA/R	Microsoft Office	L ^A T _E X
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Languages

German: <i>native</i>	English: <i>advanced</i>	Dutch: <i>advanced</i>
French: <i>basic</i>	Italian: <i>basic</i>	Spanish: <i>basic</i>

Last updated: 3 April 2026