



MERSHON CENTER

for International Security Studies



ABOUT US

RESEARCH

NEWS

EVENTS

GRANTS

PEOPLE

PUBLICATIONS

CONTACT

 You are here: [Home](#) ▶ [Research](#) ▶ [2011-2012](#) ▶ Global Conflict Assessment: Evaluating Frameworks, Methods and Dissemination

2016-2017

2015-2016

2014-2015

2013-2014

2012-2013

2011-2012

2010-2011

2009-2010

2008-2009

2007-2008

2006-2007

GLOBAL CONFLICT ASSESSMENT: EVALUATING FRAMEWORKS, METHODS AND DISSEMINATION

Principal Investigators: J. Craig Jenkins, Director, Mershon Center for International Security Studies and Stefan Khittel, Visiting Scholar

In recent years, government agencies, think tanks, private companies, and non-governmental organizations have launched a series of global conflict assessment programs, or CAPs. These CAPs are used to track events leading up to global conflicts such as civil wars, violent regime change, civilian massacres, organized insurgency, or terrorist attacks.

By monitoring conflicts, CAPs are supposed to provide warnings of global crises before they happen. Yet despite their proliferation, no one has assessed how well they work.

In this project, J. Craig Jenkins and Stephan Khittel are taking on such an assessment by building a systematic framework for cataloguing, comparing and evaluating global CAPs.

They will examine the following features of CAPs:

- **Program focus.** What are the program goals? Examples include human rights, peace-building, crisis management, development, or private investment?.
- **Time horizon.** Are they concerned with crises that might happen in the next few months, or are they looking at the next three to five years or decade?
- **Type of conflict.** What is the main concern? Examples include insurgency, terrorism, civil war, regime change, and genocide.
- **Driving factors.** What are the relevant predictors for the events tracked?
- **Methodology.** What methods are used to forecast conflicts and crises? Examples include qualitative, quantitative, or mixed, as well as other methods such as simulations and counterfactuals.
- **Level of accuracy and precision.** While a 60 to 70 percent accuracy rate is acceptable for social sciences, is that enough for policy decisions?
- **Method of dissemination.** Is the audience specific decision makers, private groups, or the general public? While greater openness and exchange are needed to improve these systems, previous research shows that private systems are better resourced.
- **Link to actionable items.** How does conflict assessment lead to action? Who decides when action is taken, and can the outcomes be reviewed?

A grant from the Mershon Center allowed Khittel to spend a month at Ohio State working with Jenkins to track down global CAPs, identify their relevant features, and interview CAPs personnel. They plan to produce both academic and general interest articles on this project.



About Us	College of Arts and Sciences	Office of International Affairs	Events Calendar
Research	Academics	Center for African Studies	E-Newsletters
News	About the College	Center for Latin American Studies	Annual Reports
Events	News and Events	Center for Slavic & East European Studies	Fact Sheet
Grants	Research	East Asian Studies Center	Experts List
People	Arts and Culture	Institute for Chinese Studies	Faculty Books
Publications	Alumni	Institute for Japanese Studies	Furniss Award
Contact		Institute for Korean Studies	Knowledge Bank
		Middle East Studies Center	



© 2013 Mershon Center for International Security Studies – College of Arts and Sciences

1501 Neil Ave., Columbus, OH 43201

Phone: 614-292-1681 | Fax: 614-292-2407

[Request an alternate format of this page.](#)

