



THE QUALITY OF
GOVERNMENT INSTITUTE



UNIVERSITY OF
GOTHENBURG

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



2024
IN
SHORT

30
PEER REVIEWED
ARTICLES

25,379
DATA
DOWNLOADS

17
VISITING
SCHOLARS

16
WORKING
PAPERS



THE QUALITY OF
GOVERNMENT INSTITUTE

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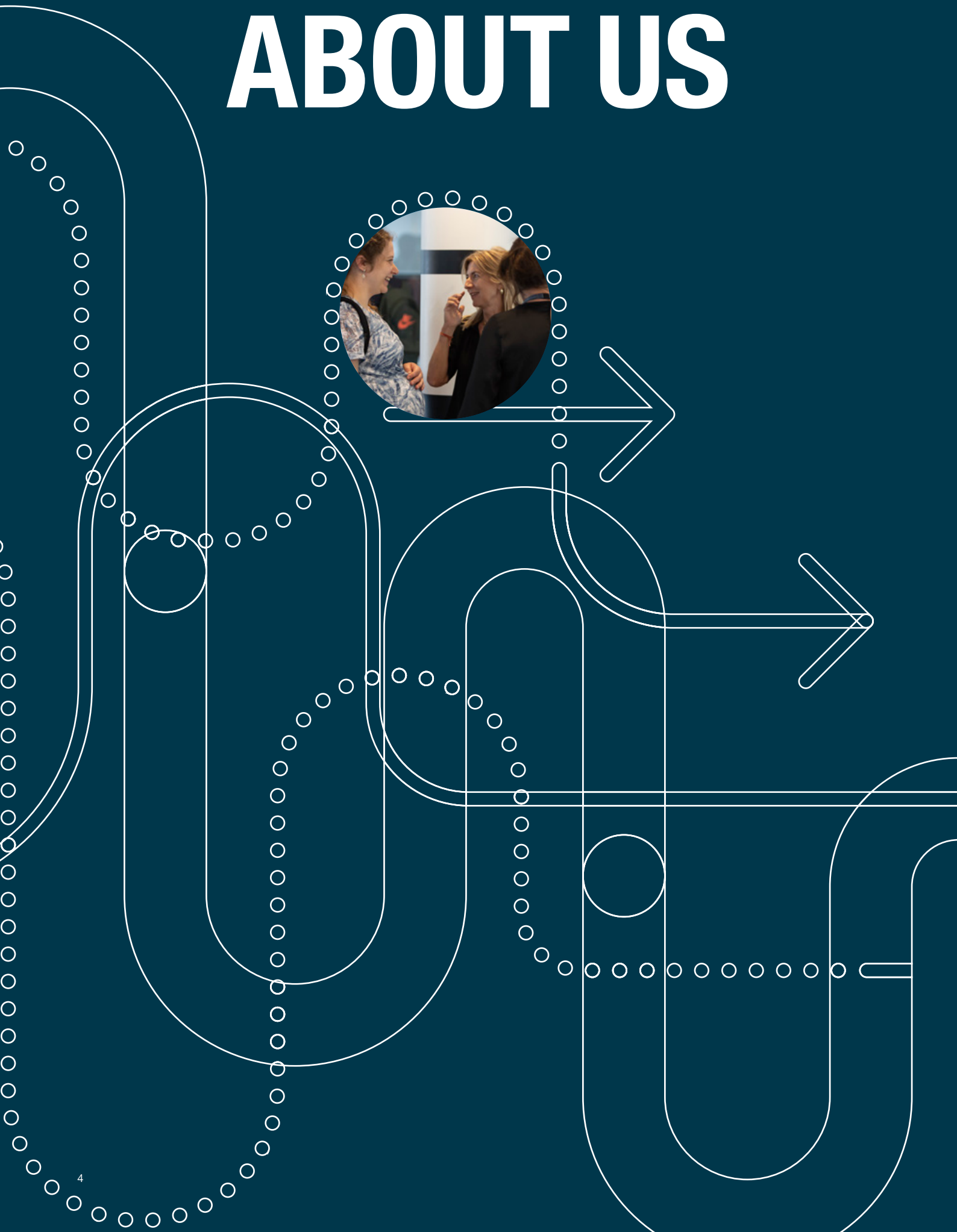
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CONTENT

- 04 ABOUT US
- 08 PUBLICATIONS
- 12 RESEARCH GRANTS
- 13 ACTIVITIES
- 28 COLLABORATIONS
- 29 QOG DATA
- 33 QOG FOR STUDENTS



ABOUT US





THE QUALITY OF GOVERNMENT INSTITUTE

The Quality of Government (QoG) Institute was founded in 2004 by Professor Bo Rothstein and Professor Sören Holmberg. It is an independent research institute within the Department of Political Science at the University of Gothenburg.

We are about 30 researchers who conduct and promote research on the causes, consequences and nature of Good Governance and the

Quality of Government (QoG) - that is, trustworthy, reliable, impartial, uncorrupted and competent government institutions.

While quality of government is our common intellectual focal point, we apply a variety of theoretical and methodological perspectives. The main objective of our research is to address the theoretical and empirical problem of how political institutions of high quality can be created and maintained. A second objective is to study the effects of quality of government on a number of policy areas, such as health, the environment, social policy, and poverty.

We approach these problems from a variety of different theoretical and methodological angles. We investigate and generate knowledge on corruption and the quality of government in dialogue with a variety of societal actors, in both the public and the private sector.

Our ambition is to close the gap between broader audiences and the research of QoG.

To enable researchers, practitioners, and students to access high quality information about the quality of government and related areas, we also offer several open access datasets and data visualization tools.

“Our ambition is to close the gap between broader audiences and the research of QoG”

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

“

Twenty Years Is Nothing” says the Argentinian singer Carlos Gardel in maybe the world’s most famous tango song, “Volver”. Well, the twenty years of the QoG Institute have meant everything for many of us. We have again had a very productive year in terms of both scientific creation as well as dissemination.

Among the roughly thirty peer-review articles the members of our team have published, there are very diverse topics, ranging from climate and health to identity, ideology and misinformation, and very prestigious journals in a panoply of subdisciplines. Following our trajectory, most are collaborative pieces within our institute and outside scholars (if you read these lines, and feel inspired by some of the works, do not hesitate to contact us for eventual collaborations).

In May, we celebrated the QoG’s 20th anniversary with an international conference, with over twenty presenters from all over the world. We discussed what, after two decades, we know on quality of government and what still we do not know, drawing avenues for further research.

And in November, we celebrated a policy day together with the *Lancet Commission on Peaceful Societies through Health Equity and Gender Equality* with the topic of “Policy pathways to sustainable well-being and peace: “How do we protect or even improve institutional quality, health equity and gender equality under crisis and conflict?”

It turned out that Gardel was right in that “the snows of time have silvered our temples”. But twenty years is a lot.

*Gardel was right in that
“the snows of time have
silvered our temples”*

Victor Lapuente
Director of the QoG Institute



OUR TEAM

The QoG team and organization.

Around 40 researchers and administrative staff are currently engaged in different projects organized or funded by the QoG Institute.



Agerberg, Mattias
Associate Professor



Alexander, Amy
Associate Professor



Alvarado, Natalia
Data Manager QoG Data



Axelsson, Sofia
Deputy Chief Analyst



Ayodeji Ahmed, Taiwo
Doctoral Student



Bauhr, Monika
Professor



Boräng, Frida
Associate Professor



Broms, Rasmus
Associate Professor



Bågenholm, Andreas
Program Manager
and Researcher



Carelli, Daniel
Doctoral Student



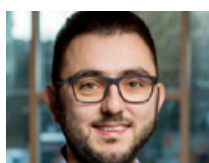
Charron, Nicholas
Professor



Cornell, Agnes
Associate Professor



Dahlström, Carl
Professor



Dalli, Cem Mert
Data Manager QoG Data



Dawson, Stephen
Postdoctor



Eliam, Emily
Postdoctor



Evertsson, Kajsa
Program Coordinator



Gren, Simon
Doctoral Student



Grimes, Marcia
Professor



Gunderson, Jacob
Associate Senior
Lecturer



Harring, Niklas
Associate Professor



Holmberg, Sören
Senior Professor, Co-
Founder of the QoG Institute



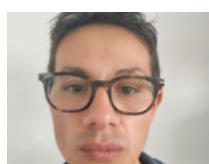
Johansson, Alice
Program Coordinator



Lapuente Gine, Victor
Professor, Head of the
Institute



Leuschner, Elena
Doctoral Student



Lopez Valverde, Rafael
Data Manager QoG Data



Niklasson, Birgitta
Associate Professor



Nistotskaya, Marina
Professor



Persson, Anna
Associate Professor



Pfeiffer, Fredrik
Doctoral Student



Povitkina, Marina
Researcher



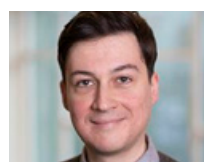
Rothstein, Bo
Professor, Co-Founder of
the QoG Institute



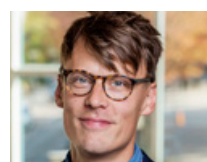
Saidi Phiri, Victor
Associate Researcher



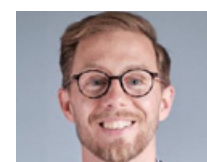
Schwenk, Jana
Postdoctor



Sorak, Nicholas
Doctoral Student



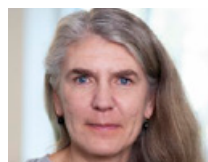
Sundell, Anders
Associate Professor



Sundström, Aksel
Associate Professor,
Principle investigator
QoG Data



Varraich, Aiysha
Doctoral Student



Wängnerud, Lena
Professor



Wittberg, Emanuel
Postdoctor



Xezonakis, Georgios
Associate Professor



Åsblad, Magnus
Doctoral Student

PUBLICATIONS

2024 was a very productive year in terms of publications produced by researchers affiliated with the QoG Institute.

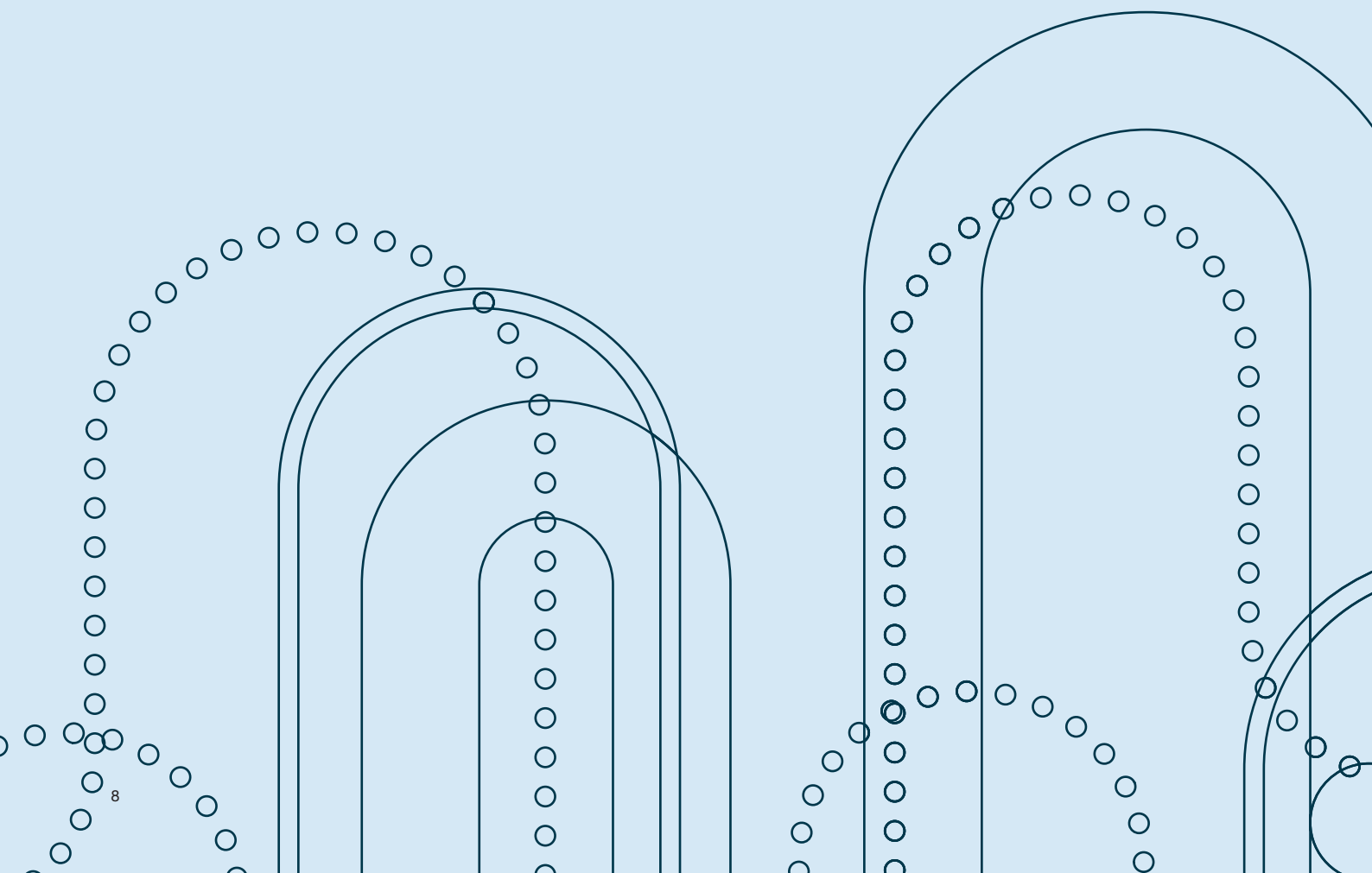
Two PhD students successfully defended their dissertations. Congratulations Aiysha K. Varraich and Daniel Carelli for your great contribution to our field. QoG affiliated scholars produced no less than 30 peer-reviewed articles that were published in several renowned journals, and several chapters in edited books.

16 working papers were published within the QoG Working Papers series and our researchers also contributed to the field with several reports and briefs. Among these, we specifically want to highlight the report Evidence-Based Anti-Corruption? Evaluation of Sida's Efforts to Reduce Corruption in Partner Countries, published for the Expert

Group for Aid Studies (EBA), Sweden, with contributions from several QoG researchers.

During the year, our researchers also engaged in the public debate in different ways through for instance podcasts and opinion articles.

We also saw attention from various media to our publications, in particular to the research by Amy Alexander, Nicholas Charron and Gefjon Off on whether and why young men feel threatened by women's empowerment (funded by the Swedish Research Council) and Gefjon Offs own work on "cultural backlash" and differences in the political attitudes of young men and women.



PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Ahlerup P., Sundström A., Jagers S., and Sjöstedt M., [“Climate Shocks, Regional Favoritism and Trust in Leaders: Insights from Droughts in Africa”](#), World Development.

Alexander, Amy, Nicholas Charron and Gefjon Off, [For every action a reaction? The polarizing effects of women’s rights and refugee immigration: A survey experiment in 27 EU member states](#). European Journal of Political Research.

Bauhr M., Charron N., & Wängnerud L. [Will Women’s Representation Reduce Bribery? Trends in Corruption and Public Service Delivery Across European Regions](#). Polit Behav.

Bauhr M., Carlitz R., Kovacicova L., [Beyond Buildings: Social Bargaining and Effective Access to Public Services](#), Public Organization Review.

Bauhr M., Charron N., Wängnerud L., [What candidate will fight corruption? Gender and anti-corruption stereotypes across European countries](#). European Political Science Review.

Bauhr M., & Charron N., [Europe around the corner? How border proximity and quality of government explains European identity](#). European Union Politics.

Boräng F., Naurin D., Polk J., [Making space: citizens, parties and interest groups in two ideological dimensions](#), Journal of European Public Policy.

Boräng, Frida and Ruth Carlitz, [The Double Democratic Bind: Challenges to Enacting Mandates and Combating Misinformation](#). J Health Polit Policy Law.

Broms R., Dahlström C., Nistotskaya M., [Provider Ownership and Indicators of Service Quality: Evidence from Swedish Residential Care Homes](#). Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory.

Broms, Rasmus, Carl Dahlström, Jenna Najar and Marina Nistotskaya, (2024). [COVID-19 Mortality and the Structural Characteristics of Long-Term Care Facilities: Evidence from Sweden](#). Public Performance & Management Review.

Carelli, Daniel, [Shifts of Administrative Power: Competence Trumps Aristocracy in Swedish State-Building](#). Comparative Politics.

Carelli, Daniel, [Drivers of transnational administrative coordination on super-wicked policy issues: The role of institutional homophily](#). Governance.

Carelli, Daniel. [From Ignorance to Awareness: Quality of Collaborative Governance Enhances Public Awareness of AMR](#). Social Science & Medicine.

Carelli, Daniel, and B. Guy Peters, [Autonomy by Decree: How Administrative Law Shapes Bureaucratic Autonomy in Four Administrative Traditions](#). Administration & Society.

D’Arcy, Michelle, Marina Nistotskaya, and Ola Olsson, [Cadasters and Economic Growth: A Long-Run Cross-Country Panel](#). Journal of Political Economy.

Davidovic, Dragana. [Does corruption shape attitudes towards carbon taxes? Experimental evidence from Mexico and Sweden](#). Energy Research & Social Science.

Dawson, S., Schwenk J., & Xezonakis G, [The Distribution of Executive Power and Corruption: A Meta-Analytical Review](#). Comparative Political Studies.

Dawson S. [Poll Wars: Perceptions of Poll Credibility and Voting Behaviour](#). The International Journal of Press/Politics.

Eckhard, Steffen, Vytautas Jankauskas and Elena Leuschner. [“Institutional Design and Biases in Evaluation Reports by International Organizations”](#). Public Administration Review.

Leuschner, Elena, & Sebastian Hellmeier, [State Concessions and Protest Mobilization in Authoritarian Regimes](#). Comparative Political Studies.

Martinangeli, Andrea FM, Marina Povitkina, Sverker Jagers, and Bo Rothstein, [Institutional quality causes generalized trust: Experimental evidence on trusting under the shadow of doubt](#). American Journal of Political Science.

Miloslav, Đorđe and Marina Nistotskaya, [Unpacking the Relevance of Interpersonal Trust in the Blockchain Era: Theory and Experimental Evidence](#). Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Finance.

Niklasson, B., Dawson S., Bågenholm A. and J De Fine Licht, [Misconduct and whistleblowing in political parties: A party loyalty dilemma](#). Party Politics.

Niklasson, Birgitta and Katarzyna Jezierska, [The politicization of diplomacy: a comparative study of ambassador appointments](#), International Affairs.

Niklasson, Birgitta, [Outposts of diplomacy: a history of the embassy](#), International Affairs.

Pierre, Jon, Daniel Carelli and Björn Rönnerstrand, [Free Riding is Not the Problem: How Agency, Heterogeneity and Authority Challenge Collective Action Against Antimicrobial Resistance in the European Union](#). Journal of European Public Policy.

Peters, Margaret E, Frida Boräng, Sara Kalm, Johannes Lindvall, Adrian J Shin. [Historical Immigration Policies: Trends and Lessons](#), International Studies Quarterly.

Schwenk J., [The effect of primaries on voters’ evaluation of candidates’ quality—experimental evidence](#), Party Politics.

Stockemer D., & Sundström A. [‘Do young legislators face age-based discrimination in parliament? Views from young MPs across the globe’](#). Journal of Youth Studies.

Sundström A, [Environmental disasters and ecomodernist beliefs: Insights from a quasi-natural experiment](#), Policy Studies Journal.

NEW DISSERTATIONS

In 2024, two QoG-affiliated PhD candidates successfully defended their dissertations. We want to extend a big congratulations to Aiysha K. Varraich and Daniel Carelli for their great contributions to the QoG research field.

Daniel Carelli (2024): *Bugs and Bureaucracies: Institutions, Administrative Autonomy, and the Governance of Antibiotic Resistance*. Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg. Defended on June 14, 2024.

[Read more about this dissertation](#)

Aiysha K. Varraich (2024): *Clients of God: Exploring how hierarchical religious bonds influence political behaviour*. Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg. Defended on September 13, 2024.

[Read more about this dissertation](#)



Daniel Carelli



Aiysha Varraich

QOG WORKING PAPERS

Ketevan Bolkvadze, Ruth Carlitz, and Marina Povitkina: [Environmental NGOs in Emerging Democracies: Obstacles to Effective Action](#). QoG Working Paper Series No. 2024:1.

Nicholas Charron, Victor Lapuente & Monika Bauhr: [The Geography of Quality of Government in Europe. Subnational variations in the 2024 European Quality of Government Index and Comparisons with Previous Rounds](#). QoG Working Paper Series No. 2024:2.

Aksel Sundström, Niklas Haring, Sverker C. Jagers & Marina Povitkina: [The Impact of Corruption on Climate Change Mitigation](#). QoG Working Paper Series No. 2024:2.

Stephen Dawson, Felix Haass, Carl Müller-Crepon and Aksel Sundström: [The Ethnic Politics of Nature Protection: Ethnic Favoritism and Protected Areas in Africa](#). QoG Working Paper Series No. 2024:4.

Elena Leuschner: [Experimental Evidence from Belgium on Local Politicians' Engagement with Protests](#). QoG Working Paper Series No. 2024:5.

Aksel Sundstrom, Charles T. McClean & Daniel Stockemer: [When Elders Rule: Age Composition in Decision-Making and Legitimacy Perceptions](#). QoG Working Paper Series No. 2024:6.

Rasmus Broms & Elias Markstedt: [Local information capacity in Sweden](#). QoG Working Paper Series No. 2024:7.

Mikael Holmgren & Carl Dahlström: [Parliamentary Control of Ministerial Policymaking](#). QoG Working Paper Series No. 2024:8.

Marina Nistotskaya & Carl Dahlström: [Structural Characteristics of Long-Term Care Facilities for Elderly and COVID-19 Outcomes: A Systematic Literature Review](#). QoG Working Paper Series No. 2024:9.

Hilma Lindskog & Daniel Carelli: [Children of the State: Ideological Education Increases Support for Autocratic Leadership](#). QoG Working Paper Series No. 2024:10.

Hampus Hallin & Marina Nistotskaya: [Individual-Level Determinants of Corruption Perception in Five Areas of Public Life in Sweden: Evidence from 2022 SOM Survey](#). QoG Working Paper Series No. 2024:11.

Elena Leuschner: [Asymmetric Responsiveness: The Effects of Protesters' Demographics and Policy Preferences on the Political Agenda](#). QoG Working Paper Series No. 2024:12.

Sirus Häfström Dehdari, Jesper Linqvist & Anders Sundell: [Is unequal responsiveness caused by high-income earners having more informed opinions? An empirical test](#). QoG Working Paper Series No. 2024:13.

Patrik Michaelsen Aksel Sundström Sverker C. Jagers: [Mass support for conserving 30% of the Earth by 2030: Experimental evidence from five continents](#). QoG Working Paper Series No. 2024:14.

Mariana Alvarado Taiwo A. Ahmed Aksel Sundström Sverker C. Jagers: [Public Resources and Accountability: Experimental Evidence](#). QoG Working Paper Series No. 2024:15.

Aksel Sundström, Stephen Dawson and Sharon Pailler: [Protected Areas and Spillovers on Corruption](#). QoG Working Paper Series No. 2024:16.

BOOKS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

Bauhr, Monika (2024). [Chapter 8: Women's representation and varieties of corruption: why distinguishing between different forms of corruption matters](#). In Handbook on Gender and Corruption in Democracies. Edited by Tiffany D. Barnes and Emily Beaulieu. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Bauhr, Monika and Leslie Schwindt-Bayer (2024). [Gender, women's representation and corruption](#). In Elgar Encyclopedia of Corruption and Society. Edited by Luís de Sousa and Susana Coroado. Elgar Encyclopedia in the Social Science.

Carelli, Daniel, and B. Guy Peters (2025). Administrative Law and Bureaucratic Autonomy in a Comparative European Perspective. K-P Sommermann, C. Fraenkel-Haeberle, A. Krzywon (eds.) The Civil Service in Europe: A Research Companion. Routledge.

Holmberg, Sören & Marcus Weissenbilder, (2024). Svenska folket betygsätter hur offentlig verksamhet fungerar – speciellt sjukvården. I Ulrika Andersson, Björn Rönnerstrand & Anders Carlander (Red.), Inferno. SOM-institutet vid Göteborgs universitet

Kubbe, Ina, Amy Alexander and Lena Wängnerud (2024). [Risk averse or pro-social: sorting out why women are less corrupt than men with new experimental data](#). In Handbook on Gender and Corruption in Democracies. Edited by Tiffany D. Barnes and Emily Beaulieu. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Persson, Anna. 2024. Korruptionens spårbundenhet och den sociala ingenjörskonstens begränsningar. I Olof Hallonsten & Anna Persson (red.), [Kontinuitet och förändring: Essäer om spårbundenhet i samhället](#). Timbro Förlag.

Sundström, Aksel and Lena Wängnerud (2024). [Sexual forms of corruption and sextortion: how to expand research in a sensitive area](#). In Handbook on Gender and Corruption in Democracies. Edited by Tiffany D. Barnes and Emily Beaulieu. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Wängnerud, Lena (2024). [The women's interest mechanism and pathways to lower levels of corruption](#). In Handbook on Gender and Corruption in Democracies. Edited by Tiffany D. Barnes and Emily Beaulieu. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing.

REPORTS, POLICY BRIEFS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Abdou, Aly, Eszter Katona, Daniel Kofran, Viktoriia Poltoratskaya, Bence Toth, Dorina Vajda, Jacopo Costa, Emiliano Anzellotti, Marina Nistotskaya, Emanuel Wittberg, Sławomir Śnieżko, Caterina Paternoster. 2024. [Comprehensive List and Definitions of Corruption Risk Indicators](#), report, deliverable D2.2 within the Horizon-2023 funded FALCON project.

Bauhr, Monika and John-Allen Namu (2024). [Journalism and reporting of corruption. Time to let go of old habits?](#). Chandler paper nr 11. Chandler sessions on corruption and integrity. University of Oxford.

Bauhr, Monika, Anna Petherick and Bolaji Owasanoye (2024). [Sexual Corruption, Emerging Directions in Research and Policy](#). Chandler paper nr 9. Chandler sessions on corruption and integrity. University of Oxford.

Hallonsten, Olof & Anna Persson, (red.). 2024. [Kontinuitet och förändring: Essäer om spårbundenhet i samhället](#). Timbro Förlag.

Holmberg, Sören & Sofia Axelsson. (2024). [How People in Different Countries Talk About Climate and Energy Online](#). Short Report. Gothenburg: University of Gothenburg

Nistotskaya, M., Buker H., Grimes M., Persson A., D'Arcy M., Rothstein B. and Gafuri A. (2024). [Evidence-Based Anti-Corruption? Evaluation of Sida's Efforts to Reduce Corruption in Partner Countries](#), EBA Report 2024:05, The Expert Group for Aid Studies (EBA), Sweden.

Nistotskaya, Marina, Emanuel Wittberg, Sławomir Śnieżko, Daniel Kofran, Viktoriia Poltoratskaya, Bence Toth, Jacopo Costa. 2024. [Comprehensive Report on the Cost of Corruption in the EU](#), report, deliverable D2.3 within the Horizon-2023 funded FALCON project.

Nistotskaya, Marina, Michelle D'Arcy and Ola Olsson: [Cadaster and Economic Growth](#), CATO Institute, Research Briefs in Economic Policy No 404, October 9, 2024

Nistotskaya, Marina: [The OECD's working group against bribery in international business transactions, phase 4 review of Sweden](#), May 30, 2024, online.

Paternoster, Caterina, Michele Riccardi, Giorgia Cascone, Laura Ventre, Matteo Anastasio, Giovanni Nicolazzo, Francesco Venturini, Jacopo Costa, Viktoriia Poltoratskaya, Bence Toth, Emanuel Wittberg, Marina Nistotskaya. 2024. Facilitators, Schemes, Interlinks and Modi Operandi of Corruption, report, deliverable D2.1 within the Horizon-2023 funded FALCON project.

Persson, Anna, Worth, Mark, & Jeney, Petra. 2024. [High-Risk Areas of Corruption in the EU: A Mapping and In-Depth Analysis](#). European Commission: Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, Publications Office of the European Union.

Peters, Margaret; Boräng, Frida; Kalm, Sara; Lindvall, Johannes; Shin, Adrian, 2024, [Historical Immigration Policy dataset \(HIP\)](#). Harvard Dataverse, V2.

Pfeiffer, F. Book review. [Democratic Norms of Earth System Governance: Deliberative Politics in the Anthropocene](#): by Walter F. Baber and **Robert V. Bartlett** (Earth System Governance Project), Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2021. Environmental Politics.

Rothstein, Bo. [En förstatligad hälso- och sjukvård? Konsekvenser för demokrati, legitimitet och ansvarsutkrävande](#) (A Nationalized Healthcare System? Implications for Democracy, Legitimacy, and Accountability). Report to Sekretariatet för Vårdansvarskommittén (Secretariat of the Care Responsibility Committee). 31 oktober 2024.

Rothstein, Bo (2024). [Skuggan från den svenska högern](#). Arkiv. Tidskrift för samhällsanalys, 87–104.

MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

Bauhr, Monika and Marcia Grimes in KickBack - The Global Anticorruption Podcast. Episode 123: [Quality of Government. Measuring the relationship between corruption and democracy](#), 2024-12-05.

Bauhr, Monika, Andreas Bågenholm and Bo Rothstein features in "[Korruption](#)", P3 Dystopia, Sverige Radio. Sent 2024-11-13.

Lapuente, Victor: weekly column in Spain's largest newspaper El País: <https://elpais.com/autor/victor-lapuente-gine/>

Off, Gefjon: [Right turs and left leans. A new gender divide in young voters](#). Feps talks. 2024-12-17.

Off, Gefjon: [Varför lockas unga män av Andrew Tate?](#) Panelsamtal/ Intervju. Forum jämställdhet 2024.

Off, Gefjon, Interviewed for the German Newspaper Spiegel and Ister cited in the article [Sorgenkind junger Mann](#), 22.02.2025.

Rothstein, Bo och Marina Nistotskaya: [Sidas korruptionsarbete siktar högt men missar målet](#). Dagens Nyheter. Published 2024-11-27.

Rothstein, Bo: [Politiska framgångsrecept blir fatala i förvaltningen](#), Dagens Nyheter. Published 2024-10-02.

Rothstein, Bo: [I Sverige gäller svenska lager, inte svenska värderingar](#), Dagens Nyheter. Published 2024-06-05.

Rothstein, Bo: [Universiteten skall inte styra som den lokala kennelklubben](#), Dagens Nyheter. Published 2024-03-23.

Rothstein, Bo: [Riksbankens oberoende bör ifrågasättas](#), Svenska Dagbladet. Published 2024-08-24.

Rothstein, Bo: [Palestinierna har förvägrats medborgarskap](#), Svenska Dagbladet. Published 2024-06-22.

Rothstein, Bo: [Bristande förståelse för akademisk frihet](#), Svenska Dagbladet. Published 2024-02-28.

Rothstein, Bo: [Bristar i redovisningen av cancelkulturen vid Linnéuniversitet](#), Svenska Dagbladet. Published 2024-02-26.

Rothstein, Bo: [Kritik av priset i ekonomi till Alfred Nobels minne](#), FOKUS. Published 2024-10-28.

Rothstein, Bo: [Därför röstade USA på Donald Trump](#), FOKUS. Published 2024-11-23.

Rothstein, Bo: [Vägen till pöbelväldet](#), FOKUS. Published 2024-05-20.

Rothstein, Bo: [De borgerliga partierna införde korporatismen i Sverige](#), FOKUS. Published 2024-02-10.

Rothstein, Bo: [Det blir kostsamt att skrota den svenska modellen](#), FOKUS. Published 2024-02-19.

Sundell, Anders: [Kärnkraft – en politisk seger på avbetalning](#). Svenska Dagbladet. Published 2024-12-14.

Sundell, Anders: [Ett enat Europa är överlägset](#). Svenska Dagbladet. Published 2024-11-14.

Sundell, Anders: [Därför vore despotin rena idiotin](#). Svenska Dagbladet. Published 2024-10-12.

Sundell, Anders: [Nu vet vi att det är oklart vad folk vill](#). Svenska Dagbladet. Published 2024-09-12.

Sundell, Anders: [Här dör människor utan stora rubriker](#). Svenska Dagbladet. Published 2024-06-01.

Sundell, Anders: [Så skyddar du dig mot skitsnackarna](#). Svenska Dagbladet. Published 2024-04-27.

Sundell, Anders: [Forskningen förlamas av försiktighet](#). Svenska Dagbladet. Published 2024-03-28.

Sundell, Anders: [Det är dumt att alltid vara smart](#). Svenska Dagbladet. Published 2024-02-24.

Sundell, Anders: [Sluta subventionera miljöförstöring](#). Svenska Dagbladet. Published 2024-01-25.

Sundström, Aksel in Kongressen – amerikansk politik på svenska: [Så missgynnas unga politiker i USA](#), 2024-03-08.

RESEARCH GRANTS

Amy Alexander and Lena Wängnerud

received a grant for a project entitled “Sexual corruption. Understanding, measuring and preventing abuse of power for sex”. The grant is funded by the Swedish Research Council (VR) and is part of a research environment grant of SEK 17 996 000 with Elin Bjarnegård, Uppsala university as PI. Other scholars involved are Åsa Eldén, Dolores Calvo, Silje Lundgren, and Sofia Jonsson.

Georgios Xezonakis and Victor

Lapiente co-participated in a successful Horizon application within the RADAR project (Renewing Administration through Democratic Anchorage Reforms) Call: HORIZON-CL2-2024-DEMOCRACY-01.

Emiliy Elia (PI) and Jana Schwenk received a grant for a one-year study that investigates under which circumstances voters punish corruption, with a focus on preconceptions and gender. The grant is funded by Lars Hiertas Minne Stiftelse.

Marina Nistotskaya received the RJ Sabbatical grant of 1 865 080 SEK for a research sabbatical 2024-2025

ACTIVITIES

In 2024, we continued our much-appreciated activities, such as our visiting scholar program, lunch seminar series, internal conferences, and internship program. We also celebrated the Institute's 20th anniversary with an **international conference**, where we took stock of the accumulated knowledge and discussed avenues for further research, and organized a **policy day** together with the Lancet

Commission on Peaceful Societies through Health Equity and Gender Equality on the theme: "Policy pathways to sustainable well-being and peace: *How do we protect or even improve institutional quality, health equity and gender equality under crisis and conflict?*".

QoG scholars also presented their work at several academic conferences and workshops and were engaged in a number of activities directed towards the academic world as well as the public and policymakers.



CONFERENCE

20 YEARS OF THE QUALITY OF GOVERNMENT RESEARCH: TAKING STOCK AND MOVING FORWARD

Our 20th anniversary was celebrated in May with an international conference to take stock of the accumulated knowledge and to discuss the avenues for further research.

The conference gathered both QoG researchers and over 20 scholars from outside the Institute. Ongoing work, engaging with theoretical and empirical questions related to the quality of government, were presented, as well as a selection of the QoG Institute's own achievements during the last 20 years.

PRESENTATIONS

Andersen, David: "Plights of Patrimonialism: The Causes of Incumbent-led Democratic Breakdowns"

Andriani, Luca & Conrad Dumbah: "Government Effectiveness in Sub-Saharan Africa"

Avellaneda, Claudia N.: "Implementation of the Mexican Meritocratic System: Assessing Its Impartiality and Gender Effects"

Casas, Julieta: "Building Bureaucratic Capacity: The Political Origins of Civil Service Reforms"

Fazekas, Mihály: "Mayors' salaries and public procurement corruption risks: Evidence from 10 European countries"

Fleischer, Julia: "The Structural Backbones of the Leviathan: A New Perspective on Administrative State Capacity in Europe"

Goel, Rajeev: "Election campaign finance bans in parliamentary and presidential democracies and corruption"

"The conference gathered both QoG researchers and over 20 scholars from outside the Institute"

Presentation during the QoG 20th anniversary conference in May 2024.



Goyal, Tanushree: “Does local leadership lower bias in law enforcement? Evidence from Experiments with India’s rural politicians”

Holmberg, Sören and Bo Rothstein: “How to organize a successful research institute”

Karahasan, Burhan Can: “Quality of government cohesion across the EU regions: Success or failure?”

Knights, Mark & Ronald Kroeze: “A Prospectus for a History of Corruption”

Kolvani, Palina: “On Mechanisms of Meritocratic Bureaucracy: Competence and Autonomy”

Nagawa, Maria: “Foreign Aid and the Performance of Bureaucrats”

Petrova, Bilyana: “Perceptions about Institutional Quality and Preferences for Economic Redistribution”

Rotberg, Robert I.: “Governance and National Outcomes”

Sabaté, Oriol: “Power sharing and administrative reforms: the case of Chile under military rule (1925-31)”

Ting, Michael: “Organizational Capacity and Project Dynamics”

Skaaning, Svend-Erik: “Does ethno-political exclusion cause civil war onset via grievances? Evidence from comparative case studies”

Wirsching, Elisa: “Politicized Meritocracy: Determinants of Partisan and Racial Selection in US City Bureaucracy”

Wittberg, Emanuel: “In the local, we trust? On within-country variations of multilevel trust”



THE QOG AND LANCET POLICY DAY 2024

Every year or two, the QoG Institute organizes a Policy Dialogue Day that aims to bridge the gap between analysis and practice. The policy day serves as a meeting platform for practitioners, policy makers, and academics. In 2024, we hosted a Policy Day together with the Lancet Commission on Peaceful Societies through Health Equity and Gender Equality on the theme: “Policy pathways to sustainable well-being and peace: *“How do we protect or even improve institutional quality, health equity and gender equality under crisis and conflict?”*”.

The Policy Day took place on November 26 and brought together a mix of researchers and practitioners from the public, private, and non-profit sectors and provided a unique opportunity to exchange ideas and share evidence-based insights on how we can protect and improve institutional quality, health equity and gender equality under crisis and conflict.

We want to express a heart warm thank you to everyone who attended the policy day.

“How do we protect or even improve institutional quality, health equity and gender equality under crisis and conflict?”

PRESENTATIONS

INTRODUCTION PANEL

Amy Alexander (The QoG Institute) and **Sara Causevic** (Stockholm University) *presentation of the peaceful societies through health equity and gender equality by Commissioners.*

Moa Herrgård and Arturo Pesigan (World Health Organization Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office) on *health emergencies in the region and the ongoing work to address those health emergencies and on the case of Yemen.*

Karin Tegmark Wisell (Sweden’s Ambassador for Global Health) on *how the Swedish reform agenda – Development assistance for a new era - Freedom, empowerment and sustainable growth - support the work for peaceful societies through health equity and gender equality”.*

PANEL 1: WOMEN’S INCLUSION AND HEALTH AS A BRIDGE TO PEACE

Valeriya Mechkova (University of Gothenburg) on *the influence of women’s political representation on health-care outcomes.*

Kristen Kao (University of Gothenburg) on *women’s inclusion in post-conflict reconciliation in the Middle East.*

Karin Tegmark Wisell, Sweden’s Ambassador for Global Health, presenting at the QoG-Lancet Policy Day.



Mathilde Boddaert (the Global Health and Peace Initiative, World Health Organization) on *WHO's contributions to peace and the Global Health and Peace Initiative*.

Espen Bjertness (University of Oslo) on the *“Attack on the health system - Myanmar, Gaza and beyond”*.

PANEL 2: HEALTH SYSTEM RESILIENCE, GOVERNANCE AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION UNDER FRAGILE CONTEXTS

Abeer Ahmad (Stockholm International Peace Research) on *how health system resilience mitigates the impact of conflict on healthcare access*.

Daniel Carelli (Chalmers University) on *global health governance and the case of antimicrobial resistance under Conflict/Crisis*.

Ulrika Modéer (the Swedish Red Cross) on *developing work in humanitarian assistance*.

Annika Sandlund (Representative to Nordic and Baltic countries, UNHCR, and UN Refugee Agency) on *“Refugee health – from humanitarian action to inclusion”*.

PANEL 3: POLICY PATHWAYS TO INSTITUTIONAL QUALITY THROUGH THE ENGAGEMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND CITIZENS UNDER FRAGILE CONTEXTS

Monika Bauhr (the QoG Institute) on *social bargaining, sexual corruption and access to public services*.

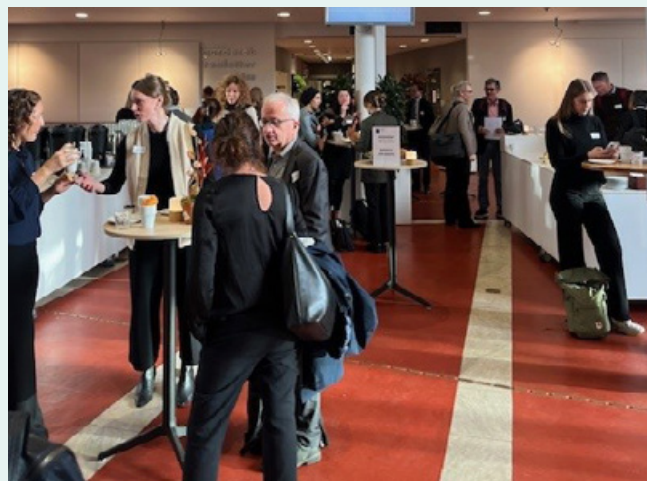
Marcia Grimes (the QoG Institute) on *civil society and bottom-up accountability*.

Annekatriin Deglow (Uppsala University) on *violent elections and citizens' commitment to democracy*.

Nicholas Charron and Victor Lapuente (the QoG Institute) on *trust, polarization, populism and COVID-19 deaths across European regions*.

PANEL 4: HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN FRAGILE CONTEXTS

Anna Svensson (Swedish Red Cross), on *humanitarian assistance before, under and after crisis*.



Dr. Saidkasim Sakhipov (UNFPA Country Office Moldova) on *“Building a Foundation: Protecting the Vulnerable When It Matters Most”*.

Gunilla Backman (The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency) on *fragility and crises as a window of opportunity for gender equality and the right to health*.

Anna Persson and Hayden Buker (the QoG Institute) on the *evaluation of Swedish Development Cooperation*.



WORKSHOP

THE INFORMATIONAL TURN IN THE STUDY OF THE STATE: TAKING STOCK AND MOVING FORWARD



On June 12-14, we hosted a workshop on the theme *The Informational Turn in the Study of the State: Taking Stock and Moving Forward*, together with the ETHNICGOODS, a five-year research project funded by a European Research Council (ERC) Consolidator Grant and hosted by the Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals and led by Dr Matthias vom Hau.

Over these days, leading scholars in the field delved into the role of information in governance, causes of information capacity and consequences of high and low state information capacity. The topics of the papers ranged from historical analyses of parliamentary debates and the origins of state regulation of birth to contemporary issues such as how states manage immigrants today, build state presence in border regions, and govern through cadasters or symbolic power, among others.

PRESENTATIONS

Alejandro Peres, Jose and Blue Miller: "Civil wars and information capacity: An analysis of the Latin America case, 1890-1910"

Angeman, Gustav et al.: "The Uneven Reach of the State: A Novel Approach to Mapping Local State Presence"

D'Arcy, Michelle et al.: "Birth and the Leviathan: Women, Demography, and Information Capacity"

Degrave, Anne: "The Limits of Informational Capacity: Evidence from the French Napoleonic Cadaster"

Goenaga, Agustín and Oriol Sabaté: "The Politics of State Information Capacity in the Americas and Europe: A Historical Analysis of Parliamentary Debates"

vom Hau, Mattias et al.: "The Information Capacity of States, Ethnic Diversity, and Social Development"

Koehler-Derrick, Gabriel and Andy Harris: "Religious Sacraments and Local Development: Evidence from Colonial Ireland"

Lundstedt, Andreas: "Comparative people processing: Immigration control in Canada and Sweden"

Nistotskaya, Marina et al.: "Cadaster and Economic Growth: A Long-Run Cross-Country Panel"

Singh, Perna and Shreya Singh: "From Symbolic Power to State Capacity: A Moral Theory of Popular Compliance"

Soifer, Hillel: "Information capacity and the state's economies of scope"

Åsblad, Magnus: "Ignore or control? How transborder ethnic minorities affect state capacity"

EVALUATION

THE ANTI- CORRUPTION EFFORTS OF THE SWEDISH DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY (SIDA)



Marina Nistotskaya, Hayden Buker, Marcia Grimes, Michelle D’Arcy, Bo Rothstein and Adea Gafuri led an evaluation of the anti-corruption efforts of the Swedish Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). The evaluation resulted in a report titled “Evidence Based Anti Corruption? Evaluation of Sida’s Efforts to Reduce Corruption in Partner Countries”. The report was presented at an EBA seminar which is also available at [SVT Forum](#) (in Swedish).

QOG INTERNAL CONFERENCES

We organized two internal conferences in 2024, where our researchers came together to present and discuss ongoing projects. In total 26 papers were presented spread over the two conferences. Many of these papers have or will be published in our QoG working paper series.



QOG VISITING SCHOLAR PROGRAM AND LUNCH SEMINARS

The QoG Visiting Scholar Program and our lunch seminar series are vital parts of our Institute. We aim at inviting cutting-edge scholars, as well as prosperous doctoral students, who do research on topics related to the QoG research agenda. In 2024, we hosted 17 scholars in our visiting scholar program, including a visiting PhD student, who all presented their work at a lunch seminar. We extend a particular warm thank you to all our guests whose engagement and commitment provide invaluable intellectual impetus for the QoG Institute.

VISITING SCHOLARS 2024

Bolgherini, Silvia, Associate Professor for Political Science, University of Perugia: *“At the roots of municipal politics. Exploring municipal turnout in Europe”*

Charasz, Pawel, Assistant Professor at the Chinese University of Hongkong (Shenzhen), Winner of QoG Best Paper Award: *“Burghers into Peasants: Political Economy of City Status in Congress Poland”*

Hogic, Nedim, Research Fellow at the Department of Public and International Law, University of Oslo: *“Corruption As a National Security Threat: Implications for Policymakers”*

Katsaitis, Alexander, Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Science, Stockholm University: *“International parliamentary institutions and political donations: the case of the European Parliament”*

Kjær, Anne Mette, Professor at the Department of Political Science, Aarhus University: *“The politics of revenue bargaining in Africa: findings and implications”*

Klašnja, Marko, Assistant Professor of Political Science with the joint appointment in the Government Department and the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University: *“Charismatic Leaders and Democratic Backsliding”*

Kotsogiannis, Christos, Professor of Economics, University of Exeter Business School, Director of Tax Administration Research Centre (TARC), President of the Management Board of the Independent Authority for Public Revenue (IAPR) of Greece and Research Fellow at CESifo: *“(Fiscal) Institutions, Development and Social Justice”*

Loiacono, Luisa, Assistant Professor at the Department of Economics and Management, University of Ferrara: *“Does local fiscal autonomy increase local income? Evidence from Italy”*

Matthíasson Berg, Pétur, PhD student of Political Science / Public Administration, University of Iceland: *“Towards a Joined-Up Government in Iceland: The Role of the Centre of Government in Overcoming Wicked Challenges in the 21st Century: (case: Iceland Public Sector Reforms 2009-2021)”*

Praça, Sérgio, Professor and researcher at the CPDOC School of Social Sciences (FGV-RJ): *“Populism Against the State? Jair Bolsonaro and the Brazilian Federal Bureaucracy”*



Gregg Van Ryzin (above) and Abbey Steele (right) were two of the visiting scholars 2024.



Roost, Stefanie, PhD fellow at United Nations University (UNU-MERIT); Maastricht University: *“Trust and Reform capacity: Micro-level evidence from Latin America”*

Shipley, Tom, PhD Researcher at the Centre for the Study of Corruption, University of Sussex: *“Understanding success and failure in anti-corruption programming: the missed opportunity of monitoring, evaluation and learning”*

Steele, Abbey, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Amsterdam: *“Forced displacement, community composition and trust in neighbors & the state in war-affected Colombia”*

Thomsson, Kaj, Associate Professor of Economics in the School of Business and Economics, Maastricht University: *“Historical Path Dependence in Intergovernmental Tax Arrangements”*

Toral, Guillermo, Assistant Professor of Political Science at IE University: *“Street-Level Rule of Law: Prosecutor Presence and the Fight against Corruption”*

Van Ryzin, Gregg, Professor at the School of Public Affair and Administration, Rutgers University-Newark, and Director at the Center for Experimental and Behavioral Public Administration (CEBPA): *“Coproduction as a causal process”*

Weldon, Laurel, Dean at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Distinguished SFU Professor of Political Science, FRSC and Associate Member at International Studies, Simon Fraser University: *“Feminism, the State, and Democracy: Sketching A Global Trajectory”*

QOG BEST PAPER AWARD

The Quality of Government (QoG) Institute’s Best Paper Award is an annual prize awarded to a paper on a quality of government related topic, demonstrating outstanding research based on its theoretical and empirical contributions.

In 2024, we hosted the winner of the previous year’s award winner, **Paweł Charasz**, Assistant Professor in the School of Humanities and Social Science at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen, who presented his award-winning paper at a lunch seminar.

Title: “Burghers into Peasants: Political Economy of City Status in Congress Poland.”



MOTIVATION BY THE BEST PAPER AWARD COMMITTEE

The paper offers an empirically rich and rigorous exploration of questions central to political science, such as the conditions under which democracy may promote or undermine long-term development.

Particularly, the author offers a nuanced and compelling argument for how inequality and divergent interests voiced and aggregated under democratic institutions might hinder economic development by impeding the development of the rule of law, public goods provision, and economic competition. The theoretical argument and implications of the findings are both important and thought-provoking.

The paper examines the effects an 1869 reform in Poland that dechartered selected cities, resulting in the introduction of elections in some local settings but not others. As the selection of cities to be dechartered was not strongly associated with potentially

relevant local conditions, the reform provides the opportunity to examine the implications of this theoretically relevant point of institutional divergence. The author then leverages numerous innovative indicators to examine the implications of the institutional arrangements, and to account for confounding explanations.

The data collection is impressive, and the paper is transparent about the construction, strengths and limitations of each indicator and analysis employed. In sum, the paper makes important contributions to the study of democratization, state capacity and quality of government.

The Committee Members:

Jana Schwenk (Post doc)
Marcia Grimes (Professor)
Rasmus Broms (Associate Professor)
Stephen Dawson (Post doc)

OTHER ACTIVITIES

QOG AT APSA

The 120th APSA Annual Meeting & Exhibition took place on 5-8 September 2024 in Philadelphia, USA.

The QoG Institute had an exhibition booth together with Governance and Local Development – GLD and V-Dem Institute. In the booth, we particularly exhibited the Oxford Handbook of Quality of Government, a new report on “Evaluation of Sida’s Efforts to Contribute to Reduced Corruption in Partner Countries”, and the new Low-QoG project on subnational governance data.

We also co-organized a booth reception together with GLD, V-dem and Demscore.



SECTION ON QOG AT ECPR DUBLIN

Monika Bauhr and Jana Schwenk from the QoG Institute organized a section on “*Unlocking prosperity: Battling corruption for citizens’ better lives*”, at the ECPR General Conference in Dublin, 12–15 August 2024, focusing on the relationship between corruption and citizen’s quality of life. The section aimed to provide a comprehensive exploration of corruption from various angles and scholars and researchers from different sub-disciplines contributed, offering diverse perspectives and insights on the causes, consequences, and potential solutions to corruption.

A total of nine different panels and in total 37 papers featured interesting research on the quality of government and corruption and covered a broad range of topics, including issues such as transparency, accountability, legal reforms, ethical standards, political commitment, civil society engagement, international cooperation, technological solutions, economic reforms, and education.

[Read more about the session](#)





A SELECTION OF ACTIVITIES, ACADEMIC

Bauhr, Monika: “Autonomy of Accountability? Recruitment regimes, gender balance and perceptions of legitimacy”, presented at the European Consortium for Political research (ECPR), 2024-08-12- 2024-08-15.

Bauhr, Monika: “Why are some democracies less corrupt than others? Women’s representation, quotas and merit-based recruitment”, presented at the University of Padova, 2024-11-23.

Bauhr, Monika: “Does democracy reduce corruption? The role of women’s representation, presented at The Margins Of Corruption seminar series, University of Geneva, 2024-03-05.

Bauhr, Monika: “Transparency, civic engagement and whistleblowing. Implications for the fight against corruption”, presented at the Information is for everyone: 12 years of application of the access to information law in the state of Sao Paulo”, 2024-05-16.

Bauhr, Monika: “Transparency and corruption risks in public procurement: Lessons learned at the institutional level”, presented at CO.R.E Final Conference, University of Perugia, 2024-02-29 to 2024-03-01.

Boräng, Frida: “The Double Democratic Bind: Challenges to Enacting Mandates and Combating Misinformation”, presented at the Oxford Covid-19 Government Response Tracker (OxCGRT) online seminar series, 2024-04-18.

Bågenholm, Andreas: “Party reaction to whistleblowing in the media. The case of Sweden 2013-2023”, presented at NoPSA Nordic Political Science Congress, Bergen, 2024-06-27 to 2024-06-28. Co-author: Birgitta Niklasson, D’Stephen Dawson & Jenny de Fine Licht.

Bågenholm, Andreas: “Who votes for Anti-Corruption parties”, presented at ECPR General Conference, Dublin, 2024-08-12 to 2024-08-15. Co-author: Nicholas Charron.

Charron, Nicholas: “Merit, Quotas or Political Recruitment? Gender Balance and Perceptions of Legitimacy” (with Monika Bauhr), European Political Science Association Conference (EPSA), Cologne, Germany, 2024-07-04 to 2024-07-06.

Charron, Nicholas: “Who Votes for Anti-Corruption Parties?” (with Andreas Bågenholm), ECPR Annual Conference, Dublin, 2024-08-12 to 2024-08-15.

Charron, Nicholas: “Merit, Quotas or Political Recruitment? Gender Balance and Perceptions of Legitimacy” (with Monika Bauhr), ECPR Annual Conference, Dublin, 2024-08-12 to 2024-08-15.

Cornell, Agnes: “Cómo se mide la Calidad de la democracia? [How to measure the quality of democracy?]” Presentation at a public seminar: La Democracia en Euskadi en un Nuevo Tiempo Político, Universidad de Deusto (Bilbao’s campus), Bilbao, 2024-02-27.

Grimes, Marcia (with Agnes Cornell and Paula Muñoz): “The effects of corruption perceptions and institutional knowledge on accountability actions: A field experiment of civil society leaders in Peru (PAP),” ECPR General Conference, 2024-08-12 to 2024-08-15.

Gunderson, Jacob, “Issue Saliency, Party Brands, and Electoral Volatility,” University of Mannheim Workshop on Political Parties, 2024-02-08 to 2024-02-09.

Gunderson, Jacob, “The Supranational Conflict-of-Conflicts: Analyzing EU-Level Issue Competition through Euromanifestos,” Swedish Network of European Studies Conference, 2024-03-21 to 2024-03-22.

Gunderson, Jacob: “The Conflict-of-Conflicts and Cleavage (In)Stability: Bloc Volatility and Fragmentation in Turbulent Times,” ECPR Joint Sessions at Leuphana University, 2024-03-25 to 2024-03-28.

Gunderson, Jacob: “Party Congress Motions as a Window into the Black Box,” Aarhus-Gothenburg Workshop on Political Parties in Skagen, 2024-05-30 to 2024-05-31.

Gunderson, Jacob: “The Conflict-of-Conflicts and Cleavage (In)Stability: Bloc Volatility and Fragmentation in Turbulent Times,” Cleavage Theory Workshop at the European University Institute in Florence, 2024-06-03 to 2024-06-04.

Gunderson, Jacob: “Illuminating the Black Box: Mapping ideological factions in Western democracies,” European Political Science Association Conference in Cologne, 2024-07-04 to 2024-07-06.

Gunderson, Jacob: “To blur or not to blur: Disentangling populism, ideology, electoral strategy, and party system dimensionality,” ECPR General Conference, Dublin, 2024-08-12 to 2024-08-15.

Gunderson, Jacob: “Illuminating the Black Box: Mapping ideological factions in Western democracies,” American Political Science Association Annual Conference (APSA), Philadelphia, 2024-09-05 to 2024-09-08.

Gunderson, Jacob: “Party Congress Motions as a Window into the Black Box,” German Political Science Association Conference in Göttingen, 2024-09-24 to 2024-09-27.

Holmgren, Mikael and Carl Dahlström: “Parliamentary Control of Ministerial Policymaking”, presented at NoPSA Nordic Political Science Congress, Bergen, 2024-06-25 to 2024-06-28.

Holmgren, Mikael and Carl Dahlström: “Parliamentary Control of Ministerial Policymaking”, presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, 2024-09-05 to 2024-09-08.

Leuschner, Elena: “The Effects of Protesters’ Identities on the Political Agenda”, presented at APSA Annual Meeting & Exhibition, Philadelphia, 2024-09-05-2024-09-08.

Leuschner, Elena: “Experimental Evidence on Politicians’ Responsiveness to Protest Actions”, presented at APSA Annual Meeting & Exhibition, Philadelphia, 2024-09-05-2024-09-08.



Niklasson, Birgitta: Chaired the workshop “Misconduct and Accountability Mechanisms in Public and Political Organisations and Processes”, at NoPSA Nordic Political Science Congress, Bergen, 2024-06-26 to 2024-06-28.

Niklasson, Birgitta: “Misconduct and whistleblowing in political parties: A party loyalty dilemma”, presented at NoPSA Nordic Political Science Congress, Bergen, 2024-06-26 to 2024-06-28.

Nistotskaya, Marina: Chaired the session: “State Informational Capacity in Historical and Contemporary Governance”, at APSA Annual Meeting & Exhibition, Philadelphia, 2024-09-05-2024-09-08.

Nistotskaya, Marina: Presentation at the Future Trends for the Public Sector workshop, KU Leuven, 2024-02-08 to 2024-02-09.

Nistotskaya, Marina: Presentation at the Council of European Studies, Lyon, 2024-07-02 to 2024-07-05.

Nistotskaya, Marina: Presentation at the Global Observatory of Long-Term Care (GOLTC) Care Home Markets and Regulation Interest Group webinar, online, 2024-06-11.

Nistotskaya, Marina: “Financing for Development Dialogues: From Evidence to Action,” UN DESA, 2024-12-02.

Persson, Anna (with Odd-Helge Fjeldstad and Ingrid Sjursen): “The Fiscal Contract Revisited: How Taxation Shapes Citizens’ Demand for Public Goods and Democratic Inclusion in Developing Countries,” CMI Tax Day 2024, CMI, Bergen, Norway, 2024-05-07.

Persson, Anna (with Odd-Helge Fjeldstad and Ingrid Sjursen): “The Fiscal Contract Revisited: How Taxation by Weak and Patronage-Based States Shapes Citizens’ Demand for Public Goods and Democratic Inclusion,” NoPSA, Bergen, Norway, 2024-06-25 to 2024-06-28.

Pfeiffer, Frederik: “Democratic Ideals in the Climate Transition – A study on preferences for deliberative democracy and expert governance in Sweden”, presented at the 16th Nordic Environmental Social Science Conference, Åbo, Finland, 2024-06-04 to 2024-06-06.

Pfeiffer, Frederik: Appointed guest lecturer at Sciences Po Lyon in 2024-11, taught a course on collective action theory and natural resources.

Rothstein, Bo: Presentation of the report En förstärkt hälso- och sjukvård? Konsekvenser för demokrati, legitimitet och ansvarsutkrävande [A Nationalized Healthcare System? Implications for Democracy, Legitimacy, and Accountability] at a seminar at the Institute for Futures Studies in Stockholm, 2024-11-13.

Rothstein, Bo: “Political Science and Economic Democracy”, seminar at the Department of Political Science in Oslo, 2024-10-23.

Rothstein, Bo: Presentation of the book Grundbulten at an online seminar hosted by the School of Business, Economics, and Law, University of Gothenburg, 2024-11-05.

Rothstein, Bo: “Researchers in Public Discourse”, lecture at the Institute for Futures Studies in Stockholm, 2024-12-02.

Rothstein, Bo: “Trust and Economic Democracy”, lecture for the Department of Social Sciences at Södertörn University, 2024-03-18.

Rothstein, Bo: “Strategies for Publishing Internationally”, lecture at the Department of Government at the University of Bergen, 2024-04-24.

Rothstein, Bo: “What Has Democracy to Deliver to Survive?”, lecture at “Government Day”, the Department of Government at the University of Bergen, 2024-05-02.

Rothstein, Bo: “What Does It Mean to Be a Department of Government?”, lecture at the Department of Government, University of Bergen, 2024-05-15.

Schwenk, Jana: “Underneath the Surface: Unpacking Gendered Dynamics in Legislative Oversight in Italian Municipalities”, ECPR General Conference, Dublin, 2024-08-12 to 2024-08-15. Co-author: Marta Ponzio, Università degli Studi di Perugia.

Sundell, Anders: Lund University: Workshop on Political Economy and Behavior, 2024-09-18.

Sundell, Anders: Invited talk at the University of Oslo, 2024-10-10.



A SELECTION OF ACTIVITIES, POLICY-RELATED

Boräng, Frida: "Migrationspolitik i ett jämförande och historiskt perspektiv". Inbjuden gästföreläsare på konferensen "Veje og visioner for den nordiske didaktik. Seminar/internt for NordUngs udviklingskonsulenter og styregruppe," 2024-08-30.

Charron, Nicholas: "LRCC Meeting and EU Network Against Corruption," Brussels. Sponsored by Ecorys (NL) and EU Commission, 2024-10.

Charron, Nicholas: "RESILIO Rule of Law Report," expert speaker and participant. Sponsored by Institut für Europäische Politik, Berlin, Germany, 2024-04-25.

Gunderson, Jacob: "Talk on US Election," Business Arena Väst, 2024-11-05.

Gunderson, Jacob: "Talk on US Electoral System," Utrikesföreningen, 2024-10-15.

Gunderson, Jacob: "Talk on US Electoral System," Hulebäcksgymnasiet, 2024-10-22.

Gunderson, Jacob: "Talk on US Election," IGHR The International High School, 2024-11-06.

Niklasson, Birgitta: Moderating the discussions following the showings of the movie "Så länge hjärtat slår," about whistleblowing and part of the film festival of Human Rights in Gothenburg, 2024-11-18 to 2024-11-22.

Nistotskaya, Marina, Hayden Buker, Marcia Grimes, Michelle D'Arcy, Bo Rothstein, and Adea Gafuri: Hur kan biståndet bekämpa korruption? Presentation of the evaluation of the anti-corruption efforts of the Swedish Development Cooperation Agency. SVT Forum. Published 2024-11-12.

Nistotskaya, Marina: "Presentation to the Polish Ambassador Joanna Hofman on Anti-Corruption Research and Research Cooperation in Anti-Corruption," University of Gothenburg, 2024-04-30.

Nistotskaya, Marina: "Evaluating Anti-Corruption Interventions: The State of Practice," U4 (Anti-Corruption Resource Center) Partner Forum, 2024-04-23.

Persson, Anna: "Hur kan biståndet bekämpa korruption?," based on EBA Report 2024:5, Kulturhuset, Stockholm, 2024-11-07.

Persson, Anna: "High-Risk Areas of Corruption in the EU," Second plenary meeting of the EU Network Against Corruption, European Commission, Brussels, 2024-10-03.

Rothstein, Bo: Presentation of the report to the Care Responsibility Committee in Stockholm for its members and secretariat, 2024-09-10.

Rothstein, Bo: Participation in a "hearing" organized by the Care Responsibility Committee in Stockholm for its group of experts/advisors, 2024-09-23.

Rothstein, Bo: Presentation of the report at Region Stockholm's Leadership Day, 2024-10-14.

Rothstein, Bo: Participation in a podcast discussion organized by the Academic Association SSR on ethics for social scientists, 2024-10-15.

Rothstein, Bo: Presentation of the book Grundbulten at the Humanities Association in Alingsås, 2024-11-05.

Rothstein, Bo: Lecture for the Ministry of Finance's international and economic department on The Role of Public Servants, 2024-11-07.

Rothstein, Bo: Participation in a panel discussion (with Per Molander and Lars Calmfors) on the independence of the Riksbank at Rättsfonden in Stockholm, 2024-11-13.

Rothstein, Bo: Lecture at Karolinska University Hospital's Leadership Day under the title Culture of Silence and Trust, 2024-11-26.

Rothstein, Bo: Presentation to the government-appointed Productivity Commission titled The Importance of Trust for Organizational Productivity, 2024-11-27.

Rothstein, Bo: Lecture at the Office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman titled Trustworthy Authorities: The Foundation of Swedish Democracy, 2024-12-06.

Rothstein, Bo: Lecture for S-students in Gothenburg on the topic Why Are There So Few Employee-Owned Companies in Sweden?, 2024-12-09.

Rothstein, Bo: Presentation of the book Grundbulten to the Humanities Association in Uddevalla, 2024-03-14.

Rothstein, Bo: Presentation of the book Grundbulten at Viskadalen Folk High School, 2024-03-16.

Rothstein, Bo: Presentation of the book Grundbulten at Brunnsvik Folk High School, 2024-05-29.

Sundell, Anders: Science quiz with scientists, Vetenskapsfestivalen, Gothenburg, 2024-04-20.

Sundell, Anders: Frihamnsdagarna, panel discussion on AI and democracy, Gothenburg, 2024-08-30.

Sundell, Anders: Presentation for high school classes from Polhemsgymnasiet, Gothenburg, 2024-09-25.

Sundell, Anders: AW with scientists: "Dags för en diktator", Gothenburg, 2024-09-25.

Sundell, Anders: Presentation for high school classes from Donnergymnasiet, Gothenburg, 2024-09-30.

Sundell, Anders: Panel discussion on theater play of Machiavelli's "The Prince", 2024-11-28.

AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND OTHER SERVICES TO THE PROFESSION

Anders Sundell received the Faculty of social sciences pedagogical prize 2024, University of Gothenburg.

Andreas Bågenholm wrote a referral response to Report of the Inquiry into transitional restrictions in public activities (SOU2023:45).

Anna Persson: Member of Norwegian Research Council's Panel for Social Sciences. 2020- ongoing.

Anna Persson: Member of Research Committee, Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies, 2023- ongoing.

Monika Bauhr: Ranked number one for her impact on the corruption literature by The ScholarGPS® Highly Ranked Scholars™ on corruption, based on prior five-year activity. Highly Ranked Scholars™ are the most productive authors whose works are of profound impact and of utmost quality and is based on unique classification of over 200 million scholarly publications. Alongside Monika, many of the QoG Institute's former visiting scholars and our founder, Bo Rothstein, have also been recognized among the top scholars in the field. The ScholarGPS® also ranks institutions in its Global Institutional Rankings, where the University of Gothenburg ranks top one on corruption for both Lifetime and Prior Five Years. [Read more about the ranking.](#)

Monika Bauhr: Member of the Chandler sessions on corruption and integrity, Oxford University. The Chandler Sessions on Integrity and Corruption convenes a consistent group of 15 senior officials, all known as effective and innovative leaders of anti-corruption institutions. Together with a small group of faculty and expert journalists, the officials participating in the Sessions will survey the field, debate the priorities for innovation, and develop and test a set of new strategies for strengthening integrity in government institutions and dislodging entrenched corruption. [Read more about the Chandler sessions on corruption and integrity.](#)

Jacob Gundersson: Visiting Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence funded by the ERC-Advance Grant TRANSNATIONAL, 2024-11-16 to 2024-12-16.

COLLABORATIONS

DEMSCORE

The QoG Institute is a partnering institute of the Demscore (acronym for research infrastructure for Democracy, Environment, Migration, Social policy, Conflict, and Representation), which is a an innovative e-infrastructure that brings together some of the world's leading research infrastructures and databases, with the aim to provide free access to harmonized data from several of the world's largest datasets on Democracy, Environment, Migration, Social Policy, Conflict, and Representation. Demscore is a collaboration between the Universities' of Gothenburg, Stockholm, Uppsala, and Umeå. The project is funded by the Swedish Research Council. In 2023, the first full version of the DEMSCORE platform was launched and research findings from DEMSCORE partners were presented through seminars, panel discussions, and workshops.

Read more about the Demscore project:

<https://www.demscore.se/>

THE LANCET COMMISSION ON PEACEFUL SOCIETIES THROUGH HEALTH EQUITY AND GENDER EQUALITY

The QoG Institute is a partner of the Lancet Commission on Peaceful Societies through Health Equity and Gender Equality. The Lancet and the Swedish Institute for Global Health Transformation (SIGHT) launched the Commission on Peaceful Societies through Health and Gender Equality in 2019. The Commission is an independent and interdisciplinary initiative of 20 Commissioners and other collaborators, originally set up to further the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and to explore the untapped intersections and opportunities between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for health and well-being (SDG 3), gender equality (SDG 5), and peace, justice, and strong institutions (SDG 16).

Read more about The Lancet Commission on Peaceful Societies through Health Equity and Gender Equality:

<https://peacefulsocietiescommission.org/>



QOG DATA

As a key resource for researchers and practitioners, QoG Data offers ten datasets, several data visualization tools, as well as tips and advice on how to use our data. Our goal is to enable researchers, academics, and students to access high quality information about the quality of government and related areas. Our datasets are presented as both cross-sectional and timeseries and in the most common data file formats.

2024 was a year of steady progress for the QoG data team. We focused on supporting the Local Quality of Government (LoQoG) project and streamlining our processes. These efforts have kept us on track to complete the 2024 QoG dataset updates by the end of January 2025.

During the year, the team welcomed a valuable addition, Victor Saidi Phiri, as an Associate Researcher, strengthening efforts for the Local Quality of Government (LoQoG) project. This year has been marked by steady progress, including automating the tracking of municipal changes and transitioning the annual update process from Stata to Python—bringing greater efficiency and precision to data procurement. As a result, the team is on course to complete the 2024 QoG dataset updates by the end of January 2025, reflecting a year of innovation and dedication.

Compilation datasets

[Standard Dataset](#)

[Basic Dataset](#)

[OECD Dataset](#)

[EU Regional Dataset](#)

[QoG Environmental Indicators Dataset](#)

Original datasets

[QoG Expert Survey](#)

[European Quality of Government Index](#)

[Swedish Agency Database](#)

[Swedish Municipalities Dataset](#)

[PERCEIVE Survey data](#)

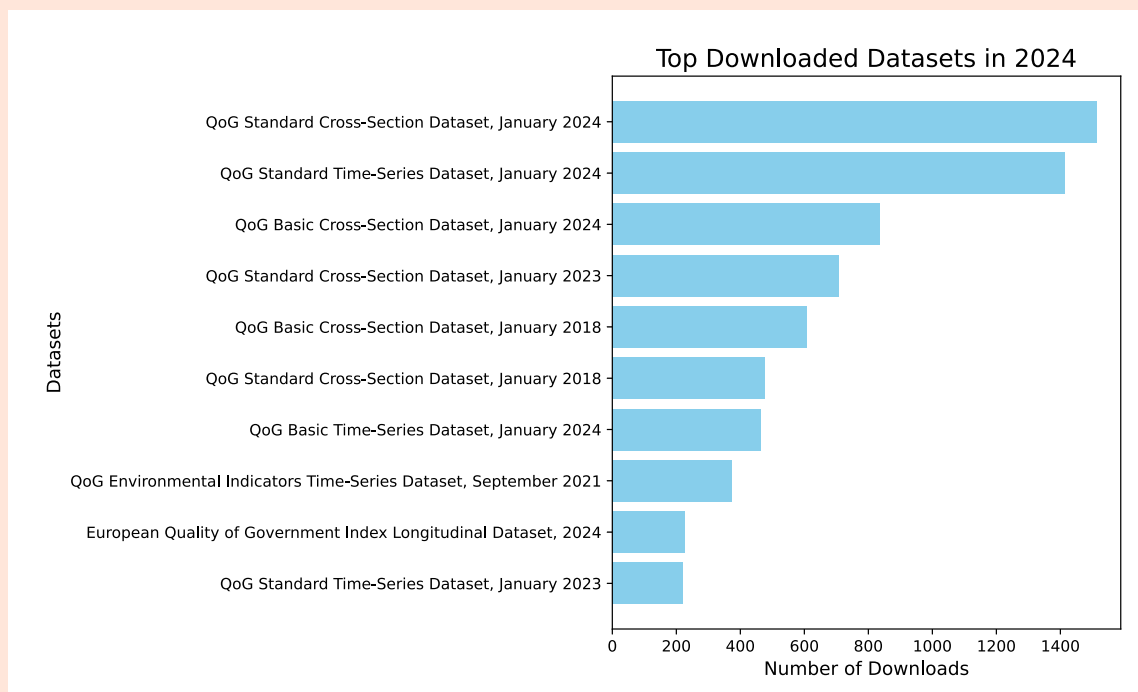


DATASET UPDATES

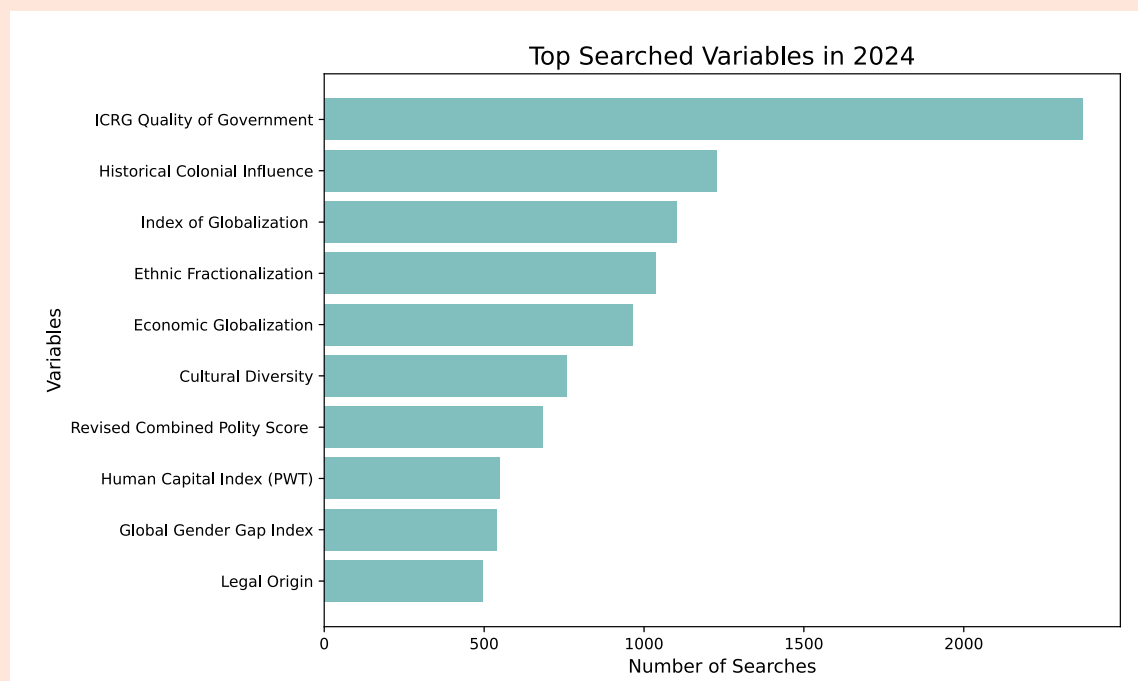
To enhance the consistency and compatibility of statistical data related to QoG, we continuously strive to improve both coverage and data quality. For the 2024 update of the QoG compilation datasets, we have incorporated O'Reilly & Murphy's State Capacity Index (O'Reilly & Murphy, 2022). In this dataset, the authors develop a method that yields to a State

Capacity Index with far more comprehensive data coverage across time (1789-2021) and countries than has been possible previously.

During the year under review, a total of 25,379 data downloads and 35700 unique users were recorded; improving the figures recorded during 2023.



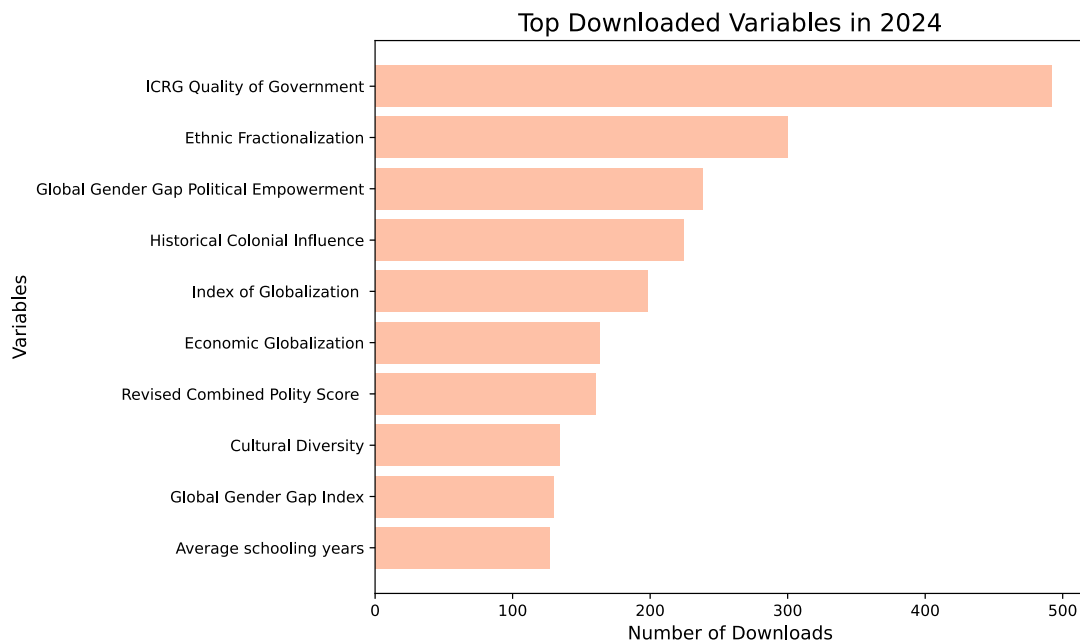
The top three most popular QoG datasets in 2024 were the QoG Standard Cross-Section Dataset 2024, the QoG Time-Series Dataset 2024, and the QoG Basic Cross-Section Dataset 2024.



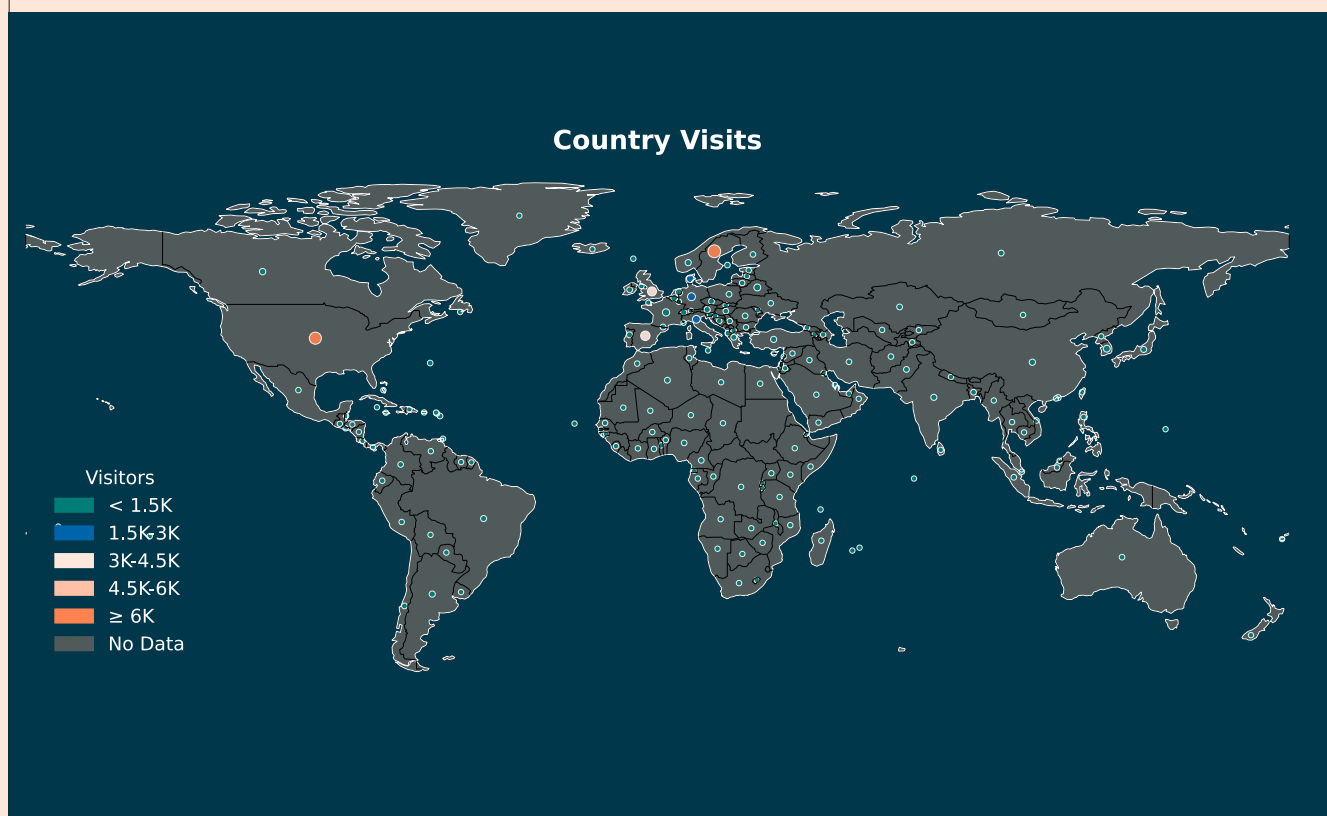
The most searched variables included the ICRG's Quality of Government, Colonial Origin from the Authoritarian Regime Dataset and the KOF Index of Globalization.

DATASET UPDATES (CONTINUED)

The most downloaded variables are:



We would like to thank the visitors of the QoG website, who come from 182 countries worldwide. The most frequent visitors are from Sweden, the United States, and Spain.





LOQOG

In 2024, we began implementing the LoQoG project, aimed at establishing a platform of local indicators on the quality of government and its societal correlates in Europe.

In its initial stages, the project focused on exploring local units across Europe and tracking changes that occurred for the period 2014 to 2024. Our findings revealed that many municipalities in Europe underwent significant changes.

These included mergers, splits, and alterations to municipal codes and names. One striking example is the creation of Livarot-Pays-D'auge in France in 2016, born from the merger of 22 municipalities. The LoQog project not only offers researchers an opportunity to examine local indicators but also provides valuable insights into municipal changes.

“Our findings revealed that many municipalities in Europe underwent significant changes”

NEW STAFF



We were pleased to welcome Victor Saidi Phiri to the QoG Institute data team as an Associate Researcher. Victor is a computational social scientist, social worker, and data analyst with experience in data management.

Previously, he served as a Data Manager in the Department under the Governance and Local Development Institute and has worked with international NGOs in evaluation research and grant management. At the QoG Institute, Victor contributes to the LoQoG project, aiming to make local-level data publicly accessible.

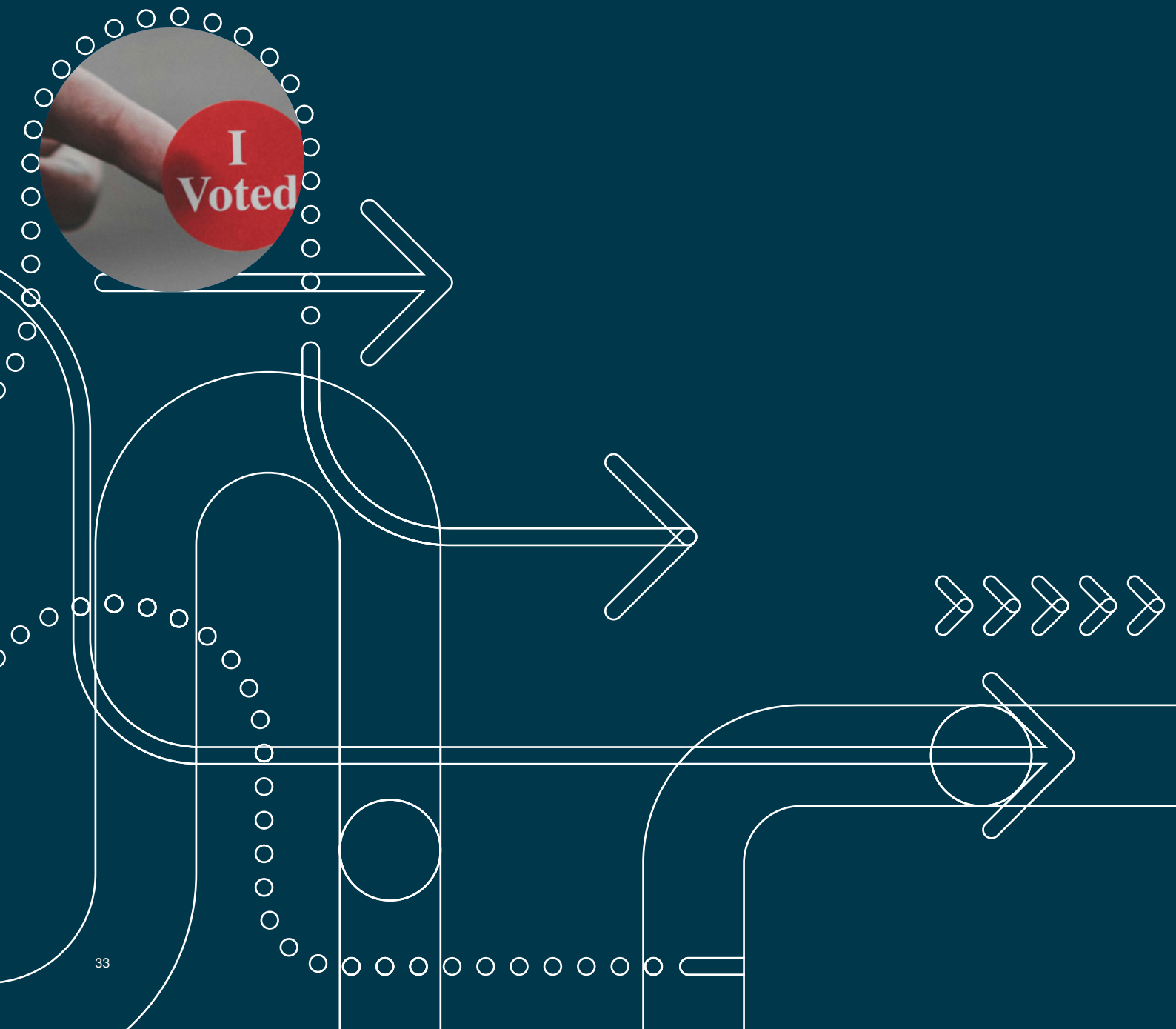
INTERNS

During the reporting period, the QoG data team was happy to receive the contributions of two interns: Lauren Gerber and Julia Rodionova.

Lauren Gerber is currently pursuing a master's degree in Social Scientific Data Analysis at Lund University. She played a pivotal role in translating Stata code for annual updates to Python, making the process more streamlined and efficient. Lauren also developed a notable visualization showcasing voting patterns in the United States from 1916 to 2020.

Julia Rodionova holds a PhD in Economics and supported the team in identifying suppliers for procurement data and locating legal documents relevant to municipal changes. Her fluency in Russian and French proved invaluable in documenting evidence of changes in municipalities in several EU countries.

QOG FOR STUDENTS



QOG MASTER COURSES

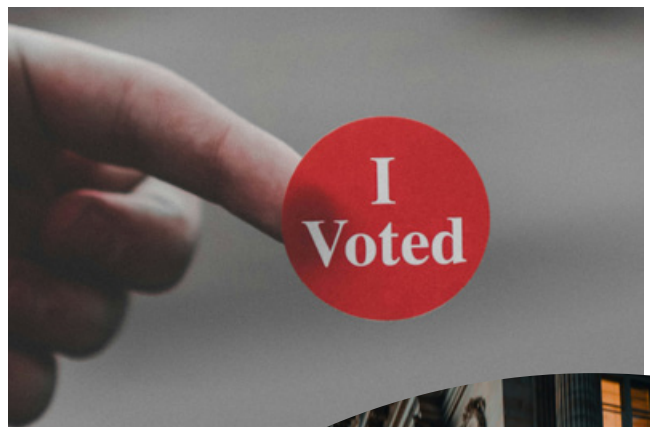
Master students at the University of Gothenburg have an opportunity to take part in courses that specifically explore different aspects of quality of government and the performance of democracies from a “governance” perspective.

THE PERFORMANCE OF DEMOCRACIES

This course explores factors that explain cross country variation in democratic performance and their implications. More specifically, it is concerned with how institutional variation among democratic regimes is related to outcomes in general dimensions of performance, such as, human well-being, corruption and sound management of public finances, among others. It therefore takes a quality of ‘governance’ perspective, focusing on why and how democracies ‘succeed or fail’. You also get to study the implications that follow for citizen attitudes and democratic support.

In 2024, 19 students were enrolled on the PERDEM course.

[Read more about the course](#)



THE QUALITY OF GOVERNMENT IN A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

The course addresses problems related to the quality of governance (QoG) and corruption in a comparative perspective. Today, there is consensus among social science researchers about the importance of high-quality government for economic and democratic development as well as for social and environmental sustainability. Government organisations that are trustworthy, reliable, impartial, uncorrupted and competent are currently seen as one of the most important factors of human wellbeing.

Corruption is seen as having detrimental effects on economic growth, the public goods provision, the democratic processes and trust among citizens. The quality of governance is not a problem for developing countries only but exists also in economically developed democracies where trust in government institutions and the sustainability of welfare programs has been questioned.

The central issues that we address in the course are: What is QoG? How can QoG be defined and measured? What explains the great variation between the countries in QoG? What do you get from high QoG and what are the mechanisms that give high/low QoG?

In 2024, 24 students were enrolled on the QoG course.

[Read more about the course](#)



QOG INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Quality of Government Institute hosts an internship program aimed at students enrolled on a master's program. The internship provides opportunities for students to obtain practical experience in working with various research projects within academia in an international environment and gives the student the opportunity to experience the day-to-day work at the Institute and to participate in seminars and other events organized by the Institute.

In 2024, we accommodated 6 interns for a period of 10–20 weeks:

Hugo Bengtson, Master student in Political Science, Stockholm University

Lauren Gerber, Master of Science, Social Scientific Data Analysis, Lund University

Lucy Hollett, Master of Science in Global Studies, Lund University

Elsa Höök, Master program in Political Science here at University of Gothenburg

Salome Nordberg, Master student in European Studies, social science track, University of Gothenburg

Julia Rodionova, PhD in Economics, Higher School of Economics (HSE)

FUNDING AGENCIES

Carl Bennet AB

The Swedish Research Council
(Vetenskapsrådet, VR)

The European Commission (EC)

Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (RJ)

Swedish Research Council for Health,
Working Life and Welfare (FORTE)





Carl Bennet AB.



Swedish
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Council



RIKSBANKENS
JUBILEUMSFOND
FRÄMJAR HUMANIORA
OCH SAMHÄLLSVETENSKAP



FORTE:

Swedish Research Council for
Health, Working Life and Welfare