Phaidon T. B. Vassiliou

PhD Candidate
Department of Peace & Conflict Research
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I study how exposure to war and psychological adversity shape social, moral, and economic preferences across the life course. My research relies on ethnographic fieldwork, behavioral and survey experiments, and randomized evaluations implemented with both children and adults in conflict-affected settings.

Academic Positions

2023–present **PhD Candidate**, Department of Peace & Conflict Research, Uppsala University
Provisional dissertation title: *The Moral Economy of War: Adversity, Mental Health, and the Intergenerational Development of Prosociality*
Advisor: Assoc. Prof. Jonathan Hall
Co-advisors: Assoc. Prof. Magnus Öberg, Prof. Dr. Tobias Hecker

2020–2023 **Research Assistant**, Department of Peace & Conflict Research, Uppsala University

2019–2020 **Intern**, Department of Peace & Conflict Research, Uppsala University

Education

2021 **M.A., Cultural Anthropology**, Uppsala University, Sweden

2016 **Lic., Psychology**, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina[1]

Research Visits

Sept–Oct 2026 **Visiting Researcher**, Culture and Morality Lab, Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, University of Massachusetts Amherst, USA. Host: Asst. Prof. Mohammad Atari.

Certificates

2016 International certificate in psychotherapeutic diagnosis, indication, and strategy: Manual for Operationalized Psychodynamic Diagnosis (OPD-2). Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Santiago, Chile.

Publications

Articles in peer-reviewed journals

2026 **Vassiliou, P.**, Ainamani, H., Döring, S., Gredebäck, G., Leku, M., Peltonen, K., Scharpf, F., Sen, U., Sutter, M., Walsh, J., Hecker, T., & Hall, J. Self-Help Plus for refugee mothers in Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement, Uganda (SEED): Study protocol for a cluster-randomized controlled trial assessing intergenerational effects on preschool-aged children. *Trials*, *27*, 173. doi:10.1186/s13063-026-09546-1

[1] Equivalent to a master's degree (EQF-7) under the European Qualifications Framework. Certification of equivalence issued by the Swedish Council for Higher Education can be provided upon request.

2025 Hall, J., Ainamani, H. E., **Vassiliou, P.**, Döring, S., Gredebäck, G., Peltonen, K., Scharpf, F., Sen, U., Sutter, M., Walsh, J. I., & Hecker, T. Combining mental health and climate-smart agricultural interventions to improve food security in humanitarian settings: Study protocol for the THRIVE cluster-randomized controlled trial with mothers in Nakivale refugee settlement, Uganda. *Trials*, *26*, 331. doi:10.1186/s13063-025-09042-y

2025 Vesco, P., Baliki, G., Brück, T., Döring, S., Eriksson, A., Fjelde, H., Guha-Sapir, D., Hall, J., Knutsen, K. H., Leis, M., Mueller, H., Rauh, C., Rudolfsen, I., Swain, A., Timlick, A., **Vassiliou, P.**, von Schreeb, J., von Uexkull, N., & Hegre, H. The impacts of armed conflict on human development: A review of the literature. *World Development*, *187*, 106806. doi:10.1016/j.worlddev.2024.106806

2024 Hall, J., Skoog, E., & **Vassiliou, P.** The impact of war exposure on morality: Evidence from the Battle of Mosul. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *68*(7–8), 1468–1493. doi:10.1177/00220027231200796

2016 **Vassiliou, P.** Enemies of the people: Latin-American populism, political myth, and the psychodynamics of conspiracy thinking. *Science and Society: Journal of Political and Moral Theory*, *35*, 135–159. doi:10.12681/sas.10167

Articles under review

Vassiliou, P., Nordenving, S., & Hall, J. Perpetrator blame and post-conflict cooperation: Evidence from Syrian and Iraqi refugees in Turkey. Revise & resubmit at *World Development*.

Nordenving, S., Masath, F. B., Gredebäck, G., Hoeffler, A., Nyström, H., Scharpf, F., **Vassiliou, P.**, Walsh, J. I., Hecker, T., & Hall, J. Combining mental health and violence prevention interventions to enhance child wellbeing under adversity (WEMA): Study protocol for a cluster-randomized controlled trial with primary caregivers in Nyarugusu Refugee Camp, Tanzania. Revise & resubmit at *Trials*.

Gredebäck, G., Lindskog, M., Ainamani, H., Mhizha, S., Soley Wallin, G., Wangchuk, Dorje, N., Hall, J., Sohtorik Ikmen, Y., Hecker, T., **Vassiliou, P.**, Nyström, P., & Sen, U. Variability in theory of mind across the Global South. Under review at *Nature Communications*.

Articles in preparation

Vassiliou, P. War as moral ecology: A synthesis and research agenda.

Vassiliou, P., Ainamani, H., Hall, J., Hecker, T., & Sutter, M. War exposure and the moral economy of early preferences: Experimental evidence from mother–child dyads in Nakivale and Rhino refugee settlements.

Öberg, M., & **Vassiliou, P.** Societal transformations and changing norms: The moral psychology of polarization and radical mobilization since 1900.

Vassiliou, P., & Hall, J. The legacies of indiscriminate violence: Social and institutional trust after the Battle of Mosul.

Book reviews

2015 **Vassiliou, P.** Sönke Neitzel & Harald Welzer, *Soldiers: German POWs on fighting, killing and dying*. *Science and Society: Journal of Political and Moral Theory*, *33*(Spring), 237–242.

Theses

2021 *Negotiating the moral community: Moral intimacy in the shadow of Colombia's rebel rule.* M.A. thesis, Department of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology, Uppsala University. Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Susann Baez Ullberg. Pass with distinction.

2016 *Psicoanálisis y religión, entre creatividad y fundamentalismo.* Licentiate thesis, Faculty of Psychology, University of Buenos Aires. Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Marcelo Grigoravicius.

Teaching

2024–present **Course convener and instructor**, B.A. in Peace and Conflict Studies. Introduction to Peace and Conflict Research (convener); lectures, seminars and grading in Peace and Security in the International System, Conflict Analysis, Social and Intrastate Conflict, and Theory and Research Methods. 967 hours in total.

Seminar leader, Master's level. Social Psychological Foundations of Intergroup Conflict: seminars and grading. 182 hours in total.

Grants & Scholarships

2026	Research grant, Stiftelsen Theodor Adelswärds Minne (Theodor Adelswärd Memorial Foundation)	SEK 90,000
2026	Research grant, Anna Maria Lundins stipendiefond	SEK 95,099
2026	Travel grant, Anna Maria Lundins stipendiefond	SEK 29,600
2026	Erasmus+ Staff Mobility grant	SEK 41,450
2024	Erasmus+ Staff Mobility grant	SEK 39,234
2024	Conference travel grant, German Foundation for Peace Research	SEK 7,840
2022	Erasmus+ Staff Mobility grant	SEK 14,032
2018	Minor Field Studies (MFS) scholarship, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)	SEK 27,000

Conference Activity

Papers presented

2025 Peace Research in Sweden (PRiS) Annual Conference, Uppsala University, Sweden, Nov 20–21. "The role of blame attribution in shaping parochial altruism among war-affected refugees." **Vassiliou, P.**, Hall, J., & Nordenving, S.

2024 Households in Conflict Network (HiCN) Annual Workshop, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany, Oct 1–2. "The role of blame attribution in shaping parochial altruism among war-affected refugees." **Vassiliou, P.**, Nordenving, S., & Hall, J.

2023 Peace Research in Sweden (PRiS) Annual Conference, Lund University, Sweden, Nov 29–Dec 1. "The effects of indiscriminate violence on trust: Evidence from the Battle of Mosul." **Vassiliou, P.**, & Hall, J.

2023 Households in Conflict Network (HiCN) Annual Workshop, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium, Oct 23–24. "The effects of indiscriminate violence on trust: Evidence from the Battle of Mosul." **Vassiliou, P.**, & Hall, J.

2022 International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP) Annual Meeting, Athens, Greece, Jul 14–17. "Parochial altruism in intergroup conflict: The role of blame attribution." **Vassiliou, P.**, Hall, J., & Nordenving, S.

2021 International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP) Annual Meeting (online), Jul 11–13. "The effects of indiscriminate violence on morality: Evidence from a natural experiment in West Mosul." Hall, J., Skoog, E., & **Vassiliou, P.**

2021 International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention (online), Apr 6–9. "The effects of indiscriminate violence on morality: Evidence from a natural experiment in West Mosul." Hall, J., Skoog, E., & **Vassiliou, P.**

2016 X Argentinian Congress of Psychoanalysis, Buenos Aires, Argentina, May 25–28. "Social trauma and the problem of guilt: Some unconscious aspects of Argentinian identity." **Vassiliou, P.**

Panels organized and chaired

2022 International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP) Annual Meeting, Athens, Greece. "Prosociality towards in- and outgroups in the aftermath of war."

Reviewing

BMC Psychology (1), *Developmental Science* (2), *Discover Sustainability* (1), *Journal of Peace Research* (1), *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics* (1), *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (1), *Scientific Reports* (1).

Fieldwork

2025 **Uganda**, 2 weeks. Preparatory fieldwork, enumerator training, piloting, and rollout of the SEED cluster-randomized controlled trial.

2024 **Uganda**, 7 weeks. Preparatory fieldwork, enumerator training, piloting, and rollout of the THRIVE cluster-randomized controlled trial.

2018 **Colombia**, 11 weeks. Ethnographic study of rebel governance and the construction of moral communities in the rural interior. Participant observation and in-depth interviews with civilian victims, demobilized guerrillas, and paramilitaries.

Languages, Skills & Memberships

Languages Italian, German (native); English (near-native, IELTS C2); Spanish (near-native); French (advanced); Greek (intermediate); Portuguese, Swedish (basic–intermediate)

Software Stata, Jamovi, KoboToolbox, LaTeX

Memberships International Studies Association; International Society of Political Psychology; International Society for Moral Psychology

References

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Assoc. Prof. Herbert Ainamani
Kabale University School of Medicine
Kabale University, Uganda
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