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Strengthening the Evidentiary Foundations of Conflict Research

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Collecting conflict data of sufficient quantity and quality is difficult, especially when data collection takes place during an ongoing conflict (while the study of historical conflicts brings its own challenges), and it is difficult in many different ways with many different implications for research practice and knowledge production. Improving the collection of the evidence upon which knowledge about conflict is built will benefit from a dialogue between researchers who use various methodologies and approaches so as to identify key problems, share best practices, and develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of common challenges. The focus of this Roundtable is the collection and generation of data and evidence in conflict research, broadly conceived, rather than on its analysis because the former is too often neglected in favour of methodological sophistication. The Roundtable will showcase cutting-edge and innovative work in order to stimulate a wider conversation about how to do difficult data collection well and how to support the processes by which high quality evidence is generated.

Track Classification: Political Violence, Conflict and Transnational Activism