



# PA-X Database Project

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## **What?**

This project offered substantial conceptual and empirical work, re-characterising the relationship of peace processes and peace agreements to political settlements. We explored the trade-offs between elite bargains and other forms of inclusion in peace agreements, and considered the implementation difficulties that may arise.

## **How?**

This project used peace agreement analysis as a 'mid-level' methodology capable of showing both broad global trends, and providing qualitative detail for each country, conflict, peace process, and individual agreement. The project developed PA-X, a 'Peace Agreement Access' Tool, which codes and maps all peace agreements since 1990, concluding with 2016 in its first iteration. For each peace agreement, we collected the full text, translated the non-English agreements, and made them available to the public in a fully searchable database. Additionally, the agreement content was coded into one of 140 categories, spanning such issues as power-sharing, the way in which agreements deal with human rights, minority rights, gender, violence, security problems, new political institutions, trade, business, and many others. PA-X allows users to access agreement provisions dealing with particular topics, with the ability to filter the information by region, conflict type, and other criteria. This dataset provides a large-N statistical picture of how peace agreements globally deal with issues of inclusion, poverty, development, and conflict resolution.

The collected data allow for both qualitative and quantitative analysis of various issues related to conflict resolution, peace processes, effects of particular agreement provisions, relevance of type of agreement for post-conflict institutional structures and political, economic, and other outcomes. Some of the research conducted as part of this project answered the questions of whether agreements which have provisions on women deal differently with socio-economic rights and development, and whether power-sharing arrangements tend to neglect or recognize the participation of women? The data also supports work on measuring 'transformation' of peace settlements in our Experimental Measurement Project.

## **Why?**

Assertions as to trade-offs in political negotiations over peace, are largely limited to once-off case studies. This project provided broad comparative qualitative and quantitative data, across all peace processes. This data enables claims about peace agreement terms to be tested, provides information as to how issues are dealt with over time, and provides an evidentiary basis from which to revisit the interdisciplinary gap relating to how political settlements are understood to relate to peace-building.

## Who?

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## Key Publications

- [Bell, C., & Badanjak, S. \(2019\). Introducing PA-X: A new peace agreement database and dataset. \*Journal of Peace Research\*.](#)
- [Women and Peace Agreements \(PA-X\) Database.](#)
- [Bell, C., & et.al. \(2014\). \*Interim Constitutions in Post-Conflict Settings\* \(PSRP Report in Cooperation with IDEA\). Stockholm: International IDEA.](#)
- [Bell, C. \(2015\). \*Text and Context: Evaluating Peace Agreements for their "Gender Perspective"\* \(PSRP Report\). Edinburgh: Global Justice Academy, University of Edinburgh.](#)
- [Bell, C. \(2015\). \*Unsettling Bargains? Power-sharing and the Inclusion of Women in Peace Negotiations\*. Edinburgh: Global Justice Academy, University of Edinburgh.](#)

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