

# Bruce Russett Award for Article of the Year in *JCR* for 2016

Journal of Conflict Resolution  
2017, Vol. 61(10) 2019  
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DOI: 10.1177/0022002717738359  
journals.sagepub.com/home/jcr



Peter Van der Windt and Macartan Humphreys have been awarded the annual Bruce Russett Award for the Article of the Year published in *Journal of Conflict Resolution (JCR)* during 2016. The winning article, “Crowdseeding in Eastern Congo: Using Cell Phones to Collect Conflict Events Data in Real Time,” was published in the June 2016 issue (*JCR* 60:4).

Members of the editorial board of *JCR* participated in a two-stage process in order to determine the winner of the award. The first step was for a nominating committee to recommend their top four articles for consideration. In the second step, the four articles that received the most nominations were given to a voting committee who were asked to rank order each of the articles. The winner received the highest overall rankings among all the votes cast. In casting their votes for the article of the year, the committee was asked to judge the strength of each article in terms of new and important contributions to basic research based on considerations of theoretical quality, methodological rigor, and substantive relevance to the field of conflict studies.

In the award-winning article, Van der Windt and Humphreys argue that academic research and policy measures can be significantly enhanced by drawing upon new microlevel data on conflict events that can be collected from cell phones. They develop a novel data-gathering system based on the “crowdseeding” of data from cell phone messages in a random sample of villages in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The utility of the conflict event data collected in real time for academic research and potential policy interventions is then demonstrated through analyses of conflict diffusion patterns and a field experiment on aid allocation. The crowdseeded data enable identification of complex conflict diffusion dynamics at the microlevel not possible with traditional data, while the experimental results indicate a greater capacity to allocate aid in a more effective manner when such microlevel data inform policy decisions.

The editor of *JCR* would like to extend a special thanks to all of those board members who served on the nominating and voting committees: Ron Smith, Michael Horowitz, Bill Donahue, Jim Morrow, Kai Konrad, and Chris Achen.

The award is US\$500.