

Alexander Guest

Research | Quantitative analysis | Statistics | Innovation

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Profile

I am a researcher in peace, conflict and social cohesion, with nine years of experience developing quantitative research for international development and peacebuilding programmes. My work spans more than 20 countries, with extensive experience in Africa (South Sudan, Rwanda, Somalia and Ethiopia), Eastern Europe/Balkans (Bosnia, Ukraine, Cyprus and Moldova); and multi-country research in the Caribbean. Through these projects, I have developed measurement frameworks that connect statistical analysis with questions of conflict and development, working with UN agencies and national partners to translate findings into programming and policy. My academic background in physics has given me a strong foundation in data analysis, statistics and programming, which I now combine with research leadership and experience of organisational management.

Technical skills

Software: Python and R. Additional analytical software includes SPSS, MATLAB and Mathematica.

Statistical methods: ANOVA and t-tests; structural equation modelling; regression. I also use multilevel modelling and resilience analysis.

Research methods: Survey and indicator design; mixed-methods research; gender-disaggregated analysis.

Data and systems: Automated analytical workflows and data visualisation. Web application development, including organisational ERP and ISM systems.

Office tools: Advanced Excel (pivot tables, lookup formulas and Power Query). Good command of Word and other Microsoft Office tools.

Professional experience

Director of Innovation and Research

Sep 2023 – Present | SeeD Research Centre for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development | Nicosia, Cyprus

As Director, I am responsible for the methodological quality and practical relevance of SeeD's international research portfolio, while supervising a team of around four researchers and coordinating institutional partnerships throughout the project cycle. To develop SeeD's East Africa portfolio, I undertook three missions to Nairobi, Kenya, engaging UN agencies and key regional donors in strategic discussions on project acquisition for our statistical research and new AI tools for peace and development service line. Since January 2026, this role has also included leadership of SeeD's innovation and AI transformation agenda, as well as chairing the Innovation Committee.

- **Caribbean SCORE (2023-2024):** I led design, quantitative analysis and engagement for a study of 3,073 respondents across seven countries, examining social cohesion and development challenges through a framework that included a dedicated analysis of gender norms and masculinities.
- **Heshiis Beeg, Somalia:** Working with colleagues whom I supervised, I designed the tool and analysed data from 1,648 respondents across six districts, while coordinating implementation and validation with federal and state ministries. The project also involved UN agencies and seven donor embassies, including UK/FCDO representatives.
- **SeeD FM:** I designed and implemented SeeD FM as a web-based ERP and ISM system, bringing all internal operational, project and financial data into a single system that supports the organisation's management.
- **SeeD website:** I designed and implemented the new website as a shared platform for SeeD's research data and publications, making the organisation's analytical work accessible to external partners.
- **Rwanda research:** I co-authored peer-reviewed work on family resilience and recovery in communities affected by conflict and intergenerational trauma, with gender dynamics within families forming a central part of my contribution to the underlying analysis.
- **Ukraine resilience research:** I designed the research questions and analyses and co-wrote the chapter [Social Inclusion as Ukraine's Shield in Wartime: Investigating Inclusion, Exclusion and Their Link to Resilience](#) (2026), examining how social inclusion supports resilience to wartime adversity.

Head of Research and Operations

Jan 2022 – Sep 2023 | SeeD Research Centre for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development | Nicosia, Cyprus

As Head of Research and Operations, I combined oversight of methodological quality and project delivery with day-to-day operational management of an organisation of around twenty people. My responsibilities covered personnel and financial planning, as well as conducting and supervising statistical analysis in Python and R, and working with institutional partners to interpret findings in relation to their programming priorities.

- **Ethiopian Peace Index (2023):** I led design, analysis and report writing for a study of 808 citizens and 202 local leaders, using multilevel models and resilience analysis to examine peace and conflict dynamics at individual and community levels. I also led the Gender Equality chapter, where hierarchical regression identified factors associated with support for equality, alongside analysis of financial empowerment and domestic abuse.
- **Moldova SCORE (2022-2023):** I led the design of a study of 2,336 respondents, examining social cohesion and political polarisation in a context of democratic reform and the war in Ukraine, while also extending the research to Transnistria and contributing to a separate report for UNDP.
- **Rwanda fieldwork (2022-2023):** I contributed to the research framework and analysis for societal-healing trials, with three missions to Kigali and Musanze involving training local colleagues and running research workshops. This work also included planning the research and intervention timeline in relation to the project's overall implementation.

Head of Quantitative Analytics

Jan 2018 – Jan 2022 | SeeD Research Centre for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development | Nicosia, Cyprus

As Head of Quantitative Analytics, I managed the full cycle of survey research and statistical analysis across SeeD's SCORE portfolio, supervising an international team and combining quantitative modelling with qualitative work to understand local conflict dynamics. Gender disaggregation was a standard part of the studies, while field missions and institutional consultations helped translate the findings into context-specific recommendations for policy and programming.

- **Afghanistan SCORE (2021):** I led quantitative analysis and co-authored the report (1,248 respondents across six provinces), using statistical modelling to examine conflict dynamics and resilience, with gender-disaggregated analysis identifying gaps in education and civic participation.
- **South Sudan SCORE (2020):** As co-lead author of the policy report, I led research drawing on 2,139 surveys across 69 communities, using predictive modelling to examine peacebuilding capacities and civilian militarisation, including the role of local institutions and women's leadership in supporting the peace process.
- **Bosnia SCORE (2020):** I led analysis of 3,637 adult respondents to understand the relationship between civic participation and violence, with the findings forming the basis of my first-authored journal article on constructive and aggressive civic behaviour.
- **Ukraine:** I undertook field missions and worked with UNICEF and UNDP, as well as USAID and its Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI), to connect quantitative research with programming priorities; this included co-authoring UNICEF's report on conflict-exposed adolescents and presenting findings to institutional partners.

Data Analyst and Quantitative Researcher

Sep 2017 – Jan 2018 | SeeD Research Centre for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development | Nicosia, Cyprus

I contributed to questionnaire development and the analysis of social-cohesion surveys, combining statistical work with desk research on conflict dynamics so that findings could be interpreted in relation to the local context.

- **Statistical automation:** I redesigned SeeD's largely manual SPSS workflow as an automated pipeline in Python and R, incorporating ANOVA and repeated t-tests alongside SEM and regression, and developing visualisation scripts to communicate the findings.
- **Gender SCORE Cyprus (2017-2018):** I led design, analysis and engagement for a survey of 1,600 respondents, examining how gender norms and masculinities relate to violence and barriers to women's social and economic participation. This included engagement in the UN Buffer Zone, connecting the findings with discussions of women's participation in the Cyprus peace process.

Youth Worker, Trainer and Teacher (European Voluntary Service)

Sep 2016 – Sep 2017 | Oyuncak Kütüphanesi and Meraklı Kedi Primary School | Ankara, Turkey

As part of European Voluntary Service, I worked with teachers and volunteers at two educational organisations in Ankara, organising workshops and coordinating activity programmes on practical and life skills. The placement through YEU Cyprus gave me sustained experience of community education in a different cultural setting, while providing an opportunity to learn Turkish.

Media Researcher

Mar 2016 – Sep 2016 | Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry (with Near East University) | Nicosia, Cyprus

I developed Python scripts to search and analyse tens of thousands of newspaper articles within a bicomunal project on representations of Syrian refugees, using keyword associations to examine narratives and potential reporting biases in Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot media. This work combined large-dataset handling with statistical text analysis and graphical visualisation, developing my ability to apply quantitative methods to sensitive social issues.

Visiting Researcher (X-ray Astronomy)

Sep 2015 – Mar 2016 | Curtin University / International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research | Perth, Australia

Through a visiting research scholarship, I developed scripts to analyse observational data from the Chandra X-ray telescope, learning the required astronomical methods and CIAO software while working with the host team. My findings were presented to the department and contributed to two further research proposals accepted for funding; I also subsequently co-authored a journal article based on the survey.

Education and awards

MSc Astrophysics and Cosmology | 2014-2015: University College London.

Faculty Prize for Postgraduate Research, awarded in Summer 2015.

BSc Physics | 2011-2014: University College London. First Class Honours.

Selected Academic Publications

Social Inclusion as Ukraine's Shield in Wartime: Investigating Inclusion, Exclusion and Their Link to Resilience (2026). In *Ukrainian Society During Wartime*, Chapter 8, pp. 223–265. Palgrave Macmillan (Springer Nature).

https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-97841-8_8

Multifamily Healing Spaces: Development of a Family-Based Intervention for Recovery and Resilience in Rwanda (2025). *Intervention*, 23(1), 52–62.

https://doi.org/10.4103/intv.intv_16_24

Pathways to Resilient Citizenship: A Cross-National Investigation Based on SCORE Data from Six Conflict-Affected Countries in Africa, Asia, and Europe (2023). In *Reconciliation: Experiences in Colombia and the World*, Chapter 2, pp. 17–50. Ediciones Uniandes.

<https://ediciones.uniandes.edu.co/gpd-reconciliation-9789587984941-680d1f1c062e1.html>

A Chandra Virgo cluster survey of spiral galaxies. I. Introduction to the survey and a new ULX sample (2022). *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*.

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2201.07242>

Did we get civic activism wrong? Understanding the waltz between constructive and aggressive civic tendencies in Bosnia-Herzegovina (2022). *Journal of Aggression, Conflict and Peace Research*, 14(4), 378–393.

<https://doi.org/10.1108/JACPR-01-2022-0674>

Selected Research Reports and Policy Briefs

The Heshiis Beeg: A Conciliation Barometer for the Somali People (2026).

<https://app.scoreforpeace.org/en/pub/602>

The Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index (SCORE) for the English-Speaking Caribbean 2024 (2024).

<https://app.scoreforpeace.org/en/pub/600>

Moldova at a Crossroads: Using the SCORE to understand the future visions of Moldovan citizens (2023).

<https://app.scoreforpeace.org/en/pub/470>

Afghanistan SCORE 2021: Evidence-based policy recommendations to address emerging challenges (2021).

<https://app.scoreforpeace.org/en/pub/401>

Resilient Citizenship in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Full report (2020).

<https://app.scoreforpeace.org/en/pub/306>

An Evidence-Based Analysis of the Psychosocial Adaptability of Conflict-Exposed Adolescents and the Role of the Education System as a Protective Environment (2019).

<https://www.unicef.org/ukraine/en/reports/evidence-based-analysis-psychosocial-adaptability-adolescents-conflict-zone>

Policy Entry Points for Improving Gender Equality in the Greek Cypriot Community (2018).

<https://app.scoreforpeace.org/en/pub/79>

Policy Entry Points for Improving Gender Equality in the Turkish Cypriot Community (2018).

<https://app.scoreforpeace.org/en/pub/80>

Women, Peace and Security: Why do we need women in the Cyprus peace process? (2018).

<https://app.scoreforpeace.org/en/pub/78>

Presentations and civic engagement

Geneva Peace Week, 15 October 2024 | Geneva, Switzerland: I was a speaker at *What is Resilience? Bringing coherence to concepts of resilience in Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding*, organised by SeeD and Interpeace at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy. I presented a methodology identifying the local resilience factors that help individuals and communities maintain livelihoods and avoid extreme poverty amid conflict-related adversity.

Peacebuilding M&E Solutions Forum (PeaceCon), 23 October 2018 | Washington, D.C., United States: I presented *The SCORE Methodology: Measuring the Intangible and Predicting Peace* at the United States Institute of Peace, in the session on conflict monitoring and early warning systems. The presentation explained how quantitative analysis can identify conflict drivers and inform the sequence of peacebuilding programmes and policy actions.

Diversity Advancement in the Arab Region, November 2019 | Amman, Jordan: I participated in this regional professional event. Programme background: [UNDP concept note](#).

Trash Your Gender, Cyprus (2016-2020): Working with a group of colleagues, I helped organise multi-communal workshops and dialogue on both sides of the Green Line, using performances and social events to explore gender and oppression and imagine a post-gender, post-conflict Cyprus.

Languages

English and Greek (including Cypriot Greek): native. Turkish: B1 in reading and speaking; A2 in listening and writing.