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During an era of rising geopolitical competition, it is important to strengthen global governance institutions to effectively protect civilians from war and violence. In this regard, United Nations peace operations have long been a crucial element of the global governance toolbox. However, disinformation campaigns and new security threats call into question their effectiveness. The United Nations need to evolve and adapt to meet these challenges.

Hannah Smidt's research analyzes these challenges to United Nations peace operations. Specifically, her work shows under which conditions the civilian elements of these peace operations can successfully contribute to protecting civilians, strengthening democratic institutions, and promoting local-level reconciliation in war-torn countries. To do so, she combines in-depth field research, especially in West Africa, with quantitative cutting-edge statistical methods including geospatial data analysis, survey experiments, and field experiments. Currently, she also leads a project on

persuasive effects of UN radio and social media communication in the context of disinformation campaigns in Mali and Cyprus. Her work has been published in renown journals such as *American Political Science Review* and *American Journal of Political Science* and it has received funding from, among others, the Folke Bernadotte Academy, and the Swedish Research Council.

In addition to this scientific work, Hannah Smidt is committed to making her findings count. Through evidence-informed teaching, public talks, participation at policy-

oriented workshop, media contributions, and blog articles, she seeks to bridge the gap between practice and science. In this way, she also hopes to facilitate a nuanced understanding of global politics among interested audiences and practitioners, and evidence-based political decision-making processes.