



# National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2013

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## Welcome from the Director

Welcome to the first National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies' newsletter, in which we aim to keep our supporters and constituencies up to date with the life of the Centre.

In 2009 there was just a PA, a four-room house and me. Since then, the Centre has grown to five tenured academics, a three-year Postdoctoral Fellow and a Centre Administrator. Our 50 students include 25 PhD candidates. 15 Masters have been awarded and the first PhD theses submitted. In 2012 the Centre moved to new accommodation in Castle Street. Even with an entire house for our Postgraduate Suite, we are again bursting at the seams. If anyone would like to help us develop a Peace House, let's begin the conversation!

One of the roles of a university is to act as 'critic and conscience' of society. Through our research, teaching and public outreach, we provide well-informed critical perspectives on the big justice and peace issues facing New Zealand and the world. The current Vice Chancellor, Professor Harlene Hayne, and her predecessor have praised the Centre for its part in fulfilling this brief. We thank the University for its commitment to Peace and Conflict Studies as a strategic priority.

Over 100 informative, challenging and well-attended public events have been mounted since 2010. I'd like to thank all the members of our extended community for your continual encouragement of our work.

Special thanks go to our benefactors, particularly the Aotearoa Peace and Conflict Studies Centre Trust and, recently, the Global Future Charitable Trust, which is funding six PhD scholarships. Over two million dollars has been donated to the Centre since 2009 by wonderful people who join with us in celebrating the Centre's mission of excellence in research, theory and practice.

Recently I was sent a poem by Mary Oliver, in which she says,

*Can one be passionate about the just, the ideal, the sublime, and the holy, and yet commit to no labor in its cause? I don't think so.*

*Be ignited, or be gone.*

We continue to be passionate and ignited, committed to ensuring that people on this precious planet have the knowledge, the information, and awareness to live empathetically, compassionately and justly with each other. If we can do our bit to ensure that everyone has the tools to solve their problems, satisfy their basic needs, and resolve their conflicts cooperatively and nonviolently, we will have fulfilled our mission.

Me rongo

KEVIN



# 2013 **ipl** Inaugural Professorial Lecture

Centre Deputy Director, Professor Richard Jackson, will deliver his Inaugural Professorial Lecture on Tuesday 22 October.

Entitled 'The discursive construction of social practice, or how stories make our world', the lecture will explore Richard's growing fascination with the way in which language and the narratives we construct help us to understand the world.

"When something happens, the media tells a story. We fit that story into other stories, and the event becomes meaningful to us. But stories are also limiting."

"When we think of terrorists, for example, our stories tell us that they are full of hatred, they are fanatical and cannot be reasoned with. This story limits the possible responses to acts of terrorism. I believe that can change."

"As a society, we have changed the story about women and race relations, for example. If individuals can respond differently, so can groups, institutions and governments."

As well as researching and writing about terrorism in an academic context, Richard has recently had a novel accepted for publication. In the novel, Richard aims to tell a different story about terrorists. What if the central character was humane, intelligent and reasonable, someone not unlike ourselves? How would this influence the way we engage with that person and their beliefs?

Richard's future research interest is the story of pacifism, and in particular the way in which pacifists have been understood.

"In New Zealand, pacifism has been constructed as a story about passive, weak, and cowardly individuals. What if the pacifists could be reframed as active, courageous and principled? How would that change our understanding of pacifism and our willingness to embrace it as an option in the face of violence and war?"

The lecture is on 22 October, in Burns 2 at 5.30pm and all are welcome.



## PADET grants awarded

Two of the Centre's faculty, Dr Katerina Standish and Dr Charles Butcher, have been awarded Peace and Disarmament Education Trust (PADET) grants to pursue research projects.

The research question that Dr Standish's **Kaupapa Māori Education as a global model for Peace Education** study seeks to answer is "What is it like to teach peace education from an indigenous standpoint?". Early childhood education (ECE) in New Zealand is an institutionalized cultural expression of Māori, indigenous pedagogy. The research will obtain pedagogical content from existing early childhood education used in New Zealand and articulate the intentions of Te Whāriki curricula to substantial pedagogies.

"In order to investigate the role of culture in education and peace, we are examining the experiences and perspectives of educators involved in ECE as well as the opinions and perceptions of educators at the University of Otago's College of Education," Dr Standish said. "A major outcome of this project is to extract learning modules and post them on the peace education portal currently under construction at the National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies."

Dr Butcher's project, the **Groups in Violent and Nonviolent Conflict** dataset (GVANC), aims to capture the primary mobilization networks that activists draw upon and examine how mobilization strategies impact the success and failure of violent and nonviolent movements.

"This research is motivated by the idea that resistance groups draw upon varying pre-existing mobilization infrastructures to overcome collective action problems, depending upon tactical preferences and the socio-political context," said Dr Butcher. "Mobilization strategies likely have downstream effects on tactical adaptability, further mobilization, and resilience in the face of violent repression."

The GVANC data will allow researchers to empirically test how mobilization varies across violent and nonviolent conflicts and how different mobilization strategies impact upon the success or failure of movements within the sample of violent and nonviolent conflicts.

## Amity journal

The first edition of a new international journal, published by the National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, will be out in October this year. Dr Heather Devere is co-Editor in Chief for *Amity: The Journal of Friendship Studies*, along with Professor Preston King of Morehouse College, Atlanta, and Dr Graham M. Smith of Leeds University.

Launched last year at the 22nd International Political Science Association World Conference in Madrid, the peer reviewed online journal aims to examine the long and rich tradition of friendship, both within and across cultural and historical boundaries. It is hoped that the journal will attract interdisciplinary articles on a wide range of topics such as the ethics of friendship, friendship and science, friendship and despotism, and friendship and society.

The first issue will include an article by Dr Devere, examining the academic debate on friendship and politics, and exploring the revival of the concept of friendship in the academic literature across a range of disciplines.

Dr Devere wishes to acknowledge the help of students from the Centre who were instrumental in setting up the journal and assisting with technical issues. In particular, the Centre is indebted to Jason Taylor, Ellen Furnari, Courtney Wilson and Marie Nissanka. Rosemary McBryde, Centre Administrator, has also given valuable assistance.

The journal website is [www.amityjournal.com](http://www.amityjournal.com)

## Profile: Rachel Rafferty

Growing up with armed soldiers at roadblocks, helicopters overhead and a constant sense of living in an occupied zone was a formative experience for Rachel Rafferty, the Centre's first Global Future Charitable Trust PhD scholarship recipient.

Rachel was born in Belfast and lived most of her childhood on the quieter northern coast of Northern Ireland. While her schooling, like that of almost all young people in Northern Ireland, was segregated along religious lines, her parents ensured that she mixed with Protestant children through sports and other activities.

"It was important for them that I knew that Protestants were good people too."

Undergraduate study in Spanish and History at the University of St Andrews helped her see that conflict is enormously complex and has many perspectives. Later Rachel travelled to Latin America where she witnessed the dignity with which people faced poverty and a life of struggle.

"I knew that I needed to do something ethical with my life and career, as the suffering and struggles of others couldn't be ignored."

Back in Northern Ireland, Rachel worked for a Peace Centre for five years where she met people from many different backgrounds, and gained skills and insights to help build understanding in a deeply divided society. She also learned about the challenges to building peace in a region where everyday life is shaped by separation and mistrust.

She was then awarded a Rotary Peace Fellowship to do a Masters in Education and a Graduate Certificate in Peace Studies in North Carolina. During her studies, she completed an internship with the Peace and Conflict Development Network, where she came across the call for the GFCT scholarship applications, which she herself posted on the PCDN.

"For a split second, I was tempted not to post it to reduce the competition," she laughs.

Rachel's PhD, under the supervision of Dr Katerina Standish and Dr Heather Devere, is looking at how we could create more peace activists in divided societies. At the moment, such societies socialize children into a conflict mentality from a very young age and people who care more about peace than about their group identities are the exception rather than the rule. Rachel will be examining the lives of peace activists in Northern Ireland and beyond, to find out how they came to the realization that conflict is not inevitable, and furthermore, to take action rather than remain passive.



"Ultimately, I would like to know how to do better Peace Education, because this is where the power of the individual can be developed and encouraged."

The Global Future Charitable Trust, founded by Reiko Fukutake, wishes to promote peace education at all levels of the education system both in New Zealand and overseas. It has established a fund to support six PhD students through three years of study at the Centre. Two new GFCT scholarship students will begin each year from 2013 to 2015. Rachel Rafferty from Ireland and Hafiza Yazdany from Afghanistan are the first recipients of these scholarships.

Centre Director, Professor Kevin Clements, said, "This generous gift enables us to recruit and retain wonderful PhD students from all around the world. Our hope, and that of the GFCT, is that these students will develop analytical, theoretical and practical skills that will enable them to be effective peace and justice workers. Rachel's work is a wonderful example of research that will undoubtedly help make the world a more peaceful place. We are delighted to have her in Dunedin, and we owe a huge debt of gratitude to the Global Future Charitable Trust."

## Recent Publications

Clements, K., 2013. Political Hybridity and Human Security in Post Colonial and Post Conflict State Building/Rebuilding. In: A.K. Lautensach and S.W. Lautensach, eds. *Human Security in World Affairs: Problems and Opportunities*. Vienna: Caesarpres, 139-160.

Standish, K., 2013. What Does a Reciprocal Peace Process Look Like? *Peace Studies Journal* 6(3): 69-84.

Jackson, R., 2013. The Politics of Terrorism Fear. In: S.J. Sinclair, ed. *The Political Psychology of Terrorism Fears*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 267-282.

Wilson, C. and Devere, H., 2013. Peace or War Journalism in the New Zealand Media? Reporting on 'the Arc of Instability' in the Pacific. *Pacific Journalism Review: Special Issue 'Media and Democracy in the Pacific'*. 19(1):132-147.

Svensson, I. and Brounéus, K., 2013. Dialogue and interethnic trust: A randomized field trial of 'sustained dialogue' in Ethiopia. *Journal of Peace Research* 50(5): 563-575.

Goldsmith, B., Butcher, C., Semenovich, D., and Sowmya, A., 2013. Forecasting the Onset of Genocide and Politicide: Annual Out-of-Sample Forecasts on a Global Dataset, 1988-2003, *Journal of Peace Research*, 50(4): 437-452

# Visitors and events

## Professor Oliver Richmond



This month, Professor Oliver Richmond from the University of Manchester will be visiting the Centre on a William Evans Fellowship. Oliver will be offering a public seminar and a public lecture. His primary area of expertise is in peace and conflict theory, and its challenges to IR theory.

He has published critical work on the liberal peace project and has since become interested in political hybridity, and other forms of agency in just and sustainable peacebuilding. A recent book project looks at the relationship of the state with local processes of peace formation and international peace processes.

## Forthcoming Events

**Professor Richard Jackson, NCPACS**

Inaugural Professorial Lecture

*The discursive construction of social practice, or, how stories make our world*

Tuesday 22 October, Burns 2, 5.30pm

**Professor Oliver Richmond, University of Manchester**

Public Seminar

*Failed Statebuilding v Peace Formation*

Thursday 24 October, Burns 2, 1.00pm

**Professor Oliver Richmond, University of Manchester**

Public Lecture

*The Paradox of Power and Peace: Contamination or Enablement?*

Tuesday 29 October, Moot Court, Richardson Building, 5.15pm

**Dr Dorothy Howie, Joint Director, Australasian Institute for Learning Enhancement**

Public Seminar

*Teaching Empathetic Thinking: Some issues and approaches*

Tuesday 5 November, Humanities Divisional Meeting Room, 5th Floor, Burns Building, 1.00pm

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## Karen Brounéus reflects

After four years at the Centre, Dr Karen Brounéus and her family are preparing to return to Sweden early in 2014. Karen has accepted a Senior Lectureship at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.

Since her arrival in August 2009, the Centre has grown exponentially.

“It has been such a privilege to be part of building this Centre at Otago,” said Karen. “With so many Peace and Conflict Studies Centres being established around the world in the last decade, I think the time was right for New Zealand to have its own.”

The swift development has come thanks to the leadership of founding Chair and Centre Director, Professor Kevin Clements, who with his vision, fund raising and global networks has built strong linkages both within and beyond the University.

“The Centre now has a solid place within the life of the University.”

Karen believes that the strength of NCPACS is the diversity of people and the wide range of research interests that are represented in the student body and the faculty. This allows people to find their place, in their topics and on the research/activism continuum.

She has particularly enjoyed her teaching and supervision, and will miss the students who she describes as ‘exceptional’. Her abilities as a supervisor were recognized in 2011 with an OUSA New Supervisor of the Year Award.

“Postgraduate teaching is so rewarding. Students are so eager to learn and very motivated. I have loved working with the students at the Centre, they are fantastic – dynamic and positive.”

Her research work has flourished during her time in Dunedin. Karen was awarded a three year Marsden Grant in 2010 to study the Solomon Islands Truth and Reconciliation Process. In 2013, she received the Otago Early Career Award for Distinction in Research. She has ongoing collaborative research projects in Thailand and Ethiopia, as well as with the New Zealand Defence Force.

After her return to Uppsala, Karen will retain close connections with NCPACS, supervising some of her current students through to completion, while building her new student group in Sweden. With strong linkages already in place between NCPACS and Uppsala and a sabbatical planned within the next 18 months, Karen is confident that she and Fredrik, along with children Zacka and Elsa, will be back in Dunedin before long.