



# National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2014

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The National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies came through its first five year University Review with flying colours. A highly qualified panel of national and international experts met for three days, charged with assessing the quality, depth, significance and impact of our teaching, research and practice programmes over the last quinquennium.

The initial verbal feedback from the panel was excellent, with strong acknowledgement and approval our achievements to date and support for our aspirational goals for the next five years. The panel's report will make a range of recommendations for the Centre to consider and implement.

I am enormously proud of the wisdom and talent contributed by all Centre staff. I'd also like to thank our internal and external supporters and stakeholders. Your moral and material support has contributed to our rapid progress and has helped make us the lively and exciting Centre we are today. A special thank you to those who took the opportunity to contribute to the review process. Your support was noted and the Committee considered all your recommendations and proposals.

In October and November I travelled to Beijing, China twice. The first was on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to talk to the ASEAN Regional Forum workshop on Preventive Diplomacy. This gave me a chance to continue work on confidence building and regional risk, which I began 21 years ago at the ANU. The second time I attended the 3rd Annual meeting of the East Asian Peace Project at Peking University. This programme seeks to understand why the countries of Northeast Asia have managed to avoid war for the last 20 years and assess the prospects for regional peace.

Finally, I facilitated the third in a series of interactive problem solving workshops between academic and political influentials from China, Japan and Korea. The meeting in Yokohama, Japan, focused on ways in which political leaders from all three countries might understand and address painful collective memories, stop xenophobic nationalism and deal with territorial disputes nonviolently and creatively. This workshop is an example of the practice work that we wish to develop in the future.

2014 has been an extremely busy and productive year for the Centre. We welcomed our first Master of Peace and Conflict Studies class. We graduated 4 new Ph.D students and 6 MA by thesis. We now have a faculty of six tenured positions. We have continued our weekly programme of seminars, workshops, public lectures and public conversations and have welcomed new students from all around the world, including many from the world's major conflict zones.

Thank you to the Aotearoa New Zealand Peace and Conflict Studies Centre Trust and the Global Future Charitable Trust for your continuing support of the Centre, and warm thanks to all of our students, the University of Otago and our supporters for working so tirelessly to consolidate our place as a first class teaching and research centre.

We are all looking forward to another productive year in 2015 as we do our little bit to understand the causes of injustice and violence and how these might be replaced with more positive dynamics.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best for the holiday season and thank you, in advance, for your continuing support of the Centre in 2015 and beyond.

Me rongo  
KEVIN



## Tribute to Andrea Derbidge

It is with great sadness that I write this tribute to Andrea Derbidge. Andrea enrolled with the NCPACS in 2012 to study part-time towards a Masters in Arts (Peace and Conflict Studies) under my supervision. Andrea passed away in October this year after a short illness. She will be very much missed by the students and staff at the Centre, as well as by many other parts of the Dunedin community where she has been playing a very active role. We send our condolences to her three daughters, Claire, Rachel and Kathryn, and other family who were there to support her in her last days.

Andrea has been a music teacher (including teaching piano to Angel Mukono's two daughters). She hosted Babu Ayindo when he first arrived in Dunedin from Kenya to take up his PhD studies. She played the organ for the RSA choir and was active with St. Johns Church. She was training to be a third order Franciscan, and so was also well known to another of our PhD students, Brother Christopher John. She became involved with the Brockville Community where she was hoping to establish a community mediation clinic.

Both her profession and her studies were focused on mediation. Andrea was an employment mediator and her thesis was on Community Mediation in New Zealand. Andrea has been part of a small team of volunteers including mediators, community workers, academics, lawyers and other professionals, who have been working over the last few years to establish the Dunedin Community Mediation (DCM) service which was formally launched on 30 October and where Andrea's contribution was formally acknowledged. Andrea had expressed a wish that instead of flowers for her funeral, donations should be made to the DCM to help with its work in the community.

The DCM is an independently operated not-for profit organization funded by grants and donations that will provide an opportunity for members of the community, and community groups to participate in free mediations conducted by trained professional mediators. Community mediation has been described as a 'voluntary conversation between people or groups of people about a difficulty they are experiencing where the mediator joins the conversation to help people express their concerns and find solutions that are acceptable to all.' ([dunedincommunitymediation.org.nz](http://dunedincommunitymediation.org.nz))

Andrea's role in this organisation has been pivotal. Some quotes from members of the team include 'What a contribution you have made to Dunedin Community Mediation! You have researched, sited us within the wider community mediation scene, got practical with the funding applications – and so much more.' 'What a strength you have been as we have grown, a rock, a treasure.' 'Your part in the establishment is more than words can state.' Thank you, Andrea.

Dr Heather Devere

## Richard Falk visits

Professor Richard Falk, who recently completed a six-year term as United Nations Special Rapporteur on Palestinian Human Rights, visited New Zealand for a public lecture tour in early November. Initially invited by the Aotearoa New Zealand Peace and Conflict Studies Centre Trust and the National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies to deliver the Dorothy Brown Memorial Lecture in Auckland, Professor Falk also gave a lecture at the University of Auckland and another at the University of Otago.

The Dorothy Brown Memorial Lecture, given as part of a Study Day organized in Auckland, was entitled "Looking back on World War One a hundred years later", while the two university lectures were on the topic of "Prospects for peace in the Middle East".

Professor Falk travelled with his wife, Professor Hilal Elver, who also delivered a lecture at the University of Otago. Professor Elver is the UN Special Rapporteur on Right to Food and her lecture topic was "A rights based approach to food security".

Falk, a Professor Emeritus of International Law at Princeton University, is a recognized world expert on the laws of war, human rights and international order. He was appointed to the UN role in 2008, where his frequently outspoken criticism of Israeli policies towards Palestine, and the US-led war on terror, particularly the invasion of Iraq, led to some criticism of his appointment and accusations that he was not impartial or objective.

Professor Falk combines his academic expertise in international law with political activism in a role, which he describes as being a "citizen pilgrim". He states that in all his work, his "overriding concern is to foster an abolitionist movement against war and aggression as social institutions, which implies the gradual construction of a new world order that assures basic human needs of all people, that safeguards the environment, that protects the fundamental human rights of all individuals and groups without encroaching upon the precarious resources of cultural diversity, and that works toward the non-violent resolution of inter-societal conflicts."





## Special as: Liesel Mitchell

Liesel Mitchell is special, of that there is no doubt. She has the unique honour of being currently the first and only PhD student at the Centre to have completed both a Postgraduate Diploma of Arts (Peace and Conflict Studies) and a Masters of Arts (Peace and Conflict Studies) at NCPACS, achieving a rare “trifecta” of postgraduate study.

Liesel’s association with the Centre started in 2010, as one of the foundation PGDip class. It was the right opportunity at the right time, as she had just returned to Dunedin from eight years teaching English in a South Korean university.

Living in South Korea was a formative experience, which she describes as being “born again”.

“I had to learn to read, write and speak all over again,” she said. Despite the language barriers, Liesel found she was treated like a “rock star” in Korean society. “My high status as a white English speaker was nothing more than an accident of birth, and that made me uncomfortable.”

“I knew that Korean teachers, doing the same job as me, were being paid less. Other teachers, black South Africans for example, were also paid less.”

Liesel’s reflections on the place and value of English in the world created tension for her. “Korean is a beautiful language, much easier to learn than English. ‘Gifting’ the English language as a valuable resource and seeing the hierarchy of American or Canadian accents as more desirable than Australian, New Zealand and English accents was a strange experience.”

While in Korea, Liesel felt a responsibility to be a great citizen, particularly as the South Korean impression of other English speaking cultures has been very mixed. She found that the US army left behind a legacy of arrogance and rudeness. Liesel was shocked to meet a Korean man who had never met a foreigner before and was trembling when they were introduced.

“It is very confronting in terms of the influence of our culture on others.”

The desire to obtain formal qualifications for tertiary level teaching led Liesel back to Dunedin in 2009, where she discovered the newly

established NCPACS. The Centre seemed to bring together a range of interests and experiences – education, different cultures, conflict – and with her South Korean experiences so fresh, Liesel was keen to understand more about how we resolve conflict when we live in different worlds.

“The Postgraduate Diploma, with a great group of students, was exciting from day one,” she said. “I was learning about the things that I enjoyed talking about around the dinner table.”

Taught by Karen Brouneus and Isak Svensson in Semester One, and Kevin Clements and Heather Devere in Semester Two, the course drew in a range of students and opened up the possibility of connecting across a broad spectrum of disciplines.

In 2011, Liesel went on to write her Masters exploring nonviolence, which at the time was a new and growing field. She drew on her experience in South Korea to compare the 1980 Gwangju movement with China’s Tiananmen Square movement of 1989.

A PhD was not part of the plan but after what turned out to be a difficult year of job-hunting in 2012, during which the ever-positive Liesel says she learned a lot about resilience, a PhD proposal was written and accepted.

Resilience seems to be an important attribute for a PhD student. Liesel describes the process of researching and producing a thesis as full of both reward and self-doubt.

“I am passionate and committed to the study of non-violence, but at the same time I try to remain detached from the product, the thesis. The process is of value; group supervision, learning about other people’s research, being critiqued, revising work so it becomes much better and communicates clearly to someone without any background in the field. This is the research process, which I enjoy.”

Ideally in the future, Liesel will return to teaching in a tertiary environment.

“I will have to make my opportunities. There are so many disciplines which could be taught from a peace and conflict perspective.”



Left to right: Tony Eyre, Alan Jackson, Professor Kevin Clements, Katherine Baxter, Professor Henry Reynolds, Paul Sorrell, David Grant.  
Absent: Professor Richard Jackson, Penny Griffith.

## Archibald Baxter Trust launched

A Trust in the name of one of New Zealand's most influential World War One conscientious objectors has been established in Dunedin, with NCPACS faculty members Professor Kevin Clements and Professor Richard Jackson playing a prominent role.

Archibald Baxter was one of 14 objectors who were shipped to the western front in July 1917. He was kept under detention and refused any service or involvement. He was sentenced to 28 days of Field Punishment No.1, a military discipline that was administered to Baxter in a particularly cruel and crippling manner. Of the 14 objectors, only Baxter and one other held out against any military service.

The aim of the Archibald Baxter Memorial Trust is to honour the actions of conscientious objectors by developing a memorial garden in Dunedin, and establishing a secondary school essay competition.

The Trust also plans to offer a Memorial Lecture on a regular basis. Eminent Australian historian, Professor Henry Reynolds from the University of Tasmania, delivered the inaugural lecture, which launched the Trust in September. Entitled "Discovering Archibald Baxter and the thoughts on war which followed", Professor Reynolds spoke of Australia's obsession with war and the intense programme of commemoration that has been funded to the detriment of other aspects of Australia's history.

"There seems to be no reticence among the promoters of war as the defining national experience," he said.

The Trust was officially launched on 21 September at the Dunedin Public Library.

## New Zealand Peace Foundation's 2014 Peacemaker Award

Professor Kevin Clements has been honoured with the New Zealand Peace Foundation's 2014 Peacemaker Award – an award his own father helped create more than 40 years ago.

The award recognises Professor Clements' outstanding contribution to peace education and peace development in New Zealand and overseas.

It was particularly special for Professor Clements as his own father, the Rev Leslie Clements, helped develop the awards when he was Director of the Foundation in the 1970s and 1980s.

Rev Clements was the first Director of the Foundation, and was a conscientious objector in the Second World War.

"When I accepted the prize I acknowledged my father, plus John Male, Kath Knight and all the early supporters of the Foundation. They believed that violence and war are learned behaviours and because of this they were passionately devoted to the development of peace and conflict education programmes at all levels of the education system."

The New Zealand Peace Foundation was established in 1975 to expand peace education throughout New Zealand. It has developed highly innovative programmes for both primary and secondary schools aimed at stopping bullying and developing peer mediation and problem solving. It also maintains very close links with a wide range of peace think-tanks and research institutes around the world.

Professor Clements says he hopes the University of Otago's own College of Education, in collaboration with the National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies and the Peace Foundation, can work to mainstream peace education in primary, secondary and tertiary institutions.

"This will guarantee that New Zealand will continue to be a largely peaceful country capable of resolving all of our identity and other problems amicably and nonviolently."

Acknowledgement: *Otago Bulletin*



## Very public conversations

This year the Centre has started a series of Public Conversations, following in the footsteps of the successful series presented by the Centre for Theology and Public Issues, which was initiated by Professor Andrew Bradstock during his time at Otago.

The aim is to present and record in-depth interviews exploring the diverse influences that persuade people to become involved in peace activism, to move from violence to nonviolence or to challenge perceived wisdom in the spheres in which they move.

In the first conversation, Professor Kevin Clements spoke with Marian Hobbs, former teacher, school principal and Labour party MP, about her engagement in the anti-apartheid, anti-war and civil liberties movements.

Later in the year, Kevin spoke with Marilyn Waring, a feminist, academic, and another former MP from the opposite side of the political spectrum, who he described as a 'taonga' or living treasure. Marilyn was instrumental in precipitating a snap election in 1984 when she threatened to support the opposition's anti-nuclear legislation.

Visiting Māori practitioner Maata Wharehoka was interviewed about her life and dedication to tikanga Maori revitalization in Aotearoa New Zealand.

In May, visiting academic Professor Ed Garcia was not only interviewed, but took the opportunity to reverse roles and interview Kevin about his life and times, and his wide ranging career in academia and practice.

Recently Kevin has conversed with Tim Ashton, a former member of the Armed Offenders Squad about gun control in New Zealand, and three members of the Save Aramoana Campaign which, through peaceful protest, stopped the construction of an aluminium smelter at the mouth of the Otago Harbour in the late 1970s.

The conversations are livestreamed and recorded for later broadcast in the Media Production Studio at the University of Otago. They are available via the Resources page of the Centre's website.

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## Thesis research leads to books

Holly Guthrey and Chin-Kuei Tsui, both PhD graduates of the Centre, have successfully gained publishing contracts for work based on their PhD research.

Dr Guthrey's book *Victim Healing and Truth Commissions: Transforming Pain Through Voice in the Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste* will be published in 2015 as part of the Springer Series in Transitional Justice, Vol. 11.

Dr Tsui's book entitled *Clinton, New Terrorism and the Origins of the War of Terror* will be published as part of the Routledge Studies in US Foreign Policy Series. It is due for release in October 2015.

## Marsden funding success

Professor Richard Jackson, together with Dr Jeremy Moses at the University of Canterbury, has been awarded a major grant from the Marsden Fund for a three-year project entitled, "A new politics of peace? Investigations in contemporary pacifism and nonviolence". The grant provides funding for two PhD scholarships, a number of dedicated research assistants and an international conference that will bring together the world's leading experts on nonviolence and pacifism. The grant will help to cement the Centre's growing reputation as a leading centre for the study of nonviolence.

The project is motivated by the observation that a growing body of recent academic research has demonstrated that pacifism and nonviolence is a highly successful and viable approach to political change and reform. However, in modern society, nonviolence and pacifism are still largely considered to be naïve, unrealistic and inferior to military-based approaches. The project therefore sets out to explore the way in which pacifism and nonviolence has been understood and spoken about in different sectors of New Zealand society, and the reasons for and consequences of, its largely negative portrayal. In particular, it examines peaceful traditions and practices which have been largely forgotten, suppressed and belittled, and how they might be revitalized in contemporary society. As such, it will offer new insights and understanding of why nonviolence and pacifism remains a kind of subjugated and denigrated knowledge, despite its well-documented successes.

Importantly, it is hoped that the research will provide useful resources for peace workers seeking to transform violent cultures and build positive peace, indigenous communities seeking to de-subjugate traditional forms of knowledge, and scholars and practitioners of international relations and foreign policy seeking to reintroduce pacifism as a legitimate form of political theory into international politics.



Professor Richard Jackson

# Profile: Patrik Johansson

## Postdoctoral Fellow



### What is your background prior to coming to NCPACS?

Looking back, I think I can point to a few formative events of my late youth that turned a general interest in issues of peace and justice into a more dedicated engagement. Examples include two Nordic Peace Festivals, in the Aaland Islands in 1988 and in Murmansk in 1989, as well as my first visit to Israel and Palestine in 1991. This led me on to Uppsala, where I majored in peace and conflict studies, and then spent a few years working at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research.

In 2001, I went to the Balkans to work for the EU's monitoring mission (EUMM) in the former Yugoslavia, and ended up spending a year in Skopje, Macedonia. Then, in 2003, I went to Hebron, Palestine, for a year as a civilian observer with the Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH).

While in Hebron, I was accepted as a Ph.D. student at Umeå University, where the Department of Political Science had recently taken over peace and conflict studies and wanted to strengthen research and teaching in that field.

In my thesis, I analysed the relationship between the return of displaced persons and the building of sustainable peace after armed conflict. As a Ph.D. student, I also taught several undergraduate courses in peace and conflict studies and in political science.

After I got my Ph.D. in 2010, I continued to work at Umeå University, dividing my time between teaching and studying counselling. I now have a tenured position in Umeå, which I still hold during my stay in Otago.

### What is your role and position at NCPACS?

I'm here on an International Postdoc grant from the Swedish Research Council. The terms of the grant mean that I'm formally employed by Umeå University for the duration of the three-year postdoc, but that I spend two-thirds of that time in Otago. The primary purpose of the postdoctoral fellowship is to give me time to conduct and publish research, and to improve my research skills. I will not do a lot of teaching, but I'm happy to have taken on the role as supervisor to a Ph.D. student for the first time.

### What are your main research interests?

The main project I'm working on is about resilience in peacebuilding. Resilience is usually seen as the ability to bounce back from various sorts of disturbances, making it a positive quality of, for example, a company, a political movement, or an individual. This is how the concept has entered the field of peace and conflict studies. However, an alternative approach to resilience, primarily developed in ecology, argues that resilience is neither positive nor negative in its own right, but simply a property of any complex adaptive system, such as a lake or a forest – or, in my case, a peaceful society. I want to “translate” ecological resilience into an analytical framework that can be used to understand peace and conflict.

Another important part of my research concerns the UN Security Council, and how its engagement with various issues has evolved over time.

### What do you hope to get from your time in Dunedin?

Two years in Dunedin is a great opportunity not only for me to do research, but for the whole family to get to know another country. I think that kind of experience helps you appreciate or question what you might otherwise take for granted in your own country. We plan to see a lot of New Zealand while we're here, and once we return to Sweden in mid-2016, I expect both my sons to be fluent in New Zealand.



## Visiting Research Assistants

Two students from Uppsala University are visiting the Centre to assist with a research project being undertaken by Dr Charles Butcher.

Monika Onken and Per Hydén are taking time out from the Swedish winter to broaden their skills by working on the project that investigates why religious groups choose non-violence.

Monika Onken is a German national, who did her undergraduate study in International Development in Holland followed by a two-year Masters at Uppsala, supervised by Dr Isak Svensson. Her thesis looked at the use of violence in nonviolent movements. Monika hopes to continue with PhD study when she finds the right research environment and supervision. In the meantime, New Zealand is providing the opportunity to develop her quantitative research skills.

Per is currently completing his Masters in Religion and Peace and Conflict Studies, following undergraduate study in Politics. His thesis will investigate whether peacemaking organisations use religion analysis actively in peacebuilding. The opportunity to work with Charles Butcher has deepened his knowledge of an area of research that complements his own programme.



## Recent publications

Butcher, Charles & Isak Svensson. 2014. 'Manufacturing Dissent? Modernization and the Onset of Major Nonviolent Resistance Campaigns'. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. Published online before Print: July 18 2014 ([jcr.sagepub.com/content/early/2014/07/17/0022002714541843.abstract](http://jcr.sagepub.com/content/early/2014/07/17/0022002714541843.abstract)).

Clements, Kevin. 2014. 'What is Legitimacy and why does it matter for peace?'. *Accord: An International Review of Peace Initiatives*, Issue 25, April 2014: 12-17.

Devere, Heather. 2014. 'Friendship in International Treaties', in *Friendship and International Relations*, Simon Koschut & Andrea Oelsner (eds), Palgrave Macmillan, London.

Jackson, Richard. 2014. 'Bush, Obama, Bush, Obama, Bush, Obama... : The War on Terror as a Durable Social Structure', in *Obama's Foreign Policy: Ending the War on Terror*, Michelle Bentley and Jack Holland (eds), Abingdon: Routledge, pp. 76-90.

Madhav Joshi, Sung Yong Lee & Roger Mac Ginty. 2014. 'Just How Liberal Is the Liberal Peace?'. *International Peacekeeping* Vol 21, No 3: 364-389.

Standish, Katerina. 2014. 'Cultural Nonviolence: exploring the other side of Galtung's Violence Triangle'. *Global Journal of Peace Research and Praxis*, 1(1): 46-54.

Wallensteen, Peter & Patrik Johansson. 2014. 'The United Nations Security Council in State-based Armed Conflicts, 2003-12'. In *SIPRI Yearbook 2014*, Oxford: Oxford University Press: 56-69.

## Peer Mediation on campus

During the second semester of 2014 a group of 18 students from the Centre, as well as from other departments across the university, has undergone a full mediation training under the professional umbrella of NCPACS and led by PhD candidate Danny Fridberg. In the academic year 2015, this group of students will establish a peer-mediation centre on campus, managed entirely by students, and will be available to provide mediation services in any dispute in which students are involved on campus and in the wider community of Dunedin. The peer-mediation centre's team is diverse, in terms of gender, ethnic background, age, degree and fields of study.

Our team of mediators has set a threefold vision to follow, as the mediation centre is being established:

1. Mediation is well known by students and staff on Campus and is the most common way to resolve conflicts in the university's community.
2. There is an operating, accessible and successful peer mediation centre on campus, that is well regarded.
3. The peer mediation centre maintains professional networks locally (e.g. community police, community mediation services), nationally (e.g. other peer mediation centres, LEADR, AMINZ) and internationally (e.g. other peer mediation centres, Sustainable Dialogue Campus Network).

Having this in mind, the mediation team has also set the following two goals for the first year of operation:

1. To increase knowledge of mediation among students and staff, as an effective and creative way of resolving conflict, and ensure they know how to contact the peer mediation centre.
2. To establish a peer mediation centre with all mediators undergoing full practicum and gaining a significant record of successful mediations.

The peer-mediation centre will operate along, and in full collaboration, with related institutes and projects on campus, such as the Zone of Peace, the university mediator, Ruth Chapman, and the Community Law Centre operated by staff and students of the Law department.



# Graduation

Congratulations to all those who graduated in 2014.

## PhD

Prakash Bhattarai  
Ellen Furnari  
Holly Guthrey  
Chin-Kuei Tsui

## Master of Arts

Roberta Francis  
Amie Kirkham  
Daniel Ohs  
Anna Parker  
Leilana Quinger  
Courtney Wilson

## Postgraduate Diploma

Alysha Genn  
Charlotte Graham  
Simon Heard  
Stacey Hitchcock  
Sandra Ivanov  
Andrew Kwiatkowski  
Griffin Leonard  
Apurva Mahire  
Robert Mitchell  
Stephanie Smith  
Leisa de Klerk  
Lewis Williamson

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# Zone of Peace



Professor Kevin Clements welcomes everyone to the Zone of Peace launch on 1 August.



Entertainment from the Dee Street Blues Band, led by Professor Richard Jackson, and featuring Andrew Kwiatkowski on bass and David Cox on drums.



A grand August day for the Castle St Zone of Peace launch.