

National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies

NEWSLETTER MAY 2014

Welcome from the Director

The National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies is celebrating five and a half years as New Zealand's only postgraduate centre for research, teaching and practice in peace and conflict studies.

In February we welcomed our newest faculty member, Dr SungYong Lee, from the University of Coventry's Centre for Peace and Reconciliation Studies. SungYong gained his Ph.D at the University of St Andrews and is working on local level, grassroots peacebuilding processes in South East Asia. It has been a privilege to host Professor Ed Garcia, from Ateneo de Manila University in the Philippines, and our Maori Practice Fellow, Maata Wharehoka from Parihaka in Taranaki. Both Ed and Maata have participated in our new Public Conversations series, along with Marian Hobbs, former Labour Party MP and peace activist.

After four years, the Post Graduate Diploma of Arts (Peace and Conflict Studies) has been replaced by an intensive one year coursework Master of Peace and Conflict Studies. This new MPCS will enable students to work in a range of governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations, and set the foundation for a Ph.D and an academic career. Our inaugural MPCS class comes from a range

of ethnic, cultural, religious and vocational backgrounds. We will welcome more students to the class in the second semester.

Recently, I have been working with the Toda Institute for Global Peace and Policy on the facilitation of a number of interactive problem solving workshops aimed at breaking the impasses to stable peaceful relationships between China, Japan and Korea. These workshops bring together important "political influentials" from all three countries. We have conducted one workshop in Bangkok and a second in Seoul; a third in Beijing is scheduled for November. These workshops have enabled all participants to develop a deeper appreciation of the historical and immediate sources of antagonism and hostility between all three capitals.

I think that our original donors would be well pleased with our progress. With the support of the university and many generous benefactors we are developing a very distinctive critical niche for ourselves within the New Zealand academy and in the wider community. I look forward to working with you all on the consolidation and expansion of the centre over the next few years.

Me rongo
KEVIN

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Dr Chin-Kuei Tsui, our first PhD to cross the stage, with fellow graduands and faculty on 17 May.

Maukaroko ki te whenua

Verse

Maukaroko ki te whenua
Whakaaro pai ki te tangata katoa
Arohanui ki te aoraki
Koa koa koa ki te aoraki

Chorus

Pono whakapono ki te ao nei
Ko Rongo No Rongo Na Rongo
Me Rongo (me rongo)
Me Rongo (me rongo)
Me Rongo (me rongo)

Translation

Peace to the land
Be thoughtful to all
Great love to the universe
Joy, joy, joy to the universe
Truth, truth to the world
It is Rongo, from Rongo, by Rongo
Peace, Peace, Peace

The atua (the nearest word for this in English is God) Rongo has many references in Māori culture. He is responsible for cultivated food, the meeting house, peace and harmony.

Puketeraki Marae visit

On Friday 4 April, students and staff from the centre spent the day at Puketeraki Marae in Karitane. The annual marae visit is an opportunity to explore and discuss the Centre's engagement with tikanga Māori, and this year we were lucky to have Maata Wharehoka to lead discussion and take the role of kaikorero for the formal welcome on to the marae.

Postgraduate students from the Tourism Department joined us, as did the family of SungYong Lee, the Centre's newest member of faculty, and Professor Ed Garcia and his wife, Teresita who were visiting the Centre for six weeks. All enjoyed the experience of the formal welcome or powhiri, the wonderful hospitality of the marae and the chance to learn more about tikanga Māori and te reo.

Masters students Griffin Leonard, Joe Llewellyn and Daniel Benson-Guiu at Puketeraki Marae.



Maata Wharehoka

It has been a great pleasure having Maata Wharehoka as part of the Centre from April until early June.

Maata is a tikanga Māori advocate from Parihaka in Taranaki. In her own words:

I am a Māori woman with an intense desire to heal our Māori people. I want to share the legacy of Papatuanuku, to heal our children, to heal our men who are suffering from the impact of colonisation. My heart is so big I want to help Pakeha reconcile with Māori. I want to ensure there is no blame and shame - to heal we must relinquish that behaviour. I am working with Pakeha people who will be vital in the future of Māori. I am convinced my placement at Parihaka was not by accident; there are those out there who have a close eye on me, monitoring and keeping me true.

For Parihaka I want to see peace and harmony, the unification of all marae. I want to know, before I die that my work has been valued. I am an avid follower of Te Whiti o Rongomai and respect the close relationship with his Uncle Tohu Kakahi.

Having worked as a Registered Nurse from 1969 until 1995, it was time to move into creative developmental work that would change the way we as Māori approach the Treaty of Waitangi and Biculturalism in Aotearoa. The pathway has been guided by the spirit of my ancestors, I have no control of where I shall be today or tomorrow. When I am called, then that is where I should be. I want to be that point of difference.

As part of her visit Maata has drafted Project Maukaroko, a strategy to embed tikanga Māori in the life of the centre. This document builds upon the work and recommendations of Dr Jenny Te Paa-Daniel who was visiting Māori Fellow with the centre in 2013.

Maata has shared her work at Parihaka in many ways, including through a screening of TATARAKIHI 'Children of Parihaka', a film for which she holds the kaitiakitanga (guardianship). She has shared her aroha and wisdom with the whole centre and the wider university community. With patience and good humour, she has encouraged the use of te reo Māori in our daily communications. She has been instrumental in the creation of our own beautiful waiata, Maukaroko ki te whenua, writing the words which were set to music by Michelle Jackson.

He maru ahiahi kei muri te maru awatea, he paki arohirohi kei mua.

After the shades of darkness comes the dusk of dawn, whilst before lies the shimmering glory of a fair day.

Profile: Professor Ed Garcia

National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (NCPACS)



Rediscovering A Community of Constant Learning

The NCPACS six week-fellowship was an intense period comprised of three strands: sharing lessons drawn from diverse conflict situations with university students and the public at large; acquiring new learning from the questions posed by post-graduate students engaged in research or planning their practicum, and engaging in animated exchange with the faculty and staff of the centre as well as their varied guests and lecturers from different disciplines who visited the university.

Conversation With Kevin

It all began with a conversation with Kevin Clements, peace advocate, scholar and Director of the centre, who suggested that time spent at the University of Otago can provide the space for re-charging one's energies, re-imagining the next phase of one's journey, and undertaking that transition from the period we normally call "age-ing" to a process that we could define as "sage-ing". (In fact, during the latter half of my stint in Dunedin, Kevin arranged an hour-long TV interview reflecting on my experiences as a peacemaker, a human rights advocate and a non-violent activist.)

The place to start was the classroom, team-teaching a group of masters students with a colleague SungYong Lee who had done field work with local communities in Cambodia. Entitled "Waging Peace: Peace Practitioner's Perspective," the sessions highlighted three relevant themes supported by brief case studies: "*Meterle pueblo al proceso*" or put people at the heart of the process; underscore the importance of human rights and humanitarian principles in the work to sustain peace; and recognise that peacemaking requires a marathon mentality.

Sharing Experiences with University Constituents

One of the public lectures I was asked to deliver dealt with the "Promise and Perils of People's Power from 1986 Philippines to 2014 Ukraine" – a theme that was discussed as events were then unfolding in the streets of Kiev and in Crimea which was eventually annexed by Russia; the other, co-sponsored by the Department of Theology and Public Issues dealt with "The Role of Religious Leaders in Building Peace." Taking off from the experiences of Nigeria, Burundi and Mindanao in the Philippines, the idea of guidelines for religious leaders building peace was explored relying on four pillars: faith-based, principled, process-related and people-related.

An added challenge was the sessions dealing with the process of selecting an organisation located in a particular area to put into practice theory and skills learned in the classroom. Since the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front had just signed a peace agreement, a suggestion was made

to get in touch with the Gaston Z Oritgas Peace Institute in the Philippines and request placement with a local partner in Mindanao. The other possibility was work in Fiji with the local partners of Conciliation Resources whose representative Nicolas Tillon came to Dunedin to lead a roundtable on Fiji.

Exchanging Insights and Current Concerns at the Centre

Another feature of the centre which leads me to define it as a community of constant learning is the regular practice of the Thursday poster presentation where one member of the centre makes a presentation about their current concerns such as peace education, or, the problem solving workshops that deal with thought-leaders from China, Japan and Korea – a collaborative undertaking led by Kevin.

Two other singular achievements are worth noting: Richard Jackson's publication of a novel aptly-entitled, "Confessions of a Terrorist" to be launched in May and the appearance of a unique journal, *Amity*, dedicated to the field of friendship studies – a dimension of peacebuilding that may seem so self-evident but it is rare to find scholarly references to the politics of friendship.

Moreover, I was privileged to share a room with a Māori colleague, Maata Wharehoka. The Marae visit conducted by the centre was a special experience that allowed learning about the Māori practices of welcome and greetings, song and sharing of the meals, and the farewell exchanges.

Two other experiences worth noting: the process of declaring the centre a Zone of Peace (Taunga o Rongo), which is work in progress, and which could evolve in collaboration with other institutions or houses in the area so as to eventually declare Castle Street a Peace Street; the other, the centre's consensus to send a Peace Citation to the Negotiating Panels of the Philippine Government and the MILF in recognition of their arduous efforts to forge an accord whose time had come.

I was also privileged to address the formal dinner at Selwyn College, where my wife and I were accommodated, and to invite successive generations to join the endeavour to declare Selwyn College as a zone of peace.

I must add that this stint at the centre enabled me to work jointly with my wife, Teresita, who offered her suggestions and made critical observations about the presentations made. She likewise made available her artistic skills to help draw diagrams and to design the acetate outlines to ensure that the sessions were more audience-friendly. All in all, the journey to Dunedin was a rediscovery of shared learning.

Ed Garcia, April 2014

Students present at U3A

In March and April, nine PhD students from the centre designed and presented a six-lecture series for the Dunedin U3A (University of the Third Age) group. The programme, which is outlined below, was received enthusiastically by the U3A audience.

John Gray: 'The Balkan Wars: From Conflict to Peace?'

A history of the conflicts that have occurred during the last two decades, and an examination of the post-Dayton peacebuilding efforts, as well as events that followed the NATO intervention in 1999.

Prakash Bhattaraj and Monica Carrer: 'An Introduction to Conflict and Political Violence in South Asia'

An exploration of how conflict and political violence have characterized the contemporary history of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal.

Rula Talahma and Liesel Mitchell: 'Conflict in the Middle East from Two Perspectives: Media Framing and Resistance'

A broad historic overview of resistance in the Arab World, with an accompanying focus on framing contemporary nonviolent resistance in Palestine.

Heather Kertyzia: 'Peace Education: A Proposal for the World's Schools'

We live in a rapidly changing world and yet we rely on an educational system designed centuries ago. Recognizing we can't predict the future, what changes to education for our youth will prepare them for this unknown future? Peace education provides a possible answer.

Ria Shibata and Ajirapa Piekhuntut: 'National Identity and Conflicts in Asia'

Exploring how national identity contributes to conflict in two regions of Asia.

Patrick Mbugua: 'Transitions from Civil War to Peace: Lessons from Africa'

An introduction for learners to the central issues in post-conflict peacebuilding in Africa, situating these issues within the broader post-conflict theories and practices.

Professor Kevin Clements, Professor Richard Jackson, Dr Heather Devere and Dr SungYong Lee will present a further four-lecture course for U3A Alexandra in May.

First PhD completions

In the last six months, the first four PhD students from the Centre have successfully completed their theses.

Holly Guthrey's thesis "How does truth-telling heal? An exploration of voice and pathways toward victim healing in Solomon Islands and Timor Leste" was supervised by Dr Karen Brouneus (while teaching at NCPACS) and Dr Heather Devere



Professor Kevin Clements

(NCPACS). Holly is currently guest researcher at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University, Sweden.

Elvira Bobekova is a Research Associate at the University of Auckland. Her thesis was entitled "Rivers of peace: Third party conflict management of transboundary river disputes" and was supervised by Professor Kevin Clements (NCPACS) and Dr Isak Svensson (Uppsala).

Ellen Furnari researched "Understanding effectiveness in peacekeeping operations: Exploring the perspectives of frontline peacekeepers", supervised by Professor Kevin Clements and Dr Heather Devere (both NCPACS).

Chin-Kuei Tsui was most recently awarded his PhD, with his research topic "Tracing the discursive origins of the War on Terror: President Clinton and the construction of the New Terrorism in the post-Cold War era". Chin-Kuei began his doctoral study at Aberystwyth University with Professor Richard Jackson, and transferred to Otago when Richard took up his position with the NCPACS. He was also supervised by Professor Kevin Clements.

All theses are available online through the University of Otago library website <http://otago.ourarchive.ac.nz/>

Congratulations to all these students.

Journal and peace book launched

A combined launch for *AMITY: The Journal of Friendship Studies*, co-edited by Dr Heather Devere, and *New Zealand: Country of Peace* by Margaret Bell Thomson was held on 10 April. Over 50 people attended to celebrate these two publications.

AMITY: The Journal of Friendship Studies is an online journal exploring 'friendship' as a site of study empirically, analytically and morally. The revival of this area of study over the last twenty five years has seen scholars return to a tradition both wide and deep which views friendship as the investigation and theorization of horizontal ties of affinity, concern, and action. This renewed interest in friendship is being used to inform and moderate current ideas about the state as power and politics as hierarchy. Moreover, it is developing across a variety of disciplines, from politics to literature, from linguistics to sociology, from religion to psychology, and from philosophy to cultural studies.

The journal, which has been co-edited by Dr Heather Devere (NCPACS) and Dr Graham M. Smith (Leeds) has been published online out of the University of Leeds and can be accessed at the following link <http://amityjournal.leeds.ac.uk/>.

New Zealand: Country of Peace by Margaret Bell Thomson is a celebration of sites of peace in Aotearoa New Zealand. Margaret has documented in photos and text the peace memorials around New Zealand, from the Rainbow Warrior memorial in Northland to our own National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies in Dunedin, from Pihoka the Western Touchstone in Hokitika to Memorial Walls in Gisborne. Copies of the book are available through Margaret Bell Thomson, and NCPACS will be happy to pass on any enquiries that are received.



Three new PhD students

This semester, the Centre has welcomed three new students from around the globe.

Mahdis Azarmandi is from Germany/Iran. Her research focuses on racism and anti-racism in Spain analyzing the constructions of race and whiteness within anti-racist organizations from a critical race theory and decolonial perspective. The thesis aims to critically assess how the understanding of race impacts on the anti-racism strategies chosen. The research looks at the organizational development and success of anti-racism strategies by assessing the success which campaigns have when based on ideas of tolerance and colour-blindness vis-a-vis privilege-aware and anti-oppressive approaches.

“The experience at NCPACS so far has been very inspiring. Working in such a diverse environment with incredibly intelligent and wonderful people has been a good start to my PhD,” said Mahdis. “Being able to work with Maata Wharahoka and learning more about Parihaka has been one of my personal highlights so far.”

Babu Ayindo holds a Bachelor of Education degree from Kenyatta University (Nairobi, Kenya) and M.A in Conflict Transformation from Eastern Mennonite University (Virginia, USA). His research focuses on comparative arts approaches to conflict transformation. Other research interests include pedagogy in peace education, community based trauma healing, and the role and function of storytellers – like Ayi Kwei Armah, Nuruddin Farah, Ngugi wa Thiong’o and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie – in breaking cycles of violence.

“I have experimented and written on “arts approaches to peacebuilding” in diverse cultural contexts in Africa, North America and Asia,” said Babu. He hopes to forge a connection with the Theatre Studies programme at the University of Otago.

Daniel Fridberg is from Jerusalem, Israel. His research focuses on socio-psychological processes involved in political and personal transformation among militant activists in protracted conflicts. Specifically, he examines the case of ex-combatants, who became peace activists, in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

“The experience at NCPACS so far has been excellent. The interdisciplinary and international research environments, as well as the devotion to peace of its staff and students make the centre both inspiring and challenging,” he said.

2013 NCPACS Prize Winners

Best poster: John Gray

Best PEAC490 Dissertation: Stacey Hitchcock and Andrew Kwiatkowski

Citizenship Prize: Ria Shibata

Creative Nonviolence Prize: Rosemary McBryde

As new students begin their PhD study with the Centre, others are in the final stages. Prakash Bhattarai began his study in March 2011 and Patrick Mbugua arrived a year later in March 2012.

What is your research topic?

Prakash: My PhD research focuses on assessing the dynamics of third-party coordination in armed conflicts and peace processes, and I do that by bringing together the voices of third-party practitioners and other relevant stakeholders in the Maoist armed conflict of Nepal and the Moro conflict of the Philippines. Specifically, my research aims to explore a) conditions for third-party coordination; b) degree of influence of relationship dynamics and power status of third parties on the occurrence of coordination; and c) effectiveness of third-party coordination in conflict resolution efforts.

Patrick: My research topic is *Discourse Transformation in Peace Processes: Revisiting Sudan’s 2005 Comprehensive Agreement*. I became interested in the subject of peace processes, peacebuilding and the social construction of violent conflicts while working at the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) in Durban, South Africa. Working in diverse programmes on conflict resolution and international peace interventions in Africa inspired me to study the linkage between the social construction of reality, eruption of violent conflicts, and post-agreement peacebuilding.

Why did you choose to study in Dunedin?

Prakash: I chose Otago, and particularly NCPACS, because of a great academic environment it provides to the PhD students. It is small but very vibrant and diverse with the presence of significant number of PhD students from different part of the world. I have also found some excellent PhD supervisors here at NCPACS who provide high quality feedback on PhD research projects.

Patrick: I chose to study at the University of Otago because it is an excellent educational institution, which fosters and reinforces commitment, enthusiasm, and diligence. The NCPACS’s superb staff who willingly let me climb on their broad academic shoulders also motivated me. Having been at the Centre for more than two years, I have no doubts whatsoever that it is not just a very rich, diverse and stimulating environment, but it has enabled me to make ‘an epistemological turn’.

What do you hope to do following your PhD completion and how do you think this study will contribute to that goal?

Prakash: I am in the process of establishing a policy research and advocacy centre back home in Nepal, which primarily aims to address peace, development, and governance related issues in Nepal and broadly in South Asia region. PhD study here at Otago has sharpened my research, analysis, and critical thinking abilities, which I truly hope to be highly relevant for my future works in the field of research and advocacy.

Patrick: I am very confident that I will utilise the skills and experience that I have gained in peace and conflict work – both practice and academic – in Africa where I hope to return after my study.

Confessions of a Terrorist

Confessions of a Terrorist, a novel by Professor Richard Jackson, published by Zed Books, will be launched on 28 May. The premise of this novel is quite simple: if you sat down face-to-face with a terrorist, what questions would you ask him or her? What would you like to know about their life, their upbringing, their reasons for taking up armed struggle, their aims and goals, their sense of morality, their feelings about what they do? This question is important, not least because terrorism seems to be everywhere these days, and yet paradoxically, we appear to know almost nothing about the people who perpetrate it.

“If we don’t understand what really goes on in the mind of terrorists, we will be forced to simply try and imagine it. And thus far, if novels, movies, television shows, and media portrayals are anything to go by, we imagine that terrorists are insane, fanatical, psychologically damaged, cruel, immoral, essentially ‘evil’, and most importantly, quite inhuman,” said Professor Jackson.

“The problem with viewing terrorists through this veil of ignorance, with trying to understand them through the lens of our usually frightened imagination, is that ultimately we cannot help but turn them into monsters and bogeymen. They cease to be real people, human beings with a history, a childhood, feelings, life experiences, aspirations, values; instead they are reduced to what they’ve done or intended to do. I would argue that this is a counter-productive and ultimately self-

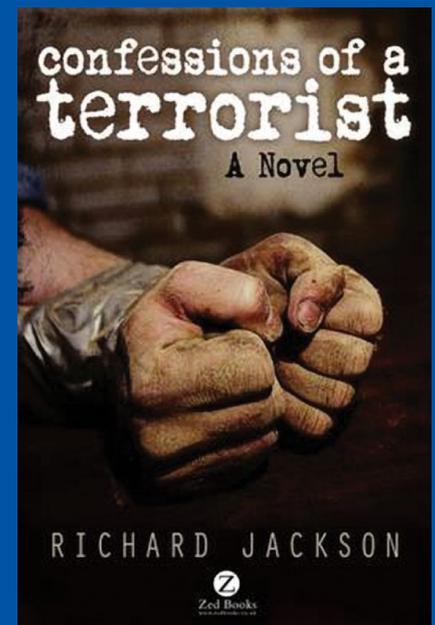
defeating approach. It cannot work to end or prevent further acts of terrorism; its only certain result is to create more terrorists and engender more violent retaliation.”

“As anthropologists tell us, I believe there is kind of taboo against ‘talking to terrorists’ or trying to understand them at a human level. The fear is that getting too close to a terrorist may lead to some kind of infection or contamination, and thus will the cancerous evil of terrorism spread. This taboo is so powerful and so prevalent that you will almost never hear the real voice of a terrorist in a public forum such as the media. They are not allowed to speak for themselves.”

The novel allows the terrorist to speak and have a real voice, uncensored and unrestricted, honest and intimate. Professor Jackson identifies that the danger of taking this approach, as warned by the taboo, is that in listening to the voice of the terrorist, we will begin to comprehend their point of view.

“The key point is that understanding – or even sympathising – with the goals of the terrorist is not the same as condoning and legitimising their violent actions. However, without understanding the mind of the terrorist in the first place, we are left with nothing but our terrified imagination as the foundation on which to construct a counter-terrorism policy.”

The book is available on Amazon and other internet sellers as a hardback and an eBook, and available from bookshops in NZ from 28th May.



Forecasting to prevent mass atrocity

Researchers from the Atrocity Forecasting Project, including Dr Charles Butcher from NCPACS, argue that models for predicting genocide and politicide could help prevent instances of mass violence like that seen in the Central African Republic (CAR).

The forecasting model, which uses determining factors such as political instability, state-led discrimination, infant mortality rates and neighbouring state conflicts, places CAR at the top of its list of at-risk states for genocide/politicide for the period 2011-2015. The forecasts are based on data from years up to 2010, when the project began.

“Changes in the number of soldiers under arms, the presence or absence of an election, and the introduction and removal of peacekeeping forces are also factors in our model that place the CAR at higher risk”, said Dr Butcher.

The aim of the project, which produces the longest-term predictions of its kind, is to provide an early-warning short list of countries most at risk of genocide, which will assist government and non-government bodies in identifying potential mass atrocities while

providing enough time for these groups to put preventive measures in place.

“One of our primary aims was to provide policy-makers with an early warning system that complemented shorter term monitoring and peacebuilding efforts. A key aspect of our model is that it identifies states at risk of genocide over the next 5 years” said Dr Butcher.

“As far as we know, we are the only ones to rank the Central African Republic as the most at-risk country, or even have it towards the top at all.”

The Atrocity Forecasting Project has already gained the attention of influential bodies, having given presentations on the forecasting model to relevant policy groups in Washington DC, Berlin, Paris, and Canberra, to a United Nations conference, and the International Crisis Group.

The research, supported by AusAID’s Australian Responsibility to Protect Fund, is described in detail here:

http://sydney.edu.au/arts/research/atrocity_forecasting/

Moves on mediation

A Community Mediation Service in Dunedin developed by a group drawn from the Centre, the university and the wider community is ready to provide a not-for-profit mediation service. After wide consultation with community groups, and research into different models of community mediation worldwide, the Dunedin service has been developed with trained mediators offering people who wish to have a dispute resolved the opportunity to talk through the issues. The aim is for the service to be as accessible as possible, both in terms of location and people's ability to pay (www.dunedincommunitymediation.org.nz).

'Community mediation can help to address problems before they become unmanageable conflicts. It aims to deal constructively with the people involved to find a solution that feels fair and shows respect' says Dr Heather Devere who initiated this development.

Dr Devere also initiated the setting up of a peer mediation service for students on campus. Danny Fridberg, one of the Centre's PhD candidates is leading this project and is about to begin training student volunteers. For more than ten years, Danny has been involved in teaching mediation and conflict resolution programmes and has established such services in his home country of Israel.

New internship funding

A new donation from the Global Future Charitable Trust will allow New Zealand students to travel overseas for internships and practicum opportunities.

Currently students enrolled in the Master of Peace and Conflict Studies (MPCS) choose from either a dissertation or practicum option. For some of the students, the chance to work with an overseas peace and development agency or NGO is an attractive part of the MPCS course, and an opportunity that will enhance their ability to find work in the field once their study is complete. However the cost of travel is a real barrier to taking up the opportunities that are available.

"This generous donation will allow some of our best and brightest students to experience life out in field, and to work alongside experienced practitioners," said Centre Director, Professor Kevin Clements. "We are so grateful to the GFCT for supporting New Zealand students with this new funding, in addition to the two generous PhD scholarships each year."

MPCS student Chloe Brown is the first recipient of a grant which will help fund travel to Phnom Penh in June.

Recent publications

Clements, Kevin and Olivier Urbain, eds. 2013. *Risk and Uncertainty: Understanding and Dialogue in the 21st Century*. Transaction Publishers, New Brunswick.

Devere, Heather. 2014. "Perpetual Peace and Friendship' in International Treaties." *Peace Studies Journal* 7, no. 1: 38-45.

Jackson, Richard, and Helen Dexter. 2014. "The Social Construction of Organised Political Violence: An Analytical Framework." *Civil Wars* 16, no. 1: 1-23.

Lee, SungYong. 2013. "Lost in Translation: the Problem of Self-Perception in Peace Negotiation." *International Interactions* 39, no. 2: 144-66.

Standish, Katerina. Forthcoming 2014. "Cultural Nonviolence: exploring the other side of Galtung's Violence Triangle." *Global Journal of Peace Research and Praxis*.

<http://www.partnershipsjournal.org/index.php/prp>

Sutton, Jonathan, Charles Butcher and Isak Svensson. Forthcoming 2014.

"Explaining Political Jujitsu: Institution Building and the Outcomes of Severe Violence against Unarmed Protestors." *Journal of Peace Research*. Available at SSRN: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2285248>

Uppsala connection

Recent visitors from Uppsala University have continued to strengthen the link between the Department for Peace and Conflict Research in Sweden and the National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, as part of the institutional collaboration sponsored by STINT (The Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education).

In February Associate Professor Erika Forsberg and Stina Högladh were in the Centre for a week, working with Dr Charles Butcher. While they were here, Erika gave a seminar on Gender Inequality and Armed Conflict, with a focus on Northeast India, where the huge variation in both gender inequality and levels of armed conflict at the subnational level provides a wealth of data for researchers interested in the links. Stina also gave a lecture on latest trends in global conflict with material drawn from the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP). Her own research interest is based around the Central African region.

Later in February, Uppsala PhD candidate Ralph Sundberg arrived in Dunedin for a two-month stay. His aim was to escape his normal environment to concentrate on manuscript writing for his dissertation. Ralph has a background in political psychology and his research focuses on why some people approve of violence and the types of violence that they find acceptable. In particular, he is investigating how tours of duty in Afghanistan affect attitudes of soldiers towards violence.

Our final Uppsala visitor, Desirée Nilsson, spent three weeks visiting the Centre during the month of April. During her stay Desirée gave a public lecture in which she discussed her work on civil society actors in peace accords, and presented an outline of a new research project focusing on the general patterns of whether and how civil society actors may influence the success or failure of the peace negotiations. Desirée participated in meetings regarding the STINT collaboration with Uppsala University and benefited from the Centre's many activities such as the weekly research seminars and inspiring public conversations with Ed Garcia and Kevin Clements. In terms of research, Desirée has worked on a co-authored manuscript focusing on third party spoiler management in the peace processes in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

In May, Dr Charles Butcher and PhD student Liesel Mitchell travelled to Uppsala as part of the STINT exchange.



Stina Högladh and Associate Professor Erika Forsberg.

Graduation

Dr Chin-Kuei Tsui with his primary supervisor, Professor Richard Jackson, at the graduation celebrations on 17 May. Chin-Kuei is the first PhD from the Centre to graduate in person. Chin-Kuei began his PhD study with Professor Jackson at Aberystwyth University and transferred to the University of Otago in 2012. His thesis researches and analyses more than 200 official texts written and spoken by key figures in the Clinton administration and illustrates how a counterterrorism 'regime of truth' was constructed and maintained through discursive practice during the Clinton presidency.



Contact Information

National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies
University of Otago
518-520 Castle St
P O Box 56
Dunedin 9054
Telephone: (+64) 3 479 4546
Fax: (+64) 3 479 8084
Email: peaceandconflict@otago.ac.nz
Web: www.otago.ac.nz/ncpacs

Introducing Dr SungYong Lee

What is your background prior to taking up this position at NCPACS?

Most recently, I worked at Coventry University, UK, as a lecturer/senior lecturer. One of my responsibilities at Coventry was developing and facilitating a new online Masters course, designed for peacebuilding professionals working in the field. It was a real joy to interact with the people who were operating peacebuilding programmes across the globe on a regular basis.

Another part of my career was participating in social development programmes in war-affected or low-income countries. Since 2003, I have been involved in training for unemployed youth (India 2003), education support (India 2003, Cambodia 2007, 2009), micro-finance support to rural villagers (Cambodia 2007), and post-conflict emergency relief (Afghanistan 2003), where I observed and tackled various social issues related to post-conflict redevelopment and poverty.

In terms of my research, I have participated in a number of collaborative research projects as a researcher or research assistant in South Korea, Cambodia, the US and the UK. My duties within these projects included analysing qualitative and quantitative data sets, writing research reports and funding applications, organising academic conferences, and training postgraduate students. In addition, I am currently a managing editor for *the Journal of Conflict Transformation and Security*, and I serve on the review panel of *Peacebuilding*.

What are your main research interests?

In 2006 I decided to become a researcher in the field of peace and conflict studies. While working in Cambodia, the devastating impact of armed conflicts on a society and the efforts of various local actors to (re)build a peaceful society convinced me to redirect my life path.

Since then, I have been examining peace negotiation and post-war reconstruction processes in Cambodia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Angola, South Sudan, and Southern Thailand. At the core of my current research are the roles of psychological limitations of the actors in civil war peace negotiation and the interaction between the international donor community and the indigenous local population in post-conflict peacebuilding process.

What do you hope to contribute to NCPACS?

As for my research activities, I would like to promote more research projects that explore potential/evident contributions of local actors in peacebuilding with geographic focus on Asia-Pacific (Southeast Asia, in particular).

In terms of teaching, I hope my previous experience that covers both practical and academic dimensions of peacebuilding can help students who want to combine their field experience with research. Moreover, I wish to diversify the methods of learning at the centre. Although NCPACS' learning programmes are already highly effective and interactive, I think some methods that I utilised before (e.g., online video lecture, group discussions via Skype, internet-based research supervision, and inter-university seminar series) might provide additional benefits to students.

How have you found your first few months in Dunedin?

Let me quote my mother who visited Dunedin for a few weeks: "It is a real pity that I have not known this lovely city over the previous 65 years!" Coming from South Korea, a highly populated, success-oriented, urban society, they simply loved the general atmosphere in Dunedin. And I can't agree more. However, there is one thing that I have but they don't. It is the friendly community of NCPACS people, which makes my life in this city richer and warmer.

