It has been another outstanding semester for the Centre as we work to deepen and grow our research, teaching, and social engagement. Staff and students have continued to publish their work in internationally recognised peer-reviewed journals and books. Dr Katerina Standish and Dr Sung Yong Lee both received University of Otago research grants to support their work, while Dr Charles Butcher received two grants from the Australian Research Council. A number of both staff and students have been invited to present their research at national and international conferences, seminars, and workshops.

The MPCS programme continues to flourish with an outstanding cohort of 19 students and a growing number of applicants for 2016. These students are extraordinarily bright, enthusiastic, and passionate about their studies. We now have 26 PhDs from 15 countries, and continue to attract high quality applicants from around the world. In October, the Centre offered GFCT scholarships to two new doctoral students from the Philippines and Sweden respectively who will begin their studies in the new year. I also appointed Tonga Karena from Parihaka as a doctoral student funded by my Marsden grant, also to begin his studies in February 2016. These new students, with others likely to follow, will further enhance and enrich our postgraduate research programme. We are delighted that Janine Joyce successfully defended her doctoral thesis and will be graduating in December. The quality of our staff and students has been recognised in the achievements of Dr Charles Butcher who was a finalist in the Supervisor of the Year Award, and doctoral student John Gray who was a finalist in the Three Minute Thesis competition.

In terms of social engagement, our staff and students have made real contributions to building peace in the University, the community and the country. Among others, in August, students in the Events Committee organised a very moving Hiroshima Day Remembrance ceremony at the peace pole attended by more than 100 people, as well as a public debate on nuclear weapons in the student union. In September, Joseph Llewellyn, Smilja Jankovic, and Janine Joyce were part of a group that organised a World Peace Day celebration in the stadium that drew in dozens of community groups and thousands of attendees. It was a tremendous success that will hopefully become an annual event in Dunedin’s calendar. Danny Fridberg ran a peer mediation training course for students and members of the community, and staff and students gave more than a dozen talks and public lectures to the University of The Third Age, university groups, church groups and other community organisations in Dunedin, Invercargill, Queenstown, Wellington, and Auckland.

Over the semester, the Centre continued its weekly research seminars, poster sessions, and programme of visiting speakers. These activities help to sustain an extraordinarily vibrant and stimulating research culture that is the envy of other departments and centres.

We continue to receive positive reports from Dr Heather Devere and Professor Kevin Clements who are on well-deserved research sabbaticals. We wish them all the best for the remainder of their leave, and look forward to welcoming them back to the Centre in January and June 2016 respectively.

Overall, I continue to be greatly impressed with the hard work, enthusiasm, creativity, intelligence and dedication of our staff and students. I look forward to another semester of the same in 2016 and wish everyone a restful and refreshing holiday break.
The winners of the inaugural NCPACS cartoon competition, themed Power to the Peaceful, were decided in May.

Austin Milne, a student from Raumati Beach near Wellington, won the secondary section of the competition. His image features four people riding a dragon on a hamster wheel, labeled ‘Violent Solutions’. Adjudicator Garrick Tremain commented that while Austin’s cartoon did not mention peace, it cleverly depicted that peace is the only sane alternative.

Alistair Craig won the open section of the competition. Alistair is former student of the Centre, who in 2013 wrote a dissertation entitled *The Oliphant in the Room: A discourse analysis of the editorial cartoons of Pat Oliphant post 9/11*. Alistair submitted three cartoons which Garrick Tremain said were well drawn and showed originality of thought.

In commenting on the task of judging such a competition, Garrick Tremain made the point that the ability to draw well is secondary to the ability to relay a message in a succinct, innovative and preferably simple manner.

“One of the reasons that a cartoon gets a wide readership and is thus an effective communicator is because the cartoonist demands so little of the reader’s time – about 4 or 5 seconds usually. While brevity is one of the most difficult things to achieve it is essential to the successful cartoon.”

The Centre hopes to repeat the competition early in 2016 so sharpen your pencils.
I first became involved with Attitude Pictures in 2008 when they filmed a short piece about my life, living with a disability. Attitude is the world’s leading provider of documentaries and web content for and about people living with disabilities. It airs on Sunday mornings TV One, and has been viewed online in almost every country in the world.

I’m now a part-time researcher at Attitude. It’s my job to discover, investigate and develop narratives as well as reporting, writing and recording voice-overs. While much of what we do celebrates the achievements of people with disabilities, I recently took on the challenge of addressing some pretty sticky human rights stories. These have included Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, crime, and more recently the use of prolonged seclusion.

Making up 15-20% of the world’s population, disability crosses all cultures, classes, genders and religions. People with disabilities are amongst the most marginalised in the world. When coupled with racism, sexism and other ‘isms’, people with disabilities experience much higher rates of sexual assault, physical abuse, unemployment, poverty… and the list goes on.

As an undergraduate it never occurred to me to study disability. Mostly because I’ve never considered myself disabled. It was not until I started my master’s degree that I was encouraged to take up my responsibility as an ‘educated woman with a disability’. I remember Donna-Rose, former Head of Disability Information and Support, asking what happens to people like she and I during conflict and where all the academics with disabilities are hiding. When I said I didn’t know, she dared me to find out.

With the incredible support of the Centre, there began my journey as a disabled researcher documenting the experiences of people with disabilities during conflict. As the disability rights slogan says, "nothing about us, without us".

Working at Attitude while studying has opened up many amazing doors for me. The cross over between what I do professionally and academically is huge. From story telling, narrative, qualitative research and subjugated knowledge, to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, human rights, post traumatic stress disorder, mental health and injury from war… it’s all about promoting inclusion, equality and changing attitudes through narrative.

See Attitude’s latest human rights documentary about the use of seclusion in New Zealand and it’s place in the care of people with disabilities:
attitudelive.com/documentary/seclusion

Robbie Francis
PhD candidate, NCPACS

When Austrian actress Maxi Blaha read a book by her countrywoman Bertha Von Suttner, little did she know that the result would be a play that has become a hit with the international peace community. The play, Soul of Fire: She fought for peace, was performed in September in Dunedin as part of a nationwide tour, funded in part by the Austrian government and the Lottery World War I Commemoration Fund.

Baroness Bertha Von Suttner was an Austrian pacifist and novelist, who became a leading figure in the peace movement following the 1889 publication of her book Lay Down Your Arms. In 1905, Bertha became the first woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Maxi Blaha remembers being touched by the book when she first read it. She commissioned Susanne Wolf to write a play based on Bertha’s life, which was premiered at the Austrian House of Parliament in March 2014, the 100th anniversary of the start of World War 1.

Since then, the play has been performed all over the world including Paris, Istanbul, Washington D.C., Ottawa and Japan. In April 2015 Maxi performed in Teheran, to an all-female audience, with the performance advertised by word of mouth. When the audience was inside the venue, the doors were locked to ensure no one who might be opposed to the performance was able to enter.

Maxi will take the play to the Nobel Peace Prize Centre in Oslo and to the European Parliament in December.
Amie Kirkham completed the Postgraduate Diploma in Peace and Conflict Studies and then a Masters, which she submitted in early 2013. Amie now coordinates the Listening Initiatives team at the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (CPCS) in Cambodia. Her role focuses on conflict analysis, policy influence and designing conflict intervention initiatives to support the Myanmar peace process. Amie has worked with CPCS’s listening methodology, developing it as a conflict transformation tool to inform robust conflict analysis, access and elevate less heard voices and alternative narratives in peace process and conflict settings, monitor community opinions over time and create transformative dialogue spaces. Her areas of expertise include conflict transformation, conflict analysis, peace research and dialogue processes.

CPCS prioritises long-term accompaniment over one-off programmes to enhance the sustainability of outcomes. Through this approach, CPCS expands safe spaces and creates platforms for dialogue and understanding, which are essential for establishing mutual trust and an environment conducive for transforming conflict.

CPCS consider conducting, documenting and publishing research on emerging issues in peace processes and conflict contexts to be important elements in promoting Asian approaches to peacebuilding and influencing associated theory, policy and practice. Each year, CPCS therefore produces a range of publications and relevant research on peace talks and the lessons we learn through our involvement. Amie has produced several publications from her work at CPCS, including ‘This is Not Who We Are – Listening to Communities Affected by Communal Violence in Myanmar’ and ‘Listening to Voices – Perspectives From the Tatmadaw’s Rank and File’.

I have been on leave from Otago since July at the Centre for the Analysis and Resolution of Conflict, University of Kent at Canterbury, UK.

During this time I wrote and delivered the 3rd John Burton Memorial Lecture at the annual conference of the Conflict Research Society in September. My talk was on “Tools from the Past for a Problematic Present: How Relevant is Burtonian Theory and Practice for 21st Century Conflict Transformation”.

I gave a variant of this talk, but focused more on the role of nonviolence for 21st century problem solving, at The Post War Reconstruction and Development Unit at the University of York on 22 October.

I was invited to give a paper on “Dealing with the Past to Advance a Nuclear Free North East Asia” at the 61st Pugwash Conference on Science and International Affairs, in Nagasaki Japan from the 1-4 November. I went from there to Singapore to the 5th annual meeting of the East Asian Peace Project to Chair and act as a discussant on a panel on Norms and Law for building Regional Peace and to attend a meeting of the East Asian Peace Advisory Board.

To help the Centre develop and deepen our practice programme over the next 5 years I organized a Workshop in conjunction with CARC and the CRS on the Theory-Practice Nexus. It took place a day after the CRS conference which meant that we were able to bring together 28 of the world’s leading academics and practitioners in these areas, from Europe and North America to reflect on the ways in which we might sharpen and deliver better peace and conflict theory and practice programmes. The workshop had four main objectives.

1. To do a “stocktake” on existing practitioner training/teaching programmes within postgraduate academic peace and conflict studies courses around the world.
2. To understand existing relationships and to build synergies between academic and practice organisations and programmes.
3. To understand what useful evidence, theory and research the academy has to offer and what experience, evidence and wisdom practitioners and policy makers have to offer the academy in relation to the prevention, management and transformation of violent conflict at all levels of activity.
4. To identify ways in which academics and practitioners can help each other define and shape “the peacebuilding and conflict transformation field” and what might make our teaching, research and practice more useful and effective to those trying to survive and flourish in zones of conflict.

The discussions focused on the diverse ways in which theory and research can assist the design and implementation of different kinds of third party intervention and how practice in turn challenge and critique taken for granted theory. It was an extremely rich sharing, which has already led to the development of a joint research proposal between CARC, Conciliation Resources and the NCPACS.
Dr Chin-Kuei Tsui is currently a postdoctoral fellow at National Chung Cheng University in Minxia, Taiwan. His 3-year research project on President Obama’s counterterrorism policy is funded by the Taiwanese Government. By employing a constructive approach to IR with the aid of discourse analysis, Chin-Kuei seeks to illustrate a long continuity (and lack of significant change) of U.S. counterterrorism policies across different administrations. Recently, he has published a book chapter (written in Chinese) regarding the 2015 Charlie Hebdo shooting in France. In addition, with the aid of discourse analysis, Chin-Kuei plans to implement a research programme on the theory and methodology within the discipline of IR, which will concentrate on an interdisciplinary approach to international affairs, in particular issues regarding political violence, civil resistance, and some social movements in contemporary Taiwan and other Asian countries. He believes that this will spur a more fruitful debate and discussion on world affairs, and enrich the study of IR.

Dr Holly Guthrey currently works as a researcher as well as the program coordinator for the East Asian Peace (EAP) program at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research (DPCR) at Uppsala University, Sweden. Within the program coordinator role, she organizes conferences and workshops, in addition to maintaining contact with their 21 research associates located around the world. The research project she is undertaking as part of her work with EAP is focused on the origins and consequences of denial in post-conflict settings, based on interview data collected in Taiwan and Indonesia. Her current research project has evolved out of the knowledge gained during her PhD at NCPACS, which investigated the impact of public truth-telling on victims of armed conflict in Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste. As part of an exchange program for NCPACS and DPCR PhD students, she had the opportunity to visit Uppsala in 2013 while she was nearing the end of her PhD. This experience was valuable for developing networks and gaining insight into how another peace and conflict studies centre conducts research, which was beneficial to her own work and to gaining access to a position at DPCR following the completion of her doctoral thesis.

‘Making Connections’

Dr Heather Devere

I started my Research and Study Leave at Parihaka where I attended the Ra Days, consulted with Maata Wharehoka on our collaborative writing projects on indigenous peace traditions, and visited two of our students conducting research at Parihaka. Then on to Auckland where I established and renewed contacts with academics and students working in the areas related to peace and conflict studies. Conflict Resolution continues to be taught in the Social Sciences and Public Policy School at AUT University from pre-degree to PhD levels. The Pacific Media Centre provides research and publications on peace journalism. Seven Politics scholars at the University of Auckland have set up a Conflict, Terrorism and Peace working group and have expressed an interest in offering a joint conference with NCPACS. Massey University hosts the Centre for Justice and Peace Development, and also the “Kids in the City” research project. The Aotearoa Peace and Conflict Studies Trust members are exploring ways of ensuring that indigenous Māori and Moriori peace traditions are incorporated into the NCPACS. I also met up with several of our PhD students who are based in Auckland. The second part of my leave is in the UK where I am connected to the University of Kent, but also at George Mason, Leeds Beckett, Sydney and the Kuruna Centre for Peacebuilding in Vermont. My main research project is a book on the history of the idea of civic friendship, and much of the material I need is accessible at the British Library near St. Pancras Station in London. Currently I’m delving into the holdings on medieval writings on friendship.
Otakou Marae visit

The Centre’s annual marae visit took place on Monday 12 October, with a trip down the Otago Peninsula to the beautiful Otakou Marae. The faculty and students from NCPACS were joined by a group of PhD students from the Department of Tourism.

Marie Laufiso from Tau Iwi Solutions facilitated the day’s programme, with the afternoon discussion focused on the impact of colonization.

Our thanks to Matt Matahaere and Talia Ellison, our sponsors for the visit who are also students of the Centre, and to Matiu Workman who spoke on behalf of our group at the formal welcome.

Congratulations to the students who were recognised at the 2015 NCPACS prize giving

Winners of the NCPACS v MINST debate were Sinead Macallery, Lisa Wilke and Alvaro Tejera Perez.

The poster prize went to two PhD students who are currently off campus, Sylvia Frain and Michael Ligaliga.

Citizenship Prize recipients were Danny Fridberg who voluntarily ran a second Peer Mediation training programme for students at Otago and graduated 21 new mediators from the course; Sinead Macallery for her contribution to the life of the Centre and in particular to the Master of Peace and Conflict Studies students; and Griffin Leonard for endless good cheer including regular provision of donuts.

Debate win for NCPACS

The third annual NCPACS v Master of International Studies debate yielded a resounding victory for the NCPACS team.

Three Master of Peace and Conflict Studies students, Sinead McAllery, Lisa Alvaro Tejera Perez and Lisa Wilkie successfully argued that ‘capitalism is not a primary cause of contemporary violent conflict’.

As first speaker, Sinead outlined the teams main arguments: that capitalism contributes to social structures and economic growth which in turn contribute to peace, and that intrastate conflict has many other causes, such as ethnic and religious divisions. Sinead cited the example of the EU, the world’s biggest trader and largest single market, which was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2012. Co-dependence in the global economy leads to the alteration of foreign policy and positive peace.

Alvaro made the distinction between capitalism versus the lack of a rule of law, and inequality versus injustice as causes of conflict. Lisa summarized the arguments, emphasizing that for global markets the economic cost of going to war exceeds the expected benefits.

The argument concluded with a quote from free market visionary Milton Friedman: “The great virtue of a free market system is that it does not care what color people are; it does not care what their religion is; it only cares whether they can produce something you want to buy. It is the most effective system we have discovered to enable people who hate one another to deal with one another and help one another.”

Congratulations to the team and our thanks to Alex Stevenson, Jace Smith, Nick Anda and Lindsay D’Allessandro from MINSt for being worthy opponents. Our appreciation also goes to adjudicators Professor David Tombs, Professor Etienne Nel and Dr Katherine Legun for their considered deliberations.
NCPACS Podcasts 2015

The Centre’s public events series continued this year with a wide range of lectures, interviews and conversations and, in the absence of Director Professor Kevin Clements, some new talent stepping up to the challenge of hosting the live streamed and podcast public conversations. The conversations are podcast and available to view at otago.ac.nz/ncpacs/resources/podcasts/

2015 conversations:

13 May
Dr Kennedy Graham with Professor Kevin Clements
Dr Kennedy Graham discusses the subject of ‘Human Security and Global Order: A 21st Century Agenda’. Kennedy Graham served in the New Zealand Foreign Service for 16 years, has lectured on International Politics and International Law and was elected to Parliament for the Greens in 2008 and re-elected in 2011.

20 May
Professor Peter Matheson with Professor Kevin Clements
Professor Matheson has led a rich life of theological and historical scholarship, reflection, pastoral care and radical activism. He has urged Churches and States in the UK, Germany and New Zealand to confront violence and war and to work for peace, justice and a more compassionate world.

21 September
Professor David Tombs, Archibald Baxter Memorial Lecture
The US Senate Intelligence Committee Report on Torture (2014) has strongly criticised the torture programme overseen by the CIA in aftermath of 9/11. Professor Tombs discusses the report, and how its findings might be used to speak to the use of torture in other places and other time periods, including the field punishment of Archibald Baxter and other conscience objectors in World War I.

28 September
Dr Najib Lafraie with Professor Richard Jackson
Dr Najib Lafraie joined the Department of Politics in July 2002, having previously served as Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in Afghanistan, 1992-96, and Minister of Information in the Interim Government of Afghanistan (in exile), 1989-92. He also took part in the liberation movement against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in the 1980s.

3 November
Dr Joakim Kreutz with Dr Charles Butcher
Dr Joakim Kreutz is an expert in how wars end, and what causes them to end. His research has focused on trends in war termination over the past 60 years, and more recently has examined the Colombian peace process and EU engagement in humanitarian intervention. This public conversation explores some of the main findings in recent research on war termination, and how these insights might be applied to contemporary conflicts.

Recent publications


World Peace Day – Kotahitanga Manaaki Te Kawa

This year’s celebration of World Peace Day – Kotahitanga Manaaki Te Kawa was presented by Peacing Together at the Forsyth Barr Stadium under the kaupapa of “celebrating Peace through multi-cultural diversity in Dunedin.” It was a wonderful day of sharing and caring, where more than 30 different community organizations and over 200 performers and artists presented their work to the community. The festival was opened by David Ellison, Upoko of Kati Huirapa rūnaka ki Puketeraki, and for the first time supported by other kaumātua from our three local marae.

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