The International Peace Research Association (IPRA) has called for papers for its 26th General Conference on ‘Agenda for Peace and Development’ to be held in Freetown, Sierra Leone hosted by the University of Sierra Leone from November 27 to December 1 2016, in Collaboration with the 10th Dealing with Disasters Conference Series, Northumbria University, UK, and Sakarya University, Turkey.

Most wars fought in the world are now civil conflicts although they attract less global attention compared to international conflicts. Because civil wars are increasingly common in developing countries and go on for years, a report by the World Bank in 2003 argued that civil war is now an important issue for development. War represents an obstacle to development, and conversely, development can prevent war. “This double causation...”

A parallel rationale has accompanied the world of disaster prevention in general, whereby for the case of poorer countries effective disaster risk reduction has often become synonymous with sustainable development actions, though little cross application has been made to conflict risk reduction.

Civil wars have increased in the most in deprived parts of the world because the international community, nation states and private sector has done little to prevent these through sufficiently pro-active development projects. Meanwhile, global instability through locally and internationally driven extremist behaviour threatens the aspirations of conflict and disaster risk reduction. It is recognised that a lack of sustainable development, which is manifest in the form of poverty, has been responsible for exacerbating conflict in Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, the Gulf, the Caucasus, and Southeast Asia. Whilst conflict and violence may have many origins, poverty and conflict are two dependent variables that can cause each other leading to human disasters that become protracted. Where conflict reduction and good governance prevails the effects of environmental disasters can be better reduced. This requires more comprehensive approaches to development, peace and human security. Far from being an ideological dream, there is evidence that strengthened communities offset potential disaster impacts through enhancement of their education, health and wellbeing.

Extensive economic and social costs are associated with civil wars, the active participants in combat only account for a limited part of the overall suffering. Civil war damage manifests concentrically: an inner ring is represented by displacement, the mortality, and poverty inflicted on non-batants within the country; a second ring of suffering affects neighbouring countries, especially through refugee spill overs; an outer ring of suffering is global. This can cross to other violent threats, such as for example drug or terrorist cartels that are outside the control of recognised governments. Once a country or region plunges into civil conflict, the risk of more conflict...
perpetuates weakening national economies and leaving a legacy of atrocities. Whilst economic development may reduce incidence of conflict, development strategies solely based on market access, policy reform, and aid are rarely sufficient to address the problem. It is proposed that sustainable development and disaster reduction can be a means to conflict and violence prevention, enhancing human security whilst enabling routes to preventing decline in the human values of right to life, survivability and well-being. Part of this agenda is to consider and address root causes of civil wars including enclosure and access to natural resources.

However, according to Collier et al (2003), two beliefs have served as blinkers to international interventions to end civil conflicts: firstly, that we can safely "let them fight it out among themselves" because it has nothing to do with us, especially after the end of the Cold War, and secondly, that "nothing can be done" because civil war is driven by ancestral ethnic and religious hatreds. Collier et al (2003), and many others, have found ethnicity and religion to be less important factors in causing conflicts, and that economic characteristics of low per capita income and inequality are often greater conflict risk factors. These lead to a breakdown in governance structures, thus creating a vacuum that all too often leads to violence. Other arguments are based on corruption and bad governance at both local and international levels as reason for conflicts and wars in the developing world.

The process of conflict once begun can then often become difficult to interpret as a rational reaction since group behavioural factors predominate leading to scarcely understood atrocities. Yet, despite the growing nexus between economic development, conflict dynamics and the poten-tial complications of behaviour, this interrelated area has so far attracted relatively little focus from peace researchers. It is in view of addressing this gap in peace research that the focus of the 26th IPRA General Conference scheduled to take place in Freetown between 27th November -1st December 2016 on the topic: AGENDA FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT: Conflict prevention, post-conflict transformation, and the Disaster Risk and Sustainable Development Debate’ will be hosted by the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone in collaboration with the Disaster and Development Network (DDN), Northumbria University in the UK, and Sakarya University in Turkey. It is great that the Disaster and Development Network (DDN) at Northumbria University has offered to collaborate with IPRA by way of merging its 10th Annual Dealing with Disasters Conference (DwD 2016) with this IPRA 2016 General Conference event. One of the criticisms peace researchers and the media have been fac- ing recently has been their focus on the top-down approach in addressing chal-lenges of sustainable peace in post con- flict countries. Limited attempts have been made to explore grass roots bottom-up approaches that reflect the concerns and challenges of those who are trying to cope with and manage those challenges. The proposed conference in Africa, home to the world’s most devastating civil wars that took over 10 million lives in the past three decades, seeks to address this gap.

Moreover, many of the people most ex- posed and vulnerable to environmental or pandemic disasters in this region and others have also been exposed to violent conflict, and rarely get an opportunity to represent themselves other than through the filter of the media. This conference will therefore also explore interrelationships between disaster, development, conflict and media related perspectives on peace and human security with an explicit aim of advancing research, policy and practice for each. Furthermore, the event takes place in the year following three further major policy orienting events, the outputs of which need to be considered within a conflict risk reduction, disaster and development framework.

The conference follows the first year of the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, launch of Sus-tainable Development Goals and latest round of Cli-mate Change Negotiations that took place late 2015. Thomas Pogge (2005), who will address the conference, has called upon the affluent Global North not only to pay for the harm their forefathers have inflicted on the Global South through the slave trade and colonialism, but to stop inflicting this harm in the present form of neo-colonialism. This point was underscored by former IPRA Secretary General Katsuya Kodama at the 2012 IPRA conference in Tsu city in Japan when he argued: “a worldwide system had come about which gave special advantages to the developed countries, in ways whereby many develop-ing countries had much of their wealth unfairly exploited and were unable, regardless of how much time might pass, to become ‘developed countries’ or to ex-tricate themselves from poverty.”

The venue of the next IPRA conference, Freetown, Sierra Leone, the second Af-rican country to ever host such confer-ence since the organisation was founded in 1964, is very appropriate for such a confer-ence theme, not least because of its recent history of suffering from one of Africa’s most brutal civil wars (1991-2002). This was addressed by one of the more successful hybrid war crimes courts (the Special Court for Sierra Le- one), and it was declared in May 2014 by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to have moved from a post conflict coun-try to one of development.

The 26th IPRA General Conference together with the 10th Dealing with Disasters (DwD) Conference intends to help generate interest amongst peace re-searchers in the global South and North in the way that exploitation of miner-al and forestry resources in Sierra Leone and other African, Latin American and Asian countries has caused extensive damage. This is both to the environ-ment and people, not only threatening post-conflict reconstruction efforts but reinforcing structural problems such as poverty.

The progress of scholarly activity and its influence through reflection within practi-ce and policy can potentially contribute significantly to the diffusion of this time-bomb to avert future con-flicts. During the conference arrangements will be made for peace researchers to visit some of the historic relics of the civil war in Freetown such as the Peace Museum and the Special Court set up by the UN to try those who committed crimes against humanity.
IPRA Commissions undergo restructuring for increasing performance

By Dr Ibrahim Seaga Shaw - IPRA co-Secretary General - UK/Sierra Leone

In the past few months, the IPRA Secretaries-general have in consultation with the IPRA Executive and Governing Council undertaken some measures to build on the strengths of some performing commissions and reactivate some of those underperforming ones. Some of these measures have included merging some commissions which have serious overlaps, for instance, the non-violence commission and peace movements commission now called Non-violence and Peace Movements Commission.

The names of two commissions, Religion and Peace Commission, and Peace Development Commission, which relatively under-performed at recent IPRA conferences were changed to Religion, Spirituality and Peace commission, and Peace, Security and Development commission, respectively. The rational for this change of names of these two commission was basically to expand their trans-disciplinary scope and hence make them attract more high quality papers. It is for a similar reason that the names of two other commissions, International Human Rights Commission (IHRC) and Forced Migration Commission, although these two performed relatively better compared to the previous two, were changed to Human Rights and Human Security Commission (HRHSC), and Migration and Peace Commission, respectively.

The expansion of the scope of these two commissions was considered necessary to make them develop and realise their full potential at the next and future IPRA conferences. The decision to change the IHRC to HRHSC was informed by two reasons: First, it is implied that Human Rights are universal and thus already international. Thus to call it International Human Rights makes it too restrictive because other peace researchers working on conflict and human rights issues in different local contexts may feel marginalised. Second, adding the human security dimension makes it possible to expand the contours of human rights beyond the idea of the First Generation Civil and Political Rights to capture the Second Generation Rights of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as well. In pretty much the same vein, the rational to change from FMPC to MPC has more to do with expanding the scope and reach of this commission beyond forced migration to capture all aspects of migration that are linked to peace and conflict broadly speaking.

The Eastern European Commission which has underperformed at recent IPRA conferences has been scrapped since it was considered that one of the reasons why it has been struggling to attract papers is because of recent changes in the politics of Europe and the European Union where the power balance has gradually shifted from Eastern to Western Europe, and the fact that the former is now relatively peaceful compared to two decades ago.

On a more positive note, the growing nexus between media, conflicts and human rights has informed the setting up of a new Media, Conflicts and Human Rights Commission which will be attracting paper abstracts and panel proposals for the first time at the IPRA 2016 conference. Moreover, in order to further expand the scope of future IPRA conferences, proposals for the first time at the IPRA 2016 conference.

Finally, efforts have also been made to appoint new conveners to some of the newly reconstituted commissions to complement the efforts of existing conveners, some of whom have not cooperated very well in organising past IPRA conferences. Efforts have also been made to appoint new conveners to join commissions which had only one convener to avoid situations where such commissions underperform because such lone convener is inevitably distracted by unforeseen emergencies such as ill-health, bereavement etc.

Most of these changes by and large reflect the changing trends and challenges of peace and peacebuilding in both national and global contexts in recent decades, and the need to ensure continuity in the performance of the commissions. Moreover, they have been considered by the IPRA secretaries-general and supported by the IPRA EC and GC in order to avoid problems of dead or lacklustre commissions that have undermined the organisation of some past IPRA conferences.

All these IPRA commissions reforms have been made possible because IPRA has since 2013 an Executive Committee to make this happen. The IPRA Executive Committee has 5 members representing the five regions in the IPRA Governing Council appointed by the Secretaries-general and ratified by the rest of the Governing Council. The two IPRA Secretaries-general are ex-officio members of the IPRA Executive Committee and IPRA Governing Council.
Peace and Justice Studies Association’s 2015 annual conference took place from 15-17 October at James Madison University (JMU) in Harrisonburg, Virginia. With over 400 participants from all regions of the USA and Canada, plus folks based in the US from every corner of the globe, the lively series of workshops, plenaries and meetings took place under the broad theme “Cultivating the Just and Peaceable Self: Understanding Transformation and Transforming Understanding in Research and Practice.” It was part of a three-year local summit series on global sustainability co-sponsored by a wide group of regional leaders, including Eastern Mennonite University and Mary Baldwin College.

Plenary presenters included Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies leader David Cortright, who chairs the Fourth Freedom Forum, and PJSA peace award recipient Howard Zehr, popularly recognized as a pioneer of the field of restorative justice. Perhaps the most noted and provocative plenary session, however, was led by Dr. Emily Welty of Pace University in New York City, IPRA’s own Main Representative to the United Nations. Welty’s talk focused on the efficacies of humanitarian and international aid, titled “The Seduction of Good Intentions,” she vehemently asserted that “good intentions are NOT enough” in a field cluttered by well-meaning but ineffective and often misguided “experts” from the Global North whose assumptions do more to reinforce empire than inspire lasting social change or true community-based empowerment. One concern emphasized by Welty was the common practice of “mansplaining” – whereby male scholars, fingers waving, correct, repeat in their own words, or other-wise dismiss the ideas of non-male colleagues who they have not been listening to.

All-male “man-panels” reinforce this dynamic, along with the equally problematic scenario when “a shocking number of white people” are monopolizing the microphone. In addition to Welty’s observations about race and gender, she outlined as “ethic of solidarity,” which included understanding one’s own social location and privilege, building alliances with people across lines of difference, and engaging in work focused on structural and institutional changes.

These critiques were particularly poignant at a time when issues of sexual assault and rape on campuses are being spotlighted, and when groups such as Black Lives Matter and others are sweeping across the U.S. At JMU itself, for example, a 2014 assault case came to national attention when administrators decided that an appropriate punishment for the perpetrators would be expulsion... after they graduated! Despite widespread community protest and the withdrawal of the survivor of the attack, one of the young men involved (who was not a senior but a junior at the time) is still attending classes. When PJSA members learned that the JMU Dean who “masterminded” the expulsion after graduation “punishment” was scheduled to give a talk on restorative justice at the conference, we politely attended the workshop session to ask how such a concept could adequately fit a human rights-centered approach. Founding PJSA Executive Director Simona Sharoni, who was attending the event as a representative of Faculty Against Rape, which was receiving PJSA’s 2015 Social Courage Award, spoke forcefully as a survivor and a leading professor about the growing movement against patriarchal violence and oppression.

PJSA Board member Sheherazade Jafari, liaison to PJSA’s Gender and Sexuality Caucus, spoke publically about the fact that it was a mistake to have the Dean speak in this manner, reaffirming that PJSA stands with survivors and those fighting against sexism, homophobia, and racism on campuses and throughout the world. In addition PJSA Co-chair Cris Tofollo and Board member David Ragland led a workshop session with standing-room only attendance on truth-telling, the Ferguson anti-police violence initiatives and the growing Black Lives Matter and Black liberation movement in the U.S. Echoing the call to work for structural change, Ragland noted that these growing movements were targeting “a currency in human misery” which exists in the world today.

The 2016 PJSA conference, which promises to build on the strengths of this year and to be a more international conference than ever before, will be held in Castlegar, British Columbia, on 22-24 September 2016 at Selkirk College, the gathering will include Canadian indigenous leaders, visits to an historic village of war resisters, and excellent net-working possibilities for practitioners at all levels. Contact peacejusticestudies.org for more information.
Johan Galtung.  
Founder of Peace Research at 85

By Hans Günter Brauch, AFES-PRESS chairman, Mosbach (Germany)

Johan Galtung's 85th birthday on 24 October 2015 coincided with the 70th anniversary of the United Nations. Its Charter had been signed in June 1945 in San Francisco by another cofounder of IPRA, John W. Burton who was at the age of 30 the head of the foreign service of Australia.

As the only surviving cofounder of IPRA in December 1964, Johan Galtung addressed the 50th anniversary conference of IPRA in Istanbul. Born in Norway Johan founded the International Peace Research Institute, Oslo (1959), the world's first academic research centre on peace studies, and the Journal of Peace Research (1964) and he helped to establish other peace centres around the world.

He has inspired both as a gifted and enthusiastic speaker, as a theoretician, empiricist and sharp political analyst generations of peace researchers around the globe as the most cited peace intellectual of the 20th century. He taught as a professor of peace studies at universities all over the world. Since 1957, Johan Galtung has mediated in over 100 conflicts, has authored or co-authored of more than 1600 articles and over 160 books, i.a. on peace theory and practice, conflict mediation, reconciliation, nonviolence, theory of structural violence, on negative vs. positive peace, peace education and peace journalism. He combined Gandhian ethics of peaceful means and harmony with a systematic scientific inquiry using both quantitative and qualitative methods.

Besides peace studies, he contributed to human rights, basic needs, development strategies, theory of civilizations, federalism, globalization, theory of discourse, social pathologies, deep culture, peace and religions, social science methodology, sociology, ecology, and future studies. In 2000, at the age of 70, Johan founded the TRANSCEND Peace University building on TRANS-CEND International, a global non-profit network for Peace, Development and the Environment that emerged in 1993.

Johan Galtung received the Right Livelihood Award (Alternative Nobel Peace Prize) and in July 2014, he was awarded in Yokohama (Japan) one of the first life lifetime achievement awards by the International Sociological Association for most distinguished contributions to futures research with Ulrich Beck (Germany), Fernando Henrique Cardoso (Brazil), Wendell Bell (USA) and Eleonora Barbieri Masini (Italy). All IPRA members and peace researchers wish Johan Galtung many more years with scientific creativity and good health both to inspire but also to pro-voke us to think and work harder as an organization and as researchers in realizing the goals we analyse in our research.

---

IPRA New Website Launched

We're pleased to announce that our new website has now been launched with access to various helpful information and content. Few more changes will be made soon and more information will be updated.

Visit: [www.iprapeace.org](http://www.iprapeace.org)
Feeding animals and birds is a universally common practice that gives pleasure, contentment and peace. Be it children or adults almost everyone has fed these creatures and seen them dancing around you and pleading by their funny gestures for giving them more crumbs or bread or bananas.

Almost every well known city has a park or garden where one can feed birds. Paris has a park near the Champs-Elysees next to the Arc de Triomph where hundreds of pigeons hover around you as you throw bird food at them. These pigeons are well fed and fly around majestically picking up the crumbs even before they fall on the ground. Sometimes you may see two birds fighting and struggling with each other to pick up these morsels. London also has similar places in Hyde Park and in other gardens.

India has a rich diversity of birds, animals, squirrels, monkeys apart from dogs and cows and other creatures. Monkeys in India are usually a pampered lot since they are supposed to be the descendants of the Hindu god Hanuman. They are offered bananas by innumerable number of people in select parts of major cities. In Delhi there is a forested ridge near the Delhi University campus where hundreds if not thousands of monkeys inhabit and play and jump around from branch to branch.

Almost everyone for some religious reason or the other offers them bananas. I have seen some monkeys taking a bite and throwing the remaining part of the banana -- they are obviously overfed.

Monkeys used to be a source of livelihood for some people in the earlier pre-globalized days. Some men had trained them to dance around, make funny gestures and extend their hands seeking money or food. Some more enterprising trainers had two not one monkey who would play the role of Juli-et and Romeo on busy street corners: a source of entertainment and pleasure for the onlookers, especially kids.

Another pretty creature is the squirrel. It has a bushy tail bigger than its body and jumps from one branch of a tree to another. Again there are thousands of these creatures making merry in all parks including, again in and around Delhi University. These creatures are small but agile and just gazing at them gives immense pleasure and peace to anyone watching their antics. The pleasure is enhanced if one offers them some morsel of bread or biscuit – not just by throwing it but holding it gently in one's hand and waiting for this tiny creature to come and pick it up from one's fingers. Many people have pet dogs and love to feed them and dress them up so they look beautiful. But only their owners are allowed to feed them; others have to keep a safe distance from them.

Monkeys, squirrels, peacocks pigeons etc. – assorted members of nature that form our biodiversity -- we need to learn to watch them, feed them if possible and feel peaceful and joyous. *
Introducing the Peace Science Digest:
An Exploratory Project of the War Prevention Initiative

by Patrick Hiller and David Prater.

Peace and Conflict Studies has emerged as an academic discipline with its own graduate programs, research tools, theories, journals and conferences. However, as with most scientific communities, the slow migration of academic knowledge into practical application becomes a limiting factor of a field’s growth, impact and the overall effectiveness of its practitioners. Similarly, the expanding academic field of Peace Science produces high volumes of significant research that often goes unnoticed by the many possible beneficiaries.

To address this information gap, the War Prevention Initiative is creating the Peace Science Digest to provide access and useful analysis of the top research from the field of Peace and Conflict Studies. Published monthly, the Peace Science Digest is formulated to enhance awareness of literature addressing key issues relating to war and peace by making available an organized, condensed and comprehensible analysis of the field’s scientific research. In doing so, we aim to create a resource for the practical application of our field’s valuable academic knowledge, and provide a mutually beneficial link between the field’s academic community and its practitioners, the media, public policy-makers and other possible beneficiaries.

We are currently in the development and testing stage of this project, working to identify best practices in analyzing research and disseminating electronic media to a variety of audiences. Our team recently returned from hosting a workshop at this year’s Peace and Justice Studies Association conference, where we gained valuable insight from many of the field’s leading professionals. After incorporating their suggestions into the final pilot issues, we look forward to sending the Peace Science Digest to the International Peace and Conflict Studies has emerged as an academic discipline with its own graduate programs, research tools, theories, journals and conferences. However, as with most scientific communities, the slow migration of academic knowledge into practical application becomes a limiting factor of a field’s growth, impact and the overall effectiveness of its practitioners. Similarly, the expanding academic field of Peace Science produces high volumes of significant research that often goes unnoticed by the many possible beneficiaries.

To address this information gap, the War Prevention Initiative is creating the Peace Science Digest to provide access and useful analysis of the top research from the field of Peace and Conflict Studies. Published monthly, the Peace Science Digest is formulated to enhance awareness of literature addressing key issues relating to war and peace by making available an organized, condensed and comprehensible analysis of the field’s scientific research. In doing so, we aim to create a resource for the practical application of our field’s valuable academic knowledge, and provide a mutually beneficial link between the field’s academic community and its practitioners, the media, public policy-makers and other possible beneficiaries.

We are currently in the development and testing stage of this project, working to identify best practices in analyzing research and disseminating electronic media to a variety of audiences. Our team recently returned from hosting a workshop at this year’s Peace and Justice Studies Association conference, where we gained valuable insight from many of the field’s leading professionals. After incorporating their suggestions into the final pilot issues, we look forward to sending the Peace Science Digest to the International Peace Research Association community as well, in order to gain insight from our collective experience. Once we integrate suggestions from the IPRA community, we look forward to providing our readers with a much needed, mutually beneficial, link between the field’s academic community and its practitioners. For more information on the status, goals and utility of the Peace Science Digest, please visit us at Communication.

Seven and a half million people (more than one-third of Syria’s population) have been displaced from that country’s civil war, with over four million fleeing into exile. However, only about 150,000 -- well under 4 percent of the total -- have attempted to enter Europe.

Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan -- which have less resources or infrastructure to deal with such a demographic burden -- are caring for far greater numbers of refugees, both proportionate to their populations and in absolute numbers, than any European country. Turkey is hosting nearly two million refugees. Lebanon, whose total population is only 4.5 million, has taken in 1.2 million Syrians. Jordan (population 6.4 million) is hosting 650,000. Indeed, these countries and other Middle Eastern states have taken in 95 percent of the Syrian refugees.

This sudden influx of asylum-seekers has led to some xenophobic backlash. Yet European fears of some kind of Muslim takeover are completely unfounded. For example, even if all four million Syrian refugees came to Europe and all of them were Muslim, it would raise the Muslim population on that continent from 4 percent to only 5 percent. And even though the birthrate among European Muslims is slightly higher than non-Muslims, birth rates decline as the standard of living and education rises. Furthermore, Syrians are already well-educated and their birthrate is comparable to that of many European countries.

Refugees who become immigrants have a lower crime rate than the native population. When allowed to integrate, they tend to become productive citizens, start small businesses, and put a lot more money into the social system than they take out. The large numbers of professionals among the Syrian asylum-seekers could be an asset to the aging European population. A related issue is that the birthrate in most European countries is so low that, without immigrants, the continent would actually lose population, some countries by double-digits within the next 30 years.

In the face of the ongoing tragedy in Europe, outstanding examples of human compassion have emerged. Most of the support has come from ordinary citizens, not political leaders. Greeks, despite struggling under desperate economic conditions themselves as a result of EU-imposed austerity measures, have been extraordinarily generous.

Even in Hungary, where the right wing government has imposed the most draconian measures against asylum-seekers, thousands of Hungarians have donated food and clothing to assist the refugees.

Most of the refugees crossing into Europe are from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, and Somalia, all countries where the violence and turmoil are attributable primarily or at least in part as a result of U.S. military intervention. As a result, it would not be unreasonable to assert that the United States is ultimately responsible for much of the refugee crisis. Despite this, Washington has agreed to admit only 10,000 of the refugees.

Given the massive amounts of resources the United States has spent to promote war in the Middle East, would be willing to provide even a modest proportion of that in support for its victims.

---

A Syrian man carries a child wrapped in a thermal blanket after crossing from Turkey, at the island of Lesbos, Greece. Photo Courtesy: ABC News
Celebrating its 35th year anniversary, Asia-Pacific Peace Research Association (APPRA) held its biennial conference in Kathmandu, Nepal from October 9 to 11, 2015.

The conference brought together peace researchers, experts, activists, representatives of civil society organisations and community-based organisations, social activists and human rights activists from all over the world. More than 165 participants took part in the conference from 45 countries.

The theme for this conference was ‘Pathways towards Just Peace: Reinventing security, justice and democracy in Asia-Pacific’. The conference also aimed at improving ties between researchers, politicians, activists, civil society organisations, human rights activists and the media to better address the issues of just peace in the Asia-Pacific region.

It is with this premise this conference programme was structured around 17 sub-themes, namely: peace policy, governance, histories of cultural peace, Asia-Pacific regional conflicts, religion and spirituality, non-violent action, natural disaster and recovery, migration, human security, the ecology of peace, peace theory, climate change, resource management, gender issues, ethnic conflicts, the arts, media and technology.

The programme of the conference also included keynote speeches, thematic sessions with expert speakers, interactive discussion with the keynote speakers and panellists, opportunities for networking and site seeing.

The inaugural session, which took place in conference hall of Gokarna Forest Resort, began on 8 October 2015 at 5pm with a cultural dance. Minister of Peace and Reconstruction, Mr. Narhari Acharya, who participated in the conference as the Chief Guest inaugurated the conference.  

--- (Cont ... on page 10)
Peace versus War

By Dr Laeed Zaghlami (Professor, University of Algiers)

Peace journalism as an evolving new concept, is still utopia for some, but some are hesitant to embrace the concept for its disregard of the basic tenets of journalism such as objectivity. Some proponents of this concept have attempted to put the concept into practice. Reporting the World, a network of almost 200 reporters has attempted to provide an alternative to traditional war reporting by embracing some of the basic components of Galtung’s model (http://www.reportingtheworld.org) Although it has been much discussed in academic literature, many journalists are not aware of this concept.

In Algeria as in the case of many African countries, peace journalism is almost a new theoretical and practical approach. Many scholars and media professionals were skeptical and antagonistic towards this concept, when I wrote an article in a local press explaining the merits of practicing peace journalism. They considered this concept naive and a restricted approach.

From their viewpoint, this concept is not appropriate and does not fit the political, social and cultural reality of a country like Algeria, despite its reconciliation and mediation process to stop the years of violence acts, unrests and terrorism.

When looking at the media coverage, it can be seen that Algerian media was divided between eradicators and those who advocated reconciliatory attitudes. Conversely, the media coverage paralleled the contradictory views of different political parties with regard to the reconciliation efforts. However, ultimately the common sense and wisdom prevailed and all ‘belligerents’ engaged in a peaceful process that ended a decade long terrorism.

As I have understood from the case of Algeria, there exists a different view among people in terms of culture, religion and politics that shapes their perception of the peace journalism concept. The term Peace is the last word that comes to minds and hearts of many citizens.

There is a historic statement that still strikes everyone: ‘if you want peace you have to prepare war’. The first war was between men of caverns about securing the fire or flame as an arm to protect themselves. They fought each other over the fire stake in order to maintain and preserve some kind of authority and power. This is not nonsensical. The morality is that human beings tend to be hegemonic, megalomaniac and authoritarian. We are living in a time where recourse to force is inevitable to address some form of terrorism, as peace is not in their agenda. Justification of recourse to force where there was just cause can be traced from just war period religious writings (c330 BC- AD1650) to scholarly writings and international laws and agreements of United Nations Charter period. It is within this context that the ‘Peace by force’ strategy of Nigerian president Muhammad Buhari should be considered.

This is not to deny the concept of peace journalism and its relevance to address the issues of terrorism. The strategies inscribed in the peace journalism within the principle of conflict transformation can be a support or a scaffold to create a global consensus for legitimate and reasonable use of force as well as to address the underlying causes of terrorism.
**Communicating Differences**

Publisher: Palgrave Macmillan - Date: November 2015

In today’s global world, it is imperative for individuals and groups with diverse backgrounds, values and beliefs, situated in a variety of cultural, political, economic and institutional structures, to grapple with ideas of diversity, difference and multi-culturalism.

The ways in which these fundamental issues are debated in today’s society helps pave the path towards a more inclusive, culturally conscious world that allows for dialogue and debate with regard to public policy, educational reform and sustainable peace.

This volume provides theoretical and practical approaches that highlight the strength of dealing with conflict and peace issues from areas such as intercultural communication, conflict mediation/negotiation, war and peace journalism, peace education, human rights and peacebuilding. While communicating differences across cultures and contexts can be a daunting undertaking, Communicating Differences demonstrates how building bridges across silos of research and connecting theory with practice enhances the viability of peace processes and truly and positively affects the lives of students, researchers and practitioners.

Sudeshna Roy is Associate Professor of Communication Studies at Stephen F. Austin State University, USA. Her research interest lies at the junction of intercultural communication, media studies and peace and conflict studies. She has edited two books and is writing her first solo-authored book, whose working title is National Identities and Political Violence: Critical Examination of Media Representation in the BRICS Countries. She has published in peer-reviewed journals such as International Communication Gazette, China Media Research and Media Studies, War and Conflict. She has chaired the Peace and Conflict Communication Division of the National Communication Association (NCA) and is currently a member of NCA’s Legislative Assembly.

Ibrahim Seaga Shaw is Senior Lecturer in Media and Politics at Northumbria University, UK. He holds a PhD from the Sorbonne and is Secretary General of the International Peace Research Association (IPRA). He is also the author of Business Journalism: A Critical Political Economy Approach (2015). He has a background in journalism spanning 20 years, having worked in Sierra Leone, Britain and France.

---

**Communicating Peace, Justice, and Reconciliation**

Publisher: Lynne Rienner Publishers: May 5, 2015

How important is reconciliation for healing wounds, building trust, rebuilding relationships between former enemies and rectifying injustices? Can a post-conflict state move from armed violence to peace and justice? These are the questions Elisabeth Porter asks in her provocative book Connecting Peace, Justice and Reconciliation, where readers are encouraged to evaluate and respond to her ideas, practices and strategies.

Professor of Politics and International Relations at UniSA, Porter has drawn from content in her advanced year international relations course, Peace, Justice and Reconciliation, to explore the core challenges that a war-torn state confronts once the violence has ended.

The book highlights narratives of hope, to signify that while disturbing acts have taken place, good work is going on to further peacebuilding, justice and reconciliation.

Because so much of the content of the course is about seriously disturbing issues of war, violence, loss of lives, rape as a weapon of war, genocide etc, I seek to balance this by showing examples where individuals have been able to overcome the most incredible degrees of trauma, to coexist, apologise, forgive and reconcile,” Porter says.

There is an emphasis on the importance of listening to people’s stories, about how war and violence affects them differently and therefore how important it is to respond with compassion in ways that are sensitive to gender, culture, age, ethnic and religious difference.

Porter’s interest in the topic stems from her time lecturing at the University of Ulster during the ‘Troubles’ period of conflict, and later as Director of Research at INCORE, an international conflict research centre in Northern Ireland, during the period of the peace negotiations.

Elisabeth Porter is professor of politics and international relations at the University of South Australia. Her recent publications include Peace and Security: Implications for Women and Peacebuilding: Women in International Perspective.
Dealing with Disasters Conference 2015

Health Centred Disaster Risk Reduction: A New Agenda for a New Era, 17th & 18th September, 2015 - Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

By Andrew Collins

The Dealing with Disasters 2015 Conference that took place at Northumbria University in September marked a significant opportunity to focus on health at the core of disaster risk management. The theme of the event derived from combined disaster, development and health on the basis that better health is both a prerequisite and outcome of disaster risk reduction. The conference sub-themes variously demonstrated how individuals, communities, institutions, the state of the nation or ecosystems demonstrate health as tangible aspects of what is implied by resilience. Everything to do with disaster risk reduction has health implications, and therefore these relationships must be understood in their totality and addressed explicitly as this field of inquiry progresses. It is therefore a challenge for the future of disaster risk reduction to recognize impacts of disasters on the well-being of people as well as underline how to manage health risks through stronger health services. The conference showed how we could do better to acknowledge the global risks of outbreaks of infectious disease and the complex impacts these have on socioeconomic stability. Meanwhile our health remains much more than physical wellbeing being challenged by hazards, poverty, development, food safety, social injustice and the like.

Dealing with Disasters 2015 was set up this year to centre participant attention on these inter-related issues with a view to strengthening the knowledge base on a core aspect of the post-2015 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and launch of the Sustainable Development Goals. Participants came from 15 countries, 21 different universities and 22 different non-university organizations. The countries included UK, Switzerland, Germany, USA, Bangladesh, New Zealand, South Africa, Brazil, Zimbabwe, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Kenya, Australia and Sweden. There were 41 presentations using four plenaries and eight parallel sessions, two workshops, two panel debates and Skype link ups. The event was complimented by inputs of two high ranking officials of the United Nations, one of whom was mandated to participate in the stead of the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General. It was also attended by senior members of Public Health England, United Nations Science and Technology Advisory Group (STAG) for disaster reduction, the UK Research Councils Natural Hazards Theme Leader. Support was provided by United Kingdom Collaborative for Development Science, MESH Coalition and Global Health Network North East whose membership includes the Northumbria NHS Health Care Trust.

Amongst the 114 delegates there were 19 Northumbria students including 12 of the 2015 group of incoming MSc Disaster Management and Sustainable Development (DM&SD) students. As part of an initiative with Newcastle College and the Northumbria Student’s Union ‘Disaster and Development’ membership includes the Northumbria NHS Health Care Trust. Support was provided by United Kingdom Collaborative for Development Science, MESH Coalition and Global Health Network North East whose membership includes the Northumbria NHS Health Care Trust.

Meanwhile actions are already underway to prepare for next year’s DwD (2016), which will be an ‘Away Year’. The forthcoming 2016 event will help focus attention on a further neglected aspect of the global surge in interest in disaster risk reduction. Dealing with Disasters (2016) will engage ‘Conflict Risk Reduction in Disaster and Development’ at Freetown, Sierra Leone together with the International Peace Research Association (IPRA), 28th November – 1st December 2016.

IPRA Members’ Publications: List of other Books Published in 2015


Candice C. Carter, Linda Pickett; Youth Literature for Peace Education, ISBN: 9781137362261; Publisher: Palgrave Macmillan

Candice C. Carter, Linda Pickett; Social Education for Peace; ISBN 978113754273; Publisher: Palgrave Pivot


Emeritus Prof. Dr. DIETRICH FISCHER
(1941-2015)

A Tribute
Guten Nacht, mein am besten Lehrer

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the grave, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom. I have seen something else under the sun: The race is not for the swift or the battle for the strong, nor does food come to the wise or wealth to the brilliant or favour to the learned; but time and chance happen to them all. Moreover, no man knows when his hour will come: As fish are caught in a cruel net or birds are taken in a snare, so men are trapped by evil times that fall unexpectedly upon them.” Ecclesiastes 9:10-12

Announcement of obituaries in the popular Professor Johan Galtung’s column of 19 October 2015 edition of the online Transcend Media Service, with the caption: “Professor Dietrich Fischer, Ph.D., Co-Founder of TRANSCEND, Passed Away Today, 18 October 2015”, erased the outright disbelief which greeted the rude shock that took toll of me when informed about the sudden departure of Professor Dietrich Fischer.

I had begun to know Professor Fischer even before I ever met him, as a very cultured, humble and modest individual. My very first encounter with Professor Dietrich Fischer, now of blessed memory, was quite fascinating. That first impression of his modest and pleasant person so endeared him to me, that I desired an intellectual tutelage under him; a dream that was to fateful-ly materialize only shortly afterwards at the European University Centre for Peace Studies (EPU), Stadtsch-laining in Burgenland region of Austria. Fatefully, as we prepared for resumption then, I was bereaved of my own mother, just barely two weeks before going to Burgenland from Vienna. Having even never met Dietrich (as he pointedly preferred to simply be addressed while with us his students at EPU) upon noting, from the resumption correspondence exchanges between me and EPU’s Uschi, about my human loss, he swiftly mailed across a condolence message to me as this:

*******

Dietrich Fischer wrote: "Dear Adeleye, I am very sorry to hear about the passing on of your dear mother. I lost my mom last year and share your grief. Your mom must have been a wonderful person to raise a peace-loving person like you. Looking forward to seeing you at EPU soon. [European University Center for Peace Studies (EPU)]

*******

This earlier contact blossomed into, and germinated, exceptional future benevolence for me. We had no premonition; neither had he an instinct, nor did any of us his numerous EPU products could fathom that his eternal departure from

---> (Cont ... on page 14)
Emeritus Prof. Dr. DIETRICH FISCHER (1941-2015)...

his Basel, Switzerland place of abode, Sunday – 18 October 2015, was invariably his final from his earthly sojourn to eternity. During his lifetime, he was widely acknowledged as a forthright, principled and highly disciplined individual, with excep-tional intellect and civility.

Those of us whom he groomed, at EPU and other numerous institutions, will eternally cherish appreciated that he embraced us all as his own friends. He worked assiduously to become a popular communicator. Apart from his profession-al calling, Dietrich was also known to many as a philanthropist. His generosity included financial, food and other gifts to numerous students and people. As T. S Eliot said, ‘death can kill good people, but poor death can never kill their good work on earth’, Dietrich Fischer’s work still speaks for him even after death. As a personal testimony, Dietrich supported my EPU tuition fees with 750euro for the 2006 spring semester and claimed the assistance as having been generat-ed from an anonymous source. When I had to frontally confront a judicial issue in Vienna, Austria, Dietrich mobilized and conveyed my old EPU colleagues to lend moral encour-gement and support to me at Landesgericht Wien, 12 June 2006, once kindly contacted and informed by Dr. Michael Plitzer (an Austrian humane ideologist), who had un-expectedly paid me a surprise visit then.

Thereafter, upon contacting him, he obliged a resource that facilitated my natural resolve to fight a cause (at both the European Regional ECHR and UNHCHR global fundamental human rights facilities) to win the misanthropic injustice cum justice miscarriage that had confronted me, which even-tually paved my soft-landing. I met with him again for a payback, 21 April 2008, which quite painfully now turned the very last time of my contact with him.

From here, I had even left for Abuja in Nigeria, Sunday, 18 October 2015, to submit my visa request and GCSP in-vitation at the Switzerland diplomatic post, with no iota of inking that Di-eitrch’s transition was already setting in as I jour-neyed, even as discussed him with my Abuja childhood friend and host. In consequence, as I prepare to participate in the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) specialist intellectual event: ‘Building a national policy for countering violence extrem-isim’ and began to contemplate on what would be befitting to take along as irresistible souvenirs from here in Africa to give as mere token to the great mind and man that Dietrich was made of, alas, I now totally inca-pacitated. I therefore remain unable to repay his nicety in any commensurate proportion; the agony of the mind which I may definitely continue to live with.

Dietrich accommodated and funded some indigent foreign students whom I knew in institutions of higher learning in parts of Europe and north America, and he ensured he also invited us (all EPU students) to table randomly at various times. His profound wisdom likewise informed his golden silence that scuttled unwarranted mundane and phantom conspiracy which orchestrated and plotted treachery against him and needlessly decried him in the wake even before his tenure ended at EPU and then he, alongside his age-long friend, Professor Johan Galtung (who he greatly respected) and others, started the World Peace Academy in Basel, Switzerland.

Little wonder too that EPU students’ house vehemently rose in solidarity of him and stoutly fought against that xeno-phobic tendency, even as Professor Galtung (a founder and father of Peace and Conflict Studies) determined to sever his academic service from EPU because of the effrontery against Dietrich, but a deserved intention which Dietrich Fischer, though, abated. Hence, trained as an expert in his chosen field, he had highly successful careers, both in computer science and his later love, peace and conflict studies; going by the numerous landmark works he had to his credit, in Eu-rope, America and elsewhere.

Colonel Jonah Bawa (Rtd.), a 2005 EPU product and of Fisch-er school, was (as a Director, Institute of Peace and Conflict Resolution in The Presidency, Abuja – Nigeria), itching to facilitate an invitation for Dietrich to bring his expertise to Nigeria, as a clear demonstration of how his reputation earned him the lead role in most of other people’s minds; an arrangement that now has to rest. Ad-opted children who have, today, grown into adulthood and graduated from uni-versities into their chosen professions, with promising careers, will definitely remain indebted to Dietrich’s own coor-dinated effort and expertise. As a genius in conflict settle-ment/management and peacemaking, his fantastic mind, consist-ency, perceptive analysis, sheer brain-power and courage made him a refer-ence point in peace and conflict studies.

Even at age 74, his passage is so excru-ciatingly painful that it has brought, and will inevitably bring, uncontrol-lable tears to many faces; beyond those of his immediate household and family, including the faces of his innumerable

--> (Cont ... on page 15)
Emeritus Prof. Dr. DIETRICH FISCHER (1941-2015)...

students and admirers here, there and everywhere, his contemporaries, friends, acquaintances, NGOs, his beneficiaries, as well as those in both his immediate and extended neighbourhoods; including those he could have never known. With his home-call to glory and ultimate departure to his Creator, another irreplaceable icon and a rare breed is gone.

Prof. Dr. DIETRICH FISCHER, born 1941 in Mu nsingen, Swit-zerland, Dietrich Fischer, born in Switzerland, was a Profes-sor and Academic Director at the European University Center for Peace Studies, Burg Schlaining, Austria, from 2003 to 2009. He was a former MacAr-thur Fellow in International Peace and Security at Princeton University and member of TRANSCEND, an interna-tional peace and development net-work. Until his recent earthly departure, he was Academic Director of the World Peace Academy in Basel, Switzerland. He was a founding member and part of the faculty of the Gal-tung Institut for Peace Theory and Practice in Grenzach-Wyhlen, Ger-

He was a Board Member of the TRAN-SCEND Peace University and Director of the TRANSCEND University Press. He got his Ph.D. in Computer Science from New York University in 1976 and his MA in 1971. In 1968, he obtained a Licenti-ate in Mathematics from the University of Bern, Switzerland. From 1976-86 he taught economics at New York Univer-
sity. From 1986-88 he was a MacArthur Fellow in International Peace and Secu-

Economic Policy (with Nobel Laureate Jan Tinbergen, 1987), Winning Peace: Strategies and Ethics for a Nuclear-Free World (with Wilhelm Nolte and Jan Oberg, 1989), Conditions of Peace: An Inquiry (with Grace Boggis, et al., 1991), and Peaceful Conflict Transforma-
tion and Nonviolent Approaches to Security (with Johan Galtung, 1999), as well as many articles on peace and de-

When Dietrich died, Switzerland, Austria, USA and, indeed, the whole of Europe and rest of the world at large lost its most valued and accomplished highly respected "master storyteller," which he was widely known & described as by the army of his innumerable admirers across the universe. He will be sorely missed for his grace and humility. His death does shrinks further the pool of that generation of men who wielded academic excellence largely to stay in the hearts of their people.

No one, however, doubted Dietrich's commitment to all people. Profes-
sor Fischer was an international man, whose rec-ords and antecedents are clear in the history of wherever his footprints had touched. Papa Dietrich was very kind-hearted. He was like a father to not only my humble self, but likewise to many people and he was larger than life. The death of papa Di-
etrich will remain a heavy blow to me. I will miss his advice, unflinching sup-

Chesterfield of the /f_i  nest souls in the academic circles.

Oh oooooo, he was a great advocate of high work ethics; Soft spoken but tenacious. I hope the younger ones would emulate the enviable virtues of Dietrich Fischer, who was an epit-one of hard work, profession-alism, piety and dedication to both his home country and the whole world his fatherland. He was totally dedicated to the ethos of peace and conflict studies. He lived, he loved, he laughed, and he served tirelessly to uphold the academia and its envi-

almighty" master storyteller," which he was widely known & described as by the army of his innumerable admirers across the universe. He will be sorely missed for his grace and humility. His death does shrinks further the pool of that generation of men who wielded academic excellence largely to stay in the hearts of their people.

No one, however, doubted Dietrich’s commitment to all people. Professor Fischer was an international man, whose records and antecedents are clear in the history of wherever his footprints had touched. Papa Dietrich was very kind-hearted. He was like a father to not only my humble self, but likewise to many people and he was larger than life. The death of papa Dietrich will remain a heavy blow to me. I will miss his advice, unflinching support and confidential report/reference letter, even at the shortest notice or contact and without grudging; if I had problems, he would advise me on what to do.

Of course, not only me, but the larger army of international scholars who might have passed through him (including his colleagues), have lost another great, honest and dedicated statesman of all standards. He was an accomplished academ-ic, who served humanity well and never lost touch with the people. His example of humility and prudence in the aca-

etrich Fischer will be sorely missed. His death has further depleted the rank of true academic mentors and the aca-demic world is the poorer for it. There he goes to the Maker and to the ancestors, one of the finest souls in the academic circles.

We thank God for his life. We will all miss him. Good night, Dietrich! Rest in Peace, Beloved One, Amen!

Auf wieder sehen in unsere traum sich treffen mit. Guten nacht, und gut schlae fen sie, unsere am besten Lehrer Die-trich von Münssingen!

Farewell Dietrich Fischer, emeritus university professor of note!!

Fondly remembered always and for-ever by us all!!!

This article originally appeared on Transcend Media Service (TMS) on 26 October 2015
IPRA Executive Committee 2014-2016

Dr Ibrahim Seaga Shaw - Co-secretary General - (UK/Sierra Leone)
Dr Nesrin Kenar- Co-secretary General - Turkey
Prof. Luc Reychler—Member - Belgium
Prof. Ursula Oswald Spring – Member - Mexico
Prof. Matt Mogweku—Member - USA/Nigeria
Kelli Te Maiharoa –Member - New Zealand
Dr Patrick Hiller– Member - USA

IPRA representatives to the UN (2014-2016)
Dr. Emily Welty, Dr. Kurt Schock, Matthew Bolton, Fran Petersen, Dr. Matt Meyer.

IPRA GOVERNING COUNCIL 2014-2016

Dr Ibrahim Seaga Shaw - IPRA co-Secretary General - UK/Sierra Leone
Dr Nesrin Kenar - IPRA co-Secretary General - Turkey

AFRICA
MALE Prof. Matt Mogweku–USA
Dr Olufemi Oluniyi– Nigeria
FEMALE Dr Jacinta Mwende Mawe–Kenya
Berndette Muthien-- South Africa

ASIA-PACIFIC
MALE Prof. Tetsu Sadotomo –Japan
FEMALE Dr Manish Sharma -India
Kelli Te Maiharoa- New Zealand

EUROPE
MALE Prof. Luc Reychler– Belgium
Dr Hendrik Bullens– Netherlands
FEMALE Dr Riikka Kuusisto–Finland
Stephanie Thiel–Germany

LATIN AMERICA
MALE Hernan Dario Vazquez Reyna–Peru
Andres Macias Tolosa–Colombia
FEMALE Prof. Ursula Oswald Spring– Mexico
Prof. Alvany Maria dos Santos Santiago/Brazil

NORTH AMERICA
MALE Dr Patrick Hiller-US
Dr Matt Meyer-US
FEMALE Dr Carolyn Stephenson– USA
Dr Ellen Vaillancourt–Canada

RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES
MALE Prof. Attila Fabian– Hungary
FEMALE Dr Olga Vorkunova–Russia

Ex-officio members

- EuPRA : Dr Itır Toksöz itirtoksoz@gmail.com
- ASIA-PASIFIC: Janjira Sombatpoonsiri jsombutpoonsiri@gmail.com
- LATIN AMERICA : Diana de la Rua diana_delarua@yahoo.com.ar
- IPRAF : Dr Linda Johnston, ljohnst9@kennesaw.edu
- Newsletter editor—Senthan Selvarajah—UK/Sri Lanka
- Newsletter editorial board member: Prof. John Synott --Australia
- Newsletter editorial board member: Dr Zhaglami Laeed –Algeria

Please contact us if you require further information relating to this newsletter. Your comments and feedback are also greatly appreciated.

Secretaries General – IPRA: Email - secretary-general@iprapeace.org
Dr. Ibrahim Seaga Shaw, Northumbria University, UK
Dr. Nesrin Kenar, Sakarya University, Turkey