The preparatory process for IPRA’s 26th General Conference on ‘Agenda for Peace and Development’ to be held in Freetown, Sierra Leone host by the University of Sierra Leone in collaboration with the 10th Dealing with Disasters Conference (Northumbria university) and Sakarya University in Turkey from November 27 to December 1 2016 is well on track.

While the abstract deadline has been extended to 15 April 2016, the conference secretariat has received hundreds of applications from all over the world. “We are very excited about the interest in the 2016 IPRA conference so far which is evident in the hundreds of submissions received before the 3rd March Deadline. However, in order to give chance to more of our members and other peace research scholars and students who may be interested in submitting abstracts or panel proposals, and many of those who had technical problems with the online submission system the first time, we have decided to extend the deadline for submission of applications with abstracts or/and panel proposals to Friday April 15 at Midnight European time”, said Dr Ibrahim Seaga Shaw, IPRA Secretary General.

Dr Shaw noted that the IPRA Secretariat has also decided to simplify the online application process by separating the main application and the grant applications so that those who are not applying for grants will not be required to complete the grant application section. “It is in this vein that we have also removed the section about passport details required for visa application since this will be included in the letter of acceptance to abstract and panel proposers who are successful in the selection process”, Dr Shaw added.

The IPRA secretariat is in the meantime sorting out the submissions received so far with a view to forwarding them to commission conveners to start the review and selection processes. Progress has also been made on the accommodation front. Currently, the conference website www.ipra2016.org has information about four top hotels in Freetown, all of them very close to the conference venue, with discounted rates for IPRA delegates, and with booking and reservation...
made simple via the secure PAYPAL payment system. The Conference secretariat will post information about more hotels as soon as it concludes discount negotiations with them. So watch the accommodation section on the conference web site.

The conference secretariat is also working on getting discounts with some Airlines and for Sierra Leone visas for those who will need them, as well as visas on landing for participants coming from those countries where there are no Sierra Leone embassies. More information on all this will be available very soon.

IPRA firmly believes that the IPRA 2016 conference will enable the participants to gain useful insights and take a more proactive approach in generating research interest and discourse on how to take active, preventive and remedial action to address the challenges of development as part of the root causes of conflicts.

Go online and register at http://ipra2016.org

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IPRA served as one of the co-signatories on an open letter to UNSC

IPRA served as one of the co-signatories on an open letter written by NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, to all permanent representatives about the Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security and the High Level Review of SCR 1325 in October 2014.

The Letter advocates "for strong and progressive statements that address the full spectrum of the women, peace and security agenda, particularly related to forcibly displaced women and the full and meaningful participation of women in all peace, political and security processes."

It provides strong recommendations for Member States to implement before next year’s high-level review and the 15th Anniversary of SCR1325 which was adopted in 2000. The Open Letter is available http://womenpeacesecurity.org/media/pdf-NGOWG_OpenLetter_Oct2014.pdf
The 2016 IPRA conference in Freetown, Sierra will bring together about 800 participants including scholars, experts, civil society activists, human rights activists and peace practitioners from different parts of the world and serve as a great platform and an inspiring occasion for discussion, engagement and networking.

Why Sponsor this 2016 IPRA Conference?

Research conferences have enormous potential of creating positive socio-economic and political development, and therefore Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes increasingly take advantage of sponsoring research conferences as a vehicle to deliver their objectives. This creates a symbiotic relationship, where offering such sponsorships can provide a degree of competitive advantage to the companies while at the same contributing to the furtherance of the overall knowledge exchange objective of the conference. Both national and international companies are starting to recognize the importance of including peace building oriented projects including conference sponsorships in their CSR policies to consolidate peace and contribute to address the causes of conflicts and wars.

The IPRA 2016 conference offers an exceptional opportunity for sponsors to be partners in a noble cause to inspire global peace, and at the same time to be a big fish in a small pond of around 1000 renowned peace scholars, experts and practitioners from different parts of the world. This is a perfect opportunity to promote your organisation in both glamorous and moral ways

Here are some very good reasons why you should sponsor IPRA and express yourself:

- Promote your research, goods, or services among an international audience of influential peace researchers & decision makers.
- Create positive CSR impact and develop positive brand image of your company or organisation.
- Enhance your business profile on an international stage.
- Perfect time to introduce your new products & services and introduce new ideas.
- Connecting you with the participants of interest to you and your business and build new relationships, partnerships and network.
- Play a key part in shaping global peace and security.

This conference will receive widespread media coverage including television, print and online media services nationally and internationally. We therefore call upon sponsors to come on board to partner with IPRA 2016 and support through one of the following sponsorship packages in a mutually beneficial manner.

**Diamond Sponsor**

- Corporate logo and profile including one full page advert in the conference brochure and programme.
- Opportunity to include sponsor’s flyer in delegate bags.
- Opportunity to include sponsor’s gift in delegate bags.
- Sponsor’s banner will be hung in the main conference hall.
- Sponsor will be given a desk at the reception throughout the conference to disseminate any promotional material.
- Corporate logo and profile including one quarter page advert in the delegate brochure.

**Gold Sponsor**

- Corporate logo and profile including one half page advert in the conference brochure and programme.
- Opportunity to include sponsor’s flyer in delegate bags.
- Opportunity to include sponsor’s gift in delegate bags.
- Sponsor’s banner will be hung in the main conference hall.
- Sponsor will be given a desk at the reception throughout the conference to disseminate any promotional material.

**Bronze Sponsor**

- Corporate logo and profile including one quarter page advert in the conference brochure and programme.
- Opportunity to include sponsor’s flyer in delegate bags.
- Opportunity to include sponsor’s gift in delegate bags.
- Sponsor’s banner will be hung in the main conference hall.

**Additional Sponsorships**

- Conference Bag - $2500 - Sponsor the conference bag with your logo.
- Conference Pad and Pen - $2000 - Sponsor the conference Pad and Pen with your logo.
- Pull-up banner or Wall banner at Registration Area - $1000 - You design your banner for us to hang in the registration area.
- Wall Banner in the main conference hall - $3000 - You design your banner for us to hang in the main conference hall.

BROCHURE/CONFERENCE PROGRAMME / ADVERT SPACES

- Full page: $1000 / Half page: $500 / Quarter page: $250 / Classified: $100

For more information on sponsorship and exhibition and the form to complete IPRA conference web site: www.ipra2016.org
The International Peace Research Association (IPRA) has five Permanent Representatives to the United Nations as part of its organisation’s special status with the UN Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC).

Following a request from IPRA Secretary General Dr. Ibrahim Seaga Shaw, UN ECOSOC representatives of IPRA recently submitted a report to IPRA about their activities and projects with regards to their representation in 2015.

As the report elaborates, the IPRA UN representatives have done a wonderful job in contributing to IPRA’s objectives through their engagement with the UN in 2015, including signing on behalf of IPRA an open letter to all permanent representatives about the Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security and the High Level Review of SCR 1325 (See the short article above for more details and the link to the open letter).

Read below the full text of the report:

Executive Summary: The IPRA UN team in 2015 consisted of Dr. Matthew Bolton, Matt Meyer, Dr. Kurt Schrock, Frances Peterson and Dr. Emily Welty. Midway through 2015, Kurt Schrock resigned leaving the team at five members. As the following individual reports demonstrate, IPRA members were involved in a variety of activities at the United Nations in 2015. The team met face to face for the first time in several years and had members delivering statements to the General Assembly and hosting a side-event for the first time.

Matthew Bolton: At the 2015 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty at the UN in New York, I served as an advisor to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), publishing analysis of the negotiations in the daily NGO newsletter, NPT News in Review. I was asked by the governments of Mexico and Japan to join a panel and present on disarmament education. I also organized and spoke on a panel hosted by Costa Rica on general and complete disarmament. I helped two small states write speeches for delivery in formal debate. I also hosted at Pace an all-day strategy meeting of Abolition 2000, a network of thousands of nonprofit organizations, both national and international, working on nuclear issues.

Just before the beginning of the NPT Review Conference, April 24-26, Pace students and faculty (including Emily and I) helped organize the International Peace & Planet Conference for a Nuclear-Free, Peaceful, Just and Sustainable World, attracted 600 leading activists, scholars and diplomats from more than a dozen countries, including survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Atomic Bomb attacks & Angela Kane, U.N. High Representative for Disarmament Affairs. Pace, along with the Cooper Union and Hunter College, hosted several of the conference workshops.

I delivered a statement on aspects of military robotics

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control at the May 2015 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) in Geneva, Switzerland. In Spring 2015, I began a series of consultations with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, Open Society Foundations and the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica and to consider policy options for regulating the use of armed drones outside of conflict zones. I was invited to a closed meeting on this topic with a variety of states in September 2015.

In October and November 2015 I monitored the United Nations General Assembly First Committee I assisted with drafting the NGO statements on drones, cyberweapons and gender and disarmament and provided social media support to a variety of NGO campaigns working on disarmament issues ranging from nuclear weapons to killer robots, the arms trade and drones.

Matt Meyer: My main UN related NGO work in 2015 involved assistance in coordination of the inaugural African Peace Research and Education Association conference, held in April at the ECOWAS building in Abuja, Nigeria. Despite difficulties with conference logistics and funding, I led a successful plenary panel with leaders of the African Development Bank, and another with colleagues from the Pan African Nonviolence and Peace-building Network. A forthcoming book co-edited with Indian scholar and IPRA Nonviolence commission co-chair Vidya Jain will include some of the better presentations from that event. In addition, I continued monitoring the work of the Committee of 24 (Special Committee on Decolonization) held in June in New York, and the Universal Periodic Review of the US, held last May in Geneva. Working with NGO colleagues in regards to both areas of concern, I helped solidify IPRA relations with various human rights educational groups. I also attended a brief part of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and I assisted in communications between IPRA Council (including the Newsletter committee) and IPRA’s US-based members and associates.

Frances Peterson: My United Nations activities during 2015 fall into two categories: attending sessions at the UN Headquarters and functioning as a resource person in order to facilitate increased participation in the Christian

Campaign for Peace and Nuclear Disarmament. I attended the Fourteenth session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues held on April 20 to May 1. This session focused on following up on the outcome of the World Conference on Indigenous People and discussing the post-2015 development agenda. Week one covered the Forum’s recommendations while week two addressed implementation of the UN Declaration, future work of the Forum and a draft agenda for the fifteenth session.

I also attended the WSIS+10 Informal Interactive Stakeholder Consultation at UN Headquarters on October 19. The stated purpose of this session was to provide relevant stakeholders an opportunity to contribute their views on the Zero Draft in a day of interactive panel discussions. There were three panels addressing topics on ICTs for Development, Internet Governance, Human Rights and Building Confidence and Security in the use of ICTs. Thirteen stakeholder panelists and seven participants from the audience presented their views on various shortcomings and gaps in the Zero Draft.

In the realm of nuclear disarmament activities, I have established a working relationship with senior pastors at three Christian churches in the Borough of Queens, two of which are mega churches. One seats 3,440 and the other one seats 3,000. The booklet I obtained from UN Headquarters, Nuclear Weapons What Can Christians Do? A guide for churches, is an excellent resource for pastors. It provides a wide range of practical ideas and suggestions for action on several different levels for participating in peace and disarmament activities.

Emily Welty: Under my leadership, the IPRA representatives had their first face-to-face meeting in the last few years. We regularly responded to communications from the UN DPI and NGO-affiliated conferences and events throughout 2015.

I was heavily involved with the NPT Review Conference for all of the month of May. I attended meetings at the UN 3-4 times a week which involved participating in the morning NGO briefing sessions and engaging in strategy sessions and advocacy as well as observing the proceedings of the conference. I was honored to deliver a statement to the whole assembled body as part of the session on civil society inputs in the process. I spoke during side-event with SCRAP on general and complete disarmament which was co-sponsored by IPRA. This was the first time that IPRA co-sponsored a side event at the United Nations for the last several years.

A profile of the work of Matthew Bolton and myself at the UN during the NPT is available here: http://pace-nycmun.org/2015/05/21/pace-university-faculty-and-students-work-for-nuclear-disarmament-at-united-nations/

IPRA served as one of the co-signatories on an open letter to all permanent representatives about the Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security and the High Level Review of SCR 1325. A copy of the letter is here [PDF] Open Letter to Permanent Representatives to the UN - NGO
Pace University New York City engaged constructively with the United Nations in 2015 to empower students in diplomacy and international relations, so that they may enter and participate meaningfully in the mainstream of the socio, political and economic processes to contribute to build sustainable peace.

The students and faculty worked hard for a nuclear weapons free world at the United Nations, as member states review the implementation of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

A youth delegation from the Peace University participated at the conference, organized by the non-profit Ban All Nukes Generation (BANg), monitoring the conference as it met in the UN General Assembly Room and other august locations.

Dr. Emily Welty, UN ECOSOC representative of IPRA and director of peace and justice studies at Pace University, was instrumental in the participation of Pace University faculty in the UN sessions.

Dr. Emily Welty also delivered a statement at the UN on behalf of religious communities at the conference. “The continued existence of nuclear weapons has forced humankind to live in the shadow of apocalyptic destruction,” said Dr. Welty, who monitored the negotiations closely, met with numerous countries’ delegations to make sure they were aware of interfaith and ecumenical perspectives on nuclear disarmament and generated social media content.

“Nuclear weapons are incompatible with the values upheld by our respective faith traditions—the right of people to live in security and dignity; the commands of conscience and justice; the duty to protect the vulnerable and to exercise the stewardship that will safeguard the planet for future generations.” she said.

Dr. Welty was also featured on a panel on “general and complete disarmament” hosted by the Costa Rican mission.

Pace University has a 65-year history of excellence in regional, national and international Model United Nations conferences and encourages its students to develop the skills and capacities needed to thrive as global citizens. Drawing students from around the world, Pace has numerous academic programs related to international affairs, including political science, peace and justice studies, women and gender studies, global Asia studies, international management, Latin American studies, modern languages & cultures, and environmental studies.
IPRA Membership & Membership Renewal

BY Di Luo (PhD Candidate Northumbria University, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK)

The 2016 IPRA Conference has now updated its membership registration in the MEMBERS AREA available on the IPRA web site: www.iprapeace.org.

All students, scholars, and scientific institutions and associations, including those who are planning to attend the next IPRA conference in Freetown, who are interested in becoming members, or renewing their membership, of IPRA are now encouraged to complete this process by visiting the MEMBERS AREA on the IPRA web site: www.iprapeace.org.

Article 6 of The IPRA STATUTES states that: ‘IPRA shall be composed of three classes of members: individual scholars, scientific institutions and scientific associations, able to accept membership of the Association. IPRA may also have contribution members. Applications will be considered by the Executive Committee’.

Based on this article, individual scholars, scientific institutions and scientific association can become members of IPRA with paid membership fees. The fees are charged differently in accordance with the applicant’s status and nationality (e.g. regular members, students/retired, or institutional members, high income, or upper middle, or lower middle, or low income country).

For both individual scholars and institutional organisations and association, the membership is valid for two years, which is 2014 and 2016. For students and scholars who attended the 2014 IPRA Conference in Istanbul but not paid their membership fees, they need to bring their membership up to date and pay for the IPRA 2012 to 2016 membership (4 years).

For students and scholars who attended and paid their membership fees at the 2014 Istanbul IPRA Conference, they only need to renew their membership and pay for the years of the 2014 and 2016 (2 years).

Only fully paid up members will benefit from IPRA 2016 conference registration discounts, GALA DINNER discounts, access online resources reserved for members, enjoy priority for IPRA travel and accommodation grants, and enjoy the privilege of taking part in IPRA elections etc. (For more information about the BENEFITS OF IPRA MEMBERSHIP visit the MEMBERS AREA on the IPRA web site www.iprapeace.org).

The membership fees are needed to support the administrative work of IPRA and to support its projects and biennial conferences, as well as help support more students and scholars from low income countries to benefit from its projects and attend its biennial conferences.

For more information of the IPRA Memberships, including how to join, how to pay the fees & the specific benefits, please visit the official website at: http://iprapeace.org/index.php/members-area/membership.

“IPRA 2016” Conference Brochure/programme:

Call for Articles

The “IPRA 2016” conference secretariat is happy to invite you to write articles for “IPRA 2016” conference brochure/programme, which will be circulated among the conference participants and published Online this year in November. Academics, PhD students and peace practitioners are cordially invited to prepare articles in given format and submit on or before June 30, 2016.

Contributions by way of opinion articles or features on peace research activities and projects are welcome, and should not be more than 500 words. Where relevant articles should be referenced and contain links where appropriate.

Contributions will be selected on the basis of their quality, since only few good and relevant ones would be selected for inclusion.

Priority will be given to contributions by IPRA members and associate members in the areas of peace research and education, especially those based on cutting edge research and/or contemporary issues and challenges of peace work.

Contributions should be sent to secretarygeneral@iprapeace.org & Senthan.selverajah@northumbria.ac.uk
Inherent in the definition of ‘positive peace’ is the need for structural transformation. For example, Galtung (1973, p. 165) argues that his theory of power negation “is a rejection of the idea that there are technical solutions available for…problems without structural changes” and he asserts that “the theory of power negation is the missing link explaining how structural conflicts can nevertheless be solved” (Galtung, 1973, 104).

Whilst the concept of structural violence appears relatively straightforward – inequalities in power and resources give rise to a number of adverse outcomes in quality of life - the way we understand structural violence and what to do about it, however, is a contested matter.

Under Galtung’s concept of power negation structural violence and what to do about it takes on a very particular meaning. For example, he argues that power negation is based on “freedom essentially according to the old liberal formula of ‘free mobility of persons and ideas… that is needed at the personal level to bring about consciousness formation as insight in the forces acting upon oneself” (Galtung, 1973, p. 162).

This ‘liberal formula’, which has hegemonized contemporary discourses on structural violence, is perfectly captured by recent comments from Kofi Annan that ordinary citizens help bring about the change simply by voting, making noise using social media and using our power as consumers. The underlying premise being that structural violence results from corrupt and undemocratic leadership within the existing liberal-capitalist structure, & that exercising participation and voice is the solution.

This hegemonisation means that the transformation of structural violence necessarily requires overcoming what Zizek terms ‘symbolic violence’. More than simply being synonymous with cultural violence (e.g., see Galtung 1990), symbolic violence involves a more fundamental violence “that pertains to language as such, to its imposition of a certain universe of meaning” (Zizek 2009, p. 1). Therefore, Zizek (2009, p. 61) argues, “There is thus a direct link between the ontological violence and the texture of social violence (of sustaining relations of enforced domination) that pertains to language”. Or in other words, structural violence today is sustained by a liberal-capitalist frame that links structural transformation to individual action, participation and voice.

It is in this way that Zizek claims the problem today is not passivity but over-activity in which we are active all the time to ensure that nothing really changes. Therefore the key challenge for overcoming the structural violence of contemporary liberal-capitalist democracy is to resist the way the latter interpellates us to resist though greater participation and voice.

Or as Zizek (2008, p. 309) puts it, ‘It is better to do nothing than to contribute to the invention of formal ways of rendering visible that which Empire already recognizes as existent’. It is in this way that we should repeat Galtung’s theory in order to claim its missed opportunities by redeploying his concepts of decoupling, negative transcendence and fundamental doubt as the basis for the transformation of structural violence.
On the occasion of World Peace Day 2015, the 2nd Cape Town International Peace Conference and Expo took place in Cape Town on 17-18 September in South Africa coordinated by the Foundation for Sport, Development and Peace in collaboration with City of Cape Town and Sanlam Cape Town Marathon, the Western Cape Network for Community Peace and Development and local and international partners including civil society organisations, government departments as well as tertiary institutions, schools and the Metro Police.

The 2015 Peace Conference had a City Focus on Peace, Sport and Development. This focus reflected the aim of the Conference and Expo to create a forum for exchange and to bring representatives from civil society, business, education, and policy makers together to share expertise and experiences, promote communication and the exchange of information to strengthen the vision of using sport and recreation as vehicles to build peaceful, healthy communities and a better society with a particular emphasis on the role of cities.

The outcome of the Conference has been active networking and collaboration sharing and debating of topics related to peace and sport from local, national and international viewpoints as well as building collaboration and an improved understanding of the above issues.

South Africa holds the United Nations’ (IWG) Chair for Sport and Peace and has successfully hosted the 1st Cape Town Peace Conference on the occasion of the 1st Sanlam Cape Town Marathon and the occasion of the World Peace Day on 19 September 2014 as well as the Boston Peace Roundtable in April 2015 in the US both coordinated by the Foundation for Sport, Development and Peace.

The United Nation’s Special Advisor on Sport for Development and Peace, Mr. Wilfried Lemke who was a keynote Speaker at the 2015 Conference, said that: “The United Nations considers sport to be a powerful tool to promote education, health, development and peace. Sport unites people of all social classes, cultures, religions and backgrounds in a positive and educational way. This year marks the exciting start of this initiative, which is dedicated to promoting awareness, and visibility of sport and peace for youth and communities. As such, it is an example of a concrete application of sport as a tool for development and peace-building efforts.”

The 2nd Cape Town International Peace Conference followed suit on the occasion of the 2nd Sanlam Cape Town Marathon on 20 September and the International Peace Day on 21 September 2015 seeking to promote sport, wellbeing, tolerance and peace worldwide. The Peace Heritage Games for the youth was one of the highlights of the Conference.

The Conference had in addition to presentations and panel discussions four commissions dealing with the following key issues:

- Promoting Tolerance and Social Cohesion: Youth, Leadership and Universal and Olympic Value Education
- Healthy Lifestyles - Getting Communities Active
- Community Safety, Sport and Peace in the City
- Partnerships with Communities - Implementing Sport and Recreation Initiatives for Development:

These commissions gave delegates the opportunity to network, exchange ideas, share experiences and best practices in the field and also began to develop concrete programmes, projects and partnerships to enable implementation. These initiatives will be presented at the 3rd Cape Town Peace Conference on 15-16 September 2016.

For more information please contact the Conference Organisers: info@foundationforsportanddevelopmentandpeace.com

Website: www.foundationforsportanddevelopmentandpeace.com
If it is not now it would be never to face the security threat from virtual world. The whole world is under threat and in that case Bangladesh must not be averted and be tension free from cyber crime. Sooner or later this crime would affect our economy, trade, commerce and sovereignty which can destabilize the socio-political-economical order. We must not be ignorant being reluctant from this virtual reality. This security concern is not like traditional rather better planned and well organized where the victim would be victimized but the criminal would be safe.

This is the high time to initiate and being vocal against cyber crime and being more protective on this crime and being aware against this crime as globally this crime is increasing and has become the most sustainable and devastating crime against state, individual, mass and last but not the least economical stability. Once the crime will be occurred there will be no other way to move forward and cover up the damages because at the end virtual reality is different from our day to day life where cyber crime is a passion and secured for the criminal but not for the victim. Cyberspace constitutes an area with much room for speculation, doubt, and ambiguity. The use of ICTs for malicious purposes is not directly visible and it is even less tangible. Therefore, confidence-building measures designed to increase transparency and trust is crucial in order to reduce the danger of miscalculation, misperception and misunderstanding.

Public- Private Initiatives will also review cyber-security efforts at the sub-regional level and within other regional contexts. Non-governmental stakeholders, such as providers of critical infrastructure, will have the opportunity to express their needs and expectations in relation. While the CBMs (Confidence Building Measures) are primarily designed for national policy-makers, their effective implementation requires the constructive engagement with non-state stakeholders. For instance, the protection of critical infrastructure from cyber-attacks is not only in the interest of a critical infrastructure operator, it is also a prime national security concern.

A discussion on the CBMs in the area of cyber/ICT security within the Informal Working Group and Formal working group is important. The Informal Working Group also can take steps to advance the role in the field of cyber security by embarking on the development of a second set of CBMs that can build confidence in the ability of states to collaborate in dealing with specific, discrete instances of destabilizing cyber activity.
Top international speakers to attend ‘IPRA 2016’ Conference in Freetown

More than 25 world renowned scholars and professionals in the field of peace, conflict, and development have been invited from every part of the world to share their research and ideas at the IPRA 26th General Conference on ‘Agenda for Peace and Development’ to be held in Freetown, Sierra Leone from November 27 to December 1, 2016.

A lot of invaluable knowledge is expected to be gained from these scholars while gathering their thoughts on how to take active, preventive and remedial action to address the challenges of development as part of the root causes of conflicts. High profile international speakers and keynote speakers who have confirmed that they will be attending this 26th IPRA conference are:

- Professor Thomas Pogge, Leitner Professor of Philosophy and International Affairs, Yale University, USA. Keynote speaker.
- Professor Sirku K. Hellsten, Philosophy Unit, Dept. of Political Science and Public Administration, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Plenary Speaker.
- Dr Jake Lynch. Assistant Professor and Director of the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Sydney, Australia. Plenary Speaker.
- Professor David J. Francis is the Head of Department of Peace Studies at the University Of Bradford, UK. Keynote Speaker
- Professor Katsuya Kodama, Vice Rector, Tsu University, Japan Plenary Speaker.
- Professor Ursula Oswald Spring, University of Mexico, Mexico. Plenary Speaker
- Dr Abu Bakarr Bah, Associate Professor of Sociology at Northern Illinois University, USA.
- Dr. Margee Ensign, President of the American University of Nigeria (AUN). She also leads the Adamawa Peace Initiative (API). Keynote speaker
- Oliver Richmond, Research Professor, Peace & Conflict Studies, Humanitarian & Conflict Response Institute, University of Manchester, UK.
- Prof. Dr. M.E. (Mirjam) de Bruijn, Institute of History of Africa, University of Leiden, Netherlands. Plenary Speaker.
- Professor Stuart Allan, Head of School of Media and Journalism, University of Cardiff, Wales, UK. Keynote Speaker
- Haja Dr. Hawa Zainab Bangura, UN Secretary General’s Special Envoy on Violence Against Women. Keynote Speaker.
- Professor Andrew Collins, Director, Disaster and Development Network, Northumbria University, UK Plenary Speaker.
- Professor Paul Richards, University College London, UK
- Professor Daya Kishan Thussu, Professor of International Communication and Co-Director of India Media Research Centre, University of Westminster, London, UK Plenary Speaker.
- His Excellency Omrie Golley, Sierra Leone Ambassador, Republic of South Korea, Seoul. Keynote Speaker
- Dr Ahmed Adamu, Chairman of the Commonwealth Youth Council, Nigeria. Plenary Speaker
- Dr Wendy Lambourne, Deputy Director, Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Sydney, Australia. Plenary Speaker

NB - MORE CONFIRMED HIGH PROFILE SPEAKERS’ NAMES WOULD BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEXT IPRA NEWSLETTER
Most countries have their unique forms of dancing which depict their culture and heritage. Be it Europe or the Americas or India or China, every region or country has distinctive styles and dance forms.

We have the popular ballet that originated in Italy but is now a cultural symbol of France and Russia. It has now become popular in many western countries. It shows dancers moving about gracefully almost as if they were fairies. Another form — the western-country type of dance such as cowboy dance includes dance forms that are danced to western music.

Then there are other forms where couples dance together such as ball room dancing or waltz or polka. These look artistic and graceful.

Sometimes there are dances that are rooted in the religious backgrounds. This is especially true in the various dance forms of India. Here there are not one or two styles of dance but almost countless forms. Broadly there are the north Indian and south Indian dances. But then in the North east that consist of seven states or seven sisters as they are popularly called, each state has a splendid and unique style of dance.

Why is dancing so popular and loved? There are several reasons – they bring people together; they depict the unique cultures of different regions & popularise stories from epics and religious books; they demonstrate joy at the bountiful agricultural produce; they cover the geography and the landscape of various regions. For example one of the North Eastern Indian states (called the seven-sisters) Sikkim is geographically an extension of the Himalayas and has snow covered mountains and animals that can survive in the cold weather. So one of the dance forms shows people clothed such that they look like snow leopards that dance and jump around and make appropriate sounds.

Another element is depiction of violence and controlling it by dance. There is violence in all of us – sometimes it is muted and sometimes it comes out in the open. Some dance forms especially of Nagaland (again one of the north eastern sisters) depict dancers carrying spears and sticks and making war like sounds to terrorise an enemy.

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The dance is riveting and it is a means of subsuming the violence that we occasionally feel for some unspecified opponent.

Similarly one dance genre of South Africa has about ten dancers dancing in a war-like menacing manner with the aim of frightening away their opponents. Who these opponents are is not clear, but the tenor and objective of the dance is clear enough — to frighten and disband the enemy. Another dance form of this country has dancers hunting animals for food and after a successful chase dancers dance and sing joyfully and merrily. South Africa has another dance form which is traditional. With drummers drumming loudly, dancers carrying some twigs and grass in their hands and showering each other as well as some of the audience with these twigs. For what purpose? To heal people of disease.

There is a major difference between the Indian genre of dancing and that of South Africa. While the latter genre is loud and vibrant the former is more gentle and the music more melodious. However one form of dancing — the Sikh dance or Bhangra as it is called, is similar to the South African genre in terms of dynamic movements and loudness. Bhangra symbolises gratefulness and happiness — gratefulness at the abundant farm yield. Again Bhangra is now performed all over the world especially in England, USA and Canada where there are a large number of Sikhs.

Another north Indian dance — Kathak is gentle and nuanced. Here dancers express various emotions of love, sadness and hope through facial gestures and body movements. The gestures include eye and neck movements that give vent to the different emotions of the dancer. Normally this genre is based on some popular story such as that of Lord Krishna and his many female admirers called Gopis dressed in their finery. The dancer who plays the role of Krishna is often a female dancer clothed in a male dress and playing melodious music on the flute. Alternatively, the story of Ramayana is also a rich source of dance forms.

One South Indian form — popularly called Bharat Natyam is an ancient, rich and gentle form of dance. It originated in the temples of the (South Indian) state of Tamil Nadu and is a form of natya yoga (yoga of dance) that reveals various emotions such as love, longing and spirituality through bodily and eye movements of the dancers. As the name suggests it is like a dancer doing yoga. We can see many figurines called Apsaras doing Bharat Natyam adorning temples in India. Not only is Bharat Natyam common in many parts of India, it has become popular in countries such as Malaysia or Thailand where there is a sizable Indian diaspora.

Even the famous Angkor Wat temple of Cambodia which was earlier a Hindu temple but has now been converted into a Buddhist temple has Apsaras dancing in various poses on its walls and pillars.

Like the infinite variety of people and their creativity, the dance forms also take on innumerable styles and forms that are pleasing, joyful and bring the dancers and the audience together in amity and friendship.
Those IPRA members and friends who were present at the 25th IPRA Conference in Istanbul in August 2014 celebrated the 50th anniversary of our organization listening to the sole surviving co-founder of IPRA, Johan Galtung (see separate article). He founded the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) in Oslo (1959) and launched the Journal of Peace Research (1964). Galtung has played an instrumental role in internationalizing the emerging peace research programme thus enabling an intensive scientific exchange among scholars and activists across the East-West divide of the Cold War. These founders shared a set of human values and scientific goals. In the social sciences - and also in peace research - the memory of the first and second generation of its intellectual founders is often short-lived and many may not be known to students and nor be considered as relevant any more for junior faculty.

In 2003, the School for Conflict Analysis & Resolution (S-CAR) of George Mason University (USA) launched a project on “parents of the field”; at: <http://scar.gmu.edu/parents> “to record visually the recollections and views of some of the individual scholars and practitioners who initiated the field of conflict analysis and peace research in the 1950s and 1960s”.

As a long-standing IPRA participant (since 1977) and as the founding editor of the a new book series of Springer Briefs on Pioneers in Science and Practice I have included in this series many pioneers of our field with brief volumes with the goal to honour their life-long scientific achievements and to make their key texts easily available in printed and electronic form globally to peace scholars of any age.

In many universities that subscribe to the publishers relevant book package – at least in the North - all readers have free access to the electronic version of these books through their university libraries. This makes these books ideal for free course adoption to the next generation of students and scholars of peace studies globally. The readers of those universities may also obtain all volumes as MyCopy at a set price of 25$/€.

On each scholar or practitioner in this series I have prepared a website that can be found easily with a click while reading the Ebook. (See at: <http://www.afes-press-books.de/html/SpringerBriefs_PSP.htm>). On this free website are the major publications of each pioneer and links to interviews, podcasts, lectures that are available on the internet, including to scholars posted by the S-CAR’s project on the parents of our field. Thus, the reader of basic texts by the founding mothers and fathers of peace research can often listen to this pioneer with just two clicks.

This website of Peace Research and European Security Studies (AFES-PRESS) links also to the publishers’ website, at: http://www.springer.com/series/10970, where the books may be read online on Springer Link or be purchased.

So far the following peace scholars have been published with the following volumes:


Betty A. Reardon; Dale Snavwaert (Eds.): Betty A. Reardon: A Pioneer in Education for Peace and Human Rights (2014).

Betty A. Reardon; Dale Snavwaert: Key Texts in Gender and Peace (2014).


--> (Cont ... on page 15)
The following books are in print or preparation and are scheduled for publication in early 2016:


Naresh Dadhich (Ed.): Mahatma Gandhi; Pioneer of Non-violent Action (2015).


Russell Boulding (Ed.): Elise Boulding: Key Texts on Feminism and the Family (2016).

Russell Boulding (Ed.): Elise Boulding: Selections from her Diaries and Correspondence (2016).

Besides peace scholars, the focus is on innovative and pioneering thinkers globally of any country and discipline that have had a lasting national, regional and global impact also on innovative knowledge and on achieving peace and justice, including Rodolfo Stavenhagen and Lourdes Arizpe (Mexico), Samir Amin (Egypt/France/Senegal), Milton Santos (Brazil) and Nobel Laureates Paul J. Crutzen (1995) and Peace Laureate Jane Addams (1931). While detailed suggestions of pioneers are welcome and considered, self-applications will not be accepted.

Besides Johan Galtung (see separate article) who celebrated his 85th birthday in October 2015, the following other pioneers in the above series celebrated major birthdays during 2015:

Prof. Morton Deutsch (Columbia University, peace psychology) turned 95 in February;

Prof. Betty Reardon (Columbia University, peace education) became 86 in June;

Prof. Arthur H. Westing (SIPRI, PRIO, forester and ecologist) celebrated his 87th birthday in July;

Prof. Dieter Senghaas (University of Bremen, peace and development research) turned 75;

Prof. Nils-Petter Gleditsch (PRIO, Trondheim University) celebrated his 73rd birthday and the 70th anniversary of entering Norway in May 1945 after the end of World War II.

Prof. John W. Burton (Australia), a distinguished diplomat and peace scholar and co-founder of IPRA and signatory of the UN Charter in June 1945 in San Francisco would have turned 100 years in March 2015, and our former Secretary General, Prof. Elise Boulding would have become 95 years in July and her predecessor, Prof. Chad Alger passed away just before his 90th birthday in October 2014.

Two prospective authors in this series turned 70, Luc Reyuchler (Leuven, Belgium) and Peter Wallensteen. These and many other “parents in our field” who celebrated major birthdays during this past year or have passed away deserve our respect and need to be remembered by us who owe much to their inspiration and enlightenment.
African Conflict & Peacebuilding Review

African Conflict and Peace-building Review (ACPR) is an interdisciplinary forum for creative and rigorous studies of conflict and peace in Africa, and for discussions among scholars, practitioners, and public intellectuals in Africa, the United States, and other parts of the world.

ACPR provides a wide range of theoretical, methodological, and empirical perspectives on the causes of conflicts and peace processes including, among others, cultural practices relating to conflict resolution and peacebuilding, legal and political preventative measures, and the intersection of international, regional, and local interests and conceptions with conflict and peace.

Edited by Abu Bakarr Bah, Tricia Redeker Hepner, and Niklas Hultin
- A holistic view of peace and conflict.
- Includes African-based scholars; read about Africa through the lens of those who live and work there.
- Engages in critical study of the causes of conflicts and the elements of culture that promote or hinder peace.
- Includes articles, briefings, book and film reviews, photo essays, and audio.

As part of collaboration with the International Peace Research Association, ACPR is to actively participate in the IPRA 2016 conference to be held in Freetown, Sierra Leone from November 27 to December 1, 2016. A good news for IPRA members is that ACPR has agreed to provide 20% discount for the participants of the conference.

Media and Communication

Media and Communication is an international open access journal consists of renowned scholars in the field of media and communication, since its launch in 2013 has published eight issues in its four volumes focusing on various topics in media and communication.

The journal’s latest issue has just been published (Vol 4, No 1, 2016) with the theme “Peacebuilding in the Age of New Media”. This issue has a number of very timely articles, which are extremely important for those working in media, communication, peace and conflict. The articles provide insights into the emerging alternative media models as well as structural and functional transformation of media forms facilitated by ever improving technologies, to contribute to peace, human rights, democratisation and social activism.

The topics of the articles are listed below:
- Elicitive Conflict Transformation and New Media: In Search for a Common Ground (By Wolfgang Suetzl)
- “Likes” for Peace: Can Facebook Promote Dialogue in the Israeli–Palestinian Conflict? (By Yifat Mor, Yiftach Ron and Ifat Maoz)
- Fields and Facebook: Ta’ayush’s Grassroots Activism and Archiving the Peace that Will Have Come in Israel/Palestine (By Jon Simons)
- Internet Censorship Circumvention Tools: Escaping the Control of the Syrian Regime (By Walid Al-Saqaf)
- EU Armed Forces’ Use of Social Media in Areas of Deployment (By Maria Hellman, Eva-Karin Olsson and Charlotte Wagnsson)
- Building Peace through Journalism in the Social/Alternate Media (By Rukhsana Aslam)
- Awareness towards Peace Journalism among Foreign Correspondents in Africa (BY Ylva Rodny-Gumede)

Journals and Publications
Climate Insecurity & Conflict in South Asia

Authors: Bishnu Raj Upreti, Christopher Butler, Kiran Maharjan.

Climate change has emerged as a central and undeniable issue for nations as its effects are causing environmental damage that triggers enormous human insecurity and conflict around the world. South Asia in particular has been identified as one of the more high risk regions of the world when it comes to climate change and its impacts. Though some scholars and policy makers contend there is no concrete evidence of a correlation between climate change and conflict, we compile compelling stories that connect climate change effects with human insecurity and conflict in South Asia.

Using five years of research, looking at media and scientific reports from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, we document ample evidence that climate stress has become a powerful catalyst for social tension and insecurity. Erratic climate events (e.g., 2010 floods in Pakistan and 2012 flood in North India and Nepal) as a result of climate variability have impacted millions of livelihoods throughout South Asia and rendered billions of dollars in damage on homes and national infrastructure.

Journals and Publications

Making Women Count for Peace: Gender, Empowerment and Conflict in Nepal (Forthcoming Journal Article)

Author(s): Kolas, A. Upreti, BR and Shrestha G.

Publisher: Journal of Women, Politics and Policy.

This article examines the women’s struggle for political participation, armed conflict and constitution making process.

The article argues that in the past few decades the political participation of women and empowerment in rapidly increasing in Nepal.

List of other Books Published in 2015


Tracing the footsteps of their forebears, a group of about 40 people walked down the Waitaki Valley over five days this week from Omarama to the mouth of the Waitaki River.

The walk, or te heke, was an act of passive resistance organised by secretary for the Waitaha Trust and lecturer at the University of Otago Kelli Te Maiharoa. This year’s march followed on from a walk up the valley that Ms Te Maiharoa also helped to initiate in December 2012.

The walks honoured the Waitaha prophet Te Maiharoa, who was evicted from his ancestral homelands and had his village at Omarama destroyed by the constabulary in the winter of 1879, she said.

A pacifist, Te Maiharoa walked to set up a new village, or kaik, at the mouth of the Waitaki River. The walkers, with a support crew of about 10, met on Sunday afternoon on the banks of the Ahuriri River, where Te Maiharoa spent time as a small child with his mother and father and where family members were buried. Making stops at Otematata, Kurow and Duntroon on the way, the group reached the intersection of McPherson Rd and State Highway 1 just before 3pm on Thursday.

Te Maiharoa’s journey began two years before he was evicted from Omarama. He left Temuka, retreating to the mountains to protect his people and culture from the settlers who were increasingly encroaching on his land, Ms Te Maiharoa said.

His original intent was to go to Wanaka, where he hoped his people could live free from the influence of the settlers, but he stopped in Omarama.

He died in 1886 and was buried at the Waitaha cemetery - now surrounded by farmland - near the end of Kaik Rd, near the mouth of the Waitaki River. Those who took part in te heke reconvened at the cemetery on Thursday afternoon for a ceremony officiated by Ratana minister Jim Seymour, of Dunsandel.

Te Maiharoa was evicted from Omarama after complaints Maori dogs were attacking sheep. He had been given until December 1879 to leave Omarama, but was warned a police party was building up in Oamaru.

"Te Maiharoa’s people understood they had another couple of months. This was like a surprise attack by the government,” Ms Te Maiharoa said.

Te Maiharoa’s people chose to leave in peace but that did not stop the government from burning the village to the ground, Ms Te Maiharoa said.

"The militia, they razed everything. They used a scorched earth policy; which is destroy crops, animals, houses ...”

The march was also to honour Ms Te Maiharoa’s "auntie", Waitaha Trust chairwoman Anne Te Maiharoa-Dodds, who 12 years ago began planting at the cemetery, Ms Te Maiharoa said. Ms Te Maiharoa used the words "aroha” (love) and "manaaki” (care and hospitality) to describe what she called "such a successful event”.

"Those of us who did the walk, we were walking not for just our ancestors, but for the whanau that couldn’t walk all that way - it was carrying that fire,” she said.

"It was just profound, uplifting - I guess you could say our spirits were uplifted - and people want to do it again. "We had a brilliant time; it was life-changing for lots of people.”

Te Heke 2016’s main organisers were Ramonda and Greta Te Maiharoa.

This article was originally published in Otago Daily Times on 5 March 2016. □
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