

Inter-Institute Peace and Conflict Cluster (IPAC)

2012 Seminar Series

The Inter-Institute Peace and Conflict Cluster (IPAC) is an initiative to bring together researchers at the University of Ulster working on peace and conflict related research.

IPAC partners include:

- INCORE - International Conflict Research Institute
- AHRI - Arts and Humanities Research Institute
- IRISS - Institute for Research in Social Sciences
- Peace and Conflict Cluster - Psychology Research Institute
- Social Science and Sport Group - Sports and Exercise Science Research Institute
- TJI - Transitional Justice Institute

IPAC is hosting its inaugural seminar series in 2012, which will be **open to both internal and external audiences**.

The theme is ***Peacebuilding Approaches After Violent Conflict***.

Internationally, post-accord peacebuilding has gained increasing prominence within the past two decades. Consequently, academic, policy and practice debates on the role of peacebuilding and its application in societies emerging from violent conflict have grown in depth and sophistication. It is widely acknowledged that a complex web of strategies and approaches are required to build, and crucially, to maintain peace following violent conflict. Northern Ireland is characterized by multi-faceted processes of peacebuilding, from the establishment of new powersharing governance structures to the development of innovative approaches to cross-community relationship building. Northern Ireland has much to learn from the experience of other conflict regions, but also has much to contribute to the field, both in theory as well as in application.

Academics from the University of Ulster have been at the forefront of the development, analysis and evaluation of different approaches to peacebuilding. This seminar series aims to present, consider and appraise a range of approaches to peacebuilding from an inter-disciplinary perspective, and foster discussion between academics, policy makers, practitioners and research students alike.

IPAC 2012 Seminar Series Theme: Peacebuilding Approaches After Violent Conflict

Seminars will run on Weds from 12:15pm to 13:45pm at the University of Ulster

A light lunch will be served

Seminars will run 8 February; 7 March; 4 April; 2 May; 16 May 2012; 6 June; 27 June

Details Below

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2012 Seminar Series

Theme: Peacebuilding Approaches After Violent Conflict

Date	Title and Presenter	Venue
8 February 2012	"Transforming Belfast's Peace Walls: Understanding the Dynamics of an Evolving Public Policy Process" by Dr Jonny Byrne (IRISS)	16G29 Jordanstown Campus
7 March 2012	"Courses of Conflict: Transmission of War and Peacebuilding in Sri Lanka" by Ariel Sanchez Meertens (INCORE)	MA007 Magee Campus
4 April 2012	"Social Psychological Insights into ending Segregation" by Professor Ed Cairns (Psychology Research Institute)	J604 Coleraine Campus
2 May 2012	"Confidence, Normality and Community: A Commentary on Policing in Northern Ireland" by Dr John Topping (IRISS)	16G29 Jordanstown Campus
16 May 2012	"Politically-motivated Ex-prisoners in Northern Ireland" by Professor Bill Rolston (TJI)	16G29 Jordanstown Campus
6 June 2012	"A Discussion of the Theoretical and Contextual Issues for using Sport as part of Peace III" by Dr Paul Kitchen (Social Science and Sport Group)	16G29 Jordanstown Campus
27 June 2012	Seminar by Arts and Humanities Research Institute, talk details to be confirmed.	MI022 Magee Campus

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A light lunch will be served

RSVP essential. Email: S.Higgenbotham@ulster.ac.uk / INCORE (028 71675500)

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2012 Seminar Series

Presentation Summaries

“Transforming Belfast’s Peace Walls: Understanding the Dynamics of an Evolving Public Policy Process” by Dr Jonny Byrne (Member of Institute for Research in Social Sciences, IRISS)

Seminar: 8 February 2012, 16G29, Jordanstown Campus, University of Ulster, 12:15pm

Since the first paramilitary ceasefires in 1994 the peace and political processes have addressed several politically sensitive issues such as policing, paramilitary decommissioning, and power sharing. However, one issue that has been absent from both processes is that of the peace walls. First constructed in 1969 in response to sectarian violence and disorder, at least forty-two peace walls now dominate the landscape of working class Loyalist and Republican communities in Belfast. There is no evidence to suggest that these physical barriers will simply disappear and so public policy decisions will, at some point, have to be taken in relation to the future of these walls. This presentation identifies the key stakeholders in the new discourse that surrounds peace walls, and provides an exploration of the factors and influences, which may underpin the development of a policy process on the peace walls. The seminar is based on Lecturer in the School of Criminology, Politics and Social Policy, Dr Jonny Byrne’s three year PhD completed in September 2011.

"Courses of Conflict: Transmission of War and Peacebuilding in Sri Lanka" by Ariel Sanchez Meertens (Marie Curie Research Fellow at INCORE)

Seminar: 7 March 2012, A007, Magee Campus, University of Ulster, 12:15pm

Ariel Sanchez Meertens, Marie Curie Research Fellow at INCORE, will address the processes through which Sri Lanka's war-history has been taught and learnt, empirically linking the multiple sites of knowledge transfer from the institutional spaces (policy, textbooks) to the localised or defiant spheres of transmission (specific schools, armed movements). The seminar will argue that there is a need for the conflict's history to be addressed within Sri Lanka's institutional settings and official historical narratives as a peacebuilding exercise; but also that peacebuilding efforts in Sri Lanka and elsewhere need to look at how conflict has been transmitted through the decades of war for any programme to have a genuine transformative impact.

**"Social Psychological Insights into ending Segregation" by Professor Ed Cairns
(Member of the Peace and Conflict Group, Psychology Research Institute)**

Seminar: 4 April 2012, J604, Coleraine Campus, University of Ulster, 12:15pm

Contact as a method of bringing divided communities together has a long history both locally and internationally. Despite this it has not been without its critics. This seminar by Ed Cairns Professor of Psychology at the University of Ulster will outline recent research carried out by members of the Peace and Conflict Group of the School of Psychology, University of Ulster, which has overcome these criticisms, providing clear evidence for the impact of intergroup contact on, not just attitudes, but intergroup behaviour.

**"Politically-motivated Ex-prisoners in Northern Ireland" by Professor Bill Rolston
(Director of the Transitional Justice Institute)**

Seminar: 16 May 2012, 16G29, Jordanstown Campus, University of Ulster, 12:15pm

The seminar, by Professor Bill Rolston, Director of the Transitional Justice Institute, will summarise a major literature review recently completed for OFMDFM on the issue of politically motivated ex-prisoners in Northern Ireland. In particular, it will lay out what is known from research on the following topics in relation to politically motivated ex-prisoners: employment, social inclusion, health inequalities, barriers to services, and contribution to conflict transformation. The evidence is that ex-prisoners face specific and often major difficulties post-prison in relation to employment and pensions, physical and mental health and access to a range of public and private services - from criminal compensation to house insurance. At the same time, their contribution to conflict transformation in local areas is well documented. Finally, the talk will list some of the gaps in knowledge about this constituency which could be filled by future research.

**"Confidence, Normality and Community: A Commentary on Policing the Policing
in Northern Ireland" by Dr John Topping (Member of Institute for Research in
Social Sciences, IRISS)**

Seminar: 2 May 2012, 16G29, Jordanstown Campus, University of Ulster, 12:15pm

Community confidence and 'normality surrounding policing (whatever that actually is), may be observed as a function of a community-centric *system* of policing which simultaneously reduces what is popularly understood by crime, while tailoring services to local demand, need and expectation. However, by virtue of the fluid dynamics, which underpins this system in Northern Ireland, policing cannot be divorced from the wider context in which it exists. And no less for the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), the notion of delivering a community-oriented service cannot accurately be viewed without reference to the environment in which policing is delivered. As part of the 'new', post-Patten policing narrative in the country, this paper argues that the policing dialectic

has become too focused upon (mainly) political aspects of policing delivery, engendered through the various peace negotiations since 1998. Indeed, it is contended that we have lost sight of the empirical reality influencing and impacting upon the remainder of the policing system beyond the positive politics of change – and which laterally feeds current, assumed notions of ‘normal’, community policing. Thus, in terms of the parameters to the reality of this policing landscape in Northern Ireland; and beyond broad-brush contentions of confidence emanating from PSNI and the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB), this paper by Dr John Topping, Lecturer in the School of Criminology, Politics and Social Policy, will attempt to define the reality of the policing landscape while arguing that its inextricable link to community confidence is something yet to fully grasped by the policing institutions.

“A Discussion of the Theoretical and Contextual Issues for using Sport as part of Peace III” by Dr Paul Kitchen (Member of the Social Science and Sport Group, Sports and Exercise Science Research Institute)

Seminar: 6 June 2012, 16G29, Jordanstown Campus, University of Ulster, 12:15pm

Sport has been viewed in many developed countries as a panacea for a range of social problems; such as crime, economic disadvantage, poor health, low education attainment and conflict. This has led to considerable public and private investment in initiatives that use sport to address these issues. However, funders, policy makers and academics are increasingly asking questions about some of the claims made about the wider role of sport in society. This has highlighted considerable difficulties in measuring the effectiveness programmes that use sport to address social issues (Coalter, 2007). Nonetheless, delivery organizations and their staff continue to evangelize about the wider social role of sport and root their programmes in ambiguous objectives that make evaluation difficult (Coalter, 2010). This presentation draws on existing ‘critical’ research to outline the somewhat muddled context for local Peace III initiatives set for 2012 and 2013. Following this Dr Paul Kitchen, Lecturer in Sports Management, will outline a proposed reflexive ethnographic, active-member approach (Adler & Adler, 1987; Bourdieu & Wacquant, 1992) to the study of two such programmes aimed at young people. Attention will focus on the lack of researcher involvement in the objective-setting process as an initial barrier for a thorough examination. From this it is hoped that we can gain a greater understanding of the conditions by which evaluators find themselves embedded within when measuring programme effectiveness.

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