



Departamento de Ciencia Política
Facultad de Ciencias Sociales
Universidad de los Andes

RESEARCHING VIOLENT SOCIETIES – COLOMBIAN SEMINARS

ETHICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES IN RESEARCHING VIOLENT SOCIETIES

University of the Andes, Bogotá, Colombia, 4 February 2003

ACADEMIC SEMINAR

The organizers would like to gratefully acknowledge financial support for this event from the United Nations University and the Ford Foundation.

9:00 Welcome and Introductions

Ann Mason, *Director of the Political Science Department, University of los Andes*
Gillian Robinson, *Senior Lecturer in the School of Policy Studies at the University of Ulster, Director of ARK (The Northern Ireland Social and Political Archive), and INCORE Associate*

9:30 Session 1

The Role and Function of Research in Divided Societies

Chair: **Ann Mason**

Marie Smyth, *Chief executive of the Belfast-based Institute for Conflict Research, Northern Ireland, Senior Fellow at the United States Institute of Peace, and on the faculty of the University of Ulster*
The Northern Ireland Experience

Gillian Robinson

The African Experience

Francisco Leal Buitrago, *Political Science Department, University of los Andes*

The Colombian Experience

Discussion and Questions

11:00 Break

11:15 Session 2

Researcher Identities and Position: Insider, Outsider, or Participant

Chair: **Carlo Nasi**, *Director of the Graduate Program in Theory and Experiences on Armed Conflict Resolution, Political Science Department, University of los Andes*

Gillian Robinson

Overview of Key Issues Raised in Earlier Workshops

Marie Smyth

Researching Perpetrators

Arturo Alape, *Writer and historian*

Researching the guerrillas

Mauricio Romero, *Associate researcher, IEPRI, Universidad Nacional de Colombia*

Researching the Paramilitaries

Maria Victoria Uribe, *Director of the Colombian Institute for Anthropology and History*

Researching Criminals

Discussion and Questions

1:00 Lunch

2:00 Session 3

Action Research and Dissemination: Making a difference

Chair: **Ann Mason**

Marie Smyth

The use of participative action research in violently divided research fields

Gillian Robinson

Dissemination: One size fits all?

Fernán González, *Researcher, Centro de Investigación y Educación Popular, CINEP-Colombia*

Research as an instrument of depolarizing armed conflict

Mauricio García-Durán, *Researcher, Centro de Investigaciones y Educación Popular, CINEP-Colombia*

Social research as a tool for defining and implementing peace strategies

Discussion and Questions

3:30 Break

3:45 Session 4

Workshop on Ethics in Researching Violently Divided Societies

Chair: **Marie Smyth**

Open Discussion

5:00 Closing plenary: Where do we go from here?

6:00 Dinner at *Il Pomodoro*, Usaquén