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DPCR Alumni Newsletter

May 2020, Issue 5

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Words from the Chair

Dear Alumni,

This year I am writing these words from my home in Stockholm, which is now also my office. Professional and personal life has changed dramatically compared to just a few months ago. As we are all far too aware, this year has taken a rather drastic turn. Each one of us is affected by COVID-19 differently. Yet it affects each of us nonetheless, no matter where we are in the world.

I hope that you are all safe and well, and still managing to maintain social contact with your loved ones and one another despite the physical distancing. We are all spread out across the globe, facing different challenges. Through this newsletter, social media and other online resources we do our best to keep in touch, keep you posted, and facilitate your contact with other alumni. Keeping in touch seems particularly important in these times. It serves as a reminder of the importance of staying connected, and reaching out to others.

While we have had to cancel the Alumni Talks for the spring, and drop any plans of other in-person events, we have collected some great content for the newsletter for you to read. We have two interesting interviews with alumni exploring career paths in the field and in policy, and one interview that sheds light on one of the new exciting research projects at the department, spearheaded by Corinne Bara. As usual, we have also collected class notes, with updates from alumni around the world on where they are and what they are up to.



This year, we continued with our regular activities: recruiting new members to the alumni association, maintaining contact with extant members, and administering the facebook and linkedin groups. We also had the pleasure to co-host one larger event prior to the COVID-19 outbreak. Our Alumni mingle, co-hosted with the alumni association from the department of government, in February was a success. Many alumni came and caught up with former classmates, and met new professional contacts, filling up the bar area of Teaterbaren in Stockholm. Thanks to those who came for making it such an enjoyable evening!

Looking forward, we are developing an outline for a mentorship program linking current students with former students. Thanks to those of you who have expressed interest in participating! We will send out more information about this shortly. Please feel free to contact us if you have not yet signed up and are interested in participating.

Take care, stay well and keep in touch,

Gudlaug (Gulla) Olafsdottir

About the DPCR Alumni Association

The DPCR Alumni Association aims to strengthen the link between former and current students and staff, professionally and socially. It also seeks to deepen the connection between alumni and the Department. In doing so, we arrange lectures, social gatherings and other events open to all members. If you have ideas for future activities, please let us know!

Sign-up

Join the Association by signing up for free in the UU Alumni Network. You can access the network via www.pcr.uu.se/alumni or contact us at dpcr@alumni.uu.se.

Social media

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/dpcr.alumni/>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12073489/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/dpcr.alumni/>

Annual General Meeting 2020

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting on 9 June, 17.15. This year, the meeting will be held via Zoom (you can join without having an account).

For more information, including the agenda for the meeting and Zoom details, please visit:

<https://pcr.uu.se/alumni/dpcr-alumni-general-meeting-2020/>

After the meeting, you are invited to stay and mingle (via Zoom) with other alumni and the newly elected board. This is an excellent opportunity to talk to the board and share your ideas and expectations on the association.

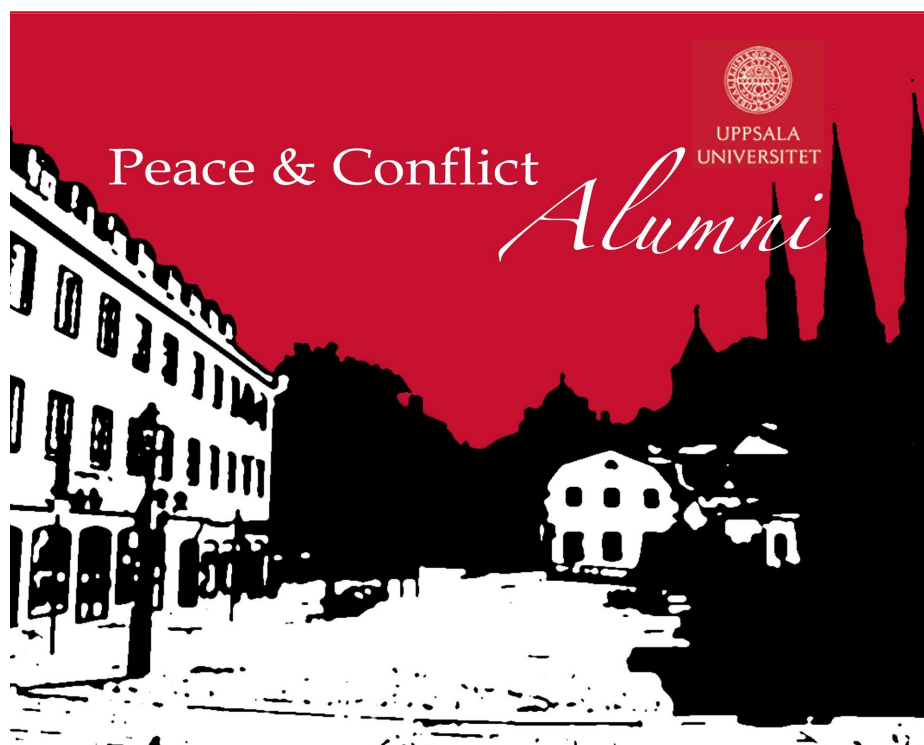
Are you interested in running for a position within the board? Please let us know or if you have any questions, we would be happy to answer them via dpcr@alumni.uu.se.

Most welcome!

The DPCR Alumni Association Board

Alumni Talks 2020 postponed

Due to the current circumstances, we unfortunately had to postpone the Alumni Talks for 2020. In the meantime, why not have a look at previous Alumni Talks? Several of them have been filmed and can be viewed via: <https://pcr.uu.se/alumni/alumni-talks/>.



Jannie Lilja: Do we really want to separate action from evidence?

Meet Dr. Jannie Lilja, Senior Fragility-Conflict Specialist for the World Bank and DPCR Alumni from 2010. Since completing her doctorate at the department, Jannie has continued to publish academic research whilst pursuing a career in policy-making. Before taking up her current role in 2017, Jannie worked for the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and as a UN Human Rights Council delegate.

In this exclusive interview, Dr. Jannie Lilja shares what it is like to bridge the academia-policy nexus.



Photo: World Bank

Through the rectangular screen frame, Jannie sits at a tidy desk with a smart black jacket and computer keyboard partially in view. It is nothing less than what you would expect from a Senior Fragility-Conflict Specialist at the World Bank. However, this experienced and accomplished policy expert was once an unknown, yet inquisitive, seventeen-year-old, who travelled around Europe for a film project to investigate the evolution of cooperation across Europe in 1996. Arriving in Bosnia just one year after armed conflict had ended, Jannie recounts the life-changing experience; “Going there and talking to people... seeing the destruction... as a Swedish teenager, I was in complete shock”. The experience left her posing existential questions about the causes of armed violence and, critically, how to tackle it. Yet, despite following the work of the DPCR and Peter Wallensteen, Jannie built her foundation by studying a Master in Economics at the Stockholm School of Economics and one in Development at the London School of Economics before she eventually joined the DPCR as a doctoral candidate.

Today, Jannie’s job is entrenched in the challenging world of policymaking for the World Bank but she still draws on the skills she learnt at the DPCR. “Ultimately, it boils down to causation and correlation”, she explains succinctly. The evidence-based understanding that comes from a peace and conflict background is important because “everyone has a hunch”. Besides the methodological and conceptual knowledge that Jannie gained, she highlights the particular value of what she learnt

during her DPCR field work. “You can read all the different theories but when you are on the ground, you see what matters”. It is for this reason that she strongly advocates getting field level experience whenever possible. This is not to say that reading about theories has no value. On the contrary, being entrenched in the academic literatures on negotiation and war mobilization as part of her doctoral research into rebel capacity in civil war and peace processes proved useful when Jannie became the Swedish and EU negotiator at the UN Human Rights Council. Her academic grounding has helped Jannie both strategically and tactically in her work as a diplomat. “I learned a lot from theory about sequencing, and targeting as part of a broader network of actors collectively pulling in the same directions”.

Alongside her career in the policy world, Jannie also maintains one foot in academia and continues to publish academic articles by using the little spare time that she has. “It’s a false dichotomy”, she declares on the distinction often drawn between academia and policy. “Do we really want those that act, to not think?”. Though she acknowledges that the separation is much starker in Sweden than in the US, where she now lives, to Jannie, “both academics and policymakers face the same reality, but approach it from different perspectives”. Policymakers are more action-orientated and academics are more evidence-orientated, with each having very different timelines. This could be a challenge but it is something that many of Jannie’s colleagues at the World Bank understand as many also have PhDs. “In moving between the policy and academic worlds, I see connections that others may not see”. There are also concrete benefits to having a strong academic background. For example, when the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were being negotiated, being skilled in research helped Jannie champion her fervent belief in the need to include an SDG on peace and freedom from violence. “There was a lot of resistance”, she tells me, “people didn’t want to talk about conflict at all”. So Jannie continuously fed in research evidence into the negotiation process. When people still said it was impossible, she went ahead and produced the first written draft of what a new sustainable goal on peace could look like, including concrete proposals for measurements. The next challenge was then to build active support for the goal among a broad coalition of countries, while bringing down the resistance from countries that could block it. She shows what it felt like when SDG 16 on “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions” was finally confirmed by breaking into a big grin and punching a clenched fist into the air.

What Jannie enjoys most about working in policy is the sense of influence she gets from working directly on tasks that can affect a lot of people’s lives. Yet she enjoys the time and freedom to be creative that comes with academic work, as well as the interaction with students who bring their drive and different perspectives. “It feels meaningful and gives me a lot of energy”, she proclaims. Working at the operational level through supporting the implementation of a

“both academics and policymakers face the same reality, but approach it from different perspectives”

*“Be open, curious and...
don’t be afraid to ask ques-
tions”*

development project on the ground is also something that Jannie particularly appreciates.

When I ask Jannie for advice on how to pursue a similar dichotomy-breaking path, she takes a moment to ponder first. “Be open, curious and...don’t be afraid to ask questions”. Jannie advises keeping a broad profile and again, encourages getting field exposure especially when young and without a family. “Reality is the greatest inspiration”. However, this doesn’t necessarily mean travelling far from home. “The distinction between what is a domestic and external issue is becoming fluid”. As people from conflict-affected communities are moving globally, lessons that have been learnt from conflict-affected contexts can also be applied in other contexts. Therefore, Jannie encourages others not to look at the field as far away but to the opportunities that are around, such as engaging with integration and social cohesion in Sweden.

Lastly, Jannie reflects on her most memorable experiences at the DPCR. The extraordinary collegiality of the department and its doctoral celebrations are contrasted with the night that Jannie spent in a rebel safehouse somewhere in the jungle of Aceh, Indonesia with only the company of a rebel leader and his armed men. “He was a university biology teacher by day and a rebel leader by night, so I did whatever was necessary to interview him”. It’s a timely reminder of the spectrum of the subject that unites all DPCR Alumni. “It was a great interview!”, Jannie exclaims, and I nod with understanding.

It was a great interview.

To find out more about the SDGs , including SDG 16 on “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions” that Jannie was involved in, see: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>

*To read Jannie’s latest academic work, see: “[The Role of the External in Local Peacebuilding: Enabling Action - Managing Risk](#)” (2018) *Global Governance* 24(3): 411-430 (with Kristine Höglund)*

Text and interview: Marcellina Priadi

Martine van Mil: A recent alumna's path to constitution-building in Myanmar

Alumna from the Master class of 2017, Martine is currently working for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) in Yangon, Myanmar. We had the opportunity to ask her a few questions about how she arrived where she is today and what role her education at the DPCR has played in her career post graduation.



Visiting a military compound overlooking Hakha, Chin State. Photo: Nyein Ei San

What inspired you to pursue a career in peace and conflict?

During my bachelor studies, I went on an exchange programme to the University of Calgary in Canada where I took courses on security studies. I particularly focused on Arctic governance and security, and indigenous rights. Then, I realized one of the key societal questions I feel truly passionate about is security. In particular, the social, economic, and political dynamics that can undermine human security and drive violent conflict. These complex challenges entail multiple forms of human insecurity, imposing hardships and undercutting prospects for peace, stability, and sustainable development. A people-centered approach, in my opinion, should always be at the heart of peace building activities. In that way these activities can be more effective in promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, addressing underlying causes of poverty and inequality, and bolstering the transition from military rule to sustainable democracy and development. Given my motivation to mitigate drivers to human insecurity, I decided to pursue a career in peace and conflict.

“A people-centered approach, in my opinion, should always be at the heart of peace building activities [...].”

What have you been up to since the master?

First, my partner and I moved to Nepal in hopes of finding a job there in peace and security or development. Better to look for a job in the place you want to work than from the Netherlands, we thought. Unfortunately in the many, many coffee meetings, people kept telling us it was not the right time to seek an entry level job, or an internship for that matter. Plan B was to go to Myanmar and since January 2018 I've been working for International IDEA in Yangon, Myanmar. International IDEA is an intergovernmental organization that supports sustainable democracy worldwide, specifically focusing on electoral support, political representation, and constitution building. Based in Yangon, I provide strategic support to the overall development, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of our constitution building programme.



Sharing Burmese and English knowledge resources with an MP in Mon State.
Photo: Nyein Ei San

“In Myanmar, as in many other conflict-affected countries, constitution building is inherently linked to the ongoing peace process.”

In Myanmar, as in many other conflict-affected countries, constitution building is inherently linked to the ongoing peace process. The issues discussed in the peace negotiations are largely constitutional in nature, including the division of powers between the Union and States/Regions, as well as the right to self-determination and resource sharing. The agreements reached in the peace process will be included in a Union Accord which is then to guide amendment to the military-drafted 2008 Constitution. Our programme provides demand-driven workshops, trainings, advisory support, knowledge resources, and written analyses on these and other constitutional issues with a view to ensuring a sustainable constitutional framework to Myanmar's development towards peace and democracy. We mostly work with the Union and

State/Regional Parliaments, the Joint Parliamentary Committee for Constitutional Amendment, the Constitutional Tribunal, the Union Supreme Court, the media, civil society, political parties, and peace process actors.

My work requires communication with a large range of stakeholders, from donors and diplomats to civil society and peace process actors. I am currently responsible for all results reporting and M&E, and support the organisation and facilitation of trainings and workshops, advisory services, and the development of knowledge materials. To give an example, one of my main projects involves various field studies in which I conduct in-depth interviews with MPs, political parties, peace process actors and CSOs to identify their positions on constitutional reform, peace and security, and federalism.

In what ways did your education at the DPCR help you to build your following career?

I think through my education at the DPCR I became more aware of different conflict dynamics in different contexts, and the roles various actors play therein. It also definitely helped to strengthen my research and writing skills. The whole master's experience overall has greatly contributed to my personal development. I have learned a lot from Prof. Erika Forsberg when I conducted some research for her, both in terms of how to conduct field research but also about gender issues in conflict-affected societies. I also learned a lot from my thesis supervisor, Dr. Chiara Ruffa, both on a personal and academic level. But also just studying together with my classmates, who often had a lot more work experience than me, was extremely useful to bounce off ideas, engage in critical thought, to explore which topics make us tick, and to reflect on possible career choices. I think I've carried all of those learnings over to my professional career. Two lectures have also quite directly shaped my career. The first is a guest lecture we had by Dr. Björn Holmberg (at the time working for Swedepiece). I always thought I'd pursue a PhD right after my master's and go into academia. But after his lecture, my interest shifted towards being a practitioner. Another particularly useful lecture for me was one we had by Prof. Karen Brounéus on how to conduct conflict-sensitive interviews. I still practice that today when I interview key political and peace process actors.

The internship that was part of the programme also played a big role. I interned for CARE international in northern Rakhine State in Myanmar. Northern Rakhine is a conflict-ridden area that has seen a mass exodus of Rohingya from late 2016 all throughout 2017 following violent crackdowns by the military on Rohingya insurgents. The conflict has ebbed and flowed for decades and goes back to Myanmar's independence in 1947. When I started my internship everything was calm but the effects of conflict and the consequent segregation and inequality were very visible, and the grievances strong. A few months in, the dynamics on

“[...] studying together with my classmates, who often had a lot more work experience than me, was extremely useful to bounce off ideas, engage in critical thought, to explore which topics make us tick, and to reflect on possible career choices.”

the ground started to shift and violent conflict escalated. Working in such a volatile environment and observing conflict escalation first hand definitely inspired me to dedicate my career to addressing key drivers of inequality and conflict, and amplified my interest in security issues.

Do you have any advice for current students or recent graduates that might be interested in pursuing a career similar to yours?

“Get a taste of what the implementation of activities looks like on the ground, what dynamics are at play, what are the sensitivities you work with on a day-to-day basis.”

First, allow yourself the time to figure out what kind of work you like to do and don't be afraid to shift if it turns out it doesn't suit you. In the end, we all want and can have a fulfilling job, so if you feel that your job isn't that, try to look for an alternative. Second, if you know for which organization you'd like to work, just get your foot in the door and then show what you're worth. I know many people, including myself, who got their jobs by doing internships or short-term consultancies before getting a one- or two-year contract. Third, go work in the field for a while. Get a taste of what the implementation of activities looks like on the ground, what dynamics are at play, what are the sensitivities you work with on a day-to-day basis. If you have that insight, your research, knowledge materials, policy advice, trainings, you name it, will be much more relevant than when you work at a head office where you might conduct a field mission for a few days/weeks every now and then.

Text and interview: Gudlaug (Gulla) Olafsdottir

Ceasefires and the Dynamics of Violence in War Zones

A research project on ceasefire agreements, a collaboration between project leader Corinne Bara at DPCR and ETH Zürich & Peace Research Institute in Oslo (PRIO).

Tell us about the project, what are its aims and focus areas.

The project studies the impact of ceasefires on violence in war zones. Surprisingly, there is very little research on ceasefires so far, though they are a crucial step on the path to peace. Because there has been no comprehensive data on ceasefires in civil wars, we do not even know what percentage of them holds for more than a few days.



Photo: Uppsala University

The project team consists of myself and my project partner, Govinda Clayton at ETH Zürich. We are funded by the Swedish Research Council. Our project is part of a bigger effort currently underway to push our knowledge on ceasefires forward. ETH Zürich in Switzerland and PRIO in Norway have, in a massive data collection effort, gathered systematic data on ceasefires in civil wars between 1989 and 2018, and we are now all starting to make use of that data.

Govinda and myself are not primarily interested in whether ceasefires stop violence between the signatories. We study what happens to other forms of violence in war zones in the wake of a ceasefire. Case studies show that ceasefires change the dynamics of violence – while some forms of violence stop, others escalate. An example is Colombia: Since the ceasefire with the FARC, rival armed actors are battling to take over the territory and illicit business activities the FARC rebels vacated. One could say that we look at the ceasefire's side effects. When most eyes are on whether a ceasefire holds, we are interested in what happens at other fronts – especially if it holds.

What have you learnt since the project started?

That studying the side effects and unintended consequences of ceasefires is really hard... The last years have seen a massive effort by social scientists to advance methods and statistical models to assess the effect of certain interventions or policies on their intended outcome. But when it comes to studying unintended outcomes, we currently lack the tools. To study side effects, we need to take into account whether an intervention worked at all (in terms of its primary goal), and that makes things more complex. To give an example: If we see that targeting of civilians increases after ceasefires, it would be hard to say this is an unintended consequence of ceasefires (in the sense of: a change in military tactic) if the parties did not stick to the ceasefire to begin with.

What are you currently working on as a team?

We study whether ceasefires risk escalating violence between parties in the same country that have not signed the agreement. There are a couple of cases in which this happened. One of them is Syria in 2016, when a ceasefire was used to fight ISIS and the Al-Nusra Front, which were not invited to join the agreement. There are other cases like that, but the idea is that if a government has to fight multiple insurgent groups in a country, it may enter into a ceasefire with one or several groups in order to concentrate its military force on a more limited number of targets. Surprisingly, our preliminary results show the opposite: Ceasefires seem to have a de-escalatory effect even on those parties that did not sign them. Instead of unintended consequences we see unexpected benefits! We are now trying to make sense of that finding, but it shows how misleading it can be to draw general conclusions from a few prominent cases.

What do you hope to achieve by the end of 2021 when the project ends?

We hope to have much broader knowledge on what we can expect to see after ceasefires in terms of violence and deaths in conflict zones. We will study the impact of ceasefires on violence between different armed actors, whether violence shifts to new areas as a consequence of ceasefires, whether violence continues but shifts to less lethal forms, and other outcomes. We also hope to gain more knowledge on how this is all contingent on the type of ceasefire, i.e., how the ceasefires are built into the entire peace process or how ambitious and comprehensive the ceasefires are.

How do you think insights from the project can help prevent ceasefire violence?

We hope to alert those who push for or mediate ceasefires to potential unintended consequences so that steps can be taken to avoid or mitigate them. After all, even if certain forms of violence may escalate in the wake of ceasefires, it does not mean that ceasefires are a bad idea. It means that complementary measures should be taken to protect those at risk of this “new” or changed violence.

What are the benefits of your collaboration with scholars from several institutions? And do you see possibilities or need to collaborate with scholars from other disciplines?

One benefit is funding: Research on ceasefires would not have taken off in this ambitious manner if researchers in Sweden, Switzerland and Norway would not have pooled their resources and knowledge to work towards a common goal. Another is dissemination: All three main institutions – the DPCR, PRIO and ETH – have excellent networks with policymakers and practitioners. Together, we can reach those who need to hear about this research. In terms of a need to collaborate with scholars from other disciplines, this may be the primary way to overcome the methodological challenges outlined above. Unintended consequences and side effects are studied in multiple fields and disciplines, including medicine, criminology, and more. Unless we look beyond our discipline, we risk reinventing the wheel.

To read more about Corinne’s work, visit her [UU profile page](#).

Text and interview: Kristina Petrova

News in brief from DPCR

There is always a lot of things happening at the Department and below you can find some examples, including PhD defenses, blog posts, new research projects etc. You can find more news on <https://pcr.uu.se/about-us/news/>.

The Department congratulates three new doctors in peace research

On 24 January, Charlotte Grech-Madin successfully defended her dissertation [The Water Taboo. Restraining the Weaponisation of Water in International Conflict](#). Faculty opponent at the defense was Professor Aaron Wolf, College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences, Oregon State University. Professor Isak Svensson chaired the event.

On 14 February, Annkatrin Tritschoks successfully defended her dissertation [Settling the Scales: Justice in International Environmental Negotiations and Beyond](#). Faculty opponent at the defense was Dr Frank Dieter Grundig, University of Kent. Professor Erik Melander chaired the event.

On 13 March, Eric Skoog successfully defended his dissertation [Preferences Under Pressure: Conflict, Threat Cues and Willingness to Compromise](#). Faculty opponent at the defense was Associate Professor Thomas Zeitzoff, American University, School of Public Affairs. Professor Peter Wallensteen chaired the event. The faculty opponent and one member of the grading committee participated via link.

Recent blog posts in relation to Covid-19

Kristine Eck and Sophia Hatz: *Political Violence at a Glance* on 3 March: [Information Control and the Covid-19 Crisis](#)

Chiara Ruffa and Kristine Eck: *Political Violence at a Glance* on 1 April: [In a Pandemic, Should the Experts or the Politicians Be in Charge?](#)

Ashok Swain: *The Third Pole* on 28 April: [Pandemic effect – can we save the SDG on water and sanitation?](#)

New EU Research project on Radicalisation and Violent Extremism

The new EU research project PAVE (Preventing and Addressing Violent Extremism through Community Resilience in the Balkans and MENA) aims to tackle the global issue of radicalisation by examining its root causes and driving factors. The Department is one of the partners in this new project.

Based on a comparative assessment of local communities with features of vulnerability or resilience to violent extremism across seven case study countries, the 13 international partner institutions will develop

concrete policy proposals to inform citizens and stakeholders within and beyond the regions under study. Over the next three years, the consortium will receive EUR 3 million funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Framework Programme.

Read more about the project: <https://pcr.uu.se/about-us/news/?tarContentId=848174>

ITP Alumni Meeting on Strengthening Inclusion and Sustaining Peace in South and South East Asia



Photo: Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation

The third International Training (ITP) alumni meeting was successfully completed in Colombo, Sri Lanka, 5-7 February 2020. The meeting was jointly organised with the [Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation](#) in Uppsala. It brought together 28 alumni from the Department's Advanced International Programme on Conflict Resolution (PACS), the Top Level Seminar on Peace and Security (TOPS) and the International Training on Dialogue and Mediation (ITDM). The alumni had attended trainings during the years 1989-2019 and came from India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste. The Department was represented by Helena Grusell, Angela Muvumba Sellström and Peter Wallensteen.

The theme of the meeting was "Strengthening Inclusion and Sustaining Peace in South and South East Asia". Insights from research such as challenges to peacebuilding in Sri Lanka, gender, climate and protection of civilians, and conflict trends and new developments in peacebuilding as well as insights to sustaining inclusive peace and strengthening inclusive peacebuilding through policy and dialogue were topics covered during the three days. Moreover, the meeting was a platform to exchange experiences, and learn about knowledge gained from having attended the trainings at DPCR. There were fruitful discussions on ways forward to develop, strengthening and sustaining the [DPCR ITP Alumni Network](#) to include as many as possible of the Department's 800 former participants of ITP's between the years 1988-2019.

Training Workshop for Environmental Journalists of Eastern Nile Basin Countries



Photo: Ashok Swain

The Research School of International Water Cooperation at the Department collaborated with [Stockholm International Water Institute \(SIWI\)](#) to organize a training workshop for environmental journalists of Eastern Nile Basin countries at Bishoftu, Ethiopia from 9 December to 13 December 2019. Twenty journalists from Egypt, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan had participated in this workshop, which was directed by Dr. Mats Eriksson of SIWI and Professor Ashok Swain of the Department of Peace and Conflict Research. The workshop had particularly focused on the reporting of Nile River dispute as Eastern Nile Basin Countries with the help of US mediation are presently negotiating over the operation of a large dam (GEERD) being built by Ethiopia.

Insights from the Inside: Women's Mediation Networks as a Tool for Influencing Peace Processes

Civil society-led networks of women have for decades worked hard to promote peace in conflict areas around the world, and lately, a new wave of women's mediation networks (WMNs) are being established that are led by states or regional organizations. All these networks share a collective aim: To promote women's inclusion and influence in mediated peace processes. After nearly five years since the establishment of the Swedish Women's Mediation Network (WMN), the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) teamed up with the Department of Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University and the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) to reflect on lessons learned from managing such a network. The collaboration resulted in the publication [Insights from](#)

[the Inside: Women's Mediation Networks as a Tool for Influencing Peace Processes.](#)

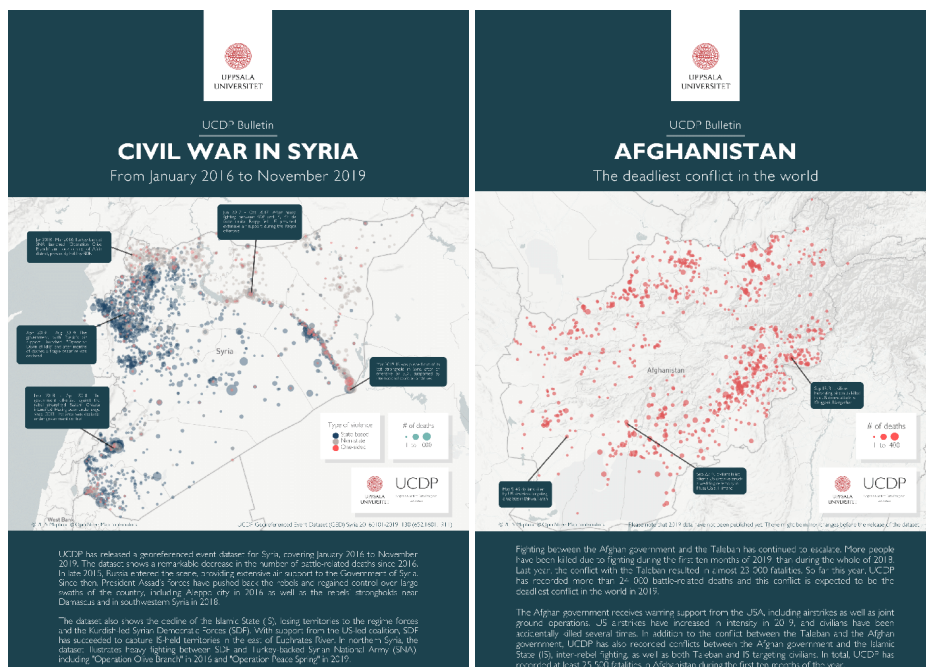
Read more about the [Project on Preventing Sexual Violence](#), led by DPCR Researcher Angela Muvumba Sellström.

Launch of the UCDP Bulletin series

On 5 September 2019, UCDP launched the UCDP Bulletin series. The series focuses on highlighting current developments by using new UCDP data. Examples of topics that have been covered so far are “Civil War in Syria”, “Afghanistan: the Deadliest Conflict in the World”, and “Maoist Insurgency in India”.

For a full list, please visit the [UCDP Bulletin webpage](#).

Follow UCDP on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for the latest updates.



Class notes 2020

1997

Carl Fredrik Birkoff

Working at the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) in Stockholm, Sweden.

2001

Erika Forsberg

I'm working at the DPCR, as Senior Lecturer and Director of Studies.

2008

Marie Allansson

Information Officer at DPCR. Department Liason within the Board of the DPCR Alumni Association.

Johan Dittrich Hallberg

Desk Officer, Department of Security Policy and International Relations, MoD, Sweden

2011

Adan E. Suazo

I have recently been appointed as Senior Policy Analyst at New Zealand's Ministry for the Environment to design water use and governance strategies for the country.

2012

Xoncha Nouri (@xonchanouri)

I'm currently working as an analyst at the Swedish Center for Preventing Violent Extremism (CVE), focusing on violent Islamist extremism & the Middle East. Worked for UNHCR in Zaatari refugee camp (Jordan) & Erbil (Iraq) 2011-2015, assisted Syrian refugees & Yezidi women/girls.

2013

Bia Albernaz

I am currently working as a gender in humanitarian action specialist with UN Women in Colombia, and additionally to my usual duties, in the context of the current emergency I am assisting to include a gender perspective in the COVID-19 humanitarian response.

2014

Benjamin

Just submitted my doctoral thesis in March. Now getting ready for defence and the next steps.

Kajza Jansson

Currently based in Copenhagen (since August 2019), supporting UNHCR's Registration and Identity Management activities globally.

Veronika Staudacher

It's been 3 years that I live in the Old City of Jerusalem, working as a Project Coordinator. I administer development projects in the West Bank, Gaza and Israel for my NGO and other German organizations without a local office. I have 2 more years, so come visit!

Stefan (@stefandoring)

I am still doing my PhD on water scarcity and non-state actors.

2015

Marcelo Sumi

Currently working as a conflict analyst of the UN World Food Programme, within its Emergencies Division.

2017

Amr Ali

I am currently living in Cairo, serving as a desk officer at the Department of Multilateral Economic Affairs and Organizations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I am doing much of economic and political economic analyses.

Linn Häggqvist

Since April 2019, I am based in Khartoum, Sudan, working at UN Women on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. Very exciting time to be here working on WPS, given the ongoing peace negotiations in Juba!

Angelica Lindqvist-McGowan

Working as a research assistant for the project ViEWS at DPCR.

Christie Nicoson

Now in Lund, doing a PhD in Political Science at the University's Agenda 2030 Graduate School. My research relates to climate resiliency, adaptation, and peace. I also recently had the chance to work with 2 former DPCR classmates on a new ODI publication: <https://bit.ly/2UsD3cd>

Pernilla Nordqvist (@PernillaNo)

I have been employed as a PhD at the University of Gothenburg since 2018. Wherein I conduct research on how civil society actors perceive and navigate climate change adaptation in a conflict affected area. Geographically I intend to conduct my research in Karen State Myanmar.

Hedvig Schylander

I'm in the final year of my Master's in Global studies at Gothenburg university. Hope to write my thesis on 'just transition' within the Swedish labour market.

Antonela Tedesco

Currently based in Switzerland after completing a temp job with the Mediation Support Project of the Center for Security Studies (ETH Zürich). Now in the job hunt amid the pandemic. Looking for vacancies in Switzerland, Sweden, Norway & the UN in family duty stations. Stay safe!

Martine van Mil

Working as a consultant on the peace and constitutional reform processes in Myanmar with International IDEA. Supporting inclusive dialogue on issues like the division of powers, representative governance, human rights, and security sector reform. Looking for new opportunities.

Aron Vrieler

I live in The Hague where I work with Dutch NGO called CIDI, specializing in advocacy against antisemitism and hate speech.

2018

Lani Anaya (@LaniAnaya)

I am Senior analyst at OAM consult, a danish agency where we work in partnership with UN, WB and AU. My main tasks are related to youth initiatives and the UN Working Group for Children and Armed Conflict. I am also SDG Action Fellowship Coordinator at MyWorld Mexico.

Jenniina Kotajoki

Just started my PhD at the Department studying international interventions and rebel governance. Stay safe all of you!

Michelle Maxon

I live in Uppsala and work in Stockholm at Diakonia as the Advisor for Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (PMEL).

Emma Södergren Wall

I just moved back to Europe after 5 months in Egypt studying Arabic. Currently doing a short-term consultancy for a grassroots organisation on project design, reporting systems, and MEAL frameworks. After that, I'll be looking for new opportunities in Europe and MENA :)

2019

Fanny Arendt (@fannyarendt)

Currently based at UN Women's Regional office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok. Working as Programme Analyst on Governance, Peace and Security.

Henrique Garbino

Currently working for ICRC in Ukraine as a Weapon Contamination Delegate, but looking for PhD opportunities in Sweden for the future.

Sara Jändel

I am currently pursuing a Master in Gender, Development and Globalisation at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Christiana Lang (@christianamlang)

Just over here in Washington DC trying to survive the COVID pandemic, the political polarization, and the person in charge. I've recently accepted a Senior Associate position at More in Common, an INGO working on political peacebuilding, democracy, and unification #imis-suppsala

Anna Marie Obermeier (@akobermeier)

I'm currently living in Berlin while interning for the Institute for Integrated Transitions in Barcelona and actively job hunting.

OTHER AFFILIATIONS:

Ilmari Käihkö (@kaihko)

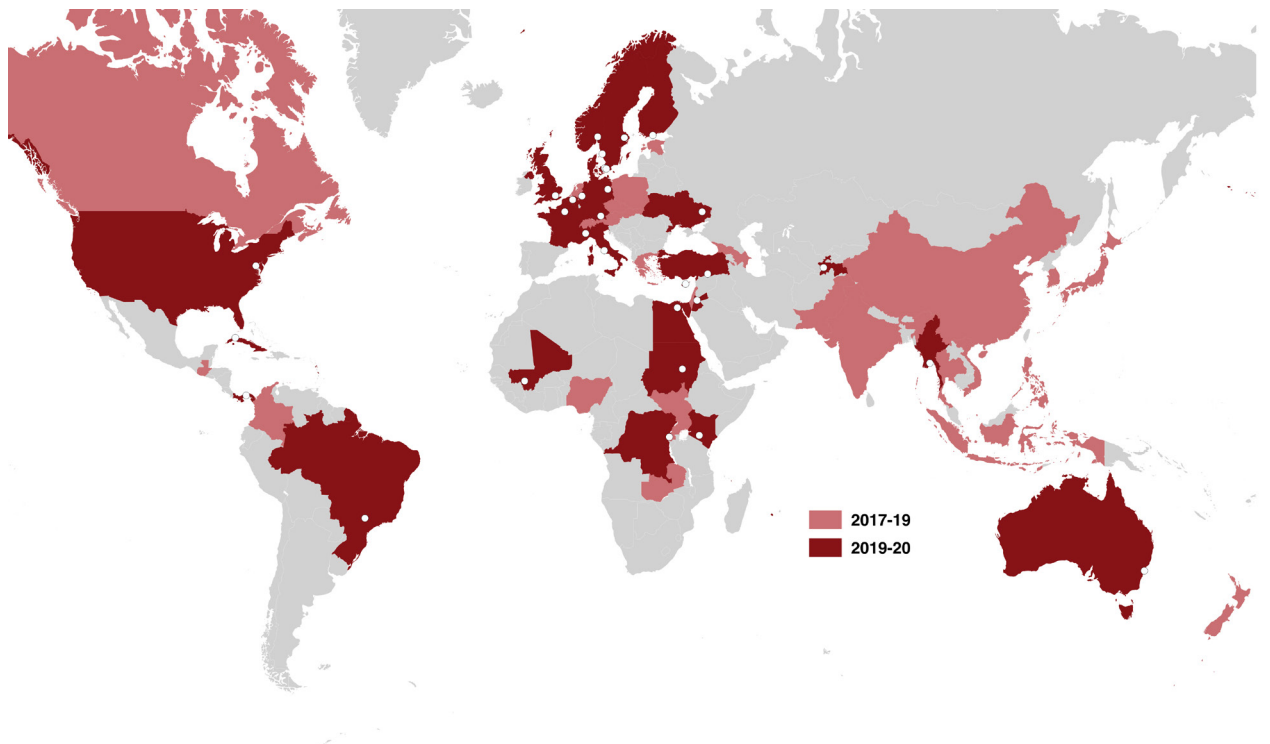
Assistant professor at the Swedish Defence University, where we are constantly recruiting. Come study and/or work with us! I am currently finishing two books, one on the Ukrainian volunteer battalions and the other on Swedish-Finnish strategy in Afghanistan. #NDNR

Tomas Nordberg (@Tomas_Nordberg)

PNND Sweden Coordinator, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament; Board Member, The Swedish Tibet Committee; Team Member, Zap the Wealth Gap - A campaign promoting financial investing among Millennials and Gen Xers from low-to-moderate income families.

DPCR Alumni map 2020

This map shows some of the locations where DPCR Alumni are currently residing (short or long term). The map is based on contributions in the DPCR Alumni facebook group and is updated on a yearly basis. Do you want to contribute to next year's update? Just add a comment in the map-thread and we will include it next year. This thread is also an excellent way to find out if there are alumni in the country/city you might be planning on visiting/moving to in the future.



UU Alumni Network

Are your information in the UU Alumni Network up to date? Don't forget to keep your email address etc. updated so that you don't miss out on information from the DPCR Alumni Association as well as from Uppsala University.

To update your information, please log in to the [UU Alumni Network](#).

For more information about the Network, please visit the [UU Alumni website](#).

Nominate to the The Martin Henriksson Holmdahl Prize

The Martin Henriksson Holmdahl Prize for the promotion of human rights and liberty was instituted by the University in 2003 in celebration of the 80th birthday of its former Vice-Chancellor.

The prize of SEK 25,000 can be awarded to employees and students of Uppsala University, either individually or in groups, as well as to alumni who have maintained a strong connection to the University. The recipient of the prize shall have studied and/or worked to further human rights and liberty or have actively com-



Martin Henriksson Holmdahl. Vice-Chancellor portrait, painted 1989 by Bertram Schmitterlöv (1920-2002).

bated crimes against the UN Declaration of Human Rights, wherever in the world these crimes have been committed. Nominations are accepted from the University's faculties, departments and students.

Two master's students at the Department have received the prize in previous years; Afaf Doleeb (Rotary Peace Fellow, [Class XVII](#)) in 2019 and Lindsey Doyle (Rotary Peace Fellow, [Class XIV](#)) in 2016.

For a full list of recipients and motivations for their recognitions, as well as more information about the prize and how to nominate, see the [Martin Henriksson Holmdahl Prize webpage](#).

Nomination and motivation should be sent to the prize committee via nominera@uadm.uu.se no later than September 16. The prize is awarded by the Vice-Chancellor at the University's Winter Conferment Ceremony.

Uppsala University Alumni Network International Chapters

Did you know that Uppsala University Alumni Network also has international chapters? These are open for all alumni, regardless of your previous studies. If you live outside of Sweden or even if you only plan to stay a short period in the country it is a great networking opportunity for you.



Alumni meeting to celebrate Valborg in Hong Kong.

Currently we have the following active chapters within the network:

- [Uppsala University US Alumni Chapter](#) (divided into New York, Minnesota and San Francisco/Bay Area)
- [Uppsala University Switzerland Alumni Chapter](#)
- [Uppsala University Hong Kong Alumni Chapter](#)
- [Uppsala University Vietnam Alumni Chapter](#)

You can read about the chapters on our website <https://www.uu.se/en/support/alumni-network/chapters/>.

Are you interested in starting an international chapter in your country? Contact us via email to info@alumni.uu.se and we can help you get started.