**Designing Interventions to Respond to Conflict and Violence**

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Elective (Security specialization)

2 credit course, Fall term

Security, human rights and fundamental freedoms are a universal entitlement. Yet despite a proliferation of UN agendas (Responsibility to Protect, Human Security) and supporting regional and national level resolutions, conventions, agencies and laws, it is the case that insecurity and violence remain the common experience of communities across the globe. According to the UNHCR, worldwide displacement caused by persecution and war is at an all-time high, while at the local level and despite the promotion of rights-based approaches (RBAs), violence and vulnerability routinely impact the lives of the poor, men, women, children, racial, indigenous and religious minority groups and the LGBTQI community.

This course introduces students to the techniques commonly used by the policy community to understand the causes, drivers, dynamics and typologies of conflict and violence; the methods and toolkits used for designing, analyzing and evaluating interventions that aim to prevent, manage and reduce vulnerability to conflict and violence; and principles of conflict sensitive policy design. The course takes a bottom up approach and considers strategies for researching, advocating and engaging with impacted communities in order to promote ethical and evidence based conflict and violence reduction policy initiatives.

Learning Outcomes: On successful completion of this course students will have:

* Conceptual and theoretical knowledge of the assumed peace, security and development nexus and the mechanisms that are used to promote the ‘human security’ agenda and rights based approaches;
* Critical understanding of the structural and proximate causes of insecurity in a diversity of contexts and for different ‘at risk’ groups;
* Knowledge and applied experience of the toolkits, methods and best practice approaches utilized to understand the dynamics of conflict and violence, and to promote conflict sensitive and violence reduction interventions;
* The research and analytical skills to write a professional level conflict / violence analysis (70% of final grade; max 2,000 words) and a related conflict / violence reduction op-ed or briefing (30% of the final grade; max 700 to 1000 words). *SPP students that have completed either or both of the SFI courses on documentary film making / media advocacy can submit a video based assessment instead of the written analysis subject to discussion and approval from the course teacher.*

*Before we start: Considerations around research and report writing for all students taking this course:*

Interpreting numbers and data; validating the evidence base

Gender and conflict sensitivity

Ethical issues in conflict and violence research

Keeping contacts safe

* Technical Working Group on Data Collection on Violence against Children, 2012, ‘Ethical Principles, Dilemmas and Risks in Collecting Data on Violence against Children’, Chapter 5, p.49-60 https://data.unicef.org/wpcontent/uploads/2015/12/EPDRCLitReview\_193.pdf
* [Body Count: Physicians for Social Responsibility](http://www.psr.org/assets/pdfs/body-count.pdf)
* [Ethics of Research in Conflict and Post-Conflict Environments.](http://www.susannacampbell.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Campbell-Ethics-Lit-Review-14-01-10-Cite-copy.pdf) Prepared for the Program on States and Security. The Graduate Center, City University New York January 2010. Susanna P. Campbell.
* [Ethical Considerations when Interviewing Victims of Violence](http://www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/174-ethical-considerations.html)
* [The Dart Center](http://www.dartcenter.org/) on interviewing victims of trauma <https://dartcenter.org/topic/interviewing>

Topics covered (with indicative reading): Note, classes are taught in double sessions. Some preliminary readings are listed below.

A key course resource is the GSDRC hub <http://www.gsdrc.org/?sfid=47074&s=violence&_sft_gsdrc_pub_type=conflict-analyses>

1. ***Are conflict and violence the inevitable condition of humans and of states***

The changing nature of war, conflict and violence; the assumed democracy, peace, development and security nexus; typologies of conflict and violence; identifying the most violent and most vulnerable to violence; global and sovereign responsibilities for violence and conflict prevention; data sources.

Provisional Reading

* UNHCR Global trends <http://www.unhcr.org/556725e69.html>
* United Nations (2016) *Human Security Agenda: An integrated approach for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and the priority areas of the international community and the United Nations system*.
* Human Security Report, Trends in Global Violence webpage http://www.hsrgroup.org/human-security-reports/human-security-report.aspx
* Violence Prevention Alliance: <http://www.who.int/violenceprevention/approach/definition/en/> and <http://www.who.int/violenceprevention/publications/en/>
* S. Pinker (2011) *The Better Angels of our Nature*, New York, NY: Viking, p.378-394 and p.672-678
* S. Bastian (2004) ‘Human Rights and Human Security: an Emancipatory Political Project’, *Conflict, Security & Development*, vol. 4, issue 3
* P. Mello (2010) ‘Review article: In search of new wars: The debate about a transformation of war’, *European Journal of International Relations* 16(2): 297–309.
* E. Melander, Magnus Öberg & Jonathan Hall (2006) ‘The “new wars” debate revisited: an empirical evaluation of the atrociousness of “new wars”’.
1. ***The multiple explanations of causes of conflict and violence***

Resources, inequality, gender, religion, ethnicity, environment and climate; the state, fragile states and the interstate system

* A. Sen (2008) [Violence, Identity and Poverty](http://jpr.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/45/1/5). *Journal of Peace Research* 2008; 45; 5
* M. Berdal 'Beyond greed and grievance — and not too soon...', *Review of International Studies*. 31 (2005): 687-698.
* D. Malone and Heiko Nitzschke (2005) ‘Economic Agendas in Civil Wars: What We Know, What We Need to Know’, Discussion Paper no. 2005/07, WIDER: United Nations University. Available at: <https://www.wider.unu.edu/sites/default/files/dp2005-07.pdf>
* M. Ross (2004) ‘How does natural resource wealth influence civil war? Evidence from 13 cases’, in *International Organization* 58 (1): 35-67.
* J. Z. Muller, ‘Us and Them: The Enduring Power of Ethnic Nationalism’, *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2008. See also response in July/August 2008 edition (‘Is ethnic conflict inevitable?’). Available at: <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/64457/james-habyarimana-macartan-humphreys-daniel-posner-jeremy-weinst/is-ethnic-conflict-inevitable?page=show>
* Mueller, J., ‘The banality of “ethnic war”’, [*International Security*](http://lib.leeds.ac.uk/search~S2?/tInternational+Security/tinternational+security/1,2,2,B/frameset&FF=tinternational+security&1,1,) 25 (1), 2000 and the rejoinder from Anna Simons (*International Security*, Vol. 25 (4), Spring 2001, pp. 187-192.
* E. Green (2014) [Is Religion Inherently Violent?](http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2014/11/is-religion-inherently-violent/382035/) *The Atlantic*. 4 November 2014.
* S. Fetzek & Jeffrey Mazo (2014) [Climate, Scarcity and Conflict](http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00396338.2014.962803), Survival, 56:5, 143-170.
* T. Ide & Jürgen Scheffran (2014) [On climate, conflict and cumulation: suggestions for integrative cumulation of knowledge in the research on climate change and violent conflict](http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14781158.2014.924917), *Global Change, Peace & Security*, 26:3, 263-279.
* F. De Châtel (2014) [The Role of Drought and Climate Change in the Syrian Uprising: Untangling the Triggers of the Revolution,](http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00263206.2013.850076) Middle Eastern Studies, 50:4, 521-535.
	+ W. Zartman (Ed): *Collapsed States, Disintegration and Restoration of Legitimate Authority,* L. Rienner, 1995.
1. ***Approaches to conflict and conflict sensitive approaches***
* Mary B. Anderson [Do no harm: how aid can support peace - or war](http://bradfinder.brad.ac.uk/iii/encore/record/C__Rb1302910__Sdo%20no%20harm__P0%2C1__Orightresult__X5?lang=eng&suite=cobalt) Boulder, Colo.; London : Lynne Rienner, 1999 and [Anderson, Mary B.](http://bradfinder.brad.ac.uk/iii/encore/search/C__SAnderson%2C%20Mary%20B.__Orightresult?lang=eng&suite=cobalt) [Framework for analyzing aid's impact on conflict](http://bradfinder.brad.ac.uk/iii/encore/record/C__Rb1308244__Sdo%20no%20harm__P0%2C3__Orightresult__X3?lang=eng&suite=cobalt) <http://cdacollaborative.org/publication/the-do-no-harm-framework-for-analyzing-the-impact-of-assistance-on-conflict-a-handbook/>
* Conflict Sensitivity Consortium <http://www.conflictsensitivity.org/other_publication/conflict-analysis/> and http://local.conflictsensitivity.org/online-resources/
* GSDRC Resources: http://www.gsdrc.org/document-library/applying-conflict-sensitivity-at-project-and-programme-level/

*Harvard Approach*:

* R. Fisher, Ury, W. and Patton, B. (1991). Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement Without Giving In. Penguin, New York.
* W. Ury, Brett, J., and Goldberg, S. (1993). Getting Disputes Resolved. Jossey-Bas Publishers, San Francisco

*Human Needs Approach*:

* J. Burton (ed.) (1990). Conflict: Human Needs Theory, St. Martin‘s Press, New York.
* M. Max-Neef (1991). Development and Human Needs, in Max-Neef M. (1991) Human Scale Development: Conception, Application and Further Reflection, Apex Press, New York, 13-54.

*Conflict Transformation Approach*:

J. P. Lederach (2005). The Moral Imagination, the art and soul of building peace, Oxford University Press.

J.P. Lederach (2003) Conflict Transformation <http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/transformation/>

B. Bush and Folger, J. (1994). The Promise of Mediation: Responding to Conflict Through Empowerment and Recognition, The Jossey-Bass Conflict Resolution Series. Jossey-Bass, San Francisco

1. ***Conflict Analysis Tools***

The Conflict Wheel, Conflict tree, Conflict Mapping, Escalation Model, Conflict Perspective Analysis, Needs-Fear Mapping, Multi-causal mapping

* SDC Conflict Analysis Tools <http://www.css.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/special-interest/gess/cis/center-for-securities-studies/pdfs/Conflict-Analysis-Tools.pdf>
* *Lawrence Woocher* Conflict Assessment and Intelligence Analysis: Commonality, Convergence, and Complementarity
* *Clingendael Model:* ‘Stability Assessment Framework’ (The Hague: Netherlands Institute of International Relations, 2005).
* *SIDA Model:* ‘Manual for Conflict Analysis’, Stockholm: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, 2006.
* *DFID Model:* ‘Conducting Conflict Assessments: Guidance Notes’, London: Department for International Development, 2002.
* *NGO guidance:* ‘Chapter 2: Conflict Analysis,” in Conflict-Sensitive Approaches to Development, Humanitarian Assistance and Peacebuilding: A Resource Pack’, London: APFO, CECORE, CHA, FEWER, International Alert, and Saferworld, 2004.

***5 Gendered Impacts of Conflict and Violence***

How are men and boys, women and girls differentially impacted by conflict and violence, and how can interventions that mitigate risks be designed?

* <http://www.gsdrc.org/topic-guides/gender>
* N. Gasman and G. Alvarez ‘Violence against Women’, Americas Quarterly http://www.americasquarterly.org/node/1930
* Unicef (2014) ‘Hidden in Plain Sight’, report summary, https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Hidden\_in\_plain\_sight\_statistical\_analysis \_Summary\_EN\_2\_Sept\_2014.pdf
* Unicef (2014) ‘A Statistical Snapshot of Violence against Adolescent Girls’, https://data.unicef.org/resources/statistical-snapshot-violence-adolescent-girls/
* M. Hume (2009) Researching the gendered silences of violence in El Salvador. IDS Bulletin, 40 (3). pp. 78-85.
* CHASE (2012) ‘A Practical Guide on Community Programming on Violence against Women and Girls’ CHASE Guidance Note Series https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/2 64401/VAWG-guidance-chase.pdf  Institute for Inclusive Security, 2013,
* WIIS, Women in International Security (2014) ‘Women, Peace and Security: Practical Guidance on Using Law to Empower Women in Post- Conflict Systems’, (p.74-81) http://www.wand.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/WPS-Toolkit-Electronic.pdf
* V. Hudson and Den Boer, A. (2002) ‘A surplus of men, a deficit of peace: Security and sex ratios in Asia's largest states’, *International Security*, Vol. 26, No. 4 (Spring)
* J. Prinz (2012) ‘Why are men so violent?’ *Psychology Today* – the original Mcdonald, Navarette and van Vugt article referenced in the refutation is also a good read
* UNHCR (2012) ‘Working with men and boy survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in forced displacement’, Guide, http://www.refworld.org/pdfid/5006aa262.pdf
* R. Tinsley (2015) ‘Africa’s Angry Young Men’, Foreign Policy http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/07/02/africas-angry-young-men/
* A. Baird (2012) ‘The violent gang and the construction of masculinity amongst socially excluded young men’ Safer Communities <http://www.emeraldinsight.com/doi/pdfplus/10.1108/17578041211271445>

***6 Violence, vulnerable groups and violence reduction***

Why do certain groups continue to find themselves at sustained risk of violence and hate crimes – despite in many cases living in ‘advanced’ democracies? What types of data and information do we need to better monitor and understand the risk and types of violence experienced, what kinds of strategies can enable violence reduction?

* Violence Prevention Alliance: <http://www.who.int/violenceprevention/approach/definition/en/> and <http://www.who.int/violenceprevention/publications/en/>
* The Cambridge University 2014 conference on global violence reduction <http://www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/VRCconferences/conference/>
* Human Rights Campaign (2009) Hate Crimes and Violence Against LGBTQ People <http://www.hrc.org/resources/hate-crimes-and-violence-against-lgbt-people>
* ILGA Europe (2008) ‘Handbook on monitoring and reporting homophobic and transphobic incidents’ <http://www.ilgaeurope.org/sites/default/files/Attachments/handbook_monitoring_reporting_homotransphobic_crimes.pdf>
* Refugee Rights Data Project <http://refugeerights.org.uk/>
* UNHCR (1999) Protecting Refugees: A Field Guide for NGOs – this is dated but important framing for the session <http://www.unhcr.org/3bb9794e4.pdf>
* European Roma Rights Centre <http://www.errc.org/article/violence-against-roma/3835>
* Tell Mama – UK <https://tellmamauk.org/>