**Conflict Analysis**

Instructor:

[Julia Buxton](http://people.ceu.edu/node/1844)

Credits:

2.0

ECTS Credits:

4.0

Term:

Winter

Course Description:

***Elective, Security Specialization***

This course introduces conflict analysis tools, theories and frameworks to develop skills of understanding conflict causation, curves and duration that are essential for effective conflict mitigation, management and resolution.  The course examines different explanations for the onset and duration of conflict, it explores conflict actors and introduces principles of conflict sensitivity in policy design and M&E. The emphasis is on violent conflict within and between states and the skills necessary for applied work (ethical, political and personal risk).

**Learning Outcomes**:

On successful completion of this course students will have:

* Understanding of concepts, theories and approaches within conflict analysis;
* Appreciation of the multiple dimensions and causes of conflict;
* The skills to conduct an objective and insightful analysis of conflict;
* Familiarity with principles of conflict and gender sensitive policy design and assessment.

Assessment:

A 2,500 word conflict analysis (80% of final grade). 20% of the grade will derive from posting and responding to peer group comments on the conflict analysis.

Prerequisites:

There are no prerequisites for this course. This course complements Designing Interventions to Respond to Violence, but both courses are stand-alone offerings, with Designing Interventions focusing on interpersonal and collective violence against groups (Romaphobia, violence against refugees, gender based violence, homophobia, etc) in contrast to the state level focus of this course.

Abbreviated summary of teaching sessions / content:

The course is taught in double sessions alternate weeks to maximize contact time per topic. The emphasis is on applied skills combined with conceptual knowledge. Students will work with case studies;

* (Situation profiles) What is conflict and violent conflict, the costs and impacts of violent conflict, the changing nature of violent conflict, conflict phases and duration, frozen conflicts, external interests; gender violence and war; child soldiers;
* (Causal analysis) The causes of violent conflict and war (economic dispute and resources – oil, water, drugs); ideology, religion (identity politics); political (party politics, institutional and constitutional causes, elections); triggers
* (Stakeholder analysis) Conflict actors and interests; mapping conflict and conflict analysis tools – the conflict wheel, the conflict tree
* Conflict sensitive design processes, Do No Harm, the politics of humanitarianism; war economies
* Conflict Prevention Management and Reduction processes (CPMR), Security Sector Reform Processes (SSR), ‘ownership’ challenges – local / international ; connectors and dividers
* Peacebuilding processes, DDR (disarming, demobilizing and reintegrating ex combatants), negative and positive peace, UNSCR 1325 , post conflict recovery – from stabilization to reconstruction

*Abbreviated reading list*:

The GSDRC Helpdesk: <http://gsdrc.org/category/conflict/>

[Video: A Gender Perspective on DDR](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VHHavw5-_KM)

Frances Stewart (2000). [**Crisis prevention: Tackling horizontal inequalities**](http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/files/Crisis_Prevention_Tackling_Horizontal_Inequalities.pdf). Oxford Development Studies, 28(3), 245-262

Eleanor Gordon (2014) Security Sector Reform, Statebuilding and Local Ownership: Securing the State or its People?, Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding, 8:2-3, 126-148

Eirin Mobekk (2010) Gender, Women and Security Sector Reform, International Peacekeeping, 17:2, 278-291

Peter Homel & Nicolas Masson (2016) Partnerships for human security in fragile contexts: where community safety and security sector reform intersect, Australian Journal of International Affairs, 70:3, 311-327

Mary Anderson (1999) Do No Harm: How aid can support peace – or war, Lynne Rienner Publishing

Sian Herbert (2017) Core Elements of Conflict Analysis, GSDRC   <http://gsdrc.org/topic-guides/conflict-analysis/core-elements/>

# Roger Macginty (2010) ‘Hybrid Peace: The Interaction Between Top-Down and Bottom-Up Peace’, Security Dialogue (41) 4