Conflict Analysis

Instructor: [Julia Buxton](#)

Credits: 2.0

ECTS Credits: 4.0

Term: Fall 2019

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 policy and program work in conflict contexts (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 (not including bibliography) using a case study of the student's choice (80% of final grade). 20% of the grade will derive from posting and responding to peer group comments on the conflict analysis. A provisional draft of the conflict analysis must be posted by November 1st and all comments must be received by December 2nd. **The final conflict analysis is to be submitted through turnitin for marking by midnight December 20th 2019.**

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for this course. This course complements *Designing Interventions to Respond to Violence* (Winter), but both courses are stand-alone offerings, with *Designing Interventions* focusing on interpersonal and collective violence.

The course runs in biweekly sessions *alternate weeks* beginning on Tuesday 24th September and Thursday 25th September. You must ensure that you use the non-teaching week for reading and preparation for the 2 classes in the following week.

Key readings and introductory source hubs:

- Conflict-Sensitive Approaches to Development, Humanitarian Assistance and Peacebuilding: A Resource Pack', London: APFO, CECORE, CHA, FEWER, International Alert, and Saferworld, 2004. http://local.conflictsensitivity.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Conflict-Sensitive-Approaches-to-Development-Humanitarian-Assistance-and-Peacebuilding-Resource-Pack.pdf

- Governance and Social Development Resource Centre http://www.gsdrc.org/

- There are many datasets on contemporary conflicts. One of the best sources is the Uppsala Peace and Conflict Research Department project. Annual analyses are available on the website. See http://pcr.uu.se/data/ and also SIPRI https://www.sipri.org/

- The US Council on Foreign Relations also has a Global Conflict Tracker available here https://www.cfr.org/interactives/global-conflict-tracker#!/

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

Reading and session content

SESSION	*CONTENT*
1	**Understanding conflict; Situation profiles:** What is conflict and violent conflict, the costs and impacts of violent conflict, the changing nature of war and conflict, conflict phases and duration, frozen conflicts; new and old wars; gendered impacts and dimensions of conflict. Live mapping conflict; sources of conflict related information.
2	**Causal analysis**: The causes of violent conflict and war (economic and resources – oil, water, drugs); ideology, religion (identity politics);

	political (fragile states, party politics, institutional and constitutional causes, elections); triggers.
3	**Stakeholder analysis**: Conflict actors and interests; mapping conflict and conflict analysis tools – the conflict wheel, the conflict tree
4	**Conflict sensitive design processes:** Do No Harm, the politics of humanitarianism; war economies; emergency response programming
5	**Stabilisation and Conflict Prevention, Management and Reduction processes** (CPMR): Security Sector Reform Processes (SSR), DDR (disarming, demobilizing and reintegrating ex combatants); child soldiers 'ownership' challenges – local / international; early warning systems.
6	**Peacebuilding processes**, connectors and dividers; negative and positive peace, UNSCR 1325; post conflict recovery – from stabilization to reconstruction; transitional justice

Reading: Please note, the reading is intended to provide an introduction to vast topic areas. Please ensure you read a minimum of 6 articles per session (as we are doing double sessions) and supplement with your own geographical interest / knowledge. I will allocate some of the readings to ensure material is fully covered in class.

Week 1: Understanding Conflict, Situation Profiles

- GSDRC Gender and conflict hub https://gsdrc.org/?s=gender+conflict
- Malešević, S. (2008) 'The sociology of new wars? Assessing the causes and objectives of contemporary conflicts', *International Political Sociology* 2: 97–112.
- Chojnacki, S. (2006) 'Anything new or more of the same? Wars and military interventions in the international system, 1946–2003. *Global Society* 20: 25–46.
- Henderson, E. A., Singer JD (2002) '"New wars" and rumors of "new wars"'. *International Interactions* 28: 165–190.
- Kaldor, M. (1999) *New and Old Wars. Organized Violence in a Global Era.* Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Kalyvas, S. (2001) '"New" and "old" civil wars. A valid distinction?' *World Politics* 54: 99–118.

- Melander, E; M. Öberg & J. Hall, 'The "new wars" debate revisited: an empirical evaluation of the atrociousness of "new wars"', 2006. http://www.pcr.uu.se/research/publications/uprp/
- Buhaug, H., Gates, S., & Lujala, P. (2009). Geography, Rebel Capability, and the Duration of Civil Conflict. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *53*(4), 544–569.
- Hoeffler, A and M. Reynal Querol (2003) Measuring the Cost of Conflict http://conflictrecovery.org/bin/2003_Hoeffler_Reynal-Measuring_the_Costs_of_Conflict.pdf

Week 2

- Stewart, F. (2000). Crisis prevention: Tackling horizontal inequalities. *Oxford Development Studies*, *28*(3), 245-262;
- Hafner-Burton, E., Hyde, S., & Jablonski, R. (2014). When Do Governments Resort to Election Violence? *British Journal of Political Science, 44*(1), 149-179
- Thies, C. G., 'Of rulers, rebels, and revenue: state capacity, civil war onset, and primary commodities', *Journal of Peace Research*, May 2010 47(3), pp. 321-332.
- Mueller, J., 'The banality of "ethnic war"', *International Security* 25 (1), 2000 and the rejoinder from A. Simons (*International Security*, Vol. 25 (4), Spring 2001, pp. 187-192.
- Fearon, J. and D. Laitin, 'Ethnicity, insurgency, and civil war'. *American Political Science Review*, 97 (1), 2003, pp. 75-90 and 'Violence and the social construction of ethnic identity', *International Organization* 54(4), 2000, pp. 845-877.
- King, C. 'The myth of ethnic warfare (Review Essay)', *Foreign Affairs*, 80 (6), November/December 2001, pp. 165-170.
- Berdal, M., 'Beyond greed and grievance — and not too soon', *Review of International Studies*. 31 (2005): 687-698.
- Collier, P. and A. Hoeffler (2000/2003). 'Greed and grievance in civil war'. Policy Research Working Paper No. 2355. Washington, DC: World Bank.
- Ross, M. (2004). 'How does natural resource wealth influence civil war? Evidence from 13 cases', in *International Organization* 58 (1): 35-67.

- De Soysa, I. 'Paradise is a bazaar? Greed, creed, grievance and governance, UNU-WIDER Discussion Paper, 2001/42, https://www.wider.unu.edu/publication/paradise-bazaar-greed-creed-grievance-and-governance
- B. Hartmann (2010) 'Rethinking climate refugees and climate conflict: Rhetoric, reality and the politics of policy discourse' *Journal of International Development*, 22: 2 https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/jid.1676

Week 3

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

Or

- Conflict Sensitivity – website lists all the key conflict analysis tools from different organisations and agencies http://www.conflictsensitivity.org/conflict-analysis-tools/

Week 4

- Anderson, M. (1999) *Do No Harm: How aid can support peace – or war*, Lynne Rienner Publishing;
- Arai, T. (2012). Rebuilding Pakistan in the aftermath of the floods: Disaster relief as conflict prevention. *Journal of Peacebuilding & Development, 7*(1), 51-65;
- GSDRC Conflict Sensitivity (Approaches and Tools section) https://gsdrc.org/topic-guides/conflict-sensitivity/sectoral-interventions/security-sector-reform/
- Catholic Relief Services, *Humanitarian Response in Violent Conflict: A Toolbox of Conflict Sensitive Indicators* https://www.crs.org/our-work-overseas/research-publications/humanitarian-response-violent-conflict
- Bennett, C., et al. (2016). *Time to let go: Remaking humanitarian action for the modern era*. Odi.org. https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/resource-documents/10422.pdf
- Brauman, R. (2017). *War and humanitarian aid*. Msf-crash.org. https://www.msf-crash.org/en/publications/war-and-humanitarianism/war-and-humanitarian-aid
- de Montclos, M. (2014). *The (de)Militarization of Humanitarian Aid: A Historical Perspective*. 2014. Humanities, 3(2), 232-243. http://doi:10.3390/h3020232

- Gross Stein, J. (2000). New Challenges to Conflict Resolution: Humanitarian Nongovernmental Organizations in Complex Emergencies. In: *International Conflict Resolution after the Cold War.* Washington DC: National Academic Press, 383-419. https://www.nap.edu/read/9897/chapter/11#401.
- Nascimento, D. (2015). *One step forward, two steps back? Humanitarian Challenges and Dilemmas in Crisis Settings | The Journal of Humanitarian Assistance*. Sites.tufts.edu. https://sites.tufts.edu/jha/archives/2126.
- Perrin, P. (1998). *The impact of humanitarian aid on conflict development - ICRC.* Icrc.org. https://www.icrc.org/en/doc/resources/documents/article/other/57jpcj.htm.

Week 5
- Greene, O, Buxton, J and Salonius Pasternak, C (2006) *Conflict Prevention Management and Reduction in Africa*, Finland Institute of International Affairs: Chapter 1 https://julkaisut.um.fi/media/attachments/ae49c/KV-040080-EN.pdf
- GSDRC https://gsdrc.org/category/conflict/conflict-prevention/
- Lund, *Conflict Prevention: Theory in Pursuit of Policy and Practice* (moodle)
- Dennys, C. (2013). 'For Stabilization'. *Stability: International Journal of Security and Development, 2*(1), 1-14.
- Sultan Barakat on Stabilisation, GSDRC https://gsdrc.org/professional-dev/stabilisation/
- Rohwerder, B (2015) *Conflict Early Warning and Early Response* https://gsdrc.org/publications/conflict-early-warning-and-early-response/
- 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;
- GSDRC Security Sector Reform http://www.gsdrc.org/go/security-sector-reform

- SSR network: http://www.ssrnetwork.net/about/what_is_ss.php

SSR Resource Centre: http://www.ssrresourcecentre.org/

- Ginifer Chapter 3 in Greene, O, Buxton, J and Salonius Pasternak, C (2006) *Conflict Prevention Management and Reduction in Africa*, Finland Institute of International Affairs 1 https://julkaisut.um.fi/media/attachments/ae49c/KV-040080-EN.pdf

- Video: A Gender Perspective on DDR

- Human Rights Watch: Child soldiers https://www.hrw.org/topic/childrens-rights/child-soldiers

- Idris, I (2016) GSDRC report on DDR lessons learned

https://gsdrc.org/publications/lessons-from-ddr-programmes/

Week 6

- Roger Macginty (2010) 'Hybrid Peace: The Interaction Between Top-Down and Bottom-Up Peace', *Security Dialogue* (41);

- Suhrke, Astri, Espen Villanger, Susan L. Woodward (2005) 'Economic aid to post-conflict countries: a methodological critique of Collier and Hoeffler', *Conflict, Security and Development* 5, 3: 329-361.

- Mac Ginty, R. & Oliver Richmond (2016) 'The fallacy of constructing hybrid political orders: a reappraisal of the hybrid turn in peacebuilding', *International Peacekeeping*, 23:2, 219-239

- Pratt, N and S. Richter Devroe (2011) Critically Examining UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, International Feminist Journal of Politics, 13:4, 489-503 and articles in the special edition

https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/14616742.2011.611658

- Panic, M. (2005) *Reconstruction, Development and Sustainable Peace: A Unified Programme for Post Conflict Countries*, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/CDP-bp-2005-8.pdf