

A New Agenda ... Values, World Society, Modelling

<https://sites.google.com/site/gordonburmathsocsci/home/a-new-agenda>

A New Agenda seeks to explore all aspects of society using all the academic disciplines paying special attention to values ... with special interest in modelling ... not disinterested in practice ... and aspiring to high academic standards.

Commentary, September 2016

No. 33

Dublin: Miall ... Bakke, Blumberg, Emerson, Gorny, Hirschberger, Mukherjee, Smidt, Tir

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1 Dublin: conference programme, schedule and abstracts

The conference programme presents the timetable for the plenary sessions.

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmxb3Jkb25idXJ0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDoyODRhNTEzOTNIODMzMjc1>

The conference schedule presents the listing of all the presentations including those in the parallel sessions.

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmxb3Jkb25idXJ0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDpiMjIzYzFhMjA1MzBhNTc>

The abstracts for all the presentations:

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmxb3Jkb25idXJ0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDoyY2M5YmRmM2JjZDBjMjc2>

2 Dublin: selected presentations:

Bakke, Blumberg, Burt, Emerson, Gorny, Hirschberger, Mukherjee, Smidt, Tir

CRS Book of the Year prize

Dr Kristin Bakke (UCL): Decentralization and Intrastate Struggles: Chechnya, Punjab and Quebec

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmxb3Jkb25idXJ0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDo2OTk0N2U3OTU1NzAxMzBk>

Conflict Analysis

Herbert Blumberg (Goldsmiths, University of London): Personality Dimensions and Attitudes Towards Peace and War

Paper:

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmxb3Jkb25idXJ0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDo1MTU2ZjEwMjk4MjU1MWQ4>

Slides:

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmxb3Jkb25idXJ0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDoxNzNhOTI5NTdiODMxYzIx>

Gordon Burt (Conflict Research Society): Ireland, Trinity and the three yearbooks—Values, World Society and Modelling

Paper:

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmxb3Jkb25idXJ0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDozNTcwYmQxNWlyOGYyODQ2> ;

Slides:

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmxb3Jkb25idXJ0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDozNjc0YTI2MTQyYzE0NjY3>

Anwasha Mukherjee (University of East Anglia): Too many pennies—Sunk-cost sensitivity in conflicts

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmxb3Jkb25idXJ0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDozMzVmNjcwYzI0ZWU2ZTFm>

Hannah Smidt (UCL): Beyond deploying troops: what determines UN involvement in electoral security assistance

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmxb3Jkb25idXJ0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDplMzJmODkyYTMzYjNhOWE>

Voting and War

Peter Emerson (The de Borda Institute): Majoritarianism—majority rule by majority vote— was/is part of the problem in NI, the Middle East, the Balkans

Paper:

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmxb3Jkb25idXJ0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDoxM2JlMTg1Y2NlMTQ3Zjgw>

Slides:

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmxb3Jkb25idXJ0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDozY2VhMTY2Mzk3ZmUyYzFm>

Terrorism & State Violence

Paul Gorny (University of East Anglia): It's Dog Eat Dog—A Model of Multiple Pairwise Contests

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmxb3Jkb25idXJ0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDo0Mzc1ZDg3ODAwNTZjZTdk>

Civil War and Intrastate Conflict

Jaroslav Tir (University of Colorado Boulder): Stay Off My Lawn—The Lasting Impact of Civil Wars on Social Intolerance in the Public

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmxb3Jkb25idXJ0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDo3NjQ0YmY4OTEyYzJhYTZk>

Peace Education, Peace Journalism, Social Media

Bernd Hirschberger (University of Munich): External communication in the social media during asymmetric conflicts – Proposal for a theory and empirical analysis of the conflict in Israel and Palestine and the conflict between Daesh and the West
<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbnxnb3Jkb25idXJ0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDpjMTg2YTgwOGQ5ZWExZjI>

3 Dublin: your presentation ... in the October Commentary?

I wonder if you would be willing for me to share your presentation with others? If so, please could you email me your slides or paper. I shall include it in the October Commentary.

4 Dublin: a grand account of a grand conference – Hugh Miall’s account of the CRS conference at Trinity College Dublin

“The cue taken from Dublin’s famous writer, this blog about the Dublin conference starts with the last word in *Finnegan’s Wake*, and ends with the last word from *Ulysses*. Characters and events in *Finnegan’s Wake* are “everintermutuomergent” – rather like conflict theory. For the benefit of those who missed Dublin or would like a reminder from someone else’s point of view of what it was like, here are snippets about:

- The Conference at Trinity
- Peace, Conflict and Commemoration
- The Irish peace process
- Stathis Kalyvas: What can conflict research learn from research into cancer?
- Kristin Bakke: CRS Book Prize
- Highlights from the breakout panels
- Breakdown of participants
- The Ballad of Rosie Hackett
- Book launches
- Forward to Oxford 2017

The Conference at Trinity

Iain Atack and his team at Trinity College did us proud. This was the first time the CRS had met in Ireland for over a decade, and the timing resonated with the theme of commemoration. It was pointed out that more Irishmen had died fighting for the British Army on the Somme than in the Easter Rising fighting against it, so how the theme of commemoration plays clearly depends on present contexts. This came through in several sessions.

The conference was held in the splendid surroundings of Trinity with its quadrangles and 18th and 19thC buildings. We met in the rooms of the Irish School of Ecumenics and held plenaries in the Joly Theatre in the Hamilton Building. Gordon has explained the links between Hamilton, Ireland’s most prominent mathematician, and the CRS. He also told us about W.S.Gosset, a researcher at the Guinness Factory, who invented Student’s t-test, used by Lewis Fry Richardson. Richardson wrote that if there is one thing historians should know about statistics, it is Student’s t-test.

Peace, Conflict and Commemoration

After a welcome from Professor **Jane Ohlmeyer**, we started off with a plenary on the conference theme of 'Peace Conflict and Commemoration'. **Eamon Rafter** of the Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation explained the importance of shared memory in preserving the Irish past, and argued that we can choose between allowing the myth of redemptive violence and martyrdom to colonise the future, or making commemoration an agenda for reconciliation and healing. This was followed by **Ghada Karmi**, who in her opening lecture and in the first plenary, gave a powerful presentation from the perspective of the Palestinians. Their narrative, of dispossession and return, has always had to compete with the Zionist narrative, she said; their sense of victimhood has always been hijacked by the Zionist narrative. What then do Palestinians commemorate? Above all, the Nakba of 1948 – but its origins lie earlier, in the decades of the second and first world wars. She picked out the Balfour Declaration as the other pivotal event and her book 'the Return' argues that without Britain's unstinting collaboration, Zionism could never have succeeded so successfully, and her family would never have been expelled in the first place. She doubted whether reconciliation was possible in the context of a Zionist invasion that, she said, has never stopped.

The conference theme was picked up in a breakout session chaired by **Judith Large**.

The Irish Peace Process

This was followed by a break-out session on Memory, Conflict and Peace, and an afternoon plenary on the Irish peace process, with perspectives from Corrymeela, Glencree and the Irish government. **Sean Pettis** described the remarkable work of Corrymeela on reconciliation and **Will Devas** discussed the persistent, inclusive, residential work of the Glencree Centre. They stressed that as well as political structures, people need a process to deal with the past. A representative of the Irish Foreign Ministry (Vanoola Callican?) described the work of their Reconciliation Fund and outlined some of the lessons the Irish government has learned from the peace process. These were: the importance of deadlines, the need for persistence and flexibility, the need to maintain dialogue, the need for complex self-determination, the importance of not defeating an opponent, and the potential of the process to transform the participants.

The Irish peace process theme was taken up further in a break-out session chaired by **David Mitchell**.

Stathis Kalyvas: Are civil wars like cancer? .

Stathis Kalyvas, our keynote speaker from Yale, explored the methods and approaches in contemporary conflict research, and critically assessed the quest for policy relevance in the light of recent trends in cancer research. He argued that the discipline is divided into, on the one hand, traditional, case-by-case, idiographic approaches, which aim to deepen understanding and provide nuanced understandings, and on the other, quantitative, comparative, systematic, nomothetic approaches, which aim to find general findings with policy applications which policy-makers are left to apply. Stathis argued that in modern oncology, researchers are moving away from a common treatment of the disease based on general patterns. Rather, each cancer is seen as different, and tumours are more complex and diverse than researchers had thought. This suggests the need for individual treatments, fine-tuned to people's individual genetic make-up. Gene-based research is suggesting that similar mutations appear in different kinds of cancer, suggesting the possibility of nimble precision

tools to switch off the action of particular genes or cells. In the social sciences, Stathis suggested, there may similarly be mechanisms which act in a common way in different cases – for example, cartel wars in Mexico and Afghanistan have similar features and may be manageable by similar systems of local justice. The key is to rethink the field's obsession with quantitative research, improve our measurement and description, make more modest claims, and for the time being to pursue theoretical understanding more vigorously than policy-relevant research.

Kristin Bakke; The CRS Book Prize

Kristin Bakke gave an example of the kind of research Stathis was advocating when she presented her book which won the CRS Book Prize for this year: *Decentralisation and Intrastate struggles: Chechnya, Punjab and Quebec* (CUP, 2015). Drawing on quantitative data about ethnic conflicts in federal states, Kristin argues that there is no one recipe, whether autonomy or centralisation, that provides a blanket response to such situations. Rather, self-determination struggles are influenced by their contexts, and institutions and other societal traits influence outcomes in ways that are particular to the society. Kristin scored a double success by also supervising the winner of the Cedric Smith prize for this year, Hannah Smidt of UCL, who presented her work in one of the break-out sessions.

Highlights from the breakout panels.

Unfortunately no-one can capture more than 20 per cent of the richness of a conference in which there are five parallel streams, and everyone will have their own impressions of the various high-spots of the conference. Even then, given defects in attention and shortage of time for presentation, it is probably only possible to capture about 50% or less of the richness of the work that has been done. In a similar way, probably each participant can sample at most 1 per cent of the interesting conversations that take place on the side of the formal events. So the conference as a whole system is much greater than the parts that any of us sample! Certainly the breakouts I attended included some brilliant papers which showed evidence of continuing innovation and creative new directions in the field. The list of conference abstracts, which was made available the conference packs gives a better sense of the richness and diversity of the contributions, and people can follow up their interests by requesting copies of the papers from the authors. Here I will simply list the session titles, which reflect the range of interesting and important work that is underway:

- Memory, Conflict and Peace
- Palestine and Israel
- Religion, Conflict and Peace
- Conflict Analysis
- Voting and War
- Conflict and Peace in Ireland (I and II)
- Gender, Peace and Conflict
- South Asia
- The Transformation of Grievance into Nonviolent Resistance
- Terrorism and State Violence (I and II)
- Civil Wars – origins, recurrence and resolution
- Gender and Peacemaking
- Civil War and Intrastate Conflict
- Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution
- Nonviolent Processes in Violent Settings

- Understanding agency and resilience in contexts of violent conflict and fragility
- Conflict Analysis
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- Latin America
- Post-Conflict Peace
- International Law, Human Rights and Global Order
- Peace Education, Peace Journalism and Social Media

Breakdown of participants

This does not mean nervous collapse: but it may be useful to give you the information we have to date about how participants break down by fee status and geographical origin. Gordon Burt has previously written a detailed commentary on the CRS conference at the University of Kent (in his September newsletter). He promises to write a new one on the Dublin Conference. We can look forward to that. In the meantime, here are the latest figures we have on registrations, from August:

Dublin 2016: Breakdown of participants by fee status

- Full fee participants: 50
- Concessions: 7
- Students: 35

This is a smaller total than the 105 names who appeared on the list of participants distributed at the conference. We know however that there were a few dropouts due to illness and visa problems. We'll provide final figures and a financial report later, but for the time being initial suggestions are that the conference has more or less broken even – helped by Iain's generous contribution to the conference from his own research funds.

Dublin 2016: geographic breakdown of participants

- Universities in Britain: 38
- Universities in the island of Ireland: 22
- Universities in the rest of Europe: 6
- Universities in the USA: 5
- Universities in the rest of the world: 8
- NGOs and practitioners: 3
- No affiliation given: 9

The ballad of Rosie Hackett

You can hear a lovely version of the Ballad of Rosanna ('Rosie') Hackett, sung by Janice Igoe, on Youtube. Rosie Hackett was an Irish women's trade union leader and took part in the 1916 Easter Rising. The Dublin City Council named a new bridge over the Liffey after her in 2014. In **Peter Emerson's** panel, on De Borda and non-majoritarian voting systems, Councillor **Dermot Lacey** explained how the City Council used De Borda voting to select the name of the bridge, which allowed a previously little known heroine of Dublin to be commemorated. Some of us walked over the Rosie Hackett bridge later on our way to the restaurants and pubs along the Liffey.

Book launches

Oliver Ramsbotham and I presented (and **Tom Woodhouse** was prevented from presenting) the fourth edition of their book, *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*

(Polity, 2016), which is accompanied by the new Reader (Contemporary Conflict Resolution Reader, Polity 2015).

Gordon Burt took the opportunity of a panel session to present his new book, *Values, World Society and Modelling Yearbook 2014* (Cambridge Scholars, 2016). If you want to know how to nurture flourishing, how mathematics applies to world history or the place of Out Stack in the Geopolitical Structure of the World, this is the book for you. It is highly recommended.

Prequels and Sequels

Some of the participants had flown to Dublin from Leeds/Bradford, where the School of Peace Studies celebrated the centenary of the birth of **Adam Curle**. **Tom Woodhouse** and **John Paul Lederach** launched a book at that conference entitled *Adam Curle: Radical Peacemaker* (Hawthorn Press, 2016). Among those who attended both conferences was Irene Santiago, the Phillipines government's representative on the Mindanao Peace Agreement Implementation talks. She was also executive director of the historic NGO Forum on Women in China in 1995. In Dublin, as a sequel to the conference, she launched a new Women's Peace Table on the Saturday after the conference.

It is good to have a continuing stream of practitioners and representatives of NGOs attending the conference, which gives us confidence that our current effort to promote and nurture links between researchers and practitioners in our field are worthwhile.

Forward to Oxford 2017

We were very grateful to **Iain, Yaser, Olivia, Carlo** and all their student helpers, and to the hard work done by the programme convenors, and to the work of the Kent team especially **Govinda, Luke** and **Feargal** and to the Council for their support. We now look forward to the CRS's next Conference, to be held in Pembroke College, Oxford September 18-19 2017. Overall Dublin was a brilliant conference. We want to make Oxford next year a stellar success. So please move forward with the CRS from Dublin 2016 to Oxford 2017. YES!"

5 Values, practice, knowledge ... and the tetrahedron!

The conference sparked off a lot of ideas which I am still trying to sort out in my mind.

Values. Ghada Karmi's forceful presentation of the Palestinian case presented a challenge to academic detachment (as Rachel and Marwan explained to me that evening in the Bank). Likewise, Isabel Phillips' discussion of the dilemmas of mediation, the notions of neutrality and a non-judgmental stance was challenging. I noted her account of Elise Boulding's preface to Adam Curle's book: 'it's a tough book – you are being asked not just to talk to them but to love the *****'. This seemed to me to link with Herb Blumberg's study of the personality traits of openness and Jaroslav Tir's study of intolerance. At the conference dinner I asked one of the Irish mediators how they would mediate between a group of conference participants and a group of Trump supporters! The Sunday papers after the conference discussed Hilary Clinton's use of the word 'deplorables'.

I did feel guilty ducking Steve Wright's question about the application of my work although took some solace from the fact that Stalis Kalyvas appeared to counsel humility about claims for the applicability of research ...

... whereas Stalis Kalyvas used the case of cancer to illustrate the relationship between practice and nomothetic and ideographic research, it occurred to me that the game of chess also provided some insights. I learnt my chess from *Chess Fundamentals* by world champion Capablanca, but also noted that world champion Bobby Fischer built up 'a rich treasury of experience' by playing over lots and lots of games. Chess practice involves making a move, informed by both types of knowledge in situations which are configurational and often indeterminate with branching pathways.

However, those of you who attended my talk will understand when I say that I have not been able to stop thinking about the tetrahedron! The number 4 is important:

(1) William Rowan Hamilton' quaternions are about 4-dimensional space.

(2) Northern Ireland politics have 4 main parties. The voting percentages can be represented as points in the percentage tetrahedron. Of interest is the circle inscribed in the square that bisects the tetrahedron – as discussed in my talk.

Paper:

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmxb3Jkb25idXJ0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDozNTcwYmQxNWlyOGYyODQ2> ;

Slides:

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmxb3Jkb25idXJ0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDozNjc0YTl2MTQyYzE0NjY3>

(3) Last year Jeremy Corbyn was one of four candidates seeking the leadership of the Labour Party. There are 24 preference orderings – the vertices of a preference tetradecahedron. The 24 preference orderings correspond to 24 regions in a related tetrahedron and the tetradecahedron can be inscribed in the tetrahedron. Whereas cynics say that politics is two-faced, I say that politics is fourteen-faced!

(4) Herb Blumberg's paper uses four general war/peace scales. They can be represented as a 3-dimensional tetrahedron in 4-dimensional space (as indeed any four points can). The corresponding standardised ('unitised') variables also form a tetrahedron, each point lying on the unit hypersphere. The correlation between two scales is the cosine of the angle between the two points.

6 Yearbook 2014 – available at the author's discount price

Values, World Society and Modelling Yearbook, 2014.

Gordon Burt, Cambridge Scholars, 2016.

<http://www.cambridgescholars.com/values-world-society-and-modelling-yearbook-2014>

I am able to obtain copies of my book at the author's discount price. The discount price is £30 (35 euros; 40US\$). If you wish to buy a copy of my book at the discount price, please email me, gordonjburt@gmail.com, for further details.