

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, October 2016

No. 34

1956: Hungary and Suez ... Isard ... peace building ... Syria ... 1517 ... Jane Austen ... peace museum ... course ... Yearbook 2015 overview

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1 1956: Hungary and Suez

The events of 1956 are being remembered by many ... and in the following by the Prime Minister of Hungary and by the Royal British Legion:

http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2016/10/23/world/europe/ap-eu-hungary-1956-tribute-.html?_r=0;
<http://www.thenma.org.uk/events-and-news/forthcoming-events/sez-60/>.

Ten years ago a symposium was held:

“A Symposium on the Hungary-Suez Crisis: Fifty Years On,
October 24, 2006

The Suez Crisis and Hungarian Revolt of 1956 had a profound impact on the Cold War and provide important lessons for U.S. foreign policy fifty years later. In both cases, direct U.S. intervention was avoided and a larger conflict averted. Yet both crises demonstrated the difficulties of crafting foreign policy without fully understanding the intentions of one’s allies or enemies.”

http://i.cfr.org/content/meetings/hungary_suez-summary.pdf

See also:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hungarian_Revolution_of_1956

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suez_Crisis

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/07/25/the-suez-crisis-should-have-taught-us-how-brutal-dictators-can-t/>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/16/books/review/ikes-gamble-michael-doran-blood-and-sand-alex-von-tunzelmann.html>

2 Brief items: global diaspora, Isard Award, peace economics, peace building

Third Global Diaspora Meeting
Walter Isard Dissertation Award
Peace Economics, Peace Science and Public Policy (PEPS).
policy and programming seminar on peace building in protracted crises

Third Global Diaspora Meeting
University of Kerala, Trivandrum, Kerala state, India
4-5 January, 2017.
Manas Chatterji
Binghamton University - State University of New York
mchatter@binghamton.edu

Walter Isard Dissertation Award
At this year's Peace Science Society meeting, Anita R. Gohdes was presented the Walter Isard Dissertation Award for her work, *Repression in the Digital Age: Communication Technology and the Politics of State Violence*. The award honors the outstanding dissertation contributing to the scientific knowledge of peace and conflict completed between April 1, 2014 and March 31, 2016, and carries a value of \$2000. In her dissertation, Gohdes develops a framework to analyze how a government's control of the internet affects the type and magnitude of state-sanctioned violence. Gohdes distinguishes between two types of control, digital surveillance and disruption or restriction. Her argument explains why and how these two types of control shape the repressive tactics of the state. While censorship is expected to lead to an increase in violent repression and more targeted killings, surveillance is expected to increase localized and targeted killings. Ms. Gohdes tests her arguments using novel datasets with different levels of aggregation and units of analysis. Professor Gohdes completed her thesis at University of Mannheim under the direction of Sabine Carey. We congratulate Anita for her excellent work.
Glenn Palmer
Executive Director
Peace Science Society (International)

Peace Economics, Peace Science and Public Policy (PEPS)
Towards an Economic Theory of Destabilization War
By Gries, Thomas and Haake, Claus-Jochen
<https://www.degruyter.com/view/j/peps.ahead-of-print/peps-2016-0042/peps-2016-0042.xml?format=INT>
Democracy, State Capacity and Civil Wars: A New Perspective
By Rossignoli, Domenico
<https://www.degruyter.com/view/j/peps.ahead-of-print/peps-2016-0029/peps-2016-0029.xml?format=INT>
Leadership Changes and Civil War Agreements: Exploring Preliminary Links
By Lutmar, Carmela and Terris, Lesley
<https://www.degruyter.com/view/j/peps.ahead-of-print/peps-2016-0033/peps-2016-0033.xml?format=INT>
Converging Defence Burdens? Some Further Findings
By Arvanitidis, Paschalis and Kollias, Christos
<https://www.degruyter.com/view/j/peps.ahead-of-print/peps-2016-0027/peps-2016-0027.xml?format=INT>
I hope you may want to consider PEPS as an outlet for your work in the future.

Policy and programming seminar on peace building in protracted crises

The Westbury Hotel, Grafton Street, Dublin 2

17 November; 09.00am - 15.00pm

The day will cover a number of themes from global trends and responses in violence and peace to the peace process in Colombia, protracted crises in Syria, Myanmar and Democratic Republic of Congo, and the role Ireland can play in peace building efforts. Speakers include; Eamon Gilmore, Harriet Lamb, John Gilroy, Diego Alejandro Melo Ascencio from Colombia, Rajan Khosla from Myanmar and Salomé Mbugua from DRC. A full programme can be found here:

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/peace-building-in-protracted-crises-the-potential-role-ireland-can-play-tickets-28796173129>

If you have not yet registered please do so online through the above link or with me: gkilcullen@christian-aid.org I look forward to seeing you there,

Best wishes,

Gráinne Kilcullen

Programme Adviser – Governance and Human Rights

3 “Why Did We Come to Syria?”

Report of a visit to Syria, 31 August – 7 September 2016, by Revd Andrew Ashdown
For the full 25-page report, click here:

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmxb3Jkb25idXJ0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDo3ZGQ1NzI3NWl0NGI3MzRm>

“Dear Gordon

Greetings. I was sorry to miss the Dublin conference, but was otherwise occupied. The main reason is the attached: a visit I have just paid to Syria as part of a small informal delegation, invited by faith leaders in Syria. I am sending it to you for interest and in case you think you can use it any way.

Our observations challenge some of the media narratives dominating the airwaves here and invite some new thinking about how peace might come in Syria. Just a bit. We have had some media attention as you may have noticed. And, on a hopeful note, we have begun to notice a, linked or not, slight change in tone among some of journalists covering the issue.

Best wishes

Simon Fisher

September 21, 2016”

Participants: Revd. Andrew Ashdown (Leader of the Group), Revd. Dr. David Clark, Baroness Caroline Cox, Dr. Simon Fisher, Lord Raymond Hylton, Rt Revd. Michael Nazir-Ali, Ms Jo Simister.

The following is pages 1-2 and 23-25 of the report.

1. We came to listen, to learn, to meet as many people as possible in order to contribute our experiences to the wider discussions of the situation in Syria.
2. We emphasise our commitment to the fundamental principle of impartiality and solidarity with all those who are suffering, whatever their faith and cultural traditions or political views.
3. A pastoral visit to the suffering people of Syria – including Christians, Muslims and Yazidis; to see for ourselves the realities on the ground; to listen to as wide a range of

voices as possible who are not being heard outside Syria; to hear from religious leaders, communities and political leaders as well as Internally Displaced People (IDPs).

4. To visit different religious communities in different Syrian locations; to listen to the voices of their members and leader; to experience their places of worship and view any destruction of churches and mosques and loss of ritual treasures.

5. To learn about efforts being made within Syria to bring about a peaceful resolution.

6. To reflect on our response and that of the UK and other members of the international community.

7. To explore academic relationships relating to possible cultural and academic collaboration.

8. We emphasise our fundamental commitment to as much impartiality as possible.

For this reason, the visit was at our own expense.

Invitation:

We were invited by the Grand Mufti of Syria, Dr. Hassoun, Bishop Armash Nalbandian, Armenian Archbishop of Damascus; Bishop Audo of the Chaldean Catholic Church in Aleppo; and Revd. Harout Selimien, President of the Armenian Evangelical Church in Syria.

Damascus

The journey into Syria is always one of mixed emotions...excitement and anticipation at meeting friends and being a witness to profound, complex and painful realities; and a realistic unease that nowhere is completely safe. That concern was particularly heightened on this occasion knowing that we would be travelling to Aleppo. Though that journey is literally life-threatening, not going was not an option. We had been invited by the Armenian Church and by the Chaldaean Catholic Bishop, and we felt it vital to make a Pastoral visit to the city and to be a witness to what we saw and heard. The journey from Beirut is quite magnificent over the Chouf mountains into the Bekaa Valley. Pictured here, we are at the border official waiting room where we were met by my dear friend and guide Qusay, who arranged everything and stayed with us throughout, and by my friend Revd Harout Selimien, President of the Armenian Evangelical Church in Aleppo, one of those who invited us. The journey continues into Damascus through numerous checkpoints, with views over the city, both of the devastated rebel-controlled areas, and the cosmopolitan and bustling city centre which is under government control.

...

CONCLUSIONS

What are our main findings?

1. The resilience and perseverance of the Syrian people enduring sustained and intense suffering.
2. The widespread existence of many initiatives by Government and local communities to address problems of war and poverty (e.g. Government and churches' initiatives to support IDPs and the provision of free health care).
3. Many Reconciliation initiatives at local and Government levels with that have positive outcomes for whole communities - for example, in enabling cease fires. The

Minister for Reconciliation told us that there are Reconciliation initiatives in 70 cities, towns and villages involving 4.5 million citizens.

4. The devastating impact for all Syrian people of sanctions and the massive destruction and theft of the industrial infrastructure by armed groups.
5. The group has heard the consistent cry of Christians and Muslims for their places of worship to be respected and preserved and for a sympathetic response and engagement from their counterparts in the West.
6. The consistently positive working relations between Christians and Muslims in Government controlled areas in Syria.
7. Important and significant people with genuine voices of peace and reform are being prevented from visiting the UK and engaging with the British government and people.
8. The coverage by some media of the situation in Syria is not an accurate representation of many of the realities we have observed. ((For example, see the post on the Doctors Council in Aleppo).
9. The acute polarisation inherent in protracted war has all but destroyed the existing movement to implement greater democracy within the country. The majority of the city's population are profoundly impacted by the refusal of the international community to engage with Government-held areas of the city.
10. Many media narratives in the UK are refuted and disputed by the vast majority of people whom we have met.
11. Many people whom we met believe that the partisanship of many Western media narratives with the exclusion of most moderate voices will lead to the destruction of civil society and its replacement by violence, terrorism and another failed State as well as increased terrorism in other countries, including the UK.
12. Widespread concern was strongly conveyed over the UK's military support for Opposition forces which we are repeatedly told are not 'Moderate' but virtually indistinguishable from those fighting for the ideologies of ISIS and Al Nusra.
13. People are deeply concerned that the fundamental principle of End User Accountability is not being applied to all military support by the UK with disastrous results.
14. Without exception, every person we met believes that current UK and international policies of commitment to 'Regime Change' will destroy the pluralistic and diverse society which has existed for hundreds of years. They also passionately believe that Syrians should have the right to determine their own future and elect their own leadership.
15. While almost all media coverage in the West focuses on the devastating effects of military offensives by Government forces, in just one day during our visit (September 5th) the following attacks by the armed Opposition inflicting indiscriminate death and injury included:
Four car bombs at Homs with 12 killed and 30 injured; in Tartus 45 killed and 100 wounded; in the Damascus countryside, 3 killed and 12 wounded; in Hasaka, 6 killed and 20 wounded.
This is only a part of the daily toll of death and injury inflicted by Opposition forces on civilians, such as the shelling of the University in Aleppo by 4 missiles on the day we were there.

Already, we have been accused of spouting 'government propaganda'. No. We travelled to Syria to listen to the voices of Syrian people and we have met hundreds from across the respective communities in the country. Personally, this is my fifth visit to the country since April 2014, and the messages remain consistent and

widespread. What we are sharing is not 'government propaganda' at all, but the voices of ordinary Syrians. Anyone who thinks otherwise is showing their ignorance!

I would repeat the cry of most Syrians we have met. Come and visit us and see the reality for yourselves. I have seriously wondered whether the enormous pressure put upon us by both government and Church figures NOT to visit Syria, is precisely because they do not want us to see and hear the truth, simply because it does not ally with the deliberate misrepresentation the international community is conveying to achieve their own agendas.

I hope and pray that any ceasefire leads to a true and lasting peace. I also hope and pray that the international community will adjust their policies to consider the real needs and wishes of the Syrian people, and that we do not use the 'provision of aid' as a means of rearming militant factions to further prolong the war. The goal of everyone should be the restoration of peace; the rebuilding of the country; the respect of plurality and development of reform; and the reconciliation and healing of souls, which will be the most difficult task. Enough of fuelling war. Let us end the policy of violence, and truly seek the path of peace, and listen first to the voices of the people themselves.”

4 In today's *Observer*

The peace museum in Bradford

“How saddened I was to read that you are recommending that families should visit the Tank Museum in Dorset. Do you really wish young people to equate war with fun? How jolly to play games and dress up? How diverting to see a display of tanks in action. How diverting to see a display of tanks in action, firing ammunition. I suggest a visit to the Peace Museum in Bradford as an antidote.”

Coleman, Marion. “Lessons of war and peace.” *The Observer. Letters*. October 30, 2016, 42.

1517-2017

Sherwood, Harriet. “After 500 years of schism, will the rift of Luther’s Reformation finally be healed?” [Tomorrow, Pope Francis begins a year of events to herald growing cooperation between Protestants and Catholics. ... ‘Luther was grasped by a concept of grace, yet didn’t exercise it towards others. He wasn’t exactly a proto-feminist.’ ...] *The Observer*. October 30, 2016, 32-33.

Was Jane Austen a radical?

Today’s *Observer* has a sympathetic review by Caroline Criado-Perez of Helena Kennedy’s *Jane Austen: the secret radical*. It reminded me of a piece I had written four years ago prompted by the 200th anniversary of the publication of *Pride and Prejudice* (January 28 2013).

Jane Austen: attachment, disagreement and escalation

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmxb3Jkb25idXJ0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDpiMGUyNDI4OWJhNWExYWJ>

1 The anniversary of Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice*

2 Disagreement: Paula Byrne’s biography of Jane Austen

3 Disagreement: The Guardian article by Hannah Betts

- 4 Disagreement, personality and politics: The Sunday Times article by Minette Marrin
- 5 Attachment, disagreement and escalation
- 6 Logic, sets, probability and Guardian gals
- 7 The scientific analysis of personality and politics
- 8 Guardian gals and the readership profile for UK newspapers
- 9 The contemporary concerns of society
- 10 Conflict: history, anniversaries and contemporary concerns
- 11 The nature of reality: social modelling as a method of conflict resolution

Byrne, Paula. *The real Jane Austen. A life in small things*. Harper Collins, 2013.
 Criado-Perez, Caroline. “Making the case for Citizen Jane. This fine example of literary detective work uncovers Austen’s political views.” *The Observer. The New Review*. October 30, 2016, 33.
 Kennedy, Helena. *Jane Austen: the secret radical*. Icon Books, 2016.

5 Towards a course on *Values, World Society and Modelling*

I am busy working on the 2015 Yearbook – see the overview of the chapters in the following section – and it has made me think of whether my three books might form the basis for a course on *Values, World Society and Modelling*. A possible timetable might be:

Spring 2017: *Values, World Society and Modelling Yearbook, 2014*
 Summer 2017: *Values, World Society and Modelling Yearbook, 2015*
 Autumn 2017: *Conflict, Complexity and Mathematical Social Science*

As a taster for the chapters in the 2014 Yearbook, the following links can be made:

- 5 The Life of an Individual ... Feeling at Home in the World ...
 ... link to Jane Austen – see note above
- 6 ‘Our Values’: Unanimous? Universal? Exceptional? Good? Safe?
 ... link to anniversary of Luther’s 1517 – see note above
 ... link to peace museum – see note above
- 7 The World Today: Tension and Volatility in a Multi-Level Geopolitical Structure
 ... link to Syria – see note above
- 8 World History: Progress and Destruction, Independence and Incorporation
 ... link to 1916 Sykes-Picot and 1917 Balfour Declaration
- 9 Ukraine: United or Divided? West and East; Living with Others
 ... link to Putin
- 10 Scotland: ‘Our Values’? Independence? More Varied and Less Distinctive
 ... link to Trump v Clinton in USA; and to Brexit

Table 1.1 The chapters in *Values, World Society and Modelling Yearbook, 2014*

1 Introduction and Overview ... Arts and Science

Values

- 2 Individuals and Societies, Needs and Cultures
- 3 Individuals: Activities, Happiness and Other Values, Emotion, Personality
- 4 Relationships: Family and Friends, Care and Therapy, Nurturing Flourishing
- 5 The Life of an Individual ... Feeling at Home in the World
- 6 ‘Our Values’: Unanimous? Universal? Exceptional? Good? Safe?

World Society

- 7 The World Today: Tension and Volatility in a Multi-Level Geopolitical Structure
- 8 World History: Progress and Destruction, Independence and Incorporation
- 9 Ukraine: United or Divided? West and East; Living with Others

- 10 Scotland: 'Our Values'? Independence? More Varied and Less Distinctive
- 11 The World Economy: Growth and Inequality
- 12 Gender: Culture and Psychology, Literacy and Education
- 13 World Chess 1914, World Football 2014: Performance and Prediction

Modelling

- 14 Look at Social Reality ... Look at the Universe ... And See Mathematics!

Table 1.2 The chapters in *Values, World Society and Modelling Yearbook, 2015*

1 Introduction and Overview

Values

- 2 Transcending adversarialism: The John Burton Memorial Lecture 2015
- 3 Life as a journey
- 4 'Our values': the Enlightenment ... the Prophet

World Society

- 5 World society in 2015
- 6 Social and psychological space - geographical variation
- 7 Time series: social value, violence and population
- 8 Nigeria, Greece and Ireland: geography and one-dimensional political space
- 9 Northern Ireland: multidimensional political space and geography
- 10 The UK general election, 2015: prelude and outcome
- 11 Democracy: satisfaction? ... dissatisfaction? ... value space
- 12 Time series: UK general elections, 1945 to 2015

Modelling

- 13 Sets and functions; time and space
- 14 Value spaces; the earth in space and time

Table 1.3 The chapters in *Conflict, Complexity and Mathematical Social Science*

1 Introduction and overview

Modelling

- 2 Set theory and social reality
- 3 Mathematics, logic, artificial intelligence and ordinary language

Value

- 4 Possibility and probability: value, conflict and choice
- 5 Theory, evidence and reality: the mean and median of competing groups
- 6 Social design, ethics and the amount of value

Society

- 7 Change, multiple-entity systems and complexity
- 8 Mathematical psychology
- 9 Models of choice
- 10 Mathematical sociology
- 11 Mathematical political science and game theory
- 12 The mathematical economics of social participation: complexity
- 13 Life and history: the speculative pursuit of value
- 14 World history: the growth and distribution of power, truth and value
- 15 Debating the mathematical science approach to international relations

6 Overview of the chapters in the 2015 Yearbook

An overview of the chapters is available at (pages 3 to 16):

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmxb3Jkb25idXJ0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDo3ZTFiNzMOZjljNTU4YWUz> .