

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

<https://sites.google.com/site/gordonburtmathsocsci/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, April 2018

No. 52

World Society ... John Groom ... Oliver Ramsbotham, Tom Woodhouse, Hugh Miall, Herb Blumberg

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World Society, Newport Pagnell: the news and the books

Here in Newport Pagnell, my daughter Rona told me about Steven Pinker's new book. Enlightenment is under threat – just look at the news. Since then Rona and I have met on a couple of occasions at the Swan Revived Hotel for a chat.

News at Ten: why?

Brexit: why?

Trump: why?

Putin and Xi: why?

Italy: why?

The News at Ten brings world events into our homes. What we see on the screen prompts us to ask, why? Experts offer us their views. What are we to make of it all?

Let's spend an hour together exchanging views. What questions are uppermost in our minds? Let's explore these questions and see what we think.

What started me on this track a few years ago was a book by Steven Pinker. And now Steven Pinker has written another book. These two books and other books have led me to the following questions:

Are we getting less violent?
Is our first loyalty to our tribe?
Who is the greatest threat: Trump, Putin or Xi?
Is democracy in decline?
Is the Enlightenment under threat?
Do animals have rights?
Where do we get our information from?

You may have quite different questions.

Information sources

The news: newspapers, radio, TV, electronic ...
Commentary: newspapers, radio, TV, electronic ...

Books in hand:

Steven Pinker. *Better Angels*. 2013.
Steven Pinker. *Enlightenment Now*. 2018. See SP
Yuval Noah Harari. *Homo Deus*. 2016.

Books reviewed:

Amy Chua. *Political Tribes. Group Instinct and the Fate of Nations*. 2018.
Yascha Mounk. *The People vs Democracy: Why Our Freedom is in Danger and How to Save It*. 2018.

Book reviews/articles:

AC "Our highest loyalty is to our tribe." *Times, Saturday Review*, 10.2.18, 14-15.
SP "Enlighten me." *The Observer*, 11.2.18, 20-24.
YM "Shock to the system. Liberal democracy is at a critical point. Authoritarians are on the rise and electorates are seduced by extremes. To fight back, mainstream politicians need to grasp the causes of popular discontent. And rebuild democracy's moral foundations." *The Observer*, 4.3.18, 55-57.

World Society, London: peace economic; gender and conflict ... Bhopal

We are planning to hold a regular series of informal meetings in London. The first has already taken place. Just before the CRS AGM, I had a chat for an hour with Oliver, Tom, Hugh and Herb about world society. This is reported in the following section.

Defence spending and peace economics Date and place to be confirmed.

Gordon Burt and Rania Dimitraki are meeting to chat about '*Defence spending and peace economics*'.

Would you like to join us? If so, just come along!

Rania Dimitraki: 'My principal research interests have been on the impact of the regional aspect of social reproduction under specific socio-historical conditions and

political/ governmental policies on economic growth. The focus of my research was Western Europe (to capture the regional structure of the economy). At present I am investigating the effects of political regime types, the policies which stem out of different political systems and the underlying social environment on the economic well-being in LDC (mainly Asian countries and the Balkans) by using the latest econometric techniques.'

'Gender and conflict and how to increase women's participation peace processes; UNSCR1325 AND SDG5'. Date and place to be confirmed.

Gordon Burt and Yeshim Harris are meeting to chat about '*Gender and conflict and how to increase women's participation peace processes; UNSCR1325 AND SDG5*'.

Would you like to join us? If so, just come along!

Yeshim Harris brought chief negotiators, senior political figures, leading civic leaders and Parliamentarians from Northern Ireland, South Africa and the Balkans to Cyprus for experience sharing. She is the co-author of The White Book, which is produced as policy guidance for gender sensitive peace process in Cyprus (UNSCR 1325). Her current project is a dialogue platform for women from Colombia, Philippines, Cyprus, Israel-Palestine and Northern Ireland.

May 9: Restorative Action for Bhopal

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/screening-of-the-film-bhopali-justice-for-bhopal-tickets-44475448263?aff=es2>;

<https://restorebhopal.wordpress.com/>; [19 Hillside Road, London SW2 3HL](https://www.google.com/maps/place/19+Hillside+Road,+London+SW2+3HL)

restorebhopal@myphone.coop 020 8671 8037 A message from Martin Wright:

"We hope that you will come and see this film, at 6.0 for 6.30 on Wednesday 9 May at Garden Court Chambers, 57-60 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London; for more details and to reserve a place (free) please click on the above link.

Do you remember hearing about the huge leak of poison gas in the city of Bhopal in central India? It was shocking then, back in 1984, and it is even more shocking that poison is still seeping into the ground.

The story is told in the hard-hitting film Bhopali. Since the film was made, the situation has become even worse. The number of areas affected has gone up from 14 in 2004 to 22 in 2012 and has now risen to 42. Victims are having to have liver and kidney transplants.

Tens of thousands are still suffering in Bhopal, through chronic damage to their health, often leaving them unable to work. Babies are stillborn or born with congenital defects. Compensation paid, back in 1989, was inadequate.

The company responsible, Union Carbide Corporation, was taken over in 2001 by the Dow Chemical Company, which merged with DuPont in 2017 to become DowDuPont. This plans to split into three, which will make accountability even harder to trace.

Restorative Action for Bhopal believes that the people of Bhopal should not be forgotten by company directors, politicians or the public. Our concern is not to attribute blame, but to prevent further suffering by calling on those with the power and resources to clean up the poisoned soil and water, after more than 33 years.

World Society: a conversation with Oliver Ramsbotham, Tom Woodhouse, Hugh Miall and Herb Blumberg

Oliver Ramsbotham, Tom Woodhouse, Hugh Miall and Herb Blumberg talk with Gordon Burt. (See Reference section below for Ramsbotham et al, and Woodhouse et al.)

I had a chat for an hour with Oliver, Tom, Hugh and Herb about world society. It was in Leon's Ludgate Circus, London, on Saturday 17 March 2018. I got a lot out of it and here are my own personal notes.

Key words: world society, system, spheres, politics, economy, culture, states, power, actors, values

'World society'

When people talk about world society ...

... they may be talking about the past, the present or the future;

... they may be talking about world society as it is – or as they would like it to be.

John Burton, CRS, Kent and 'world society' ... John Groom

The phrase 'world society' has a special association with the Conflict Research Society (CRS) through the use of the phrase by CRS founder, John Burton. Burton used the phrase on page 399 in his chapter in the book *Conflict in Society* (1966), edited by Tony de Reuck – a book which might be regarded as the founding book of the CRS. It is the title of his book *World Society* (1972) and the associated paper *The Study of World Society: a London Perspective* (1974) coauthored with CRS colleagues John Groom, Chris Mitchell and Tony de Reuck. There followed Michael Banks and John Burton: *Conflict in World Society*, Wheatsheaf, 1984.

John Burton moved from UCL to the University of Kent. *Paradigms: the Kent Journal of International Relations* ran from 1987 to 1995; and continues under the title *Global Society*, published on behalf of the University of Kent. In 1993 the academic advisers were Chris Brown, John Groom and Andrew Williams. John Groom's career has been spent at Kent. The editorial in the March 2018 issue of *Global Society* by Andrew Williams and Stephen Chan pays tribute to John Groom.

world society:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/9780470670590.wbeog836>

<http://www.e-ir.info/2017/05/09/the-concept-of-world-society-in-international-relations/>

John Groom:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13600826.2018.1450733>;

global society:

<https://www.kent.ac.uk/politics/research/globalsociety/global-society.html>;

<https://study.com/academy/lesson/global-society-definition-lesson-quiz.html> ;

<http://users.sussex.ac.uk/~hafa3/global1.htm>;

<http://www.scimagojr.com/journalsearch.php?q=25162&tip=sid> ;

<http://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199604456.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780199604456-e-035> ;

Rules of the CRS

- 1) The name of the Society is the CONFLICT RESEARCH SOCIETY, hereinafter called 'the Society'.
- 2) The objects of the Society are to promote research into and the extension of knowledge in the field of Conflict Research. By the term Conflict Research in these rules is meant the investigation and study on a scientific basis of the following:
 - a) The basic CAUSES AND NATURE of cooperation and conflict between individuals, and particularly between groups of individuals, with especial reference to large-scale violent conflicts, including wars.
 - b) The FACTORS within social systems which cause them to approach or avoid constructive or destructive conflicts.
 - c) The PROCESSES of resolving or controlling conflicts, including such specific proposals as the modification of existing social or political institutions or the creation of new ones.
 - d) The LIKELY CONSEQUENCES of particular policies and proposals intended to avoid, resolve, or control conflicts, or to increase cooperation between groups of individuals, the steps necessary to realise such proposals, and possible obstacles in their way.
 - e) Any other problems directly relevant to conflict and cooperative behaviour.The investigation and study is directed as far as possible towards finding factual evidence and objective criteria for testing theories and hypotheses.

System

Whether or not there is such a thing as a world society, it seems safe to say that the world constitutes a system. After all, for systems theorists, everything is a system! When CRS was formed in the 1960s, the concept of systems was new and exciting. Kenneth Boulding, Anatol Rapoport and Ralph Gerard set up the *Society for General Systems Research* in 1954. (Karl Deutsch amongst others was interested in a systems approach.)

[http://www.bcscs.org/the-center/legacy/system-movement/society-for-general-systems-research-sgrs/;](http://www.bcscs.org/the-center/legacy/system-movement/society-for-general-systems-research-sgrs/)
<http://www.springer.com/cn/book/9783319029092;>

There is a distinction between open and closed systems.

The word 'systems' is used in section 2b of the above rules of the CRS: 'The FACTORS within social systems which cause them to approach or avoid constructive or destructive conflicts.'

The political sphere and state(s)

Within a society there are several spheres, one of which is the political sphere. Within the political sphere there may be one or more or no states. Commonly one thinks of a country as having just one unitary state. World society contains many states but no single unitary world state.

Power

Whatever the set of entities comprising world society, the question arises about the nature of the relationship between the entities. For some, international relations is characterised by 'power politics' (Martin Wight - but see below). However John Burton (1964, 399) offers twelve conclusions, the very first of which is: "power – the ability to influence others to act as required – is not necessarily the essential or the main factor in the organisation of world society".

Actors ... numerosity and size of groups

But are states the only actors on the world stage – or at least the only ones that matter? Burton was also concerned about individuals. And what about groups? See CRS Rules above.

Consider partitioning a society into groups. There is an inverse relation between the numerosity of groups and the size of the groups. For example 8 individuals can be partitioned equally into 4 twos, 2 fours and 1 eight. Now consider combining individuals in a society into groups. There is a single-peaked relation between the numerosity of groups and the size of the groups. There is just one empty stage, 8 solos, 28 duets ($28=8!/2!6!$), 40 trios, 70 quartets, 40 quintets, 28 sextets, 8 septets and 1 octet – in other words as in the binomial distribution.

See Figures 1 and 2 below.

Values

And now we come to values. I recall reading Wight some decades ago. There is a diagram – one axis is power and the other axis is ethics.

Let us consider the values which exist in world society. For realists, national self-interest is dominant. This is evidenced often by strong national leaders. There are no rules – a state of anarchy (without rules) prevails.

Rather than anarchy what may exist is a ‘rules-based system’- a phrase currently being appealed to in criticism of Russia and others. Others refer to a world order - Richard Falk. The current order is seen as a ‘liberal world order’ and there are current concerns about threats to it. To what extent does the liberal world order and open systems depend on or underpin universal values? World society needs to be democratised.

Burton’s focus on basic human needs. Positive sum and zero-sum situations.

Talk turned to Institute of Economics and Peace and its Global Peace Index and Positive Peace Index and the values embedded in that. Components and factors. A vision of humanity. Tom has links with this group.

Other spheres: cultural, economic ...

Different actors have different interests; and if there are different types of actors then there are different types of interests. Focusing on the individual, Burton emphasised ‘basic human needs’. This attention to the values of individuals was seen as neglecting the cultures of groups (Kevin Avruch, 2016).

Others see the economic sphere as dominant, e.g. Wallerstein’s world-system.

Other points

The above points are only part of what was discussed. Other points were:

Origins of the ideas: stoics, Kant ... Europe system of states, post World War II, UN
 English school – society of states with rules
 Trade, international law, non-intervention
 Constructivism – obeying the nature of the state
 International community, other agencies, international norms, responsibility to protect, David Held,
 Multiple relationships and levels, lower levels, institutions, history shows world to be more pluralist
 Evaluation tools, problem solving
 Galtung’ attitude, behaviour, structure
 Adam Curle needs theory; link universal needs and ethnic groups,
 World society has to have a universal value
 Depends on level you are looking at
 Diffusion of innovation, uptake of findings, application, Greens
 Global public policy
 Hedley Bull

‘Values, World Society and Modelling’

Finally I would like to relate these ideas to ‘Values, World Society and Modelling’. I like Burton’s phrase ‘world society’ because I want to think about all the world and I want to think about all aspects of society. I like the notion of ‘values’ because it embraces the full variety of values which are in play.

Many thanks to Oliver, Tom, Hugh and Herb for such a stimulating conversation.

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- . “Message from Dr John W Burton, AM, co-founder of International Peace Research Association, ‘IPRA.’” [2010 IPRA conference, CPACS, University of Sydney.] Personal communication from John Groom. 2010.
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- . and J. Dennis Sandole. "Generic Theory: The Basis of Conflict Resolution." *Negotiation Journal*, 2(4), (1986): 333-344.
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- Fourth Edition. Cambridge, Polity: 2015.
- Informative website: <http://politybooks.com/ccr/>
- Tom Woodhouse, Hugh Miall Oliver Ramsbotham and Christopher Mitchell. (Editors). *The Contemporary Conflict Resolution Reader*. Cambridge, Polity: 2015.

Figure 1 Many small groups and few large groups. Equal partition: an inverse relation between the numerosity of groups and the size of the groups (a power law distribution, $m=8/n$, $\log m = \log 8 - \log n$)

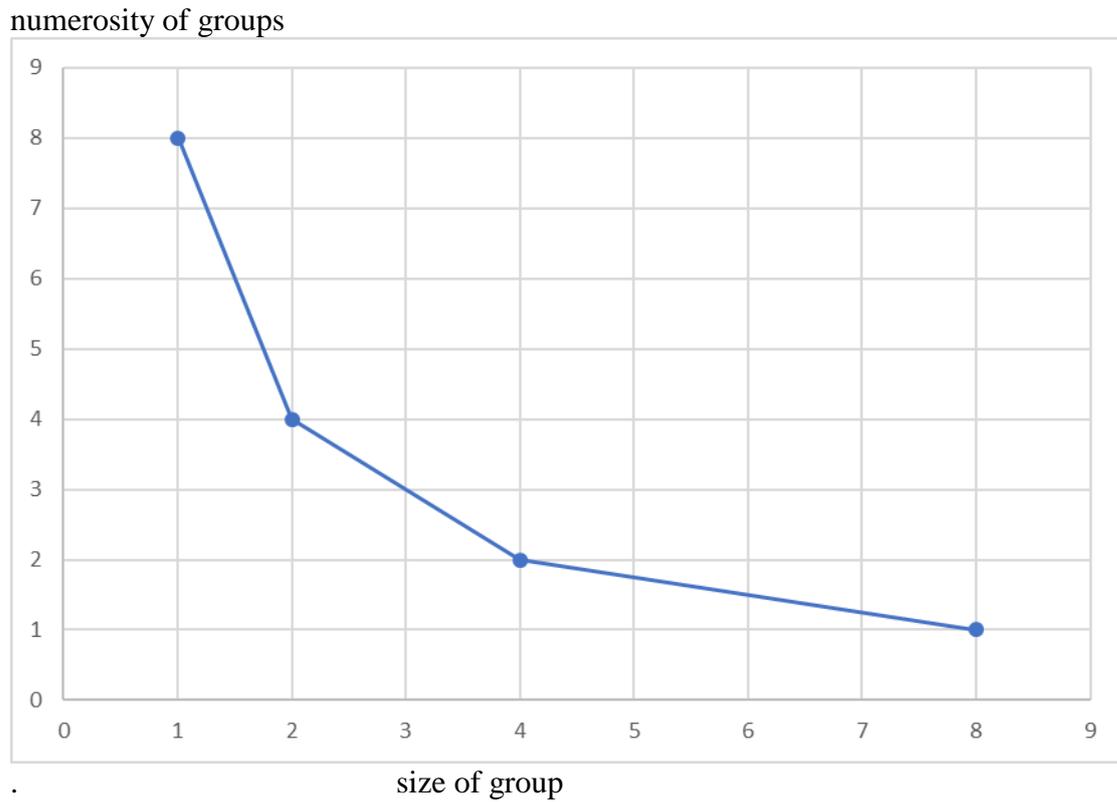
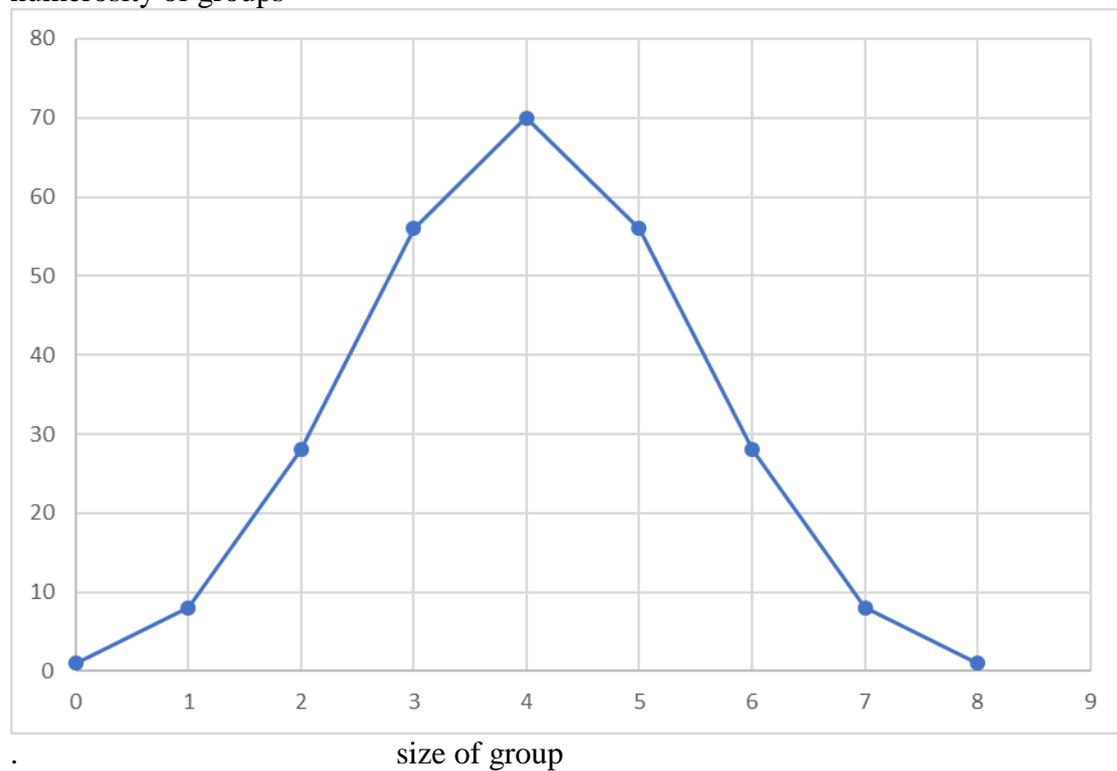


Figure 2 Many middle-sized groups. Combinations: a single-peaked relation between the numerosity of groups and the size of the groups (the binomial distribution, $N=8$)



Global Society ... Volume 32 Issue 1 ... John Groom

<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/cgsj20/32/1?nav=tocList>

“*Global Society* is an interdisciplinary journal of international studies that promotes the analysis of the internationalisation and globalisation of various levels of social, economic and political interaction from a multitude of disciplines, including international relations, political science, political philosophy, international political economy, international law, international conflict analysis and international sociology. An ever integrating global society raises a number of issues for the study of international relations, and the editors welcome submissions exploring themes related to global governance, human rights, poverty and development, conflict, trade, gender, nationalism, religion, ethnicity, migration, terrorism and criminal activities, genocides, health, and environmental degradation. The journal is open to different methodological and theoretical approaches and seeks to publish articles that appeal to a wide readership, including policy makers and practitioners.”

<https://www.tandfonline.com/action/journalInformation?show=aimsScope&journalCode=cgsj20>

Global Society, Volume 32 Issue 1

Revisiting Global Governance in Multistakeholder Initiatives: Club Governance Based on Ideational Prealignments

Andrea Schneiker & Jutta Joachim

[Abstract](#)|[Full Text](#)|

[PDF \(213 KB\)](#)

The G20 Chair and the Case of the Global *Economic* Steering Committee

Larry Crump & Christian Downie

[Abstract](#)|[Full Text](#)|

[PDF \(230 KB\)](#)

Middle Powers and the Behavioural Model

Charalampos Efstathopoulos

[Abstract](#)|[Full Text](#)|

[PDF \(227 KB\)](#)

Sovereignty *a-venir*: Towards a Normative Understanding of Sovereignty

Evangelos Fanoulis & Vjosa Musliu

Pages: 70-87

Published online: 25 Oct 2017

[Abstract](#)|[Full Text](#)|

[PDF \(206 KB\)](#)

With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility: On Foucault’s Notions of Power, Subjectivity, Freedom and Their (Mis)Understanding in IR

Athanasios Gkoutzioulis

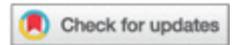
[Abstract](#)|[Full Text](#)|

[PDF \(230 KB\)](#)

The Problem of Nuclear Harm for Andrew Linklater, Lorraine Elliott and Other Contemporary Cosmopolitans

N.A.J. Taylor

[Abstract](#)|[Full Text](#)|



GUEST EDITORIAL

AJRG: A Tribute

This volume is the collective statement of the affection, friendship and respect that we all feel for John Groom, often referred to as “AJRG”. Everyone who has contributed to the following pages has known John for a good proportion of their academic lives, and been immensely privileged in doing so. As a man of solid Lincolnshire stock, John would not want us to “get all emotional” about him, but it has to be said that he has the ability to inspire great feelings of affection in others, even, dare we say it, “love”. That ability is abundantly on display in the comments below. It is also on show in the articles that showcase the work of many other friends and colleagues. With the welcome exception of the improving comments of the many people who (anonymously) refereed the articles, we have not edited out the often amusing and sometimes intimate reflections about John. He is one of the very few people we all know who can make us both think and laugh at the same time, a rare combination in this contemporary “quality”-obsessed university world. John has always seen his job as a teacher, writer and organiser as being one of inspiring others, not deadening their imaginations, and we all try to emulate this great tradition.

We have tried to illustrate just a few of the fields of international relations to which John has been a decisive contributor over many years. The first of these is his fervent desire to see better communication and political cooperation between Britain and the other nations of the European Union, particularly France, a country that John has appreciated for many years. But who says EU says the world. The contributions by Bertrand Badie, as well as by Chan and Williams, show how much John has inspired people of very different interests to collaborate in constructive and innovative ways. The second cluster of articles, by Georgios Kostakos and Edward (Ted) Newman, reflects John’s lifelong study of the international organisations (better described below by his long-time co-writer Paul Taylor). The third set of contributions, and last but not least, concern John’s leadership in the field of conflict studies. Viv Jabri and Oliver Richmond are among the best-known thinkers in this field, and both hold John in great esteem for his role in their successful careers.

The majority of this Introduction consists of a number of short accounts by a selection of John’s friends. But it is worth starting with a (very) brief summary of

Values, World Society and Modelling, Report on 2017

Rationale ... CRS, John Burton, Michael Nicholson

In 1964, in the preface to the book *Conflict in Society*, Tony de Reuck wrote about the formation in 1963 of the Conflict Research Society; about the appointment of a senior research fellow at Lancaster University, namely Michael Nicholson; and about the contribution by John Burton (who has a chapter in the book), founding Chair of CRS.

When I joined the Conflict Research Society in 1982, there were two key figures. I never met John Burton but everybody talked about him. Values were at the heart of John Burton's approach to conflict resolution. 'World Society'¹ was the title of one of his books. Michael Nicholson I did meet – and continued to meet over the next couple of decades. 'Formal Theories in International Relations'² was the title of one of Michael's books – 'formal theories', in other words modelling. So there you have it: values, world society and modelling.

My 2014 Yearbook related its aims to: CRS Council discussions, particularly Oliver Ramsbotham's specification of conflict research "consonant with the Rules of the CRS"; and Steven Pinker's book prize at the Essex 2013 conference.

Finally Kristian Gleditsch's centre at Essex is called the *Michael Nicholson Centre for Conflict and Cooperation*.

Yearbooks, 2014-2017

Yearbooks for 2014 and 2015 were published in 2016 and 2017 respectively. The Yearbook for 2016 has been in preparation for the past year. The 2017 Yearbook will go to the publisher at the end of January 2018 ... following a new approach of producing a shorter book and publishing it as soon after the year end as possible.

Oliver Ramsbotham, Kristian Gleditsch and Chris Mitchell reviewed the 2014 Yearbook; and Kevin Avruch and Glenn Palmer reviewed the 2015 Yearbook.

An online compendium of chapter abstracts is available. The abstracts for chapters on politics is also available online.

Commentary

The yearbooks are based on the issues of Commentary which have been produced monthly 2014-2017.

CRS Oxford conference, 2017

Gordon Burt made a presentation on Values, World Society and Modelling at the CRS Oxford conference, 2017.

World Society in 2017

Trends continued: global warming; advancing technology; the dominance of the USA; rapid growth in India and China; and sometimes religious strife amongst Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, Jews and others. The volcanic outbursts from Donald Trump, the new president in the White House, contrasted with the assured calm displayed by China's Xi Jinping at home and globally. Trump's style caused nervousness at home and around the world. China's activities caused nervousness among its Pacific neighbours. North Korea continued its nuclear missile development

¹ Burton, John. *World Society*. London: Macmillan, 1972.

² Nicholson, Michael. *Formal theories in international relations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989.

in the face of angry words from Washington, UN resolutions, sanctions and diplomacy. Vladimir Putin's relations with Russia's near neighbours – the Baltic states, Ukraine, Turkey, Syria and Iraq – created nervousness in the West. Joint, though separate and not always harmonious, action involving both Russia and the USA succeeded in rolling back Isis in Syria and Iraq. Saudi Arabia and Iran continued their involvement in the disastrous situation in the Yemen. In Europe, Catalonians were divided in their opinion about staying in Spain or leaving; Brexit discussions continued within the UK and between UK and the European Union as a general election produced a minority government; in France the astonishing ascent of centrist Macron took him to the presidency; Angela Merkel struggled to form a centrist coalition in Germany; and in Austria a coalition formed involving the far right. President Maduro entrenched his leftist government in Venezuela. Anarchy continued in Libya while in the south of the continent the long rule of Robert Mugabe in Zimbabwe ended, and the position of President Zuma of South Africa weakened. The Rohingya refugees fled persecution in Myanmar.

APPENDIX

Reviews

Yearbook 2014: reviews by Oliver Ramsbotham, Kristian Gleditsch and Christopher Mitchell:

<http://www.cambridgescholars.com/productreviews/61006>

Yearbook 2015: reviews by Kevin Avruch and Glenn Palmer

<http://www.cambridgescholars.com/productreviews/61934>

Samples of the full text

Yearbook 2014

Sample: front pages and pages 1 to 16 containing Chapter Overviews

<http://www.cambridgescholars.com/download/sample/62982>

Yearbook 2015

Sample: front pages and pages 1 to 14 containing Chapter Overviews

<http://www.cambridgescholars.com/download/sample/63934>

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Guest contributors: Kevin Avruch, Dennis Sandole, Steve Pickering

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

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Guest Contributors: Kevin Clements, Dennis Sandole, Hugh Miall, Feargal Cochrane and Rania Dimitraki

<http://www.cambridgescholars.com/values-world-society-and-modelling-yearbook-2015>

Yearbook, 2016 (in preparation)

Values, World Society and Modelling Yearbook, 2016

first draft of Overview with online links to Commentary:

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmxb3Jkb25idXJ0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDo3ZDk2ZjNjMDI2MzNhNTF>

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Compendium: Values, World Society and Modelling (July 2017)

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmxb3Jkb25idXJ0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDo3MGI2NDcyZmM4NmYxNGE4>

Politics: values, society and modelling (June 2017)

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmxb3Jkb25idXJ0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDp mMjM0NTQ4ZjI2OGNmN2E>

Psychology: society and modelling

Issue 1, February 2017

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmxb3Jkb25idXJ0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDoxNDZiZWZhZWQ2ZjNjNmUw>

Michael Nicholson Centre for Conflict and Cooperation

<https://www1.essex.ac.uk/government/research/centres/mncec/>

Commentary and website

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

Panel on ‘World Society’: titles please to gordonjburt@gmail.com

I am planning to run a panel on ‘World Society’ at the CRS conference. If you would like to contribute please send a provisional title to gordonjburt@gmail.com.

CRS conference in Birmingham, September 17-18, 2018

<http://conflictresearchsociety.org/ourevents/crs-conference-2018/>

CALL FOR PAPERS
CRS Annual Conference, 2018.
RETHINKING THE TRANSITION FROM VIOLENCE TO PEACE IN
UNCERTAIN TIMES

School of Government and Society
University of Birmingham
September 17-18, 2018

The annual conference of the Conflict Research Society (CRS) will be hosted by the University of Birmingham’s School of Government and Society, on 17-18 September 2018. We invite you to submit panel and individual paper proposals that bridge theory, empirics and practice in peace and conflict research.

The conference theme is *Rethinking the transition from violence to peace in uncertain times*. We are, therefore, particularly keen to invite submissions that discuss the processes, drivers and actors involved in peaceful transitions. In recent years, the Arab Spring and increasing instability in Central and Eastern Europe have led to a range of protracted transitions which have been characterised by conflict between distinct ethnic, religious or regional identity groups, and have seen significant international involvement in response to this violence – or the potential for it to erupt. These developments not only invite comparison with previous transition waves in Latin America, the post-communist states of Central and Eastern Europe and Africa but prompt us to question what exactly ‘post-conflict’ means, in theory and in practice.

The conference seeks to generate debate and relationship-building between scholars and practitioners interested in key issues surrounding these issues, and the wider dynamics of political conflict, dialogue, diplomacy and peacebuilding. Contributions from practitioners working to forge peaceful transitions are especially welcome. As always, the CRS conference will offer a range of participants, papers and invited keynote speakers from both practitioners and academics. The conference will continue its tradition of multi-disciplinary focus and is open to the full range of quantitative and qualitative methodological approaches to the subject. The conference is being held in association with the journals *Civil Wars*, *Ethnopolitics* and *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding* and the journal editors particularly welcome panel and paper proposals aimed at these journals.

The conference will feature two keynote speeches (to be announced shortly), and the winner of the Conflict Research Society book prize. In recent years the book prize winners have included Steven Pinker for *The Better Angels of Our Nature*, Kathleen

Cunningham for *Inside the Politics of Self-Determination*, Joshua Goldstein for *Winning the War on War: The Decline of Armed Conflict Worldwide*, Kevin Avruch for *Context and Pretext in Conflict Resolution*; Kristin M. Bakke for *Decentralisation and Intrastate Struggles: Chechnya, Punjab, and Québec*; and Sabrina Karim and Kyle Beardsley for *Equal Opportunity Peacekeeping*.

We will be emailing you more details on the keynote events shortly, but for now we would like you to make a note of the date in your diaries and submit your proposals. Individual and panel proposals should be submitted online by March 31, 2018. Panel Proposals should include a title, abstract (less than 200 words) and a list of four papers. Individual paper proposals should likewise include a title and abstract. If you have any questions please email the conference organiser - Daniel Kirkpatrick, crsconf@gmail.com. Looking forward to seeing you on 17-18 September, 2018 for another great conference!

Best regards
Programme Chairs 2018

Peace and conflict research ... Europe, America, Asia

A course: War, Reconstruction and Establishment of Peace

3rd Summer School
War, Reconstruction and Establishment of peace
from the roots of war to the establishment of a lasting Peace
August 30th- September 6th, 2018
(one week course, 40 hours)
(deadline for applications, July 31, 2018)

The European Center of Peace Science, Integration and Cooperation (CESPIC) of the Catholic University "Our Lady Of Good Counsel" organizes the 3rd Summer School "War, reconstruction and establishment of peace from the roots of war to the establishment of a lasting Peace". The Summer school aims to provide a group of international graduate students with scientific pillars about roots of war, peace and issues in peacebuilding. In line with Peace Science tradition, the program is interdisciplinary involving disciplines such as economics, political science, international relations and history. The Summer school is designed for graduate students with a strong interest in the scientific study of Peace that are either willing to proceed to advanced graduate studies or to become future practitioners in the field of international relations and peacebuilding. In order to favor also a fruitful and open dialogue with the faculty a small group of students will be selected. The faculty (please see the list below) is composed of world-class scholars in the field. Classes will be held between August 30th and September 6th at the Catholic University Our Lady of Good Counsel in Tirana. The Summer School lasts one week and 40 hours.

The Summer School is organized by CESPIC (www.unizkm.al/index.php/en/research/cespic) in cooperation with: Institute of

Economics and Peace (www.economicsandpeace.org) and Confronti (www.confronti.net)

Faculty

Raul Caruso, Catholic University of the Sacred Heart and CESPIC -
Director, "*Foundations of Peace Economics*"

Arzu Kibris, University of Warwick, "*Exposure to violence and long-term cost of conflict*"

Han Dorussen, University of Essex, "*Institution and Peace Building*"

Scott Gates, PRIO, "*Inter-ethnic and inter-religious conflicts*"

Christos Kollias, Thessaly University, "*Military expenditures and Economic development*"

Subhasish Chowdury, University of Bath, "*Strategic and Behavioral Foundations of Conflict*"

Vincenzo Bove, University of Warwick, "*Peacekeeping and security-related aspects of migrations*"

Tobias Böhmelt, University of Essex, "*International Mediation*"

Murray Ackman, Institute of Economics and Peace, "*Measuring Peace*"

Michele di Maio, University of Naples Parthenope, "*Impact of conflict on education*"

Roberto Ricciuti, University of Verona, "*State Capacity and Conflict*"

Application: please contact: cespic@unizkm.al and send a detailed curriculum vitae and other relevant information about you. References are not required but they are welcome. Submit your application by July 31, 2018. Since a first-come first-served criterion will be also considered for selection please apply early, as space in the program is limited.

Fee: 500 euros. The fee includes lunch. A small number of grants can be provided.

Accommodation: accommodation solutions can be provided within or near the campus which is located in downtown Tirana.

Peace Science Society

The Peace Science meeting, University of Texas, Austin, November 8-10

the workshops on Thursday, November 8:

I send a final reminder that proposals for workshops to be held at this year's Peace Science Society meeting are due **Thursday, March 29**. Successful proposals should be relatively complete and final. That is, I would like to know who, specifically, is anticipated to attend proposed workshops and what the product will be. We welcome, in particular, workshops that feature graduate students and junior scholars. Planning sessions and book workshops are preferred and mini-conferences are not. As always, Society membership is privileged.

We will be restricted this year to offering at most 8 workshops. Four of the workshops may be relative large (30-48 people) while the others must be smaller.

Proposals for the workshops can be submitted at the 2018 meeting's

website <http://sites.psu.edu/pssi/2018-workshop-proposal/>

Information about paper proposals for this year's meeting will be available soon.

Glenn Palmer

Executive Director
Peace Science Society (International)
<http://sites.psu.edu/pssi/>

The Online Peace Science Colloquium's

latest presentation features the paper "Elite Competition, Local Extraction, and Social Unrest: Understanding Mass Protest in Authoritarian Regimes" by Howard Liu (Duke University). Watch it live on **Monday, March 26th at 11 am (PT)** or view it later on our YouTube Channel.

Abstract:

Why do we observe massive protest events in authoritarian regimes? How can we explain the rich geographic variation within the country? This study contends that the pattern of social protest in China reflects subnational elite competition at the local level because cadre promotion systems incentivize local elites to compete in the economic field by extracting local resources, and these efforts often trigger local protest. Using original protest data that records massive local resistance from China, I find that Chinese social protest is associated with local elite competition in a nonlinear pattern. A rising intensity in local competition encourages greater extraction efforts and often triggers more resistances; however, excessive competition among officials discourages extraction and reduces social backlashes because officials fear that too much social instability could hurt their careers and uncompetitive leaders back down in the race. I also find that land expropriation by local governments becomes the main extractive mechanism which instigates social grievance in contemporary China. These findings demonstrate the important subnational variation of civil resistance and how it is shaped by competitive local politics in authoritarian regimes.

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OdONcFwa5Po>

Manas Chatterji: peace and conflict ... conference, Center, seminar

1. International Meeting of Peace Economics and Peace Science to be held in Bangalore, India on Jun 6-8, 2018. Interested persons to attend and make a presentation are requested to contact: Manas Chatterji, mchatter@binghamton.edu
2. We have established Mahatma Gandhi Center for Conflict Prevention and Management in Bangalore, India. For more details, contact Manas Chatterji, mchatter@binghamton.edu
3. We are thinking to arrange a small seminar on Conflict Migration and Diaspora in Geneva around June 21, 2018. This is not a Conference. It is a small gathering of interested scholars. After I hear from persons interested to attend and make a brief presentation, I shall confirm about the date and the location. Please interested persons, please contact Manas Chatterji, mchatter@binghamton.edu

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