

Conflict Resolution in Divided Societies: Theory and Practice

Workshop Chair: Stefan Wolff - Nottingham University, Christalla Yakinthou – University of Western Australia

Location: Pelican Room, Hilton New Orleans Riverside

Time: Tuesday, February 16 and Wednesday, February 17. Times TBA

Workshop Summary:

Much has been written in the field of conflict resolution for divided societies from a number of perspectives; on the battles between centripetalism and power sharing and their respective strengths and weaknesses, on the virtues of dividing power and territorial solutions, the evolution and value of diplomacy, the value of the UN and EU as peacemakers, the numerous failures and successes of peace processes or the application of particular theories to divided and post-conflict polities. However, approaches to this topic have tended to compete with each other both along and within conceptual-theoretical boundaries, rather than explore a more holistic, mutually supportive, perspective. The intention of the work which results from this workshop is simultaneously broader and more targeted.

The workshop applicants have a contract with Routledge Publishing for a book manuscript, provisionally entitled Conflict Resolution in Divided Societies: Theories and Practice. The book will examine how political settlements in divided societies are crafted, negotiated and implemented. It is an ambitious, first-of-its-kind publication, taking a multi-perspective approach to the study of conflict resolution in divided societies.

In taking a multi-perspective approach and examining the philosophies underpinning constitutional design, the actors and processes involved in creating peace, and the practicalities of the settlement process, combining conceptual-theoretical contributions with empirical case studies, this work encourages both its authors and its readers to reflect on the state of the field in its entirety: what relationships exist between the theorists, the practitioners, and the activists? How do outsiders relate to the conflict parties? What impact do they have on their decisions to continue fighting or settle for a compromise? Where are the gaps between theory and practice, and how has this affected conflict resolution?

The workshop will offer a unique opportunity for the participants, many of whom have very different perspectives on conflict resolution in divided societies, to create, or in some cases deepen, engagement with related approaches to their topic. The purpose of this workshop is therefore to allow scholars, practitioners, and activists who are contributing to the book to explore more fully their differences and to create research relationships. The workshop's primary objective is to create bridges between the approaches and perspectives of the contributors. Its secondary objective, to which the book publication is designed to contribute, is to begin developing a broad synthesis that would create mutually reinforcing relationships between these diverse approaches to conflict resolution. The book's objective is to invigorate the existing literature and catalyse innovative advances to how political settlements in divided societies are crafted, negotiated, and implemented.

Much time in the workshops will therefore be dedicated to exploring what relationships exist between the theorists, the practitioners, and the activists, as well as within each group, how outsiders relate to the conflict parties, the impact outside decisions have on domestic actors' decisions to continue fighting or settle for compromise. Thus, the workshops will significantly improve the final publication. The workshop is designed to take place over two full days, with ample time built in for reflections and development of ideas after presentations of the respective papers.

Workshop Participants:

- Stefan Wolff, University Of Nottingham, UK
- Christalla Yakinthou, University of Western Australia, Cyprus
- John Akokpari, University of Cape Town, South Africa
- Janine Clark, University of York, UK
- Karl Cordell, University of Plymouth, UK
- Wolfgang Danspeckgruber, Princeton University, US
- Adrian Guelke, Queen's University Belfast, UK
- Anoulak Kittikhoun, Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies, US
- Brendan O'Leary, UPenn, US
- Benjamin Reilly, Australian National University, Australia
- Philip Roeder, UCSD, US
- Alvaro de Soto, Geneva Centre for Security Policy, Switzerland
- Gareth Stansfield, niversity of Exeter, UK
- Nathalie Tocci, Istituto Affari Internazionali, Italy
- Marc Weller, University of Cambridge, UK
- William Zartman, SAIS, Johns Hopkins University, US

No Observers - Attendance Limited to Participants