On Friday, May 31, 2019, Prof. Susanna Campbell and Prof. Kate Cronin-Furman organized a day-long ISA catalytic workshop on *Deterring Atrocities: Identifying the Logic of Credible Prevention*. The fourteen workshop participants spent the day discussing their emergent work in the area of atrocity and violence prevention and identifying the numerous open questions in this emergent field of study. The workshop will result in new funding proposals that aim to support the research network of scholars researching conflict and atrocity prevention initiated by the workshop as well as an agenda-setting article by the workshop organizers, Prof. Campbell and Prof. Cronin-Furman.

The open questions that the workshop participants raised are listed below. This long list of open questions demonstrates that there is a large research agenda identified by this catalytic workshop, justifying the need for the workshop and the research network that has resulted from it.

**OPEN QUESTIONS ON THE LOGIC OF CREDIBLE PREVENTION**

**Descriptive questions:**

- How much money is allocated toward conflict and atrocity? prevention?
- How do networked relationships support/inhibit preventive actions?
- Who are the national actors who engage in prevention?
- What actors attempt to take preventive actions? What actions do they take/attempt to take? How have these actions changed over time?
- What is the role of regional organizations and international organizations in making foreign policy related to prevention?
• What are the theories of change underpinning different preventive actions? What are the different thresholds for action?

• How are decision-makers weighing different potential policy responses and prioritizing preventive actions versus other non-preventive actions?

Inferential questions:

• How and why are certain actions framed as prevention, while others are not?

• How does the race of the perpetrator or victim affect preventive action?

• What is the gender lens on preventive action? Who has the authority to act preventively? How does the gender of the victim influence preventive actions taken/not taken?

• Are anti-atrocity norms changing? If so, how? How does this relate to the mobilization of preventive actions?

• How do you cultivate empathy with someone who commits atrocities?

• What is the psychology and domestic political context of the preventive actor? What role does this play in the preventive intervention?

• How does the threshold for action change with the type of preventive action?

• How has social media changed the dynamics of intervention over time? Has the threshold of the response time changed? Has the effect of disinformation via social media, versus radio for example, changed the response time?

• How has the change in the number and type of potential preventive actors changed the type and threshold for preventive action?

• How does the normative aspect of prevention affect the foreign policy decision-making process? How does this change over time?

• What happens when there is no category of innocent civilians/victims? How does this affect preventive actions/responses?

• How are IHL and prevention norms used by preventive actors as well as potential atrocity perpetrators?

• What changes when the potential victims are able to express their voice globally via social media or other fora?

• From the perspective of the perpetrators of violence or a potential atrocity:
  ○ What determines the credibility of a preventive threat?
Are there perceived changes in prevention norms? If so, what is the effect of these perceived changes?

How is the willingness to commit an atrocity or violence affected by recent atrocities and the global response to these events (i.e., Syria or Burma)?

How do perpetrators respond to different types of preventive actions?

Definitional questions:

- What constitutes preventive action (i.e., political, military, development, etc…)? How is this similar/different from definitions in the report of the Carnegie Commission on Preventing Deadly Conflict and other seminal scholarship on prevention (i.e., Rubin 2002)?

- What are the definitions of success and failure in conflict and atrocity prevention?

- Disaggregate the different types of atrocities.

- What is the difference between prevention on the one hand and peacekeeping and peacebuilding on the other?
  - Prevention has coercive/non-consensual potential.
  - There is the assumption that preventive actions are lower cost than post-conflict peacebuilding or peacekeeping.
  - The ideal outcome of prevention is to stop violence, which is different from building peace.
  - Peacekeeping is non-random and is deployed in countries like Colombia and Sri Lanka. Do client states of great powers get prevention while other get peacekeeping?
  - The trigger of the problem and response identification and timing of associated actions in relation to violent events on the ground.
  - For peacekeeping you have a dedicated UN office and broader policy regime as well as a dedicated funding stream. For conflict prevention you don’t. For peacebuilding it is much more disbursed as well. Why is this?
  - Policymakers see atrocity prevention as a remote and rare phenomenon.

Research design questions:

- What is the universe of cases?

- How does the choice of dependent variable reflect a normative framework?

- How do you study different types of preventive strategies (i.e., economic, military, political, etc…) together?
• How can you analyze a stream or set of preventive actions and responses, potentially capturing action and reaction, and then an adjustment and another action and reaction? What is a dependent variable for contingent events?

• What is the effect of research partnerships with scholars in conflict-affected countries on conflict and atrocity prevention research?
ISA Catalytic Workshop

DETERRING ATROCITIES: IDENTIFYING THE LOGIC OF CREDIBLE PREVENTION

School of International Service
American University
Washington, DC, United States

Friday, May 31, 2019
9:00 AM - 5:30 PM
SIS Room 300

MEETING AGENDA

9:00 – 9:30 am        Breakfast

9:30 - 10:00 am       Welcome and objectives for the day
                      Susanna Campbell, American University
                      Kate Cronin-Furman, University College London

10:00 – 11:15 am      Session I: Logics of violence and atrocity commission
                      Chair: Kate Cronin-Furman
                      Presentations:

                      Michael Broache, University of North Carolina Greensboro: “Criminal Deterrence and Forms of Political Violence: The Case of Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict.”

                      David Cunningham, University of Maryland: “Preventing Civil War in Governmental and Territorial Disputes.”

11:15 – 11:30 am **Coffee Break**

11:30 – 12:45 pm **Session II: Obstacles to preventive action**
Chair: Susanna Campbell

*Presentations:*


David Welch, University of Waterloo: “Belief Rigidity and the Dangers of Inadvertent Conflict: the Perils of Threat Inflation in the South China Sea”

12:45 – 1:45 pm **Lunch**

1:45 – 3:00 pm **Session III: One logic of credible prevention, or multiple?**

*Presentation:*  Kyra Fox, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum; Daniel Solomon, Georgetown University; Lawrence Woocher, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum: “The Multiple Logics of Prevention.”

3:00 – 3:15 pm **Coffee Break**

3:30 – 5:30 pm **Session IV: Next steps**
Facilitators: Susanna Campbell & Kate Cronin-Furman

6:00 pm **Dinner at Chef Geoff’s**

Note: The format for Panels I, II, & III will be 10-minute presentations by each speaker, followed by 45 minutes of discussion.
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DETERRING ATROCITIES:
IDENTIFYING THE LOGIC OF CREDIBLE PREVENTION

School of International Service
American University
Washington, DC, United States

May 30 - 31, 2019

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