Global Trends in War, Conflict, and Political Violence

ISSS Working Group
ISA Annual Convention, Toronto 2014

Coordinators:
Jon Western (jwestern@mtholyoke.edu)
Kavita Khory (kkhory@mtholyoke.edu)

The year 2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War I. Over the past century, we have witnessed episodes of extreme interstate and intrastate violence as well as a more recent period of relative stability. This working group will bring together a group of scholars from a diverse set of theoretical, methodological, and geographical approaches to look at the broad trends in interstate war, intrastate war, and political violence over the past century, where we are today, and what the future trends might look like. The working group will address four key sets of questions in the pre-conference session, a mid-conference update session, and a wrap-up session at the conclusion of the conference:

1) What are the long-term trends on war, conflict, and political violence?
2) What are the patterns of civilian targeting, mass atrocities, and gender-based violence in interstate and intrastate war?
3) What explains these long-term trends? How effective are the norms, institutions, and practices designed to control and mitigate war and political violence?
4) What are the likely future trends? How has, and will, political violence manifest itself in an era of globalization, liberalization and decline in interstate war?

Our goal for this working group is to create a network and on-going dialogue for scholars to better coordinate scholarship on patterns of war and political violence across methodologies, theoretical perspectives, and geographic regions. We are also committed to facilitating a bridge across theory and practice and to highlight high quality, rigorous analytical conclusions with relevance for a broader policy community. To these ends, this working group will include scholars from a broad range of methodological, theoretical and geographical approaches as well as a number of scholar-practitioners in order to ensure we reach a broader audience of both scholars and policymakers.
Working Group Schedule (Participants are expected to attend all three sessions)

Pre-Conference Meeting: Tuesday, March 25

9:00 – 9:20am  Welcome and Introduction (Jon Western and Kavita Khory)

9:20 – 10:40am  A century of war: data and trends  
(Discussion leaders: Nils Petter Gleditsch, John Mueller)

10:40 – 11:00am:  Coffee and Tea break

11:00 – 12:20pm:  Violence within war: civilian targeting, mass atrocities, and gender-based violence  
(Discussion leaders: Neta Crawford, Erica Chenoweth)

12:20 – 1:30pm:  Lunch

1:30 – 2:50pm:  Explaining the decline of war: norms, institutions, and practices  
(Discussion leaders: Joshua Goldstein, Lise Howard, Bruce Jentleson)

2:50 – 3:10pm:  Coffee and Tea Break

3:10 – 4:30pm:  Conflict and political violence in an era of war decline  
(Discussion leaders: Deborah Avant, Pamela Aall)

4:30 – 5:00pm  Summary and Observations (Steven Pinker)

Thursday, March 27: 4:00pm – 5:45pm

Mid-Conference Update: Is War Really Changing?
This session will review and discuss the new research presented in panels and roundtables throughout the 2014 ISA conference that examines trends and changes in the frequency, duration, form, and intensity of war and political violence in the international system and what might or might not be contributing to those changes.

Friday, March 28: 4:00pm – 5:00pm

Working Group Wrap up: Future Trends in War and Political Violence
This session will examine the current state of and new trends in scholarship on the various forms of war and political violence that exist in the international system today. The session will identify and compare major research trends, theories, and approaches. The session will conclude with the development of a series of strategies on developing and sustaining a network of scholars committed to the producing and transmitting academic research to a broader audience of scholars and policymakers.
Working Group Coordinators

Jon Western

Jon Western is Carol Hoffmann Collins ’63 Professor of International Studies and Five College Professor of International Relations at Mount Holyoke College and the Five Colleges, Inc. He is the author of Selling Intervention and War: The Presidency, the Media, and the American Public (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005). He is the co-editor (with Patrice C. McMahon) of The International Community and Statebuilding: Getting Its Act Together? (Rutledge, 2012) and co-editor (with Eva Paus and Penelope Prime) of Global Giant: Is China Changing the Rules of the Game (Palgrave, 2009). His most recent manuscript titled Why Bother? The Rise and Fall of Liberal Statebuilding from Sarajevo to Kabul will be published in 2014. His articles have appeared in International Security, Security Studies, Perspectives on Politics, Ethnopolitics, Foreign Affairs, and elsewhere.

Kavita Khory

Kavita Khory is Professor of Politics at Mount Holyoke College. Her work focuses on the politics of South Asia, nationalism and ethnic conflict, and global migration and diaspora politics. She has written about insurgency movements and regional security in South Asia, political violence in Pakistan, and the impact of the US war in Afghanistan on Pakistan. Her current research explores transnational networks and political mobilization among South Asian diaspora populations in North America and Europe. She is the editor of Global Migration: Challenges in the Twenty-First Century, (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012).

Working Group Speakers

Pamela Aall

Pamela Aall is senior advisor for conflict prevention and management at the U.S. Institute of Peace. Prior to this position, she was provost of the US Institute of Peace’s Academy for International Conflict Management and Peacebuilding. She is a current board member and past president of Women in International Security, an organization dedicated to promoting women’s professional advancement in the foreign affairs and security fields. She has also worked at the Rockefeller Foundation, the European Cultural Foundation, the President’s Committee for the Arts and the Humanities, and the International Council for Educational Development. Her research interests include mediation and other third party intervention in conflict; addressing intractable conflicts; regional security and conflict management; the role of the non-official sector in conflict prevention and peacebuilding; and the part that education plays in exacerbating and resolving conflict. Aall has co-authored and co-edited a number of books and articles. The most recent one is
Deborah D. Avant

Deborah Avant is the Sié Chéou-Kang Chair for International Security and Diplomacy and Director of the Sié Chéou-Kang Center for International Security and Diplomacy at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver. Under her leadership the Sié Chéou-Kang Center launched the Private Security Monitor (http://psm.du.edu/), an annotated guide to regulation, data and analyses of private military and security companies throughout the world, in 2012. Her research (funded by the Institute for Global Conflict and Cooperation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the Smith Richardson Foundation, among others) has focused on civil-military relations, military change, and the politics of controlling violence. She is author/editor of *Who Governs the Globe?* with Martha Finnemore and Susan Sell (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010), *The Market for Force: the Consequences of Privatizing Security* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005), and *Political Institutions and Military Change: Lessons From Peripheral Wars* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1994), along with articles in such journals as *International Organization, International Studies Quarterly, Security Studies, Perspectives on Politics*, and *Foreign Policy*. Professor Avant serves on numerous governing and editorial boards and has testified before Congressional Committees and the Commission for Wartime Contracting.

Neta Crawford

Neta Crawford is Professor of Political Science at Boston University. She is the author of *Accountability for Killing: Moral Responsibility for Collateral Damage in America’s Post-9/11 Wars* (Oxford University Press, 2013). Her book *Argument and Change in World Politics: Ethics, Decolonization, Humanitarian Intervention* (Cambridge University Press, 2002) was a co-winner of the 2003 American Political Science Association Jervis and Schroeder Award for best book in International History and Politics. She is co-editor of *How Sanctions Work: Lessons from South Africa* (St. Martin’s, 1999). Crawford’s articles have been published in books and scholarly journals including the *Journal of Political Philosophy; International Organization; Security Studies; Perspectives on Politics; International Security; Ethics & International Affairs*. 
Nils Petter Gleditsch

Nils Petter Gleditsch is Research Professor at the Peace Research Institute of Oslo and Associate editor of the *Journal of Peace Research*. He is the author of numerous articles and monographs on conflict trends and conditions of peace and war. From 2008 – 2009, he served as president of the International Studies Association. In 2009 he was awarded the annual Award for Outstanding Research from the Research Council of Norway.

Joshua S. Goldstein

Joshua S. Goldstein is an interdisciplinary scholar of war and peace, and author of *Winning the War on War: The Decline of Armed Conflict Worldwide* (Dutton/Penguin, 2011), winner of the Conflict Research Society's "Book of the Year" award, 2013. His textbook *International Relations* (with Jon C. Pevehouse) has been used by half-a-million college students over twenty years. *War and Gender: How Gender Shapes the War System and Vice Versa* (Cambridge, 2001) won the International Studies Association's "Book of the Decade" award. He is also the author of *The Real Price of War* (NYU, 2004); *Three-Way Street: Strategic Reciprocity in World Politics* (Chicago, 1990; with John R. Freeman); and *Long Cycles: Prosperity and War in the Modern Age* (Yale, 1988). Goldstein has published articles in *The American Political Science Review, Journal of Conflict Resolution*, and *International Studies Quarterly*, among others.

Bruce W. Jentleson

Bruce W. Jentleson is Professor of Public Policy and Political Science at Duke University. His most recent books are *American Foreign Policy: The Dynamics of Choice in the 21st Century* (5th edition, W.W. Norton, 2013) and *The End of Arrogance: America in the Global Competition of Ideas*, co-authored with Steven Weber (Harvard University Press, 2010). He has served in a number of policy positions, most recently as Senior Advisor to the U.S. State Department Policy Planning Director (2009-11). Work especially relevant to this project includes his edited volume *Opportunities Missed, Opportunities Seized: Preventive Diplomacy in the Post-Cold War World* (Rowman and Littlefield and Carnegie Commission on Preventing Deadly Conflict, 1999); “The Obama Administration and R2P: Progress, problems and Prospects,” *Global Responsibility to Protect* 4:4 (2012); service on the Responsibility to Protect Working Group co-chaired by Madeleine Albright (2011-13); and as member of the Board of Trustees of the Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs.
John Mueller


Steven Pinker

Steven Pinker is Harvard College Professor and Johnstone Family Professor in the Department of Psychology at Harvard University. He conducts research on language and cognition, writes for publications such as the New York Times, Time, and The New Republic, and is the author of eight books including The Language Instinct, How the Mind Works, Words and Rules, The Blank Slate, The Stuff of Thought, and most recently The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined.

Lise Morjé Howard

Lise Morjé Howard is an Associate Professor in the Department of Government at Georgetown University. She has served as a Jennings Randolph Senior Fellow at the U.S. Institute of Peace, and was the founding director of the Master of Arts Program in Conflict Resolution at Georgetown. Dr. Howard’s research and teaching interests span the fields of international relations, comparative politics, and conflict resolution. Her work focuses on civil wars, peacekeeping, U.S. foreign policy, and area studies of the Balkans and sub-Saharan Africa. She has published several articles and book chapters on these topics. Her book, UN Peacekeeping in Civil Wars, was published by Cambridge University Press in 2008, and it won the 2010 Book Award from the Academic Council on the UN System (ACUNS) for the best book on the UN system published in the previous three years. She is currently working on several projects about U.S. foreign policy in ethnic conflict, the use of force in UN peacekeeping operations, and norms of civil war termination.
Erica Chenoweth

Erica Chenoweth is Associate Professor at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver and an Associate Senior Researcher at the Peace Research Institute of Oslo (PRIO). Together with Maria J. Stephan of the U.S. State Department, she is the winner of the 2013 Grawemeyer Award for Ideas Improving World Order, which is presented annually in recognition of outstanding proposals for creating a more just and peaceful world order. Their book, Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict (Columbia University Press), also won the 2012 Woodrow Wilson Foundation Award given annually by the American Political Science Association in recognition of the best book on government, politics, or international affairs published in the U.S. during the previous calendar year. Chenoweth's three books include Political Violence (Sage, 2013); Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict (Columbia UP, 2011) with Maria J. Stephan; and Rethinking Violence: States and Non-State Actors in Conflict (MIT, 2010) with Adria Lawrence. Her next book, Why Democracy Encourages Terrorism, explores the underlying reasons why terrorism is so common in democratic countries. Before coming to DU, Chenoweth taught at Wesleyan University, where she won the Carol A. Baker Memorial Prize for excellence in junior faculty research and teaching in 2010. She has also held visiting appointments at Harvard, Stanford, UC-Berkeley, and the University of Maryland. Chenoweth's research has been featured in The New York Times, The Economist, The Washington Post, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, The Boston Globe, The Christian Science Monitor, and elsewhere. She co-hosts the award-winning blog Political Violence @ a Glance, hosts a blog called Rational Insurgent, and blogs occasionally at The Monkey Cage.