

Recent Workshop: "New Approaches to Conflict Transformation: Trust, Empathy and Dialogue," 23-24 June 2010

14 June 2010

The aim of the workshop, hosted by the David Davies Memorial Institute, was to examine the role that trust, dialogue and empathy play in transforming conflict in International Relations. The role that these concepts play in identifying formation, understanding individual and community needs and interests, representations of gender and security, and decision-making processes mean that they should be at the heart of research on conflict transformation.

Bringing together leading academics and conflict resolution practitioners, the participants explored a range of important issues including: the theoretical concepts of trust, dialogue and empathy; the role of empathy in particular cases of conflict and post-conflict reconciliation; the relationship between perceptions of justice and trust, dialogue and empathy; the challenges to building trust both within and between states drawing on different examples of recent and on-going conflicts, and discursive practices which shape and construct conflict and its transformation.

The workshop took place in the Department of International Politics, Aberystwyth University, 23-24 June 2010 with financial support from the ESRC and Aberystwyth University. It was organised by Dr Naomi Head as part of her ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowship. The rapporteur's report from the workshop will shortly be available on the DDMI's website as will audio recordings of some of the papers presented.



L-R, starting at far table: Dr Naomi Head, Samuel Passow, Prof. Karin Fierke, Paul Ingram, Dr Roxane Farmanfarmaian and Prof. Nicholas J. Wheeler.



L-R: Dr Roxane Farmanfarmaian, Prof. Nicholas J. Wheeler, Prof. Lynne Cameron and Prof. Karin Fierke.

Speakers included:

- Professor Karin Fierke (St. Andrews University)
- Professor Lynne Cameron (Open University)
- Samuel Passow (University of Kent)
- Dr Gabrielle Lynch (University of Leeds)
- Paul Ingram (British American Security Information Council)
- Dr Roxane Farmanfarmaian (University of Cambridge)