



Conflict Analysis Research Centre

University of
Kent



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About us

The Conflict Analysis Research Centre (CARC) at the University of Kent is a multi-disciplinary and multi-site Faculty Research Centre. It is based in the Department of Politics and International Relations but can draw on the expertise of other Departments such as History, Anthropology, the School of Social Policy and Social Science Research, Law, Health Sciences, and the Kent Business School.

The aims of the Conflict Analysis Research Centre are:

- to be a centre of excellence in the study of conflict, developing original theory and analysis of conflicts
- to support creative approaches to conflict management
- to participate in the development of European and international networks in the field of conflict analysis
- to offer advanced training and research opportunities, and to train new entrants to the field, through taught undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and PhD research

The Conflict Analysis Research Centre is based on the main UK campus in Canterbury, at the Brussels School of International Studies (BSIS) and at the Université du Littoral Côte d'Opale (ULCO), in Dunkerque, France, in keeping with the University's role as an integral player of the University of the Transmanche, a new higher education initiative of the British and French governments which expresses the University's mission to be Britain's European University.

The Conflict Analysis Research Centre carries on a long-standing Kent tradition of first hand academic involvement in current world issues by assisting parties in conflict through consultancy and analysis to identify creative and transformative options to reach workable agreements.

The Conflict Analysis Research Centre, under the direction of Prof Hugh Miall, takes over from the Center for Conflict and Peace and its forerunner the Centre for Conflict Analysis, which was started in 1964 as an inter-university research project working on conflict issues in Malaysia & Singapore, Cyprus, Northern Ireland, Lebanon and South Africa. For the past few years, the centre has been using its Track II negotiation, mediation and diplomatic skills in working with parties in Moldova, Europe's poorest country, to resolve trade and transit differences with

Moldova's break-away Transdnierst Region, which remains under the supervision of the 56-nation Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

Our aim is to expand the range of conflict areas we deal with to include 21st century issues such as multiculturalism and immigration, conflicts leading to terrorism, conflict-related aspects of public health and pandemics, conflicts over energy and environmental issues, and disputes over globalization and trade. We will work with the public and private sectors, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in gaining an understanding and developing an expertise in managing such conflicts and in rebuilding communities in their post-conflict transition periods.

The Conflict Analysis Research Centre incorporates two related initiatives, the Energy Analysis Centre and the Reconciliation Forum. The Energy Analysis Group is a research centre on energy policy which recently held a forum on "National Agendas of Energy Policy" sponsored by the Finnish Institute. The Reconciliation Forum, recently completed a year long project in Ghana working with refugees of the Liberian civil war.



Current Research

The current research of the Conflict Analysis Research Centre covers the following themes:

- Development of conflict theory and conflict analysis
- Theories of social conflict and community cohesion
- Analyzing complex negotiations
- Coping with change: transition and transformation processes within organisations
- Environmental conflict and co-operation
- Energy: emergent conflicts over oil, natural gas, nuclear energy and water resources.
- International trade conflicts and dispute settlement regimes
- State failure and reconstruction
- Terrorism and political violence
- Post-conflict peace-building and reconciliation
- The European Union's global role in conflict prevention and peace building
- Land tenure conflicts and land reforms
- Divided societies in the Balkans: international and domestic conflict management
- Conflicts at intra-state and inter-state levels in the former Soviet Union
- Latin American conflicts and human rights

The aim of the CARC is to develop research clusters around these and other themes. The intention is that the clusters will include at least one member of the academic staff and at least one PhD student and be associated with a funded research project or consultancy.

Consultancy and Executive Training

An important part of the Conflict Analysis Research Centre is the development of its multidisciplinary approach to world-class research in conflict theory and conflict analysis into a full-time applied consultancy and executive training programme. The mission of this unit is to provide knowledge and understanding of conflict issues of direct relevance to the needs of commerce and industry as well as to the public and voluntary sectors of our society.

The CARC can arrange, on request, tailored training programmes, including day-training courses, short courses, workshops, and other advisory services for businesses, governments, non-governmental organisations and international organisations.

For further information contact Samuel Passow

Advisory Panel

The role of the advisory panel is to draw together the collective experience and wisdom of professionals and academics from the different disciplines of conflict prevention, management and resolution to contribute to the development of the CARC through guest lecturing, executive training and advising on project work carried out by the consultancy division.

- Dr Aurelien Colson** Director of Development, ESSEC/IRENE Paris, France
- Ms Eileen Carroll** Deputy Executive Director, Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR) London, UK
- Ms Susan L Somers** former Senior Prosecutor, United Nations War Crimes Tribunal on the Former Yugoslavia
- Dan Smith** Secretary General, International Alert
- Andy Carl** Executive Director, Conciliation Resources
- Stephen Browne** Deputy Executive Director, International Trade Centre/UNCTAD/WTO, Geneva
- Prof Andrew Williams** St Andrew's University Scotland, UK (former Director of Center for Conflict & Peace)
- Prof Oliver Ramsbotham** University of Bradford
- Dr Edward Newman** University of Birmingham



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