



DPCR Alumni Association Annual Report 2018 – 2019

The board of the DPCR Alumni Association for the period 2018 – 2019 consisted of Gudlaug Olafsdottir (President), Marie Allansson (Vice-President), Stefan Döring (Secretary), Kristina Petrova (Treasurer) and Christofer Hägg (Department Liaison). Below follows an overview of the Association's activities during 2018 – 2019.

Activities

During this past year the DPCR Alumni Board has focused on building and consolidating the foundation of the organization. Among the most important activities of this year was the revision of the statutes. We have produced a revised edition of the original statutes, which were drafted in the very early phases of the organization, that will be voted upon at the annual meeting on the 27th of May. Importantly, we have further specified our purpose: offering former students a connection to prominent research within the field of peace and conflict, strengthening and fostering the contacts between former and current students of the DPCR, and facilitating the DPCR's connections with former students active in both research and policy. We hope that this is in line with what you, our members, perceive to be our main role.

The Alumni Talks align well with the purpose of the Association. They serve as a source of inspiration to current and recent students and show fellow alumni where former classmates now are working. The talks offer an extensive opportunity to hear from alumni about their current work and their career paths that led them there. It also grants the opportunity for the department to keep in touch with former students and employees. This year we are thrilled to have hosted Alberto Fernandez Gibaja and Martina Klimes from the classes of 2009 and 2006 respectively who are currently working in Stockholm at International IDEA and the International Centre for Water Cooperation under the auspices of UNESCO hosted by SIWI. Both participants shared many insights that they have gained from working in many different capacities in varied contexts. They gave advice for students and recent graduates who might be interested in an international career, and a career in policy. Martina also shared her experiences from having a PhD and how or whether this sets her apart from other applicants. Both panelists spoke to the unpredictability of career paths and the need for flexibility. The event was very well attended, and we received positive feedback from many of the participants.

The Association also collaborated with the student organizations of the department, and the Irish Embassy, in setting up a panel discussion and screening of a documentary on the role of John Hume in the peace process in Northern Ireland which was very well attended. Annekatrin Deglow, Assistant Professor at the department with great knowledge of the case of Northern Ireland, participated as a panelist. The discussion centered on the peace process and how it might be influenced by Brexit.

The Board focused on developing the Association and how to shape its activities given the wide geographical spread of its members this year. It hence focused less on activities and events that take place in Uppsala, but tried to emphasize outreach, establishing connections between alumni and brainstorming methods to reach out to those that are not located in Uppsala any longer.



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Database

An important change this year is that the alumni database has now been updated to a more modern version, where each alumnus must sign up and add their own information. Please note that if the email of an alum changes it is important that they update this in the system if we are to be able to stay in touch. Among the factors driving this change was the initiation of GDPR. In the new database the integrity of personal data is well protected and confidential.

Finances

The Department of Peace and Conflict Research has supported the Association by covering various costs in connection to the Association's activities. Examples of such costs include canapés, beverages and flowers to accompany events, such as the spring Alumni Talk.

Newsletter

The annual DPCR Alumni Association newsletter has been continued this year, as per tradition, and is to be sent out in the end of May. The newsletter includes, among other items: a few short updates from alumni around the world as well as from the department. Firstly, it includes an update on the work of alumni in Cyprus where one alumnus from the master class of 2017, Alden Jacobs, is working with arts-based peacebuilding and an alumna from the Bachelor class of 2018, Clara Orstadius, is working for the Religious Track of the Cyprus Peace Process. It also includes an interview with another alumna from the master class of 2017, Antonela Tedesco, who has been working for UNMISS in South Sudan for the past year. Shedding light on one of the department's larger projects the newsletter contains an interview with Dag Hammarskjöld Professor, Håvard Hegre, about the progress of ViEWS. It also features news from the Department, as well as Class Notes. Class Notes are a collection of brief updates from our former Bachelor, Master and PhD students (as well as staff members) from all around the world. The aim is to enhance a sense of community and strengthen the connections between alumni, and their connection back to the Department.

Collaborations and communication

The Association has worked to build and maintain cooperation and contact with the two student organizations at the Department, UPaD and Pax et Bellum, along with Alumnföreningen Uppsalapolitices (Political Science Alumni Association). We have collaborated on one event where we collectively assisted the Irish Embassy in setting up the event described above, and cooperated in the dissemination of information about our respective organizations and events through social media platforms. We also held a joint meeting together during the fall in 2018 to discuss how to better support one another. On the communications front, our Secretary (Stefan Döring) has continued to post actively on the Association's Instagram account, which strives to connect DPCR alumni and showcase their recent activities and achievements. This is entitled "dpcr.alumni", and is accessible at: <https://www.instagram.com/dpcr.alumni/>. All alumni are welcome to follow this, and to submit their latest news and photos. Use of the hashtag #DPCRconnects is warmly encouraged. We have also maintained the facebook and LinkedIn pages, and hope that our alumni continue to join these and use them to spread information and connect with one another. One of

the new features for this year is the maps on the facebook page, where we have noted the location of those alumni that choose to share this information.

Gudlaug Olafsdottir
President, DPCR Alumni Association
May 21, 2019