



DPCR Alumni Newsletter

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Words from the Chair

Dear DPCR Alumni,

After a few years' pause, we are now happy to present the revived DPCR Alumni Newsletter.

Among other things, this issue highlights two award winning members of our alumni association, Stephanie Woollard who has received the *Rotary Responsible Business Award*, and Lyndsey Doyle who has won the *Martin H:son Holmdahl scholarship*.

We also get a report from Henrik Person who is currently working for the *Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel*. Here he shares his first impressions from the situation on the ground.

Moreover, Håvard Hegre updates us on his immense and newly launched ERC-funded research project ViEWS.

In this issue, we also introduce a new feature - *Class Notes*. Here members submit brief

updates on what they've been up to since graduation. Fun to get an update from your class! We want to include more classes, so if your class is not included and you would like to help us collect the information – please let us know!

Also, don't miss our upcoming event, Alumni Talks! Hope you will enjoy reading about this and more in this issue!

Marie Allansson

Chair DPCR Alumni Association

"After several years of confrontations with settlers, he still refuses to move"

Henrik Persson, member of the DPCR Alumni Board, is currently in the West Bank as Ecumenical Accompanier. Here he shares his first impressions with us.

- It is now two weeks since I arrived in Jerusalem as an ecumenical accompanier, and the main tasks are starting up after training sessions and a hand-over period. Placed in the very south of the West Bank, we are mostly working in the country-side with protective presence for farmers and shepherds who face problems

related to the illegal Israeli settlements and demolitions.

It is beautiful here, but the hills are full of tragic stories and you can see the impact of the occupation in so many everyday things. The roads, where the Israeli ones are in excellent shape while the Palestinian are far from, even as they snake their way over green hills and along olive- and flowering almond trees. The cars, the houses, the Israeli watchtowers and checkpoints.

Yesterday we visited a shepherd and farmer, who was arrested last week for herding

his sheep on land where he says his father and grandfather before him lived, and to which he has ownership papers. After several years of confrontations with settlers, he still refuses to move. Since his recent arrest, he has moved down to live in a converted cistern underground





heated by a stove it is warmer than our house in town - where he feels safer. And yet he welcomes us with hot, sweet tea and makes sure that we are comfortable. And he is but one of many. I hope to share

some of these stories with you through my travel reports, which can be accessed (In Swedish) here: <http://foljeslagarprogrammet.se/reseort/yatta/>

Henrik Persson

Meet Lindsey Doyle – awarded with the Martin H:son Holmdahl scholarship

Lindsey Doyle is recipient of this year’s Martin Holmdahl Award for the Promotion of Human Rights from Uppsala University.

Lindsey is originally from Los Angeles, California. Prior to becoming a Rotary Peace Fellow, Lindsey worked at the U.S. Department of State in the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations in Washington, D.C. and was a Princeton in Latin America Fellow working on community and youth development in low-income migrant settlements.

Lindsey is also a dancer-choreographer with 17 years of artistic experience. Her studies and work have brought her to six countries throughout Central and South America, and now to South Africa. Connecting with people whose lives were directly affected by violence motivated her to pursue the Rotary Peace Fellowship and further commit her career to preventing and reducing violent conflict.

For her *Applied Field Experience* and internship, Lindsey explored

the role of the performing arts in post-conflict reconciliation. She worked with dancers from the University of Cape Town School of Dance in South Africa on how improvisational dance theater could be used for the purposes of dialogue and reconciliation. She trained them in a technique called “playback” in which the group would elicit stories from the audience and perform the



story through dance and acting “on the spot.” The dancers performed at the Baxter Theater and by invitation at the District 6 Museum site of historical memory, and were featured on Cape Town TV.

In addition, she worked with the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation on how to expand their own approaches to dialogue by using creative techniques with people who had little experience with the arts. She ran workshops using dance, guided meditation, painting, and craft with women affected by gender-based violence in rural areas – one of the highlights of her time in South Africa. A full description of her project and analysis was published in an article titled, “*Creativity in Conflict: Performing Arts for Sustained Dialogue, Justice, and Reconciliation*,” available online. For her thesis, Lindsey is examining another interest of hers: peace negotiations.

“Lindsey explored the role of the performing arts in post-conflict reconciliation”

ViEWS – new project for early warning

“Early-warning systems of sufficient quality and transparency do not currently exist, limiting the ability of the international community to effectively assist affected populations”

The ViEWS project under the direction of Håvard Hegre started up at the Department in January 2017, with funding from the ERC Advanced Grant scheme.

ViEWS will develop, test, and iteratively improve an early-warning system that is rigorous, data-based, and publicly available to researchers and the international community. It will provide early warnings for the three forms of political violence recorded by the UCDP: armed conflict involving states and rebel groups, armed conflict between non-state actors, and violence against civilians. It will assess the risks of forced population displacement, and apply all of these outcome variables to specific actors, sub-national geographical units, and countries.

The ViEWS early-warning system is designed to fill an important need. The challenges of preventing, mitigating, and adapting to large-scale political violence are daunting, particularly when violence escalates where it is not expected. Early-warning systems of sufficient quality and transparency do not currently exist, limiting the ability of the international community to effectively assist affected populations. ViEWS will develop, test, and iteratively improve a pilot Violence Early-Warning System (ViEWS) that is

rigorous, data-based, and publicly available to researchers and the international community.

This objective is challenging but feasible. The conflict research community has laid the ground for such a system through careful isolation of theoretically manageable sub-components of complex phenomena, and concomitant systematic, disaggregated data collection efforts. A major innovation in the project is to integrate these isolated research programs into a theoretically and methodologically consistent forecasting system, by means of dynamic simulation techniques in combination with Bayesian Model Averaging, and guided by continuous out-of-sample evaluation. This integration effort will not only allow an early-warning system of unprecedented scope and performance, but also build theoretically informative bridges between numerous compartmentalized conflict research programs. Concentrating on theoretical and methodological development, the pilot will be limited in scope to Africa but be scalable.

ViEWS will leverage the data resources within the Uppsala Conflict Data program, the world-leading provider of conflict data, in combination with a strong team of highly

experienced conflict scholars. The project will survey a broad range of accounts of conflict processes within the field of peace and conflict research, explore how they contribute to forecasts of future conflict, and integrate the most valuable of them in the early-warning system. Examples of accounts are how mediation efforts or peacekeeping missions help to dampen conflict, how exclusion of ethnic groups gives rise to political violence, or how contested elections trigger outbreaks of violence. ViEWS will also develop forecasts based on climate-related variables and projections, in collaboration with the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO).

Rotary awarded Stephanie Woollard and the story behind “Seven Women”

Stephanie Woollard, (DPCR and Rotary Peace Fellow alumna, 2013-2015) was awarded with the prestigious Rotary Responsible Business Award last November. Stephanie was selected among many other candidates because of her pioneering work in building the Non-Governmental Organization Seven Women and helping to train more than 5000 Nepalese women.

What inspired you to initiate Seven Women?

I signed up for a trip to Nepal and was later asked to lead the same trips for groups. I was on one of those trips when I came across a tiny tin shed with seven women huddled inside. They were all physically disabled and stigmatized from the wider community due to religious beliefs that deemed them to have been evil in a past life. After meeting the women and hearing their stories, I realized they were operating out of this tin shed with the bare minimum. After seeing, hearing and feeling the women's pain and suffering, I could not leave without doing anything, so I spent my last \$200 on two trainers that could give the women skills to create saleable items.

What has been one of the most challenging aspects of running a NGO?

Attitudes towards change that can be found in any country. In a patriarchal place such as Nepal, we are creating

opportunities for women to lead, which is against the status quo. We have faced a lot of societal resistance which we had to overcome. We equip women to become independent agents of change and leaders in their communities. This has been the most challenging aspect of our work and has demanded a lot of determination and persistence.

In 2015 you finished your MA in Peace and Conflict Research, how did the MA help you to develop, even more, Seven Women?

Studying and living in Sweden for two years made me more passionate about returning to Australia and working at the grassroots level and with civil society to create change. I became passionate about the idea that we have to stand up and speak against injustice. The MA inspired me to do research on civil society and particularly women's movements that achieved changes in societies. Studying at Uppsala University challenged my perspectives on the world and opened my mind to what the world needs more, that every one of us can make a difference in building a better world, whether you are a business owner, employee or consumer. Since finishing my master in Sweden, I have become an advocate for mobilizing people to act in whatever ways they are able.

Can you tell us a bit of your experiences as a student in Uppsala University and as a Rotary Peace Fellow?

Uppsala allowed me to gain a perspective and understanding of ethical issues on a global perspective, through listening to a number of guest speakers, researching, essays and lectures. When studying peace and conflict in a place very different to your home, people make a huge difference. For me that was people like Hanne Fjelde and Isak Svensson. They impacted me because they were inspiring teachers who transfer their knowledge of working in the field while teaching us in an interesting way. The support from the previous cohort of Rotary Peace Fellows made a huge difference to my studies and the Rotarians I met. Torbjorn Persson, a Rotarian, went out of his way to introduce me to interesting people and make my time in Sweden an enriching experience.



“All it takes is one generation to learn how to break the cycle of poverty and pass their learning down to the next to transform a village forever. That's how real and lasting change is created”



Going back to the topic of gender inequality, it's known that women empowerment is a key component to have more equal and prosperous societies. In which way do you think Seven Women empowers females in Nepal?

Our ethos is to honor and respect all women who come to us in desperate situations by giving nothing to them for free, but instead building their capacity and skill level to take control of their own future. Because of this approach, the women have gone on to have inspiring ripple effects, which have expanded our tiny operation of seven women living in a tin shed to now more than 5000 women. Seven Women empowers women through education, skills training and income generation

Have you thought about having workshops or building capacity among men in Nepal? Considering that female empowerment does not only depend on women but also on males' attitudes and behavior.

Yes, Seven Women is engaged in leading workshops for men in areas we teach women how to read and write. They are literate so we teach some

practical skills. We start dialogue in these classes with the men about what is not working in their village, we facilitate discussions about domestic violence and teach another way to behave for the benefit of all.

You have recently been awarded with the prestigious Rotary Responsible Business Award, what does this imply for you, personally, and for Seven Women?

On 11 November 2016, I found myself in New York, at the UN Headquarters to deliver an award acceptance speech in front of a 1500-strong audience made up of UN Officials, NGO workers and Rotarians from across the world. I was being awarded one of six global awards for "Responsible Business". Probably the biggest speaking engagement I had ever had.

I began to think differently about business and its power to make a change, and reflect on how Seven Women uses business models to create change and how all businesses could be a force for good. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals outline 17 areas on which

the world needs to progress. There are 169 underlying targets and 164 of these relate to business. Without the involvement of businesses they will not be reached.

And finally, do you have some piece of advice for the current MA students that wish to work in the aid-world?

Gain as much experience as possible while at uni. Take advantage of internships on the ground. It gives you an understanding that you will not find anywhere else and that will hold you in good stead in jobs that are at a higher level in future. To have gained grassroots experience with organizations that work at the front lines will make you a more effective employee when creating policy and making decisions that affect people's lives.

If you're curious to know more about Seven Women and Stephanie's initiatives go to: www.sevenwomen.org or www.handsondevelopment.com.au

Paulina Cruz Velásquez

ALUMNI TALKS 2017

"A closer look at the United Nations"

Louise Olsson: Evidenced-based decision-making on Women, Peace and Security?

Henrik Hammargren: UN from the inside

Moderator: Peter Wallensteen

When & where? 25 April, 17.00, Gamla Torget 3, Hall 1



Call for internships!

In the aim to provide students at the Department with the best theoretical and practical understanding of peace and conflict issues we have put particular emphasis on high quality internship opportunities in our BA and MA programs.

In this context we want to use the opportunity to

reach out to our network of friends, former students and supporters. Many of you have in the past already offered internship opportunities to our students. These are highly appreciated by our students and give them the opportunity to practically experience what it means to work with peace and

conflict related tasks around the world.

Send your call to:

christofer.hagg@pcr.uu.se

Class notes

We are happy to introduce *Class Notes*, a collection of brief updates from our former Bachelor- and Master students from all around the world.

By checking it out you are swiftly updated on what your former classmates have been up to lately. This is not only fun, but could also prove helpful to your career.

The aim is for each graduating MA-class to

have a "class representative" who is responsible to gather news from his/her class and pass on the alumni association. If your class is not represented in this issue, please sign up to be your class's representative.

To check out a class, just click the links (PDF).

Enjoy!

Graduation classes:

[Master 2011](#)

[Master 2012](#)

[Master 2013](#)

[Master 2014](#)

[Master 2015](#)

[Bachelor 2016](#)

"This is not only fun, but could also prove helpful to your career"

About DPCR Alumni Association

The DPCR Alumni Association strives to link former students with one another, professionally and socially. Also the association wants to facilitate former students who want to keep in touch with the Department and Uppsala University. Lastly, we also try to make it easier for enrolled students to connect with former

students, which could prove important for career planning.

In doing this, we arrange lectures, social gatherings and other events open to all members.

If you have ideas or suggestions, please let us know!

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