

CPRC Network - Newsletter 1

International Network for Conflict and Peace Research on Colombia

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Newsletter 1

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1. First CPRC Network Meeting

On the 18th of November we held our inaugural meeting at Fielden House, London, chaired by [Lord Alderdice](#) and [Dr Annette Idler](#). Eleven academics from different Universities and Research Centres from around the UK attended the meeting and joined in the discussion regarding the key characteristics, main aims and expectations of CPRC. The following attended the meeting:

Dr Cathy McIlwaine	Queen Mary University
Dr David Maher	University of Salford
Diana Dajer	Oxford University
Felipe Roa-Clavijo	Oxford University
Dr Isabel Ruiz	Oxford University
Professor Jean-Paul Faguet	LSE
Julián D. López-Murcia	Oxford University

Kristian Herbolzheimer	Conciliation Resources
Dr Phil Clark	SOAS
Dr Roddy Brett	University of St Andrews
Dr Sabine Michalowski	Essex University

Angela Anzola De Toro	Co Founder CPRC
Andrés Ucrós Maldonado	Co Founder CPRC

UK Research Councils	Observer
Colombian Embassy	Observer

Additionally, more than 30 academics that were unable to attend the meeting, have expressed interest in joining CPRC.

Dr Annette Idler presented the objectives, the principles, and how we envision CPRC to function. Participants also raised key issues about the aims, functioning and risks of a new network and pitfalls we have to avoid. We want to highlight the following thoughts contributed by the participants:

- The network needs a high level of engagement from its members. The idea is for CPRC to provide certain benefits to its members; a broad international network of academics interested in related research fields, access to government institutions, frequent flow of information regarding events and publications, and others while members are committed to nurturing and expanding the network through their contributions.
- It is of paramount importance to maintain the academic excellence of the network.
- It is important to establish strong links to Colombian research centres, academics, civil society and state actors. Furthermore, it is the networks objective to engage with local and regional academia in Colombia, as well as provide information for local governments and civil society organizations.
- The network should encourage links to media outlets in Colombia. Furthermore CPRC should create the appropriate channels to disseminate research findings in a way that is accessible to expert and non-expert audiences.
- The network will endeavour to create the technological tools to foster collaboration and sharing.
- It is of utmost importance that the network maintains its non-political, non-partisan character.

These comments are of great importance to the success of CPRC and were well received by all the attendees.

2. Who we are / What we do / What we want to achieve

Who we are

The [International Network for Conflict and Peace Research on Colombia](#) (CPRC) brings together scholars, analysts and academic institutions engaged with research initiatives in the fields of conflict resolution, security, development, rule of law, peace-building and peace-making that can inform and contribute to the understanding of conflict and peace in Colombia.

What we do

CPRC builds upon the expertise of existing research centres and researchers and creates an environment for peer collaboration, academic engagement and exchange of ideas between Colombian academics and international researchers. We provide a co-ordinating network that enables those interested in these research topics to connect, collaborate, share, debate and contribute to these fields of study. By doing so we strive to bring together the knowledge and experience of a large number of academics, centres and experts to better inform policy in Colombia. The network is independent, interdisciplinary, non-profit, non-partisan and non-political and welcomes scholars, centres and analyst from a variety of backgrounds.

What we want to achieve

Short-term goals:

- Develop, nourish and maintain an interdisciplinary academic network of scholars, experts and institutions working on issues related to the topics of conflict resolution, security, development, rule of law, peace-building and peace-making in Colombia.
- Engage and connect with researchers, analysts and academic institutions working on the topics of conflict resolution, security, development, rule of law, peace-building and peace-making in Colombia.
- Encourage dialogue, debate, diffusion and academic research on issues related to the transition from war to peace in Colombia; especially on the

practical means to understand, prevent, predict, transform and resolve violent conflict.

- Engage with the relevant actors in Colombia at the national, regional and local level.

b. Long-term goals:

- Inform the policy process in Colombia through sharing academic studies, empirical data, impact studies, in-depth thematic reports, policy briefings, discussion papers and similar research outputs produced outside Colombia.
- Facilitate exchange between academics and civil society groups involved in peace-building initiatives.
- Build relationships with different sectors and actors, especially with practitioners and policy makers working in the field, through knowledge exchange and sharing research findings.
- Become a key actor in the academic debate about war and peace in Colombia at the national, regional and local level in Colombia

3. Patrons and Coordinators

<p>Patron</p> <p>The Lord Alderdice</p>	<p>General Coordinator</p> <p>Dr Annette Idler</p>	<p>Patron</p> <p>Jonathan Powell</p>
<p>As Leader of the Alliance Party of Northern Ireland, Lord Alderdice played a significant role in the Talks on Northern Ireland including negotiation of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement. He was the first Speaker of the new Northern Ireland Assembly and on retirement in 2004 was appointed to the Independent Monitoring Commission, overseeing normalization of</p>	<p>Dr Annette Idler is Director of Studies at the Changing Character of War Programme, Pembroke College, and Research Associate at the Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford. She is also Research Associate at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding, Graduate Institute Geneva</p>	<p>Jonathan Powell was Chief of Staff to Tony Blair from 1997 to 2007 and the chief British government negotiator on Northern Ireland during that time in office. Jonathan is currently the CEO of Inter Mediate. Jonathan was a British diplomat from 1979 to 1996 working on the negotiations to return Hong Kong to China in the early 1980s, the CSCE human rights talks, CDE arms control talks with the Soviet Union in</p>

security activity in Northern Ireland. He is currently member of the House of Lords, Co-chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Conflict Issues, Director of the [Centre for the Resolution of Intractable Conflict](#) (CRIC) at Harris Manchester College and Chairman of the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building in Belfast.

National Coordinator Dr Angelika Rettberg

Dr Rettberg is the Director of the [Masters in peace-building at Universidad de Los Andes](#) and Associate Professor of the Political Science Department at the same University. Ten years ago she founded the Research Program on Conflict and Peace-building ([ConPAZ](#)), which she still runs. Her research interests are the political economy of armed conflicts and, specifically, the relationship between the private sector, civil society, conflict, and peace. Rettberg also participates regularly as a columnist and commentator on national and international media.

the mid 1980s, and the ‘Two plus Four’ talks on German reunification in the late 1980s. Mr Powell is currently the UK’s special envoy to Libya.

4. Next steps

- Please send us the contact details of academics, analysts and research centres that you think might be interested in joining our network.
- Please let us know about events, funding opportunities, research proposals, research trips to Colombia, job offers, publications fellowship/scholarship opportunities, information about relevant academic programs, training opportunities, news about new publications (policy and/or academic), questions about new or ongoing research projects, videos and photos and everything else you want to share with the CPRC Network by writing to us at cprcnet@gmail.com.
- Please send us your profile and picture/logo (instructions will follow shortly).

5. What's on

Events.

- We are invited to a panel discussion and book launch of *Is Decentralization Good for Development?* (Oxford University Press) with [Jean-Paul Faguet](#), Adnan Khan and John Sidel. A collaborative effort by the LSE and Columbia University, this book integrates academic insights from the cutting edge of research with the wisdom of policymakers operating at the highest levels of government, who actually decentralized their countries. Date: **Wednesday 2 December 2015**. Time: **6.30-8pm**. Venue: **Hong Kong Theatre, Clement House - LSE**. Speakers: Professor Jean-Paul Faguet, Dr Adnan Khan. Chair: Professor John Sidel. If you would like to attend please contact Sarah Carr (s.carr1@lse.ac.uk).
- Report presentation "[Crime and Security in Latin America](#)". Date: **Wednesday 3 December 2015**. Time: **2:00 pm**. Venue: **InvestCorp Lecture Theatre, St Antony's College, Oxford** Speakers: Daniel Ortega (CAF-Development Bank of Latin America); Adam Baird (Coventry University); Annette Idler (University of Oxford); Graham Denyer Willis (University of Cambridge).
- The All-Parliamentary Party Group on Conflict Issues is hosting an event about the Colombian peace process. Date: **Thursday 3 December 2015**. Time: **2:00-4pm**. Venue: **Committee Room 4, Houses of Parliament**. Speakers: Ambassador Nestor Osorio and [Kristian Herbolzheimer](#). If you would like to attend please write to: appgci2@gmail.com

Job adverts.

- [Purpose](#) is looking for a campaign strategist, to assist in the strategic design, implementation and evaluation of a project to support participatory initiatives in the Colombian peacebuilding process. If you would like more information, please follow [this link](#): <https://boards.greenhouse.io/purposecolombia/jobs/120524#.VldPBloqIAK>
- [Purpose](#) is looking for a full-time or part-time independent consultant, expert in communications and with experience working in Colombian rural areas. If you would like more information, please follow [this link](#): <https://boards.greenhouse.io/purposecolombia/jobs/122492#.VldPoVoqIAI>

Call for papers.

- Oxford Transitional Justice Research (OTJR) is looking for short academic contributions for the innovative online media platform [JusticeInfo.net](#). [JusticeInfo.net](#) is an electronic platform offering real time journalistic coverage and academic analysis of Transitional Justice (TJ) processes all over the world. The platform was officially launched in June 2015 and is a collaborative project between Fondation Hironnelle, OTJR and the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative. OTJR's role in the project is to produce concise, high-quality academic contributions that will complement the journalistic coverage provided by Hironnelle's media network of over 220 journalists reporting from post-conflict and transitional countries worldwide. You can find our contributions here <http://www.justiceinfo.net/en/research.html>

General call: We are looking for analytical pieces addressing a particular question of TJ or examining a significant 'event', 'process' or 'case' and then reflecting on how such an analysis can shed light on broader dynamics, challenges and dilemmas in TJ. The contributions will be between 1500 and 2000 words in length and can be drafted as academic op-eds. The pieces shall be based on arguments and evidence, address potential counter-arguments, and be explicit about the assumptions they make.

Special call: While OTJR remains open to submissions on all topics relevant to the challenges of TJ, at this stage we particularly encourage contributions on justice processes in the Middle East, Asia (especially Myanmar), and Latin America.

Submission process: The pieces will be selected on the basis of an abstract of no more than 300 words illustrating the topic proposed and the way in which the issue will be tackled. Please submit your abstracts to OTJR's Chief Editor Daniel Franchini at daniel.franchini@law.ox.ac.uk before **Sunday 20 December 2015**. The contributions selected for publication will be paid.

6. Social Media: Please Share!

Please follow us and share our information on:

[LinkedIn](#) / [Twitter](#) / [Facebook](#) / [YouTube](#)

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