

## **Final Report**

**Cii: Two-day International Multi-Disciplinary Symposium: 'On the Receiving End of intervention: Methods in Human Security'**

**16-17 June 2014**

**University of Surrey**

### **Conference Organisers:**

**Professor Marie Breen-Smyth Academic Director, cii; Dr Maxine David, Research Associate, cii; Dr Adele Stanislaus, Research Assistant; Mr Ciaran Gillespie, Doctoral researcher cii**

### **Conference Administrators:**

**Mirela Dumic; Anne-Maria Cann, Jade Newton.**

### **About the Symposium**

This symposium drew together a number of exciting new developments in the field of Human Security in which the Department of Politics at Surrey has been playing a key role. First, whilst there has been a body of theoretical work which has critically reconceptualised security, not as the security of states but of human beings, little progress has been made in operationalising this approach, or in exploring the implications of such a reconceptualisation for how security is understood in situ. Therefore, a broad range of practitioners and academics were invited to come to Surrey and discuss the potential for new thinking on the practical implications of Human Security research. Second, and allied to this, was a three year project, supported by the British Academy and the British Council linked universities in the Palestinian Territories (Birzeit and Al-Azhar-Gaza), Serbia (FMK Singidunum, Belgrade) with a team at Surrey in order to research and document (using standard social science methods, film and social media) the experience of international intervention from the perspective of those on the receiving end. Finally, Professor Breen-Smyth's research on counting casualties has drawn together a team of scholars from Royal Holloway, University of Manchester, Lahore University of Management, Queen's University, Belfast, the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation, Johannesburg and the Oxford Research Group.

### **Aims**

The aims of the symposium were to:

- a. Bring some of these experts from diverse disciplinary fields (economics, emergency medicine, statistics, human rights, ethics, international law) together in Surrey
- b. Promote exchange and cross fertilisation between these strands of work
- c. Disseminate to a wider audience some of these new developments
- d. Afford an opportunity for other scholars to make a contribution to this emerging field.

Our existing international partners at the Singidunum University, Belgrade, Serbia, Birzeit University, Palestine, Al-Azhar University Gaza played a key role in this event, and the event itself broadened our networks whilst disseminating the existing work to a wider academic and policy audience.

## International Multidisciplinary Symposium: 'New Ideas and Methods in Human Security':

### **Themes**

**Day 1** - How can the impact of intervention and non-intervention be researched and/or taught? How can 'receiving end' perspectives be included? What are the implications for insider and outsider researchers?

**Day 2** - Impact of interventions on Human Security - how do we understand international intervention in the context of the security of populations? What methods are available to researchers to assess the effects of conflict? Can such methods transcend state centric security perspectives? Scholars, practitioners, researchers and students from the United States, the United Kingdom, Palestine, Northern Ireland, Serbia and Pakistan gathered at the symposium to discuss those issues.

### **Speakers included:**

- Lord John Alderdice, House of Lords
- Mkhaimar Abusada, Al-Azhar University, Palestine
- Wali Aslam, University of Bath, UK
- Helga Baumgarten, Birzeit University, Palestine
- Marie Breen-Smyth, cii, University of Surrey, UK
- Basem Ezbidy, Birzeit University, Palestine
- Orli Fridman, FMK, Singidunum University, Belgrade, Serbia
- Furrukh Khan, Lahore University of Management Sciences, Pakistan
- Edward Newman, University of Leeds, UK
- Mike Spagat, Royal Holloway & ORG, UK
- Chris Woods, Freelance Journalist, UK

### Keynotes, Panels and Participants

#### **Day 1**

Lord John Alderdice, UK House Lords, opened the symposium with the first keynote address and provided examples to challenge the effectiveness of mainstream governmental approaches to Human Security.

The first panel, '**Recording Casualties; Methods**' focused on a main theme of the symposium; the significance of counting casualties during in situations of conflict. Marie Breen Smyth, Mike Spagat, Elizabeth Minor and Chris Woods highlighted the importance of casualty counting in conflict and the importance of finding a robust methodology to achieve the objective of casualty figures making a significant impact when military operations or peacekeeping missions are underway or being considered. The discussant, Furrukh Khan, from the Lahore University of Management Sciences, Pakistan, drew on his experience in Pakistan to comment on these papers.

The second panel, '**On the Receiving End of International Intervention**'-1, shifted the emphasis to a second theme of the conference, the experience of those on the receiving end of international intervention. Helga Baumgarten and Maisaa Aldarasa, from the West Bank in Palestine, offered their original research findings from interviews with Palestinian students on their views of international intervention. Gregory Kent's research paper, presented a comparison of experiences between the different levels of international intervention in Syria and Bosnia. Helen Murphy highlighted the methodological approaches of phenomenology and Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) to document the

experiences of paramedics in Northern Ireland. Hana Salama, highlighted the research of the Oxford Research Group on counting casualties.

The third panel of day one, '**On the Receiving End of International Intervention**'- 2 continued the theme of the experience of those on the receiving end of intervention. The two panelists Wali Islam and Tahani Mustafa set out the different forms that international intervention can take.

## **Day 2**

Professor Edward Newman, provided the keynote address on the theme of [Operationalizing Human Security: Reconciling Critical Aspirations with Political 'Realities'](#). Professor Newman provided a critical evaluation of the concept of human security.

The theme of '**Operationalising Human Security -1**' on the second day, focused on the impact of international intervention, and the different theoretical approaches that can be utilised when analyzing international intervention. The two panelists, on panel four, Orli Fridman and Krisztina Racz presented their research findings from their extensive interviews with the local population in Belgrade and their memories of the Nato bombings of Serbia.

In the final panel of the two-day event, '**Operationalising Human Security -2**' the research papers provided critical examinations of the different theoretical approaches that can be taken when analyzing international intervention. The panelists included Gorkem Atsunger and Ciaran Gillespie, and Mary Martin, Denisa Kostovicova, Vesna Bojicic-Dzelilovic and Sally Stares presented a co-authored paper.

A concluding roundtable at the end of the second day, included **Professor Mkhaimar Abusada, Al-Azhar Gaza University; Professor Basem Ezbidi, Birzeit University, Palestine; Dr Furrukh Khan, Lahore University of Management Sciences, Pakistan; Hamit Dardagan Every Casualty, Oxford Research Group (ORG); Elizabeth Minor, Oxford Research Group. Marie Breen-Smyth Univeristy of Surrey** chaired the round table.

Further details about the conference can be found [here](#)

For further information about the programme and participants' abstracts see the symposium [brochure](#).

## **Participant Comments**

The symposium was conducted in a collegial environment, and the participants have warmly received the symposium. Professor Mkhaimar Abusada, of the Al-Azhar Gaza University comments that:

*'My second trip to university of Surrey in June 16-17, 2014 as part of the British Academy project 'On the Receiving End of Intervention: Methods in Human Security' was a very rich one. [...] My participation at the round table discussion with other colleagues added more insights and expertise about our multi experiences of human security.*

Ciaran Gillespie, a PhD student at the University of Surrey says of his participation in the project:

*'I have been involved in the 'On the Receiving End: New Methods in Human Security'*

*project since the outset, having had an input in the conceptual composition of the meeting and the outline of the event from the budget application stages.[...] It has been a very rewarding experience attempting to draw connections between a diverse group of academics working in different fields relating to the agenda of the symposium. Gathering such a group of thinkers and practitioners has been particularly useful to my own research as the paper I presented at the conference directly spoke to concerns relating to how such a diverse group might unite its efforts under a particular vision of social science in security related fields. [...] It seems to have been a common theme in the messages relayed back from attendees, that this link between theory and praxis, was the most useful aspect of the symposium and as such, demonstrates a great deal of success in the overall project.*

### **Outcomes of the Symposium**

**Publication:** A series of publications are planned, and a conference paper will be presented at the university of Bristol in November 2014 as one of the outputs. Further publications are under discussion with the Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding.

**Expertise and Dissemination:** The symposium has extended the breadth of a network of scholars with interest in the themes of the event. Involvement in the symposium will contribute to the dissemination of the issues of casualty counting in conflict and international intervention in exchanges with policy makers and audiences at international conferences.

**New Areas of Research:** The keynote addresses and the presentation of research papers have challenged theories of human security and international intervention, and opened up new areas of research for many participants of the project. Of particular concern is the incidence of injury and how to qualify and quantify injury as a consequence of international intervention.

**Networking: connecting practitioners with academic researchers:** A number of participants commented on how valuable the seminar was in allowing dialogue and discussion between people from INGOs and international journalism and those undertaking academic research. Academic staff in particular remarked that they had found the discussions and atmosphere conducive of paradigm shifts and the formation of new collaborations and friendships.

**cii [ESRC seminars](#):** The theme of 'On Receiving End of Intervention' forms the title of seminar in the ESRC funded series of seminars under the auspices of the cii. At this seminar the issue of the experiences of those on the receiving end of international intervention will be further explored.

### **Acknowledgements**

The organisers would like to thank the **Institute of Advanced Studies** for the funding of this event. They also thank the **British Academy** for the initial funding and support for the overall project, which provided the context for the symposium.

The **British Council** was also generous in providing funding for invited guests from the West Bank, Palestine, and administrative support in making their attendance possible, and we would like to thank them for their assistance.

The organisers of the event would also like to extend their appreciation of the support for the event from colleagues at **the Center for Comparative Conflict Studies (CFCCS) at FMK Singidunum University, Belgrade, Serbia**, and the **Birzeit University, West Bank, Palestine**.

We would also like to extend our appreciation to Professor Mkhaimar Abusada from **Al-Azhar Gaza University, Palestine**, Professor Basem Ezbidi and Maisaa Aldarasa from **Birzeit University, West Bank, Palestine** for embarking on arduous journeys to participate at the symposium.

Finally, thanks to Dr Adele Stanislaus, Mrs Mirela Domic, Mrs Jade Newton, Mrs Anne maria Cann and all the others who gave their time, and frequently travelled long distances to make the event an over-whelming success.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marie Breen-Smyth".

Marie Breen-Smyth  
November, 2014.