

Annual Report for Varieties of Peace 2017

Introduction

The Varieties of Peace research program emanated from a workshop in 2015 about the long-term outcomes of peace processes in the 1990s. After a successful application to The Swedish Foundation for Humanities and Social Sciences (Riksbankens Jubileumsfond) in 2016, the program was launched on 1 January 2017. The first year of the Varieties of Peace program has largely been about starting up, on several fronts. In terms of research, we have worked intensively to further develop the framework of the program and to advance our ideas on how to conceptualise and study varieties of peace. We have arranged a number of workshops and seminars within the core group of the program to discuss and develop these issues. In terms of infrastructure, a program website and a twitter account were set up early in the year, we arranged our first Advisory Board meeting in September, and during the fall we have hired an assistant to work with a common EndNote library and other things. Preparations for recruiting a number of postdocs are also underway.

In this report we summarise the progress made during the first year of the Varieties of Peace program in terms of research, organisational matters, joint activities, and dissemination of results.

Research

Discussions during workshops and seminars have led us to specify the research questions as follows:

- 1) *What characterizes peace after the peace processes initiated in the 1990s and how does it vary?* and 2) *How can this variation be described and explained?*

These research questions will be explored with reference to five broad categories of explanations: civil society, the signatories, the agreements, the institutions, and international

involvements. These five categories will serve as the starting-point but we will keep an open mind for also adding other relevant factors along the process. The conceptual framework presented in the application has been developed and was published in the Working paper series at the Department of Political Science in June 2017 (Jarstad et al 2017).

The main event of the year was the Advisory Board Meeting, which took place in Umeå 6–8 September. We spent three days presenting, discussing, questioning, critiquing and developing the research program as well as outlining the role of the Advisory Board and simply getting to know each other.

Among other things, the start-up workshop for project 7: *Elite Responses to International Involvement*, led by Dzenan Sahovic, was arranged during the second day of the meeting, with Richard Jackson as designated discussant. Also, Elin Bjarnegård, with recent experience from the RJ funded East Asian Peace Program, introduced a discussion on theoretical and methodological pluralism.

As an outcome of the Advisory Board meeting we decided to develop the structure of the program by introducing four work packages: 1) conceptual work, 2) methodology, 3) empirical case studies and 4) comparative analysis. The work packages will facilitate the process of reaching the overarching aims of the program. To this end, for each work package we have started to identify goals and strategies, as well as concrete assignments and activities for reaching those goals. The work packages also aim to bring the individual projects closer together in pursuit of common objectives. We also decided that the research questions should be considered the most central and “non-negotiable” element of the program.

Throughout the year, all core group members have presented, revised and developed their research projects. Comments received from the Advisory Board have been particularly considered for revisions of the projects during the fall, with an emphasis on further specifying how the projects and specific cases contribute to answering the program’s overarching research questions.

The empirical cases included in the research program have been discussed at various meetings and slightly revised in relation to the application.¹ However, we have maintained our core focus on cases where peace processes were initiated in the 1990s. When discussing possible revisions of cases we have considered representativeness, variation, accessibility and competence of the project researchers.

Throughout the year, several of the program researchers have conducted research trips to collect materials for their Varieties of Peace projects. Some of the trips have been part of other projects but will be of direct relevance for Varieties of Peace.

Anna Jarstad conducted fieldwork in March as part of research on the contingency of conflict and local peacebuilding in informal settlements in Johannesburg, South Africa. This will be relevant for project 1.

Dzenan Sahovic conducted fieldwork in Bosnia-Herzegovina during a couple of weeks in March, initiating and updating contacts in the local community in preparation for future fieldwork for project 7.

Elisabeth Olivius conducted fieldwork in Northern Thailand in November. Exploratory interviews with Burmese civil society and ethnic minority actors were conducted for the purposes of Varieties of Peace project 6.

Abrak Saati conducted fieldwork in Tunisia in November as part of her postdoc on post-conflict constitution building. This will be relevant also for project 5.

Johanna Söderström conducted fieldwork in Namibia in March, where she carried out interviews with former combatants. These interviews will contribute to one of the papers planned within project 10.

¹ At this point, the core cases of the program are Bosnia-Herzegovina, Colombia, Georgia (Abkhazia), Indonesia (Aceh), Moldova (Transnistria), Myanmar, Namibia, Northern Ireland, Palestine, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, South Africa, and Tunisia. However, while we will devote the main attention to these core cases, other cases will also be included in different projects for e.g. comparative purposes.

Niklas Eklund conducted fieldwork in Latvia in November, gathering core academic literature in Russian concerning peace and the post-Soviet sphere.

Veronica Strandh conducted field work in Indonesia during four months as part of her postdoc project. This will be relevant for coming interviews in Aceh, project 8. She was also a visiting scholar at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Jakarta (CSIS). CSIS is willing to host the Varieties of Peace program first international conference in 2019.

Organisation

The Program Management Group consists of Anna Jarstad, Patrik Johansson and Malin Åkebo.

The Core Group of researchers consists of Niklas Eklund, Malin Eklund Wimelius, Elisabeth Olivius, Abrak Saati, Dzenan Sahovic, Veronica Strandh, and Johanna Söderström, in addition to the three Management Group members. The research environment is further strengthened by two PhD students: Philippa Barnes who focuses on the Palestinian leadership and Magda Cardenas who works on women-to-women diplomacy in Georgia and Burma/Myanmar.

The members of the Advisory Board are:

Sunil Bastian, research consultant, Sri Lanka.

Professor Morten Bøås, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs.

Professor Lorraine Elliott, Australian National University.

Professor Richard Jackson, University of Otago.

Dr. Michelle Ann Miller, National University of Singapore.

Professor Timothy Sisk, University of Denver.

Dr. Mimmi Söderberg Kovacs, Folke Bernadotte Academy.

Professor Marie-Joëlle Zahar, University of Montréal.

Senior Professor Peter Wallensteen, Uppsala University & University of Notre Dame.

Core group workshops and key meetings

The most important part of the team work is conducted during core group meetings. In addition to planning meetings we have had a number of more substantial seminars and workshops. During the spring of 2017 we arranged two full-day workshops for the program's core group members. In the fall, we initiated a seminar series where the core group meets at least once a month to discuss among other things ongoing research by core group members, the peace concept in various literatures, and methodological approaches to studying varieties of peace. The project researchers have also presented brief descriptions of cases tentatively included in their individual projects in order to capture and compare characteristics of peace in different settings and to discuss conceptualisations of such characteristics. Methods and methodologies were also discussed at the workshops, as well as during the Advisory Board meeting in September.

Key core group workshops and meetings include:

- February 1st: Program organization and discussion on theoretical framework.
- May 16th: Positions papers, theoretical framework and conceptualization of peace in relation to our projects.
- October 3rd: Follow-up of Advisory Board meeting.
- October 18th: Literature seminar on alternative peace definitions (Dietrich 2014 and Jackson 2017).
- November 8th: Literature seminar on everyday peace (McGinty 2014; Hahirwa, Orjuela & Vinthagen 2017).
- November 15th: Seminar on case selection and description of peace in our cases.
- December 6th: Seminar on Johanna Söderström's paper "Coming Home and Living Peace".
- December 12th: Seminar on how our respective projects are related to the research questions.

Dissemination of research results

1) Social media

A program website was launched in the beginning of the year: <https://www.varietiesofpeace.net/>. On the website we introduce the projects, program activities, the research team, and announces program related news. The website also links to news on the program's Twitter account and the Umeå University Peace and Conflict Studies Facebook page, and an Instagram account.

2) Publications

The publication strategy is to primarily publish articles in international peer reviewed journals. Each participant will during the course of the program publish at least the equivalent of four peer reviewed single-authored articles, in addition to other publications such as working papers, op eds etc. We encourage co-authored articles to further integration within the program. Thematic issues in journals as well as edited books are also possible channels for dissemination. We have decided to use the Working papers series at the department of political science for Varieties of Peace papers due to practical reasons and include the Varieties of Peace logo on the front page. The list below includes Varieties of Peace program publications, as well as related and relevant publications by the program core group participants.

a. Monographs and book chapters

Olivius, Elisabeth. 2017. Political Space in Refugee Camps: Enabling and Constraining Conditions for Refugee Agency, in *Political Participation in Asia: Defining and Deploying Political Space*, eds Eva Hansson and Meredith Weiss. London: Routledge.

Olivius, Elisabeth. 2017. Refugees, Global Governance and the Local Politics of Violence against Women, in. *Gender, Violence, Refugees*, eds Susanne Buckley-Zistel and Ulrike Krause. Oxford: Berghahn.

Olivius, Elisabeth. 2017. Migration: Refugee Camps: Bangladesh, in *Encyklopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures*, ed Suad Joseph. Brill Academic Publishing.

b. Articles in peer reviewed international journals

Eklund, Niklas and Jörgen Elfving. 2017. Ryska privata säkerhetsföretag-”Redwater”? Kungliga Krigsvetenskapsakademiens Handlingar och Tidskrift (2): 133-145.

Olivius, E. 2017. Sites of Repression and Resistance: Political Space in Refugee Camps in Thailand. *Critical Asian Studies* 9 (3): 288-307.

Oppenheim, Ben, and Johanna Söderström. 2017. Online first. “Citizens by Design? Explaining Ex-Combatant Satisfaction with Reintegration Programming” *Journal of Development Studies*.

Söderström, Johanna. 2017. Online first. “Fear of electoral violence and its impact on political knowledge in Sub-Saharan Africa.” *Political Studies*.

c. Submitted manuscripts (for peer review)

Eklund, Niklas, Jörgen Elfving and Malin E. Wimelius. Forthcoming. “Peacekeeping à la Russe”, submitted to *Kungliga Krigsvetenskapsakademiens Handlingar och Tidskrift*.

Johansson, Patrik. Forthcoming. “Resilience Thinking for Peacebuilders”, submitted to *International Journal of Peace Studies*.

Sahovic, Dzenan. Forthcoming. “Peace and Peacebuilding, a grid-group typology”, submitted to *Peacebuilding*.

Åkebo, Malin. Forthcoming. “Paving the way to peace? A review of ceasefire agreements in Mindanao’s peace processes”, submitted to *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*.

d. Conference papers

Olivius, Elisabeth. “Feminists, ethno-nationalists and peace activists? Diasporic women’s organizations in conflict and peacebuilding in Myanmar” presented at European Conference on Politics and Gender, 6-8 June 2017, Lausanne.

Söderström, Johanna. “Veteran networks across a lifetime: a comparison of Vietnam veterans, former M-19 guerrillas and PLAN ex-fighters” presented at “The Making of Peace, Conflict and Security Dynamics of Inclusion and Exclusion”, the 6th Bi-annual Peace and Conflict Studies in Anthropology meeting (PACSA), 28-30 August 2017, Amsterdam.

Söderström, Johanna. "Veteran networks across a lifetime: a comparison of Vietnam veterans, former M-19 guerrillas and PLAN ex-fighters" presented at the FBA Research Working Group on DDR, IAWG DDR Workshop Research Side-Event, 20 October 2017, Stockholm.

e. Working paper publications

Jarstad, Anna, Malin Åkebo, Patrik Johansson, Philippa Barnes, Niklas Eklund, Malin Eklund Wimelius, Elisabeth Olivius, Abrak Saati, Dzenan Sahovic, Veronica Strandh and Johanna Söderström, "Varieties of peace: presentation of a research program", Umeå Working Papers in Peace and Conflict Studies no. 9, ISSN 1654-2398, Umeå: Umeå Universitet, 2017, 23pp.

Jarstad, Anna, Elisabeth Olivius, Malin Åkebo, Kristine Höglund, Mimmi Söderberg Kovacs, Johanna Söderström, Abrak Saati, Roland Kostić and Dzenan Sahovic, "Peace agreements in the 1990s - what are the outcomes 20 years later?", Umeå Working Papers in Peace and Conflict Studies no. 8, ISSN 1654-2398, Umeå: Umeå Universitet, 2015, 30pp.

f. Popular science

Eklund, Niklas and Jörgen Elfving, "Russian private military companies: Redwater", *Eurasian Daily Monitor*, 2017, vol. 14 (39), The Jamestown Foundation, Washington D.C.

Jarstad, Anna, "Kommer världens äldsta fredsmision att avslutas?", *Västerbottens-Kuriren*, 16 July 2017. <http://www.vk.se/2051705/kommer-varldens-aldsta-fredsmision-att-avslutas>

Johansson, Patrik, "Magstarkt att misstänkliggöra hela fredsrörelsen", *Blekinge Läns Tidning*, 25 July 2017. <http://www.blt.se/ledare/magstarkt-att-misstankliggora-hela-fredsrörelsen>

3) Academic outreach

March 3rd, Uppsala: Program presentation at the Department of Government, Uppsala University; Anna Jarstad and Johanna Söderström.

April 7 th, Umeå: Elisabeth Olivius present the Varieties of Peace program to students at the International Conflict and Crisis Management program.

April 24-27, Galgorm, Northern Ireland: Anna Jarstad speaker on the topic of dilemmas of peacebuilding at a PAX conference: "Let's end a war".

May 17th, Umeå: Seminar with Mathilda Lindgren and Annika Sundbom Åström on peace and leadership.

June 6th, London: Abrak Saati participates in conference "The Common Good in Times of Transition", panel led by Mary Kaldor.

June 7th, Lausanne: Elisabeth Olivius participates in the European Conference on Gender and Politics, presenting findings from research on diasporic women's organizations and peacebuilding in Myanmar.

June 15th, Stockholm: Anna Jarstad participated in a panel discussion on the conceptualization of peace at the Stockholm Seminar on the launching of the 2017 Global Peace Index arranged by Folke Bernadotte Academy and the Institute for Economics and Peace.

November 7th, Umeå: Malin Eklund Wimelius and Abrak Saati present findings from their published article 'Building Peace Abroad and Coming Back Home: Experiences of Swedish Police Officers' at the one-day conference 'Police work in the service of peace' arranged by the Police Academy at Umeå University.

4) Media Appearances and Public Events

May 24th, Umeå: Elisabeth Olivius lecture "Vilken fred? Vems fred? Kvinnorörelsen utmanar fredsprocessen i Myanmar", organized by Utrikespolitiska föreningen.

October 8th: Anna Jarstad, God Morgon Världen (radio P1) on referenda and secessionism.

November 28th, Notre Dame, USA: Malin Åkebo holds a public lecture "Paving the way to peace? Ceasefire agreements in Mindanao's peace processes", arranged by the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame.