

Research in Conflict-Affected Countries and Contexts: Ethics, Risks, and Practicalities

Monday, March 2, 2015

9:00am-3:00pm

The Tuscan Ballroom, Joy Burns Center, University of Denver

9:00

Welcome and Introductions; Purpose and Objectives

Prof. Timothy Sisk, Associate Dean for Research, Korbel School

Opening remarks

Prof. Corinne Lengsfeld, Associate Provost for Research, University of Denver

9:15

Invited Experts

"At the Edge of Anarchy: Researching Conflict and Corruption in Africa"

William Reno, Professor of Political Science at Northwestern University

"Researching Refugees: Ethics and Access in Conflict-Affected Countries"

Karen Jacobsen, Associate Professor of Research and Director of the Refugees and Forced Migration Program, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University

Q & A

10:45

Coffee/Tea Break

11:00

Faculty Perspectives: Ethics, Risks, and Practicalities

"Field Research in International Peace and Security"

Erica Chenoweth, Associate Professor of International Studies

"Academics and Ex-Combatants: Researching Insurgency in Colombia"

Oliver Kaplan, Assistant Professor of International Studies

Q&A

12:00

Lunch Break

1:00p

Research in Humanitarian Affairs

"Field Research in Humanitarian Emergencies"

Chen Reis, Director, Humanitarian Assistance Program, Korbel School

Q&A

1:30pm

Roundtable: Research on the Front Lines

"Off the Grid: Researching Communal Violence in Northwestern Kenya"

Fletcher Cox, PhD Candidate, Korbel School

"Taking the 'Chicken Bus': Exploring State-Society Relations in Rural Guatemala"

Matthew Klick, PhD Candidate, Korbel School

"Researching Civilian Responses to Maoists, Mercenaries, and Mafiosos in Peru"

Steve Zech, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Korbel School

Q&A

3:00p

Concluding Remarks/Adjournment



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Participant Biographies:

William Reno is Director of the Program of African Studies and Professor at Northwestern University. His research and teaching focus on understanding the causes of political violence, comparisons of political violence in Africa with political violence elsewhere, the organization and behavior of insurgent groups, and the politics of authoritarian regimes. He also participates in broad analytical debates about the nature of corruption and coercion and their roles in the development of political institutions and the changing nature of contemporary insurgencies. His current research focuses on explaining why some rebel groups are more successful than the great majority of counterparts in restricting factional splits, maintaining internal discipline, and advancing a coherent political agenda over the parochial concerns of fighters and supporters.

Karen Jacobsen is Associate Professor of Research at The Fletcher School at Tufts University and directs the Refugees and Forced Migration Program at the Feinstein International Center. She has taught and conducted research in the field of forced migration for twenty years, and consults on this topic to public and private organizations. Of particular interest in her research is the ways in which refugees and other displaced people pursue livelihoods and regain their dignity and financial independence, and her book addresses this issue. From 2000-2005, she directed the Alchemy Project, which explored the use of microfinance as a way to support the livelihoods of people in refugee camps and other displacement settings. Her current research continues this line of investigation, with a focus on urban refugees and on remittance patterns to conflict zones.

Erica Chenoweth is Associate Professor at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies and Director of the Program on Terrorism and Insurgency Research at the Sié Center. An internationally recognized authority on political violence and its alternatives, *Foreign Policy* magazine ranked her among the Top 100 Global Thinkers in 2013 for her efforts to promote the empirical study of civil resistance. She received the 2014 Karl Deutsch Award, which the International Studies Association gives annually to the scholar under the age of 40 who has made the greatest impact on the field of international politics or peace research. Alongside her position at the Josef Korbel School, she is an Associate Senior Researcher at the Peace Research Institute of Oslo (PRIO) and has held visiting appointments at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, Stanford University, UC-Berkeley, and the University of Maryland.

Oliver Kaplan is an Assistant Professor in International Security and Human Rights at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies. He is Associate Director of the Human Trafficking Center and an affiliate of the Sié Center. His main research interests include the study of alternative conflict resolution and counterinsurgency strategies. His current book project, *Between Cooperation and Resistance: How War-torn Communities Protect Themselves in Colombia and Beyond*, examines how civilian communities organize to protect themselves from wartime violence and received the Diskin Dissertation award honorable mention from the Latin American Studies Association. He is currently working on additional projects on programs for ex-combatants, human trafficking, and civilian nonviolent movements.



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Chen Reis is a Clinical Associate Professor and Director of the Humanitarian Assistance Program at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver. She is an expert on sexual violence in settings affected by crises and on ethical and safety issues related to collection and use of data on sexual violence. She was previously a technical officer at the World Health Organization with appointments in the departments of Gender and Women's Health and Health Action in Crises. She consults for WHO on projects relating to sexual violence including medico-legal aspects. Her current research is on accountability in the international humanitarian system and on sexual violence in conflict settings.

Fletcher Cox is a Ph.D. candidate at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies, and a Research Fellow at the Sié Chéou-Kang Center for International Security, and Diplomacy. His research focuses on ethnic violence, international peace and security, and peacebuilding in divided societies from a comparative perspective. In particular, his work explores the escalation of violence within identity-based conflicts, looking specifically at why some communities perform better than others in preventing escalation. Fletcher has six years of professional experience managing relief, development, and peacebuilding programs in Sudan, South Sudan, Kenya, Rwanda, and Haiti, included designing, implementing, and evaluating multi-sectoral programs with representation and liaison experience with government bodies, U.N. agencies, international donors, military personnel, and NGOs in disaster and post-conflict settings.

Matthew Klick recently graduated with his PhD from the Josef Korbel School. He explored why similarly poor and remote communities in Guatemala's Western Highlands were diverging among development indicators like hunger and literacy, arguing that the degree to which informal actors were folded into more formal local governance for development was a critical factor. Matt spent over six months in especially remote communities of Guatemala in order to meet indigenous leaders and community members for his research. He is currently lecturing on the Millennium Development Goals for Korbel's undergraduate program and in Latin American Politics for the University of Denver's Political Science Department. Matt is also launching a non-profit, based in Denver, dedicated to research and policy for development in global mountain regions, where community engagement is a key component, (www.amrdi.org).

Steve Zech is a Post-Doctorate Research Fellow at the Sié Chéou-Kang Center for International Security and Diplomacy at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver. He is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Political Science at the University of Washington, Seattle where he teaches courses on political violence and terrorism. His dissertation, "Between Two Fires: Civilian Resistance during Internal Armed Conflict in Peru," examines civilian self-defense forces in the Ayacucho and Junín regions of Peru and explains variation in community responses to militant violence. Steve was a research affiliate at the Instituto de Estudios Peruanos in Lima while carrying out fieldwork in Ayacucho and Junín between 2011 and 2014.



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