Welcome note

Centre for Peace Studies has had an eventful 2016, for both better and for worse—albeit fortunately mostly the former. Our students are active and productive, engaging themselves and taking initiative to interesting activities to all our benefit. Some of us have also been travelling, visiting and cooperating with colleagues and friends in such diverse places as Hamburg, Petrozavodsk and Tokyo.

We wish to thank all our partners and colleagues for all efforts and inspiring times, and hope to continue our good relationships in the years to come. Thank you for your contributions to making CPS a fine place to be.

We wish you all peaceful holidays and a bright new year with promising opportunities. Warm regards from CPS, Tromsø

"If we desire a society of peace, then we cannot achieve such a society through violence. If we desire a society without discrimination, then we must not discriminate against anyone in the process of building this society. If we desire a society that is democratic, then democracy must become a means as well as an end.

Bayard Rustin

In This Issue

- Winter school in Karelia
- Outreach activities
- Autumn 2016
- NEW grant
- Re:PEACE
The third international BPEN school with the title “Peace projects at different levels of government and civil society in the North of Europe” gathered MPCT and Russian students at Petrozavodsk State University in the beginning of December. Students got the opportunity to study notions of peace through different disciplines, Russian and Norwegian academic perceptions and a lot of discussions. A special guest, Ivana Gajovic, was invited from the Nansen Dialogue Centre Montenegro both with a lecture and practical exercises.

The international schools have become a traditional activity and arena for student-student and student-teacher communication, exchange of opinions and breaking of stereotypes. Notions of peace and peace projects came as a red line through all lectures and discussions this time. The plan so far is to search for financial resources to organize a next international school in Tromsø and keep a good tradition of students’ communication in the field of peace studies as a part of BPEN.

BPEN– Barents Peace Education Network is a network of academic institutions in the Barents Region (UiT-Arctic University of Norway, Petrozavodsk State University, Murmansk State Humanities University, and Northern (Arctic) Federal University/Arkhangelsk. Through a portfolio of activities ranging from student and staff exchange, development of courses, curricula and study programs, to joint workshops and conferences as well as research and dissemination/outreach activities, the overall ambition is to build competence, as well as mutual trust and understanding.

NEW

MPCT graduates

3 new master’s students defended their thesis. Our warm congratulations go to

Andrea Indrehus Furuli
NRK TV-aksjonen. The Norwegian self-perception and world image

Tesfa Habtemariam Kidane
Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration of Eritrean ex-fighters - Lost Opportunities of The 1993-97 Implemented DDR

Temmylade Ayo Aladeokin
Post-Conflict Peacebuilding: Youth Participation in Sierra Leone

We wish them all the best in their future endeavours!

MPCT Internships

MPCT student Anne-Marit Pettersen starts an internship in Kampala, Uganda, from January 2017
In September, CPS organized the WarPed seminar “The Production and Management of Migration”. This was part of a start-up workshop for the WarPed group’s aim of putting together a larger research project. Next step is to present the project through three panels at the upcoming EUPRA conference in Germany.

In November, the 2nd year students organized a tour to Olavsvern—originally a Cold War submarine base. Olavsvern is a decommissioned Royal Norwegian Navy base located just outside the city of Tromsø and currently leased to state owned Russian research institutes.

In November, 3 students received CPS stipends to participate in the Elverum Film seminar, moviesonwar.no.

In November, Gunnar Rekvig defended his PhD at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS). Vidar Vambheim has been his co-supervisor, and was also a member of the defence commission. In his doctoral thesis, Gunnar Rekvig apply Nordic peace notions to the context of Eastern Asia.

This year, the Nobel Peace prize was awarded to the Colombian people for their efforts in creating peace with FARC. Adm Executive Elisabeth Sandersen and MPCT student Anna Stumpf-Condry represented CPS at the award ceremony in Oslo.

COMING IN SPRING 2017

- CPS and the MPCT program will receive 12 Japanese bachelor students in February for 2 weeks study course. It will be the first experience of joint teaching and supervision. Vidar Vambheim will teach his course «Education, Development and Peace».

- CPS holds a BPEN Seminar in St Petersburg in late March, funded by a grant from the Norwegian University Centre. It will be the first research symposium targeting the Norwegian and Russian perspectives on
New opportunities from January 2017

CPS is expecting more international activity in the coming year, particularly since SIU approved our application for long term funding by the Eurasia programme.

SIU Eurasia long term funds of NOK 3 000 000 allocated to the Eurasia Peace Studies Exchange network—EPSE

CPS/UiT in cooperation with AUCA, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Other project partners are universities in Hamburg, Odessa, Kiev and Tbilisi. The project aims at network building among partner universities, platform creation for student and staff exchange, and mutual exchange of knowledge of and competence on studies related to peace and conflict transformation.

The post-Soviet Spaces and Eurasia as a region is gaining momentum on the international agenda. Being in a crucible betwixt and between the East and the West, the developments of focus and locus of this region has effects far beyond its borders. Through cooperation and exchange with partner AUCA in Kyrgyzstan, the Centre for Peace Studies (CPS) has realized the importance and impetus of the complex processes in movement in this area, and how it - directly and by proxy - affects our own more immediate surroundings and political agendas. Concretely, the EPSE network activities will take place in internationally staffed workshops and, translated into teaching modules, through meriting (MA/PhD) intensive courses – in addition to continuous exchange of staff and students between partner institutions.

Activity of our MPCT students

Re-Peace magazine: worth reading

The fourth edition of Re:PEACE magazine was published at the end of November, and this time the focus is on War. Our students ask the question whether war really is an unavoidable evil, and try to answer it through personal experiences, as well as through research-based articles and philosophical musings.

In this edition, the editor’s board announced an articles competition, and the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (CPS) provided a generous travel prize to the value of NOK 5000 for the article judged to be the best submission on the theme of ‘Peace and War’. The first recipient of our travel prize is Julia Landens, a student in Peace studies from Uppsala, Sweden. The judging panel was impressed by the variety of approaches taken to this topic.

The forth volume is published and can be found here http://www.repeacemag.com/vol4/