



## DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### **Oxford Network of Peace Studies (OxPeace)**

**Coordinators: Dr Liz Carmichael, Dr Andrew Gosler**

The Oxford Network of Peace Studies (OxPeace) is a multi-disciplinary initiative to promote the academic study of peace, peacemaking, peacebuilding and peacekeeping at the University of Oxford. OxPeace comprises scholars and students from a variety of disciplines. It organizes lectures, seminars and conferences, and through its email lists it publicizes information about other related events.

The concept of 'peacebuilding' has come to be central to peace studies. Successful outcomes in peacebuilding depend on inclusive perspectives. The study of peace adds a fresh dimension to established disciplines and engenders a distinctive multidisciplinary synergy, drawing on politics and international relations, economics, development; gender, media, environmental studies; history; war and conflict studies; education, anthropology, law, ethics and theology to name only a few.

Oxford has a unique comparative advantage. In addition to its wide range of relevant academic disciplines, it has strong links to practitioners. It is thus well placed to promote dialogue between the two communities, to bring scholarship and research to bear on policy analysis and practice and to draw on the insights of practitioners to inform scholarship. OxPeace has begun to promote links between grassroots practitioners, NGOs, policy makers and academic researchers. It sees opportunities for links with scholars and research institutes in the Global South.

Among other events OxPeace has held four multidisciplinary conferences: in May 2009 'The Serious Study of Peace', May 2010 'Building Peace', May 2011 'Media, Conflict and Peacebuilding', and May 2012 'Disciplines of Peace' (links below). In the medium term OxPeace looks forward to the establishment of posts in the study of peace at Oxford.

#### Aims

- to serve as a forum for interaction and the sharing of knowledge among academics, scholar-practitioners and policy-makers
- to promote knowledge of current research in relevant fields in Oxford
- to conduct research projects
- to hold seminars, workshops and conferences on thematic, area, and methodological issues
- to inform members about other related events within and outside Oxford
- to promote interaction and exchange among academics, scholar-practitioners and policy-makers in the Global North and South
- to promote links with academics and scholar-practitioners in other centres, and to act as a contact point for those working in or visiting Oxford
- to inform and involve graduate researchers

If you would like to join this network, and/ or wish to post or receive information about relevant meetings, research, etc., please Contact: Dr Liz Carmichael MBE, St John's College, [liz.carmichael@sjc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:liz.carmichael@sjc.ox.ac.uk), tel. 01865 277351 or Dr Andrew Gosler, Mansfield College, [andrew.gosler@zoo.ox.ac.uk](mailto:andrew.gosler@zoo.ox.ac.uk), tel. 01865 271158

**“The Future of Peacebuilding”:** OxPeace Conference 2013 : Saturday 11 May 0900 – 1730, at St John’s College, Oxford, preceded on Friday 10 May by a Conference Dinner with address by Ingrid Betancourt, former senator and anti-corruption activist in Colombia, kidnapped and held by FARC 2002-2008.

Keynote speakers: Dr Carolyn McAskie OC, University of Ottawa, first UN Asst SG for Peacebuilding and head of the UN Peacebuilding Commission, Professor Paul Rogers, University of Bradford, and Dr Cyril Obi, Program Director of the African Peacebuilding Network at the New York-based SSRC.

Breakout panels on: Environmental peacebuilding in the Middle East with Yossi Leshem (ornithologist, Israel; see [www.wingsofpeace.com](http://www.wingsofpeace.com)), Azzam Alwash (the Marshes, Iraq), and Chris Naylor (A Rocha, Lebanon);

**Roles of Universities and Peacebuilding** with Massimo Caneva (University of Rome, connecting universities in the Balkans and Middle East), Koji Nakamura (Konan University, Kobe, Japan, peace education for exchange students), Yoav Bornstein and Elizabeth Jadon (Olive Tree Israel-Palestine Scholarship programme at City University, London);

**Tensions in counter-terrorism and peacebuilding** with Anja Shortland (land-based solutions to Somali piracy), Alexander Leveringhaus (drones) and Annette Idler (drugs conflict and peace in Colombia);

**UN Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding** with Cyril Obi (Africa Peacebuilding Network), Sacha Meuter (UN peacekeeping radio), and Sarah von Billerbeck (local ownership of UN peacebuilding in the DRC).

Open Film Evening: Saturday 11 May at 8pm in the Auditorium, St John's College:

Screening of two films on environmental peacebuilding in the Middle East. "Wings of Peace" describing the work of distinguished Israeli ornithologist Prof. Yossi Leshem and the 'Migrating Birds know no Boundaries' project. And "Miracle in the Iraqi Marshes" describing the work of Goldman Prize-winning conservationist Dr Azzam Alwash in restoring from desert the internationally important Iraqi marshlands. In the presence of Yossi Leshem and Azzam Alwash. All are welcome.

The Conference is open to all, and the Saturday programme is free for students (who are however asked for a voluntary contribution of £5 on the day to help cover the cost of sandwich lunch and coffee/tea). Non-students are asked to contribute £10 on the day. Senior concession as for students.

Registration forms will be sent early in the New Year to all OxPeace email list members, and will be obtainable from the Conference Assistant, Jason Robinson, St Antony’s: [Jason.robinson@sant.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Jason.robinson@sant.ox.ac.uk) to whom all enquiries should be addressed.

The 2013 OxPeace Conference is sponsored by the African Studies Centre, the Centre for International Studies, the St John’s College Research Centre, and the Oxford Peace Research Trust.