

CALL FOR PAPERS
for the
SECOND BI-ANNUAL PACSA MEETING 2009

9.-11.October 2009

Austrian Study Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR)

“Continuities and ruptures between conflict, post-conflict and peace”

PACSA, the EASA network on Peace and Conflict Studies in Anthropology, is pleased to announce its 2nd bi-annual meeting, held at the Peace Center Burg Schlaining, Austria.

Current anticipated changes in world politics on the one hand and continued armed conflicts on the other result in a boom of security studies, consultancies, and the relative marginalization of anthropologists' point of view. These global changes in world politics therefore not only call for the need to clarify our terminology, but also point to the necessity of redefining anthropology's role within peace and conflict studies. We therefore suggest participants to address one or several of the following questions.

'Conflict' and 'peace' are recurrent concepts, constantly used within and outside academia. Peace is mostly defined in its negative terms, and might as well be replaced by the rather ambiguous categories of post- or pre-conflict. These terms have become more central within anthropological studies, especially in connection with studies in trauma and reconciliation. The last PACSA meeting has shown that even within the anthropology of peace and conflict, these categories are not sufficiently defined and no common understanding of these terms exists. We therefore encourage participants to (re)think and clarify the categories of conflict, post-conflict and peace as well as making the continuities and ruptures between them visible.

We also ask participants to relate to debates on the cultures and markets of violence (Aijmer & Abbink 2000, Whitehead 2004) and the different orders that armed groups establish. Contributions might analyze the structures and organization of violence. The changes through the War on Terror have had severe consequences on our research landscape. Security studies have largely been monopolized by think tanks and a flood of strategic studies institutes. How do we as anthropologists relate to these changes?

Anthropologists, through their research, become part of the social networks in which conflict and peace are negotiated. How does anthropological writing support underprivileged informants or deconstruct militiamen? What is the role of local agency in the anthropology of peace and conflict?

Several anthropologists such as Das (2007) and Appadurai (1996) have questioned the sufficiency of our anthropological tools in doing research in conflict settings. Are we at the limits of our language?

How do we write about violence and peace? These questions also lead us to other dilemmas in doing research in conflict settings:

Given the current monopolization of security studies, anthropologists are more than ever required to deal with ethical problems in placing themselves within think tanks, advisory boards or international organizations. This PACSA meeting is also meant to bring together theoretical and applied perspectives of Peace and Conflict Studies in anthropology and further dialogue between anthropologists in academia and the 'field'. Anthropological contributions from researchers in active peace building are therefore welcome.

Conference Venue

The 2nd bi-annual PACSA meeting will be hosted at the Peace Center Burg Schlaining (www.aspr.ac.at) at a medieval castle, conveniently located 1.5 hours from Vienna in the Austrian countryside close to the Hungarian Border.

Conference Fees

180 Euro

This fee includes transportation from Vienna Train station West and Vienna Airport, accommodation at the Hotel Burg Schlaining in single room, full board and conference dinner.

Applications

Paper proposals (max 300 Words) should be submitted by e-mail to Erella Grassiani (E.Grassiani@fsw.vu.nl) until **May 1st, 2009**. Upon acceptance, the applicant will be notified within four weeks and is asked to submit a conference paper (5,000 – 12,000 characters) by **September 30th, 2009**.

Registration deadline with submission of fees is **September 1st, 2009**

Organizing Committee

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