



Fall 2015 Newsletter

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Rachel

We have had a "banner year" at the IPRA Foundation. We are so pleased that our two Senesh Fellows, Lydia Wanja Gitau and Mary Thamari Odhiambo, both from Kenya, are doing well with their research and graduate programs. We have also welcomed six new scholars to our Peace Research Grants program in May of this year. This move represents the most scholars we have ever funded at one time. The review committee was very pleased with the quality of the applications and range of work being done to promote peace. Please take a moment to read about these scholars and their projects on our website. While you are there, please look at the final reports of our previous scholars. We are always glad when scholars keep us informed about their later work.



I wanted to also draw your attention to the regional conferences coming up this fall. Especially if you aren't able to attend the bi-annual IPRA Conference, these regional conferences are an excellent way to meet and collaborate with other peace researchers. Please consider attending one of the following conferences this year:

EUPRA 2015 Conference, Tromsø, Norway, September 2-4, 2015
 APPRA 2015 Conference, Kathmandu, Nepal, October 9-11, 2015
 PJSa 2015 Conference, Harrisonburg, Virginia, U.S.A., October 15-17, 2015
 CLAIIP 2015 Conference, Guatemala City, October 26-28, 2015

Details for these conferences can be found on our website, as well as links to the Call for Papers and registration information.

Linda M. Johnston, President

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW PEACE RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENT Rashmi Nair

Rashmi Nair, of India, was granted this award in May 2015 for her project titled **"Peace and conflict between minorities: Understanding Dalit-Muslim Relations in India."**

Although social psychology has made great strides in understanding harmony and hostility between members of different social, racial, religious and ethnic groups, research on minority-minority relations (as opposed to majority-minority relations) remains scarce. This project investigates social psychological and structural conditions that explain positive attitudes and peaceful relations between minorities, as well as those that fuel intergroup hostility and violence. Specifically, this project entails two qualitative studies that employ an intersectional lens to examine relations between Dalits and

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Muslims in India.

In India, those who fall at the bottom of the hierarchical caste system are called Dalits (meaning "broken" or "oppressed"; formerly called "untouchables"). This system has led to disadvantage, discrimination, and even direct violence against the Dalits, who constitute over 16% of India's population. Similar to Dalits is the condition of the Indian Muslim minority, who suffer severe marginalization, form over 15% of India's population and have experienced recurrent episodes of communal violence



Dalits have been pitted against Muslims, but there have also been instances of solidarity between the two groups. What are the social psychological processes that explain these instances of solidarity and peaceful relations between historically disadvantaged minorities? Conversely, which are the ones that perpetuate hostility and violent conflicts between these marginalized groups? My project aims to examine minority-minority relations through an intersectional lens, attending to gender and class differences while exploring social psychological processes that underlie Dalit-Muslim relations.

About Rashmi Nair

Rashmi Nair is a Ph.D. candidate in Social Psychology at Clark University in Worcester, MA in the USA. She holds an M.Sc. in Psychology from Christ University, India. She is a Teaching Assistant at Clark University.

Read more about the project at <http://iprafoundation.org/rashmi-nair/>.

To contact Rashmi, please send an email to [info\(at\)iprafoundation\(dot\)org](mailto:info(at)iprafoundation(dot)org) and we will gladly put you in contact.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW PEACE RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENT Dr. Leonard Kapungu

Dr. Leonard Kapungu of Zimbabwe was granted this award in May, 2015, for his research project, titled **"The Search for Peace: Promoting Good Governance in Zimbabwe."**



In Zimbabwe, the establishment of the Movement of Democratic Change (MDC) in 1999 as an opposition party, the rejection of the Draft Constitution through a referendum in 2000, the subsequent 2000 June Parliamentary elections, and the land redistribution in the 2000 and 2002 Presidential elections, led to a decline in Zimbabwe's human rights record. Shocking human rights violations including torture, rape, arson, assaults, destruction of property, harassment and intimidation were recorded by human rights organizations.

Since that time, the results of economic governance in Zimbabwe has resulted in the privileged minority benefiting while the majority of Zimbabweans have largely been reduced to destitution. The system

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has failed to promote sustainable economic growth. Governance is seen as both a concept and a process including a full range of political, economic and social activities involving all stakeholders and governmental institutions in a country. Good governance is a prerequisite of creating conditions of peace and development. Good decision-making processes, including accountability, transparency, the rule of law, responsiveness, equitability and inclusiveness, effectiveness, efficiency and participation, are key. Good governance needs to be fostered in order to promote political stability, social cohesion and economic development.

The objectives of this research are 1) to engage all stakeholders and subject experts in evaluating the extent to which Zimbabwe has moved forward to foster good governance in the last 10 years and 2) to contribute to finding solutions to good governance that enhance peace and development in Zimbabwe and other African countries.

About Dr. Leonard Kapungu

Dr. Leonard Kapungu holds a Ph.D. in the International Relations and Applied Economics from the University of London. He is the Director of Research, Documentation and Training at the General Emmanuel Erskine Research and Documentation Centre.

Read more about the project at <http://iprafoundation.org/leonard-kapungu/>.

To contact Dr. Kapungu, please send an email to [info\(at\)iprafoundation\(dot\)org](mailto:info(at)iprafoundation(dot)org) and we will gladly put you in contact.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW PEACE RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENT

Dr. Sarah Jenkins

Dr. Sarah Jenkins, of the UK, was granted this award in May 2015 for her project titled **"Pockets of Peace, Agents of Resistance: Micro-level peace initiatives in Kyrgyzstan."**

This project will increase our understanding of micro-level peace-making practices - and the conditions needed for peace amidst violent conflict - through an in-depth analysis of localised pockets of calm during the 2010 violence in Kyrgyzstan. A number of scholars have noted that even amidst the deadliest of conflicts, 'islands of civility', 'micro-peaces', and 'nonwar communities' persist in towns, villages, neighbourhoods and workplaces. However, relatively little is known about why some communities are able to avoid descent into violence, whilst others become consumed by conflict, and engagement with local practices of peace is largely missing from international peacebuilding interventions.



Divided societies are one of the biggest challenges facing the world today, and violent conflict across ethnic, religious or other identity lines has affected societies in a wide range of diverse contexts. There has been a strong tendency amongst many academics, policy makers and practitioners to adopt top-down perspectives in their approaches to these conflicts, and to 'look for the causes of violence at the regional and national levels, and not in the realm of the local'. As a result, conflict resolution and peace-building efforts have traditionally emphasised state-centric and elite-focused political solutions to the crisis at hand. Valuable as this perspective is, and

The Peace Research Grant Program provides grants of up to \$5,000 for outstanding proposals.

The IPRA Foundation accepts applications for the The Peace Research Grant Program on a rolling basis.

The Peace Research Grant Application and Instructions may be found at

<http://iprafoundation.org/peace-research-grants-instructions/>

UPCOMING IPRA AFFILIATE REGIONAL CONFERENCES - CALLS FOR PAPERS

The following four IPRA regional affiliates announce Calls For Papers for their conferences. Visit their individual websites for the Call For Papers information and Registration Forms.

EUPRA 2015 Conference, Tromsø, Norway
September 2-4, 2015

Conference theme: "The Framing of Europe: Peace Perspectives on Europe's Future"

<http://euprapeace.org>

APPRA 2015 Conference, Kathmandu, Nepal
October 9-11, 2015

Conference theme: "Pathways towards Just Peace: Reinventing security, justice and democracy in Asia-Pacific"

<http://appranet.net/appra-conference-2015/>

CLAIP 2015 Conference, Guatemala City
October 26-28, 2015

Conference theme: "Latin America seeking the path towards a Sustainable Peace. Tools and Contributions"

Contact: Maria Eugenia Villarreal vilareal.maria@gmail.com

PJSA 2015 Conference, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia, USA
October 15-17, 2015

Conference theme: "Cultivating the Just and Peaceable Self: Understanding Transformation and Transforming Understanding in Research and Practice"

important as political solutions are, top-down approaches can also mask the more complex local dynamics of conflict and peace, and they may obscure potential sources of conflict prevention and transformation emerging at the grassroots. An increasing awareness of this problem has led to a local turn in peace research.

This project seeks to address these questions and to further our understanding of the conditions of peace through an analysis of local dynamics of violence and peace in Kyrgyzstan.

About Dr. Sarah Jenkins

Sarah Jenkins holds a Ph.D. in International Politics from the University of Aberystwyth. She is a Research Associate in Peace and Conflict Studies at the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations at Coventry University.

Read more about the project at <http://iprafoundation.org/sarah-jenkins/>.

To contact Sarah, please send an email to [info\(at\)iprafoundation\(dot\)org](mailto:info(at)iprafoundation(dot)org) and we will gladly put you in contact.

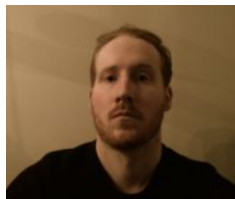
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Contact Us

Dr. Linda M. Johnston, President
IPRA Foundation
[president\(at\)iprafoundation\(dot\)org](mailto:president(at)iprafoundation(dot)org)

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW PEACE RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENT Charles Larratt-Smith

Charles Larratt-Smith, of the Canada, was granted this award in May 2015 for his research project, titled **"Echar lena al fuego: Semi-Governed Spaces and the Proliferation of Violence in Colombia."**



In recent years, international security experts have warned against the threat posed by 'ungoverned spaces', insofar as these swaths of territory existing beyond the control of any central government provide natural sanctuary to insurgents, criminals, and international terrorists alike. However, when the state expands into these 'lawless zones' in order to pacify them, the results are hardly the same across space and time. This state expansion will often witness a reduction in violence mirrored by an improvement in stability and order. Quite frequently however, violence will increase as stability and order worsen. The fact that state expansion into ungoverned spaces produces such different results across areas of extremely close proximity begs the following research question: how and why does this variation in violence occur?

My research focuses on a comparative analysis of three neighbouring municipalities in north-eastern Colombia: Arauca, Arauquita, and Saravena. Having served as a 'laboratory' for the Colombian government since 2002, while also home to various armed non-state actors, these case studies demonstrate the mixed results which accompany state expansion projects on a micro-level. In Arauca municipality, the incursion by the Colombian military witnessed a permanent decline in violent deaths, forced displacement, and kidnappings. However, Arauquita and Saravena experienced initial increases in the same indicators of violence, while ultimately experiencing no real improvement over the same period of time. I hypothesize that the reduction in violence was more a result of tacit understandings between actors over the division of space than the effectiveness of state expansion in establishing order.

About Charles Larratt-Smith

Charles Larratt-Smith is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science at the University of Toronto.

Read more about the project at <http://iprafoundation.org/charles-larratt-smith/>.

To contact Charles, please send an email to info(at)iprafoundation(dot)org and we will gladly put you in contact.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW PEACE RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENT Dr. Karen Ross

Dr. Karen Ross, of the U.S.A., was granted this award in May 2015 for her project titled **"Understanding the Mechanisms of Social Change Empowerment: From Encounter Participation to Peace-Building Activism."**



Scholars have long recognized the potential role of education in areas of ongoing conflict to exacerbate intergroup tensions as well as potentially diffuse them. In these conflict-prone areas, school-based education often reinforces conflict norms; in contrast, educational initiatives implemented outside of school settings are an important tool that can be used to emphasize the importance of building peace and promoting justice. In Israel, dozens of educational initiatives have brought together Jewish and Palestinian citizens in order to address majority-minority tensions and appease the ongoing threat of violent conflict between the two groups that has existed since the founding of the State in 1948.

A documented "success story" is Sadaka Reut, a veteran organization in Israel implementing educational encounter programs since the early 1980s. Sadaka Reut has succeeded in inspiring generations of young people to become activists for peace and social change in Israel. Moreover, Sadaka Reut has developed its own theory of change conceptualizing the process by which participants acquire a sense of responsibility for engaging in social change, based on Sadaka Reut's decades of experience with educational encounters. However, this theory of change remains as of yet untested.

This project will provide an in-depth examination of Sadaka Reut's educational work process, contributing: 1] to a better understanding of how this organization influences its participants; and consequently 2] to greater knowledge about the concrete manner in which encounters bringing together individuals from conflict groups can contribute to the advancement of peace and justice in conflict contexts. Practically, this project also has the potential to lead to training and other materials that can help educational initiatives in Israel and other conflict areas increase the impact of their programming.

About Dr. Karen Ross

Karen Ross holds a Ph.D. in Education Policy Studies and Inquiry Methodology. She is an Assistant Professor of Conflict Resolution at UMASS, Boston.

Read more about the project at <http://iprafoundation.org/karen-ross/>.

To contact Karen, please send an email to info(at)iprafoundation(dot)org and we will gladly put you in contact.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW PEACE
RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENT
Dr. Matthew Eddy**

Dr. Matthew Eddy, of the U.S.A., was granted this award in May 2015 for finishing funds for his documentary film titled **"A Bold Peace: Costa Rica's Path of Demilitarization."**



Dr. Matthew Eddy is the writer, director and lead producer of a documentary film titled "A Bold Peace: Costa Rica's Path of Demilitarization." This film explores the conditions of peace in Costa Rica and the peace strategies Costa Rica has pursued while living without a military for over 65 years, all while living in one of the most violent regions of the world. It is an experiment in peace and nonviolence that the world has neglected for too long. Few U.S. citizens know about Costa Rica's demilitarization. Even fewer know that Costa Rican leaders helped to convince Panama and Haiti to also disband their militaries.

"A Bold Peace" engages a U.S. audience in an inspiring narrative about Costa Rica's unique history of peace and social solidarity. Given our high-quality production values, the interviews with famous figures and the narrative pieces we have assembled, this film can be one of the most powerful peace films of recent years. Unlike other films on U.S. militarism, this film appeals to the hopeful impulses of humanity as it inspires by showcasing the little known example of Costa Rican demilitarization.

Our goal is to provide concerned citizens everywhere with historical knowledge and a vision of a different way - a nation living in one of the most violent regions of the world, that has chosen to prioritize human well-being in their federal budget, and nonviolence in their international relations. The film shows how Costa Rica exemplifies this different way - the way of demilitarization, solidarity, international law, and diplomacy. A 3-minute film trailer is viewable online at our website: <http://aboldpeace.com>.

About Dr. Matthew Eddy

Matthew Eddy holds a Ph.D. in the Sociology from the University of Oregon. He is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Minot State University in North Dakota, USA.

Read more about the project at <http://iprafoundation.org/matthew-eddy/>.

To contact Matthew, please send an email to [info\(at\)iprafoundation\(dot\)org](mailto:info(at)iprafoundation(dot)org) and we will gladly put you in contact.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PAST PEACE
RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENT
ON COMPLETION OF HER PROJECT
Emma Swan**

Emma Swan, of Canada, was granted this award in March, 2014 for her project titled **"An Exploration into the Gendered Interpretation of Sumud and its Subsequent Manifestations in Palestinian Peacebuilding: Towards a Gender Inclusive Model**

of Peacebuilding." A report of her research project follows.

The intent of this study was to explore the construction and assumptions of gender identities as they relate and contribute to peacebuilding in Palestine. Additionally, this research analyzes the gendered interpretation and manifestation of sumud and explores how these gendered interpretations influence Palestinian peacebuilding.



As indicated by the research, both women and men struggle to identify and consolidate new identities and roles in peacebuilding that conflict or challenge culturally defined gender expectations. In order to holistically understand the gendered nature of peacebuilding it is vital to acknowledge the barriers each gender faces when trying to move between peacebuilding roles. We must move beyond acknowledging women's contribution to grassroots peacebuilding and start talking about women's contribution to peacebuilding in general. That is not to undermine, undervalue, or belittle the importance of women's grassroots work, rather it serves to ensure the horizontal and vertical mobility necessary for women's and men's needs to be addressed and met in peacebuilding. This is also true for the opposite gender. For men, it is important that they have the ability to act outside formal peacebuilding roles; that they are able to engage in peace efforts at a grassroots level without having their masculinity called into question. Men who reject classic forms of male engagement at the political top-down level must be encouraged and supported to do so in the same way that women who wish to reject the classic form of female engagement at the grassroots level are encouraged and supported to do so. Ultimately this will lead to better, more efficient peacebuilding initiatives, which will have long-term positive repercussions for a lasting peace. Therefore, focus and efforts must be made to allow both genders an opportunity to work towards building peace based on their personal strengths and interests rather than based on socially prescribed gender roles and attributes. As peace is inextricably linked to equality between men and women, it is important to strive towards gender equality in all peacebuilding processes in hopes of influencing broader social change pertaining to gender equality. Also, reducing the barriers and encouraging men and women to engage at all levels of peacebuilding may lend itself to creating an inclusive, lasting, positive peace.

About Emma Swan

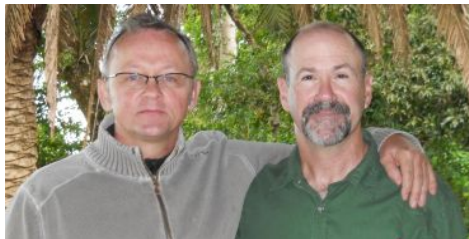
Emma Swan is currently the Director of the Women and Peace Program at the International Women's Rights Project in Victoria, Canada. Read much more about Emma's project and conclusions at <http://iprafoundation.org/emma-swan/>.

To contact Emma, please send an email to [info\(at\)iprafoundation\(dot\)org](mailto:info(at)iprafoundation(dot)org) and we would be happy to put you in contact.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PAST PEACE RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS ON COMPLETION OF THEIR PROJECT William M. Adler and Jody Jenkins

William M. Adler and Jody Jenkins, of the U.S.A., were granted this award in August, 2013 for their documentary film project titled **"Sweet Home Costa Rica: a Story of War...and Peace."** A report about the project follows.

"Sweet Home Costa Rica: A Story of War...and Peace," documents how ordinary Americans of the mid-20th century struck an extraordinary blow for peace. The film chronicles a group of Quaker war-resisters from Alabama who left the United States in the fall of 1950, during the Korean War. Five members of the Fairhope, Ala. Monthly Meeting of Friends went to federal prison for refusing to register for the draft. Shortly after they were released from prison in late 1950, those men and some 40 other Quakers from Fairhope - nine families in all - left the US, a country that had denied them the right to religious freedom, and immigrated to Costa Rica, a country that had recently abolished its army. The Quakers settled in a remote and isolated cloud forest they named Monteverde, or Green Mountain. They set about building a life of pacifism and community.



Through interviews with the handful of surviving pioneers and their children, as well as with American and Costa Rican historians and political scientists (including the current president of Costa Rica, Luis Guillermo Solís, a former academic), and through extensive use of archival photos, newsreels, letters, diaries, home movies, news clippings and court records, the film chronicles the Alabama Quakers' decision to emigrate - to uproot themselves and their families from everyone and everything they knew -- and their efforts to build community anew in Costa Rica.

The film frames their story in both the American postwar peace movement as well as that of post-Civil War Costa Rica. (The brief but bloody Costa Rican war lasted for three months during 1948.) The film's objective is to document how ordinary Americans of the mid-20th century struck an extraordinary blow for peace. We hope that the film serves as an instructive and entertaining piece of recovered history and that it will provoke contemporary audiences to contemplate their own place in the war economy of the early 21st century.

View a trailer: [Sweet Home Costa Rica trailer](#)

About William M. Adler and Jody Jenkins

Bill Adler holds a B.A. in History from Duke University. He is a freelance writer/author with many publication under his belt. He has temporarily relocated to Monteverde, Costa Rica. Jody Jenkins holds a B.A. in Journalism/History from the Univ. of North Carolina. He is a freelance producer/writer/editor with Hype Media in Savannah, Georgia. Read more about the project at <http://iprafoundation.org/william-adler-jody-jenkins/>. To contact Bill and Jody, please send an email to [info\(at\)iprafoundation\(dot\)org](mailto:info(at)iprafoundation(dot)org) and we would be happy to put you in contact.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PAST PEACE RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENT ON THE COMPLETION OF HIS PROJECT Jogendro Singh Kshetrimayum

Jogendro Singh Kshetrimayum, of India., was granted this award in December, 2013 for his project titled "**Collective Concern for Violent Death and Non-Violent Protest in the Midst of Armed Conflict in Manipur, Northeastern India.**"

Specific to this project I was interested in three sets of questions in relation to (1) the practice of funeral rites in case of "violent" deaths, (2) the nature of social protest associated with "violent" deaths, and (3) the "local" critique of violence underlying the non-violent forms of protest, in Manipur.



The cases of "improper" death that I followed during the field research in Manipur occurred from 2000 to 2014. Whenever social protests are provoked by an "improper" death the form the protest takes often happens through a process of "ritualization."

The rape and murder of Thangjam Manorama by the Indian Army in 2004 became one of the most controversial and infamous cases of extrajudicial killings in recent years. Manorama's death provoked massive protests for weeks. It sparked an unprecedented mass movement for the repeal of the draconian Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (aka AFSPA). In a dramatic display of great defiance, on July 15 2004, a group of twelve elderly women stood naked in front of the western gate of the Kangla Fort, where the Assam Rifles responsible for the rape and murder of Manorama were stationed at the time. They dared the Army to rape them. The images of the twelve naked women protesting in front of the Kangla gate send "shock" waves across the nation.

I also got an opportunity to follow up on the epic hunger strike by Irom Sharmila. On November 2, 2000, 10 civilians were mowed down by the Indian Army at Malom, on the outskirts of Imphal, the capital city. The shooting frenzy followed after IED exploded near a convoy of the Indian Army. In the wake of the massacre Irom Sharmila began an indefinite hunger strike demanding the repeal of the AFSPA. She was arrested by the Manipur police for her attempt to commit "suicide." For more than 14 years Sharmila has been languishing in the security ward of the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences, (JNIMS) hospital since then. She is now being recognized as an icon of peace and non-violence.

These are some of the instances to highlight the fact that most of the protests of "improper" death seem to condemn the "excess" of violence rather than violence itself. These protests do not amount to a call for a Utopian society completely free of injury or violence.

About Jogendro Singh Kshetrimayum

Jogendro was a Teaching Assistant at the University of Texas at Austin in 2012. He is a Ph.D. candidate in Anthropology at the University of Texas at Austin.

Read more about Jogendro's book and project at <http://iprafoundation.org/jogendro-singh-kshetrimayum/>.

To contact Jogendro, please send an email to [info\(at\)iprafoundation\(dot\)org](mailto:info(at)iprafoundation(dot)org) and we would be happy to put you in contact.

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