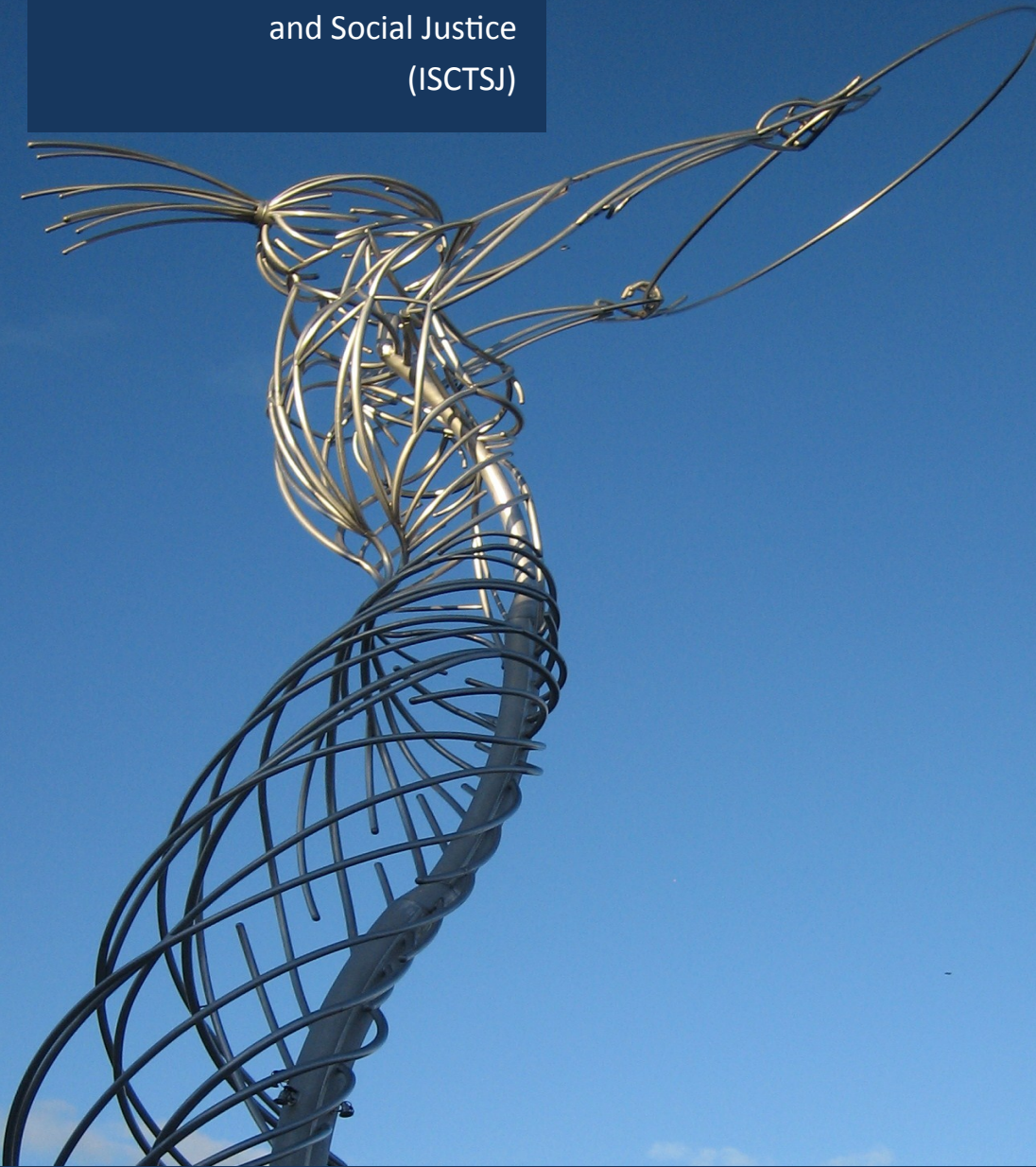


Institute for the  
Study of Conflict  
Transformation  
and Social Justice  
(ISCTSJ)

Issue 1 February 2013



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## Welcome to the First Edition of Our Newsletter

This Newsletter aims to provide a broad insight into the Institute and also offer a forum for your valued feedback and contribution.

The Institute was established in August 2012, with Professor Hastings Donnan as its first director.

ISCTSJ connects the perspectives of all those who seek to contribute to conflict transformation and social justice – from the insights of world leading researchers to the experience of practitioners, policy makers, politicians and activists. It strives to create dialogue within which all voices can be heard and to underpin the pursuit of peace through world class research.

Queen's University has made a significant investment in its long-established expertise in conflict and peace processes by founding this dedicated Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation and Social Justice. At the heart of this development is the recognition of the inseparability of social justice from sustainable processes of conflict

transformation and, ultimately, of peace. The purpose of the Institute is to facilitate sustained interdisciplinary collaboration in research and teaching and to provide strategic focus to support research in this field. The Institute will promote cross-School, cross-Faculty and inter-institutional co-operation that leads to high quality publications and will engage research users and other practitioners to enhance the non-academic impact of the work being undertaken.



## A Special Welcome from the Institute Director Professor Hastings Donnan

I am delighted to introduce the first issue of our newsletter and to extend a warm welcome to the Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation and Social Justice.

The Institute opened its doors for business – metaphorically if not yet literally – in August 2012. Since then we have been busy recruiting new academic, administrative and clerical staff who will help to shape the Institute's research directions and manage their delivery. Details of these staff, including five recently appointed research fellows as well as two Institute Fellows seconded from within Queen's, are given elsewhere in this edition of the Newsletter.

The Institute will create a new platform for high quality interdisciplinary research on conflict transformation and social justice. Through the creation of a market-leading graduate programme it will also facilitate innovation in the curriculum with a view to making Queen's the international destination of choice for students seeking to undertake taught post-graduate and research degrees in this area.

A core aim of the new Institute will be to foster strong interdisciplinary research collaborations among the best scholars working on conflict transformation and social justice at Queen's. We hope that this will enable us to attract top-rate students to study at Queen's on a graduate programme of global significance. One way in which we seek to bring these cross-School and cross-faculty collaborations about is by funding Interdisciplinary Research Groups, details of which can be found in this Newsletter and on our embryonic website <http://www.qub.ac.uk/home/SchoolsDepartments/Faculties/FacultyofArtsHumanitiesandSocialSciences/InstitutefortheStudyofConflictTransformationandSocialJustice/>

As a new Institute, it is important that we are alert to on-going global events and anticipate new trends to ensure that our research plans address the future challenges that have been identified by key research

fundors. This will help us increase external research income and philanthropic support and ultimately move us closer to our goal of becoming entirely self-sustaining.

In current economic times, each penny must be accounted for – it goes without saying that we must make every effort to engage with our stakeholders and policy makers to convey the importance of our research. It is also important that we establish partnerships with research users, policy makers and community groups so as to maximise the impact of our research.

Given the history of conflict and reconciliation in Northern Ireland, researchers at Queen's are well placed to offer a unique perspective on many of today's difficult research challenges, both here and across the globe. Our approach is interdisciplinary and comparative. This will enable us to collaborate with a range of world-leading researchers and allow us to forge meaningful international partnerships in research and education.

In the coming months we hope to have a number of exciting new announcements to make, as well as news of a series of high profile launch events provisionally scheduled for late May/early June. I look forward to working with you all to make the new Institute a resounding international success! In the meantime, I would very much welcome hearing from you with your ideas and thoughts about how the Institute might best develop and facilitate your work.

**Hastings Donnan**

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Room 101, 14 University Square



## Meet Some of Our New Staff

### Professor Hastings Donnan



Hastings Donnan is Director of the Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation and Social Justice and co-Director of the Centre for International Borders Research. He is a Member of the Royal Irish Academy, a Fellow of the Academy for Social Sciences and chairs the Anthropology and Development Studies subpanel for the UK's Research Excellence Framework 2014.

His research focuses on the comparative study of borders that have experienced conflict, violence and war and on related issues of trauma, memory and displacement, exploring how the intersections of identity and power at state borders challenge, subvert or support the policies emanating from the state and from supra-national bodies. He has carried out long-term residential field research at Pakistan's borders with Afghanistan and Kashmir, as well as at the Irish land border, interviewing perpetrators and victims of violence, politicians, police and military personnel as well as pro-state militias and armed anti-state activists. His interest in border crossings, transitions and transgressions has also informed his research in other fields, including projects on 'the senses, driving, walking and risk' and on sexual subjectivities. He has published more than twenty books and serves on the editorial boards of a number of journals.

### Dr Cathal McCall

Cathal McCall is a Senior Research Fellow of the Institute. His key research interest is the relationship between border reconfiguration and conflict transformation within and beyond the European Union.

He is currently a member of an international research consortium that has secured research funding under EU FP7. The project is entitled "EUBORDERSCAPES Bordering, Political Landscapes and Social Arenas: Potentials and Challenges of Evolving Border Concepts in a post-



Cold War World".

Dr McCall leads the project's Work package Cross-Border Co-operation as Conflict Amelioration. The project began in June 2012 and will run until 2015.

### Professor Peter Shirlow

Peter Shirlow is a Senior Research Fellow of the Institute. He is the Independent Chair of the OFM/DFM Employers' Guidance on Recruiting People with Conflict-Related Convictions Working Group and a board member of the mental health charity Threshold.

His research interests focus on the themes of political violence, post-conflict transformation, policing and community and the impact of ethno-sectarian reproduction. This includes a particular emphasis upon former combatants and their inclusion/exclusion within civic society. He has undertaken a series of consultations with political actors in Montenegro,



Iraq, Israel, Palestine, Turkey, Serbia, Macedonia and Bosnia. He has also undertaken significant survey research regarding ethno-sectarian based segregation that has studied inter-community immobility, the power and influence of prejudice and the psychological impact upon families living within interfaced communities.

### Dr Alexander Koensler

Alexander Koensler is a social anthropologist (PhD University of Siena, 2009). He has carried out fieldwork in the Negev desert (Israel) and with Palestinian-Israeli activist networks. He publishes on the Bedouin-State conflict in the Negev, non-sectarian activism and political tourism, linking recent developments in ethnography with social movement studies, research on ethnic relations and visual anthropology. Before joining ICTSJ, he held postdoctoral positions at the University of



Perugia (Italy) and the Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research at Ben-Gurion University (Israel). Currently he co-coordinates with Elena Apostoli Cappello the network "Anthropology and Social Movements" of the European Association of Social Anthropologists.

### Dr Milena Komarova

Dr Komarova's primary research interests are ethno-national and urban conflicts, collective identities and place, discourse analysis and visual research methods. Since 2007 she has worked as a research associate on an ESRC-funded interdisciplinary research project, Conflict in Cities and the Contested State ([www.conflictincities.org](http://www.conflictincities.org)), that focuses on the role of the built environment and everyday life in transforming conflict in Belfast and Jerusa-



lem. In this role she has researched the impact of the changing built environment and socio-economic structures of Belfast on communal divisions; and the challenges that the performance of conflict and conflict management strategies pose to long term conflict transformation processes.

## Notices

We are temporarily situated in 22 University Square. However, the Institute will move to its new location, 19 University Square at the end of March 2013.

## Up Coming Event

Seminar: 'Women and peace building: a challenge for collective action'

This event will take place on the 6th of March from 12pm to 6 pm at the Peter Foggatt Centre. Room 02/018.

If you are interested in presenting a brief paper (ten minutes), please contact Alexandra De La Torre on 07853231538 or by email at: [adelatorre01@qub.ac.uk](mailto:adelatorre01@qub.ac.uk). As places are limited for catering and organisational purposes, Alex would appreciate confirmation of your attendance before 20th of February. (To her email address above.)

## Staff Announcements

In November 2012 we appointed the following Research Fellows:

Dr Barbara Karatsioli—starts 01/03/13

Dr Milena Komarova—starts 01/04/13

Dr Neil Jarman— starts 01/03/13

Dr Alexander Koensler — starts 01/06/13

Dr Iosif Kovras—starts 01/07/13

## Feedback

We are keen to engage with you, to receive your feedback and to obtain your valuable input into future developments in the Institute.



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Tel: +44 (0)28 9097 3609  
(Temporary)

## New Staff Continued

### Teresa Ward

Teresa has taken up the post of Administrator within the Institute.



She started her new role on February 4th and joins us from the QUB Research Support Office, where she provided financial management and was responsible for all research applications for the following portfolio of Schools: Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work, Electronics, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (including Institute Of Electronics, Communication and Information Technology), Geography, Archaeology and Paleoecology, Psychology, Pharmacy, Nursing and Midwifery.

### Dr Iosif Kovras

Received his Ph.D. in Political and International Relations from Queen's University Belfast (2011). His doctoral thesis, titled *Unearthing the Truth: The Politics of Exhumations in Spain and Cyprus*, was awarded the Basil Chubb Prize for best PhD thesis published in Ireland (by the Political Studies Association of Ireland). Before joining the Institute he was a postdoctoral fellow at Princeton University.



Iosif's research interests include comparative post-conflict democratization, transitional justice, nationalism, contentious politics, human rights and conflict resolution. His first book *Truth Recovery and Transitional Justice: Deferring Human Rights Issues* is forthcoming from Routledge.

Iosif has articles published/forthcoming in *Comparative Political Studies*, *West European Politics, Cooperation and Conflict*, *Nations and Nationalism*, *Time and Society*, and *Ethnopolitics*.

### Dr Barbara Karatsioli

Awarded a PhD from the *Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales* (EHESS), I worked as Lecturer at the post-graduate level at the University Paris-8.

I propose to develop in the Institute two research programmes: The first, related to my PhD thesis, now a forthcoming book in English, *Living with the Enemy: Dynamics of Conflict and Peace in Greek and Turkish Cypriot Cohabitation*, deals with conflict transformation on the border. The second, "The Right to the City, the Right to the State: Social Justice in War and Peace" examines the relation between conflict transformation and social justice in the context of the occupy movement.

### Dr Neil Jarman

Neil Jarman is a research fellow within the ISCTSJ and the Director of the Institute for Conflict Research, an independent, policy research centre in Belfast.



He has a PhD from University College London and has worked extensively on issues associated with the political transition in Northern Ireland, including the management of violence; police reform; hate crimes and migration.

Neil is also the chair of the International Panel on Freedom of Assembly at the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, part of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

## Interdisciplinary Research Group Activities

The Interdisciplinary Research Group on **Borders: Materiality, Mobility, Ethics and Technology** is led by Dr Michael Bourne, Lecturer in International Security Studies.



The group held its first workshop on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2012. A very productive series of discussions were held that included the expansion of the IRG membership, the

aims of the IRG, and substantive discussion of applications for research funding. The workshop also contributed to the strengthening of inter-disciplinary understanding and partnership with the demonstration of security technologies under development at the Institute of Electronics, Communication and Information Technology.

Arising from this workshop a funding application was submitted to the ESRC/AHRC/Science and Security Call on 21<sup>st</sup> November. There was also productive discussion of strategic priorities for future funding bids to be developed by the IRG.

The Interdisciplinary Research Group on **'Social Justice and the Divided City: The policy relevance of conflict research in Belfast'** is led by Dr Katy Hayward, Senior Lecturer in Sociology & Programme Director for Sociology and Dr Dominic Bryan, Director of the Institute of Irish Studies.



Within their Interdisciplinary Research Group (IRG) are experts on the social divisions created and exacerbated by violent conflict in urban areas. Our combined research to date has uncovered the acute damage caused, or worsened, by violent conflict to equality and solidarity in the city – especially Belfast city, but also including other comparator case cities such as Jerusalem, Nicosia, Mostar, Ramallah, Berlin, and Sofia.

The group will offer a unique opportunity to go several steps further: to build on these findings to explore what works and why when it comes to realising social justice in a divided city. We define social justice broadly – as the process through which people are empowered to achieve justice and to challenge obstacles to it in their society.

In a city, the obstacles and vehicles for justice take on particularly 'concrete' form. This IRG will concentrate on four broad types of division in the urban setting: spatial, socio-economic, communal and generational.

In the case of Belfast, and through the use of sub-groups that concentrate on each of these four themes, we hope to test and verify effective means of traversing spatial, socio-economic, community and generational divisions within the city.

Our primary purpose is to provide a forum for two-way knowledge exchange between QUB researchers (from various disciplines) and practitioners/policymakers seeking to find the potential for social justice in a divided Belfast.

The Interdisciplinary Research Group on **Art, Performance and Media in (Post-) Conflict** is led by Dr Stefanie Lehner, School of English.



The group is currently organizing a series of monthly seminars among group members with the aim of introducing members to one another's research. These take the format of short presentations, pitches, and/or provo-

cations by group members, emphasizing the interdisciplinary dimensions of their work, followed by discussion and debate. We have established and continue to maintain an interactive calendar of events with the objective of encouraging interdisciplinary engagement along with raising awareness of activities across the group and beyond (see [www.performingthepeace.wordpress.com](http://www.performingthepeace.wordpress.com)).

Presently, we are also organising a public event/symposium that will take place at the end of May in a Belfast venue on the theme 'Locating Narratives and Objects in Conflict Transformation'.





**From April 2013**

**The Institute For The Study Of Conflict Transformation  
And Social Justice can be contacted at:**

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