

Annual Network Report Peace and Conflict Studies in Anthropology (PACSA) 2017

Submitted by PACSA conveners (Erella Grassiani, Andreas Hackl)

Introduction

This year was a busy year for PACSA as we organized our bi-annual conference in Amsterdam. It was a big conference in which we worked with many different academic institutions and partners.

This year (as in the years before) Andreas Hackl and Erella Grassiani served as convenors of the network and took responsibility for the communication with EASA. We estimate this will be our last year, and hope that a new team/person can be elected during the EASA conference in Stockholm in 2018, as the new EASA rules set out.

PACSA has also launched a new logo at this year's conference and has streamlined its website with the help of Nomad IT, see <http://pacsa-web.eu/>.

6th Bi-annual conference The Making of Peace, Conflict and Security Dynamics of Inclusion and Exclusion, August 28-30 2017

Conflict and peace-making have fundamentally shaped and remade boundaries and relationships in the world we live in. These transformations include processes of inclusion and exclusion that accompany conflicts and the efforts to resolve, transform or secure them. Inclusion is commonly associated with peace rather than conflict, but violent means are often justified in inclusive or productive terms: the renewal of a unified people, the protection of a national economy, or the toppling of an old regime to make way for a more inclusive future. Whether it is peace-making, conflict or securitisation: boundaries, borders and relationships are frequently reified, contested or hardened through these processes. In this sense, both conflict and peace are interrelated ordering principles at the heart of which lie questions about inclusion and exclusion, relation and disconnection.

Metaphorically speaking, the boundaries between unpredictable outsiders and to-be-protected insiders must be guarded and reaffirmed: between nations and globalised flows of people, between security compounds and war-zones, between citizens and non-citizens and between the rich and poor. Questions about inclusion/exclusion are central to our understanding about how dynamics of peace, conflict and security interrelate. Moreover, these dynamics have an often suppressed and distorted temporal and historical dimension, as some histories are ignored and others are shaped, while long-term processes of inclusion and exclusion can become buried underneath the spectacular buzz and noise of immediate crises that claim moments of unprecedented truths.

During our conference we discussed the above mentioned themes at length and as one of PACSA's largest conferences to date, the 6th Bi-annual meeting at the University of Amsterdam can be considered a major success. In addition to EASA's generous support, the event benefited from the collaboration with a number of partners: the Anthropology of Security Network, SECURCIT (University of Amsterdam), the Dept. of Anthropology (VU University Amsterdam) and the research centre 'Dynamics of Security: Forms of Securitisation in Historical Perspective.'

With more than 150 participants, the conference spanned 20 panels distributed between three full conference days in four parallel rooms. The detailed programme can be accessed via the website under the following link: <http://pacsaweb.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/PACSA2017-booklet-def.pdf>

EASA 2018

We have encouraged participants of our conference to think together about organizing panels at the EASA 2018 conference in Stockholm. We expect to be able to organize several panels under the PACSA umbrella.