



International Conference Rebuilding War Societies: Continuities and New Beginnings

University of Sulaimani, October 17-21, 2016

Program and Call for Papers

The *University of Sulaimani* (<http://univsul.edu.iq/en/>), the *Center for Iraq Studies* at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg (www.cis.fau.de), and the *Felsberg Institute for Education and Research* (<http://www.fibw.eu/en/>) will hold a joint conference covering a wide range of issues of rebuilding war societies. The conference will take place at the University of Sulaimani from 17 to 21 October, 2016. Contributions are welcome to the topics of the seven Panels as listed below. (Paper abstracts should be submitted to: daniel.heilmann@fibw.eu). Participation of early career scholars and postgraduate researchers is positively encouraged.

The topic of the conference are situations of violent conflict resolution which has become part of the every-day life reality of an increasing number of societies in the 21st century, and ways of coping with them which produce specific survival strategies, as well as a variety of conflict handling mechanisms. One characteristic of the 21st century is that the boundaries between war situations and non-peace constellations have become more and more fluent. Whereas the prominent task of the 1990s' post-cold war era was defined as "Reconstruction of Post-War Societies", the focus seems to have shifted after 2000 towards the "Reconfiguration of War Societies": In many cases, the rebuilding of societies has to take place in the course of an ongoing violent conflict where violent conflict resolution does not result in a change of system, but rather in a redistribution of power and access to resources.

The aim of the Conference is to look critically at the core concepts, aims and strategies for rebuilding, reconstruction and reconfiguration of war societies. As a working basis, **rebuilding** is defined as an all-encompassing transformation process of structural and societal change. **Reconstruction** is understood as the rehabilitation of previously destroyed, damaged or non-functioning structural components as well as the rehabilitation of societal cohesion. And **reconfiguration** is understood as the remodeling of structures and the redefinition of societal links within an existing system.

The main set of questions to be addressed, are:

- Can we detect historical continuities leading from the reconstruction of post-war societies towards the reconfiguration of war societies in ongoing conflicts?
- Which developments in conflict coping strategies and mechanisms of societies can be identified?
- How do the complex interactions between relief, rebuilding and development activities on the one side and between local and international actors on the other contribute to the escalation or de-escalation of a conflict?
- How can pacification mechanisms such as demobilization of combatants, the reintegration of refugees and internally displaced people and the reform of governance structures be realized in an ongoing conflict?
- What role do the extraction of resources and the destruction of the natural environment play, which long-term effects do we have to expect?
- What role do the universities and other higher education institutions play in rebuilding war societies in post-conflict and ongoing conflict situations, and in which ways they are themselves being transformed by wider social processes.
- Do existing instruments such as the setting up of democratic institutions, and the injection of finance to rebuild the infrastructure are sufficient and appropriate to rehabilitate societies? Do we need to redefine intra-societal and intra-regional relations, and do we need to replace the dominance of global solutions by more manageable bilateral North-South and/or South-South partnerships?

Not much research has been done concerning these economic, legal and societal dimensions of war societies. Particularly with the conditions on the ground in Iraq and other important countries in the region changing constantly, the conference comes timely to discuss case studies, to analyze the current situation and to develop approaches for a possible way forward. As the conference takes place in the Kurdistan Region of North Iraq, one of its main objectives is to bring together scholars from all parts of Iraq and contribute to a better understanding in order to encourage joint efforts for rehabilitation and reconciliation.

Program Schedule

17 October 2016, Monday

Afternoon	Arrival of participants and registration
17:00 – 18:30	Opening ceremony, Welcome addresses and Keynote lecture
19:00	Welcome dinner

18 October 2016, Tuesday

- 09:00 – 10:30 **Panel 1** - A look into history: From guerilla and warlordism to government: transforming the state, the society, and the military
- 10:30 – 11:00 *Coffee break*
- 11:00 – 12:30 **Panel 2** - The role of universities and other higher education institutions in rebuilding post-war societies
- 12:30 – 14:00 *Lunch break*
- 14:00 – 15:30 **Panel 3** - The legal framework: rule of law versus the consolidation of vested interests
- 15:30 – 16:00 *Coffee break*
- 16:00 – 17:30 **Panel 4** - State and society: the reestablishment of inclusive and accountable institutions
- 19:00 Meeting of the Iraqi-German Academic Cooperation Network (IG-CON)

19 October 2016, Wednesday

- 09:00 – 10:30 **Panel 5** - Powerful elites and the military: the economic distribution of the “war booty”
- 10:30 – 11:00 *Coffee break*
- 11:00 – 12:30 **Panel 6** - Environmental depletion in war societies and the consequences of unsustainable over-extraction of resources
- 12:30 – 14:00 *Lunch break*
- 14:00 – 15:30 **Panel 7** - The destruction of sustainable livelihoods in war-torn regions: root causes for migration?
- 15:30 – 16:00 *Coffee break*
- 16:00 – 17:00 **Panel Discussion** - A look into the future: Tracing victims and perpetrators – preparing for reconciliation
- 17:00 – 17:30 **Closing ceremony – end of the conference**

Workshops with Sulaimani Students

In order to support local capacity building and to provide further access to international scholars following thematic workshops will be offered to junior staff and students.

20 October 2016, Thursday, 10:00 – 13:00

- Workshop 1:** Economic Reconstruction of Iraq
(Prof. Dr. Sefik Alp Bahadir, Center for Iraq Studies)
- Workshop 2:** Conflict Mapping and Security Issues in Syria and Iraq
(Dr. Stéphane Valter, Université Le Havre/France)
- Workshop 3:** Refugees and Transnational Migration between the Local and the Global
(Dr. Magnus Treiber, Felsberg Institute and Department of Social Anthropology, Addis Ababa University)
- Workshop 4:** Law and Institution Building in Conflict Zones
(Dr. Kathrin Scherr, Head of Subsaharan Africa Projects, Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law, Heidelberg/Germany)

Workshop 5: Efforts to Overcome Violence: The Example of Colombia
(Paula Timcke, FI Latin America Representative, Bogotá/Colombia, and
Prof. Dr. Freddy Cante Maldonado, Universidad de Rosario, Bogotá/Colombia)

Excursion to Arbat Refugee Camps

On **20 October 2016, 14:00 – 18:00**, an excursion to Arbat Refugee Camps will take place which will include meetings with representatives of NGOs and Camp Administration.

Organization Committee:

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