



RISC

**Consortium for Comparative Research on
Regional Integration and Social Cohesion**

2012 CONFERENCE **“Globalization, Violence and Security: Local Impacts of Regional Integration”**

30 October – 1 November, 2012 • Mexico City
ITESM, Campus Santa Fe / CIESAS

CALL FOR PAPERS

Conference Synopsis

This conference will examine the decisive impacts and proposed local, regional and global solutions to insecurity and violence. The starting point is a risk agenda impacting countries and regions which challenges capabilities to integrate social answers and public agendas responding to critical issues such as trafficking in drugs, humans, weapons, organs and money, as well as decisive factors such as inequality, exclusion, and a lack of opportunities. Some of the features that these societies share, are: a) inability or weakening of the State to keep control over the territory as well as the monopoly of the legitimate use of force; b) penetration or cooptation of State institutions by criminal organizations, c) the fragility of citizens fearful of both assaults by criminal groups and by the inability of the State to guarantee their rights, d) Growing social stratification and segmentation in the illicit drug “consumption” countries, in addition to scarce citizen participation in response to public health problems and criminality, e) the lack of responsibility taken by countries and regions characterized by consumption, of drugs, organs, and prostitution and the sale of weapons for the systemic impacts of their actions, and f) lack of standards, institutions as well as regional and global public policies with a comprehensive perspective for reducing violence and insecurity.





The activities of 'criminal groups' are increasingly being carried out across borders and national jurisdictions, demonstrating capabilities that sometimes surpass those of law enforcement, as the OAS General Secretary recently indicated. From this, it is appropriate to examine these phenomena from a comparative perspective on regional integration because if the borders do not stop the activities of these groups, they should also not be an obstacle for combatting them which increasingly requires intelligence, political will, cooperation and shared solutions in all sectors.

Insecurity and violence also affect other dimensions of regional integration, besides the border. Regarding legality and political conditions (supranationalism), insecurity and violence make the concept of the Westphalia State (every State is responsible for its law and the enforcement of the monopoly of force within its territory) obsolete and compels us both to assess the contribution of multilateral institutions and to rethink their functions. It also leads us to question who defines regulations and implements the rule of law and how do they do it? Insecurity has a very solid economic base which finds its way from black markets and money laundering and, thus, takes advantage of and conditions the institutions of globalization. Finally, the social dimension of regional identity also interacts with insecurity and violence. The sense of co-responsibility for security in the face of illegal international smuggling must have a base of solidarity and coordination among countries. These dimensions of regional integration are important to determine social actions and public policies at the national and regional levels, which are also important for the definition of rules and standards for multilateral organisms.

The conference aims to bring together a multidisciplinary group of specialists, that will meet in order to reflect, debate and contribute elements of analysis towards a better understanding of the political, social, economic and cultural fragilities that have contributed to generate historical or current contexts of violence and insecurity in different case countries. The analysis will include models, policies and actions generated by civil society, from a comparative perspective that privileges regional integration and social cohesion.

In addition to two keynote panels (organized by invitation) the conference includes seven open panels that are organized by the working groups of the RISC consortium, including: 1) The Management of Strategic Resources, Environment and Society, 2) Comparative Border and Migration Politics, 3) Civil Society, Vulnerable Populations and Public Health, 4) Risk and Disasters, 5) Urban Violence and Citizen Security, 6) The Quality of Democracy, and 7) Development, Equity, and Policy Coherence.





Call for Papers

Paper proposals are invited for any of these seven panels (see full explanation below). Proposals must have a title and an abstract of no more than 250 words and be sent directly to panel coordinators (email addresses listed below) by **30 JUNE 2012**. Please keep a copy of your proposal for reference purposes. You will be notified by late July if your abstract has been accepted for the conference.

The conference will include presentations made in English, Spanish or French, with simultaneous translation provided by the conference organizers.

The RISC Consortium will pay for four nights' hotel accommodation and meals of all speakers (one per paper) participating in the conference. **Travel arrangements are the responsibility of conference participants or their home institutions. The RISC Consortium does not have grants available for either international or domestic travel to and from Mexico City.**

General enquiries should be sent to: risc2012@ciasas.edu.mx RISC2012@itesm.mx

OPEN PANELS

Panel 1: Conflict, security and the management of natural strategic resources: environmental governance in contexts of violence.

RISC Working Group: **Management of Strategic Resources, Environment and Society**

Coordinators and panel organizers: **Dr. Edith Kauffer**, CIESAS-Sureste, Mexico (risaf2010@gmail.com) & **Dr. Carmen Maganda**, IPSE Research Unit, University of Luxembourg (carmen.maganda@uni.lu)

Like the unbalanced global distribution of wealth, environmental inequalities (differentiated access to natural-strategic resources) are nothing new and they are fully embedded in the world's current economic-development pattern. Consequently, there are some places around the world where certain populations/sectors have limited or no access to natural and strategic resources due to conflictive and even violent contexts. In other areas, cooperation exists, ensuring access to the same resources for all. This is of course not an accident. Focusing on a large variety of political, economic, cultural conditions and their relationships to situations of violence, this panel will examine two issues related to environmental conflicts. First, the panel will discuss the impacts of regional integration processes on conflicts related to access to natural and strategic





resources. Specific attention will be given to the local impacts of these processes and to social mobilization against environmental inequalities, especially when they lead to expressions of violence. The second issue addressed by the panel will focus on the effects of state and criminal violence related to access to natural-strategic resources and the emergence of environmental conflicts in these particular frameworks. The panel organizers welcome all empirical, theoretical and practice-based (from NGO or government practitioners) papers.

Panel 2: The "readings" of the state of violent conflict in urban areas. Do they help public safety policies to reduce violence and promote social cohesion?

RISC Working Group: **Urban Conflict, Violence and Citizen Security.**

Coordinator and panel organizer: **Dr. Juan Carlos Vélez Rendón**, Instituto de Estudios Políticos, Universidad de Antioquia, Colombia velezerre65@yahoo.com.mx

The illegal groups responsible for urban violence are diverse, the scope of their actions is unequal and the effects they generate are socially, politically and institutionally diverse. Some groups, linked mainly to illegal drug trafficking, are trying to turn into hegemonic powers by means of violence, giving rise to a competition, the result of which are powerful armed organizations capable of facing the State. These organizations gather in a centralized and hierarchical way, or by networking with smaller groups and, thus, so do the conflicts that each one of them represents. In this way, they turn into groups capable of managing local conflict to supply political merchandise to intermediate between diverse interests and to influence the indicators with which violence and criminality are officially measured.

The panel will examine the way the State "reads" this complex and heterogeneous violent conflict and acts to face the groups producing it; through global security agendas with local impacts; through coherence between security policies designed at different levels; through the differences between policies for control of the "public order" and for "citizen security"; through the effectiveness of these instruments; through the role played by official armed forces; through the social and political order that is being configured in these environments; through the criminal groups on which the state action is concentrated; through the incidence of social sectors in the design of said policies; through the risks and insecurities that, paradoxically, foster some "security" policies. All relevant submissions are welcome.





Panel 3: Democratic Quality and Security: Are they Alternatives?

RISC Working Group: **The Quality of Democracy**

Coordinators and panel organizers: **Dr. Sarah Brooks**, Mershon Center, The Ohio State University (brooks.317@polisci.osu.edu) & **Dr. Leonardo Morlino**, International Political Science Association (IPSA) and LUISS 'G. Carli'

The emergence of numerous democratic regimes over the last quarter century, particularly in Latin America, has revealed considerable variation in the quality of these new governments. Even as democracy as a regime type remains relatively stable, the efficacy and robustness of democratic institutions has differed greatly in terms of the quality of citizenship rights, press freedoms, effective participation and partisan competition. This panel invites research exploring the nature, causes and consequences of democratic quality as it relates to the themes of the conference: Globalization, Violence and Security. In particular, research that explores the role of regional integration in the strengthening or erosion of democracy under the forces of violence and economic insecurity is welcome.

Panel 4: Regional Development, Trade and Security: Searching for Policy Coherence

RISC Working Group: **Development, Equity and Policy Coherence**

Coordinator and Panel Organizer: **Dr. Harlan Koff** (harlan.koff@uni.lu), IPSE Research Unit, University of Luxembourg

Since the end of World War II, development aid has often been utilized by donor countries: 1) to reinforce foreign policy objectives related to security or 2) to nurture trade relationships. Recently, however, development strategies have moved away from national development objectives, towards “human development” goals. Contemporary security agendas focus less on inter-state conflict and more on intra-state violence. We have also witnessed the emergence of non-state actors, such as organized crime and terrorist groups, as principal causes of insecurity. Similarly, we have witnessed a de-territorialization of trade relationships. The emergence of regional economies has led to increasing gaps between “rich” and “poor” between and within different communities. Thus, development strategies must respond to complex social issues in contexts characterized by significant challenges to nation-states.

This panel welcomes submissions focusing on the relationships between security/violence and development strategies. Pertinent questions include: How do regional development and trade strategies affect security agendas? How do regional





development strategies address violence? How does violence affect the formulation and implementation of development strategies in local communities? How does violent conflict affect humanitarian aid? What roles can “responsibility to protect” play in development strategies? What roles do non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play in development strategies aimed at addressing insecurity/violence? How can trade and development strategies better address contemporary threats to security? What role does “equity” play in contemporary security and development agendas? The panel organizer welcomes all empirical, theoretical and practice-based (from NGO or government practitioners) submissions.

Panel 5: A citizens’ perception of the state: theorizations from communities regarding the capacity of the state to respond to their health and well-being in contexts of violence and conflict

RISC Working Group: Civil society, vulnerable populations, and state policies of health and well-being

Group coordinator: **Dr. Robert VH Dover**, Instituto de Estudios Regionales, Universidad de Antioquia (rvhdover@gmail.com)

Panel organizers: **Dr. Robert VH Dover**, Instituto de Estudios Regionales, Universidad de Antioquia (rvhdover@gmail.com) and **Dr. Claudia Puerta Silva**, Instituto de Estudios Regionales, Universidad de Antioquia (cppuerta@gmail.com)

At one level, the relationship between the incidence of violence and its impact on health and well-being is fairly obvious. Conditions of stress, malnutrition, drug abuse, intra-family and neighborhood conflict, etc., are characteristic of violent contexts. To a certain extent, the state of social health serves as an indicator of the levels of violence and their origins. But violence as causality regarding the conditions of health and well-being is not necessarily a given. To a certain extent we can suggest that the concurrence of the high incidence of violence within contexts where there is little institutional commitment to ensure the availability of social welfare programs and health care services and a social and physical environmental that does not promote health behavior results in what is referred to as “deprivation amplification” in the health literature. In fact, it is an expression that violence and health and social welfare issues are co-variables in the assessment of social health and community well-being.

However, we are concerned with differentiated populations, experiences of violence, and public policies that implicate access to social and health services. We suggest that communities experience the efficacy of the state in differentiated ways, not as an abstract construction, but rather as a product of their interaction with the actors that





interpret and implement public policy. This panel is interested in looking at the different theorizations of communities regarding the capacity of the state to address their social and health needs in contexts of violence and conflict. All relevant submissions are welcome.

Panel 6: Disaster, violence, globalisation and the young

RISC Working Group: **The Social Construction of Risk and Disasters**

Group Coordinators: **Dr. Virginia García-Acosta**, (vgarciaa@ciesas.edu.mx) CIESAS, Mexico & **Dr. Jeroen Warner**, (jeroen.warner@wur.nl), Disaster Studies, Wageningen University, Netherlands

Panel organizer: **Dr. Jeroen Warner**, Disaster Studies, Wageningen University (jeroen.warner@wur.nl)

The effect of a disaster is compounded in a violent context eroding institutional stability. The so-called complex emergencies involve a host of social and natural disasters ravaging affected communities.

Yet where violence becomes predictable and natural hazards are recurrent phenomena, what pockets of normality do we find and what coping routines are developed? How should we support communities in a complex emergency?

Moreover, we will pay attention to what some see as the structural violence of a global scramble for resources. The range of alternatives for recovery is narrowed by aggressive forms of foreign but also national direct investment. The food price crises of 2008 and 2011 have led to an increase in direct investment in land and primary resources, creating new vulnerabilities. Can resistance to land and resource grabbing give fresh impulses to *Disaster Risk Reduction* (DRR) platforms in investee countries? In tackling these topics, this panel pays special attention to the young. How are children and teenagers impacted by disaster and violence, and how do they cope? What are the long-term impacts of experiencing disaster as a kid? How can disaster risk be tailored to their needs? Can education and mobilisation of the young be an entry-point to capacitate whole communities? All relevant submissions are welcome.



Panel 7: Borders and Security policies in a world of integration and disintegration: How can security policies bring neighbors closer or enhance boundary lines?

RISC Working Group: **Comparative Border and Migration Politics:**
Group Coordinator and panel organizer: **Dr. Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly**, Local Government Institute, University of Victoria, Canada (ebrunetj@uvic.ca)

Proposals to this panel should address issues of border and security policies, and in particular the complex of policy assemblage available to policy makers, in the governance of borders and borderlands when faced with integrating flows of people and goods. Indeed, as security policies are increasingly recognized as diverse and complex these in turn impact border and borderland policies, immigration policies, trade policies, in complex ways that either enhance integration or further increase pressures to disintegrate borderlands. Walls, gates, gateways and bridges, but also security border regions and policing networks, are as many illustrations of such alternative policies, as are visa, preclearance, or traceability policies; Yet all those struggle with traffics, smugglings and undocumented human flows.

Paper proposals should engage with those issues both from theoretical or empirical perspectives so as to illustrate and discuss fundamental normative issues as well as illustrate their articulation in daily practices of border crossing.

IMPORTANT DATES

Abstract submission deadline: 30 June 2012

Acceptance Notifications: End July 2012

Conference: 30 October – 1 November 2012

Full Paper Submission: Beginning of October 2012 (each panel coordinator will send exact requirements and deadlines)





Scientific and Organizing Committee

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