Email Newsletter, January 2009

Dear colleague,
Please see below a brief update on the ‘Conflict in Cities’ project developments since July 2008.

**Project Workshop, September 2008**

The first of our five annual workshops was held on September 25 and 26th, 2008 at the School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work at Queen’s University Belfast. The theme of the workshop was *The City and the Contested State*. Details about the workshop programme, presentation abstracts and a list of participants, can be found on http://www.conflictincities.org/newsandeventsWS08.html

**Working Papers Series**

Six papers are currently available under our peer-reviewed, electronic Working Paper Series: *From Empires to Ethno-national Conflicts* by James Anderson establishes the category of ‘ethno-nationally divided cities’; Mick Dumper and Craig Larkin’s paper problematises *The Politics of Heritage* and the role of UNESCO in Jerusalem’s Old City; the paper by Milena Komarova *Shared Space in Belfast and the Limits of A Shared Future* reflects on the link between discourses on communal identities and ‘good relations’ and the practice of sharing space in a divided city; the *Multiple Borders of Jerusalem* paper by Mick Dumper examines how the dynamic of Jerusalem’s borders impacts on the political agreement between the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships; Brendan Murtagh’s *New Spaces and Old in Post-conflict Belfast* questions the spatial impacts of a buoyant post-conflict economy on both new and old forms of divisions in Belfast; finally, Wendy Pullan and Max Gwiazda offer a detailed study of the use of urban design in *The Politicisation of Urban Heritage* in the Jerusalem’s ‘City of David’.

The papers are available online in pdf format and can be accessed using Adobe Acrobat Reader at: www.conflictincities.org/workingpapers.html

**Other Project-related News and Events**

**Visits:**

- Conflict in Cities, in conjunction with Clare College, Cambridge, hosted project partner Professor Salim Tamari at the University of Cambridge for the Michaelmas term (October and November) 2008. Professor Tamari is Director of the Institute of Jerusalem Studies, Professor of Sociology at Birzeit University, Ramallah, and editor of the *Jerusalem Quarterly*. As Eric Lane Visiting Fellow at Clare College, he delivered the following lectures in Cambridge: World War I and the Remaking of Arab-Turkish Identity after Gallipoli, Centre for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies (October 27th); Ottoman Soldiers in Siberia and the Memoirs of Aref al Aref, Skilliter Centre for Ottoman Studies (October 29th); (Un)sacred Geography: Jerusalem as a Worldly City, Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH)(November 13th); Diaries as a Source of Studying Urban History, Clare College (November 14th). Professor Tamari also visited Exeter University and participated in a lecture and discussion entitled ‘The Collapse of the Two State Solution: What are the Alternatives?’ (co-hosted by the Politics Department and the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies and Exeter Centre for Ethno-Political Studies (EXCEPS)); Professor Tamari participated in research discussions with the Conflict in Cities teams in Cambridge and Exeter. He also gave lectures at SOAS and the University of Kent.
In a visit to Berlin in October 2008 James Anderson and Liam O'Dowd made some initial contacts with academics researching that 'linked' city's reunification processes.

Craig Larkin’s recent research trip to Jerusalem (30\textsuperscript{th} November – 14\textsuperscript{th} December 2008) focused on the role and impact of Islamist groups within Jerusalem and contributed towards the research for the Holy Space/Places (J2) and the Separation Wall (J1) project research modules.

From 16\textsuperscript{th} to 29\textsuperscript{th} December 2008 Wendy Pullan was in Jerusalem for site visits and research meetings with project partners and other colleagues.

Talks/Conferences:

- At a conference on ‘Cities: Understanding Socio-Cultural Transformations’ (15\textsuperscript{th}-16\textsuperscript{th} October 2008), Wendy Pullan was invited to give a paper on ‘The Situation in Jerusalem/Al-Quds’. The conference was organised by the Aga Khan University’s Centre for the Study of Muslim Civilisation and was held in Istanbul at Bilgi University.

- Max Gwiazda participated in the ‘Building Futures Initiative: Visualisations of the 21st Century City’ (November 13\textsuperscript{th}) headed by the RIBA. He gave a presentation, at the School of the Built Environment - Oxford Brookes University, on the security challenges faced by modern cities using examples from Jerusalem.

- Wendy Pullan gave a lecture entitled, ‘Resistance as an Urban Phenomenon in Palestinian Jerusalem’ at the Cities and Fragile States Seminar. The lecture took place in London School of Economics on 26\textsuperscript{th} November.

- Wendy Pullan delivered a keynote address ‘Can Resistance Play a Positive Urban Role?’ at a symposium on ’Planning East Jerusalem’, sponsored by Bimkom - Planners for Planning Rights. The event was in Jerusalem on 18 December 2008 and included papers on planning the East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Jabel Mukaber by Rassem Abeidat and Efrat Cohen-Bar.

Policy advisory work

- Mick Dumper continues to be involved in the 
\textbf{Jerusalem Old City Initiative} which is looking at the possibility of third party intervention in the future administration of the Old City of Jerusalem. The Initiative involves discussions with Israeli and Palestinian advisors to the peace process.

Forthcoming

- In late February/early March 2009, Prof. Oren Yiftachel, a Project Partner, will be giving some lectures and seminars as Visiting Professor in the School of Geography at Queen’s Belfast. Prof. Yiftachel is a leading Israeli political and urban geographer and author of \textit{Ethnocracy: Land and Identity Politics in Israel/Palestine}. He is developing his own comparative 'divided cities’ project and will participate in seminars and discussions with team members in Belfast.

- On March 11\textsuperscript{th}, 2009 Dr. Stef Jansen’s will give a lecture entitled 'Grid desire: war and statecraft in a Sarajevo suburb' at the Queen’s University School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work seminar series.
A meeting of the ‘Conflict in Cities’ International Advisory Committee will take place in Cambridge on March 20th 2009.

Also, in March 2009 the four main project investigators - Wendy Pullan, Mick Dumper, James Anderson and Liam O’Dowd will visit Cyprus. The visit will be a part of a series of ‘linked cities’ visits that aim at holding discussions with project partners and at developing relationships with researchers and academics involved in related research.

A graduate workshop will take place at the School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work, Queens University on 6th – 8th May, 2009. The workshop will be an opportunity for the project’s 7 PhD students to discuss the progress of their work.

The next annual Project Workshop will be held on 17th – 18th September 2009 in the University of Exeter.

Further details about any of the events above are available (or forthcoming) on our website: www.conflictincties.org