Email Newsletter, June 2008

Dear colleague,

‘Conflict in Cities and the Contested State’ is a five-year research project started in October 2007 and funded by the UK Economic and Social Research Council. This is the first of our bi-annual email newsletters which aims to give a brief up-date on project developments since its beginning.

Researchers from three UK universities - University of Cambridge, Queen’s University Belfast and the University of Exeter - participate in the Project which analyses divided cities as key sites in territorial conflicts over state and national identities, cultures and borders. The main focus of the project is on Belfast and Jerusalem. It aims to analyse how divided cities in Europe and the Middle East have been shaped by ethnic, religious and national conflicts, and can absorb, resist and play a role in transforming such conflicts. More detailed information on Project objectives and its modular structure is available on our website: www.conflictincities.org

Working Papers Series
This peer-reviewed, electronic Series provides a quick outlet for ‘work in progress’ by the Project team, and for invited papers by others. It encompasses multi-disciplinary contributions on Belfast, Jerusalem and other divided cities; and more general or theoretical contributions on ethno-national conflict and territorial and other divisions in urban settings. It also publishes papers first presented in Project workshops, whether by team members or by invited participants; and papers on topics of relevance to the Project which others will be invited to contribute. The papers are available online in pdf format and can be accessed using Adobe Acrobat Reader at: www.conflictincities.org/workingpapers.html

PhD Programme
The Graduate Programme is a fundamental part of the Project for which seven doctoral studentships, starting September 2008, have been awarded. It is expected that through their empirical focus on Beirut, Berlin, Brussels, Kirkuk, Mostar and Nicosia, graduate dissertations will extend the range of in-depth studies of cities covered thus providing a broader empirical base upon which general patterns can be discerned. The students will be based in the three project universities, with two studentships in each Cambridge (Architecture, Urbanism, directed by Dr. Wendy Pullan) and Exeter (Politics and International Relations, directed by Prof. Mick Dumper), and three studentships in Queen’s University Belfast (Sociology, directed by Prof. Liam O'Dowd). Information on students’ research projects and individual profiles can be accessed at: www.conflictincities.org/postgraduate.html

Forthcoming Project Workshop
The first of five annual project workshops is taking place at Queen’s University Belfast in September 25th – 26th, 2008. The theme of the workshop is The City and the Contested State. Open sessions will entail: contributions from project members presenting their working paper contributions to the project; non-project researchers presenting other research relating to the theme of the workshop; and practitioners involved in urban planning and policy in Belfast. Round table discussions will
involve all participants. The finalised programme for the Workshop will be available at www.conflictincities.org/newsandevents.html closer to the event. For expressions of interest to attend the open Workshop sessions (September 26th), please contact Milena Komarova (email: m.komarova@qub.ac.uk; phone: + 44 28 9097 3484).

**Project News/Events and Related Activities**

Up to date information on ongoing research, project members’ recent publications, recent and forthcoming invited lectures and conference papers, and participation in user groups and advisory work related to the theme of the ‘Conflict in Cities’ Project are available at www.conflictincities.org/newsandevents.html and www.conflictincities.org/relatedactivities.html

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