

Socio-economic Conditions of Peace in a Time of Conflict

Open Round-Table Discussion

**Friday, 21. April 2017, 12.30-14.00, Room +1/1020,
Deutschhausstraße 3, Kultur- und Sozialanthropologie**

Discussions about perceptions of threats dominate European public discourse. The violent conflict in Eastern Ukraine, the delicate relationship with Russia, the war in Syria, the so-called „refugee crisis“, and the enduring „war on terror“ in Northern Africa or the Middle East are all often presented as examples of a new and insecure period. International Organizations and states alike engage with these crises through various forms of security measures, policies and interventions: Border regimes are tightened (EU, Hungary), neighbouring states receive capacity strengthening to protect the EU (Macedonia, Libya), financial assistance is granted to weakened states (Ukraine), allies are armed (Iraq), and military forces intervene directly (Mali).

In our open roundtable discussion, we want to engage with the challenges and possibilities of the not so prominently discussed, yet critically important socio-economic conditions of peace(building). We would like to reflect on liberal peace strategies and interventionism from a critical perspective and discuss the inherent dilemmas and contradictions of these attempts to end or contain conflicts. Based on research and knowledge on a number of different cases, we will highlight the importance of understanding the everyday realities of actors and social groups in conflict and post-conflict situations. Interventions and hard security policies may and often do create new, self-perpetuating socio-economic circumstances of conflict, which have unintended and long-lasting consequences. Finally, we will discuss alternative approaches, which might be better suited to grasp the socio-economic dimensions of conflicts.

We invite students and colleagues alike to join the conversation with our guests Michael Pugh (University of Bradford), Elena B. Stavrevska (Central European University), Birte Vogel, Joely Thomas (both University of Manchester), Kate Roll (University of Oxford), and Kathleen M. Jennings (Fafo, Oslo).

For questions, please feel free to contact us: werner.distler@staff.uni-marburg.de