

## Newsletter

### Creating Safer Space

June 2023



Dear All,

In today's Newsletter, we share with you a **Call for Applications** for pilot projects regarding Innovation in Evaluation and Learning in Unarmed Civilian Protection and Accompaniment.

We also share **news** from Creating Safer Space projects, information on June's **Research Café**, as well as updates and publications from across the network.

Creating Safer Space is an international research network, which aims to understand and support unarmed civilian protection and community self-protection amidst violent conflict.

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### Call for Applications

Working to address the sensitivities connected with UCP/A and traditional methods of evaluation, which are often top-down and output-focused, a group of practitioners and scholars have met over the past few months to discuss good practice in evaluation and learning, and developed a framework of questions, principles, and steps that should inform participatory evaluation design.

We now welcome applications for pilot projects of participatory evaluation and learning related to UCP/A. More information can be [found here](#), and the documentation including the application form is also [available here](#).

The application deadline is **12 June 2023**. Please contact [creating-safer-space@aber.ac.uk](mailto:creating-safer-space@aber.ac.uk) with any queries.

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### Safeguarding in Practice

This month's Research Café will take place on **Thursday 22 June 2023**. It will focus on safeguarding in practice: how to implement safeguarding procedures and how researchers can identify and resolve safeguarding issues in real time.

Researchers from each of the Creating Safer Space projects will come together to discuss their experiences with safeguarding issues, resolutions, and good practices so far in their research.

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### News from Projects in our Network



Researchers on the [‘Visual Early Warning and Preparedness in Civilian Protection’](#) project have started fieldwork in South Sudan. They conducted interviews with civilians in the village who explained Early Warning processes which are used in preparation for possible eruptions of violence, as well as in periods of open violence. You can read more [on our website](#).



On 17 May 2023, the Pablo Tobón Uribe Theater, one of the most important in down-town Medellín, became the stage on which an auditorium of about 600 people were spectators of *La Fiesta*, a piece inspired by the findings of the research project “Art that protects, phase 1: Contributions of artistic-cultural initiatives to the self-protection strategies of young people and women in the context of urban conflict”. You can read more on our website in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

## New Publication

A new edited volume titled “Unarmed Civilian Protection: A New Paradigm for Protection and Human Security” is now available for [pre-order](#). The book brings together work from researchers in the Network and beyond to cover both empirical and theoretical work related to UCP. Its case studies include the role of former combatants in Colombia, and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Mindanao, among many others.

## Other News



On 24 June 2023, one of our project partners, Knowledge Hub Myanmar, are hosting a research methodology workshop. The event will cover qualitative research methods, advice on ethics and responsible data collection, and best practices from Southeast Asian researchers. You can apply for the workshop [here](#). To find out more about Knowledge Hub Myanmar, follow them on twitter at [@knowledgehub\\_mm](#) or visit their [website](#).

On 10 May 2023, Network Research Assistant [Louise Ridden](#) successfully defended her PhD thesis “Making Alternative Worlds: Unarmed Civilian Protection and Nonviolent Imaginaries of Conflict”. Louise’s work considers how UCP practitioners make sense of violent conflict, and makes the case for understanding nonviolence as a way of knowing, doing, and being. Many congratulations!

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