

Newsletter

Creating Safer Space

September 2022



Dear All,

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

Over the next few weeks, we will provide more information about our new research projects and work packages on the [Creating Safer Space website](#). For now, we invite you to our next research café, where two of the projects that recently received funding through our open funding competition share their experiences and insights into writing a grant application. All welcome!

Research Café: Writing a Successful Grant Application

The aim of the *Creating Safer Space* Café is to enable people in different parts of the world to exchange knowledge and to help build a community of Unarmed Civilian Protection (UCP) researchers and practitioners.

This month, Prof. Berit Bliesemann de Guevara and Prof. Beatriz Arias will lead a Panel Discussion on how to write a successful grant application. The Panel consists of researchers who successfully applied for *Creating Safer Space* research grants in our recent [funding competition](#). Juan Mario Díaz and Simon Rushton (University of Sheffield, UK) will share their experiences of writing a successful Large Grant application on “*Community strategies for Unarmed Civilian Protection in South-West Colombia: local experiences and lessons learned*”. Astrid Torres Ramírez and Véronique Draily (Corporación Jurídica Libertad, Colombia), will share their experiences of writing a successful Small Grant application on “*The Social Process of Guarantees of Antioquia, Colombia, an experience of unarmed civil protection with indigenous and peasant communities of Bajo Cauca*”.

The Panel will be asked questions about how they developed their proposals, what challenges they faced, what advice they would give to others who apply for research grants, as well as questions from the audience. The Panel will also share their successful grant applications with the research café participants, to allow participants to learn more about what a successful grant application actually looks like.

12.30 – 1.30 pm UTC on **Thursday 22 September**

Please use a [timezone converter](#) to check your local time.

The session will be held in English and Spanish with simultaneous translation.

All welcome; please register here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEuce-orjgrG9LwrA8pSpwr6SBcynxY7irg>

Enhancing Unarmed Civilian Protection (UCP) in ASEAN

Creating Safer Space Co-Investigator Chantana Banpasirichote Wungaeo moderated a Panel on 'Enhancing Unarmed Civilian Protection (UCP) in ASEAN', as part of an international seminar on ['Whither ASEAN in a Deeply Troubled World'](#). The seminar was held on 15-17 August 2022 at Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, and virtually on Zoom.

Panel members included Mark Tamthai (Peace Studies Program at Payap University, Chiang Mai), Ronnie Delsy (Director, Nonviolent Peaceforce, Asia) and Amara Pongsapich (ASEAN Human Rights Commission).

The three speakers on the panel represent UCP in research, peace building and policy-making in the ASEAN community. The picture of the region is quite varied from low intensity conflict in Thailand, normalization and peace building in Mindanao in the Philippines, to military authoritarianism in Myanmar. The panel discussed how UCP can clearly be integrated into the peacemaking process in Mindanao, while there are challenges involved in applying UCP in both low intensive conflicts like in Thailand, where vulnerability is rooted in structural violence, as well as in open armed conflict in Myanmar, where intervention is almost not feasible.

Mark Tamthai, Co-Investigator on the *Creating Safer Space* research project ['Introducing Unarmed Civilian Protection in Thai Society'](#), raises a few observations: "1) What UCP type activities are effective depends on the kinds of protection needed in different countries. Protection from targeted violence, or racially based violence, creates particular challenges for direct immediate intervention. 2) What UCP activities can assist in the current protection needs of civilians in Myanmar are not clear. Myanmar civilians seem to need protection from many different groups. UCP in Myanmar seems to be a huge challenge in the current climate. 3) A UCP organization within the official ASEAN structure does not seem feasible at the moment due to its position on non-interference. To contribute to UCP protection programs might require an ASEAN support program for local UCP organizations in ASEAN countries."

External News and Events

The **UCP–Accompaniment Global Networking E-Group** invites you to join their mailing list. The purpose of this group is to build and expand the global Unarmed Civilian Protection and Accompaniment community. The mailing list will be used for networking, job announcements, research opportunities, urgent needs, sharing evaluations, articles, publications, etc. It is an inclusive, moderated list. Please contact janpassion1@gmail.com to be included on the mailing list.

PRAXIS: Arts and Humanities for Global Development have published a new Research Report on [Engaging and Empowering Young People through Arts and Humanities Approaches in the Context of Global Challenges](#).

The **International Cultural Relations Research Alliance (ICRRA)** welcomes registrations for its annual conference on 26 – 27 September, which will focus on [Culture in Security – International Cultural Relations as an Enabler of Peace through Engagement](#).

The research team that leads one of our new *Creating Safer Space* research projects on [Exploring unarmed civilian protection in Cameroon's Anglophone conflict](#) is launching a report

entitled **Voices from 'Ground Zero': Interrogating History, Culture and Identity in the Resolution of Cameroon's Anglophone Conflict**. The report is based on research undertaken during a previous project, and the [Launch Event](#) will be held on 14 September 2022.

Creating Safer Space
Department of International Politics
Aberystwyth University
Penglais Aberystwyth
SY23 3FE, Wales, UK

Please contact us on creating-safer-space@aber.ac.uk to unsubscribe from this mailing list.