

Annual Conference 2017

Elephants in the Room

7 September 2017 – De Rode Olifant

Zuid Hollandlaan 7, The Hague

Schedule

Time	Session Title	Room
8.30AM – 9.00 AM	Welcome and registration	4 th Floor Plenary
9.00AM – 10.00AM	Introduction and Keynote Speech	4 th Floor Plenary
10.00AM – 10.15AM	BREAK	
10.15AM – 11.15AM	First Round of Sessions	Breakout Rooms
11.15AM – 12.30PM	Second Round of Sessions	Breakout Rooms
12.30PM – 2.00PM	LUNCH	Atrium
2.00PM – 2.45PM	Knowledge Platform 2.0 Pitch	4 th Floor Plenary
2.45PM – 3.00PM	BREAK	Atrium
3.00PM – 4.00PM	Third Round of Sessions	Breakout Rooms
4.00PM – 5.00PM	Fourth Round of Sessions	Breakout Rooms
5.00PM – 5.45PM	Closing Remarks	Atrium
5.45PM – 6.45PM	BORREL	Atrium

Program – 6 September

5:30PM-7:30PM – Screening and Q&A with the Director – *Dugma: The Button*
Paul Refsdal

Together with Movies that Matter, the Platform will host a screening of the film *Dugma: The Button*, followed by a reflection and Q&A sessions with the director of the film, Paul Refsdal.

For several decades, Refsdal has been reporting from conflict areas. For *Dugma: The Button*, he follows several men who are waiting for the moment to take their trucks killed with explosives, break through the enemy lines and blow themselves up. The men are connected to the Syrian branch of Al-Qaeda: Jabhat al Nusra. It took over one and a half years before the filmmaker had gained the trust of Jabhat al Nusra and could switch on his camera.

The result is astounding. We get to meet Abu Qaswara and the English convert Abu Basir al Britani. They passionately talk about their ideological motives and then go out and eat chicken with their friends, or organise a banana-eating contest. That image stands in stark contrast to what we expect of these men, and Refsdal's mission to show the other side of this story succeeds with flying colours.

Program – 7 September

Keynote

9:00AM-10:00AM – Mind the Gap: Privilege, inequality and violence in the 21st century

Henrik Urdal, *Peace Research Institute Oslo*

Jennifer Salahub, *Centre for Security Governance*

What do we ignore, or sweep under the rug, when thinking about peace, security and rule of law? Dr. Urdal will touch upon the effects of (systemic) inequality on perpetuating violence; the resistance to scrutiny of governments and practitioners, and the subsequent lack of data vital for making informed decisions; the consequences of our own military, economic and political actions in causing or exacerbating violence; and, importantly, the good news - that there are opportunities for real and positive change.

Plenary Sessions

10:15AM-11:00AM – More Youth, Less Opportunity

Gizem Kiliç, *United Network of Young Peacebuilders*

Peter van Sluijs, *Cordaid*

Today's generation of youth is the largest the world has ever known and form the majority of the population of countries affected by armed conflict. Lack of access to education and economic opportunities dramatically impacts on durable peace and reconciliation, and risks undermining the positive contribution youth can make to peace and security. So what are we doing about it? What does it mean to be a young man or woman in 2017? What do growing inequality and economic stagflation mean for countries with high youth populations? How can we overcome the negative perceptions of youth populations, and the political exclusion youth experience? Are cities prepared for the demographic explosions that lie ahead? And how can we leverage the impending findings of the progress study on UNSCR 2250?

11:15AM-12:15PM – The Dutch Seat on the UN Security Council

Paul Peters, *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

2:00PM-2:45PM – KPSRL 2.0 & our new Website

Megan Price, *Knowledge Platform Security & Rule of Law*

Steven Lanting, *Knowledge Platform Security & Rule of Law*

3:00PM-3.45PM – Future Funding Priorities: Finalizing our Research Agenda

Alies Rijper, *Knowledge Platform Security & Rule of Law*

4:00PM-5:00PM – What's in a Name? IDPs, Resident, Security & Justice in Bukavu

Carolien Jacobs, *Leiden University*

Antea Paviotti, *Leiden University*

Working with refugees or IDPs inevitably raises a number of challenges, whether in the field of research, policy, or practice. This session will showcase preliminary findings of research on justice and security for IDPs and longer-term residents in Bukavu, DR Congo. Three key questions will be central: How do we operationalize the definition of refugees/IDPs in the field as researcher or practitioner? How to address ethnicity without amplifying difference and without being seen as rude or taking sides? How do we strengthen social networks of refugees and IDPs?

Elephants in the Room

10:15AM-11:30AM – Is Rule of Law Reform Compatible with Sharia?

Jan-Michiël Otto, *Leiden University*

Sia Rahbari, *The Asia Foundation*

Faeza Said, *Muslim Womens Network*

This session will host an honest discussion about whether supporting rule of law development can be undertaken in areas where customary Islamic law is widely applied. The panel will host legal and practical experts working for justice in communities around the globe. They will share their professional views, unfiltered by misconceptions or political sensitivities, about how a pragmatic approach to rule of law development can take advantage and avoid the pitfalls of systems that incorporate sharia and traditional dispute resolution mechanisms.

11:45AM-1:00PM – News of War and Narratives of Violence

Rosan Smits, *de Correspondent*

Tajeldin Adam, *Commission on International Justice & Accountability*

Anneke van Hoek, *Radio la Benevolencija*

Paul Refsdal, *Refsdal Media*

Though coined two decades ago, 'the CNN effect' is a compelling theory today, perhaps more than ever. With screens and news updates asserting themselves ever-more frequently in our daily lives, our ideas and opinions are increasingly exposed to concentrated, provocative and emotion-twisting news coverage. The media plays a strong role not only in providing information about conflicts, but also in shaping our reactions to them. In this panel experts and journalists with experience writing in and on war will discuss the role the news media can play in shaping public opinion and foreign policy, as well as the limits and responsibilities of this power.

3:00PM-4:00PM – Corruption: A Mammoth in the Room

Patrick Alley, *Global Witness*

Founder and director of Global Witness, Patrick Alley, will present on how corruption sits at the heart of our security and justice challenges. Why is it so pervasive? How can we challenge the power structures that support corruption? And what do we need to be more honest about when we do?

4:15PM-5:00PM – Climate & Conflict: A gender perspective

Amiera Sawas, *SIPRI*

How do climate change and, importantly, responses to climate change impact security? In this session, Amiera Sawas of SIPRI looks at how access to infrastructure, gender and security figure into the complex and growing debate surrounding climate change. It will explore linkages between gender, changing access to environmental resources, public services and violence.

NWO / Knowledge Management Fund

10:15PM-11:45PM – Employment for Stability: A Silver Bullet?

Tilman Brück, *International Security & Development Center*

Elke Grawert, *BICC*

Mohammad Murtaza Haqeeqat, *The Liaison Office Afghanistan*

Erwin Bulte, *Wageningen University*

Stability is usually considered to be a necessary condition for peace and development. Conversely, a lack of opportunity, unresolved grievances, and poor social capital are all considered drivers of violence – so providing those things through waged employment might help to prevent violence. This may seem sound logic in theory, but what does empiric evidence say about the impact of employment programs on stability? How should the concept of stability be analyzed and understood? Building on evidence from research projects in Afghanistan, Liberia, Kyrgyzstan and Rwanda, the three panelists will discuss this question, challenging established thinking and providing novel policy implications.

12:00PM-1:00PM – New Approaches to Security Sector Reform in Africa

Lauren Hutton, *Stability: international journal of security & development*

With support from the Platform, *Stability: International Journal of Security and Development* is organizing a special collection on “New Approaches to Security Sector Reform in Africa,” which aims to showcase innovative research generated by African researchers and institutions. *Stability* Managing Editor Lauren Hutton will introduce the collection, and authors from the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre will present new research on hybrid security orders in Liberia, where the reach of the formal security and justice system is limited.

3:00PM-4:00PM – CVE: It’s not working, is it?

Larry Attree, *Saferworld*

Alastair Reed, *ICCT*

EJ Hoogendoorn, *International Crisis Group*

Fadi Farasin, *Organisation for Islamic Cooperation*

CVE now sits at the heart of policy making, but what is it really achieving? Are current CVE approaches driving, rather than addressing, violence? Do the policy solutions match the root causes of violence, and if not then what might be a better response? This panel will explore the current CVE trend from underlying drivers in the most affected countries to current responses, aiming to generate new insights into a highly-charged subject.

4:15PM-5:00PM – Business as Usual? Private Sector Development in FCAS

Mark van Dorp, *SOMO*

Charlotte Vollaard, *Oxfam Novib*

This session aims to fuel a discussion about the role of the private sector as a potential driver for peace and stability, and the role of the Dutch government in influencing companies’ behavior in fragile and conflict-affected situations through PSD policies. How can the private sector prevent to become involved in human rights violations and conflict, and instead contribute to peace and stability? And how can PSD policies and instruments be used to ensure that companies operate in a conflict-sensitive way?

Community

10:15AM-11:30AM – Sahel in Crisis

Fransje Molenaar, *Conflict Research Unit – Clingendael Institute*

Han van Dijk, *Africa Studies Center – Leiden University*

In the Sahel region, there is not only a jihadist movement taking place. Unrest there also reflects a deep underlying crisis in societies of nomadic pastoralists in the Sahel and Sahara (Tuareg and Fulani). Tensions are the result of a number of interlocking grievances and frictions at local, inter-community, national and international level. Problematic securitized approaches are similarly visible in the fight against irregular migration that has become a key focus of EU policies in the region. Here, the sole focus on policing migratory routes – without providing transit regions with sustainable alternatives – only adds further fuel to the fire and has the detrimental effect of increasing insecurity for migrants and the inhabitants of transit regions alike. The design of migration policies should pay more attention to these detrimental effects.

11:45AM-12:45PM – Is Democracy Good for Peace?

Staffan I. Lindberg, *VDEM*

For 60 years, studies of democratization and human security that inform policy and practitioners have produced misleading results. Beyond individual case studies, essentially all studies look only at if x affects y. Is economic development good for democracy? Does democracy lower the risk of civil conflict? Is a strong civil society good for democratic survival? Yet, we know that democratization as such develops in a series of small steps and long chains of events. In this session, path-breaking new approaches building on evolutionary biology are presented that for the first time lay out the different "evolutionary" paths of failing versus successful sequences of democratization. The session also introduces the new and largest ever database of democracy: Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem).

3:00PM-3:45PM – Nation-Building in Fragile States

René Grotenhuis

This session explores the basic contention that beside *state* building (system strengthening and institution building) being at the core of most fragile state policies, *nation* building (the creation of a sense of belonging and shared identity of people with different religious, linguistic and cultural identities) is a crucial component. The reluctance to engage in contentious issues like national identity leads many to assume that building strong states and viable institutions is sufficient for solving the problem of fragility. However, in fragmented societies or fragile states, characterized by mistrust between different groups, there is an urgent need to work on a shared national identity, social cohesion and social capital that is able to overcome the cleavages. We must combine nation building with state building to help nation states find their feet and, ultimately, a better future.

4:00PM-5:00PM – Hidden Vulnerability: Statelessness & Syrian Refugees

Laura van Waas, *Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion*

Zahra Albarazi, *Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion*

This session looks at how and why nationality plays an important part in the daily lives and future of people displaced by the Syrian conflict. Drawing on research conducted in Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon in 2016, the session examines the often hidden vulnerability created by statelessness. It discusses questions such as: What does it mean to be displaced and stateless? How does displacement heighten the risk of new cases of statelessness? Why is this problem so often overlooked? And what measures can be taken to ensure the effective and inclusive protection of stateless persons within humanitarian assistance programs and contribute to the longer-term prevention and reduction of statelessness?

Innovation

10:15AM-11:00AM – Big Data for Progress? Tracking Improvements under SDG16

Marcel Smits, *Institute for Economics and Peace*

This session explores the need for an improvement in Goal 16 data, setting out the main opportunities and risks. Without high-quality data that provide the right information, designing, monitoring and evaluating effective policies becomes almost impossible. We will not be able to measure important aspects of people's lives and whole groups of people may not be counted. How can we avoid missing out on important data for the SDGs, in particular Goal 16 which is key to many fragile and conflict affected countries? How can we speed up measurement processes in such a way that no-one is left behind?

11:15AM-12:30PM – Survey Fatigue: Is the way NGOs collect data in fragile environments immoral?

Ravi Punjabi, *Streetbees*

Carrie Huisman, *PAX for Peace*

What should we be aware of in surveying populations in conflict-affected environments? Are NGOs exploitative? Should people be paid for the survey responses they provide? What important ethical issues should be considered when surveying conflict-affected populations? And how do our models deal with that issue? How should data be collected to ensure responses are the most honest, efficient, and useful? Carrie Huisman from Pax for Peace and Ravi Punjabi from Streetbees will discuss these issues and more. With both of their work dependent upon capturing data to understand local perceptions, but both going about it in quite distinct ways, this makes for a very interesting panel indeed about ethics and quality.

3:00PM-4:15PM – Holding People to Account: Innovations in Transitional Justice

Fidelma Donlon, *Kosovo Specialist Chambers*

Guenaël Mettraux, *University of Amsterdam*

Catherine Marchi-Uhel, *International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism*

Paul Seils, *former VP International Center for Transitional Justice*

Recent years have witnessed transformative innovation in dealing with international crimes both at the international and domestic levels. This panel will explore tailored solutions for accountability in diverse post-conflict contexts. Three novel examples will be presented, the Kosovo Specialist Chambers and Specialist Prosecutor's Office, and the Havana Peace Accords and Special Jurisdiction for Peace in Colombia, and the International, Impartial, Independent Mechanism for Syria. Panelists will discuss these innovative mechanisms in terms of their coherence, legitimacy, societal impact, and broader implications for the advancement of transitional justice worldwide.

4:15PM-5:00PM – The ICC and Domestic Legal Reform: Ukraine

Scott Martin, *Global Rights Compliance*

Alix Villuemin Grendel, *Coalition for the International Criminal Court*

Assessments of the progress of the International Criminal Court thus far split opinions. The support of the international community has delivered nine convictions and one acquittal thus far. Does this mean the future of accountability is at the national level, rather than in The Hague? How can the ICC be used as a tool to promote domestic legal reform, with a view to boosting criminal accountability? Is this desirable? This session will explore these issues, taking a particular look at Ukraine and the preliminary examination undertaken there by the ICC in 2016.

Creativity

10:15AM-11:15AM – Bearing Witness: Literature in Conflict

Basma Abdul Aziz

The fields of peace, security and the rule of law can be highly technical. But of course being too technical risks omitting the creative thinking necessary to imagine better, more just and more secure futures. This session welcomes the novelist Basma Abdul Aziz to discuss the role of literature in spotlighting societal ills, in holding a mirror to power, and in broaching complex or distressing issues. She will read from her award winning novel, *The Queue*, and discuss how literature and the arts are a form of protest - made more relevant by the shrinking civil society space we're seeing everywhere. Basma is also a psychiatrist at the El Nadeem Centre for the Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture in Cairo, which was closed in February amid public protests.

11:30AM-12:45PM – Direct Action: Storytelling, Gender and Peace

Shilo Shiv Suleman, *The Fearless Collective*

Founder and director of The Fearless Collective, contemporary artist Shilo Shiv Suleman will showcase the work of the visual artists, activists, photographers and filmmakers who use their medium to address rape culture and gender violence. How can orchestrate action or, "artivism", at the community level empower women to raise their voices and build safe public spaces? And what is its value in highly patriarchal and masculine societies? The collective is based in India but will also explain its work across Asia, Africa, Europe and North America.

3:00PM-3:45PM – Listen Up: Power of the Podcast

Andy Clark

New research shows one in four Americans listened to a podcast in the last month and podcasts are becoming more and more popular in the rest of the world too. They are inexpensive to produce and a great way to share knowledge and generate discussion, so isn't it time you started considering adding them to your communication mix? Podcasts can be fully integrated in your online media strategy and are great for building a community and involving key stakeholders and the broader public in your field of interest. And you determine the agenda. Elephants in the room? Talk about them in a podcast. Join Andy Clark - journalist and podcast specialist - for a session on what podcasting can mean for your organization. Context and practical info on the benefits of podcasting.

4:00PM-5:00PM – The Normalization of Violence in the Age of the Media Spectacle

Brad Evans, *University of Bristol*

Dr. Brad Evans, a political philosopher, critical theorist and writer whose work specializes on the problem of violence, will investigate the modern nature of violent conflict. Has violence become so culturally normalized that even imagining peace has become problematic? Has the shift towards a politics of catastrophe in the West usurped a type of politics guided by empathy and compassion? And has this made it easier to accept that some lives appear to be worth more than others? These are essential questions that require critical thinking, not least about how violence is understood and depicted in the west, and what effect that has on our responses.