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WORLD CONGRESS

EDITORIAL

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER 2/2017

Dear RC01 members, colleagues, and friends,

Paper proposals for RC01-sponsored panels at the ISA's World Congress in Toronto 15-21 July 2018 may now be submitted through 30 September 2017. Detailed instructions on submitting proposals can be found below. You must indicate that you want to have your paper proposal considered for a RC01 panel, and for which panel, at the time of submission. ISA has imposed strict limits on how often a presenter can appear on the program of the World Congress, and in what capacity; I strongly encourage you to familiarize yourself with those limitations and make a strategic choice about ensuring that your overall submissions and proposals align with those rules. Otherwise, ISA will force us to remove panelists in violation of ISA's rules, and we will not be able to reallocate those spots to other meritorious submissions and scholars. For those not already members of RC01, submission of a proposal to a RC01-sponsored panel comes with a commitment to become a member of RC01 if your proposal is accepted, and all participants in the World Congress must be members of ISA anyway. Accepted papers who do not become members of RC01 by the registration deadline will have to be removed from RC01 panels. We have never had to remove anyone and would thus ask you to bear RC01 membership in mind when submitting to a RC01-sponsored panel. Paper proposals submitted to RC01 panels will be adjudicated by the panel organizers in conjunction with the RC01 executive. As submissions are expected to exceed available spots, we encourage you to put your best foot forward. However, also keep in mind that gender and regional diversity will factor into the decision-making process, and that we go out of our way to ensure that each panel has representation from students and young scholars.

RC01 received over 50% more panel proposals than the number of panels we were allocated by ISA for the World Congress. I appealed unsuccessfully to have the ceiling raised. So, among Lindy Heineken, Uros Svete, and I we engaged in a difficult yet strategic conversation on merging some panels whose objectives overlapped, and cutting others, to bring the actual panels submitted in line with the number of panels we have been allocated. We have narrowed it down to a world-class set of panel proposals that are representative of the broad range of empirical, methodological, and theoretical diversity across subject matter expertise in armed forces and conflict resolution. There is something here for everyone, and we very much hope that you will join us. We are well on track for the largest RC01 gathering ever at the ISA's 2018 World Congress; so, not only will this be an unprecedented opportunity for you to meet and network with like-minded scholars from around the world, but we are also already planning at least one workshop, likely with the Balsillie School for International Affairs in nearby Kitchener/Waterloo on the topic of diversity in the armed forces, that will be distinct but either just before or just after the actual World Congress. We are also planning at least one dinner and opportunities for you to interact with members of the Canadian Armed Forces and representatives of the senior leadership of the Canadian defence community.

The newsletter also contains two calls for proposals, as well as information on recent books in RC01's joint series with ERGOMAS with Springer. Members interested in floating proposals for books in this series are encouraged to contact RC01 executive member irina.goldenberg@forces.gc.ca

Christian Leuprecht

PAPER PROPOSALS FOR ISA WORLD CONGRESS 15-21 JULY 2018 IN TORONTO, CANADA

Instructions to submit a paper proposal to a RC01 session

<http://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/world-congress/toronto-2018/>

Deadline 30 September 2017

This is a hard deadline imposed by ISA. No submissions can be accepted after this date!!!

SURVEY - EXPERT QUESTIONNAIRE

What is the impact of Demographic Changes on Recruitment and Retention?

Dear Ergomas Member / Friend of Ergomas,

You are invited to complete the following *Expert Questionnaire on the impact of demographic change on the recruitment and retention of personnel in Western Armed Forces*. With the demographic change taking place all over Western societies (aging population, low birth rates, changing family structures, migration, etc.), on the one hand, the number of young people entering the labor market will decline, while, on the other hand the number of seniors (and their life expectancy) will increase. As a result, Defense organizations will likely face severe recruitment and retention problems, especially but not only in technical specialties. It is therefore important that experts review and analyze existing human resources policies and propose measures to the relevant authorities both at the national and international level.

The aim of the online questionnaire is to collect the opinions and advices of a large panel of international experts (academics, civilian and military personnel in charge of human resources policy, personnel management and recruitment, and journalists specialized in defense matters, etc.) on the impact of demographic change on recruitment and retention in advanced industrial nations and the possible ways to face this important challenge for military organizations. The survey should take approximately 15 minutes to complete. Your opinion and recommendations on needed personnel programs, policies and initiatives are very important for our project.

The questionnaire has been developed by a group of Ergomas Members from Belgium, Canada, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland who are involved in a collaborative project within the framework of the European Defense Agency on *the impact of demographic change on the recruitment and retention of personnel in European armed forces*.

Please use the survey hyperlink or the QR code below for more information on the study and to complete the survey.

<https://goo.gl/PSFToL>



We are very grateful for your time and your willingness to complete this survey.

EXPERT REPRESENTATION SOUGHT

NATO's Science and Technology Organization recently approved a technical activity proposal for the stand-up of a one-year Exploratory Team (ET) to investigate personal and situational antecedents to ethical leadership. The purpose of the ET is to develop a model of predictors of ethical leadership and Terms of Reference for a subsequent multi-year NATO Research Task Group (RTG), which will conduct research to investigate antecedents to ethical leadership amongst participating NATO and Partner for Peace nations. The ET will be formed for one year, commencing this summer. The majority of the work will be done remotely via email and conference calls, and there *may* be one meeting at some point throughout the year.

If you have expertise in this domain and are interested in being nominated by your nation as the national representative on this group, or for additional information, please contact my colleague Dr. Damian O'Keefe at DAMIAN.O'KEEFE@forces.gc.ca.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Subject: ERGOMAS ANNOUNCEMENT: Future of Armed Forces 2040 Conference

Date: June 11, 2017 at 08:06:18 EDT

Dear ERGOMAS members and friends,

Please find attached the Call for Papers for an international conference titled *Future of Armed Forces 2040*. The conference will take place 26-27 September in Sofia Bulgaria. The conference organizer is Defence Advanced Research Institute of G.S. Rakovski National Defence College (RNDC) with partnership of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) International, South east European Region.

The goals of the conference are as follows:

- To stimulate expert discussions on emerging security challenges and to encourage the process of concept and doctrine development of the future warfare.
- To propose effective ways and means for building integrated capabilities of future armed forces to counter new threats;
- To encourage cooperation between the security sector and the industry sector in building capabilities for the future armed forces.

Deadlines:

- Registration for the conference via RNDC website from 15th June to 15th August 2017 (please provide topic and abstract of the paper - 150 words max, contact coordinates).
- Confirmation of accepted papers – 30th August 2017.
- Full text of the accepted papers in English due until 26th September 2017.
- Publication of the conference proceedings in English – 30th January 2018.

For more information the Points of Contact are:

Lieutenant Colonel Plamen PETKOV, PhD; G. S. Rakovski National Defense College;

Defense Advanced Research Institute (DARI); Tel +359 29226695; e-mail: papetkov@armf.bg

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22th Annual Conference of Central European Political Science Association

INTEGRATION VS DISINTEGRATION? CEECS TOWARDS EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS CHALLENGES

14 – 15 September 2017, Wrocław, Poland

Anton Bebler, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences, anton.bebler@fdv.uni-lj.si

Jerzy Wiatr, European School of Law and Administration, Warsaw, jwiatr@ewspa.edu.pol

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Panel: Security in Central-Eastern Europe and beyond**Summary**

There are several complex security threats Europe in general and Central-Eastern European countries in particular are potentially confronted with: active and frozen military conflicts, international terrorism, cyber (information) warfare, climate change, energy insecurity, mass migrations, organized crime etc. Therefore several events and processes should be discussed such as the annexation of Crimea by Russian Federation, its role in South-Eastern Ukraine conflict and its attitude towards other neighbouring countries, conflicts in South Ossetia and Abkhazia, inter-ethnic political turbulence in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and to a certain extent also in Macedonia, ISIL's terrorist attacks in France, Belgium, Germany, Turkey, UK..., frequent cyber-attacks on international organisations and individual countries, migrant crisis experienced in 2015-16 was also perceived as a threat in some European countries etc. Some of these threats stimulate contemplation about several security related concepts and structures, respectively, such as military aggression, hybrid warfare, asymmetric warfare, security sector reform, security and defence efforts of the European Union, the role of NATO and the role of European countries in the Alliance, defence spending, manning of the armed forces (revival of conscription or even national service?) and so forth. One of the key questions is what is the most appropriate institutional and organizational framework to cope with threats at national, sub-regional, regional and global levels? And what are the adequate strategies, mechanisms and instruments to respond to them? And last but not least, how to find an effective way to counter complex threats to Central-Eastern Europe and beyond? Scientists and experts from various disciplines are invited to discuss some of the abovementioned topics during the panel.

Key words: complex threats to security, EU, NATO and CEEC, security concepts and structures, security strategies, mechanisms and instruments.

APPENDIX A: RC01 PANELS THAT HAVE BEEN RETAINED FOR THE 2018 WORLD CONGRESS

Below is a preview of the sessions accepted to RC01 that appear on the ISA website. Questions about a panel should be directed to the organizer as indicated below.

RC01 Business Meeting**Boundaries, Bordering, and Insecurity: Reflections on Violence in Research and in Practice -****Session Organizer(s):**

Kathryn FISHER, katmarie_fisher@yahoo.com, National Defense University, USA
Session in English

Unavoidably intertwined with theories and practices of violence are boundaries and borders, and more specifically, *processes* of boundary and border construction, reinforcement, and/or disruption. These processes are of physical and ideational significance in that they constrain and/or enable different types of meanings and actions that are of consequence for security and *insecurity*. This session calls for investigations into the power and violence of bordering practices given interplays of the material and the social that are constitutive of bordering sites, whether focusing on sites as largely physical or discursive. Papers are not limited by any specific empirical or theoretical direction. Instead a key aim of this session is to encourage engagement with boundary drawing and its effects as relate to (mis)understanding, security decision making, and insecurity through a range of approaches. Through such engagement it is hoped that understandings of power and violence will be discussed from a variety of perspectives that all attend to sociological and theoretical analysis as well as our responsibilities as researchers and teachers engaging with issues of (in)justice.

Military and Civilian Personnel Integration and Collaboration in Defence Organizations**Session Organizer(s):**

Irina GOLDENBERG, irina.goldenberg@forces.gc.ca, Defence Research and Development Canada, Canada
Session in English

Defence organisations consist of military and civilian personnel working in partnership while governed by different personnel management systems and

reflecting distinct cultures – all of which may affect military-civilian collaboration, personnel outcomes, and organisational effectiveness.

Although the issue of civilian-military personnel integration has not received much empirical attention to date, Defence organisations are increasingly recognizing the importance of optimizing collaboration between their military and civilian workforces, with many adopting organizational terms implying that the military and civilian workforces form a cohesive whole: the *Defence Team* (Canada), the *Whole Force Concept* (United Kingdom), *One Defence Team* (Sweden), and *Total Defence Workforce* (New Zealand). This panel invites proposals examining conceptual, theoretical, and empirical analysis of military-civilian personnel integration and collaboration in defence organizations, including topics such as intergroup leadership and supervision, organizational identity, organisational culture, civilianization of military occupations, aspects surrounding fairness and perceptions of fairness for service members and civilian employees, civilians on operations, and the analysis of policies, procedures, and best practices relating to civilian and military personnel management.

Diversity Management in the Armed Forces: Measures, Attitudes and Policies

Session Organizer(s):

Andrea RINALDO, andrea.rinaldo@vtg.admin.ch, Military Academy at ETH Zurich, Switzerland, Switzerland

Session in English

As a response to the more and more diverse society as well as to increasingly complex and specific missions of the armed forces, many military organisations implemented diversity management as an HR-policy. As in other organisations, diversity management in the armed forces is not only based on a business imperative, but also on a moral one. On one side, a diverse workforce is expected to bring organizational advantages. On the other hand, an effective diversity management should reflect the social diversity of society, especially in an organization like the armed forces. This panel focuses on diversity measures military organisations implemented or are about to implement in order to recruit and retain soldiers and enhance equal opportunities. Which organisational policies regulate diversity? Which measures have proven to be effective? What are the attitudes of military members or the society towards diversity management and the according measures? What is the experience and opinion of minority groups in the armed forces (women, homosexuals, people with migration background, religious minorities, etc.) concerning diversity management and equal opportunity?

Trust in Security-Related Institutions**Session Organizer(s):**

Sabrina PFISTER, Sabrina.Pfister@vtg.admin.ch, Military Academy at the ETH Zurich, Switzerland

Session in English

Military, gendarme, and police forces share responsibilities for human security, public order and public security, national security, and international security. In order that security related institutions like the police or the armed forces are able to fulfill their purpose, it is necessary that the people in a country have trust in these institutions. To manage the complexity of world is it important that people trust in stable institutions. This panel focuses primarily on the relationship between the public and these security-related institutions. For example: Which factors have an influence on trust and how is the mechanism of these factors on trust. Furthermore a basis of trust is important for a good collaboration between the public and security related institutions. And the question is how do these interact. Another aspect is, whether and to what extend the privatization of military and police function have an effect on lack of confidence of the public in armed forces and police forces.

Las Ciencias Sociales y El Estudio De Los Militares En América Latina**Session Organizer(s):**

Sabina FREDERIC, sabinafrederic2011@gmail.com, Universidad Nacional de Quilmes, Argentina

Celso CASTRO, celso.castro@fgv.br, Fundação Getulio Vargas/ School of Social Sciences, Brazil

Session in English, Spanish

Los militares han tenido una gran participación en la vida política latinoamericana desde la construcción misma de los Estados nacionales. Esta participación se manifiesta principalmente a través de revueltas, golpes de Estado o de la construcción de regímenes autoritarios. Existe una amplia literatura sobre estos aspectos de la historia, incluyendo estudios clásicos sobre la naturaleza de las intervenciones militares, su rol en el ejercicio del poder político, la transición hacia gobiernos civiles y la adecuación de la institución a los nuevos contextos democráticos.

Sin embargo, hay muy pocos estudios de carácter sociológico o antropológico sobre los militares. Cuestiones como los rituales y símbolos institucionales, el perfil social de los oficiales o soldados, los estándares de carrera, la educación militar, la sociabilidad cotidiana en los cuarteles, la "familia militar" y los recientes cambios debidos, entre otros factores, a la entrada de mujeres en la institución, han recibido poca atención por parte de las ciencias sociales. También son necesarias y reflexiones sobre el impacto institucional de las

experiencias de la lucha contra los movimientos guerrilleros o el tráfico de drogas o la participación en misiones de paz.

Este panel busca también empezar a construir una red aún inexistente de investigadores sobre el tema. En un contexto histórico en el que hay una mayoría sin precedentes de democracias en la región, creemos que la reflexión académica tiene un importante papel que desempeñar, no sólo desde el punto de vista intelectual, sino también con respecto a las políticas públicas en el área de defensa.

**The Impact of Sociological Research on the Military
Session Organizer(s):**

Helena CARREIRAS, helena.carreiras@iscte.pt, Instituto Universitario de Lisboa, Portugal

Celso CASTRO, celso.castro@fgv.br, Fundação Getulio Vargas/ School of Social Sciences, Brazil

Session in English

In spite of the vast literature on military sociology and of the increasingly reflexive mood in the methodological and epistemological assessments of this field of study, reflections on how military institutions deal with the fact that they are the object of social scientists' research remain infrequent. This panel proposes to address this rather unexplored topic by putting forward the following questions: What impact does sociological research have on the military? What kind of appropriation or resistance does that relationship entail? What are the military's views on the research social scientists conduct on them?

Such questions apply to both 'external' research, that is, research conducted by social scientists with no formal ties to the institutions, and to 'native' researchers, formally linked to them. They also apply to both independent or contract research. Thus, we invite paper proposals that address these questions and analyze concrete empirical case studies.

The panel proposal follows a series of methodological discussions initiated in the past two world congresses of Sociology: Gothenburg (2010) - on research methods - and Yokohama (2014) - on the experience of researchers and reflexivity in military studies. The selected contributions to the present panel are expected to strengthen reflexivity in the social scientific study of the military, but also to advance policies aimed at improving the relevance of knowledge in decision-making concerning military and defense related issues.

Peacekeeping Operations: Political, Economic, Military and Logistical Perspectives**Session Organizer(s):**

Sergio AGUILAR, sergioaquilar@marilia.unesp.br, UNESP, Brazil
Luiz Rogério GOLDONI, lgoldoni@hotmail.com, Escola de Comando e Estado-Maior do Exército, Brazil

Session in English, Spanish

Peacekeeping has evolved in the last decades, especially because of the changes occurred in the patterns of conflict, actors involved in violent processes and global and regional security structure that made the world more complex. Changing in the overall framework resulted in alterations in the organization's way of acting to manage, resolve or transform conflicts. Responding to an increased demand for more professional and complex peace operations, and taking into consideration changes in the international reality, regional organisations and the UN conducted some important processes to improve the quality and effectiveness of its field missions. At the same time, some countries have intensified their presence in peacekeeping operations which involves political and economic costs and represents military and logistical challenges. Accordingly, this session seeks contributions on wide range of contemporary peacekeeping operations subjects, especially papers addressing the main aspects of countries' participation in these missions, such as political interests, economic matters, the logistics required for the deployment and support to the military contingents sent, and the main lessons learned from this participation.

Stabilizing Security in Post War Situations**Session Organizer(s):**

Holger NITSCH, holger.nitsch@pol.hfoed.bayern.de, Research in Security, Germany

Session in English

In a post war situation tensions are still high between different parties, infrastructure is most likely damaged and it might be that administrative work has to be done by foreign armed forces or LEA's. To improve security for the citizens it is essential to tackle these problems and to take all different aspects into account. Technical solutions to help to strengthen border security is one possibility to avoid infiltration of foreign fighters from the outside (e.g. Syria, Jordan, Kosovo). Insecure borders slow down or even contradict the process of trustbuilding and peacekeeping.

Also cultural diversity training for the peacekeeping force is necessary to understand the culture of the country working in (e.g.: Afghanistan, Bosnia, etc...). Therefore several states have a training of this kind that could be compared and best practices can be displayed.

Also there is very often asymmetric warfare that destabilizes the country. To counter this, there has to be information sharing, trustbuilding measures and programmes for deradicalization. This is also connected to the information in the virtual world. Counterradicalization tools and training for social media is also important as a trustbuilding action.

Another trustbuilding action is the direct involvement of the citizens in the decision making process and the transformation of power and security in the responsibility of the people. Therefore a solid and sustainable training of law enforcement, military and administrative personnel is indispensable.

Police Criminality and Violence in the United States: A Missing Link in Global Sociology and Criminology

Session Organizer(s):

Henry ALLEN, hank.allen@wheaton.edu, Wheaton College (IL), USA

Session in English

Recent mass media disclosures and visual data involving police abuse, corruption, questionable shootings, misconduct, violence, and criminality in the United States have been diffused internationally. Yet, preliminary algorithms, empirical data, qualitative research, and network science have yet to probe systematically these social phenomena (Sparrow 2016). With few exceptions (Collins 2008), sociological and criminological theories lag behind their visibility and social consequences—especially for disadvantaged or impoverished ethnic groups. Only a relative paucity of studies engage this emergent topic to date (Kappeler's article). It is as if scholars assume that '**police infallibility**' is operative in the criminal justice system. Using relevant data or **case studies** from the United States Department of Justice, Wolfram Research, the Rand Corporation, the Brookings Institution, the Police Executive Research Forum, monographs, and the research literature, this presentation examines governmental reports or case studies of police departments that have been **sanctioned** for multiple forms of police deviance [Chicago, Baltimore, Ferguson, MO, San Francisco] in order to develop a conceptual model of police criminality in the United States. Theoretical, methodological, policy-oriented, and practical implications for sociology will be emphasized.

Public Security in Federal Polities

Session Organizer(s):

Christian LEUPRECHT, christian.leuprecht@rmc.ca, Royal Military College of Canada, Canada

Session in English

This roundtable provides an opportunity for discussants to comment critically on a volume by the same title that is forthcoming with University of Toronto Press

as part of the Forum of Federation's Global Dialogue series. The volume is the first systematic comparison of the way federal democratic systems have been coping with and implementing the vast and rising array of security demands and policies over the past 20 years. The volume follows a systematic template that facilitates comparison of nine federal systems: Brazil, Canada, Germany, India, Mexico, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, and the United States. Scholars are invited to put their name forward as commentators and discussants for this session. They might be experts in security studies, experts in federalism, or those concerned about the way democratic federal systems have been mediating demands for public safety and security as a result of rapidly evolving international and domestic security environments. On the one hand, the objective is a conventional editor-meet-critics session. On the other hand, the subsidiary objective is a broader conversation about methods in a domain that brings together two subfields that have not traditionally been subject to systematic comparison -- public safety/security and federalism/federal systems - - and to initiate and possibly chart a multidisciplinary, comparative research agenda on this subject going forward.

Conflict Dynamics and Modelling

Session Organizer(s):

Klaus BECKMANN, klaus.beckmann@hsu-hh.de, Helmut-Schmidt-Universitaet / UniBw H, Germany

Session in English

This session uses quantitative research methods to drive a transdisciplinary study of dynamic patterns of conflict. In particular, methods from game theory, simulation techniques, neural networks, and wargaming are employed. This is to be complemented by the historical and political sciences, which provide empirical detail. The ultimate aim is to model dynamic patterns of conflict that are historically plausible and may serve as a basis for a taxonomy of dynamic conflict in the same manner that 2x2 games are often used in the analysis of static conflict.

Women in the Military. Participation and Change in a Gendered Organisation

Session Organizer(s):

Marina NUCIARI, marina.nuciari@unito.it, University of Torino Italy, Italy
Helena CARREIRAS, helena.carreiras@iscte.pt, Instituto Universitario de Lisboa, Portugal

Session in English

The session is intended to deal with current and new conditions of military personnel as far as gender policies, gender effects and role adjustment and

changes are concerned.

The position of women in the military forces is by no means the same all around the world, and their real participation at all levels, and especially at decision-making levels, is subject to frequent changes due to the incessant movement toward true and complete integration on an equality basis on the one side and the difficulties and draw-backs mainly stemming from persisting gendered cultural values in societies as well as in military organisations on the other side.

Suggested topics for paper submission are: recruitment and retention policies, integration policies and gender perspective according to UNSCR 1325 and following resolutions, servicewomen presence in top-level decision-making positions in military and civil-military committees at national and international levels, leadership and commanding, real servicewomen participation in joint international missions and Crises Response Operations, professional vs private life coping policies, situations of gender discrimination, harassment and sexual abuse.

Other topics anyway dealing with the general session's title are invited for paper submission.

Improving Effectiveness of Capabilities in EU Conflict Prevention: The Civil-military Nexus

Session Organizer(s):

Arnold KAMMEL, arnold.kammel@aies.at, Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES), Austria

Session in English

Contemporary military operations take place in complex environments populated by multiple civilian and humanitarian institutions and a challenging array of issues that are not precisely 'military' in nature. Besides the complex environment, there exist dynamic and interrelated threats which in addition to the uniqueness of each crisis and region require a combined and tailored response. This has increased the importance of addressing and managing the civil-military interface in general, particularly that between the military and the humanitarian community. The establishment of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) has been accompanied by the anticipation that the European Union will represent a unique strategic actor due to its ability to mix civilian and military crisis management instruments as part of a comprehensive approach.

Though the comprehensive approach aspirations that have caused tensions in many contemporary civil-military relations may be novel, the debate between purist and pragmatist conceptions of civil-military organization and purpose is long-standing.

Based on the theoretical framework provided mainly by Huntington and Janowitz, the panel will look into the EU's crisis management structures and activities from an effectiveness perspective. It will therefore elaborate the crucial question how well the EU's crisis management tools and instruments are applied in a comprehensive manner. This is of utmost importance since the transition from policy to practice has often been problematic, particularly in one of the most challenging relationships in that matrix: the civilian-military nexus (CivMil).

Social Media and the Military

Session Organizer(s):

Arild BERGH, arild.bergh@ffi.no, Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (FFI), Norway

Session in English

The emergence of social media as the most common, everyday use for Internet technologies has been as rapid as it has been pervasive. Social media erases boundaries at a low cost, without time lag. It facilitates one to many, and many to one, communication without gatekeepers.

In terms of the military we can see that social media is having an impact at different levels of analysis. At the macro level states and rebel movements utilise social media for recruitment purposes or to create narratives in hybrid warfare; whereas at the meso level military organisations are affected through connections outside traditional hierarchies with less control over information flow. At the micro level, interpersonal relationships and social networks from home can be remotely maintained by soldiers in real time even when deep inside a conflict.

This makes for a multi-layered and complex field of study; different types of social media have different affordances that shapes uses and outcomes. Many aspects of social media are quantitative i.e. it is fast and cheap. However, qualitative changes that emerge from the use of social media can have a stronger impact. This session therefore welcomes empirical studies that provide insights on deeper changes arising from social media use.

Possible themes include, but are not limited to:

- Social media as a resource before, during or after conflicts
- Effects on trust in military – civilian relationships
- Organisational issues or communications bypassing traditional routes
- (Counter) narratives at different levels
- Effects within the military on relationships and command and control

Sociological Measurement and Analysis of the National Security**Session Organizer(s):**

Mihail ANTON, mihailanton@yahoo.com, National Defense University "Carol I", Romania

Session in English

Security as a social phenomenon has become a very distinctive field of study. However, there are various approaches and understandings of this concept. This session will focus on both theoretical and empirical evidence on the development of the contemporary concept of security. The main goal of presentations and discussions is to provide and share comparative experiences and new theories concerning this emerging field of sociology. Topics of interest include but are not limited to the following themes: security as a social phenomenon; dimensions and indicators for measuring security; cultural identity and security; cultural understandings of security; strategic culture and security; the emergence and evolution of security studies in military higher education institutions; the relevance of security studies to the national context (the goal of security, the means for pursuing it, and the domestic dimensions of security); proposals for the future sociological study of security, focusing on the sociological operationalization of the concept.

The Nature and Cause of Armed Conflict in Africa**Session Organizer(s):**

Maxime RICARD, ricard.maxime@uqam.ca, Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada

Alemayehu KUMSA, alemayehu.kumsa@fhs.cuni.cz, Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic

Session in English

The interplay of identity and security is at the core of many armed conflicts in Africa. Accordingly this session invites papers that address the main roots of the causes of conflict on this continent. Are present conflicts linked to race, ethnicity, religion or other economic, social or political issues such as unemployment, lack of education, corruption or the empowerment of elites? To what extent do Western nations influence the conflicts in Africa in terms of the ideologies they wish to impose, their geostrategic interests, access natural resources, their fight against terrorism and so forth. In terms of the latter, how does the rise of Jihadist movements in Africa influence security concerns. This session invites papers on a broad range of topics on the nature and cause of armed conflict in Africa.

All-Volunteer Forces, Recruitment and Conscription**Session Organizer(s):**

Johan OSTERBERG, johan.osterberg@fhs.se, Swedish Defense University, Sweden

Tibor SZVIRCSEV TRESCH, tszv@zugernet.ch, Swiss Military Academy at the ETH Zurich, Switzerland

Session in English

The shift to the all-volunteer force has produced many challenges to the armed forces. One of the main challenges has been the willingness of persons to enlist. This has impacted on recruitment and retention and whether there should not be a reconsideration of some form of conscription given the security situation in Europe. The problem of finding enough volunteers to serve in the armed forces, coupled with the financial pressures facing and the changed security situation pose a particular challenge to armed forces. For this session, the following questions are important: How successful is the recruitment of military personnel? How successful is the retention? Does the change security situation influence this? Are demographic changes influences recruitment and retention? Should countries consider the return to conscription?

Military Families, Care and Resilience**Session Organizer(s):**

Hitoshi KAWANO, hkawano@nda.ac.jp, Japan National Defense Academy, Japan
Dimitrios GAKIS, jim.gakis@yahoo.com, Greece

Session in English

This session invites research on military families, support, resilience and self-efficacy. Accordingly this session invites papers on these issues within a comparative perspective, looking at differences by rank/service/ethnic/ cultural differences. In addition, we invite papers that explain the different type of support mechanisms available to military families at the individual, family, community, institutional and state level. Also how the care of military families affect the morale of military personnel throughout the deployment cycle. We particularly welcome those papers that broaden our understanding of how military families are coping in these turbulent times, where the armed forces and their personnel are both overstretched and have to operate under severe budget cuts. What coping and self-help mechanisms are emerging, where institutions and the state are not able to provide the needed support?

Civil Military Relations in Times of Change**Session Organizer(s):**

André BEIRÃO, beirao.ap@gmail.com, Escola de Guerra Naval, Brazil
Unsal SIGRI, usigri@gmail.com, Baskent University, Turkey

Session in English

Militaries today are involved in peacekeeping missions, law enforcement, in dealing with natural disasters, conducting search and rescue missions, providing humanitarian assistance, nation building in other states and fighting terrorism among others. This has affected civil-military relations on various levels. Added to this many countries have experienced political instability, regional conflicts and military coups. This has often been associated with the democratization movement in these countries which has led to changes in the legal framework governing civil-military relations. Accordingly, this session looks at how these diverse roles affect the re-designing and transformation of civil-military relations. In addition, papers are invited on how this is affecting military education, strategic and defence studies, especially where civilian universities and researchers are now engaging with defense-related themes together with military practitioners and researchers. This session intends to discuss these broad themes.

Conflictuality in the Digital Space: What Are the Challenges for Military Organizations?**Session Organizer(s):**

Didier DANET, amael.cattaruzza@st-cyr.terre-net.defense.gouv.fr, Ecoles de Saint-Cyr Coëtquidan, France

Session in English, French

Now considered as a space of conflict in its own right, the digital space is characterized by well-known features (polymorphous threats, asymmetry of actors, specific temporality ...) which bring to its highest point the degree of turbulence of digital conflicts. In the face of these highly evolving forms, States must build and evolve original and agile defense policies, structures and tools, guaranteeing the Nation respect for its sovereignty in the digital space and the highest level of Protection against attacks and their effects of any kind. Faced with the mutually contending nature of conflict in the digital space, the need to revisit the fundamental concepts of geopolitics in order to better understand the complexity of this particular space of conflict, a combination of multidisciplinary and comparative approaches is essential. Evaluate the adequacy of cyber defense policies and mechanisms to the evolving threats that permeate the digital space. This panel proposes to develop this multidisciplinary approach based on three axes of reflection.

Developments within the Military Profession**Session Organizer(s):**

Morten BRAENDER, mortenb@ps.au.dk, Aarhus University, Denmark
Martin ELBE, martinelbe@bundeswehr.org, ZMSBw - Zentrum für Militärgeschichte und Sozialwissenschaften der Bundeswehr, Germany
Lindy HEINECKEN, lindy@sun.ac.za, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa

Session in English

As argued by Norbert Elias more than half a century ago, the military profession has always undergone change. Accordingly, this session aims to show the significance of these changes and the prospects of renewing the military profession. Moskos' Institutional/Occupational drift model brought forth much research in terms of the effect that the shift to an all-volunteer force had on the military profession and institution. This session hopes to solicit papers beyond this debate. Papers are invited to address the following topics: How have societal changes affected the identity and standards of the military profession and officer corps? How does public opinion influence the military profession? What is the connection between societal change, institutional change and the military profession? What effect is the privatisation of security having on the military profession? How is technological change influencing the profession? While many of these questions are not new, what is certain is that the armed forces are undergoing fundamental change. What this session hopes to achieve is to solicit more robust sociological engagement with these issues.

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**We hope that you enjoyed reading
this issue of RC 01's newsletter.**

Christian Leuprecht & Uros Svete