



Our Team

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Armed Violence & Illicit Activities CTPSR Research Group

- **Maritime Security**
- **Sexual Violence**
- **Illegal Mining**
- **UN Peacekeeping**
- **Political and Gang Violence**
- **Small Arms Trade**



The Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations

The Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations (CTPSR) undertakes innovative, impactful, world-class research that enables dialogue and builds trust in order to foster peaceful relations and strengthen human security.

The Centre has a commitment to valuing diversity, collaboration, constructive dialogue and support between its members and partners. CTPSR strives to respond to the complex challenges facing contemporary societies, with research underpinned by integrity, courage and excellence. Our expert team of researchers create partnerships and opportunities for research that have positive impacts on the groups and institutions they engage with.

Armed Violence and Illicit Activities Research Group

The Research Group on Armed Violence and Illicit Activities (AVIA) operates within the interdisciplinary research Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations (CTPSR). CTPSR combines research expertise in such areas as human security, migration, peace-building, conflict resolution, faith, community cohesion and workplace relations. Each of CTPSR's Research groups has a strong practical focus on embedded research at the local, national and international levels to ensure that we achieve research excellence with impact by developing local solutions which have global impact and resonance.

AVIA's focus on violence and illicitness, brings victims as well as perpetrators, gangs as well as transnational companies, and international policies as well as local violence to our global research agenda.

We consider armed violence and illicit activities to constitute the most serious threat to our human security. Issues such as piracy, arms trade, and peacekeeping; sexual violence and terrorism, gangs and organised crime; as well as illegal mining and trafficking are at the core of our investigations.

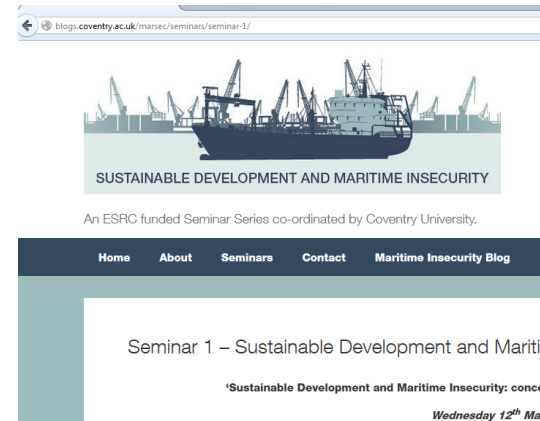
We recognise that armed violence and illicit activities research must involve victims and violent actors, enforcement agencies as well as private security companies and policy-makers, business and civil society, to be solution oriented and impactful. We work with these stakeholders and, „translate“ local findings into actionable global policies.

As researchers we value methodological and theoretical diversity, and the interdisciplinary cooperation between lawyers, political scientists, sociologists and anthropologists, as well as strategic cooperation with non-academic experts.

That diversity is also reflected in our teaching and training activities, our projects and consultancies.

Our Research

Our research funding comes from a wide range of sources, including UK research councils, the European Commission, NATO, the United Nations, national governments, the British Council, and a host of community and special interest organisations and charities based around the world. We also deliver training to practitioners and professionals in the fields of maritime security and peace-building.

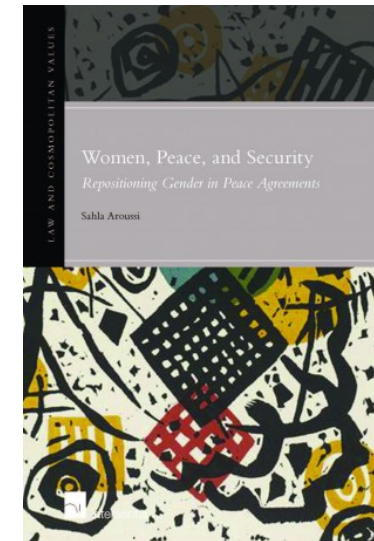


Maritime Security

In the field of maritime security, we have initiated several projects such as the ESRC Funded Seminar Series, the Partnership for Indonesian Maritime Security and the 'Stockpiles at Sea: Floating Armouries in the Indian Ocean'. We cooperate with the IOM, NATO and national governments.

Sexual Violence, Gangs, Terrorism & Organised Crime

We engage violence from various perspectives. We talk to victims as well as perpetrators and involve both in our research. We work with former political violent actors and gang-members, the UNDP, and are funded by the British Academy. *Sahla Aroussi (2015) Women, Peace and Security: Repositioning Gender in Peace Agreements, Antwerp: Intersentia.*



Peacekeeping, arms trade & illicit mining

We assist (inter)national initiatives such as the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and the Small Arms Survey, work on the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty, and participate in the design and implementation of training programs for UN peacekeepers.