



Thomas Fischer

Studies about violence, violence prevention and conflict resolution in Germany



8th German-Brazilian Dialogue on Science, Research and Innovation

Radicalization and Violence:
Perspectives and Prevention Approaches

São Paulo, 31th October 2019

1. Development of Peace and Conflict Studies, moments of innovation of research
2. Topics, approaches, methods, propositions
3. Driving forces: agents, contexts/problems
4. Entanglements and transfers of ideas, transnational research cooperation
5. Institutions
6. German particularity in PCS

Topics: basically interstate wars between „civilized“ nations under consideration (while in political discussion there was also awareness about social conflicts).

Context: rising armed nationalism, armament race, wars. Political concerns about interstate wars, political incentives and transnational ties

Agency: Social movements, organizations, intellectuals, academics concerned about interstate wars and humanity, transnational ties. Not very popular in inter-war period

Propositions: disarmament, arms control, arms embargo, war prevention, deescalation and resolution through negotiation, international arbitration, armistice, peace missions, based on national sovereignty, peace as absence of war, rule of law, peace education. „Idealists“

Institutions: International Relations, International Law.
League of Nations

Journal: Die Friedens-Warte – Journal of International Peace and Organisation, since 1899

Topics: nuclear weapons, race between superpowers, leftist terrorism as violence within the state (RAF) (not much research about right wing radicalization, Junk)

Context: Cold War, menace of nuclear war on German territory, leftist terrorism might do harm to after war German miracle, democracy and middle class development

Agency: peace movements, political parties, Bundespräsident Gustav Heinemann 1969, Wissenschaftsrat, implementation restraints because of political disagreement

Propositions: to ban nuclear weapons and nuclear energy, disarmament, international conventions and agreements



Institutions: old and new universities, also conflict research

German Association für Peace and
Conflict Studies, since 1968

Annual Colloquium

Young career researcher award
“Christiane-Rajewsky”

Zeitschrift für Friedens- und Konfliktforschung, since 2012

Studien der Hessischen
Stiftung Friedens- und
Konfliktforschung



PRIF

Peace Research
Institute Frankfurt



HSFK

Leibniz-Institut
Hessische Stiftung
Friedens- und Konfliktforschung



Institut für Friedensforschung und Sicherheitspolitik (IFSH)

Deutsche Stiftung Friedensforschung

São Paulo, 31th October 2019

Studies

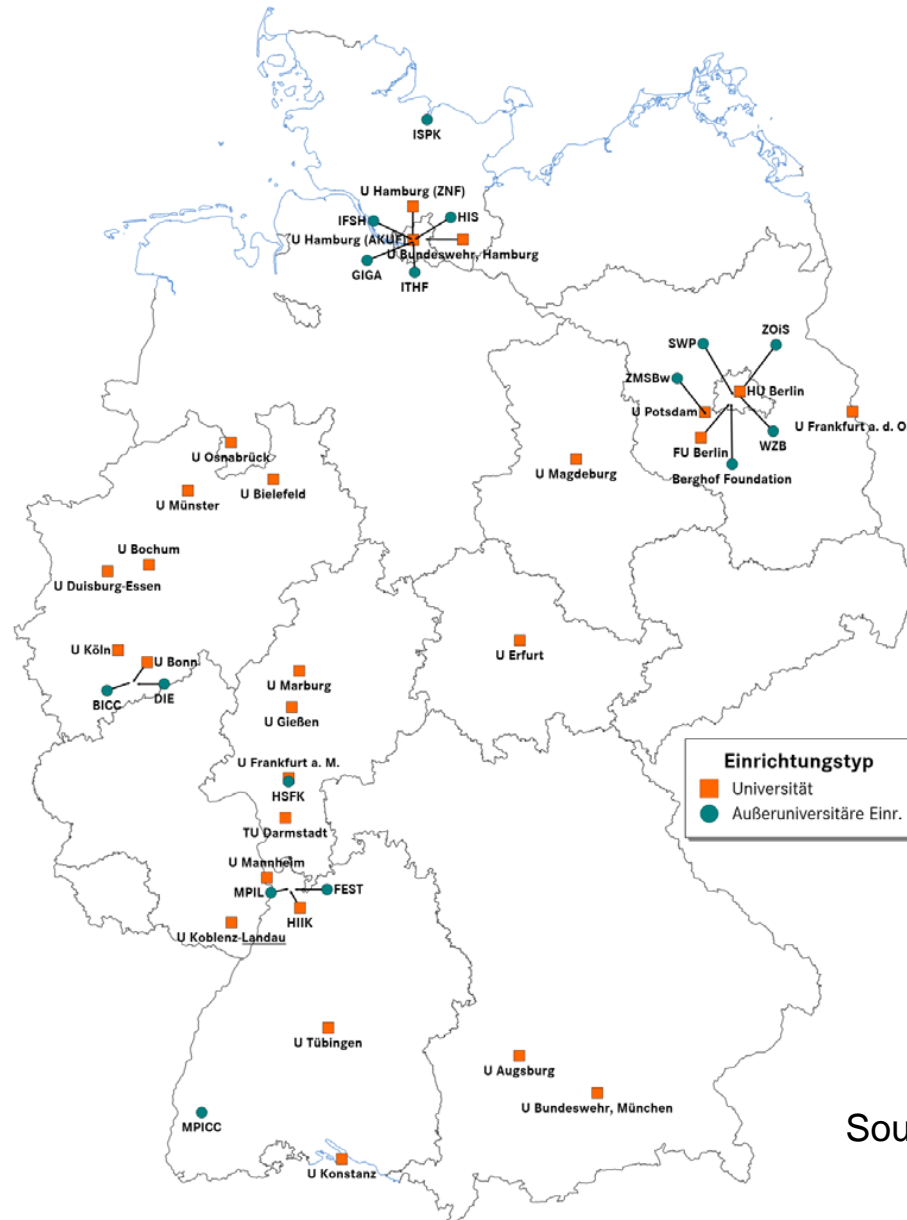
Topics: violent nationalism, separatism, civil wars, building of nation states, north-south conflict

Context: end of the Cold War, radicalization of national/ethnic movements, civil wars, building of national states, drug wars, north-south conflict accentuated. History had not come to its end (Fukuyama).

Agency: established conflict and peace researchers (Peter Waldmann [terrorism], Herfried Münkler [New Wars] or Michael Riekenberg [segments of violence], young career researchers, institutions, German state that needs expertise, transnational bias, NGOs, UN etc. Scientific community, professorships, fellowships, early career researchers, women appear on the scene.

Propositions: to focus more on civil wars and failing states, peaceful transformations (role of democratic transition processes [Welffen], role of Transitional Justice), global perspective including area studies, special attention drawn on conflict prevention, international responsibility, police and security forces as violent and violence causing actors under consideration (Müller), discourses, language, narratives, media and social media strategies, security and violence perception (Junk)

IR and IL lost importance.



Source WR 2019: 27.

Difficult topic, not that much research being done.

Due to NS heritage of feeling guilty in this Germans provided a myriad of research about NS violence and politics of the past. Almost every space of NS past has become a *lieu de mémoire* (Nora), This was to overcome NS past, to change radically interpretation, but also to remember young generations of their legacy.

Although it is eventually questioned that we learn from history, political decision makers are convinced that this might be of special importance for a “never again”. In this in recent times public history has been created as an important pedagogical field. Museology and visual cultures studies are also an important role (see Jasch).



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Sustainable peace, conflict prevention:
the role of experts: MAs in PMC



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São Paulo, 31th October 2019

Studies



Moments of reflection and research innovation: 1970s, 1990s, how to produce de-escalation of extremism, peaceful transformations of conflicts and sustainable peace

Purpose: teaching societies (including nature) how to perceive situations, patterns and structures of violent conflicts in order to interact within violent contexts without using physical violence and so avoiding escalation, help to implement stable peace, create cultures of peace by empowerment of civil society (UNESCO 1999)

Broaden knowledge about conflicts and conflict resolutions in present time and history; broaden knowledge about handling conflicts; broaden competence of teaching in the field of peace and conflicts well of dealing with the past.

Development of Peace and Conflict Studies required.
Deutscher Bundestag resolution, 2016. Wissenschaftsrat on
behalf of BMBF state of the art and recommendations
relating to research, teaching and helping young scientists

Recommendations:

1. Construction of better networks, platform, collaboration, coordination of research topics/fields, young scientists, strengthen institutions
2. Interdisciplinarity as well as plurality of methods
3. Bringing natural and technological sciences back in
4. Further internationalization, cooperation
5. Money

Long way gone, in particular, Germany driven by the past

Public consciousness about necessity of PCS has grown, special attention to German phenomena of violence, but also global awareness (not that much transnational focus)

Weak points:

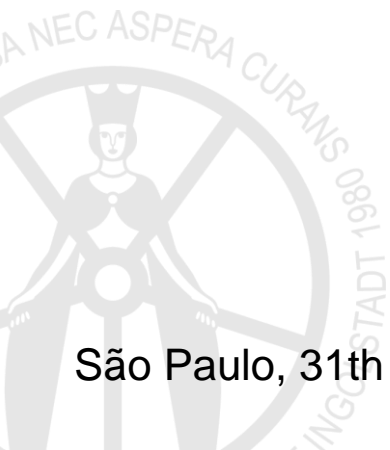
German peace research is still conducted within a disciplinary framework (basically political science, IR. IL and sociology), although there is rising transdisciplinary collaboration within humanities and social sciences.

However, between historical, linguistic, mass media, discourse analysis, visual culture studies and the established PCS collaboration, discussion and controversy is still weak.



While a lot of conflict studies have been provided, there is still a theoretical, conceptual and methodological lack in peace research.

And mismatch between what is recommended and discussed and prevailing local realities (Sieber)



In particular, research is routed in a sense of guiltiness because of two world wars and holocaust being caused (why did it happen, how can it be overcome). There are some well known intellectuals as Dieter Senghaas (IR, zivilisatorisches Hexagon), Peter Waldmann (terrorism), Herfried Münkler (New Wars) or Michael Riekenberg (segments of violence). Not only focused on Germany with a historical perspective, but Germany as part of the world. Close to politics (Guatemalan Truth Commission for instance, Christian Tomuschat, Deutsch-kolumbianisches Friedensinstitut CAPAZ). Third mission/knowledge transfer (mass media and education)