First CPERG International Seminar  
23 – 25 September 2015, University of Cambridge Faculty of Education

This seminar built on the concept of the ‘dream dinner date’. One year ago, graduate students and friends associated with CPERG sat down together with Hilary Cremin to generate a peace education dream dinner date list. This particular dinner date was to be made up of the top international scholars in the field of peace education. Although there were inevitably some who were not able to make it, the resulting invitations generated a truly impressive group of attendees whose presence between 23 and 25 September this year graced and enlightened staff and students at the Faculty of Education.

This seminar was the first of its kind in Cambridge. It gathered 60 peace education scholars in an interdisciplinary, intercultural, intergenerational and transnational encounter. Participants represented all inhabited continents, including those who have come from as near as Cambridge and Bradford, UK, Northern Ireland, Austria and Cyprus to those who have come from as far as Argentina, Burundi, Costa Rica and Australia. There were well-established, leading experts in the field as well as young emerging researchers who tackle the challenging questions of peace education in diverse contexts, including those directly affected...
by war and conflict. The participants discussed citizenship learning and values in peace education; peace, democracy and sustainability in local contexts; peace education in schools and universities; and the role of arts in promoting cultures of peace.

The aim of the week was to inspire global dialogue on the intersections between education, conflict and peace, and to promote international collaboration to inform peace education research, theory and practice forward in the 21st century. The full programme with abstracts and biographies of keynotes and paper presentations are available for download.

The scholars and students did have an actual formal dinner at Queens’ College to complete the ‘dream dinner’ concept. Keynotes and other participants expressed their gratitude for having been a part of this entirely unique encounter in Cambridge, and all are now working on resulting publications emanating from the conference. We are very grateful to Kevin Kester for his work organising the conference. Photographs and quotes from the occasion follow:

"I think this seminar was a great success. Thanks a lot again for inviting so many interesting people to CPERG’s first peace education seminar in Cambridge! I think the idea of having conversation workshops was a brilliant idea. It was especially in these workshops that I experienced profound connection and very fruitful dialogues with fellow researchers and practitioners. Great!"

Vegar Jordanger – Research Fellow, Department of Psychology, Norwegian University of Science and Technology

"I wish to express my deepest gratitude to each of you and all your colleagues in CPERG for the opportunity you granted me to participate in the Peace Education Research Group seminar this past week. I was honoured to be in the company of colleagues from various parts of the world, and to learn from their work and wisdom. The seminar was a great success, and you are each to be commended for making it happen. I trust that this is only the beginning of lasting collaboration, and look forward to staying in touch."

Professor Elavie Elavie Ndura, Presidential Fellow and Professor of Education, Fulbright Senior Specialist for Peace Education & Conflict Prevention and Transformation, George Mason University, USA

Continued…
“Please accept my wholehearted congratulations. I have thoroughly enjoyed attending and presenting at your conference on peace and education – this was a successful conference by all standards! We all look forward to hearing more on the resulting possible publication projects and so to share with our students key research presented and produced at your conference.”

Dr Annamaria Motrescu-Mayes, Clare College, Cambridge

“Thank you for the wonderful intellectual and emotional experiences during the past few days in Cambridge. I am so glad I met you and I hope this is the beginning of further collaboration in the future. I wish you the best this new academic year and let’s be in touch!”

Professor Michalinos Zemblyas, Open University of Cyprus

“Thanks again for all your work in putting the conference together and creating an atmosphere so conducive to thoughtful and critical engagement. I really enjoyed it. We look forward to hearing more about publication plans in due course.”

Dr Ute Kelly – Lecturer, University of Bradford

“Thank you both again for a wonderful event at CPERG!”

Dr Jeannie Lum - Associate Professor, University of Hawai‘i at Manoa, College of Education, Department of Educational Foundations
Editor, Journal of Peace Education

“Thank you very much for this wonderful conference! I am sure that this meeting will have a very important impact at the further development of peace education. This is a wonderful chance for our discipline. We need such fora....”

Professor Werner Wintersteiner, University of Klagenfurt, Austria