



Call for Papers

Academic Workshop on Conducting Fieldwork in (Post-)Conflict and Development Settings May 18 & 19, 2017

The Centre for International Conflict Analysis and Management (CICAM) will host a workshop on 'Conducting Fieldwork in (Post-)Conflict and Development Settings' on May 18th and 19th at Radboud University's Conference Center [Soeterbeeck](#).

The objective of the workshop is to bring together regional scholars conducting research in this field for a lively discussion on research methods and methodology in difficult research contexts. *We welcome scholars from all disciplines and scholars who study all parts of the world.*

The workshop will be organized around several key themes:

- (1) **Defining the field:** In this panel, we will address questions related to the boundaries of the 'field'. For example, how do researchers define and delineate localities for fieldwork in a globalized world? Where does the 'field' start and end, especially in conflict settings where spatial boundaries are often highly contested? What is the legitimacy and relevance of framing research as (post-)conflict?
- (2) **Assessing and communicating risks and benefits to informants:** In this panel, we will address questions related to informed consent. For example, how do you assess the short- and long-term risks and benefits of participation for your informants and how do you communicate these? How do you protect informants also upon completion of the fieldwork?
- (3) **Research and local authorities:** In this panel, we will discuss the challenges of doing fieldwork with local/traditional authorities. The end of conflict often generates new power structures and, in post-conflict settings, there is often fierce competition about who has authority and what rules apply. This presents the researcher with special considerations that warrant further investigation.
- (4) **Power and partiality:** In this panel, we will address questions related to long-held principles about power and impartiality in the field, and question their relevance in today's most violent conflicts. For example, can researchers still pretend and afford to be omnipotent and impartial in 21ST century warzones?
- (5) **Gender and fieldwork:** In this panel, we will address questions related to gender and fieldwork, including, for example, gender and positionality in fieldwork, safety and security while in the field, advising and mentoring of female graduate students, and gender-related biases from both our respondents and ourselves. To what extent should gender be mainstreamed as a key concern for any research in conflict affected settings?



Interested parties are invited to submit an abstract for a short essay on one of these themes (see submission instructions below). The workshop panels will include substantial time for discussion and debate amongst the participants.

About CICAM

The Centre for International Conflict Analysis & Management (CICAM) is an academic research and educational institute based at Radboud University in Nijmegen, the Netherlands. Founded in 1966, CICAM is part of the Department of Political Science in the Faculty of Management. The institute has a cross-disciplinary approach and is home to political scientists, historians, and sociologists.

The main tasks of the centre are performing scientific research and providing education in the fields of peace, conflict, and security studies. In addition, CICAM is engaged in a variety of societal outreach initiatives both in the Netherlands and abroad.

What links our scholars is a deep commitment to fieldwork and ensuring the relevance of our research to the communities that we study. In 2017, our scholars will host a summer school on Conducting Fieldwork in (Post-) Conflict Settings for masters and PhD students. For more information, see:

<http://www.ru.nl/radboudsummerschool/courses/2017/conducting-fieldwork-post-conflict-environments/>

Submission of abstracts and final papers

We will accept paper/essay submissions that fit the workshop theme and the topic of one of the panels outlined above. Paper abstracts should include title, author(s) (including complete contact information) and an abstract of no more than 500 words. Please submit abstracts by email to FieldworkCICAM@fm.ru.nl in PDF or MS Word format.

The deadline for the submission of abstracts is 1 March 2016.

All proposals will be assessed and the lead authors will be notified by 15 March 2017 whether their submissions have been accepted. Upon approval of abstracts, final papers in the range of 5,000–7,000 words need to be submitted by 1 May 2017.

Travel grants

The workshop organizers do not have funding of any kind to cover transportation or lodging for out of town guest. Lodging is, however, available onsite for between 50-70 euros per night.

Questions about the workshop can be addressed to Haley Swedlund (Assistant Professor, CICAM) at h.swedlund@fm.ru.nl.