

Conflict in Cities



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CONFLICT IN CITIES AND THE CONTESTED STATE

Everyday life and the possibilities for transformation in Belfast,
Jerusalem and other divided cities

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

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CONFLICT IN CITIES AND THE CONTESTED STATE

Annual Report May 2008

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Introduction

There is now considerable international attention directed at solving the problems of contested cities, especially focusing on the urban centres drawn into wider state and national conflicts. However, relatively little study has been devoted to everyday life, including not just the points of dissent and fracture but also the means for coping and resilience, and the urban conditions which support positive interaction between populations. Moreover, in researching such problems, it is beneficial to factor in the qualities of cities themselves. We need to understand better why damage to them may resonate adversely far after the signing of a peace agreement, and concurrently, how the inherently robust and rich constitutions of cities may contribute to processes that seek greater harmony, security and justice.

With a Large Grant from the ESRC, Conflict in Cities and the Contested State will be able to carry out this research over the next five years; beginning 1 October 2007, the project focuses on Belfast and Jerusalem. Comparative and contextual work with other contested cities in Europe and the Middle East will centre on a graduate studies programme that is supported by the ESRC, Exeter University, Queen's University Belfast and Clare College, Cambridge.

Conflict in Cities began in Jerusalem with ESRC - New Security Challenges grants in 2003 and 2005, and the present project builds on that work. But more than that, the study of Jerusalem and Belfast is dependent upon substantial years of research resulting at least in part from initial career choices made by the Investigators. To this extent, the research is on an ongoing project. During the course of the present project it is intended that there will be five Advisory Council meetings. We are grateful to the members of this council for joining us in Conflict in Cities and helping us to develop further the concerns of the project. It is with pleasure that I submit the first of the annual reports.

Wendy Pullan
Principal Investigator

'Conflict in Cities and the Contested State' focuses on divided cities as key sites in territorial conflicts over state and national identities, cultures and borders. The research objectives are to analyse how divided cities in Europe and the Middle East have been shaped by ethnic, religious and national conflicts, and conversely, how such cities can absorb, resist and potentially play a role in transforming the territorial conflicts which pervade and surround them. The project seeks to understand divided cities as arenas of intensified ethno-national conflicts, particularly with respect to the role that architecture and the urban fabric play as a setting and background for everyday activities and events. Phenomena related to creating, maintaining, crossing, transcending, and possibly ignoring ethnic and territorial borders, both physical and symbolic, are central to the study. The main research sites are Belfast and Jerusalem, two very distinctive cities - one firmly embedded in the West and one central to the Middle East - and both at different stages of national conflict and peace-building.

A team of researchers from three UK universities, Cambridge, Exeter and Queen's Belfast, are leading the multi-disciplinary initiative that includes: architecture, urban studies, politics, geography and sociology. Teams reflecting the divisions being researched are carrying out work in situ in Belfast and Jerusalem. Seven PhD students will be attached to the programme from September 2008 and, in conjunction with an international network of academics and practitioners attached to the project, will consider other divided cities, such as Nicosia, Mostar, Berlin, Brussels, Beirut and Kirkuk. Within this overall project framework a contextual and comparative approach will be developed to explore wider issues of urban conflict and the possibilities for resolution.

The research on Belfast and Jerusalem is organised in a series of relatively self-contained modules, which allow a degree of flexibility for using different disciplinary approaches and methodologies as appropriate to each city and topic area. The modules share the same objectives and themes, however, and those in one city mostly have closely related counterparts in the other.

Project description



A Belfast 'peace' wall



Palestinians and Israeli soldiers at Damascus Gate, Jerusalem

Belfast research modules

B1. Structural Studies

These studies build on the wealth of existing research on Belfast, including previous work by team members, to produce a new synthesis, updated during the course of the project. Research topics cover:

1. The geopolitical context and categories of city.
2. The changing built environment and socio-economic structures of Belfast.
3. Belfast's political demography: ethno-national populations, segregation and mixing.

B2. Belfast's 'Peacelines'

This module focuses on key spatial separation barriers or zones between the different ethno-national groups. Belfast's 'peacelines', and more generally interface areas without purpose-built barriers, will be examined in terms of border-maintenance and border-crossing practices in everyday life. Key issues include how planners, police, army, paramilitaries and local communities have related to them; and how they evolved and developed during the 'Troubles' - including how and why they recently increased in number and extent despite, or perhaps because of, the cessation of overt military conflict in the mid-1990s, but also attempts to reduce their divisive effects.

B3. The 'Religious' City

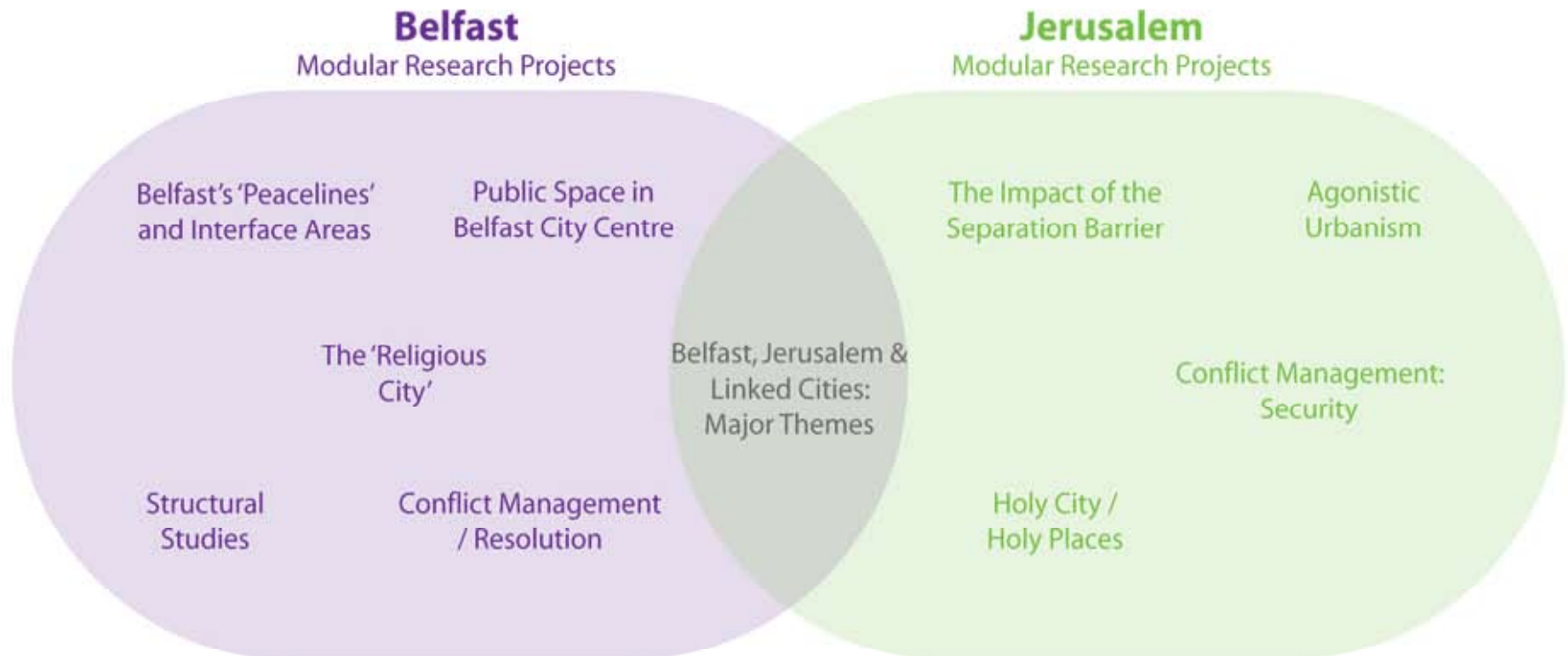
This module focuses on how religion in everyday life serves to claim, demarcate and divide urban space throughout Belfast urban area. It studies the extent to which 'religion' has 'retreated' from the city centre as religious sites are desecrated, abandoned or given over to secular purposes, and it explores the boundaries where the 'neutral' city centre bleeds into religiously-demarcated communal space. The location, development and implications of new 'religious' space will be monitored and evaluated over the five years of the project.

B4. From Conflict Management to Conflict Resolution

This module focuses on a spectrum of different approaches to conflict management/resolution in Belfast. These approaches range from policing strategies, to the agonistic channelling of urban conflicts. There is a particular concentration on instances of joint activities around non-national issues which span the ethnic and territorial divides of the national conflict; and an emphasis on the potential of 'resolution' strategies involving dialogue, mixing and co-operative ventures across ethno-national borders, now that Belfast is in a 'post-ceasefire' stage of conflict and given that the belated implementation of the 1998 Belfast Agreement brings new possibilities (and perhaps new difficulties) in transcending the traditional terms of the conflict.

B5. Public Space in Belfast City Centre

In divided cities, the central areas (however delimited) are widely assumed to constitute 'neutral space' in the everyday life of the city. The module explores this assumption in Belfast's case. In particular it focuses on the uses and recent transformations of public space in the city-centre; and on how it is structured and managed to avoid conflict and to allow for engagement with the 'other side', by various agents including city officials and planners, children and parents, males and females, with particular attention given to the gender and generational dimensions of public space.



Jerusalem research modules

J1. The Impact of the Separation Barrier

This study will investigate the impact of the separation barrier or wall and its related infrastructures of security and control, by returning to the areas researched by 'Conflict in Cities' Projects 1 & 2 (2003-2005) before the wall was built and completed as well as some other sites that reveal the wall's influence on the city. Attention will be directed at the (re)use of land and public space, the significance of mobility or its absence, changes in interactions, clashes and segregation between Israelis and Palestinians, alterations in planning, policy and infrastructure as well as security and policing, and evidence of Palestinian resilience and resistance on a daily basis.

J2. Holy City / Holy Places

This module will consider the uses, control, architecture, symbolic meaning and politicisation of a selection of holy places, and their role in the creation and preservation of the city centre, and their influence in both the state and extra-state organisations. It will also look at the larger religious topography in the wider city, e.g. procession routes, religious quarters and neighbourhoods, religious tourism and its infrastructure, and religious consumerism.

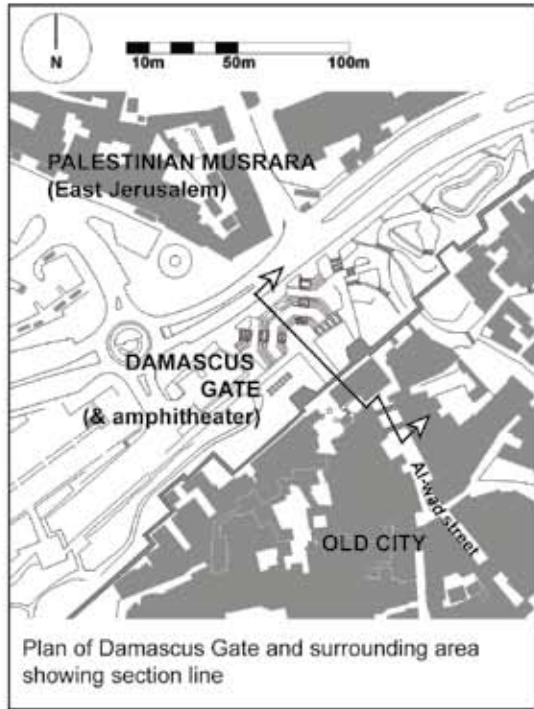
J3. Agonistic Urbanism

This module addresses the question of ongoing and productive conflict. This has implications for any peace process that tends to focus only on a solution or a recognisable end to the conflict. Exploring how certain levels of conflict may be maintained, the research draws on the notion of agon, constructive struggle or conflict, rooted in ancient ideas of urban life and practice. The aim is to investigate how agon can be reincorporated with the city in order to understand whether conflict in modern contested cities can be channelled in a constructive sense. Especially the capacity of the city to reciprocally absorb and structure conflict will be addressed in what may be called agonistic urbanism.

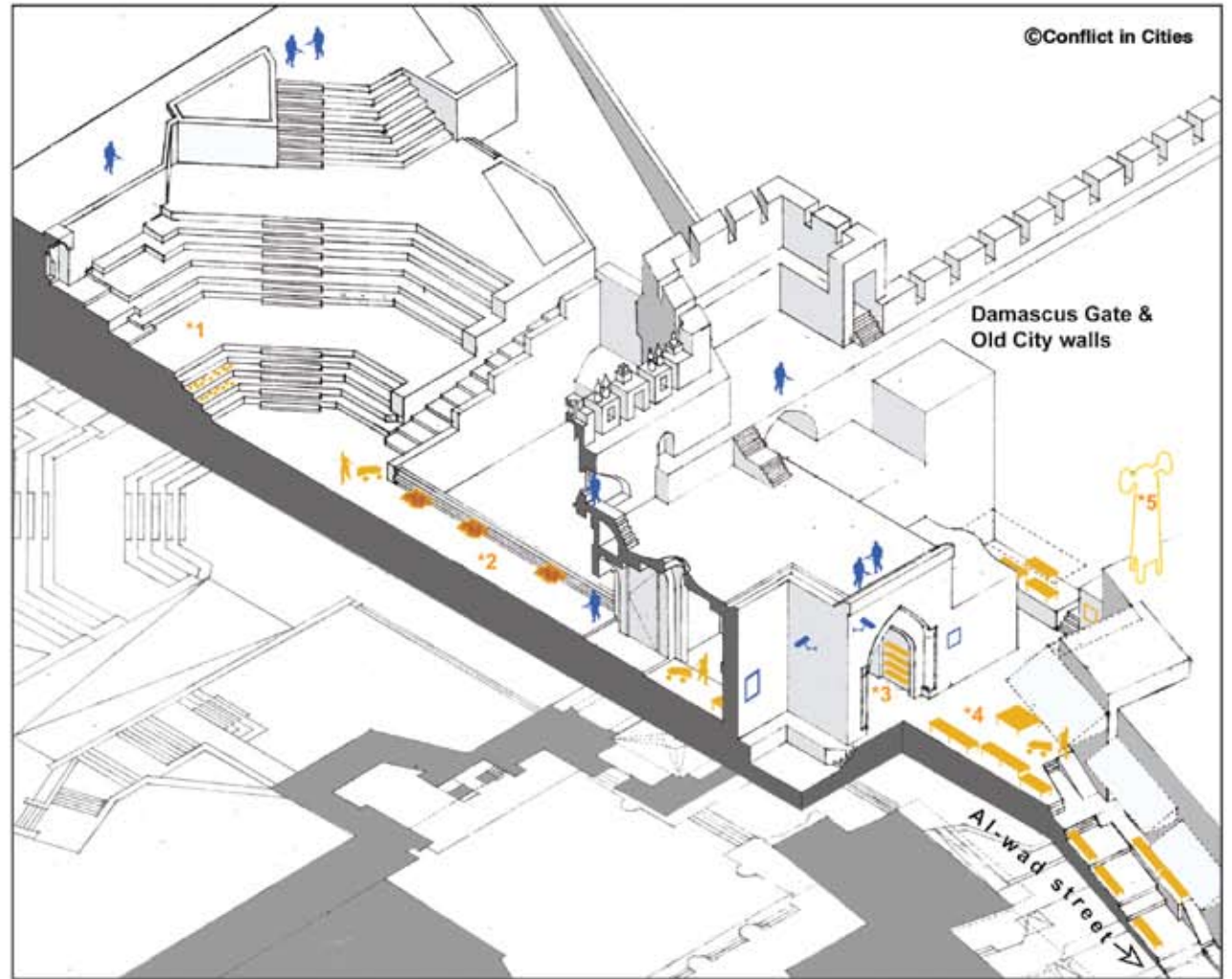
J4. Conflict Management and Security

This module will study the evolution of systems of physical control, surveillance and policing in a city where a large minority does not recognise the legitimacy of the sovereignty or presence of the dominant community. It will include the study of the range of overt and covert control techniques from the control features in planning and zoning, the creation of multiple borders through the differentiated provision of municipal services, social services and policing, the cooptation of neighbourhood elites, through to the introduction of military operations in a low-intensity conflict.

Research Modules



KEY	
Israel:	
Security personnel	
Municipal signage	
CCTV cameras	
Palestine:	
Goods displayed along amphitheater steps (temporary)	
Herb and vegetable sellers on bridge (temporary)	
Stalls within Gate	
Goods displayed on street furniture (temporary)	
Mosque loudspeakers	
Carts for hire, transporting goods	



Principal Investigator:

Dr Wendy Pullan Architecture, University of Cambridge (Jerusalem)

Co-Investigators:

Prof James Anderson Geography, Queen's University Belfast (Belfast)

Prof Mick Dumper Politics, University of Exeter (Jerusalem)

Prof Liam O'Dowd Geography, Queen's University Belfast (Belfast)

Research Associates:

Dr Maximilian Gwiazda Architecture, University of Cambridge (Jerusalem)

Lefkos Kyriacou Architecture, University of Cambridge (Jerusalem)

Craig Larkin Politics, University of Exeter (Jerusalem)

Dr Milena Komarova Sociology, Queens University Belfast (Belfast)

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Prof Allan Cochrane, Chair Urban Studies, Open University

Prof Nabeel Hamdi Housing and Urban Development, Oxford Brookes University

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Dr Duncan Morrow Northern Ireland Community Relations Council, Belfast

Mr Nigel Roberts Principal Adviser and Director Middle East and North Africa Region, World Bank

Prof Kevin Robins Department of Sociology, City University, London

Prof Leslie Sklair Cities Programme, London School of Economics

Prof Stuart Croft International Relations, University of Warwick

Primary Research partners

Belfast:

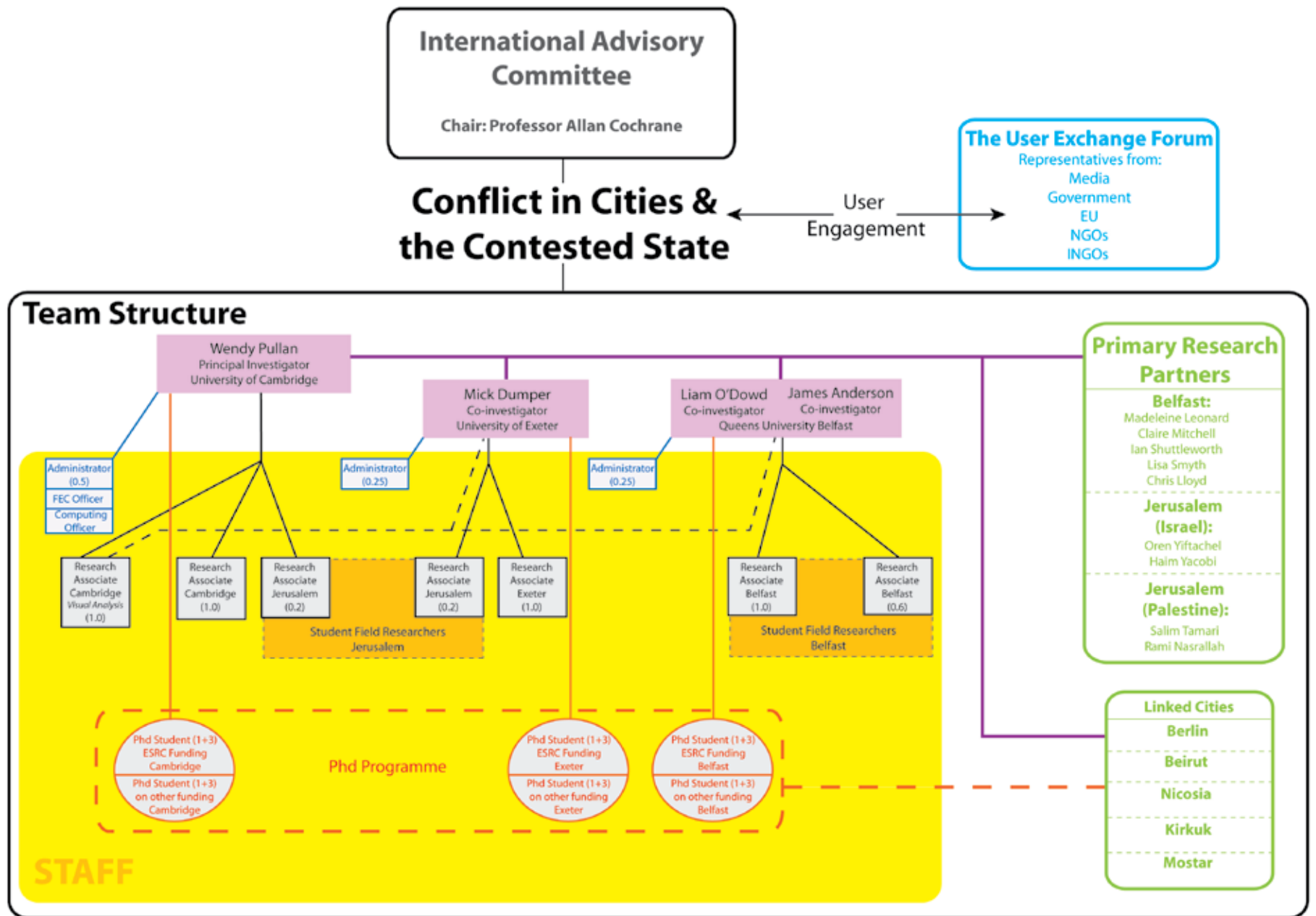
Prof Madeleine Leonard	Sociology, Queens University Belfast
Dr Chris Lloyd	Geography, Queens University Belfast
Dr Claire Mitchell	Sociology, Queens University Belfast
Dr Lisa Smyth	Sociology, Queens University Belfast
Dr Ian Shuttleworth	Human Geography, Queens University Belfast

Jerusalem (Palestine):

Professor Salim Tamari	Sociology, Bir Zeit University, Ramallah; Director, Institute of Jerusalem Studies
Dr Jad Isaac	General Director, The Applied Research Institute of Jerusalem
Dr Nazmi Al-Ju'beh	Director, Riwaq: Centre for Architectural Conservation
Rami Nasrallah	Director General, International Peace and Cooperation Centre in Jerusalem

Jerusalem (Israel):

Dr Haim Yacobi	Politics, Ben Gurion University, Beer Sheva; Director, Bimkom
Professor Oren Yiftachel	Geography, Ben Gurion University, Beer Sheva
Danny Seideman	Human Rights Lawyer, Ir-Amim, Jerusalem
Dr Meir Margalit	Co-ordinator, The Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions



Wendy Pullan

Dr Wendy Pullan is Senior Lecturer in the History and Philosophy of Architecture at the University of Cambridge. She is Principal Investigator for 'Conflict in Cities and the Contested State', and from 2003 to 2007, directed the ESRC funded 'Conflict in Cities: Architecture and Urban Order in Divided Jerusalem', upon which the present project is built. In 2006, Dr Pullan received the Royal Institute of British Architects inaugural President's Award for University Led Research for work on Conflict in Cities. She has received research grants from the British Academy and AHRC.

Dr Pullan's research focuses on meaning and change within urban conditions, both historical and contemporary. Her work is informed by the underlying relationships of urban praxis to planning, policy and theory, and she has studied various multidisciplinary situations that reflect the city. She has published widely on Mediterranean and Middle Eastern architecture and cities, especially Jerusalem, including the recent edited volume Making Architecture (Jerusalem: 2006). With Political Scientist Mick Dumper, she is now completing 'Politics and Urban Order in Divided Jerusalem'.

Dr Pullan holds a BA from the University of Toronto, a BArch from the University of British Columbia and a PhD from Cambridge. She lived in Jerusalem for thirteen years and taught architecture at the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design. Dr Pullan is a Fellow of Clare College, Cambridge.

James Anderson

Professor James Anderson joined the School of Geography, Queen's University Belfast in October 1999. Educated at Magee and Queen's, the University of Alberta and the London School of Economics, he headed the post-graduate Department of Urban and Regional Development Planning at the Architectural Association School in London, and then worked at The Open University where he chaired the Social Science Foundation Course. Appointed to the Chair of International Development in the University of Newcastle upon Tyne Geography Department in 1996, he was Associate Director of the Centre for Transnational Studies, which he set up jointly with the Department of Politics.

Professor Anderson's main research and teaching interests are in geopolitics and political geography: state and local territorialities; nationalism and national conflicts; state borders and cross-border processes, particularly with reference to Ireland and the European Union. His more recent interest in conflict in cities in contested states is a direct extension of these interests.

Mick Dumper

Professor Mick Dumper, formerly Middle East coordinator for Quaker Peace and Service, consultant to the Welfare Association (Geneva), and Senior Researcher with the Institute for Palestine Studies (Washington, DC) is a relative late-comer to academia. Since completing his PhD in 1993, under Nazih Ayubi, Professor Dumper has taught in the Politics Department at Exeter University. As well as his academic research, he has participated in a number of academic and policy study groups involving Palestinian and Israeli academics and officials, ranging in subjects from Permanent Status Issues in the Middle East Peace Process, to planning issues for Jerusalem and to the future of Islamic waqfs in Palestine. These were funded, amongst others, by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (USA), International Development Research Centre (Canada), Olaf Palme International Centre (Sweden) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (UK). He has also conducted

consultancies with the European Commission, International Development and Research Centre (Canada) and the Adam Smith Institute International Division on aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In 2002, Professor Dumper was awarded a British Academy/Leverhulme Trust Senior Research Fellowship to work on issues concerning the future of Palestinian refugees. In 2003 and 2005, he received two awards in conjunction with Wendy Pullan, from the ESRC, to work on 'Conflict in Cities: Architecture and the Urban Order in Divided Jerusalem'. In 2007 he was asked to contribute to a project with the University of Windsor, Ontario, entitled the Jerusalem Old City Initiative.

Liam O'Dowd

Professor Liam O'Dowd's interest in cities, ethno-national conflict and contested states began with his PhD dissertation, entitled, *The Intellectual Image of the City in Irish Social Commentary and Urban Planning*. On moving to Northern Ireland his research began to focus on the contested (British) state in Northern Ireland. His work in the 1980s, involved studying urban politics in Belfast, in particular how housing development, road building and 'enterprise zone' policy intersected with the ethno-national conflict on the ground. His research between 1988-1991, funded by the ESRC, focused on local responses to economic change in two smaller urban centres in Northern Ireland, Newry and Craigavon.

Throughout the 1990s, Professor O'Dowd linked his interest in Northern Ireland to wider issues of colonialism and nationalism (British and Irish). Current research, in collaboration with James Anderson, further develops these interests by re-examining the historical intersection of imperialism, nationalism and ethno-national conflict.

From the early 1990s onwards, Professor O'Dowd's interest in the contested state became more focused on the issue of borders. Between 1991 and 1994, he directed an ESRC funded project entitled *Negotiating the British/Irish Border: Cross-Border Co-operation on the European Periphery*. Since 2000, he has worked closely with James Anderson in the Centre for International Borders Research (CIBR) at Queen's which he directs. Since 2000, Professor O'Dowd has been involved in a series of funded research projects on cross-border co-operation in Ireland and the role of grassroots voluntary and community organisations in the Northern Ireland peace process.

Maximilian Gwiazda

Max Gwiazda completed his PhD in Architecture at Cambridge University in 2007. The dissertation is entitled, *Engaging with the World: Cistercian Reform, Architecture and Medieval Society in the Languedoc*, focusing on the spatial dimensions of everyday practice and interactions within concrete topographies in relation to a web of social and religious tensions, investigating how physical and symbolic boundaries could help to negotiate conflictual identities.

Max is a founding member and former president of 'Architecture Sans Frontières – Cambridge', an international network of academics and practitioners dedicated to the social dimensions of urban development.

Max holds a BA in History from King's College London, and an MPhil in History and Philosophy of Architecture from Cambridge University.

Lefkos Kyriacou

Lefkos Kyriacou qualified as an architect in 2005 and currently lives in London where he works as a project architect at Cottrell + Vermeulen.

Lefkos wrote his Diploma dissertation under the supervision of Wendy Pullan on the topography of contact and conflict in Nicosia. Since 2005, Lefkos has worked as a researcher for Conflict in Cities. His primary responsibility is the research, organisation and production of the visual material for the project - this includes photographs, maps and drawings of the sites of study. Lefkos has taken part in several fieldtrips to Jerusalem, where site studies he has carried out make an important contribution to the visual material he produces.

Lefkos holds an MA and Diploma in Architecture from the University of Cambridge and is registered as an architect with the ARB.

Craig Larkin

Craig Larkin is currently completing a PhD in Middle East Studies at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter. The title of his dissertation is *Conflict and Memory: remembering and forgetting and the past in Lebanon*; focusing on issues of identity, collective memory and conflict resolution models in post war Lebanon. Craig holds an LLB and LLM from Queens University Belfast. He has been involved in research work for the European Commission on monitoring a Peacekeeping force, in South Lebanon (2000) and more recently employed as a research analyst for 'Conflicts Forum' (2005) reviewing Islamist websites and assessing regional trends.

Craig has spent four years in the Middle East (2001-2004) studying Arabic in both Lebanon and Syria (Damascus University), while assisting community development NGO projects in Southern Iraq and Jordan.

Milena Komarova

Milena Komarova was awarded a PhD in Sociology by the School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work, at Queen's University Belfast in 2007. The title of her dissertation, *You Have a Future in this Society! Discourses on peace-building in Northern Ireland*, outlines her current research interests in civil society and ethno-national conflict in Northern Ireland; public sphere and collective identities; and discourse analysis.

After graduating from the University of Sofia (MA in Sociology, 1995), Milena attended the Central European University in Budapest where she obtained a MA in South-East European Studies. This underpinned her research interests in nationalism and ethno-nationalist conflict in the Balkans; a topic she also completed a year of post-graduate research on, as a visiting student at the University of Oxford (1998). Milena then worked as a social researcher for both non-governmental and academic institutions, before starting her PhD research at QUB.

The Graduate Programme is a fundamental part of the project on three accounts: First, through graduate dissertations the project will extend the range of in-depth studies of cities covered thus providing a broader empirical base upon which general patterns can be discerned. Secondly, the interactions and intellectual synergy between the graduate students, the research assistants, project partners and team investigators will contribute towards delineating a methodological framework for the study of conflict in cities that will encompass a range of disciplines. Finally, the involvement of graduates in the project will assist in the establishment of a cohort of researchers trained in an inter-disciplinary environment, which will lay the foundations for future work and dissemination.

In order to achieve these aims the project will provide an 'enhanced' Graduate programme to include annual graduate workshops, attendance at the initial project workshop in September, attendance at the International Conference in Belfast in Year 4 of the project and, funding permitting, an opportunity to attend the annual project workshops. In addition, students will have access to project investigators, their RAs, and be part of the publication plans of the project ranging from submission of Working Papers, workshop papers and the publications of their theses as books.

Recognising these factors the ESRC and the collaborating Universities agreed to fund seven PhD studentships – three by the ESRC (including 1 x 1+3), two by Queen's Belfast, one each by Exeter and Clare College, Cambridge. All the studentships provide fees, maintenance and the cost of participating in Conflict in Cities; the facilities by the Universities provided are comparable.

In November 2007, advertisements were placed in the usual academic websites and disseminated through disciplinary networks. There were sixty-six applications and a shortlist of thirteen drawn up following a video-conference between the project team on 22 January 2008. Interviews were held in Chatham House on 1 February, and all invited applicants attended despite having to pay their own travel expenses.

The team were pleased at the quality of applicants but concerned, justifiably, as it turned out, at the dearth of ESRC-eligible applicants. The main criterion set by the ESRC is that applicants should be at least three years resident in the UK and EU immediately prior to being awarded a studentship. There was not a surplus of UK applicants. An additional complication was that despite this being an ESRC funded project, the ESRC also are strict about participating institutions having ESRC research training recognition before they will support students in that institution. The Department of Architecture at Cambridge has AHRC recognition but naturally, as it is in an Arts faculty, not ESRC recognition. A long period of negotiations ensued in which these contradictions of supporting a multi-disciplinary project by the ESRC were taken to the highest level. This has not been resolved as yet but the ESRC agreed to a formula whereby Exeter would receive two ESRC studentships and then Exeter would fund a student at Cambridge.

Selected candidates

<i>Name</i>	<i>Registered with</i>	<i>Nationality</i>	<i>Topic/City</i>	<i>Degree</i>
Monika Halkort	Belfast (ESRC funded)	EU	Nahr al-Bard refugee camp, Tripoli, Lebanon	PhD
Linda Rootamm	Belfast	EU	Berlin	PhD
Guilia Carabelli	Belfast	EU	Mostar	PhD
Konstantin Katrissianakis	Cambridge	EU	Beirut	PhD
Anita Bakshi	Cambridge	US	Nicosia	PhD
Kelsey Shanks	Exeter (ESRC funded)	UK	Kirkuk	M.Res/PhD
Karl O'Connor	Exeter (ESRC funded)	Eire/UK	Brussels, Nicosia & Beirut	PhD

Belfast Programme

The following is a progress report on the Belfast research programme. Work on two of the modules (B1 and B5) has commenced while the remaining three modules: (B2: Belfast's 'Peacelines'; B3: The 'Religious' City; and B4: From Conflict Management to Conflict Resolution) will be addressed in subsequent years. The first six months of the project has been largely devoted to preparatory work: reviewing research bibliographies and related research projects and developing a serviceable theoretical and historical framework for the subsequent studies of everyday life. Progress has also been made on developing detailed research designs for new empirical research on Belfast. B1 (Structural studies) is divided into three subsections (B1.1 – the Geopolitical Context; B1.2 – The relationship of Belfast's built environment to ethno-national division since the 1960s; and B1.3 - the changing political demography of the city. B5, also addressed below, examines the use of public space in the city centre.

B1.1: The Geopolitical Context and Categories of City

The objective of Module B1.1 is to develop a general, historically-informed geopolitical framework for the whole project, e.g. to situate Belfast, Jerusalem and other divided cities in relation to ethnic, ethno-national and inter-state conflicts, and broad patterns of historical-geographic change, from a world of empires to a world of national states and beyond. James Anderson has prepared a working paper that interrogates the category of 'divided cities' and that looks to establish an empirical and theoretical basis for comparing different cases across different contested states. 'Divided cities' are positioned within an analytical framework that considers the intersection of four types of causal factors: Their location on (1) the peripheries or frontier zones of empires; (2) within different pathways of (or failure of) state formation; (3) in rival processes of nation formation; (4) and along major fissure lines of language, religion and different levels of economic development. James Anderson and Liam O'Dowd are also working on another paper on Empires, national states and cities, which seeks to further elaborate the comparative framework of the project.

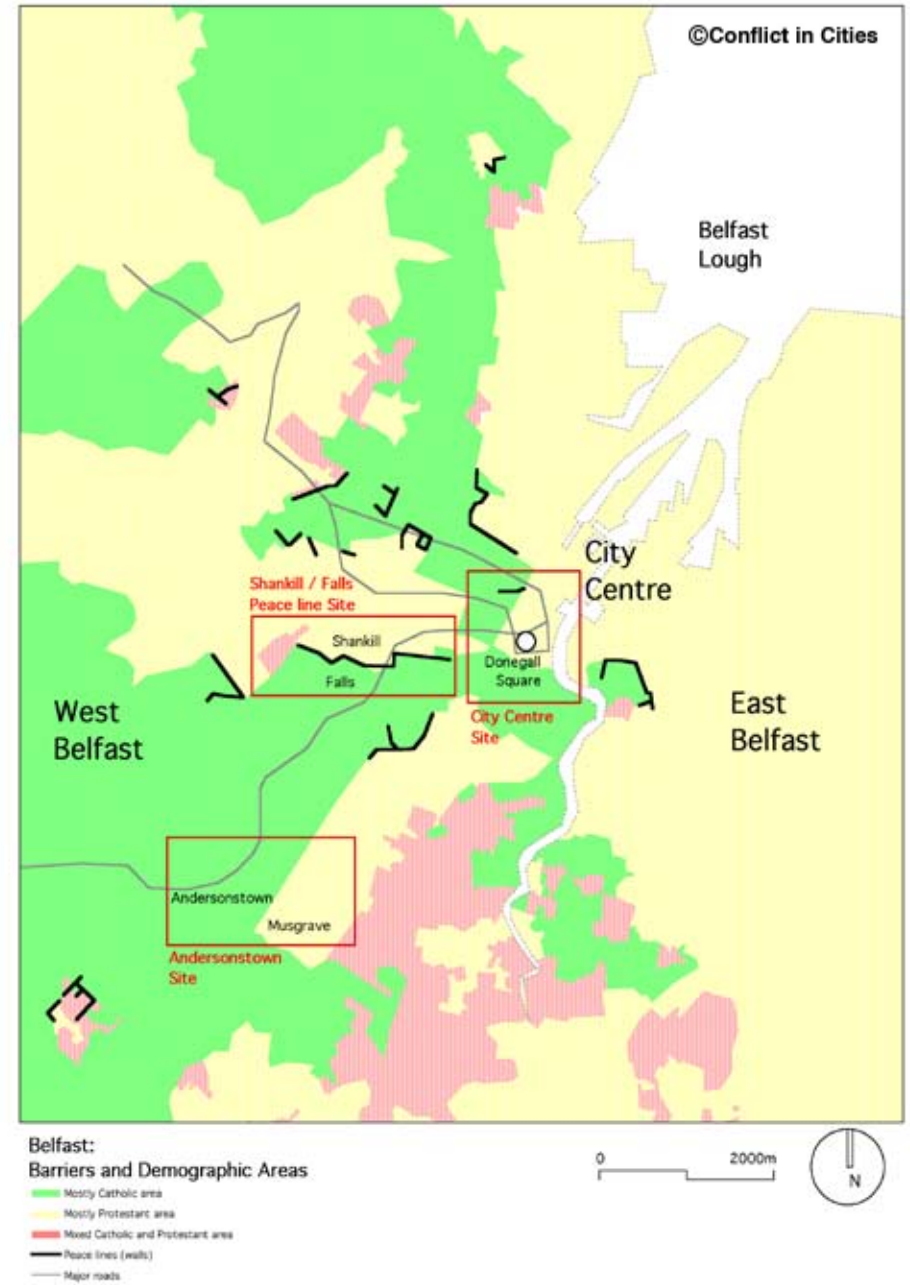
B1.2: The Changing Built Environment and Socio-Economic Structures of Belfast

This Module aims to outline the evolution of the city's built-up area and its main physical, economic and social structures over the last four decades, from before the onset of the recent 'Troubles' in the late 1960s up to the present. It also engages with other ongoing and related research projects on the physical and social transformation of Belfast. In particular, B1.2, focuses on the transitions from 'industrial city' to 'city of troubles' to the presently developing 'consumer city', and on how these transitions have been shaped by the ethno-national conflict and have in turn influenced it. A working paper overview of the restructuring of the city by various combinations of conflict-related and urban development factors since the 1960s is in progress (Liam O'Dowd). Another working paper (Milena Komarova) discusses how different discourses/interpretations of the notion of 'sharedness' in the context of Northern Ireland bear on the definition and realisation of shared space in Belfast. The paper outlines a research framework that focuses on the changing relationship between communal identity and citizenship on the one hand, and place (territory) on the other. Both the above working papers inform an evolving research design aimed at assessing recent developments in the Belfast built environment – most notably attempts to apply an integrated policy approach to creating a 'shared' urban space. The new empirical research will aim to better understand the process of 'co-production' of urban space at both policy level and the level of everyday life. Case

Research Reports



Unionist houses and 'peace' wall, East Belfast



studies (The Titanic Quarter, The Crumlin Road Gaol Development, the Gaeltacht Quarter, and other selected initiatives around the city), will be examined as: the outcomes of specific negotiations/process of governance that reflect different views of what constitutes a 'shared city'. The case studies will also be interrogated in terms of the how they address the relationship between identity and territory and the way that they support, and interact with, the micro-politics of everyday encounters. The analysis of case studies will be contextualised within a broader understanding of: larger scale ethno-nationalist divisions between Belfast DCA and Belfast Metropolitan Area; growth centre planning in the 1960s; population movements induced by 'the troubles'; corporate and state restructuring; and more recent issues of post-conflict urban management. Fieldwork is scheduled to begin at the end of May.

B5: Public Space in Belfast City Centre

Within module B5 Lisa Smyth has developed a preliminary research design on the gender dimension of the uses and recent transformations of public space in the city-centre; and on how it is structured and managed to avoid conflict and to allow for engagement with the 'other side', by various agents (Gender, Everyday Life and the City Centre in Belfast).

The research questions here are particularly concerned with whether and to what extent everyday life in Belfast continues to be perceived, conceived and lived through distinctly gendered patterns of ethno-national mistrust and fear (Massey; Lysaght, Fenster), and whether the city centre offers a space which is free from such patterns. The study will focus on early parenting as an arena where gender operates as a central mechanism for organising and representing the intensely demanding embodied everyday practices involved in caring for and socialising small children. The intersections between gender, class and post-conflict ethno-national tensions will be explored by examining the ways in which early parenting is organised and practiced in urban play, leisure, care and educational spaces on the one hand, and the consumption-oriented city centre spaces on the other.

The study will have two key stages: 'Everyday Use of Public Resources' involving observations and interviews with parents caring for infants and small children in everyday spaces; and 'Everyday Use of City Centre' involving participant observations with parents recruited at stage 1. Stage 1 will begin in autumn'08. Both stages will be completed in the summer of 2009. A working paper – early Parenting and Everyday Urban Life: Dynamics of Gender, Class and Ethnicity – in progress.

Jerusalem Programme

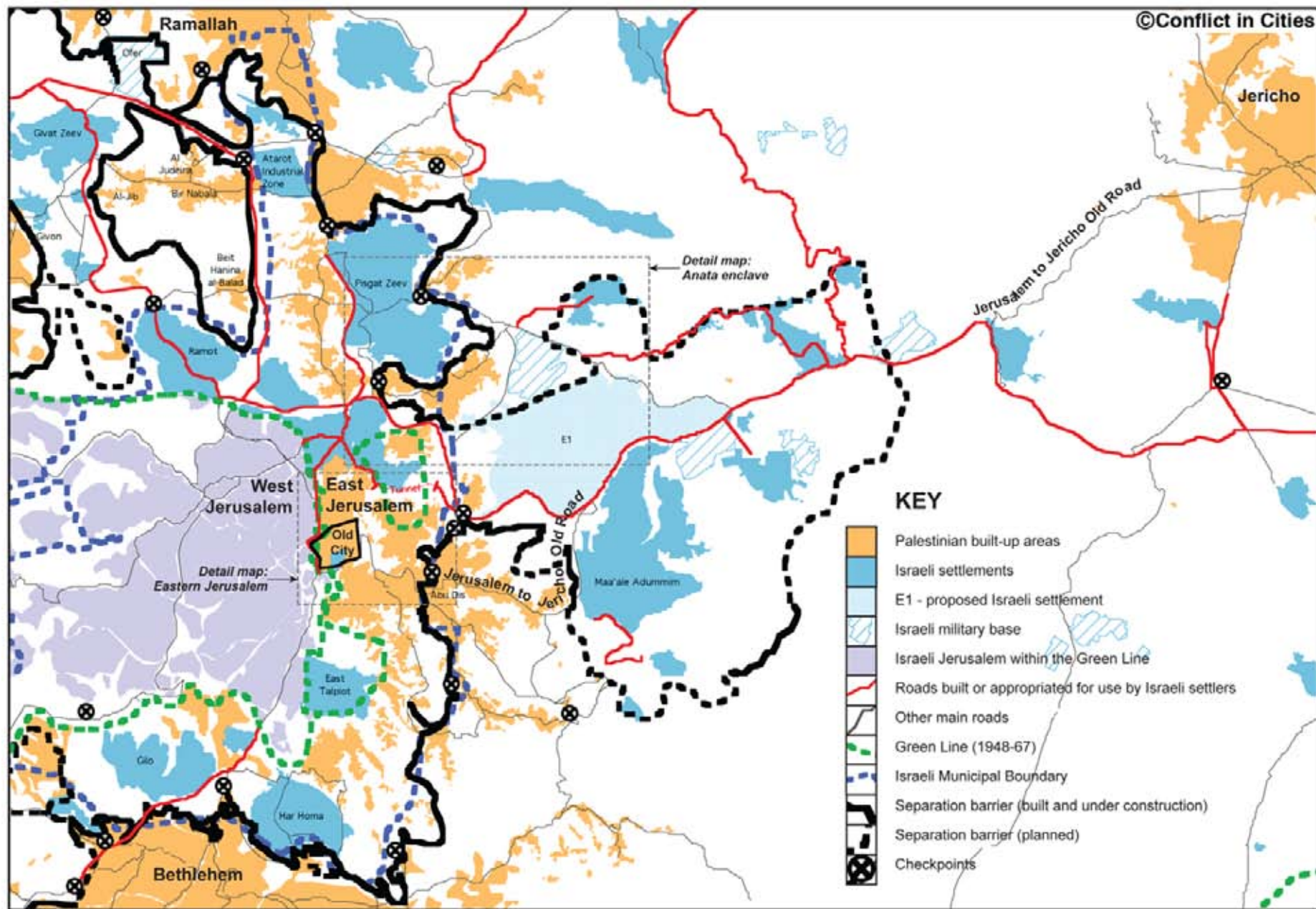
Work on modules J1 and J2 has commenced. Archival work is consolidating a comprehensive Jerusalem database, especially regarding the sharing of material between the Cambridge and Exeter teams. Dumper visited Jerusalem in November 2007 and February 2008 and explored emerging attitudes and perspectives concerning the place of Jerusalem within variations of one and two state 'solutions' as well as the administration and management of the city's religious sites, both currently and under a number of different future scenarios. In late March/early April, the Cambridge and Exeter teams made a joint fieldtrip to Jerusalem. Kyriacou is continuing (from CinC2) research on the series of maps, architectural drawings and other graphic depictions, which illustrates the work.

J1 (Cambridge and Exeter): The Impact of the Separation Barrier

This research continues and extends the study of Jerusalem under the Israeli policy of closure and the construction of the separation barrier (begun in CinC2). Rather than a 'before and after' comparison, the process of closure is a complicated one where official policy is often obscured; the situation requires regular and ongoing monitoring, in situ and by electronic data. The research focuses on three broad areas indicated by the phenomena observed: privatisation and security; mobility and new spatial formations; and institutional support and emerging new structures. Privatisation is in various ways – security, historic sites, tourism, transportation – altering relationships between Palestinians and Israelis. Moreover the barrier has had unexpected ramifications in increasing certain sectors of the Palestinian population and transforming micro-economies. Palestinian Jerusalem is now effectively severed from its West Bank hinterland and much of the city's sphere of political and cultural influence no longer exists; we are investigating resulting shifts in gender balance and, in lieu of any other authority, a new emphasis on religious institutions and familial structures. On the Israeli side, the continued conflict has been at least partly responsible for depletion of the secular population and an upsurge in religious and ultra-national institutions and infrastructure. Our findings indicate that in both Palestinian and Israeli Jerusalem, the struggle for national territory carries a religious face. The barrier and accompanying bypass roads and checkpoints have contributed to divergent urban spatial patterns that appear to promote inequality between Palestinians and Israelis. It is a situation that Pullan has explored in different ways, including the expressions in the visual cultures of the divided city and within the wider context of social and philosophical understandings of space as they have changed from early modernity to the present. She finds that the extreme fragmentation of the city, as a result of a manipulative planning process, is at odds with the present political discourse for a re-divided city.

J2.1 (Exeter): Holy City / Holy Places

Module J.2.1 focuses on the legal administration and the preservation of the Holy sites. A key finding shows that while there was a measure of consensus over the need for an agreed set of arrangements concerning access and maintenance, including the adoption of international norms such as UNESCO conventions, there was much less agreement concerning the most suitable structures to implement these agreed arrangements. The degree to which the religious leadership of the different communities should be responsible for coordination on these issues was contentious and did not fall along secular/religious and Israel/Palestinian lines. The primary determinant was the nature of the security arrangements and overall political agreement for the city. These findings will contribute



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to advisory work being conducted by Dumper for the Jerusalem Old City Initiative (Canadian government funded and based at the University of Windsor, Canada) and the joint paper with Larkin on international norms. Larkin is examining the role of UNESCO in preserving Jerusalem's diverse cultural heritage. His working paper explores UNESCO's troubled historical interventions; its often fragmented and reactionary responses to controversial archeological digs and the difficulties it faces in negotiating Jerusalem's contested political status. Drawing on comparative analysis of regional interventions in the old cities of Aleppo and Fez, and post-conflict projects in Kosovo, Larkin outlines future challenges and possibilities for UNESCO projects in Jerusalem. Recommendations include the need to implement a comprehensive heritage plan; to involve more community participation; address social improvements (housing and sanitation), involve interagency co-operation; and demonstrate greater commitment to reconciliation.

Research Module J2.2 (Cambridge): Holy City / Holy Places

Module J2.2 focuses on the interface of archaeology and urban planning in laying contentious claims over religious sites in Jerusalem's Old City and the adjacent area ('Holy Basin'). Gwiazda is researching ultranationalist settler organisations such as Ateret Cohanim and Elad, and the settler-supported Western Wall Heritage Fund, which have extended their ability to use a wide array of archaeological practices (frequently under the mantle of tourism or conservation) in the ideological and physical construction of existing and new religious sites, extending the infrastructure of expropriation and occupation in East Jerusalem. Pullan has concentrated on settler-dominated sites in the Old City and Silwan/Ir David, finding that through practices of conservation and heritage designation, and the enhancement of tourist areas, secular sites are being appropriated for religious purposes. On a local level, it is important to examine how settlers manage and represent 'uncovered' religious sites in terms of past and contemporary narratives (including their dissemination through pamphlets and websites), liturgy (gender segregation, readings, prayer), as well as architecture (visitor centres, landscaping, and installations). In parallel to these spatial analyses, the project examines how settlers lobby and infiltrate public and government authorities (ranging from the Antiquities Authority, to the Police, Municipal administration and other ministries) in order to gain control over ostensibly disinterested 'scientific' archaeological digs.

Joint research, data and archives – Cambridge, Exeter, Queen's

Komarova has constructed a bibliographical database (in exchange with the project teams in Cambridge and Exeter). A joint data base for contacts, minutes, etc has been established. Gwiazda, Komarova and Larkin will form a panel for The Culture of Reconstruction conference, Cambridge 25-27 June 2007.

Ethics Handbook

A handbook was devised to provide a comprehensive framework for an ethical approach to social science research. It was compiled with reference to other research ethic codes and covers principles as they relate to research procedures, participant involvement and data collection. Particular reference was made to the codes and guidelines of the Economic and Social Research Council; the British Sociological Association; the Political studies Association; the Oral History society and the Association of Research Ethics Committees. The purpose is twofold: to provide a guideline for ethical compliance for all project partners and researchers within the project and a framework for further teaching on ethical issues and principles. The handbook is divided into three distinct sections, dealing with Research Governance, Ethical Principles and Legal Considerations.

- Research governance primarily concerns the development of shared standards and mechanisms that permit the proper management, monitoring and review of research. This includes a program of research training on ethical issues, a detailed process of ethical review and appraisal, and a system for addressing complaints and grievances.
- Ethical principles are guided by the primary concern that data should only be collected while preserving and protecting the dignity, well being and interests of all human research participants. Research therefore must be well designed, impartial and independent to ensure the integrity and quality of the project. The handbook establishes important standards for researchers with regard to transparency, impartiality and risk assessment, and highlights procedural requirements with regards to participants' informed consent, voluntary involvement, personal status, engagement and feedback. It also gives guidance as to how data should be collected and stored, ensuring both the accuracy and integrity of the research and the privacy and anonymity of participants.
- Finally the handbook outlines legal considerations, which affect the use and dissemination of research data specifically with regard to protection (Data Protection Act 1998) and copyright (Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988).

Linked Cities

The divided cities linked to the project will be studied largely by the seven PhD students attached to project. The selected cities span Europe and the Middle East and include Beirut, Kirkuk, Nahr el- Bared/Tripoli, Nicosia, Mostar, Berlin and Brussels. The project has designated advisors in the linked cities who will be available for consultation by the PhD students and by the principal investigators.

Advisors attached to the project include, Beirut: Professor Samir Khalaf (Sociology, American University, Beirut); Berlin: Professor Ulf Mathiesen (Ethnology, Humboldt University, Berlin); Brussels: Dr Guy Baeten (Geography, Lund University); Kirkuk: Professor Gareth Stansfield (Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, Exeter University); Former Yugoslavia: Dr Alex Jefferies (Geography, University of Newcastle); Nicosia: Dr Debbie Lisle (International Relations, Queens University Belfast).

Over the next two years, the four principal investigators plan to visit Beirut, Nicosia, Mostar, Brussels and Berlin to observe relevant urban issues at first hand.



A column of Tanks war memorial, Baabda, Beirut © C.Larkin (Conflict in Cities)



'No man's land', Nicosia circa 2006

Newsletter

It has been agreed that in addition to the 'News and Events' rubric on the Project website a brief email newsletter will be posted twice a year to all project members, advisory committee members, user groups and other interested parties. The newsletter will be a brief update on project news and events in the previous six months and will refer readers to the main project website for further information. The first such email newsletter is due next month.

Plans for Project Workshop (WS08)

The City and the Contested State is the theme for the first in a series of annual international workshops (scheduled for 26-27 September 2008) that will take place at Queens University in Belfast. The workshop is by invitation only and involves input from project members as well as from non-project researchers involved in international research projects, and in urban planning and policy in Belfast. The format of the event will be flexible comprising of working paper presentations by project members (papers will be circulated in advance via the project website) and round table discussions involving all participants. Gareth Stansfield and Illan Pappé will be presenting plenary papers.

Project Investigators' Meetings

There have been two Project Investigators' Meetings since the start of the project. The first was a half day video conference that took place on 25 October 2007. There was a full two-day meeting in Cambridge in December 2007. Topics under discussion included research modules; workshops/conferences; working papers/publications; linked cities; and the graduate programme. Project investigators also used video conference facilities to short-list the PhD applications, and met in London at Chatham House on 1 February 2008 to interview the candidates.

Website

The existing Conflict in Cities website has been enlarged and updated in order to accommodate the new Conflict in Cities and the Contested State. Website designer Andong Lu has continued develop the site.

As well as containing more information about the project research, activities and events, there is a section that forms an electronic journal that solicits and peer reviews working papers from other researchers working in the field. This is intended to be a multi-disciplinary forum for work in progress. The website address is: www.conflictincities.org.

Contract, Budget, Related Issues

The project grant covers the period 1 October 2007 – 30 September 2012. The total indexed award is £3,235,832 and the ESRC will contribute £2,588,666 as their share of the full economic costing framework. Graduate studentships are calculated separately. Collaboration agreements have been negotiated and agreed between the University of Cambridge and each of Exeter University and Queen's University Belfast. The first annual progress report to the ESRC was made for the year ending 31 March 2008.

Investigator's Duties

Venues for Project Workshops, Graduate Workshops, Project Investigators' Meetings (PIMs) and other meetings will be held in the three universities and organised by the respective investigators. In order to manage the project in an efficient way the investigators are each responsible for certain duties, as follows:

Wendy Pullan

- direction and management of project
- oversee budget and coordinate budget with co-investigators
- contacts with the ESRC and related groups
- chair PIMs
- chair AC meetings
- coordinate, edit and produce reports for AC and ESRC
- procure approval from Cambridge Ethics Review Panel
- update and administer website and other electronic sites (eg. Camtools)
- co-edit website Working Papers

Mick Dumper

- direct PhD programme
- prepare ethics handbook; direct ethics training
- co-coordinator of Users Forum
- co-edit website Working Papers

Liam O'Dowd

- edit newsletter
- co-coordinator of Users Forum
- coordinator of Linked City partners
- co-edit website Working Papers

James Anderson

- editor of website Working Papers
- coordinate Belfast content of website

Working Papers

Anderson, J., 'From Empires to Ethno-national Conflicts: Towards a Framework for Studying 'Divided Cities' in Contested States'.

Dumper, M., 'Constructive Ambiguities? Jerusalem, International Law and the Middle East peace process' (in progress).

Dumper, M. & C. Larkin, 'The Politics of Heritage in Old Jerusalem' (in progress)

Komarova, M., 'Shared Space and the Limits of A Shared Future'.

Leonard, M, 'Biased Authenticity in Belfast and Nicosia: The Role of Tourism'.

Pullan, W., 'Spatial Discontinuities in Contested Jerusalem'

Publications

Dumper, M. (2008), 'Gloom over Jerusalem', The Guardian online, 16 February http://commentisfree.guardian.co.uk/mick_dumper/2008/02/gloom_over_jerusalem.html

Dumper, M. (2008), 'The one state is the two-state that works well', The Guardian online, (forthcoming), http://commentisfree.guardian.co.uk/mick_dumper

Invited lectures and conference papers

Anderson, J. & L. O'Dowd (2008), 'Empire, National State and City: Linking Scales, Territorialities and Uneven Development', International Political Geography Colloquium, Reims, 2-4 April.

Komarova, M. (2008), 'Living separately or Living Apart. Shared Space in Belfast and the Limits of A Shared Future'. A paper to be presented at the Sociological Association of Ireland Conference, 9-11 May, in Galway.

Leonard, M. (2008), 'Leonard: A Little Bit of History and a Lot of Opinion: Biased Authenticity in Belfast and Nicosia'. A paper to be presented at the School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work Seminar Series, QUB, February – May, 2008, 16 April.

Leonard, M. (2008), 'A Little Bit of History and a Lot of Opinion: Biased Authenticity in Belfast and Nicosia'. A paper to be presented as plenary session at the Sociological Association of Ireland Conference, 9-11 May, in Galway.

O'Dowd, L. & J. Anderson (2007), 'Divided Cities in Contested States: Belfast in Comparative Perspective', A paper presented at Sharing Belfast: History, Policy, Practice, Seminar Series of the Institute of Irish Studies, QUB, Autumn Semester, 4 December.

O'Dowd L. (2008), 'Belfast Beyond the Troubles: The Future of Ethno-National Division in the Consumerist City'. A paper to be presented at the School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work Seminar Series, February – May, and to the Sociological Association of Ireland Conference, 9-11 May, in Galway.

Pullan, W. (2007), 'The reciprocities of space and security in Jerusalem', Global Security Challenges: When New and Old Issues Intersect, International Studies Association, Montreal, 18-20 October.

Pullan, W. (2007), 'Space and Place in Conflict in Cities', Post-Crisis/Post-Conflict Colloquium, CRASSH, University of Cambridge, 23 October.

Pullan, W. (2007), 'Frontier Urbanism in Contested Jerusalem', Peterhouse College, Cambridge, 1 November.

Pullan, W. (2007), 'Spatial Discontinuities in Contested Jerusalem', keynote lecture, 'Power and Space' conference, University of Cambridge, 6-8 December.

Pullan, W. (2008), 'Security and the role of urban space in contested Jerusalem', Oxford University Strategic Studies Group, 12 February.

Pullan, W. (2008), 'Spatial discontinuities in contested Jerusalem', Architectural Association, London, 18 February.

Pullan, W. (2008), 'Images and artefacts of boundedness and mobility in contested Jerusalem', Art, Visual Culture and the Israeli Occupation Conference, Manchester Metropolitan University, 10 May.

Pullan, W. (2008), 'Urban encounters and their legacy in the development of Jerusalem's New City', Interdisciplinary approaches to Palestine Conference, Center for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, University of Cambridge, 24 May.

User groups and advisory work

Anderson, J. & L. O'Dowd (2008), 'Developing Shared Spaces in Belfast', Seminar sponsored by Belfast City Council and Institute of Irish Studies at Queen's, 29 January.

Anderson and O'Dowd were invited and participated in a seminar involving City Council officials, planners, police, and academics.

Dumper, M. (2008), 'International norms and the preservation of culture and heritage in the Old City of Jerusalem: A study of the role of UNESCO', Jerusalem Old City Initiative (JOCI), University of Windsor, Canada - Briefing Paper, February.

Dumper, M., Briefings for East Jerusalem Consul-General, FCO.

Pullan, W. (2007-9), Member of Advisory Board, 'The urban environment: Mirror and mediator of radicalisation', University of Manchester, supported by the ESRC-New Security Challenges

Other activities

Pullan, W. (2007), Guest speaker on 'So far and yet so near', Radio 209 Cambridge, 106FM, 11 October.

Belfast team (2008), meeting with Oren Yiftachel, who talked about his comparative work on divided cities and project members to talk about their research informally, 18 March.