

2013

Human Security:

Humanitarian Perspectives and Responses

Conference

Bringing together two conference series:

*The International Humanitarian Studies Conference
and the Istanbul Human Security Conference*

Istanbul, 24-27 October 2013



www.humanitarianstudiesconference.org



The Human Security: Humanitarian Perspectives and Responses Conference is a joint initiative between the International Humanitarian Studies Association (IHSA), the Centre for Peace and Reconciliation Studies (CPRS) at Coventry University and Kadir Has University in Istanbul, the host organisation.

It brings together two annual events, the Istanbul Human Security Conference and the World Conference on Humanitarian Studies. We warmly invite proposals for panel sessions that address our four conference themes in innovative and interactive formats to engage both the academic and practitioner communities.

Human security is a people-centred approach to global security which recognises that lasting peace and social justice cannot be achieved unless people are protected from threats to their rights and basic needs. Threats to human security include violence and abuse of human rights, corruption and bad governance, disasters and climate change, and poverty and poor access to basic services.

The aim of Human Security: Humanitarian Perspectives and Responses is to explore recent human security risks, threats and crises that have been affecting different parts of the world and how humanitarian perspectives and approaches developed over the last few decades can be applied to such complex and challenging environments.

What are the emerging trends and difficulties in ensuring human security in such environments? Is the theory and practice of humanitarianism keeping up with the changing contexts of threats and risks? How could the human security debate benefit from humanitarian studies? This collaboration between IHSA and CPRS will provide a forum to explore how the subject of human security could be investigated through a humanitarian lens at the academic, policy and practice levels.

Turkey is now an important peace broker in regional conflicts, a leading country for peacekeeping operations and a generous donor for disaster response around the world, as well as itself being subject to frequent earthquakes and refugee flows. A key objective of this conference is to focus on Turkey's human security and humanitarian challenges both as a context and donor country in comparison to international experiences to create a wide, active and innovative network of individuals and institutions working on these issues in Turkey and abroad. The conference will be organised around four key themes. Participants are encouraged to propose and organise panels and roundtables on one of more of these themes.

To organise a panel, you will need to:

- Submit a 200 word proposal under one of the four themes below
- Solicit contributors and evaluate submissions under your panel once your proposal is approved
- Arrange the panel: find a chair, consider the need for special funding of participants and maintain communication with the conference team.

Panel session will be 90 minutes and group three to five papers together around a common theme, making use of a discussant and allowing ample time for interaction. With more than 5 presentations, multiple sessions can be held. Roundtables could include presentations of agency work, or on-going policy development from agencies or governments. Organisers of roundtables should take responsibility for the programme.

Theme 1. Human Security Debate: Lessons from Humanitarianism

The promotion of human security by UNDP and through the adoption of the Responsibility to Protect principles opens up a broad scope of concerns. It recognises the multiplex character of security as encompassing aspects of food security, livelihoods, environment, politics and more, and raises a number of questions. Who sets the agenda and why? What does human security mean for the responsibility of the government or alternative power holders, including traditional structures, state contestants, rebels and occupying forces? What is the role of the international community in ensuring human security, set against norms of national sovereignty? What does it mean for service providers in fragile and complex settings, including humanitarian agencies?

Theme 2. Politics and Practices of Natural Disasters and Disaster Response

Many humanitarian crises are triggered by natural hazards. Whether these hazards turn into crises depends on the vulnerability of exposed populations on the one hand, and the resilience of their communities and societies on the other. Under this theme, panels will be organized that explore new trends in disaster response and disaster risk reduction. We also seek panels that address the politics of natural disasters: why do they happen, is there human blame, how are risks prioritized and measures defined and who is responsible for the protection of people against these hazards? Panels are also invited that focus on the normative frameworks of disaster response. What, for example, is the possible contribution of the idea of human security? The concept of human security is an integrative concept that combines ideas on human development, human needs and human rights. How appropriate is this for natural disasters?

Theme 3. Socio-economic Realities of Humanitarian Crises

This theme elaborates questions of economics and livelihoods in humanitarian crises, as well as questions about the effects of economic crises on political and humanitarian crises. While many crises today are protracted in nature, it becomes increasingly important to understand and promote the normality of livelihoods and questions of development during crises. This ranges from the emerging insights about the political economy of humanitarian crises to the operational challenges of dealing with the livelihoods of poor and marginalized groups in conflict or dire situations of food insecurity. Under this theme we also welcome panels that address questions of how today's large-scale economic crisis affects the conditions of human security in crisis-affected countries.

Theme 4. New Players in the Humanitarian Arena, with Special Attention to Turkey

There has been a lot of concern about the role of new players in the humanitarian arena, including donors, agencies and political key figures. But what do we actually know about these? Under this theme we seek panels concerning Turkey's human security and humanitarian challenges both as a context and donor country. We also welcome panels that more broadly address new players. This may also include panels on the influence of new media on crises and crisis response. What are the emerging trends in the use of mass media and social media in framing and responding to humanitarian crises?





Conference Logistics

Registration: Register at www.humanitarianstudiesconference.org.

Conference Fees:

Before September 1, 2013 (Early bird registration):

250 Euro for members (including the membership fee for 2013-2015 of 25 Euro)

275 Euro for non-members. To become a member: register at www.ihsa.info

After September 1, 2013:

325 Euro for members (including the membership fee for 2013-2015 of 25 Euro)

350 Euro for non-members. To become a member: register at www.ihsa.info



Venue: The conference will be hosted by Kadir Has University in Istanbul.

Conference Chair:

Alpaslan Özerdem

Organising Committee:

Peter Walker, Thea Hilhorst, Dennis Dijkzeul, Joost Herman, Mitat Çelikpala, Füsün Özerdem, Çağla Diner, Cihan Dizdaroğlu, Özgür Tüfekçi, Laura Payne, Chris Cushing, Kirsten Johnson, Wendy Fenton, Mihir Bhatt, Julia Steets, Kristin Sandvik, Virginia Acosta Garcia and Luis Artur.

Website Hosting: Marloes Viet

Important Dates:

- Panel proposals welcome until April 4, 2013
- Paper proposals until September 1, 2013
- Early bird registration until September 1, 2013

For more information please visit our website:
www.humanitarianstudiesconference.org
or contact us on: info@humanitarianstudiesconference.org

