An Administrative Note on UCDP for 2016
During 2016, Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) could maintain the same staff for most of the year. UCDP also had two interns, Victoria Lecomte and Sebastian Hellberg, during the summer.

The geographical coding (GED) of conflicts was completed and now has a global scope for the period 1989-2015. The data will be updated on an annual basis. The UCDP GED is thus the first human-curated globally disaggregated dataset on conflict and organized violence.

During 2016, the work on a new front-end, a replacement of the current UCDP homepage, was completed. A new, dynamic web-based research front end, using modern technologies such as responsive design, was released to significant public appreciation. This website replaces multiple separate systems for UCDP, and presents our users with a single point of entrance to all our data.

Further, UCDP released the first public version of the public API, allowing researchers and interested parties to directly interface with UCDPs computer systems through a simple yet fully functional machine-to-machine communication method. This currently allows researchers to obtain UCDP GED directly in their scripts and databases without first downloading a copy and will be extended in 2017 to cover all UCDP core datasets.

The UCDP Update Alert was sent out four times during 2016 to more than 700 recipients. UCDP newsletters, publications etc. have also been promoted by the UCDP via social media.

The cooperation with MSB (Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency), with focus on updating texts on their website “sakerhetspolitik.se”, also continued in 2016.

We have engaged in a strong partnership with the European Union ERC Advanced Grant funded Violence Early Warning System (ViEWS) also located at the Department. This will allow for a faster release cycle from UCDP in the future as well as provide data to ViEWS researchers.

We have also engaged with the varieties of Democracy Institute (V-Dem) and the Quality of Government Institute (QoG) for future joint projects and partnerships. As part of this UCDP will take part in the VDEM Annual Conference at the University of Gothenburg in 2017.

Below follows an outline of UCDP’s activities throughout 2016.

Research Funding
Applications submitted
UCDP submitted a project proposal to Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (Infrastructure) “Filling the gap – providing a comprehensive source on conflict actor characteristics.” Principal investigator: Professor Erik Melander.

UCDP submitted a project proposal to Vetenskapsrådet for the project “Tipping the Balance? External Involvement and Civil War Outcomes”. Principal investigator: Dr. Margareta Sollenberg.

UCDP submitted a project proposal to Riksbankens Jubileumsfond for the project “Communicating near real-time data – creating monthly UCDP reports”. Principal investigator: Professor Erik Melander.
Grants received
The infrastructure application “Filling the gap – providing a comprehensive source on conflict actor characteristics.” to Riksbankens Jubileumsfond received funding. The grant amounted to 2 929 000 SEK for the years 2017-2018.

The latter two applications did not receive funding.

Datasets released during 2016

- UCDP/PRIÖ Armed Conflict Dataset v.4-2016, 1946-2015.
- UCDP Actor Dataset v.2.2-2016.
- UCDP Non-State Conflict Dataset v. 2.5-2016, 1989-2015.

Using the new front-end, users can now create subsets of UCDP GED based on their navigation patterns on the fly (dynamically).

Press releases

“Fredsforskning: Ingen ökning av antalet döda men fler väpnade konflikter”, 2016-06-14. The English version: “Upward trend in fatalities in organized violence was broken in 2015”, was released 2016-06-15

Media
Appearances in the media

- Therese Pettersson and Peter Wallensteen were interviewed by Tidningen Arbetaren on trends in war in “2015 – flest konflikter sedan kalla kriget”, 2016-01-09, https://www.arbetaren.se/2016/01/09/2015-flest-konflikter-sedan-kalla-kriget/
- Therese Pettersson was interviewed on the Swedish candidacy to the UN Security Council in ”Varför vill Sverige ha en plats i FN:s säkerhetsråd?”, Dagens etc 2016-04-11, http://www.etc.se/utrikes/varfor-vill-sverige-ha-en-plats-i-fns-sakerhetsrad
- Peter Wallensteen commented in a number of media outlets on the Nobel Peace Prize announcement, 2016-10-07.
- Isak Svensson and Peter Wallensteen wrote a debate article titled “Internationell medling kräver mer resurser” [International Mediation requires more Resources] which was published in Svenska Dagbladet Brännpunkt, 2016-10-20.
- Marie Allansson was interviewed by Uppsala Nya Tidning (UNT) on the situation in Mosul, Iraq, 2016-10-22
- Lotta Themér was interviewed in “forskarpodden”, released 2016-11-02.
- Peter Wallensteen was interviewed by Svenska Dagbladet on Sweden in the Security Council and world conflicts, 2016-12-07.
- UCDP presentation article in Universitetsläraren december 2016, interview with Samuel Taub, Garoun Engström, Stina Högbladh and Mihai Croicu.
Media referring to UCDP (selected)

- “The new basis for war: Jihadism”, Dagens Nyheter, 2016-06-14
- “Dödstalen i krigens sjunker igen”, Dagens Nyheter, 2016-06-14
- “Jihadismen är grunden för vår tids krig”, Dagens Nyheter, 2016-06-14
- ”Hälften av världens krigsoffer dör i krig med jihadistiska kopplingar”, Svenska Dagbladet, 2016-06-14
- ”Färre dör i konflikter”, Uppsala Nya Tidning, 2016-06-14
- ”Färre dör i konflikt”, Västerbottens-Kuriren, 2016-06-14
- “Study: Militant jihadism requires more victims”, SVT, 2016-06-15
- ”Skydd mot torka minskar risken för konflikter i jordbrukssamhällen”, forskning.se (article from Uppsala University), 2016-10-18

Lectures, presentations, visits and teaching

- Garoun Engström presented UCDP to students at Viktor Rydberg Gymnasium in Stockholm on 7 January.
- Peter Wallensteen held a presentation titled ”Fred i terrorns skugga” [Peace in the Shadow of Terror] for the “Veteranerna” [The Veterans Association] in Uppsala on 21 January.
- Erik Melander and Margareta Sollenberg held two presentations of the UCDP at the UNDP/PRIO Expert Meeting on Measuring SDG 16: Targets 16.1 on Peace, 16.3 on Justice, 16.7 on Inclusion and 16.10 on Freedoms, 28-29 January, Oslo, Norway
- Peter Wallensteen held a presentation titled “Sweden and the UN Sustainable Development Goals” at the Stockholm University Graduate School of International Studies on 3 February.
- Peter Wallensteen held a presentation on Power and Leadership at the Stadsteatern [Town Theatre] in Uppsala on 9 February.
- Mihai Croicu presented a paper at the ISA Annual Convention in Atlanta on 16-19 March.
- Samuel Taub, Garoun Engström and Mihai Croicu staffed a booth marketing UCDP at the conference Stockholm Forum, on 5-6 April.
- Peter Wallensteen chaired the International Panel on Social Progress, Chapter 10, workshop, Foundation de Maison de Science de l'Homme in Paris on 22-23 April.
- Peter Wallensteen chaired a session on conflict data collection at the Geneva University, UN Research Uptake in Geneva on 25-26 April.
- Peter Wallensteen moderated a discussion on democracy and conflict during the DPCR Alumni Association’s “Alumni Talks” at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research in Uppsala on 28 April.
- Peter Wallensteen gave a speech on Conceptualizing Peace at St. John’s College in Oxford on 14 May.
- Samuel Taub and Gabrielle Lövquist presented UCDP to students from George Washington University, Elliot Schools Master program on 27 May.
- Mihai Croicu and Gabrielle Lövquist presented UCDP to Master students from Oslo on 31 May.
• Peter Wallensteen gave a speech on Speech on “Tillståndet i världen” [State of the World: Conflicts and Peace] at Rotary Carolina in Uppsala on 2 June.
• Peter Wallensteen gave a lecture for the UNITAR/IPI international fellowship program on preventive diplomacy, Soria Moria in Oslo on 28 June.
• Erik Melander gave a presentation titled “Peace in the World” at A Local Act for Peace, Ekerö, Sweden, 28 August.
• Peter Wallensteen gave a presentation on the PAM and UCDP history, at the Kroc Institute and the Colombia Peace Treaty, University of Notre Dame in USA on 31 August.
• Mihai Croicu gave a lecture on the topic of UCDP and conflict trends to the A-level students at the department in Uppsala on 1 September.
• Lotta Themnér, Stina Högbaldb, Therese Pettersson and Marie Allansson presented UCDP data as well as the new UCDP webpage at a workshop at SIPRI on 13 September.
• Peter Wallensteen gave a lecture on The State of the World and the Role of Rotary at the Rotary Club, Grand Rapids, MI in USA on 15 September.
• Peter Wallensteen gave a lecture on Conflict Patterns, Remedies and Rotary, at the Rotary District Conference, in Rinkeby on 24 September.
• Mihai Croicu gave a lecture on the topic of UCDP and conflict trends to the Master students at the department in Uppsala on 13 October.
• Peter Wallensteen gave a keynote address: Strategic Peacebuilding: Toward Quality Peace, Conference The European Union and Peacebuilding, College of Europe, Bruges, Belgium on 17 October. He also gave a dinner talk on Rotary, Peace and Rotary Peace Centers, the same day.
• Peter Wallensteen held a book release for “Fredens diplomater (Diplomats of Peace, done with Isak Svensson) on Nordic Mediation experiences” in cooperation with Uppsala Forum on Democracy, Human Rights and Peace, in Uppsala on 20 October.
• Peter Wallensteen had a meeting with officials of US State Department, Kroc Institute, on UCDP and on the conflict over Cyprus, in Notre Dame, USA on 17 November.
• Peter Wallensteen was the key-note speaker at the UNESCO conference on Sustainable Peace, topic: Quality Peace: A Challenges to the UN System, in New York on 2 December.
• Samuel Taub presented UCDP at Viktor Rydberg Gymnasium in Stockholm on 13 December.
• Peter Wallensteen held a book release for “Fredens diplomater (Diplomats of Peace, done with Isak Svensson) on Nordic Mediation experiences” in Studentbokhandeln [Student Bookshop] in Uppsala on 14 December.

Awards
Peter Wallensteen, 16 March, ISA Annual Convention, Atlanta, Ga. Honored, Distinguished Scientist Award, Peace Studies Section, ISA, Special session and reception

Participation in conferences, seminars and workshops
• Erik Melander and Margareta Sollenberg participated and held two presentations of the UCDP at the UNDP/PRIO Expert Meeting on Measuring SDG 16: Targets 16.1 on Peace, 16.3 on Justice, 16.7 on Inclusion and 16.10 on Freedoms, 28-29 January 2016, Oslo, Norway.
• Mihai Croicu, Samuel Taub, Stina Högbaldb and Therese Pettersson were present at the International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention in Atlanta on 16-19 March. UCDP had a booth in the Exhibition Center of the convention, which garnered significant interest.
• Stina Högbladh: Peace Agreements and Governance Outcomes: Measuring Attempts 5-6 December 2016
• Stina Högbladh: Peace Agreements Databases Workshop 7-8 December 2016
• On September 28, UCDP Director Erik Melander and ViEWS Director Håvard Hegre visited the V-Dem Institute in Gothenburg, and on October 20 the Director of the VDEM Institute visited UCDP.
• A series of brown-bag lunch seminars jointly initiated by the Department together UCDP. Two such seminars on actor behavior have been concluded successfully in 2016.

International cooperation
UCDP is a core partner in the European Network for Conflict Research (ENCoRe), funded by the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) [European Union]. The Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO), ETH Zurich and University of Konstanz are examples of institutes that the UCDP has increased cooperation with within the ENCoRe network. ENCoRe was finalized in March 2016, and a future application is planned for a new and related network where the UCDP will also be a partner.

2016 employees
Marie Allansson
Simon Pierre Boulanger Martel
Mihai Croicu
Garoun Engström
Helena Grusell
Stina Högbladh
Gabrielle Lövquist
Erik Melander
Henrik Persson
Therese Pettersson
Margareta Sollenberg
Samuel Taub
Lotta Themnér
Peter Wallensteen
Per Åsberg

Publications (by members of UCDP)

Book

Book chapters

Journal Articles
• Croicu, Mihai, Joakim Kreutz, ‘Communication Technology and Reports on Political Violence – Cross National Evidence Using African Events Data’. Political Research Quarterly, Published Ahead of Print, 2016-09-29
• Von Uexkull, Nina, Mihai Croicu, Hanne Fjelde, Halvard Buhaug (2016), Civil conflict sensitivity to growing-season drought’, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, 113(44) pp. 12391-12396

Conference Papers

Publications, using UCDP data (selected)

Reports