An Administrative Note on UCDP for 2017

During 2017, Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) could maintain the same staff for most of the year, and also hire an additional three research assistants. During the spring semester, UCDP had five part-time interns; Hanna Hell, Jenniina Kotajoki, Marcus Anderbrant, William Underwood, and Zoë Meijer. During the summer UCDP had two full time interns; Aaron Woonik and Remco Jansen. UCDP also had two part time interns in December, Ognjen Gogic and Rickard Söder.

In July 2017, Kristine Eck became the UCDP Director, taking over the position from Erik Melander. On 17 November 2017, the UCDP Constitution was adopted by the DPCR board. The document specifies the UCDP mission and organization, as well as stipulates the rules for appointing positions such as the UCDP Director.

In November 2017, the UCDP Advisory Board was created. Current members of the board are Anita Gohdes (University of Zurich), Nils Metternich (University College London), and Yuri Zhukov (University of Michigan). The main task of the Advisory Board is to provide non-binding guidance to the UCDP Director.

During 2017, the Department’s website, which includes some of UCDP’s webpages, was migrated to Uppsala University’s new platform. During this process, the website content was updated and re-organized.

The UCDP Update Alert was sent out two times during 2017 to more than 700 recipients. UCDP newsletters, publications etc. have also been promoted by the UCDP via social media.

In October 2017, UCDP, as one of the core members of the ‘International Research Infrastructure for Governance, Conflict and Democracy’, participated in a pre-application to the Swedish Research Council in anticipation of a call in 2019 on major long-term funding for national infrastructures.

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 Programme (VDEM) project for future joint projects and partnerships. As part of this UCDP participated in the VDEM Annual Conference at the University of Gothenburg in 2017.

Below follows an outline of UCDP’s activities throughout 2017.

Research Funding

Applications submitted
UCDP submitted a project proposal to Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (Infrastructure) “Mapping violence in Syria – filling the gap in the UCDP-GED”. Principal Investigator: Margareta Sollenberg.

In October 2017, UCDP, as one of the core members of the ‘International Research Infrastructure for Governance, Conflict and Democracy’, participated in a pre-application to the Swedish Research Council in anticipation of a call in 2019 on major long-term funding for national infrastructures.

Grants received
The infrastructure application “Mapping violence in Syria – filling the gap in the UCDP-GED” to Riksbankens Jubileumsfond received funding. The grant amounted to 2 499 000 SEK for the years 2018-2019.

Datasets released during 2017

- UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset v.17.1, 1946-2016.
- UCDP Dyadic Dataset v.17.1, 1946 - 2016.

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

Press releases

“Arvet efter Obama – USA fortfarande inblandat i de dödligaste konflikterna”, 2017-01-02

“Färre dödade – men ökad stormaktsinblandning i konflikter”/” Decrease in the number of fatalities, but great power involvement worries researchers”, 2017-05-10

Media

Appearances in the media

Erik Melander commented on US involvement in conflict in Sveriges Radio 2017-01-02

Stina Högbладh was interviewed on DRC in Sydsvenskan 2017-03-26 “FN avgör framtiden för största fredsinsatsen” (https://www.sydsvenskan.se/2017-03-26/fn-avgor-framtiden-for-storsta-fredsinsatsen)

Peter Wallensteen commented on UN and nuclear weapons in Svenska Dagbladet 2017-03-27 “FN trotssar stormakternas om kärnvapen” (https://www.svd.se/fn-inleder-samtal-om-karnvapenforbud)


Lotta Themnér was interviewed on Mali by Aftonbladet in ”10 krig – samtidigt: Sverige mitt i FN:s dödligaste insats ” 2017-06-01 (https://www.aftonbladet.se/nyheter/a/XXVog/10-krig--samtidigt-sverige-mitt-i-fns-dodligaste-insats/promo)

Erik Melander and Samuel Taub participated in a stand-up show on conflict, Oslipat, 2017-08-24

Peter Wallensteen commented on the transportation of IS warriors from Lebanon, in Sydsvenskan 2017-08-31 “IS-bussar ändrade kurs efter bombning” (https://www.sydsvenskan.se/2017-08-31/is-bussar-andrade-kurs-efter-bombning)
Peter Wallensteen was interviewed by Sveriges Radio 2017-09-03, on North Korea (http://sverigesradio.se/sida/artikel.aspx?programid=160&artikel=6769201)

Peter Wallensteen commented in a number of media outlets on the Nobel Peace Prize announcement, 2017-10-07.


Media referring to UCDP (selected)

”How to Better Understand Violence in Southeast Asia. A new approach to tracking violence reveals just how widespread violent incidents are in Southeast Asia.”, The Diplomat 1 February 2017 (https://thediplomat.com/2017/02/how-to-better-understand-violence-in-southeast-asia/)

”Islamister i mittfåran behövs för demokrati” Expressen 2017-02-05 (https://www.expressen.se/kultur/toppnyheter/-islamister-i-mittfaran-behovs-for-demokrati/)


“Less armed conflict but more political violence in Africa
Conflict data sources show fewer armed conflicts, but are we getting the full picture?”, Institute for Security Studies. 2017-04-12 (https://issafrica.org/iss-today/less-armed-conflict-but-more-political-violence-in-africa)


“What drives Africa’s instability, what can be done about it”, The Herald 2017-12-07. (https://www.herald.co.zw/what-drives-africas-instability-what-can-be-done-about-it/)
“La chute du pétrole pèse sur les dépenses militaires en Afrique”, Deutsche Welle 2017-12-11 (http://www.dw.com/fr/la-chute-du-p%C3%A9trole-p%C3%A8se-sur-les-d%C3%A9penses-militaires-en-afrique/a-41746731)

“Terrorism before and during the war on terror: a look at the numbers”, War on the Rocks 2017-12-12 (https://warontherocks.com/2017/12/terrorism-war-terror-look-numbers/)


Lectures, presentations, visits and teaching

- Peter Wallensteen participated in panel discussions at High-Level Dialogue on Sustaining Peace, in New York 24-25 January 2017.
- Marie Allansson held a presentation on “Patterns of organized violence in Africa” at the Nordic Africa Institute on 30 January. The presentation was part of the seminar “Northern Africa and the Sub-Saharan – Parallel worlds and Pan-African sisters”.
- Marie Allansson and Gabrielle Lövquist held a presentation about UCDP at the V-Dem Annual Conference in Gothenburg 8 May 2017.
- Peter Wallensteen held a presentation on the panel “Monitoring and Anticipating Conflicts” at Policy Dialogue Day 10 May 2017. He also moderated the UCDP section of the Policy Day.
- Peter Wallensteen held a lecture at Fondation de la Maison de l’Homme in Paris, June 2017.
- Peter Wallensteen presented at UNITAR, Oslo, June 2017.
- Stina Högbладh presented UCDP, with focus on DR Congo and CAR, at NAI 31 August 2017. The Finnish ambassador to Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, and DR Congo participated.
- Kristine Eck presented at UNDP/University of Pittsburgh workshop on Gender Equality in Public Institutions (via videolink), 10 November 2017.
- Marie Allansson held a lecture on Small Arms and Light Weapons in Iraq, which included UCDP data and a presentation of the UCDP Conflict Encyclopedia, for Development Studies A (Uppsala University) in mid-May and on 12 December 2017.
- Marcellina Priadi and Emil Petersson held presentations on the "Uppsala Conflict Data Program" for the Master and Bachelor program in Peace and Conflict Studies at Uppasa University on 30 August and 29 September 2017 respectively. They also recorded their presentation for the online freestanding "Peace and Conflict Studies A1" course on 25 October 2017.

Participation in conferences, seminars and workshops

- Lotta Themnér, Stina Högbładh, Marie Allansson and Samuel Taub were present at International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention in Baltimore on 22-25 February. UCDP had a booth in the Exhibition Center of the convention, which garnered significant interest.
- Gabrielle Lövquist, Peter Wallensteen, and Marie Allansson were present at Policy Dialogue Day in Gothenburg 10 May 2017.
- Peter Wallensteen participated in a seminar at Föreningen för utvecklingsfrågor, on ”Konfliktlösning på fredlig väg”, 19 September 2017.
2017 employees
Marie Allansson
Mihai Croicu
Paulina Cruz Velásquez
Kristine Eck
Garoun Engström
Daniel Finnbogasson
Helena Grusell
Stina Högbladh
Gabrielle Lövquist
Erik Melander
Emil Petersson
Therese Pettersson
Marcellina Priadi
Margareta Sollenberg
Samuel Taub
Lotta Themnér
Kajsa Tidblad-Lundholm
Peter Wallensteen
Per Åsberg

Publications (by members of UCDP)

Book chapters


Policy Reports

Journal Articles

Conference Papers

Publications, using UCDP data (selected)
Journal Articles