



## **The First International Conference of the Desmond Tutu Centre for War and Peace: June 17-20, 2009, Liverpool Hope University Campus.**

A major priority in war and peace studies is to document the harmful costs of wars, particularly current ones. While many assessments have been conducted, this conference will be unique in its comprehensive interdisciplinary account, particularly for the war in Iraq. It is also distinctive in featuring an interwoven strand on Arts of War, where current musical, artistic, and literary creations will be performed and exhibited.

From the full range of the conference presentations, researchers and practitioners in their separate disciplines, and citizens in the public arena, will be able to appreciate, as seldom heretofore possible, the full breadth and scope of the harms.

It is also clear that the full extent of these costs will escape the attention of the international community, and will fail to influence policy, unless they are comprehensively documented, rigorously peer-reviewed, and concisely presented. The Centre will devote significant resources toward communicating the conference findings to the international community through news media, publications, and exhibitions.

### **SPEAKERS:**

**Keynote for the conference – Juan Cole, PhD, University of Michigan, USA.**

On the long lasting damage to world peace from the harms of the Iraq war. Fluent in Arabic and Farsi, with long experience in the Middle East, Professor Cole is widely appreciated as a distinguished scholar and interpreter of Middle East history, religion, and politics.

His blog *Informed Comment* at [www.juancole.com](http://www.juancole.com) is appreciated as one of the major influences in changing American public opinion about the war in Iraq. His recent scholarly book *Napoleon's Egypt: Invading the Middle East* depicts that first of many unsuccessful Western military invasions of the Arab world in, drawing striking parallels with the US/UK invasion of Iraq. His forthcoming book, *Engaging Muslims*, is expected in April of 2009.

**Stuart Gordon, PhD, The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.**

On the distinct responsibilities of military occupation forces for establishing and maintaining peace in the territories they occupy. Dr. Gordon was a British army officer in Iraq and leader of the Coalition effort in reconstruction. His publications on peacemaking and human rights in war zones extend across three continents. He will be joined in a panel on the Threat to International Law, by **Jim Whitman, PhD**, from the Department of Peace Studies of the University of Bradford and **Bjorn Muller-Wille, PhD**, also from Sandhurst.

**Olusegun Ilesanmi, PhD, JD, Wake Forest University, USA**

On war, religion, and human rights. A native of Nigeria, he holds degrees in religious ethics and in law, and has distinguished record of publications in international law, war crimes, human rights, and the inter-relation of religion and politics in Africa. He is a fellow of the Yale University/Pew Project on Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa.

**Keynote for the Human Costs Theme – Naeema Al-Gasseer, PhD, World Health Organization Representative for Iraq.**

On health consequences of the war in Iraq. A native of Bahrain, Dr. Al-Gasseer has broad experience in field work and scholarly documentation of public health impacts in war zones. In her current assignment, she directs a staff of over 100 persons, addressing both the physical and mental health catastrophe that has befallen Iraq.

In addition to her scholarly reputation for publications on public health realities in Iraq, she has gained wide respect for her unflinching devotion to empirical facts and her astonishing courage in the field, visiting needy persons and communities all over Iraq, despite severe dangers and threats.

**George Gericke, MD, Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa.**

On wartime damage to the human genome in soldiers and civilians on both sides of current conflicts, and on the potential for passing that damage to their descendents. Professor Gericke is a pediatrician and geneticist with strong clinical and research experience in populations suffering diverse stresses.

**Basil Pillay, PhD, The Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine in South Africa.**

On the long lasting costs in mental health and social stability that are caused by inter-group violence. He served as a consultant to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings, and he heads one the largest clinical psychology service delivery programs in the world. His experience, publications, and lectures have gained worldwide acclaim.

**Marcel Kinsbourne, DM *Oxon*, New School University, USA**

On neurotoxic injuries in war zones. He is a pediatric and behavioural neurologist and professor in graduate studies in psychology at The New School, in New York. A native of Austria, he and his family fled to the UK in a narrow escape from the Holocaust. Author of over 400 scholarly publications on topics ranging from neurological diseases and developmental disorders to consciousness and the philosophy of science, he is also a widely consulted expert in litigation on neuro-toxic injuries.

**Keynote for the Arts Strand – Jean Said Makdisi, Lebanese Republic.**

How the full costs of war are experienced in art and literature, not simply in epidemiology or economics. Born in Jerusalem of Christian heritage, sister of the late Edward Said, and long time resident and university teacher in Beirut, she is acclaimed worldwide for her intense literary contributions.

Her *Beirut Fragments: A War Memoir* has been widely praised as a timeless portrayal of the impact on civilians in war zones, and her *Teta, Mother, and Me: Three Generations of Arab Women* has been equally widely appreciated as an extraordinarily beautiful family portrait of life and war in the Middle East.

**Micheal O'Siadhail, Dublin**

One of Ireland's leading poets, he will deliver an extended reading from his famous *The Gossamer Wall: Poems in Witness to the Holocaust*. As Patsy McGarry of The Irish Times put it: "The book is an exceptional achievement, evidence of the poet's wounded fascination before such human evil and testifying to a painstaking labour of something akin to outraged love for all those who suffered."

**Thomas Hall's *The Song of the Wall* directed by Dr. Victor Merriman.**

Thomas Hall's new drama *The Song of the Wall* will have its world premiere performance during the conference. The performance will be directed by Victor Merriman, Head of Drama and Theatre Studies at Liverpool Hope University. The drama enacts the unexpected messages and music that might be heard from the wall dividing Israel from territories in the Palestinian Authority.

**For Further information  
see our web-site:**

[www.hope.ac.uk/costofwar](http://www.hope.ac.uk/costofwar)

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