SPAIS School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies

Human Security Research: Progress, Limitations and New Directions

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Amitav Acharya is Professor of Global Governance in the Department of Politics at the University of Bristol and Director of its Centre for Governance and International Affairs. He previously taught at Nanyang Technological University, York University, Toronto, and Harvard University. His books include *Constructing a Security Community in Southeast Asia* (Routledge 2001); *Crafting Cooperation: Regional International Institutions in Comparative Perspective* (co-edited, Cambridge 2007); *Asia Rising: But Who is Leading?* (Singapore and New York: World Scientific, 2007); *Human Security: Ethical, Normative and Educational Perspectives* (Paris: UNESCO, 2007) and *Whose Ideas Matter: Agency and Power in Asian Regionalism* (Cornell, 2009). His recent have appeared in *International Organization*, *International Security*, and *World Politics*.

Human Security Research: Progress, Limitations and New Directions

Rhyerson Christie and Amitav Acharya

Abstract:

The Centre for Governance and International Affairs hosted two workshops on the future of research on human security with the intent of identifying areas for potential collaboration between research institutions. Scholars working broadly around the topic of human security were invited from across the United Kingdom, Europe and North America to discuss their perceptions of the condition of human security research, focusing on the identification of the lacunae demanding scholarly attention. While there was substantial debate amongst the participants about the current state of academic and policy literatures on human security, and whether it is a progressive or conservative force in international relations, there was broad agreement that there are numerous areas requiring greater academic attention. This report summarizes the debates that took place at the University of Bristol, and identifies seven specific research projects for future consideration.

Table of Contents

I. OBJECTIVE OF THE WORKSHOP

The concept of human security has been with us for more than a decade now, but has it made a lasting impact on the world of academia and policy? A good deal of initial discourse over human security involved defining the concept and contesting its meanings: freedom from fear versus freedom from want, development versus protection, etc. While the debate is far from resolved yet, there is a growing sense in the academic and policy community that the time has come to move beyond conceptual issues to developing research agendas and policy tools to promote the concept more universally.
During the past decade, we have seen much progress in "measuring" human security in both its dimensions. For example, on the narrower concept of human security, we have the *Human Security Report* issued by the University of British Columbia first in 2005. On the freedom from want, the UNDP's *Human Development Report* has grown to include reports on country and even provincial levels.

What is lagging, however, is research (both academic and policy) on how one might reconcile the two conceptions of human security by drawing linkages between them. Another crucial area that calls for attention is human security governance, i.e. how new policies might be developed that promote human security in countries and regions around the world.

A recent workshop on "Human Security Research: Progress, Limitations and New Directions" organized by the Centre for Governance and International Affairs (CGIA) offers some important insights into the state of knowledge on human security and suggests avenues to move forward. The Workshop was supported by a generous grant from the Sasakawa Peace Foundation and the World Universities Network (WUN).

The aim of the workshop was to debate and seek answers to the following questions:

1. What are the main achievements of human security research to date? Has it made an impact on academic and policy communities that would ensure its longevity for some time to come? Or is it just a fad?
2. What are the gaps on human security research in the specific issue areas that are of interest to the participants, e.g. poverty, disease, ecological stress, etc?
3. How can the two conceptions of human security, e.g., freedom from fear and freedom from want, be reconciled in specific issue areas?
4. What are the main (existing and emerging) challenges to human security in different issue areas?
5. What sort of policy initiatives and governance measures might one consider to address different human security challenges?
6. What are the existing academic and policy research centres and networks on human security in UK, Europe, and on a global basis? What are their strengths and limitations? Is there room for a new regional/global network?

II. HISTORY OF THE CONCEPT OF HUMAN SECURITY

During the two day-long workshops, a number of themes emerged about the meanings of human security, as well as its intellectual and policy history. As should be expected there were some points of broad agreement amongst the participants, as well as a number of debates about its meanings. The following section provides an overview of the main

positions that were presented, and ends by highlighting some of the areas for potential research. Human security will not be defined here, to do so would fix the concept and foreclose debate. We recognize that the language of human security now encapsulates a broad range of policies and theories, and that these debates have important intellectual and political implications.

Conceptual History

The concept itself was variously traced to the early 1990s with the emergence of international interventions for the purpose of peacebuilding, to the 1980s where it was linked to the emergence of narratives of human-centered development associated with the Brandt Commission, and to 1970s' peace studies literature about positive and negative peace. While there are, undoubtedly, solid arguments for each particular history, there was also a common refrain, regardless of the date to which the concept was traced back. In each instance human security was said to evolve out of a rejection of state-centric security practices, and is tied into emergent norms about liberal politics (if not liberal economics), and of the increasing attention to development in the South. As was pointed out in a number of presentations, human security represents an integration of security and development practices, is consistent with the language of development, and speaks to the same issue areas as have been engaged by the development community.[1] In this way matters as diverse as hunger, crime, environmental change, sustainable development, and policing, come together under the rubric of human security (though there is considerable debate about the exact issues which fall within its rubric). It was widely argued that this breadth was the basis of much of its appeal, as well as the target for criticism. This will be discussed in greater depth in the section covering the measurement of human security.

There were, nevertheless, important debates about the concept's meaning, its applicability to both academia and policy communities, and its ability to account for broader issues of human rights and identity politics. Interestingly, none of the participants asserted that the concept was essentially devoid of academic or policy relevance. That these debates about its explanatory and policy value were absent should be interpreted as an indication of how far the human security literature has come and the extent to which it has been adopted by both academics and policy makers.

Interdisciplinary Uses of Human Security

The participants were all quick to point out that there was a range of academic accounts of the concept, reflecting the breadth of the various disciplines utilizing the concept, and the political and epistemological commitments of those engaging with the concept. It was pointed out that while there are debates within political science about its meanings and uses, it has been picked up within a range of other disciplines, as diverse as environmental studies, biology, and anthropology, to provide a framework to assess a range of development issues. At the same time there is remarkably little inter-disciplinary conversation about the concept, with the work of the natural sciences, various social sciences and politics all operating in relative isolation from one another.

[1] The development community refers here to the broad range of actors involved in development projects, from emergency aid through to sustainable development, and from local community, through civil society actors, to state and international organizations involved in the planning, funding and enacting of development projects.

However, apart from this division, it was argued that there are some important assumptions that transcend the disciplinary boundaries. The issue that received the greatest attention in the conversations was *where* human security is a problem. The studies that are undertaken about human security and the policies that are enacted in its names seem to inevitably focus on the South. This replicates a divide between the North and South, and obscures the ways in which there may be human security issues within the North, or indeed security in the South.

Human Security as a Means or End – Cross-Cultural Implications

The various debates about the way in which the concept is used reflected a broader debate about whether human security should be seen as an end in and of itself. In short are we pursuing human security for its own sake, or is it sought as a means to achieve other goals, such as a liberal peace. Related to this were conversations about whether human security is appropriately seen as a universal category, or if it should be understood as culturally specific. This arose from scholars who have area-specific expertise. As a result, those who have focused their studies on Southeast Asia raised the question of whether it is a Western concept and, if not, how it can be translated or promoted for cross-cultural use. This will be discussed in greater detail in the section on regional uses of human security.

Link with Human Rights Literature

The issue of human rights was discussed on a few occasions, and then quickly passed over. In large part this appears to reflect a wariness of social scientists to engage in legalist debates. However, the links between human security and human rights appear to be clear. Indeed the literature on human security tends to incorporate issues of respect for human rights into its conceptualizations. At the same time the human rights literature has seemingly avoided referring to human security. Understanding why the legal scholars have avoided the concept, and exploring the implications for a broadening of human rights to include some articulations of security, would add to the academic literature. Within the development literature, the rights-based approach has received considerable attention, but none of the participants mentioned similar processes within scholarly or academic literatures on human security.

III. USES AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE CONCEPT FOR POLICY COMMUNITIES

At the same time as there were debates about the use of human security amongst academics, there were also disagreements about the scope of its use in policy circles. There was broad agreement that international organizations have adopted the language of human security, and that agencies such as the World Bank, the IMF and the various bodies of the United Nations have found the concept to be useful. As was pointed out in a number of presentations, these institutions have found within it the ability either to prioritize particular policies or to provide an ethical rationale for decisions to intervene in communities.

Clearly the policy relevance of the concept will vary across the spectrum of organizations being considered, and it was pointed out by a few scholars studying international organizations that its meaning tends to be shaped in a way that furthers their institutional

goals. In the debates that ensued in the workshops there was a tendency to approach the issue of policy relevance from the standpoint of the actor being considered. Thus, there were separate conversations around its usefulness to international organizations, to states, to individuals and to communities. In particular the adoption of the discourse by states was dealt with separately. There is substantial evidence pointing to the ways in which numerous states have adopted the 'language' of human security. However, it was unclear why some states have championed it while others have avoided it. Certainly there was speculation about why this may be, including issues such as international power politics, regional differences, fears of its being used as a justification for neo-imperialism, and so forth. However, these appear to be based more on informed speculation than on any solid empirical evidence. Furthermore, there was a division amongst those that argued that some states adopted it out of genuine commitment to the goals of human security and those that see states' use of the language as a self-serving means of advancing their particular interests world wide.

Human Security and Development

Any cursory examination of the concept of human security will reveal its close connection with issues of international development. The 'freedom from want' approach is particularly clear in this regard, but even the 'freedom from fear' literature draws explicit links to economic and political development. In particular, the people-based development turn, as advanced by Paul Stickland, Amartya Sen, and Francis Stuart, has obvious parallels to the issues discussed within the human security literature. That said, the implications for the securitization of human development require greater scrutiny. In particular, it is as yet unclear to what extent human security language has led to the securitization and militarization of development practices, such as through certain types of peacekeeping, peacebuilding and humanitarian intervention, and whether authentic voices in development practice are being drowned out by traditional security actors using the rubric of human security.

The Use of Human Security by NGOs

There was a substantial debate about the extent to which either the language or policies of human security have been picked up by civil society organizations.[2] There were disagreements about whether the term is used by NGOs, and if it is not used, whether its intent has been incorporated into the planning and implementation of their various projects. In contrast to its use by governments, the evidence of its inclusion amongst the NGO sector has simply not been gathered. As such the conversation tended to be anecdotal. As a result, the workshop participants that have either studied or worked with the international development community had a variety of views of its use. There were essentially three positions:

i. Many development NGOs have deliberately adopted the language of human security as it reflects their own aims and goals;

ii. NGOs may use the language of human security, but generally do it for self-serving interests to acquire funding from states and international organizations; and

[2] We are referring here to international and local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) involved in emergency relief and development projects.

iii. NGOs reject the concept as a continuation of previous state-centric security practices.

Areas of Research

1. **The use of human security by NGOs**. This study would investigate how human security discourse has been used by NGOs. In so doing it would seek deepen our understanding of how various organizations understand the term, the politics they ascribe to it, and whether they associate with the issue areas while avoiding using the language of human security. This would both provide insight into the spread of norms within the international community, and could point to how the concept could be promoted in a way that is amenable to a broader range of civil society groups.

2. **Human security and human rights**. Does the rights-based approach to development echo the human security literature? What are the implications for including the language of security within the legal human rights literature?

3. **Who are the social carriers of human security?** We see that the concept has spread well beyond the narrow academic circles and is to be found within policy documents and popular media. Who, though, are the carriers of the concept? Understanding who is promoting the idea, and how it is being spread, will go a long way to explaining its appeal and its limitations.

IV. MEASURING HUMAN SECURITY

The issue of whether humans security should be measured, and if so how this should be done, came up a number of times over the two days of discussion. It was pointed out that there are numerous ongoing studies that are attempting to do so, with varying methodologies of accounting for the degree of security in various communities and states. That said there was also some agreement that the various approaches that have been used have tended to focus too narrowly on security in terms of the presence of violence and the threat of bodily harm or death.[3] This tends to reinforce the freedom from fear approach to human security. The other measurements of human security tend to focus on traditional development indicators, such as the Human Development Index. The UNDP, for example, has increasingly adopted the language of human security within its reports. In these instances security and development are collapsed with little explanation of the implications of such a move (though it was pointed out that this may just be a symptom of adopting human security discourse).

There were also a number of criticisms about measurements that coincide with peoples' broader epistemological commitments. One of the more sustained critiques of the 'fetish of measurement' was that it did not problematize the world it was attempting to describe. The result is that what passes as 'security' for individuals and communities is a very basic level of existence, not one with a standard of life that would be acceptable to those living in the North. Additionally, focusing on such indicators does not necessarily coincide with

[3] There was some dissent on this point, with the argument being put forward that focusing on death as an indictor of insecurity was useful. Though the causes of insecurity should then be conceived more broadly than direct physical violence to include, for example, disease, malnutrition, and domestic violence.

peoples' perceptions of security, nor reflect how communities may prioritize particular issues over others.

There was a limited discussion about whether a new empirical study of human security was warranted. In particular it was noted that with the many ongoing projects attempting to do exactly this, locating funding might be difficult. However, it was pointed out that while statistical evaluation is not a strength of the Politics Department at the University of Bristol, or of the various participants in the workshops, that the University of Bristol was a world leader in statistics. As such, if a research project was proposed that would pursue measurement in some form, then partnership with the University's statistical analysis team should be pursued.

Outside of this narrow form of statistical measurement, some areas of potential research were identified for further reflection.

Areas of Research

1. **Cross-Regional Comparison of Human Security**. The first area of research would be a comparison of human security amongst the subaltern across regions. It was pointed out that the topic of human security is one that we, in the developed world, use for understanding security issues in the 'South'. As such it makes inherent judgments about where security concerns reside. Such a study would then compare human security in ghettos and enclaved communities in Northern cities with those in the South. In this connection, some people feel that the problem of human insecurity transcends the North-South divide as conventionally understood, and the notion of a global south is not particularly helpful in analyzing and addressing human security challenges. The findings of such comparative studies could have important political repercussions for the ways in which security is perceived to be a problem 'over there,' and demand that affluent societies turn their attention to their own backyards. One such focus could be indigenous communities. The difficulty here is that this would limit the comparative analysis with European communities (with the exception of the Lapp communities).

2. **Measuring Dignity**. Following from the discussions about whether human security could be conceived as 'freedom from humiliation', there was a brief conversation about how this could be measured. While interest was expressed in such a conception (refer to Section Five), there were no obvious ways to pursue such a study. This would be an intriguing study that would challenge research teams to develop indicators of dignity. The worry is that in doing so traditional markers, such as literacy, access to medical care, and mortality rates, would be used to represent such a condition. Participants expressed a desire for a means of analysis that would provide local communities input on what constitutes dignity. This could provide an alternative to other projects underway that are attempting to measure and compare peoples' security.

V. CRITICAL VOICES IN HUMAN SECURITY

It was clear during the discussions that there was a tension amongst those scholars who work from critical theory over how to approach and understand human security. Three broad strands of thought can be identified here. The first are those that see within the concept some transformative potential. Whether as a result of seeing some emancipatory value in it, or of seeing it as having the possibility of reshaping the ethics and/or subject

of security, it is seen as undermining traditional security actors and processes. The second grouping do not see the concept as being particularly transformative, but are willing to engage directly with the term for strategic reasons. In this way human security discourse is seen as providing a means by which critical scholars can engage the policy community on a range of issues that it would previously have been unwilling to listen to. There is a recognition here that human security may be problematic, but that it may perhaps be less problematic than the previous state-centric articulations of security. In contrast, the third grouping of scholars is deeply skeptical of the concept's value, and instead sees it as a continuation of old security practices, of old narratives of empire, and of deeply gendered discourse. As such, rather than being a benign framework, it is implicated in the deepening and widening of neo-liberalism and in the promotion of militarized interventions in the South. In short, human security is then seen as shaping the terms of engagement of the North in the South. This diversity of views about the concept should not be surprising given the breadth of research agendas that fall under the critical label. At the same time it also serves to highlight the ways in which a consideration of politics is at the fore of such approaches.

Freedom From Humiliation

In discussing how the concept could be shaped in a way more in keeping with the various critical commitments of the participants, the possibility of moving past the notions of 'freedom from fear' and 'freedom from want' was raised. It was argued that turning to 'freedom from humiliation' would be a way to insert questions of politics into the concept. This would require an incorporation of peoples' social lives into the rubric of human security in a way that an individual focus on safety and want is unable to account for. In this way, issues of racism, religious discrimination and sexism (to name just a few) could be written as a security threat just as important as threats of direct violence.

Power and Human Security

One of the core debates amongst the critical voices was over the ways in which human security is linked to broader formulations of power. It was noted that in spite of a claim to change the referent of security from the state to the person, the state is not abandoned. Rather it is retained as the ideal agent of security. This is a point that has been made repeatedly in the academic and policy literature on the subject and is not limited to critical scholarship. In fact, this is often presented as a positive aspect of the concept as it represents a self-conscious desire to work within the current system of states to improve the lives of peoples. However, the critical perspectives see this retention of the state as having important repercussions for the ways in which power is exercised. Building on the biopolitics and governmentality literature, human security represents an extension of the state's system of control in ways that mask the exercise of power. This ties into another area of concern raised about human security, which is the extent to which it serves to expand the powers of the state and to validate increased interventionism in the South.

Expropriation of Human Security

The matter of expropriation was also flagged. Here the concern is that by linking security and development, particular actors are provided a greater voice in the new issues of human security. The example of the Provincial Reconstruction Teams was flagged to

show how militaries have increasingly claimed a voice in the development of the South. Human security discourse appears to have both promoted and facilitated this move. If this is the case, should there be a drive (in keeping with the Copenhagen school) towards desecuritizing human security?

Problematizing the 'Human'

The next area of interest that was raised addresses the focus on 'human' within human security. It was pointed out that while there has been a considerable amount of writing on the security side of the concept, there has been surprisingly little study done of the first part of the term. When there has been analysis of the human, it has tended to focus on the issue of identity and individualism, asking whether it demands a liberal individualism and, if not, what such a non-liberal individualist notion of human security might look like. What hasn't been investigated in any depth is the connection with liberal humanism, and how this in turn dictates what constitutes 'the good life'.

Areas of Research

1. **Militarization of Human Security**. There has been a return to old debates about whether international humanitarian organizations should cooperate with militaries to deliver projects in host societies. This has resulted in large part from an increased targeting of aid workers in countries such as Afghanistan and Iraq. The blurring of military and development roles is argued to contribute to this dynamic. This represents a potentially valuable area of study. Such a study could interrogate the ways in which discourses of human security have been picked up and used by militaries to inform and justify Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs). Furthermore, it would be useful to explore whether such programs, intended to provide human security, have in fact achieved their state ends.

2. **The Human in Human Security**. While the individualism of human security has been discussed within academic literature, the implications of the humanism embedded within the concept are less well explored. A project constructed around this issue would pull together expertise in law, ethics, philosophy and politics for a cross-disciplinary dialogue. This project would ask whether there are conceptions of the human that offer a more profound challenge to the state-centric notion of security that has been advanced within most human security literature. Also, tying into the notion of freedom from humiliation, does a focus on humanism demand a focus on more than bare life, to include notions of dignity that have been hitherto invisible?

VI. SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND HUMAN SECURITY

An important emerging area of research on human security is the link between science, technology and human security.[4] Very little work has been done on the subject. Yet, a fundamental aim of human security, i.e., to improve the human condition, coincides with the core function of science and technology. At the same time, advances in science and proliferation of new technologies also pose new threats to society.

[4] The keynote speaker on this topic at the workshop was Dr Vladimir Chaloupka, Professor of Physics and Adjunct Professor, Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies (JSIS) at the University of Washington, Seattle.

Modern science is an awesome, exciting adventure. In our understanding of nature (science), and in the application of that understanding (technology), we are acquiring powers that will soon become truly god-like. The range of potential benefits is mind-boggling. Progress in Physics, Nanotechnology, Molecular Biology, Computer Science and other disciplines has already transformed the material conditions of human existence, and the implications for the future are truly exciting. It may be possible to eliminate many if not most diseases, extend human life, solve the energy problem, solve the poverty problem, and address the environmental concerns and other material problems of the human condition.

Yet, there is a growing gap between the cumulative, exponential progress in science and technology on the one hand, and on the other hand, the lack of comparable progress in our ability to use our new technological tools thoughtfully and responsibly. We might be in the process of acquiring powers that we should not have, and that catastrophic consequences are not only possible, but probable or even inevitable. The key, and novel, aspect of this is the possibility of *global harm being produced by individuals or small groups of individuals* – up to now, this was the domain of large entities such as nation-states. What is at stake is not just human security, but "humanity security".

The dangers of such overdependence on and abuses of science to human security include, a) intentional acts (e.g., bio-terror), b) accidents (escape of pathogens from a lab), and 3) unintended consequences produced by scientific progress (climate change induced by industrialization). Human security research and advocacy should aim to maximize the benefits of science for the human condition and address its dangers. Coping with the threat to human security will require rethinking some very fundamental concepts such as sovereignty, democracy, freedom and privacy.

There are a number of measures to create a greater awareness of the link between science and human security:

1. Education (educating students and community about benefits and risks of science)
2. Reform and strengthening of law
3. Creating Science, Technology and Society courses at universities and joint degrees (such as a Masters degree to complement a PhD or masters science degree from a specific discipline such as Physics or Biology).
4. Enriching the university-wide undergraduate as well as graduate curriculum by Science and Society courses. In the long term, a Science and Society course should be *required*, first at the undergraduate, then again at the graduate level.
5. Creating a world-wide community of scholars to engage in transdisciplinary research of the issues: how to maximize benefits from science while minimizing dangers.

VII: HUMAN SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Last but not the least, the workshop examined how human security as an evolving norm is being received and implemented by institutions and actors that play a central role in global governance, such as the UN and its agencies, regional organizations and non-governmental groups. Is human security reshaping their agenda? If so, in what ways? There is a need systematically and comprehensively to examine the diffusion of human security through international organisations and civil society actors, with case studies

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such as the agencies within the UN system, including United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and regional organizations such as the European Union (EU), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the African Union (AU) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), as well as civil society groups such as OXFAM and Care International. One should also look at how the human security serves the purpose of Western actors and the resistance to the norm from the ground in the developing world.

VIII CONCLUSION

Overall, the workshop provided a fresh assessment of the contested but increasingly salient notion of human security. Participants generally agreed that human security is neither "hot air" nor a passing fad, but a genuine and long-term attempt to alter the discourse of security and security studies beyond its narrow foundations in Western national security paradigm and practice. Despite the misgivings it arouses in parts of the developing world, as well as in advanced countries like the United States, human security cannot be simply dismissed as a Western idea being imposed on developing countries. Rather, it captures issues and challenges which have long been part of the developing world's security predicament. Moreover, the concept has the potential to bridge the traditional north-south divide, as many human security issues straddle both domains. The key challenge, however, is to go beyond mere definitional debates and establish pathways and approaches to make human security a universal point of reference for security studies and practice. The workshop organized by the Centre for Governance and International Affairs was useful in identifying the contestations surrounding the conceptual parameters of human security and suggesting pathways for advancing the research agenda that would further the entry of the concept into the discourse and practice of global security.

APPENDIX 1: AGENDA OF THE CONFERENCE

Human Security Research: Progress, Limitations and New Directions
Roundtable I
8th February 2008
Organized by the Centre for Governance and International Affairs, Department of Politics, University of Bristol in collaboration with the Asian Dialogue Society (ADS) and the World Universities Network (WUN)

Program

10.30 am-12 noon: Introduction and Keynote
"Introduction and Overview,"
Amitav Acharya, Director, Centre for Governance and International Affairs

"Human Security Research: The State of the Art" - Speaker: **Dr Shahrbanou Tadjbakhsh**, Sciences-po, Paris

1 pm- 2 pm: Working Lunch and Talk on "Science and Human Security", by **Vladimir Chaloupka**, Professor of Physics, University of Washington

2.15pm-3.30 pm: Thematic Presentations

"Human Security and Non-Traditional Security"- Speaker: Dr **Alan Collins**, Dept. of Politics and International Relations, Swansea University
"Mobilization of Human Security in Peacebuilding" - Speaker: Dr **Ryerson Christie**, Department of Politics, Bristol University
"Critical Reflections on Human Security" - Speaker: Dr. **Kyle Grayson**, School of Geography, Politics, and Sociology, University of Newcastle
3.45-5-15: Roundtable Discussion: Shaping a Research Agenda
5.15pm: Concluding Remarks: **Amitav Acharya**
6 pm: Dinner

Human Security Research: Progress, Limitations and New Directions
Roundtable II
11th February 2008

Organized by the Centre for Governance and International Affairs, Department of Politics, University of Bristol in collaboration with the Asian Dialogue Society (ADS) and the World Universities Network (WUN)

Program

10.30 am-12 noon: Introduction and Keynote

"Introduction and Overview," Amitav Acharya, Director, Centre for Governance and International Affairs

"'Perspectives from Development Studies" - Speaker: Dr Des Gasper, Institute of Social Studies, The Hague

1 pm- 2 pm: Working Lunch and Talk on "Race and Human Security", Dr **Randy Persaud**, American University, Washington, D.C.
2.15pm-3.30 pm: Thematic Presentations
"Human Security and Transnational Challenges"- Speaker: **Chris Abbott**, Oxford Research Group, London
"Governance, Power and Human Security" - Speaker: Dr **David Roberts**, University of Ulster, Convener, BISA Working Group on Human Security
"Human Security and Gender: Feminist Perspectives" - Speaker: Dr. **Thanh-Dam Truong**, Institute of Social Studies, The Hague
"Preventing Military Abuses on Human Rights" - Dr **Eric Herring**, Department of Politics, University of Bristol
3.45-5-15: Roundtable Discussion: Shaping a Research Agenda
5.15-5.30: Concluding Remarks: **Amitav Acharya**
6 pm: Dinner

APPENDIX 2: WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

VISITING PARTICIPANTS

CHRIS ABBOTT

Dr Abbott is currently the Programme Coordinator and Researcher at Oxford Research Group (ORG) and an Honorary Research Fellow of the Centre for Governance and International Affairs at the University of Bristol. Chris joined Oxford Research Group in October 2003 and he now directs ORG's programme of 'sustainable security' projects and publications. His research interests include transnational and non-traditional security threats, alternative global security paradigms, and the security implications of climate change He has been interviewed by the BBC, ABC, *The Australian* and *Esquire*, and his work has been featured widely in the international media, including in *The Times*, *The Independent* and *The Guardian* in the UK, and Al Jazeera and CNN overseas. Previously he has worked as a campaigner and researcher on a number of social and environmental issues. Prior to that he established an ethical expedition and survival training company, and led several independent expeditions and community projects in Central and South America. Chris has a degree in Psychology from Royal Holloway, University of London, and a Masters in Social Anthropology from the University of St Andrews.

RUTH BLAKELEY

Dr Blakeley is a lecturer in International Relations at the University of Kent. She joined the department of Politics and IR at Kent in January 2007, after completing her doctorate on Repression, Human Rights and US training of military forces from the Global South at the University of Bristol. While completing her PhD, funded by the ESRC, Ruth spent three months in the United States, conducting interviews with U.S. Department of Defence staff involved in the training of Latin American military forces, and observing training at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (formerly the School of the Americas). She also acted as academic consultant to investigative journalist John Pilger for his documentary *War on Democracy*, screened in UK cinemas and on ITV1 during 2007.

VLADIMIR CHALOUPKA

Professor Chaloupka was born in 1943 in what is now the Czech Republic. In 1966 he obtained a M.S. in Physics from Charles University, Prague. In 1968, he emigrated to Switzerland. In 1975, he obtained a PhD in Physics from the University of Geneva. He worked at the European Center for Nuclear Physics 1968-1975, after that at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center. In 1980 came to the University of Washington and in 1982 was promoted to Associate Professor and in 1990 to Professor of Physics. Since 1994 he has been Adjunct Professor of Music.

The original research emphasis on Experimental Elementary Particle Physics has gradually transformed into research in Musical Acoustics and Physics of Music. Courses developed for the UW Honors program and taught since 1998 resulted in an intense, ongoing research and teaching effort on the issues of Science and Society. In 2005, this activity brought about an appointment as Adjunct Professor at the Jackson School of International Studies. Together with the primary appointment in Physics, and with the adjunct appointment in Music, this represents a solid and coherent base from which interdisciplinary investigations of Science, Culture and Society can be made.

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Persaud is the author of *Counter-Hegemony and Foreign Policy* published by the State University of New York Press. He has also published in major academic outlets such as *Alternatives*, *International Studies Review*, *Race and Class*, *Connecticut Journal of International Law*, *Journal of Human Security*, *Korea Review of International Studies*, *Journal of Interdisciplinary Crossroads*, *Encyclopaedia of Globalization*, and *Latin American Politics and Society*. Book chapters have been published by leading outlets such as Cambridge University Press, Palgrave McMillan, Lynne Rienner, Routledge, and United Nations University Press, among others. He has also published more than three dozen articles in *Guyana Journal*, *Caribbean Journal*, *Caribbean News Net*, *Kaieteur News*, *Stabroek News*, and *Guyana Chronicle*.

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Structures of Violence (London: Zed 2008). This work redefined and reconceptualised human security as avoidable civilian deaths, occurring globally, caused by social, political and economic institutions and structures, built and operated by humans and which could feasibly be changed. This interpretation of human insecurity means it can be transformed because it is conspicuously caused by demonstrably dysfunctional global structures, international institutions and civil human agency.

DOUG STOKES

Dr Stokes is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Kent, Canterbury. His work focuses on U.S. intervention, international security and human rights. Dr Stokes' forthcoming publication *Imperial Logics: Global Energy Security and U.S. Intervention* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009) examines the human rights implications of the increased use of US counter-insurgency warfare to stabilize oil-rich non-Middle Eastern states in Africa, South America and Central Asia and the increased rivalry for diminishing energy supplies amongst the industrialized nations. As part of this ongoing research project, Dr Stokes has been awarded £69,000 by the British Academy for research assistance. Dr Stokes has published in some of the world's leading International Relations journals including the *Review of International Studies* and served on the British International Studies Association executive committee between 2003-2005.

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THANH-DAM TRUONG

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and social justice have brought her to new areas of research on the gendered dimensions of global/local interactions and the challenges these pose to the field of human development and human wellbeing and security. Currently she coordinates the European Focal Point of the Open Research Centre on "Human Security in Global Cities Networks" funded by Chubu University and the Japanese Government. She is also the Chief co- editor of the journal Gender, Technology and Development, and a member of the Gender in International Political Economy (GIPE) a network of centres of excellence involving over 44 universities in Europe.

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RYERSON CHRISTIE

Mr Christie is a doctoral candidate at York University, Toronto and is currently a Lecturer at the University of Bristol. His research interests are: critical security studies, peacebuilding, human security, Southeast Asian politics and security, and NGOs and security. His research has focused on the study of peacebuilding, and its affects on the interaction between civil society organizations and the state. Working from a critical security studies perspective he has sought to explore the ways in which peacebuilding practices are embedded within global liberal governance, and how this has favoured projects of civil society reconstruction. He looks at whether the attempt to reproduce Western modes of associational behaviour has in fact reduced conflict. In addition his work has centred on the case of Cambodia, and he remains engaged in issues of Southeast Asian security and governance. He is currently working on a project addressing the politics of orthography amongst the minority groups in Cambodia. The study is interested in how the politics of developing a written script for the minority languages is, in a very literal sense, a form of ascribing identity and state belonging.While holding a Canadian Consortium for Human Security (CCHS) doctoral fellowship he has explored the ways in which human security narratives and practices have affected state politics on the one hand, and the quality of life of peoples in fragile states on the other. This work has tended to criticize the ways in which human security has helped extend the role of military forces in Afghanistan and Iraq.

MARK DUFFIELD

Professor Duffield's initial experience was in anthropology, political economy and the study of race and migration. During the latter half of the 1980s he left academia to become Oxfam's Country Representative in Sudan. He subsequently joined the School of Public Policy, University of Birmingham (1989-98) where he completed a variety of research and consultancy assignments for a number of UN agencies, donor governments and NGOs in relation to the political economy of internal war, complex emergencies, humanitarian intervention and social reconstruction. Besides Sudan, his country experience includes Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia, Burma, Croatia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, India and Mozambique. He has also worked in the School of Politics and International Studies, University of Leeds (1999-03) and the Department of Politics and International Studies,

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Dr Weldes is a Reader in International Relations at the University of Bristol and Associate Director of the Centre for Governance and International Affairs. Her major research interests are: critical International Relations theory, U.S. foreign policy, popular culture and world politics, and gender and world politics. She is the author of *Constructing National Interests: The United States and the Cuban Missile Crisis* (University of Minnesota Press, 1999), co-editor of *Cultures of Insecurity: States, Communities, and the Production of Danger* (University of Minnesota Press, 1999), and editor of *To Seek Out New Worlds: Science Fiction and World Politics* (Palgrave: 2003).

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