

Centre for Peace Studies

Annual Report 2005



Centre for Peace Studies

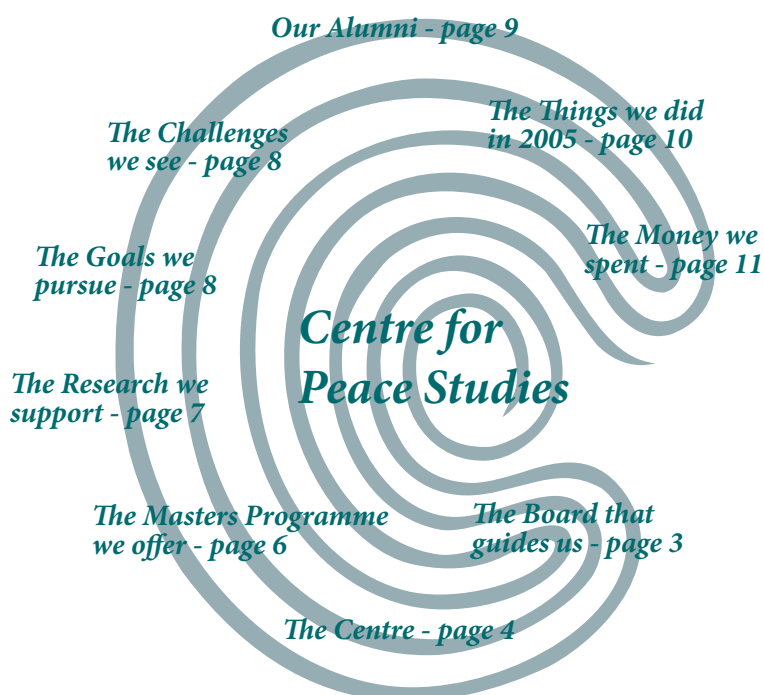


Welcome

by Ole D. Mjøfs, Chair of the Board

The establishment of the Centre of Peace Studies (CPS) was a milestone for the University of Tromsø. Its establishment made it now possible to study peace, conflict resolution and conflict transformation at the Masters level. It was no coincidence that this happened at the northernmost university of the world, and, at that time, the youngest university in Norway. We were an institution that was primed to think innovatively and we saw the importance of peace and conflict resolution studies in higher education. The huge response by students confirmed what we believed when we established the Masters in Peace and Conflict Transformation programme – the need for a home in the Centre for Peace Studies in Tromsø.

The Centre has used its unique position to arrange conferences, seminars and workshops focusing on peace related issues such as 'Identity and Security', 'Peace Education', the 'Philosophy of Peace', 'Peace and Conflict Research, Global Terrorism and Peaceful Social Change'. While the emphasis on peace and conflict transformation related research has been and will be the main focus of our work at the Centre for Peace Studies, scholarships have also been made available for post-graduate students to prepare their applications for doctoral projects. In this respect, the CPS will also, in the years to come, help put peace, conflict resolution and conflict transformation on the research agenda at the University of Tromsø, in Norway, and internationally.



"The Centre for Peace Studies equips students from different countries and cultures with knowledge and skills on how to prevent and resolve conflict. I am confident that we will be an important part of the work for a better future, by promoting a culture of peace, greater tolerance and cooperation among nations"

MD. GOLAM MOSTOFA, STUDENT

The Board That Guides Us

When the CPS was established it was placed under the Faculty of Social Science, making the Faculty the 'owner' of the project. Still, the composition of the Board shall reflect the interdisciplinary approach of the Masters in Peace and Conflict Transformation (MPCT) and CPS research. The Board members therefore represent the entire university community, with representatives from the Faculties of Law, Medicine, Social Science and Humanities.

As an interdisciplinary body, the Board functions as the steering committee for the MPCT programme.

The CPS Board guides the entire enterprise on its mission to uphold the guiding principles of the CPS policy statement. As such, it finalizes decisions about the strategy and finances and oversees the quality of the work in the primary areas of instruction and research, as well as in the area of community outreach. In particular, the Board has the mandate to:

- ⇒ Establish a national centre for co-ordination within the field of peace and conflict studies;
- ⇒ Establish research projects to develop new knowledge within this field;
- ⇒ Work to secure further financing of CPS, including external financing;
- ⇒ Approve the CPS annual budget and annual accounts

Members of the board 2005:



* Tor Dahl-Eriksen replaced Dr. Gunhild Hoogensen in December 2005

** Laila Susanne Vars substitutes Dr. Per Christiansen during his sabbatical leave

*** Synnøve des Bouvrie substitutes Dr. Anniken Greve during her sabbatical leave

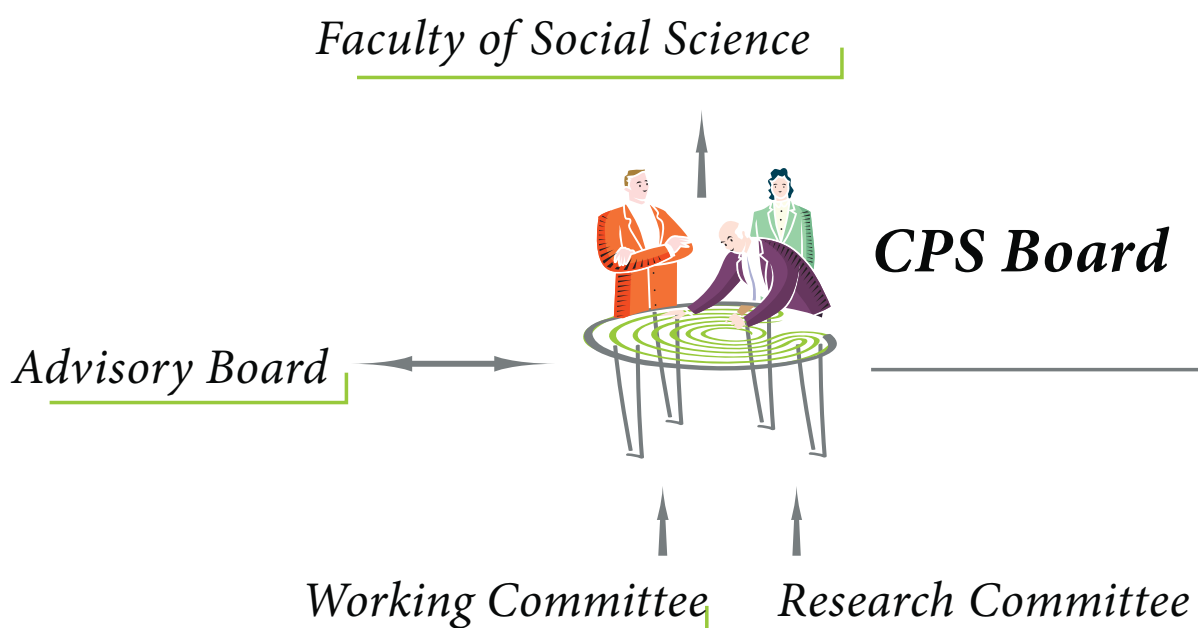
**** Student representative in 2006 is Sigve R. Leland

Centre for Peace Studies

The CPS is a research and co-ordination project in Peace Studies at the University of Tromsø, Norway. The project was initially financed for the period 2002-2006. Due to the success of the MPCT, it is clear that the program will continue beyond the year 2006. Inspired by the conference Higher Education for Peace in May 2000, dreams, ambitions and hopes for such a project saw results when in November 2001 The Norwegian Parliament awarded two million Norwegian crowns to establish a national and international Centre for Peace Studies. The two main aims of the project are:

1. To establish new competence within the field of peace and conflict studies, and within such areas as democracy-building and ethnicity. The Centre is to have a coordinating role in the field, both nationally and internationally.
2. To run a full (two-year) Masters degree programme in peace and conflict studies at the University of Tromsø. For the time being, the Centre is organised as a five-year project (2002-2006) under the auspices of the Faculty of Social Science. It is relatively autonomous and has discretion to pursue strategies and activities of its own choosing.

Organisational Chart



Staff 2005

In 2005 our organisation had a staff of three full-time employees, one 'half-time' employee, supplemented by part-time faculty who teach and supervise, and ad-hoc staff hired for specific purposes such as managing conferences, publishing, networking, public relations, etc.

⇒ Project Manager
Jochen Peters



⇒ Dr. Charles Webel was hired as the Academic Director for the period February-June 2005



⇒ Senior Executive Officer Hildegunn Bruland, 50%



⇒ Academic Coordinator since September 2005, Diane Lister



⇒ Acting Academic Director in January 2005. Academic Coordinator, February-June 2005, Stuart Robinson



⇒ Executive Officer since December 1st 2004, Julia Holte Sempler, 50%. Maternity leave since May 2005



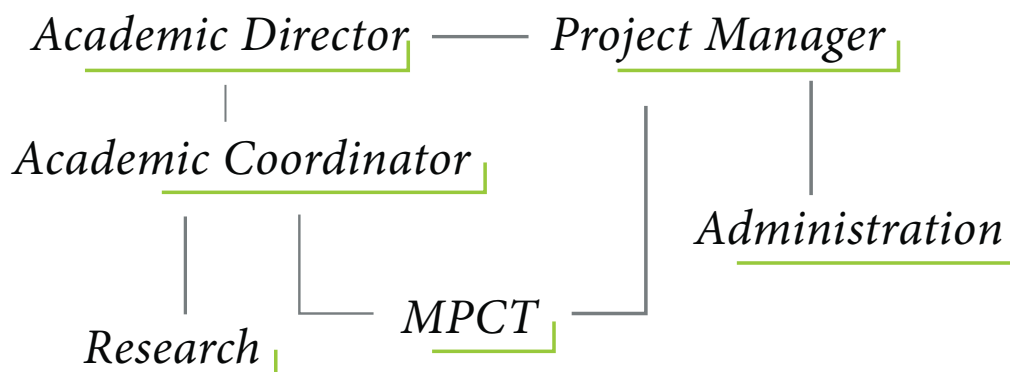
⇒ Associate Professor in Education Vidar Vambheim (in 2005 back at his job in the Department of Education, but still doing some teaching and other work for the Centre)



⇒ Executive Officer since July 2005, Alberto Valiente Thoresen



Staff



The Masters Programme We Offer

The most established area of the Centre's responsibility is the Masters Degree Programme in Peace and Conflict Transformation (MPCT). The programme has an international recruitment, with a mixture of students from Nordic and non-Nordic countries. All literature, teaching and student work is in English. Admission is limited.

The MPCT has a duration of two years. During the programme the student shall acquire the ability to analyse, and improve their capacity to handle and propose solutions to complicated conflict formations at different levels of society. The programme takes an interdisciplinary approach covering a variety of mandatory courses, which students can combine with elective courses and specialisations in various fields, such as Peace and Identity, Peace and Globalisation, Peace and Health, Peace and Gender, Peace and the UN, Peace Education and Non-violence, and Human Rights, in addition to courses in research methods. During the first year, teaching is intensive, with an emphasis on course work, group work, papers and oral presentations, as well as discussions.

The overall theme of this Masters Degree Programme is the problem of violence and violence reduction. The programme at Tromsø has been designed to provide the student with knowledge and training in reflection on causes and consequences of violence, of problems, circumstances and relations that may increase the possibility of violence, and exploring possibilities of violence reduction under varying circumstances. Although this gives an explicit value-direction to the course of study, the scholarly requirements of explicitness about assumptions and methodology, inter-subjective verification of findings, and validity of conclusions, are consistent with other human and social sciences.

Students :

The MPCT-programme attracts students from all over the world. Each year's intake is comprised of 20-24 students, roughly half of them non-Nordic / international students. The programme was launched in 2002 and in June 2004 the first students graduated. The fifth group of students starting their Master's studies will be admitted in August 2006.

The MPCT has seats open for international students under the Quota scholarship programme. So far, 24 quota-students have been admitted to the MPCT. They represent a long list of countries: Armenia (1), Bangladesh (2), Bulgaria (2), Cameroon (1), Costa Rica (1), Ethiopia (1), Ghana (1), Macedonia (1), Kenya (2), Romania (3), Russia (1), Kosovo / Serbia & Montenegro (1), Sierra Leone (1), Chad (1), Ukraine (3), and Zambia (1)

The CPS decided to establish its own scholarship programme with the same conditions as the Quota programme. Four students have been admitted with a CPS-scholarship. They come from Argentina, Guinea, Israel and Sri Lanka.

Student projects

Our students have shown a broad range of interests about global and local issues in their individual research projects. Most of the projects are empirically based and connected to field-research in a variety of countries, such as the home countries of the international students. In addition, our students have carried out research on peace and conflict related topics in Cuba, Liberia, Japan, Georgia, Kosovo, Angola, Paraguay, India, Norway, to name a few. Through the work with their projects, the students have established global relations and networks, which are of crucial importance for the Masters programme and the CPS.

Teaching and supervision :

Scholars from many different disciplines are involved in teaching and supervision. Such a variety amongst the teachers reflects the interdisciplinary approach of the programme. These teachers represent the Departments of History, Faculty of Law, Psychology, Political Science, Comparative Literature, Social Anthropology, Sociology, Education, Economics and Religious Studies. The programme also uses researchers from outside the University to give guest lectures and workshops.

Supervision is an important part of our degree programme, and all students are appointed a supervisor in the course of the first year of study. Supervision is to be given both individually and in group context.

"I found the students quite engaging and very much interested in applying the knowledge they derived from the readings, lectures and group discussions to their own cultural contexts. The variety of the students' backgrounds and the mix of countries they represented are, indeed, a major strength of the MPCT"

MAURICIO GABORIT, GUEST LECTURER

The Research We Support

Research work is, together with the Masters Programme in Peace and Conflict Transformation (MPCT), the core activity of the Centre. Research took a back seat to the MPCT as this was being established, so this is the area that is currently experiencing the greatest growth. Research activity has nevertheless been on the Board's agenda and has been fostered in several ways. Until 2005, CPS had provisional Academic Directors (Vidar Vambheim through Spring 2004, and then Stuart Robinson until February 2005). Dr. Charles Webel was hired as an Academic Director until June 2005. Diane Lister was hired in a one-year position as the Academic Coordinator in September 2005.

Many of the research projects at the CPS are closely coordinated with other national and international institutions. Current projects include adolescent identity; counter culture; human security in the Arctic; interdisciplinary theory; research on social change and peace; truth, reconciliation and justice – truth commissions and international human rights tribunals; human security and peace; and non-violent education for children and youth.

Additionally, our staff is currently engaged in - and has been active in - research for many years. Some of this research will be forthcoming on our site. Our teaching staff are also engaged in research of their own, some of which is very relevant to peace studies.

In 2005, important decisions of the Board included:

- ⇒ The hiring of a temporary Academic Coordinator.
- ⇒ Assignment of scholarships from the CPS fund. The CPS invited proposals to fund projects that seek to advance our understanding of (1) the achievement and maintenance of positive, sustainable peace, and (2) non-violent forms of conflict management and resolution. With the CPS Research Fund, the CPS sought to engage new affiliates in its mission and to promote higher education in peace studies research. All projects were connected to a member of the faculty or staff at the University of Tromsø and the CPS research committee reviewed applications 3 times annually.
- ⇒ The continuation of three Guest Professors at the CPS, combining teaching for the MPCT-programme with research carried out at and under the auspices of the CPS.
- ⇒ Arrangement of the conference: "New Directions in Peace and Conflict Research. Non-violent Strategies for Confronting Global Terrorism and for Promoting Peaceful Social Change".

"As students we can pursue our special interests for peace and conflict-related issues in depth. This opens up for a multitude of research approaches and themes, which together reflect the complexity and real challenges in Peace Studies. The MPCT provides a diverse and stimulating student environment, much informal learning, good opportunities to attend conferences, conduct field studies and get in touch with scholars from other institutions. These are additional advantages I highly appreciate"

LODVE A. SVARE, STUDENT

"CPS activity is bringing the issues of the world to Tromsø for careful scrutiny and scholarship. Through its growing numbers of talented MPCT students and graduates, involvement of engaging lecturers from far and wide and thought-provoking CPS-sponsored conferences, important peace research is being stimulated all around us. There is tremendous potential in our midst, and by being able to link the talent of researchers and students in our community with financing to help them work on noteworthy projects, I anticipate tremendous growth in our learning and outreach"

TOVE DAHL, CPS BOARD MEMBER

The Goals We Pursue

The CPS aims to develop new competence within peace and conflict studies. This is further explained in the CPS policy statement, which provides a guide for all the activities of the Centre:

Our policy statement describes the focus of our work, and positions us in the diverse and complex field of peace research and peace studies: Our policy is to examine ways of creating peace by peaceful means and to make non-violent handling of conflicts more known and recognized. We believe that valuable knowledge may be found in areas of low levels of violence, and that more useful lessons may be learnt from successful efforts to deal with conflict than from failures.

Peace studies are concerned with inter-state relations, but also with a wide range of other lines of social conflict, such as those related to gender, generation, culture, class, race, ethnicity and nation, as well as the conflict between human society and nature. Although our studies are global, our position in the peaceful Far North, a vast and sparsely populated area in a tough natural climate, with a history of complex ethnic and cultural relations including the problems of hierarchy, recognition and cultural oppression, gives us a chance to learn from a wide range

of nonviolent conflict handling. The wider region of the North of Europe also gives us a unique context in which to study conflict handling and one usefully compared with experiences from other areas.

Peace studies consist of theoretical-empirical, critical and constructive work. As an applied science, peace studies should pay attention to the constructive part of the work.

From numerous and diverse cases over the last two decades, ranging from everyday quarrels to large-scale massive unarmed revolutions, there are lessons to be learned that may have been underestimated, lost or unjustly treated as insignificant, by researchers. Even in the midst of violent conflicts, there are often actors using active nonviolence. CPS will study nonviolent conflict handling empirically and comparatively and will apply a multi-disciplinary pluralistic approach. We will discuss the theoretical implications and communicate the results to a wide audience.

The Challenges We See

CPS is a centre established to examine ways to make peace by peaceful means, learn from successful and less successful conflict handling, and to disseminate relevant knowledge gained in the research process. This is a research task as well as an educational task with many challenges. We will maintain our MA programme, as well as continue to develop the CPS and the University of Tromsø into a national resource and documentation centre in the field of peace studies. In the years to come, the CPS will be further refining its strategy and, through its various activities, taking further concrete steps towards these aims.

Some of the main challenges for the CPS in the next two years are to:

- ⇒ Arrange the conference: Peace and Place. A symposium on peace and the home, community and the urban environment
- ⇒ Hire people for the permanent positions of Academic Director and Academic Coordinator

- ⇒ Increase the visibility of the CPS
- ⇒ Publicise relevant research sponsored by the CPS
- ⇒ Make the Masters theses completed by MPCT-students available online
- ⇒ Develop research projects and a PhD programme
- ⇒ Create a community of CPS-affiliated researchers on the University of Tromsø campus
- ⇒ Maintain the production of competent MA graduates through our MA programme.
- ⇒ Develop a coherent, community-building research strategy
- ⇒ Work towards securing financial support for more potential students
- ⇒ Sustain and expand financial support to CPS
- ⇒ Prepare for our 2006 evaluation

Students that have completed the MPCT in chronological order

Name	Country/town	Thesis topic
Katrina Maria Gillman	Denmark	Rituals and border control
Reidar Breivik	Norway	Mobbing in schools
Amir Appelbaum	Israel	Anti-Semitism in Europe
Nora Ahmetaj	Kosovo / Serbia & Montenegro	Peace and Israel
Mamadou Diouma Bah	Guinea	Democratisation, Liberia and peace process
Hanne Hovde Bye	Norway	Domestic violence in East Timor
Marit Holmquist Fenne	Norway	Guatemalan peace accords
Alberto Valiente Thoresen	El Salvador	Peace Education
Holger Pötzsch	Germany	War and conflict in mass media
Juliana Edith Turki	Argentina	Indigenous workers in Guatemala city
Kadija Saudatu Mona Kabba	Sierra Leone	Women and civil war in Sierra Leone
Maria Lvova	Russia	Women Trafficking in the Russian Federation
Maryna Selivanova	Ukraine	Gender and Human Trafficking in the Ukraine
Ramil Aliyev	Azerbaijan	The Georgian Rose Revolution
D.L.A. Hasantha Shammika	Sri Lanka	Norwegian mediation in Sri Lanka
Eirin Annamo	Norway	Andrew Cohen's Evolutionary Enlightenment
Klaus N.A. Melf	Germany	Peace Medicine
Kristin Røymo	Norway	Women, development and peace in Sri Lanka
Mette Røkke	Norway	Violence against women in Tanzania
Ottar K. Kvaal	Norway	Language and the Paraguayan Guarani
Yaliwe Clark	Zambia	Structural Violence in Urban Zambia
Álvaro Cedeño Molinari	Costa Rica	UN verification mission in Guatemala
Anniken Kleven	Norway	South Africa and psychological healing
Bjørn-Richard Hagvåg Monsen	Norway	UN verification mission in Guatemala
Delia Despina Dumitrica	Romania	Deconstruction of Romanian Nationalism
Hanne Blomberg	Norway	Boolean analysis of conflict mediation
Heidi Johansen	Norway	Revenge theory
Heidi Tamminen Egge	Norway	Reconstruction and democratisation in Kosovo
Jayne Khayega Kigadi	Kenya	Peace Education in Kenya
Kari Mette Darell Eliassen	Norway	Angolan peace process and Norwegian intervention
Ole Henning Sommerfelt	Norway	Dream of Good. A peace education project

The Things We Did In 2005

Outreach is another CPS responsibility. Outreach is intended to support the work in our two primary areas of responsibility, and call attention to the importance of matters of peace and conflict transformation. These are some of the activities of the Centre in 2005:

⇒ Norwegian Peace Film Award

In December 2003, the CPS together with the Tromsø International Film Festival (TIFF) and the Student Network for Peace (SNP) established the The Norwegian Peace Film Award. This award is co-sponsored by the CPS and TIFF, and awarded annually in January during the Festival. In 2005 the winner was "Beautiful City" directed by Asghar Farhadi from Iran. The goal of the award is to emphasize the power of stories in shaping our understanding of the world we have now and of our desires for the future.

- ⇒ September, the CPS arranged the conference: "New Directions in Peace and Conflict Research: Non-violent Strategies for Confronting Global Terror and Promoting Peaceful Social Change". The conference theme was the nature and political potential of non-violence. The Centre for Peace Studies at the University of Tromsø considers this issue a central concern in its activities and an important matter in Peace Studies generally. The conference aimed to explore the possibilities of non-violence in the context of two key contemporary themes of global conflict: 1) Terrorism and its variety of responses and 2) Social resistance and political activism. The principal aims of the conference were to illuminate the research dimensions of these specific themes and more generally to examine the character and purpose of Peace Studies both as multidisciplinary and as a catalyst for non-violent social change. The conference proceedings were published as CPS Working Paper No. 8.

⇒ Visit from the Indian ambassador to the CPS

The Centre for Peace Studies received a visit from the Indian ambassador in Norway Mahesh Sachdev, who met members of the CPS Board and students at the MPCT. The ambassador also visited and paid his respects to Gandhi's bust located outside of the CPS building.

⇒ Symposium on Critical Realism. Transcending Conventional Boundaries. Contemporary Challenges to Social Science and World Peace.

In the Nordic countries interdisciplinary research is generally not a subject for special research training and very few courses are taught on how to do it, or indeed why it is vitally important in today's world. Given this gap between the existing status of research training and the needed level of research training and comprehension, the participants at the symposium argued that creating a network dedicated to interdisciplinary work is an innovation greatly needed and that "critical realism" is well suited to this purpose. The overall aim of the network is to establish a permanent Nordic Network of Critical Realism focusing on and supporting interdisciplinary applied research. Within the network new methodologies based on critical realism will be further developed and applied.

⇒ The Peace Forum

The Peace Forum is a meeting place for students, both first and second year, enrolled in the Masters in Peace and Conflict Transformation (MPCT) and for PhD-students. The Peace Forum serves as a forum for discussion on a broad range of topics pertaining to peace studies.

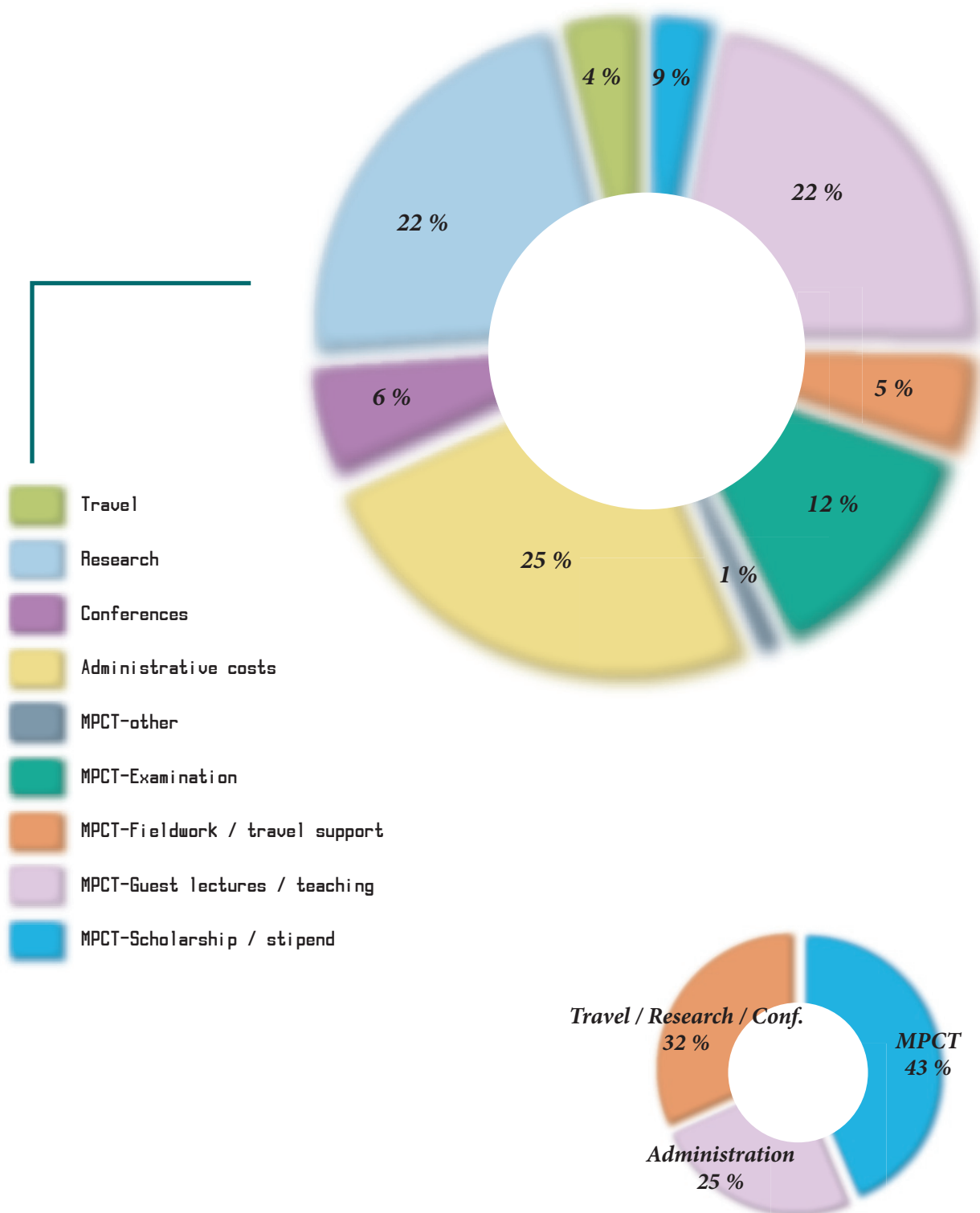
⇒ The City of Refuge for Persecuted Writers

Following an initiative of Salman Rushdie, The International Parliament of Writers (IPW) in 1994 established an international network of cities of asylum for persecuted writers. In 1995, the Norwegian city of Stavanger declared itself a city of asylum. Stavanger was joined by Kristiansand in 1999 and by Oslo in 2001.

The City of Refuge for Persecuted Writers is a collaboration between the city of Tromsø, Troms County and the University of Tromsø. Dr. Easterine Iralu from Nagaland arrived in March 2005 as the first City Refugee writer in Tromsø, and introduced herself to the students in the MPCT during the graduation ceremony 2005.

The Money We Spent

The CPS spends a total of NOK 4,6 million divided between the MPCT-programme and the activities of the Centre itself. The diagram shows the distribution over the various tasks of the CPS:



“As a teacher at the Masters degree programme at the Centre for Peace Studies, I had the pleasure to follow the high level of activities at the Centre closely. Its academic programme continued and developed further through the year giving courses and supervision to a large number of gifted students. It has also been able to arrange an important research conference. The dedication of the administrative staff has meant a lot to achieve these outputs. During the fall, special emphasis was put on the issue of methodology within its interdisciplinary Masters programme. Central questions had been how to teach the students to do research in their own environment, in documents or in places unknown to them? How to pose research questions, how to collect data, how to give a critical evaluation and interpretation of their data? The Centre has developed under challenging circumstances. It has a great potential and also a good resource base. As a member of its Board I see the greatest challenge of 2006 to further extend the Centre’s activities and to continue to recruit highly qualified and dedicated people to the Centre.”

RANDI RØNNING BALSVIK, BOARD MEMBER OF THE CPS



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