

Newsletter

Creating Safer Space

September 2023



Dear All,

In today's newsletter, we are very happy to share our new Working Paper, which provides a comprehensive overview of the literature on unarmed civilian protection and community self-protection in Colombia. This will be an invaluable resource for both experienced researchers and those new to this field.

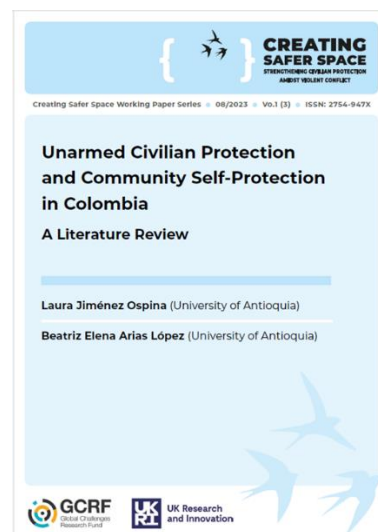
We also warmly invite you to our next Research Café at the end of October. Drawing upon her experience as Deputy Editor of the journal *Civil Wars*, Dr Sukanya Podder will provide top tips for publishing in academic journals. This will be very helpful to anyone new to academic publishing, and we also very much hope experienced researchers will join us to share their experiences and insights.

Finally, we are very happy to share news from our research projects around the world. Why not sit down with a cuppa to watch short films about water conflicts in Colombia, or clips from the recording of a theatre performance inspired by research on urban violence and community art?

Creating Safer Space is an international research network, which aims to understand and support unarmed civilian protection and self-protection amidst violent conflict.

New working paper on UCP in Colombia

The *Creating Safer Space* network has published a new working paper, '[Unarmed Civilian Protection and Community Self-Protection in Colombia: A Literature Review](#)'. The working paper is written by Laura Jiménez Ospina and Beatriz Elena Arias López at the University of Antioquia, and it is available in both Spanish and English.



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The working paper draws upon 617 records that were collected, including academic literature, reports from civil society organisations and audiovisual material. The working paper explores literatures regarding the self-protection mechanisms that exist in Colombia and the communities that have used them; national and international NGOs that support human rights defenders and communities that live in contexts of violence; and other important discussions around UCP and self-protection.

We welcome proposals for the [Creating Safer Space Working Paper Series](#). Please contact creating-safer-space@aber.ac.uk if you are interested in publishing a working paper with us.

Research Café: Top tips for publishing in academic journals

At the next *Creating Safer Space* Research Café, Dr Sukanya Podder will draw upon her experience as Deputy Editor of the academic journal [Civil Wars](#) to explain how the publishing process works, and to share some top tips for publishing in academic journals.

This session will be especially relevant to early career researchers, researchers working within practitioner organisations, and others who are new to publishing in academic journals. The session will finish with an open discussion, and we also warmly welcome senior researchers to come and share top tips of your own.

1.30 – 2.30 pm UTC on **Monday 30 October**

Please use a [timezone converter](#) to check your local time.

The session will be held in English and Spanish with simultaneous translation.

Please register for this online **Zoom event** here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0tduCsqTooH9WJly0eDTVqoJPoMEsX-lxM>

The aim of this network-wide *Creating Safer Space* Research Café is to enable people in different parts of the world to exchange knowledge and to help build a community of Unarmed Civilian Protection (UCP) researchers and practitioners.

News from *Creating Safer Space* Projects



The *Creating Safer Space* project '[Water conflicts, violations and forms of self-protection: A multi-case study in Eastern Antioquia, Colombia](#)' has produced three short films about their research, which is available [here](#).



The *Creating Safer Space* project '[Safety and dignity: Enhancing unarmed civilian protection amongst Palestinian communities in the South Hebron Hills](#)' has undertaken fieldwork in Palestine. The project team, Marwan Darweish, Mahmoud Soliman and Andrew Rigby, completed two field trips to Palestine and conducted interviews with different local, national and international UCP actors.



The *Creating Safer Space* project '[Development of civil protection capacities in women displaced by the armed conflict through popular communication and Community Legal Empowerment](#)' has provided an [update about their project](#), and has produced two short film clips about their art exhibition, which are available [here](#) and [here](#).



The *Creating Safer Space* project '[Community strategies for Unarmed Civilian Protection in South-West Colombia: local experiences and lessons learned](#)' is organising a Film Festival focused on participatory video and community cinema. The deadline for applying to show a film at the festival is **8 October 2023**. More information is available [here](#).



Three *Creating Safer Space* projects led by Coventry University met with Dr Felicity Gray, Global Head of Policy & Advocacy at Nonviolent Peaceforce. The researchers presented the key findings of their projects about UCP in [Palestine](#), [Cameroon](#) and [South Sudan](#). David Curran of the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations had organised a seminar with Dr Gray on the topic, "A different kind of weapon?": Nonviolent action and the protection of civilians in violent conflict".



The *Creating Safer Space* project [‘Art that Protects: Contributions of artistic-cultural initiatives to the self-protection strategies of young people and women in the context of the urban conflict in Medellín, 2022’](#) has inspired the production of a theatre performance, which was filmed and short clips are now available [here](#).

External News and Events

Danny Witiatmo & Abellia Anggi Wardani have published a journal article, [“Chinese war in Southeast Asia’s Frontier: contesting Kokang’s Chinese identity on Myanmar-China Border conflict”](#), in *Small Wars and Insurgencies*.

The **British Academy** invites grant applications for [international Official Development Assistance \(ODA\)-eligible research projects involving both the humanities and the social sciences](#). The aim of the grant is to support international collaborations between early career researchers in the UK and early career researchers in Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Philippines, South Africa, Turkey, Thailand, Vietnam and/or Least Developed Countries. The deadline is 1 November 2023.

The **UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office** invites not-for-profit organisations to deliver a research programme on [‘Wars fought better: Building the evidence on promoting restraint by armed actors’](#). Funding will be up to £5 million. The deadline is 20 October 2023.

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