

## Activity Report 2009

At the end of the year the IFGK (*Institut für Friedensarbeit und Gewaltfreie Konfliktaustragung*) has had seven active and six currently inactive members. Its active members are: Martin Arnold, Albert Fuchs, Gudrun Knittel, Barbara Müller, Achim Schmitz, Christine Schweitzer und Oliver Wolleh. Its inactive members are: Detlef Beck, Christoph Besemer, Anne Dietrich, Björn Kunter, Giovanni Scotto and Uli Wohland.

### Research and Teaching, Consultancies, Events

**Martin Arnold** finished in 2009 his research on the mechanisms of successful active nonviolence („*GueteKraft*“) as it was practiced by Hildegard Goss-Mayr, Mohandas K. Gandhi and Bart de Ligt, and submitted it as Ph.D. thesis to the university of Siegen. (You can find information about the project at <http://www.martin-arnold.eu> .)

Some results of his research he presented at the Peace Forum Essen, at a conference on Aikido in Schweinfurt, at an event honouring Gandhi's 140th birthday of the German-Indian Society in Essen and at a church congregation in Essen.

**Albert Fuchs** worked as member of the *pax-christi-Commission Peace Politics* on a position paper on NATO and on a paper regarding the elections to the EU Parliament. He also was the editor of a reader „No to Nato –Yes to Peace“. His long work in the editorial board of the magazine *Wissenschaft und Frieden* he ended this year. Currently he is – besides grassroots activities where he lives - working on a collection of articles that discuss the notion of „war for peace“ from a pacifist standpoint.

**Barbara Müller** increased her community development work in 2009. She also was a consultant for the *Akademie für Konflikttransformation (Academy for Conflict Transformation in the Forum CPS)*, accompanying its organisational development.

**Achim Schmitz** has started in 2009 together with an external colleague a three-year evaluation of a project that deals with intercultural and social competencies in schools and vocational training. The partner of the IFGK here is the co-operative society *act for transformation*.

With the same organisation he has helped to put together educational materials on conflict transformation, peace and development for schools and adult education (a „peace box“). That project has been funded by InWEnt with money of the Ministry for Development.

In the summer semester 2009 he taught a seminar „Theory and Practice of Nonviolence“ at the Pedagogical High School Schwaebisch-Gmuend. This seminar will be repeated in 2010. Website <http://www.frieden-achim-schmitz.de> .

**Christine Schweitzer** continued to be employed with a 0.5 position at the IFGK, financed by honoraria for consultancies and studies.

She finished in 2009 her thesis on „Strategies of Intervention in Protracted Violent Conflicts by Civil Society Actors. The Example of Interventions in the Violent Conflicts in the Area of Former Yugoslavia, 1990 – 2004“ at the University of Coventry (supervisor: Andrew Rigby). The study can be found at the website of the IFGK: [http://www.ifgk.de/oben/publikationen\\_all.htm](http://www.ifgk.de/oben/publikationen_all.htm).

In the first half of 2009 she did a study on recruitment problems of the Civilian Peace Service on behalf of the mentioned *Akademie für Konfliktbearbeitung* [Online] at [http://www.forumzfd-akademie.de/files/va\\_media/nid2882.media\\_filename.pdf](http://www.forumzfd-akademie.de/files/va_media/nid2882.media_filename.pdf).

From February to October she returned as a consultant to *Nonviolent Peaceforce*, focussing on support of the Philippine project.

Another area of work has been the work as editor of the peace movement magazine *Friedensforum*, among others being responsible for the issues on “Colonies in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”, “Right-wing Extremism” and “War Profiteers”.

In the last months of 2008 she has edited a Working Paper that the IFGK publishes in cooperation with *Nonviolent Peaceforce* on “Civilian Peacekeeping”. This paper which is in English language can be downloaded from our website from mid/end of January 2010 on.

### Study Day on the 14 March 2009 in Stuttgart

The spring Study Day of the Institute has been organised in cooperation with *Ohne Rüstung Leben (Living Without Armament)*. The subject was: “**Theory and Praxis of Nonviolence – current discussions and developments**“. Contributions included issues of active nonviolence and empowerment, Darfour, *Therapie Sociale* and pacifism and religion.

### **Study Day on the 28 November 2009 in Hamburg**

In autumn 2009 the IFGK did not organize a Study Day of its own but joined the day organized by the *Archiv Aktiv* and the *IKM* (both Hamburg) on „Successes of Nonviolent Resistance from Brokdorf to Gorleben“. Activists of three generations presented experiences of their work against nuclear power.

### **Representation, International Networking and Cooperation**

Association of German peace researchers (*AFK*): Barbara Mueller

*Bund für Soziale Verteidigung* (Federation for Social Defence): Achim Schmitz

*Platform Civil Conflict Transformation* and *War Resisters' International*: Christine Schweitzer

### **Administration and Communications**

The administration of the IFGK is shared by several of its members. Barbara Müller is focussing on everything that has to do with finance and personnel. Achim Schmitz is responsible for the website and regular reports to the newsletter of the BSV. Christine Schweitzer is responsible for the administrative organisation of study days and handles general mail, the annual report and the information brochure. Other tasks like preparing the contents of study days etc are rotated. Board members of the association (charity) of the IFGK are Achim Schmitz, Martin Arnold and Barbara Müller.

### **Plans for 2010**

**Spring Study Day: „Theory and Practice of Nonviolence“** on the 13 March 2010 in Heidelberg

In Cooperation with the *Werkstatt für Gewaltfreie Aktion, Baden* (Heidelberg) und *Ohne Rüstung Leben* (Stuttgart)

Presentations about (all in German language):

- About the Banality of the Good – *Zivilcourage* (Personal Courage) and Civil Resistance in the Time of the Nazis and Today (Renate Wanie)
- The Change of the Somali Institution *xeer* in Regard to Handling Conflict: A Comparison of Somalia and Somaliland (Bianca Percic)
- A Comparative Study on Different Protagonists of Nonviolence (Judith Overbecke)
- Methods of Dialogue in the Peace Movement and Conflict Transformation – Prerequisites, Obstacles and Qualities (Gudrun Knittel)
- *Freie Heide* (an area where the German air force trained bombing) (Roland Vogt)
- Strategies of Intervention in Protracted Violent Conflicts by Civil Society Actors. The Example of Interventions in the Violent Conflicts in the Area of Former Yugoslavia, 1990 – 2002 (Christine Schweitzer)
- Education for Civil, Nonviolent Conflict Transformation With a „peace box“ (Achim Schmitz und Jürgen Menzel)

**Autumn Study Day** in Cologne. Dates: 8-9 October or 22-23 October 2010

**In spring 2010** there will probably be a big conference on Active Nonviolence (*Guete kraft*).

### **Research and Publications**

Two new research projects are being planned: Achim Schmitz plans a project on „Education for Peace in School, with Youth and Adults“ (Achim Schmitz, in cooperation with act for transformation). Christine Schweitzer is currently developing a concept for a study on the question which role civil society plays in the successful prevention or ending of wars.

Three book publications are in the making – all of revised Ph.D theses which were written by IFGK members: Achim Schmitz on „Trainings in Nonviolence“, Martin Arnold on „Guete kraft“ and Christine Schweitzer on „Conflict Interventions“.