

Working Report 2000-2001

1. Research Projects

1.1 Peace Constituencies

This project about the support of native Peace Constituencies by foreign interventions on the grassroots level is carried out by Barbara Müller as a follow-up of the BPT study, and is financed by the Berghof Institute (Berlin).

1.2 Research on Satyagraha

Martin Arnold is working in collaboration with others on the practice and theory of Satyagraha. (He uses a new German term, "Gütekraft"). He has published a working paper "Gütekraft (Satyagrah): Thema für die Friedens- und Konfliktforschung" (topic for peace and conflict research). The first book "Gütekraft erforschen" (1999, sold out) is followed by two theses in this context by Burkhard Bläsi (based on 9 interviews a psychological grounded theory about interpersonal change processes by nonviolent conflict transformation) and Reinhard Egel-Völp (about the shaping of relationships in the conditions of Christian communities). Invitation to join the satyagraha research: a) everybody may tell the experiences with non-violent behaviour and send the story to the group to enlarge the database for research (and by talking with others everybody may try to understand more about the conflict transforming power) b) researchers are requested to join the challenge: Martin Arnold, Weichselstr. 22, D - 45136 Essen (Germany), Email: Martin.Arnold@t-online.de

1.3 Action Research

Barbara Müller and Oliver Wolleh have started an action research project accompanying the finding of a new nonviolent intervention project by the Federation of Social Defence, a German pacifist umbrella organisation.

2. Study days

Twice a year the IFGK carries out a week-end meeting which includes a study day where different projects are presented and discussed. These study days routinely are open to non-members as well.

In October 2000 the IFGK had a study day with a report about Satyagraha in peace and conflict research by Martin Arnold, a study about right extremism and acceptance of violence by Albert Fuchs, a project draft "Nonviolent alternatives for military" by Christine Schweitzer and a report about two workshops in a research project "The possibility of the intervention of Peace Constituencies by grassroots actors" by Barbara Müller.

In March 2001 the IFGK had a study day with a report about the support of native Peace Constituencies by foreign interventions on the grassroots level by Barbara Müller, presentation of the work on a feasibility study on a 'Global Nonviolent Peace Force' by Christine Schweitzer, a project outline containing success criteria for international nature protection plans and constructive conflict resolution by Elke Steinmetz, and a discussion about women as actors in conflicts by Gina Mertens.

3. Secretariat of Platform Civil Conflict Resolution

Since its foundation, the IFGK serves as the secretariat of the German Platform Civil Conflict Resolution.

4. Publications

New publications in 2000/2001 have been:

Albert Fuchs/Claudia Schuchart: Gewaltwahrnehmung und Gewaltbegriff. Wie (un-)bestimmt ist der Alltagssprachgebrauch von "Gewalt"?, Arbeitspapier Nr. 13, Juli 2000 (24 Seiten, 3,50 € (7 DM))

Achim Schmitz: Kampagnen der Friedensbewegung der neunziger Jahre. Eine Analyse von Fallbeispielen, Arbeitspapier Nr. 14, September 2000 (74 Seiten, 5 € (10 DM))

Albert Fuchs unter Mitarbeit von Kristin Pösch: Rechtsextreme Orientierung, Gewaltakzeptanz und Gewalttätigkeit, Arbeitspapier Nr. 15, Dezember 2000 (32 Seiten, 3,50 € (7 DM))

Martin Arnold: Gütekraft (Satjagrah): Thema für die Friedens- und Konfliktforschung, Arbeitspapier Nr. 16. April 2001 (20 Seiten, 2,50 € (5 DM))

The working papers have a one-page English summary.

Internet-presence:

The IFGK has now a website with download possibilities of its working papers.

The address is: <http://www.ifgk.de>