

Overview of Activities 2015-2016

The Institute (IFGK) has currently ten active and six inactive members.

Research and Other Projects

Martin Arnold is continuing to work on the special concept of nonviolence he termed “Gütekraft” (force of mercy), giving talks and presentations, including the presentation of the books he wrote on three protagonists of “Gütekraft”, Hildgard Goss-Mayr, Mohandas K. Gandhi and Bart de Ligt.

Albert Fuchs is mainly interested in issues of ethics of peace, and cooperated with Pax Christi in preparing a conference on the topic.

Achim Schmitz and Roland Vogt have continued to work on peace education -both practically giving seminars and trainings, and being involved in networks seeking to institutionalize peace education at schools.

Christine Schweitzer has translated her study on successful peace movements into English; the booklet will come out in late 2016, published by Jörgen Johansen's and Majken Sørensen's IRENE Publishers. She also published several articles on Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping (UCP). In July 2016, she was part of a small international group founding a research network on UCP. Coordinator is Rachel Julian (university of Leeds).

Study Days

In 2015, the IFGK organized two study days. The one in March 2015 took place in Heidelberg, the autumn one was a symposium on UCP where the IFGK joined forces with the Federation for Social Defence. In March 2016 the IFGK cooperated with the Peace Circle Halle for another study day which focused on experiences of the peace movement in East and West Germany.

Management and PR

The management of the IFGK continues to be shared by several members. Barbara Müller is looking after everything having to do with finances and personnel. Achim Schmitz ensures regular reporting to the newsletters of the BSV. Christine Schweitzer took over from Achim the administration of the webpage, is responsible for the organisation of study days and manages the distribution lists and addresses, the information folder and the annual report. Other tasks like the preparation of the contents of study days are rotated. Members of the board of the IFGK continue to be Achim Schmitz and Martin Arnold; treasurer is Barbara Müller.

In February 2013 the website of IFKG was moved to the programme Typo 3; the entering of the new contents was done by Christine.

All core work of IFGK is done on an unpaid, voluntary basis.