



Dear members and friends of ERGOMAS,

It was wonderful to see many of you at the biennial conference hosted by the Hellenic Army Academy in Athens at the end of June 2017. The conference included an ambitious and exciting agenda and provided us with a great opportunity to learn about new and developing areas of research in defence and security, to share our work, and to develop our collaborative networks.

On behalf of all participants, I would like to extend our deepest appreciation to the past President of ERGOMAS, Georges Kaffes for hosting this highly successful and enjoyable conference. Further, I would like to take the opportunity to welcome Helena Carreiras as the new ERGOMAS President – we look forward to Helena’s leadership over the coming term, culminating in the **15th biennial conference in Lisbon Portugal in 2019!** A special thank you to Joseph Soeters, who delivered a thought-provoking and engaging keynote address entitled *From Social Sciences' Founding Mothers and Fathers to the Study of Today's Militaries*. And an additional thank you is extended to Ralf Zoll, one of the founding members of ERGOMAS, who gave an inspiring talk on both the inception/history of ERGOMAS as well as word of wisdom for the way ahead on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of ERGOMAS! Of course, we would also like to thank René Moelker for his hard work as Treasurer over the past term, David Kuehn our diligent webmaster for the past 3 terms, and all the Working Group Coordinators for their significant leadership and contributions. I would also like to thank our awards committee, Ashu Pasrisha (Chair), René Moelker, and Maren Tomforde and to congratulate Esmeralda Kleinreesink, recipient of the Giuseppe Caforio Best Book Award for her book entitled *On Military Memoirs* (please see below in this newsletter for greater details).

The business meeting for all members was held on 28 June 2017. This included the awards ceremony, report from the executive committee, and elections. We reflected on our accomplishments over the previous term, including, but not limited to, our successful and evolving partnership with *Res Militaris: European Journal of Military Studies*, as well as progress on the Defence Series with *Springer* in partnership with ISA RC01.

Warm regards,

Irina Goldenberg
ERGOMAS Secretary General

Letter from the Past President – George Kaffes

Dear Ergomas members,
Dear colleagues,
Dear friends,

As the outgoing President of ERGOMAS for the last 25 months, I am pleased to address you some words summarizing the aftermath of our 14th conference held by the Hellenic Army Academy in Athens. This conference, which has acquired global dimensions during its thirty-year-existence, besides being one of the largest regarding participation, (we counted 217 inscriptions!) also featured a unique topic: “Military and Society: New models for new challenges.”

One of our founding members, Ralf Zoll who honored us coming in Athens has explained with an exciting and pedagogic way to us youngers during our first plenary, how ERGOMAS was born and the most important, why ERGOMAS.

Our key-speaker, Prof. Joseph Soeters explained us in a marvelous way enlighten by his enormous academic experience the fathers and mothers of our scientific interest for military and society. His presentation was undoubtedly inspired by the spirit of the ancient Greek approach which has influenced forever and ever all human sciences. Here in the land where democracy and philosophy was born this key-speech was most important than ever.

As I underlined also in our plenary session, it is a fact that at the threshold of the 21st century, the army has become more and more important for our civilization: not only does it guarantee our defence and security but it daily contributes to our social welfare on multiple levels. Up to now, military sociologists had to study and analyze the army within its usual context. Because the army, the model we have all known so far, as part of the constitutional state or nation established after the French revolution, had always acted operationally and socially, within its internationally recognized borders.

Nobody doubts that wars were the social phenomenon which human societies had to face for many millennia throughout history. They included, among other things, hostility, aggression, and enmity which had to be solved by using of force. This force, the violence of war, was a strategic force; it was controlled violence, concerning those who were involved in it; those who saw it as the choice and decision of the politicians. Like Clausewitz writes in his definition of war that we all know and accept, “War is the continuation of politics via other means.”

Undoubtedly, war has never been pleasant. No matter how ‘rational’ violence can be, it never stops being a destructive force. That is to say, there are winners and losers; dead and wounded, disasters and calamities, material losses and human losses; and in our century there has been more and more collateral damage. The three world wars of the 20th century - two hot ones and a cold one – have urged men to ban violence in war or even to ban *casus belli* - or so international texts concerning the topic inform us.

As a result of this, military violence has been coded and its execution, at least from the legal point of view, has become exceptionally complicated. The warrior, the soldier, the fighter has found out that he can no longer venture onto the battlefield arbitrarily and uncontrollably. Especially after World War II, international laws and regulations have become very strict and concrete. War crimes and, by extension, crimes against Humanity have begun to weigh more on man's conscience; especially on the conscience of those military men who use military force when following orders placed by politicians. The lists of banned weapons are now longer than before. First, we banned World War I chemical and biological weapons and later we banned nuclear weapons. Please remember, however, that we banned them after we had used them and after we had experienced the disaster that they had caused mankind.

The Cold War, which luckily never erupted, was, from the sociological point of view, another world war. It divided humanity into two political halves; it drew borders, according to political criteria and not according to social criteria; it caused huge social mobility; and worst of all, it created a frantic arms race that could have caused a new holocaust if not the annihilation of the human race. We all remember Einstein's words regarding future wars: "I don't know how the Third World War will be fought but I do know that the Fourth World War will be fought with stones and sticks."

When the Cold War was over, we, as military sociologists, analyzed its consequences, i.e. its huge population movements; the social poverty and inequality among the countries of the Western and Eastern bloc; the geopolitical and geostrategic rearrangements; and the social differences that widened the gap between the poor and the rich.

Nonetheless, one of the worst problems that we have to face today – a problem that is being intensified every day while threatening our society, is terrorism. The phenomenon of terrorism has long existed in our world. Let us recall Herostratus, the 4th-century BC Greek arsonist, who sought notoriety by destroying the Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, on the day Alexander the Great was born. Upon his capture, Herostratus confessed to having committed the arson in an attempt to punish the Ephesians. His criminal act, one of the worst acts of terrorism, reminds us of the acts of terrorism committed by contemporary terrorists.

Up to the September 11 attacks, terrorists had acted within the known context that involved "political acts" of protest, i.e. the assassination of politicians; the destruction of symbolic targets; or some powerful, stable, and affordable explosives that were central to the strategic thinking of extremists - criminal cases, all of them, beyond any reasonable doubt.

However, since that ominous date, things have taken a new turn: terrorists now use one of the most horrible and irresistible weapons ever devised by man: the human body! No army, no matter how great it is, no nuclear weapon, no matter how destructive it can be, can face the terrorist who disguises himself as a lethal weapon and destroys everything within his sphere of activity, lacking morality, or the accepted moral standards.

War has become part of society and man's life; it is not a political choice of strategic force anymore but routine! A terrorist is not just an adversary but a belligerent, an enemy of our society and civilization, a *hostis* and an *inimicus* as we would say in Latin. Even today, armies

are trained to fight their adversaries as belligerents, attempting, theoretically, within the legal and ethical context of war, not to annihilate but to neutralize them.

A terrorist is not an easy opponent. He is an enemy of our society; a foe of man; a paranoid criminal who can potentially live among us. Which of the well-known armies can face him? None. Which weapon system can confront him? None. In the end, if war is the continuation of politics through other means, it is beyond doubt that terrorism is the continuation of war via *anomic* means, to recall the term Emile Durkheim introduced to Sociology. The only antidote to terrorism, which has transformed war into a monster that devours our society, is Man and Education. Since the monster of terrorism was born socially, in the social womb, the antidote should be born in the human body of society, too.

Meanwhile, armies exist and react; weapons are being used; people continue to die; and wars fail to end armed fighting but attempt to transform the world, like Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, mangling our social civilization and values – the two things that make us different from animals. Aristotle says that man is by nature a political animal and by extension a social animal. Man, as we say in the science of sociology, has the instinct of collectivity and sociability. The moment he uses his body to commit a crime against humanity, the terrorist suffers from a great syndrome: he believes that he is a warrior, a fact which is incorrect, as he has clearly lost the instinct of sociability.

Therefore, we, as sociologists, are now facing a huge challenge: to attempt to analyze warfare from every possible aspect. Not only to examine the phenomenon of war, a social phenomenon, but also to scrutinize the army which continues to take action and adapt to this horrible but realistic actuality in our social and ethical context. Which are these new models of armies that we are watching as they are being shaped? Which are the challenges that are affecting us? Is the army closer to human societies or is it moving away? What does society want from our military system today? What are the demands of the military? Which are the big problems the armed forces are facing these days? What kind of army model does our society request? Can a military man be a professional? Are armies a weapon in the hands of politicians or not? Which would be the ideal model of an army in this era of great international challenges?

These were the most important questions that each of us, from his/her scope and from his/her methodological approach, has attempted to discuss, analyze and examine in the present conference. The thematic unities of ERGOMAS have the ability to scientifically cover all those questions. Yet, even if we failed to answer them, it is certain that Sociology can compare and interpret them and, finally, it could endeavour to propose innovative ideas. Because Sociology is the Science of Man – it does not seek to explain the origin of man or life after death in a metaphysical way, but to discuss human life itself. This is the reason why Auguste Comte would have used *positivism* here: to explain the theory that knowledge can be acquired only through direct observation and experimentation, and not through metaphysics or theology

And yet, even if you have not participated here as a Sociologist, but as a graduate of Human Studies, it is certain that Humanities has a great deal in common with Sociology, i.e. Man. Armies are composed of men and women and address human societies. Therefore,

methodologically speaking, the interdisciplinary approach of the army and society should offer us a great deal of things at multiple levels.

At the end of our workshops, we have returned to summarize our conclusions and scientific interventions. Some of us have used our knowledge to enrich our university lectures; others have collected valuable information regarding their scientific interests. All of us, however, I am sure of this, we have gained something: either knowledge, or experience, or expertise, but, most important of all, we will have accumulated the wealth that we will bequeath the younger generation of sociologists.

I would like to thank you once again for your very interesting papers which constitute our scientific wealth. We had a huge amount of works presented and the fruitful discussions showed us more challenges to continue our target which is the study of the military and society from the theoretical point of view and in practice, to show the way for better links between army and society. Many of you joined ERGOMAS for the first time. I would like to invite you to stay in our scientific group offering your high-quality job. I hope that our next conference will be more and more interesting and big and attractive for young scientists who like to work in this domain of research. I must underline once more that we are very happy to see that our members are coming from all continents now which made ERGOMAS not only a European affair but a worldwide organization which will continue to offer to our society its scientific product. As the outgoing President I must confess that it was a real pleasure for me to receive all this positive scientific energy which gave to ERGOMAS this global appreciation.

Thank you!
Dr George Kaffes
ERGOMAS President
Prof. of Military Sociology
Hellenic Army Academy

Letter from the New President – Helena Carreiras

Dear members of ERGOMAS,

During the recent ERGOMAS conference in Athens, I was elected as the new president. It is both an honor and a privilege to serve ERGOMAS in this position. I would like to express my gratitude to the former president George Kaffes and all the colleagues in the board for their support and encouragement.

Being the president of ERGOMAS is a challenge that I am pleased to accept for a number of reasons.

First of all, for what ERGOMAS is and the values it stands for. ERGOMAS is, above all, a bridging organization. Anchored in a strong European pillar it developed into a truly international forum, connecting people from all over the world. It is inclusive and diverse, and so it should stay.

ERGOMAS is also bridging diverse disciplines, promoting interdisciplinary study and bringing together researchers from very different intellectual backgrounds and traditions. It is scientifically pluralistic and this is something I would like to see us cherish and strengthen.

ERGOMAS connects academic and professional contexts, researchers and practitioners. As such, it contributes to reducing the gap between knowledge production and applied action. If it is true that no science chooses for us – political action has its own ethical and normative rationality - it is also clear that no policy choice will be effective if disconnected from knowledge production, accurate analysis, and sound research results.

Beyond all this, ERGOMAS is also a community; a place where so many of us experience the 'strength of weak ties', where we find the space and time to discuss research problems, projects and ideas, in a way that is often rarely possible in our own professional contexts, and, most significantly, do it in a comparative manner.

Secondly, being a woman president, is (unfortunately) still not irrelevant. I am happy to uphold the promotion of gender equality as a fundamental ERGOMAS value, and carry on the legacy of the former women presidents, as well as of all those- men and women - who have been supporting gender equality in their various roles.

Finally, and maybe most importantly, this challenge is particularly significant at a moment when so many of the core political values at the heart of the European construction – and which are also the basis for free and independent science - are under threat: democracy, freedom, justice, the rule of law and human rights. I believe that organizations, as much as other type of groups and individuals, have a responsibility to protect and promote these values. In particular, ERGOMAS should stand for its members in countries that have been imposing growing constraints on freedom of thought and movement, or even effective censorship and political violence.

I count on you all to help me strengthen ERGOMAS around these values and hold the flame for the coming two years.

Since there is an ERGOMAS tradition that the president has a specific responsibility in organizing the biannual conference, I am happy to announce that our next conference will take place in Lisbon in 2019. I invite you all to bookmark your agenda and come to Portugal to be part of what we hope will be another great ERGOMAS event.

Please let us know if you have ideas or suggestions that will help to improve this organization, its structure, procedures and outreach. Your input will be crucial to further consolidate ERGOMAS as a scientific and professional group, but also as a community.

Helena Carreiras

Associate Professor
Dean of the School of Sociology and Public Policy
ISCTE-IUL, Portugal
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Giuseppe Caforio Best Book Award – Report from the Committee

The Awards Committee - Ashu Pasrisha (Chair), René Moelker, Maren Tomforde

The best book award was presented by Ashu Pasrisha (on behalf of the awards committee – including Ashu Pasrisha (Chair), René Moelker, and Maren Tomforde). The recipient of the award was Esmeralda Kleinreesink for her book *On Military Memoirs*. The committee noted that the decision was a difficult one, having to decide over two other notable books, including *Private Military and Security Contractors: Controlling the Corporate Warrior* edited by Gary Schaub Jr. and Ryan Kelty, and *European Military Culture and Security Governance: Soldiers, Scholars and National Defence Universities* by Tamir Libel. Below is the report from the Awards Committee on the best book. [The discount flyer for the book is attached in the email!](#)

Report from the Awards Committee

The prize for the best book in the domains of armed forces and civil-military relations, published in the two calendar years since the previous conference (i.e., 2015 & 2016) goes to E. Kleinreesink for her work on “On Military Memoirs”. All the other books submitted were of high quality and it was really very hard task to come out with the result. The jury however was unanimous in its decision favouring the work of E. Kleinreesink and the reason lies in the following motivation.

The work is innovative, refreshed, new and ground breaking. This book shows that soldier-authors are a special breed. This is really new theme and it is indeed need of an hour to conduct research on this group to know their experiences and perceives them not only as traumatised soldiers that need to be reintegrated into society.

In *On Military Memoirs*, author offers insight into the military books: its writers, publishers, the plots they write and their motives for writing which is not only important or relevant for the Armed Forces and the field of military sociology but also for general society. The study explains who is writing, why veterans write, who gets published, and when they are successful in their endeavour. The question is relevant because many veterans experienced war and communicate about it.

E. Kleinreesink justified both quantitative and qualitative comparison made on every Afghanistan war autobiography published in the US, Germany, Canada and the Netherlands between 2001 and 2010. Society has a clear understanding of its soldiers’ motivations, experiences and insights into conflict areas. To avoid social marginalisation and a widening gap between Armed Forces and society due to deployment to missions far away from the home countries, it is essential to have a clear understanding of the life worlds of returning soldiers. By comparing and analysing 54 memoirs as to who writes about what and for which reasons and who is successful in publishing with whom, Kleinreesink allows us a such a valuable and much differentiated insight.

Last but not least, the book examines how soldiers are writing memoirs to cope with their stress and experiences. “On Military Memoirs” is a well-researched book with a convincing theoretical framework and insightful experiences, which can only be recommended to anyone interested in knowing real life of the military personnel.

Awards Committee - Ashu Pasricha (Chair), René Moelker, Maren Tomforde



Update on Publications with Springer

As originally proposed by the Member Support and Publication Committee in 2013, we continue to work on the pursue the standing up of a Defence Series through Springer Publishers, in collaboration with our partner organization the International Sociological Association's Research Committee on Armed Forces and Conflict Resolution (RC01). As a reminder, the requirement is to produce approximately 4 books per year in order to create a visible stand-alone series. In the interim, ERGOMAS and RC01 titles may be published under an existing series entitled *Advanced Sciences and Technologies for Security Applications*. For information on this series we may visit www.springer.com/series/5540 or consult with the series editor Tony Masys <http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/lifelong-learning/cssu/people/dr.-tony-masys>. Of note, under this current arrangement, we may **include logos** of either or both ERGOMAS or RC01 organizations on the cover if desired, which is a great communication and marketing opportunity!

To date there have been several ERGOMAS volumes published through Springer so far (*Information Sharing in Military Operations* edited by Irina Goldenberg, Joseph Soeters, & Waylon Dean; *Leadership in Extreme Situations*, edited by Michael Holenweger, Michael Jager, & Franz Kernic). Aurel Croissant and David Keuhn also published an edited volume through Springer entitled *Civil-Military Relations in New Democracies* in the Springer Political Science stream. There have been inquiries about several others which are currently in various stages of discussion with *Springer*. As always, over and above these efforts on behalf of the executive committees, it is up to us, the ERGOMAS & RC01 members, to make this initiative a success. We encourage you to actively pursue collaborative initiatives and to choose Springer Publishers so as to create the critical mass required to stand up our own series.

Update on Publication Partnership with *Res Militaris: European Journal of Military Studies*

Since the inception of our partnership several years ago, four ERGOMAS Special Issues have been published. These include two from the *Gender and the Military WG* (guest-edited by Marina Nuciari, Irina Goldenberg, & Joelle Laplante) and a special issue from the *Violence and the Military WG* (guest-edited by Eyal Ben-Ari and Karl Ydén). The *Recruitment and*

Retention WG has just released a Special Issue (which is the current *Res Militaris* issue), edited by WG coordinator Tibor Szvircsev Tresch and Eva Moehlecke de Baseggio, with a second special issue from this WG by the end of 2017. There is also currently a Call for submissions out for creation of another special issue, entitled *Military, Security, and Borders – Insights from the Israeli Case* to be edited by Uzi Ben-Shalom and Nir Gazit from the *Israeli Sociological Society*).

Call for New Coordinator for the Gender and the Military Working Group

The Gender and the Military WG offers a forum where topics about gender-related issues regarding servicewomen are analysed and discussed during ERGOMAS conferences as well as through comparative research and publications through the work of the WG. This working group focuses on conducting comparative research. Presentations of volumes and essays on the topic can also be part of special panels. The scope is wide and may focus on topics including women's accession and integration into the military, career advancement, professional orientations, career-family trade-offs, roles in combat and non-combat environments, gender discrimination and role segregation, sexual harassment, women soldiers' roles and different functions with special reference to international and intercultural missions.

If you are interested in leading this WG please submit a letter of interest (**maximum of one page**) describing your expertise/previous research in this area and your suitability for this role. Responses are requested by 15 August 2017 to Irina.Goldenberg@forces.gc.ca.

Call for New Coordinator for the Military Profession Working Group

The Military Profession WG was founded in 1988 in Vienna during the first biennial conference of ERGOMAS. The group was created by Giuseppe Caforio, who was one of the founding fathers of ERGOMAS, in Le Levandou, France, 1986 and has since been a core WG within ERGOMAS. The purpose of the group is the study of the military profession especially in the aspects of adapting to changes in the strategic and operational environment. Joint transnational research and intercultural comparisons constitute the core of the Military Profession WG activities.

If you are interested in leading this WG please submit a letter of interest (**maximum of one page**) describing your expertise/previous research in this area and your suitability for this role. Responses are requested by 15 August 2017 to Irina.Goldenberg@forces.gc.ca.

Conference Photos



President George Kaffes



New President Helena Carreiras and Irina Goldenberg



Keynote Address – Joseph Soeters



Cadets' Demonstration



Cadets' Demonstration



Esmeralda Kleinreesink (Giuseppe Caforio Best Book winner); Yagil Levy (past President); Irina Goldenberg (Secretary General)



Finnish Researchers' Group (and best conference photo!)



Manon Andres, Eva Johansson, Irina Goldenberg, Delphine Resteigne, Joseph Soeters, & Rebecca Schiff



At the Hellenic Army Academy



Manon Andres, David Smith, Tessa Op den Buijs, and Meytal Eran Jona (from Military Families WG)



Erik Hedlund & Anders Sookermany



Post-conference dinner



George Kaffes (2015-2017 President) and Helena Carreiras (incoming President)

ERGOMAS Board Members and Working Group Leaders

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Field Code Changed

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