



## Fall 2015 Newsletter

Dear members and friends of ERGOMAS,

The holiday season is a time to reflect on the events of the past year. Looking back, 2015 was a productive year, culminating in a great conference hosted by the Open University in Ra'anana Israel. On behalf of the ERGOMAS Executive, I would like to take this opportunity to offer our best wishes to you and to all of your families for the holiday season. Further, I am pleased to share with you this fall 2015 newsletter to impart some recent ERGOMAS news and developments.

Irina Goldenberg  
ERGOMAS Secretary General

### 14<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of ERGOMAS

Notably, I would like to announce that the **14<sup>th</sup> biennial conference of ERGOMAS will take place 26-30 June 2017 in Athens Greece**, and will be hosted by our President Georges Kaffes and the Hellenic Army Academy. Mark your calendars for what promises to be another productive event and an excellent opportunity to learn about new and developing areas of research in defence and security while sharing our work, contributing to the working groups, and developing collaborative networks.

### New ERGOMAS Working Group – Critical Military Studies

We are pleased to announce the standing up of a new working group: **Critical Military Studies**, described below. The working group coordinator is Erella Grassiani from University of Amsterdam. If you are interested in learning more or in participating in this working group please contact Erella at [E.Grassiani@uva.nl](mailto:E.Grassiani@uva.nl).

**Critical Military Studies Working Group:** As social scientists from different disciplines we are looking for fresh and critical perspectives on 'things military'. The Working Group (WG) aims to include critical theoretical frameworks that have been included in several social science disciplines, but that have still not made their way through in the military studies. In line with critical theory in general the WG wants to focus on new ways of examining what military studies are and how to approach the military as an object of study. The WG thus does not intend to take 'the military' as a given and/or

to start our analysis from within its ranks or its assigned missions and tasks. Rather members of the WG will commence the analysis from the 'outside' and critically examine what it is that the military does? how it does what it does? and what are the social, political and ethical implications are of its workings and operations? While focussing on the military, the WG will also emphasize the blurry boundaries between the military and security establishments and include these inter-connections in our critical analysis. As a consequence, the WG may touch upon issues that are perhaps seen as 'sensitive' or 'political' but that are very important for understanding socio-military relations. The WG will encourage researchers who study the military in its widest sense, leaving room for a critical approach and an open transparent academic debate on the subjects we study. In this way we hope to open ERGOMAS to new scholarly research and new members.

## Recruitment and Retention Working Group

The Recruitment and Retention Working Group, chaired by Tibor Szvircsev Tresch, is planning a 2-day Working Group Conference which will take place on July, 12-13, 2016 at the Military Academy in Zurich (MILAK), Switzerland (reception on Monday evening, July, 11). The subject of this conference is "Recruitment and Retention" in the broader sense, with a special focus on minorities and persons with immigration background. The aim of the conference is to have a special journal publication for *RES MILITARIS* complete in Autumn 2016.

For more information, please contact Tibor Szvircsev Tresch: [tibor.szvircsev@vtg.admin.ch](mailto:tibor.szvircsev@vtg.admin.ch)

## First ERGOMAS Special Issue of Res Militaris

It is with great pleasure that I announce the publication of the **first ERGOMAS special issue of *Res Militaris* on the topic of "Women in the Military."** This is the first special issue stemming from the partnership between ERGOMAS and *Res Militaris established in* Spring 2014, and entails publication by the journal of special issues based on the research and analysis of ERGOMAS Working Groups. This partnership is intended to provide members and collaborators with an excellent avenue for publication in this journal of military studies, and to provide *Res Militaris* with scholarly contributions based on the work and collaborations of our reputable and productive association. This inaugural issue is related to the work of the Working Group on "Gender & the Military" and is guest edited by Marina Nuciari (Turn University), and Joelle Laplante and Irina Goldenberg (both of Director General Military Personnel Research and Analysis, Defence Research & Development Canada/Chief of Military Personnel).

It is with great pleasure that we share with our colleagues in the social science community this first ERGOMAS Special Issue. We would like to thank Yagil Levy (past President of ERGOMAS), David Mason (past treasurer) and the members of the Publication and Member Support Committee, as well as Bernard Boëne, co-editor in chief of *Res Militaris*, for their instrumental role in bringing this initiative to fruition. Most importantly, we thank all the authors for their valuable contributions! The special issue is found at the link below.

<http://resmilitaris.net>

## In Memory of (Brig. Gen., ret.) Giuseppe Caforio (1935-2015)

As many of you know, we are deeply saddened by the loss of our dear friend and colleague Giuseppe Caforio, who died suddenly this summer. Giuseppe Caforio was one of the founding members of ERGOMAS, and a prolific leader of the highly successful Military Profession Working Group.

Below is a memoriam in his honour written by his close friend Marina Nuciari. We, as an organization, express our condolences to his family. Giuseppe's memory will be honoured during our next conference in Athens.



*When in the first week of August last the unbelievable news came that our friend and colleague Giuseppe Caforio had suddenly passed away, I was engaged in finishing a paper for one of the many editorial projects that Giuseppe was leading, and I knew he was waiting for it to be completed within a few days. He was healthy and active, as always occupied with myriad research plans – and as usual somewhat worried about our deadlines! Now all of us who were closest and dearest to him, together with so many friends and colleagues in the global community of practicing social scientists in the military field, are trying to elaborate our own personal memories of Giuseppe in remembrance of his personality and accomplishments.*

*Giuseppe Caforio, born on 21 June 1935, served in the Italian Army from his admission to the Military Academy in 1954 until he retired in 1992 as Brigadier General. His officer career did not prevent him from earning three degrees, in law (1966), political science (1984) and strategic studies (2002) in three different universities, sure signs of his never-ending curiosity and willingness to acquire deeper knowledge, better grasp social phenomena and processes, and change them if and when necessary. Ever since the early years of his military career, his free spirit and critical mind had prompted him to study military realities by means of social science disciplines, and he soon began to impress upon his comrades in arms the need for empirical research within the Italian armed forces. When in 1983 I first met him (in Madrid, where Rafael Bañon Martínez had invited European social scientists to a Mediterranean Studies Conference on Armed Forces and Society), he told me about his plans to help forge links between the military and the academic social science community in order to promote social research within the defence establishment.*

*From then on, Giuseppe began to participate in myriad meetings and conferences at home and abroad. He soon served as Deputy Chair of the Centro Interuniversitario di Studi Storico-Militari (1984), as founding member of ERGOMAS (1986) and then as ERGOMAS board member and coordinator of the Working Group on the Military Profession. In 1988, he became a fellow of the then Chicago-based Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces & Society, and of the International Sociological Association's research committee on armed forces and conflict resolution (RC01, of*

*which he was elected and re-elected Chair until 2010). The last thirty years of his life course (and even more so after his retirement) saw him turn his prolific activity in the field of military sociology at an international level into a meaningful second career, organizing more than ten international conferences and presenting papers (with his inimitable Italian English accent and typical sense of humour) in more than one hundred seminars, congresses and conferences.*

*He is credited with an impressive record of more than 160 publications (books, journal articles, essays, chapters in edited volumes), many of which have been translated into no fewer than nine different languages, as he proudly wrote in his constantly updated curriculum vitae. Many of us had a part in one or more of the many research projects promoted and coordinated by Giuseppe, have published something somewhere in great big handbooks under his editorship, and are grateful to him for his incredible ability to organize, lead, support research projects, and generally show great care and concern for the publication and the dissemination of research findings across and even beyond the international social science community. Among his last projects figured a substantial collaboration with Res Militaris, and he was already collecting papers for a special issue, thus strengthening the budding partnership between Res Militaris and ERGOMAS – notably with the Working Group on the Military Profession which he initiated and coordinated until his dying day. But Giuseppe was not only a scholar devoted to military sociology, not only a research leader and a wise practical organizer. He was a fine intellectual, enjoying good literature, art and music – a cultured person, curious of and open to past masterpieces and new, ground-breaking works of art alike. Visiting a new city or a museum with him was always an enlightening experience.*

*Giuseppe was a true gentleman and a dear and loyal friend. He was a superb travel mate, too ! He liked to travel the world in a way that led him once to say, speaking of himself and his wife Donatella, “we are not tourists, we are travellers”. He could not have said it better : he travelled through his life as if on a continuous trip bound to some new and unknown place, anxious to grasp new spirits, always curious of new inspirations, never tired, never afraid.*

*Farewell, Giuseppe, have a nice journey!*

**Marina Nuciari**

## **Morris Janowitz Career Achievement Award to Joseph Soeters**

Long time ERGOMAS member and contributor Joseph Soeters was awarded the Morris Janowitz Career Achievement Award at the Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society conference in Chicago this Fall, along with another highly deserving recipient, Don M. Snider. The Morris Janowitz Career Achievement Award is awarded by the Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society to a limited number of senior scholars whose careers most demonstrate excellence in the study of armed forces and society and important service to the discipline. As noted in the conference program (presented below) this award is to acknowledge Joseph Soeter's extended record of significant contributions to our field.

*Joseph Soeters holds the chair of management and organization studies on the Faculty of Military Studies at the Netherlands Defense Academy. From 1999 to 2003 he served as the Dean of the Faculty of Military Studies at the academy. In addition, he serves as a part-time professor of organizational sociology at Tilburg University. For many years, he has been an associate editor of the IUS journal, Armed Forces & Society. He served as the vice-president of the Research Committee*

*on Armed Forces and Conflict Resolution (RC01) within the International Sociological Association. Currently he is a member of its board.*

*Soeters is known to be an enthusiastic and effective teacher at the undergraduate and graduate levels. For instance, he has supervised over thirty PhD dissertations, most on military topics, with more to come. He is also a prolific researcher. He has written a book on Ethnic Conflict and Terrorism and co-edited ten books, most recently a Handbook on Research Methods in Military Studies. He has authored or co-authored about 70 articles in international academic journals, and published a large number of international book chapters. His research interests are wide ranging. He is particularly interested in showing how military cultures and operational styles affect military capacities to prevent, contain and resolve large-scale violent conflict. The overarching theme guiding his work is about whether violence solves problems. His approach is realistic and pragmatic, historical and comparative. He doubts there are simple, black and white, answers to such a question. Rather, he expects there are many shades of grey which it is the business of military studies both to identify and explain.*

## **Upcoming Conferences**

***Research Committee 1: Armed Forces and Conflict Resolution Interim Conference  
(RC01 of the International Sociological Association)***

**Theme: Transformations of the Military Profession  
25-28 September 2016 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**

**The call for papers of the Conference in Rio de Janeiro 2016 is now open and will be closed on December the 5th 2015.**

Please upload your paper proposal using webpage: <http://cpdoc.fgv.br/RC01/submission>.  
<http://www.isa-sociology.org/rc01.htm>

# Meeting Minutes: Post-Conference Meeting of the European Research Group on Military and Society (ERGOMAS)

1 November 2015

Chicago, Illinois (following the Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society Meeting)

Agenda:

<b>General Topics</b>
Next conference in Athens Greece – 26-30 June 2017
Budget update
Res Militaris special issues
Springer
Giuseppe Caforio – memoriam
<b>Working Groups</b>
Critical Military Studies
Military Profession
Blurring of Police and Military Roles
Roundtable - Other

Minutes:

1. Unfortunately Georges Kaffes could not attend but he has passed on his regards and also some key information. Most importantly is that the date for the next ERGOMAS Conference in Athens, Greece is set on 26-30th June 2017. More detailed planning (e.g., transportation) will continue.
2. Financial update: The total of our assets in the bank is 37,977 Euros. Of this number 10,000 is in the savings account. There is a very small amount in the PayPal account of 356 Euros for liquidity reasons. A rough estimate regarding to what we earned from 2013 to 2015 comes close to 5,500 Euro. There are still some costs that have to be dealt with but all in all the prospects look rosy. We have to thank all institutions that hosted us (the last being the Open University in Ra'anana) for sponsoring us. The bottom line is that we need to think how to stimulate our academic work. The WG coordinators will be contacted with a request for ideas and/or proposals.
3. Tibor Szvircsev Tresch announced a meeting of his Working Group on recruitment 15 – 16 July 2016. It will be hosted in Zürich. He has obtained funding up to 25,000 Swiss Francs, which will help facilitate contributors to give and deliver papers. The intention concerns a small-scale expert meeting. The objective is a special issue of Res Militaris. Tibor has additional recourses for the editorial work once papers are received. The review protocol is agreed on. We do not have info on the special issue on Leadership by Franz Kernic.
4. 30 abstracts on Women in Armed Forces resulted in two special issues. The first one came out at the end of September and the second issue is anticipated in December or January.
5. Heiko Biehl mentions that his institution has printing experience and offers to explore possibilities for a printed journal. Heiko indicated he will write a memo or proposal for prospects of a printed journal, ideally of Res Militaris.
6. In collaboration with RC01 ERGOMAS launched a book series within the Lecture Note Series in Springer. An independent ERGOMAS series would require an output of four books per year, which we are yet to demonstrate the capacity to accomplish. The membership was reminded that it is indeed up to us to capitalize on this prospect by publishing under this umbrella with Springer Publishers.

7. Giuseppe Caforio unexpectedly passed away. ... Marina Nuciari has written a eulogy in Giuseppe's honor that was very touching. Irina Goldenberg read the eulogy in full for the attendants of the business meeting.
8. Working Groups
  - a. A new WG was recently initiated by Erella Grassiani: Critical Military Studies
  - b. Marina has a proposal for the succession of Giuseppe Caforio as WG coordinator and tries to find a solution preferred within the ranks of the members of this WG.
  - c. Marleen Easton will step down as coordinator of the WG Blurring Police and Military Roles. Marleen is not able to continue leadership of this group as her research grants are currently in other domains. Amir Bar-or is willing to take over but the question is if there is enough interest. Discussion was held about extending the domain, most notably to private security companies. We'll put out a call, for people who are interested.
  - d. The coordinator of Civilian Control over Armed Forces David Kuehn has organized two workshops. The first workshop was held in Heidelberg, Germany in February 2015 with the support of the German Thyssen Foundation on civilian control of defense and military policy in new democracies, which will result in the publication of an edited volume. The second meeting concerned a panel on the American Political Science Association Meeting in San Francisco with a Special Issue forthcoming from this initiative in the journal Democratization.
  - e. Gielt Algra, coordinator of the WG Veterans and Society is working on an update of the part of the website that is devoted to this WG. Gielt mentions that outreach is important, because not too many people know of the possibilities within ERGOMAS.

## ERGOMAS Board Members and Working Group Leaders

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