



## **Spring 2018 Newsletter**

**Dear members and friends of ERGOMAS,**

I am pleased to share with you this newsletter to impart some recent ERGOMAS news and developments, particularly information about the biennial ERGOMAS conference. I hope you have a wonderful spring and summer!

Irina Goldenberg  
ERGOMAS Secretary General

### **15<sup>th</sup> Biennial ERGOMAS Conference**

**Lisbon, Portugal, 17-22 June 2019**

The European Research Group on Military and Society (ERGOMAS) is an interdisciplinary, international scientific association devoted to collaborative research on military and society. It is a public, non-profit, and politically and ideologically independent professional organization of scientists. Its purposes are pursued through the activities of its Working Groups (WGs) and a biennial conference.

ERGOMAS Working Groups include: Morale, Cohesion and Leadership, Public Opinion, Mass Media and the Military, Gender and the Military, Military Profession, Civilian Control of the Military, Warriors in Peacekeeping, Military Families, Recruitment and Retention, Military and Police Relations, Violence and the Military, Veterans & Society, Military Conflict Management and Peace Economics, Critical Military Studies.

We are pleased to announce the 15th biennial ERGOMAS conference!

The conference will take place in Lisbon, Portugal, 17-22 June 2019.

The theme for this conference will be **Military Studies in a Post-Truth Society: Challenges and Perspectives.**

The Oxford English dictionary declared 'post-truth' the word of the year in 2016, defining it as "relating or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief." While there are many good reasons for social scientists to have a critical view of such generalizing concepts, the idea of post-truth captures important challenges to the way knowledge is built in contemporary societies and invites a reflection on scientific processes and research practices. Where does the study of the military stand in relation to such challenges? To what extent have military researchers been addressing the theoretical, methodological, and ethical dimensions of research in a 'post-truth' society? How can the existing knowledge, methods and techniques be used to examine the ever changing relationship between the military and society? These are some of the questions to be addressed in the next ERGOMAS Conference, as well as research across the broader domains covered by the ERGOMAS Working Groups.

The conference will be held in Lisbon, Portugal, at ISCTE-University Institute of Lisbon (ISCTE-IUL). ISCTE-IUL is one of the three public universities in Lisbon, focused on Social Sciences, Management and Technologies. It is located in the northern part of the city, close to the city center, between the metro stations 'Entrecampos' and 'Cidade Universitária' (address: Av. das Forças Armadas, 1649-026 Lisboa). The venue is within easy reach of many hotels and is served by a good network of public transportation ([www.iscte-iul.pt](http://www.iscte-iul.pt)).

#### **ISCTE.- University Institute of Lisbon**





Since the Conference will also be a privileged occasion to involve the local academic community and promote military studies in Portugal, a Local Organizing Committee has been formed including colleagues from various universities, military academies and the MOD. Here is a picture taken during our first meeting☺

### **ERGOMAS 2019 Local Organizing Committee**



From left to right: Maria José Antunes (ICS-University of Lisbon), Ana Tinoco (MoD), Ana Isabel Xavier (ISCTE-IUL); Helena Carreiras (ISCTE-IUL), Paulo Granjo (ICS-University of Lisbon), Cristina Rodrigues (CIES-IUL), Ana Romão (Military Academy). Missing from the photo: Bruno Cardoso Reis (ISCTE-IUL), Nuno Parreira da Silva (IUM – Military University Institute), Luis Malheiro (IUM – Military University Institute) and Daniela Santos (CIES-IUL).

If you want to start organizing your trip, check the Lisbon tourist office website: <https://www.visitlisboa.com>. Additional information, including travel and accommodation will also be circulated in due time.

We are looking forward to receiving you in Lisbon.

The LOC and the ERGOMAS Board



## News from ERGOMAS Working Groups

### Recruitment and Retention Working Group

The Recruitment and Retention Working group has been very productive. In recent months, the WG produced two special issues of *Res Militaris* on the topic of recruitment and retention. The links to the two special issues can be found below:

Szvircesev Tresch, Tibor; Moehlecke de Baseggio, Eva (Eds.) (2017). "Recruitment & Retention, Part 1". *Res Militaris*, an online social science journal, ERGOMAS issue n°4, July 2017. <http://resmilitaris.net/index.php?ID=1025494>

Szvircesev Tresch, Tibor; Moehlecke de Baseggio, Eva (Eds.) (2017). "Recruitment & Retention, Part 2". *Res Militaris*, an online social science journal, ERGOMAS issue n°5, November 2017. <http://resmilitaris.net/index.php?ID=1025992>

Further to this, the WG is currently in the process of producing work based on the last ERGOMAS conference in Athens, which will be published in a special issue of the journal *Contemporary Military Challenges*. The special issue should be published in June or July 2018.

### Morale, Cohesion, and Leadership Working Group

#### Research Project «Leadership in Extremis»

Over the course of three years, from 2018-2020, an interdisciplinary research project led by a psychologist (Mara Kottlow, Ph.D.) and a sociologist (Yvonne Scherrer, M.A.) will be conducted by the department «Leadership & Communication Studies» at the Military Academy at ETH Zurich. In a first step, the project elaborates a fundamental framework describing the topic of «leadership in extremis» in detail before conducting on this basis a number of disciplinarily oriented sub-studies on the topic that are expected to provide practical findings. While leadership research as such often centers on the individual leader, his/her capabilities and skills, this research complements this approach by additionally taking into account group dynamics and processes, next to analyzing opportunities as well as challenges of leading under such heightened conditions. By 2021, the insights gained in the course of the research project will serve to adapt and improve practical training programs/courses designed to support future leaders from both military and civil sectors in their preparation for leading under extreme conditions.

### *Project members:*

Mara Kottlow, Ph.D. (Psychology/Neuroscience); Yvonne Scherrer, M.A. (Sociology/Sustainability Science); Michael Holenweger, Ph.D. (Political Science); Franz Kernic, Ph.D. (Sociology/Political Science)

### *Points of contact for potential collaborations:*

Mara Kottlow – mara.kottlow@milak.ethz.ch

Yvonne Scherrer – yvonne.scherrer@milak.ethz.ch

## **Military Families Working Group**

### **Minutes of the Military Families Meeting Amsterdam**

The Military Families Working Group held a WG meeting 27 Feb – 1 March 2018.



## **Lovely Amsterdam**

The Military Families scholars were hosted in lovely Amsterdam that normally is heartwarming, but this time it was uncannily cold. The coldest week in the Netherlands in years! Ice was in the canals of the city and the scholars would have been able to skate if they only had brought their skates. The Nordic scholars were feeling well in this climate, but for the others it might have been a tad warmer. In short ... a perfect ambiance for hard work, since hard work keeps you warm.

## **Object of the meeting**

The object of the Military Families meeting in Amsterdam was to discuss papers that will result in the book "Politics of Military Families." The idea is that politics is all around us. State politics determine care arrangements, but also missions of the military and thus impact the hardship families experience. Organizations can provide social support, but they also have to carry out their mission. Within families micro politics are at play that determine who gets what, when and why.

## **Process**

The meeting in general was very successful and was attended by ten scholars from Argentina, Norway, United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Austria, Finland, Estonia and France. By Skype scholars from Canada, Italy, Sweden, the UK, joined the meeting. A total of 15 book chapters were discussed. Other chapters received feedback from the editors directly. Taking feedback from all participants, these first drafts will now be revised. The method of discussing was unique, for the authors were given the opportunity to read and comment on each other's work. The advantage is that fresh comments were delivered and all authors were involved in each other's work.

## **The way ahead**

The idea is that the revised papers will be input to the editorial process and that the end result will be presented at the ERGOMAS Lisbon conference in 2019.

## **Book Reviews of Springer Books Prepared under ERGOMAS Defence Series Partnership**

Two edited books that were recently produced in collaboration between ERGOMAS and *Springer Publishers* were reviewed in the latest issue of *Res Militaris: European Journal of Military Studies*.

In particular:

*Leadership in Extreme Situations*, edited by Michael Holenweger, Michal Karl Jager, and Franz Kernic, was reviewed by Tomas A. Kolditz. The full review can be found at the following link:

[http://resmilitaris.net/ressources/10276/31/res\\_militaris\\_kolditz\\_review\\_of\\_leadership\\_in\\_extreme\\_situations.pdf](http://resmilitaris.net/ressources/10276/31/res_militaris_kolditz_review_of_leadership_in_extreme_situations.pdf)

*Information Sharing in Military Operations*, edited by Irina Goldenberg, Joseph Soeters, and Waylon H. Dean was reviewed by Eyal Ben-Ari. The full review can be found at the following

link: [http://resmilitaris.net/ressources/10276/30/res\\_militaris\\_ben-ari\\_review\\_of\\_irina\\_goldenberg\\_et\\_alii\\_information\\_sharing\\_in\\_military\\_operations.pdf](http://resmilitaris.net/ressources/10276/30/res_militaris_ben-ari_review_of_irina_goldenberg_et_alii_information_sharing_in_military_operations.pdf)

## **Morris Janowitz Career Achievement Award**

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.



The Morris Janowitz Career Achievement Award for 2017 was given to ERGOMAS treasurer Rene Moelker (Netherlands) and long-time ERGOMAS member Patricia M. Shields (United States) at the biennial meetings of the Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society (IUS) held 3-5 November 2017 in Reston, Virginia. The award was established in 2005. It recognizes a long career of scholarly achievement by fellows of the IUS that promotes excellence in the profession of research, teaching, and public service, as these affect the various relationships between armed forces and society. This year's award winners exemplify these ideals. Professor Rene Moelker has been and continues to be a prolific scholar. His research asks how military force can be used to care for the livelihoods of soldiers, veterans and civilians caught up in the experience of collective violence. He has also been a key leader both in Europe and the United States, in ERGOMAS and in the IUS. Professor Patricia M. Shields is the long-term editor of the IUS's journal, *Armed Forces & Society*, a position she has held now for over seventeen years. Under her editorship, the journal has been what every journal should be: an open access seminar led by the editor. The rising reputation of the journal tells what an extraordinary seminar teacher she is. To learn more about these winners and their achievements, see the IUS website ([iusafs.org](http://iusafs.org)).



## Upcoming Conferences

### ***Research Committee 1: Armed Forces and Conflict Resolution (RC 01) of the International Sociological Association (ISA)***

The ISA RC 01 conference will take place in the context of the ISA World Congress, 15-21 July 2018 in Toronto, Canada. Additional information about the conference, as well as the conference program, can be found at <https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/world-congress/toronto-2018/>.

### ***Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society (IUS) Canada***

The IUS Canada conference, entitled *Beyond Tokenism: How Diversity Can Strengthen the Armed Forces*, will take place 19-21 October 2018 in Ottawa Canada. Papers are still being accepted for the conference until **30 June**! Papers can be submitted on-line at <http://www.cimvhr.ca/iuscan/iuscfa.php>.

### ***International Military Testing Association (IMTA)***

The next IMTA conference, entitled *Leading During Times of Uncertainty*, will be held in Kingston, Ontario, Canada from 15-19 October 2018. For additional information about the conference visit [http://www.imta.info/Conference/Conference\\_Home.aspx](http://www.imta.info/Conference/Conference_Home.aspx).



## ERGOMAS Board Members and Working Group Leaders

Position		Email
President	Helena Carreiras	<a href="mailto:helena.carreiras@iscte.pt">helena.carreiras@iscte.pt</a>
Treasurer	René Moelker	<a href="mailto:rene_moelker@yahoo.com">rene_moelker@yahoo.com</a>
Secretary General	Irina Goldenberg	<a href="mailto:irina.goldenberg@forces.gc.ca">irina.goldenberg@forces.gc.ca</a>
Web Master	Guy Paikowsky	<a href="mailto:guypaikowsky@gmail.com">guypaikowsky@gmail.com</a>
Working Group	Working Group Leader/Board Member	Email
Morale, Cohesion and Leadership	Michael Holenweger	<a href="mailto:Michael.Holenweger@vtg.admin.ch">Michael.Holenweger@vtg.admin.ch</a>
Public Opinion, Mass Media and the Military	Marjan Malesic	<a href="mailto:marjan.malesic@fdv.uni-lj.si">marjan.malesic@fdv.uni-lj.si</a>
Gender and the Military	Delphine Resteigne Nina Roles	<a href="mailto:delphine.resteigne@rma.ac.be">delphine.resteigne@rma.ac.be</a> <a href="mailto:Nina.Rones@ffi.no">Nina.Rones@ffi.no</a>
Military Profession	Morten Brænder	<a href="mailto:MortenB@ps.au.dk">MortenB@ps.au.dk</a>
Civilian Control of the Armed Forces	David Kuehn	<a href="mailto:david.kuehn@ipw.uni-heidelberg.de">david.kuehn@ipw.uni-heidelberg.de</a>
Warriors in Peacekeeping	Maren Tomforde	<a href="mailto:marentomforde@suedsinn.de">marentomforde@suedsinn.de</a>
Military Families	M.D. Andres René Moelker	<a href="mailto:md.andres@mindef.nl">md.andres@mindef.nl</a> <a href="mailto:rene_moelker@yahoo.com">rene_moelker@yahoo.com</a>
Recruitment and Retention	Tibor Szvircsev Tresch	<a href="mailto:tszv@zugernet.ch">tszv@zugernet.ch</a>
Military and Police Relations	David Last & Marina Caparini	<a href="mailto:david.last@rmcc-cmrc.ca">david.last@rmcc-cmrc.ca</a> <a href="mailto:mlcaparini@hotmail.com">mlcaparini@hotmail.com</a>
Violence and the Military	Karl Ydén	<a href="mailto:karl.yden@chalmers.se">karl.yden@chalmers.se</a>
Veterans and Society	Gielt Algra	<a href="mailto:g.e.algra@veteraneninstituut.nl">g.e.algra@veteraneninstituut.nl</a>
Military Conflict Management and Peace Economics	Ashu Pasricha	<a href="mailto:ashu.p2@gmail.com">ashu.p2@gmail.com</a>
Critical Military Studies	Erella Grassiani	<a href="mailto:E.Grassiani@uva.nl">E.Grassiani@uva.nl</a>