Rationale and Aims
This module began with a question: what if any role might sociology and/or anthropology play in conflict resolution and peace studies? It is worth asking because of renewed interest in sociology and anthropology on the part of liberal interventionists. We began by looking at the role envisioned by Brewer and MacGinty. For both authors the problem is communal conflict, and they argue that anthropology and sociology have the requisite expertise in ethnicity, identity, community, inequality to comprehend and address communal conflict.

In the Part I we explored western liberal notions of communal conflict; the assumptions about violence, culture, race/ethnicity and identity that underpin these notions of communal conflict and the 'solutions' to communal conflict that they have licensed. We then looked at the work of several authors (Latour and Mamdani) who problematise these assumptions. The problem with liberal interventionism is that the West (because of its presumed privileged access to scientific knowledge) positions itself as the universal arbiter of peace/conflict and consequently lacks the conceptual tools to reflect on the reproduction of violence – communal and otherwise -- by Western liberal hegemony itself.

In Part II we will deepen this reflexive critique of Western, liberal techniques of conflict resolution and peacemaking [pacification]. Central to this will be understanding the forms of power, sovereignty and governance that emerged with the modern nation state and which still hold us in their sway. We will sketch alternatives to the roles envisioned by Brewer and MacGinty: not a sociology/anthropology of conflict but a sociology/anthropology of peacemaking/pacification/liberal intervention and of resistance to the hegemony of the western liberal state.

This module has a serious theoretical orientation, but it has an empirical touchstone – ie the peace process in Ireland – and you are encouraged to explore this case, or any other case study, that interests you.

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this module you will have a critical understanding of:

- communal conflict and liberal peace
- western liberal approaches to the management or government of ethnic difference and communal conflict and the knowledge claims about conflict, culture and identity that underpin them.
- critiques of liberal intervention
- different approaches to understanding power, sovereignty, the state, liberal peace/intervention and colonialism
- the relationship between various forms of racism, power, violence, knowledge (including social scientific knowledge) and the rise of the nation state
- forms of resistance and representation

Methods of Teaching and Student Learning
One lecture, one tutorial per week.

Assessment
Part I of the course was assessed by essay (50%), Part II will be assessed by exam (50%). You will each [individually or together with colleagues] be expected to lead one tutorial discussion in each semester. This is compulsory but not formally assessed.

Reading
There are two key texts: Finlay, A (2010) Governing Ethnic Conflict, Routledge, and Brewer J., (2010) Peace a Sociological Approach, Polity. Everyone will be expected to read at least the basic texts (marked thus ***) in advance of relevant tutorial discussion.
1. (23 Jan): power and resistance

*** Finlay, A (submitted) ‘Anthropological sensitivity’ and ‘good governance’ - the British/Irish peace process as an exemplar for liberal interventionism? Peacebuilding
*** Badiou, A. (2008) the Communist Hypothesis New Left Review 49

2. (30 Jan): Hobbes and Weber, sovereignty and violence

*** Gledhill, J. (1999 or 2004) Power and its disguises, Pluto (Ch 1)

3. (6 Feb): the racial state


4. (13 Feb): truth, sovereignty and violence


5. (20 Feb): coercion, persuasion and resistance

*** Gledhill, J. (1999 or 2004) Power and its disguises, Pluto (Ch 4 ‘... domination and resistance

reading week
6. (6 Mar): resistance as diagnostic of power
**Finlay 2010 Preface and Conclusion
Holloway J. (2002) Change the world without taking power, Pluto Esp Ch 1, 3 [p38-42] and ch 4

7. (13 Mar): resistance is condemned to reproduce the institutions and categories of oppression?
http://it/mtrav.ie/keyissues/myview_new/87
kiberd,D (1995) Inventing Ireland [Introduction ch1]

8. (20 Mar): feminist challenge to communalism
***Aretxaga, Begona (1997) Shattering Silence women, Nationalism and Political Subjectivity in Northern Ireland, New Jersey: Princeton University Press. [esp ch1, ch7 and afterword]

9. (27 March): Revision