Rationale and Aims
This module begins with a question: what if any role might sociology and/or anthropology play in conflict resolution and peacestudies? It is worth asking because of renewed interest in sociology and anthropology on the part of liberal interventionists. We will begin 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 will explore 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 will then look at the work of several authors (Latour and Mamdami) 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 develop a 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 n Europe 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 will be 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. Essay deadline 20 December 2013.

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 class.
Wk1: introductions and orientation
**Finlay, A. (2010) Ch 1

Wk2: communal conflict and peace agreement
***Brewer J. (2010) (esp Introduction, conclusion and whatever else grabs you)

Wk3: sociology, anthropology liberal intervention 9oct
**Merry, S (Sept 2007) ‘Conflict Resolution vs Human Rights ’ Anthropology News, p16 [Blackboard]

Wk4: concepts of culture, consociation and the British/Irish peace process
**Finlay, A. (2010) Ch2 & 3
Hughes, J (2009) Paying for Peace: Comparing the EU’s Role in the Conflicts in Northern Ireland and Kosovo Ethnopolitics, 8, 3–4, 287–306

Wk5: identity – more a matter of government than of culture?
***Finlay (2010) Ch4
**Mujkic A.(2007) We, the Citizens of Ethnopolis Constellations,14, 1

Wk 6 concepts of culture/ethnicity/tribe and colonial administration
** Anderson B () Census, Map , Museum in Imagined communities,
**Li, T. M. (2005) Beyond “the State” and Failed Schemes, American Anthropologist, 107, 3

Wk 7 reading week ... no classes

Wk8: concepts of culture and the war on terror
***Gregory D (2008) Counterinsurgency and the Cultural Turn, in Radical Philosophy 150, 8-35 blackboard
**Al-Mohammad, H. (2010) Relying on One’s Tribe ..., Anthrop Today, 26, 6 pp23-26

Wk 9 ethnography of peacekeeping, anthropology of the future
Wk10 interim conclusion

***Finlay, A (submitted) ‘Anthropological sensitivity’ and ‘good governance’ – the British/Irish peace process as an exemplar for liberal interventionism? Peacebuilding


Wk11 essay writing