Colloquium on Civil Resistance

*International Institute for Peace • Peace & Conflict Studies • Division of Global Affairs*

*Professor Kurt Schock*
*Rutgers University, Newark*
*Spring Semester 2014*

2:30 p.m. at the Dana Room,
4th floor of Dana Library

**Wednesday, February 26**
Mary Elizabeth King, Professor of Peace & Conflict Studies, University for Peace, Costa Rica; Distinguished Scholar, Center for Global Peace, American University, Washington DC
"From the Salt March to the Selma March."

**Wednesday, March 12**
Lester Kurtz, Professor of Sociology, George Mason University
"The Aesthetics of Resistance."

**Wednesday, April 2**
Nathan Schneider, journalist and author.
"The Occupy Movement."

**Wednesday, April 9**
Jill Carr-Harris, University of Toronto
"Nonviolent Action and Social Change: A Cross-Country March of 50,000 Landless Peasants and Their Efforts to Promote Land Reform in India."
Stellan Vinthagen, Associate Professor of Sociology, University of West and Gothenburg University, Sweden
"Legal Design of Activism: A Potential for Radical Social Change?"

**Wednesday, April 16**
Maciej Bartkowski, Senior Director for Education & Research, International Center on Nonviolent Conflict, Washington DC
“A Tale of Nonviolent Resistance in Struggles Against Oppression.”

**Wednesday, April 23**
Srdja Popovic, Director, Center for Applied Nonviolent Actions and Strategies, Belgrade, Serbia
"People Power Unveiled: How Nonviolent Struggle is Changing Our World"
Mary Elizabeth King is professor of peace and conflict studies for the University for Peace, an affiliate of the UN, and scholar-in-residence with the American University’s School of International Service, Center for Peacebuilding and Development, Washington, DC. She is Distinguished Rothermere American Institute Fellow at the University of Oxford, Britain. She won a Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Book Award for *Freedom Song: A Personal Story of the 1960s Civil Rights Movement*, about her experiences working for four years at the heart of the U.S. upheaval, at times alongside Martin Luther King, Jr. in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. This was the defining experience of her life. Her other books include *The New York Times on Emerging Democracies in Eastern Europe* (2009); *A Quiet Revolution: The First Palestinian Intifada and Nonviolent Resistance* (2007) *Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr: The Power of Nonviolent Action* (1999, 2002). Forthcoming is *Gandhian Nonviolent Struggle and Untouchability in South India: The 1924–25 Vykom Satyagraha, and the Mechanisms of Change*. In 2011, her alma mater Ohio Wesleyan University awarded her a doctor of laws (honorary) degree, she received a James M. Lawson Award for Nonviolent Achievement, and Aberystwyth University in Wales elected her a Fellow, its equivalent of the honorary degrees bestowed elsewhere. King received the 2009 El-Hibri Peace Education Prize, and in 2003 in Mumbai the Jamnalal Bajaj International Prize, named for Gandhi’s silent financial backer. Her doctorate in international politics is from Aberystwyth University.

Lester Kurtz is a professor of Sociology at George Mason University, where he teaches nonviolence, social movements, peace and conflict studies, the comparative sociology of religion, globalization, and social theory. Professor Kurtz is also involved in helping to create a new Ph.D. program in Public Sociology. He holds an M.A. in Religion from Yale and a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Chicago. He is the editor of the *Encyclopedia of Violence, Peace and Conflict* (Elsevier), co-editor of *Nonviolent Social Movements* (Blackwell) and *The Web of Violence* (University of Illinois Press). Dr. Kurtz is the author of several books and articles including *Gods in the Global Village* (Pine Forge/Sage), *The Politics of Heresy* (University of California Press), and *The Nuclear Age* (Prentice-Hall). He is currently working on a book called *Gandhi’s Paradox*, writing about *Gods and Bombs: Religion and the Rhetoric of Violence*, and co-editing a book on *The Paradox of Repression*. He has lectured in Europe, Asia, Africa, and North America and has been a visiting professor at the University of Chicago, Northwestern University, Delhi University, Tunghai University, and the European Peace University. He served as chair of what is now the Peace and Justice Studies Association and the Peace, War, and Social Conflict Section of the American Sociological Association, which awarded him its Robin Williams Distinguished Career Award.

Nathan Schneider is an editor of the website *Waging Nonviolence*. His first two books, both published in 2013 by University of California Press, are *Thank You, Anarchy: Notes from the Occupy Apocalypse* and *God in Proof: The Story of a Search from the Ancients to the Internet*. He has written about religion, reason and violence for publications including *The Nation*, *The New York Times*, *Harper's*, *Commonweal*, *Religion Dispatches*, *AlterNet* and others.

Stellan Vinthagen is Associate Professor of Sociology, University West and University of Gothenburg, Sweden. He is a Council Member of War Resisters International, academic advisor to the International Center on Nonviolent Conflict, and Co-Leader of the Resistance Studies Group (www.resistancestudies.org). His research is focused on resistance, movements, nonviolent action and social change. He has written or edited seven books and numerous articles, including *The Sociology of Nonviolent Action* (Zed Books, 2014), “Nonviolent Resistance and Culture”, (with Sørensen) in *Peace & Change*, and *Tackling Trident* (edited with Kenrick and Mason). Vinthagen has been an educator, organizer and activist in several countries, and has participated in more than 30 nonviolent civil disobedience actions, for which he served one year in prison. He is one of the founders of Ship to Gaza Sweden, a coalition member of the Freedom Flotilla to Gaza.
For the past two decades **Jill Carr-Harris** has been a part of women’s movement building, training and empowerment, and gender policy research in India, Bangladesh, and the Philippines. Jill was one of the prominent women leaders in a Gandhian landless struggle for land in India. She has worked at the United Nations Development Program on international solidarity projects, founded and led civil society organizations in India, such as the South-South Solidarity from 1988–1998, and was a field manager for two Canadian Government (CIDA) bilateral projects, on agrarian reform as well as gender equality in the Philippines and Bangladesh respectively. Jill is a PhD Candidate at the University of Toronto.

**Maciej Bartkowski** is Senior Director for Education & Research at the International Center on Nonviolent Conflict where he works on academic programs for students, faculty, and professionals, curricular development, and global academic and educational outreach and research in the growing field of civil resistance studies. He conducts research and writes on nonviolent movements and strategic nonviolent conflict. He has recently completed an edited book, *Rediscovering Nonviolent History: Civil Resistance in Liberation Struggles* (Lynne Rienner).

**Srdja Popovic**, the Executive Director of the Centre for Nonviolent Action and Strategies (CANVAS), Belgrade, Serbia. He was a founding member of the *Otpor!* movement that was credited with the downfall of Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic in 2000. In 2003, Popovic co-founded CANVAS, an international network of trainers and consultants from Serbia, Georgia, South Africa, Ukraine, Lebanon, and the Philippines engaged in the transfer of knowledge about nonviolent democratic change around the world. Popovic has organized and presented CANVAS's curriculum on nonviolence at more than 25 workshops, 15 conferences, and 10 academic institutions around the world. He is also the co-author of two books published in Serbia and the United States: *Nonviolent Struggle: 50 Crucial Points* (2006, published with support from the U.S. Institute of Peace) and *CANVAS Core Curriculum: A Comprehensive Guide for Nonviolent Struggle* (2007), downloadable in several languages. Additionally, he has written numerous articles on nonviolent struggle and has been featured in the New York Times, The Washington Post, NPR, Foreign Policy, and Wired as a leading expert on nonviolent transitions to democracy. In 2011 he was cited as one of Foreign Policy magazine’s “Top 100 Global Thinkers”.