An Administrative Note on UCDP for 2019

During 2019, Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) could maintain the same staff for most of the year, and hire an additional research assistant, Mert Can Yilmaz. During the fall semester, UCDP had one full time intern, Ugur Amber Deniz. UCDP also had a full time intern for the second half of the fall semester, Ayako Tsujiisaka.

Magnus Öberg served as the UCDP Director during 2019. In November, the UCDP Council held its first meeting.

The UCDP Update Alert was sent out three times during 2019, to more than 5500 recipients. UCDP has also promoted its newsletters, publications etc. via social media.

In September, UCDP published its first UCDP Bulletin; which highlights and visualizes recent patterns in armed conflict in a condensed and accessible format. In total, six issues of the Bulletin were published during 2019.

We have engaged in a strong partnership with the European Union ERC Advanced Grant funded Violence Early Warning System (ViEWS) also located at the Department. This will allow for a faster release cycle from UCDP in the future as well as provide data to ViEWS researchers.

We have also engaged with the Varieties of Democracy Programme (V-Dem) project for future joint projects and partnerships. As part of this UCDP co-hosted, with V-Dem and others, the ‘Policy Dialogue Day’ in Gothenburg on 22 May 2019.

On February 15 2019, UCDP as part of the consortium DEMSCORE, submitted an infrastructure application to Vetenskapsrådet (VR), to become a national infrastructure. Other members of the consortium include ViEWS, V-Dem, QoG in Gothenburg, H-Data in Lund, the European Policy Lab based in Stockholm, and REPDEM based in Umeå. On September 26 2019, VR made DEMSCORE a National Infrastructure. Funding was provided for the coordination of the components and for the creation of a joint database, but not for the participating infrastructures. At the end of 2019, funding for the participating infrastructures (including UCDP) was still unclear, but negotiations were ongoing with host universities (including Uppsala University).

Below follows an outline of UCDP’s activities throughout 2019.

Research Funding

Applications submitted

UCDP submitted a project proposal to Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (Infrastructure) “Mapping violence in Syria - complementary project”. Principal Investigator: Margareta Sollenberg.

UCDP, together with University of Virginia, submitted a project proposal to National Science Foundation (Standard Grant) “Cultural Violence and Civilian Casualties: Spatial and temporal analysis of social disintegration in Syria, 2014-17”. Principal Investigator: Fiona Greenland (University of Virginia).

UCDP, as part of the consortium DEMSCORE, submitted an infrastructure application to Vetenskapsrådet (VR) “DEMSCORE: Forskningsinfrastruktur för Democracy, Environment, Migration, Social policy, Conflict, and REpresentation”. Principal Investigator: Staffan Lindberg (University of Gothenburg).
Grants received
The infrastructure application “Mapping violence in Syria - complementary project” to Riksbankens Jubileumsfond received funding. The grant amounted to 1 303 000 SEK for the year 2021.

The Standard Grant application “Cultural Violence and Civilian Casualties: Spatial and temporal analysis of social disintegration in Syria, 2014-17” to NSF received funding. The grant amounted to $144,000 for the years 2020-2022, of which $22,611 will be allocated to UCDP.

The infrastructure application “DEMSCORE: Forskningsinfrastruktur för Democracy, Environment, Migration, Social policy, CONflict, and REPresentation” to Vetenskapsrådet received funding. The grant amounted to 15 439 000 for the years 2020-2024.

Datasets released during 2019
- UCDP Onset Dataset version 19.1, 1946-2018
- UCDP Peace Agreement Dataset version 19.1, 1975-2018
- UCDP Georeferenced Event Dataset (GED) Syria 20160101-20191130 (652.1601.1911)
- The Ethnic One-Sided Violence (EOSV) Dataset, 1989-2013

Press releases
UCDP sent out a press release on 3 June 2019 named “Antalet döda i organiserat våld det lägsta på sju år” announcing the release of the annual datasets and the Journal of Peace Research article. 
https://www.uu.se/nyheter-press/pressmeddelanden/pressmeddelande-visning/?id=4718&typ=pm&lang=sv

Media
Appearances in the media
- Stina Högbladh was interviewed for the Podcast Talking to Experts, 31 January 2019, https://podtoppen.se/podcast/1444530207/talking-to-experts/talking-to-experts-10-kongokonflikten-med-stina-hogbladh
- Therese Pettersson was interviewed for the University Newsletter, 7 Feb 2019, http://www.anpdm.com/newsletterweb/4544514B7946465A4078464B59/414759417541445E4071404B514A71
- Marie Allansson was interviewed by Ålands Radio on 12 March 2019
- A press release was sent out on 3 June 2019, announcing the release of the annual datasets and the Journal of Peace Research article. This was picked up by, among others, UNT
Therese Pettersson was interviewed by Tidningen Syre on Afghanistan. “Fler dog i Afghanistan än i Syrien” 10 June 2019 https://tidningensyre.se/2019/nummer-374/fler-dog-i-afghanistan-an-i-syrien/

Therese Pettersson was quoted in Aftenposten 11 June 2019 “Stadig færre drepes i krig och konflikter: Antallet konflikter och krig i verden ökar, men tallet på drepte fortsetter å falle, viser fersk statistikk.” https://www.aftenposten.no/verden/i/naMedn/Stadig-farre-drepes-i-krig-og-konflikter

Therese Pettersson was interviewed by TT in connection to the press release in early June. The article was published in UNT 17 June 2019, and in Huvudstadsbladet 28 June 2019.

Therese Pettersson was interviewed by Sveriges Radio P3 on the escalation of violence in Afghanistan, on 20 June 2019 “Afghanistan dödligare än Syrien” https://sverigesradio.se/sida/artikel.aspx?programid=1646&artikel=7245958&fbclid=IwAR1x8poU-7YJawTM9-UnvZReveI0y2Iph0wocpUVd_PLRaP4LPn1zAit0

Therese Pettersson was quoted, and UCDP data used, in Starts and Stripes 12 September 2019 “Afghanistan sees highest levels of violence in 30 years as US looks to step up anti-Taliban campaign “https://www.stripes.com/news/middle-east/afghanistan-sees-highest-levels-of-violence-in-30-years-as-us-looks-to-step-up-anti-taliban-campaign-1.598535

Shawn Davies was interviewed by P4 Uppland Sveriges Radio on the Turkish intervention in Syria on 10 October 2019.

Therese Pettersson was asked for background information on Afghanistan for SVT and UCDP numbers of fatalities for Afghanistan were mentioned by Samir Abu Eid in an update on the security situation in the country https://www.svt.se/nyheter/utrikes/svt-korrespondent-om-sakerhetslaget-pa-plats-i-afghanistan as well as shown on Aktuellt 11 October 2019.

Therese Pettersson was interviewed by Svenska Dagbladet in connection to the Turkish invasion in Northern Syria “Tyngsta aktörerna har alla egna planer för Syrien” on 14 October 2019 https://www.svd.se/tyngsta-aktorerna-har-alla-egna-planer

Therese Pettersson was interviewed by Svenska Dagbladet in connection to the Turkish invasion in Northern Syria “Turkiets motiv: ”Skyller på flyktingar som i Sverige” on 17 October 2019 https://www.svd.se/turkiets-motiv-skyller-pa-flyktingar-som-sverige

Therese Pettersson was interviewed by Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) for their report “Number of journalists killed falls sharply as reprisal murders hit record low” on 17 December 2019 https://cpj.org/reports/2019/12/journalists-killed-murdered-syria-mexico-impunity.php

Therese Pettersson was interviewed by Dagens Nyheter for an article on “Goda nyheter i världen 2019”, on 24 December 2019 https://www.dn.se/nyheter/varlden/goda-nyheter-i-varlden-2019/
Media referring to UCDP (selected)

- UCDP was mentioned in Sveriges Radio Korrespondenterna ”Caroline Kernen om situationen för unga afghaner” on 16 June 2019 https://sverigesradio.se/avsnitt/1301614?fbcclid=IwAR0FbhQZaG47MuwWTumTjYKm9PYikt5tin25ZRMZAMrUrfSYb3b4-1aA
- UCDP was mentioned in Svenska Afghanistankommittén’s journal ”Afghanistan nytt” No 2, 2019.
- UCDP data was used for the SVT visualization “En värld på flykt” https://www.svt.se/datajournalistik/en-varld-pa-flykt/ 15 October 2019
Tech Policy: We are finally getting better at predicting organized conflict

- UCDP was recommended in “Mitt sista inlägg i Syriendebatten” in Värmlands Folkblad, on 28 November 2019 https://www.vf.se/2019/11/28/mitt-sista-inlagg-i-syriendebatten/

Lectures, presentations, visits and teaching
- Magnus Öberg gave a lecture on “War and Peace in the 21st Century” and presented the UCDP and the UCDP Encyclopedia to students and faculty at Department of Peace Studies, Bradford University, England, on March 8-9 2019.
- Marie Allansson visited the Åland Islands Peace Institute on 12 March 2019 and gave a lunch lecture about UCDP and trends in armed conflict.
- Therese Pettersson gave a lecture about UCDP at Rädda Barnen, Stockholm on 13 March 2019.
- Shawn Davies and Nanar Hawach gave a lecture about UCDP at GATHER Fellowship, hosted by SE Forum and Seeds of Peace, in Sigtuna on 12 April 2019.
- Lotta Themnér and Therese Pettersson met with Peter Krause on 6 May 2019, sharing experiences form data collection and data management.
- Shawn Davies and Lucas Hegele had a UCDP booth at the Policy Dialog Day in Gothenburg on 22 May 2019.
- Magnus Öberg presented highlights and trends from UCDP at the Policy Dialog Day in Gothenburg on 22 of May 2019
- Stina Högbladh presented UCDP as a research infrastructure for a delegation from the Swedish Research Council, Vetenskapsrådet, visiting Uppsala University. 24 May 2019
- Therese Pettersson met with Pawan Roy on 28 May 2019, sharing thoughts on creating databases for visualization.
- Magnus Öberg gave a lecture on “Krig och fred i det 21:a århundradet” to Uppsala’s social science high school teachers at Rosendalsgymnasiet, Uppsala on June 13 2019.
- Fredrika Moberg presented conflict trends at FN-förbundet Malmö on 4 September 2019.
• Therese Pettersson presented conflict trends at FN-förbundet Gothenburg 14 September 2019.
• Shawn Davies presented the UCDP database for the A-course students at the Bachelor programme in Peace and Conflict Studies at Uppsala University, 8 October 2019.
• Therese Pettersson, Marcellina Priadi, and Garoun Engström met with Ignacio Iglesias on 10 October 2019, presenting UCDP data on gang violence in Latin America.
• Therese Pettersson gave a lecture at Rosendalsgymnasiet (for teachers) on Syria and Afghanistan on 28 October 2019.
• Magnus Öberg gave a lecture on “Krig och fred i det 21:a århundradet” to high school students at Viktor Rydberg Gymnasiet in Stockholm, on 12 November 2019.

Participation in conferences, seminars and workshops
- GATHER Fellowship, hosted by SE Forum and Seeds of Peace, 12 April 2019
- Policy Dialogue Day, 22 May 2019, Gothenburg.
- UCDP/ViEWS/PRIO expert workshop on conflict modelling 15-16 October 2019, Joint Research Centre Ispra Italy

International cooperation
UCDP engaged with the Chicago Project on Security and Threats (CPOST), University of Chicago for future joint projects and partnerships.


2019 employees
Marie Allansson
Garoun Engström
Shawn Davies
Helena Grusell
Nanar Hawach
Lukas Hegele
Stina Högbadh
Gabrielle Lövquist
Fredrika Moberg
Therese Pettersson
Marcellina Priadi
Margareta Sollenberg
Lotta Themér
Kajsa Tidblad-Lundholm
Mert Can Yılmaz
Per Åsberg
Publications (by members of UCDP)


The UCDP Bulletin was sent out six times during the year, the first on 5 September. https://www.pcr.uu.se/research/ucdp/publications/ucdp-bulletin/

Publications, using UCDP data (selected)
Journal Articles and Reports


Blog posts


