

**Diaspora Mobilization for Conflict and Post-conflict Reconstruction:
Comparative and Contextual Dimensions**

Dates: **26-27 November, 2015 at Warwick University**

Deadline for submission of abstracts: **30 September 2015**

Scholarly endeavors to study how diasporas mobilize for the conflict, peace-building, and post-conflict reconstruction of their original homelands have grown exponentially during the past decade. Studies of the early 2000s highlighted that conflict-generated diasporas can play some detrimental roles to domestic conflicts, but were quickly refuted. By the mid-2000s others brought evidence that diasporas can also engage in peace-building, and act moderately for post-conflict reconstruction and democratization. A vibrant debate is taking place at present, with scholars seeking to delve deeper into the factors and processes leading to different types of mobilizations, and how such mobilizations can affect political and social processes in the original homelands, and other locations with which diasporas are durably interlinked. While many theoretically driven case studies continue to emerge, scholars realize that *comparisons* of diaspora mobilizations in different *contexts* are necessary to arrive at more general explanations. Comparisons of various contexts are also necessary to demonstrate that contexts of mobilizations could be nation-states, but also other local and global locations.

This workshop seeks to develop an in-depth discussion with scholars who have worked on the embeddness of conflict-generated diasporas in different contexts and how it has affected their mobilization vis-à-vis conflict and post-conflict polities in original homelands. In line with the theoretical framework of the European Research Council Starting Grant Project “Diasporas and Contested Sovereignty,” submissions of papers are particularly welcome to provide insights about: 1) diasporic *identities*, 2) *conditions* providing *political opportunity structures* for transnational mobilization, 3) *causal mechanisms* concatenating in mobilization processes, 4) and transnational diaspora *networks*, penetrating various local and global locations. Theoretically elaborate case studies and comparative studies of various contexts are particularly welcome.

Scholars who work on the Albanian, Armenian, Bosnian, Iraqi, Kurdish, and Palestinian diasporas in Europe are invited to deepen a discussion with ERC project members who have researched these cases since 2012 in the UK, the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, and France. Very welcome are also scholars who have worked on other conflict-generated diasporas such as those linked to Aceh, Israel, Somalia, Sudan, Sri Lanka, among others, in the European context but also beyond it.

If you are interested, please submit an **abstract** of a proposed paper for the workshop of **500 words by September 30, 2015** to Dr. Maria Koinova, Principal Investigator of the ERC project, at M.Koinova@warwick.ac.uk. For selected papers the deadline for the paper submission will be **November 15, 2015**. Papers of high quality will be submitted for publication in an edited issue with an ISI-ranked journal. There will be also opportunities to publish working papers on the ERC project’s website. Some funds will be available for participants to cover travel and/or accommodation during the workshop. More information about the ERC project can be found at: <http://www.diasporacontest.org>