

Dr. Norbert Ropers

Curriculum Vitae

(May 2019)

Key Profile

Scholar-Practitioner in the fields of Peace and Conflict Studies, International Relations, Political Science and Mediation.

- (1) Research and teaching expertise on peace processes, peacebuilding, international relations and organizations, political sociology, power sharing in divided societies, intercultural communication, security policy, global trends and systems theory.
- (2) Practical expertise as trainer for negotiations, dialogue facilitation and mediation, training of trainers in these fields.
- (3) Regional expertise on Europe, Western Balkan, Southern Caucasus, South and Southeast Asia.

Professional Experience

- **Since September 2014: Director of the Peace Resource Collaborative (PRC), Bangkok/Pattani**
The PRC was created by the Insider Peacebuilder's Platform (IPP), a joint initiative of seven academic and civil society organizations based in Thailand and one INGO, the Berghof Foundation. The IPP organizes regular meetings to offer a joint space for peace activists and political change makers interested in a peaceful settlement of the conflict in the Deep South of Thailand. The PRC serves as a knowledge management entity to provide expertise and lessons learned on effective peace processes.
The Bangkok office is located at the Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University, the Pattani office at the Faculty of Political Science, PSU Pattani.
- **Since July 2011: Senior Research Fellow at the Prince of Songkla University in Pattani with assignments at CSCD (Pattani) and at IPS (Hat Yai)**
This position is attached to the Center for Conflict Studies and Cultural Diversity (CSCD), Pattani and the Institute of Peace Studies (IPS), Hat Yai of the Prince of Songkla University (PSU). The main function is to support the peace process on the Deep South of Thailand with knowledge-based expertise and comparative research on peace processes in collaboration with the Insider Peacebuilders Platform (IPP). The work at IPS was primarily focused on teaching (peace and conflict studies as well as human rights).
- **Since 2016: Senior Advisor, Berghof Foundation (Berlin), based in Thailand, Myanmar and Sri Lanka.**
The Berghof Foundation was created in the 1970s as an offspring of the Bosch-Foundation to support applied research projects related to conflict and peace

particularly in the context of the Cold War between the West and the Sowjetunion and her allies. After the end of the old East-West divide in 1993 I proposed to the Board that the Berghof Foundation should in future focus on issues of internal violent political conflicts and their transformation. This proposal was accepted and since then I served the Foundation in several functions (see below).

www.berghof-foundation.org

- **2010 – 2015 Programme Director Southeast Asia, Berghof Foundation (Berlin/Bangkok)**
Supporting a network of Insider Mediators and Peacebuilders in South and Southeast Asia with a particular focus on Thailand, Myanmar and Sri Lanka. Collaboration with a variety of partners in Thailand and throughout the Asian region.
- **2004 - 2011: Shareholder and Director of Berghof Peace Support (BPS), HQ Berlin**
The Berghof Foundation for Peacesupport was an INGO dedicated to supporting just and sustainable solutions to violent conflict throughout the world. The organization offered a range of services of conflict and conflict transformation analysis, strategic planning, coaching, networking, facilitation and mediation, training, monitoring and evaluation. BPS worked closely together with its sister organization, Berghof Conflict Research (BCR) and is part of the family of Berghof Foundation organizations. Since 1.1.2012 all these organizations are merged within the new Berghof Foundation.
- **2001 – 2008: Director of the “Resource Network for Conflict Studies and Transformation Sri Lanka” (RNCST), Colombo**
The purpose of the RNCST, funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, was to support the stakeholders in the Sri Lankan ethno-political conflict in finding a peaceful solution.
- **1993 – 2004: Director of the Berghof Research Center for Constructive Conflict Management, Berlin**
This organization now re-named as Berghof Conflict Research is a think tank operating at the interface between conflict research and peace policy. It investigates and develops innovative and pragmatic approaches to conflict transformation. Its flagship publication is the *Berghof Handbook for Conflict Transformation*. Main responsibilities: founding director of the Center, supervision of research and practice projects, trainings and teaching.
- **1992: President of the Young Leaders Conference of the OSCE Members States, Berlin**
This conference was organized by the German Federal Government to contribute to the establishment of a new culture of pan-European understanding among young people after the end of the Cold War.
- **1990 – 1993: Executive Director of the Institute for Development and Peace (INEF) at the University of Duisburg (now University of Duisburg-Essen)**
The institute works on questions of the intersection of peace and development and collaborates closely with the Foundation Development and Peace (initiated by

the late former German Chancellor Willy Brandt). Main focus was to establish a bi-annual publication on *Global Trends* (latest issue 2010). Main responsibilities: Oversight of establishing the Institute, coordinating global trends research, teaching. (www.inef.uni-due.de)

- **1989 – 1990: Member of the Board of Directors of the Gustav-Stresemann-Institute, Bonn**
Main responsibility for the adult education programs of the institute in the field of international cooperation and intercultural communication, European Integration and East-West exchange. Management of conferences, seminars and training programs, personal work as teacher and trainer. (www.gsi-bonn.de)
- **1987: Visiting Research Fellow at the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House), London**
Focus on a case study concerning the security policy of the United Kingdom in the context of the “Europeanization” of security in the 1980ies.
- **1980 – 1989: Researcher at the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt am Main (PRIF) & Trainer/Consultant for intercultural communication and political dialogues**
Focus on problems and perspectives of pan-European cooperation and détente policy, particularly in the context of the CSCE (later OSCE); security policies in Europe; transnational contacts and communication; social psychology of international relations. Trainer and teacher of intercultural communication. (www.prif.org)
- **1974 – 1980: Scientific staff member of the German Society for Peace and Conflict Research (DGFK), Bonn**
This purpose of this institution set up jointly by the German Federal State and its member states was to support peace and conflict research through grants and coordination. Main responsibility for the activities of the institution in the realm of East-West-relations, security policies, intra-societal conflicts and peace education. Since 1978 also editor of the Yearbook of the DGFK.
- **1969 – 1973: Consultant and researcher in commercial institutes of media and market research, Hamburg & Frankfurt am Main**
Focus on empirical social research on the outreach, content and impact of commercial media, particularly general interest and business media. Wolfgang-Schaefer-Marktforschung, Hamburg; Media-Markt-Analysen, Frankfurt am Main.

Education

- **Dr. of Philosophy (Ph.D.)** 1985, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University Frankfurt am Main. Thesis on intercultural and inter-ideological interaction between Western-Europe and Eastern Europe during the time of the “Cold War”. Results published in two scholarly books, an alternative travel guide book on Eastern Europe and a booklet with recommendations for political tour-guides to Eastern Europe (all in German).

- **Diplom-Soziologe (equivalent MA Sociology)** 1974, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University Frankfurt am Main. Thesis on horizontal and vertical structures in world society.

Publications since 2011

Various books, articles and reports on issues of international politics, global trends, conflict transformation, peace-building, transnational relations, social psychology of international politics, and systemic thinking in conflict transformation.

Books:

Latest book publications edited together with Daniela Körppen and Hajo Giessmann: "The Non-linearity of Peace Processes. Theory and Practice of Systemic Conflict Transformation". Wiesbaden: Budrich 2011.

(In Thai) How Do We Work for Just Peace Together? PPP Handbook Pa(t)tani Peace Process. Pattani 2014.

Journal and edited volumes articles:

Norbert Ropers: Insider Mediation as a Tool of Collaborative Security. Trends, Discourses and Insights from Asia, in: *International Studies* 49(3&4), New Delhi: JNU 2012, pp 189 – 205.

Together with C. Gourlay: Support for Insider Mediators: A gap in EU ambitions for Mediation? In: T. Tamminen (ed.): *Strengthening EU's Peace Mediation Capacities*. Brussels: CMI 2012, pp 71 – 82.

Spaces for Insider Mediators in the Security Architecture of ASEAN Countries, in Proceedings of the International Conference "Civil Society, Politics and Development in ASEAN Countries. PSU Hat Yai (Association of Southern Political Science and Public Administration, IPS, CSCD) 2013, pp 17 – 28.

The Deep South of Thailand: Neither War nor Peace? Trajectories for a peaceful settlement of the conflict, in: Virasakdi/Supat/Chan-Boegli (eds): *Healing under Fire – The Case of Southern Thailand*, Bangkok, 2014, pp 16 – 23.

Ten Lessons Learned from the Peace Process in Sri Lanka 2002 – 2008, in: Srisompob Jitpiromsri et al (eds), *Learning the Peace Processes in Contemporary Conflicts. Experiences of Peacebuilding*, Pattani: Deep Books 2014, pp 143 – 157.

Together with Mathus Anovatudom: A Joint Learning Process for Stakeholders and Insider Peacebuilders: A Case Study from Southern Thailand, in: *Asian Journal of Peacebuilding*, 2,2 (2014), pp 277 – 296.

Together with Srisompob Jitpiromsri: Discourses on Conflict and Peace in Southern Thailand. The Power of Framing Ethnopolitical Relationships, in: Kusuma Kooyai / Apichaya O-in (eds): *The International Conference on Communication, Conflicts and Peace Processes: Landscape of Knowledge from Asia and the Deep South of Thailand*. Pattani: Faculty of Communication Science, 2014, pp 335 – 364.

Basics of Dialogue Facilitation (practice-orientated booklet). 2017.

https://www.berghof-foundation.org/filadmin/redaktion/Publications/Other_Resources/Ropers_BasicsofDialogueFacilitation.pdf

Frieden und Dialog (*Peace and Dialogue, in German*), in: Hans J. Giessmann & Bernhard Rinke (eds): Handbuch Frieden (*Handbook Peace*), Wiesbaden: Springer 2019, pp 331 – 342.

(Publications 1975 - 2011 see separate bibliography)

Commissioned research work for institutions since 2011

Conflict Analysis and Portfolio Advice on Myanmar.

Background analysis and recommendations for the German Federal Ministry on Development and Cooperation. 31 pages 2012 (in German and English).

Evaluation of the work of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES) in Myanmar, 2005 – 2014/15. 48 pages. 2015 (in German)

Together with Emma Potchapornkul & Jularat Damrongviteetham: GIZ Thailand Country Briefing. Short socio-economic analysis of the state of Thailand for the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), May 2017.

Membership in scientific associations and networks

- Member of German Association of Peace and Conflict Studies (AFK)
- Founding Member of German Platform for Civilian Conflict Settlement (Plattform ZKB)
- Member of the Swiss National Science Foundation's "Research for Development" Programme, Cluster on Conflict Research, 2012 – 2020.