Making research matter in Northern Ireland - and elsewhere?

- Stage 1: The Killing Fields

1. Establishing goals in a conflict situation (PhD)
2. Developing change strategies in N.Ireland (PhD)
3. Noticing a gap in tough talking skills (CCS book)
4. Selling an approach to government and funders (CR strategy)
5. Preempting caution (Typology)
   - Understanding government processes
   - Research after intuition
   - Selling a language
Change processes among paramilitaries/fundamentalists in Northern Ireland.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INITIAL SET</th>
<th>NEW SET</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MONISM</strong></td>
<td><strong>PLURALISM</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>(Cognitive Operation)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cognitive Simplicity</td>
<td>Cognitive Complexity/ flexibility</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stereotyping</td>
<td>Individuation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conventional thinking</td>
<td>Principled Thinking within justice structure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Certainty of beliefs</td>
<td>Uncertainty of beliefs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intolerance of uncertainty</td>
<td>Tolerance of uncertainty</td>
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<td>Field Dependent Thinking</td>
<td>Field Independent thinking</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concrete Reflection</td>
<td>Abstract reflection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Own values seen as objective</td>
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<tr>
<th>(Psychodynamic health)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Use of projection/splitting</td>
<td>Integration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simplified blame attribution</td>
<td>Diffusion of blame/responsibility</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rationalism</td>
<td>Consciousness of Past rationalization</td>
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<td>Ethnocentrism</td>
<td>Inclusiveness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Certainty of Identity</td>
<td>Lability/negotiability of identity</td>
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**POSITION**

(Conflict)

Win/lose approach
Particular position sought
Emphasis on objectives

(Political Thinking)

Exclusive political syntax
Conservative political thinking

(Process)

Position advocates
Own truth as total framework
Contents of belief important
Methods for victory

**PROCESS**

Win/Win approach
Individual/Collective Interest sought
Emphasis on relationships

Inclusive Political syntax
Liberal/Democratic political thinking

Process advocates
Framework of relativity of truths
Respect for process of belief
Methods for joint problem solving
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cogitators</th>
<th>Belongers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Of time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Of place</td>
<td>Of place</td>
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<tr>
<td>Respected own people</td>
<td>Contact</td>
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<td>Books</td>
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## No 2. Contradictions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cogitators</th>
<th>Belongers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cognitive dissonance</td>
<td>Affective and behavioral dissonance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical education</td>
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Stage 2: CRC Meeting Universities:

As Funder and Policy maker:

• Consultations with academics
• Time horizons
• Questions not options
Cognitive Styles

Practical dilemmas of equality and negotiation:
a) Education: examinations
b) Negotiation: tick by tick versus overall framework.
(Analytic V Wholistic)

Analytics will deconstruct information into its component parts, whereas individuals described as Wholists will retain a global or overall view of information.
UNU RESEARCH AND POLICY

A UNU/ INCORE review of research processes, research priorities and the usefulness of research to policy-makers at the United Nations and other international agencies.
Problems for policy/practice makers with academic research

• A research culture whose parameters are usually other researchers.

• Not appreciating the needs of many policy makers.

• Lack of awareness of the differing research/policy contexts.

• An inability to ‘mediate’ research

• Perspectives and disciplines that are often competitive.
• A fear of not knowing enough

• Perspectives and disciplines that are often competitive.

• A lack of understanding of the pressures of politics.

• Avoidance of explicit values.

• Fear – particularly within a context of conflict.

• Wary of becoming a player.
UNU/INCORE RESEARCH/PROJECTS
SUPERVISED AND DIRECTED 1997-2005
All policy driven.

- Demilitarization and Decommissioning in Northern Ireland (2002)
- International Comparative Approaches to Community Relations Policies. (2002)
- Local International Learning Project (LILP) (This project promotes the exchange of models and ideas between Northern Irish and international practitioners and policy makers within the field of conflict resolution and coexistence work (2000 –2003)
- International Comparative Approaches to Governmental Policies on Victims (2001)
- Development And Implementation of Policy in Post-Conflict Societies in Transition (2001)
• The Transformation of Identity: The Emergence of Ethnicity in Multiethnic Societies. (2000)
• Development of Political Leadership in Societies (1999-2001)
• Coming Out Of Violence (1998-2000)
• Dealing with the Past: Reconciliation Processes and Peace-building (1999)
• Education for Pluralism (1998)
• Constitution Building, Conflict, and Transition in Divided Societies (1998)
• Assessment of UN Research needs (1998)
• Approaches to and Evaluation of Mediation (1997)
LESSONS for useful conflict research

- *Know the problem you want to address, and the people you want to reach.*

- *Critically assess the culture, restraints and opportunities of your target audience.*

- *Research should be presented in a way that is provocative, focused, and concise*

- *Timing is of the essence – and can define success or failure.*

- *Research is particularly influential when undertaken/presented by a credible source.*
• Ideas need ‘champions’ within an agency, institution or group.

• Comparative research can reassure and inspire policy makers and practitioners.

• A multi-agency/level approach is particularly necessary in conflict.

• Use the research process to gain acclimatization and acceptance.

• Remember those at the top often set the parameters, but those below them deliver.
• An Evaluation of USIP’s small grant program

• A template for Club of Madrid’s minority women’s work on Shared Societies

• Public Policy for Shared Societies (Palgrave)
Conservative: Liberal: brains

- More activity in the amygdala, known as the brain's "fear center.
- Have a more binary view of threats versus non-threats
- Conservatives have greater sensitivity to negative stimuli.
- Reliance on quick, efficient, and "low effort" thought processes yields conservative ideologies
- Conservatives are neater, and their rooms are cleaner,
- Conservatives have a greater desire to reach a decision quickly and stick to it,
- ESTJ's, who show a fairly clear preference for Republican (46%)
- Conservatives have stronger motivations than liberals to preserve purity and cleanliness
- Republicans are more likely than Democrats to interpret faces as threatening and expressing dominant emotions,
- Conservatives are more orderly and better organized

- Liberals have more tolerance to uncertainty (bigger anterior cingulate cortex),
- More nuanced views of threats
- Liberals are messier than conservatives,
- Liberals are higher on openness, which includes intellectual curiosity, excitement-seeking, novelty, creativity
- Liberals likely to be more unhappy, and neurotic
- INFJ pattern shows a clear inclination for this type to report an affiliation for Democrat (49%) and away from Republican (22%).
- Democrats show greater emotional distress and lower life satisfaction
- Liberals follow the direction of eye movements better than conservatives
- while effortful and deliberate reasoning yields liberal ideologies.
- Liberals are more open-minded and creative
If you want to understand Republicans

• Republicans believe their culture is systematically being destroyed by an alliance of Hollywood, Washington, and public schools
• To many Republicans, the Constitution itself is on the verge of dying, and Obama has already “won his socialist agenda.”

• Threatened by:
  – USA drop in world power,
  – Losing Christianity,
  – Abortions,
  – Guns,
  – Language,
  – Non-white USA,
  – Gay agenda,
  – Republican loss of power because of demographics.
Evolutionary psychology

• around 40 percent of political ideology is heritable,
• A moral perspective may be a feature of our evolutionary design. Morality has made it possible for human beings — unlike any other creatures — to forge large, cohesive, cooperative groups. Morality also blinds as it binds, producing conflicts between groups, tribes and countries.
• moral reasons are the tail wagged by the “intuitive dog." We make moral judgments immediately and emotionally. They are based on foundational "receptors”
• Most religions have a form of OCD (Obsessive compulsive disorder) and relief comes through ritual and completion
• norms, practices and institutions, like religion and family values facilitate cooperation by constraining individualism.
• If you want to change people’s minds, don’t appeal to their reason. Appeal to their underlying moral intuitions whose conclusions reason defends.
• Studies show that people who study abroad become more liberal than those who stay home