

Peace Research and the Connection between University and Society: a Case from Enschede

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**Enschede
voor vrede**

Twente region in the Netherlands



Military industry in Twente



Connection with the University



Peace movement in Twente



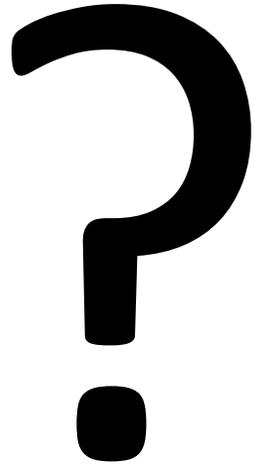
UNIVERSITEIT TWENTE.



Enschede voor vrede



Connection with the University



Theory

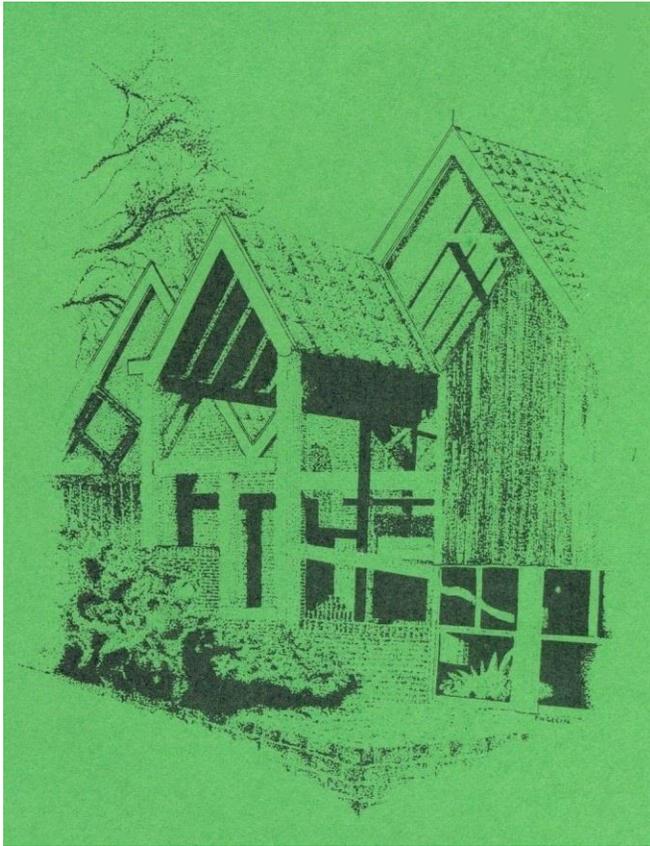
The connection between academic theories and societal practices of peace [is] one of the main characteristics of the very diverse field of peace research.

Paul Rogers, 2013

Peace studies [has] a historical relationship with peace activism.

Peter Lawler, 2013

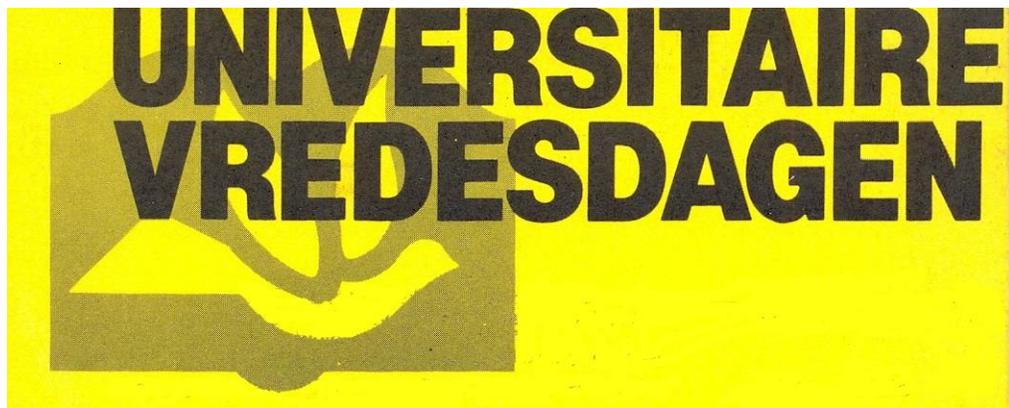
Example from the Past - 1



Center for Studies of Science, Technology and Society “de Boerderij”

- established in 1975
- initiated by critical scientists
- counter-expertise of scientific developments as nuclear energy
- research became more “academic” in the course of time

Example from the Past - 2



University Peace Days

- started (in Twente) in 1983
- initiated by Nobel (Peace *and* Science) Prize Laureates
- promoted discussion among university staff and students on consequences of scientific research on war and peace issues
- faded away after end Cold War

Present-day Example



**Enschede
voor vrede**

Cooperation of Science Shop and local peace group

- started in 2012
- initiated by local peace group, but in accordance with aims Science Shop dating from the '70s
- joint organisation of annual symposiums relating nationwide Peace Week theme with research at the University

Looking at the Future

- because of small joint committee of representatives from university and society the connection between university and society might be guaranteed, even for the longer run;
- since this “institutionalisation” is light and cheap it could be copied to other university cities where a science shop and a local peace group are present;
- once those annual symposiums are established, the connection between university and society can be strengthened again when it comes to peace research and peace activism.