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

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Military industry in Twente
Connection with the University
Peace movement in Twente
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

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.