

## **Nonviolent Civil Resistance: Methods of Assisting Peaceful Change**

Over the last 25 years, nonviolent civil resistance movements have played an increasingly important role in shaping nations and geopolitics. From movements in Poland, the Baltic States, East Germany, and Czechoslovakia that ushered in the end of the Soviet Union, to more recent movements in Serbia (2000), Georgia (2003), Ukraine (2004), Lebanon (2005), Nepal (2006), Pakistan (2007), Iran (2009), Tunisia (2011), Egypt (2011) Yemen (2011), and other countries, nonviolent civil resistance has continually surprised experts and defied the expectations of outside observers. It is therefore critical that analysts of international politics better understand these movements, how they emerge and function, their historical record of success, their relationship to democratic gains, and considerations for external actors (i.e. foreign governments, multilateral institutions, INGOs, and other groups) that may interact with them. This clinic will consider some of the basic skills and techniques of resistance and civil engagement.

Drawing on up-to-date theory, case studies, and quantitative research, this clinic will also provide tools and cultivate analytical skills for understanding how civil resistance movements work, the variety of issues around which they emerge, their impact on various countries, and their possible influence on democracy assistance norms and practices. We will discuss questions critical to external actors as they consider acting in environments in which civil resistance movements are present..

In addition to the presentations and discussion, participants will also be introduced to a computer simulation game that allows them to assume a leadership role in a movement and play-test strategies in a variety of scenarios.

### **Program**

9:00am-10:30am Nonviolent Civil Resistance Movements: A Rising Form of Power

10:30am-10:45am break

10:45am-12:15pm How Civil Resistance Works, and Why It Succeeds

12:15pm-1:15pm lunch (30 minute introduction to *People Power: The Computer Game of Civil Resistance*)

1:15pm-3:00pm Considerations for External Actors Interacting with Civil Resistance Movements

## Instructors:

**Hardy Merriman** is Vice President and Director of Content Development at the [International Center on Nonviolent Conflict](#) (ICNC). For the last decade his work has focused on how grassroots nonviolent movements around the world can successfully fight for rights, freedom, and justice. He lectures widely to scholars, practitioners, and members of civil society. Mr. Merriman has contributed to the books [Waging Nonviolent Struggle: 20th Century Practice and 21st Century Potential](#) (2005) by Gene Sharp and [Civilian Jihad: Nonviolent Struggle, Democratization, and Governance in the Middle East](#) (2010) by Maria Stephan (ed.). He has also written about the [role of nonviolent action in countering terrorism](#) and co-authored [A Guide to Effective Nonviolent Struggle](#), a training curriculum for activists. Prior to his eight years working with the International Center on Nonviolent Conflict, he worked for three years with Dr. Gene Sharp at the [Albert Einstein Institution](#). Mr. Merriman has worked with activists from around the world and is also Institute Director for the [James Lawson Institute](#), an eight-day intensive program for North American organizers and activists. His work with academics and members of civil society includes presenting on diverse topics related to nonviolent civil resistance at the Australian Center for Peace and Conflict Studies (University of Queensland), Cambridge University (UK), the Center for Victims of Torture (Minneapolis, Minnesota), the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (Tufts University), Harvard University, Middlebury College, Monterey Institute for International Studies, Oberlin College, Stanford University, Swarthmore College, the United States Institute of Peace, Wesleyan University, and [many other venues](#). He is a graduate of Oberlin College. He is also an advisor to the [Digital Activism Research Project](#) and on the board of advisors of the [War Prevention Initiative](#).

**Dr. Maciej Bartkowski** is a Senior Director at International Center on Nonviolent Conflict (ICNC) where he directs academic programs in the growing field of civil resistance studies for students, faculty, and professionals. He has taught short seminars and spoken about strategic nonviolent conflict, movement mobilization and civil resistance at various academic institutions and policy forums around the world. He also writes on this subject and has completed an edited book [Recovering Nonviolent History. Civil Resistance in Liberation Struggles](#) ([www.recoveringnonviolenthistory.org](http://www.recoveringnonviolenthistory.org)) published by Lynne Rienner in 2013. Maciej is also an Adjunct Professor at Johns Hopkins University, Krieger School, where he teaches the course on strategic nonviolent resistance.

Before joining ICNC, Maciej was a lecturer, visiting faculty member, and director of academic programs at several institutions. He taught at the Bard College Globalization and International Affairs Program in New York, the Open Society Institute Student Exchange Program, Adelphi University and at the Academy of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. He has also done research at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy and was a European Union observer of the Lebanese parliamentary elections in 2005 and an OSCE election supervisor in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1997. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science and M.A. in International Relations and European Studies from Central European University in Budapest, and completed his undergraduate work at the American University of Central Asia in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. He can be followed on Twitter [@macbartkowski](#) or/and on his personal blogsite: <http://maciejbartkowski.com>