

Initiative for World Solidarity Ilmenau e.V.

TU Ilmenau - 2017/05/15 – Workshop NatWiss

# Military research at universities

## The Civil Clause Movement

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# The Civil Clause Movement

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# The Civil Clause Movement



## 1 Origin of the Civil Clause (CC)

- For German nuclear research at Karlsruhe, Jülich et al military applications were forbidden because of allied restrictions due to the „Nazi bomb“.
- This is why “The Company will only pursue peaceful purposes”, later called Civil Clause. Background: Plans for watering down or abolition of this clause had to be abandoned.
- Today, the KIT CC only applies to “big” research (like nuclear research). But even here the rule is broken.
- Other origins: The University of Bremen got its CC 1986, at the time of plans in West Germany to carry out research for Reagan’s “Star Wars“. The great movement against these plans was successful.
- Berlin CC: TU Berlin always had restrictions due to the “Four Powers” status of the city. After 1991, a progressive CC was formally adopted.

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## 2 Personal relations to the subject

- After finishing doctoral thesis in Applied High-Energy Physics, looking out for area of interesting peaceful research.
- During a period of research combined with democratic union-based protest against the Karlsruhe nuclear management, elected in 1984 as chairman of the employees' representation [Betriebsrat].
- Example: In 1989, the Research Center administration wanted the resignation of the Betriebsrat with this type of chairman. Occasion: Notice of dismissal to persons in case of transfer of their research knowledge to the military. Result: 2/3 Yes vote pro-Betriebsrat at staff assembly. Consequence: nuclear energy was no longer a matter of religion at the Center, but could now be criticised.
- Efforts by the Christian-Democrat circles of the government to dilute or get rid of the CC were resisted, with support from the realistic section of the Center's administration.
- After retirement in 2005 until 2008 research of CC expansion possibilities.



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## 3 KIT student 2009 „MIT meets KIT“

- The really exhausting student ballot in January 2009 resulted in 63% YES for the CC. It was the first time of a „political“ student ballot in Germany. The administration did ignore and block even as the federal government. Also red-green which favored and decided the CC in opposition times.
- Still, a very inspiring example for the whole Federal Republic. This was a true and valid representation of the students' opinion.
- With great support from ver.di (Services Union) chairman Jürgen Ziegler: a second milestone in Dec. 2009.
- Student strike for better social conditions. Subrata Ghoshroy from MIT told KIT students at overcrowded lecture hall not to follow the example of a completely militarized MIT, but maintain a KIT with CC.

Picture: Author, Subrata Ghoshroy, Lothar Letsche, above Reiner Braun, Richard Marbach.



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## 4 CC & courage & whistleblowing

- **A basic insight for helpful science and other skills: Problems will need to be solved by personal courage, resisting mainstream superficiality and stupidity.**
- **You cannot impose a CC on your university ignoring this basic insight. Resistance against military research and instruction will be necessary with or without a CC.**
- **Subrata Ghoshroy is a moving example of this approach to science. He started as a laser weapon scientist, his job for the U.S. Government Accountability Office was to assess the financial spending for armament companies. In one case, he detected Non-existence of the proclaimed results. He stayed despite pressure, but was removed. In 2005, he became a research affiliate at MIT and turned to a peace scientist like a whistleblower.**
- **A similar case is to be reported at nuclear research center Jülich. Rainer Moormann criticized the security of the AVR reactor, became disadvantages. 2011 the Whistleblower Price. More on Rainer later.**



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## 5 More CC mile stones and the movement

- 4 more successful student ballots: Uni Köln December 2010, FU Berlin January 2011, Goethe Uni Frankfurt January 2012, Uni Kassel January 2013
- 10 significant CC and peace congresses: I. TU Braunschweig May 2011 II. Tübingen Octobre 2011 III. Karlsruhe June 2012 IV. Mühlhausen/Thüringen Octobre 2012 V. Stuttgart February 2013 VI. München June 2013 VII. Potsdam May 2014 VIII. Hamburg Octobre 2014 IX. Berlin January 2015 X. Bremen February 2017 more details <http://www.stattweb.de/files/civil/Doku20151211.pdf>
- CC Movement term coined was Oliver Jungen in FAZ at 12.01.2011 more <http://stattweb.de/files/civil/Doku20110112.pdf>
- Special event Uni Kassel December 2013: Senate voted against Civil Clause combined with Transparency Clause (i.e. obligation to disclose all research projects). Rector received the “Golden Tank Award 2013“- background: his connections to Kraus-Maffei armament deals.

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## 6 CC improvement by federal states rules?

- Because of violation of the valid Bremen university CC peace activists and students called for called for state legislation. The idea: No one would violate a legally binding CC.
- My opinion: If you are unable to defend an existing CC, a higher authority will not compensate your weakness, but try to instal a non-binding CC. The battle needs to be carried out at both levels simultaneously.
- Both Bremen CC versions: University „Rejection of any involvement of science and research with military use or objective.“ 2015 Federal state: „Universities pursue exclusively peaceful purposes in research, teaching and study.“
- There is an TOP actual interesting legal advice of Dr. Hoppe in the similar case of Hochschule Bremen (see X topic 5). His result: The violation is illegal because of both complementary regulations.
- Other federal state rules: Thuringia 2006, Hesse 2010, Brandenburg 2014, North Rhine Westphalia 2014.
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## 7 The regulation and the reality - how to connect?

- At March 1, 2015 the author published the CC status and problems about activities at 60 universities, among them 19 universities with real CC. Please study in my WebDocu <http://www.stattweb.de/files/civil/Doku20150301.pdf>

- The weakness of the movement: Nobody else inclusive NatWiss fellows were able to produce an actual version with about 30 real CC and about 30 alibi CC.

- One alibi CC example Uni Erlangen-Nürnberg 2016: "Responsible behavior is promoted and results in a just and peaceful coexistence between people, cultures and nations."

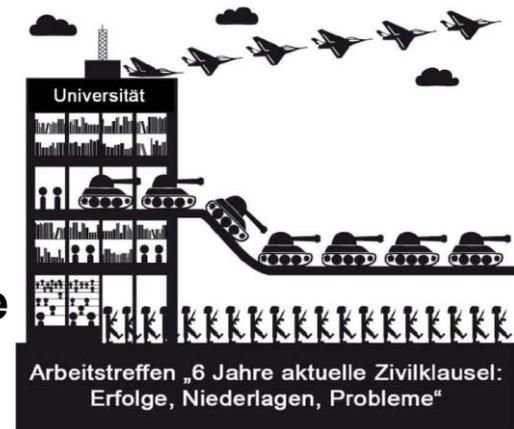
- My conclusion: Fighting for real CC is a necessary complementary activity to fighting for peace connected with disarmament. As mentioned before: This fight requires as much as possible personal courage and a good organization too, hard to realize on universities today.



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## 8 CC events since 2015 & decline symptoms

- As mentioned on topic 5, the last major organized CC conference was held at Berlin in January 2015, a working meeting on 6 years of CC successes, defeats, problems.
- Quoting the author “Key tool against militarization of universities”:  
"70 years after liberation, this is my credo: In our country, we should develop more • creative rather than conformist • profound rather than superficial • self-confident rather than adapted and • solidary rather than selfish personalities - scientists and students - for peace and democracy, global justice understanding, against exploitation, environmental destruction and war. "
- Theory & Practice: In December 2015 at the peace advice in Kassel there was an agreement between Lucas (NatWiss) and Julian (CC Kassel initiative group) to look for a conference place in 2016. After fail at Uni Augsburg and Uni Erlangen-Nuremberg, I wrote about my experience in attempted support: “Swampland CC Movement?” at July 2016 here <http://www.nrhz.de/flyer/beitrag.php?id=22971> Really bitter.



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## 9 Bremen conference February 2017 part I

- Plans for a 2016 conference did not materialize - the first year after seven years without any relevant CC congress. A significant decline.
- Meanwhile, the other side is in the offensive – the German Army achieved formal cooperation with Bremen University of Applied Sciences (HSB), establishing a computer-science study program for military purposes (cyber war), a clear violation of the CC.
- On 1 October 2016 at workshop "Military Research and Responsibility of Scientists" congress at TU Berlin, the author reported on Bremen. Personally very pleased to meeting Subrata Ghoshroy again (topic 3) who called me "father of the CC".
- On 8 Oct 2016 large peace demonstration at Berlin "Weapons down!". One day later, a tiny but creative CC meeting at NatWiss.



**BERLIN**

IPB Congress Oct 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 great event: Peace symbol illustrated by the participants in front of the main building of the Technical University at the end of the second day

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## 9 Bremen conference February 2017 part II

- **Result of the Natwiss CC meeting: Success of the other side's offensive at Bremen would be a bad precedent for the entire CC movement. If the HSB administration's deal with the German Army is successful, ALL other CC regulations can be undermined in the same way and made pointless. Consequence: the next CC conference must be organized at HSB to support of local student union's campaign. Reiner Braun agreed to contract the legal advice of Dr. Hoppe (see topic 6).**
- **The result of all efforts had been the nationwide CC working meeting at HS Bremen on February 25/26 like two years ago at Berlin. Only 25 participating but with 9 really committed reports about more than 12 universities. Clear target: Military cooperation must be terminated.**
- **Collection of material: This took the author 2 months of hard work. Support came essentially from Prof. Wolfram Elsner (Uni Bremen). The material was finished on April 17: Discussion highly welcome: <http://www.stattweb.de/files/civil/Doku20170423.pdf>**



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## 10 Priorities: Social problems at universities

- The main reason for real decline of our movement is the continuous deterioration of the study and social conditions. The student has to set priorities. To do both today it requires huge effort. But if the social protest is growing, there is a new chance to student strikes as 2009 mentioned under topic 3.
- Only one example from May 3, at KIT Karlsruhe. See the AStA protest against BaWü Minister Bauer and their foreign students fee. The video <https://de-de.facebook.com/AStA.KIT/videos/10155318199643453/>
- Helping the students by the peace movement from outside is one practical procedure. But even there the support is not without problems. Last example was HS Bremen as reported.
- Einstein said: "Problems can't be resolved with the same mindset that caused them."



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## 11 „War on the heads“ How to strengthen activities?

- I believe the term “War on the heads” had been invented by IMI e.v. Tübingen underlines by many articles how to win the youth and students for war politics as the most self-evident thing in the world (two criminal German wars unknown).
- The danger of a world war with nuclear weapons has been described by Reiner Braun. My practical experience is focused on KIT. On May 9 KIT StuPa decided a demand on KIT presidency to open discussion on negative interweaving KIT/IOSB (military Fraunhofer). On April 6 two events to the subject KIT thorium reactor. Attac Karlsruhe “Germany and atomic weapons” and HU Berlin on “60 years »Göttinger 18«” with Rainer Moormann on “German Atomic Research – only Dual Use or open for Weapons”. Result: Rainer (see foto and topic 4) is coming to Karlsruhe soon for talk on “KIT Thorium reactor research open for atomic weapons”.
- Ho to strengthen? Out of many activities: Showing the youth courageous persons exemplary to the own life.



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## 12 TU Ilmenau CC and practical use

- As you know, the best thing comes at the end.
- There is an CC like regulation in the TU statement of commitment: “Fundamental principles of responsible teaching, research and development are the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany, the autonomy and self-regulatory capacity of the university as well as the peaceful, civilian use of scientific knowledge and the sustainable preservation of human life bases.” This is a real alibi CC.
- Proof: the TU is involved in electric armor research since many years. One example “Cognitive Radio” or “Software Defined Radio” (Foto) founded by KIT Prof Friedrich K. Jondral. TU cooperative scientist Prof Martin Haardt.
- The StuRa of TU was nowhere involved in the mentioned congresses. No wonder: That is the intention of the alibi CC. Stop Sir: Did you hear of StuRa talk May 12 "Reason, Technical Rationality, War - On Responsibility of Engineer to Society“. Yes I did: “Yourwonderful wellbeing“.

