PA-X Database official Launch: 'Peace Agreements or Pieces of Paper?'
Date: Tuesday 20th February
Time: 18.15-19.30
Location: British Academy, London

We are pleased to launch the Political Settlement Research Programme PA-X peace agreement database. The database is a repository of over 1500 peace agreements from over 140 processes from 1990 current until 1 January 2016. It allows users to explore patterns of agreements over time and through 225 substantive categories, such as power-sharing, women, and transitional justice. This groundbreaking database will support qualitative and quantitative research on peace agreements, enabling the next generation of researchers and policymakers to support innovative design of peace processes and peace agreements, and to better understand effective implementation of peace agreement commitments.

Former US Ambassador Carey Cavanaugh, who was engaged in peace efforts involving Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Tajikistan, and Turkey, says, "***The database will serve as an invaluable resource for scholars, groups impacted by violent conflict seeking a greater voice in peace processes, and individuals charged with mediating disputes. The knowledge the database provides may foster political settlements that are more inclusive and more sustainable.***"

While Jonathan Cohen, the Executive Director of Conciliation Resources, says, ***"This database will be an important resource, not just for high-level mediators and parties to conflicts, but also to the wider range of civic participants who seek to influence talks processes and press for greater inclusion. Having access to such a breadth of data on peace processes will mean that practitioners will have a firmer foundation for the choices they make."***

This database was conceptualised using a British Academy Small Research Grant, and developed with funding from the Department for International Development. Version 1 of PA-X is the database's initial release, and we are aware that changes to it may need to be made, in light of needs and comments voiced by our end-users. We therefore invite feedback, comments, suggestions, and ideas that would help us make Version 2 even better. We are particularly interested to hear if there are any documents that you think should be part of PA-X, or if you find that there is scope for cooperation. We would also like to know if the PA-X data are being used in other research projects, or if they have inspired similar endeavours. Get in touch at PoliticalSettlements@ed.ac.uk.