
Zentrumstage 2026
The Future of Building Peace
25 Years Center for Conflict Studies
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The Future of Building Peace
Zentrumstage 2026
25th Anniversary
22-24 October 2026

Book of Abstracts

Center for Conflict Studies
Marburg University
22-24 October 2026

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The Future of Building Peace

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It is no overstatement to say that we live in a world marked by rising conflicts and wars. Levels of violence are historically high, with ongoing wars in various regions highlighting the strain placed on existing concepts, institutions, and strategies of peacebuilding. In this context, the liberal world order appears increasingly fragile, with established norms and institutions such as the United Nations and the International Criminal Court facing growing contestation and declining credibility. Whether these developments represent a temporary crisis or a more fundamental transformation remains uncertain, but what is clear is that peace itself has become fragile, contested, and in urgent need of rethinking.

The conference The Future of Building Peace takes this moment of uncertainty as its starting point. Rather than treating peace as a stable or given concept, it approaches peace as a dynamic and historically contingent construct shaped by political struggles, institutional practices, and competing normative orders. It asks how understandings of peace are changing today and what new forms they may take in the future under conditions of global instability and transformation.

Against this backdrop, the conference brings together scholars from peace and conflict studies and related disciplines to critically reflect on key challenges, emerging responses, and future trajectories. Central questions include what it means to build peace under conditions of geopolitical tension,

shrinking civic and academic space, and epistemological contestation; which actors and practices are shaping contemporary peace; and how peace research can remain relevant in a shifting global landscape.

The panels address these questions through a range of interconnected themes, including international interventions for peace and security; unequal access to political power and representation; environmental conflicts; human rights in migration and diaspora contexts; transitional justice and dealing with past violence; peace education and conflict in learning environments; gender and LGBTQ* rights in times of backlash; and post-colonial hierarchies in global power asymmetries.

Rather than offering predefined solutions, the conference aims to foster critical dialogue and new research perspectives that engage with the plurality of contemporary peace practices. It seeks to create a space for exchange on how peace is conceptualized, contested, and practiced, and what alternative futures might be possible. Organized by the Center for Conflict Studies on its 25th anniversary, the 2026 Zentrumstage also provides a moment of institutional reflection. The conference is directed at researchers, students, and practitioners, and aims to foster engagement that extends beyond academia to include civil society and the broader public in rethinking the future of peace.

Organising team of the Zentrumstage 2026: Abdullah Ammar, Thorsten Bonacker, Susanne Buckley-Zistel, Anika Oettler, Mariel Reiss, Anna Roark, Stéphane Voell, Nilgün Yelpaze

Programme Overview

The Zentrumstage 2026 take place at the Deutscher Sprachatlas. The main events are held in its lecture hall (001 DSA). Parallel panel discussions take place in the neighbouring Seminar Building (201 SEM).

Day 1 | 22.10.2026

15:30	Welcome and Opening | 001 DSA
16:00	Vergangenheit und Gegenwart der Konfliktforschung in Marburg & Deutschland (Roundtable A) | 001 DSA
17:30	*Coffee Break*
18:00	Critical Voices and Collective Actions for the Future of Peace & Conflict Studies (Roundtable B) | 001 DSA
19:30	*Reception*

Day 2 | 23.10.2026

	001 DSA	201 SEM
9:30	International Interventions for Peace and Security [1]	Unequal Access to Political Power [2]
11:00	*Coffee Break*	
11:30	Environmental Conflicts: Varieties of Extraction? [3]	Doing Human Rights in Migrant Societies [4]

13:00	*Lunch Break*	
14:30	International Law, Int. Relations, and the Hope for Peace [5]	Engaging with Victims and Perpetrators [6]
16:00	*Coffee Break*	
16:30	Keith Krause: Peacemaking in the Shadow of War (Keynote Lecture) | 001 DSA	
17:30	*Reception*	

Day 3 | 24.10.2026

	001 DSA	201 SEM
9:30	Justice, Memory, and Accountability in a Fragmented World [7]	Navigating Conflict in Higher Education [8]
11:00	*Coffee Break*	
11:30	Gender and Feminist Approaches to Peace [9]	Postcolonial Hierarchies of Peace [10]
13:00	*Coffee Break*	
13:30	The Future of Building Peace: Re-imagining Utopias in an Age of Crisis (Roundtable C) | 001 DSA	
15:00	Closing	

Day 1 | 22.10.2026

15:30-16:00 | 001 DAS

Begrüßung und Eröffnung

► Prof. Dr. Sabine Pankuweit (Philipps-Universität Marburg, Vizepräsidentin)

► Prof. Dr. Susanne Buckley-Zistel (Philipps-Universität Marburg, Zentrum für Konfliktforschung, Geschäftsführende Direktorin)

Roundtable A | 16:00-17:30 | 001 DSA

Vergangenheit und Gegenwart der Konfliktforschung in Marburg und Deutschland

Seit der Gründung vieler Institute und Zentren für Friedens- und Konfliktforschung haben sich die weltpolitischen Rahmenbedingungen sowie die institutionellen Voraussetzungen wissenschaftlicher Forschung grundlegend verändert. Anlässlich des 25-jährigen Bestehens des Zentrums für Konfliktforschung reflektiert das Panel die Transformationen der Friedens- und Konfliktforschung in den vergangenen Jahrzehnten und diskutiert ihre zukünftigen Aufgaben. Hierzu werden Perspektiven des Forschungsfeldes sowie ehemaliger geschäftsführender Direktoren des Zentrums eingebracht, um Bilanz zu ziehen, Kontinuitäten und Brüche sichtbar zu machen und über die zukünftige Entwicklung des Feldes ins Gespräch zu kommen.

► Prof. Dr. Mathias Bös (Leibniz Universität Hannover, Institut für Soziologie; ehem. Geschäftsführender Direktor Zentrum für Konfliktforschung)

► Dr. Thomas Held (Deutsche Stiftung Friedensforschung DSF, Geschäftsführer)

► Prof. Dr. Ulrich Wagner (Philipps-Universität Marburg, Sozialpsychologie; ehem. Geschäftsführender Direktor Zentrum für Konfliktforschung)

► Prof. Dr. Ralf Zoll (Philipps Universität Marburg; Gründer des Zentrums für Konfliktforschung)

Moderation von Prof. Dr. Thorsten Bonacker (Philipps Universität Marburg, Zentrum für Konfliktforschung)

Roundtable B | 18:00-19:30 | 001 DSA

Critical Voices and Collective Actions for the Future of Peace & Conflict Studies

Collectives, initiatives, and networks in and around Peace & Conflict Studies discuss inclusion, representation, and structural change in academia. The roundtable explores how inequalities related to class, gender, race, age, hierarchy, and dominant epistemologies are challenged through collective action and critical engagement. Participants present their work and experiences before engaging in a discussion on fostering more inclusive, solidaristic, and epistemically just academic cultures, and on how these practices can shape the future of the field.

► Dr. Philipp Lottholz (Marburg University, Center for Conflict Studies; AFK AK Herrschaftskritische Friedensforschung)

► Andréa Noël (University of Duisburg-Essen, Institute of Political Science; AFK Frauen*FLINTA Representative)

► Dr. Patricia Rinck (University of Duisburg-Essen, Institute for Political Science; AFK AK Feminist Peace Research)

► Dr. Siddharth Tripathi (University of Erfurt, Postcolonial Hierarchies in Peace and Conflict; AFK Div. Repr.)

Moderated by Nilgün Yelpaze (Marburg University, Center for Near and Middle Eastern Studies CNMS; Center for Conflict Studies)

Day 2 | 23.10.2026

Panel 1 | 09:30-11:00 | 001 DSA

International Interventions for Peace and Security

International intervention remains central to efforts to manage conflict and build peace. Bringing together perspectives on military interventions, UN peacekeeping, and international administrations, the panel examines how external actors shape post-conflict transitions, governance, and security. Contributions situate contemporary interventions within longer historical trajectories and analyse how securitisation frames conflicts and legitimises international engagement. The panel critically reflects on the promises and limitations of intervention, exploring its implications for sovereignty, authority, and local political orders.

► The Politics of Security and the Limits of International Intervention — Dr. Werner Distler (Marburg University, Center for Conflict Studies): Intervention failures have raised fundamental doubts about the prospects of externally driven state building, particularly in conflict-affected contexts. This presentation argues that competing security logics among intervening actors have undermined the core promises of state- and peacebuilding by privileging external security priorities over domestic politics and locally grounded state formation.

► E**ff**ects of Humanitarian Interventions on Deadly Con**fl**ict Violence — Dr. Thorsten Gromes (Peace Research Institute Frankfurt PRIF): According to widespread assumptions, most humanitarian military interventions fail to stop or reduce conflict violence. The presentation puts this view to empirical testing and quantitatively examines 31 humanitarian military interventions since 1987.

► Peacebuilding in the Age of Transactionalism: From Local Ownership to Deal-Making — Dr. Julius Heise (German Federal Foreign Office, Stabilization Desk Officer/East Africa, Berlin): Transactionalism is transforming international peacebuilding as budgets shrink, donors prioritize visibility, and increasingly discard local ownership lessons from the 2000s. On the emerging "marketplace of influencers", increasing rivals create significantly higher risks. Dealmaking now replaces traditional global partnerships with short-term, transactional arrangements undermining long-term commitments or shared strategic visions.

► Colonial Di**ff**erence under UN Supervision? Racialized Status Hierarchies and the Recon**fi**guration of Empire in the UN-Trusteeship System — Dr. Maria Ketzmerick-Caladrino (Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient ZMO, Berlin): Racialised hierarchies within the UN Trusteeship System are examined as a key mechanism through which colonial rule was reorganised rather than dismantled during decolonisation. Drawing on multi-sited archival research, the analysis shows how colonial status differences remained embedded in practices of supervision and representation, contributing to debates on hierarchy, international organisations, empire, and the constrained agency of Global South actors.

Moderated by Prof. Dr. Thorsten Bonacker (Marburg University, Center for Conflict Studies)

Panel 2 | 09:30-11:00 | 201 SEM

Unequal Access to Political Power

Sustainable peace requires addressing inequalities in both resources and political power. The panel examines unequal political influence across regions, political contexts, and levels of governance, asking how and why some groups gain greater voice in decision-making than others. Contributions

explore disparities in representation, participation, and responsiveness in national, local, conflict-affected, and post-conflict settings, including the role of politicians' backgrounds and incentives in shaping unequal political outcomes.

► Crisis Framing and Electoral Demand for Business Politicians — Dr. Letícia Barbabela (Marburg University, Center for Conflict Studies; Institute for Political Science): Businesspeople are widespread in elective office, yet citizens' demand for such politicians appears less widespread. This paper examines whether economic and political crises reshape voter priorities in ways that favour politicians with business backgrounds. Empirically, the paper draws on a factorial experiment conducted in Brazil and South Africa to test these dynamics.

► Tracing Distributive Consensus: Argumentative Overlap in German Bundestag Tax Reform Debates and Implications for Inequality Reduction — Dr. Aiden Gnoth (Marburg University, Center for Conflict Studies; Institute for Political Science): Durable peace requires inclusive policymaking, yet wealth and inequality often persists because reform coalitions fracture around fairness frames. This paper analyses argumentative patterns in tax reform submissions and parliamentary debates using textual reuse detection and topic modelling to identify consensus clusters across stakeholder groups and MPs. By mapping which actors converge on shared justifications and which remain isolated, it illuminates underlying assumptions and justifications within tax discourse and the extent of contestation. It argues that whether tax reform can narrow wealth gaps depends not merely on policy technical design, but on whether policy discourse itself can bridge the argumentative divides that fuel instability.

► Multilateralism Seen from the South: Agency of the Weak in Global Tax Governance — Dr. Katharina Kuhn (Technical University of Darmstadt, Institute of Political Science): For decades, global tax governance has been driven by powerful states. Yet, in the absence of leadership from major powers, the UN General Assembly has initiated work on a new Framework Convention on International Taxation, fulfilling a longstanding ambition of the global South. We show that this shift was made possible by the structure of the international tax regime complex itself, as growing institutional density enabled a coalition of global South states to converge around a demand for institutional change.

► Unequal In**fl**uence in Tax Policy-Making in the UK and Germany — Dr. **İ**brahim Kuran (Marburg University, Center for Conflict Studies; Institute for Political Science): Unequal political influence in tax policy-making is examined by comparing the progressivity of implemented policies with parties' manifesto pledges in Germany and the UK. Covering fifteen governments, the analysis demonstrates how post-electoral policy-making systematically favours wealthier groups, revealing persistent inequalities in political responsiveness and the distribution of policy benefits.

Moderated by Prof. Dr. Miquel Pellicer (Marburg University, Center for Conflict Studies)

Panel 3 | 11:30-13:00 | 001 DSA

Environmental Conflicts: Varieties of Extraction?

Environmental conflicts can be understood as interconnected forms of extraction. While studies of these conflicts often operate in silos — divided by resource type (land, minerals, water, carbon) — they share common drivers: global demand, political economies of resource control, and une-

ven development. Framing these processes as environmental conflicts highlights shared consequences — dispossession, degradation, inequality — and the resistance they generate. Featuring experts on Latin America, Northern Africa, and Europe, the panel asks whether the concept of "environmental conflict" can enable productive dialogue, integrated understandings of extraction, and comparative perspectives on resistance and (social) contestation over (natural) resources.

► From Environmental Con**fl**icts to Con**fl**icting Ecologies: Extraction, Ontological Con**fl**icts, and Disturbance — Prof. Dr. Ernst Halbmayer (Marburg University, Social and Cultural Anthropology): Environmental conflicts are conceptualized in this paper as ontological conflicts between conflicting ecologies. Drawing on Wayuu, Yukpa, and Kogi experiences with coal mining and wind energy projects in northern Colombia, it argues that these projects not only extract resources but also disturb the fundamental relations through which Indigenous ecologies and worlds are enacted.

► "Sacri**fi**cable" Bodies or Sacri**fi**ce Zones? Quilombolan Resistance to Extractive Violence on Ilha de Maré, Bahia/Brazil — Johanna Kocks (Marburg University, Center for Conflict Studies): Racial capitalism and extractive violence create not only sacrifice zones, but also sacrificable bodies. Situated within Feminist Political Ecology, this paper examines how violence is inscribed in spaces and bodies, centering the experience of Quilombolan women of Ilha de Maré/Brazil, resisting the intoxication of their land and bodies.

► Beyond Hydrocarbons? Mining, Environmental Con**fl**ict, and Authoritarian Extractivism in Algeria — Prof. Dr. Rachid Ouaissa (Marburg University, Center for Near and Middle Eastern Studies CNMS): Algeria's mining revival presents extraction as diversification beyond hydrocarbons. Examining the Tala Hamza–Amizour zinc-lead project

in a protected wetland, this talk contrasts state development narratives with local ecological knowledge and resistance. It shows how opaque governance, unequal risk distribution, and protest criminalization reproduce rentier dependency through a new extractive frontier. No Future for the People?

► The Role of the Far-Right in Interpreting the Energy Transition in a Car-Loving Germany — Heloísa Traiano (Marburg University, Center for Conflict Studies): Germany's energy transition has been widely deemed painful, for risking the beloved national car industry. I investigate the AfD's role in the rise of divided interpretations of this shift in Wolfsburg, a town orbiting around the sector. I argue that apocalyptic imaginations channel local ontological insecurity through far-right future-making strategies.

Moderated by Prof. Dr. Felix Anderl (Marburg University, Center for Conflict Studies)

Panel 4 | 11:30-13:00 | 201 SEM

Doing Human Rights in Migrant Societies

Migration and displacement are often consequences of violent conflict and repression, but also forms of seeking safety, dignity, and peaceful futures. The panel examines how migrant and refugee communities claim protection, mobilise human rights frameworks, and rebuild everyday forms of peace across borders. Contributions explore diaspora experiences of violence, activism, legal strategies, and transnational networks of justice and peacebuilding, while reflecting on research methods and ethical challenges in working with displaced communities.

► How Non-refoulement Became a Human Right: Origins and Contemporary Challenges to the Right to Asylum — Prof. Dr. Jürgen Bast (University of Giessen, Public Law and European Law; Research Group MeDiMi): The presentation traces how the concept of asylum as a human

right emerged in the 1980s and 1990s and became anchored in international law. As this transformative notion faces intense counterrevolutionary contestation, this paper emphasizes the agency of diasporic, civil society, and scholarly actors in these jurisgenerative processes.

► Visualizing Violent Migration Control: Non-state Actors Making Human Rights Claims in the European Border Regime — Dr. Laura Holderied (University of Giessen, Public Law and European Law; Research Group MeDiMi): Over the last decades, European states have continuously expanded practices of border control. Non-state actors widely document these practices to expose their violent character and display them as human rights violations. How does such documentation shape interpretative struggles over the meaning and scope of migrants' human rights in Europe?

► Whose Rights? Colonial and Androcentric Origins of the 1951 Refugee Convention — Prof. Dr. Ulrike Krause (University of Münster, Institute of Political Science): The 1951 Refugee Convention is widely considered the cornerstone of global refugee protection, but who did its drafters envision as a refugee? Archival research reveals how negotiations privileged the white, Western, heterosexual male as the protection subject, rendering colonized peoples, women, and LGBTQ+ individuals invisible, with lasting effects today.

► Belonging in Urban Spaces: Situational Infrastructures — Tasnim Jabali and Sebastian Weste (both: Marburg University, Institute for Sociology; Center for Conflict Studies, Research Group MeDiMi): Local neighbourhoods are explored as infrastructures of belonging in contexts of migration. Moving beyond formal organisations and predefined identities, two ethnographic case studies show how everyday places and material objects create situational op-

portunities to negotiate categorical meanings and articulate rights through proximity and shared forms of everyday experience.

Moderated by by Maria Hartmann and Dr. Mina Ibrahim (both: Marburg University, Center for Conflict Studies, Research Group MeDiMi)

Panel 5 | 14:30-16:00 | 001 DSA

International Law, International Relations, and the Hope for Peace

Roundtable format

Amid declining confidence in the International Criminal Court and mounting challenges to the liberal international order, the future of international law, human rights and peacebuilding is under threat. This panel discusses the impact of current geopolitical power shifts and interventions in Venezuela and the Middle East. It examines the prospects for a rule-based order and explores ways in which human rights, the rule of law, and multilateral cooperation can be strengthened.

► Prof. Dr. Stefanie Bock (Marburg University, Marburg Law School; International Centre for War Crimes Trials ICWC)

► Dr. Thilo Marauhn (University of Giessen, Public Law & International Law, Peace Research Institute Frankfurt PRIF)

► Dr. Tareq Sydiq (Marburg University, Center for Conflict Studies)

► Prof. Dr. Stefan Peters (University of Giessen, International Relations and Peace Research; German-Colombian Peace Institute CAPAZ)

► Prof. Dr. Jonas Wol**ff** (Peace Research Institute Frankfurt PRIF; Goethe University Frankfurt)

Moderated by Prof. Dr. Anika Oettler (Marburg University, Institute for Sociology; Center for Conflict Studies)

Panel 6 | 14:30-16:00 | 201 SEM

Engaging with Victims and Perpetrators

Examining the blurred boundaries between victims and perpetrators, the panel explores their implications for peacebuilding and transitional justice. Contributions analyse why individuals participate in mass violence and what motivates victims to seek justice and reparations. Drawing on case studies from Cambodia, Timor-Leste, Guatemala, Morocco, and beyond, the panel investigates how structural conditions, emotions, and individual agency shape violence and its aftermath. It also considers how institutions and civil society engage with victims and perpetrators, offering new perspectives on accountability, reconciliation, and sustainable peacebuilding.

► Resisting, reframing and reimagining: The ongoing struggle for dignity and victim reparations in Guatemala — Kim Baudewijns (Ghent University, Human Rights Centre) and Dr. Eva Willems (Ghent University, Department of History): Grassroots mobilisation for reparations in Guatemala is examined through the lens of resisting, reframing, and reimagining. Drawing on qualitative data and a longue durée perspective, the analysis shows how victim groups have sustained and redefined reparations as part of a broader struggle for dignity and social justice despite institutional fragmentation and limited political will.

► Who Are Today's Perpetrators? Agency and Intent from Social Media to AI-Enabled Atrocity — PD Dr. Timothy Williams (University of the Bundeswehr Munich, Institute of Cultural Studies, Institute of Political Science): Digital technologies complicate our understandings of a "perpetrator." For digital violence, new forms of harm are emerging in social media, moreover frequently removing

individuals from the consequences of their actions. AI systems used in warfare and atrocities distance individuals from violence, obscuring both institutional and individual intent. This paper argues these shifts challenge existing perpetrator frameworks, with consequences for accountability, transitional justice, and reconciliation.

Moderated by Prof. Dr. Thorsten Bonacker (Marburg University, Center for Conflict Studies)

Keynote Lecture | 16:30-18:00 | 001 DSA

Peacemaking in the Shadow of War

► Prof. Dr. Keith Krause — (Geneva Graduate Institute, Centre on Conflict, Development & Peacebuilding): The "international peace and security" architecture is in crisis, at all levels and in all regions. The United Nations has been sidelined in major conflicts and conflict resolution efforts no new UN peace operations have been authorized since 2014, and the resources devoted to post-conflict peacebuilding have shrunk. Conversely, military spending and the number of conflicts worldwide have reached new heights, and leaders in Europe are preparing for war. Is there a credible path for peacemaking in the current geopolitically turbulent times that is both principled and pragmatic, or are peacemakers caught in the utopian trap that characterized the early 20th century?

Introduced and moderated by Prof. Dr. Sabine Kurtenbach (German Institute for Global and Area Studies GIGA, Hamburg; Marburg University)

Day 3 | 24.10.2026

Panel 7 | 09:30-11:00 | 001 DSA

Justice, Memory, and Accountability in a Fragmented World

Against the backdrop of proliferating armed conflicts, widespread grave human rights violations, and a global resurgence of authoritarianism, ideas and practices of justice, memory, and accountability are being reconfigured. So, too, are the ways in which societies confront violent pasts and presents. This roundtable explores how political change and democratic backsliding, contested knowledge politics of violence, evolving archival practices and transnational diaspora engagement are reshaping struggles over remembrance and transitional justice efforts across different contexts. Bringing together scholars from a range of regional and disciplinary backgrounds, the discussion reflects on emerging challenges and new possibilities for justice, memory, and reparative futures in an increasingly fragmented and polarized world.

Roundtable format

► Dr. Güneş Daşlı (Loughborough University, Department of International Relations, Politics, and History)

► Prof. Dr. Rosario Figari Layús (University of Bonn, Center for Reconciliation Studies)

► Dr. Mariam Salehi (Free University of Berlin, INTERACT Center for Interdisciplinary Peace and Conflict Research)

► Dr. Julia Viebach (Queen's University Belfast, The Queen's Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice, School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work)

Moderated by Dr. Kristine Andra Avram (University of Bayreuth, Conflicts.Meanings.Transitions) and Nilgün Yelpaze

(Marburg University, Center for Near and Middle Eastern Studies CNMS; Center for Conflict Studies)

Panel 8 | 09:30-11:00 | 201 SEM

Navigating Conflict in Higher Education

Universities play a complex role in peace and conflict as spaces of learning, governance, and social transformation. This panel brings together perspectives from Romania, Germany, Georgia, Timor-Leste and the Philippines to explore how higher education shapes and is shaped by conflict, polarisation and post-conflict dynamics. Contributions will examine the opportunities and limitations of universities in fostering dialogue, inclusion, critical thinking and sustainable peacebuilding.

► Why Do Students Remain Silent? Polarisation and Classroom Debates in Romanian Higher Education — Prof. Dr. Ana Pantea (Babeș-Bolyai University, European Studies, Cluj-Napoca): Drawing on qualitative focus groups conducted in 2026 in Cluj-Napoca as part of the NAVINCLASS project, this study examines how students experience sociopolitical conflict in higher education amid growing societal polarisation. Drawing on agonistic pluralism and democratic pedagogy, the study analyses classroom dynamics as spaces of democratic contestation. The findings show that polarisation intensifies when disagreement is perceived as a threat to identity, leading to withdrawal, silence and disengagement. The paper emphasises the importance of structured moderation, procedural fairness and emotionally safe environments in sustaining constructive pluralism within university settings.

► Classroom Con**fl**ict in Times of Polarisation: First Insights from NAVINCLASS — Dr. Kerstin Zimmer (Marburg University, Center for Conflict Studies) and Jana Strohmenger (Marburg University, Center for Conflict Studies): The NAVINCLASS project explores how societal and

political polarisation shapes classroom conflicts and how educators and students respond to them. This paper introduces the project's aims and relevance, presenting first insights from focus groups conducted in Marburg. These findings are discussed in relation to emerging results from partner universities across Europe.

► State Protectionism and Institutional Segregation in Georgia's Higher Education System — Dr. Ruslan Baramidze (Marburg University, Center for Conflict Studies): Georgia's 2025–2026 higher education reform is examined as a process of institutional centralisation. The analysis explores the introduction of tuition-free public education for citizens, the abolition of grants for private universities, restrictions on international students, and the consolidation of state universities. It reflects on the implications for academic autonomy, institutional diversity, and integration into the Bologna Process.

► Understanding the Complex Role of Universities in Post-Con**fl**ict Peacebuilding: Insights from Timor-Leste and Mindanao — Eva Froneberg (Marburg University, Center for Conflict Studies): Drawing on seven months of ethnographic fieldwork in Timor-Leste and Northern Mindanao, this presentation examines universities as embedded, entangled sites of peacebuilding. Shaped by the structural conditions of conflict, global academic hierarchies and individual trajectories, universities have the potential to both cultivate and constrain peacebuilding, thus revealing them as fragile yet vial spaces where peace and conflict coexist.

Moderated by Dr. Stéphane Voell (Marburg University, Center for Conflict Studies)

Panel 9 | 11:30-13:00 | 001 DSA

Gender and Feminist Approaches to Peace

Amid violent crises and growing backlash against gender equality, feminist and queer movements play a crucial role in

envisioning peaceful societies. Drawing on perspectives from Africa, Latin America, and Eastern and Western Europe, the contributions explore the conditions for feminist mobilisation in the pursuit of peace, solidarity, care, and gender justice. The panel also examines how research on anti-feminism can inform political education and strengthen peace and democracy in times of nationalism and autocratisation.

Roundtable format

► Dr. Juliana González Villamizar (University of Giessen, International Relations and Peace Research)

► Dr. Mariel Reiss (Marburg University, Center for Conflict Studies CCA)

► Elisabeth Winterer (Marburg University, Social and Cultural Anthropology)

Moderated by Prof. Dr. Anika Oettler (Marburg University, Institute for Sociology; Center for Conflict Studies)

Panel 10 | 11:30-13:00 | 201 SEM

Postcolonial Hierarchies of Peace

Postcolonial hierarchies of peace are examined through questions of whose visions of peace are prioritised, institutionalised, and legitimised in contemporary international politics. The contributions explore how colonial legacies shape peacebuilding norms and practices, and how current crises challenge dominant liberal peace paradigms. Focusing on global power asymmetries, legal regimes, epistemic hierarchies and the ways these are contested, alongside alternative visions of peace, the discussion rethinks whose peace is built, for whom, and under what conditions.

► Peace Movement Politics and the Global South — Prof. Dr. Rirhandu Mageza-Barthel (Marburg University, Center for Conflict Studies): Peace movements shape politics through the influence they seek on identified national

policies and their protests against armed conflicts. While often overlooked in the Global South, current conflicts highlight the need to reassess their roles. This paper explores approaches with which to better understand peace movement politics and the tensions relating to the global connections of Germany's peace movements.

► Memoria Popular, Neoliberal State Repression, and Peace in Santiago de Chile — Dr. Fabricio Rodríguez (Arnold Bergstraesser Institute ABI, University of Freiburg): This contribution examines how "memoria popular" in Santiago de Chile contests police repression, neoliberal urbanism and "appeasing" approaches to internal colonialism. Focusing on grassroots memorial sites that emerged after the 2019/20 social uprising, it argues that their repeated erasure reveals enduring struggles over peace, belonging, and the political (de)construction of collective memory and exclusion.

► Re-envisioning Peacebuilding Futures: Undoing Postcolonial Hierarchies through Global South Knowledges — Dr. Siddharth Tripathi (University of Erfurt, Postcolonial Hierarchies in Peace and Conflict): Drawing on postcolonial critique and decolonial thought on the coloniality of power, this contribution explores the subordination of non-Western ontologies legitimated by colonial modernity. I argue that Global South epistemologies are sites of epistemic resistance and resurgence, constitutive of an alternative peacebuilding ontology grounded in relationality, historical accountability, and pluriversal justice.

► Ethics of Decolonial Peacebuilding — Dr. İbrahim Beyazoğlu (Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Communication and Media Studies): The relationship between ethics and decolonial dynamics is examined by arguing that decolonial processes are characterised by sensitive, complex, and heterogeneous dynamics that require an ethical approach. Drawing on Jacques Derrida, Zygmunt Bauman, and Alphonso Lingis as part of a postcolonial

toolbox, the analysis critiques nationalist-modernist approaches to decolonisation.

Moderated by Sophie Falschebner (Marburg University, Center for Conflict Studies)

Roundtable C | 13:30-15:00 | 001 DSA

The Future of Building Peace: Re-imagining Utopias in an Age of Crisis

Utopian thinking serves as a critical resource for reimagining peacebuilding in an era of polycrisis. Against a backdrop of war, securitisation, and dominant narratives of permanent crisis, contributions examine how alternative futures can challenge the status quo and inspire transformative action. Bringing together scholars and practitioners, the session reflects on strategies and practices for imagining and building more peaceful futures.

- ► Dr. Edward Clarke (Marburg University, Social Psychology)
- ► Prof. Dr. Gearoid Millar (University of Aberdeen, Peace and Conflict Studies)
- ► Prof. Dr. Nina Perkowski (University of Hamburg, Department of Social Sciences)

Moderated by Prof. Dr. Susanne Buckley-Zistel (Marburg University, Center for Conflict Studies)