

Zentrumstage 2024 & Annual Conference

HISTORICITIES OF SECURITY AND PEACE

October 9 - 11

Pilgrimstein 12,
University of Marburg

Keynote speaker

Shampa Biswas,
Whitman College

Georgiy Kasianov,
Maria Curie-Skłodowska University Lublin



Index

Logistics	1
Registration & Support	1
Food & Drinks	1
Conference Venues	1
Directions	2
Organizing Team	2
Conference Map	3
Conference Schedule	4
Conference Program	7
Day 1	7
Day 2	9
Day 3	14
Panel and Paper Abstracts	16
Day 1	16
Parallel Panels I.....	16
Keynote by Shampa Biswas.....	22
Day 2	23
Parallel Panels II.....	23
Parallel Panels III.....	30
Parallel Panels IV.....	36
Parallel Panels V.....	43
Book Launch.....	48
Day 3	49
Keynote by Georgiy Kasianov.....	49
Parallel Panels VI.....	49
Roundtable.....	54
Bionotes of conference participants	55

Logistics

Registration & Support

To ensure efficient planning and to accommodate any special requirements, we kindly ask all participants to register online for the conference no later than **30 September 2024**. On-site registration, as well as the collection of conference kits and name badges for pre-registered participants, will be available throughout the conference at the help desk located in **room 101, Pilgrimstein 12**. The help desk will open at **9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 9 October**. For emergencies or if you require technical or logistical assistance, please contact our conference team at the help desk.

Food & Drinks

Catering during the conference, with the exception of the reception on Day 1, will take place in **Room 101, Pilgrimstein 12**. Coffee, tea, water, and snacks will be provided during coffee breaks. For lunch, we have arranged a vegan-vegetarian catering service. You are welcome to use any of the panel rooms to enjoy your meals. However, we kindly request that you return used dishes to the catering area afterward.

The keynote lecture on the evening of the first conference day, as well as the book launch on the second day, will be followed by a reception offering finger food and drinks.

Conference Venues

Most plenary and panel sessions will be held at **Pilgrimstein 12**, with specific room assignments detailed in the program. The room layout is as follows:

- **First floor:** Rooms 101 and 105
- **Second floor:** Rooms 201 and 205
- **Third floor:** Rooms 301 and 305

The keynote lecture on the evening of the first day will take place in **Room B008** at the **university library lecture hall**.

Directions

The nearest airport to the conference's location is Frankfurt International (FRA). From the airport, you can reach Marburg via train. You can find a suitable connection and buy your train tickets online via the [DB website \(www.bahn.de\)](http://www.bahn.de) or [DB Navigator App](#) or at the local train stations' ticket machines using cash and card payment.

In case you are travelling on Line RB41, please note that the train is divided in Giessen. While one section of the train continues towards Siegen, please make sure you are in the carriage that continues towards Treysa via Marburg.

Upon your arrival at Marburg main station, you can reach the conference venues either by a **1km (15-minute) walk** (see map below) or via the following bus lines:

- **Line 1** towards *Eisenacher Weg*
(Stops: Volkshochschule / Erwin-Piscator-Haus / Rudolphsplatz)
- **Line 2** towards *Cappel Cappeler Gleiche*
(Stops: Elisabethkirche / Volkshochschule / Erwin-Piscator-Haus / Rudolphsplatz)
- **Line 3** towards *Cappel Moischer Straße*
(Stops: Elisabethkirche / Volkshochschule / Erwin-Piscator-Haus / Rudolphsplatz)
- **Line 4** towards *Eisenacher Weg*
(Stops: Elisabethkirche / Volkshochschule / Erwin-Piscator-Haus / Rudolphsplatz)
- **Line 5** towards *Dietrich-Bonhoeffer-Straße*
(Stops: Volkshochschule / Erwin-Piscator-Haus / Rudolphsplatz)
- **Line 7** towards *Universitätsklinikum*
(Stops: Elisabethkirche / Volkshochschule / Erwin-Piscator-Haus / Rudolphsplatz)
- **Line 383** towards *Bad Endbach-Schlierbach*
(Stops: Elisabethkirche / Volkshochschule / Erwin-Piscator-Haus / Rudolphsplatz)

In order to find bus connections to the conference venues or your accomodation, we recommend using the [RMV website \(www.rmv.de\)](http://www.rmv.de) or its app [RMVgo](#). You can buy your bus tickets on the website, the app, the at the RMV ticket machines and from the driving staff on the bus.

During your travel, WiFi is available at Frankfurt International Airport, onboard the ICE trains and most ticket machines. In Marburg you can connect to the free "CityWiFi", which is available on many bus stops including the main station. Upon arrival at the conference location, we will further provide you with the access data to the conference WiFi.

Organizing Team

Thorsten Bonacker, Julia Bökelmann, Eckart Conze, Lena Frewer, Aidan Gnoth, Martin Göllnitz, Marie Huber, Judith Jansen, Sarah Kirst, Jannis Kohlt, Philipp Lottholz, Lam-Phuong Nguyen Pham, Filip Semyonov, Amelie Steck, Miriam Tekath,

Bus stops:



Bus route:



Walking route:



Train Station



Marburg (Lahn)



Bus Lines: 1, 5

Bus Lines: 1, 5

Bus Lines: 2, 3, 4, 7, 383

Bus Lines: 2, 3, 4, 7, 383



Elisabethkirche



Conference Location:
University Library



Volkshochschule

Conference Location:
Pilgrimstein 12



Bus Lines: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 383



Erwin-Piscator-Haus

Rudolphsplatz



Conference Schedule

Day 1

9 October 2024

	Pilgrimstein 12 Room 101	Pilgrimstein 12 Room 105	Pilgrimstein 12 Room 201	Pilgrimstein 12 Room 205	University Library Lecture Hall
13:00 - 14:00	Registration & Coffee				
14:00 - 14:30	Welcome & Opening Address				
14:30 - 15:00	Coffee Break				
15:00 - 16:30	<p style="text-align: center;">Parallel Panels I</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> <p>Security's Achilles' Heel: How Abductions and Hijackings Changed Global Security Dynamics in the 20th Century</p> </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> <p>In the Name of Peace or Security?! War Discourses as Practice and Theory of Ordering the International</p> </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> <p>Exploring Territorial Imaginations and Infrastructures of Peace and Security</p> </div> </div>				
16:30 - 17:00	Coffee Break				
17:30 - 19:00					<p>Keynote by Shampa Biswas Memorializing Peace, Wasting Security: Race and Colonialism in Nuclear Storytelling</p>
19:00					Reception

Day 2

10 October 2024

	Pilgrimstein 12 Room 101	Pilgrimstein 12 Room 105	Pilgrimstein 12 Room 201	Pilgrimstein 12 Room 301
9:00 - 9:30	Registration & Coffee			
9:30 - 11:00		Ontological Security, Trauma, and Global Politics	Security from the bottom up, exploring methods, perspectives and agency	A hybrid approach to peacebuilding
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee Break			
11:30 - 13:00		The Historicity of Environmental Conflicts	High-risk transitional justice: The “(in)security turn” in contexts of accountability	Transformations of security and securitization in discourse and practice: The Bundeswehr after 1990
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch Break			
14:00 - 15:30		Disinformation as a Security Challenge in the Era of New Technologies	Tracing the (dis)continuities of armed struggles: A relational perspective on insurgencies and counterinsurgencies	Militarization and Geo-politics: Hyper-nationalist Conflict Zones in South and South-East Asia
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break			
16:00 - 17:30			Reclaiming Peace Epistemologies – Towards a Paradigm Shift in Peace, Conflict and Security Studies	Understanding the social contexts of peace and security in authoritarian regimes in Africa
17:30 - 18:00	Coffee Break			
18:00 - 19:30			Book Launch The Rowman and Littlefield Handbook on Peace and Conflict Studies: Perspectives from the Global South	
19:30	Informal get together			

Day 3

11 October 2024

	Pilgrimstein 12 Room 101	Pilgrimstein 12 Room 105	Pilgrimstein 12 Room 201	Pilgrimstein 12 Room 305
9:00 - 9:30	Registration & Coffee			
9:30 - 11:00			Keynote by Georgiy Kasianov A useful past? Collective memory, security, and international relations	
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee Break			
11:30 - 13:00		Remembering Peace	Parallel Panels V Building a Safe Environment – The Role of Architecture in Modern Security Discourses	Performing Peace and Security in the Balkans: A Historical Perspective (19th–20th Centuries)
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch Break			
14:00 - 15:00			Roundtable The Russian Aggression Against Ukraine – European Perspectives on Security and Conflict Transformation	
15:00 - 15:30			Closing Remarks	
15:30	End of Conference			

Conference Program

Day 1

9 October 2024

13:00-14:00 **Registration & Coffee**

14:00-14:30 **Plenary Session**

Room 201 **Welcome & Opening Address**

Speakers: Thorsten Bonacker, Susanne Buckley-Zistel, Sarah Kirst, Evelyn Korn

14:30-15:00 **Coffee Break**

15:00-16:30 **Parallel Panels I**

Room 201 **In the Name of Peace or Security?! War Discourses as Practice and Theory of Ordering the International**

Chair: Hendrik Simon

Discussant: Christoph Kampmann

Paper 1: No Peace without War? The Emergence of International Law in Early Modern Europe (Anuschka Tischer)

Paper 2: In the Name of Peace or Security?! Justifying War in 19th-Century Europe. A Short Genealogy (Hendrik Simon)

Paper 3: Revolutions and Violence in the Historiography of Peace and Security in the Americas (Juan Pablo Scarfi)

Room 205 **Exploring Territorial Imaginations and Infrastructures of Peace and Security**

Chairs: Werner Distler & António Ferraz de Oliveira

Paper 1: Experiments in Liberation: Reimagining territorial order beyond the State form in Somaliland and Rojava (Regine Schwab & Matthew Gordon)

Paper 2: Fragmented Landscapes: Palestinian Performances and the Reimagining of Space, Peace and Solidarity (Anne Lene Stein)

Paper 3: Historical trajectories of customary governance and security risks in post-conflict land reform (Anne Hennings & Christopher Rohles)

Paper 4: Negotiating Territorial Sovereignty: The United Nations Trusteeship System and the Decolonization Process (Werner Distler)

Room 105

Security's Achilles' Heel: How Abductions and Hijackings Changed Global Security Dynamics in the 20th Century

Chairs: Eva Gajek, Martin Göllnitz, Marie Huber

Discussants: Marie Huber & Martin Göllnitz

Paper 1: Deepening Insecurity in Nigeria: Exploring the Trends in Abductions, Kidnapping and Armed Banditry (George A. Genyi)

Paper 2: The Impact of Najibullah's Assassination on Afghanistan's Socio-Political Landscape and Migration Crisis (Srajan Srivastava)

Paper 3: The Price of Security: Acts and Interpretations of Kidnappings of Millionaires in the 20th Century in the USA and Europe (Eva Gajek)

16:30-17:00 **Coffee Break**

17:30-19:00 **Keynote by Shampa Biswas**

Library
Lecture Hall

Memorializing Peace, Wasting Security: Race and Colonialism in Nuclear Storytelling

Moderation: Carola Westermeier

Discussant: Felix Anderl

19:00 **Reception**

Day 2

10 October 2024

9:00-9:30 **Registration & Coffee**

9:30-11:00 **Parallel Panels II**

Room 201 **Security from the bottom up, exploring methods, perspectives and agency**

Chair: Zsófia Haczek

Paper 1: New modes of resistance: the power of art to desecuritize the war on drugs in the Philippines (Lauren Stansfield)

Paper 2: Community-Driven Reconstruction in Divided Societies: A Ground Theory Approach (Khaled Nagi Alosaimi)

Paper 3: Security Through the Lense: Lessons Learned from the Visualising Security Photovoice Project (Zsófia Haczek)

Paper 4: 'Diaspora Citizenship' in the Context of Political Violence and Divided Societies (David Sinclair)

Room 301 **A hybrid approach to peacebuilding**

Chair: Ehlimana Spahić

Paper 1: Counter-Hegemonic Practices in Resisting Nationalist Hegemony: Struggles and Challenges of Leftist Mobilization and Organization in Post-Socialist Bosnia and Herzegovina (Jasmin Hasanović)

Paper 2: Peace education in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Role of Schools and Universities in building peace education in a diverse society (Fatima Mahmutović, Selma Ćosić)

Paper 3: Culturally Sensitive Approaches in Hybrid Peacebuilding – Case of Memorial Centre Srebrenica – Potočari (Sarina Bakić)

Paper 4: Stabilization of Bosnia and Herzegovina Through Integration into the EU Single Market (Ehlimana Spahić & Valida Repovac Nikšić)

Room 105

Ontological Security, Trauma, and Global Politics

Chair: Aslı Ilgıt

Paper 1: A walk through memory lane: narratives from second-generation victims of forced displacement in Antioquia, Colombia (Lina Marcela Gómez Núñez)

Paper 2: Keeping a Sense of Continuity at Home and Exile: Ontological Security and Identity of Hazaras in Afghanistan (Fujin Naz Haidery)

Paper 3: Memory, Hope, and Mobilization: Aspirational Narratives after the Korean War (Irem Cihan)

Paper 4: A Temporal Analysis of the Evolving Security Discussions in Europe (Ogut Boluz Kök)

11:00-11:30

Coffee Break

11:30-13:00

Parallel Panels III

Room 201

High-risk transitional justice: The “(in)security turn” in contexts of accountability

Chairs: Rosario Figari Layus & Juliette Vargas Trujillo

Paper 1: Potential Tensions and Synergies between DDR and transitional justice in relation to pro government militias: The case of the PMF in Post-IS Iraq (Mohammad Hossein Mojtahedi, Maarten Bolhuis, Joris van Wijk)

Paper 2: Navigating Non-Transition: Grassroots Victim Mobilization and the Pursuit of Transitional Justice in Morocco (Pia Falschebner)

Paper 3: The struggle continues: socio-legal analysis of Maya Ixil victims-survivor’s trajectories of participation in transitional justice in Guatemala (Gretel Mejía Bonifazi)

Paper 4: Transitional Justice in contexts of insecurity: Impacts and Challenges in Colombia (Juliette Vargas Trujillo & Rosario Figari Layus)

Room 301

Transformations of security and securitization in discourse and practice: The Bundeswehr after 1990

Chair: Silvia-Lucretia Nicola

Paper 1: The Bundeswehr caught between the pacification of the military and the securitization of peace. Paradoxes of stabilization missions, hybrid conflicts and cultural awareness (Andreas Berns & Martin Rink)

Paper 2: Security as the basis for peace and freedom? Facets of military political security thinking in the Bundeswehr in the early 1990s (Sven Deppisch)

Paper 3: Between War and Peace - The Missions of the German Navy from 1987 to 1999 (Christian Jentzsch)

Paper 4: Performing Security. Performative aspects of the practice of patrolling by the Bundeswehr in Afghanistan, 2001-2014 (Linus Birrel)

Room 105

The Historicity of Environmental Conflicts

Chair: Felix Anderl & Johanna Kocks

Paper 1: Historical Analysis of Land Laws, Environmental Conflicts and Food Security Challenges in Africa: Lessons from Nigeria's Niger Delta (Nathaniel Umukoro)

Paper 2: Historicising the Unending Crises of Mbororo Pastoralism, Climate Change, and Herder-Farmer clashes in Cameroon (Nicodemus Fru Awasom)

Paper 3: Resolution from the University of Limoges. "The severing of links between humans and non-humans as a war strategy" (Alice Brites Osorio)

Paper 4: Histories of Destruction and (Re)Construction in Sacrifice Zones of Capital: Resistance against environmental destruction on the island Ilha de Maré, Bahia, Brazil (Johanna Kocks)

13:00-14:00

Lunch Break

14:00-15:30 Parallel Panels IV

Room 201

Tracing the (dis)continuities of armed struggles: A relational perspective on insurgencies and counterinsurgencies

Chair: Solveig Richter

Paper 1: Manifestations of Justice in the Global South(s): "From Human Rights to Human Security" (Steve Wakhu Khaemba)

Paper 2: (In)visible Chains: Mapping and Analyzing Informal Networks in the Peshmerga Forces in Kurdistan (Kamal Faqi Ibrahim, Tamim Karadamur, Sushobhan Parida)

Paper 3: Evolution of Counterinsurgency Strategies in Turkey and Colombia after the end of their respective peace processes from 2016 to the present (Evelyn Gonzalez Guevara)

Paper 4: Political Legitimizing Processes in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq from 1991 to 2023 (Kamal Faqi Ibrahim)

Room 301

State, Militarization and Geo-politics: Hyper-nationalist Conflict Zones in South and South-East Asia

Chair: Manas Dutta & Mimasha Pandit

Paper 1: Global Peace and State Policies: How India Conceived a Contradictory Approach of Global and National Politics After Independence (Debarati Ganguly)

Paper 2: The City under War/the City in Darkness: Socio-Psychological Insecurities and 1971 Indo-Pak War in Calcutta (Sweta Mukherjee)

Paper 3: Remna: Understanding Indigenous Conceptions of Peace in Manipur and Mizoram (Kimngaihoi Vaiphei)

Paper 4: Urban Guerilla Warfare and the State in South Asia: Calcutta Neighborhoods during the Naxalbari Years (Animesh Gupta)

Room 105

Disinformation as a Security Challenge in the Era of New Technologies

Chair: Sanel Huskić

Paper 1: "Deepfake Phenomenon: Security Risks and The Material Impact of AI in the Era of Disinformation" (Amina Vatreš)

Paper 2: "Disinformation in Pacific Island States: Responding to Diverse People, Places, and Spaces" (Jennifer J. Williams et. al)

Paper 3: "Disinformation as a Security Challenge in the Era of New Technologies: Implications for Small States" (Sanel Huskić)

Paper 4: "Media and Information Literacy in the Function of Detecting Disinformation" (Enita Čustović)

15:30-16:00

Coffee Break

16:00-17:30 Parallel Panels V

Room 201 **Reclaiming Peace Epistemologies – Towards a Paradigm Shift in Peace, Conflict and Security Studies**

Chair: Muhammad Makki & Waseem Iftikhar

Paper 1: A Sad State: Dreaming Peace (Shalini Chaudhary & Anuradha Choudry)

Paper 2: Pluriversal protection: Centering peace epistemologies otherwise (Catherine Whittaker & María Cárdenas)

Paper 3: Researching contemporary events: the significance of temporalities for epistemologies of peace (Mariam Salehi & Tareq Sydiq)

Paper 4: Reclaiming 'Peace': Examining Epistemological and Methodological Constraints in Peace Studies (Waseem Iftikhar & Muhammad Makki)

Room 301 **Understanding the social contexts of peace and security in authoritarian regimes in Africa**

Chair: Nnamdi Ajaebili

Paper 1: Peace and Security in Ghana's historical authoritarian and military regime in the 1980s (Isaac Kyere)

Paper 2: Dynamics of Authoritarian Rule in Nigeria (Lucky Igohosa Ugbudian)

Paper 3: Performativity of Peace and Security: Peace Accord as a Security Instrument in Checkmating Election Violence in Nigeria (Emeka Okoye)

Paper 4: Analyzing the Social Context of (In)security in Authoritarian Regimes in Africa: The Example of Nigeria and Cameroon in Border Conflict over the Bakassi Peninsula (Nnamdi Ajaebili)

18:00-19:30 Book Launch

Room 201 **The Rowman and Littlefield Handbook on Peace and Conflict Studies: Perspectives from the Global South**

Speakers: Solveig Richter & Siddarth Tripathi (editors), Thorsten Bonacker, Susanne Buckley-Zistel, Sushobhan Parida, Tareq Sydiq, Steve Wakhu Khaemba (chapter authors)

19:30 Informal get together with snacks & drinks

Day 3

11 October 2024

9:00-9:30 **Registration & Coffee**

9:30-11:00 **Keynote by Georgiy Kasianov**

Room 305 **A useful past? Collective memory, security, and international relations**

Moderation: Heidi Hein-Kircher

Discussant: Eckart Conze

11:00-11:30 **Coffee Break**

11:30-13:00 **Parallel Panels VI**

Room 201 **Building a Safe Environment – The Role of Architecture in Modern Security Discourses**

Chair: Frank Rochow

Paper 1: For a secure and prosperous city! Debates about urban planning in Galicia's capital Lemberg (Lwów, L'viv) in the 19th century (Nadja Weck)

Paper 2: Allied security discourses on "belligerent" monuments in occupied Germany after 1945 (Antoine Beaudoin)

Paper 3: "When democracy builds". European Institution Buildings and Public Space (Volker Ziegler)

Room 305 **Performing Peace and Security in the Balkans: A Historical Perspective (19th–20th Centuries)**

Chair: Nicole Immig, Ninja Bumann & Amir Duranović

Paper 1: Presentation of Bosnia and Herzegovina as Fragmented and Insecure Area During the Second World War (Ajdin Muhedinović)

Paper 2: The gates of peace: Cinema at the service of the League of Nations in the Greek-Bulgarian conflict (Jacques Péricard)

Paper 3: Cyprus 1974: Political Instability, Military Intervention, and Diplomatic Challenges: A Yugoslav Perspective, (Amir Duranović)

Room 105 **Remembering Peace**

Chair: Eckart Conze

Paper 1: Remembering the Treaty of Berlin (1878): Beginning of a Peace or a Trigger of Violence (İlkay Yılmaz)

Paper 2: Memories of peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Melina Sadiković)

Paper 3: Democratic Peace – Democratic Security? Remembering the Peace of 1919 in the Interwar Years (1919-1939) (Eckart Conze)

13:00-14:00 Lunch Break

14:00-15:00 Roundtable

Room 201 **The Russian Aggression Against Ukraine – European Perspectives on Security and Conflict Transformation**

Chair: Thorsten Bonacker

Panelists: Vera Axyonova, Mariia Levchenko, Irena Remestwenski, Susann Worschech

15:00-15:30 Closing Remarks

15:30 End of Conference

Panel and Paper Abstracts

Day 1

9 October 2024

Parallel Panels I

In the Name of Peace or Security?! War Discourses as Practice and Theory of Ordering the International

Chair: Hendrik Simon

Discussant: Christoph Kampmann

Panel Abstract

The history of war is also a history of its justification. Drawing on our recent research (Brock/Simon 2021; Simon 2024), in this panel we not only want to show that theories and practices of legitimizing violence were central to the formation of modern international order. We also want to analyze the role played by peace and security as justification narratives in a brief genealogy from the early modern period (Tischer) through the 19th and 20th centuries (Scarfi and Simon) to the present (Brock). Did peace and security support each other argumentatively, coexist, or were they mutually exclusive? The panel will bring together researchers from the fields of International History (Tischer), peace and conflict studies and historically oriented political science (Brock, Scarfi and Simon) as well as researchers with a focus on Eastern Europe (Tischer), Western/Central Europe (Brock and Simon) and the Americas (Brock and Scarfi).

Paper 1: No Peace without War? The Emergence of International Law in Early Modern Europe

Anuschka Tischer

Between 1450 and 1789, more than 1800 peace treaties were concluded in Europe. They have attracted the interest of researchers because they have shaped the international order. However, peace treaties have always been the result of wars. The early modern period saw a series of treaties, treatises on international law and concepts for peace and security, as it was actually a time of war. Peace and war must be seen as entangled. In order to understand the emergence of international law with its idea of order and security, we must also look at the sources that war has produced. European belligerents conducted an intensive war discourse, particularly in their declarations of war and similar justifications. They made clear that they regarded themselves as part of an international community, even if a closer look shows that it was a community of Christian European princes with their specific values. Nevertheless, it was the early modern wars in Europe that confirmed the existence of an international community with a concept of order and international law. The belligerent princes confirmed this concept and accepted (at least in theory) that the idea of an international community limited their sovereignty. Thus, the roots of international law lie not only in peace treaties and in theoretical concepts but also in the early modern war discourses. On the one hand, this points to the importance of war for the emergence of international law in early modern Europe. On the other hand, war should generally be taken into account in a discussion about international order and security.

Paper 2: In the Name of Peace or Security?! Justifying War in 19th-Century Europe. A Short Genealogy

Hendrik Simon

Contrary to what is still widely assumed in research today, the 19th century was not a century of international anarchy when it came to the question of whether war was legitimate. States did not claim a “free right to wage war” (*liberum ius ad bellum*). Rather, war was always justified internationally because peace was the international norm. Moreover, as I argue, the modern prohibition of war did not only develop in 1928, but already since 1814/15 as an emerging norm in the context of the European Concert of Great Powers. The many justifications of war, however, point to the fact that there were exceptions to this prohibition of war. What were they? How did they relate to each other? Were collective and national security the same thing in this context – or were there justification narratives that competed with each other? The presentation deals with these questions on the basis of the changes in the vocabulary of the justification discourse in the context of the 19th century and offers a brief genealogy of these justification patterns. As I will show, two central justifications were accepted as legitimate: the justification of violence with reference to international peace and to self-defense. What this meant in detail, however, was a matter of debate. As this brief genealogy of war justifications will show, the 19th century was not an anarchic photonegative of the modern international order governing the use of force – but the era of its birth.

Paper 3: Revolutions and Violence in the Historiography of Peace and Security in the Americas

Juan Pablo Scarfi

The Americas, including Latin American states and the US, have made a foremost hemispheric contribution to the global formation of ideas and doctrines of peace and security. They began to do so since the declarations of independence in the US and Latin America in the early nineteenth century through the early deployment of the principle of absolute non-intervention and the continental practice of collective self-determination before this principle was “invented” in Western Europe. In the revolutionary context of the wars of independence from Britain, Spain, and Portugal, marked by chronic internal anarchy and wars, as well as external imperial interventions, early ideas of peace in the Americas emerged from the practical need of safeguarding the territorial sovereignty and autonomy of these newly formed states in this rather violent and anarchic setting. This paper will explore the rise of these doctrines and practices of hemispheric peace in the early nineteenth century, notably the Latin American adaptation of the Roman principle of *uti possidetis juris* and the US Monroe Doctrine (1823), and especially the extent to which they both emerged as a response to revolutionary violence, external and internal wars, and external imperial interventions. The paper argues that ideas and practices of peace across the Americas were originally associated to the principle of non-intervention and the practice of collective self-determination, and thus they emerged as a direct defensive response to revolutionary violence, wars, and external imperial (European) interventions, and the need of creating normative and practical mechanisms for regulating them.

Exploring Territorial Imaginations and Infrastructures of Peace and Security

Chairs: Werner Distler & António Ferraz de Oliveira

Panel Abstract

This panel delves into the complex interplay between territorial narratives, imaginations, and connected spatial and material practices in shaping peace and security paradigms from the late 19th century to the 20th century on both global and regional scales. We seek to unravel how epistemic authority emerged within territorial discourses and how cosmologies of territorial order coalesced in politics and policy, with distinct imaginaries of what spatial arrangements might guarantee peace and prosperity within and between territorial states. In this way, we invite examinations of how discreet projects of territorial order were crafted, contested, co-opted, and countermanded under the conflicting efforts of scholars, journalists, politicians, or policymakers. Within such contexts, we are particularly interested in how conflicts fostered counter-narratives of territorial order, with accompanying challenges to the predominant knowledge concerning territoriality, politics, and peace. Additionally, this panel will explore the legacies of past territorial imaginations among later politics, with special attention to how defeated or unexecuted projects linger in international thought. By tracing the trajectories of past territorial imaginaries, the papers on the panel aim to better understand their enduring (or fading) impact on contemporary conceptions of peace, security, and sovereignty. Through a critical examination of select cases concerning armed, diplomatic, and intellectual disputes over territory, papers will reflect on the historicity of how territoriality was reimagined as organizing insecurity or peace against the backdrop of momentous global transformations such as the rise of the United Nations, wars of decolonization, trials in European cooperation or the tangles of Cold War alliances.

Paper 1: Experiments in Liberation: Reimagining territorial order beyond the State form in Somaliland and Rojava

Regine Schwab & Matthew Gordon

Over the past few decades, scholarship on 'ungoverned spaces', or 'areas of limited statehood', has expanded dramatically. Such studies generally focus on those armed or rebellious actors who seek to reproduce or replace the State with some equally hierarchical, coercively-controlled entity. In a few notable instances, however, historical circumstances have emerged that are favorable to radical experiments in alternative governance models. This paper will look at two such cases -- Somaliland and Rojava: the former an improvised peace compact between clans, the latter an ideologically inspired project of democratic confederalism. Despite surfacing under relatively different circumstances, with Somaliland, an isolated African nation, established following state collapse, and the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria, existing amidst a multipronged national insurgency, a transnational jihadist movement, and the central government, the two political entities also exhibit certain interesting parallels. The paper, which draws upon the respective area specialisms of the two co-authors, will offer a comparative analysis of Somaliland and Rojava, in order to better understand the distinct imaginaries and practices of territorial order that such non-State experiments operate under. The goal will be to explore the prospects for alternative political and territorial models that go beyond stabilization and elite compact, and which also work to address, at least to a certain extent, issues of egalitarianism and justice.

Paper 2: Fragmented Landscapes: Palestinian Performances and the Reimagining of Space, Peace and Solidarity

Anne Lene Stein

This paper focuses on the multifaceted spatiality of Palestine, emphasizing a landscape shattered yet interconnected, where lived experiences marked by occupation and settler colonialism vary tremendously from one space to another. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork spanning East Jerusalem, Ramallah, and Haifa, the paper explores how Palestinian artistic performances have the potential to serve as "cultural crossings" between seemingly unreachable locations, fostering a sense of locality and expressing the prominent, the emerging, and the unacknowledged as well as silenced. Through these performances, the paper discusses how peace epistemologies and knowledge production about Palestine are remembered and re-negotiate, while also delving into the formation of solidarities through shared imagining of commonality even if spatially separated. Employing a prefigurative approach, characterized by the enactment of elements of a desired future in the present, the paper focuses on how Palestinian artistic performances across spatial distances can contribute to the construction of alternative relational spaces, thereby challenging and potentially disrupting hegemonic narratives about how peace/security are imagined and enacted in Israel and Palestine. Central to the analysis is the interrogation of the (absent) Israeli enemy-other and their role in (re-)shaping Palestinian identity. Drawing upon insights from agonistic theory, the paper delves deeper into the concept of "agonism" in instances where the enemy-other is physically excluded yet perpetually represented in discourse and material, perpetuating various forms of violence on the Palestinian body and community.

Paper 3: Historical trajectories of customary governance and security risks in post-conflict land reform

Anne Hennings & Christopher Rohles

Colonialism, postcolonial developments, and civil war in Sierra Leone fundamentally shaped spheres of power and security dynamics in the country. Historically, the authority and legitimacy of the chieftaincy were strengthened, undermined, contested, and promoted. After the civil war, symbols of office have been redeployed in order to emphasize decentralization efforts and mediate between the local and the (trans)national sphere. Until today, land governance represents the most important authority domain of customary authorities in Sierra Leone, who are regarded as custodians of the land. As the beginning of a new postcolonial era, the land reform from 2022 aims both to reform colonial law and is an inherent part of longer-term peacebuilding efforts. From the very beginning, paramount chiefs have played a pivotal role in the policy making and land reform implementation process. In the wake of the reform process, power over land governance is renegotiated. As a result, customary authorities govern alongside the statutory government, which raises questions of ownership and responsibility in the land reform process. Against the backdrop of the historical trajectories between customary and (colonial) state authority domains, we examine the sense of ownership in the current land reform process. Specifically, we analyze in which ways customary authorities and their administrations support or undermine the implementation of the new land laws. Our empirical findings draw from extended stays in Sierra Leone between 2016 and 2023. We argue that the chieftaincy's commitment to the land reform process is deeply rooted in (post)colonial and war dynamics with direct effects on social cohesion and human security

Paper 4: Negotiating Territorial Sovereignty: The United Nations Trusteeship System and the Decolonization Process

Werner Distler

With the establishment of the United Nations in the 1940s, new arenas for negotiating territorial conceptions of stability and security emerged amidst great power politics and colonial intellectual movements on a global scale. Within the United Nations Trusteeship System, an international oversight mechanism for quasi-colonial administrations of a group of eleven so-called trust territories, we can trace how distinct imaginaries and practices of territorial sovereignty were challenged and reformulated via the international arena. This reformulation was characterized by new spatial infrastructures and materialities of territory that clashed with the rigid mandates of trusteeship and the late-colonial control exercised by administrative authorities. Due to the open political processes aimed at achieving self-determination and independence, territoriality and border-making became central to political discourse. Techniques such as policing, reporting, mapping, and constructing border posts and traffic infrastructure were crucial for sometimes deeply contradictory territorial imaginations of a self-determined future and significantly shaped the concrete process of gaining independence. This paper engages with the territorial imaginations and practices of trusteeship and decolonization, arguing that both the societies concerned and international governance at the United Nations were influenced by the legacies and continuities of the Trusteeship System.

Security's Achilles' Heel: How Abductions and Hijackings Changed Global Security Dynamics in the 20th Century

Chairs: Eva Gajek, Martin Göllnitz, Marie Huber

Discussants: Marie Huber & Martin Göllnitz

Panel Abstract

In the past, abductions and hijackings have changed the heuristics and repertoires of security in various areas: enhanced security measures in aviation, increased surveillance and legislative changes, heightened protections in public spaces, improved international cooperation, stricter corporate security protocols, and reinforced safety in educational settings. Our panel explores the profound impact of high-profile abductions and hijackings on the formation of specific security perceptions and practices globally. Three papers will analyze significant historical incidents of abductions and hijackings that illustrate how societies, governments and state security actors reacted to such (real and perceived) insecurities. We will examine the complex interplay of power and motivation in these crisis situations, as well as Symbolism and Semantics in Abductions and Hijackings. Finally, what influence did media coverage have on the public perception of such threat scenarios and the political handling of them? Additionally, it will be asked whether and, if so, how, specific heuristics and repertoires changed in these (in)security scenarios. Closely linked to this is the question of whether new security heuristics and repertoires have found an appropriate balance between ensuring safety and preserving civil liberties.

Paper 1: Deepening Insecurity in Nigeria: Exploring the Trends in Abductions, Kidnapping and Armed Banditry

George A. Genyi

Nigeria's contemporary security turned for the worse with the escalation of the violent agitations in the Niger Delta in the early 2000s following the emergence of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) with demands for resource control from oil wealth in the region by the federating units. This agitation was borne out of the environmental degradation from crude oil production in the area by transnational corporations without regard to environmental concerns and livelihoods of the inhabitants. Failing to address these concerns, the agitators began to attack oil installations, abducting and kidnapping of foreign oil workers. Victim category was expanded to abduction of wealthy individuals, and this has spread throughout the country shifting the epicenter to northwest and central Nigeria. Almost simultaneously arose rural banditry which has intensified the deployment of kidnapping as a terror strategy. This paper explores trends in these criminal activities that have evolved into lucrative enterprises with evolving tactics and expanded class of victims. Empirical evidence drawn from interview of 40 victims of kidnapping and rural banditry and documentary sources indicate that these sources of insecurities have not only deepened in Nigeria but have evolved in trends with the proliferation of armed gangs. To deal with what seem to have become the new normal with cloud funding openly coordinated by 'elites' to raise ransom fees require elite consensus and the determination by the state to sanction kidnapers and abductors who are widely known within the security sector and political establishment.

Paper 2: The Impact of Najibullah's Assassination on Afghanistan's Socio-Political Landscape and Migration Crisis

Srajan Srivastava

The abduction and murder of former Afghan President Mohammad Najibullah by the Taliban in 1996 marked a pivotal moment in Afghanistan's socio-political landscape, triggering significant repercussions and a migration crisis. This paper examines the immediate and long-term effects of this high-profile political assassination on Afghan society, governance, and international relations. Najibullah's brutal killing symbolized the Taliban's rise to power and the violent overthrow of the previous political order, instilling widespread fear and uncertainty. The power vacuum created by his death exacerbated factional conflicts and undermined national reconciliation, leading to prolonged instability and civil strife. This incident catalyzed a mass exodus of refugees seeking safety abroad, with millions fleeing to neighboring countries and beyond. The migration crisis strained regional resources, altered demographic landscapes, and prompted international humanitarian interventions. The assassination highlighted the complex interplay of power and motivation in crisis situations, demonstrating how symbolic acts of violence can reshape security perceptions and practices. Media coverage of Najibullah's murder played a crucial role in shaping global public opinion and policy responses. The vivid portrayal of the Taliban's brutality galvanized international condemnation and influenced the political handling of Afghanistan's security challenges. This paper further explores whether the security measures and heuristics adopted in the aftermath balanced ensuring safety and preserving civil liberties, contributing to the broader discourse on the evolution of security paradigms in response to political violence. Through this analysis, we aim to understand how high-profile abductions and murders shape socio-political realities and migration dynamics, with implications for global security policies.

Paper 3: The Price of Security: Acts and Interpretations of Kidnappings of Millionaires in the 20th Century in the USA and Europe

Eva Gajek

In the 20th century, numerous kidnappings with high ransom demands took place in Europe and the USA. Not only journalists, but also criminologists and sociologists soon concluded that rich people and their children were the target of this crime. This already indicates that in the course of the kidnappings, questions about the risk posed by the wealthy were not the only focus of attention. The media, the public, academia and politics also engaged in intensive debates about justice and social difference. Questions about the price of life, but also about security, agency and guilt served as levers for social order. The lecture takes these discussions as a starting point in order to work out the transnational as well as nationally very specific patterns of interpretation around security and inequality.

Keynote by Shampa Biswas

Memorializing Peace, Wasting Security: Race and Colonialism in Nuclear Storytelling

Moderation: Carola Westermeier

Discussant: Felix Anderl

This talk will make a case for 'contaminating' the study of international relations by centering 'waste' as a central category of analysis. Thinking of waste as "matter out of place," the talk will suggest that drawing attention to the excess uncontainable other of the categories through which we make sense of international relations makes visible a racialized colonial order, and who and what that order considers disposal. To make that argument, the talk will use the global story of 'Fat Man' – the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki – to ask what we can learn about peace, security, and the nuclear order from attending to practices of memorialization at the different nodes of the bomb's production and use.

Day 2

10 October 2024

Parallel Panels II

Security from the bottom up, exploring methods, perspectives and agency

Chair: Zsófia Haczek

Panel Abstract

This panel seeks to understand how citizens engage in the process of defining concepts of national security. The panel takes as its starting point the argument that elite-led processes of national security formulation may have blind spots with regards to whom is consulted and how the consultation is undertaken. From this, the panel seeks to engage with those interested in understanding the methods of broader engagement, what these methods have elicited, and the questions raised about citizen participation in what is traditionally a matter which is dominated by the perspectives of policy elites. The panel's themes are based on the process and outputs of a two-year project undertaken by Coventry University for the organization Rethinking Security, entitled 'An Alternative Security Review for the UK'. Using mixed methods, the ASR has piloted a number of ways in which to gain a granular perspective of security and built greater understanding of how these perspectives fit into policy frameworks.

Paper 1: New modes of resistance: the power of art to desecuritize the war on drugs in the Philippines

Lauren Stansfield

In the Philippines, new frameworks are required to make sense of the unique situation and human rights crisis taking place under the government's instrumental "war on drugs" – framed to be a national necessity. Security building (and dismantling) is a complex, multi-layered, multi-actor and multi-modal communicative process. A rich variety of non-state actors, including non-governmental organizations, religious affiliated groups, amateur artists, student activists and individuals are actively trying to desecuritize and reverse the state security policies to prevent the extra-judicial killings that have become national policy. In an environment of suppressed civic space and a restricted ability to speak out freely, the role of the visual moves to the forefront of community resistance. This paper explores the activities taking place by those trying to protect human rights. Moving beyond the traditional modes of protest, this research has comprised an "image bank" that includes street art, graffiti, performative bodily displays such as "die ins", photo art collections, symbols and community art workshops that seek to examine how the visual can "speak back to power" and denounce the war on drugs. In addition to this, the research draws on interviews with non-state actors involved in these activities, to gain insights into their experiences. The research aims to add to the body of literature on art as advocacy, grassroots resistance, the power of images, non-state actor agency, human rights promotion, contested spaces in illiberal democracies, and desecuritization in practice.

Paper 2: Community-Driven Reconstruction in Divided Societies: A Ground Theory Approach

Khaled Nagi Alosaimi

Although recent post-conflict literature has highlighted a focus on physical infrastructure, research in community empowerment and social infrastructure domains has shown a low tendency to integrate into theoretical frameworks. This paper debates the process of building a theory that explains the dynamics of community-driven reconstruction (CDR) in divided societies in the Aden government, Yemen. The proposed theory suggests the association among community empowerment, dimensions of social capital, identities, and physical reconstruction in a post-conflict context. This study employs a case study research design with an exploratory approach and uses a constructive grounded theory-driven constant comparison method for data analysis. The transcriptions from 21 remote semi-structured interviews of Aden communities used as the primary data source for the data analysis. The analysis of this study generates a coding pattern with six categories of concepts and proposes the theory of CDR with the theoretical consensus from the participant's experiences and perspectives. The proposed theory explains how communities successfully overcame various challenges through collective efforts and achieved direct outcomes (i.e., rebuilding infrastructure) and indirect outcomes (i.e., social cohesion) due to the power of unity and collaboration in the face of adversity. The study also identifies the main limitations of CDR and suggests ways to attain community empowerment to address complex social capital and social identity issues and attain higher levels of social cohesion among divided societies.

Paper 3: Security Through the Lense: Lessons Learned from the Visualizing Security Photovoice Project

Zsófia Hacsek

As part of the Alternative Security Review project, photovoice was used as a method to investigate what everyday people perceive as 'secure' and 'insecure'. Participants were asked to take photographs in their surroundings for a two-week period, then explain and discuss them in focus groups. Data was collected in 2022 and 2023, mostly in Coventry, but other UK localities and one Commonwealth locality outside the UK were also involved. This presentation has a threefold goal. First, it will explain the methodological importance of arts-based approaches and visual methods in the research on security. Second, it will showcase through the visual and verbal examples, photographs and quotes, how people's positionalities and differing views (both in a figurative and a literal sense) resulted in ambiguous understandings of security. Third, we give useful advice to anyone interested in replicating our approach, including strengths and limitations of the method, and practical lessons we have learned by doing.

Paper 4: 'Diaspora Citizenship' in the Context of Political Violence and Divided Societies

David Sinclair

A state centric view of citizenship is undermined in a context of state sponsored political violence where fundamental questions are raised about the authority of the state. Examining understandings and enactments of Ethiopian citizenship among Somalis residing in the UK and Kenya with individual and collective experiences of political violence by the Ethiopian state, this study develops a conceptualization of 'diaspora citizenship'. Indicative of the perceived exclusivity of Somalis' membership as Ethiopian citizens, rights-based claims by the diaspora for the realization of psychosocial, socio-economic, and political justice for Somalis in Ethiopia highlight both the opportunity for and the barriers to positive peace in the Somali Regional state of Ethiopia. The concept of diaspora citizenship thus serves as a lens with which to critique state centric citizenship in an ethnically diverse and divided society with a multiplicity of narratives on the state.

A hybrid approach to peacebuilding

Chair: Ehlimana Spahić

Panel Abstract

The panel 'A hybrid approach to peacebuilding' will address hybrid peacebuilding theory in post-war Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in theory and practice. Conceptually and in practice, peacebuilding has been dominated by the liberal peace paradigm. The panel will explore the existing literature on peacebuilding and identify the gaps in different peacebuilding theories and strategies for peace (economic, liberal, critical, and feminist). The ongoing peacebuilding process in BiH demonstrates different approaches to peacebuilding applied by numerous international and local actors, and it also shows the success of the different practices employed. On the other hand, various civil society organizations on the ground that are working in the fields of human rights, transitional justice, and culture emerged in an attempt to speed up the progress in resolving numerous issues in the post-war Bosnian Herzegovinian society. In their approach to peacebuilding, they are not necessarily conforming to international expectations of a liberal peace. These phenomena denote a potential hybrid form of peace and state emerging (Richmond, 2014: 112). Papers will address the concept of hybrid peacebuilding that will be approached as the result of the interplay of the following: the compliance powers of liberal peace agents, networks, and structures; the incentivizing powers of liberal peace agents, networks, and structures; the ability of local actors to resist, ignore or adapt liberal peace interventions; and the ability of local actors, networks, and structures to present and maintain alternative forms of peacemaking (Mac Ginty, 2010).

Paper 1: Counter-Hegemonic Practices in Resisting Nationalist Hegemony: Struggles and Challenges of Leftist Mobilization and Organization in Post-Socialist Bosnia and Herzegovina

Jasmin Hasanović

Peacebuilding efforts in Bosnia and Herzegovina resulted in a consociational framework dominated by ethno-confessional narratives and conservative values. This framework institutionalizes ethnic divisions, sidelining other identities and influencing the political party structure. While ideological differences persist, they are mostly confined within mono-ethnic party subsystems. Preoccupied with ethnopolitical dynamics extending beyond the scope of mere political representation, numerous socioeconomic issues remain marginalized, with the efforts to be addressed primarily by various particularized, both institutional and non-institutional – mostly ad hoc – citizen's initiatives, bottom-up forums or popular protests. Simultaneously, there is a troubling rise in nationalism while different international watchdogs (Freedom House, Freedom in the World Index, Varieties of Democracy Index), show not only stagnation but also a decline of democracy in Bosnia and Herzegovina. With the failure of genuine reconciliation among ethnic groups seen thirty years after the war, it is to explore how embedding ethnicity in the socio-political fabric has entrenched ethnopolitical sub-realities. This embedding has facilitated the domestication of right-wing narratives and political agendas, allowing them to symbolically dominate over the public discourse and the political agenda. Consequently, these dynamics challenge the mobilization and effectiveness of leftist movements and political parties. Exploring the complex interplay between the ethno-nationalist hegemony, this paper aims to dissect the challenges hindering the effective political organization of the Left in post-socialist Bosnia and Herzegovina. It also highlights the potential for alternative forms of political organization and resistance, which remain fragmented and face significant hurdles due to the deeply embedded ethnic identity politics that shape the socio-political landscape.

Paper 2: Peace education in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Role of Schools and Universities in building peace education in a diverse society

Fatima Mahmutović, Selma Ćosić

We will start this abstract with the definition of peace education, to see how peace education is important for post-conflict society and hybrid peacebuilding in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). „I consider peace education to be an education that is unequivocally biased - which studies, trains, supports, encourages, invents, teaches, works - for peace, and against violence, and it should not be only informative, but experiential and value-based (not at all neutral), to encourage changes in society and changes in ourselves as a part of that society and to motivate us to work on those changes; to criticize, question and have as a key question: where are we in all this, what is our responsibility and what can we do“ (Franović, 2007: 91). The paper will research the role of formal education institutions in promoting peace education in Bosnia and Herzegovina seen as a diverse society. We will focus on challenges and opportunities in implementing peace education curriculum reforms. Education for peace (Peace education) plays a crucial role in post-conflict societies like Bosnia and Herzegovina, where the legacy of ethnic conflict continues to shape societal dynamics. In this paper we will explore the role of schools (focus on high schools) and universities in promoting hybrid peacebuilding and reconciliation among the country's diverse ethnic communities. Drawing on a review of literature, policy documents, and empirical studies, the paper will examine the challenges and opportunities in implementing peace education initiatives within formal education institutions. We will analyze the content and delivery of peace education curriculum, the training of educators, and the involvement of students in interethnic dialogue and conflict resolution activities. The paper will also research the impact of higher education programs in fostering critical thinking, tolerance, and civic engagement among young people. Through a comprehensive review of existing literature and case studies, this paper aims to provide insights into the potential of peace education in Bosnia and Herzegovina and to identify strategies for enhancing its effectiveness in contributing to sustainable peace and social cohesion

Paper 3: Culturally Sensitive Approaches in Hybrid Peacebuilding – Case of Memorial Centre Srebrenica – Potočari

Sarina Bakić

Culturally sensitive approaches in hybrid peacebuilding acknowledge and combine local traditions, values, customs, and practices while integrating modern peacebuilding attempts. These types of approaches in hybrid peacebuilding in Bosnia and Herzegovina have been vital due to the country's complex ethnic and political model. Therefore, it is crucial to have a deep understanding of the cultural, social, and historical context of the community where peacebuilding efforts are taking place including understanding traditional conflict resolution mechanisms, social structures and power dynamics. The author will present the case study of Memorial Centre Srebrenica – Potočari supporting theories of Adam Curle and Lisa Schirch, whose theories relate to the role of culture in shaping dimensions of peace, stressing the importance of empathy, dialogue, and understanding across political and cultural divisions and detachments. Hybrid peacebuilding approaches, in this case study involve traditional commemorative practices and modern techniques such as memorials, truth-telling initiatives (Centre's oral history project), and serious attempts for community dialogue, which is still jeopardized by political disputes. Approaches like Memorial Centre Srebrenica – Potočari combine traditional Muslim mourning practices with formal recognition and educational attempts to promote reconciliation and peacebuilding in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The main thesis of this article is that culturally sensitive approaches in hybrid peacebuilding can effectively bridge the disruption between traditional cultural practices and modern peacebuilding and reconciliation methods.

Paper 4: Stabilization of Bosnia and Herzegovina Through Integration into the EU Single Market

Ehlimana Spahić & Valida Repovac Nikšić

In this article, the authors analyze the political, social, legal, and economic aspects of the process of integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina into the EU with a particular focus on stabilizing effects of integration into the single market. Without diminishing the importance of institutional efforts toward EU integration made within the Stabilization and Association Process (SAP), our focus is on institutional efforts based on Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA), Interim Agreement and Gradual Integration model in form of Growth Plan for the Western Balkans. In this context, the authors analyzed institutional performances based on European Commission (Directorate-General for Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations) Progress Reports for Bosnia and Herzegovina from 2011-2022. Results of the analysis have shown that the main challenges for EU integration come from institutional underperformance at all levels of governance. More precisely, institutional underperformance in meeting goals set by political criteria had a negative spillover to economic criteria. Furthermore, it was determined that Bosnia and Herzegovina had limited progress in establishing a functional market economy, developing the capacity to cope with competitive pressure and market forces in the EU, quality of education, sectoral policies, and the internal market. However, in the specific current geopolitical context limited progress was recognized and deemed as worthy of candidate status (2022) and green light to start negotiation in (2024) by the EU. Based on research results, authors have prepared a suitable set of recommendations.

Ontological Security, Trauma, and Global Politics

Chair: Aslı Ilgıt

Panel Abstract

Many observers characterize the contemporary era as an age of “anxiety” with prevailing uncertainties and a widespread sense of ontological insecurity across different scales (Rumelili 2021; Balta 2019; van Wyk 2017). Traumatic events, whether natural disasters, armed conflicts or pandemics, have a particularly profound role in disrupting individuals’ and communities’ sense of security, continuity and stability in their lives and social environment. These disruptions not only have immediate consequences but also reverberate across social, political, and psychological dimensions, shaping perceptions and power dynamics and transforming violence, identity, and politics on a global scale. By examining how individuals, societies, and states navigate uncertainty and insecurity on the international stage, especially in the aftermath of traumatic events, this panel seeks to unpack the intricate interplay between trauma, ontological security, and global politics. We welcome contributions that address, but are not limited to, the following themes and questions:

- How does trauma, whether stemming from conflict, displacement, or historical injustice, shape the perceptions and actions of individuals and states in the international arena? How do traumatic events influence individuals’ and communities’ ontological security, and what are the mechanisms through which this influence occurs?
- How do traumatic events manifest differently across regions and cultures, and their varying impacts on communities, societies, and political systems?
- How are traumatic events governed as parts of everyday securitisation processes?
- How do traumatic experiences perpetuate or transform cycles of violence? How can a deeper understanding of trauma and ontological security inform conflict resolution efforts, peacebuilding initiatives, and strategies for promoting human security? How trauma-informed approaches can inform conflict resolution strategies and promote transitional justice?
- What is the role of media and propaganda in shaping public perceptions of traumatic events?
- What are the impacts of globalization, digitalization, and transnational threats on individuals’ and communities’ sense of ontological security?

Paper 1: A walk through memory lane: narratives from second-generation victims of forced displacement in Antioquia, Colombia

Lina Marcela Gómez Núñez

This research, developed by Lina Gómez Núñez, investigates the perpetuation and transformation of cycles of violence through the lens of intergenerational traumas, with a specific focus on the second-generation memory of children of forced displacement victims in Colombia. The study aims to highlight the critical gap in public policy addressing these second-generation memories, which remain an unexplored phenomenon in Colombia. The research reveals that the absence of targeted psychosocial care for children of displacement victims allows the transmission of traumatic memories to future generations, thereby perpetuating cycles of violence and trauma. By using a mixed methodology, the study combines documentary analysis with semi-structured interviews of minors and their guardians, along with a textual analysis of children's drawings and letters. The findings underscore the significant impact of second-generation memory on children's mental health, including disrupted sleep cycles and ingrained feelings of fear and revenge towards armed groups they have never encountered. This underscores the necessity of incorporating trauma-informed approaches into conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts. By fostering a deeper understanding of trauma and ontological security, this research advocates for the integration of comprehensive psychosocial care into public policies, as it facilitates transitional justice in post-conflict settings. Ultimately, this study contributes to the development of more effective strategies for conflict resolution, emphasizing the importance of addressing the long-term impacts of trauma and memory transmission to break the cycle of violence and build lasting peace.

Paper 2: Keeping a Sense of Continuity at Home and Exile: Ontological Security and Identity of Hazaras in Afghanistan

Fujin Naz Haidery

While violence/war, political repression and victimization disrupt the coherence sense of security and identity of people, the memory and trauma induced by such violence can have both generative-degenerative, constructive-deconstructive, and preventive-rehabilitative effects on the ontological security and collective identity. Trauma is, therefore, not an experience, rather a collective memory hold by the members of a social group. The cohesiveness of such a collective memory is revitalized through the discursive articulation and series of group act aimed at underwriting and narrating those traumatic experiences. Such discursive articulation and group acts are aimed not only to therapeutically share vulnerability, but also to historicize the traumatic events. This helps to reinforce the solidarity among the members of the group (having survived and surpassed as a physical entity), as well as cohesiveness of their collective identity (as a distinct social entity). This paper, within the thematic/theoretical contours of "Ontological Security, Trauma, and Global Politics", highlights the case of Hazaras that how the history long collective trauma- stemming from exclusion, victimization, genocide and displacement of Hazara from Afghanistan- has induced a sense of ontological (in)security among the Hazaras. Using ethnic identity as a potent mobilizer, this explorative case study will assess that how the Hazaras, in pursuit of retaining its ontological security, has attempted to underwrite, articulate and narrate its collective memories and traumatic experiences through revived ethnic consciousness, solidarity and transnational mobilization/activism. While the case of decades long ethnic based persecution of Hazaras evokes a grave human security concern, it also academically recounts an important case in migration/genocide studies. The new theoretical context of ontological security introduced in this case study will further highlight that how the mobilization as a post-trauma response can have significant socio-political implications for Afghanistan and the Hazaras at home and exile.

Paper 3: Memory, Hope, and Mobilization: Aspirational Narratives after the Korean War

Irem Cihan

Memory is linked to experience, and experience gains meaning through us afterwards. The meaning we give an experience can vary. We can oppress and silence it, but we can also, at one point, think of it in a productive way. How we imagine the future is a way of dealing with our memories and meanings. This paper examines the link between memory and aspirational narratives, how political actors address the experience of trauma and find constructive meaning. It analyzes South Korea's transformation from a narrative of victimization to one of resilience and advancement, despite its tumultuous history marked by fragmentation and devastation of colonization and war. Paper attempts to move beyond trauma's adverse burden, asking how such narratives shape political actors' understanding of memory through time and space. It examines the conditions and mechanisms that facilitate change and reconciliation, and the role of collective memory in resilience, unity, and a forward-looking purpose. How are our histories and visions of the future interwoven, how hope and mobilization of the collective were possible through memory? What is the role of aspirational narratives stemming from the mobilization and contestation of memory in bridging the fragments of our identities traversing across time and space?

Paper 4: A Temporal Analysis of the Evolving Security Discussions in Europe

Ogut Boluz K k

Over the last ten years, the European Union has faced traumas that affected its internal perception as a legitimate peace and stability project. The Russo-Ukrainian War, the COVID-19 pandemic, and different waves of migration have led to the questioning of the European Union as a physical and ontological security provider and coincided with the rise of populism in Europe. This research examines how considering the temporal dimension of security has become very important for political actors in defining security issues. More specifically, it is argued that taking the pre-trauma past as an alternative trajectory for the future (or "bringing the past back") might have become the leading security narrative for the radical parties, especially right-wing populist groups in Europe. The manifestos of the main groups from the European Parliament between 2014 and 2024 were examined, paying attention to how they use temporal references with their security agendas. The findings suggest an increasing securitization and diversification of security issues in the overall discourse within the European Parliament. Regarding the temporal dimension, the leftist group, the European Left, and the right-wing populist group, Identity and Democracy, were observed to use such "reset" narratives as pathways for security. At the same time, mainstream parties (e.g., the EPP, Socialists & Democrats) were oriented towards protecting the existing "progress" as a solution to the security issues faced by the EU, citing past traumas faced by Europe, often the Second World War.

Parallel Panels III

High-risk transitional justice: The “(in)security turn” in contexts of accountability

Chairs: Rosario Figari Layus & Juliette Vargas Trujillo

Panel Abstract

Though in its beginnings transitional justice (TJ) was meant to be implemented in the aftermath of mass political violence or following a period of conflict, civil strife, or repression, several case-studies however show that historically TJ mechanisms can be introduced at a time when no transition (from “war” to “peace”), has taken place, or while different forms of violence persist. Thus, while in the 1980s a certain level of political stability and security was a relevant factor to implement transitional justice, this trend seems to have changed over time as TJ instruments have begun to be applied in contexts of armed conflict and high levels of violence, criminalization and political polarization. This new tendency, which can be regarded as the “(in)security turn” has meant that other objectives such as the pursuit of justice, truth and reparations for victims have been prioritized over basic security conditions. Introducing TJ instruments in such scenarios faces significant challenges. In this framework the panel seeks to address the following questions regarding the feasibility of providing truth, justice, and reparation to victims in adverse settings: 1) how the perceptions of the relevance of security conditions have changed over time in different contexts, 2) how the persistence of different forms of violence has affected TJ’s goals, trajectories, and stakeholders 3) what strategies have been developed in these adverse contexts to provide security and ensure the continuity of TJ processes.

Paper 1: Potential Tensions and Synergies between DDR and transitional justice in relation to pro government militias: The case of the Popular Mobilization Forces in Post-IS Iraq

Mohammad Hossein Mojtahedi, Maarten Bolhuis, Joris van Wijk

The disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) of Iraq’s Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) poses an intractable and thorny political-security dilemma. However, its interaction with the transitional justice (TJ) mechanisms already in place introduces yet another layer of complexity. In the case of Iraq, the intersection between DDR and TJ is even more intricate, as the target group comprises pro-government militias (PGMs), who are themselves key actors in Iraq’s post-conflict setting, with a de facto role in formulating and implementing TJ mechanisms on the ground. By combining a literature review with expert interviews, this paper reflects on the apparent but overlooked tensions between DDR and TJ in the post-IS landscape in Iraq. Iraqi DDR initiatives appear to have largely been designed in isolation but do have a negative impact on TJ initiatives aimed at accountability, reparations, and reconciliation. Exploring the shared characteristics of PGMs, the paper critically reflects on the viability of any conventional DDR program for PGMs like the PMF and problematizes the possible ramifications this may have on transitional justice.

Paper 2: Navigating Non-Transition: Grassroots Victim Mobilization and the Pursuit of Transitional Justice in Morocco

Pia Falschebner

Drawing on field research with survivors of the “Years of Lead” in Morocco, where victim groups have emerged as influential political actors amid violence, insecurity and limitations imposed on transitional justice by the state, this paper explores the specific implications of “aparadigmatic transitional justice” (Destrooper et al. 2023) contexts for victim mobilization around transitional justice. Examining this case reveals that structural conditions and dynamics in non-transitional settings profoundly impact victims' activism, shaping both their transitional justice agendas and strategies. It also demonstrates that even in contexts characterized by impunity, limited political change and ongoing repression of dissent, victim groups persistently advocate for justice, truth, and non-recurrence, linking their struggle to broader goals like democratization and innovating and adapting their strategies to navigate a challenging terrain. The paper thus emphasizes the pivotal role of grassroots actors in advancing transitional justice, even under adverse conditions, and draws attention to the role of transitional justice as a tool for resisting, challenging and shaping state policies from below

Paper 3: The struggle continues: socio-legal analysis of Maya Ixil victims-survivor’s trajectories of participation in transitional justice in Guatemala

Gretel Mejía Bonifazi

Despite the expansion of victim-centred approaches in transitional justice, the current literature has mostly focused on analysing the implications of victim participation in formal mechanisms. This approach has overlooked important venues, for instance, grassroots or popular spaces where meaningful forms of participation unfold. In Guatemala, the victims-survivors of the Internal Armed Conflict (1960-1996) have mobilized in both formal and grassroots spaces to advance their justice demands in contexts of State inaction, revisionism and stigmatizing discourses. Based on an actor-oriented and trajectorial approach, the thesis analyses the experiences of participation of the victims-survivors of Cocop. This Maya Ixil community experienced one of the first massacres in the context of the scorched earth policies in the country and has been participating for more than twenty years to seek redress and recognition. The findings of the qualitative, socio-legal case study shed light on the divergent – but interconnected – ways agency develops at the local level, with a particular focus on: (1) the mobilization of identities; (2) the supportive role of civil society, and (3) framing and transformation of justice demands.

Paper 4: Transitional Justice in contexts of insecurity: Impacts and Challenges in Colombia

Juliette Vargas & Rosario Figari-Layus

Traditionally transitional justice (TJ) is meant to be implemented in the aftermath of mass political violence or following a period of conflict or repression. However, the continuation of violence in transitional processes and even after peace agreements is a well-established fact. Implementing TJ mechanisms in contexts of persistent armed violence has become a trend and poses significant challenges and shortcomings. This presentation addresses the consequences of ongoing armed violence for the implementation of Colombia’s innovative transitional court, the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (Jurisdicción Especial para la Paz, JEP) with a focus in the case of the Colombia’s northwestern Urabá region. These complex scenarios raise critical questions for the field of TJ, notably regarding the expectations of victims and the feasibility of guaranteeing their rights in hostile settings. We argue that such contexts of insecurity strongly impact and curtail the possibility of effective participation of key stakeholders and consequently the feasibility of providing truth, justice and reparation. However, the ideal scenario of a totally safe environment remains a distant horizon in Colombia and many other contexts nowadays. Therefore, TJ main objectives and mechanisms must be adapted to such realities, while solutions to structural causes of violence seem a long-term endeavor that goes beyond TJ mechanisms.

Transformations of security and securitization in discourse and practice: The Bundeswehr after 1990

Chair: Silvia-Lucretia Nicola

Panel Abstract

Although security research has traditionally been dominated by military and strategic fields of scholarship, the establishment of Critical Military Studies in Germany is still in its infancy. This panel aims to examine the changing perceptions of different geopolitical security frameworks over the past four decades and how they have been navigated within the Bundeswehr, interrogating often taken-for-granted categories related to the armed forces. Innovatively, all paper present findings based on recently declassified records, contributing thus to a democratization of security documents. By combining historical, sociological, and political science methods and perspectives, this panel traces the perceived transformations of security and the securitization of threats in terms of both discourse and practice within the Bundeswehr. Discursively, the panel unravels on a macro level the complex interplay between the renunciation of the word “war” in the official usage of the Bundeswehr, while the institution transitioned to a fluid zone of securitization and “peace”. This development is also traced on a micro level through the military-political security thinking of the military elite of the early 1990s. How the transition between war and peace, and all the shades of grey in-between, has been navigated in practice will be shown, on the one hand, by analyzing the missions of the German Navy. On the other hand, the same tension can be found years later, in a different context, in Afghanistan. By looking at these case studies from the point of view of practice, the performativity of peace and security and their relationship will be revealed.

Paper 1: The Bundeswehr caught between the pacification of the military and the securitization of peace. Paradoxes of stabilization missions, hybrid conflicts and cultural awareness

Andreas Berns & Martin Rink

Instead of benefiting from the hoped-for “peace dividend”, the era between 1990 and 2021 was dominated by Western-led humanitarian and military interventions. Facing allegedly “new wars” and in order to expand a Western model of governance, Western armed forces, including the Bundeswehr, took on an expanded range of tasks, while the word “war” disappeared from official usage. However, the well-intentioned reduction of violence led to a fluid zone of securitization. Military interventions were thus confronted with a paradox: The cultural awareness so necessary for operations was often at odds with cultural reactance in the regions of deployment. As a result, the forms of conflict resolution acquired a hybrid character - long before the term “hybrid warfare” found its way into security policy theories. One of the key concepts promoted by the Western Allies was “counterinsurgency”. Although the Bundeswehr was very reluctant to use this term, it applied many of its concepts and ran into the same paradoxes as its allies. A key issue in counterinsurgency is that of cultural awareness. This raises the question of whether this topic - however desirable - could also be used and misused as a weapon. Given that the aim of hybrid warfare is to destabilize the target state and society, its operational design is to decompose the “enemy’s” cohesion. This requires precise knowledge of the self-image and identity of the target country’s societies. It also means using the “toxic” version of cultural awareness to destroy the enemy’s identity - in hybrid conflicts waged against and by the West.

Paper 2: Security as the basis for peace and freedom? Facets of military-political security thinking in the Bundeswehr in the early 1990s

Sven Deppisch

During the Cold War, the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact members in particular posed a threat to the national security of the Federal Republic of Germany. The main task of its armed forces, the Bundeswehr, was therefore national and alliance defense. After reunification, however, Germany was faced with a series of previously unknown challenges. After the collapse of the Eastern Bloc had initially sparked a spirit of optimism, disillusionment quickly set in as a result of new conflicts in and outside Europe. Foreign deployments outside the NATO alliance area became part of the scope of duties of the Bundeswehr. As part of international alliances, Germany attempted to export security to crisis regions since the early the 1990s, not least in order to avert potential threats to itself and its partner nations. This led to a fundamental shift in military policy thinking from "security through deterrence" to "security through intervention". How did the German armed forces deal with this paradigm shift? In particular, how did high-ranking military officers view the change from a defense army to an operational army? The lecture examines these questions and sheds light on how prominent protagonists of the Bundeswehr perceived the changed security situation at the beginning of the 1990s. Interviews with representatives of the military leadership reveal the extent to which they still regarded the Soviet army as a threat and what importance "out-of-area" missions had for them. It becomes clear that, from their internal perspective, peace, freedom and security were always to be seen as interdependent.

Paper 3: Between War and Peace - The Missions of the German Navy from 1987 to 1999

Christian Jentzsch

By the end of the 1980s, the German Navy was firmly integrated into NATO's defense against the Warsaw Pact. This was based on the idea of an intense war between the two alliances. But as early as 1987, the Navy assumed responsibility in the Mediterranean as a result of the Iraq-Iran war. What began with the so-called "out-of-area"-debate would soon come to define the Navy's mission profile: Crisis and conflict management. The Navy was tasked during the Gulf War 1990/91, in the embargo operations in the Adriatic in 1992-1996, in Somalia in 1994 and in the Kosovo War in 1999. These missions were below the threshold of war as envisioned by the West. But in the crises and conflicts on the periphery of Europe, a state between our ideas of war and peace usually prevailed - the absence of war, however, did not mean peace. This paper aims to trace how the German Navy adapted to the new challenges in the gray area between war and peace during the first decade of its missions abroad. To this end, the missions are described and the problems for the military resulting from the absence of the concept of war are examined. In Germany, the legality of such missions was only clarified by the Federal Constitutional Court in 1994. Finally, this paper shows how the German Navy adapted for that kind of missions.

Paper 4: Performing Security. Performative aspects of the practice of patrolling by the Bundeswehr in Afghanistan, 2001-2014

Linus Birrel

In pursuit of its task within the framework of the NATO mission International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to help the Afghan Government stabilize the country, the German Army mostly relied on armored patrols as a way of showing force. Through the practice of patrolling it sought to demonstrate its presence and capability to its enemies and the civilian population alike. Arguably with this the Bundeswehr also performed a military activity to itself, in reaction to a highly asymmetric combat environment. With too few troops for too vast an area to patrol, with the benefit of hindsight these actions are generally regarded as mostly ineffective in regards to their intended consequences for mission accomplishment. In discussing the question why this approach was adopted and followed through with nonetheless, apart from military habitus and doctrine, symbolic reasons lend themselves for explanation. The proposed talk seeks to highlight the performative aspects of this practice and to interpret them in the broader context of the German reluctance towards framing the backdrop of its mission in Afghanistan as a war.

The Historicity of Environmental Conflicts

Chairs: Felix Anderl & Johanna Kocks

Panel Abstract

The Historicity of Environmental Conflicts Environmental conflicts are often characterized by forms of violence that elude conventional forms of conceptualizing it. Consider climate change: the process has clearly identifiable victims who perceive the resulting devastations as violent. But the search for perpetrators is more complicated, ranging not only across multiple scales but also across time. Was the invention of the steam engine and the resulting modes of production a form of violence? But even in less macro-oriented environmental conflicts such as land-grabbing, forced resettlement or the destruction of fertile land (or water) in the context of development or infrastructure projects, the violence is typically not immediately observable, because it happens diffuse and over time. Therefore, the concept of “slow violence” (Nixon) has changed the way scholars look at environmental history. How can these debates be utilized for peace and conflict studies? In this panel, scholars will analyze the historicities of environmental conflicts, offering both theoretical innovations – between structural violence and the presentist focus on perpetrators/victims –, and empirical interdisciplinarity to peace and security research.

Paper 1: Historical Analysis of Land Laws, Environmental Conflicts and Food Security Challenges in Africa: Lessons from Nigeria’s Niger Delta

Nathaniel Umukoro

Previous studies have examined various dimensions of environmental conflicts, but historical analysis of the link between land laws and environmental conflicts including the impact on food security have not been adequately studied. Consequently, this study examines historically how land laws especially within the context of technology-driven activities of multinational oil corporations contributed to environmental conflicts in Nigeria’s Niger Delta including the impact on food security. This is important because most systematic scholarly analysis of challenges associated with environmental conflicts in Africa have not focused on how the implementation or ineffective implementation of laws relating to the use of land contribute to environmental conflicts and food insecurity. The key objective of this study is to use the situation in Nigeria’s Niger Delta to explain how the implementation or ineffective implementation of land laws contributes to environmental conflicts and food insecurity. The research was based on the qualitative method. Primary data was collected through key informant interviews while secondary data were sourced from journal articles and books. The finding of the study shows that the implementation of certain land laws especially within the context of crude oil production create unequal access to environmental resources and breeds environmental conflicts and food insecurity.

Paper 2: Historicizing the Unending Crises of Mbororo Pastoralism, Climate Change, and Herder-Farmer clashes in Cameroon

Nicodemus Fru Awasom

This paper sets out to historicize the structural violence wrought by unending crises of Mbororo pastoralism, environmental deterioration, and climate change in Cameroon's Northwest region, and its connection to farmer-herder conflicts. The Mbororo pastoral nomads are relatively recent arrivals in Cameroon's Northwest agricultural region since 1903. The relationship between pastoralists and farmers have been shifting from 'desirable' to undesirable guests (Awasom 2003). Extant scholarship on environmental issues arising from Mbororo pastoralism and indigenous farming methods is not comprehensive and analytical enough and is not aptly historicized. This paper therefore sets out to fill this gap. It adopts primary documented evidence, fieldwork, and library resources as its methodology. The violence over land use is essentially structural and is often amplified by the emotionally potent issues of ethnicity, religion, and culture. Initially this violence could be qualified as "slow violence" (cf. Nixon 2011), particularly during the initial period of peaceful co-existence between pastoralists and farmers. But after a short period of honeymoon, the relationship deteriorated, and was punctuated by protracted periods of tensions and violence. This violence was fueled by soil degradation and intermittent clashes over land use and water resources arising from demographics of human and cattle population. A general theory of herder-farmer conflicts must include both structural and processual variables, climate change, political ecology and relative deprivation theories. This proposal recommends new land use policies, modernized grazing practices, vigorous socioeconomic and psychological education of the belligerents, provisions of basic infrastructures favorable for farmer-grazer co-existence and the disciplining of offenders.

Paper 3: Resolution from the University of Limoges. "The severing of links between humans and non-humans as a war strategy"

Alice Brites Osorio

This case study examines the strategic disruption of human and non-human relational ties during the Colombian armed conflict. The intentional severance of these connections has been a key strategy, particularly in regions inhabited by ethnic groups who maintain deeply interconnected relationships with their territories, vital for their autonomy and cultural identity. Targeting these relationships aimed to undermine their self-determination and political structures, investigated as "criminal strategies" by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP). The FARC-EP employed tactics to dismantle organizational and cultural structures of ethnic peoples, viewing them as obstacles to their power. These strategies included restricting access to sacred sites, imposing new social orders, and committing violent acts such as massacres and forced displacements. Other armed groups and state forces adopted similar tactics to exploit natural resources and establish political control. These actions resulted in cultural loss, environmental degradation, and destabilization of traditional authority. The conflict is thus considered "ontological," fundamentally altering the relationship between communities and their land. Addressing these issues in post-conflict reparations requires understanding these complex socio-ecological links, highlighting the importance of legal anthropology in recognizing the profound impacts of these war crimes. Employing legal and anthropological perspectives offers a deeper understanding of war damages, promoting effective reparations. The study underscores the importance of endogenous knowledge in environmental conservation and climate change mitigation in extreme cases like armed conflicts and forced displacements. Additionally, it reflects global trends where natural resources trigger conflicts, emphasizing the complexity of conflict impacts and the need for integrated perspectives to achieve lasting justice and peace.

Paper 4: Histories of Destruction and (Re)Construction in Sacrifice Zones of Capital: Resistance against environmental destruction on the island Ilha de Maré, Bahia, Brazil

Johanna Kocks

Environmental destruction affects people differently depending on socially constructed vulnerabilities along the axes of race, class, and gender in specific contexts of time and space. This paper draws connections between the concepts of “slow violence” and “structural violence,” exploring the interwoven nature of continuous, perpetual forms of violence and the spatially specific embeddedness of violence as it manifests in particular structures. This paper asks how forms of slow and structural violence are interconnected, perpetuated, and resisted, and how violence constructs and maintains specific uneven geographies of environmental destruction. Utilizing the concept of “sacrifice zones,” this paper examines the case of the artisanal fisherwomen of the Quilombo of Ilha de Maré in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, and their continuous resistance against a petroleum supply chain and the intoxication of their land and water. Through an ethnographic approach, this paper reveals how communities in a postcolonial setting continuously resist destruction in their daily lives and how they perceive forms of violence through toxicity in a specific geographic setting over time. Situated within feminist political ecology, this paper engages with debates around epistemic violence and (in)visibility in the context of knowledge production in environmental conflicts, making a concerted effort to center the experiences of those most affected.

Parallel Panels IV

Tracing the (dis)continuities of armed struggles: A relational perspective on insurgencies and counterinsurgencies

Chair: Solveig Richter

Panel Abstract

Many insurgent groups have proven to be rather resilient and adaptive in face of disruptions and critical junctures, be it peace agreements with state organizations, counterinsurgency campaigns or international sanctions. Dissident factions, diaspora networks or veteran groups are often the safeguards to keep the armed struggle alive over a considerable timeframe while strategies of recruitment are easily adapted. For example, cases like the KLA in Kosovo or the FARC Segunda Marquetalia clearly demonstrate the impossibilities of comprehensive, internationally supported peace processes to fully eradicate long-standing insurgent groups. We know from the literature, e.g. on rebel governance, that the long-term social embeddedness of non-state armed groups plays a decisive role to explain (dis)continuities. Also, many studies have taken a historical perspective at individual groups and their strategies of adaptation. However, we rarely look at patterns of interaction between (former) insurgent groups and state-based agencies to counter these insurgencies, be it through securitization and militarization, or through negotiations and DDR programs. This panel thus asks in how far different forms of relations and interactions between insurgent groups and counter-insurgent actors in the widest sense (e.g. military forces, negotiators) can explain the (dis)continuities of armed struggles. The panel invites contributions from interdisciplinary perspectives in peace and conflict studies, notably political science, sociology, criminology or anthropology. Moreover, it specifically values innovative research designs that put interactions and relations at their center, e.g. network analysis. Early career and post-doctoral scholars from Colombia, India, Kenya, Kurdistan and Germany declared their interest to participate in the panel and present their ongoing research on insurgent groups or non-state armed actors like the FARC (former FARC-EP and recent dissident groups), KLA or Peshmerga.

Paper 1: Manifestations of Justice in the Global South(s): “From Human Rights to Human Security”

Steve Wakhu Khaemba

Justice, human rights and human security are key pillars for global peace and security. This is because, regardless of where violence occurs, those who start armed conflicts and those who seek to end them cite (in)justice, human rights (violations) and human security (threats) as the foundations and motivations for their actions. However, as foundations for peace and security, the understanding and application of the notions of (in)justice, human rights (violations) and human security (threats) cannot be assumed to always be homogenous. Sometimes, these concepts mean many and different things to different individuals, peoples, groups, communities, states and regions. Even when there may appear to be some level of ontological convergence, epistemological understandings and empirical manifestations may differ. This raises pertinent questions for an analysis of their efficacy in promoting peace and security in the global south within the broader framework of global peace and security. Do conceptions of justice, human rights and human security differ between the Global South(s) and the Global North(s)? Between human rights and human security, which one promises lasting peace in the Global South(s)? What are some of the indigenous methods of conflict resolution that create and reinforce local meanings of justice, human rights and human security in the Global South (s)? Are there still some dominating instruments of peace from the Global North(s) affecting the transformations of conflicts in the Global South(s)? While maintaining a focus on sub-Saharan Africa, this chapter explores these fundamental questions. This chapter in the R&L Handbook of Peace and Conflict Studies: Perspectives from the Global South(s) attempts to answer these questions.

Paper 2: (In)visible Chains: Mapping and Analyzing Informal Networks in the Peshmerga Forces in Kurdistan

Kamal Hussein Faqi Ibrahim, Tamim Karadamur, Sushobhan Parida

In post-conflict nation-states, the integration of informal networks within formal, state-based networks is a common occurrence. In this paper, we study this phenomenon using the case of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) and its armed forces, known as the Peshmerga. Using tools of social network analysis (SNA), we aim to explore, visualize and identify these informal networks, mapping out key actors and their relationships within the military structure. This study will investigate how patronage, factionalism, and pervasiveness of corrupt practices might undermine the formal command structure, lead to resource misallocation, and erode unit cohesion. Additionally, we explore how these factors may have contributed to certain key failures by the Peshmerga in the past. By providing a nuanced understanding of the Peshmerga's internal dynamics, this research seeks to contribute to the broader theoretical understanding of the impact of informal networks on the effectiveness of state institutions.

Paper 3: Evolution of Counterinsurgency Strategies in Turkey and Colombia after the end of their respective peace processes from 2016 to the present

Evelyn Gonzalez Guevara

After the peace processes in Colombia and Türkiye, both governments and insurgencies had to adapt to new stages of escalation in their respective armed conflicts. Despite the success of negotiations and the signature of the Final Peace Agreement between the FARC and the Colombian government, obstacles on the implementation and distrust in the government caused rearmament of FARC-dissidents. Conversely, failure of peace talks between the PKK and the Turkish government, and the appearance of other opposition organizations led to a shift in the Turkish security policy. The escalation in both Colombia and Türkiye took the countries to a new phase of confrontation between the guerrillas and their respective governments. Based on a literature review on insurgency, counterinsurgency, and the security policies of Colombia and Türkiye, added to a lack of comparative political and historical analysis of the armed conflicts of both countries, it is concluded that further studies from a comparative perspective are needed to understand common factors contributing to the persistence of FARC-dissidents and the PKK. This research aims to analyze and compare evolution of insurgencies and counterinsurgency strategies in Colombia and Türkiye from 2016 to the present.

Paper 4: Political Legitimizing Processes in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq from 1991 to 2023

Kamal Hussein Faqi Ibrahim

After the Kurdish uprising in the aftermath of the First Gulf War in 1991, the two key Kurdish political parties held elections as a means of legitimation to establish a self-governing system in the northern part of Iraq, known as the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). These elections suffered from insufficient democratic foundations due to significant political and logistical challenges. Nonetheless, the polls were designed with the aim of forming a new democratic government that could represent the citizens domestically and internationally. Following the foundation of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), the government has sought legitimacy by utilizing various means, some unique to the context of the KRI and some used by other governments, states, and regimes worldwide, especially undemocratic regimes in post-conflict settings. This thesis intends to answer how the KRG in Iraq has claimed political legitimacy from 1991 to 2023. The research addresses how the KRG has made legitimation claims by examining primary and secondary Kurdish and English language sources, including governmental documents, media reports, and political party communications. The thesis utilizes a mixed methods approach for the study, first with intensive elite interviews with individuals directly and indirectly involved in the insurgency pre-1991 and political and parliamentary life post-1991. Additionally, to understand citizens' perceptions of these claims empirically, I will conduct a survey to measure the people's perceptions of the claims. This mixed-methods study demonstrates the evolution and decline of the KRG's political legitimacy, filling a gap in the research in this field. For the theoretical framework, I will be using and developing the new Regime Legitimization Expert Survey (RLES) framework to demonstrate how the KRG has made claims to legitimacy.

State, Militarization and Geo-politics: Hyper-nationalist Conflict Zones in South and South-East Asia

Chairs: Manas Dutta & Mimasha Pandit

Panel Abstract

The proposed panel seeks to lay stress on the conflict zones of South and Southeast Asia that has been converted into a war zone since the end of the second world war. The trajectory of independence of these geographical landmasses have seldom found an adequate space in the discussions of conflict and peace studies. As the newly independent nations in South Asia have entered the race of global politics to secure its position of power it has been converted into hybrid zones of conflict either for the partisan interests of the Cold War era or for securing the interest of the emergent hyper-masculine nationalism that they represent. A new kind of Leviathan is on the prowl that has transformed security into a charmed armor for protecting a distorted form of nationalism. This is another aspect of conflict studies that the panel wishes to highlight shifting the focus of conflict and peace studies from border conflict and security to internal conflicts and peace-making processes. Civil society of South and Southeast Asia has undergone several such instances of conflict situations in the form of riots, genocide, pogroms, civil protest. Time is ripe to include these conflicts and the suppression process adopted by the State in the name of security in the framework of peace and conflict studies. The third aspect that the panel proposes to interrogate is the displacement, dislocation, and crime against gender as an eventual outcome of the process. The Rohingya crisis in Myanmar, hate crimes and problems of lynching faced in the name of security against terror activities and nationalism and the display of sectarian or nationalist power over a gendered body needs to be engaged with by peace and conflict studies stakeholders to bring the underrepresented zones of conflict of South and Southeast Asia into focus.

Paper 1: Global Peace and State Policies: How India Conceived a Contradictory Approach of Global and National Politics After Independence

Debarati Ganguly

In post-independence period, India's adoption of international policies was largely characterized by the vision of peaceful co-existence. Initiatives like non-alignment or Panchashil focused on notions of mutual respect, non-aggression, equality, mutual benefit and non-interference. Later, the Act East Policy or Look East Policy highlighted on India's effort to develop political, economic and security co-operation with South East Asia. Interestingly, in post-cold war period, India's non-violent, peaceful approach can be posited in the context of her tradition of amicable Internationalism which was widely discussed in 19th and 20th centuries. It was believed that such approach led to popularity of India's cultural and philosophical qualities along with her ability to create harmony, security and solidarity across the Asian regions. During the nationalist period, India tried to emerge as fountainhead of Asian identity and leader of Asian nations who would guide them in anti-imperialist struggle. The Asian Relation Conference and Asian Relations Organization upheld India's initiative to promote peace and security among the Asian nations. Question is whether after independence, India's foreign policy was coterminous with her past approach towards harmonious international relation and especially Asian border security through which she also tried to retain superior position? What happened when India had to take decisions regarding her internal issues e.g. Kashmir problem? In place of the harmonious model of international relations, was India choosing a different approach while addressing the internal border security and political territoriality? The article seeks to trace those two contradictory trajectories of India's international and internal policies along with contemporary power dynamics that influenced India's policy making process.

Paper 2: The City under War/the City in Darkness: Socio-Psychological Insecurities and 1971 Indo-Pak War in Calcutta

Sweta Mukherjee

During the 1971 Indo-Pak war, the city of Calcutta witnessed a sort of complete blackout, and the city administration received an all-round cooperation from civilians. This blackout had been conducted into two phases – one was the phase of rehearsals when the real war was yet to take place, followed by the phase of what David E Nye calls the Wartime Blackout. Taking into consideration these two-step process of blackouts this article delves into the continuity-change model for an understanding of commonalities and contradictions of these two phases, and what it revealed in the public sphere especially from the perspective of wartime social (in)security on the part of the common people who has nothing to do with the warfare. I deploy public sphere and wartime blackouts as two analytical categories in order to understand what role electricity plays during the war, in the context of a South Asian urban conglomeration, i.e. Calcutta. The mainstay of this research revolves around (a) why and how the citizens of Calcutta supported and cooperated with this wartime blackout? (b) In what ways the administration (or, different stakeholders of the state authorities, the central government, the state government, the municipal corporation, the electricity board, among others) initiated and ensured the wartime public security? (c) What these pre-war rehearsals and wartime practice of blackout portrayed and symbolized? This study deploys the tools of social history and ethnography in order to trace how far the war would create a new urban space where a sense of cooperation had been evident from different quarters of urban society. One step further, this is an academic endeavor to comprehend whether a sense of socio-psychological security could possibly be provided by the state during the war for the citizens.

Paper 3: Remna: Understanding Indigenous Conceptions of Peace in Manipur and Mizoram

Kimngaihoi Vaiphei

India and Myanmar share unique cross-border relations, acknowledging the history and culture of the indigenous tribes on either side of the border through the implementation of the Free Movement Regime (FMR). FMR is a mutually agreed arrangement between the two countries that allows communities living along both sides of the border to travel up to 16 km inside the other country without a visa, (it was recently suspended by the Government of India and is currently being protested by many in the Indian border states). The fluid nature of these borders lead to easy-flow of rest and unrest, which makes it pertinent to construct a paradigm of sustainable peace practices that take cognizance of the 'special character' of border areas – to formulate a discourse that is both contextual and contextually applicable. This paper hence titled Remna meaning "peace" in Mizo language, examines the difference between statist notions of peace and how border communities understand the same. A clear distinction is drawn between negative and positive peace to illustrate how the Indian government tends to adopt more negative peace strategies in the Indo-Myanmar border. The two states of Manipur and Mizoram have been chosen as both lie on this border and yet have dissimilar approaches to peace. The governance strategies of Mizoram take a bottom-up approach which is exemplified by its very formation where the Mizo National Famine Front (now Mizo National Front) took on and demanded a more indigenous understanding of the region's affairs. In contrast, Manipur's Planning Department, has come up with a Vision Document disregarding indigenous understandings of peace and development strategies. Rather, limiting itself to an implementation of the central policies at the state level.

Paper 4: Urban Guerilla Warfare and the State in South Asia: Calcutta Neighborhoods during the Naxalbari Years

Animesh Gupta

During the year 1967-1972, Calcutta, arguably the most troubled South Asian city, had increasingly become ungovernable, and certain areas and neighborhoods were transformed into war zones where the belligerents were the Naxalite revolutionaries and the state machinery. The normative idea of revolution during the global sixties was very much corroborated with the way these revolutionaries had unleashed a 'Cultural Revolution', or what at least in terms of internal security could be argued as a reign of terror. And here comes the moment when the state machinery intervenes in the name of maintaining law and order. For the next few years, the movement was virtually city based, dominated by the urban guerillas, in the first spell, and by the police and law enforcement, in the end. This article considers 'urban guerilla warfare' and 'internal security' as key concepts to understand what Charles Tilly calls the revolutionary situation and revolutionary outcome of the 1960s Calcutta, and how this South Asian Urban space had undergone a paradigmatic shift from being a troubled city to an ungovernable megalopolis by the early 1970s. Now the questions remain: (a) why and how the urban rank and file had turned out to be the urban guerrillas, often cross-pollinating over Maoist, Guevarite and Marighellaite brands of revolution? (b) In what ways did the law enforcement initiate counter offensives? (c) What were the symbols and manifestations of these contestation, domination and suppression? Navigating in-between the methods of 'Security Studies', 'Urban Sociology', and 'Intellectual History', this study delves into how the normative idea of revolution and that of state intersecting each other produced an urban space in and around Calcutta which went beyond the sense of hyper nationalism and appeared as a shadow war zone during the Naxalbari years.

Disinformation as a Security Challenge in the Era of New Technologies

Chair: Sanel Huskić

Panel Abstract

The panel will address the malicious use of new technologies and their political, economic, and social effects on society. Although malicious use of information is not new challenge, we live during the time where development of communication technologies enabled more entities to participate in creation and publishing varies form of content. Wider possibility of content creation is suitable ground for creation of malicious planned disinformation that can affect specific aspects of institutional or societal functioning, ranging from security, economy to interference with elections. Considering these challenges information security has become an essential part of security studies in theoretical and practical sense. In this context, papers will address theoretical review of information's security research; research focusing on effects of specific forms of disinformation ranging from public health crisis, destabilizations of states/ regions, economical destabilization of organizations /states to interference with elections. Furthermore, papers will address roll of public and private media in addressing these challenges, as well as preventive roll of media and information literacy

Paper 1: "Deepfake Phenomenon: Security Risks and The Material Impact of AI in the Era of Disinformation"

Amina Vatreš

In the current landscape of advanced communication technologies, the proliferation of disinformation has emerged as a critical security challenge. Among the most sophisticated tools facilitating this phenomenon is the deepfake - a hyper-realistic digital manipulation of video and audio content. Deepfakes leverage cutting-edge artificial intelligence (AI), a technology deeply intertwined with human guidance and objectives, to produce convincingly false representations. With its dual nature, seen as a technological marvel and a human-driven construct, this paper critically examines the implications of deepfakes on security and the integrity of information. By exploring the material aspects of these technologies, this study highlights the tangible risks posed by deepfakes to institutional and societal stability. Hence, in addition to the inherent dangers of deepfakes in fabricating imaginary events, it is also crucial to address the potential for attributing responsibility to AI, while portraying it as a mystified self-driven entity, thus becoming a mean to deny actual events and justify different political and ideological intentions that have to remain unacknowledged. This tactic absolves individuals of accountability, perpetuates misinformation, and undermines efforts to address the sources of manipulation and deceit. This paper focuses on how deepfakes can undermine public trust, interfere with democratic processes, and pose threats to economic and political stability. It aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the deepfake phenomenon, its technological underpinnings, and the critical need for robust security measures and educational initiatives to combat the spread of disinformation.

Paper 2: "Disinformation in Pacific Island States: Responding to Diverse People, Places, and Spaces"

Jennifer J. Williams

Online influence operations orchestrated by malign state actors have been connected to acts of mass civil unrest and violent extremism in several Pacific Island states. These include the riots in Solomon Islands in November 2021, in Papua New Guinea in January 2024, and in New Caledonia in May 2024. Despite claims of a connection between on-the-ground violent unrest and online influence campaigns, there has been little open-source empirical research conducted into the nature of this likely connection, or the influence strategies employed. Questions exist about how misinformation and disinformation may have been broadcast to diverse Pacific Island demographics, and whether comparative insights might be drawn between the likely sources of these information operations and their targets. This paper presents the findings of a multi-university research project mapping influence operations in three Pacific Island states: Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and Papua New Guinea. The method consisted of the qualitative coding and analysis of likely information operations over a 24-month period across several popular online media forums to identify malign accounts and narratives. Findings suggest that differing themes have been employed depending on the likely source of the operation. Differing influence strategies tailored to small media environments were also noted, including a focus on either broadcasting and amplifying malign posts or responding to and policing comments. Overall, the diversity of likely online influence strategies employed in the Pacific reveals a series of small yet complex media landscapes consisting of differing actors, desired outcomes, targeted populations, and local opportunities.

Paper 3: "Disinformation as a Security Challenge in the Era of New Technologies: Implications for Small States"

Sanel Huskić

In the contemporary digital landscape, disinformation poses a significant security challenge, particularly for small states. The proliferation of new technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), has amplified the reach and impact of disinformation campaigns, threatening national security and social cohesion. This presentation examines the intersection of data sovereignty, information security, and information literacy in the context of small states' vulnerabilities to disinformation. The analysis begins by defining data sovereignty and its importance for safeguarding national data from external manipulation. We explore how small states can assert control over their data infrastructure to enhance information security. The role of AI in both perpetuating and combating disinformation is scrutinized, highlighting the dual-edged nature of these technologies. Furthermore, the presentation underscores the necessity of robust information literacy programs to equip citizens with the skills to critically evaluate information sources and resist disinformation. Case studies of successful initiatives in small states will be presented, illustrating best practices and strategies for enhancing information resilience. By integrating perspectives from cybersecurity, policymaking, and education, this discussion aims to provide a comprehensive framework for addressing disinformation in small states. The findings will offer actionable insights for policymakers, educators, and technology developers working to mitigate the security risks posed by disinformation in the digital age.

Paper 4: "Media and Information Literacy in the Function of Detecting Disinformation"

Enita Čustović

In today's digital age, the amount of information available through various media is enormous, but so is the presence of disinformation. Media and information literacy become key competencies that enable individuals to effectively recognize and detect disinformation. The research included analysis of relevant domestic and international literature and analysis of media content. The results show how these literacies can help identify, analyze, and combat disinformation. In this sense, the key aspects are: 1. understanding media messages (increasing the ability of individuals to critically analyze the content they consume, recognizing the author's intentions and potential bias); 2. recognition of false information (learning techniques for fact-checking, such as the use of reliable sources, cross-checking of information and the use of digital content verification tools); 3. education and empowerment (implementation of educational programs that improve media and information literacy, empowering citizens, especially young people, to be skeptical and critical of the information they consume) and 4. digital literacy (improving the skills needed to navigate through the digital world, including the use of social networks, understanding algorithms and privacy protection). Media and information literacy are essential tools in the fight against disinformation. Through adequate education and awareness, individuals can become more resistant to disinformation, contribute to a more informed society, and strengthen democratic processes.

Parallel Panels V

Reclaiming Peace Epistemologies – Towards a Paradigm Shift in Peace, Conflict and Security Studies

Chairs: Muhammad Makki & Waseem Iftikhar

Panel Abstract

The panel aims to critically examine the historical marginalization of “peace epistemologies” within the prevailing discourse of security and conflict studies. Despite the proliferation of peace studies programs in various academic institutions, an imbalanced emphasis on conflict, security, and violence persists, relegating peace studies to a peripheral position. The objective of this panel is to challenge the mentioned imbalance by exploring and highlighting “peace” as a foundational concept and revitalizing discussions on peacemaking, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding. Through a multidisciplinary dialogue, this panel seeks to position “peace” as a guiding principle in scholarly inquiry and epistemological frameworks. The key themes to be addressed in this panel include:

- Examination of how dominant narratives in security and conflict studies have marginalized peace epistemologies, thereby perpetuating a bias toward research.
- Exploration of alternative approaches to knowledge production that prioritize peace as a central cohesive principle, thereby challenging the prevailing emphasis on structural, direct, and indirect violence, as articulated by Galtung (1969).
- Analyzing of Galtungian criticism of “the UN Security Council (not Peace, or Peace and Security, Council)”, placing security first and seeing “some party as a threat to be deterred or eliminated” (Galtung, 2007).
- Identification of strategies for integrating peace epistemologies into academic curricula and research agendas while maintaining a cohesive approach that acknowledges the interconnectedness of peace, security, and conflict without dissociating one from the others

Paper 1: A Sad State: Dreaming Peace

Shalini Chaudhary & Anuradha Choudry

A state in post-Westphalian order is a diminished political entity, contained by global pressures and internal fissures. Its behavior and agendas in a conflict locale are effectively guided by international law, domestic expectations and, for an erstwhile colonial nation - its complex historicities. Peace for a state, too, becomes an imposed/injected paradigm of political socialization with ambiguous contours. The closest manifestation of it is the neoliberal measurements of peace operationalized through sustainable development goals or the securitized interventions in terms of peacebuilding exercises. However, beyond the empirics of peace institutionalized through international forces (like the United Nations), exploration of its epistemic diversity may allow the individual states and their people the alternative spaces of discourse generation around peace. Influenced by the peace epistemologies from Indic philosophy, we theorize dreaming peace as a discursive activity that affords the autonomy of thought, design, and policy-making to the state and its people, sometimes in resistance to the global forces and actors. We opt for a discourse-historical approach to answer some critical questions. How is peace visualized, lived, and challenged in the selected ancient Indian texts? How have these textual lessons seeped into India's security policy over time? In the process, we also contemplate whether peace is a culture - spatially flourishing and with local varieties, or a political telos - uniformly endorsed across cultures and conflicts. Infusing the study of peace (as an idea or praxis) with such discursive micro realities may save it from conceptual redundancy vis-a-vis conflict or security.

Paper 2: Pluriversal protection: Centering peace epistemologies otherwise

Catherine Whittaker & María Cárdenas

Protection is a vital concept in a time of multiple, intersecting planetary crises, including accelerating anthropogenic climate change, biodiversity loss, gender violence, and war. Located at the intersection of peace, security, and conflict, protection is a fundamental human and planetary need. While we are witnessing unprecedented levels of military expenditure in response to insecurity, military operations and increasing militarization have failed to secure peace and to protect the planet. Clearly then, it is time to re-assess non-militarized, albeit often marginalized, approaches to peacebuilding. One important example from María Cárdenas' research are interethnic guardías in Colombia who defend their more-than-human community and ancestral territory without firearms. In order to accurately describe their effective concept of protection, the Eurocentric and anthropocentric epistemology that dominates political discourse is inadequate. Instead, we propose studying this and other examples of alternative protection initiatives from a pluriversal perspective. Broadly, the pluriverse denotes the idea that we live in a world of many worlds, each with their own onto-epistemic grounding. Pluriverse studies therefore reimagine politics and its objectives (Escobar 2020). Generally, pluriversal politics are pacifistic, as they are grounded in a relational epistemology: different worlds overlap and exist in relation to each other (Deriu 2020). Our research aims to elaborate a protection concept that can be operationalized in peacebuilding policies around the globe. As a pathway to achieving this goal, we have developed a critical ethnographic methodology, which draws on anthropological and political science approaches to collaborative knowledge production with research partners.

Paper 3: Researching contemporary events: the significance of temporalities for epistemologies of peace

Mariam Salehi & Tareq Sydiq

Peace and Conflict Studies as a discipline is frequently challenged by the temporality of its main research subject: Contemporary politics are fluid and dynamic, including both peace and conflict. Implications and ramifications oftentimes become evident after the fact, from a historical standpoint. As such, different layers of analysis have emerged, historicizing conflicts to contextualize them more deeply and analyzing very recent or still developing situations. Yet these different temporalities permeating epistemologies of peace, their advantages and disadvantages, and when contemporary politics turns into historical analysis have rarely been discussed. In this paper, we aim to disentangle the different influences such temporalities have on peace epistemologies and develop approaches for researchers facing them. Having delineated “contemporary events” from historical approaches in peace research, we develop approaches for researchers working on them. Drawing from our respective work, we focus on how changing political environments in conflictual settings impacted the temporal framework within which we operated while conducting fieldwork, and how we responded to these challenges. We argue that three separate approaches are necessary for researchers working on contemporary conflicts in peace research: An approach to conflicts which occurred shortly before research began, which tends to be what is commonly thought of as “contemporary politics”; an approach to conflicts emerging while research is being conducted, during shortly after research has taken place, which do not impact data gathering per se but deeply influence interpretation of data.

Paper 4: Reclaiming ‘Peace’: Examining Epistemological and Methodological Constraints in Peace Studies

Muhammad Makki & Waseem Iftikhar

The discipline of peace studies in Pakistani universities is significantly influenced by international relations and security studies theories. This focus has constrained the development of peace epistemology, which remains overshadowed by state-centric security narratives, thereby repelling epistemological and methodological pluralism. Consequently, these conflict-centric narratives have considerably influenced the ontological foundation and quality of ‘peace’ within academic and research discourse. This research explores the expansion of peace studies across Pakistani universities, assessing peace epistemic methodologies as evidenced in national academic journals, PhD dissertations, and the qualifications of faculty engaged in peace studies and related departments. The study underscores the critical need to disentangle peace epistemologies from entrenched security and conflict discourses. It advocates for a paradigm shift in peace methodologies, contending that ‘peace’ should be reclaimed as a central and explicit focus, thereby enhancing both research and practical applications in the field.

Understanding the social contexts of peace and security in authoritarian regimes in Africa

Chair: Nnamdi Ajaebili

Panel Abstract

The panel seeks to understand the social and political contexts of peace and security in authoritarian regimes in Africa against the backdrop of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights which describes 'the right to take part in the governance of one's own country', and the 'right of equal access to public service in his country'. There is a link between authoritarian/repressive regimes and a proclivity to resolve both domestic and international conflicts through violent means. Regimes that attempt to institute peace and security by repressing the citizens and political opponents tend to reproduce themselves externally through violent diplomacy. This has been experienced in Nigeria, Cameroon, Uganda, Sudan, Burkina Faso, and Mauritania, among other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. What then are the explanations of this scenario? Can it be argued that democracy is not a better domestic foundation for international peace and security than authoritarian rule? The panel thus, invites submissions that address these issues from both the historical and contemporary perspectives.

Paper 1: Peace and Security in Ghana's historical authoritarian and military regime in the 1980s

Isaac Kyere

Human rights issues are mostly and grossly connected to military and authoritarian rule, especially in Africa. Authoritarian rule seems to always trample upon human rights, which vehemently goes against the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which preaches for recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family as the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world. Ghana, a sub-Saharan African nation, witnessed its first military coup d'etat in 1966 and later saw another critical one in 1981 that is still on many people's minds. The Declaration also guarantees freedom of speech, belief, and absence of fear and want, which has been declared to be the universal goal of the common people. Given Ghana's political past, military takeover, and subsequent authoritarian government, it is reasonable to argue that the military coup of 1981 brought up fundamental human rights concerns that were extensively covered in Ghanaian media. Thus, this essay explores the factors that led to the military coup in 1981 and the subsequent authoritarian government that followed. The nature and justifications of peace, human rights, and security issues in the 1980s Ghanaian political history are further explored in this article. This essay concludes that human rights violations resulting from Ghana's authoritarian government following the military takeover in 1981 violated the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Using a qualitative methodology, the paper reconstructs the entire context of peace and human rights during Ghana's authoritarian military administration in the 1980s using official documents, interviews, and newspaper articles. In order to augment the material used in creating this work, additional secondary data from books, journal papers, and the internet will also be examined.

Paper 2: Dynamics of Authoritarian Rule in Nigeria

Lucky Igohosa Ugbudian

The paper examines the dynamics of authoritarian rule in Nigeria. Many scholars have described most unelected governments as having the tendencies to be authoritarian in the attempt to legitimize their rule. In this context, violence is deployed in the attempt to obtain the support of the generality of the people. In Nigeria, there has been several incidences of authoritarian rule following 1966 military coup d'état and subsequently military rule with attendant suppression, repression and act of violence that denied Nigerians their fundamental human rights including rights to life, participation in governance, expression and assembly. Data for this paper will be generated from archives, newspapers, journals and books that will be analyzed qualitatively using historical approach and structural theory will revealed that Nigeria has witnessed authoritarian that by both elected and unelected government leading to indiscriminate unlawful arrest of people, killing of opponents, electoral malpractices and clampdown on the media. The paper argues that most of the military regime in Nigeria including Sani Abacha and Muhammadu Buhari engaged in unwarranted violence against the Nigerian such as the media, pro-democratic and human right groups while the so-called democratic governments since 1999 has been dominated by electoral violence that denied Nigerians of the right to participate in democratic process and the governments of Olusegun Obasanjo and Muhammadu Buhari regularly infringed on the rights of Nigerians through acts of violence. This paper demonstrates that authoritarian rule is more of the capacity of the administration to promote democratic ideas rather than the process it emerged.

Paper 3: Performativity of Peace and Security: Peace Accord as a Security Instrument in Checkmating Election Violence in Nigeria

Emeka Okoye

Election violence has invariably remained an intrinsic element of Nigerian politics with the dreadful potential of threatening the peace in almost every election cycle since Nigeria's return to democratic rule in 1999. The nature of this violence ranges from physical attacks on polling officers, political assassinations, arson, and targeting of ethnic other during national elections. This state of affair has imperiled national security, threatened peace and hampered inter-ethnic harmony within the body-politic. To checkmate the perennial descent into electoral violence, the National Peace Committee (NPC) was set up in 2014 by a group of religious leaders, former presidents and other eminent persons, with the primary responsibility of extracting legally binding pre-election commitments to peace from every presidential and gubernatorial candidate. The Peace Accord, as it is called, is a legal instrument that compels candidates to rein in their supporters' violent streak, commit to peace in the event of unfavorable political outcome and seek judicial redress over electoral disputes. The benignancy of the legal commitment to peace notwithstanding, this research contends that the Peace Accord amounts to a performative arrangement that is symbolically useful from a histrionic standpoint, with little or no effect on national security during polling seasons. This paper, therefore, intends to venture a historical retracing into what has possibly changed before and after the establishment of the NPC, and the relationship between peace and security within this context. I shall use media data on incidences of violence in various election cycles, starting from 1999 till 2023, to substantiate the claim that the Peace Accord has not guarantee electoral peace since it was instituted, rather it provides exculpatory cop-out for politicians trying to evade Western sanctions in the aftermath of election violence. Beyond substantiating the claim, I want to excavate the inherent weaknesses in the NPC arrangement, and move even further to the pomp and pageantry of "Peace Signing".

Paper 4: Analyzing the Social Context of (In)security in Authoritarian Regimes in Africa: The Example of Nigeria and Cameroon in Border Conflict over the Bakassi Peninsula

Nnamdi Ajaebili

The paper proposes to analyze the social and political contexts of (in)security in Nigeria and Cameroon during the border conflict between the two countries over the oil-rich Bakassi peninsula. This is against the backdrop of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights which describes 'the right to take part in the governance of one's own country', and the 'right of equal access to public service in his country'. Articles 3, 5, 9, 12, and 17 of the Declaration were violated with impunity by the soldiers of both countries during the dispute over the Bakassi peninsula. For instance, Article 3 states that every human being has the right to life, liberty, and security of person. It was during the authoritarian/ repressive regimes of Ibrahim Babangida and Sani Abacha of Nigeria and Paul Biya of Cameroon that the border conflict degenerated, resulting in frequent violent confrontations and culminating in a shooting war in 1994. Thus, there is a link between authoritarian regimes and a proclivity to resolve both domestic and international conflicts through violent means. Leveraging the qualitative research method, we argue that regimes that attempt to institute peace and security by suppressing the citizens and political opponents tend to reproduce themselves externally through violent diplomacy, and that democracy is a better domestic foundation for international security and peace than authoritarian regimes.

Book Launch

The Rowman and Littlefield Handbook on Peace and Conflict Studies: Perspectives from the Global South

Speakers: Solveig Richter & Siddarth Tripathi (editors), Thorsten Bonacker, Susanne Buckley-Zistel, Sushobhan Parida, Tareq Sydiq, Steve Wakhu Khaemba (chapter authors)

Day 3

11 October 2024

Keynote by Georgiy Kasianov

A useful past? Collective memory, security, and international relations

Moderation: Heidi Hein-Kircher

Discussant: Eckart Conze

This talk analyses the use and misuse of collective memory in international relations. The perceived past, articulated by cultural and political elites, becomes a universal tool for representing the states and identities cherished by these states in the international arena. As a result, international relations turn into the scenery of competition between various official memory narratives, often resulting in mnemonic conflicts and memory wars. Conventionally, this issue is considered mainly through the prism of Realpolitik in the context of elites' rational interests. This paper proposes a different approach: to examine the problem in the context of ontological security considerations and mnemonic anxiety, where rational and irrational motifs and actions entangle. The paper presents two cases of mnemonic anxiety in action: the extreme case of bilateral Russian-Ukrainian relations (shared history as a casus belli) and transnational memory politics, represented by the idea of a common European history.

Parallel Panels VI

Building a Safe Environment – The Role of Architecture in Modern Security Discourses

Chair: Frank Rochow

Panel Abstract

Throughout history, rulers and ruling classes considered parts of their subjects as recalcitrant and were searching for means and instruments to limit the potential danger their reluctance posed for the internal security and order. Building on the assumption that an orderly environment creates orderly people, one of the means was found in architecture. Examples reach from imaginations of larger built settlement structures exemplified by the many early modern utopian descriptions to later re-structuring of urban environments like under Georges- Eugène Haussmann in Paris to the un-precedent “social engineering” (Thomas Etzemüller) projects of the 20th Century. In the cases of architectures which were designed to surveil and confine unwanted individuals from society, their impact on humans is well described and analyzed, e.g. in the case of Jeremy Bentham’s Panopticon by Michel Foucault. For larger contexts, the connection between the built environment and individual behaviors which constitute the basis of potential anti-state group activities remains mostly affirmative and less explicit. Yet, strikingly, in all these different settings, the search for a rational way of living intertwined with the interest to stabilize the (to establish) ruling system with the help of the built environment. Reaching beyond this observation, this panel seeks to elicit what exact role rulers and ruling classes ascribed to architecture within the overall discourse on internal societal security and overall political order in modern times. Interdisciplinary case studies as well as theoretical considerations on the historical use of large-scale architectures as instrument to foster state wanted behavior are welcome.

Paper 1: For a secure and prosperous city! Debates about urban planning in Galicia's capital Lemberg (Lwów, L'viv) in the 19th century

Nadja Weck

In the 1860s, when seeking for a proper place for the new to be built train station, different interests collide in Galicia's Capital Lemberg (Lwów, L'viv). Municipal authorities brought economic arguments into the discussion but also reminded of risks to health and hygiene. They precluded building the new train station in a certain swampy area because emitting fumes had already arisen cases of cholera there. The chamber of trade and commerce represented the interests of industrialists and merchants. At the same time military representatives argued from a fortification point of view. The paper deals with the question, which ideas of security and prosperity are reflected in those discourses. Moreover, it aims at answering the question how important the position of the central government was. Finally, who's plan for the railway station gained acceptance in the end.

Paper 2: Allied security discourses on "belligerent" monuments in occupied Germany after 1945

Antoine Beaudoin

The context of Germany's occupation by the winning powers after 1945, unique in its scope, was the scene of a major political and civilizational transformation of the 20th century. The Allies' determination to influence people's minds through what has come to be known as "re-education" was certainly first a matter of internal security, but it went far beyond that, as it affected the geopolitical interdependence in the emerging Cold War conflict. The security policy motivating the presence of Allied troops in Germany was reflected in the building branch by a repressive approach, i.e. the architectural purification of former ostentatious traces of the imperial and Nazi past, and by a constructive approach, i.e. the (re)construction of buildings reflecting the occupier's sense of democratic values. Very soon after the war, in 1945, the Allied Control Council based in Berlin began talks on a law to remove Nazi and military monuments. This presentation will trace the discussions held in Berlin by the Allies on the buildings to be destroyed or preserved and will attempt to identify the security motives behind the debate. The aim is to highlight the different sensitivities in the diplomatic cultures of the various occupiers and to reveal the real impact of this policy on urban space.

Paper 3: "When democracy builds". European Institution Buildings and Public Space

Volker Ziegler

This presentation examines the buildings of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg and the European Union in Strasbourg and Brussels. It contextualises their origins and successive construction in the urban development of the two 'capitals' of Europe. The presentation addresses two key issues: the relationship between architectural form and the representation of democracy, and the problematic and sometimes conflictual relationship of the European institutions and their buildings to the two cities and their public spaces. Consequently, the designation of specific buildings illustrates the allusion to European primitive democracy and has become enmeshed in security protocols and the tendency to compartmentalise.

Performing Peace and Security in the Balkans: A Historical Perspective (19th–20th Centuries)

Chair: Nicole Immig & Ninja Bumann

Abstract

Conflict, peace, and security in the Balkans have been extensively studied by historians, yet much of the focus has traditionally centered on state and military actors. Recent historical scholarship, however, has increasingly turned its attention to questions of human security and the experiences of local actors and marginalized groups (such as women) beyond the battlefield. This shift has prompted historians to explore a broader range of source materials, moving beyond traditional archival records confined within national and state frameworks. The proposed panel seeks to address the methodological challenges inherent in researching the performative aspects of peace and security in the Balkans from a historical standpoint focusing on the 19th and 20th centuries. Specifically, the panel aims to delve into the practices of visualization and mediatization, examining how these processes have shaped performativity of peace and security in the region over time. The goal is to explore the various forms of performativity of peace and security by analyzing its visualization and mediatization through photography, national festivities and theatrical performances, and similar activities.

Paper 1: Presentation of Bosnia and Herzegovina as Fragmented and Insecure Area During the Second World War

Ajdin Muhedinović

During the Second World War, Bosnia and Herzegovina was an extremely fragmented and insecure area. After the occupation of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia by Nazi Germany, the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina first became part of the Independent State of Croatia and was divided into two zones of occupation, Italian and German. The Independent State of Croatia, as well as the occupation regimes, had their vision of "peace and security", and the Ustasha regime immediately started to establish power. On the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, these processes led to the uprising of the predominantly Serbian population, but during the further course of the war, in addition to the armed formations of the Ustasha regime, occupation armies, and partisan and Chetnik units, a whole series of military and paramilitary formations with ethnonational characteristics appeared. Additionally fragmented the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the military-political, but also security sense. In historiography, the mentioned processes have been researched to a certain extent, however, there is a lack of research based on how the processes of establishment of government, uprising, and generally inter-ethnic relations were visualized in the public space and presented through cinematography in the post-war period, until today. In socialist Yugoslavia, cinematography developed based on propagating and celebrating the partisan struggle, without the opportunity to question how that struggle was conducted and what the price of achieving the "brotherhood and unity of the people" slogan and idea that marked the socialist period in these areas. Other factors in the war were presented as enemies and causes of inter-ethnic hatred and conflict. Films that can be used for analysis in the above context are: „Živjeće ovaj narod“ (1947. godina, režiser Nikola Popović), „Kozara“ (1962. režiser Veljko Bulajić), „Kad čuješ zvona“ (1969. režiser Antun Vrdoljak). When discussing a historiographical production that would investigate this problem based on archival sources in Bosnia and Herzegovina, it is important to highlight the absence of such sources in historiographical research. The visualization of processes such as "peace and security" and other phenomena closely related to the reality of war in the Second World War can be monitored and analyzed through numerous museum exhibits, primarily the History Museum in Sarajevo.

Paper 2: The gates of peace: Cinema at the service of the League of Nations in the Greek-Bulgarian conflict

Jacques Péricard

During the 1930s, looking for ways to promote its peacemaking activities and raise awareness of its role on the international stage, the League of Nations decided to produce educational films. The idea was to work with legal experts to choose a few subjects that were representative of the League's activities. Indeed, both the subject and the script must give a clear idea of its peacemaking mission and its ability to disarm conflicts. To this end, the consequences of the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne and the resulting conflict between Greece and Bulgaria were chosen. More specifically, a film project called "Les portes de la Paix" focuses on a border incident that seriously threatened peace. The aim was to explain the role of the League of Nations in resolving this conflict. The staging described in the script is a fine example of the representation of international law by attempting to combine an artistic work with international texts. Therefore, this paper will try to describe the means used to illustrate, via this medium, the frustration resulting from the war, the desire for revenge, the fight for borders and, finally, the activity of the League of Nations.

Paper 3: Cyprus 1974: Political Instability, Military Intervention, and Diplomatic Challenges: A Yugoslav Perspective

Amir Duranović

The Cyprus War of 1974 emerged from longstanding tensions between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, exacerbated by the 1974 Greek-backed coup aiming for union with Greece. This political instability prompted Turkey to intervene militarily, citing the need to protect the Turkish Cypriot minority. The coup and subsequent invasion led to a de facto partition of the island, with the north controlled by Turkish forces and the south by the internationally recognized government. Diplomatic efforts, including UN negotiations and peace talks, struggled to resolve the conflict, as geopolitical interests and ethnic divisions complicated reconciliation. The war's ultimate consequence was the establishment of a divided Cyprus, with ongoing disputes over territory and governance. International actors, including the US and EU, played crucial roles in mediating and shaping post-war policies. The conflict underscored the challenges of addressing ethnic conflict within a complex geopolitical framework. Despite numerous peace initiatives, the Cyprus issue remains unresolved, highlighting the difficulty of achieving lasting diplomatic solutions in such contexts. My aim is to further explore and explain a Yugoslav perspective by analysis of different diplomatic initiatives and actions undertaken by Yugoslavia as well as media representation of the conflict and its repercussions during summer 1974.

Remembering Peace

Chair: Eckart Conze

Panel Abstract

Peace is a fundamental concept of political thought. Semantics of peace are an integral part of socio-political language. As a political objective and a political value, however, peace is contested. Beyond its universal and in many cases utopic meaning, peace – like security – is a deeply historical concept. It needs to be historicized, it needs to be regarded in its historicity. Against this background, the panel “Remembering Peace” will address changing understanding(s) of peace by focusing on the remembrance and commemoration of peace. It will do so by asking the question how “peace” (peace efforts, peace treaties, ends of war etc.) has been and is being remembered under changing historical circumstances. The focus is on cultures, practices, modes, forms and politics of remembering peace during the 19th, 20th and early 21st centuries, while the referent objects of commemoration can also be located in earlier times. Memories of peace reflect, on the one hand, the positive connotation of peace as a norm and/or a value. On the other hand, the way how peace is being remembered is strongly influenced by individual or collective experiences of war and violence. Having won or lost a war has a strong influence on how “peace” is being remembered. The question who remembers peace cannot be separated from the question how peace is being remembered. In this perspective, the panel will also ask how democracies remember peace compared with authoritarian regimes. In an emotional history perspective and because it is linked to experiences of war and violence, remembering peace can be influenced by different emotions. Remembering peace can be part of an (emerging) culture of peace, but it can also be part of a culture of war or violence. In this perspective, the panel can also correlate the understanding of peace with neighboring (overlapping, complementary, rivalling) concepts such as security in particular.

Paper 1: Remembering the Treaty of Berlin (1878): Beginning of a Peace or a Trigger of Violence (İlkay Yılmaz)

The Treaty of Berlin, forged by the Great Powers in 1878, aimed to reshape the Balkans and curtail Russian influence following significant Ottoman territorial losses after the Ottoman-Russian War. This landmark treaty is notable for its pioneering approach to minority rights across regions from the Balkans to Eastern Anatolia, profoundly impacting Ottoman political thought. This study examines how the Berlin Treaty is represented in Ottoman political discourse and its enduring legacy in the political memory during the late Ottoman Empire and early years of Republic of Turkey. It also explores how the minority issues in the treaty served as a tool for Ottoman political elites to securitize certain minority groups, and its dual role as both a harbinger of peace and a potential catalyst for conflict. This study is part of the DFG research project "Security Perspectives and the Administration of the Eastern Provinces from the Late Ottoman Empire to the Early Turkish Republic (1878-1952)".

Paper 2: Memories of peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Melina Sadiković)

The turbulent and violent twentieth century was marked by historical events on a wider global scale such as the Great Depression, two World Wars and the Cold War. The long and disputed history of the idea of Yugoslavia passed through different political-historical periods that generally corresponds to the wars on the global scale given that the country experienced three devastating wars of which two were World Wars. Moreover, the end of the Cold War was marked by the violent dissolution of the Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY) in 1991. This paper focuses on the second half of the twentieth century marked by the Cold War, during which SFRY had a prominent role in the establishment of the Nonaligned Movement (1961) and thus the country had a neutral position in the bipolar division of the world. The paper aims to explore the ways in which peace is remembered in Bosnia and Herzegovina – one of the Yugoslav's six successive republics – during the Cold War period and after the Yugoslav wars in the 1990s. The two distinct periods in focus of the paper are marked with different experiences of peace as well as with different definitions and approaches to peace not only in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the wider (post)Yugoslav space but also on a global level.

Paper 3: Democratic Peace – Democratic Security? Remembering the Peace of 1919 in the Interwar Years (1919-1939)

(Eckart Conze)

Together with the First World War the Peace Treaties of 1919/20 entered national and international collective memories during the interwar period. In France and Germany, in particular, perceptions and interpretations of the Versailles Peace Treaty were not only part of the political culture, but also part of the respective collective memories. The paper will ask which factors contributed to the formation of these memories. For the years up to 1933, it will focus on the question whether (and how) we can identify a distinctly democratic way of remembering peace. In this perspective, the paper has the notion of “Democratic Peace” as one of its starting points. In Nazi Germany after 1933, under authoritarian/totalitarian conditions, new notions of security entered the memory discourse paving the way into another war. These developments provide an opportunity to regard the relation of peace and security through the lens of memory and memory studies.

Roundtable

The Russian Aggression Against Ukraine – European Perspectives on Security and Conflict Transformation

Chair: Thorsten Bonacker

Panelists: Vera Axyonova, Mariia Levchenko, Irena Remestwenski, Susann Worschech

Abstract

The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine has raised the question of how European security should be conceptualised in the future. Furthermore, once the war is over, Ukraine will need security guarantees that only the Western defence alliance can provide. The European Union, in turn, will promote Ukraine's integration into Europe. But are NATO and the EU sufficiently prepared for these tasks? What challenges do they face, especially in view of a multipolar world in which security is increasingly formulated in the context of conflicting geopolitical interests? Is there still a future for the idea of common security, at least in the medium term? And what traces does the war leave behind in Ukraine itself and how can internal conflicts and divisions be addressed and dealt with at an early stage so that post-war Ukraine can successfully undergo a process of social reconstruction? These questions will be discussed at a round table dedicated to European perspectives on security and conflict transformation in the context of Russian aggression. We seek to engage researchers specializing in international relations and peace and conflict studies, alongside experts in mediation, conflict transformation, and security policy. We particularly value insights from Ukrainian perspectives on Europe. Last but not least, we also want to bring up historical perspectives on security guarantees in interstate conflicts in order to take a look at how past solutions can point the way to the future of a European security order that includes Ukraine

Bionotes of conference participants

A

Nnamdi Ajaebili

Dr. Nnamdi Ajaebili holds a PhD in history and is currently a senior lecturer in the Department of History and International Studies at the University of Nigeria. His research straddles African/Nigerian historical and cultural studies, peace and conflict studies, political economy, international relations and decolonial epistemology. His academic publications have appeared in peer-review journals including Peace and Conflict Studies, Journal of Asian and African Studies, Journal of International Communication, International Journal of Intangible Heritage and Ikenga: Journal of African Studies.

Khaled Nagi Alosaimi

Khaled earned a master's degree in Monitoring and Evaluation from Gothenburg University in Sweden in 2009. He worked with the Royal Institute for Blind People, reviewing wellbeing strategies in Wales and England. Khaled has also worked as an evaluation consultant with various NGOs in Yemen. He is currently a PhD researcher at the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations (CTPSR) at Coventry University, focusing on community empowerment, social identities, social cohesion, and everyday peace practices in post-conflict reconstruction in Yemen.

Felix Anderl

Felix Anderl is professor of conflict studies. His research focuses on conflicts over land, food and rural development. In doing so, he links the disciplines of social movement studies, international relations, and conflict research, emphasizing fieldwork, such as participant observation in social movements and the institutions they oppose.

Nicodemus Fru Awasom

Professor Awasom is an academic of international standing with decades of teaching experience in several universities in Africa and Europe. He has a track record of publications in peer review journals in Africa, Europe, Canada and the USA. He edited a book on Youth and Identity in Africa (forthcoming CODESRIA: Dakar). He is on the verge of completing another book on the Nomadic Mbororo Conundrum in the Bamenda Grasslands. Springer Publishers are publishing his book this year on Historicising the Constitution-Making Processes in Independence Africa

Vera Axyonova

Vera Axyonova is a Senior Research Fellow with the Political Communication Research Group at the University of Vienna. Her research interests span the study of international crisis and conflict management, cross-border transfer of norms and practices, and expert knowledge production. Her articles have appeared in Ethnopolitics, European Security, Journal of Global Security Studies, Peacebuilding, and East European Politics and Societies, among others. Vera is founding co-chair of the ECPR Research Network on Statehood, Sovereignty and Conflict. She holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Bremen.

B

Sarina Bakić

Dr Sarina Bakić is an associate professor at the Department of Sociology, at the University of Sarajevo Faculty of Political Science and Head of the Department of Sociology. Her core scientific field is the sociology of culture and art, aesthetics and politics, international cultural relations/cultural diplomacy and various phenomena of mass culture. She is an author of the book Controversies of Cultural Reception and co-author of the books Understanding Society and Peace Potentials of Religion and Interreligious Dialogue as the Tool for Improvement of Political Dialogue in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Sarina Bakić is engaged in several projects as the project coordinator and an author of numerous scientific articles and chapters published in national and international scientific publications. She was officially awarded by the University of Sarajevo for her scientific work in 2021.

Antoine Beaudoin

Antoine Beaudoin is a graduate architect from the École nationale supérieure d'architecture de Paris-Malaquais (ENSAPM). His dissertation on theater and architecture in the Nazi era was completed in 2018 in a "cotutelle" in the Department of Theater Studies (Université Paris Nanterre) and Architecture (HafenCity University Hamburg). After his PhD, he worked in architectural practice, including at ZHN Architekten, which focuses on heritage conservation through the conversion and renovation of public buildings. Since April 2022, he has been working as an academic assistant at the BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg under the direction of Prof. Johanna Blokker at the Chair of Monument Conservation in the DFG project: „Bauten der Besatzungszeit in Westdeutschland (1945-1955): Das Erbe der Demokratisierung in der architektonischen Landschaft Deutschlands“.

Andreas Berns

Andreas Berns is a research associate at the Bundeswehr Centre of Military History and Social Sciences (Zentrum für Militärgeschichte und Sozialwissenschaften) in Potsdam. His work focuses on intercultural competence, cultural awareness (ethical reference, strategic significance in the context of international relations), on questions of internal leadership (Innere Führung) and ethics in security policy contexts. Previously, Dr. Berns was a lecturer in security policy and networked security (constructive and destructive networking, with a focus on relationship systems and the special significance of forgiveness and reconciliation) at the Bundeswehr Command and Staff College (Führungsakademie der Bundeswehr) in Hamburg.

Linus Birrel

Linus Birrel studied history at the Albert Ludwig University of Freiburg and is now a research associate at the Bundeswehr Centre for Military History and Social Sciences, working on a dissertation project on the question of what significance the experience of combat in Afghanistan had for the Bundeswehr.

Shampa Biswas

Shampa Biswas is Judge & Mrs. Timothy A. Paul Chair of Political Science and Professor of Politics at Whitman College in Walla Walla, WA. She teaches courses on international relations, global security, postcolonial theory, and international feminisms. Her current research explores the intersections of race and colonialism with nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament. She is the author of *Nuclear Desire: Power and the Postcolonial Nuclear Order* (University of Minnesota Press) and numerous contributions on nuclear colonialism, race in international relations, nationalism, globalization, and nuclear disarmament, as well as higher education. She is the recent recipient of two Ploughshares Fund grants to decolonize the nuclear studies curriculum. From September to December 2024 she is a visiting fellow at the Collaborative Research Center "Dynamics of Security".

Maarten Bolhuis

Maarten Bolhuis is Assistant Professor of Criminology at VU Amsterdam. He conducts qualitative empirical research on crimes committed during wars, transitional justice and investigation and prosecution of such crimes, and the involvement of migrants in them. Much of his research concerns the interaction between criminal law, migration/citizenship law, and human rights law.

Thorsten Bonacker

Thorsten Bonacker is Professor for Peace and Conflict Studies at Philipps University Marburg and since 2022 the speaker of the Collaborative Research Center "Dynamics of Security". His research is located at the crossroad of sociology and political science in the field of international relations. For a long time, he has been interested in theories and methods in peace and conflict as well as in critical security studies. Currently, he is working on practices of international administration in postcolonial and postwar societies, society's dealing with past mass violence, and sexual and reproductive rights as a global field of conflict. Methodologically, he is using theory driven and comparative research designs with an emphasis on Central and Southeast Asia (in particular Cambodia and Timor Leste).

Gretel Mejía Bonifazi

Gretel Mejía Bonifazi is a postdoctoral researcher at the Human Rights Centre of Ghent University. She is a Guatemalan lawyer specialized in human rights and transitional justice. She holds a PhD in Law from Ghent University (2024), a MA in Human Rights from the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg (2017) and a law degree from San Carlos University in Guatemala (2015). Before joining the Human Rights Centre, she worked at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law. Previously, she worked on transitional justice, human rights and international criminal law issues at various organizations in Germany and Guatemala.

Susanne Buckley-Zistel

Susanne Buckley-Zistel is Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies and Executive Director of the Center for Conflict Studies at Philipps University Marburg. Prior to this she held positions at Freie Universität Berlin, the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt and King's College London. From 2015-2016 she was a Senior Fellow at the Käter Hamburger Kolleg for Global Cooperation Research and she has been acting as the Deputy Chairperson of the German Foundation for Peace Research from 2016-2024. Her main interests lie in (transitional) justice, memory, gender, space and post-colonialism.

Ninja Bumann

Ninja Bumann studied history, Slavic languages and literature and political science in Zurich, Prague, and Vienna. She obtained her MA degree in 2016 with a thesis titled „The Female Gaze on the Imperial Periphery Comparing the Perception of Central Asia and Bosnia-Herzegovina around 1900“. She is currently a PhD student at the University of Vienna, specializing on gender, marriage and Islamic law in Habsburg Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition, she is a research assistant at the chair for Southeastern European History at the Justus-Liebig-University in Gießen.

C

María Cárdenas

María Cárdenas is a research fellow and lecturer in Sociology at the Goethe University Frankfurt. She recently submitted her PhD thesis on decolonized approaches to peacebuilding in Colombia.

Shalini Chaudhary

Shalini Chaudhary graduated from Lady Shri Ram College for Women, University of Delhi (India), with a Hons degree in Political Science. Currently a Ph.D. research scholar at the Rekhi Centre of Excellence for the Science of Happiness, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (India), her research focuses on studying the role of technology in constructive conflict management and sustainable peacebuilding with a special focus on community radios in India's internal conflict environments. Leveraging the critical discourse methodology, she analyzes conflict communications and technology's socio-politico-psychological functions vis-a-vis the local population in conflict settings and its potential effect on peacebuilding.

Irem Cihan

Irem Cihan is a Ph.D. student in Politics and International Studies at SOAS, University of London. She holds a Master's degree in Asian Studies from Bogazici University. She has been a visiting scholar at Columbia University in the city of New York. Her research interests are identity, ontological security, aesthetics and Northeast Asian and Middle Eastern affairs, particularly South Korea and Turkey. Her Ph.D. research focuses on the ways in which South Korea and Turkey use visual narratives and cultural productions to project roles and images, manifest their identities, manage anxiety, and create visions of the future, exploring the aesthetic dimensions of these performances.

Eckart Conze

Eckart Conze is Professor of Modern and Contemporary History at the University of Marburg. He held Visiting Professorships at the Universities of Toronto, Cambridge, Bologna, Utrecht and Jerusalem. His main areas of research are the history of international relations, the history of elites and the aristocracy, the Federal Republic of Germany, and the history of security. His recent book publications include: *Geschichte der Sicherheit. Entwicklung – Themen – Perspektiven* (2017), *Die große Illusion. Versailles 1919 und die Neuordnung der Welt* (2018) and *Schatten des Kaiserreichs. Die Reichsgründung 1871 und ihr schwieriges Erbe* (2020). Forthcoming: *The Paris Peace Conference 1919. The Challenge of a New World Order* (with L. Badel and A. Droeber).

Selma Ćosić

Selma Ćosić is Assistant Professor at the Department of Security and Peace studies, Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Sarajevo. Selma attended many seminars and conferences, she attended a summer school (2008 and 2009) on Mali Lošinj on the topic: „Security and defense environment in the 21st century“ (June 16-21, 2008) and „Security and cooperation in Southeast Europe“ (June 14-20, 2009). She participated in the meeting „European perspectives of the Republic of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina“ (November 12-14, 2009) at the Plitvice Lakes in Croatia. She was a participant in the UN conference on the topic „Resolution 1325, Women, Peace and Security“, as well as in the NATO conference on the topic „Gender in the military and peace context“, in Sarajevo in 2010. She was also part of the FPN research team in Sarajevo (in 2011) as part of the research project „Analysis of the system of setting priorities in mine action in Bosnia and Herzegovina“, in which she

attended the conference „Intersectoral cooperation in search of the right recommendations and solutions for fulfilling the obligations set by the international agreement on the prohibition of landmines“, in 2011. The result of this project is the study „Analysis of the system of setting priorities in mine action in Bosnia and Herzegovina and proposals for their improvement“.

Enita Čustović

Enita Čustović is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Journalism / Communication at the University of Sarajevo - Faculty of Political Sciences. She is a graduated journalist with a Master of Political Science in Diplomacy and a Doctor of Social Sciences (Journalism) degree. She also completed the postgraduate study "Communication, Public Relations" at the Department of Journalism / Communication, Faculty of Political Sciences. She has published several scientific and professional papers and book reviews and participated in many respectable conferences and gatherings in the country and abroad. She proofread many books and publications, edited publications and magazines, participated in various projects, and held seminars and training in rhetoric, public speaking, presentation, and communication skills.

D

Sven Deppisch

Sven Deppisch studied modern and contemporary history, medieval history and political science at the Ludwig Maximilian University (LMU) in Munich. He received his doctorate on the subject of "Officer training of the Order Police under National Socialism". Afterward he worked as a lecturer at the University of Applied Sciences for Public Administration in Bavaria – Department of Police. Since 2023 he has been working in the Oral History Project of the Bundeswehr Centre of Military History and Social Sciences (ZMSBw) in Potsdam. His research focuses on military and police history, security policy, Holocaust research and political extremism.

Werner Distler

Dr. Werner Distler is Assistant Professor for International Relations at the Department for International Relations and International Organization at the University of Groningen (The Netherlands). His work focuses on statebuilding and state formation in decolonization and after conflict, and on peacebuilding and interventions with a particular focus on everyday interactions, knowledge formation, and archives and collections.

Amir Duranović

Amir Duranović, historian, obtained his degree in history at the University of Sarajevo in 2007. Now holding a PhD in Modern Bosnian History, his main focus has been Church – State relations in Former Yugoslavia, especially Islam under Communism. So far Duranović has actively participated in dozens of conferences on Modern Balkan history including history of political elites, nation building, religious communities etc. He has been involved as guest speaker at several European universities, USA and China. Skilful in education capacity building, networking and research, Duranović is also fluent in English, Spanish and Turkish. Author of three books and dozens of papers published in Bosnian, English, German and Turkish.

Manas Dutta

Manas Dutta teaches at the Department of History, Aliah University, Kolkata, India. He has received the Charles Wallace India Trust Grant in 2016 and the Summer Fellowship in the New School for Social Research, New York, USA in 2018. He has specialized in military history of South Asia in colonial and postcolonial times. He has co-authored a monograph on Social Movements, Media and Civil Society in Contemporary India (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022). His articles and book reviews have been published in journals like Economic and Political Weekly, Indian Historical Review, History and Sociology of South Asia, South Asia Research, Journal of First World War Studies and others. He is associated with the Postcolonial Studies Association of the Global South (PSAGS) since 2014.

F

Pia Falschebner

Pia Falschebner (pia.falschebner@uni-marburg.de) is a doctoral researcher with a background in anthropology and peace and conflict studies. In her thesis, she focuses on victim mobilization around transitional justice in Morocco and the political agency of victims and survivors. She currently works as a research fellow in the project 'Reparation Politics of Victim Organizations in Transitional Justice Processes' at the Center for Conflict Studies of the Philipps-University in Marburg.

Rosario Figari Layus

Rosario Figari Layus is Junior Professor of Reconciliation Studies at the University of Bonn since October 2024. Previously, she was a post-doctoral researcher and lecturer at the Chair of Peace Studies at the Justus Liebig University in Giessen, Germany. Figari Layus holds a PhD in Political Science from the Philipps University of Marburg. Previously, she obtained an MA in Social Sciences from the Humboldt University of Berlin and a degree in Sociology from the University of Buenos Aires. Her work and research focus on peace and conflict studies, conflict transformation, transitional justice, human rights protection, human rights activism and political violence.

G

Eva Gajek

Eva Maria Gajek studied Modern and Contemporary History, History of Technology, Economic and Social History, as well as German Studies at Ruhr University Bochum. From 2007 to 2011, she was a scholarship holder at the Graduate School "Transnational Media Events from Early Modern Times to the Present" at Justus Liebig University (JLU) Gießen. Her dissertation was awarded the JLU Dissertation Prize and the Hedwig Hintze Prize by the German Association of Historians. After completing her Ph.D., she was a research associate in the Department of Specialized Journalism in History and the Leibniz Prize Research Group "History and Theory of Global Capitalism" at JLU. Since 2022, she has been a researcher in the "Wealth and Social Inequality" research group at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, Cologne. Her research focuses on wealth distribution and social inequality in the long 20th century. She is currently a fellow at the Collaborative Research Center "Dynamics of Security" at the University of Marburg.

Debarati Ganguly

Debarati Ganguly is an assistant professor and coordinator in the Postgraduate Department of History, St. Xavier's College, Kolkata. Her research focuses on Historiography and India and South-East Asia Relation. She obtained her Ph.D from University of Calcutta. Since 2023, she has been serving as the member of the Executive Committee of the Indian Association for Asian and Pacific Studies, an organization dedicated to academic endeavors on Asia and Pacific regions. Ganguly has contributed articles on various topics related to India and South East Asia relation, historiography, art history in several national and international platforms. She was the invited speaker at the National Seminar on 'Early India and Cambodia: Exploring Avenues of Linkages' organized by the Department of A.I.H.C, University of Calcutta.

Martin Göllnitz

Martin Göllnitz is a research associate and PostDoc at the Collaborative Research Centre "Dynamics of Security", where he conducts research on police security heuristics and repertoires in the 20th century. He has researched and taught at the universities of Kiel, Mainz, Odense and Marburg. His research interests include historical security research and the history of terrorism, violence and culture in Germany, Austria and Northern Europe in the 20th century. In his dissertation, published in 2018, he dealt with the agency of student Nazi functionaries between 1927 and 1945.

Lina Marcela Gómez Núñez

I am a Colombian professional in International Relations with a double Master's degree in Conflict, Memory, and Peace. Over the past six years, I have led various research projects on the Colombian armed conflict, focusing on the development of improved policies and projects for victims. My work involves collaboration with former members of armed groups, conflict victims, migrants, rural women, children, and ethnic groups. I am passionate and dedicated to helping those in need, with a commitment to uncovering insights that contribute to peace and conflict resolution, specially through innovative and artistic methodologies.

Evelyn Gonzalez Guevara

Evelyn Gonzalez Guevara holds two MAs: one in Politics and International Relations, and the other in Strategic and Arms Control Studies. Her research focuses on Turkish foreign and security policies towards the Middle East, as well as the Colombian armed conflict. Evelyn has worked as a young researcher in her home country and has been a visiting student at the Ben-Gurion University in Israel and the Marmara University in Türkiye. She currently works as a political and context analyst for the defense team of the former FARC in the transitional justice process of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace.

Matthew Gordon

Matthew Gordon is an independent scholar and development consultant specializing on non-state forms of peace and coexistence in the Somali context. He previously worked as a fellow at Philipps University Marburg as part of its "Dynamics of Security" collaborative research center, and holds a PhD in Politics and International Studies from SOAS, University of London.

H

Zsófia Hacsek

Zsófia is a Social and Cultural Anthropologist who obtained her master's degree at the University of Vienna. She currently works as a Research Assistant and part-time PhD candidate at the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, Coventry University. She has supported a wide range of projects, most recently the Alternative Security Review, the EU-funded Gendered Innovation Living Labs, and the Hot Periods of Anti-Minority Activism. Her main research interests are bottom-up, intersectional, arts-based approaches of various phenomena such as 'dignity', 'security', or 'violence'.

Jasmin Hasanović

Jasmin Hasanović is an Assistant Professor at the Department for Political Science at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Sarajevo in BiH. His field of research encompasses social and political movements, socialism and (post)Yugoslav studies as well as geopolitics and cyberpolitics. He is also interested in critical political theory, dealing with contemporary debates on democracy and the relationship between activism and the idea of emancipation in contemporary political theory.

Anne Hennings

Anne Hennings is a postdoc peace and conflict studies research fellow at the University of Kaiserslautern-Landau. She works on peacebuilding, the agency of ex-combatants, as well as land and environmental conflicts. Her methodological expertise comprises field research in conflict-affected societies with political and economic elites as well as hidden and marginal populations in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia. Currently, Anne manages the research project "Tug of War: Customary and State Actors in Land Reform and their Impact on Human Security in Post-Conflict Societies", funded by Gerda Henkel Foundation (2022-2024).

Marie Huber

Marie Huber researches global economic history, with a focus on postcolonial business history and development in Africa. She is currently a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Marburg. Prior to that, she served as PI in a research project on aviation in postcolonial Africa at the Humboldt University in Berlin. In her Ph.D. project and first book, Marie looked at the Ethiopian example to examine the history of the World Heritage Program in developing countries.

Sanel Huskić

Sanel Huskić has more than 20 years of professional experience in public policy, monitoring and evaluation. Involved in numerous consultancies, initiatives and projects for international bodies (OSCE, USAID, UNDP, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNICEF, EU, EUSR, etc.), as well as government institutions (Council of Ministers BiH, Ministry of Civil Affairs BiH, Ministry of Science, Higher Education and Youth KS, etc.) and civil society organizations. Conducted 20+ evaluations and assessments, designed and managed numerous MEL instruments for projects, institutions, and organizations. His recent focus is human geography of artificial intelligence in terms of security and education.

I

Kamal Faqi Ibrahim

is a Ph.D. student at the University of Leipzig, focusing on political legitimacy in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. He holds a master's degree in public policy from the Willy Brandt School of Public Policy, Erfurt. He is a non-resident fellow at the Kurdish Peace Institute.

Waseem Iftikhar

Waseem Iftikhar holds a PhD in Peace and Conflict Studies from the Center for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST). His areas of research interest are Critical Discourse Analysis, Political Economy of Conflict Zones, Narrative Analysis, and security-Development nexus.

Aslı Ilgıt

Dr. Aslı Ilgıt is a Professor of Political Science at Çukurova University, where she joined the Department of Political Science and International Relations in 2014. She earned her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Syracuse University. She specializes in International Relations (IR) with expertise in IR theory centering on emotions, identity and ontological security in IR, International Security and migration. Her work has been published in *Review of International Studies*, *Political Psychology*, *Security Dialogue*, *British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, *Mediterranean Politics*, *Review*, amongst others

J

Christian Jentzsch

Christian Jentzsch joined the German Navy 1995. He studied history at the Helmut Schmidt University Hamburg from 1996-2000. After an aviation training in the USA he flew as a Helicopter Operations Officer at the Naval Air Wing 5 Kiel. From 2011 Commander Jentzsch lectured military history at the German Naval Academy in Mürwik. In 2015 he got his PhD from the University of Potsdam and transferred to the Bundeswehr Centre for Military History and Social Sciences in Potsdam. Since 2017 he frequently lectures at the University Potsdam. Recent research projects are a German naval history from the end of the cold war and a maritime history of NATO from the mid-1980s.

K

Tamim Karadamur

Tamim Karadamur is a Ph.D. student (since 2024) at the Heisenberg Chair of International and Transnational Relations at Leipzig University, focusing on the trade in military goods in Europe. He holds a master's degree in Political Science from Leipzig University and his research interests include European security, arms trade, networks and methods of social network analysis.

Georgiy Kasianov

Georgiy Kasianov is a professor at Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland, where he heads the Laboratory of International Memory Studies. Formerly, he was the head of the Department of Contemporary History and Politics at the Institute of Ukrainian History at the National Academy of Sciences in Kyiv. His research interests are the social, political and cultural history of Ukraine from 19th to 21st centuries, epistemology of history, nationalism. Central aspects of his current studies include national, international and transnational politics of memory, instrumental use and abuse of history, cultural and social memory studies. His most recent publication is *Memory Crash: Politics of History in and around Ukraine, 1980s-2010s* (CEU Press, 2022)

Steve Wakhu Khaemba

Dr. Steve Wakhu attained his masters and doctorate at the Willy Brandt School of Public Policy, Universität Erfurt. He is a double DAAD scholar (2012, 2016). Recently he completed his academic visit as a post-doctoral fellow at Universität Leipzig (Sept 2024). He is a faculty member at the Department of Humanities at the University of Embu in Kenya. His research interests are on human security, political mobilisation, post-conflict reconstruction and non-state armed groups. His main academic focus is the so called "Global South" and particularly sub-Saharan Africa.

Sarah Kirst

Sarah Kirst is the academic coordinator of the Collaborative Research Center "Dynamics of Security" at Philipps University Marburg. Her academic background is in Peace and Conflict Studies and she earned her Ph.D. in International Relations from the Otto Suhr Institute of Political Science at Freie Universität Berlin. Her research focuses on conflicts surrounding land and resource access, the intersection of land and social belonging, and the dynamics of traditional governance in postcolonial contexts, with a particular emphasis on Sub-Saharan Africa.

Johanna Kocks

Johanna Kocks is a Research Fellow at the Center for Conflict Studies at Philipps-Universität Marburg. Her research focuses on feminist and critical perspectives on socio-ecological conflicts, particularly examining the intersection of resistance and structures of exploitation and destruction. She has a keen interest in social movements within contexts of colonial continuities, with her current work centered on Afro-Brazilian feminist resistance against petroleum extractivism in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil. Johanna Kocks holds an M.A. in International Studies/Peace and Conflict Studies from Goethe University Frankfurt, where she engaged with transnational feminisms and critical perspectives on development studies. Her academic journey also includes studies at the University of Toronto and Universidade Nova de Lisboa.

Evelyn Korn

Evelyn Korn is professor of Economics and currently Vice President for University Culture and Quality at Philipps University as well as the Chair of the Governing Board of the European University for Peace, Justice and Inclusive Societies (EUPeace).

Oğuz Boluz Kök

Oğuz Bulut Kök is a PhD Student in Political Science and International Relations at KoÅ University, Istanbul. He holds a BA in Political Science and International Relations from Izmir University of Economics and an MA in International Relations from KoÅ University. His research lies between security studies, political psychology/behavior and political communication, especially on how the concept of security is made by the actors, how they are expressed through emotions, norms, and beliefs, and how they affect the actors' decision-making.

L

Mariia Levchenko

Dr. Mariia Levchenko, a Fellow at the Academy of International Affairs NRW Bonn, is an expert in peacebuilding and dialogue. She holds a Ph.D. in International Economics and has served in key roles such as Senior Protection Advisor at the Center for Civilians in Conflict and Peacebuilding Officer at the Romanian Peace Institute. A recipient of the 2023 Luxembourg Peace Prize and 2022 McCain Global Leader, she specializes in dialogue facilitation, conflict resolution, and trauma healing. Dr. Levchenko is also a 2024-2025 Kroc Institute Women PeaceMakers Fellow, contributing to advancing dialogue and peacebuilding efforts globally.

Philipp Lottholz

Philipp Lottholz is a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Collaborative Research Centre/Transregio "Dynamics of Security" and the Center for Conflict Studies, Philipps-University of Marburg. His research interests lie at the intersection of peace, conflict and (historical) security studies and include political mobilization, peace- and statebuilding, post- and decolonial thought, and cooperative, dialogical and activist approaches to research.

M

Fatima Mahmutović

Fatima Mahmutović is a PhD Candidate and teaching assistant at the Department of Security and Peace studies, University of Sarajevo. Fatima holds a master's degree in Peace Studies from the University of Sarajevo which she completed with a thesis on „Peace operations of the United Nations in the 21st century. She is the recipient of a special award, the Silver Badge of the University of Sarajevo, as one of the best students of the first and second cycle of studies at the Faculty of Political Sciences of the University of Sarajevo. During and after her studies, she attended numerous seminars, workshops and conferences on the topics of peace, peace building, dealing with the past in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region and participated in the European Solidarity Corps project in Slovenia during 2020.

Muhammad Makki

Muhammad Makki is the Associate Dean of the Center for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) at the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Pakistan. He also serves as an Editor of the NUST Journal of International Peace and Stability (NJIPS). His research interests include Conflict, Peace and Development, the Security- Development nexus, Critical Terrorism Studies, and Post Conflict Development.

Mohammad Hossein Mojtahedi

Hossein Mojtahedi is a lecturer and PhD researcher in the Criminology Department at VU Amsterdam. Situated at the intersection of terrorism and conflict studies, and combining legal doctrinal analysis with empirical research, his interdisciplinary doctoral research focuses on transitional justice and the prevention of radicalization in Iraq's post-IS (Islamic State) landscape. His primary research interests include terrorism and security, conflict and peacebuilding, transitional justice, human rights, and international humanitarian law.

Sweta Mukherjee

Sweta Mukherjee obtained a B.A. (Hons) degree from the University of Calcutta (through Asutosh College, Kolkata) as well as an M.A. and an M. Phil from the Department of History, University of Calcutta. Currently, she is working on her doctoral thesis which broadly aims at writing a Social and Intellectual History of Electrification in West Bengal since the late 1940s to late 1970s. So far, she has contributed scholarly articles in various journals and edited volumes. All the information furnished above is true to the best of my knowledge.

Ajdin Muhedinović

Ajdin Muhedinović graduated from the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Sarajevo in 2016, and obtained his master's degree in 2018 with a thesis titled "The role of SUBNOR in commemorating the People's Liberation War during the 1970s". He is currently a Ph.D. student at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Sarajevo, specializing in the History of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the 19th and 20th centuries. His primary research focus lies within the history of Bosnia and Herzegovina during the Second World War, with a further interest in the region's 20th-century history.

N

Silvia-Lucretia Nicola

Silvia Nicola is a researcher at the Bundeswehr Centre for Military History and Social Sciences. She is currently completing her PhD at the Free University of Berlin, investigating alternative forms of statehood through a case study of the relationship between Germany and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). Silvia's research has a strong empirical foundation derived from extensive fieldwork. Her research interests lie primarily in the areas of security studies, post-conflict transformation and migration. Her most recent publications on the KRI as a "want-to-be-state" will be published this autumn in the edited volume "Sovereignty through Practice: Multiscalarity, Reflexivity, and Interdisciplinarity" with Routledge.

Valida Repovac Nikšić

Valida Repovac Nikšić is Associate Professor at the Department of Sociology at the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Sarajevo. Previously she worked in the Directorate for European Integration, Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina. She holds a Master in Democracy and Human Rights in South-East Europe from the University of Sarajevo and University of Bologna. From 2010 to 2011, she was a visiting Ph.D. Candidate within the Fulbright Program at the University of California, Berkeley. In 2014 Valida earned a Ph.D. in sociology from the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Sarajevo. Her research interests include Political Sociology, Political Theory, and Critical Social Theory. Her work focuses on cosmopolitanism, multiculturalism, active citizenship, and democratic innovations. She published a book entitled *On Cosmopolitanism – Theoretical Debates*. She is the academic coordinator of ERASMUS Mundus IMCEERES for the University of Sarajevo, in partnership with the University of Glasgow and the University of Tartu, Estonia and she is Vice-Dean for Science and Research.

O

Emeka Okoye

Emeka Okoye is a first-year master's student of Peace and Conflict Studies at Otto-von-Guericke-Universität Magdeburg.

Alice Brites Osorio

Alice Brites Osorio holds a Master's in Legal History and Institutions and a PhD in Law and Conflict Resolution from the University of Limoges. Her research focuses on non-human victims in armed conflicts and peace negotiation policies, incorporating indigenous knowledge and ontological plurality to restore human-biosphere relations for sustainable peace and reconciliation. Beyond academia, she is a translator and interpreter in English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese, and collaborates with French and international institutions on migration, public order, ecology, peacebuilding, and reconciliation issues.

P

Mimasha Pandit

Mimasha Pandit is an Assistant Professor in the Department of History, Mankar College, Purba Bardhaman, West Bengal. She received a PhD from Calcutta University in 2016. Her research focuses on the history of culture, ideas and its performance in the wider sphere of public in colonial Bengal. Her dissertation entitled "Performing Nationhood: The Emotional Roots of Swadeshi Nationhood in Bengal, 1905-1912" has been published by OUP, New Delhi. Recently she has written in a vernacular engagement with historical debates *Itihaaser Bitarka, Bitarker Itihaas* (eds. Pratyay Nath & Kaustub Mani Sengupta, Ananda Publishers 2022) and in *Transcultural Humanities in South Asia* (eds. Waseem Anwar & Nousheen Yousuf, Routledge 2022). She also co-edited a volume with Sarvani Gooptu on *Performance and the Culture of Nationalism: Tracing Rhizomatic Lived Experiences of South, Central and Southeast Asia* (Routledge 2023).

Sushobhan Parida

Sushobhan Parida is a Doctoral Candidate (since 2020) and Research Associate (since 2021) at the Heisenberg Chair of International Relations and Transnational Relations at Leipzig University. He has a Master's degree in Public Policy from the Willy Brandt School of Public Policy during which he specialized in Conflict Studies and Peace. His research interests lie in Non-State Armed groups, the effectiveness of peacekeeping and peacebuilding processes, and research methods used in peace and conflict studies.

Jacques Péricard

Professor of Legal History at the University of Limoges, co-director of MA in 'Legal Anthropology and Conflictuality'. In addition to my work on French medieval justice and institutions, I am now devoting more time to legal pluralism, international institutions. This research is mainly based on the exploitation of unpublished archives such as those of the Society of Nations which allow us to understand a lot of issues behind the scenes by focusing on its actors, their lives and their activities.

R

Irena Remestwenski

Irena Remestwenski holds an M.A. in Peace and Conflict Studies from Philipps University Marburg. Since 2020, she has been the Managing Director at the Research Center for the History of Transformations (RECET) at the University of Vienna, where she is responsible for administration, event management, and science communication. In the years 2008-2019, she founded and led the Ukrainian NGO "Center for Dialogue and Reconciliation ISKRA", successfully developing it into the largest partner organization for ERASMUS+ projects in Ukraine. During this time, Remestwenski was also active as a project leader and youth trainer in the field of Russian-Ukrainian dialogue.

Solveig Richter

Solveig Richter is Heisenberg Professor for International Relations and Transnational Politics at Leipzig University. Previously, she was Junior Professor for International Conflict Management at the Willy Brandt School of Public Policy at the University of Erfurt. Her focus lies on external democracy promotion in post-conflict and transition societies, post-conflict peacebuilding, the role of international organizations, esp. the European Union, and on the effectiveness of instruments of civil crisis and conflict management. She has a regional expertise on Eastern Europe, the Western Balkan countries, and Colombia.

Martin Rink

Martin Rink did his service in the German Armed Forces and simultaneously studied history, economics and social sciences at the Universität der Bundeswehr, Munich. In 1998 he earned his PhD, which was awarded the Werner-Hahlweg-Prize for Military History (2nd) in 2000. He has 10 years of experience as a freelance online-publisher and historian. Since 2005 he is associate lecturer at Universität Potsdam, and since 2009 associate lecturer at Universität der Bundeswehr as well as historian at Bundeswehr Centre for Military History and Social Sciences (ZMSBw). His research interests include the history of asymmetric conflicts and history of Bundeswehr. He recently published *Einsatz ohne Krieg? Die Bundeswehr nach 1990 zwischen politischem Auftrag und militärischer Wirklichkeit. Militärgeschichte, Sozialwissenschaften, Zeitzeugen. Ed. with Jochen Maurer, Göttingen 2021.*

Frank Rochow

Frank Rochow studied political science, history and European cultural history in Jena and Frankfurt (Oder), Germany. He worked as academic coordinator in Kyjiv, Ukraine, and was associated to the doctoral programme Austrian Galicia and its Multicultural Heritage in Vienna, Austria, before he started his PhD at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle (Saale), Germany. His dissertation analyses the instrumental usage of fortifications for Habsburg state-building in the 19th century. Since 2023, Frank Rochow is academic assistant at the institute of building history and art history/chair of architectural conservation at the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg, Germany.

Christopher Rohles

Christopher Rohles is a PhD student at the Peace Academy Rhineland-Palatinate of the University of Kaiserslautern-Landau. He studied Political Science at the University of Mainz and at the University of Cologne. In his dissertation project, he performs research on customary authorities and security dynamics in the context of land reform in Sierra Leone.

S

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Mariam Salehi

Mariam Salehi leads the research group “Transnational Conflicts” at the INTERACT Center for Interdisciplinary Peace and Conflict Research at Freie Universität Berlin. Her research focuses on struggles for change and justice, and the knowledge politics of violence. She has previously worked at the WZB Berlin Social Science Center and Philipps-Universität Marburg. Her book “Transitional Justice in Process: Plans and Politics in Tunisia” was published with Manchester University Press in 2022 (paperback 2024).

Juan Pablo Scarfi

Juan Pablo Scarfi is a Professor of International Relations at the Catholic University of Chile and holds a PhD from the University of Cambridge. He was a Visiting Scholar at Columbia University, the UCL Institute of the Americas, the Institut des Hautes Études de l'Amérique Latine (IHEAL), Université Paris 3, and a Fulbright Fellow, Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University. He is the author of *The Hidden History of International Law in the Americas* (Oxford University Press, 2017) and *El imperio de la ley (Empire of the Law)* (Fondo de Cultura Económica, 2014) as well as co-editor of *The New Pan-Americanism and the Structuring of Inter-American Relations* (Routledge, 2022), and *Cooperation and Hegemony in US-Latin American Relations* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016).

Regine Schwab

Regine Schwab is a Political Scientist and Postdoctoral Researcher at the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF) since 2020. Before she was a PhD fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology and part of an interdisciplinary research group on transformations of violent non-state organizations. In 2021, she received her Ph.D. in Political Science at Goethe University Frankfurt with a project investigating cooperation and conflict dynamics between armed actors in the Syrian civil war. Regine Schwab is an expert in peace and conflict research in the MENA region. Her research combines detailed micro-level studies of intrastate conflicts with comparative research and analysis of the implications of these conflicts for international peace and security.

Hendrik Simon

Hendrik Simon is a senior researcher (Post Doc) at the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF). After obtaining a double degree in political science, law and history, he completed his doctorate in Frankfurt in 2022 with an interdisciplinary thesis on the justification of war and international order in modernity. His relevant key publications include *A Century of Anarchy? War, Normativity, and the Birth of Modern International Order*, Oxford University Press 2024; *The Justification of War and International Order. From Past to Present*, Oxford University Press 2021 (co-edited with Lothar Brock), and “Die Suche nach dem Frieden. Einführung in das Forum: Friedenstheorie im Zeichen immer neuer Kriege. Lothar Brock zum 85. Geburtstag“, *Zeitschrift für Internationale Beziehungen* 1/2024 (forthcoming) (with Mathias Albert). Hendrik is an editor of *Völkerrechtsblog*.

David Sinclair

David Sinclair is a PhD researcher at the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, Coventry University, UK. His main research interest is migration and displacement - particularly focusing on the role of Somali diasporic activity in the Somali Regional State of Ethiopia - and he has carried out extensive fieldwork with Somali communities in Europe and East Africa. David has also taught at the undergraduate level at the University of Bristol, and prior to entering academia worked for a number of governmental and non-governmental organizations in the health sector."

Ehlimana Spahić

Ehlimana Spahić is an Associate Professor at the Department of Political Science at the University of Sarajevo- Faculty of Political Sciences. She has a degree in political science, a master's degree in economics, and a doctorate in political science. Her dedication to lifelong learning programs has resulted in numerous diplomas and certificates ranging from foreign languages and management to IT. Her research interests include Political Economy, International Political Economy, Politics and Lobbying, Developmental Studies, and Economic Diplomacy. She has published two books, a handbook, edited proceedings, and several scientific, professional papers and book reviews. During her academic career, she has participated in local and international conferences. In the context of international cooperation, she has participated in teaching (6) and training (2) exchange programs within Erasmus+ Program. In addition, she has successfully implemented several international and local projects.

Srajan Srivastava

Srajan Srivastava is a Doctoral Scholar at the Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, India. An anthropologist by training, he is doing ethnographic research on the lived experiences of Afghan refugees in Delhi from a Public health perspective. Using intersectionality and *ethnoscape* as working concepts, he is trying to understand how lived experiences of this community affected their overall health and well-being as India, not being a signatory to the refugee convention, lacks any targeted socio-political safeguards. Ethnographic fieldwork of more than 2 years has helped cover the nuances of everyday life of this community, covering their economic hardships to legal battles and recording their resilience in adversity.

Lauren Stansfield

Lauren is a Postgraduate Researcher at the Coventry Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations conducting research on human (in)security. She holds a master's degree in Conflict Studies and Human Rights (cum laude distinction) from Utrecht University, Netherlands. Her thematic interests include securitization theory, securitization, human rights advocacy in illiberal democracies, contentious politics, economic and political insecurity, global governance, and the role of civil society actors and citizens. She has completed fieldwork research in the Philippines within the context of the 'War on Drugs' and worked together with Amnesty International, and the Commission on Human Rights in the Philippines.

Anne Lene Stein

Anne Lene Stein is a PhD Candidate in Peace and Conflict Studies at the Department of Political Science at Lund University. She holds a master degree in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of Marburg. Prior to this, she received a MA in Social and Cultural Anthropology from the Free University in Amsterdam. For her PhD, she is researching how agonistic and feminist approaches challenge everyday knowledge systems in Palestine and Israel. Her work examines the interplay of agonistic and antagonistic dimensions in epistemic struggles and embodied protests, framing these interplays as performative, disruptive politics that foster new subjectivities.

Tareq Sydiq

Tareq Sydiq is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Center for Conflict Studies at Philipps- Universität Marburg. He coordinates the Postcolonial Hierarchies in Peace & Conflict network and is principal investigator in the Afprodat project. His research is centered around questions of state-society relationships particularly within authoritarian contexts, reframing and reinterpreting state power through the lens of protest and societal resistance. He has previously researched interest articulation and negotiation in Iran, with fieldwork during the protest movements in 2017/18, and worked as a JSPS fellow at the Center for Relational Studies on Global Crises at Chiba University in Japan.

T

Anuschka Tischer

Anuschka Tischer is a full professor for Early Modern History at the University of Würzburg since 2012 and a member of the Historical Commission at the Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities since 2016. She holds a M.A. (1992) and a Dr.phil. (1998) from the University of Bonn and a Dr.phil.habil from the University of Marburg. She held academic positions and fellowships in Bonn, Riga, Mainz, Marburg, Frankfurt/M., Paris and Wolfenbüttel. In September 2015 she was a visiting professor at the University of Smolensk. Her research interests include the history of war and international law, diplomatic history and the history of Europe.

U

Lucky Igohosa Ugbudian

Lucky Igohosa Ugbudian lectures at the Department of History and Strategic Studies, Alex Ekwueme Federal University NdufuOlike, Nigeria. And presently a visiting fellow at the Institute of History, University of Bern. He trained at the University of Ibadan for BA-History and MA-Peace and Conflict Studies. He obtained PhD in Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Uyo. Dr Ugbudian's research interests peace and conflict, governance, global history and cultural studies. He has published more than twenty papers in journals and chapters in books; and attended several conferences. Dr Ugbudian has won grants and fellowship awards in Nigeria, Germany and Switzerland

Nathaniel Umukoro

Nathaniel Umukoro is a Professor of International Affairs, Peace Studies and Conflict Transformation in the Department of Political Science, Western Delta University, Nigeria. He will serve as a Visiting Research Fellow at the Bonn Centre for Dependency and Slavery Studies, University of Bonn, Germany from October 1-November 30, 2024.

V

Kimngaihoi Vaiphei

Kimngaihoi Vaiphei is a doctoral scholar at the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi where she is working on "Discourses on Peace and Development: A Study of Selected States on the Indo-Myanmar Border," where she seeks to understand the relations between peace and development while seeking to understand the various forms in which peace is understood by the communities living along the Indo-Myanmar Border. She has worked with various NGOs and agencies on human rights, refugee rights and has also worked with state agencies on tribal affairs in India. She is a core member of the Young Tribal Women's Network (YTWN), which is a tribal, feminist collective which was formed as an emergency aid response to the ethnic violence in Manipur, India which has resulted in the largest internal displacement in South Asia in 2023, displacing approximately 70,000 persons.

Joris van Wijk

Joris van Wijk is a professor in criminology at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. His main interests lie at the crossroads of criminology, international criminal justice, conflict-related crimes, transitional justice and (irregular) (asylum) migration.

Juliette Vargas Trujillo

Juliette Vargas holds a Law Degree from the Universidad Nacional de Colombia and a Master of Law (LLM) from the Humboldt-Universität (HU) in Berlin. Her academic and professional experience focuses on human rights law, environmental law, (international) criminal law, transitional justice and restorative justice. She has worked in strategic litigation and research with organisations such as the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights – ECCHR and the José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective – CCAJAR. Additionally, she pursued Music Studies in Colombia and Germany. She is currently scientific collaborator at the German-Colombian Peace Institute (CAPAZ) and a PhD candidate at the KU Leuven.

Amina Vatreš

Amina Vatreš is a teaching assistant and a PhD candidate in the field of communication studies at the Faculty of Political Sciences of the University of Sarajevo at the Department for Communication Studies. Her teaching expertise concerns subjects such as Information Theory, Print Journalism, Media Regulation, Ethics of Public Speech, Media Philosophy and Media Culture. She is focused on media philosophy, new media technologies and its implications on journalism and scientific journalism while dealing with other related topics such as social perception of risk and media-produced politics of fear, deepfake, fake news, technosphere and the posthuman state in the digital age and mediological, communicological and sociological repercussions of digital revolution.

W

Nadja Weck

Nadja Weck is a graduated historian. Born in Berlin, she studied Eastern European History in Frankfurt/Oder (Germany). Her research focusses on urban history and railway history with a specialization on Central Europe and the Habsburg Empire. As a research assistant at the Institute of Austrian Historical Research (University Vienna) she worked within the FWF/DFG-project „The Emperor’s Desk: A Site of Policy Making in the Habsburg Monarchy?“. Her dissertation on „Railway and Urban Development in Central Europe: The Case of Lemberg (Lviv)“ was published in 2020.

Carola Westermeier

Carola Westermeier is currently fellow at the Institute of Sociology, TU Darmstadt, as ZEVEDI Young Investigator. During the fellowship, she is on leave from her position as lecturer and senior researcher (Akademische Rätin) at Justus Liebig University Giessen. She co-leads a project on “Financial Infrastructures and Geoeconomic Security” at the Collaborative Research Centre 138 Dynamics of Security together with Andreas Langenohl. Before, she was a visiting professor (Professurvertretung) at Goethe University Frankfurt and postdoctoral researcher at the University of Amsterdam. Her research connects economic sociology, international political economy, and (critical) security studies. Her current empirical focus lies on financial technologies and (data) infrastructures.

Catherine Whittaker

Catherine Whittaker is an Assistant Professor of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the Goethe University Frankfurt. Her research focuses on structural violence, intersectional discrimination, and decolonialization in Mexico and the U.S.-Mexico border region. She co-edited a 2022 Special Issue on vigilance for the journal *Conflict & Society* and co-authored the 2023 book, “Watchful Lives in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands” (with Eveline Dürr, Jonathan Alderman, and Carolin Luiprecht).

Jennifer J. Williams

Jennifer J. Williams is an award-winning Lecturer in Cyber Security Analysis at Macquarie University. She has a background in cognitive science and is currently completing her PhD in Security Studies at Macquarie University. Her research focus includes improving user-end cyber resilience, understanding public support for extreme government responses to cyber-attacks, and tracking disinformation and foreign influence operations.

Susann Worschech

Susann Worschech, social scientist and senior researcher at European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder), Germany, is scientific coordinator of the KIU. Competence Network Interdisciplinary Ukrainian Studies Frankfurt (Oder) – Berlin. Her research focus is on political sociology of Central and Eastern Europe, with a particular emphasis on Ukraine. She received numerous awards for her academic work in research and teaching, among them the 2019 Brandenburg Postdoc Award for outstanding research in the area of the humanities and social sciences. She serves as a board member of the German Association for East European Studies and member of the advisory board of the digest *Ukraine-Analysen*.

Z

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Volker Ziegler is an architect and urban planner, Associate Professor of Urban Design and Planning at the National School of Architecture (ENSA) in Strasbourg. He is jointly responsible for the Franco-German double degree master's program 'Planning and Building in International Contexts' in cooperation with the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology. His teaching and research focus on cultural transfer in architecture and urban planning.