The Collaborative Research Centre "Dynamics of Security" (SFB/TRR 138) and the Anthropology of Peace, Conflict, and Security (APeCS) network of the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) are organizing the joint, interdisciplinary conference:

Peace, conflict, and security in times of existential crises:

Critical, interdisciplinary, and public engagements

21–22 March 2024, Marburg, Germany

Call for papers

Panel 11. Exploring the Possibilities of Peace in Protracted Conflict Zone: The Case of Kashmir

Convenors:
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Despite the arguable maturing and consolidation of democracy and the consequent attempt on the part of the governing elites to usher in an era of peace and development, aspired for by the democratic polity and mandated by the Constitution, conflicts in Kashmir fail to abate. There are local, regional and international dimensions to the persistence of conflicts in this part of India. Studies keep reminding the stakeholders of the debilitating security situations in this region and its consequences on the affected population. The nature, form and type of conflicts continue to take diverse shapes with the overall effect that all players involved in the conflict face the heat, particularly the weak and the vulnerable who find themselves to be at the receiving end. Various approaches pursued by the successive governments have failed to bring any notable amend in the existing situation. Both the policy of stick as well as carrot, in this region, have time and again shown their incoherence. Various studies have highlighted that, whereas the policy of allurement have led to the appropriation of resources by the powerful few in the region, down-filtrating very less to the intended target, the muscular policies have only led to even more alienation of the masses and thus, in both the cases, leading to further alienation of the people and the problematisation of security scenario. From being a subject of 'development' Kashmir has increasingly turned into a 'securitised' subject. The ensuing situation presents the picture of a complex maze, coming out from which seems impossible. While the international angle posits this conflict as a potential nuclear flashpoint, others see it only as a federal issue. Still others take this in the frame of the politics of inflated aspiration, the politics of religion or the politics of identity. There are environmental, ideological and economic

dimensions too. Scholars have highlighted the role of 'spoilers' and there are studies which see this conflict as an 'industry' deliberately perpetuated.

The idea of this panel proposal emanates from the quest to untangle this maze and try to locate the very focal point from where the prevailing security situations could be understood and the entire efforts get directed towards building a lasting, sustainable and consistent peace in the region. Applying a mixture of critical security studies method and an indepth ethnographic account, papers in this panel will try to decipher the overlapping causes, trace their historicity and untangle the underlying layers, so as to explore the possibilities of establishing peace in this region.

Abstract proposals of up to 300 words, accompanied by titles, names, bios of up to 100 words, and affiliation and contact details of authors should be sent to the convenors by **the 2nd of October 2023**. We expect to notify the selected participants by the 16th of October.

We also remind you that (limited) funding will be available to precarious scholars on a reimbursement of real costs basis. Also, for scholars from the Global South in need of a visa, the organisers can issue letters of invitation.