

7th Peace and Conflict Resolution Conference [PCRC2020]

Event Schedule

Thu, Dec 03, 2020

2:00pm

Welcome from the Director

🕒 2:00pm - 2:06pm, Dec 3

📍 Serbia [Tomorrow People Organization]

🗣️ Speaker



Vladimir Mladjenovic Founder, Tomorrow People Organization

2:06pm

Webster University Panel Introduction

🕒 2:06pm - 2:14pm, Dec 3

📍 Thailand [Webster University Thailand]

2:15pm

Nuclear Russia: International and Domestic Agendas

🕒 2:15pm - 3:00pm, Dec 3

📍 Russia [Ural Federal University]

Nuclear Russia is a book published by Tomsk University in September 2020. The book chapters provide overviews of the following fields: Russian nuclear strategy, Russian-American arms talks, role of Russia in the global nonproliferation regime, Russia's attitude to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, perceptions of Russia's nuclear capabilities typical of the Russian society, national nuclear education, and academic research on nuclear nonproliferation. None of the nine authors belongs to the 'military-academic-diplomatic' community of Moscow that dominates the Russian academic research on nuclear issues. Our views may differ both from the official statements of the Kremlin and from research conducted in think-tanks that are close to the Russian political establishment. In an academic field traditionally monopolized in Russia by the state, the book provides a rare opportunity to hear voices of truly independent researchers.

🗣️ Speaker



Dmitry Pobedash, PhD Ural Federal University

3:00pm

Refreshment break

🕒 3:00pm - 3:15pm, Dec 3

3:15pm

To Do No Harm: The Protection of Human Subjects in 'Difficult Contexts'

🕒 3:15pm - 3:50pm, Dec 3

📍 Thailand [Webster University Thailand]

Conflict, violence, war, and other complex humanitarian emergencies constitute a growth industry for field researchers. Regulation of this research is grounded in the three ethical principles for all human subjects research. These are: 1) Respect for Persons (e.g., informed consent, treatment with dignity and respecting their rights to autonomy); 2) Beneficence - the duty to act in the best interest of the subject, and 3) Justice – minimizing inequities and inequalities in the distribution of benefits and risks of participation in research. These principles create the duty to Do no Harm. The problem explored here is how researchers can shoulder the obligation to do no harm, when the research takes place in contexts that are themselves intrinsically injurious to the human subjects they study.

The central question explored in this analysis is whether the venerable Belmont Report, which first articulated the ethical framework for guiding humane research, is adequately attuned to the unique – and always complex – environments, which are generically referred to as “difficult contexts.” As ever greater numbers of researchers, from an ever-wider array of disciplines and interdisciplinary fields are placing themselves in the dangerous and traumatizing contexts of war, mass atrocity, and other complex humanitarian emergencies, they are, many of them, making enormously insightful contributions to our understanding of these grave human protection phenomena. The training which facilitates their important contributions may not include complex conflict analysis and conflict mapping, however. This knowledge is essential, but by no means sufficient, to enable them to fully shoulder in difficult contexts the ethical obligations of the Belmont Report. The proper indicators of subject vulnerability, and subject capacity for risk assessment, for example, are likely to be entirely different, often far more contextual rather than intrinsic, from that which is the norm in more clinical settings.

🗣️ Speakers



Brett O'Bannon, PhD Webster University Thailand



Webster University Thailand

3:55pm

The Responsibility to Protect Doctrine: A Humanitarian Intervention Mechanism

🕒 3:55pm - 4:15pm, Dec 3

📍 Thailand [Webster University Thailand]

The primary objective of the Responsibility to Protect doctrine (R2P) is to never allow the international community to stand aside in the wake of industrial scale human atrocities and to forbid sovereignty to take precedence over gross human rights violations, such as genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. Originally conceptualized in the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty's 2011 report, it outlined a robust framework for humanitarian intervention. The R2P was officially established as a doctrine at the UN World Summit by Heads of State and Government in 2005. It is regarded as a noble global political commitment due to the very fact that it reinforces the responsibility of heads of state and government to protect civilian populations. After its adoption, it began to take shape and evolve to eventually be mired with complexities and inconsistency.

🗣️ Speakers



Manoug Somakian Webster University Thailand



Webster University Thailand

4:20pm

Covert Operations: Means or Ends?

🕒 4:20pm - 4:35pm, Dec 3

📍 Thailand [Webster University Thailand]

Since the Cold War, covert operations have been one of the most important instruments of foreign policy. This has become even more evident after 9/11, suggesting the indispensable role of the secret intelligence that continues to this date. However, not everything remains secret in covert operations. In recent years, there has been an expansion of covert operations, often conducted in less secrecy and with increased congressional oversight. This study presents a selected history of covert operations and explores all aspects of the definition of covert operations. The main analysis focuses on re-assessing democratic debates in the context of such operations, as well as their impact on the transformation of the concept of war. The aim is to shed light on the nature of covert operations and to provide a framework for analysis by answering the questions of whether covert operations are still covert, and whether they should continue to be understood only as a means of achieving foreign policy objectives.

🗣️ Speakers



Zin Mar Khing Webster University Thailand



Mirko Tasic, PhD Webster University Thailand



Webster University Thailand

4:40pm

Webster panel Q&A

🕒 4:40pm - 5:00pm, Dec 3

🗣️ Speakers



Brett O'Bannon, PhD Webster University Thailand



Manoug Somakian Webster University Thailand



Zin Mar Khing Webster University Thailand



Mirko Tasic, PhD Webster University Thailand



Webster University Thailand

Fri, Dec 04, 2020

9:50am

Opening session DAY 2

🕒 9:50am - 10:00am, Dec 4

📍 Thailand [Webster University Thailand]

Gathering in Webster campus in Bangkok

10:00am

Preparedness and Readiness for Aggressive Actions in Complexity Theory: An Empirical Example Using the Influence of ASEAN on Companies in Myanmar

🕒 10:00am - 10:30am, Dec 4

📍 Thailand [Webster University Thailand]

This work gives a short overview of complexity theory on the basis of interacting agents, as far as relevant for the issue of peace and war. All humans form groups at many interlocking levels, and those groups are always in conflict with each other. Those groups can be described as Complex Adaptive Systems and limited forms of interactions are sufficient to give a description of offensive and defensive interactions between the groups. Those conflicts can be benevolent and an incentive to do better for everybody or very destructive. Preparation for attacks follows a general pattern that is described here for companies considering to export. Because of the fractal nature of those groups the model should be relevant for other groups with other (not peaceful) intentions, including countries, terrorist organizations and other groups. It is hoped that awareness of seeing a group (state, political group, terrorist group) going through those preparatory stages can serve as a warning flag, because the model describes the mobilization of all resources inside the whole group.

🗣️ Speakers



Leslie Klieb, PhD Webster University Thailand



Yee Yee Khaing Webster University, Thailand

10:35am

The Business and Human Rights Project Turns 10: Where We've Been and Where Might We Be Going

🕒 10:35am - 11:05am, Dec 4

📍 Thailand [Webster University Thailand]

In July of this year the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights ("Working Group") in recognition of the upcoming 10 year anniversary of the "unanimous endorsement of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs)" announced the establishment of a new project, the "UNGPs10+ project". The goal of this project is to "drive and scale up implementation of the UNGPs more widely over the next 10 years". As part of the announcement of the project the Working Group made an open call for contributions from the global community regarding experiences over the past 10 years and proposals for a way forward for the next 10.

🗣️ Speaker



Jonathan Blaine Co-Head Regional Compliance and Investigations , DFDL Thailand Ltd

11:10am

Increasing Intercultural Collaboration on College Campuses to Improve Intergroup Relations

🕒 11:10am - 11:40am, Dec 4

📍 Thailand [Webster University Thailand]

There is ample evidence that that the world is increasingly becoming more multiculturally diverse. Globally, many college campuses are often even more diverse than the surrounding areas. Sometimes, such diversity contributes to intergroup tensions and conflicts. While some conflict is inherent in any organization, proper prevention and management strategies can reduce it. Many universities purport to highly uphold the values of inclusion and acceptance of diversity yet may not be doing enough to ensure they "walk the talk." This paper explores the following question: How can the fields of peace and conflict studies and social psychology come together to offer practical solutions? Multidisciplinary collaboration between these fields will likely contribute concrete empirically based suggestions that may lead to greater intercultural collaboration and competencies on campuses which could reduce intergroup tensions and conflicts and improve interpersonal relationships. Both fields already have much evidence to offer that can readily be applied to this complex issue; for example, intercultural collaboration has been demonstrated to be effective at reducing intergroup tensions and improving intergroup attitudes. Evidence based programing could be relevant for university administrators, student affairs staff, faculty, counseling centers, student clubs, and students themselves. Program implementation would likely be in alignment with universities' values and have long term payoffs for both the institutions and their constituents. Future research is encouraged and directions suggested.

🗣️ Speaker



Dr. Amoneeta Webster University Thailand

11:45am

Cyberwarfare: In Desperate Need of a Doctrine

🕒 11:45am - 12:00pm, Dec 4

📍 Thailand [Webster University Thailand]

In the last few decades, the world has seen a rapid development of IT technology, especially in the field of

digital communications where information can now be efficiently removed, distributed, and retrieved in a split second. However, such progress has been accompanied by alarming threats and concerns. The states, as well as non-state actors, have mastered different ways of using technological advancements in threatening ways to obtain confidential information or damage life and infrastructure. This paper examines various cases of cyberattacks, current measures taken by the international community to ensure cyberwarfare prevention, and aspects of an effective doctrine of cyberwarfare whose development and standardization at the international level is necessary today. Accordingly, a proposal was made on what should be included in the doctrine of cyberwarfare with an emphasis on the need to methodically reshape the traditional approach to this issue, to better understand the role that cyberwarfare could play on the battlefield of hybrid wars in the future.

Speakers



Jigme Zangmo Webster University Thailand



Mirko Tasic, PhD Webster University Thailand

12:00pm

Webster panel Q&A

🕒 12:00pm - 12:30pm, Dec 4

📍 Thailand [Webster University Thailand]

Speakers



Leslie Klieb, PhD Webster University Thailand



Jonathan Blaine Co-Head Regional Compliance and Investigations , DFDL Thailand Ltd



Dr. Amoneeta Webster University Thailand



Jigme Zangmo Webster University Thailand



Mirko Tasic, PhD Webster University Thailand

12:30pm

Lunch break

2:00pm

Trauma Recovery, Healing and Peacebuilding with the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP)

🕒 2:00pm - 2:20pm, Dec 4

📍 South Africa [University of KwaZulu-Natal]

The Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) is a peace education program in prisons, educational institutions and various community settings in over 50 countries. AVP has been shown to lead to positive outcomes in developing nonviolent conflict resolution skills and for supporting trauma recovery, healing and broader peacebuilding. Some studies of AVP show its effectiveness in promoting prosocial outcomes of self-esteem, empathy and trust and in reducing anger and stress. Some of these studies used standardized instruments and longitudinal designs. Additional support is found in an even larger body of qualitative studies.

AVP and its derivative programs have reported success in healing and rebuilding community cohesion in post-conflict contexts like Rwanda and Burundi. In some countries, like Uganda and Australia AVP supports the integration of refugees. Facilitators working with war veterans and prison inmates in the USA, have reported positive outcomes from AVP workshops.

The AVP literature includes impact of the program on direct violence with less attention devoted to structural violence. However, in this paper, attempts to explore AVP's contributions to addressing systemic problems like gender-based violence will be discussed. This paper will pay particular attention to AVP's role in post-conflict, transitional and developing contexts where peace education is often not included, and where professional trauma-healing and other psychological services may be limited, withheld or not culturally appropriate.

🗣️ Speaker



Vaughn M. John, PhD University of KwaZulu-Natal

2:23pm

Fostering Critical Reflection and Action on Cyber Bullying Through Action Research

🕒 2:23pm - 2:40pm, Dec 4

📍 South Africa [University of KwaZulu-Natal]

Physical bullying among learners in school and its extension into cyber space brings into focus the complex and troubling phenomenon of cyber bullying. The extension tethers the physical domain to the virtual domain in this form of school violence and its relationship to the virtual schoolyard. This growing phenomenon can be associated with some scholarship and policy uncertainty, inviting community-based research.

Exploring violence in the 21st century requires new approaches given technological advances in social communication (Evans and Giroux, 2015). Given the limited number of intervention-oriented enquiries involving those most affected, this study discusses an Action Research (AR) approach that includes young adult survivors who not only contribute first-hand experiences but identify proactive steps to mitigate cyber-bullying. AR allows for survivor's voices and painful experiences to be heard and honored in authentic and constructive ways.

The rich data from survivors shaped subsequent phases of a multi-phase, multi-method action-reflection process framed by "authentic praxis" (Freire, 1970, p.41). The design created spaces for collaborative knowledge production through partnerships of reflection, sustained dialogue and creative action. This process of mutual learning and understanding led to the development, and piloting of school-based interventions on cyber bullying. The design included survivors, their peers and concerned teachers in a

multi-stakeholder process that encouraged participant agency and social responsibility in acting against injustice through inclusive community-based research.

 Speaker



Suhana Jacobs University of KwaZulu-Natal

2:43pm

Rape, Unrest and Rational Choice: A Cross-National Analysis of Wartime Rape and Natural Disasters

🕒 2:43pm - 3:00pm, Dec 4

📍 Netherlands [Leiden University]

How do natural disasters affect the risk of wartime rape in conflict spaces? To date, research has suggested that natural disasters generate conditions of increased vulnerability to interpersonal sexual violence. Meanwhile, influential literature on security studies points to wartime rape as a socialization tool used by armed groups to create intragroup social cohesion. This study attempts to bridge the gap between these two works of literatures through analyzing the dynamics of wartime rape committed by disaster-affected armed groups. Drawing on the sociology of disaster, this paper proposes that the risk of wartime rape decreases when a natural disaster inflicts high costs in a country that is enduring a civil conflict. Empirically, this paper explores this suggested relationship across 179 countries worldwide during the period 1989-2015. Based on quantitative data on natural disasters, wartime rape and armed conflicts, this research finds that natural disasters are a significant predictor for decreases in the likelihood of wartime rape.

 Speaker

Natalia Aguilar Ruiz Leiden University

3:03pm

Ni Una Mas!/Not One More!

🕒 3:03pm - 3:18pm, Dec 4

📍 Bosnia and Herzegovina [Faculty of Political Science Sarajevo, University of Sarajevo]

Ni una mas! Not one more! ☐☐ Activist-artistic movement, Ni una mas! presents one of the most influent responses to femicide in area of Mexico. Group of artistes painted their pictures with motives of Juarez and Mexico femicide , making also the equivalent to male stream artistic works such as famous Munk's expressionistic painting Scream . This paper is arguing argument : „ the kidnapping, torture, rape, and murder of women in Juarez represents “the most shameful human-rights scandal in Mexico's recent history (Simmons 2006:493). “Simmons also offers two possibilities such as , selling organs of this girls in USA, and the other which is in relation to assumptions in this work, presupposes that reason are „ drug rings, or even groups of young men from wealthy families (los Juniors), might be using these girls in macabre rituals or as part of some sporting contest“(Ibid). Historically, there is an assumption that in the South America, Mexico, Aztecs and cultures of Natchez Indians, had worshipped Goddesses in different forms, there were all sorts of female goddess as counterpart for masculine representations of God. This paper opens retrospective historical approach focusing onto the motives and reasons for femicide , raised by Miles: Weather patriarchal violence that causes wars, as ideology is formed out of the fear of female dominance, that existed B.C., in matriarchal societies.

 Speaker



Lejla Mušić, PhD University of Sarajevo

3:20pm

Non-State Actors and State-Building in the Middle East and North Africa Region: The Case of Armed Groups in Post Qadhafi Libya

🕒 3:20pm - 3:40pm, Dec 4

📍 Hungary [Corvinus University of Budapest]

Non-state actors are playing an increasingly important role in state-building globally, particularly in conflict-stricken regions. The emergence of armed groups in countries such as Libya presents an opportunity for these actors to be involved in political engagement and cooperation with other actors at the domestic level to start the process of state-building after conflict. The objective of this paper is to identify the role that key armed groups have played in, and the level of potential that they have to provide stability for, state-building in post Qadhafi Libya. A typological analysis approach based on legitimacy, resources and support is applied to establish each groups stabilising potential. The paper highlights that the collapse of the Qadhafi regime fragmented the country and saw the rapid rise of armed groups. The findings show that groups considered to be the revolutionary brigades, such as the Tripoli based groups with high community support, have a high stability potential level. Groups with higher international support and low community support such as the Libyan National Army have a low stability potential. This paper concludes that resolving Libya's conflict and beginning state-building requires the political will of all domestic actors involved to come to the table, negotiate and compromise to establish a legitimate government recognised by all; and begin the inclusive re-building process supported by the international community.

Keywords: conflict, non-state actors, armed groups, state-building, Libya

🗣️ Speaker



Buyisile Ntaka Corvinus University of Budapest

3:40pm

Refreshment break

🕒 3:40pm - 3:55pm, Dec 4

3:55pm

PhD Research Proposal: "Myanmar Peace Warriors. Discourses and Strategies of Identity and Interethnic Peace among Youths in Northern Myanmar."

🕒 3:55pm - 4:15pm, Dec 4

📍 Germany

A decade after democratization of Myanmar in 2011, the once promising peace process in Myanmar has stalled. At the same time, a new generation of young peace activists and related interethnic Youth Forums are emerging. However, they have largely been neglected by the existing literature so far: the possible positive and negative impacts of youth on peace processes is grossly understudied and poorly understood. Are young peace activists in northern Myanmar significant for the current peace process and how are they perceiving the political process? Using extensive networks in northern Myanmar, qualitative interviews with leading activists and quantitative data on political attitudes from members in youth organizations, this doctoral project will address this significant gap in the literature to explore these new movements'

underlying agendas, values and its role in the current peace process in northern Myanmar. With a Mixed Methods Research Design, this study will make use of theoretical concepts from political psychology, namely the nexus of Ontological Security Theory (OST) and Conflict Transformation. The results will address a neglected topic in an under-studied region with a focus on a young generation of activists and critically review whether they play a role in the political process and why.

 Speaker



Lukas Nagel Humboldt University, Germany

4:15pm

Q&A

🕒 4:15pm - 4:50pm, Dec 4

Sat, Dec 05, 2020

9:55am

PDF SLIDES ONLY: Reflections on Social Enterprises for Peace in Ward 8 of Seke District, Zimbabwe [PDF SLIDES ONLY - for reference]

🕒 9:55am - 10:00am, Dec 5

📍 South Africa [Durban University of Technology]

***** VIDEO NOT AVAILABLE *****

PLEASE CONTACT PRESENTER DIRECTLY FOR FURTHER ELABORATION

Peace is public good which does not come about on itself. It requires initiatives, participation and involvement of every individual or groups to promote and sustain it. This paper reflects on how social enterprise has taken peace as its primary goal in order to address peace and development bedeviling communities in ward 8 of Seke district, Zimbabwe. It adopted a qualitative research approach because of its reliance on beliefs and experiences that are situational in nature. A sample of 42 male and female adults selected using the purposive sampling technique participated. Results showed that besides addressing hunger, poverty and food insecurity issues, income generating activities is one of the social enterprise mechanisms through which villagers in ward 8 of Seke district are forging togetherness, friendship, mutual assistance and development amongst themselves. Cultural resources were seen as one of the motivating factors for villagers to engage in multiple ventures to sustain and improve their livelihood. Another factor was the belief that peace is never built on empty stomachs. The paper concludes that income generating activities provide opportunities for individuals to create and work in groups, build relationships, address pressing needs, collaborate, create social networks, practice mutual policing, address problems as a collective, and to mediate individual and group conflict. Training in financial literacy and entrepreneurship is needed to scale up such bottom-up initiatives so as to enhance their effectiveness in the district and beyond.

 Speaker



Norman Chivasa, PhD Durban University of Technology

10:00am

The Importance of Raising Awareness on Cultural Property Preservation in Ambon

🕒 10:00am - 10:13am, Dec 5

📍 Indonesia [Soegijapranata Catholic University]

Ambon, the capital of Maluku in Indonesia, features a moderate and inclusive social structure, in particular with regard to differences in race, ethnicity, and religion. Since colonial times, Ambon had become a popular place to settle by peoples from various backgrounds, including Europeans, Chinese, Arabs, Butons, Bugis, and Javanese. These settlers complimented the original Ambonese, which traditionally formed socio-political groups known as negeri (kingdoms). This multiculturalism as an everyday reality had over time become part of being an Ambonese, with common histories and traditions being passed down from generation to generation. One prominent tradition that embodies this fact is the maxim hidop orang basudara (live as brothers and sisters), a sacred cultural value that prioritises peace and reconciliation in the face of social discord. It is related to hidop baku bae (peace), keywords in Ambonese tradition that refer to sacred, dynamic and sustainable cultural strategies to avoid and prevent conflict, and to build sustainable peace between disputing parties. The capacity of the peoples, with their ethnical and religious differences, to nevertheless live together in harmony by emphasising inclusiveness and openness, strengthened their mutual bonds together and their common identity as being part of the greater Ambonese community. In fact, many Ambonese in the past were motivated to champion their belief in peace and reconciliation by acting as agents of conflict resolution outside of Maluku.

While valuable and effective, traditions such as hidop orang basudara and hidop baku bae have to be sustained culturally in order to remain effective. A significant paradigm shift took place in 1979 with the promulgation of national Law (5 of 1979) on Village Governance. This law was an emblematic product of the Soeharto Regime's consistent attempts at national uniformization of governance and its antipathy against local cultures. Amongst others, this law removed core cultural governmental institutions of the Ambonese negeri, which were the main forums involved in the maintenance of peace and reconciliation as the main values of Ambonese culture. Over time, the suppression of these traditional institutions eroded the existence of the values in the Ambonese population.

🗣️ Speaker



Yustina Trihoni Nalesti Dewi, PhD Soegijapranata Catholic University

10:15am

Management of Corona Pandemic in Gujarat-India- A study based on First-hand Information at Zero Ground Level

🕒 10:15am - 10:24am, Dec 5

📍 India [Government of Gujarat]

In the initial stage, a section of big countries including U.S.A., U.K., and INDIA took the Spread of this killer virus lightly and basked in Complacency, so much so that the rulers of these countries were virtually mocking at all those who warned against gravity of the Situation prior to March-2020, when the corona virus had spread here, there and everywhere across the world.

The researcher himself caught infection of Covid -19 and had to be hospitalized at a local Hospital for eleven days, from 1st October to 11th October. Having been confined to a single room of a well-known local hospital, the researcher pondered over impact of this killer virus from Socio-economic point of view and made up this mind to prepare this Paper. The researcher besides possessing a degree in Indian System of medicine has worked in different Government departments in different capacities which includes heading training institutes Understandably, the researcher has made sincere efforts to make this paper interesting and informative as the study is based on firsthand information on the ground level situation prevailing at some of the health centers and hutment areas where the people belonging to lower socio-economic strata reside.

It may be useful to the academicians, Sociologists, health Sector workers, feminists and all those who want to contribute to development of the Society.

🗣️ Speaker



Dr Dinesh Kapadia Government of Gujarat India

10:26am

Peace as "Legal Common Sense": The Case of Cultural Governance through Human Rights Museums

🕒 10:26am - 10:53am, Dec 5

📍 Hong Kong [Hong Kong Baptist University]

This paper critically engages with the growth of cultural actions among governments, urban policy makers, and various kinds of cultural institutions to find ways to translate human rights into accessible ideas and practices for the public for the overall purpose of promoting peace. Broadly, there has been increasing interest in the utility of "cultural well-being" for promulgating a common understanding of rights and peace in conflict-ridden times. An important type of relevant project seen in the last three decades is the construction of human rights museums. As a public cultural institution, a "human rights museum" (HRM) is defined in this project as one that engages in collecting and curatorial exhibition of artifacts with a twofold mission to educate/advocate for the mainstreaming of rights and to memorialize past events of trauma. This definition is consistent with the International Council of Museums' general definition, according to the ICOM Statutes (adopted in 2007). Added to this generality are two important dimensions pursuant to HRMs, namely their relation to cultural governance and to the engendering of a "legal common sense." How do HRMs articulate, manage, and execute their visions of social memorialization and cultural transformation, if not reparation? What sociopolitical factors influence their work? What legal norms and mandates do they attempt to meet in order to help shift nations and groups towards a justice-oriented and "truth-telling" understanding of past violence? What cutting edge museological techniques do they employ? Overall, what is the effectiveness in their utility of culture to deliver and promote the message of peace at the grassroots level and how (or whether) their capacity to do so can be increased?

🗣️ Speaker



John Erni Hong Kong Baptist University

10:55am

Violence in the Name of God - Understanding the causes of Boko Haram

🕒 10:55am - 11:15am, Dec 5

📍 Belgium [Katholieke Universiteit Leuven]

Whereas much scholarly work has been done in attempting to provide a solution to the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria, little has been covered in critically unpacking the different causes and implications of the insurgency. This has in no small way, negatively impacted the efforts of government and other stake holders in proffering solution to the insurgency. This paper therefore comes to abridge a gap that exist in the literature on Boko Haram with regards to the causes. The paper proves that Boko Haram cannot be explained by a single factor. On the contrary, Boko Haram came as a result of an interplay of several factors. The paper has three sections. Section I explains and situates Islamic religious violence in Nigeria while highlighting Boko Haram as its latest manifestation. Section II constitute the crux of the paper. It examines the politico – religious and socio-economic causes of the insurgency and unpacked them individually to unravel the different strata of causes and how they have impacted and fuelled the insurgency. Section IV closes the paper by concluding that there are different factors that interacted with each other in creating this violent group and recommends a thorough investigation into these factors to provide a lasting solution to the insurgency.

🗣️ Speaker



Uche EZE Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

11:16am

Using Falun Gong for Achieving Peace and Conflict Resolution

🕒 11:16am - 11:35pm, Dec 5

📍 USA [Center for Psychology and Mind Studies]

The need for peace building and conflict resolution in our society is crucial. This is because no two individuals or parties see things in exactly the same way. Misunderstandings and conflicts are bound to arise. There is a growing need for an alternative spiritual model for peace building, conflict management, and conflict resolution. Since time memorial, people from different cultures have sought spiritual teachings to achieve harmony and resolve conflicts. Falun Gong, an ancient Chinese discipline, with its roots in Buddhist and Taoist philosophies, serves as one such mind-body spiritual intervention way. Falun Gong's teachings and its three principles of Truthfulness, Compassion, and Tolerance, are qualities recognized by all spiritual traditions and which can be embraced by people from all walks of life for achieving peace and conflict resolution. This presentation offers knowledge and insight into the mindful way of Falun Gong. It ventures to show how Falun Gong can be used for peace-building and conflict resolution in three settings — personal life, workplace, and societal or public domain.

🗣️ Speaker



Margaret Trey, PhD Center for Psychology and Mind Studies

11:35am

Refreshment break

🕒 11:35am - 11:45am, Dec 5

📍 Thailand [Webster University Thailand]

11:45am

Dukkha (suffering) and Nirvāṇa: the Buddhist Psychological "Conflict Resolution"

🕒 11:45am - 12:10pm, Dec 5

📍 Thailand [Webster University Thailand]

This is a preliminary research on a topic that has been investigated by several scholars in the last two centuries, and that is having an enormous impact in several Asian countries in our present times. My analysis is focused on the textual tradition of the Theravada school, and it will use only references taken from the Pali Canon. I will try to show how the crucial goal of the Buddhist philosophical message is the reduction of suffering (dukkha) among the human beings. This positive process is starting from a psychological analysis of the human mind as it is considered the only source of all the possible additional forms of sufferings, including wars and conflicts. The discovery of the original nature of the human mind and the paradoxical awareness of the lack of a "self" will eventually give life to a more peaceful society.

🗣️ Speakers





12:10pm

Q&A & Closing Remarks

🕒 12:10pm - 12:40pm, Dec 5

5:00pm

Guided Meditation "Luminous Pillars of Peace"

🕒 5:00pm - 5:30pm, Dec 5

📍 Belgrade, Serbia

Sophie will lead a guided meditation to bring ourselves to a deeper level of inner peace; we will connect together as a Global Web of Peace, and receive an energy transmission of pure light, infusing our intentions and anchoring ourselves as Luminous Pillars of Peace, all around the planet! As we choose to stand still in the midst of storms, we shall inspire others and offer our Peace to the World! Join and receive this gift of peace for yourself, and be an offering of Peace to the Earth, Humanity and All Beings! Sophie Bidard is a Master Practitioner of Neuro Linguistic Programing, Intuitive Strategist and Master Energy Healer. She is passionate about combining language for personal development and evolution, with pure energy transmissions; she supports individuals and the collective for the betterment of ourselves and the whole of humanity, choosing to live by the highest values of Peace, Truth, Freedom, Love and Wisdom. Since the summer of 2017, Sophie has been called to offer Guided Meditations for Peace, initially the region of Belgrade, Serbia, then expanding to the whole world, gathering hundreds to take a stand as Luminous Pillars of Peace. Each occasion has been a delight for all participants, who have experienced a deepening of their Inner Peace and strengthening of their commitment to World Peace. Welcome!

🗣️ Speaker



Sophie Bidard Personal Coach, Sophie Bidard Personal Development & Evolution