

Call for Papers

Peace between Conflict, Violence and Social Norms: Learning from the Field

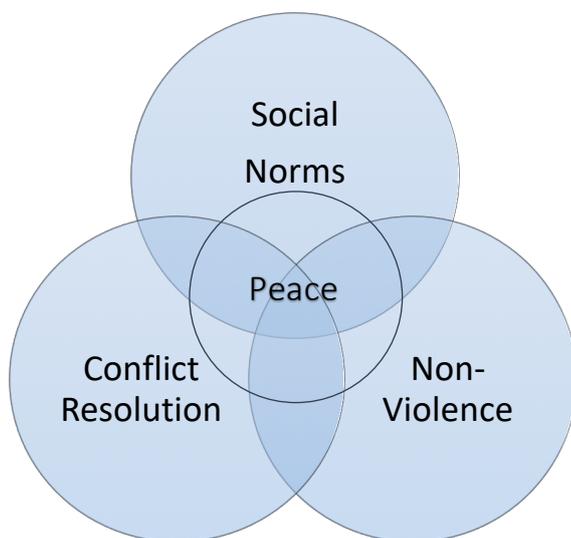
Spring 2020, Kiel

“It is not the presence or absence of conflict, but the manner in which conflicts are resolved, which determines whether a society is, or is not, at peace” (Gerwin 1991: 78).

1. Theme

What determines whether conflicts are settled in a peaceful manner? This workshop suggests that sustainable peace emerges from the interaction between conflict resolution, the reduction of violence and social norms. To understand this interaction, the workshop seeks answers to two questions. First, what actors, institutions and processes help to facilitate non-violence and conflict resolution in war-torn and post-war societies and what role do social norms play in this? Second, what can peace and conflict research learn from theories of norm evolution and vice versa?

Figure 1. Conceptualizing Peace



2. Research Objectives

By bringing together experts on conflict, violence and social norms, the workshop aims to make two contributions to academic knowledge.

First, the workshop adopts an empirical and comparative approach in order to explore the connections between conflict resolution, non-violence and social norms. This involves looking at the leading questions from a critical and cross-cultural angle, open to the fact that a wide variety of political, sociological, and cultural actors, institutions, processes and social norms may shape whether personal, group or inter-state conflicts are resolved in a non-violent manner in diverse national and international contexts. Of particular interest are countries where levels

of violence are high and the social norm of peaceful conflict resolution has broken down or where they are in the process of being rebuilt after prolonged periods of war.

Second, the workshop seeks to connect these empirical findings to the growing literature on norms within the discipline of International Relations. It explores what can be learned from theories of norm evolution about the factors that contribute to strengthening or weakening norms of peaceful interaction. Moreover, it examines how the empirical insights presented by the participants can enrich these theories and contribute to the integration of theories of norm evolution into theories of conflict resolution and sustainable peace.

3. Preliminary Workshop Structure

The workshop panels will be structured around five themes:

1. Conflict, Violence and Norms: Frameworks for Analysis
2. Insights from Post-conflict States
3. Insights from Conflict States
4. What Makes Peace? On Similarities and Differences
5. Concluding Session

4. Outcomes

To disseminate the workshop's findings, we are planning to approach the editors of international peer-reviewed journals such as *International Peacekeeping* and *Cooperation and Conflict* with a proposal for a forum or special issue on conflict, violence and norms. The workshop also seeks to establish a network of scientists with the objective of applying for collaborative research funding.

5. Participation

Please let us know by 18 December 2019, if you are able to join us and whether you would prefer the workshop to be held at a) Thursday & Friday 20-21 February 2020, or b) Monday to Tuesday 2-3 March 2020? Participants are asked to submit a paper title and abstract of ca. 250 words.

6. Contact Addresses

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