

### **Peace in Plural: Decolonial (and) Feminist Approaches to Peace(-building)**

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In recent years, and due to the evident failure of the liberal peace enterprise, we have witnessed the emergence and popularisation of critical theoretical and empirical peace(-building) scholarship that has generated interest in ‘local’ voices and local conceptualisations of peace, everydayness, empowerment, and participation. Even though critical peace studies and the so-called ‘local turn’ claim to focus on counter-hegemonic paradigm(s) for social change and empowerment of marginalised voices, which could lead to equity, justice, and sustainable peace, they still largely concentrate on the role of ‘the West’ in conceptualising peace and peacebuilding. This Western focus largely fails to account for the intersecting oppressions, exclusions, and injustices, compounding crises to peace in differing historical and global contexts, and most importantly, further invisibilises different ways of knowing and living ‘peace’.

Provoked by the limitations of such critical conceptualisations of peace, we centre the contributions of decolonial and feminist thinking in envisioning desirable, alternative futures. In our approach, we strive to cultivate the awareness and acceptance of the discomfort that arises from the realisation that a straightforward and technocratic vision of a ‘blueprint peace’ is neither enough, nor peaceful in its very essence. All the while, we remain mindful not to romanticise decolonial and feminist knowledges. Instead, we aim to think through both sets of critiques, engaging with their subversive and enriching potential, which encourages us to imagine alternative, possible and desirable future(s). This is not only relevant, but also necessary to discuss at this critical juncture in history, which finds a multiplicity of global crises unfolding in parallel to existing violent conflicts and the discipline of International Relations grappling with the limitations of its ‘canon’.

We seek to bring together contributions that analyse intersecting inequalities and the ways in which structural, environmental, racial, gendered, and material realities continue to exclude the already marginalised voices and people whose lives have been curtailed by the limits of peacebuilding practice and peace imaginaries more broadly. By drawing on and putting in conversation extensive decolonial and feminist traditions from different parts of the world, we focus on the notion of peace (instead of war and its undoing) and explore pluriversal avenues for sustainable and just peace.

We welcome contributions from various epistemic, methodological, disciplinary, and geographical perspectives, that examine ‘doing peace differently’ and imaginaries of peace from ‘the periphery.’ We especially welcome contributions that engage with one or more of the following questions:

- What alternative ways of approaching and knowing peace are there?
- Who produces and/or cultivates knowledge about the peace?
- What kind of peace imaginaries and possible future(s) emerge from decolonial (and) feminist thought, literature, art, activism, and praxis?
- Whom are those alternative peace future(s) for, to whom do they belong, how can they be built, and who can build them?
- What tensions exist within and between different approaches to ‘doing peace’ from ‘the periphery’?
- Is a plurality of peace(s) possible and desirable?