

Call for Papers
EWIS Workshop 2023

Reimagining Peace and Conflict: Young People and the Production of World Politics

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Young people are often talked about as 'the future', but what can taking children and youth seriously as agents and subjects of world politics offer understandings of war and peace? How can paying attention to how children and youth are *already present* in conflict and its resolution offer new paths forward for reimagining war and its end?

Conflict disproportionately affects young people around the world. Children and youth are central to some of the key challenges and events of interest to scholars of peace and conflict studies—from the climate crisis, to the conflict in Ukraine, humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, and emergence of far-right organisations. Yet, there is an enduring paradox of children and youth's simultaneous presence and marginalisation in global peace and security practices. Given this, close attention to the ways children and youth participate in peace and conflict as well as how institutions, states, and organisations understand and interact with young people, offers the potential to enrich our ways of thinking about the future of peace and conflict.

Children and youth have largely been seen in binary and overly simplistic ways by mainstream and humanitarian discourses in international relations: as either threats to be managed or victims to be protected. Powerful yet problematic ideas of so-called 'youth bulges' prompted attention about the relations between large youth populations, particularly young men, and the supposed likelihood of social unrest and political violence. More recently this securitization of youth has proliferated in P/CVE discourses which frequently racially profile young people and seek to control. On the other hand, children have been subsumed into feminised frameworks of care and incompetence as captured by Cynthia Enloe's observation that wars are fought to protect "womenandchildren". Children who participate in violence can only be understood as risks or 'out of place' who must be saved by the international community. These simplistic characterisations have limited the capacity of scholars to see children and youth as worthy of study and left the discipline poorer for these oversights.

There has, however, been dedicated scholarship that challenges this paucity of work via careful attention to how children and youth appear as objects of IR, as well as how they act as subjects with their own agency and capacity to both participate in violence and build peace in complex ways. With growing attention within the international community on the role of children and youth, including the establishment of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda at the UNSC in 2015 it is timely to attend to how young people produce and are produced by world politics.

We invite contributions from across the social sciences and humanities that work on questions of children and young people's role in reimagining war and peace. Contributions may fit under the following themes:

- ***Children, Youth, and Everyday Militarisms*** (eg: education, play, national holidays)
- ***Children In and Of War*** (eg: soldiers/ migrants/ child trafficking/ child labor/ family life)
- ***Children, Youth and the Governance of Peace*** (eg: international institutions / state responses/ the 'doing' of peacebuilding/ children's rights)
- ***Children and Youth as Peace Actors*** (eg: debates on trauma/healing, resilience, participation, and peacebuilding)