

Call for Papers, EWIS 2024

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Workshop: Thinking, Knowing, and Doing Peace Otherwise

Convenors: Sladjana Lazic (sladjana.lazic@uibk.ac.at), University of Innsbruck and Elena Stavrevska (elena.stavrevska@bristol.ac.uk), University of Bristol

The last few decades have seen an extensive and rapid flow of both academic and policy reflections on and criticisms of the shortcomings, if not the inherent violence, of the liberal peace paradigm, as well as the peacebuilding approach and infrastructures informed by and built around it. The critiques have questioned the implicit strengthening of asymmetric colonial racialized power structures in the way knowledge about peace, development and order has been produced. While these anti-hegemonic evaluations have shed light on the inherent limitations of the dominant paradigm, they have, nonetheless, fallen short of creating alternatives beyond the given and accepted anthropocentric, modern-dualist real and possible. Notwithstanding the importance of the anti-hegemonic (re)forms of the peacebuilding academic and policy industrial complex, this workshop aims to move beyond them and consider how we can think of, know, and do peace otherwise.

Building up on anticolonial, decolonial, postcolonial, critical race, Indigenous, queer and feminist academic and political critiques and alternatives practices of worldmaking, we ask – if peace for all is impossible within a violent system, built around the extractivist anthropocentric global racial capitalism and cis-heteropatriarchy, how can we ponder and build beyond it? How do we account for global injustices when discussing peace and peacebuilding? If we envision and work towards just and equitable peace otherwise, in a relational manner that respects the needs and knowledges of all humans and other than humans, what must we un-learn and un-do? Additionally, how can we awaken and build capacities from and for the unknown, instead of working on building resilience for the old pain(s)?

The goal of the workshop is to bring together contributions from within, and hopefully, from outside of academia too, that offer diverse epistemological, methodological, disciplinary, and geographical borderlands' perspectives in examining how to think, know, and/or do peace otherwise. In doing so, the workshop aims to highlight alternatives that go beyond the current hegemonic understandings and approaches to peace, and beyond the academic industrial complex at a time when the crisis and the inherent violences of the liberal peace enterprise and the liberal international order more broadly could not be more obvious.

In that spirit, we welcome interventions that potentially broadly consider some of the following topics:

- Whether and how do/can we circumvent the disciplining powers of onto-epistemic and structural hierarchies of the neoliberal academic industrial complex that prescribe and limit our ways and modes of knowing and knowledge creation about peace, security, development and order?
- What kind of understandings, sensibilities, concepts and tools would/do we need in order to think-feel-imagine our way out of the current predicaments?
- How does global (in)justice operate through concepts and practices of peace and peacebuilding?
- Who can/should we listen to, learn from and with to start moving towards just, equitable, caring and generative futures?