

Anti-militarist Solidarity in a Fractured World: Ethics, Resistance and Methodologies

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Call for Papers

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As new and ongoing wars span the world, states, markets, and societies converge to scale up rearmament and embed militarised “security” into daily life. Following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, for example, the United States and its European allies have rapidly expanded defence budgets, intensified NATO cooperation, and, in some cases, even reintroduced mandatory conscription. This emphasis on military power is further contextualised by Israel’s genocide in Gaza, and by the historical and ongoing use of political violence as part of resistance against it. Militarised notions of security are also seen more domestically: urban spaces are increasingly marked by counter-terrorism drills and visible armed patrols, borders are reinforced, and education curricula and online platforms are adjusted to monitor critical voices against military development. In parallel, climate breakdown, cost-of-living crises, democratic backsliding, and digital technologies amplify precarity for those least protected by the “security” promised in their name.

Despite this, critical voices against militarism remain robust globally, challenging the necessity and ethics of accelerated organised violence. This critique is rooted in the belief that states and societies must prioritise nonviolent approaches instead of military development to provide security and peace. Examples of these movements include grassroots activism, peace organisations, political parties and civil society coalitions. Yet, these anti-militarist arguments are often marginalised in public and scholarly debates, recast as naïve or complicit. They frequently face accusations of appeasement, disloyalty, or “fifth-column” sympathies, narrowing policy imagination.

Our workshop aims to put these anti-militarist voices in conversation, inviting interdisciplinary approaches and innovative methodologies to explore the question of what anti-militarism should look like today and how it could be practiced.

We welcome papers that engage with, but are not limited to, the following themes:

- Normative and ethical reflections on war and anti-militarism
- Practice of anti-militarism at the grassroots level
- Nonviolence and pacifism, including practices of nonviolent civilian protection, debates on combat service refusal during war and more
- Contemporary research on peacekeeping and peacemaking
- Critical legal, ecological and geopolitical perspectives on anti-militarism
- Critical Security Studies and critical war studies, especially contributions that move beyond describing the impact of militarism to explore pockets and dynamics of protest, resistance and disavowal