

## EWIS 2026

### Call for Papers

#### **Syria after the war: From an international crisis to an international project of peace**

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The Syrian interstate conflict (2011- 2024) has generated multiple crises: the so-called ‘refugee crisis’, a surge of violence that reached its peak with Assad’s usage of chemical weapons and ISIS’s atrocious violence inside and outside Syria, ethnic and religious divisions that have sprung in different directions and across several counties between different sectarian and ethnic groups inside and outside Syria, and the list continues. The Syrian civil war was a complex conflict involving several countries and non-state actors, resulting in hundreds of thousands of deaths and the displacement of nearly half the population. Its consequences have left deep and lasting impacts both domestically and internationally. This multidimensional nature of the war has intensified its negative effects and made it far more resistant to resolution.

However, after the overthrow of the Assad regime, hope emerged. What was once an international crisis could be turned into an international project of peace. This workshop explores how a range of actors, such as international organizations, local civil society groups, members of the Syrian diaspora and refugee communities, as well as ordinary and subaltern individuals, can harness the multidimensional nature of the crisis and transform it into a resource for peacebuilding in Syria. In other words, because the Syrian crisis has already engaged diverse actors and extended across multiple sectors and geographies, deliberately connecting these actors and integrating these fields of engagement can lead to more effective and sustainable outcomes.

Guided by these objectives, the workshop aims to explore the following overarching questions, while welcoming further pertinent contributions:

- How can local and international actors, both collective and individual, contribute to shaping a peaceful future for Syria? What forms of collaboration are required, and what key barriers and resources influence these efforts?
- In what ways can Syria serve as a case for developing new models of international cooperation and solidarity, particularly at the level of transnational and international civil society?
- Which local initiatives, events, or practices can be identified as models or entry points for peacebuilding in Syria?
- How do refugees envision or resist the prospect of returning home? What conditions shape decisions around return, and what are the social, political, and economic implications of return or non-return?
- How does the Syrian pursuit of justice inform or advance models of cooperation and participation at grassroots, national, and international levels in support of transformative and transitional justice processes?
- What lessons from other post-conflict or conflict-affected contexts (governance models, return initiatives, intergroup relations, etc.) can inform pathways toward a peaceful Syria?