

Abstracts

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The »New Wars« Thesis through the Prism of Post-colonial Theories and Critical Peace Research

A Plea for Emancipation from Past Burdens of Simplicity

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With the »new wars« Mary Kaldor and Herfried Münkler have provided a debatable concept whose immanent methodological and theoretical inconsistencies have been pointed out from the perspectives of various scientific traditions. Despite multifaceted criticism, a systematic examination of the scientific and political influence of the »new wars« hypothesis as well as of its accompanying discursive formations (i.e. failed states, interventions) is still lacking. Based on a post-colonial theoretical approach we will discuss alternative conceptions that will expand previous critical approaches. The article will reveal the »new wars« notion of war and statehood both as simplistic eurocentrism and as a discursive practice that invents and essentializes subaltern identities and favors or even promotes the legitimization of western (military) interventions – thus contributing to the consolidation of existing global structures of order and power.

Keywords: »new wars«, failed states, intervention, post-colonial theory, conflict studies, eurocentrism

Julia Grauvogel/Thomas Diez

Framing and Securitization: The Discursive Construction of Climate Change

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The securitization of the environment plays a core role in the discussion about changing perceptions of international security. Numerous studies suggest that climate change and environmental degradation will lead to conflict either directly (because of distributional conflict) or indirectly (for instance due to migration flows). However, this constitutes only one understanding of the climate change-security nexus. We question this notion by linking securitization theory as developed by the Copenhagen School with a framing approach. Different frames securitizing climate change vary with respect to the referent object they invoke as well as the causal connection between global warming and the security implications they postulate. These problem diagnoses also lead to the suggestion of specific policy responses,

which sheds new light at the apparent paradox that numerous securitizing moves have not yet led to extraordinary measures in the Copenhagen School sense.

Keywords: securitization, climate change, framing, discourse, environmental security

Julian Bergmann

Reputation, Credibility and Manipulative Negotiation Style – Attributes of Successful Peacemakers?

Literature Review on the Conditions of Mediation Success

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This article reviews the political science literature on international mediation and discusses the empirical findings of studies that focus on the question of how mediators' characteristics and their negotiation strategies influence the success of mediation in intra- and interstate conflicts. Concerning different types of mediators, states and international organisations show a similar degree of success in mediating agreements, while states are more successful when it comes to low intensity conflicts and international organisations are more prone to facilitate settlements in high intensity conflicts. The evidence concerning the effect of mediator's impartiality and credibility on mediation outcomes is inconclusive, partly because of different definitions and operationalisations of these concepts. Partial mediators, however, seem to be potentially as effective as impartial mediators. Manipulative mediation strategies are most likely to lead to settlements between conflict parties, but at the same time increase the long-term risk of recurrence of violence.

Keywords: mediation, mediation strategy, peace negotiations, bargaining theory

Anne Menzel

Between Domination-Knowledge and Irrelevance: Field Research and the Struggle with Policy-Relevance

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Field research in crisis and post-war contexts has become a »normal« and increasingly indispensable component of contemporary peace and conflict studies as they endeavor and are expected to produce policy-relevant knowledge. Most of all, field research is crucial in the production of improvement-knowledge on and for peacebuilding; and because peacebuilding has tended to produce disappointing results, the demand for new and better improvement-knowledge remains insatiable – especially since every new critical thought and resulting recommendation usually comes with new challenges and problems that need to be anticipated, addressed, managed

etc. Against this backdrop, the article raises the question whether field research holds critical potentials aside from and beyond the production of improvement-knowledge. It proposes an ethnographic search for irritating perspectives and the confrontation of peacebuilding-»truths« as a promising alternative strategy and, drawing on two recent studies, describes its critical potentials.

Keywords: critique, peacebuilding, productive irritation, domination-knowledge, field research

Vera Kahlenberg

Are We Talking about Refrigerators? What Peace and Conflict Research Can Learn from Critical Development Education

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This paper is intended to convey my unease concerning peace and conflict research and – based on my personal experience – identify various causes of and justifications for this unease. I contrast these problems with approaches from critical development education, because my thesis is that doing so can illuminate blind spots in peace and conflict research. This should encourage the integration of similar approaches in research on and the teaching of peace and conflict studies. I argue for self-reflection and a process to raise awareness among peace and conflict researchers in relation to their position and role in global power structures as well as for considering the related consequences.

Keywords: (Self-)reflection on peace and conflict research, critical development education, racism, colonialism

Anne Romund

Contributions of Peace Education to Teaching Peace Studies Using the Example of Peace Counts

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This article argues that peace education offers innovative contributions to teaching peace studies at universities, which are still not systematically applied. Peace education formulates necessary peace competences, develops subject specific learning arrangements, creates activating learning methods and audiovisual materials. Apart from imparting knowledge peace education also seeks to train practical skills of students. Taking the example of Peace Counts, this article discusses the potentials of adapting a learning arrangement, which has been tested in different contexts, for teaching peace studies. By using journalistic reports and impressive photographs about successful peacebuilding approaches, contents of peace studies can be learned

more sustainably. The materials offer a micro perspective on conflicts and peace-building, they can be used for biographic learning and suit the needs of different learners due to their multimedia character. In practical seminars students gain experiences in conceptualizing and facilitating workshops and thus train their peace education competencies.

Keywords: peace education, didactics, teaching, journalism, competencies

Simone Wisotzki

The Illicit Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons as a Global Challenge: Implications for a Revision of German Arms Export Policy
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The illicit trafficking of small arms and lights weapons (SALW) remains a considerable challenge for efforts of building peace and preventing violent outbursts of conflicts. This article argues that quite often the illicit proliferation of SALW starts with legal arms exports. German arms export policies should therefore become more cautious, particularly when transferring SALW to certain states, especially in the Middle East. The current German arms export policy remains contradictory and ambivalent. Germany has been among the first states to ratify the Arms Trade Treaty which seeks to regulate global conventional arms trade through common legally-binding rules. Nevertheless, Germany continues to export SALW to states actively engaged in conflict or infringing on human rights of their citizen.

Keywords: arms control, disarmament, firearms, violence, United Nations