



Conflict Resolution Strategies for Peace

Module: (SOT86707) International Security - Seminar 2

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Day and Time: W 13:15–14:45
Course Format: *Onsite*

Seminar Description

This module aims to provide students with an opportunity to read and discuss a range of scholarly literature on how peace settlements can be achieved, and the role of third-party interventions in steering countries toward peace. After an introduction to peace research and the main theories of peace, the module explores the conditions leading to peace settlements, including third-party interventions, mediation, economic sanctions, and foreign aid, with a particular emphasis on UN peacekeeping operations. Starting from week 9, students will engage with literature examining the effectiveness of UN peacekeepers, particularly in the context of civil wars. By the end of the seminar, students will be able to link theoretical approaches to contemporary conflicts and design a research project on a peace-related topic.

Seminar Style

Each session is based on required readings, which participants must review prior to the session. Consequently, all attendees are expected to grasp the key points from the required readings and contribute comments or critiques during group discussions. The reading list indicates which readings are eligible for presentation. Recommended readings are optional.

Examination of the module

The module grade is based on a written examination in the form of a seminar paper (13 – 15 pages). Through their seminar paper, students will document to which extent they have gained a foundational understanding in the area of digital transformations in civil conflicts and peace operations. The seminar paper is accompanied by a presentation (10-15 min) to test the communicative competence of presenting scientific topics to an audience. The presentation must be supplemented by a short-written handout.

- **Presentation (20%):** Each session contains a presentation part of 12-15 minutes per student. For each presentation, a handout of max. two pages is prepared. The presentation (1) summarizes the core statements of the supplementary texts briefly, (2) clarifies theoretical connections using empirical examples chosen by the students themselves, and (3) places the topic in the larger seminar context. In addition, (4) media supporting the content are used (e.g. blackboard, presentation slides, etc.) The presentation serves as content preparation for the seminar paper.
- **Seminar Paper (80%):** Written paper of 13-15 pages (without bibliography and title page) based on a theoretical question in the context of the seminar topic. The seminar paper explores the compulsory texts and the supplementary reading for a session in more depth. In addition, further secondary and primary sources should be consulted to answer the chosen question. Topic, question and approach can be discussed and determined together with the lecturers during the lecture period. If you would like to take advantage of this, please prepare a draft of your seminar paper (topic/session, possible question, theory, case selection) of no more than one page and send it by e-mail to the lecturer at least three days before the office hours. The seminar paper must be submitted via Moodle by **March 15, 2025** (midnight) at the latest.

Session Overview

Session	Session Date	Session Title
1	16.10.2024	Course Overview & Introduction to Peace Research
2	23.10.2024	Theories of Peace
3	30.10.2024	Intervening to Promote Peace
4	06.11.2024	Economic Sanctions and Conflicts
5	13.11.2024	Foreign Aid and Peace
6	20.11.2024	Mediating Civil Conflicts
7	27.11.2024	Ending Wars with Peace Accords
8	04.12.2024	Gender Inclusive Peace Negotiations
9	11.12.2024	Peacekeeping Operations
10	18.12.2024	Keeping Peace at the Local Level
11	08.01.2025	UN and Non-UN Peacekeeping Operations
12	15.01.2025	Peacekeeping and Democracy Assistance
13	22.01.2025	The Broader Effects of Peacekeeping Operations
14	29.01.2025	Final Presentations
15	05.02.2025	Wrap-up Session

Required Textbook
Mason, T. D., & Mitchell, S. M. (Eds.). (2023). What do we know about civil wars?. Rowman & Littlefield.

Course Sessions and Readings

Session 1: Course Overview & Introduction to Peace Research	
Required Readings	Course Syllabus
	Galtung, J. (1969). Violence, peace, and peace research. <i>Journal of peace research</i> , 6(3), 167-191.
	Lawler, P. (2008). Peace studies. <i>Security Studies</i> , 97-112.
Recommended Reading(s)	Gleditsch, N. P., Nordkvelle, J., & Strand, H. (2014). Peace research—Just the study of war?. <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> , 51(2), 145-158.

Session 2: Theories of Peace	
Required Readings	Gawerc, M. I. (2006). Peace-building: Theoretical and concrete perspectives. <i>Peace & Change</i> , 31(4), 435-478.
	Tickner, J. A. (2019). Peace and security from a feminist perspective. <i>The Oxford handbook of women, peace, and security</i> , 15-25. (Presentation)
Recommended Reading(s)	True, J. (2020). Continuums of violence and peace: A feminist perspective. <i>Ethics & International Affairs</i> , 34(1), 85-95.

Session 3: Intervening to Promote Peace	
Required Readings	What do we know about civil wars? (Chapter 6)
	Balch-Lindsay, D., Enterline, A. J., & Joyce, K. A. (2008). Third-party intervention and the civil war process. <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> , 45(3), 345-363. (Presentation)
Recommended Reading(s)	Lounsbury, M. O., & DeRouen Jr, K. (2018). The roles of design and third parties on civil war peace agreement outcomes. <i>Peace & Change</i> , 43(2), 139-177.
	Bayer, A. K. (2013). Peace processes in Colombia: International third-party interventions. <i>Journal of Peace, Conflict & Development</i> , 20, 61-80.

Session 4: Economic Sanctions and Conflicts	
Required Readings	Escribà-Folch, A. (2010). Economic sanctions and the duration of civil conflicts. <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> , 47(2), 129-141.
	Lektzian, D., & Regan, P. M. (2016). Economic sanctions, military interventions, and civil conflict outcomes. <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> , 53(4), 554-568. (Presentation)
Recommended Reading(s)	Peksen, D. (2011). Economic sanctions and human security: the public health effect of economic sanctions. <i>Foreign Policy Analysis</i> , 7(3), 237-251.

Session 5: Foreign Aid and Peace	
Required Readings	Findley, M. G. (2018). Does foreign aid build peace?. <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i> , 21(1), 359-384.
	De Ree, J., & Nillesen, E. (2009). Aiding violence or peace? The impact of foreign aid on the risk of civil conflict in sub-Saharan Africa. <i>Journal of Development Economics</i> , 88(2), 301-313. (Presentation)
Recommended Reading(s)	Sexton, R., & Zürcher, C. (2024). Aid, Attitudes, and Insurgency: Evidence from Development Projects in Northern Afghanistan. <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> , 68(3), 1168-1182.

Session 6: Mediating Civil Conflicts	
Required Readings	What do we know about civil wars? (Chapter 7)
	Wiegand, K., Rowland, E., & Keels, E. (2021). Third-party knowledge and success in civil war mediation. <i>The British Journal of Politics and International Relations</i> , 23(1), 3-21 (Presentation)
Recommended Reading(s)	Greig, J. M., & Regan, P. M. (2008). When do they say yes? An analysis of the willingness to offer and accept mediation in civil wars. <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> , 52(4), 759-781.
	Savun, B. (2008). Information, bias, and mediation success. <i>International studies quarterly</i> , 52(1), 25-47.

Session 7: Ending Wars with Peace Accords	
Required Readings	What do we know about civil wars? (Chapter 8)
	Mattes, M., & Savun, B. (2010). Information, agreement design, and the durability of civil war settlements. <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> , 54(2), 511-524. (Presentation)
Recommended Reading(s)	Maekawa, W., Ari, B., & Gizelis, T. I. (2019). UN involvement and civil war peace agreement implementation. <i>Public Choice</i> , 178, 397-416.
	DeRouen Jr, K., Ferguson, M. J., Norton, S., Park, Y. H., Lea, J., & Streat-Bartlett, A. (2010). Civil war peace agreement implementation and state capacity. <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> , 47(3), 333-346.

Session 8: Gender Inclusive Peace Negotiations	
Required Readings	Krause, J., Krause, W., & Bränfors, P. (2018). Women's participation in peace negotiations and the durability of peace. <i>International interactions</i> , 44(6), 985-1016.
	Thomas, J. L. (2024). Sisters Are Doing It for Themselves: How Female Combatants Help Generate Gender-Inclusive Peace Agreements in Civil Wars. <i>American Political Science Review</i> , 118(2), 831-847. (Presentation)
Recommended Reading(s)	Kostovicova, D., & Paskhalis, T. (2021). Gender, justice and deliberation: Why women don't influence peacemaking. <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> , 65(2), 263-276.

Session 9: Peacekeeping Operations	
Required Readings	What do we know about civil wars? (Chapter 9)
	Fortna, V. P. (2004). Does peacekeeping keep peace? International intervention and the duration of peace after civil war. <i>International studies quarterly</i> , 48(2), 269-292. (Presentation)
Recommended Reading(s)	Dorussen, H. (2014). Peacekeeping works, or does it?. <i>Peace Economics, Peace Science and Public Policy</i> , 20(4), 527-537.

Session 10: Keeping Peace at the Local Level	
Required Readings	Ruggeri, A., Dorussen, H., & Gizelis, T. I. (2017). Winning the peace locally: UN peacekeeping and local conflict. <i>International organization</i> , 71(1), 163-185.
	Dworschak, C., & Cil, D. (2022). Force structure and local peacekeeping effectiveness: micro-level evidence on UN troop composition. <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> , 66(4). (Presentation)
Recommended Reading(s)	Campbell, S. P. (2020). UN peacekeeping and peacebuilding: Progress and paradox in local ownership. <i>Ethics & International Affairs</i> , 34(3), 319-328.
	Smidt, H. M. (2020). United Nations peacekeeping locally: enabling conflict resolution, reducing communal violence. <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> , 64(2-3), 344-372.

Session 11: UN and Non-UN Peacekeeping Operations	
Required Readings	Bara, C. and Hultman, L., 2020. Just different hats? Comparing UN and non-UN peacekeeping. <i>International Peacekeeping</i> , 27(3), pp.341-368.
	Kim, W., & Sandler, T. (2022). How Do Non-UN Peacekeepers Affect Civilian Violence? An Instrument Investigation. <i>International Peacekeeping</i> , 29(5), 780-803. (Presentation)
Recommended Reading(s)	Gaibullov, K., George, J., Sandler, T., & Shimizu, H. (2015). Personnel contributions to UN and non-UN peacekeeping missions: A public goods approach. <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> , 52(6), 727-742.
	Bara, C. (2022). Non-UN peacekeeping. In <i>Handbook on Peacekeeping and International Relations</i> (pp. 102-116). Edward Elgar Publishing.

Session 12: Peacekeeping and Democracy Assistance	
Required Readings	Blair, R. A., Di Salvatore, J., & Smidt, H. M. (2023). UN peacekeeping and democratization in conflict-affected countries. <i>American Political Science Review</i> , 117(4), 1308-1326.
	Fjelde, H., & Smidt, H. M. (2022). Protecting the vote? Peacekeeping presence and the risk of electoral violence. <i>British Journal of Political Science</i> , 52(3), 1113-1132. (Presentation)
Recommended Reading(s)	Smidt, H. (2020). Mitigating election violence locally: UN peacekeepers' election-education campaigns in Côte d'Ivoire. <i>Journal of peace research</i> , 57(1), 199-216.
	Kissling, J. R., & Smidt, H. M. (2023). (UN-) Protected Elections—Left for Good? Withdrawal of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and Its Effects on Violence During Electoral Periods in War-Affected Countries. <i>International Peacekeeping</i> , 30(2), 165-197.

Session 13: The Broader Effects of Peacekeeping Operations	
Required Readings	Kirschner, S., & Miller, A. (2019). Does peacekeeping really bring peace? Peacekeepers and combatant-perpetrated sexual violence in civil wars. <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> , 63(9), 2043-2070.
	Bakaki, Z., & Böhmelt, T. (2021). Can UN peacekeeping promote environmental quality?. <i>International studies quarterly</i> , 65(4), 881-890. (Presentation)
Recommended Reading(s)	Di Salvatore, J. (2019). Peacekeepers against criminal violence—unintended effects of peacekeeping operations?. <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> , 63(4), 840-858.

Session 14: Final Presentations	
Structure	10-minute presentation, supplemented by a short-written handout that outlines the research question, theoretical expectations, and the methodology.

Session 15: Wrap-up Session	
Structure	The final session includes a brief review of the previous sessions, a discussion of any remaining questions, and feedback from students on the course structure.

Research Paper Guidelines

Formal

Length	13-15 pages, excluding references and title page
Font-size	Standard (Times New Roman 12)
Line spacing	1.5
Submission	Upload via Moodle: LASTNAME_ModuleNumber.pdf
Citation style	Any common social science citation style is accepted, e.g. Harvard in-text citation – Author (Year: pages). Important is that the used citation style is uniform and consistent throughout the paper. (Hint: Use a reference management program, e.g. EndNote)

Structure

Title page (1 page)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title of the paper (as precise and pertinent as possible, indicating the topic and approach, not be the same as the research question) • Name, student number, degree/program, email for contact, date, seminar name and reference, lecturer
Introduction (2-3 pages)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear and precise presentation of the research problem and question, as well as its relevance • Development of a research question (formulated as a direct question that is answerable)
Main part (10-12 pages)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concise presentation of the current literature on the topic • Argumentation for the selection of your theoretical approach • Formulation of theoretical propositions, eventually hypotheses • Presentation of the selected methods and scientific approach • Justification for case selection and empirical focus • Empirical research and evidence of one or more cases that can support (or falsify) the theoretical propositions • Evaluation, analysis and interpretation of the empirical results/evidence collected on the basis of the theoretical propositions
Conclusion (2-3 pages)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear answer to the research question • Summary of results and conclusions from the theoretical analysis
References	Complete list of sources used (primary and secondary literature)
Appendix	Signed declaration of independence