



Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Friedens- und Konfliktforschung e.V.
German Association for Peace and Conflict Studies

Call for Papers/ Panels for the Young AFK Conference 2023!

Title: “Have some discipline!

The plethora of study areas in peace and conflict research: advantage or challenge?”

About Young AFK

Young AFK is the junior organization of the The German Association for Peace and Conflict Studies (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Friedens- und Konfliktforschung e.V. – AFK) and is aimed at scholars and students who locate themselves in the interdisciplinary research field of Peace and Conflict Studies , as well as people from the non-academic field who are interested in aspects of global political and social issues. From 29.03.2023 to 30.03.2023, our every other year AFK Colloquium preceding emerging scholars*Conference will take place in Berlin. Therefore we are looking for your contributions!

Background

Peace and Conflict Studies offers a thematic field in which scholars*, activists, teachers, and not least students from a variety of academic disciplines and theoretical and methodological backgrounds study and work.

Relevant disciplines are, for example, sociology, political science, history, (human) geography, architecture, social work, philosophy, psychology, law, biology, but also a variety of other humanities and natural sciences. Thus, peace and conflict research is situated in the midst of a broad field of possibilities, but also tensions. Many topics in Peace and Conflict Studies need and benefit from an interdisciplinary approach:

The climate crisis, for example, exacerbates inequalities between the global South and North, within international regions, and not least within societies. If the climatic changes already observed now, as well as research on climate impacts, favor social tipping points, global social movements can push governments to act. Cascading, the climate crisis can threaten health and food security of people, lead to migration and displacement as a push factor, and result in violent riots between groups as well as states due to conflicting goals. In terms of international law, the climate crisis is also being researched through the lens of peace and conflict studies, raising the issue of climate justice.

Also in research and analysis on the attack by Russia on Ukraine, multi- and interdisciplinary approaches offer the possibility to understand the conflict, its possible causes, as well as its effects on different levels in a more sensitive and complex way. This can be done with a view to global and regional dynamics, but also historically, socio-psychologically, with a special

knowledge of different minorities, or decidedly political-scientific, as is the case with the view also of feminist foreign policy.

While at universities the affiliation to established disciplines is underpinned, research projects, teaching methods and innovative research approaches nevertheless need inter-, multi- and transdisciplinary perspectives and methods. Furthermore, there is also a noticeable tendency on the part of research funding institutions to promote interdisciplinary research approaches and projects. Thus, the demand for standardized and cross-disciplinary comparable knowledge as well as (to a certain extent) comprehensible and standardized education must be reconciled with constantly changing demands on science and teaching as well as the context in which they take place.

However, the disciplinary diversity that constitutes and enriches R&T also raises the question of whether R&T can and wants to be its own discipline entirely or rather is a catch-all term for relevant research that takes place in other disciplines. In fact, the approach of anti-disciplinarity completely rejects the discipline-oriented order of science, as well as such critiques that disciplinarity not only helpfully limits but actively constrains innovative science and reproduces established epistemic and power-expressing structures.

True to the theme of the conference, we welcome contributions from all scientific disciplines and perspectives.

Possible topics could include:

Basic questions about disciplinarity: How disciplined should the FuK be? Which disciplines should be more represented, which are disproportionately represented? How could this be changed and is this even necessary?

Views onto FuK from the perspective of different disciplines. We especially welcome contributions from disciplines that are often less present in the field.

Feminist perspectives, as well as post- and decolonial research in peace and conflict studies: Are there other ways to research power structures?

What does it take to reveal knowledge and power structures?

Practical relevance of R&C: What place does activist work have in research?

Interdisciplinarity in research on specific topics: Promoting inequalities and marginalization with reference to the bio-physical impacts of the climate crisis.

What methods/terms does trans-disciplinary/multi-disciplinary/interdisciplinary field of Peace and Conflict Studies need?

What are the obstacles and opportunities of multi- and interdisciplinarity of FuK with regard to studying, teaching as well as to research? What are the strengths, disadvantages or special features of multidisciplinary studies, and how can or should these aspects (not) be used in teaching? What challenges does multidisciplinary pose in the master's and doctoral programs/ for young scientists?

What obstacles and opportunities do the different approaches to R&T offer with regard to the exploration of new fields of conflict and topics?

Submission

For individual contributions as a part of a panel, please send us an abstract of about half a page.

For panel proposals or proposals for alternative formats, please send us an approximately one-page outline of the panel topic, proposed papers, or alternative format.

We would like to emphasize that we are explicitly not 'only' interested in contributions stemming from PhD projects or completed Master's theses, but also welcome creative formats such as presentations stemming from research seminars or similar projects.

Please send your abstracts to junge-afk@web.de by 11/15/2022. We are seeking external funding and will endeavor to cover or support travel and accommodation costs for contributing participants.