



Peace and Mobilities

“Pragmatics of Peace on the Move: Challenging Perspectives on Mobility-Related Conflictivity”

15-17 January 2025

Bielefeld University, ZIF (Center for Interdisciplinary Research)

ABSTRACT

The conference "Pragmatics of Peace on the Move: Challenging Perspectives on Mobility-Related Conflictivity" serves as the inaugural meeting of the “Peace and Mobilities” project, funded by the EU through the MSCA-Staff Exchange program. The primary objective of this meeting is to foster discussion and raise initial questions regarding the relationship between the peace perspectives held by individuals in forced mobility and the ways in which these perspectives are enacted.

The overarching goal of the workshop is to stimulate an introductory debate on the key questions raised by the aforementioned project. The central concern is the relationship between peace and mobility, an issue that has become increasingly urgent in the context of ongoing and escalating forced displacements—both across national borders and within states—and the concomitant rise in tensions and conflicts in receiving countries and areas.

It is essential to address the different forms of violence to which individuals on the move are exposed: threats to life (such as armed conflict, state repression, and criminal violence) in their place of origin, life-threatening dangers during the migration process, and frequent hostility and discrimination in receiving contexts. In this context, it is important to reflect on the relationship between voluntary and forced movement. Expulsion entails the loss of home and rootedness, as well as constraints on migratory conditions. However, even in these adverse circumstances, various forms of individual or group agency remain possible. In what sense can we speak of forced mobility, and what are the implications of this concept?

Even forced displacement does not preclude all forms of self-determination by individuals and groups at risk. While those fleeing often experience extreme violence, this does not negate the possibility that they may also be motivated by a pursuit of peace, albeit within an unequal power dynamic. The key distinction is that expulsion is pure violence, whereas movement itself does not represent lack of peaceful aspirations. Another important dimension of the complex



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relationship between forced mobility and peace is that, in their struggle for survival or improved living conditions, displaced persons often seek to reach societies or regions that are not engaged in armed conflict. However, the absence of belligerent violence does not eliminate the presence of conflict. In this sense, as noted earlier, migrants' search for peace may encounter a particular form of violence that paradoxically seeks to preserve former "peaceful constellations" that existed or are perceived as existing previously to the arrival of displaced people.

Most importantly, the discussion must center on how people on the move—who flee violence and are increasingly met with rejection and antagonism—can still foster peace and create conditions for conviviality. At the heart of this issue is a notion of peace that does not exclude all forms of violence but instead emphasizes efforts to reduce it. This concept represents a form of 'peace from below,' pursued by individuals and groups affected by violence, with the aim of alleviating antagonisms and aggression. As a form of 'everyday peace,' it seeks to improve the living conditions of those involved. In this context, the focus is particularly on those who suffer the most from violence. How do they manage to mitigate the violence directed at them? And, ultimately, why is it they who bear the responsibility of seeking peace?

Last but not least, what role can art play in fostering peace in these situations and contexts? One possibility is that art can intervene in both perception and communication. It has the potential to strengthen the social fabric, not only by projecting imaginaries and visions of community and relationality, but also through the specific aesthetic experiences it offers to the viewer. This may also involve participatory and inclusive practices within the artistic process itself, where art is produced collaboratively and within a community.

Thus, the congress aims to analyze, from conceptual, methodological, artistic, and practical perspectives, the conditions for the possibility—or impossibility—of these peace proposals. It will examine internal displacements in Colombia and Ukraine, as well as international displacements from Venezuela, Central America, and Ukraine to Colombia, Mexico, Germany, Italy, Spain and other regions. Additionally, the congress will seek to conceptualize key terms such as forced mobility, everyday peace, the relationship between movement and peace, and the pragmatics of peace. It will also explore how peace aesthetics are developed through collaborations between academics and artists. Forced migrants will be invited to present their peace proposals and share how they have implemented them in practice. Scholars from various disciplines will also participate, fostering an interdisciplinary dialogue.

VENUES

Conference and Lunch	Dinner	Hotel
Bielefeld University, ZIF (Center for Interdisciplinary Research) Methoden 1, 33615 Bielefeld	Hofbräu am Alten Rathaus Niederwall 25, 33602 Bielefeld	Waldhotel Brands Busch, Furtwänglerstraße 52, 33604 Bielefeld

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PROGRAM

15 January 2025

12:00–13:00 | Registration and lunch (ZIF)

Participants are invited to have lunch, sign in and collect their event materials.

13:00–13:30 | Welcome and brief introduction

Gianluca Coluccio, European Union Research Programme Officer

Joachim Michael and **Camilo Forero**, Bielefeld University

13:30–16:00 | Session 1: Movement, Violence and Peace

“Building Peace in Exile? How Displaced People Perceive and Foster Peace”

Nadine Segadlo, Osnabrück University

“Notes on Anger at the Time of the End of the World”

Sergio Rojas, Universidad de Chile

“What do we Understand by Forced Migration? A Conceptual Discussion”

Camilo Forero, Bielefeld University

“Is it Possible to Think of a Peaceful future? Temporalities of Peace”

Sebastián Martínez, Hannover University

Moderated by: Joachim Michael, Bielefeld University

16:00–16:30 | Coffee Break

16:30-18:30 | Session 2: Forced Displacement and Peace in Latin America

“Ecologies of Mourning and Daily Peace from the Work of Women in the Atrato River. Chocó. Colombia”

Natalia Quiceno, Universidad de Antioquia (Attending online)

“Venezuelan Displacement: State Building, Human Rights & Peace”

Feline Freier, Universidad del Pacífico (Lima)

“Migration Policy and Peace? Perspectives from Chile”

Neida Colmenares, Universidad Central de Chile

Moderated by: María Gabriela Trompetero, Bielefeld University

19:30 | Dinner

Hofbräu am Alten Rathaus

16 January 2025

9:00-10:15 | Keynote:

“All That is Solid Melts into Mobility and Conflict: Immobility and Climate-Related Migration as a Socio-Ecological Question”

Thomas Faist, Bielefeld University

Moderated by: Camilo Forero, Bielefeld University

10:15-10:30 | Coffee Break

10:30-12:30 | Session 3: Searching Peace on the Move

“Ukrainian Diaspora’s Response to the War in Ukraine. The Case of Germany”

Iryna Lapshyna, Osnabrück University and Ukrainian Catholic University

“Oral History as a Lens: Exploring Migration Dynamics and Mental Structures in Historical Contexts”

Serhii Bilivnenko, Zaporizhzhia National University

“In Search of Everyday Peace While Waiting: Love, Food, and Senses of Belonging of People on the Move across the Colombia-United States Migration Corridor”

Yaatsil Guevara, Heidelberg University

Moderated by: Mustafa Aksakal, Bielefeld University

12:30-14:00 | Lunch Break (ZIF)

14:00-16:00 | Session 4: Questions of Peace: Aesthetics and Paradoxes

“Aesthetics of Everyday Peace”

Frank Möller, www.imageandpeace.com

“The Problem of Peace Aesthetics in the Context of Mass Displacement”

Esteban Mizrahi, Universidad Nacional de la Matanza

“(Building) Peace Under Attack? On the (im)possibilities of answering violence with non-violence”

Joachim Michael, Bielefeld University

Moderated by: Sebastián Martínez, Hannover University

16:00-16:30 | Coffee Break

16:30-18:30 | Session 5: Diasporas’ Roles in Peacebuilding in the Homelands

“Voices from the Distance: The Venezuelan Diaspora's Role in Peacebuilding and Peacekeeping”

Victoria Capriles, Independent Researcher (Attending online)

“Commemorating Genocidal Violence in Bosnia-Herzegovina Transnationally – The Case of the White Armband Day”

Johanna Paul, Independent Researcher

“Transnational Bridges for Memory”

Helena Uran, Writer and Journalist

Moderated by: Camilo Forero, Bielefeld University

17 January 2025

09:30-11:30 | Session 6: Justice and Memory: Diasporas' and Forced Migrants' Initiatives

“The Power of the Diaspora: Building International Justice from Exile with a Gender Perspective”

Thairi Moya Sánchez, Universidad Complutense de Madrid

“Colombian Truth Commission: Perspectives from Exile”

Ana María Linares, Colombian Truth Commission in Germany (tbc)

“The power of organized diasporas. Case: Coalition for Venezuela”

Ana María Diez, President *Coalition for Venezuela*

Moderated by: Lorena Villate, Heidelberg University

11:30-11:45 | Small break

11:45-12:30 | Final Discussion and Reflections

Roundup and Perspectives

An interactive session to synthesize insights and conclusions from the conference

12:30 | Lunch (ZIF)
