

## Introduction

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### **Abstract:**

Welcome to the inaugural issue of The *Global Journal of Peace Research and Praxis*. The editorial staff is committed to developing a journal that will allow authors to address the many complex issues that peace and conflict professionals often face in today's violent and chaotic world. Our approach in putting this journal forward is to engage actors in the field who are practicing conflict transformation and those researching peace at local, community, national, and regional levels. Readers can expect cutting-edge articles integrating peace research and conflict transformation.

**Keywords:** peacebuilding | peace and conflict | conflict transformation

### **Article:**

**\*\*\*Note: Full text of article below**

## Introduction

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Welcome to the inaugural issue of *The Global Journal of Peace Research and Praxis*. The editorial staff is committed to developing a journal that will allow authors to address the many complex issues that peace and conflict professionals often face in today's violent and chaotic world. Our approach in putting this journal forward is to engage actors in the field who are practicing conflict transformation and those researching peace at local, community, national, and regional levels. Readers can expect cutting-edge articles integrating peace research and conflict transformation.

Peacebuilders operate in environments that are complex, ambiguous, and vague. They are called to engage the *wicked problems* that mark our times (Matyok & Schmitz, 2014). War, inter-ethnic violence, environmental change, and poverty are representative of the many complex problems peacebuilding professionals are challenged to confront. Considering the speed with which these problems advance, it is necessary to leverage technologies to provide practitioners and scholars with timely and relevant research and insights.

Conflict is inherently messy and often manifests itself as ill-defined patterns in multi-dimensional space. Those analyzing conflicts today are confronted with an incredible number of problems that resist resolution. Considering the complexity of conflict, an emerging body of scholarship is developing around Peace and Conflict

Studies (PACS) as both a design and integrative field of study. Design as a field moves beyond scientific knowing that tells us what something is, and the humanistic disciplines that provide a perspective on what something means. As such, design knowing allows us to investigate what can be (Mendoza & Matyok, 2012).

As an integrative field of study, we actively seek articles and reviews from across disciplines. More than inter/trans/multi-disciplinary, a PACS orientation integrates actions across academic and practice fields in a focused effort to build institutions of peace and positively transform conflict in affected environments.

A major goal of the journal is to provide voices that are often silenced a place to speak. The Peace and Conflict Studies narrative should be a continuously emerging one. Diverse and marginalized voices are encouraged to submit articles and reviews.

We believe that for knowledge to be of maximum use, it needs to reach practitioners and scholars rapidly. Our world and its conflicts are moving at hyper-speed. In an effort to bring cutting-edge articles forward, the editorial staff is enthusiastic about using a rolling publication format. The goal is to publish one volume per year, uploading manuscripts within six weeks of final acceptance.

We invite articles and reviews in the areas of peace and conflict theory, research, and practice at all levels of practice and scholarship.

## References

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- Mendoza, H. R., & Matyók, T. (2012). We Are Not Alone: When the Number of Exceptions to a Rule Exceeds its Usefulness as a Construct, it is Time for a Change. In *Meanings of Designed Spaces*, Tiiu Vaikla-Poldma (Ed.). New York, NY: Fairchild.