



VARIETIES
OF PEACE

Call for papers studying relational peace

Workshop May 7-8 at Uppsala, organized by Malin Åkebo, Johanna Söderström and Anna Jarstad (Varieties of Peace Program, Umeå University).

Much research on peace conceives of peace as a situation or a condition in a state or society. When agency enters this literature it is often when peacebuilding or resistance toward certain forms of peacebuilding are discussed. The role of agency and specific actors, and their relations in turn is often not part of the literature which describes what peace is. We suggest that taking a relational view of peace serious can be a fruitful avenue for expanding current theoretical frameworks surrounding peace as a concept, as well as providing more theoretically grounded empirical work. In order to pave the way for such empirical work we have developed a new framework, which we believe can be applied to numerous different cases and to different levels of analysis. The framework builds on three main components of relational peace: behavioral interaction, subjective attitudes towards the other, and idea of the relationship. In this framework, we argue that *a peaceful relation entails behavioral interaction that can be characterized as non-domination, deliberation and/or cooperation between the actors in the dyad, the actors involved recognize and/or trust each other and believe that the relationship is one between legitimate partners and/or ultimately an expression of friendship*. We suggest that relational peace can be identified at different levels of analysis, from relationships between states to relationships between individuals or groups in divided societies. We argue that a relational approach to peace has many merits. For instance if we regard peace as a relationship between actors at different levels of society peace and war become a web of multiple interactions, and it becomes clear how peace and war can co-exist, rather than be two mutually exclusive categories.

We call for papers that are interested in using this framework in case-study analysis of relational peace, which can include relationships at different levels of analysis and cases in a variety of geographical contexts. The aim of the workshop is to work towards a joint publication, either in the form of an edited volume or a special issue.

Please submit your abstract (200 words) **no later than 31 January, 2019**, via e-mail to johanna.soderstrom@umu.se

Those accepted to the workshop will receive the full-length description of the framework upon acceptance (early February), and the Varieties of Peace Program will cover your accommodation, food and travel expenses to the workshop. Papers are expected to be submitted by May 1, even if they are early draft versions at this stage.

For more information about the Varieties of Peace Program, see
<https://www.varietiesofpeace.net/>