

Peace, Conflict and Security in Times of Existential Crises

*Critical, interdisciplinary, and public
engagements*

International Conference of the Collaborative Research
Center “Dynamics of Security” and the Anthropology
of Peace, Conflict, and Security network of the
European Association of Social Anthropologists

Philipps University Marburg | March 21–22, 2024



Mural at Metropolitiz, Rome. Photograph by Ana Ivasiuc

Conference theme

We seem to be living in a time of crises that overlap and exacerbate each other, steering the world toward the brink of destruction. Multiplying armed conflicts, the consequences of climate change and fears of nuclear destruction, the rise of far-right ideologies and governments, economic turmoil, all these are vividly debated and give rise to a broadly shared sense that ours is an age of existential crisis. But contemporary situations of turmoil have long been on the make, and existential crises have been ongoing in many regions of the world. Thus, there is a historicity to current developments that is easy to overlook, and there are experiential registers that do not always find their way into dominant depictions of existential crisis. The aim of our conference is threefold.

First, we aim at **deconstructing dominant narratives of existential crisis** by showing the historicity of today's crises and their perceptions, and the ways in which multiple overlapping and sometimes contradictory processes have led to the current state of turmoil in the world. What do historically informed accounts of today's environmental, social, political, and economic destruction tell us about the structural conditions that have led to crisis in different contexts, as well as about various forms of agency that have emerged as influential in the process? What does a comparison of articulations of crisis from the 'Global North' and the 'Global South' reveal about how processes and perceptions of turmoil differ in different contexts? Which theoretical frameworks allow best for maximally inclusive epistemologies, crucially including decolonial perspectives, that afford a complex and nuanced understanding of the current world in turmoil? How do different dimensions such as the law, authority and power, and knowledge articulate in processes that both shape and name crises as such?

Second, we aim at **strengthening interdisciplinary understandings of existential crisis that are grounded in solid empirical and historical examinations**. How can different disciplines enrich each other's conceptual apparatuses, methodological toolboxes, and theoretical articulations through a collective exchange that highlights potentialities for interdisciplinary collaboration? What can emerge from the combination of anthropology's attentive eye to lived experiences and methodological preference for long-term ethnographic engagement with the conceptual malleability of critical security studies, the interdisciplinary richness of

peace and conflict studies, and the historicization of perceptions of and responses to existential crises?

Third, we aim at **enhancing the academy’s possibilities of engaging critically with the broader public regarding the articulation of responses to burning issues** that occupy the public space of debate in our times of crises. What can empirically informed examples of collective action in the face of multiple crises tell us about other ways of being in the world that could offer (at least partial) responses to the pauperization, segregation, exclusion, and extermination of large swathes of the world’s population? What enables and shapes different collective responses to the contemporary crises, from nationalist and nativist movements seeking redefinitions of collectivity to environmental movements such as Extinction Rebellion, from mutual aid groups to communities of preppers, from peace activism to militarizing groups of civilians seeking the protection of particular territories?

Programme Overview (as of 20 March 2024)

Thursday, 21 March 2024

9.00-10.00	Registration and welcome W02, Lecture Hall 01		
10.00-11.30	Keynote Lecture 1: Prof. Dr. Inken Schmidt-Voges W02, Lecture Hall 01H01		
11.30-12.00	Lunch snacks		
12.15-14.00	Panel 1 B07, 010	Panel 2(1) B07, 101	Panel 14(1) B07, 105
14.15-16.00	Panel 6(1) B07, 010	Panel 2(2) B07, 101	Panel 14(2) B07, 105
16.15-18.00	Panel 6(2) B07, 010	Panel 7 B07, 101	Panel 3 B07, 105
18.30-20.00	Roundtable discussion F02, B008		
20.00-22.00	Dinner reception, F02, B008		

Friday, 22 March 2024

9.00-10.45	Panel 5 B07, 101	Methodology Lab B07, 205	Panel 9 B07, 301
11.15-12.45	Keynote Lecture 2: Prof. Dr. Rebecca Bryant W02, Lecture Hall 01H01		
12.45-13.30	Lunch snacks		
13.30-15.15	Panel 10 B07, 101	Panel 12 B07, 205	Panel 13 B07, 301
15.30-17.15	Panel 11 B07, 101	Academic (Un)Freedom in Times of Existential Crises: An Open Exchange B07, 205	

Conference Programme

Thursday, March 21

9:00-12:00 *Conference Opening*

9:00-10:00 *Registration and Welcome*

W02 **Welcome & Opening address**

Prof. Dr. Thorsten Bonacker, Speaker of the Collaborative Research Center "Dynamics of Security"

Dr. Ana Ivasiuc, President of the European Association of Social Anthropologists & co-convenor of APeCS

Prof. Dr. Andreas Langenohl, Board member of the Collaborative Research Center "Dynamics of Security"

10:00-11:30 *Keynote Prof. Dr. Inken Schmidt-Voges, U Marburg*

Existential Crisis? Perception, Media and the Rise of the 'Potent Ruler' in 16th Century Europe

Chair: Andreas Langenohl

11:30-12:00 *Lunch Snack and Registration*

12:15-14:00 *Parallel Panels I*

B07, 010

Panel 1. Performance, Culture and the Celebration of Security: Militias Providing Entertainment

Convenors: Laurens Bakker, Erella Grassiani, Stephen A. Millar

Ahmad Moradi, *New media of an ageing revolution: Basij Militias wielding cameras in Iran*

Laurens Bakker, *Singing and dancing security: the public displays of Indonesian militias*

Stephen A. Millar, *Voicing Ulster's volunteers: Loyalist songs and the Northern Ireland conflict*

Nir Gazit and Erella Grassiani, *Entertainment for the Masses: The Popularization of Civilian Securitization in Israel's Periphery*

B07, 101

Panel 2. Security from the Margins in Times of Existential Crisis (Session 1)

Convenors: Ernst Halbmayer, Philipp Naucke

Ernst Halbmayer and Philipp Naucke, *Introduction: Security from the margins*

Zaki Arrobi, Jolien van Veen, *Securitizing the more-than-human in Jakarta, Indonesia, and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: A comparative perspective*

Daniela Triml-Chiiflard, *We are family: Lakou security in the Dominican-Haitian borderland: Making kin and homes across state borders*

Lydia Letsch, *Borderland realities in North Africa: Reimagining security narratives and practices*

B07, 105

Panel 14. Ethnographic Inquiry, Decolonial Epistemologies, and Ethics in Peace, Conflict and Security Research (Session 1)

Convenors: Neslihan Yaklav, Ana Ivasiuc

Pascale Schild, *Solidarity as responsiveness: locating the ethical in ethnographic research on conflict, crisis and struggle*

Eilat Maoz, *Babylon: A Jamaican theory of police*

Ilam Khan, *Unearthing the contextual complexity: An ethnographic exploration of conflict dynamics in Swat Valley and the borderlands*

Iida Käyhkö, *Self-defense and special warfare: Security theorisation from the Kurdistan Freedom Movement*

Gordon Ogutu, *Researching the marginalized, oppressed and over researched: The lived experiences of refugees living in protracted refugee crisis in Kenya's Kakuma Refugee Camp*

14:15-16:00

Parallel Panels II

B07, 010

Panel 6. Contemporary Discourses on Conflict Management in Africa (Session 1)

Convenor: Nnamdi Ajaebili

Rania Khafaga, *Accommodating Tuareg in the Sahel region: A tale of two peace processes*

Chikodiri Nwangwu, *Border governance, migration securitization and economic integration in Africa*

Nnamdi Ajaebili, *Existential crises in postcolonial Nigeria: Deconstructing the historical antecedents of Biafra separatism*

Siyum Adugna Mamo, *Violent pursuit of Sidaqma statehood in Ethiopia*

B07, 101

Panel 2. Security from the Margins in Times of Existential Crisis (Session 2)

Convenors: Ernst Halbmayr, Philipp Naucke

Mariam Taher, *In the shadow of territory: Gendered in/securities in Siwa, Egypt*

David Rypel, *Security multiple: living a secure life as a queer person in Georgia*

Catarina Frois, *From the margins: security, crime and prison confinement*

Leonie Jantzer, "You don't think about your future":
Interpretations of security among forced migrants living in collective accommodation centers in Germany

Marco Krüger, *Caring about security and securing care: On biases, diversity and the potential of resilience*

B07, 105

Panel 14 Ethnographic Inquiry, Decolonial Epistemologies, and Ethics in Peace, Conflict and Security Research (Session 2)

Convenors: Neslihan Yaklav, Ana Ivasiuc

Waseem Iftikhar, *Structures of false consciousness – ethnographies and narratives in peace and conflict research*
Julia Buyskykh, *Emphatic ruptures: How to think beyond colonial epistemology*

Aino Korvensyrjä, *West Africa perspectives on German immigration law: Activist ethnography of deportation*

Neslihan Yaklav, *The utilisation of suicide attacks by Partiya Karkerên Kurdistanê (PKK)*

Livnat Konopny Decleve, "This is what my fear told me": *The coloizer as researcher and Research Ethics*

16:15-18:00

Parallel Panel III

B07, 010

Panel 6 Contemporary Discourses on Conflict Management in Africa (Session 2)

Convenor: Nnamdi Ajaebili

Chukwuka E. Ugwu, *Women and conflict mitigation in Africa*
Sebastian O. Onar, *Conceptualizing the strategies for the mitigation of ethno-national politics in Nigeria amidst the fallouts of the 1885 Berlin treaty*

Abutu Freeman Gabriel Adikwuoyi, *Democracy, corruption, poverty, and the rise of internal terrorism in Nigeria, 1999-2021*

Kim Schumann, *Appeasement activists*

B07, 101

Panel 7. Thinking (In)security through Emotions: Exploring the Affective Structures of Law and the Police in Times of Crisis

Chair: Aino Korvensyrjä

Alice Riddell, *Citizen App: The complex affect and emotions of the digitization of crime and peer-to-peer surveillance in New York City*

Monica M. Gerber, *Why do people support violent collective action? On the role of police procedural injustice, anger towards the police and identification with radicalized protesters*

Daniela Jacob, *Refusing stigma, recognizing others' pains: Experiences of citizens mutilated in demonstrations in France*

B07, 105

Panel 3. Non-Urgency: Exploring Experiences and Responses To Chronic and Routine Crises

Convenors: Christian Hammermann, Charlotte Huch, Janaina Maldonado

Nihal Soganci and Ahmad Sultan, *"Ignore, until it reaches your doorstep": Detachment and the tactics of everyday in Northern Cyprus and northern Lebanon*

Menahil Tahir, *Contesting non-urgency of crisis: Exploring the "Safe us" or "Kill us" protest(s) by the Afghan asylum seekers in Pakistan*

Cosimo Gagnani, *Contested evidence and definition of crises: The case of Rosignano Solvay*

18:30-22.00 *Evening Programme*

18:30-20:00 **Roundtable discussion**

F02, B008 **Peace, conflict, and security in times of existential crises:
Where's the rough guide?**

Speakers: Dr. Erella Grassiani, Dr. Ana Ivasiuc, Dr. Philipp Lottholz, Prof. Dr. Inken Schmidt-Voges

Chair: Prof. Dr. Andreas Langenohl

20:00-22:00 Dinner reception

Friday, March 22

9:00-10.45

Parallel Panels IV

B07, 101

Panel 5. Whose crises? Under-development, Marginality and Peripherality in and from Southeast European Perspectives

Convenor: Philipp Lottholz

Chair: Anna-Sophie Schönfelder

Ivan Bakalov, *The un-political crisis: Capitalist reproduction and exclusion in Bulgaria*

Polina Manolova, *Managing the undesirables: Conditions of life, labour and death in German urban zones of exception*

Francesco Trupia, *The Ummah and the 'Balkan Rest':*

Second-generation perspectives in the time of illiberal cities

B07, 205

Studying Security, Studying Up: Examining Methodological Challenges and Interdisciplinary Opportunities (Methodology Lab)

Convenors: Lore Janssens, Alex Govers Pijon

B07, 301

Panel 9. The Perceptions of the Enemy

Convenors: Liora Sion, Erella Grassiani

Liora Sion, *'Ahmed, my son, how they killed you': Israeli combat soldiers sing about Palestinians*

Revital Madar, *Misidentified enemies and friends in Israel: A sovereign failure?*

Ala Uddin, *Navigating Rohingya-host community dynamics: Hospitality, hostility, and coexistence in Cox 's Bazar, Bangladesh*

Anchita Borthakur, *The colonial tropes and the 'othering' of the Pashtuns in Pakistan*

Colleen Alina O'Brien, *Construction of the enemy: Security narratives by the state and (other) armed groups*

11:15-13:30 *Midday Events*

11:15-12:45 *Keynote Lecture, Prof. Dr. Rebecca Bryant, Utrecht University*

W02 **The (Im)Potent State: On Sovereignty, Spectacle, and Speculation**
Lecture Hall 01

Chair: Dr. Livnat Konopny Decleve

12:45-13:30 Lunch Snacks

13:30-15:15 *Parallel Panels V*

B07, 101 **Panel 10. Postcolonial Hierarchies and the Dynamics of Crises and Insecurity**

Convenors: Sophie Falschebner, Tareq Sydiq

Chair: Thorsten Bonacker

Tareq Sydiq and Hassan Turi, *Internal colonialism, securized societies and land conflicts in Pakistan*

Sophie Falschebner and Arshita Nandan, *Dynamics of hegemonic (post)colonial identities, ontological in/security and conflict in Kashmir and Cyprus*

Maria Ketzmerick, *Research colonial (dis)continuities in critical security studies and the postcolonial dilemma: From*

the Cameroonian decolonization to today's Anglophone conflict

Anna Lena Goll, *Shaping order in times of crisis: Postcolonial hierarchies and the politics of jurisdiction*

Darja Wolfmeier, *Humanitarian crises through a postcolonial lens. How humanitarian NGOs adjusted to a (post)colonial world (1990s-2000s)*

B07, 205

Panel 12. Infrastructural (dis)integration in complex crises: Legacies of a Westphalian Imaginary

Convenors: Andreas Langenohl, Gideon van Riet, Carola Westermeier

Collin Olebogeng Mongale, *Reappraising the Westphalian imaginary: Political patronage, crime and corruption nexus and their demerits on infrastructural (dis)integration and human (in)security on South Africa*

Philipp Lottholz, *Reclaiming security and infrastructures: The emergence and discontents of 'Safe' and 'Smart City' projects*

Carola Westermeier, *Towards a digital Westphalian order? International financial infrastructures between cooperation and fragmentation*

Andreas Langenohl, *Decentralized finance, an emerging component of geoeconomic hegemony? The case of Russia's war in Ukraine*

B07, 301

Panel 13. Crisis Mobilizations: Narratives, Experiences and Trajectories in Security and Law Enforcement

Convenors: Monika Weissensteiner, Silvia Peirolo

Alexandra Schwell, *Mobilization maybe. Preparing for the crisis*

Silvia Peirolo, *Shifting narratives versus continuous politics on migration over European borders*

Ana Ivasiuc, *"People are exasperated here": Producing urban insecurity at the nexus between state / non-state*

15:30-17:15

Parallel Panels VI

B07, 101

Panel 11. Exploring the Possibilities of Peace in Protracted Conflict Zones: The Case of Kashmir

Convenors: Syed Tahseen Raza, Andrea Malji

Shazia Malik, *Reimagining Kashmiri feminist futures: Navigating the Vulnerabilities of marginalized women in protracted conflict*

Huma Hasan, *Invisibility / Silencing of women's issues in the hyper-masculinized political discourse: Understanding the experience of women from Kashmir*

Muzammil Yaqoob, *Multiple meanings of land: Understanding identity, political legitimacy and security dynamics in Jammu and Kashmir*

Syeda Nada Qadri and Syeda Sukaina Ali, *Women, peace and security: A study analysing contribution of women in sustainable peace building in Kashmir*

Nizamuddin Siddiqui and Dhruv Kaushik, *Securitization and judicial process: Abrogation of Article 370, International Law Argument and Peace*

B07, 205

Academic (Un)Freedom in Times of Existential Crises: An Open Exchange

Logistics

Registration & support

Registration will take place on Thursday, March 21 from 9 to 10 a.m. and from 11:30 to 12 a.m. at Wilhelm-Röpke-Str. 6.

Food & drinks

A lunch snack will be available after the keynotes on Thursday and Friday, Wilhelm-Röpke-Str. 6. The dinner reception will take place after the roundtable discussion at Deutschhausstr. 9.

Locations

Please refer to the site map on the next page.

On Thursday morning, registration, welcome, the first keynote lecture and a lunch snack will be hosted in the Humanities campus area (address: **Wilhelm-Röpke-Str. 6**), Lecture Hall o1H01

☞ yellow building W|02 on the map

On Thursday and Friday, all parallel panel sessions will take place in the same building (address: **Pilgrimstein 12**):

☞ green building B|07 on the map

On Thursday night, the roundtable discussion and following dinner reception will take place in the new university library (address: **Deutschhausstr. 9**):

☞ dark blue building F|01 on the map

On Friday, the second keynote lecture and the following lunch will again take place in the Humanities campus area, **Wilhelm-Röpke-Str. 6**, Lecture Hall o1H01:

☞ yellow building W|02 on the map

