



CALL FOR PAPERS

After Crisis / Post-conflict context: Justice, Institutions, Media (JIM).

Which memory/memories of conflict in the contemporary world?

University of Poitiers, September 8-10, 2021

This symposium is based on three one-day conferences organized or co-organized by the research unit MIMMOC (MSHS Poitiers University) between 2017 and 2019 and entitled “Democracy and internal conflict resolution: theoretical aspects and role(s) of the media”, “(Self-)derision in conflict: modalities, stakes, limits”, “Media discourse in post-conflict situations”, during which the themes of conflict and post-conflict management were analyzed in a comparative approach, from different geographical areas and disciplines.

Post-conflict, which can be defined as the transition between phases of confrontation and times of cohabitation or reconciliation, is a particularly interesting period – considering, for example, that there is a high risk of a resurgence of violence in the five years following the end of an armed conflict (Collier: 2003). The end of a civil war or the transition from dictatorship to democracy also show that a shift from physical violence to the symbolic space of discourse is commonplace, and that the building of a positive peace is often relegated to the background, in the face of the interests of former power holders and emerging political factions.

Post-conflict cannot, however, be limited solely to the study of new political power relations. The setting up of truth and reparation commissions (in South America and the Balkans in particular), the building of vehicles for memory (both official and unofficial, depending on whether the various groups adhere to the proposed social project) or actions designed to facilitate collective catharsis and overcome post-traumatic stress are examples of conflict management.

The challenges related to the construction of a democratic, pluralistic, multicultural and sustainable society, from an economic and environmental point of view, invite us to further our research within the framework of a symposium bringing together researchers from all walks of life, associations and NGOs, as well as partners from the Coimbra Group of European universities.

This conference will focus on the construction – or otherwise – of positive peace by institutions, the media, the judiciary, and society at large, in the post-conflict phase (whether dealing with an armed, political, social, health or environmental conflict), as well as on interpretations or subsequent readings of the conflict, thus working towards the elaboration of different types of « memories of the conflict ».





The workshops will promote reflection and exchange of views on the following themes:

1. **Institutions: is « positive peace » a utopia?**

Based on the distinction drawn by Johan Galtung between ‘negative peace’ (which corresponds to the absence of violence) and ‘positive peace’ (which could be defined as an approach to eliminate structural violence in society, i.e., a social justice approach), this panel will examine the initiatives designed to promote the social and economic stability of democracies up until the mid-1970s, and then the failure of the social-democratic utopia which led to the ‘retribalisation’ of societies (McLuhan: 1968). The resurgence of nationalism and political radicalism, or the multiplication of social conflicts in recent decades, invite a critical review of the past: what role can international cooperation agencies still play in peace-building processes? Should a diametrically opposed approach, based on participatory democracy and a local approach to problems, be adopted? Are new cooperation networks needed?

2. **Transitional justice: tools, principles, and new fields of action**

This panel will present the tools of transitional justice, which aims to promote the reconstruction of societies after episodes of violence, through the creation of truth and reconciliation commissions or victim recognition policies. Based on feedback from experiences in different contexts, researchers will highlight the successes and limitations of transitional justice and discuss its new fields of action. The processes of rehabilitation of communities involved in social conflicts (such as the striking miners in Scotland or France in the 1960s) have made transitional or restorative justice an instrument that is now open to wider social realities, which raises the question of the authoritarian practices observed in some democratic regimes.

3. **Media: from players in conflicts to vehicles for memory**

Viewed from a discursive perspective, the post-conflict situation is characterized by the re-reading and re-writing of past events, the adoption of new media strategies and the formulation of a discourse aimed at changing the attitudes and beliefs that strengthen the conflict. Indeed, making peace with the enemy implies recognizing him/her as a legitimate interlocutor and recognizing his/her humanity. Based on empirical studies, this panel proposes to analyze the terminology and semantics used by mass media in some post-conflict contexts, and to determine the effectiveness of peace journalism initiatives carried out since the early 1990s. It will also evaluate the opportunities offered by the new information and communication technologies in the raising up of international solidarity networks: can these new media lead to the empowerment of civil society?

4. **Education, NGOs, mediators: Feedback on positive conflict transitions**





The definition of ‘positive peace’ as social justice implies focusing on social policies of education, health, and environmental protection – as important in peace-building process as military policies. Feedback from the implementation of peace education plans (i.e., in the Balkans, Basque Country, etc.) will invite us to consider their possible transferability to other contexts. In line with the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development of the United Nations, the participation of civilians, such as members of NGOs or cultural mediators, will also lead us to discuss about peacebuilding in a more inclusive dimension.

Papers may be submitted in French or in English. The proposals must be sent before **March 31st, 2021**, to: helene.yeche@univ-poitiers.fr and ludivine.thouverez@univ-poitiers.fr.

The conference will be held over two days, in Poitiers. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference may be organized remotely.

Non exhaustive bibliography

- Barragán Medero, Fernando; Maćkiewicz, Jolanta; Szarota, Zofia; Pérez-Jorge, David. *Educación para la paz, la equidad y los valores*. Barcelona: Octaedro, 2020.
- Cario, Robert ; Mbanzoulou, Paul (eds.), *La justice restaurative : une utopie qui marche ?* Paris : L’Harmattan, 2010.
- Collier, Paul *et al.*. *Breaking the Conflict Trap: Civil War and Development Policy*, New York, Oxford University Press, 2003.
- Dasandi, Niheer. *¿Is failing democracy?* London: Thames and Hudson, 2018.
- Galtung, Johan. *Peace by Peaceful means. Peace and conflict, Development and Civilization*. Oslo: International Peace research Institute, 1996.
- Foucault, Michel. *Surveiller et punir*. Paris : Gallimard, 1975.
- Habermas, Jürgen. *Droit et démocratie. Entre faits et normes*. Paris : Gallimard, 1997.
- Keeble, Richard; Tulloch, Johan and Zollmann, Florian. *Peace Journalism, War and Conflict Resolution*. London: Peter Lang, 2010.
- Mabiala, Ruffi Viçlere. *La justice dans les pays en situation de post-conflit*. Paris : L’Harmattan, 2009.
- Marshall McLuhan; Fiore Quentin. *War and Peace in the Global Village*. New York: Bantam, 1968.
- Goirand, Camille; Müller, Angélica (eds). *Documenter les violences : Usages publics du passé dans la justice transitionnelle*. Paris : IHEAL CREDA, 2020.
- Gómez Gil, Carlos. *Debates y controversias en la cooperación al desarrollo. Fondos privados de ayuda, acuerdos neocoloniales y ayuda a refugiados*. Alacant: Publicacions Universitat. 2020.
- Massias, Jean-Pierre. « Les conflits sociaux, nouveau champ de la justice transitionnelle ? », 9/10/2020. URL : <https://www.justiceinfo.net/fr/45624-conflits-sociaux-nouveau-champ-justice-transitionnelle.html>
- Nora, Pierre (dir.). *Les lieux de mémoire*. Paris : Gallimard, 1997.





- Przeworski, Adam; Alvarez, Michael; Cheibub, José Antonio; Limongi, Fernando. *Democracy and development: political institutions and well-being in the world 1950-1990*. Cambridge: University Press, 2000.
- Sanjuan Andres, Francisco Javier. *Democracia participativa en perspectiva multinivel*. Madrid: Comares, 2020.
- Shradie, Jen. *The revolution that wasn't: How digital activism favors conservatives*. Harvard: University Press, 2019.
- Stiegler, Barbara. *De la démocratie en pandémie*. Paris : Gallimard (coll. Tract 23), 2021.
- Webel Charles; Galtung Johan (eds). *Handbook of peace and conflict studies*. New York: Routledge, 2007.

