



## “Stories Shaping Peace”

*An Opening Celebration of the Center for Dialogue and Conflict Transformation  
March 16-19, 2022*

**Call for Papers Title:** *The Role of Narratives in Conflict Transformation & Peacebuilding*

### **List of invited speakers:**

Professor Dr. Fernando Enns -chair in (peace-) theology and ethics/ecumenical studies at Free University of Amsterdam/The Netherlands (where he is also director of the *Amsterdam Center for Religion, Peace & Justice Studies*) and has an endowed professorship "Theology of Peace Churches" at the University of Hamburg/Germany.

Raffi Feghali- The Lebanese director of PERFORM and a performer, playwright, and peacebuilder

### **Abstract of theme**

In conflict resolution and peace studies, scholars have focused on the nature of peacebuilding. Central are the critical questions such as how narratives and nurturing dialogue for social change help bring about social equality, nonviolent change, and reconciliation. At the launch of LCC International University's new Center for Dialogue and Conflict Transformation, this opening event focuses on the importance of narratives in peacebuilding and asks how storytelling exacerbates or transforms local social conflicts. The ways we think and make meaning of conflict experiences inform how we choose to live and behave.

When looking at what fuels conflicts, we may ask: “How might knowing and telling our stories engage with community change, aid in healing wounds, countering intolerance of minorities or in envisioning shared futures in deeply divided societies?” During this celebratory event, critical threads will be woven together through heart, soul, and mind learnings relevant to the path of peacebuilding over 3 days through a) academic paper presentations b) workshops with dialogue opportunities on social issues and skill building in narrative competency and c) evening artistic expressions that include panel discussions, peacebuilding theatre in divided societies and the power of narratives expressed through the art of storytelling.

Pondering our past through stories and weaving narratives that have shaped past, present and future help us uncover memories and re-imagine our futures together wherever conflict has touched relationships and destroyed nations. This conference hopes to engage students, staff and community actors in learning, discovery, and action around what the role of stories are in those living in conflict sensitive communities or who have been displaced from deeply divided ones.

The topics such questions explore have come to see narrative sharing and discovery as having a place in conflict transformation and peacebuilding. Contributors to this conference may have additional ideas about the relevancy or level of importance that dialogue, storytelling, and narrative sharing may have on creating a more just and peaceful society.

To address the role of narratives in peacebuilding, we seek individual academic papers that engage with the themes identified above, or any other topics that advance our understanding of peacebuilding. We encourage the inclusion of multiple perspectives, diverse panels, interdisciplinary collaboration, and innovative formats on the ways sharing narratives engage individuals, communities, and even nations in sharing hope. Space will be given to issues of pedagogy as well as research.

### **Papers can address questions:**

- that employs narrative engagement with civil society research within the context of conflict and social relationships and the ways these relationships can transform divisions and empower change agents in destructive cycles of violence.
- The role of narratives in addressing division and reflecting on inclusion of diversity in deeply divided societies
- How does the way of storytelling exacerbate or transform social conflicts?
- Exploring historical memory and its impact of narrative on present day society
- When narratives are rewritten- the role of the Lithuanian Deportation and/or Displacement in memory and belonging

- What part does narrative have in peacebuilding dialogue work?
- Exploring historical memory and its impact of narrative on present day society
- Encountering the 'other' through narratives-how do we genuinely create constructive change?
- Where does our faith intersect with sharing narratives as a healing practice between communities?
- What is the role of narratives in promoting human rights, healing individuals, and building connections through dialogue encounters between diverse communities?

The organizers welcome submissions that tackle any aspect of this topic or others along this theme.

Daily Themes during the event based on the submitted research are aimed at highlighting the following:

March 16- Lithuania narratives that look at the themes above, highlighting Deportation, Jewish Holocaust Historical Memories, Inclusion and Belonging

March 17- TBA with focus towards Narratives and Creating a Peace Culture, Tolerance, and Human Rights

March 18- TBA with focus on holding multiple narratives towards Reconciliation, Peacebuilding in Divided Communities

On the final day of the conference, invited guests will join selected students for a tour of Lithuanian Memorial sites recognizing the anniversary of Lithuanian independence from the Soviet Union, in addition to events experienced from the Holocaust and from Deportations of Lithuanians during Stalin's oppressive occupation.

#### Submission information:

- Abstracts of approximately 500 words prepared for blind review should be sent to [nenns@lcc.lt](mailto:nenns@lcc.lt)
- Presenting Researchers will be offered free room and board and sightseeing opportunities in Lithuania
- Presenters are invited to be part of a hosted Historical Memorial Sites tour on Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup>

#### Submission Procedures and deadline

- Deadline for abstract submissions is **November 15, 2021**, to [nenns@lcc.lt](mailto:nenns@lcc.lt)
- Authors whose abstracts are selected will be notified by November 30, 2021
- Full paper presentation submission requested by February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, to the link provided.

#### Contact info and link to conference website

- [nenns@lcc.lt](mailto:nenns@lcc.lt) and soon on the LCC webpage site link

Any questions on the call for papers or opening event can be directed to [nenns@lcc.lt](mailto:nenns@lcc.lt)



LCC Students engaging with the conflict narratives of Armenia and Azerbaijan  
September 2020