

Call for Papers

Critical and Liberatory Methods for Research and Teaching

Workshop on November 14-16, 2024, Giessen, Germany

The **Working Group Critical Peace Research of the Association for Peace and Conflict Studies (AFK e.V.)** and the **Section Transnational and Intersectional Critique of Domination at the Giessen Graduate Center for Social, Economic and Legal Sciences GGS of the Justus Liebig University Giessen** invite you to the second workshop on critical and liberatory methods. In this workshop, we want to critically examine the possibilities, conditions and limitations to conducting research and teaching in critical and liberatory ways. The workshop will take place at the Justus Liebig University Giessen, Germany.

Critical research deals with intersecting relations of power, violence and domination such as racism, classism, sexism and capitalism and asks how these relations condition, reproduce and legitimize social inequality and difference. Particularly against the backdrop of the examination of epistemic violence (Spivak 1988; Brunner 2020) and the call for the decolonization of knowledge (e.g. Castro-Gómez 2007; Gutiérrez Rodríguez 2016), there is - again - a growing interest in a critical examination of domination in one's own scholarly activities, including in peace and conflict studies (Cárdenas 2023). At the same time, we must acknowledge that forms of onto-epistemic extractivism (Rivera Cusicanqui 2012, 2018; Grosfoguel 2016), whiteness (Marilyn Frye 1992) and heterosexism are not only prevalent in hegemonic scholarship but are also often part of so-called decolonial and feminist initiatives. Given the observation that emancipatory work in higher education institutions is involved in the reproduction of various forms of violence (e.g. BRIDGES 2022), we find that critical and perhaps even liberatory research is neither simple nor unambiguous.

We are also confronted with the question of what critical or liberatory methods in teaching and scholarship can and should look like and whether it may contribute to non-reformist reforms and abolition or if it stabilizes power asymmetries (Hwang 2022). This has become particularly important considering the increasing visibility of debates about sexualized violence at universities - often intertwined with racism, authority and other forms of violence (e.g. Viaene et al. 2023). An increase that also led to a public statement by the Association of Peace and Conflict Studies condemning sexualized violence in peace and conflict studies and calling on academics to contribute to structural change (AFK e.V. 2023).

In this workshop, we want to critically examine the possibilities, conditions and limitations to conducting research and teaching in critical and liberatory ways. The workshop will take place online. In a first workshop in December 2022, we initiated a list of *ingredients* of critical and liberatory research and teaching, such as positionality, ethics, humility, relationality, benefits for participants, exchange (among researchers), agency and power, and integral research. We believe that these should be part of what could be conceived as an adaptable methods menu¹.

¹ We chose this metaphor to highlight that while we can think of ingredients to cook a dish, the person or people who is cooking decides on the taste. With Fals Borda (2009), we understand the scientific process as one that is not merely a rational process, but in the sense of *sentipensar* a relational one, in which senses, emotions and dialogue - among others - are involved in the production of knowledge (Escobar 2010).

This second workshop aims at bringing people together who want to contribute to critical and liberatory research and teaching and deepen the exchange on topics, issues and challenges that arise from it. The workshop, therefore, provides space for dialogue and networking, but also for discussing whether and how working in an anti-oppressive way can be done in the context of the university. There will be enough space for collegial consultation and exchange on the participants' projects. We also want to deepen our exchange on the *ingredients*, and expand and/or adapt the above-mentioned list. We hope to publish the list of ingredients for a critical methods menu on the website of the **Working Group Critical Peace Research of the Association for Peace and Conflict Studies**.

Planned workshop schedule, 3-4 hours each (subjected to change, depending on participants' availability and geographic location):

- November 13th (Day 1):
 - Arrival, get-together
 - Dialogical Fishbowl: "Critical research, but how? - On current debates and examples in teaching and research" (tbd)
- November 14th (Day 2):
 - Collegial exchange on projects and questions of participants Discussion/further work on the "ingredients" in small groups
 - Public panel discussion: Possibilities and limits of critical and liberatory research and teaching with researchers and research partners (tbd)
- November 15th (Day 3):
 - Collegial exchange on projects and questions of participants Discussion/further work on the "ingredients" in small groups
 - Joined work on the "ingredients" in small groups
- November 16th (Day 4):
 - Joined work on the "ingredients" in small groups
 - Collegial exchange on projects and questions of participant
 - Reflections and concluding discussion on further steps

The workshop is aimed especially at PhD students and early career researchers, as well as at lecturers of social sciences and peace and conflict studies.

To participate, please send an abstract (300 words) in German or English with the following information to cardenasalfonso@soz.uni-frankfurt.de by September 15th of 2024:

- Brief description of the project/topic you would like to discuss (250 words).
- What ingredients does the project/topic particularly tap into, which ingredients do you see particular challenges as far as your own work is concerned? (50 words)
- What are the languages in which you can communicate?
- Do you need (financial) support for traveling and/or accommodation? Are there any other forms of support you need to participate? We unfortunately cannot promise financial support, but will aim at supporting those who otherwise could not be able to participate. have no access to funding (e.g. scholarships, travel allowances, etc.).

We look forward to hearing from you,

María Cárdenas, Juliana Krohn, Philipp Lottholz.

Literature (selection):

- AFK e.V. (2023). Stellungnahme zu sexualisierter Gewalt in der Friedens- und Konfliktforschung. <https://afk-web.de/cms/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Stellungnahme-PDF.pdf> (last accessed on 08.08.2023)
- BRIDGES Collective (Ed.). (2022). *Dismantling Walls Building Bridges. Creating antiracist feminist alliances within, outside, and against universities*. FAC Press.
- Cárdenas, M. (2023). Decolonizing perspectives in peace research. In C. Cohrs, N. Knab, & G. Sommer (Eds.), *Handbook of Peace Psychology* (pp. 1–31). <https://doi.org/10.17192/es2022.0022>
- Castro-Gómez, S. (2007). Decolonizar la Universidad. La hybris del punto cero y el diálogo de saberes. In S. Castro-Gómez & R. Grosfoguel (Eds.), *El giro decolonial: Reflexiones para una diversidad epistémica más allá del capitalismo global* (pp. 79–91). Siglo del Hombre Editores, Universidad Central, Instituto de Estudios Sociales Contemporáneos y Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Instituto Pensar.
- Escobar, A. (2010). *Territorios de diferencia. Lugar, movimientos, vida, redes*. Enviñ editores.
- Fals-Borda, O. (2009). *Una sociología sentipensante para América Latina*. Siglo del Hombre Editores.
- Frye, Marilyn (1992). "White Woman Feminist – Feminist Reprise." 1992. <https://feminist-reprise.org/library/race-and-class/white-woman-feminist/>.
- Grosfoguel, R. (2016). Del « extractivismo económico » al « extractivismo epistémico » y « extractivismo ontológico »: Una forma destructiva de conocer, ser y estar en el mundo. *Tabula Rasa*, 24, 123–143. <https://doi.org/10.25058/20112742.60>
- Gutiérrez Rodríguez, E., Ha, K. N., Hutta, J. S., Kessé, E. N., Laufenberg, M., & Schmitt, L. (2016). Rassismus, Klassenverhältnisse und Geschlecht an deutschen Hochschulen. Ein runder Tisch, der aneckt. *Sub\Urban. Zeitschrift Für Kritische Stadtforschung*, 4(2/3), 161–190. <https://doi.org/10.36900/suburban.v4i2/3.262>
- Hwang, Ren-yo. (2022). "Bad Apples, Rotted Roots, and the Three Rs of Reformist Reforms." In *Feminist Ruptures against the Carceral State*, edited by Alisa Bierria et al., 2:1–25. Abolition Feminisms.
- Rivera Cusicanqui, S. (2018). *Ch'ixinakax utxiwa: Eine Reflexion über Praktiken und Diskurse der Dekolonisierung* (S. Garbe, M. Cárdenas, & A. Sempértegui, Eds.; 1. Auflage). Unrast.
- Viaene, L., Laranjeiro, C., & Tom, M. N. (2023). The walls spoke when no one else would. Autoethnographic notes on sexual-power gatekeeping within avant-garde academia. In D. Edwards & E. Pritchard (Eds.), *Sexual Misconduct in Academia: Informing an Ethics of Care in the University* (1st ed., pp. 208–225). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003289944>