

Comparative Peacebuilding in Asia - Liberal and Illiberal Transitions from Ethnic Conflict and Authoritarianism

General Call For Papers

Three conferences will be held in Sri Lanka, Indonesia and the United Kingdom supported by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Independent Social Research Foundation (ISRF) in 2017 and 2018.

Ambition

This series of three conferences seeks to promote research and facilitate interdisciplinary discussions on the illiberal, nationally driven peacebuilding processes in conflict-affected South and Southeast Asia. There has been an extraordinary expansion of academic interest in this field, and a new generation of scholars is producing exciting research drawing on theoretical innovations and empirical advances, including interesting comparative work.

We see particular advantages in research that considers conflict resolution alongside trajectories of post-authoritarian transition. Our objective is to create opportunities for the study of illiberal modes of peacebuilding in order to connect, gain exposure, develop common conceptual categories, achieve comparative depth, speak across disciplines, gain rigour, and build momentum.=

We aim to bridge academic nodes and peacebuilding knowledge and practice in the UK, Europe, Australia, North America and Africa, with Asia, and also to connect scholars and policy-makers within South and Southeast Asia. In particular, we are looking for contributions that deal with liberal and illiberal peacebuilding conditions in Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Indonesia, Cambodia, Nepal, India, Timor-Leste, Philippines, and Thailand.

Research questions

To frame this discussion we are calling for empirically-grounded papers that deal with one or more of the following key questions:

1. Why do some regimes select illiberal peacebuilding?
2. Is illiberal peacebuilding a useful concept, and to what extent does it differ from liberal modes of peacebuilding?
3. How do the policies and practices of illiberal peacebuilding vary across different states and why? In particular, why are some illiberal peacebuilding processes more "liberal" than others?
4. What is the frictional engagement between illiberal and liberal peacebuilding at international, regional, national, and local levels?
5. How durable is illiberal peace? What are the outcomes of illiberal peacebuilding, on which groups, and how do we explain that variation?
6. Has democratic institutional deepening and the end of authoritarianism in Asia complemented ethnic conflict resolution, or weakened it, thus far? What are the future prospects for these two processes working in harmony, especially in the time of Brexit and President Donald Trump?

To apply

We anticipate welcoming a number of established scholars to contribute papers to this series of conferences, in particular those with an interest in comparative political analysis and/or nationally driven peace processes. The series is also designed as a platform to identify and attract early career scholars and PhD students across disciplines. We especially seek to reach out to promising young scholars from universities in Asia, to provide mentoring and co-publishing opportunities, and the potential for inclusion in future joint research projects.

To express interest in contributing to this conference series please submit a 300-word abstract of a research paper and a short CV (no more than 2 pages) by **24 February 2017** to nicholas.farrelly@anu.edu.au with “**Comparative Peacebuilding**” as the subject line.

Series convenors

Dr Najib Azca, Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia

Dr Nicholas Farrelly, Australian National University

Dr Claire Smith, University of York, UK

Dr Rajesh Venugopal, London School of Economics and Political Science

Dr Lars Waldorf, University of York, UK

Conference dates:

Colombo, Sri Lanka: 30 June - 2 July 2017

Yogyakarta, Indonesia: December 2017 (precise dates to be confirmed)

London, UK: June 2018 (precise dates to be confirmed)