

**The 7th Annual Conference of the  
International Association for  
Reconciliation Studies (IARS)**



# **Paths Toward Peace**

**Reconciliation in  
Theory & Practice**

**June 19 to 22, 2026**

Nicosia, Cyprus

**Hosting Partners**



**UNIVERSITY** | DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS  
*of NICOSIA* | AND GOVERNANCE

**Friedrich  
Ebert   
Stiftung**

**IARS CYPRUS 2026**

# **Paths Toward Peace**

## **Reconciliation in Theory and Practice**

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### **PROGRAM BOOK**

The latest version of this program book is available on  
the IARS website, accessible via the link  
(<https://www.iars-world.de>)  
or QR code



### **Conference location**

University of Nicosia, 46 Makedonitissas Avenue, Engomi,  
Nicosia 2417 Cyprus

### **Hosting Partners**



### **Cooperation Partner**



# Program at a Glance

IARS 2026 Conference - General Program																
Last updated: Jun 15, 2026	Friday, June 19			Saturday, June 20		Sunday, June 21		Monday, June 22								
	University of Nicosia			University of Nicosia		University of Nicosia		Ledra Palace								
08:30 - 08:45	Conference Registration & Coffee [UNIC]			Conference Registration & Coffee [UNIC]		Conference Registration & Coffee [UNIC]		Virtual Session #3 [Virtual Room Only]		Crossing from the South to Ledra Palace and Checking in the UN Facility (Bring your Passports)		08:30 - 08:45				
08:45 - 09:00												08:45 - 09:00				
09:00 - 09:15												09:00 - 09:15				
09:15 - 09:30	Opening Remarks [UNIC: UNESCO]											09:15 - 09:30				
09:30 - 09:45												09:30 - 09:45				
09:45 - 10:00												09:45 - 10:00				
10:00 - 10:15	Concurrent Session #1 [UNIC: UNESCO, Plato, & Rousseau]			Concurrent Session #5 [UNIC: UNESCO & Plato]		Roundtable Session #1 [Rousseau]		Concurrent Session #9 [UNIC: UNESCO, Plato, & Rousseau]		Virtual Session #4 [Virtual Room Only]		Concurrent Session #10 [Ledra Palace]		Roundtable Session #2 [Ledra Palace]		10:00 - 10:15
10:15 - 10:30																10:15 - 10:30
10:30 - 10:45																10:30 - 10:45
10:45 - 11:00																10:45 - 11:00
11:00 - 11:15																11:00 - 11:15
11:15 - 11:30												11:15 - 11:30				
11:30 - 11:45	Concurrent Session #2 [UNIC: UNESCO, Plato, & Rousseau]			Concurrent Session #6 [UNIC: UNESCO, Plato, & Rousseau]		IARS General Assembly Meeting [UNIC: UNESCO]				Gather at the Ledra Palace Crossing (Bring your Passports)				11:30 - 11:45		
11:45 - 12:00														11:45 - 12:00		
12:00 - 12:15														12:00 - 12:15		
12:15 - 12:30														12:15 - 12:30		
12:30 - 12:45														12:30 - 12:45		
12:45 - 13:00	Lunch			Lunch		Lunch				Walk to the Bus				12:45 - 13:00		
13:00 - 13:15														13:00 - 13:15		
13:15 - 13:30														13:15 - 13:30		
13:30 - 13:45														13:30 - 13:45		
13:45 - 14:00														13:45 - 14:00		
14:00 - 14:15	Film Screening [UNIC: UNESCO]	Concurrent Session #3 [UNIC: UNESCO]	Virtual Session #1 [Rousseau]	Concurrent Session #7 [UNIC: UNESCO & Plato]		IARS Board Meeting [UNIC: Rousseau]				Depart for Famagusta				14:00 - 14:15		
14:15 - 14:30	14:15 - 14:30															
14:30 - 14:45	14:30 - 14:45															
14:45 - 15:00	14:45 - 15:00															
15:00 - 15:15	Coffee Break													Coffee Break		
15:15 - 15:30												15:15 - 15:30				
15:30 - 15:45	Concurrent Session #4 [UNIC: UNESCO & Plato]			Concurrent Session #8 [UNIC: UNESCO & Plato]		Virtual Session #2 [Rousseau]		Explore the City {Free Afternoon}		Famagusta Visit {Optional}				15:30 - 15:45		
15:45 - 16:00														15:45 - 16:00		
16:00 - 16:15														16:00 - 16:15		
16:15 - 16:30														16:15 - 16:30		
16:30 - 16:45														16:30 - 16:45		
16:45 - 17:00												16:45 - 17:00				
17:00 - 17:15	Keynote Discussion [UNIC: UNESCO]			IARS Presidential Address [UNIC: UNESCO]		Choir for Peace Performance								17:00 - 17:15		
17:15 - 17:30														17:15 - 17:30		
17:30 - 17:45														17:30 - 17:45		
17:45 - 18:00														17:45 - 18:00		
18:00 - 18:15														18:00 - 18:15		
18:15 - 18:30	Reception [UNIC]			Self-Arranged Transfer to Venue						Return to Nicosia				18:15 - 18:30		
18:30 - 18:45														18:30 - 18:45		
18:45 - 19:00														18:45 - 19:00		
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21:00 - 21:15												20:45 - 21:00				
21:15 - 21:30												20:45 - 21:00				
				Conference Dinner (Cyprus Night) [Stoa tou Dimitri]								20:45 - 21:00				

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# Introduction



- Conference Theme & Cyprus
- About the IARS and its Community
- Participation in the Conference

# Conference Theme & Cyprus

## Paths Toward Peace: Reconciliation in Theory and Practice

Welcome to the International Association for Reconciliation Studies (IARS) Conference 2026, Paths Toward Peace: Reconciliation in Theory and Practice.

Around the world, societies continue to grapple with the legacies of violence, displacement, exclusion, and historical injustice. While the causes and manifestations of conflict vary across contexts, a common challenge remains: how can individuals, communities, and institutions move toward more peaceful and just relationships after division? This question lies at the heart of reconciliation studies and serves as the guiding theme of this year's conference.

Reconciliation is a complex and multifaceted concept. For some, it is closely connected to truth, accountability, and justice. For others, it emphasizes healing, recognition, coexistence, and the rebuilding of trust. In practice, reconciliation rarely follows a linear path. It may involve formal mechanisms such as truth commissions, peace agreements, and institutional reforms, but it can also emerge through everyday interactions, grassroots initiatives, educational programs, cultural exchanges, and acts of mutual recognition. Reconciliation can be pursued at interpersonal, intergroup, national, and international levels, often requiring sustained efforts across generations.

This conference seeks to explore reconciliation both as a theoretical concept and as a lived practice. By bringing together scholars, practitioners, educators, policymakers, artists, and community leaders, we aim to foster interdisciplinary dialogue on the conditions, challenges, and possibilities of building sustainable peace. Participants will engage with diverse perspectives and experiences from different regions of the world, examining how reconciliation is understood, practiced, contested, and transformed across contexts.

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Cyprus offers a particularly meaningful setting for these conversations. For decades, the island has been marked by division, competing historical narratives, unresolved political questions, and the enduring consequences of conflict. Yet Cyprus is also a place where individuals and organizations have worked tirelessly to sustain dialogue, promote cooperation, preserve shared cultural heritage, and create opportunities for meaningful contact across communal lines. These efforts remind us that peacebuilding is not limited to formal negotiations or political agreements. It is also shaped by the everyday actions of people who choose engagement over isolation, dialogue over silence, and cooperation over exclusion.

At the same time, the Cypriot experience highlights important questions for reconciliation scholars and practitioners. What does reconciliation mean in the absence of a comprehensive political settlement? How do trust and distrust coexist in divided societies? What role do memory, identity, trauma, and recognition play in shaping intergroup relations? Can coexistence emerge without full reconciliation, and what are the implications of such arrangements for long-term peace? These questions resonate far beyond Cyprus and connect to broader debates in reconciliation studies.

As we gather to exchange ideas, share experiences, and learn from one another, we hope this conference will contribute to a deeper understanding of the many paths toward peace. While no single model of reconciliation fits every context, the collective insights generated through dialogue and collaboration can help illuminate new possibilities for addressing division and fostering more inclusive, peaceful futures.

We warmly welcome you to Cyprus and look forward to the conversations, connections, and collaborations that will emerge throughout the conference.

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## About the IARS and its Community

In times of war, we must work for peace.  
In times of enmity, we must seek amity.  
In times of division, we must build bridges.

The International Association for Reconciliation Studies (IARS) was founded in 2020 with a simple yet profound conviction: lasting peace cannot be achieved through the mere cessation of violence, but only through the courageous, sustained, and inclusive work of reconciliation. Reconciliation is not a luxury; it is a necessity. It is the quiet, often invisible labor of rebuilding trust, reimagining relationships, and transforming the legacies of conflict into shared futures.

This year, the 7th Annual IARS Conference takes place in Nicosia, Cyprus — the world's last divided capital. It is a city where history is etched into the streets and where the line between conflict and coexistence is drawn not in stone, but through memory, hope, and everyday life. Situated at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and the Middle East, Cyprus is a living space of division and dialogue, rupture and resilience. Here, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots live in parallel worlds, yet their lives remain deeply intertwined through shared spaces, common memories, and the persistent, quiet acts of connection that continue to defy separation.

It is within this powerful setting that we gather under the theme "Paths Toward Peace: Reconciliation in Theory and Practice." Together, we explore not only the case of Cyprus, but also the broader ways reconciliation unfolds across societies — not solely through grand political gestures, but through the everyday choices of individuals, communities, and nations.

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IARS brings together scholars, practitioners, artists, and activists from across the globe. Drawing from fields including political science, history, law, psychology, theology, education, and the arts, participants engage in rigorous and interdisciplinary dialogue. We focus not only on formal mechanisms such as truth commissions, reparations, and transitional justice, but also on the deeper human dimensions of reconciliation: apology, forgiveness, shared identity, empathy, and the courage to listen.

In Nicosia, where division remains visible and peace is still being built, we are reminded that reconciliation is not a destination, but a journey. It is a continuous process of reimagining the future – one relationship at a time.

We are deeply grateful to our partners: the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Cyprus Office, whose commitment to democratic values, social justice, and peacebuilding has been instrumental in making this gathering possible, and the University of Nicosia, our gracious host, whose academic excellence, institutional support, and dedication to dialogue provide the ideal foundation for this important exchange.

We come together not to erase the past, but to learn from it.  
Not to forget, but to remember with purpose.  
Not to pretend that wounds do not exist, but to work compassionately – and with intellectual rigor – toward a world where peace is not only possible, but lived.

This is the work of IARS.  
This is our call, together.

# Participation in the Conference

**We encourage you to review the conference guidelines below.**

## Onsite and Virtual Experiences

IARS 2026 is not a hybrid conference. Rather, it features distinct on-site and virtual sessions throughout the conference. On-site participants have access to all conference sessions and events, both on-site and virtual.

Virtual sessions will be held at the designated times, with no public livestreaming. To participate, participants will need to log in to Zoom (details included in the program) on your personal devices. **Headphones are recommended for better engagement.** The conference provides Wi-Fi for all participants.

## Conference Program

IARS 2026 offers a range of sessions and presentations, including the Keynote Discussion, Presidential Address, Formal Paper Panels, Roundtables, Posters, Film Screening, and Creative Work Presentations.

- **Program Highlights:** The program features several sessions, including the Keynote Discussion (Friday, June 19), as well as the IARS Presidential Address and the Choir for Peace Performance (Saturday, June 20). The IARS General Assembly Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 21. Special sessions will also be held at the Ledra Palace on Monday, June 22.
- The allocation of presentation times takes into account various factors, including presenters' scheduling requests. As a result, while the presentations in each session are generally thematically linked, some are more closely connected than others. Additionally, some sessions may have fewer or more presenters. We appreciate your understanding and flexibility in this regard.

## Photography and Recording Protocols

The conference has a volunteer photographer who will take photographs throughout the conference. These photographs may be used in our publicity materials, including the website and social media pages. If you prefer not to be photographed, please approach the conference co-chairs and let them know.

In principle, photography and recording of sessions at the conference may proceed only with the consent of the presenter(s) or speaker(s). In cases where the speaker has explicitly requested that no photography or recording be made, we ask for your cooperation in respecting this request.

## Code of Conduct

Our conference is dedicated to fostering an academic environment grounded in academic freedom, intellectual integrity, and mutual respect. We uphold the principles of sincere collaboration and respectful engagement as essential to meaningful scholarly exchange. All participants—regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, religion (or lack thereof), gender identity and expression, age, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, or technological choices—are welcome and valued.

Harassment in any form is strictly prohibited and incompatible with the values of academic discourse. This includes, but is not limited to, verbal, visual, or physical conduct.

The conference organizers are committed to maintaining a safe, inclusive, and intellectually rigorous environment. Participants who violate these standards may be subject to disciplinary action, including removal from the conference proceedings or exclusion from conference activities, without refund, at the discretion of the organizing committee. Our commitment to academic freedom is inseparable from our responsibility to ensure a respectful, equitable, and supportive community for all.

## Important Note

As other events are taking place at the UNIC campus, please have your conference badge on at all times.

# Leadership & Greetings



- IARS President
- IARS Vice-Presidents
- Conference Resident Director
- Conference Co-Chairs
- Conference Organizing Committees

## Greetings from the President



**Karina Korostelina**  
**IARS President**  
**Distinguished Service**  
**Professor & Director**  
**of Sustainable Peace Lab**  
Carter School for Peace  
and Conflict Resolution,  
George Mason University

On behalf of the International Association for Reconciliation Studies (IARS), it is my great pleasure to welcome you to our annual conference, “Path to Peace.” We are delighted to gather scholars, practitioners, and partners from around the world to reflect together on one of the most pressing challenges of our time: how societies move from division, injustice, and violence toward sustainable peace and reconciliation.

This conference would not be possible without the generous support and collaboration of our local partners. We extend our sincere gratitude to the University of Nicosia for hosting this gathering and for their commitment to advancing research and dialogue on peace and conflict transformation. We are also deeply grateful to the Friedrich Ebert Foundation for their partnership and support of the conference.

I would like to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of the Conference Co-chairs and the Organizing Committee, whose vision and tireless efforts have made this event possible. Their leadership has been instrumental in bringing together an inspiring program that reflects the diversity, creativity, and interdisciplinary strength of reconciliation studies today.

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The field of Reconciliation Studies emerged from attempts to understand how societies rebuild relationships after periods of violence, oppression, and deep social division.

Over the past decades, it has developed into a vibrant interdisciplinary field that brings together insights from peace and conflict studies, psychology, history, law, political science, theology, and anthropology. At its core lies the recognition that reconciliation is a complex and ongoing process of rebuilding trust, addressing historical grievances, and promoting social reconstruction.

Hosting this conference in Cyprus carries particular significance. The island's history reflects both the profound consequences of division and the continuing efforts to build dialogue, cooperation, and mutual understanding. In this sense, Cyprus provides an important context for reflecting on pathways toward peace and reconciliation.

We hope that this conference will provide a space for meaningful scholarly exchange, the sharing of innovative practices, and the strengthening of our global community of reconciliation scholars and practitioners. Through dialogue, collaboration, and critical reflection, we can continue to advance both the scholarship and the practice of reconciliation.

We warmly welcome you and wish you an engaging and inspiring conference.

Karina Korostelina  
Distinguished Service Professor & Director of  
Sustainable Peace Lab  
Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution  
George Mason University

## Greetings from the Vice-President



**Martin Leiner**  
**IARS Vice-President**  
**Professor**  
**Founder & Director**  
**of Jena Center for**  
**Reconciliation Studies**  
Friedrich Schiller  
University Jena

Prof. Karina Korostelina, Prof. Toyomi Asano, and I had the idea to start the International Association for Reconciliation Studies (IARS). This happened, only a few years ago, around 2018. In 2020, at the founding conference in Jena, I was elected first president of IARS. Being a small but committed and convinced association, in the first years, we fought with adversities such as Covid travel restrictions. With the strong engagement of my teams and of Prof. Korostelina and Prof. Asano, each conference became a bit more important in size. To prepare for the IARS conference has always been and is increasingly a huge piece of work. It is a great joy for me to see the association constantly growing. After the very successful conference in Seoul in 2025, prepared by Prof. Nam and his team, we are now in Nicosia. It is wonderful to see Professor Karina Korostelina, my successor since 2024, together with her group, strongly engaged in preparing this wonderful conference. I would like to thank Dr. Gül M. Gür and Dr. Charalampos B. Karpouchtsis, who are both outstanding reconciliation scholars and ideal choices as co-chairs.

As we can read in many places, Peace studies are in a crisis. One of the reasons for that crisis is that the different paths to peace have not been studied enough. Through my research, I am convinced that reconciliation in its different forms and practices is the key factor in all paths which lead to trust, peace, resilience, and cooperation. We must look closer at, study from all perspectives, and foster with energy

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the dynamics of reconciliation that are happening everywhere in the world, even in the very middle of armed conflicts.

IARS found highly respected partners in Cyprus, namely Professor Hubert Faustmann, Resident Director of the conference and Head of the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation in Cyprus.

In great proximity to the wars in Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, and Iran, reconciliation in Cyprus can be a motivation and to some extent a model for overcoming wars and longstanding division. We are not alone in Cyprus to work for reconciliation. In every country, there are many people working for a change from violence to peace through reconciliation. “When by the others the drums of war are beaten, we insist on beating the drums of life. They beat the drums of war, and we beat the drums of love.” At the actual moment, this quote from Rumi is inspiring women working in Gaza for resilience and reconciliation, such as Samah Gayad, who is a PhD candidate in AARMENA. If you want, this could also be a motto for our conference, in order to send our greetings, only 420 km to our friends and colleagues there.

A heartfelt welcome to all participants of the 7th IARS conference!

Prof. Dr. Martin Leiner  
Founder and Director of  
Jena Center for Reconciliation Studies  
Friedrich Schiller University Jena

## Greetings from the Vice-President



**Toyomi Asano**  
**IARS Vice-President**  
**Professor & Director**  
**of the Institute of**  
**International**  
**Reconciliation Studies**  
Waseda University

Distinguished colleagues, dear friends, and honored guests,

It is a great honor and privilege to address you today as Vice President at the Seventh Annual Conference of our Association here in Cyprus.

First and foremost, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all organizers who have sustained this conferences. The very continuity of our Association is a significant achievement in itself. It reflects our shared commitment to dialogue, scholarship, and international cooperation across national borders and generations.

We gather today, however, in a deeply troubled international environment. The wars in Gaza and Iran, together with the ongoing war in Ukraine, remind us that violent conflict continues to shape our world. We are living in an era in which division, fear, and mutual distrust too often prevail over reconciliation and peaceful coexistence.

Precisely for this reason, the mission of reconciliation studies has become more important than ever.

Reconciliation cannot be understood solely at the level of diplomacy or statecraft. As scholars, we must also examine the deeper foundations of conflict. Human identities, collective memories, historical narratives, and the emotional structures through which communities imagine themselves often shape

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the conditions from which conflicts emerge and persist. These dynamics operate simultaneously at multiple levels—from everyday experiences within societies to the transnational regimes of memory that influence international relations.

In this sense, reconciliation studies must continue to develop as a genuinely interdisciplinary field, bringing together international politics and security studies with the study of memory, identity, society, culture, and humanity itself.

There is perhaps no more appropriate place than Cyprus for such discussions. This island embodies both the painful legacy of division and the enduring possibility of dialogue under UN. It is a place where Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities, distinct in their ethnic backgrounds, lived together for long periods under imperial rule, when modern national consciousness had not yet fully developed in its later form. Discussing reconciliation in Cyprus therefore invites us to reflect on how different communities can coexist within a shared political and social framework, how identities are transformed over time, and how historical experiences shape both division and the possibilities for renewed dialogue.

Last year, a separate seminar was held in Kavala, Greece, in cooperation with colleagues from the University of Jena. Through such academic exchanges, I have come to recognize that the question of decolonization often lies at the intersection between national reconciliation and the memory of empire, raising important questions about how societies confront difficult pasts.

I came to appreciate how contemporary divisions are deeply intertwined with longer historical processes, including the legacies of imperial rules, nationalism, wars and ethnic exchange in the Eastern Mediterranean.



I hope that during this conference we will explore an important question: how different communities can share memories across the boundaries created by nations, empires, and civilizations. Such discussions are essential not only for understanding the past but also for imagining a more peaceful future.

I firmly believe that our discussions here in Cyprus can contribute not only to academic advancement but also to the broader pursuit of peace, reconciliation, and mutual understanding in an international community that is increasingly confronted by division and uncertainty.

Finally, I hope that this conference will deepen our intellectual exchange, strengthen our international friendships, and inspire new approaches to reconciliation in these challenging times.

Thank you very much.

Toyomi Asano  
Professor & Director  
of the Institute of International Reconciliation Studies  
Waseda University

## Greetings from the Resident Director



**Hubert Faustmann**  
**Resident Director**  
**Professor,**  
University of Nicosia  
**Director,**  
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung  
Cyprus

Distinguished guests,

It is both a pleasure and an honour to welcome you to the 7th Annual Conference of the International Association for Reconciliation Studies here in Cyprus, on behalf of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Cyprus office and the Department of Politics and Governance of the University of Nicosia.

As you know, Cyprus stands at the crossroads of continents, cultures, and histories. It is also a place where the challenges of division and the aspirations for reconciliation coexist in very tangible ways. This makes it not only a symbolic, but also a highly relevant setting for a conference dedicated to reconciliation, dialogue, and peacebuilding.

At FES Cyprus, our mission is deeply rooted in fostering dialogue, promoting democratic values, and contributing to peace and security—both on the island and across the wider region. As part of the FES global network and the MENA Competence Center for Peace and Security, we work to encourage inclusive dialogue among diverse actors and to support the development of a regional security architecture grounded in cooperation, human rights, and the rule of law.

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In a region marked by protracted conflicts and shifting geopolitical dynamics, we believe that sustainable peace cannot be achieved without addressing root causes, strengthening civil society participation, and building trust across divides.

This is precisely why gatherings like this conference are so important. By bringing together scholars, civil society, and policymakers, the International Association for Reconciliation Studies creates a vital space for exchanging ideas, challenging assumptions, and advancing innovative approaches to reconciliation.

For FES Cyprus, participating in and supporting such initiatives is essential to our core mission. Through dialogue platforms like this, we aim to contribute to a more peaceful, inclusive, and secure future for Cyprus and the broader region.

I wish you all a productive and inspiring conference.

Prof. Dr. Hubert Faustmann  
Director of FES Cyprus office

## Greetings from the Co-Chairs



**Gül M. Gür**

**Conference Co-Chair**

**IARS Secretary**

**Senior Lecturer,**

American University;

**Adjunct Faculty,**

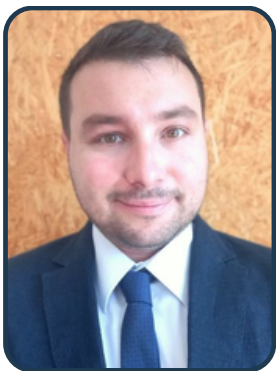
Carter School for Peace  
and Conflict Resolution,  
George Mason University

Dear colleagues and friends,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the 2026 Annual Conference of the International Association for Reconciliation Studies in Cyprus.

As Conference Co-Chairs, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to making this gathering possible. We are especially thankful to our IARS President, Vice Presidents, Organizing Committee members, volunteers, institutional partners, and local supporters whose dedication, collaboration, and countless hours of work brought this conference to life.

We would also like to extend our special thanks to Hubert Faustmann and the FES Cyprus Office for supporting the conference, as well as to the University of Nicosia for hosting us. In addition, we warmly thank the Korean organizing team of the 2025 conference for providing scholarships to scholars from the Global South.



**Charalampos Babis**


**Karpouchtsis**

**Conference Co-Chair**

**IARS Board Member**

Helmut-Schmidt-  
University/University of  
the Federal Armed Forces  
Hamburg

We are equally grateful to all participants who have traveled from different parts of the world to join us. Your research, practice, teaching, and engagement are what make this community vibrant and meaningful. The opportunity to bring together diverse perspectives and experiences in one space remains one of the greatest strengths of reconciliation studies.



Choosing Nicosia as the venue for our conference is no coincidence. A city shaped by a long-standing conflict also creates space for dialogue, reflection, and learning. Organizing this conference required close collaboration among a multicultural and multinational team of scholars and practitioners coordinating across the United States, Germany, Japan, and Cyprus. For this, we are deeply grateful – and perhaps a little proud as well.

We hope that the conversations and connections formed during this conference will inspire continued collaboration, thoughtful reflection, and new ideas for advancing peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts across different contexts.

Thank you for being part of IARS 2026, and welcome to Cyprus.

Gül M. Gür & Babis C. Karpouchtsis

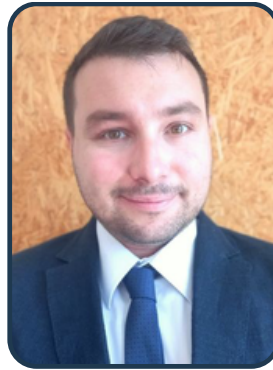
Conference Co-Chairs

International Association for Reconciliation Studies (IARS)

## International Organizing Committee



**Gül M. Gür**  
**Conference Co-Chair**  
**IARS Secretary**  
**Senior Lecturer,**  
American University;  
**Adjunct Faculty,**  
Carter School for Peace  
and Conflict Resolution,  
George Mason University



**Charalampos Babis**  
**Karpouchtsis**  
**Conference Co-Chair**  
**IARS Board Member**  
Helmut-Schmidt-  
University/University of  
the Federal Armed Forces  
Hamburg



**Rita Z. Nazeer-Ikeda**  
**Program Director**  
**Research Fellow,**  
Waseda University;  
**Affiliate Faculty,**  
Carter School for Peace  
and Conflict Resolution,  
George Mason University



**Olesya Vartanyan**  
**Program Coordinator**  
**Ph.D. Student,**  
Carter School for Peace  
and Conflict Resolution,  
George Mason University



**Ksenia Bakhtiarova**  
**Conference Coordinator**  
**Ph.D. Student,**  
Carter School for Peace  
and Conflict Resolution,  
George Mason University



**Billy Agwanda Nyadera**  
**Conference Coordinator**  
**Ph.D. Candidate,**  
Carter School for Peace  
and Conflict Resolution,  
George Mason University

## Local Organizing Committee



**Hubert Faustmann**  
**Resident Director**

**Professor,**

University of Nicosia

**Director,**

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

Cyprus

Prof. Dr. Hubert Faustmann is a Professor of History and International Relations at the University of Nicosia and has served as Director of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Cyprus office 2011. Professor Faustmann was Editor-in-Chief of The Cyprus Review (2006-2016) and currently co-authors the annual Cyprus reports for the Political Data Yearbook of the European Journal of Political Research. His expertise focuses on British colonial Cyprus and post-independence Cypriot history and politics.



**Anna Tsangari**

**Administration & Events**

**Office Administrator,**

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

Cyprus

Anna Tsangari has been working with FES Cyprus since August 2022. She serves as Office Administrator and is responsible for financial coordination and event organisation. She has lived in numerous countries abroad and has extensive experience as a teacher of English and German, having taught at schools, colleges, and universities in Cyprus and internationally.

# Featured Events & Speakers



- Keynote Discussion
- Presidential Address
- IARS Awards & General Assembly Meeting

## Keynote Discussion

Friday, June 19, 5.00 p.m. to 6.15 p.m., UNIC UNESCO Auditorium

### **Overcoming the Division: Can the Cyprus Problem be Solved?**

This high-level panel brings together former chief negotiators and scholars to examine the prospects for a lasting solution to the Cyprus conflict.

#### Speakers



**Özdil Nami**  
Former Chief Negotiator  
for the Turkish Cypriot  
Community



**Dr. Andreas D.  
Mavroyiannis**  
Former Chief Negotiator  
for the  
Greek Cypriot Community



**Prof. Dr. Hubert  
Faustmann**  
University of Nicosia /  
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung  
Cyprus

#### Moderators

Dr. Gul M. Gur and Dr. Babis C. Karpouchtsis  
IARS 2026 Conference Co-Chairs

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With decades of experience in peace negotiations and international relations, the speakers will reflect on past efforts, assess current challenges, and explore pathways toward reconciliation. We will begin with a short introduction to the modern history and politics of Cyprus by Prof. Dr. Faustmann and then get into the discussion with the former Chief Negotiators.

The discussion will be followed by a reception.

*Organized by the International Association for Reconciliation Studies (IARS) in cooperation with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Cyprus Office), the Department of Politics and Governance, and IREA at the University of Nicosia.*

## Presidential Address

Saturday, June 20, 5.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m., UNIC UNESCO Auditorium



**Karina Korostelina**  
**IARS President**  
**Distinguished Service**  
**Professor & Director**  
**of Sustainable Peace Lab**  
Carter School for Peace  
and Conflict Resolution,  
George Mason University

The address presents reconciliation as societal reconstruction - an identity-based process that unfolds across psychological, relational, cultural, and structural domains. It defines reconciliation as societal reconstruction - a systemic redefinition of identity and social boundaries, the pluralization of collective memory, the restoration of trust across groups and institutions, and the transformation of structures to sustain an inclusive and equitable society. It requires reconfiguring how communities understand themselves and each other, how histories are narrated and remembered, and how institutions distribute dignity, security, and participation across groups. Based on the BRIDGE framework, the address discusses theoretical and practical implications for reconciliation as societal reconstruction.

**Karina V. Korostelina** is a Distinguished Service Professor and Director of the Sustainable Peace Lab at the Carter School, GMU, and President of the International Association for Reconciliation Studies. Supported by 54 grants, she has authored 18 books and over 120 articles. A Fulbright and Rockefeller fellow, she's received 13 residential fellowships globally. Dr. Korostelina works on conflict resolution and peacebuilding in over 20 countries, collaborating with governments and local organizations. She has partnered with international institutions and helped create Conflict Analysis and Resolution programs in eight countries, bridging scholarship and practice to advance global peace and reconciliation efforts.

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## **IARS Awards & General Assembly**

Sunday, June 21, 11.30 a.m. to 12.45 p.m., UNIC UNESCO Auditorium

**Join us as we celebrate outstanding scholarship and contributions to the field of reconciliation studies through the presentation of the IARS Best Book Award and Best Article Award.**

The session will also include the **annual IARS General Assembly**, during which members will receive updates on the Association's activities, finances, publications, future conferences, and ongoing initiatives.

Members will have the opportunity to provide feedback, discuss future directions for the Association, and participate in the election of officers (if applicable).

# Concurrent Sessions



- Information for Chairs & Presenters
- Details of Concurrent Sessions

# Information for Chairs & Presenters

## Overview

This year, we are delighted to host ten on-site concurrent sessions and four virtual sessions

- Concurrent sessions #1 to #9 will be held at the University of Nicosia (UNIC), and concurrent session #10 will be held at the Ledra Palace.
- As this is **not a hybrid conference**, virtual sessions are held separately from on-site sessions. However, for virtual sessions #1, #2, and #4, we have provided a physical room for on-site participants to join. Where possible, please use your personal devices to connect to the virtual sessions. Headphones are recommended for personal engagement. The conference provides Wi-Fi for all participants.

## On-site Concurrent Sessions

Each on-site concurrent session is allocated **75 minutes**

- In general, there are three to five presentations per session. As presentation time should be limited to 60 minutes in total, please allocate an equal amount of time to each presenter. For example, in a session with four presentations, each presentation will be 12 to 15 minutes.
- In co-authored presentations, multiple presenters may speak, but please stay within the 12- to 15-minute time limit.
- Please keep your presentation within the designated time to ensure smooth, equitable sessions.
- The remaining time (~10 to 15 minutes) can be reserved for questions and answers, facilitated by the session Chair.
- Chairs or other agreed-upon timekeepers will monitor the time and cue presenters with the provided time cards.
- Should the session Chair be unable to attend due to unavoidable circumstances, please nominate a presenter to assume the Chair's responsibilities for the session.

## On-Site Concurrent Sessions (continued)

There are **three presentation rooms at UNIC** – the UNESCO Auditorium, Plato, and Rousseau

- Please arrive at your assigned presentation room **at least 10 minutes before your session begins.**
- Audiovisual equipment, including laptops, projection screens, and sound equipment, will be provided. You may upload your presentation slides using a USB flash drive.
- Panel submissions with a mix of on-site and virtual presenters will need to be **self-organized** by the session Chair. This includes organizing the connections of the virtual presenters to your panel.

### For **Chairs**

- At the beginning of the session, please introduce all panelists and announce the agreed-upon presentation order. Bios can be found in the conference program book.
- Please monitor the time and signal presenters with the provided time cards. The cards will be placed in each presentation room.
- Ensure that 10 to 15 minutes are reserved for questions and answers after the presentations.
- To respect everyone's time, please ensure the session concludes on time and thank the presenters and the audience before closing.

Poster and creative work presentations follow the same guidelines. **All posters will be in digital format only.**

The speaker order and duration of roundtable sessions are managed by the chosen session Chair.

## Virtual Concurrent Sessions

**Please join your session at least 10 minutes prior to the start to ensure a smooth flow.**

- The duration of virtual sessions varies from 60 to 90 minutes.
- Please keep your presentation within the designated time to ensure smooth, equitable sessions
- The remaining time (~10 to 15 minutes) can be reserved for questions and answers, facilitated by the session Chair.
- Chairs or other agreed-upon timekeepers will monitor the time and cue presenters with the 'raised hand' or other gesture.
- Should the session Chair be unable to attend due to unavoidable circumstances, please nominate a presenter to assume the Chair's responsibilities for the session.
- We kindly ask everyone joining online sessions to have their first & last name visible on Zoom to prevent disturbances.

## Virtual Rooms and On-site Spaces

- As this is not a hybrid conference, virtual sessions are held separately from on-site sessions.
- Presenters, please log in at least 10 minutes before your session begins.
- Zoom login details can be found in the program.

### For Chairs

- **Please join the session at least 10 minutes prior to the start to ensure a smooth flow.**
- At the beginning of the session, please introduce all panelists and announce the agreed-upon presentation order. Bios can be found in the conference program book.
- Please make sure everyone is muted except the presenter and give all presenters co-host rights to allow them to share their screens.

For **Chairs** (continued)

- Please also make sure that no strangers are entering Zoom sessions. **We kindly ask everyone entering Zoom rooms to have their first & last name visible.**
- Please monitor the time and signal presenters with a Zoom gesture 5 minutes before and at the end of the presentation. (Raised hand might be a good option).
- Ensure that 10 to 15 minutes are reserved for questions and answers after the presentations.
- To respect everyone's time, please ensure the session concludes on time and thank the presenters and the audience before closing.

## Details of Concurrent Sessions

### Concurrent Session #1a

#### ***Building the Scaffolding: Theoretical and Philosophical Discussions of Reconciliation Studies***

Friday, June 19, 10.00 a.m. to 11.15 a.m., UNIC [UNESCO Auditorium](#)

One or Multiple Theoretical Frameworks for Reconciliation Studies

**Martin Leiner**, *Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena*

Morality and Politics in the Appendix of Kant's *On Perpetual Peace* – A Reconciliation?

**Jan Migenda**, *Bonn/Salerno Universities*

Reconciliation in the Age of Necropolitics: Guided by Frantz Fanon, Achille Mbembe, and Judith Butler

**Wataru Sanada**, *Waseda University*

Building Peace: The Role of Social Stability in the Path to Reconciliation

**Antea Enna**, *Ca' Foscari University*

*Chair:*

**Karina Korostelina**, *George Mason University*

### Concurrent Session #1b

#### ***"It is a Betrayal of our Oath to Stay Silent" – The Role of the Medical Community in Genocide Prevention and Human Rights***

Friday, June 19, 10.00 a.m. to 11.15 a.m., UNIC [Plato](#)

An Introspective Introduction of Doctors Against Genocide

**Nidal Jboor & Karamah Kuemmerle**, *Doctors Against Genocide*

Evidence of Genocide in Occupied Palestine

**Adlah Sukkar**, *Doctors Against Genocide*

Where Do We Go from Here? – Post-Genocide Recovery

**Maysa Hawwash**, *Doctors Against Genocide*

*Chair:*

**Alexis Primrose**, *Doctors Against Genocide*

**Concurrent Session #1c*****The Inner Work of Peace: Mindsets, Forgiveness, and Psychological Reconciliation***Friday, June 19, 10.00 a.m. to 11.15 a.m., UNIC [Rousseau](#)

The Reconciliation Mindset: Initial Construct Validation

**Shiri Barr & Ofra Mayselless**, *University of Haifa*

"The best way to find out if you can trust somebody is to trust them": Some psychological processes in reluctance to make this commitment

**Adrian Needs**, *University of Portsmouth*

Positions in the Representational Field of the Cyprus problem: The Role of Human Values

**Andrea Nicolaou** (virtual), *University of Cyprus*

Chair:

**Olesya Vartanyan**, *George Mason University***Concurrent Session #2a*****Justice, Truth, and the Politics of Accountability: Transitional Justice in Practice***Friday, June 19, 11.30 a.m. to 12.45 p.m., UNIC [UNESCO Auditorium](#)

Reconceptualizing Reconciliation: The Politics of Accountability and the Limits of Consensus

**Gloria Ayee**, *Harvard University*

Reconciliation as the forgotten goal: Assessing the work of the bicomunal Technical Committees in Cyprus

**Nasia Hadjigeorgiou**, *UCLan Cyprus*

Justice on Hold: Explaining the Reluctance of Victims to Seek Accountability

**Elpida Vasileiou**, *University of Cyprus*

Transitional Justice 'from Below' during Intractable Asymmetric Conflicts: Reconciliation through the Streets of Jaffa?

**Yoav Kapshuk**, *Kinneret College on the Sea of Galilee*

Chair:

**Rita Z. Nazeer-Ikeda**, *Waseda University; George Mason University*

**Concurrent Session #2b*****Uncovering Embedded Relationships for Reconciliation: An Examination of Sub-State Actors' Cognitive Frameworks and Identities***

Friday, June 19, 11.30 a.m. to 12.45 p.m., UNIC [Plato](#)

Unpacking the Embedded Relationships between Britain and Jamaica in the Reconciliation Process over the Transatlantic Slave Trade, Slavery, and Colonialism

**Naoko Kumagai**, *Aoyamagakuin University*

Remembrance to Practice: Imaginary Networks in Historical Memory and their Connectivity towards the Embedded Reconciliation

**Rashika Abesinghe** (virtual), *Waseda University*

Is Reconciliation Possible with Those Marginalized in Postwar Reconstruction after World War II?: The Silences of "Embedded Liberalism" on Gender Inequality and Ethnic Discrimination

**Hajime Onozaka**, *Waseda University*

Possibility or Impossibility of Reconciliation inside Local Society: A case study of ambiguous perpetrators in northern Uganda

**Hiroko Kawaguchi**, *Waseda University*

*Discussant:*

**Charalampos Babis Karpouchtsis**, *Helmut-Schmidt-University; University of the Federal Armed Forces Hamburg*

*Chair:*

**Naoko Kumagai**, *Aoyamagakuin University*

**Concurrent Session #2c (Posters & Creative Work)*****Memory, Identity, and Conflict***

Friday, June 19, 11.30 a.m. to 12.45 p.m., UNIC [Rousseau](#)

Institutional Norm Formation in Property Settlement: A Social-Threshold Agent-Based Model

**{Poster Presentation}**

**Christos Charalambous**, *University of Cyprus*

Collecting Fragments of Memory: Archival Activism and the Families of Japanese Stay-Behind Soldiers in Vietnam

**{Poster Presentation}**

**Ayako Tomizuka**, *Waseda University*

Historical and Reflective Approaches to Peace, Interfaith Dialogue and Religious Approaches, Nationalism and Identity in Reconciliation

**{Poster Presentation}**

**Dawid Stelmach**, *Adam Mickiewicz University*

Political Apologies in Deeply Divided Societies: A Comparative Analysis of Cyprus and Northern Ireland

**{Poster Presentation}**

**Maria Diplarou**, *University of Cyprus*

Innocent Knowledge: Israeli and Palestinian Children's Drawings

**{Creative Work}**

**Canaan Estes**, *Brown University*

*Chair:*

**Gül M. Gür**, *American University*

**Concurrent Session #3a (Film Screening)*****Beyond History Education***

Friday, June 19, 01.45 p.m. to 03.00 p.m., UNIC [UNESCO Auditorium](#)

**Mine Balman**, *Peacebuilding Practitioner*

aSi Production | 2021

*Director:* Mine Balman

*Duration:* 62 minutes

*Subtitles:* English, Greek, Turkish

*Chair:*

**Gül M. Gür**, *American University*

[Details can be found on [page 55](#)]

**Concurrent Session #3b*****Faith in Peace: Religion, Spirituality, and the Ethics of Reconciliation***

Friday, June 19, 01.45 p.m. to 03.00 p.m., UNIC [Plato](#)

Religious Ecosystems for Peace and Reconciliation (RE4PR): From Charter Adoption to Institutional Integration and Regional Expansion

**Laura Villanueva**, *Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena*

Church-Led Reconciliation and Political Maneuvering Space in Angola

**Maarten van Munster**, *VU University Amsterdam, The Hague University of Applied Sciences*

Etty Hillesum's Spirituality of Reconciliation

**Han Sang Cho**, *Honam Theological University and Seminary*

*Chair:*

**Charalampos Babis Karpouchtsis**, *Helmut-Schmidt-University; University of the Federal Armed Forces Hamburg*

**Virtual Session #1**

***Emergent Reconciliation Approaches in a Changing World Order***

Friday, June 19, 01.45 p.m. to 03.00 p.m.,

**Zoom Details:** <https://tinyurl.com/49nwpapj>

(Meeting ID: 974 4693 8267, PW: 793315)

On-site Room: [Rousseau](#) (no live streaming, please use personal devices)

Beyond Ethnic Division: Applying Identity-Based Reconciliation Theory to Myanmar's Ethnic Crisis

**Pau Sian Lian**, *George Mason University*

Interpersonal Conflict, Culture and Change Management by Transformational Leaders

**Kim Thompson**, *Graduate of Nova Southeastern University*

Deliberative Consociationalism and Structural Inequality: Power and Conflict Transformation

**Anna Drake**, *University of Waterloo (Canada), Department of Political Science*

*Chair & Host:*

**Ksenia Bakhtiarova**, *George Mason University*

**Concurrent Session #4a*****Classrooms for Peace: Education, Pedagogy, and the Future of Reconciliation***

Friday, June 19, 03.30 p.m. to 04.45 p.m., UNIC [UNESCO Auditorium](#)

Is Genocide Education an Effective Tool of Genocide Prevention?: Critical and Peace Pedagogies in Public Genocide Education

**Alexis Primrose**, *George Mason University/Doctors Against Genocide*

Teaching Peace Amid Atrocity: A Social Identity Approach to Reconciliation

**Jocelyn Barrett**, *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*

The Moderating Role of Conflict Intensity: Peace Education's Impact on Reconciliation Attitudes of Palestinian Citizens of Israel

**Yoav Kapshuk**, *Kinneret College on the Sea of Galilee*

*Chair:*

**Rita Z. Nazeer-Ikeda**, *Waseda University; George Mason University*

**Concurrent Session #4b*****Decolonization and Local Pathways to Peacebuilding: Restitution, Law, Expertise, and Ubuntu as Frameworks for Reconciliation***

Friday, June 19, 03.30 p.m. to 04.45 p.m., UNIC [Plato](#)

The Persistence and Renegotiation of Colonial Legacies in Burundi's Foreign Policy

**Alène N. Kaneza**, *Universite libre de Bruxelles; Université du Burundi*

Decolonial Rhetoric and the Persistence of White Expertise

**Gracia Lwanzo Kasongo** (virtual), *Université Catholique de Louvain*

Colonial Injustice Before the Law: Doctrinal Barriers to Restitution and Reconciliation

**Felicité Mugombozi** (virtual), *Universität Leipzig*

"Green Ubuntu": Care Ecology as Foundations for Reconciliation

**Déogratias Maruhukiro**, *Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg*

*Chair:*

**Déogratias Maruhukiro**, *Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg*

**Concurrent Session #5a*****The View from Outside: Frozen Conflicts, International Intervention, and the Elusive Peace***Saturday, June 20, 10.00 a.m. to 11.15 a.m., UNIC [UNESCO Auditorium](#)

Decolonizing Counterinsurgency: Why Foreign Intervention Undermines Local Reconciliation

**Barbara Elias**, *Bowdoin College*

How Statelets Die: Lessons from Nagorno-Karabakh

**Olesya Vartanyan**, *George Mason University*

Reconciliation Choked at Birth: The State, M23 Rebels and the Perpetuity of Armed Violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo

**Nicholas Idris Erameh**, *Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA)**Chair:***Karina Korostelina**, *George Mason University***Concurrent Session #5b*****Contested Nation-State Narratives and the Prospects for Reconciliation: Museums, Cultural Property, and the Politics of Representation***Saturday, June 20, 10.00 a.m. to 11.15 a.m., UNIC [Plato](#)

Mutually Irreconcilable "Historical Correctness": An Analysis of Underlying Contradictions in South Korean State-Sanctioned Historical Narratives

**Björn Wickman**, *The University of Tokyo*

Collective Victimhood in Museums: Political Theater or a Desire for Reconciliation?

**William Kilgore**, *Waseda University*

Cultural Property Issues as a Site of Conflict between Nation-States: A Comparative Analysis of Cases in Japan and South Korea

**Keitoku Ikegami**, *International Christian University**Discussant:***Kijeong Nam**, *Seoul National University**Chair:***Toyomi Asano**, *Waseda University*

**Concurrent Session #5c (Roundtable #1)*****Preventing Genocide: A Proactive Medical Approach to Early Recognition and Prevention***

Saturday, June 20, 10.00 a.m. to 11.15 a.m., UNIC [Rousseau](#)

**Nidal Jboor**, *Doctors Against Genocide*

**Karamah Kuemmerle**, *Doctors Against Genocide*

**Adlah Sukkar**, *Doctors Against Genocide*

**Maysa Hawwash**, *Doctors Against Genocide*

**Yipeng Ge**, *Doctors Against Genocide*

*Chair:*

**Alexis Primrose**, *Doctors Against Genocide*

**Concurrent Session #6a*****Unsettling Peace: Decolonization and Alternative Approaches to Peacebuilding***

Saturday, June 20, 11.30 a.m. to 12.45 p.m., UNIC [UNESCO Auditorium](#)

Ambiguous Narratives of (De)Colonisation: The Case of Cyprus

**Sophie Falschebner**, *University of Marburg*

Designing Reconciliation Before and Beyond Settlement: Intergenerational Trauma, Truth, Education, and Social Infrastructure in Cyprus

**Mine Balman**, *Peacebuilding Practitioner*

Indigenous Spirituality as a Human Right – The Contribution of Reconciliation Research and Practice in Conflicts over Raw Materials in Indigenous Territories

**Ralf Haeussler**, *Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena*

Towards Genocide-Informed and Trauma-Wise Technologies

**Patricia May Derbyshire**, *Simon Fraser University*

Digital Peacebuilding and Reconciliation Studies: The Process of the Study

**Iyad Muhsen Suleiman Aldajani**, *Jena Center for Reconciliation Studies*

*Chair:*

**Gül M. Gür**, *American University*

**Concurrent Session #6b*****Visible Efforts, Invisible Wounds: Reconciliation Struggles and Possibilities in East Asian Island Territories***

Saturday, June 20, 11.30 a.m. to 12.45 p.m., UNIC [Plato](#)

Amami Islanders in 'Zone of Exception': Case Analysis of Divided Budget System and Abandoned Hibakusha Relief

**Kaori Kohyama**, *Freie Universität Berlin*

Crossing Divided Histories: The Crossing and the Reconciliation of Inconvenient Memories Across the Taiwan Strait in the 2010s

**Hao-Wen Cheng**, *University of Minnesota*

The East Asian Peace Walk as a Laboratory of Reconciliation: Walking through the Histories, Memories, and Present of the Islands

**Chih Kang Chen**, *Kyoto University*

*Chair:*

**Arata Hirai**, *Tokai University*

**Concurrent Session #6c*****Education as a Site of Memory, Tolerance and Identity Construction in Asia: Individual and Institutional Perspectives***

Saturday, June 20, 11.30 a.m. to 12.45 p.m., UNIC [Rousseau](#)

Higher Education as a Site of Contestation of National Collective Memory Narratives: Hiroshima University and Global Memories of World War II

**Lauren Noelani Nakasato** (virtual), *Tohoku University*

Understanding Indonesia's Religious Moderation for Nurturing Peace in Diversity 2020–2024: From Secondary Education Muslim Teachers' Perspectives

**Arauf Aji Harindra Sakti**, *Waseda University*

Identity Expansion and the Development of Orientations toward Peace: Evidence from ASEAN Students in Japan

**Nguyen Viet Du**, *Waseda University; Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena*

From Inherited Selves to Constructed Selves: The Role of Identity Transformation in Post-Conflict Reconciliation

**Cao Thi Minh Chau**, *Waseda University*

*Chair:*

**Rita Z. Nazeer-Ikeda**, *Waseda University; George Mason University*

**Concurrent Session #7a*****Lost in Translation? Global Education Norms, Epistemic Knowledge, and Reconciliation in Asia***

Saturday, June 20, 01.45 p.m. to 03.00 p.m., UNIC [UNESCO Auditorium](#)

Japan's International Cooperation in Education as Cross-Border Governance for Reconciliation and Peace

**Kazuo Kuroda**, *Waseda University*

From Reconstruction to Transformation: Navigating the Paradoxes of National Reconciliation and International Education in Singapore

**Rita Z. Nazeer-Ikeda**, *Waseda University; George Mason University*

Universities as Potential Sites for Epistemic Reconciliation: Mediating Global Sustainability Norms and Local Epistemologies

**Huijia Teh**, *Waseda University*

From International Commitments to Everyday Practice: Inclusive Education and the Local Enactment of Global Reconciliation Norms in Vietnam

**Pham Thi Lan Huong**, *Waseda University*

Chair:

**Huijia Teh**, *Waseda University*

**Concurrent Session #7b*****The Limits of Recognition: Communities, Erasure, and Responses Across Contexts***

Saturday, June 20, 01.45 p.m. to 03.00 p.m., UNIC [Plato](#)

Managing Anger: Reconciliation Strategies and Practices in Greek and Roman Antiquity

**Gabriel Evangelou**, *Ionian University*

After State Recognition: State Violence and the Shifting Meaning of Recognition in the Geochang Massacre in South Korea

**Tatsuya Maisawa**, *Kobe University*

The Death of the Maronites

**J.D. Bowers**, *Rutgers University*

Reconciling Congregations

**Abi Cunningham**, *George Mason University*

Chair:

**Stephanie Endo**, *George Mason University*

## IARS Board Meeting

Saturday, June 20, 01.45 p.m. to 03.30 p.m., UNIC [Rousseau](#)

**Karina Korostelina**, President

**Martin Leiner**, Vice-President

**Toyomi Asano**, Vice-President

**Gül M. Gür**, Secretary

**Ralf Häußler**, Treasurer

**Charalampos Babis Karpouchtsis**

**Félicité Mugombozi**

**Iyad Muhsen AlDajani**

**Laura Villaneuva**

## Concurrent Session #8a

***Silenced No More: Women, Gender, and the Politics of Peace***

Saturday, June 20, 03.30 p.m. to 04.45 p.m., UNIC [UNESCO Auditorium](#)

Unifying Cypriot Women's Voices for Social and Political Change

**Maria Hadjipavlou**, *University of Cyprus*

Gender Dynamics in Peacebuilding: Pacifist Strategies and Tensions in Inter-War Greece

**Maria Kyriakidou**, *Anatolia American University*

Womanism: An Examination of Social Identity and Resilience through Social Clubs in the United States

**Kayla Owens**, *George Mason University*

Interweaving Relationality – Inawendiwin (Connection):

Women Revitalizing Resurgence and Reciprocity

**Patricia May Derbyshire**, *Simon Fraser University*

*Chair:*

**Stephanie Endo**, *George Mason University*

**Concurrent Session #8b*****Long Shadow of Violence: Historical Reckoning, Memory Politics, and Reconciliation***

Saturday, June 20, 03.30 p.m. to 04.45 p.m., UNIC [Plato](#)

From "One Nation" to "Two States": How North Korea's Two-State Doctrine Opens the Door to Institutionalized Reconciliation with Japan

**Kijeong Nam**, *Seoul National University*

Beyond Perpetrators and Victims: Reinterpreting the 228 Incident through the Gray Zone of Postwar Taiwan

**Yoshihisa Amae**, *National Taiwan Normal University*

Remembering One's Own 'Genocide' in the Homeland: Lithuanian Collective Memory in the Diaspora

**Hisashi Shigematsu**, *Vytautas Magnus University; Meiji Gakuin University*

The Politics of "Forgiveness": Anticolonial Movements and Moral Re-Armament (MRA) in Late Colonial Kenya

**Kasumi Kimura**, *Kyoto University*

*Chair:*

**Gül M. Gür**, *American University*

**Virtual Session #2*****Cultural Heritage, Memory, and Education for Justice***

Saturday, June 20, 03.30 p.m. to 04.45 p.m.,

**Zoom Details:** <https://tinyurl.com/mrx8wxfm>

(Meeting ID: 955 8359 7935 , PW: 779538)

On-site Room: Rousseau (no live streaming, please use personal devices)

Representations, Receptions, and Restraints: Curatorial Strategies of Grassroots Museums in Japan

**Maumita Banerjee**, *Waseda University*

Contemporary Ukrainian Visual Culture as Emerging Cultural Heritage: Reanimating Sensitivity in Protracted War

**Olesya Shambur**, *National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy*

"Worlding" Students: Esperanto in Anarchist Education in Post-Colonial South Korea

**Dongyoun Hwang**, *Soka University of America*

Reckoning With Racial Prejudice: North American Truth and Reconciliation Commissions

**Larry Schooler**, *University of Texas at Austin*Chair & Host: **Billy Agwanda Nyadera**, *George Mason University***Virtual Session #3*****Remembering War, Reimagining Peace: Youth Engagement with Post-Conflict Memory in the Balkans***

Sunday, June 21, 08.30 a.m. to 09.30 a.m.,

**Zoom Details:** <https://tinyurl.com/m7wv3h44>

(Meeting ID: 953 9923 8763, PW: 247821)

Virtual Room Only (No On-site Room)

Intergenerational Memory and Slow Peace: Youth, Silence, and Memory Activism in Bosnian Contexts

**Emina Zoletic**, *University of Warsaw*

Between Battles and Peace Agreements: Youth Understandings of Peace and Reconciliation in Post-War Croatia

**Tamara Banjeglav**, *Institute of Culture and Memory Studies, ZRC SAZU*

Youth in Serbia and the Wars in the 1990s: How Narrative Normalization of Violence Fosters Conflict-Supporting Narratives

**Rodoljub Jovanovic**, *University of Belgrade*Chair: **Rodoljub Jovanovic**, *University of Belgrade*Host: **Gül M. Gür**, *American University*

**Concurrent Session #9a (Book Discussion)*****Conflict and Change: Integrating Social and Developmental Psychology***

Sunday, June 21, 10.00 a.m. to 11.15 a.m., UNIC [UNESCO Auditorium](#)

**Ilke Dagli-Hustings**, *The Centre for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development (SeeD)*

Genetic Social Psychology and System-Based Theories

**Karina Korostelina**, *George Mason University*

From Theory to Praxis: Conflict Transformation in Cyprus

**Meltem Onurkan-Samani**, *Cyprus Peace and Dialogue Centre (CPDC)*

Functional Co-Existence in Cyprus and the Prospects of Reconciliation in Dialogue with Genetic Social Psychology

**Gül M. Gür**, *American University*

*Chair:*

**Charis Psaltis**, *University of Cyprus*

**Concurrent Session #9b*****Peace from the Ground Up: Spiritual and Community-Led Reconciliation Processes***

Sunday, June 21, 10.00 a.m. to 11.15 a.m., UNIC [Plato](#)

Unlocking Peace: How Can Asian-Pacific Democracies Contribute to UN Peacemaking in Wider Europe

**Arbenita Sopaj**, *Waseda University &*

**Neophytos Loizides**, *University of Warwick*

Entering the Hive: Relational Practice, Reconciliation, and the Theory-Practice Gap in Fragile Social Systems

**Marlie Holtzhausen**, *University of Pretoria*

Participatory Democracy and Community-Based Conflict Resolution: Social Mediation, Democratic Innovation and the Cyprus Conflict

**Katerina Antoniou**, *University of Central Lancashire, Cyprus*

*Chair:*

**Charalampos Babis Karpouchtsis**, *Helmut-Schmidt-University; University of the Federal Armed Forces Hamburg*

**Concurrent Session #9c*****The War of Words: Media, Memory, and Counter-Narratives***Sunday, June 21, 10.00 a.m. to 11.15 a.m., UNIC [Rousseau](#)

Media, War Memory, and Emotion in East Asian Reconciliation

**Yang Qu**, *Ludong University; Waseda University*

Trust in Media Coverage of the Cyprus Issue: An Exploratory Study in a Divided Society

**Nikolas Soros**, *University of Cyprus*

"Mercantile Peace:" How Authoritarian Regimes Instrumentalize the Peace Discourse to Produce Legitimacy

**Malkhaz Saldadze**, *George Mason University Korea*

Perceiving the Reality of Life: Essay on Japanese Phenomenology, Reading and Writing

**Hitomi Inoue**, *Hiroshima University*

Chair:

**Olesya Vartanyan**, *George Mason University***Virtual Session #4 (Book Discussion)*****Deliberative Peacemaking (Oxford University Press)***

Sunday, June 21, 10.00 a.m. to 11.15 a.m.,

**Zoom Details:** <https://tinyurl.com/ez795mrx>

(Meeting ID: 928 4667 6392 , PW:137489)

Virtual Room Only (No On-site Room)

**Ron Levy**, *The Australian National University***Jamie Pow**, *Queen's University Belfast***Allison McCulloch**, *Brannndon University***Selen Ercan**, *University of Canberra***Jennifer Todd**, *University College Dublin*

Chair:

**Ron Levy**, *The Australian National University*;**Allison McCulloch**, *Brannndon University*

Host:

**Rita Z. Nazeer-Ikeda**, *Waseda University; George Mason University*

**Concurrent Session #10a*****Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus***

Monday, June 22, 10.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m., Ledra Palace

**Demet Karşılı,**

*CMP, Archaeologist/1st Assistant of TC Member, Ankara University*

**Maria Achilleos,**

*CMP, Archaeologist/1st Assistant of GC Member, Cyprus University*

**Gülseren Baranhan,**

*CMP, Archaeologist/2nd Assistant of TC Member, Hacettepe University*

**Mary Epiphaniou,**

*CMP, Administrative Officer/2nd Assistant of GC Member  
Monterey, CA, USA*

**Concurrent Session #10b*****Shared Spaces, Shared Responsibility: Cultural Heritage as a Pathway to Reconciliation in Cyprus***

Monday, June 22, 10.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m., Ledra Palace

**Ali Tuncay,**

*Bilkent University in Ankara/Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage (TCCH)*

**Sotos Ktoris,**

*Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage in Cyprus/ University of Cyprus*

**Philippe Baudin-Auliac,**

*UN Facilitator to the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage, Senior Political Affairs Officer in the Office of the Special Adviser of the UN Secretary-General on Cyprus*

**Concurrent Session #10c (Roundtable #2)**

***Rethinking Peace Process Design: Integrating Civic Participation, New Methodologies, and Pathways to Overcome Impasse***

Monday, June 22, 10.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m., Ledra Palace

**ilke Dagli-Hustings,**

*The Centre for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development*

**Erol Kaymak,**

*Eastern Mediterranean University*

**Charis Psaltis,**

*University of Cyprus*

**Neophytos Loizides,**

*University of Warwick*

**Allison McCulloch,**

*Brandon University*

*Chair:*

**Meltem Onurkan-Samani,**

*Cyprus Peace and Dialogue Center (CPDC)*

# Of Special Interest



- Film Screening
- Choir for Peace
- Cyprus Night
- Ledra Palace
- Famagusta

## Film Screening

Friday, June 19, 01.45 p.m. to 03.00 p.m., UNIC UNESCO Auditorium

# ***Beyond History Education***

Throughout the 20th century, nationalism in Cyprus cultivated layers of fear, loss, and unresolved trauma. Following the island's division, education systems on both sides became powerful instruments for reproducing these wounds, transmitting one-sided narratives, distorted histories, and negative images of the "other" to new generations.

In "Beyond History Education", Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots born between 1975 and 1990, raised and educated separately across the divide, come together to reflect on how education systems and official political narratives shaped their understanding of history, identity, and each other. Through personal testimonies, they confront the nationalist narratives embedded in schooling, the silences and distortions within official histories, and the ways in which intergenerational trauma has been transmitted across decades. Their reflections reveal the lasting impact these narratives have had on their perceptions and on bi-communal relationships.

In post-conflict societies, remembering, sharing, and critically revisiting the past are essential steps towards healing. By bringing individual and collective memories into dialogue, the film seeks to foster empathy, challenge inherited prejudices, and open space for change. Beyond History Education contributes to ongoing conversations on peace education, confidence-building measures, and the role of a future education system in supporting reconciliation and sustainable peace in Cyprus.

**aSi Production | 2021**

**Director:** Mine Balman

**Duration:** 62 minutes

**Subtitles:** English, Greek, Turkish



## Choir for Peace

Saturday, June 20, 6.00 p.m. to 6.30 p.m., UNIC UNESCO Auditorium

### **Bicommunal Choir for Peace – Lena Melanidou (Cyprus)**

Founded in 1997, the Bicommunal Choir for Peace – Lena Melanidou brings together Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot musicians who share a commitment to peace, reconciliation, and a reunified Cyprus. Through music, the choir promotes dialogue, mutual understanding, and cooperation across communities.

The choir's repertoire includes traditional Cypriot songs in both Greek and Turkish, as well as contemporary works that convey messages of peace, solidarity, and coexistence. Directed jointly by Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot conductors, the choir also collaborates with members of Cyprus's Maronite and Armenian communities.

Over nearly three decades, the choir has performed in more than 250 events across Cyprus and internationally, including appearances in London, Istanbul, Athens, Brussels, and other cities. Since 2022, the choir has proudly carried the name of its late maestro, Lena Melanidou, whose dedication helped shape its enduring mission.

The choir remains a powerful symbol of the role that culture, dialogue, and shared artistic expression can play in building lasting peace.

<https://choirforpeace.weebly.com>

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## Cyprus Night

Saturday, June 20, from 7.30 p.m., Stoa tou Dimitri

We will have the

### **Cypriot Traditional Tavern Experience**

**(for participants who registered for the dinner).**

*In Cyprus, many small plates called “Meze” are served, creating a rich and varied culinary experience.*

We will meet for dinner at

## **“Stoa tou Dimitri”**

**Digeni Akrita 28, Nicosia 1045, Cyprus**

**at 19:30**

**Transportation from UNIC will NOT be provided.**

Kindly make your own transfer arrangements to the venue.

## Ledra Palace Panels & Famagusta Tour

Monday, June 22, 08.30 a.m. to ~07.30 p.m.

On Monday, June 22, conference participants will have the unique opportunity to attend sessions at the historic Ledra Palace Hotel, located within the United Nations-controlled Buffer Zone in Nicosia. For decades, Ledra Palace has served as a neutral meeting space for dialogue, peacebuilding initiatives, intercommunal activities, and confidence-building efforts on the island.

### Important Access Information

- All attendees must arrive at the Ledra Palace Crossing from the South of the island and cross into the Buffer Zone with their passports.
- All attendees **must bring a valid passport.**
- There is a 100% ID check at the Fulbright Gate of the UN Facility.
- Participants without valid identification will be denied access to the UN-controlled area.

### Schedule Highlights

**08:30–09:30** Cross from the south into the Buffer Zone via the Ledra Palace Crossing. **Participants are to proceed at the crossing on your own.** Check in at the UN facility (Ledra Palace Hotel).

**10:00–11:30** Concurrent Session #10 and Roundtable Session #2 at Ledra Palace

**12:00–12:30** Gather at the Ledra Palace Crossing Point to cross to the northern part of Cyprus (**for participants who registered for the tour**)

**12:30–13:00** Walk to the bus

**13:00–14:30** Depart for Famagusta

**18:30** Return to Nicosia

## Famagusta Visit

Following the morning sessions, participants who have registered for the tour will travel to Famagusta, one of Cyprus's most historically significant cities. The visit offers an opportunity to explore the island's layered history, cultural heritage, and the continuing legacies of conflict and division.

### Sites to be visited include:

- St. Barnabas Monastery and Icon Museum
- Famagusta City Walls
- Lala Mustafa Pasha Mosque (formerly the Cathedral of St. Nicholas)
- Venetian Palace
- Sinan Pasha Mosque (formerly the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul)
- Namık Kemal Dungeon
- Maraş (Varosha / Ghost Town)

The visit will provide participants with insights into Cyprus's multicultural past, contested memories, and ongoing peacebuilding challenges while engaging directly with some of the island's most important historical and symbolic sites.

Please bring water, a hat, sunscreen, and wear comfortable walking shoes.

# Conference Logistics



- Registration
- Meals
- Location & Floor Plan
- Emergency Contact Information

# Conference Registration

## Dates & Times

- Friday, June 19, 8:30 am- 5:00 pm
- Saturday, June 20, 8:30 am- 5:00 pm
- Sunday, June 21, 8:30 am- 11:00 am
- Monday, June 22 (details can be found on page 56)

## Location

In front of the UNESCO Auditorium, University of Nicosia

## Upon Arrival

Participants should check in at the registration desk to receive:

- Conference badge
- Conference program
- Conference materials

## Important Notes

- Please wear your conference badge throughout
- For questions or assistance, please visit the registration desk or contact a member of the organizing committee

## Special Note for Ledra Palace Sessions

Participants attending sessions at the Ledra Palace Hotel within the UN Buffer Zone must bring a valid passport or government-issued photo ID. Access to the UN-controlled area requires identification, and participants without a valid ID will not be permitted entry.

## Time Zone

Cyprus follows Eastern European Summer Time (EEST, UTC+3)

## Wi-Fi information

Available at the registration desk

## Meals

### June 19 to 21

All coffee breaks and lunches will take place at

**The Gallery of The Block Restaurant**

– next to the UNESCO Auditorium.

The lunches will be served buffet-style.

If you have allergies or are unsure about the food,  
please speak to the restaurant staff.

As there are other ongoing events on campus,  
**please have your name tags on** to access the meal venue.

### June 22

At Ledra Palace on Monday, we will have finger food for everyone,  
but we strongly encourage you to bring your own  
snacks and water for the tour of the Ghost Town of Famagusta.

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## Emergency Contact Information

**In case of an emergency,**

email us [gmesciog@gmu.edu](mailto:gmesciog@gmu.edu) &

[karpoucc@hsu.hamburg](mailto:karpoucc@hsu.hamburg) &

**[iars.cyprus.2026@gmail.com](mailto:iars.cyprus.2026@gmail.com)** .

In your email, please include your phone number so we can contact you promptly.

# **Journal of Reconciliation Studies**



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# Call for Papers — Journal of Reconciliation Studies

The Journal of Reconciliation Studies (JRS), a new peer-reviewed, international, and multidisciplinary journal established by the International Association for Reconciliation Studies (IARS), invites submissions of original scholarly articles for its inaugural issue and future volumes. JRS focuses on reconciliation as a relational, emotional, cognitive, and structural approach to preventing, transforming, and resolving conflict, and to building sustainable peace.

We welcome theoretical, empirical, and methodological work on reconciliation in diverse contexts, including (but not limited to):

- \* Theories of reconciliation
- \* International politics and post-conflict diplomacy
- \* Divided societies and social cohesion
- \* Justice, truth, and accountability
- \* Indigenous and decolonial approaches
- \* Historical memory and intergenerational legacies
- \* Environment, ecology, and environmental justice
- \* Religion, philosophy, and ethics

Submissions from a wide range of disciplines are encouraged (e.g., peace and conflict studies, political science, sociology, anthropology, philosophy, religious studies, psychology, history, law, environmental studies). Interdisciplinary and cross-regional perspectives are especially welcome. They should be understandable to a general academic audience interested in reconciliation.



# Conference Partners & Sponsors



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# Participant Bios



**Abesinghe Mudiyansele, Rashika Saman Kumari**

A.M. Rashika Saman Kumari Abesinghe, Ph.D., serves as a Research Associate at the Waseda Institute of Political Economy, Waseda University. She is also employed as a consultant for AFRIEL, a non-governmental organization focused on reconciliation with its headquarters in Sri Lanka and as a lecturer at Kyoritsu Women's University, Japan.

**Achilleos, Maria**

Maria Achilleos is an archaeologist and First Assistant to the Greek Cypriot Member of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus, where she has worked since 2012, also serving as an archaeologist until 2018. Her work focuses on archaeological investigation and documentation in the context of missing persons cases in Cyprus. She has also taught at the University of Cyprus, offering courses on Roman and Hellenistic Cyprus based on archaeological and epigraphic evidence. She holds a PhD in Ancient History from the University of Cyprus on Roman Cypriot society, along with an MA in Mediterranean Archaeology and a BA in History and Archaeology.

**Aldajani, Iyad Muhsen Suleiman**

Dr. Iyad Muhsen Aldajani (Ph.D.-D.Phil.) is affiliated with the Jena Centre for Reconciliation Studies at Friedrich Schiller University Jena, where he coordinates the Academic Alliance for Reconciliation in the Middle East and North Africa as well as the Doctoral Programme in Reconciliation, Conflict Transformation and Peace Studies. He was awarded the Albert Schweitzer Golden Medallion for Science and Arts and serves on the Editorial Board of Humanities and Social Science Communications published by Springer Nature. His work focuses on reconciliation, conflict transformation, and peace studies, and he has published more than 80 scholarly articles.

**Altan, Selen**

Selen Altan is a communications and project management expert with more than 20 years of experience in EU- and USAID-funded programmes, strategic communications, and international development, with a particular focus on peacebuilding and reconciliation in Cyprus. She has managed complex multi-stakeholder initiatives on dialogue, social cohesion, civil society, and media in politically sensitive contexts. Between 2019 and 2025, she served as Programme Manager at the European Commission, overseeing programmes supporting the Turkish Cypriot community's alignment with the EU acquis in the context of a comprehensive Cyprus settlement. Since May 2026, she has served as Project Coordinator and Team Leader of a new EU-funded peacebuilding initiative in Cyprus. Her background also includes work in media, consultancy, and international advertising agencies, alongside research on place branding and regional development in contested regions.

**Amae, Yoshihisa**

Yoshihisa Amae is an associate professor in the Department of Taiwanese Culture, Languages, and Literature at National Taiwan Normal University. His research focuses on the politics of memory in East Asia, particularly how Taiwanese remember the Japanese colonial past in everyday life and how historical memories and representations influence Taiwanese politics, national identity, and relations with Japan and China.

**Antoniou, Katerina**

Dr Katerina Antoniou is an Assistant Professor in Tourism and International Relations at UCLan Cyprus and the author of the book *Tourism as a Form of International Relations* (Antoniou, 2023). She has published widely on peace tourism, peacebuilding, and non-state diplomacy and serves as a reviewer for social scientific journals. As resident expert for ICLAIM, she developed several projects on social mediation, deliberative democracy, and civic assemblies. In 2020, the ICLAIM project "Social Mediation in Practice" she co-delivered received the European Citizen's Prize by the European Parliament. Dr Antoniou is a Fulbright Alumna.

**Asano, Toyomi**

Toyomi Asano, one of the three founders of IARS, is a professor in the Dept. of Political Science and Economics at Waseda University, teaching political history of Japan since 2015. He received his PhD from the University of Tokyo in 1998. He has held visiting and fellowship positions at Harvard University, Academia Sinica, George Washington University, and Korea University. He is a recipient of the Masayoshi Ohira Memorial Prize and the Yoshida Shigeru Prize.

**Ayee, Gloria**

Dr. Gloria Yayra A. Ayee is a Lecturer at the Harvard Extension School and a Senior Fellow at the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the Harvard Kennedy School. Dr. Ayee is a political scientist with expertise in behavior and identity politics, and race and ethnic politics. Her research focuses on human rights, transitional justice, truth and reconciliation commissions, and political reconciliation.

**Bakhtiarova, Ksenia**

Ksenia Bakhtiarova is a second-year PhD student at George Mason University and the manager of the Sustainable Peace Lab at GMU. She received her Master's degree in International/Korean Studies from Seoul National University and MA in Psychology from Chung-Ang University, Korea. Her research is highly interdisciplinary, drawing on social psychology, philosophy, and political science. Her research scope includes group identity, intergroup emotions, conflict-affected diasporas, and moral trauma. She has published two papers in peer-reviewed journals and in the process of publishing a chapter for an edited volume "Victims, survivors, and the implications of terminology".

**Balman, Mine**

Mine Balman is a peacebuilding practitioner specializing in reconciliation, intergenerational trauma, collective memory, and truth-seeking in divided societies. Between 2006 and 2020, she served as Assistant to the Turkish Cypriot Member of the Committee on Missing Persons, contributing for fourteen years to its bi-communal humanitarian program. Her work bridges institutional field experience with grassroots engagement in reconciliation, memory politics, and restorative transitional justice through various civil society organizations. She has edited two books on missing persons and reconciliation and directed award-winning documentaries that explore intergenerational trauma and use storytelling as a tool for dialogue, social transformation, and narrative-based healing in post-conflict contexts.

**Banerjee, Maumita**

Maumita Banerjee is a researcher at Waseda University. Her research interests include material culture, clothing politics, reconciliation studies, and museum studies. She has held visiting fellowships at Harvard University, the SISJAC (University of East Anglia), and the University of Basel. Her publications have appeared in the International Journal of Asian Studies, the Toyo Bunko Museum catalogue, and the Routledge Encyclopedia of Indian Writing in English.

**Banjeglav, Tamara**

Tamara Banjeglav is a research associate at the Institute of Culture and Memory Studies at the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU), where she holds the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions ERA fellowship. She has received her PhD degree from the University of Graz, Austria. Her research interests fall within the fields of memory studies, peace and conflict studies, and nationalism studies, particularly in the post-Yugoslav space.

**Baranhan, Gülseren**

Gülseren Baranhan, MA in Archaeology, has been working with the Committee on Missing Persons (CMP) since 2007, serving in roles from Field Archaeologist to Team Leader, Deputy Field Coordinator, Field Coordinator, and currently 2nd Assistant to the CMP-TC Member. Her professional journey is deeply connected to reconciliation in Cyprus. She first joined bi-communal folklore dance activities in 2003, when the borders opened, and has since dedicated nearly 20 years to daily collaboration with Greek Cypriot colleagues. These shared cultural and professional experiences have shaped her career and personal outlook, making cross-community cooperation and dialogue a defining part of her life and work.

**Barr, Shiri**

Shiri Barr is a doctoral student at the Faculty of Education, University of Haifa, Israel, and an experienced intergroup dialogue and peace education practitioner. She currently studies the definition and measurement of the reconciliation mindset.

**Barrett, Jocelyn**

Dr. Jocelyn Barrett earned her PhD in Peace and Conflict Resolution from George Mason University. She serves as Program Coordinator for the Visiting Scholars Program at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Her research examines social identity theory within the peace and conflict studies to reveal the patterns between violence escalation and reconciliation. She has conducted research and taught reconciliation practices in post-genocide countries, including Germany, Cambodia, and Rwanda.

**Baudin-Auliac, Philippe**

Baudin-Auliac, Philippe Philippe Baudin-Auliac is UN Facilitator to the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage and serves as Senior Political Affairs Officer in the Office of the Special Adviser of the UN Secretary-General on Cyprus.

**Bowers, J.D.**

J.D. Bowers is the Dean of the Rutgers Honors College and a Professor of History at Rutgers University-New Brunswick (NJ). He has been involved in research on post atrocity reconciliation and reconstruction, efforts for both social and legal justice, and the causes and consequences of genocide for over twenty-five years. He has been traveling to Cyprus since 2012, interviewing members of the Maronite Community, government officials (both RoC and North Cyprus), and teaching on the island.

**Cao, Thi Minh Chau**

Cao Thi Minh Chau is a research assistant at Waseda University, Japan, where her research focuses on cultural reconciliation, international education and inclusive education. Her academic work is deeply informed by her family's history in Vietnam's 20th-century conflicts - from her great-grandparents' resistance against French and Japanese occupation to her grandfather's service in multiple wars, and her uncle's sacrifice in combat during the 1960s. Chau's work examines how international education can serve as a platform for reconciliation between nations with complex historical relationships, and explores how Vietnamese students navigate and transform historical narratives through their study abroad experiences.

**Chen, Chih Kang**

Chih Kang Chen is a PhD student at Kyoto University. His research focuses on the modern and contemporary history of East Asia, particularly Taiwan and Okinawa. He examines the impact of Japanese colonial rule on local societies and its subsequent remembrance. Specifically, he investigates how external control transformed local communities, shaped modes of thought, values, and collective memory, and how these legacies have either facilitated or hindered mutual understanding between regions today.

**Cheng, Hao-Wen**

Hao-Wen Cheng is a historian of modern East Asia whose work explores how colonialism, empire, and World War II have been remembered and mobilized in Taiwan, Japan, and China. His research focuses on the politics of memory, cultural representation, and identity formation in postwar East Asia, especially debates surrounding Taiwanese who served in the Japanese armed forces during World War II. He received his PhD in History from the University of Minnesota–Twin Cities. He will join the Department of History at Middle Tennessee State University as an Assistant Professor in August 2026.

**Charalambous, Christos**

Dr. Christos Charalambous is a Marie Curie Postdoctoral Researcher at the Department of Economics, University of Cyprus, and a member of Charis Psaltis' Genetic Social Psychology Lab. His research lies at the intersection of complex systems and computational social science. He uses agent-based and game-theoretical models of opinion dynamics on adaptive networks to study the role of social norm dynamics in the context of online user behaviour and property disputes in Cyprus.

**Cho, Han Sang**

Dr. Han Sang Cho is Assistant Professor of Spirituality at Honam Theological University & Seminary. He earned his Th.D. in Spirituality from Sogang University in 2019. His research explores spiritual training, direction, and discernment in the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Korean theological themes, including the Gwangju Spirit, contribute to his work in public theology and reconciliation studies.

**Cunningham, Abi**

Abi Cunningham pursues a master's degree at the Carter School in Conflict Analysis and Resolution as well as a graduate certificate in Contemporary Dispute Resolution. Abi was raised in a parsonage by a United Methodist minister and the choir director when the People of the United Methodist Church had "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors," as their slogan. Abi writes peace education programs for faith communities.

**Dagli-Hustings, Ilke**

Dr. Ilke Dagli-Hustings is a peace practitioner and researcher with over 15 years of experience and long-standing peace activism. She holds an MSc from the University of Bristol and a PhD from the University of Warwick. She has taught at Warwick and Exeter Universities and worked on UN- and EU-funded CSO and SME projects. Joining SeeD in 2016, she led the Security Dialogue Initiative and later served as Head of Programmes before becoming Director General, overseeing peacebuilding and social cohesion programmes across Europe and Africa.

**Derbyshire, Patricia May (Patti)**

Patti Derbyshire, M.Ed. in Human Ecology (University of British Columbia), MA in Peace & Conflict Studies (Royal Roads University), is pursuing a Ph.D in Interactive Art and Technology in the Indigitalization and Pain Studies Labs at Simon Fraser University. A reconciliation specialist, she upholds Indigenous therapies and therapists as they restore cultural continuity, well-being, and women's governance systems that address the TRC Calls-to-Action and Survivors Circle for Reproductive Justice.

**Diplarou, Maria**

Maria Diplarou holds an MA in Social and Developmental Psychology and is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Cyprus. Her research interests include transitional justice and peacebuilding processes, the role and significance of official apologies, the complexities of intergroup contact and relations, the impact of history education, and the influential role of collective memory in societies that have experienced conflict.

**Drake, Anna**

Dr. Anna Drake is Associate Professor at the University of Waterloo. Her research focuses on deliberative democracy, intersectionality, and activism, with particular attention to structural injustice and how deliberative systems respond to and potentially address it. She is the author of *Activism, Inclusion, and the Challenges of Deliberative Democracy* (UBC Press, 2021) and co-author of *Legislating Under the Charter* (University of Toronto Press, 2023).

**Elias, Barbara**

Barbara Elias is Associate Professor of Government at Bowdoin College, USA specializing in international relations, insurgency warfare, and U.S. foreign policy. A 2025–26 Carnegie Fellow, her book: *Why Allies Rebel: Defiant Local Partners in Counterinsurgency Wars* won the International Studies Association security section best book prize (2022) and the American Political Science Association's best international security book prize (2021).

**Enna, Antea**

Antea Enna, a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellow at Ca' Foscari University of Venice, leads the EU MSCA-funded AMIN\_MENA project. This project investigates social stability and cohesion in Jordan and Lebanon, collaborating with regional partners like CSS (Jordanian University) and the Issam Fares Institute (AUB).

**Erameh, Nicholas Idris**

Erameh Nicholas Idris is a political scientist with BSc, MSc, and PhD degrees from the University of Ibadan. He is a Senior Research Fellow and Head of the Division of International Politics at the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs. His research focuses on global politics and security, mass atrocities, genocide, armed conflict, Post-conflict reconciliation and peace building, humanitarian intervention, and the responsibility to protect.

**Ercan, Selen**

Prof. Selen Ercan is Director of the Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance at the University of Canberra. Her research focuses on deliberative democracy, public spheres, democratic resilience, and deliberative responses to violent extremism. She examines how extremist violence affects core deliberative norms such as inclusion, mutual respect, critical reflection, and responsiveness to reasoned argument, and explores the role of public sphere actors in processes of deliberative breakdown, stagnation, and deepening in the aftermath of extremist attacks.

**Estes, Canaan**

Canaan Estes is an undergraduate at Brown studying International Affairs and Genocide and Reconciliation Studies. His interests include conflict resolution and reconciliation after events of mass violence. He co-directs Innocent Knowledge.

**Evangelou, Gabriel**

Gabriel Evangelou is Assistant Professor of Latin Literature at the Ionian University. His research focuses on Roman political culture and emotions with particular attention to reconciliation and social repair in Republican Rome. He is the author of *Love, Friendship, and Expediency in Cicero's Letters* (2022) and co-editor of *Reading Roman Reconciliation* (2024). His current work examines how ancient models of reconciliation illuminate the possibilities of conflict management in divided societies.

**Falschebner, Sophie**

Sophie Falschebner is a PhD researcher in the network "Postcolonial Hierarchies in Peace and Conflict" at the Centre for Conflict Studies Marburg. Her PhD project focuses on the impact of colonialism on conflict dynamics in Cyprus, examining varied perspectives on (de-)colonization and their effects on understandings, memories and experiences of the conflict, conflict party relations and approaches to peace. She holds an M.A. in Peace and Conflict Studies and a B.A. in Applied African Studies.

**Figari Layús, Rosario**

Rosario Figari Layús is Assistant Professor of Reconciliation Studies in the Department of Sociology and spokesperson of the Centre for Reconciliation Studies at the University of Bonn. Previously, she was postdoc researcher at the Chair of Peace Studies at Justus Liebig University Giessen. She holds a PhD in Political Science from Philipps University of Marburg, an MA in Social Sciences from Humboldt University of Berlin, and a degree in Sociology from the University of Buenos Aires.

**Ge, Yipeng**

Doctors Against Genocide – Dr. Yipeng Ge is a primary care physician and public health practitioner based on the traditional, unceded, and unsurrendered territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabeg (also known as Ottawa, Canada). In his clinical practice, he works in family medicine practice and refugee health at a community health centre. He has worked on and studied the structural and colonial determinants of health in both the settler colonial contexts of so-called Canada and occupied Palestine.

**Gur, Gul Mescioglu**

Dr. Gül Mescioglu Gur is Senior Professorial Lecturer at the School of International Service, American University, and an experienced peace practitioner. Her research focuses on identity, intergroup relations, and negotiation dynamics in protracted conflicts, with particular expertise on Cyprus. She is known for her work on "functional coexistence," examining how divided communities sustain parallel lives amid limited cooperation. Her scholarship also addresses women's participation in peace processes, drawing comparative insights from Cyprus and other conflict settings, and bridges academic analysis with practical peacebuilding experience.

**Haeussler, Ralf**

Dr. Ralf Haeussler is affiliated with the Jena Centre for Reconciliation Studies and the International Association for Reconciliation Studies. He studied Protestant Theology at the Universities of Erlangen, Marburg, and Tübingen, earning a Master in Protestant Theology in 1986. Between 1986 and 1988, he held an ecumenical scholarship from the World Council of Churches in Costa Rica, Guatemala, and El Salvador, focusing on liberation theology. He served as Study Director at the Evangelical Academy Bad Boll from 1993 to 2004, as Evangelical-Lutheran Pastor in Ulm from 2004 to 2012, and as Director of the Centre for Development-Related Education of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Württemberg (ZEB) from 2012 to 2025.

**Hadjigeorgiou, Nasia**

Nasia Hadjigeorgiou holds an LLB from University College London (2009), an LLM from the University of Cambridge (2010) and a PhD from King's College London (2015). She was also a Senior Research Fellow at the London School of Economics (LSE) in 2020–21. Her monograph, *Protecting Human Rights and Building Peace in Post-violence Societies* (Bloomsbury, 2020), has received the 'Constantinos Emilianides Annual Book Award in Law for 2020' (by *The Cyprus Review*), while her academic articles have been published in leading law and political science/international relations journals. Dr Hadjigeorgiou has received the 'Social Action Award 2024' by the British Council, for the social impact of her research.

**Hadjipavlou, Maria**

Maria Hadjipavlou is a feminist, activist and scholar in Conflict Resolution, with expertise on Women Peace and Security. She was the first to introduce courses on Conflict Resolution and Gender at the University of Cyprus. She trained women in CR and gender in Afghanistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Slovenia, Greece; She published in journals, and has contributed many book chapters; her book on "Women and Change in Cyprus. Feminisms and Gender in Conflict", (I.B.Tauris, 2010), became a reference book.

**Harindra Sakti, Arauf Aji**

Arauf Aji Harindra Sakti is a PhD student at GSAPS, Waseda University, Japan. His professional experience in The Indonesia Endowment Fund for Education (LPDP) has led his focus research on public policy, peace studies, and inclusive education. He was responsible for the scholarship selection process and supervised language preparation and pre-departure program to increase awardees adaptability skills in navigating themselves to contribute to host country's harmony. He is also involved in formulating scholarships specifically for disability community. The experience of managing national scholarship attracts his interest in public policy in general and specifically in education policy and peacebuilding.

**Hawwash, Maysa**

Maysa Hawwash is the founder and CEO of ScaleX, a company dedicated to helping organizations optimize their people, processes, and structures for scalable growth. With over two decades of experience in human resources and talent management, she has been a leading advocate for fostering inclusive workplace cultures and addressing microaggressions. Maysa is also the co-founder of HearU, a platform that empowers employees to report workplace discrimination safely and securely. Beyond her professional work, Maysa has dedicated significant efforts to mentoring survivors of genocide, helping them rebuild their lives, connect with the outside world, and find meaningful employment opportunities. Her work reflects a deep commitment to equity, inclusion, and supporting those impacted by systemic violence and trauma.

**Hirai, Arata**

Arata Hirai is a Junior Associate Professor in the School of Political Science and Economics at Tokai University, Japan. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Waseda University and studied at Peking University through a dual-degree doctoral program. His research focuses on comparative politics in East Asia, with a special interest in transitional justice, modern Taiwanese history, administrative mechanism, and island studies. He is also a Research Fellow at Waseda University's Institute of Contemporary Political and Economic Affairs.

**Holtzhausen, Marlie**

Marlie Holtzhausen is a researcher working at the intersection of conflict resolution, relational theory, and development practice in South Africa. Her work focuses on relational and transformative approaches to mediation, community dialogue, and social change, with applied research in schools, communities, and institutions. She is affiliated with the Centre for Mediation in Africa, University of Pretoria.

**Hwang, Dongyoun**

Dongyoun Hwang is Professor of Asian Studies at Soka University of America and is the author of *Anarchism In Korea*, published by SUNY Press, and co-editor (with the late Professor George Totten) of *Song of Arirang: The Life of a Korean Revolutionary in China*.

**Ikegami, Keitoku**

Keitoku Ikegami is a master's student in Peace Studies at International Christian University, Japan. After graduating from a high school in Switzerland, he studied Peace Studies with a minor in Religious Philosophy at ICU. He currently serves as an Assistant Researcher at Waseda University and as a Research Collaborator in Global History with the Reconciliation Studies Project. His research focuses on Japan–South Korea cultural property issues, reframing them through nation-building dynamics.

**Inoue, Hitomi**

Hitomi Inoue received her Ph.D. in human sciences from Osaka University in 2024. From 2020 to 2022, she was a researcher at Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). She joined International Association for Reconciliation Studies in 2024. Since 2024, she is a postdoctoral researcher at JSPS, at University of Hiroshima. Her research interests include sexual violence, trauma, PTSD, medicalization, mental health, silence-voice, phenomenology and anthropology.

**Jboor, Nidal**

Dr. Nidal Jboor is a practicing internist and geriatrician based in Michigan with decades of experience providing compassionate care to his community. He is the co-founder of Doctors Against Genocide (DAG), an organization dedicated to preventing genocide, advocating for human rights, and addressing the systemic health impacts of violence and oppression. Dr. Jboor's medical expertise spans internal medicine and geriatrics, with a focus on the holistic care of aging populations. His work through DAG emphasizes the intersection of medicine and justice, mobilizing healthcare professionals to stand against atrocities and protect the sanctity of life. Born in Palestine, Dr. Jboor's lived experience has deeply informed his commitment to advocating for marginalized communities, both in his medical practice and on the global stage. His leadership in DAG reflects his dedication to equity, accountability, and the prevention of human suffering.

**Jovanovic, Rodoljub**

Rodoljub Jovanović is a Research Fellow and a Coordinator of EduLab at the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade. He holds a PhD in Human Rights from the University of Deusto and works at the intersection of social psychology, education, and peacebuilding in post-conflict societies. His research focuses on youth, collective memory, and the role of education and civil society in reconciliation processes, particularly in the Western Balkans.

**Kapshuk, Yoav**

Yoav Kapshuk is Senior Lecturer at Kinneret College on the Sea of Galilee, Israel; Head of the department of Multidisciplinary Studies. Former Visiting Fellow at the LSE Middle East Center, and at the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt. Dr. Kapshuk focuses on peace research and transitional justice, especially about the the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and Israelis and Palestinians relationships.

**Karşılı, Demet**

Demet Karşılı holds an MA in Prehistory and Near Eastern Archaeology from Ankara University and has received extensive international training and courses in forensic archaeology and forensic anthropology. For the past 21 years, she has been working with the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus, serving as an archaeologist, field team leader, Deputy Field Coordinator, Field Coordinator, and, for the last six years, as the First Assistant to the Turkish Cypriot Member. Throughout her career, she has been actively involved in archaeological investigations, excavations, exhumations, and meetings with families of missing persons in Cyprus. She has delivered presentations and training sessions for international scientific, humanitarian, and governmental delegations, including the ICRC and forensic institutions from multiple countries.

**Karpouchtsis, Charalampos Babis**

Charalampos (Babis) Karpouchtsis is a political scientist and researcher specializing in international relations and security, democratic resilience, and the politics of reconciliation. Since 2022, he has been a research associate at Helmut-Schmidt-University/University of the German Federal Armed Forces Hamburg (HSU/UniBw), where he serves as Academic Lead for Politics and Governance within the Democratic Resilience Center. His PhD dissertation, was awarded the 2024 South-East Europe Association Germany Dissertation Prize. He co-chairs the 7th Annual IARS Conference 2026 and is the winner of Germany's Security Slam 2026.

**Kasongo, Gracia Lwanzo**

Gracia Lwanzo Kasongo is a jurist and political scientist currently pursuing a PhD at the Université catholique de Louvain (UCLouvain) in Belgium, where she is affiliated with the Institute of Political Science Louvain–Europe (ISPOLE). Her academic work focuses on questions of post-colonial reconciliation and the restitution of cultural heritage, especially regarding Congolese collections acquired during Belgian colonial rule.

**Kawaguchi, Hiroko**

Hiroko Kawaguchi is an assistant professor of Waseda Institute of and Economy. Her major is Africa Area Studies and Anthropology. She has been interested in customary, war experiences of local people, implementation of transitional justice and carried on field research in northern Uganda since 2009.

**Kaymak, Erol**

Erol Kaymak is a Professor of International Relations at Eastern Mediterranean University and a specialist in the Cyprus peace process, with broader expertise in Turkey–EU relations and Eastern Mediterranean affairs. Over two decades, his work has bridged diplomacy, think tank research, and academia. He held a fellowship at the Centre for Applied Turkey Studies (CATS) at Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP) in Berlin, and is a former Co-Coordinator of the Greek–Turkish Forum. On Cyprus, he has engaged with both the formal negotiations—including as an advisor to the Turkish Cypriot Leader's Consultative Committee—and with civil society initiatives, as a co-founder of the Centre for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development (SeeD). He currently sits on the Technical Advisory Board of the C-Up project. His recent writing addresses diplomatic innovation, including the use of backstops in conflict resolution.

**Kilgore, William**

William Kilgore is a PhD student at Waseda University's Graduate School of Asia–Pacific Studies and a lecturer at Hosei University. He earned his master's degree in international relations from Waseda University, specializing in Chinese and Japanese historical memory, and his current research examines the representation of war memories in history museums. Having lived, studied, and taught in both countries for nearly a decade, he focuses on the interconnected nature of their shared histories.

**Kimura, Kasumi**

Kasumi Kimura is a Research Fellow (DC) of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) and a doctoral student at the Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies, Kyoto University.

**Kohyama, Kaori**

Kaori Kohyama is a PhD student at Freie Universität Berlin, conducting research on non-Western origins of colonialism. She holds a dual degree from Waseda University's School of Political Science and Economics and Peking University's School of International Studies. She completed an MA Fellowship at Yenching Academy, focusing on the gendered impact of institutionalized brothels in pre-modern East Asia through postcolonial feminism. She also graduated from the EU Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's Program in Media, Journalism, and Globalization.

**Korostelina, Karina**

Professor Karina V. Korostelina is Professor and Director of the Sustainable Peace Lab and the Program on History, Memory, and Conflict at the Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution, George Mason University. Trained as a social psychologist, her research focuses on social identity, power, reconciliation, and history education in protracted conflicts.

**Ktoris, Sotos**

Sotos Ktoris is the Greek Cypriot CoChair of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage in Cyprus. He holds a PhD from the Department of Turkish and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Cyprus. He is the author of *Turkish Cypriots: From the Margins to Partnership, 1923–1960* (Papazisis Publishers, Athens, 2013), a monograph derived from his doctoral dissertation.

**Kuemmerle, Karameh**

Dr. Karameh Kuemmerle is a pediatric neurologist at Boston Children's Hospital and a faculty member at Harvard Medical School, specializing in epilepsy and brain injury. She is a co-founder of Doctors Against Genocide (DAG), an organization committed to providing medical aid and advocating for the rights of populations affected by genocide, with a current focus on the crisis in Gaza.

**Kumagai, Naoko**

Naoko Kumagai is professor at the School of Global Studies and Collaboration at Aoyama Gakuin University. Her research focuses on Japan's postwar compensation and the right to the truth. Among her publications are "History Issues: A Consistently Realist Approach" (in Yoichi Funabashi and Koji Nakakita eds., *Critical Review of the Abe Administration: Politics of Conservatism and Realism: Politics of Conservatism and Realism*, Routledge, 2024) and *The Comfort Women: Historical, Political, Legal, and Moral Perspectives* (Translated by David Noble. I-House Press, 2016). She also serves as the leader of the Gender/Ethnicity group under the Exploring International Reconciliation Studies at Waseda University.

**Kuroda, Kazuo**

Kazuo Kuroda (Ph.D.) is Professor at the Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University, Visiting Research Fellow at the JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development, and President-elect of the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES).

**Kyriakidou, Maria**

Maria Kyriakidou is Professor and Chair at the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Anatolia American University, Thessaloniki, Greece. She holds B.A. and M.A. degrees from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, an M.A. from George Washington University, Washington, D.C. and a Ph.D. from King's College, London. She has publications on gender, history and politics in Greek and international scientific journals along with a monograph and a co-edited volume on gender studies.

**Leiner, Martin**

Since 2002 Martin Leiner is professor of Systematic Theology at the University of Jena/Germany. Since 2013 he is the founding director of the Jena Center for Reconciliation Studies (JCRS), where, in 2016, he started the first PhD program exclusively focused on reconciliation studies.

**Levy, Ron**

Prof. Ron Levy's work adapts the political theory of deliberative democracy to examine how contentious constitutional problems can be more effectively managed.

**Loizides, Neophytos**

Professor Neophytos Loizides is Professor of International Conflict Analysis at the University of Warwick. His research examines power-sharing, federalism, forced migration, and peace processes in divided societies.

**Maisawa, Tatsuya**

Tatsuya Maisawa is an Assistant Professor at the Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies, Kobe University, Japan. His research focuses on historical memory, nationalism, and reconciliation in East Asia.

**Maruhukiro, Déogratias**

Postdoc and Research Associate at the University of Freiburg (Caritas Studies). He is the founder of RAPRED-Girubuntu e.V. and initiator of the Girubuntu Peace Academy (GPA).

**Mayseless, Ofra**

Ofra Mayseless is a well-published professor (emeritus) of developmental psychology.

**McCulloch, Allison**

Allison McCulloch is Professor of Political Science at Brandon University. She is the author of *Power-Sharing and Political Stability in Deeply Divided Societies* and co-author of *Gender, Peace and Power-Sharing*, as well as editor and co-editor of several volumes on power-sharing arrangements, including *Power-Sharing: Empirical and Normative Challenges* (with John McGarry), *Power-Sharing Pacts and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda* (with Siobhan Byrne), and the forthcoming *Deliberative Peacemaking* (with Ron Levy and Ian O'Flynn). Her research examines the interplay among adoptability, functionality, and adaptability throughout the life cycle of power-sharing agreements, with particular attention to inclusion, exclusion, and the impact of institutional arrangements on marginalized communities, especially women. Her work also explores how power-sharing arrangements can become more inclusive beyond ethnonational divisions. She is Editor-in-Chief of *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics*.

**Migenda, Jan**

Jan Migenda studied Classical Philology, English/American Studies, and Philosophy in Wuppertal, Maastricht, and Milano, graduating with an MEd and an MA degree.

**Mugombozi, Félicité**

Dr Félicité Mugombozi is a lawyer and holds a doctorate in international law. She is a research assistant at the Faculty of Law at the University of Leipzig.

**Nakasato, Lauren Noelani**

Lauren Nakasato is an Assistant Professor at the Tohoku University Graduate School of Education in Sendai, Japan. A researcher in the field of comparative and international education, she is interested in how international higher education can enable us to learn to live together in a diverse and interconnected world. Grounded in over a decade of experience as a practitioner in the field, her research focuses on global citizenship as a concept and as an outcome of higher education internationalization in Japan and Asia.

**Nam, Kijeong**

Nam Kijeong currently works as a professor at the Institute for Japanese Studies, Seoul National University (IJS SNU), Korea. He served as acting director at IJS SNU, and as director of the executive committee for IARS 2025 in Seoul. He graduated from SNU and received his Ph.D. from the University of Tokyo. He served as presidents of some Korean academic associations. His research interests lie in Korea-Japan historical reconciliation and Korea-Japan civil solidarity.

**Nazeer-Ikeda, Rita Z.**

Rita Z. Nazeer-Ikeda, Ph.D., is a Research Fellow at Waseda University and an Affiliate Faculty member at George Mason University. She began her career as an educator and Head of Department (IT) in Singapore and has since spent over two decades engaged in international capacity building, research, consultancy, and community service across Singapore, Indonesia, Japan, the U.K., and the U.S. Her work focuses on teacher education and education policies in Southeast Asia, with particular attention to international education for peacebuilding.

**Needs, Adrian**

Adrian Needs is a former forensic psychologist and academic who worked at Glasgow Caledonian University and University of Portsmouth after 14 years in HM Prison Service, including work in maximum-security settings. His expertise spans forensic assessment, trauma, negotiation in hostage and firearms incidents, and staff support following critical events. He has also contributed to national standards in forensic psychology training, research on trauma and homicide, and veteran peer mentoring initiatives. A recipient of two Lifetime Achievement Awards from the British Psychological Society in 2020, he currently leads work on scientific and epistemological approaches within forensic psychology and has been a regular contributor to conferences of the International Association for Reconciliation Studies since 2023.

**Nguyen, Viet Du**

Nguyen Viet Du is a visiting researcher at Jena Center for Reconciliation Studies, Friedrich Schiller University Jena. His research explores the impact of study abroad experiences on students and society, with a particular focus on how these experiences shape postnational identities and orientations. Believing in the transformative power of international education, Nguyen sees study abroad not only as an opportunity for personal growth but also as a means to advance universal values such as human rights, democracy, peace, and global citizenship. His current research delves into reconciliation studies, analyzing how study abroad experiences in Japan influence ASEAN students' perceptions of Japan's colonial history in Southeast Asia and historical conflicts among ASEAN member states as well as their roles in peacebuilding.

**Nicolaou, Andrea**

Andrea Nicolaou completed her PhD in Psychology at the University of Cyprus in 2025, examining how conflict, modernization, and intergroup contact shape values and political attitudes in Cyprus. She also holds an MSc in Organizational Psychology from Victor Segalen University and a BSc in Psychology from Panteion University. Her research interests focus on human values, intergroup relations, peace and conflict, and political attitudes toward solutions to the Cyprus problem.

**Nyadera, Billy Agwanda**

Billy Agwanda Nyadera is a recipient of the Presidential Scholar Award and a PhD candidate at the Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution at George Mason University. He holds two master's degrees, in International Relations and Peace and Conflict Resolution, as well as a certificate in Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention. His research adopts an interdisciplinary approach to peace and conflict resolution, and he has published more than 40 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. His work has appeared in leading outlets, including the Routledge Handbook of Conflict Response and Leadership in Africa, the Palgrave Encyclopedia of Peace and Conflict Studies, the Journal of International Peacekeeping, African Security, and Global Change, Peace & Security.

**Onozaka, Hajime**

Hajime Onozaka earned a Ph.D. from the University of Tokyo in September 2023. His most recent publication is *The ILO's Involvement in Chinese Labor Problems through the Shanghai YWCA: The History of Inter-Organizational Relations on Labor and Peace 1919–1946* (Tokyo: Hosei University Press, 2025, in Japanese).

**Onurkan-Samani, Meltem**

Meltem Onurkan-Samani is a historian with a PhD, a peacebuilding practitioner, and an independent policy consultant with over twenty years' experience at the intersection of governance, conflict resolution, and civil society engagement in Cyprus. Her expertise includes peace-process architecture, confidence-building measures, and participatory approaches to conflict transformation. She served as co-chair of AHDR and H4C. From 2015 to 2020, she worked as Special Adviser on Political Affairs and History to the Turkish Cypriot leader, Coordinator of the bi-communal Technical Committees under UN auspices, and General Coordinator of working groups under the Turkish Cypriot negotiator's office. She also co-chaired the Technical Committee on Education, overseeing large-scale initiatives including the Imagine Project. She is the Founder of the Cyprus Peace and Dialogue Centre (CPDC), active since 2020 in both communities to advance a results-oriented peace process.

**Owens, Kayla**

Kayla Owens obtained her PhD in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution at George Mason University in 2025. Her research centers on Womanist theory and community-based approaches to resilience. In addition to her academic research, Kayla works to find the intersections between community organizing and state support in the continued pursuit of a sustainable approach to conflict resolution in the United States.

**Pham, Thi Lan Huong**

Pham Thi Lan Huong is a PhD student at the Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies (GSAPS), Waseda University, Japan. Her research focuses on inclusive education policy in Vietnam, with particular attention to the design and implementation of Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) in inclusive school settings. She examines policy-practice gaps in inclusive education and their implications for equity, participation, and social inclusion. Her academic interests lie at the intersection of education policy and disability studies, with a particular focus on examining how inclusive education can contribute to peace and reconciliation through everyday educational practices.

**Pow, Jamie**

Jamie Pow is a Senior Lecturer in Political Science at Queen's University Belfast. His research focuses on the way citizens interact with democratic decision-making, including through elections, mini-publics and referendums. How can democratic deficits be addressed? What factors strengthen or weaken citizens' perceptions of legitimate decision-making? Can democratic innovations, such as citizens' assemblies, complement the functions of established representative institutions? He is particularly interested in addressing these questions in deeply divided political contexts, specialising in the Northern Ireland case, and has been involved in major studies of public opinion, voting behaviour, and institutional design.

**Primrose, Alexis**

Alexis Primrose is a doctoral candidate at the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution at George Mason University. Her research focuses on critiquing public Holocaust and genocide education and implementing critical and peace pedagogical approaches in secondary schools. She works with Doctors Against Genocide, serving as a genocide prevention and education consultant.

**Psaltis, Charis**

Charis Psaltis is Professor of Social and Developmental Psychology at the University of Cyprus, where he has taught since 2006 and served as Chair of the Department of Psychology from 2022 to 2024. His research focuses on intergroup relations, collective memory, peace education, conflict transformation, and history teaching, with particular expertise on Cyprus and other divided societies. Drawing on social, developmental, and political psychology, his work examines intergroup contact, trust, transitional justice, and public attitudes toward peace settlements. He is co-author of the 2025 book *Conflict and Change: Integrating Developmental and Social Psychology* and has published extensively on peace psychology and conflict resolution. Beyond academia, he has played an active role in peacebuilding initiatives in Cyprus, including work with bicomunal and international organizations on education, dialogue, and reconciliation. In 2024, he received the Nevitt Sanford Award from the International Society of Political Psychology for Outstanding Professional Contributions to Political Psychology.

**Qu, Yang**

Qu Yang is a Lecturer and Director of the Comprehensive Teaching and Research Office at the College of Regional and International Studies, Ludong University, and a Research Fellow at the Center for International Reconciliation Studies, Waseda University. She received her PhD from Waseda University in March 2023. Her research focuses on how media, propaganda, literature, and emotional memory shape historical perception and reconciliation in East Asia.

**Saldadze, Malkhaz**

Malkhaz Saldadze is an assistant professor at George Mason University Korea. He earned his Ph.D. from George Mason University's Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution. He also holds an MA in Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies from the Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington.

**Sanada, Wataru**

Sanada Wataru is an Assistant Researcher at Waseda University, and a Visiting Scholar at Friedrich Schiller University Jena. He specializes in modern Japanese philosophy, and during his doctoral studies is particularly interested in the philosophy of the Other in Nishida Kitarō. More recently, he has expanded his research to examine reconciliation in relation to rising nationalism and ongoing problems of colonialism, engaging with contemporary political philosophy.

**Schooler, Larry**

Dr. Larry Schooler is an Assistant Professor of Practice at the University of Texas at Austin, where he teaches courses in conflict resolution. He is also the author of the forthcoming book "Truth Talks" on the work of North American truth and reconciliation commissions and a former facilitator for the Iowa City Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

**Shambur, Olesya**

Olesya Shambur is a PhD researcher in Culture Studies at the Mediation and Dialogue Research Center. Her research focuses on visual culture as a mediator of divergent wartime experiences in Ukraine. She is a visual artist working with collage as a medium for exploring post-catastrophic memory. She leads the Ukrainian Center of Concordance, an NGO platform for dialogue and community reconciliation, and is the creator of the podcast "(Sub)Conscious Art," which documents conversations with Ukrainian artists in times of war.

**Shigematsu, Hisashi**

Hisashi Shigematsu, PhD, is a partnership associate professor at Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania, a cross-border postdoc research fellow at Japan Society for Promotion of the Sciences, and a researcher at Meiji Gakuin University, Tokyo, Japan. He specializes in modern and contemporary history and collective memory in Central and Eastern Europe.

**Sian Lian, Pau**

Dr. Pau Sian Lian is a scholar and community leader specializing in federalism, peace-building, and reconciliation in Myanmar. He holds a PhD from Waseda University and serves as Affiliate Faculty at George Mason University and Research Fellow at Waseda. His scholarship examines pathways toward inclusive governance and peace in divided societies. In 2023, he published 'Federalism in Myanmar' with Rowman & Littlefield.

**Sopaj, Arbenita**

Dr. Arbenita Sopaj is Executive Assistant at the Embassy of Kosovo in Tokyo, Researcher at RIIPA, and Board Member of GPAJ. She holds a PhD from Kobe University and focuses on U.S.–Asia, U.S.–Japan, and U.S.–Balkans relations.

**Soros, Nikolas**

Nikolas is a PhD candidate in social psychology whose research focuses on media, intergroup conflict, and trust. He examines how people in divided societies interpret and evaluate media coverage of protracted conflicts, with a particular focus on the Cyprus issue. Using bicomunal survey data, his work explores issue-specific media trust in relation to social identity, perceived threat, intergroup emotions, hope for peace, and intergroup contact.

**Stelmach, Dawid**

A theologian and ethicist, Dawid Stelmach studies reconciliation from a theological and social perspective. His research examines the relationship between Christianity and popular culture, reconciliation, forgiveness, and historical memory, with particular emphasis on reconciliation processes following experiences of violence and conflict. He has studied the mechanisms of reconciliation in Rwanda following the 1994 genocide, and in Poland, in the context of historical and social divisions.

**Sukkar, Adlah**

Dr. Adlah Sukkar is a pulmonologist in the DMV area and an active member of Doctors Against Genocide. She is a member of a Palestinian family and has witnessed, first-hand, the reality of Palestinian families in Gaza. She is a human rights and genocide prevention activists who has traveled the world sharing her experiences.

**Teh, Huijia**

Huijia Teh is a PhD student at the Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University, Japan. Her current research focuses on the evolving engagement of higher education with sustainability, particularly in the context of internationalization and global governance. Her academic work is informed by her interest in the onto-epistemological foundations of global sustainability norms, how these interact with local, indigenous ways of thinking and conceptualising sustainability and the role of universities as sites for epistemic reconciliation.

**Thompson, Kim**

Kim Thompson received her PhD from Nova Southeastern University in Conflict Analysis and Resolution with an undergraduate degree in Psychology. Dr. Thompson also has three Masters degree in Church Ministries and Counseling, Human Resource Management and Conflict Analysis and Resolution. She is currently Head of Human Resource Management and Office Administration at Equity Bank Bahamas Limited and CEO of a Trust company owned by the Bank.

**Todd, Jennifer**

Professor Jennifer Todd is Professor (emeritus) in the School of Politics and International Relations and Fellow in the Geary Institute for Public Policy Research, University College Dublin, a member of the Royal Irish Academy. She has written on identity, conflict and settlement, and on Northern Ireland. Her recent research explores participatory and deliberative avenues beyond conflict.

**Tomizuka, Ayako**

Ayako Tomizuka (Ph.D., Waseda University) specializes in the history of Japan-Vietnam relations. Her previous research focused on the transformation of Japan's relations with North and South Vietnam during the Cold War. Currently, she is expanding her scope to include the personal histories of Japanese soldiers who remained in Indochina after 1945 and the intergenerational memories of their families, examining how the documentation of these lives constitutes a practice of reconciliation.

**Tuncay, Ali**

Ali Tuncay holds a B.A. and an M.A. in International Relations from Bilkent University in Ankara. He served as the Turkish Cypriot member of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage (TCCH) from 2008 to 2013 and has served as its co-chair since 2013. His scholarly and professional work focuses on the political dimensions of cultural heritage protection, bi-communal cooperation, and confidence-building measures in post-conflict settings. He is currently at the PhD thesis stage, examining the contribution of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage to trust-building and intercommunal cooperation in Cyprus. His research adopts an interdisciplinary approach combining international relations theory with heritage studies.

**Van Munster, Maarten**

Maarten van Munster is a senior lecturer in human rights at The Hague University of Applied Sciences and a PhD researcher at VU University Amsterdam focusing on the development of Angola's reconciliation process since the end of the civil war. His research examines both everyday, informal forms of reconciliation and reconciliation pursued within formal political frameworks.

**Vartanyan, Olesya**

Olesya Vartanyan is a PhD student at the George Mason University and a conflict analyst with over 15 years of experience in the South Caucasus. Her work focuses on security, peace processes and de facto states. She has collaborated with the International Crisis Group, OSCE, and Freedom House, contributing to policy research and confidential peace processes. Previously, she worked as a journalist covering conflicts, including reporting for The New York Times during the 2008 Russia-Georgia war.

**Vasiliou, Elpida**

Iosif Kovras is a Professor in the Department of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Cyprus. His research interests include comparative post-conflict transitional justice and human rights. His current research exploring the logic of the crime of disappearances in repressive and (post)conflict settings is funded by a European Research Council Consolidator Grant (2023-2028).

**Villanueva, Laura**

Transdisciplinary scholar-practitioner advancing ecosystem-based approaches to peace and reconciliation. As Founder and Director of S4P:EPR, she develops the Ecosystem Turn. Over 18 years, she has led diverse peace and reconciliation processes while serving as advisor, mediator, and founding member of initiatives including networks at the intersection of peacebuilding and technology, post-conflict renewal programs, and multi-stakeholder platforms embedding ecosystem approaches.

**Wickman, Björn Erik Gustav**

Björn Wickman recently received his PhD in Area Studies from the University of Tokyo's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, where he is currently an Academic Research Fellow. His research focuses on comparative memory politics across international and domestic contexts, with particular attention to East Asia, Scandinavia, and the Anglosphere. Originally from Stockholm, Sweden, he has lived and conducted research in Japan, South Korea, and China, specializing in their collective memories.

**Zoletic, Emina**

Emina Zoletic is a PhD student at the Doctoral School of Social Sciences, University of Warsaw. She examines the intergenerational transmission of war family memory in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Bosnian diaspora. She was doing a CEEPUS fellowship (March–June 2025) at the University of Vienna, Institute of Sociology and an IDUB fellowship (August–October, 2025) at the seeFField and IOS Regensburg. For her Ph.D. research, she has been awarded the Preludium grant from the National Science Center (Poland), the Zeit Stiftung Bucerius Scholarship, and the CEFRES Junior Fellowship in Prague (Czech Republic). She was a Fulbright visiting researcher at Syracuse University and the New School, New York, from 2023 to 2024.

Information about the conference is available on the official IARS website, accessible via the link (<https://www.iars-world.de>) or QR code



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