

Call for Papers

35th Meeting of Forum Friedenspsychologie (the German Peace Psychology Association)

20-22 June 2025

Bremen

War Again?

Since the end of World War II, Wikipedia's List of Wars records nearly 20 wars and military conflicts with over 100,000 deaths in each. This count includes only wars that began after World War II, excluding already underway conflicts, such as the Chinese Civil War. It also focuses on wars involving multi-country participation under international law. These include the Korean War (1950–1953), the Vietnam War (1955–1975), the Biafra War (1967–1970), the War in Afghanistan (1979–2021), the Gulf Wars (First, Second, and Third, spanning 1980–2017), the First and Second Wars in the Democratic Republic of Congo (1991–2003), the Yugoslav Wars (1991–2001), as well as civil wars in Mozambique, Rwanda, Syria, Somalia, Angola, and Uganda, and wars of secession in Bangladesh, South Sudan, and Eritrea.

Notably, only one of these high-casualty wars took place in Europe—the wars following the dissolution of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In February 2022, a second high-casualty European war began when Russia invaded Ukraine.

According to PsycArticles, a database of full-text peer-reviewed psychology journals, only 12 articles include the word war in their title and mention Ukraine and Russia anywhere in the text. Does this represent a gap—perhaps reflecting psychology's reluctance to engage with wars, particularly ongoing conflicts—or is it simply a consequence of the inherently slow pace of academic publishing in psychology?

We invite conceptual and empirical contributions from all disciplines represented in the broad field of peace psychology and neighboring disciplines outside psychology, scholars at different career stages related to the conference theme, and others situated in peace psychology more broadly.

Types of contribution

In oral presentations (preferably in English; German is possible if necessary), contributors can present finished research projects and projects where no data have been collected (yet), focusing on inter-state and civil wars in the past, present, and future (and their psychological and political aftermath, as, among others, trauma, revenge, forgiveness). Furthermore, the organization of 90-minute symposia bringing together 3-4 thematic presentations is welcome. *Round Table proposals will also be considered.*

Submissions for individual papers should include title details, authors, email address of the presenting author, and an abstract (max. 250 words).

For symposia, submissions must include title, the name of the organizer with their email address, and an abstract describing the symposium (max. 250 words) and, per paper, title, authors, email addresses, and abstracts (max. 250 words) of individual papers.

Round Table proposals should contain a title, the name of the organizer with their email address, a sketch of the expected topical focus (max. 100 words), and names and email addresses of up to four participants.

Papers (to be presented in a single presentation or in symposia) as well as suggestions for a round table should be submitted through [the attached form](#) by 22 April 2025. The conference will be held in person (only) at Constructor University Bremen (previously also named International University Bremen and Jacobs University Bremen) in the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen. Bremen is easy to reach by fast train (ICE) and car and has an airport. For presenters from low and lower-to-middle income countries, a few travel stipends will be available (contact the organizers as early as possible, but be aware that the stipends will not cover your travel expenses but will only reduce your costs).

[<https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/opendata/world-bank-country-classifications-by-income-level-for-2024-2025>]

In addition to oral presentations and symposia, the 2025 Peace Psychology Conference will include one or two keynote addresses and an open meeting of members of Forum Friedenspsychologie. Participation fees range from € 10 for unemployed participants to € 100 or more for full-time university professors; participants decide themselves which amount of payment they remit. Additional information about the program can be found—when available—on the site <http://www.friedenspsychologie.de>. If you have further questions, please email the organizing committee at pp35@bigsss-bremen.de.

Forum Friedenspsychologie (FFP) e.V. brings together psychologists, students, and members of neighboring academic fields who wish to develop and communicate psychological insights into the nonviolent management of conflicts, the avoidance of war, and the promotion of peace and social justice. We are recognized as a non-profit organization independent of political parties. Currently, we have about 100 members.

We are active in peace psychology research, education, and training in various areas of professional practice and in contributing to the formation of public political opinion.

Potential keynote speakers

Daniel Christie, <https://cpb-us-w2.wpmucdn.com/u.osu.edu/dist/b/7538/files/2021/07/CV-Christie-2021.pdf>
(agreed)

Dr. Akuch Kuol Anyieth, <https://avreq.sun.ac.za/people/dr-akuch-kuol-anyieth/> (agreed)

Organizing Team: Klaus Boehnke, Franziska Deutsch, Monika Liorentaite-Rossdeutscher (pp35@bigsss-bremen.de)