



International Journal
for Peace and Justice

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Biographical Statements

Lucie Besken is a recent graduate of the Joint Master's program in Peace and Conflict Studies (PACS) at the University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg. She earned a bachelor's degree in international relations and history at the University of Erfurt, Germany. Her areas of interest include the study of ethnic conflicts and of migration into the European Union. She was a recipient of a University of Manitoba Graduate Fellowship.

Sean Byrne is Professor in the Peace and Conflict Studies graduate program at the University of Manitoba. He is cofounding director with Jessica Senehi of the Arthur V. Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice, St. Paul's College (2003-2018), as well as cofounding Director of the Peace and Conflict Studies Ph.D. Program (2005-2014) and the M.A. Program in Peace and Conflict Studies (2009-2014). His recent book publications include *Routledge companion to peace and conflict studies* (2020); *Routledge handbook of peacebuilding and ethnic conflicts* (2022); and *Local experts' practical knowledge, wisdom, and practices: Civil society, peacebuilding, and economic assistance in Northern Ireland* (2023). He received the University of Manitoba Graduate Student Association Teaching Award (2022-2023), the University of Manitoba teaching award certificate (2018), St. Paul's College, Fr. Cecil Ryan sj Memorial Endowment Fund Award, (2018) and the University of Manitoba outreach award (2018) as well as the Faculty of Graduate Studies award for excellence in graduate student mentoring (2017).

Paul N. Cormier earned his Ph.D. in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of Manitoba. He is Chairperson and Associate Professor of *Keewatinase* - Department of Indigenous Education at Lakehead University. He teaches, researches, and publishes in Indigenous education working with both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. He has published numerous articles and book chapters in the areas of Indigenous methodologies through "learning with each other while they are doing" - *Kinoo'amaadawaad Megwaa Doodamawaad*; violence towards Indigenous peoples in the education system and traditional Indigenous learning systems; and culture, identity, and Indigenous peoples in colonial contexts. Paul Cormier is a status Indian and proud member of the Red Rock Indian Band residing with his family in Nipigon, Northern Ontario, Canada. He has won multiple awards for his work with Indigenous peoples across the country.

Calum Dean recently received his Ph.D. in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of Manitoba. He has been published in *Peace Review*, coauthored an article in the *Journal for Peace and Justice*, as well as two chapters in the *Handbook of peacebuilding and ethnic conflicts* (Routledge, 2022).

Nancy E. Hansen is Professor and Director of the Interdisciplinary Master's Program in Disability Studies at the University of Manitoba. She is a human geographer and her research

interests in disability studies are varied including disability in spaces of culture education, experiences of disabled and LGBTQ+ communities in post-conflict areas. She is co-editor of two disability history books.

Iker Kalin holds a PhD in Political Science from Wayne State University. He is currently a Research Fellow at the Institute for Democracy at Matej Bel University, where he leads a project on contemporary threats to democracy. He is also a Visiting Scholar at the Institute for Turkish Studies at Stockholm University, working to connect academic research with policy relevance. His research agenda focuses on the dynamics of violent and nonviolent conflicts, authoritarianism, state repression, and protest movements.

Peter Kulchyski is a professor in the Department of Indigenous Studies at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg. He comes originally from northern Manitoba and although he is not Indigenous, he attended a government run residential school (Frontier Collegiate). He has published extensively on northern Indigenous history, law, politics and culture in Canada. Among his books are *Like the sound of a drum: Aboriginal cultural politics in Denendeh and Nunavut* (2005), *Aboriginal rights are not human rights* (2013) and *Report of an inquiry into an injustice: Begade Shuhtagotine and the Sahtu treaty* (2018). His newest book, co-authored with Henry Heller, is called *Mode of production: The final horizon of practice and theory*; it takes a theoretical approach to a variety of issues including pertaining to Indigenous cultural politics. Kulchyski is also an activist and has supported Indigenous land-based struggles in Temagami, Nitassinan, Stoney Point, Grassy Narrows and elsewhere.

Robert C. Mizzi is a Canada Research Chair in Critical and Creative Continuous Learning and Professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Manitoba. His recent book publications include *Queer studies in education: An international reader* (Oxford University Press, 2023), *Adventures in teaching: Your guide to becoming a successful international educator* (Globesspire Press, 2025), and *LGBTQ+ issues in education: Theoretical interventions in curriculum and pedagogy* (Palgrave, 2025). Professor Mizzi is a member of the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame, a member of the College of New Scholars, Royal Society of Canada, and a TEDx speaker.

Marie Olson Lounsbery is a Professor of Political Science and Director of Security Studies at East Carolina University. Her research examines the dynamic nature of civil wars, peace processes, and foreign military intervention. Her work has been published in journals such as the *Journal of Peace Research*, *International Interactions*, *Civil Wars*, *Journal of Global Security Studies*, and *Terrorism and Political Violence*. Olson Lounsbery's manuscripts include *Civil wars: Internal struggles, global consequences* (University of Toronto Press, 2009, with co-author Frederic Pearson) and *Conflict dynamics: Civil wars, armed actors, and their tactics* (University of Georgia Press, 2017, with co-author Alethia Cook).

Frederic S. Pearson is Professor of Political Science, and Gershenson Distinguished Research Faculty Fellow at Wayne State University in Detroit, USA; for the past 32 years he served as Director of the University's Center for Peace and Conflict Studies. He is also Distinguished Service and Teaching Professor. He was previously professor and research fellow at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and twice a Fulbright scholar in the Netherlands and U.K. His Ph.D. dissertation was on Middle East conflict systems, and his numerous books include *Civil war: Internal struggles, global consequences* (with Marie Olson Lounsbery); *Arab approaches*

to conflict resolution (with Nahla Hamdan); *Arms and ethnic conflict* (with John Sislin) and *Arms and warfare, negotiation*. An authority on international military intervention, arms transfers, conflict resolution and peacemaking, Dr. Pearson was editor of the 2001 special issue of the *Journal of Peace Research* on Identity-based Disputes and Conflict Management, and governmental consultant on US National Security, 21st Century, in Washington, DC, as well as at the UN. Other relevant recent articles have included studies of post-hostilities stability in civil wars, as well as intervention and the prospects for democratization and peaceful protest successes, inter-organizational collaboration, nuclear arms control, and conflict exit strategies.

T. Sheppard-Luangkhot is a recent graduate of the Ph.D. Program in Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Manitoba. T's research and praxis interests are preventing and intervening in colonial violence, violent extremism, and facilitating peace, justice, and human rights for 2SLGBTQ+, women, Indigenous, and racialized identities. T is the founder and Director of the Organization for Peace, Equity and Nonviolence, an NGO dedicated to global prevention of and intervention in violent extremism and hate. T has published in the *Internet Journal of Restorative Justice* (2021), *Asian Journal of Peacebuilding* (2022), *Journal of Ethnic Studies* (2023), and contributed a book chapter to *Power, race and justice* (Routledge, 2022).

Chuck Thiessen is a senior research analyst with the Government of Canada. He earned his Ph.D. in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of Manitoba. He was formerly an Associate Professor at the Centre for Peace and Security at Coventry University (2013-2022). He has published numerous books, articles and book chapters on international peacebuilding and conflict resolution including *Local ownership of peacebuilding in Afghanistan: Shouldering responsibility for sustainable peace and development* (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2013), and coedited volumes including *Conflict transformation, peacebuilding and storytelling* (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2018) and *Expanding the edges of narrative inquiry* (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2019). His research has also appeared in *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, *Civil Wars*, *Third World Quarterly*, *International Politics*, *Journal of Peacebuilding and Development*, *Cooperation and Conflict*, *Journal of Ethnic Studies*, *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, *Humanity and Society*, *Peace Research: Canadian Journal of Peace and Conflict Studies*, *Development in Practice*, *Journal of Asia Pacific Studies*, and *Journal of Peace and Conflict Studies*.

Mehmet Yavuz is a recent graduate of the Peace and Conflict Studies doctoral program at the University of Manitoba. He is an Assistant Professor of Conflict Resolution and the Director of the Creative Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation Lab (CPACT) in the School of Human Sciences in the College of Health and Human Sciences at Kansas State University. Dr. Yavuz's recent research investigates queer people's perceptions and experiences of peacebuilding and activism in divided societies. His latest publications have appeared in *Conflict Resolution Quarterly*, *Journal of Homosexuality*, *Peace Review*, *Journal of Peace and Conflict Studies*, *Peace Research: Canadian Journal of Peace and Conflict Studies*, *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice*, and *Journal of Ethnic Studies*. His book titled, "*We need to fight and have a battle every day!*": *Queer perceptions of peacebuilding and activism in Bosnia and Herzegovina* is forthcoming with Michigan State University Press.