



Arbeitseinheit
Politische Psychologie

Call for Papers

Pathways to Peace in a Reality of War

36th Annual Conference of the German Peace Psychology Association

(Forum Friedenspsychologie)

21-22 September 2026, IKG Bielefeld (Germany)

Peace psychology has traditionally been concerned with understanding how peaceful societies can emerge and perhaps even thrive despite the persistence of violent conflict. In the past years, however, war has returned to the center of global attention. Anti-democratic backlash, global displacement and forced migration, as well as the accelerating ecological crisis challenge long-held assumptions about peaceful coexistence. These developments serve as reminders that peace cannot be taken for granted or understood merely as the absence of violence. Rather, peace is a dynamic and ongoing process of preventing violence, fostering justice, strengthening democratic societies, and creating and maintaining conditions under which individuals and communities can flourish. Rather than asking how peace follows war, the conference asks how pathways to peace can be identified, sustained, and expanded within a world in which war and violence remain enduring realities.

Against this backdrop, the Annual Conference of the Forum Friedenspsychologie invites scholars from psychology and neighboring disciplines to explore **pathways to peace in a reality of war**. We seek to bring together researchers and practitioners concerned with the psychological processes underlying violent conflict, resilience, reconciliation, social transformation, and sustainable peace. The conference provides a forum for critical reflection, inter- and transdisciplinary exchange, and international collaboration on the challenges of understanding and promoting peace in an increasingly complex world.

We welcome empirical, theoretical, methodological, and practical contributions from all relevant areas, including social and political psychology, clinical psychology, sociology, political science, education, history, anthropology, public health, communication studies, peace and conflict studies, and related disciplines.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Psychological consequences of war, armed conflict, and political violence
- Trauma, resilience, healing, and post-conflict recovery
- Reconciliation, forgiveness, collective memory, and transitional justice



- Intergroup relations, prejudice, discrimination, polarization, and radicalization
- Peacebuilding, conflict transformation, and nonviolent resistance
- Structural violence, social (in)justice, and peace
- Democracy, human rights, and civic participation
- Migration, displacement, and refugee experiences
- Climate change, environmental conflicts, and peace
- Media, digital communication, misinformation, and conflict
- Peace education, dialogue, and interventions to promote peaceful societies
- Methodological and theoretical perspectives and developments in peace psychology

The conference welcomes contributions from researchers and practitioners at all career stages and aims to foster dialogue across disciplines, methodological traditions, and national contexts. We particularly encourage submissions that bridge disciplinary perspectives or connect science with policy and practice.

Submission formats

We invite submissions in the following formats:

- **Individual Papers**

Abstracts of up to **300 words** describing completed research, work in progress, or conceptual contributions.

- **Symposia**

Symposia consist of **three to four thematically related presentations**. Submissions should include a symposium abstract (up to 300 words) outlining the overall topic and individual abstracts (up to 300 words each) for all presentations.

Keynote Speaker

We are delighted to welcome [Sabina Čehajić-Clancy](#), Professor of Psychology at Stockholm University, as a confirmed keynote speaker.

Further information on the conference venue, registration, and submission guidelines can be found on the [conference website](#).

Submission deadline: 10 August 2026

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