

**PHS NEWS**  
July 2025  
Newsletter of the Peace History Society  
[www.peacehistorysociety.org](http://www.peacehistorysociety.org)



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**President's Column**



**Gail Presbey**

Dear PHS members,

Hello! I am happy to report the various activities of PHS in the past year. Thanks to Toshihiro Higuchi (PHS Secretary) for putting together the 2024 newsletter, and for Henry Maar, our new Board member, for stepping up to be the new newsletter editor starting with this issue. As we move forward, Henry will continue Toshi's idea of inviting members to introduce themselves in the newsletter. I actively encourage others to submit bios for inclusion, as this will help us to get to know each other better.

Since I last wrote in last year's newsletter, our Ad-Hoc committee to find a venue for the 2025 conference (consisting of Tracy K'Meyer, Brian Scott Mueller and Deborah Buffton) was able to recruit Christy Snider (our Treasurer) to host our 2025 conference at Berry College. The offices of the Provost and Dean at Berry College have given generous financial support to the conference, and for this we are very grateful to them and to Christy. The Call for Papers (deadline of July 15; see this issue for more details) has gone out from our Conference committee (Lauren Janette, Mike Clinton, Roger Peace, and Christy Snider). We look forward to receiving your proposal and to seeing you there at Berry College in Rome, Georgia! (Fly in to Atlanta or Chattanooga.) Our hardworking co-editors of *Peace and Change*, Yi Deng and Renee Bricker, continue to put out quality journal issues, now fully online. A recent special issue was guest edited by International Peace Research Association (IRPA) co-Secretary General Matt Meyer, and focused on papers from the IPRA conference in Trinidad and Tobago in 2023. Thanks to IPRA and Matt Meyer for working with us and helping to edit the special issue! As is always the case, Yi and Renee would love to hear from any PHS members who would like to offer their services as anonymous reviewers for the articles, as well as those who would like to offer book reviews!

In 2024, before the year ended, we had our elections of new officers and Board members. Thank you to Mike Clinton, Robert Shaffer and Christy Snider for serving on a nominations committee, and overseeing elections. You can see all the election winners in the newsletter's list of Executive and Board members. Let me at this point thank the outgoing Board members once again. They are: Carl

Bouchard, Deborah Buffton, Leilah Danielson, Scott Kamen, Robert Shaffer, and Mona Siegel. (By the way, congrats to Carl Bouchard and Mona Siegel who both had a chance to present their research in France at the three-day colloquium, "The Great War 1914-1941: Towards a cultural history of politics".)

A large task/ responsibility of PHS is to offer several prizes in our field. The prize committees have been hard at work. I want to thank again Toshi Higuchi for being this year's Prize Coordinator, and finding the volunteer judges for each prize, as well as thanking the judges for their time. Also note that this year, the Board approved a new prize, that is, the Edited Book prize. (Thanks to the Edited Book Prize committee for writing up the description of this award—that's Toshi Higuchi, Scott Bennett, and Robert Schaffer). This year's prize committees are:

- [Scott Bills Memorial Prize](#) in Peace History, for a first book or dissertation
  - Michaelle Tusan (Chair)
  - Roger Peace
  - Wendy Chmielewski
- [Elise Boulding Prize](#) in Peace History, for a single-authored book (not first book or dissertation)
  - Victoria Wolcott (Chair)
  - Tracy K'Meyer
  - Deborah Buffton
- [Charles DeBenedetti Prize](#) in Peace History, for an article or book chapter
  - Lauren Jannette (Chair)
  - Harvey Strum
  - Sakiko Kaiga
  - Ronald Musto
- Edited Book Prize in Peace History, newly created this year, for an

outstanding English-language edited book by one or more editors in the field of peace history, or peace studies or other disciplines with significant historical content

- Scott Bennett (Chair)
  - Brian Mueller
  - Leilah Danielson
- [Lifetime Achievement Award](#), for outstanding scholarship and exemplary service
    - Mike Clinton (Chair)
    - Mitch Hall
    - Robbie Lieberman

Please come to the PHS conference this November to hear the announcements regarding the winners of these prizes!

One of the activities the Board has been doing is signing on to statements that are addressing pressing current events related to peace history. In recent months, the board voted to sign on to two statements. In February 2025, we signed the [“AHA-OAH Statement on Executive Order 'Ending Radical Indoctrination in K-12 Schooling'”](#). Also, in April 2025, in response to the Trump administration's recent [executive order](#) attacking the Smithsonian Institution, the AHA issued a [statement](#) that PHS signed on to as well. Additionally, Historians for Palestine had encouraged AHA-affiliated societies (like ours) to write members of the AHA Council to ask them to reconsider their January 17, 2025 [decision to veto](#) the [resolution condemning scholasticide in Gaza](#), which was overwhelmingly supported (428-to-88) at the AHA's Business Meeting. Our Board agreed to send an email to AHA Council members encouraging them to rethink their veto and instead bring the issue to a vote of the entire membership. Such a procedure would be more in line with AHA's mission

and with democratic procedures, and also consonant with the AHA's stand on other pressing issues of the day that intersect with the concerns of historians.

PHS continued to co-sponsor and support the Mercy Peace Forum (involving Gwynedd Mercy University, St. Joseph's University, Georgian Court University and the University of Detroit Mercy). In November 2024, University of Detroit Mercy hosted an event, “‘Crimes of Solidarity’: What’s at Stake for our Social Connectedness,” with Sally Scholz (Professor of Philosophy at Villanova University), Deb Hansen (Interfaith Minister) and Kim Redigan (Nonviolence trainer with MPT). Both Hansen and Redigan had participated in a recent delegation to the West Bank, and Hansen works with refugees at Annunciation House. Scholz gave us a glimpse into the variety of laws —laws often meant to curb human smuggling—that have been put to service in charging humanitarian actors for helping migrants. She shared some suggestions about the demands of solidarity and the prospect of reframing at least some of the rhetoric around migration, citizenship, and social togetherness. This topic has not become obsolete—if anything, it is more important than ever. If you would like to watch the recording, please send a request for the link to Gail Presbey, PHS President and host of the zoom event, at [gpresbey@yahoo.com](mailto:gpresbey@yahoo.com).

In April 2024, Gwynedd Mercy University was the host of this series. A description of their topic and links to the recording are in this newsletter under “Announcements.” This newsletter also contains a report on PHS Affiliate sessions at the 2025 AHA. Looking ahead to the next AHA in 2026, we again have organized and/or co-sponsored three Affiliate sessions. Thanks to Toshi for

all his work on this. Once we hear about their acceptance into the program, we will announce them all to you.

As you can see, PHS members have been very busy with the work of the Society. We can't do it without you!! Please consider getting more involved with PHS. We really appreciate the help!

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**PHS Officers and Board Members, 2025**

**President:** Gail M. Presbey  
*University of Detroit Mercy*

**Vice-President:** Christian Philip Peterson  
*Ferris State University*

**Secretary:** Toshihiro Higuchi  
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*Gwynedd Mercy University*

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*University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee*

Roger Peace,  
*U.S. Foreign Policy History  
& Resource Guide*

Paul Robinson,  
*Bridgewater State University*

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*Peace & Change editors  
University of North Georgia*

Julia Eichenberg,  
*President, German Association for  
Historical Peace and Conflict Research*

**Book Review Editor**  
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Blanche Wiesen Cook  
*John Jay College & CUNY Graduate Center*

**PHS Newsletter Editor**  
Henry Richard Maar III,  
*California State University, Northridge*

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## PHS Affiliate Sessions at the AHA

Gail Presbey

In snowy New York City, PHS members gathered from Jan. 3-6 at the large American Historical Association's (AHA) annual conference to hold three panels. The first PHS Affiliate panel was on "Pacifist Internationals: Reflections on a Century of Nonviolent Activism for Peace & Justice." Scott Bennett shared his study of the War Resisters League (WRL). Interestingly, Bennett said that while WRL advocated nonviolent action (such as strikes) as more effective than armed violence, its position on particular wars was nuanced. For example, there were debates on the Spanish Civil War; WRL rejected armed struggle in both Vietnam and Algeria and yet accepted the goals of those wars. In the case of the Korean war, they attempted to help Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to play the role of mediator. Bennett also mentioned more recent campaigns of WRL such as the restoration of the *Golden Rule* ship that had played a role in trying to stop nuclear testing in the Pacific Ocean. The *Golden Rule* recently toured several ports with a renewed message of disarmament. Related to Bennett's talk, PHS displayed the traveling exhibit on the WRL which consists of eight large display signs and a related book (which I reviewed in a previous PHS newsletter, because this same traveling exhibit had been displayed at the 2023 PHS conference).

On the same panel, Wendy Chmielewski talked about her role curating the Swarthmore Peace Collection, from 1998 to 2020. The collection houses the documents of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), Jane Addams, and others. WILPF had members from both the U.S. and Europe. Among themselves,

they debated whether war could ever be circumstantially justified (such as, fighting fascism during the Second World War—a position held by some European members) or whether a total ban on war was needed. In addition to ending war, WILPF highlighted the need for food relief, and later (for example, in the 1980s) focused on anti-nuclear activism. David Hostetter focused his comments on Quaker Pacifism and the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). Their goal was to apply the gospel. Started by George Fox and promoted in the 1960s by Bayard Rustin, they have more recently pointed out the atrocities of the Iraq War which led to many deaths.

The panel included Peter Cousins reporting on the history of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR). IFOR was spiritually based and began as a response to the First World War. It tried to forestall hostilities that eventually broke out in the Second World War. Cousins related the history of IFOR leaders Jean and Hildegard Goss-Mayr of Vienna, and how the two expanded IFOR's message to include Latin America.

There was a good audience present, and participants raised issues of conscientious objection (CO) to military service (and, how peace movements do or should use these CO stories). They raised even larger issues, questioning what had all of these groups accomplished, and, when you are trying to stop war, what counts as an achievement?

Over in the Exhibit Hall, we had Frida Berrigan and Ruth Benn of WRL displaying the 100 years of WRL traveling exhibit, and Scott Bennett, Mike Clinton and myself also spent time at our booth in the exhibit hall, signing up conference attendees to receive more information about PHS and possibly hosting the exhibit at their university. We

were next door to kindred spirits, the folks at the Zinn Education Project, an organization inspired by Howard Zinn and having as its goal the teaching of people's history as Zinn modeled.

Another PHS panel was called "The Military Recruiting Crisis in Historical Context." Panelists were Scott Harding, Chuck Howlett, Seth Kershner, and Amy Rutenberg. Rutenberg pointed out that the armed forces are challenged to enlist enough recruits to meet their targets. There are not as many who have the propensity to serve. Eighty percent of recruits have a close family member in the military, but nowadays parents don't tell their children to enlist, for several reasons, including that they are tired of the "long war," the economy is good (providing alternative employment), and/or they are disillusioned with politics. Of those who want to serve, many don't meet recruitment standards, due to low grades in school, self-medicating, or depression, etc. Chuck Howlett added that combat veterans want peace, so they don't want to send their kids to war. The panelists and audience debated the pros and cons of a draft compared to an all-volunteer army. They also discussed whether large militaries enhance the chances of war.

Seth Kirshner also updated the audience about aspects of the "No Child Left Behind Act" that basically forces schools to give recruiters access to their students. Trained salespeople approach 16-year-olds and convince them to join. Amy Rutenberg knew at least one school that funded a counter-recruiter, who would help students realize they had options other than joining the military.

There was a third PHS session at the AHA, and I encourage people to read Roger Peace's article about it (in this newsletter).

One wonderful occasion during the conference was a dinner where all the PHS Executive and Board members gathered (at Rosie O'Grady's). Since there had recently been elections, continuing Board members had a chance to meet the new Board members. We really did have a substantial contingent at the AHA in 2025!



**Peace History Society Session 1:  
Pacifist Internationals: Reflections on a  
Century of Nonviolent Activism for Peace  
and Justice**

Chair: Wendy E. Chmielewski, Swarthmore  
College Peace Collection

Papers:

Scott H. Bennett, Georgian Court  
University, "Secular Radical Pacifism: The  
War Resisters' International"

Catia Cecilia Confortini, Wellesley College,  
"Feminist Pacifism: The Women's  
International League for Peace and  
Freedom"

Peter Cousins, University of Granada,  
"Religious Radical Pacifism: The  
International Fellowship of Reconciliation"

David Hostetter, independent scholar,  
"Quaker Pacifism: The American Friends  
Service Committee"





**Peace History Society Session 2:  
The Military Recruiting Crisis in  
Historical Context**

Chair:

Gail Presbey, University of Detroit Mercy

Panel:

Scott Harding, University of Connecticut

Charles F. Howlett, Molloy University

Seth Kershner, University of Massachusetts  
Amherst

Amy Rutenberg, Iowa State University



**PHS Executive Board and  
Speakers' Dinner**

To see additional photos of PHS at the AHA  
visit:

<https://www.peacehistorysociety.org/Photos/aha2025/index.php>

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**AHA Panel Reflections**

"Alternatives to War"

Roger Peace, Ph.D.



**PHS/War Resisters League Exhibit Table  
with Ruth Benn and Frida Berrigan**

Our Saturday panel at the AHA Conference, "Alternatives to War in US History," attracted eighteen people. Trygve Throntveit, Director of Strategic Partnership at Minnesota Humanities Center, and Global Fellow for History and Public Policy at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, discussed designs for international governance during the interwar years and post-World War II era. Intellectuals and political organizers such as Quincy Wright, Jane Addams, Clark Eichelberger, and James T. Shotwell attempted to bring the United States firmly into emerging structures of international governance and put forth visions of a more cooperative world order, albeit with limited effect. Marc Becker, Professor of History and Latin American History at Truman State University, discussed the long tradition of support in Latin America for peaceful resolution of conflicts, focusing in particular on the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. As diplomatic

relations between Cuba and the United States rapidly disintegrated in the early 1960s, several Latin American countries, including Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Chile, and Ecuador, urged mediation of the conflict, proclaiming that they favored peaceful resolution via the United Nations rather than resorting to armed force. Roger Peace, Independent scholar and coordinator of the U.S. Foreign Policy History & Resource Guide website, discussed the vision of “common security” that was advanced in the 1980s and 1990s by three different parties: the UN-created Olof Palme Commission, peace groups in the U.S. and Europe, and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, with again limited effect. The principle of common security—the idea that nations and populations can only feel safe when their counterparts feel safe—is still relevant today. Sarah Snyder, Professor of History at the School of International Service, American University, chaired the panel.



**Peace History Society Session 3:  
Alternatives to War in US History**

Chair:

Sarah Snyder, American University

Papers:

Trygve Throntveit, Minnesota Humanities Center, “The Alternative American Century”

Marc Becker, Truman State University, “Latin American Mediation of Cold War

Conflicts”

Roger Peace, United States Foreign Policy History and Resource Guide, “Envisioning Common Security in the 1980s and 1990s”

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**PHS at SHAFR,  
“Integrating Peace and Justice Values in  
the Writing and Teaching of U.S. Foreign  
Policy”**

Roger Peace, Ph.D.

The Peace History Society sponsored a panel at the annual meeting of the Society for Historians of Foreign Relations (SHAFR) in Arlington, VA, in late June 2025: “Integrating Peace and Justice Values in the Writing and Teaching of U.S. Foreign Policy.” Roger Peace, independent scholar, presented “U.S. Foreign Policy History & Resource Guide: Writing methodology.” Ginger Williams, Winthrop University, discussed “Teaching International Relations and Foreign Policy Analysis in Difficult Times.” Sahr Conway-Lanz, Swarthmore College, spoke on “The Swarthmore College Peace Collection and Critical Perspectives on U.S. Foreign Policy.” The panel was chaired by Steve Brady, George Washington University.

In another panel titled “Roundtable: Historiographies of Nuclear Things on the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings,” Toshihiro Higuchi (Georgetown University) spoke on “The Nuclear Anthropocene.”





Photo, L-R: Steve, Ginger, Roger, Sahr

## **The History and Central Issues of Peace Studies in Japan: A Gender Perspective**

Mizuho Tsuchino

Meisei University, Tokyo, Japan

### **1. The Formation of the Peace Research Group in Japan**

Following World War II, approximately 50 scholars, including philosophers, lawyers, nuclear engineers, and scientists, established an early peace research group in response to the 1948 UNESCO statement, “A Statement by Eight Distinguished Social Scientists on the Causes of Tensions Which Make for War,” authored by Gordon W. Allport et al. The subsequent development of peace research in Japan can be categorized into three distinct stages (Nakamura 2023). The first stage, from the immediate postwar period to the late 1950s, was characterized by scholars who had lived through the war and conducted research focused on reflection and regret. The second stage, spanning 1959 to 1973, featured a

heightened urgency in conducting peace research due to nuclear crises such as the Cuban Missile Crisis. Peace research institutions were also established during this phase, including the Center for Conflict Resolution at the University of Michigan and the Peace Research Institute Oslo. In Japan, peace studies were formalized during this stage, culminating in the establishment of the Peace Studies Association of Japan (PSAJ), which marked the beginning of the third stage.

### **2. The Peace Studies Association of Japan (PSAJ)**

Founded in 1973, the PSAJ has played a crucial role in advancing peace studies in Japan since World War II. It aims to address militarization and various forms of violence both within Japan and globally, while simultaneously pursuing conditions for peace. The Association has approximately 600 members, including researchers, educators, activists, politicians, and students. The PSAJ’s main activities include organizing two major annual conferences, convening subcommission meetings, and publishing academic journals and books. There are 20 subcommissions covering a wide range of topics, including ‘Methods and Practices of Peace Studies’, ‘The Constitution and Peace’, ‘Asia and Peace’, ‘Gender and Peace’, ‘Peace and Art’, and ‘Peace in Ryukyu, Okinawa, and Island Nations and Regions’.

When the PSAJ was founded, the international community was grappling with Cold War nuclear threats and North-South tensions. The PSAJ also addressed challenges unique to Japan, such as its history of colonial rule and military aggression in Asia, the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the constitutional debate surrounding Article 9, which renounces war and prohibits the

maintenance of military forces. These efforts were deeply rooted in postwar reflections and a commitment to peace.

### **3. The Expanding Scope of the PSAJ's Research**

The PSAJ has engaged in a broad range of themes (Hatsuse 2023). During the 1970s and 1980s, its journals focused on methodological issues in peace studies, peace education, peace movements, security concerns, and critiques of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) for Asian countries. In the 1990s, the PSAJ turned its attention to civil society theories, reflecting a post-Cold-War shift in global ideological structures. From the late 1990s to the 2010s, research expanded to include global issues in peace studies, such as the United Nations system, global civil society, human security, and humanitarian aid. By the 2010s, discussions of positionality—focusing on agency, justice, and decolonization—became increasingly prominent. In recent years, *Peace Studies* has explored interdisciplinary topics such as art, spirituality, and religion. This reflects the growing recognition of diverse perspectives in peace studies.

### **4. The PSAJ and Gender**

The 2000s marked a turning point for gender within the PSAJ itself. The Association appointed its first female president and established the Gender and Peace subcommittee, influenced by the enactment of the Basic Act for a Gender-Equal Society in 1999.

The Gender and Peace subcommittee analyzes the role of gender in peace studies. Some topics include the representation of war and violence in modern art, gender inequality in Afghanistan, women's resistance to national militaries in Indonesia, international migration and marriage in the

Philippines and Japan, and victims of sexual slavery ('comfort women') under the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II.

Since 2024, Dr. Nanako Shimizu, PSAJ's fifth female president, has continued to emphasize gender perspectives in peace studies. In 2024, the Association launched a Gender and Intersectionality project. Furthermore, PSAJ's annual conference in October 2024 focused on Security, Colonialism, and Gender. The event aimed to generate knowledge on this topic and foster solidarity among those affected by gendered, racial, colonial, and structural violence. Key conference sessions addressed issues such as gender-based violence in Cambodia, patriarchy and sexual violence in Africa, gender equality policies in Rwanda, and the wartime responsibilities of Japanese women who, through their labor and social roles on the home front, contributed to sustaining Japan's war effort during World War II.

Additionally, *Peace Studies* selected gender as the theme for its 64<sup>th</sup> volume, scheduled for publication in June 2025. This marks the first time since the establishment of the PSAJ that gender has been the central focus of a volume for this journal. This special issue explores how gender shapes national and international identities and contributes to scholarship that challenges oppressive structures.

### **5. Contributions to Global Peace Studies: Addressing Historical and Contemporary Challenges from a Gender Perspective**

The year 2025 marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II. Japan's wartime conduct introduced unique historical and contemporary challenges in global peace studies. For example, the 'comfort women' system and military sexual violence in

Okinawa, where U.S. forces are stationed, highlight the structural nature of militarized violence. Although acts of sexual violence against Okinawan women were committed during peacetime by U.S. soldiers, these acts reflect broader patterns of military violence that reinforce war-oriented masculinity. These topics have been discussed at multiple PSAJ conferences, underscoring Japan's role in addressing and preventing violence of this nature worldwide.

I have been working on the unresolved 'comfort women' issue and have sought to contribute my findings as a PSAJ member. In Volume 47 (2016), I published an article titled "The 'Comfort Women' Issue from the Perspective of the Survivors: With a Focus on the Asian Women's Fund." I examined the meaning of 'resolution' for survivors. Since the 1990s, survivors of the 'comfort women' system have demanded an official apology and national compensation from the Japanese government for the harm they suffered as victims of forced sexual slavery under the Imperial Japanese Army. In response, the Japanese government established the Asian Women's Fund (AWF). However, the fund was not a true form of government compensation and was financed by donations from Japanese citizens. Many survivors also criticized the AWF, arguing that it had failed to restore their dignity. Nevertheless, a total of 364 'comfort women' accepted support from the fund. This article aimed to analyze different approaches to resolving the 'comfort women' issue, considering existing studies as well as the survivors' diverse responses to the AWF. Survivors' decisions to accept or reject compensation from the fund were influenced by various factors, including national and societal contexts, family relations, and the nature of the survivors' experiences. In other words, their decisions were not made entirely of their own volition.

The article also highlighted that both survivors and their families have suffered from the 'aftereffects' of the survivors' experiences as 'comfort women.' As these struggles are deeply rooted in social circumstances, survivors cannot resolve them alone. For this reason, they continue to demand an official apology from the Japanese government. Hence, I argued that achieving justice requires more than just financial compensation for survivors; rather, it necessitates restoring their honor and addressing the broader social structures that have marginalized them.

In 2018, I collaborated with other members to organize a panel titled "The Historicization of the 'Comfort Women' Issue: Current Situation and Challenges in Japan" at the PSAJ Autumn Conference. This panel was motivated by a growing sense of urgency, as nearly 30 years have passed since Korean women's organizations brought the 'comfort women' issue to international attention. Feminist movements in Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, and other countries have contributed to the recognition of wartime rape as a crime against humanity by establishing new international norms. However, influential revisionist narratives in Japan deny the country's responsibility for this issue. Therefore, my aim was to historicize the 'comfort women' issue to critically reflect on both achievements and possible blind spots with respect to its resolution. As one of the second generation of scholars working on this issue, I aimed to reevaluate the challenges that still persist from those previously identified by scholars. In addition, I aimed to resist the Japanese government's ongoing attempts to erase or downplay its responsibility.

Furthermore, in 2023, I published an article in Volume 60 titled "Revisiting the Study of

Sexual Violence Against Women in Conflict: A Review of Previous Research.” This article aimed to situate the ‘comfort women’ issue within broader discussions on sexual violence against women in conflict worldwide. Feminist scholars have extensively examined the causes of wartime sexual violence and potential solutions to this issue. However, some have also highlighted the limitations and unintended consequences of the existing research. This article aimed to critically reassess this field by reviewing key studies on this topic. Specifically, I identified major trends in previous research, including a focus on African case studies and an emphasis on gender as the primary factor contributing to wartime sexual violence. To address these limitations, I argued that scholars must adopt an intersectional approach, analyzing sexual violence in conflict through the lens of power dynamics related to gender, sexuality, ethnicity, religion, and the global economic system. Additionally, I emphasized the importance of examining the power relationships between survivors and researchers. I highlighted that these issues have also been central to the ‘comfort women’ movement, noting that existing studies and activist movements can make significant contributions to discussions on sexual violence against women in conflict. The ‘comfort women’ issue has significant implications for understanding and addressing sexual violence against women in contemporary conflicts. Moving forward, I plan to examine how decades of activism surrounding the ‘comfort women’ system can contribute to global efforts—both in academia and advocacy—to combat wartime sexual violence and support survivors.

## **6. Future Challenges: Integrating Gender into Peace Studies**

Globally, gender issues have often been relegated to secondary concerns in peace

studies. Primary discussions tend to be dominated by male actors. The PSAJ is no exception. The Association marked its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023, and there is an ongoing, pressing need for further reform, particularly with respect to gender. The PSAJ has increasingly incorporated gender perspectives into its conferences and journals. However, as a senior scholar specializing in gender and militarism remarked, “It has been a long journey. But it may be an even longer one, as some still believe that featuring gender issues once in our journal is sufficient.” The key challenge is to fully integrate gender perspectives into the PSAJ’s research and activities. Rather than treating gender as a peripheral issue, it must be considered a fundamental component of peace studies. Achieving this integration requires interdisciplinary dialogue. Strengthening the connection between gender studies and historical studies, in particular, can make significant contributions to the advancement of peace studies. Historical research offers valuable insights into the construction of peace by examining the role of gender in warfare and tracing shifts in power structures over time. Conversely, gender studies amplify voices that have often been marginalized in historical narratives, providing new perspectives on the past. Recognizing gender as a critical analytical lens in historical studies is essential for developing a more comprehensive approach to peace studies.

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(<https://www.davidpublisher.com/index.php/Home/Article/index?id=23466.html>).

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### **“The ‘Doublespeak’ Model”**

Roger Peace, Ph.D.

Initiator and coordinator of the [U.S. Foreign Policy History & Resource Guide](#)

The Trump administration’s disinformation campaign is wreaking havoc on rational thinking and dialogue. The dystopian world of “doublespeak” described by George Orwell in *Nineteen Eighty-four* is upon us, where meanings of words are distorted and reversed. Civil rights laws, for example, are now interpreted to protect white males from “reverse discrimination,” and immigration rules prioritize asylum for white South Africans.

A major target of the administration is the history profession, including the Smithsonian Institution and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The President’s Advisory 1776 Commission has called for “patriotic education” and “objective facts” to replace a “distorted narrative driven by ideology.” Vice

President J. D. Vance [declared](#) that “we have to honestly and aggressively attack the universities in this country.”

The American Historical Association (AHA) and Organization of American History (OAH) have [issued](#) a Joint Statement on Federal Censorship of American History: “Recent executive orders and other federal directives alter the public record in ways that are contrary to historical evidence. They result in deceitful narratives of the past that violate the professional standards of our discipline. . . . Censorship and distortion erase people and institutions from history.” From my perspective, having studied U.S. foreign policy for half a century, the model for the Trump administration’s disinformation campaign is located in the U.S. foreign policy establishment. The latter has been largely successful in convincing Americans of the presumed right of the U.S. to “lead” the world and the righteousness of U.S. actions abroad. “Make America Great Again” could easily be the motto for this establishment.

The biggest lies are the hardest to counter. Contrary to official U.S. rhetoric of promoting “freedom and democracy” abroad, U.S. foreign policies during the Cold War were not aimed at supporting democratic institutions, human rights, political stability, or even U.S. national security, as U.S. leaders put American lives at risk in pursuit of global hegemony. The U.S. aided French imperialism in Vietnam; plotted the assassination of leaders in the Congo, Cuba, and the Dominican Republic; covertly aided the overthrow of democratic governments in Iran, Guatemala, and Chile; overtly invaded the Dominican Republic and Grenada in defiance of international norms; and regularly provided arms and aid to repressive, right-wing regimes around the world.



Why did U.S. leaders subvert democracy and support authoritarian regimes in other countries? Simply put, they did not trust the people to choose the “right” leaders. The “right” leaders were those who protected foreign private investments, suppressed leftist parties, and aligned with the U.S. in international forums. As this agenda did not conform to the popular will, Washington officials conspired with select groups – economic elites, rightist political and military leaders, and police and military establishments—to establish the “right” leadership.

This model is relevant to the Trump administration’s current efforts to undermine democratic governance in the United States. The president’s corporate backers and Republican ideologues want to get rid of the social welfare and regulatory state (e.g., health care programs, education, social security, environmental protections, etc.), but given popular opposition, the means to this end is to undermine democratic guardrails and secure in government a permanent ally of the rich and powerful. Americans hardly winced when the democratic government of Salvador Allende was overthrown in Chile on September 11, 1973, inaugurating two decades of authoritarian rule and capitalist freedom. We are now in great danger of repeating this example in the United States.

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### PHS Member Spotlight



#### **Yasmin Saikia**

Current Occupation or Academic Status  
Hardt-Nickachos Chair in Peace Studies and  
Professor of History

Current Affiliation  
Arizona State University

Gender Pronouns

Her

Website, Instagram, and/or another social  
media profile page

<https://search.asu.edu/profile/1614088>

Alma mater/s: Aligarh Muslim University,  
1986, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
1993, University of Wisconsin-Madison,  
2000

Fields of Interest: South Asia, Islam, Women  
and Violence, Minorities, Democracy,  
Religion and Peace, Colonialism and  
Nationalism, Identity

Describe the development of your interest  
in peace history. What led you to study  
peace history?

I did not study peace history in a classroom,  
but in the field—among victims and  
perpetrators of violence—where I witnessed

people grappling with the pain they had inflicted or endured in the name of the state and nationalism, and struggling to reclaim a sense of humanity shattered in the process.

What projects are you currently working on?

Writing a book on 'Making Religious and Ethnic Minorities in South Asia,' and a Special Issue of a journal on 'Muslim Minorities Experiences in Liberal Democracies.'

Is there an article, book, movie, blog etc that you would recommend to our PHS members?

*On Othering: Politics and Processes of Unpeace* (Athabasca: Athabasca University Press, 2024)

What do you value most about peace history? Why is peace history important to you?

Peace History critically examines the role of history and historians in addressing the ethics of research, methodology, narrative construction, and representation, while opening pathways for intellectual advocacy on behalf of the disempowered and vulnerable.



**Timeo Antognini**

[timeo.antognini@hotmail.ch](mailto:timeo.antognini@hotmail.ch)

Current Occupation or Academic Status

Ph.D. Student

Gender pronouns: He

Website, Instagram, and/or another social media profile page

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/timeo-antognini-024b9a2a1/>

Alma mater/s

Degree (major), school, graduation year;  
2nd degree (major), 2nd school, 2nd graduation year; etc.

Master of Arts in History, Universität Bern, 2023; Bachelor of Arts in History and Chinese Studies, Université de Genève, 2020

Fields of Interest

Political and social history, Cold War, peace movements, Christian peace movement in Switzerland

Describe the development of your interest in peace history. What led you to study peace history?

In November 2023, I started my PhD at the University of Fribourg (Switzerland). I am working within a research project about the history of left-wing Christians in Switzerland (from around 1970 to 2010). Since I am particularly interested in the field of pacifism, I have focused my work on the Christian peace movement.

What brought you in contact with Peace History Society? Through a conference presentation? A publication on our journal Peace & Change? Or something else? I found the organization online by myself.

What projects are you currently working on? In addition to my PhD thesis on the Christian peace movement in Switzerland, I am currently working on a chapter about the non-alignment of the END campaign in the 1980s. The chapter will be part of a book project on Neutrality Studies.

Is there an article, book, movie, blog etc that you would recommend to our PHS members? Podcast/YouTube Channel: Neutrality Studies

What do you value most about peace history? Why is peace history important to you?

Because, at least in Switzerland, it is a neglected field of research, yet one that is all the more important today, amid rising tensions in the context of a new Cold War.

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### Member Announcements

Mitch Hall (Central Michigan University) received the 2025 CMU President's Award for Outstanding Research and Creative Activities. His forthcoming book, *Waging Peace: A History of the Vietnam Antiwar Movement*, is scheduled for publication in November by Cambridge University Press.

Recently, American Campus Podcast, hosted by Lauren Lassabe Shepherd, interviewed PHS members, Seth Kershner and Chuck Howlett, regarding their Award-winning book, *Breaking the War Habit: The Debate over Militarism in American Education*, which was published by the University of Georgia Press. Members can access the podcast, which appears on all the major streaming platforms using the following link:

<https://americancampuspodcast.buzzsprout.com/2396665/episodes/17042740-why-does-my-campus-have-an-rotc-with-scott-harding-charles-howlett-and-seth-kershner>

PHS has many videos and we encourage you to visit and view them when you can. The Mercy Peace Forum is brought to you by 4 Mercy universities and the Peace History Society twice a year. Gwynedd Mercy University, our most recent host in the series, has posted their April 9, 2025 webinar online. We had Brother Tommy Joshua Caison (of Philly Peace Park) and Erica Fugger (Oral Historian) talk about documenting peace organizations. [Here's the link](#) to the webinar—anyone can access it. Also, here is the link for the [Philly Peace Park](#)'s website and a link for the [Documenting Peace](#) website.

PHS President Gail Presbey wants to invite any of you to view a webinar she recently hosted. Eamon Rafter and Marian Naughton gave a great presentation about their peace organization in Ireland, Lex Innocentium 21st Century. It is highly relevant, considering the current breaking news about people dying due to war and violence, and many countries increasing their military budgets. Eamon covers the colonization and decolonization of Ireland from Britain, and what it means to say Ireland is a “neutral” country, in that context of Ireland’s history. He then discusses Ireland's peace process,

especially since the increased conflict of the 1970s and 80s, and how Ireland's peace message arises from their national experience. Then Marian begins her talk, going back to the Law of the Innocents proclaimed in Birr, Ireland in 697, and going forward to the 1600s, explaining how Church leaders in Ireland created a law that said women, children, and other innocents should be spared in war. It's a history that inspired their organization, Lex Innocentium 21st Century, to update the law and have contemporary people newly endorse the updated proclamation. You can [access the recording here](#). You can visit the [Lex Innocentium website](#) here. Please circulate this announcement/ invitation widely, to all of your organizations and peace communities!

If you can make it to Philadelphia, please attend Hope May's "[Memory Parlor](#)" this summer. (Our own Scott Bennett is scheduled to make a presentation this year.) PHS is a co-sponsor of the event, and members have been participating for several years now. Find out more by visiting: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/arche-types-of-virtue-2025-memory-parlor-tickets-1298109593739>. The event is scheduled for July 23 and 24 in Philadelphia.

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### Call for Proposals:

**"Peace Across the Ages: Legacies, Lessons, and Change,"**  
**Peace History Society Conference,**  
**November 6-8, 2025, Berry College**  
**Mount Berry, GA**

The Peace History Society invites paper and panel proposals for our upcoming conference on the theme "**Peace Across the Ages: Legacies, Lessons, and Change.**" At a moment when intergenerational dialogue and historical awareness feel particularly

urgent, this theme invites scholars to explore the historical roots, present-day practices, and future possibilities of peace movements and nonviolent conflict resolution across generations, communities, geographic contexts, and international boundaries.

We welcome proposals from a wide variety of disciplinary perspectives, historical periods, and geographic settings. While proposals directly engaging the conference theme are encouraged, submissions on broader topics relevant to peace history and nonviolent activism are also welcomed. Suggested topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Youth activism and peacebuilding in historical perspective (Civil Rights, Cold War-era peace movements, international solidarity movements, contemporary activism, etc.)
- Intergenerational dialogue and conflict within peace and justice movements
- Peace education across generations: theories, practices, lessons learned, and contemporary challenges
- Generational shifts in conceptions of peace, justice, and human rights
- Historical alternatives to militarism and war: lessons learned and opportunities missed
- Intellectual and cultural histories challenging militaristic and imperial frameworks
- Local, regional, and global intersections of peace movements historically and contemporaneously
- The roles and influence of community leaders in transmitting strategies and traditions of nonviolent resistance
- Geographic and cultural contexts shaping peace movements and nonviolent activism

- Indigenous histories and experiences of peacebuilding, intergenerational leadership, and resistance
- Public memory, commemorations, and the role of historical understanding in peace movements

In addition, we particularly encourage innovative formats—such as workshops, roundtables, digital presentations, and community-engaged scholarship—that enrich and diversify scholarly engagement. We aim to foster dialogue not only among academics but also with broader communities and practitioners engaged in peace and justice work.

### **Submission Information**

Please submit a brief abstract (200-300 words) describing your paper, panel, or alternative format proposal, along with a short biography/CV (1 page max).

Deadline for submissions has been extended to: **July 15, 2025**

Notification of acceptance: August 1, 2025  
Proposals and inquiries should be submitted via email to:

[phs2025@peacehistorysociety.org](mailto:phs2025@peacehistorysociety.org)

We look forward to your submissions and to a vibrant and engaging exploration of peace history across generations.

Warm regards from the 2025 PHS  
Conference Program Committee:  
Christy Snider, Chair  
Michael Clinton  
Lauren Jannette  
Roger Peace

***Archives as Witness: Preserving History, Memory, and Art at the Peace Resource Center at Wilmington College (September 30-October 1, 2025, Wilmington College, Wilmington, Ohio)***

### **(Submission Deadline Extended: July 7, 2025)**

The Peace Resource Center at Wilmington College (Wilmington, OH), invites conference proposals from scholars, artists, and nuclear activists to present work inspired by archival research related to nuclear histories at their upcoming 50th Anniversary Conference.

The Peace Resource Center, established in August 1975, houses the Barbara Reynolds Memorial Archives. It is the only archives and academic center in the United States wholly devoted to the human experience of nuclear war vis-à-vis the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, August 6 and 9, 1945. Quaker nuclear abolitionist Barbara Reynolds founded the Peace Resource Center at Wilmington College as a way to organize materials she had gathered in Japan to create awareness of the experiences of *hibakusha*, or the survivors of the 1945 US bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Center was inaugurated at Wilmington College—a Quaker college in SW Ohio—on the 30th commemoration of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, August 6-10, 1975. Over the next two decades, the Center’s materials were organized and arranged into an archive for academic research. Rooted in its archival collection and the Wilmington College core values of peace and social justice, the PRC develops events and programming that encourages nuclear abolition and awareness of the threat of nuclear war.

The conference, “Archives as Witness: Memory and Art in Nuclear Histories,” celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the PRC. It will take place at Wilmington College in SW Ohio on September 30 and October 1, 2025. Organized panels or individual



presentations from artistic, humanistic, and social science disciplines should focus on the legacies of atomic weapons, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, nuclear disarmament, and related topics. All scholars working in these areas are invited to apply; we especially encourage early-career scholars and and/or scholars who have an interest in examining the PRC archives in the future to apply, and we encourage inter-disciplinary panels.

- We welcome traditional academic panels with panel chairs, 15-minute presentations, and discussants.
- We also invite alternative formats that highlight artistic practice (fine arts, dance, music, film, photography, or other mediums) and/or that result in extended dialogue and interchange between panelists and participants.
- Each panel, presentation, or round table will comprise 90 minutes total.

*We seek to provide need-based funding, on a limited basis, for participants who may have difficulty covering conference costs such as travel and lodging. Please indicate at the end of the form if you have limited income and do not receive professional funds from your affiliated organization.*

**Please Click [HERE](#) to complete the proposal submission form.** Contact: [prc@wilmington.edu](mailto:prc@wilmington.edu) with questions. For all 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary events go to: <https://library.wilmington.edu/prc-50/conference>

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### **Book Reviewers Welcome for *Peace & Change***

Peace History Society members are invited to join the roster of book reviewers for *Peace & Change*, our quarterly academic journal. While we generally do not publish unsolicited reviews, if you are interested in

writing reviews for the journal, please send a brief c.v. and a few sentences on the topics of books you are interested in reviewing to:

Robert Shaffer, Book Review Editor  
[roshaf@retiree.ship.edu](mailto:roshaf@retiree.ship.edu)

Also, if you have published a book which you think should be reviewed in the journal, let us know about it! We try to keep abreast of the literature of interest to our members, but there are inevitably books which escape our notice. Send an email announcement of relevant books to Robert Shaffer at the email address above.

The quality of the journal is dependent on the participation of PHS members!

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The next issue of the PHS Newsletter is anticipated in December. Please email any contributions or announcements to the newsletter editor, Henry Maar ([hrmaar@gmail.com](mailto:hrmaar@gmail.com)) for inclusion by December 1, 2025.