
BONN CENTER FOR RECONCILIATION STUDIES (BCRS)

NEWSLETTER



NEWS – EVENTS – CALLS – PUBLICATIONS

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New Members of BCRS

This winter, two new members are joining the BCRS:

Jun.-Prof. Dr. Julia Binter, Argelander Professor for Critical Museum and Heritage Studies and Prof. Dr. Jan Meister, Professor for Ancient History



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New International Cooperation



We are very happy to announce that the University of Bonn is now a member of CAPAZ.

The German Colombian Peace Institute – CAPAZ, a Centre of Excellence in Research and Teaching, is a cooperation platform operating in Germany and Colombia and financed by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), with funds provided by the German Federal Foreign Office. The Institute stimulates the exchange of experiences and knowledge on peacebuilding through the creation of networks between universities, research centres, civil society organisations, and governmental entities that act in the territorial arena. CAPAZ supports research, teaching, and advisory activities that create new approaches to understanding peace and conflict, transmit knowledge to society, and provide responses to the multiple challenges of a society in transition.

Find out more [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Event with Theater Bonn: Reconciliation – a Utopia?!

On **13 January**, the first event of our series with the Theater Bonn is taking place. José Brunner and Andreas Nachama are joining Hans-Georg Soeffner for a discussion on **New Antisemitism – Reconciliation and the right to irreconcilability**.

Event held in German. Get tickets and find out more [here](#).



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THEATER BONN



UPCOMING EVENTS

Series of Round Table Discussions:

Conflict Transformation and Processes of Reconciliation: Theoretical and Practical Dilemmas and Possibilities for Action

The Center for Reconciliation Studies is hosting three round table discussions. Our goal is to connect different perspectives, create space for dialogue, reconcile theoretical and practical approaches, and think about the potential of processes of conflict transformation. Economic, political and civil experts will discuss the challenges and chances of conflict transformation in the current increasingly polarised climate.

Discussions held in German.



28 OCTOBER, 25 NOVEMBER, 20 JANUARY
TUESDAYS 6-7.30 PM

UNIVERSITY OF BONN
LENNÉSTRASSE 6, 53113 BONN
ROOM 4.001 (4TH FLOOR)

ORGANISED AND MODERATED BY
ROSARIO FIGARI LAYÚS

UPCOMING EVENTS

LAST MEETING: DIENSTAG, 20.01.2026 | 18:00–19:30 UHR

UNIVERSITÄT BONN, LENNÉSTRASSE 6, 53113 BONN, RAUM 4.001

ZWISCHEN ERINNERUNG UND NEUANFANG: VERSÖHNUNG UND TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE IN POST KONFLIKT KONTEXTEN

Wie können Gesellschaften nach Gewaltkonflikten einen Neuanfang wagen, ohne die Vergangenheit zu verdrängen? Die Diskussion beleuchtet die Rolle von Erinnerung, Gerechtigkeit und Versöhnung in postkonfliktuellen Kontexten.

Teilnehmende:

- Prof. Susane Buckley-Zistel (Center for Conflict Studies, Philipps-Universität Marburg)
- Dr. Annelen Micus (European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights – ECCHR)
- Barbara Unger (Berghof Stiftung, Berlin)

Moderation: Jun.-Prof. Rosario Figari Layus (BCRS/ Department of Sociology, University of Bonn)

Weitere Informationen und Anmeldung

UPCOMING EVENTS

First Colloquium on Peace, Conflict and Reconciliation Studies

On 29 January 2026 Jun-Prof. Figari Layús and Prof. Conrad Schetter from the BICC (Bonn International Centre for Conflict Studies) are hosting a colloquium for early career researchers working on reconciliation and conflict transformation.

This joint initiative aims to bring together early-career scholars working on issues of peacebuilding, reconciliation, and conflict transformation. We invite PhD candidates as well as PostDocs to present and discuss their ongoing research in a collegial and supportive environment. The colloquium will provide a space for intellectual exchange and constructive feedback. It also aims to establish a regional network of researchers, promoting sustained dialogue, collaborative research, knowledge exchange, and professional development in the field.

We are no longer accepting proposals and all participants have been notified. Stay tuned for future opportunities!

CALLS

Call for Papers

Edited Volume: Activism in Exile – Reimagining Agency and Protection in an Era of Crisis

Jun-Prof. Figari Layús and Prof. Paul Gready from the CAHR (Centre for Applied Human Rights, University of York) are preparing an edited volume and asking for contributions.

Multiple contemporary crises — populism, conflicts, shrinking civic space, climate change, austerity — are combining to push more and more human rights defenders and activists into exile.

This edited volume seeks to address a gap in academic literature on activism in exile and protection infrastructures in the contemporary polarised political context. The focus is not exclusively on universities as sites of agency and protection, but we welcome contributions on universities. We invite contributions that examine the agency of activists in exile, the architectures of protection that shape their possibilities, and the evolving and different roles and different modalities of intervention of universities in these dynamics. Contributions on any countries, regions or cases are welcome.

Deadline for proposals (300–500 words): **10 January 2026**

See more information and the full Call for Papers [here](#).

CALLS

Apply Now – ASA Scholarship 2026

Starting December 1, 2025, students and trainees between the ages of 21 and 30 can apply for the 2026 ASA scholarship. This year, participants will again have the opportunity to work on one of over 100 projects in countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Southeast Europe for three or six months and develop their professional and personal skills.

The BCRS and University of Gießen are collaborating with the Universidad Católica de Pereira (UCP) on a project called “Gemeinschaften stärken: Ein Bildungsprojekt zu Erinnerung und Friedensbildung begleiten”. The application deadline is **20 January 2026**.



Find out more and [apply here](#).

To find more information on the ASA programme and all 2026 projects, consult Engagement Global’s [website](#) and [instagram](#).

CALLS

Call for Papers: Special Issue of Peace Review Between Co-existence and Reconciliation: Islands of Peace in Ongoing Violent Conflicts

Rosario Figari Layus, Conrad Schetter and Esther Gardei are preparing a special issue of Peace Review. Researchers are welcome to submit contributions for a special issue that investigates local experiences of peaceful coexistence and collaborative relations emerging within contexts of ongoing violence – so-called “islands of peace.”



The issue aims to address questions such as: What factors enable the creation and endurance of these initiatives and spaces? Who are the principal actors involved, and how do they navigate the complexities of protracted conflict? What challenges do they face in sustaining and safeguarding these fragile environments of peaceful interaction? Submissions from scholars in the social sciences and humanities are welcome.

The deadline for submissions is **31 April 2026**.

See the full Call for Papers and the submission guidelines [here](#).

PAST EVENTS

Quo Vadis Middle East?

In November, the fifth iteration of Quo Vadis Middle East took place, a conference that brings together scientists, civil society actors, representatives of business and political decision-makers from the Palestinian territories, Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Germany to discuss possible paths to a peaceful future.

The BCRS hosted a panel on “Feminist Perspectives on Reconciliation” with panelists from peace organisations in Israel and Germany, moderated by BCRS managing director Ann-Sophie Vornholz.

Read more about the project [here](#).



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**Institute for
International Cooperation
Technological Diplomacy
and Communication**



PAST EVENTS

Network Meeting

On 28 and 29 November, the BCRS hosted the annual meeting of the german-speaking network of reconciliation studies, founded by the University of Jena's center for reconciliation studies. It was a productive discussion with contributions from various fields and subjects.



PAST EVENTS

Series of Roundtable Discussions

In October and November, the BCRS organised two panel discussions as part of the series **Conflict Transformation and Processes of Reconciliation: Theoretical and Practical Dilemmas and Possibilities for Action.**



Scholars, activists and civil actors discussed the topics **Conflict transformation – changing approaches and current challenges** and **Thinking peace – making peace: a dialogue between research and practice.**

BCRS Speaker Jun.-Prof. Rosario Figari Layús moderated the discussions. Both events offered interesting new approaches and benefited from audience interaction – don't miss the next and last event on **20 January!**



PAST EVENTS

Lecture

In November BCRS and ILZ (Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Latin America) hosted Prof. María Eugenia Ulfe of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú for a talk on memory and its limitations in stopping history from repeating itself.



Ringvorlesung WiSe 2025/26

Memorias controvertidas:
recuperación, pluralidad y negacionismo

Conferencia

¿Por qué la memoria no es suficiente
para que la historia no se repita?

Dra. María Eugenia Ulfe
(Pontificia Universidad
Católica del Perú, Lima)

María Eugenia Ulfe es profesora principal e investigadora en Antropología en la PUCP. Su trabajo aborda memoria, género, etnicidad, violencia y etnografía visual experimental.

Fecha: 11.11.2025
Hora: 18h
Lugar: Universität Bonn
Hauptgebäude
Am Hof 1, HS VIII

PAST EVENTS



ABENDVERANSTALTUNG **gsi:bildung**

Stresemann Lecture 2025

Strategie in Zeiten der Schwäche:
Gustav Stresemann und das
Lernen aus der Geschichte

11. Dezember 2025, 18:30 Uhr im
Gustav-Stresemann-Institut in Bonn

Biographie © Alamy / Lebrecht Music & Arts

gsi Gustav Stresemann Stiftung **gsi** Gustav Stresemann Institut

UNIVERSITÄT **BONN** **CENTRE ERNST ROBERT CURTIUS** **INSTITUT FRANÇAIS** Bonn

Lecture

On 11 December, Prof. Peter Geiss held the talk "Gustav Stresemann – der 'lernende Politiker'", analysing how Gustav Stresemann approached the challenges of his time as a 'learning politician'. This event was the Stresemann Lecture 2025, organised by the University of Bonn, the Centre Ernst Robert Curtius (CERC) and the Institut français Bonn.

PUBLICATIONS

by Michael Rohrschneider

Pax imperfecta: Die Aktivitäten der Spanier in den Rheinlanden nach dem Westfälischen Frieden (1648–1660), in: Weltreich und Provinz. Die Spanier am Niederrhein 1560–1660. Hrsg. von Guido von Büren, Nils Kappen, Marcell Perse und Karlheinz Wiegamm, Petersberg 2025, S. 217–223.

Pax Terra? Zeitgeschichtliche Potenziale der Heftrömanserie „Perry Rhodan“, in: Geschichte in Wissenschaft und Unterricht 11/12 (2025), S. 653–668.

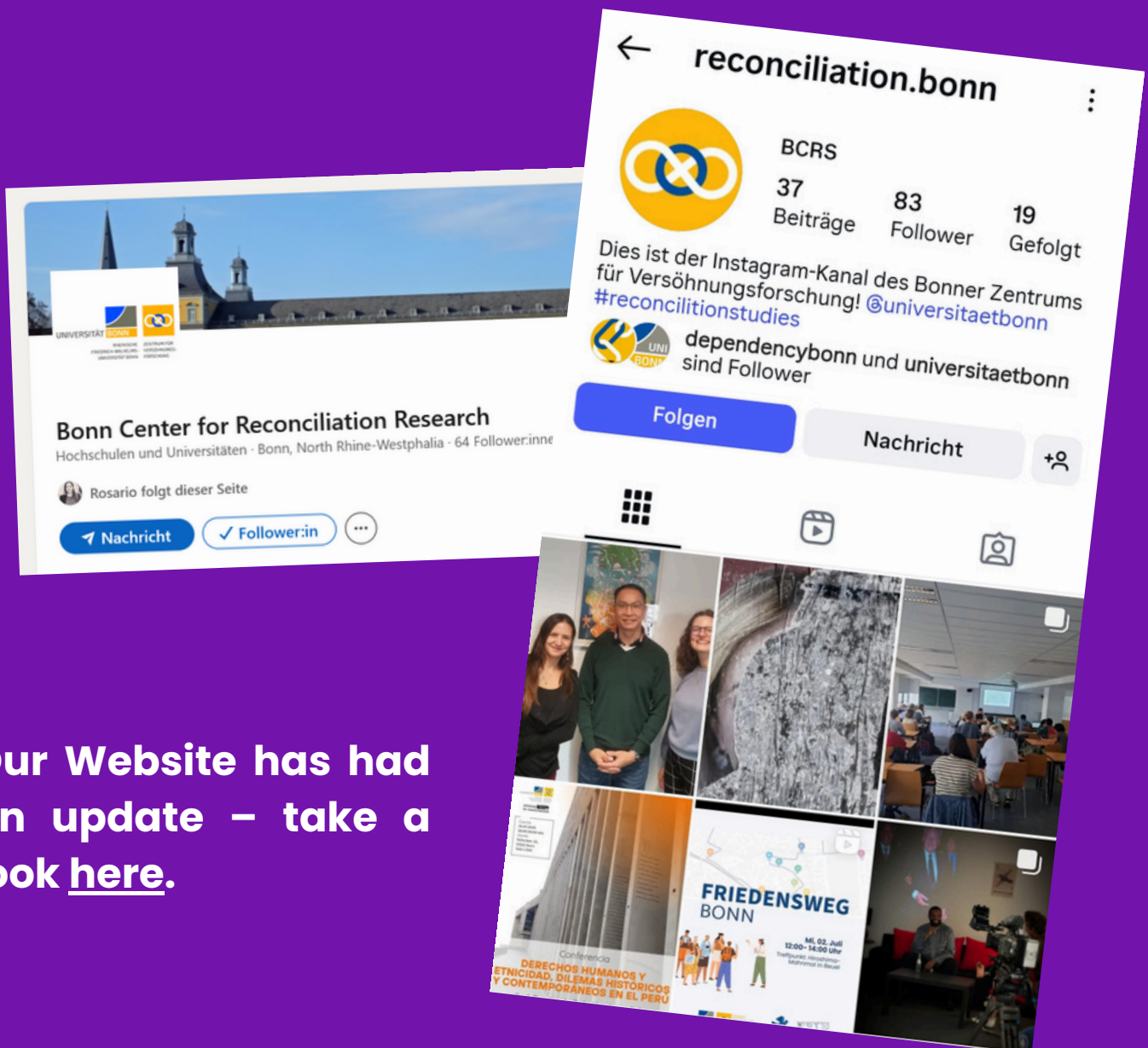
with Ulrich Niggemann and Siegrid Westphal (Hrsg.), Friedensmacher, Multiplikatoren und Profiteure. Akteure des Westfälischen Friedenskongresses (bibliothek altes Reich, 42), Berlin/Boston 2025, S. 1–16.

Von Rängen, Rollen und Ressourcen: Profitchancen und Karrierewege der Prinzipalgesandten der europäischen Mächte auf dem Westfälischen Friedenskongress, in: Friedensmacher, Multiplikatoren und Profiteure. Akteure des Westfälischen Friedenskongresses. Hrsg. von Ulrich Niggemann, Michael Rohrschneider und Siegrid Westphal (bibliothek altes Reich, 42), Berlin/Boston 2025, S. 352–369.

MISCELLANEOUS

We are on Instagram & LinkedIn!

Follow us for more frequent updates!



Our Website has had an update – take a look here.

CONTACT INFO

**To subscribe to this newsletter,
please send an email to
reconciliation@uni-bonn.de!**



IMPRESSUM:
BONN CENTER FOR RECONCILIATION STUDIES
RABINSTR. 8
53111 BONN
VFORUM@UNI-BONN.DE