
BONN CENTER FOR RECONCILIATION STUDIES (BCRS)

NEWSLETTER



NEWS – EVENTS – CALLS – TEACHING – PUBLICATIONS

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CENTER FOR
RECONCILIATION
STUDIES



BONNER
ZENTRUM FÜR
VERSÖHNUNGS-
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NEW MEMBERS OF STAFF

As of 1st September, Ann-Sophie Vornholz is joining our team as managing director. She is a doctoral candidate at the English Department, having previously completed a master in English Literatures and Cultures.



Andrea Haag has recently joined the BZV as a student assistant. She is currently pursuing a master in Political Sciences.



Felix Koopman has been a student assistant at the BZV since May. Starting this autumn, he will be pursuing a master in Modern History.



Visiting Scholar Programme

This autumn, we are welcoming Prof. Martin Chung from the Hong Kong Baptist University as the visiting scholar at the Bonn Center for Reconciliation Studies. For many years, he has worked on reconciliation and conflict transformation in Europe.



With Prof. Chung, the BCRS is opening its visiting scholars programme. Learn more [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lecture Series on Power and Power Abuse

This semester, the Institut Français Bonn is holding a lecture series on power and power abuse in the context of France.

Our board member Prof. Stephan Conermann is giving a talk titled “Das französische Kolonialreich in postkolonialer Perspektive” on **27 October**.



The Lecture series will confront questions such as: What is power? How do powerstructures come into being? What mechanisms facilitate the abuse of power? Providing an interdisciplinary perspective on power, this series will cover representations of power and power abuse in French and francophone literatures, philosophy, history, society, and politics.

Lectures will be held in German, French and English on Mondays from 18.15 to 19.45 at the Institut Français. Find out more [here](#).

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

FIRST MEETING: DIENSTAG, 28.10.2025 | 18:00–19:30 UHR

UNIVERSITÄT BONN, LENNÉSTRASSE 6, 53113 BONN, RAUM 4.001

FRIEDEN DENKEN – FRIEDEN UMSETZEN: WISSENSCHAFT UND PRAXIS IM DIALOG

Wie lassen sich wissenschaftliche Erkenntnisse und praktische Friedensarbeit wirksam verbinden? Expert:innen diskutieren, wie Frieden nicht nur gedacht, sondern auch nachhaltig umgesetzt werden kann.

Teilnehmende:

- Prof. Dr. Stefan Peters (Direktor, Deutsch-Kolumbianisches Friedensinstitut – CAPAZ, und Professor für Friedensforschung, Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen)
- Lena Bareiss (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Frieden und Entwicklung – FriEnt)
- Christiane Schwarz (Referentin, „gewaltfrei wirkt.“, pax christi – Deutsche Sektion e.V.)

Moderation: Jun.-Prof. Rosario Figari Layus (Zentrum für Versöhnungsforschung/Institut für Soziologie, Universität Bonn)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Quo vadis Middle East?

This conference 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. When the project started, it was the first and so far only conference of its kind, financed by the Ministry of State for Culture. The next meeting will take place in November.

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



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 Institute for
International Cooperation
Technological Diplomacy
and Communication



UPCOMING EVENTS

Network Meeting

On 28 and 29 November, the BZV is hosting the annual meeting of the german-speaking network of reconciliation studies, founded by the University of Jena's center for reconciliation studies. If you are interested in joining, please write an email to reconciliation@uni-bonn.de.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Cooperation with the Theater Bonn: Versöhnung – eine Utopie? [Reconciliation – a Utopia?]

This theater season, we are once again organising a series of events at the Theater Bonn. Stay tuned for dates and topics!



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THEATER BONN



SCHAUSPIELHAUS

Heute: VERSÖHNUNG – EINE UTOPIE?

CALLS

First Colloquium on Peace, Conflict and Reconciliation Studies

Jun-Prof. Figari Layús and Prof. Conrad Schetter from the BICC (Bonn International Centre for Conflict Studies) are organising a colloquium for PhD Students 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.

The Call for Papers can be found [here](#) – deadline on 15 November!

The colloquium will take place on 29 January 2026.

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](#).

PAST EVENTS

Public Talks

on 5 September Michael Rohrschneider held a talk at the Theater Marabu Bonn titled “Friedenssymbole und Friedensdarstellungen in Geschichte und Gegenwart” as part of the Workshop *Playlist: War, Peace, Me – Dein Workshop!*

on 18 September, Michael Rohrschneider held the talk “Friedensdiplomatie ‘top secret’. Geheimschriften vom Westfälischen Friedenskongress (1643–1649)” in front of local high school students, as part of the *Historikertag*.

PAST EVENTS

Workshop: The Role of Universities in Protecting Human Rights Defenders in Exile

In September, Jun-Prof. Figari Layús hosted a workshop on human right defenders and universities' role in protecting them. The BZV hosted guests from Germany and the University of York.



THE WORKSHOP ORGANIZERS (LTR): PIPPA COOPER, ROSARIO FIGARI LAYÚS AND PAUL GREADY

TEACHING

BA Seminar with Jun.-Prof. Rosario Figari Layús
Tuesdays 4–6 pm

Konflikttransformation und Versöhnungsprozesse: Dilemmata und Handlungsmöglichkeiten in Theorie und Praxis

Das Seminar untersucht zentrale Konzepte, theoretische Ansätze und Praxisbeispiele der Konflikttransformation und Versöhnung im nationalen wie internationalen Kontext. Aus einer politisch-soziologischen Perspektive analysieren wir, wie Akteure, Institutionen und gesellschaftliche Strukturen in Übergangsgesellschaften nach Gewaltkonflikten miteinander interagieren – und welche Dilemmata dabei entstehen.

Im Fokus stehen politische Machtverhältnisse, kollektive Narrative, mediale Diskurse sowie die Rolle von Mechanismen der Transitional Justice im Umgang mit den Hinterlassenschaften von Gewaltkonflikten und autoritären Regimen. Anhand ausgewählter Fallstudien aus Lateinamerika, Afrika und Europa diskutieren wir Handlungsspielräume und Grenzen von Versöhnungsprozessen zwischen Tätern, Opfern, zivilgesellschaftlichen Akteuren und staatlichen Institutionen.

Eine besondere Komponente des Seminars sind drei öffentliche Podiumsdiskussionen, die im Verlauf des Semesters stattfinden (am 28. Oktober, 25. November und 20. Januar, jeweils von 18:00 bis 19:30 Uhr im Anschluss an die reguläre Sitzung). Zu diesen Terminen werden Expert:innen aus Wissenschaft, Politik und Zivilgesellschaft eingeladen, um zentrale Fragestellungen des Seminars aus interdisziplinärer und praxisnaher Perspektive zu diskutieren. Ziel ist es, den Dialog zwischen theoretischer Reflexion und praktischer Erfahrung zu fördern und aktuelle Herausforderungen der Konflikttransformation, Friedensförderung und Versöhnung gemeinsam zu beleuchten.

Jede Podiumsdiskussion wird von zwei bis drei Gästen aus unterschiedlichen Bereichen gestaltet, die ihre spezifischen Zugänge und Perspektiven einbringen. Die Studierenden sind eingeladen, aktiv teilzunehmen und sich kritisch in die Diskussionen einzubringen.

PUBLICATIONS

By Michael Rohrschneider:

book
chapter

“Nunmehr ist des Menschen-Bluts
genug vergossen. Bottom-up-
Friedensappelle während des
Westfälischen Friedenskongresses in
temporaler Perspektive”



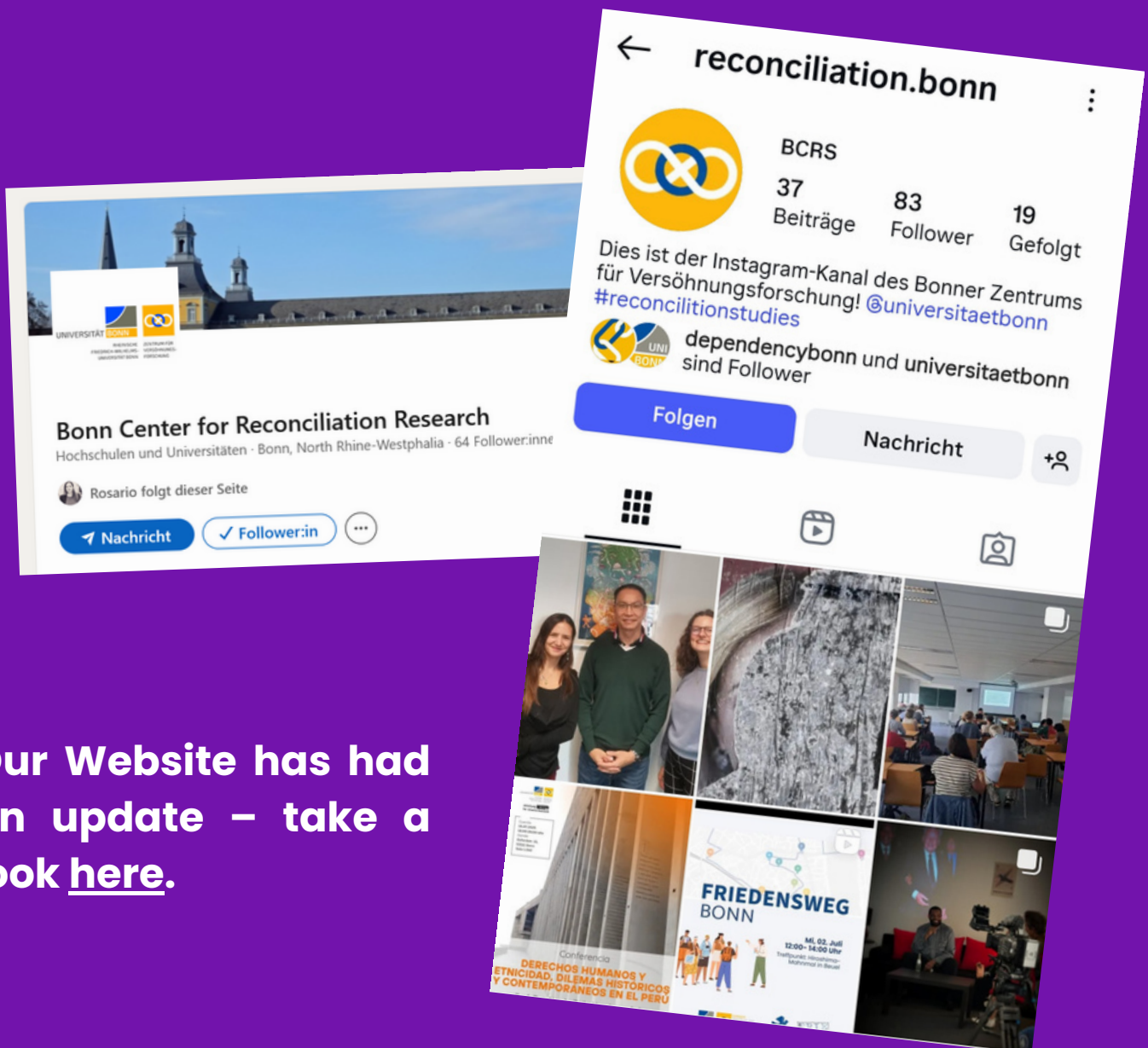
journal
article

“Macht und (Un-)Recht?
Beobachtungen zur
Gegenwärtigkeit des
Westfälischen Friedens”

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:
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