

SYMPOSIUM

Peace in/from the Margins

23-24 February 2026

**South Dining Hall
Queen's University Belfast**



**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**

SPCS
SCHOOL OF PEACE &
CONFLICT STUDIES
KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

This symposium focusses on perspectives from the 'margins', inspired by the peace achieved in post conflict N. Ireland. Experts from N. Ireland, the United States and beyond, will share epistemic insights and lived experiences of building peace from hidden, excluded, or marginalised locations. The idea of the event is to highlight interdisciplinary peace work and to think collectively about building political solidarity and scholarship that challenges conventional post conflict narratives. The event is funded by the Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice at Queen's University, Belfast and Kent State University's School of Peace and Conflict Studies.

PROGRAMME

Monday 23 February 2026

12.30 – 12.40 Welcome

Louise Mallinder (QUB), Interim Director of the Institute
Molly Merryman (Kent State) and Marsha Henry (QUB)

12.40 – 13.45 Opening Roundtable on Peace Margins

Neil Cooper (Kent State)
Molly Merryman (Kent State)
Marsha Henry (QUB)

What is the current positioning of Peace Studies as an academic field? What does it mean to be in and of the margins as scholars? This roundtable is intended to be the beginning of the robust conversations of the symposium, as presenters stake their own claims of centrality and marginality in their own scholarly, creative and activist work.

13:45 - 15:00 Queer Histories in/out of Northern Ireland

This panel focuses on the methodological and epistemological challenges of researching queer lives across peace contexts.

Chair: Jamie Lukas- Campbell (QUB)

Courtney Green (Kent State)
Adam Murray (Cara-Friends)
Michael Lawrence (QUB)

15:00-15:15 Coffee Break

15:15-16:30 Gendering Geopolitics: Feminist Perspectives

This panel maps work on gender, peace and security in/from the context of Northern/Ireland.

Chair: Gillian Wylie (Trinity College Dublin)
Brandon Hamber (Ulster)
Jamie Hagen (Manchester)
Alex Richardson (Trinity College Dublin)

17:00 Symposium Reception and Poetry Reading: Representing LGBTQ+ History Month in Verse

Venue: Junction Café

In recognition of LGBTQ+ History Month, organizer, visual artist and writer Heather Fleming has selected three poets to read from their works, including a short discussion: Niamh McNally, Toby Buckley and Mícheál McCann.

Tuesday 24 February

9:00-10:15 Migratory Politics of Peace

This panel centres on the intersections of research on migration, borders and peace work.

Chair: Johanna Solomon (Kent State)

Evropi Chatzipanagiotidou (QUB)
Heather Johnson (QUB)
Landon Hancock (Kent State)

10:15-10:45 Coffee Break

10:45-12:00 Education on the Edges: Diversity and Equality

A panel to explore current research on education in divided and postconflict societies.

Chair: Frances Giampapa (Bristol)

Suzanne Whitten (QUB)
Lucy Kentish (Bristol)
Ashley Nickels (Kent State)

12:00-13:00 Lunch**13:00-14:15 Geographies of Peace**

This panel explores the spatial politics of location in the context of peace research.

Chair: TBC

Mál Farrell (QUB)

Brendan Murtagh (QUB)

Elaine Hsiao (Kent State)

14:15-15:30 The Politics of Here and There: Spaces of Solidarity

What does it mean to do research in and on the margins and what are our obligations to conflict contexts beyond Northern Ireland?

Chair: John Barry (QUB)

Brendan Browne (TCD)

Azadeh Sobout (QUB)

Mandy Turner (Security in Context)

Bana Abu Zuluf (Maynooth)

15:30-15:45 Coffee Break**15:45-17:00 Preservation: Peace Archives and Oral Histories**

This panel is concerned with knowledge production in Northern Ireland and beyond. What and where do we preserve historical materials related to conflict and peace experiences?

Chair: Margaret Middleton (Independent Museum Consultant)

Virginia Dressler (Kent State)

Samantha McCombe (Linen Hall Archives)

Karen Logan (Ulster Museum/National Museums NI)

17:00-17:15 Closing Remarks

Marsha Henry (QUB) and Molly Merryman (Kent State)

Note: Please, during your visit to the Queens campus, visit the McClay Library to see the "Founding Cara-Friend" exhibit, which honours Cara-Friend's long-standing relationship with Queens University, starting in 1974.

The exhibit, created by symposium presenters Michael Lawrence, Molly Merryman and Adam Murray (along with New York-based artist Timothy O'Connell and social historian Charlie Lynch, focuses on portraiture, life stories and artifacts related to Cara-Friend's establishments.

To see oral histories, visit: <https://cara-friend-voices.travelingstanzas.com/>

BIOGRAPHIES

Adam Murray

Adam Murray is the Community Development Manager at Cara-Friend, Northern Ireland's oldest LGBTQIA+ charitable organisation established in 1974. As part of this role Adam has been involved in exploring LGBTQIA+ heritage, including the role of activists and volunteers during the Troubles.

Alexandra Richardson

Dr Alexandra Richardson (Trinity College Dublin) researches gender and sexuality within international peace and security frameworks, with particular attention to queering the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda and Ireland's engagement in UN peacekeeping operations. Their work examines how norms relating to diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression (diverse SOGIE) are negotiated and operationalised within policy and institutional practice.

Alex has authored and co-authored both peer-reviewed and policy-engaged reports for the *Political Science Association of Ireland*, the *Irish Association for Cultural, Economic, and Social Relations*, and *Trinity Women's and Gender Minority Review*. Alex's research engages closely with UN actors, state institutions, and civil society to support inclusive approaches to peace and security for people of all genders and sexualities."

Azadeh Sobout

Azadeh Sobout is a Post-doctoral Research Fellow at Queen's University Belfast. She is an Iranian activist, writer, and educator whose life's work is anchored in a decade of organising across struggles for refugee justice, Indigenous sovereignty, Palestinian freedom, and feminist, antiracist, anti-imperialist, and anti-capitalist futures.

Bana Abu Zuluf

Bana Abu Zuluf is a PhD Candidate in International Law at Maynooth University, Ireland. She was recently awarded Research Excellence Award for the Faculty of Social Sciences at Maynooth University. Her recent publication is an edited book titled *Ending Impunity for International Law violations: Palestinian Bedouins and the Risk of Forced Displacement*.

Brandon Hamber

Professor Brandon Hamber holds the John Hume and Thomas P. O'Neill Chair in Peace at Ulster University's International Conflict Research Institute (INCORE) and is a member of the Transitional Justice Institute. He trained as a Clinical Psychologist in South Africa. Before moving to Northern Ireland, he managed the Transition and Reconciliation Unit at the Centre for the Study of Violence & Reconciliation in Johannesburg (1995-2001). Professor Hamber has engaged in consulting, practice and research in Northern Ireland, South Africa, Liberia, Mozambique, Bosnia, Colombia, the Basque Country, and Sierra Leone, among others.

He has written on the psychological implications of political violence, masculinities, memory, and transition, publishing over 40 journal articles, 30 book chapters, and seven books. He has contributed to the Irish Times, Belfast Telegraph, and the Guardian, and was a columnist for the website Polity. He received the Rotary Paul Harris Medal for Peace and was named among the Top 100 Most Influential People in Armed Violence Reduction by the AOAV in 2013. He is the Director of Innovation at TechEthics, focusing on leveraging technology for peace. Professor Hamber serves on the boards of Healing Through Remembering (Northern Ireland), Impunity Watch (Netherlands), and is a Trustee of Conflict Textiles.

Brendan Ciarán Browne

Dr Brendan Ciarán Browne is Associate Professor of Conflict Resolution, and a fellow of Trinity College Dublin. He has been working on and for Palestine for over 14 years, with time spent as a Professor of Transitional Justice and International Law at the Al Quds University, Occupied Jerusalem. He has 4 books, including 'Transitional (in)Justice & Enforcing the Peace on Palestine' (nominated for the 2023 Middle East Monitor Palestine book award).

He currently holds the position of Charlotte Maxeke-Mary Robinson Research fellowship at the University of the Western Cape. As a recognised global expert on conflict and resistance in Occupied Palestine, his op-eds can be read in the Irish Times, the New Statesman, the Globe Post, the Journal.ie., and Middle East Monitor, and he is a frequent political and conflict analyst for global media outlets including: TRT World, Al Jazeera, and France 24,

Brendan Murtagh

Brendan Murtagh is a Professor of Urban Planning at Queen's University Belfast. He has researched and written widely on divided cities, urban regeneration and social economics. His recent research includes a focus on violence in post-war cities after peace (led by the University of Uppsala); the role of the social economy in deprived and divided places; and contested heritages and community tourism. He is a board member of the NGO Community Places and sits on the Ministerial Advisory Panel on Shared Housing (NI) and on the Interfaces Programme Board for the Department of Justice (NI).

Elaine (Lan Yin) Hsiao

Elaine (Lan Yin) Hsiao is an Assistant Professor in the School of Peace and Conflict Studies with a focus in environmental peacebuilding and international development.

She is a critical socio-legal scholar and political ecologist, integrating peace and conflict studies with transboundary conservation and protected areas, Indigenous and community governance, human rights and rights of nature, and development alternatives. Much of her work seeks to address conflicts in conservation (e.g., human-protected area conflicts, human-wildlife conflicts), conservation in places of conflict (i.e., conflict-sensitive and conflict-resilient conservation), and conflict resolution through conservation (environmental peacebuilding).

Evropi Chatzipanagiotidou

Evropi Chatzipanagiotidou is a political anthropologist in the School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics, and Fellow of the Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice at Queen's University Belfast.

Her research interests are in the intersecting fields of conflict and peace, migration, displacement and diasporas, and the politics of memory and loss. She is author of *Diasporic Futures: Temporality and Hope in the Transnational Politics of London Cypriots* (2025, Edinburgh University Press).

Frances Giampapa

Dr. Frances Giampapa is an Associate Professor in the School of Education at the University of Bristol. Her work focuses on multilingualism, migration, and youth identities, with a particular interest in how language, power, and inequality shape the experiences of marginalised communities. She is known for her interdisciplinary, community-engaged research that amplifies voices from the margins and promotes socially just educational practices.

Gillian Wylie

Gillian Wylie is Associate Professor of International Peace Studies in Trinity College Dublin. Her research and teaching interests span human trafficking and migration, international politics and gender issues as they relate to war and peace.

Heather Johnson

Heather Johnson is a Senior Lecturer in International Relations in the School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy, and Politics at Queen's University Belfast, UK. Her research focuses on irregular migration and the global asylum system, and how they intersect with (non)citizenship, political agency, and the politics of security and borders. She also has an ongoing interest in the politics and philosophies of how we 'do research', thinking through methodologies via an engagement with visuality, voice, and narrative and an exploration of artistic methods.

Heather is an Associate Editor for *Citizenship Studies*, and her work appears in journals such as *International Political Sociology*, *Security Dialogue*, *Citizenship Studies*, *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, and *Third World Quarterly*. She is currently writing a monograph entitled *Rescue*, which is grounded in research about the politics of maritime migration, asylum seeking, and search and rescue.

Jamie J. Hagen

Jamie J. Hagen (she/her) is a Lecturer in Global Politics at the University of Manchester. Previously she was a Lecturer in International Relations at Queen's University Belfast where she also co-founded the Centre of Gender in Politics. Her work is at the intersection of gender studies and security studies and draws on queer and trans theory. She brings a feminist, anti-racist approach to her work, seeking to bridge gaps between academic, policy and activism.

Her research considers queer peace, specifically focusing on how Women, Peace, and Security initiatives can better include lesbian, bisexual and transgender women as experts in these spaces. Her most recent book is *Queering Women, Peace and Security: Expanding Feminist Approaches to Gender in Peacebuilding*.

Jamie-Lukas Campbell

Jamie-Lukas is a Belfast-based American practitioner and decolonial researcher committed to equity, decolonial practice, and service. He is a PhD candidate at Queen's, where he examines how race, sexuality, and power shape policy, public narratives, and ideas of belonging. He brings experience shaped by public service and policy work in the US and abroad.

He began his career in LGBTQ+ advocacy in New York, where he worked on local campaigning for marriage equality, served on the Human Rights Campaign's Greater

New York political committee, and was an aide to the first openly gay speaker of the New York City Council. His background includes public affairs, strategic planning and outreach for organizations that included the Obama White House, the Democratic National Committee, and the New York City Council. He is a Chartered Manager and a 2024 Out in National Security Out Leader.

Johanna Solomon

Johanna Solomon, PhD is an Assistant Professor at Kent State University in the School of Peace and Conflict Studies, focusing on community conflicts and conflict resolution. She is an interdisciplinary scholar and conflict resolution practitioner interested in core questions of identity- including religious, cultural, national and gender identities- in peace and reconciliation. Dr. Solomon's scholar-practitioner approach is informed by research and training in conciliation, facilitation, negotiation, and mediation.

John Barry

John Barry is a father, a recovering politician, Professor of Green Political Economy at Queens University Belfast. He is also co-chair of the Belfast Climate Commission. What keeps him awake at night is the life opportunities and future wellbeing of his children in this age of the planetary crisis and why it is easier for most people to believe in the end of the world than the end of capitalism and economic growth.

His areas of academic research include post-growth and heterodox political economy; the politics, policy and political economy of climate breakdown and climate resilience; socio-technical analyses of low carbon just energy and sustainability transitions; and the overlap between conflict transformation and these sustainability and energy transitions. His last book was *The Politics of Actually Existing Unsustainability: Human Flourishing in a Climate-Changed, Carbon-Constrained World* (2012, Oxford University Press).

Karen Logan

With her team of curators across History, Archaeology, World Cultures and Transport, Karen leads the research, development and interpretation of these collections. Karen curated the Ulster Museum's Troubles and Beyond exhibition, which first opened in March 2018. Her focus is on the legacy of the past and community history in Northern Ireland. She has published on these themes and co-curated a number of temporary and touring exhibitions including Figures Through the Wire: Artwork by Geordie Morrow and Threads of Empowerment: Conflict Textiles' International Journey.

Landon E. Hancock

Landon E. Hancock is Professor at Kent State University's School of Peace and Conflict Studies, the living memorial to four students shot and killed by the Ohio National Guard on May 4, 1970. He has received two Fulbright awards and was a Council on Foreign Relations-funded Local Peacebuilding Advisor to the UN Secretary General's Peacebuilding Fund.

He is co-editor (with Christopher Mitchell) of *Zones of Peace* (2007), *Local Peacebuilding and National Peace* (2012) and *Local Peacebuilding and Legitimacy* (2018), and *Local Peacebuilding After Peace* (2021) with Susan H. Allen, Christopher Mitchell, and Cécile Mouly. He is an associate editor for *Peacebuilding* and his articles have appeared in numerous journals including *National Identities*, *Ethnopolitics*, *Negotiation Journal*, *Peace & Change*, and *Conflict Resolution Quarterly*.

Lucy Kentish

Lucy Kentish is in the final year of her PhD with the School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies at the University of Bristol. Her research explores the ways young people's educational experiences in Northern Ireland shape them and their intergroup relationships. Lucy held a one-year-tenure as a Visiting Student at the Mithcell Institute while conducting fieldwork which included focus groups with 15-18 year olds across Northern Ireland.

Mál Farrell

Mál Farrell is a PhD researcher at Queens University in political anthropology, looking at the role of women within Loyalism. Previous to this, he completed a Masters in Human Rights Law and Transitional Justice. Mál's research focuses on the performance of gender within public space, and looking at the emotional connections formed through symbols, rituals and community.

Outside of academia, Mál is an LGBTQIA+ activist, advocating for LGBTQIA+ rights both in the North and South of Ireland through different projects and committees. Currently this includes being a part of the organising committee for Trans Pride Northern Ireland, as well as having set up Mid Ulster Pride in 2019, as well as setting up Rainbow Reels, an LGBTQIA+ Traditional Irish Music group.

Mandy Turner

Mandy Turner is a writer based in London affiliated with Security in Context as a senior researcher. Her work focuses on the political economy of conflict and peace, humanitarianism and multilateralism, and the situation in Palestine and Israel. She has held positions as professor of conflict, peace, and humanitarian affairs at the University of Manchester, UK; director of the CBRL Kenyon Institute in East Jerusalem in the occupied Palestinian territory; senior lecturer in conflict resolution in

the Department of Peace Studies, University of Bradford; and as a journalist with the *Guardian* newspaper.

Margaret Middleton

Margaret Middleton is an independent exhibit designer and museum consultant based in Manchester. With a degree in industrial design from the Rhode Island School of Design and 20 years of experience in the museum field, they work at the intersection of design and social justice. Middleton consults with museums on implementing inclusive practice with special focus on children and queer people.

Their writing has been published in books including *Welcoming Young Children Into the Museum*, *Reinventing the Museum*, *Feminist Designer*, *Storytelling in Museums*, and *The Inclusive Museum Leader* as well as peer-reviewed journals including the *Journal of Museum Education*, *Exhibition*, *Curator*, and *Museums & Social Issues*. Middleton sits on the editorial boards of the journals *Exhibition* and *Museum & Society*.

Marsha Henry

Marsha is Professor in the Institute for Peace, Security and Justice, and the School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics at Queen's University Belfast.

Marsha's research is concerned with the gendered and racialised politics of violence; militarisation; global south development; international aid and intervention; and conflict, peace and security. She has published on the challenges of decolonial, intersectional, and feminist qualitative approaches, methodologies and fieldwork. She is the author of several books, the latest of which is: *The End of Peacekeeping: Gender, Race and the Martial Politics of Intervention* (Penn Press 2024). She is currently Associate Editor for [Security Dialogue](#) and has helped to develop a range of courses on gender, peace and security at the GEST Programme, University of Iceland, Iceland; UNITAR, Switzerland; and the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeper Training Centre, Ghana. Marsha has also advised several national governments on women's participation in the armed forces, combatting sexual exploitation and abuse in humanitarian settings, and developing anti-racist and diversity strategies in foreign policy ministries.

Michael Lawrence

Dr Michael Lawrence recently completed his PhD thesis from Queen's University Belfast, titled: 'Quare Fellows Abroad: Male Homosexuality and the Irish Diaspora, c 1880s-1960s'. He is a recipient of the H. Montgomery Hyde Award (2021), the Esther Ballantine Prize (2021), and the ESHSI's New Researcher Prize (2023). Since finishing his thesis, he has worked as part of Cara-Friend, the oldest LGBTQIA+ charitable organisation on the island of Ireland, and has written a brief history of the organisation titled 'Dear Friend: The History of Cara-Friend, 1974-2000'.

Molly Merryman

Molly Merryman PhD, is an Associate Professor in the School of Peace and Conflict Studies at Kent State University, where she has been a leader in establishing gender and sexuality-based programs, curriculum and centers, including the oldest LGBTQ+ Studies program in Ohio.

She is an oral historian, documentary/ethnographic filmmaker, and cultural historian whose scholarship explores societal marginalization and activism, with a particular focus on gender, gender identity, sexual orientation and race. She has served as volunteer research director for Queer Britain, for whom she leads the Virtually Queer video-based oral history project.

Neil Cooper

Dr Neil Cooper is Professor and former Director of the School of Peace and Conflict Studies at Kent State University in the USA. Prior to his appointment at Kent State, he was Head of the Department of Peace Studies and International Development at the University of Bradford in the UK. He has published over 50 books, edited books and articles covering the arms trade, arms control, disarmament, post-conflict peacebuilding, and the political economy of civil conflicts. His books include *The Business of Death: Britain's Arms Trade at Home and Abroad*; *War Economies in a Regional Context*; *Whose Peace? Critical Perspectives on the Political Economy of Peacebuilding* (two editions); and *Reconceptualising Arms Control: Controlling the Means of Violence*.

He is a former editor of the peer reviewed academic journal *International Peacekeeping*, associate editor of the *Economics of Peace and Security Journal*, and a member of the editorial board of the journal *Critical Studies on Security*. He is editor of a new book series: *Studies in Technology and Security: Innovation, Impact, and Governance* (published by Lynne Rienner), and co-editor of a forthcoming book to be published in the summer on *Disarmament in an Age of Militarism*. The latter has been developed from a series of workshops (funded by the New York Office of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung) bringing together a network of academic, campaigning and policy experts on disarmament.

His current research includes a long-term project on the history of arms trade regulation, and broader work on questions of arms control, disarmament and contemporary militarization.

Samantha McCombe

Samantha McCombe is the twenty second Librarian of the Linen Hall Library, and the first woman to hold the post. She came to the Linen Hall from global elite law firm Allen & Overy, where she was Library & Research Manager and part of the management team of their Belfast office. Previously, Samantha was Assistant Librarian at the Bar Library and the Northern Ireland Assembly Library. She began her library career in academic libraries of Queen's University Belfast and the

University of Strathclyde. Samantha attended the University of Glasgow, gaining an MA in English Literature, and undertook her MSc in Information Management at Queen's University Belfast. Samantha is a past Chair of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) Ireland.

Suzanne Whitten

Suzanne Whitten is a Senior Lecturer in Political Theory and Philosophy in the School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics at Queen's University Belfast. She works on neo-republican political theory, recognition theory, and issues relating to freedom of speech and academic freedom.

Her work has been published in *Philosophy and Social Criticism*, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, and the *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*. Her first monograph, *A Republican Theory of Free Speech: Critical Civility*, was published by Palgrave in 2022.

Virginia Dressler

Virginia Dressler is the Digital Projects Librarian at Kent State University. Her specialty areas are project management and digitization, working primarily with the university's unique collections. She holds a Master's of Library and Information Science from Kent State University and a Master's of the Arts in Art Gallery and Museum Studies from the University of Leeds. Her research areas include privacy and ethical access in digital collections.

She is author of *Framing Privacy in Digital Collections with Ethical Decision Making* (Morgan & Claypool, 2018) and *The Ethical Digital Repository: A Compassionate Approach to Managing Sensitive Content and Decolonial Archives* (ACRL, 2026).