

P R A C T I C I N G P E A C E

Principal Contact

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DESCRIPTION AND CONCEPTUALIZATION

The supreme challenge that each of us faces is to live up to our potential for peace. At UAB we are in a unique position to answer this grand challenge by working together on the scientific study and pursuit of peace in ways that can lift up Alabama and inspire the global community (1_{abcd}).

This is a promising time for peace. There are new opportunities for peace in behavioral science (2), in policy arenas (3), and in everyday life (1_{cd}). Moreover, these opportunities for peace are intertwined (4). In defiance of its traditional image as a passive state, peace is now seen in both science and practice as a dynamic behavioral process: the daily work for goodness and justice by millions of people across the globe. Peace is a way of life, a hopeful attitude (5), and a nonviolent and constructive way of solving problems and managing conflicts (6_{ab}). Understudied for centuries, peace is currently at the forefront of interdisciplinary research on human and nonhuman animal social behavior (7,8,9). Peace can be operationally defined as, “Behavioral processes and systems through which species, individuals, families, groups, and communities negate direct and structural violence (*direct peace*; *structural peace*), keep aggression in check or restore tolerance in its aftermath (*sociative peace*), maintain just institutions and equity (*structural peace*), and engage in reciprocally beneficial and harmonious interactions (*sociative peace*)” [4]. *Practicing Peace* aims to unite the UAB community on peace, through innovative cross-disciplinary knowledge building, specialized education, and targeted local and global practice.

MISSION PILLARS AND DESIRED OUTCOMES

In support of the UAB Strategic Plan, the Grand Challenge of *Practicing Peace* involves the four mission pillars of Education, Research, Outreach, and Patient Care.

Education

1. Curricular coordination among the UAB Masters Programs in *Anthropology of Peace and Human Rights*, *Public Administration*, *Criminal Justice*, *Sociology*, *Health Behavior*, and *Health Policy*, to strengthen and link them on peace, and to work toward the **desired outcome** of an interdisciplinary PhD program in the science and application of peace.

2. Curricular coordination among the UAB Undergraduate Minors in *Peace, Justice and Ecology*, *Human Rights*, *Environmental Science*, and *Community Health*, to strengthen and link them on peace, and to work toward the **desired outcome** of an interdisciplinary BS program in the science and application of peace.

3. Collaboration with outside partners, including the Global Scholars Program at the University of Michigan (GSP)*, and, potentially, the University for Peace in Costa Rica, and the United Nations University in Japan, in the development of curricula, service and active learning opportunities, study-abroad opportunities, seminars, and extra-curricular activities, with the **desired outcome** of graduating students that are competent global citizens and future leaders in the practice of peace.

Research and Innovation

The Anthropology Department is expected to play a leading role in the development of collaborative research on peace, through, among others, the ongoing research on sustainable peace and peace systems by Dr. Fry and the Advanced Consortium on Cooperation, Conflict and Complexity at Columbia University (10), and Dr. Verbeek's collaboration with the Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement and the University of Copenhagen's Department of Sociology on naturalistic observations of peaceful intervention, consolation and reconciliation during and following street violence and robberies in different cultures (11).

The Anthropology Department, the IHR, and UAB departments and schools with complementary interests, including the School of Public Health, will work together to establish a *Peace Institute*, to stimulate collaborative research within UAB and with researchers worldwide through colloquia and international conferences, providing seed money for research, helping faculty and students with ideas for research on peace and the preparation of manuscripts for publication, and through developing and maintaining contact with potential funding sources such as the Ford Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and relevant government agencies both at home and abroad.

Desired outcome: To make UAB a vibrant global peace culture center, and expand our capability to continually discover and share new knowledge.

Community Engagement

"But more basically, I am in Birmingham because injustice is here." . . . "Moreover, I am cognizant of the interrelatedness of all communities and states. I cannot sit idly by in Atlanta and not be concerned about what happens in Birmingham. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Letter from Birmingham Jail, April 16, 1963.

As part of his transition team, Mayor Randall Woodfin established a *Social Justice Committee (SJC)*, focusing on the *structural peace* issues of *human and civil rights, poverty reduction, health disparities, and environmental justice and sustainability*. UAB students, including Ms. Kacey Keith, contributed to SJC. Ms. Keith recently earned an MA in the Anthropology of Peace and Human Rights and starts a position in the Woodfin administration next month. UAB could join forces with City Hall on *structural peace* issues, including poverty reduction and overcoming health disparities. Ms. Keith recently submitted a proposal toward ending *homelessness* to Mayor Woodfin, and considering the relationship between poverty and homelessness, *ending homelessness* could be a first community engagement goal for **Practicing Peace**. *Ending health disparities* (see below) could be a second major outreach goal. The **desired outcome** is to honor Birmingham's global legacy in the struggle for civil and human rights by establishing other key aspects of *structural peace* in Birmingham and by doing so to serve as a model to the nation and the world.

Patient Care

UAB is a recognized leader in medical science and patient care. Locally, however, health disparities persist, and UAB could draw on its expertise and resources to play a major role in eradicating local health disparities in Birmingham and Alabama. The **desired outcome** is to lift up Alabama and to set an example of how to **practice structural peace in the realm of patient care** for the rest of the nation and the world.

*Dr. Benjamin Peters, Director of GSP, and longtime collaborator of Dr. Verbeek, has obtained the initial support of the U of Michigan administration to pursue talks with UAB representatives about said collaboration. – NOTE: 2 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

Potential *Practicing Peace* Team Members

(The aim is to develop a broad coalition with a core team with rotating membership representing the various disciplines involved)

- Faculty associated with the MA in the Anthropology of Peace and Human Rights, including *Dr. Douglas Fry*, *Dr. Loretta Cormier*, *Dr. Chris Kyle*, *Dr. Steve Merritt*, *Dr. Greg Mumford*, *Dr. Sarah Parcak*, and *Dr. Peter Verbeek*.
- Faculty, interns and associates of the UAB Institute for Human Rights, including *Dr. Tina Kempin Reuter*.
- CAS faculty with research interests associated with *structural* and *sociative* aspects of peace as operationally defined in this concept paper, possibly including, but not limited to:

Dr. Kathryn Morgan, African-American Studies; Criminal Justice

Dr. DeReef Jamison, African-American Studies; Cultural Consciousness and Social Change

Dr. Kathleen E. Fisher, *Dr. Dustin W. Kemp*, *Dr. James B. McClintock*, and

Dr. Julie Price, all Biology, with interests in conservation, sustainability, and/or mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

Dr. Timothy R. Levine, Communication Studies; Deception, Persuasion, and Social Influence.

Dr. Jacquelyn S. Shaia, Communication Studies; Leadership and Ethics, Rights in the Workplace.

Dr. Jeremy Blackburn, Computer Science; Social Media, Security, Privacy, Cybersafety.

Dr. Graig Wilson, Environmental Health Science; Infectious Diseases Research in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Dr. Lisa C. McCormick, Environmental Health Science; Public Health Preparedness and Response, Community Resiliency.

Dr. Susan L. Davies, Health Behavior; Reduction of Risk Behaviors in Disadvantaged Adolescents and Young Adults.

Dr. Andrew S. Baer, History; Race, Policing, Social Movements.

Michele Forman, History-Media Studies Program; Using the Methods of Documentary Filmmaking, Digital Storytelling, and Multimedia-based Research to Connect Classes with Real-World Experience.

Dr. Pamela Sterne King, History; Civil Rights.

Dr. Renato Corbetta, International Studies; Conflict Management and Resolution, International Networks.

Dr. Heith Copes, Criminal Justice; Criminal Decision-making, Identity and Crime, Qualitative Research Methods.

Dr. Natalie Todak, Criminal Justice; Policing, Race & Gender in Criminal Justice, Qualitative Research Methods.

Dr. Jeffery T. Walker, Criminal Justice; Neighborhoods and Crime, Police Law.

Dr. Robert G. Blanton, Political Science, Human Rights.

Dr. David Schwebel, Psychology; and candidate for Dean of the School of Public Health

Dr. Bulent Turan, Psychology; Relationship between Social Bonds and Well-being.

Dr. D. Scott Batey, Social Work; Health Disparities, Evidence-based Social Work Practice.

Dr. Laurel Hitchcock, Social Work; Public Health Social Work, Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Practice.
 Dr. Stacy C. Moak, Social Work; Neighborhood Characteristics and Life Choices and Circumstances, Law and International Social Justice.
 Dr. David E. Pollio, Social Work; Homelessness.
 Dr. Elizabeth Baker, Sociology; Health Disparities, Immigration and Acculturation.
 Dr. Nyesha C. Black, Sociology; Spatial Inequalities.
 Dr. Verna Keith, Sociology; Health Inequalities, Stressors and Health, Social Demography, Race/Ethnicity.
 Dr. Irena Stepanikova, Sociology, Medical Sociology.
 And Deans of the various schools in the health professions.

APPENDIX 2

REFERENCES

- (1a) *MA in The Anthropology of Peace and Human Rights*
<http://www.uab.edu/cas/anthropology/graduate-program>;
- (1b) *UAB Institute for Human Rights* <https://www.uab.edu/cas/humanrights/>
- (1c) *Birmingham Civil Rights Institute* <https://www.bcri.org>
- (1d) *Equal Justice Initiative; Legacy Museum and National Memorial for Peace and Justice* <https://eji.org/national-lynching-memorial>
- (2) Sapolsky, R. M. (2018). Foreword. In P. Verbeek & B. A. Peters (Eds.), *Peace ethology: Behavioral processes and systems of peace*. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd. Publishers.
https://www.amazon.com/Peace-Ethology-Behavioral-Processes-Systems/dp/1118922514/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1524941051&sr=8-1&keywords=peace+ethology#reader_1118922514
- (3) *Social Justice Committee* – Mayor Randall Woodfin Transition Team.
- (4) Verbeek, P., & Peters, B. A. (2018). The nature of peace. In P. Verbeek & B.A. Peters (Eds.), *Peace ethology: Behavioral processes and systems of peace*. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd. Publishers.
<https://www.wiley.com/en-us/Peace+Ethology%3A+Behavioral+Processes+and+Systems+of+Peace-p-9781118922545>
- (5) Prescott, S., & Logan, A. (2018). Larger than life: Injecting hope into the planetary health paradigm. *Challenges*, 9 (1),13; doi:10.3390/challe9010013
- (6a) Fry, D.P. (2012). Life without war. *Science*, 336, 879–884.
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- (7) *Obstacles and Catalysts of Peaceful Behavior* (March 2013), Interdisciplinary workshop at the Lorentz Center of Leiden University, the Netherlands, featuring 55 international scientists from 5 disciplines. Organizers Peter Verbeek & Douglas P. Fry.
<http://www.lorentzcenter.nl/lc/web/2013/527/info.php3?wsid=527&venue=Oort>
- (8) Verbeek, P. & Palagi, E. (Eds.) [2016]. Special Issue: Obstacles and catalysts of peaceful behavior. *Behaviour*, 154 (9-11), 1005-1364.
<http://booksandjournals.brillonline.com/content/journals/1568539x/153/9-11>

- (9) Verbeek, P. & Peters, B.A. (Eds.) [2018]. *Peace ethology: Behavioral processes and systems of peace*. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd. Publishers.
- (10) Advanced Consortium on Cooperation, Conflict and Complexity (AC⁴). (2015). *The sustainable peace mapping initiative: What is sustainable peace? Expert survey report*. New York: The Earth Institute, Columbia University.
- (11) Lindegaard, M.R., Liebst, L.S., Bernasco, W., Heinskou, M.B., Philpot, R., Levine, M., & Verbeek, P. (2017). Consolation in the aftermath of robberies resembles post-aggression consolation in chimpanzees. *PLoS ONE*, 12(5): e0177725.