

## **CALL FOR PAPERS FOR SPECIAL ISSUE: PEACE, JUSTICE & DEVELOPMENT BEYOND THE LIBERAL FRAME**

Editors: Tamara Tamimi and Kiran Grewal

Since the 1990s we have seen a huge investment in liberal intervention frameworks as ways of ‘assisting’ post-conflict or post-authoritarian societies. Specifically, liberal peacebuilding and transitional justice frameworks have proliferated and were operationalised across the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and Latin America, among other areas. However, current geopolitics have placed the fields of peacebuilding, transitional and international justice and aid and development in an existential crisis. While for many academic, practitioner, and activist circles this has been a cause for despair, we propose an alternative response. We see this as a moment to reflect on the important critical work done in each of these fields that have highlighted the limits of liberal frameworks and the ongoing challenges of coloniality and (neo)imperialism.

Inspired by postcolonial and Third World Approaches to International Law (TWAIL) scholarship, we take up the challenge of articulating a decolonial alternative to existing power structures, systems of knowledge, and ways of doing peace, justice and development. We are therefore calling for papers from different geographical, disciplinary and epistemic locations that offer empirical and/or theoretical contributions to thinking about peace, justice and development in contexts of political violence through a decolonial lens. We conceptualise decolonial approaches in a broad sense that encompass varying theoretical and epistemological perspectives. In this sense, **we are looking for papers that propose not just a critique of existing liberal frameworks of peace, justice and development but try to lay the ground for alternatives. We welcome interdisciplinary contributions;** suggested questions and areas of inquiry of the special issue include, but are not limited to:

- How are notions of ‘peace’ and ‘justice’ interpreted? Are there comparative differences across cultures, geographies, and economic contexts?
- What does ‘peace’ and ‘justice’ entail in situations of complex and/or sustained political violence?
- How have predominant approaches been able (or not) to address these needs?
- What foundational issues and practical gaps continue to permeate these approaches?
- To what extent are these limitations related to the dominance of liberal peace and rule of law frameworks?
- Can we identify viable alternatives to liberalism-based approaches?
- What opportunities exist in decolonial approaches, and what limitations and gaps permeate these avenues?

- What prospects do decolonial, postcolonial, and TWAIL approaches hold for international solidarity and deconstruction of predominant liberalism-based frameworks?

The papers will form part of a Special Issue edited by Tamara Tamimi and Kiran Grewal, and will be published by a leading academic journal. Potential outlets for publication include Third World Quarterly (Taylor & Francis) and Political Geography (Elsevier B.V.). Publishers will be approached once the successful abstracts are selected. Interested contributors should send an abstract of 300-500 words, including an overview of the idea and proposed approach and methodology. to [tamara.t.tamimi@gmail.com](mailto:tamara.t.tamimi@gmail.com) and [k.k.grewal@uva.nl](mailto:k.k.grewal@uva.nl) by **20 June 2026**. Articles should be a maximum of 7,000-8,000 words.

Tentative timeline for submissions:

- Deadline to receive abstracts: 20 June 2026
- Successful applicants notified: 30 July 2026
- Deadline for first draft of article (7,000- 8,000 words): 30 November 2026
- Feedback to authors on first draft of article: 15 January 2027
- Deadline for final draft of article (7,000- 8,000 words): 30 April 2027

Please submit alongside your abstract a 1-page bio. Any queries should be directed to [tamara.t.tamimi@gmail.com](mailto:tamara.t.tamimi@gmail.com) and [k.k.grewal@uva.nl](mailto:k.k.grewal@uva.nl)