Teaching Peace: An innovative idea whose time has come

Malaviya Centre for Peace Research (MCPR)
UNESCO chair for peace & Intercultural understanding (912)

Banaras Hindu University

www.mcpr-bhu.org
• Nearly 50 Centres/programs on “Gandhian Studies” offering certificate/diploma/degree.

• Gujarat Vidyapith (Ahmedabad), the Jain Vishva Bharati Institute(Ladnun) and the Mahatma Gandhi Hindi University(Wardha), IGNOU offer a Master programme around Gandhian Studies.

• Such programs mostly draw on Gandhian pedagogies of peace, non-violence, and social justice..

• Focusing majorly on Gandhi’s life and teaching these programs often miss the wider historical & socio-political contexts and contemporary developments

• Gandhian institutions languish in absence of resources, good faculty and students.

• No assurance of employment attached to their degrees.
Teaching Peace/Conflict Studies *per se*:

Incorporating Gandhian visions within a broader framework of peace and conflict resolution.

Still a rare experience in India.

- Malaviya Centre for Peace Research (BHU)
- Nelson Mandela Centre for Peace and Conflict, Resolution (NMCPCR) Jamia Millia Islamia;
- Conflict Transformation and Peace building (CTPB) at LSR, Delhi & many other University Colleges
- Peace, Conflict and Human Security Studies Sikkim Central University;
- Peace and Conflict Studies at Aligarh Muslim University.
- Gandhi and Peace Studies Programme at Indira Gandhi National Open University.

Challenges of Quality and Job prospects
Malaviya Centre for Peace Research (MCPR : 1998)
A journey of innovation & excellence
‘a laudable initiative’ UGC
‘an example of best practices’ – NAAC
UNESCO selecting it the site of a prestigious Chair (2010)

Interdisciplinary Centre of Peace Research and Conflict Resolution
First of its kind in the Indian University System
Spurred by UNESCO Chair for Peace and Intercultural Understanding

hub of Scholarly and Practical Activities

...(T)he energy, sophistication, and amiable seriousness of purpose of the nucleus faculty and graduate students is one the finest works in progress I have witnessed at the dozens of universities in Europe, Central America, India, and of course especially the United States where I have either taught or served as Dean or consulted.

M.J. Lunine, Professor of Global Peace Studies San Francisco State University.
Teaching & Research : Global Reach

• Diploma in Peace Studies began under the UGC Scheme of Innovative Program in Interdisciplinary and Innovative areas (TRIA)

• Subsequently a two year Masters Degree program in Conflict Management and Development introduced as a part of UNESCO Chair mandate

• An interdisciplinary program which aims to develop knowledge & skills of how to analyze and handle conflict through creative community engagement

• Our teaching/research programs attract students from far corners of the world including Austria, Germany, Spain, Italy, Mexico, Guyana, Burundi and the United States—Indeed a rarity in Social Sciences.

• Globally popular Ph.D. program in Peace Studies. (Ph.D. awarded 9; currently enrolled 21)

• We are now gearing up to offer online courses covering socially relevant areas including CSR and ADR

• Proposed a course on Religion, Conflict and Globalization under the MOOCS program.
• Salient Gandhian peace building pedagogies
• To raise greater awareness of other cultures, communities, and planetary commonalities.
• Planetary Concerns (Jai Jagat) Borderless World), Vasudhaiv Kutumbkam
• Sustainable Development, deep ecology,
• Structural and Cultural Violence
• (Peace Brigade) Shanti Sena
• “sarva dharma sambhava” (flourishing of all religions):
• Global Imprints: Martin Luther King Jr., Cesar Chavez, Helder Camara, Thomas Merton, Danilo Dolci, and Gene Sharp, Naess, Johan Galtung, and E. F. Schumacher—
UNESCO Chair for Peace and Intercultural Understanding

• The UNESCO Chair for Peace and Intercultural Understanding (912) at Banaras Hindu university continues to flourish and carry out its mandate as per the Chair Agreement.

• Apart from developing an impressive infrastructure, it has nurtured a string of researchers, scholars and peace activists engaged in advancing the core objective of the Chair viz. exploring and highlighting the peacebuilding resources of cultural and religious diversity ideationally and in practice.

• A notable aspect of this intellectual synergy is to project the sacred city of Varanasi as a model of intercultural and communal peace - a track which coincides well with India’s national policies as also with the UNESCO mission.

• More recently, UNESCO Chair has successfully steered a volume on Long Walk of Peace: Towards Conflict Prevention (translated in all UN languages)

• On 13 Sept, 2019 the UNESCO Chair was invited by the UNGA President to participate in a High Level Forum on Culture of Peace
Best Practices

- Students conduct experiential field work in peace building in the local areas of Varanasi.

- Interactive teaching through audio visual aids, films, dialogical and participatory mode of learning in the classroom.

- The students are trained with role play and simulation exercises for peacemaking and peacekeeping scenario.

- Educational tours to experience community development programs in different parts of the country.

- International visiting faculty and practitioners
Diverse Human Resources:

• Five full time dedicated faculty members
• One Adjunct Faculty.
• Four UGC Post-Doctoral Fellow
• Four ICSSR Post-Doctoral Fellow
• Twenty-One Research Scholars
• Eighty-Eight Master level students
• And a long chain of Visiting Faculty including reputed scholars and practitioners from India and abroad.
# International Visiting Faculty

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peter Wallensteen</td>
<td>Uppsala University, Sweden</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
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<td>Michael Krepon</td>
<td>Henry L. Stimson Center, USA</td>
<td>USA</td>
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<td>Dean Victor Kazanjian</td>
<td>President, URI</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
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<td>Marc Katz</td>
<td>Karlstad University Sweden</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
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<td>John Davies</td>
<td>University of Maryland, USA</td>
<td>USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan Breitling</td>
<td>UN University for Peace, Costa Rica</td>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
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<td>Victoria Fontan</td>
<td>UN University for Peace, Costa Rica</td>
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<td>Brian Brophy</td>
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<td>Carolyn Marvin</td>
<td>University of Pennsylvania, USA</td>
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<td>Edward J. Brantmeier</td>
<td>Colorado State University, USA</td>
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<td>Kevin Avruch George</td>
<td>Mason University, USA</td>
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<td>Jeremy Rinker</td>
<td>Guilford College, USA</td>
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<td>John R. Oneal</td>
<td>University of Alabama, USA</td>
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<td>Lauren S. Crane</td>
<td>Wittenberg University, USA</td>
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<td>Allan Brill</td>
<td>Seton Hall University, USA</td>
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International Collaboration

- MoU based collaboration with **Dublin City University, Ireland** in 2016
- MoU based collaboration with **Tony Blair Faith Foundation** in 2012 to undertake collaborative research and scholarly exchange.
- MoU based collaboration with **PRIO (Peace Research Institute, Oslo)** for collaborative research and scholarly exchange in 2010 onwards.
- Collaboration with the **UN Mandated University for Peace, Costa Rica (UPeace)** to enrich teaching for Master's program on Conflict Management and Development.
- Collaborates with **Karlstad University, Sweden**; to promote joint teaching and research activities under Linnaeus-Palme Exchange Programme.
- **Wellesley College**, Peace and Justice Program, MA, United States
- The **United States–India Educational Foundation (USIEF)**, continually sponsored Fulbright-Nehru Visiting Lecturers and Researchers. **Over a dozen in past years!!**
• **International Research Projects & Publications**

  • EU Funded The (Marie Curie, ITN) with several European Universities **on Global India : Innovative Training Network**, 2017-19,

  • The German Foundation for Peace Research, (DSF – Deutsche Stiftung Friedensforschung) funded project on “Peaceful Coexistence? – ‘Traditional’ and ‘Non-traditional’ Conflict Resolution”, 2015-2016

  • Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway funded project on “Peacebuilding, Diversity and Human Security”, 2013-2015

  • The Research Council of Norway funded Research Project on “Making Women Count for Peace”, 2012-2015

  • European Union funded Project (under 7th Framework Program) on “The Role of Governance in the Resolution of Socioeconomic and Political Conflict in India and Europe”, 2011- 2013.

  • Cultural Section, UNESCO, India, “Preservation of Communally Inclusive Public Spaces and Heritage : A Study of Ramlila in Varanasi”, 2010
International Publications (past 3 yrs)
