

# **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](http://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

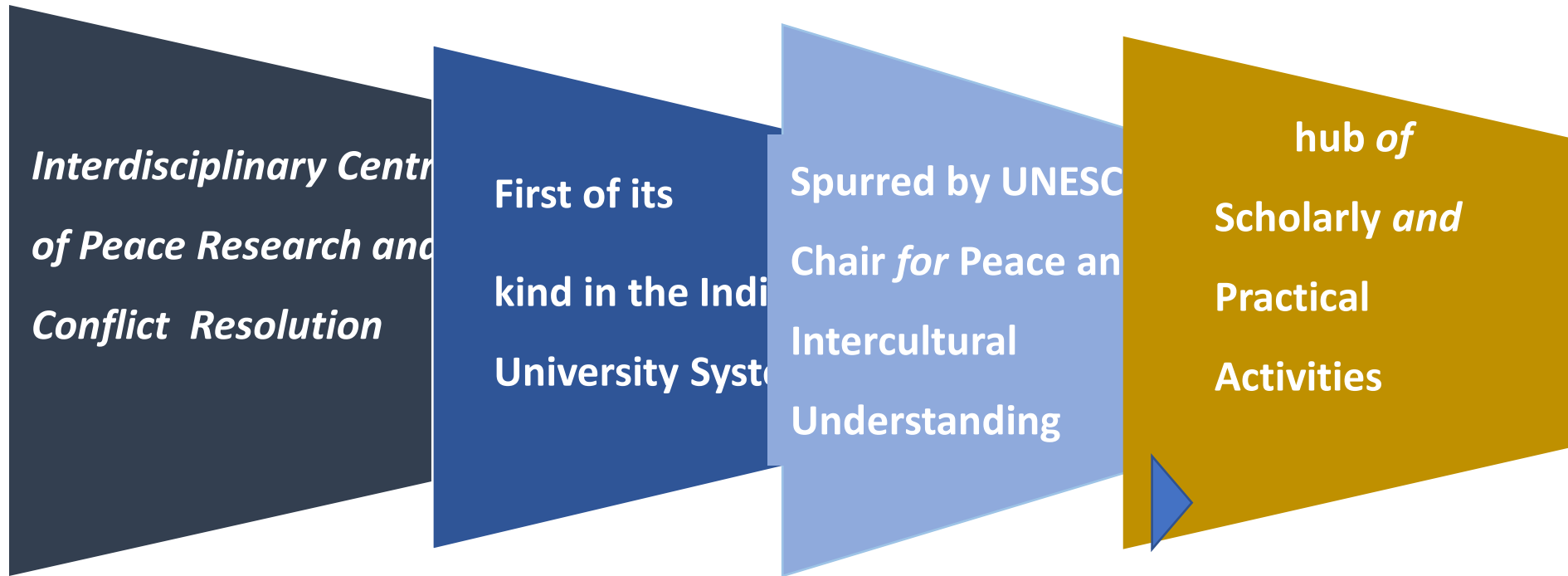
**Malaviya Centre for Peace Research (MCPR : 1998)**

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)*



*...(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



**Peter Wallenstein**  
Uppsala University, Sweden



**Michael Krepon**  
Henry L. Stimson Center, USA



**Dean Victor Kazanjian,**  
President, URI



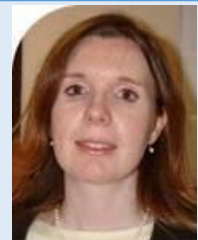
**Marc Katz**  
Karlstad University Sweden



**John Davies**  
University of Maryland, USA



**Jan Breitling**  
UN University for Peace, Costa Rica



**Victoria Fontan**  
UN University for Peace, Costa Rica



**Brian Brophy**



**Carolyn Marvin**  
University of Pennsylvania, USA



**Edward J. Brantmeier**  
Colorado State University, USA



**Kevin Avruch George**  
Mason University, USA



**Jeremy Rinker**  
Guilford College, USA



**John R. Oneal**  
University of Alabama, USA



**Lauren S. Crane**  
Wittenberg University, USA



**Allan Brill**  
Seton Hall University, USA

# 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)

- 2018 , The Long Walk of Peace towards Conflict Prevention”, UNESCO, Paris.
- 2017, ‘Women’s Rights and Empowerment: Indian context’ (Author). Women, Peace and Security in Northeast India edited by Ashild Kolas. New Delhi, Zubaan Publishers.
- 2017. ‘Intercultural Dialogue: Lineage and practice in the Indian subcontinent’ (Author). Interculturalism at the crossroads: Comparative perspectives on concepts, policies and practices, edited by Fethi Mansouri. Paris, UNESCO Publishing.
- 2016. ‘Peacebuilding in India: Meghalaya’s Experience’. In Cultures of Governance and Peace: A Comparison of EU and Indian Theoretical and Policy Approaches, edited by J. Peter Burgess, Oliver Richmond, and Ranabir Samaddar. Manchester: Manchester University Press.
- 2015. ‘The European Union and Media: Exploring the Conflict-Governance Nexus in Comparative perspective’ (Co-Author). In Cultures of Governance and Peace: A Comparison of EU and Indian Theoretical and Policy Approaches, edited by J. Peter Burgess, Oliver Richmond, Ranabir Samaddar. Manchester: University of Manchester.
- 2014. Peace and Conflict: The South Asian Experience (ed.). New Delhi: Cambridge University Press India.

Peace

