The Multitrack-Inclusion Nexus:
Reconciling Normative and Pragmatic Commitments in International Peacemaking

Call for Papers

We invite articles on the relationship between multitrack approaches to peace processes and inclusive peace, to be submitted to Cooperation and Conflict or a comparable academic journal.

Recent years have seen the proliferation of both "multitrack" and "inclusive" approaches to peacemaking. The practice and research of peace mediation has for some time been shaped by two core assumptions, namely that peace processes will unfold along multiple tracks that reinforce, inform and complement each other, and that and that they should be inclusive, by taking the interests and needs of all conflict stakeholders into account. While the merits of designing peace mediation and dialogue efforts along multiple tracks have long been analysed in the conflict resolution literature (Mitchell 2001, Babbitt and Hampson 2011), recent policy discussions and guidance on peace mediation have also become explicitly normative (Dudouet, Eshaq et al. 2018; EU 2020). Therefore, multitrack approaches to peace process design are now viewed as practical means to achieve normative imperatives such as "inclusivity" (Paffenholz 2014, Hirblinger and Landau 2020, Gamaghelyan 2020, Jones 2020) or "local ownership" (Hellmüller and Santschi 2013, Allen 2020). The special issue seeks to investigate the multitrack-inclusion nexus in peacemaking, by shedding light on the relationship, dynamics and trade-offs between pragmatic process design questions related to the multi-track approach and normative concerns with inclusivity.

As documented in the literature on the "normative turn" in conflict resolution (Hellmüller, Pring et al. 2020, Turner and Wählisch 2021) with respect to good governance, civil society participation and indigenized approaches to peace, peacebuilding actors have incorporated the understanding that peace processes need to implement both a top-down and a bottom-up approach in parallel 'tracks' or societal levels, that reinforce, inform and complement each other (Jones 2015). Hence, multitrack peace-making engages on and links multiple societal levels that have a stake in the outcome of peace processes: Track I (top leadership and official state actors), Track II (middle-range influential non-state actors such as civil society elite or academia) and Track III (grassroots leadership of community-based organizations) (Diamond and McDonald 1996, Lederach 1997). The multitrack approach has been adopted in diverse fronts of peacebuilding,

While multitrack approaches and inclusivity have been at the forefront of the international peacemaking agenda, relatively little is known about how these two paradigms interact in practice. More attention needs to be paid to the interaction between a multitrack pragmatism intended to design, manage, and organise peace processes, and a normative or strategic concern with including and empowering certain groups and making peace process outcomes more legitimate and sustainable. The proposed special issue addresses this gap by systematically and critically analyse the influence of the inclusion norm on multi-track peace process design and implementation through conceptual discussions. Through novel theoretical approaches and a range of empirical case studies we aim to grapple with the synergies and frictions between the normative and the pragmatic (Holper and Kyselova 2020).

We are calling for papers that discuss how these pragmatic and normative concerns have evolved historically, how they are implemented in practice, and what frictions, disconnects or synergies they produce. We welcome empirically grounded papers with novel conceptual or methodological angles that shed light on the impact of a changing geopolitical context and technological innovation in determining the opportunities and limits of inclusive and multitrack peacemaking that explore one or more of the following components.

- **Genealogy of the multitrack-inclusion nexus:** How have pragmatic and normative concerns evolved in a global and historical perspective? What are the practices of knowledge production, the epistemes, evidence, and theories of change behind multitrack and inclusive approaches and how do they intersect? What other practices, imperatives or considerations may have manifested themselves on the margins of the "international" discourse on peacemaking, and deserve to be considered and studied?
- **Normative and pragmatic dimensions of the multitrack-inclusion nexus:** How does multitrack peace process design relate to normative imperatives in practice? What synergies, trade-offs or frictions emerge and what other factors influence their implementation in peace-process design? How is inclusion implemented along the various tracks, and with what effects?
- **Implications and impact of the multitrack-inclusion nexus:** How do inclusive and multitrack approaches influence peacemaking dynamics? How do conflict parties and stakeholders within multitrack and inclusive peace processes exercise their agency and what is their impact on the outcomes of peace processes, including the power relations between conflict parties?
- **The multitrack-inclusion nexus in a changing world:** How do inclusive and multitrack approaches fare in the context of a changing global political landscape? What are the latest empirical manifestations of the inclusive multi-track and inclusive processes, in a world shaped by a global pandemic, increased digitalization, geo-political rivalry and a weakened multilateral system?

Please send your abstracts of no more than 250 words to julia.palmianofederer@uottawa.ca no later than 1 August 2022. We look forward to organising an author workshop in early 2023 either online or in-person. Full articles are due for submission on May 2023.

We look forward to receiving your proposals.

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