



Call for Workshop Proposals “Stories Shaping Peace”
An Opening Celebration of the Center for Dialogue and Conflict Transformation
March 16-19, 2022

Workshops at Stories Shaping Peace will dive deeper into critical dialogue, empowering participation, and the voices of participants by exploring areas of practice or research through round table dialogue, peacebuilding skills and critical conversations relative to the conference topic. We will be selecting workshops to fit into 1 hour or multiple sessions dependent upon the facilitator and session needs. All Workshops will take place exclusively in person unless otherwise noted in day 1-3 afternoons.

Date: March 16-19, 2022

Proposal submission deadline: November 29, 2021, to nenns@lcc.it
Successful Proposals will be notified on or before December 20, 2021

Participants are encouraged to frame their contributions to the conference in ways that shed light on the dynamics of narrative and the place of storytelling in peacebuilding in the area of tolerance and inclusion, generational trauma healing and resiliency, safety and security, and healing social divisions.

The Conference

The conference will publicly launch LCC International University's new Center for Dialogue and Conflict Transformation as an opening collaborative learning event to bring peace/conflict educators, scholars, students, practitioners and our local and global community together to discuss research and practice. The event focuses on the importance of narratives in peacebuilding and asks how storytelling exacerbates or transforms local social conflicts. The ways we think and make meaning of conflict experiences inform how we choose to live and behave.

During this celebratory event, critical threads will be woven together through heart, soul, and mind learnings relevant to the path of peacebuilding over three days through a) academic paper presentations b) workshops with dialogue opportunities on social issues and skill building in narrative competency and c) evening artistic expressions that include panel discussions, peacebuilding theatre in divided societies and the power of narratives expressed through the art of storytelling. There will be multiple opportunities to engage including panels, plenary, workshops, academic presentations, and dialogue sessions with evening artistic experiences in peacebuilding.

Pondering our past through stories and weaving narratives that have shaped past, present, and future help us uncover memories and re-imagine our futures together wherever conflict has touched relationships and destroyed nations. This conference hopes to engage students, staff and community actors in learning, discovery, and action around what the role of stories are in those living in conflict sensitive communities or who have been displaced from deeply divided ones.

When looking at what fuels conflicts, we may ask: “How might knowing and telling our stories engage with community change, aid in healing wounds, countering intolerance of minorities or in envisioning shared futures in deeply divided societies?” Central are the critical questions such as how narratives and nurturing dialogue for social change help bring about social equality, nonviolent change, healing and reconciliation.

Daily Themes during the event based on the submitted proposals are aimed at highlighting the themes of the conference in ways that build peace in the public spheres, strengthen human rights in the areas of inclusion, tolerance, and safety and build skills with a focus towards narratives, intergenerational trauma and creating a peace culture.

On the final day of the conference, invited guests will join selected students for a tour of Lithuanian Memorial sites recognizing the anniversary of Lithuanian independence from the Soviet Union, in addition to events experienced from the Holocaust and from Deportations of Lithuanians during Stalin's oppressive occupation.

Submissions may include various formats:

- Roundtable discussions (interactive, facilitated discussion led by presenter/s)
- Teaching and/or skill-building, interactive workshops
- Expressive Arts, films, creative works, and art presentations
- Key learnings from Academic Research Presentations

Submissions from teachers, students, activists, actors, artists, authors, and first-time presenters as well as academics are welcome. The Center for Dialogue and Conflict Transformation conference provides a welcoming environment designed to facilitate the sharing of work and ideas across disciplines.

We are especially interested in workshops which address

- Trauma-informed practices, intergenerational trauma, and peacebuilding
- Narrative story writing towards reconciliation, peacebuilding and healing divisions
- Tolerance and inclusion of minorities
- Expressive and/or Visual arts in peacebuilding
- Transforming division through human encounters
- Empowering change agents in ending cycles of violence
- Exploring historical memory and its impact on present day society
- The role of Lithuanian Deportation and/or Displacement in memory and belonging
- Exploring where faith intersects with sharing narratives towards healing between communities
- The role of narratives in promoting human rights, healing individuals, and building connections through dialogue encounters with diverse communities

We also welcome proposals that go beyond the conference theme and stimulate conversations on pressing and emergent aspects of justice and peace, such as:

- Healing divisions in a polarized nation
- Conversations on violence and nonviolence
- Conversations in the public sphere- learning civility through storytelling

Proposal Submission Format

Proposal abstracts should be a maximum of 2 pages-single spaced and include:

1. A working title
2. A one-sentence description of topic
3. A detailed description of proposed workshop content, including:
 1. . A general lesson plan
 2. Time allocated for each activity
 3. How your workshop will benefit its audience
 4. Required materials:
 1. For participants to bring (e.g. notebook, laptop, etc.)
 2. For LCC to prepare (e.g. computer lab, construction paper, markers, etc.)
 3. A description of immediately useful skills the participants will obtain (i.e. objectives - what will they be able to do after the workshop ends?)
 4. Your experience and qualifications for offering this workshop (i.e. previous courses taught with similar content, previous participation, language/s, Research, etc.)

For one facilitator per successful workshop proposal (unless approved otherwise), LCC International University will cover lodging, and weekday on-campus meals during the week of the workshop.

Contact info

- Any questions on the call for workshops or opening event can be directed to nenns@lcc.lt



LCC Students engaging with the conflict narratives of Armenia and Azerbaijan September 2020

