

# STORIES SHAPING PEACE

A 3-DAY CONFERENCE  
PRESENTERS' BIOGRAPHIES  
& RESEARCH SYNOPSIS



LCC INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
14 YEARS TOGETHER



## WEDNESDAY MARCH 16

"PEACEBUILDING, TRAUMA, AND TRANSFORMING HISTORICAL HARMS"



10:00-10:45 AM

### Collective Trauma & the Role of Narratives Told by Lithuanian Adults

This study analyses themes within the narratives told by Lithuanian adults who emigrated to the USA and reflects on collective trauma and the building of family narratives that seeks a sense of community while transforming the effects caused by trauma.

**DR. BARBARA J. TEDROW & MS. JURGITA BABARSKIENE**

PhD. from Michigan State University (1998)

25+ years career as an educator, professor, administrator, researcher of national and international political systems linked to education

Studied diversity and education questions in Kenya, South Africa, Lithuania, Ukraine, and the US where these questions emerged: How and why are racial hierarchies determined? Why and how are they constructed as social status schemes that link issues of inclusivity and exclusivity? How can their impact be mitigated or enhanced?

Currently, Dr. Tedrow and LCC's assistant professor of psychology, Jurgita Babarskiene, MA, are completing a paper on collective and individual trauma that impacts the personal narratives of Eastern Europeans



10:45-11:30 AM

### Crossing the Divide: Comparing History Hikes as a Means of Transforming Historical Narratives in the Middle East, Central Europe, and North America

The focus of this presentation is to discuss the role of 'history hikes' and 'Thanatourism' in promoting conflict transformation and peacebuilding. This study uses a comparative approach linking Lebanon, Austria, Switzerland, and the United States.

**DR. EUGENE SENSENIG**

Professor at the Faculty of Law and Political Science, Notre Dame University Lebanon

Research, activism, and training in the fields of sustainable energy, agriculture, and transportation

Interfaith approaches to conflict transformation and restorative justice

Central European and Middle Eastern cultural studies

Gender equality, intersectionality and diversity management

Global mobility studies

## THURSDAY MARCH 17

"STORIES FROM THE FIELD"



10:00-10:45 AM

### Facilitated Dialogue as a Safe Space for Sharing Stories: The Ukrainian Context

With the backdrop of the hybrid armed conflict in Ukraine this study seeks to create a positive dialogue culture in Ukraine. It looks at the "Dialogue in Action" initiative which facilitates local discussions concerning narrative conflicts and seeks resolutions.

**DR. TETIANA KALENYSHENKO**

Ph.D in Sociology of Religion

Theses: "Religious Component in Socio-Political Conflict in Ukraine in 2014-17"

Currently, works as a national advisor for Peaceful Change Initiative (London) and dialogue facilitator for national and international organizations

Together with Lidiya Lozova, they creates and run the initiative "Dialogue in Action" (2016) aimed at empowering the culture of restorative approach in small territorial communities in Ukraine with religious and secular participants

**DR. LIDIYA LOZOVA**

Ph. D in History and Theory of Art and her thesis concerned theological aspects of Russian avant-garde art

Currently, she involved in the fields of Orthodox theology, dialogue, and peacebuilding. Translator, editor, and project coordinator at "Spirit and Letter" Research and Publishing Association

In 2020, co-founded the educational ETHOS project (ethos.org.ua) which offers non formal theological online course

Coordinator of "Dialogue in Action" together with Tetiana Kalenyshenko



10:45-11:30 AM

### The Endorsement of Conspiracy Theories as Shared Historical Narratives within African-Americans

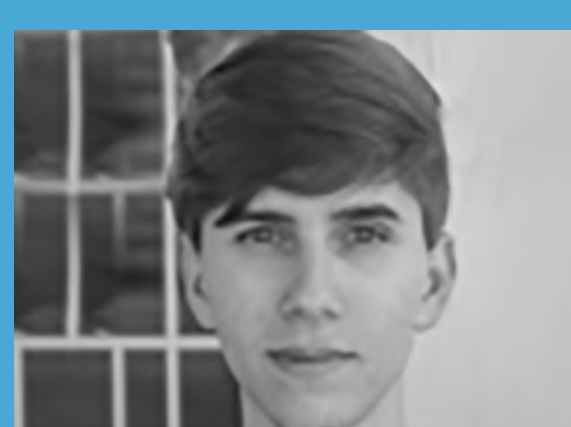
This study examines the premise that crisis situations tend to drive people to generate sense-making narratives and that some researchers suggest that conspiracy theories can be derived from such narratives. The paper applies this logic to the tumultuous past of African Americans as a series of crisis situations. The implication is that generational trauma can contribute to ethnically shared conspiratorial historical narratives.

**JESSICA DELIA**

Senior at LCC International University in the Department of Psychology

Thesis research about conspiracy belief and its impact on the experiences of African-American

From a print production artist to a novice researcher, her interests include racial and ethnic identity development in adolescence, the challenges of acculturation within Caribbean immigrants in the US and the role of shared narratives in promoting healing and breaching racial and cultural divides



10:45-11:30 AM

### Existential Meaning and Its Mediation of Fear and Governance

The scope of this study examines the integrity of peoples' varying structures of meaning and looks to determine whether or not individuals who possess a satisfying structure of meaning are more resistant to narratives of fear.

**JESSE DIBLASI**

Senior at LCC International University in the Department of International Relations and Development from California

Spring intern 2022 for Center for Dialogue and Conflict Transformation

Academic interests: ethics, international relations, and the philosophy of the self

Hopes to apply for a Master of International Relations in Public Policy and Human Development at Maastricht University in the Netherlands

Future career interests include: the United States Foreign Service, policy analysts, and becoming an author

## FRIDAY MARCH 18

"INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE"



10:00-10:45 AM

### Photovoice and Narratives of Freedom of Religion and Belief, Conflict, and Reconciliation

This presentation will explore the use and the results of a Photovoice project that was implemented in Pakistan to help understand the nature of religious freedom in Pakistan. Through this project, narratives were created that are continuing to help shape the conversation about religious tolerance in communities that experience religious tension and conflict. The project included primarily Muslims and Christians as they explored their individual beliefs and practices by telling stories about photographs they had taken. Examples of narratives that emerged from this project include Muslims and Christians coming to new realizations about the nature of each religion.

**REV. JUSTIN MEYERS**

Executive Director of Al Amana Center in Muscat, Oman

Served pastorates in Schenectady, NY and Queens, NYC

Earned M. Div from Western Theological Seminary in Holland

Earned M.I and a M.A in Peacebuilding and Reconciliation from University of Winchester, UK

Currently, pursuing a Ph. D at the University of Winchester working with these title: "Muslim and

Christian theologies of Reconciliation and their Impact on Peacebuilding

Helps people of different religions and cultures to come to a greater understanding of each other to foster sustainable peace in their communities

Lived most of his life in Muscat, Oman with his family

In his recreational time he enjoys scuba diving, running, hiking, and reading



10:45-11:30 AM

### Stories From the Field: How Personal Stories are an Effective Tool for Conflict Transformation

In her paper, Grosman shares stories and lessons learned from her conflict transformation practitioner's experience using personal stories as peacebuilding tools in a variety of contexts including Israeli-Palestinian peacebuilding, interreligious dialogue, U.S. multicultural relations, and post-conflict reconciliation between Bosnians, Serbians and Croatians. Metaphors, folktales, and vignettes will be used to describe how personal stories operate as a uniquely powerful tool for peacemaking.

**CAROL GROSMAN**

Writer, storyteller, and conflict resolution practitioner

Founder and director of Jerusalem Stories, a conflict resolution and cultural project that uses personal stories and portrait photos as tools for peacemaking

Conflict resolution work on the Middle East, Christian-Jewish relations, US multicultural issues, arts-based approaches to peacemaking and peace education

