Peace Psychology: A Winter Workshop

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Daniel J. Christie
<christie.1@osu.edu>
Professor Emeritus of Psychology
Ohio State University, USA
What is Peace Psychology?

Comprehensive peace involves both negative and positive peace. Negative peace means the creation of conditions that reduce and eliminate episodes of violence. Positive peace refers to the promotion of a more equitable social order that meets the basic needs and rights of all people. This psychology course deals with patterns of thought, feelings, and actions that promote both negative and positive peace.

In regard to negative peace, psychologists distinguish sharply between conflict and violence or thought and action, respectively. Conflicts between individuals or groups involve the perception of incompatible goals, whether real or imagined, while violence refers to the pursuit of goals through coercive actions. In this course we explore the sources and consequences of conflict and violence. Then, three points of intervention are examined: during the (1) conflict, (2) violence, and (3) post-violence phase of relationship. Emphasis is placed on thoughts, feelings, and actions that can prevent violence, de-escalate violent episodes, and reconcile relationships in the aftermath of violence.

In low-income counties, particularly where there is a legacy of colonization, the term “peace” is often associated with pacifism, and therefore, positive peace or the pursuit of social justice is paramount. Positive peace involves social and cultural transformations that reduce structural violence, an insidious form of violence that kills people slowly through the deprivation of human rights and human need satisfaction. While positive peace involves the reduction of structural and cultural violence through the promotion of social justice, the roots of positive peace can be found in the thoughts, feelings, and actions of individuals and groups that (re)produce social injustices as well as socially just arrangements between individuals and groups.

Finally, the relationship between episodes and structures of violence and peace are explored as well as personal transformation as a means of building and sustaining peaceful relationships between individuals and groups.

Peace Psychology Workshop Outline

I. Introduction to Peace Psychology
   A. Overview and Structure of Course
   B. The Academic Context of Peace Psychology
   C. Geohistorically Situating Peace Psychology
   D. Contemporary Peace Psychology: Obstacles to and Catalysts for Peace

II. Negative Peace: The Nature of Conflict and Violence
   A. Conflict: Sources and Consequences
   B. Violence: Sources and Consequences

III. Negative Peace: Intervention during Conflict, Violence, or Post-Violence Phase
   A. Intervening During the Conflict Phase
   B. Intervening During Episodes and Cycles of Violence
   C. Intervening During the Post-Violence Phase

IV. Positive Peace: The Nature of Structural and Cultural Violence
   A. Sources of Structural and Cultural Violence

V. Positive Peace: Promoting Social Justice
   A. Decreasing Structural and Cultural Violence
   B. Systems Analysis and Intervention: Treating the Whole System
Peace Psychology: Workshop Topics and References

Note: At present, PDFs or Word documents are available for all articles and chapters. PowerPoints (PPTs) are also available for selected topics where noted.

I. Introduction to Peace Psychology

A. Overview and Structure of Course: A Model of Peace Psychology (PPT)


B. The Academic Context of Peace Psychology (PPT)


C. Geohistorically Situating Peace Psychology (PPT)

Asia


Latin America


South Africa


Western Roots


D. Contemporary Peace Psychology: Obstacles to and Catalysts for Peace (PPT)


II Negative Peace: The Nature of Conflict and Violence

A. Conflict: Sources and Consequences (PPT available for topics 1- 4)

1. Stereotypes and Dehumanization


2. Infrahumanization: “We’re humans; they’re animals!”


3. Images of the Other: Enemy, Barbarian, Ally, Imperialist, or Dependent?

4. Patriotism versus Nationalism: On Love and Hate!


5. Conflict as a Result of Diminishing Environmental Resources


6. Intergroup Threats and Conflict


7. Intergroup Bias: Measurement, Theories, and Moderators


B. Violence: Sources and Consequences (PPT available for topics 4, 6, 8, & 9)

1. The Power of the Situation: When Good People do Evil Things!


2. Conflict Escalation: When Bias Escalates to Violence


3. Prejudice and Discrimination: From Thought to Feelings to Actions


4. Continuum of Destruction: From Insults to Genocide


5. Dangerous Ideologies that Set the Stage for Violence

6. Intractable Conflicts and Cycles of Violence


7. Terrorism: Some Psychological and Cultural Roots


8. Psychology of Militarism


9. A Consequence of Terrorism: Cycles of Violence


III. Negative Peace: Intervention during Conflict, Violence, or Post-Violence Phase

A. Intervening during the Conflict Phase (PPTs available for topics 2, 3, & 6)

1. Enthnocultural Empathy


2. Conflict Resolution


3. Anti-bias Interventions

4. Does Intergroup Contact Reduce Intergroup Prejudice?


5. Why Intergroup Contact Works!


6. Intergroup Contact Theory: Conditions that Facilitate Improvement in Relations


7. An Application of Intergroup Contact Theory


8. No Intergroup Peace without Intragroup Peace: Reconciling Differences within Groups


9. Building Intergroup Trust


10. The Role of Cognitive Complexity in Intergroup Relations


11. Influence through Nonviolent Means: Soft Power

B. Intervening during Episodes and Cycles of Violence

1. Peacekeeping Operations and the Issue of Morale


2. Co-existing in Times of Violence


3. Third Party Interventions


4. Deescalating Conflict and Violence


5. Breaking Cycles of Violence


C. Intervening during Post-Violence Phase

1. Reintegrating Soldiers into Society


2. As Quarreling Children Would Say: “Let Us Baku Bae” (Resume our Friendship)


3. Collective Memory and Reconciliation


4. Intergroup Contact and Reconciliation
5. Dialogue, Forgiveness, and Reconciliation


6. Cultural Sensitivity and Reconciliation


7. Some Principles of Reconciliation


8. Strengthening Relations through Humanitarian Assistance


IV. Positive Peace: The Nature of Structural and Cultural Violence

A. Sources of Structural and Cultural Violence (PPTs available for topics 2 & 3)

1. Social Dominance Orientation


2. Psychological Roots of Social Injustice


3. The Tension between Colonization and Democratization: Peace Psychology in Asia

4. Social Representations and the Legacy of Inequality


5. System-Justifying Ideologies


6. Strengthening System Justification: The Threat of Terrorism


V. Positive Peace: Promoting Social Justice

A. Decreasing Structural and Cultural Violence (PPTs available for topics 5)

1. Psychology of Collective Action


2. Liberation Psychology: Empowering the Oppressed


3. Methods of Liberation Psychology


4. Liberating the Hijab!


5. Collective Action and Structural Peacebuilding


6. Islamic Education and Social Justice
B. Systems Analysis and Intervention: Treating the Whole System (PPT available for topic 2)

1. Violence and Peace: A Systems Perspective


2. A Systems Analysis of Terrorism


3. Psychology of Martyrdom: A Systems View


4. Building Peaceful Relations: Dealing with both Episodes and Structures of Violence


5. Changing Social Policies


6. Psychologically-informed Policies that Build Cultures of Peace


7. Personal Transformation: The Nonviolent Person