What in the World Do Peace Psychologists Do?

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The Cycle of Violence & Negative Peace

Conflict → Violence → Post-Violence
Negative Peace & Intervention


**Current State of the Relationship**

- **Conflictual**
- **Violent**
- **Post-Violence**

**Entry Points for Negative Peace Processes**

- Conflict Management
- Violence De-escalation
- Post-Violence Peacebuilding
Points of Intervention: A Multi-level Analysis

Christie, Tint, Wagner, & Winter (2008), American Psychologist, drawing on Galtung’s distinction:

- **Negative Peace**
  - Efforts to reduce violent episodes

- **Positive Peace**
  - Efforts to promote social justice
Negative and Positive Peace Processes: A Multi-level Model
Peace Psychology: Misconceptions & Challenges

- Peace is weak, naïve, and idealistic
- Peace is soft and not amenable to scientific scrutiny or methodological rigor
- Peace psychology is narrow, focusing on the prevention of nuclear war
- Peace psychology has little to offer international relations
Problems with Misconceptions

- Misconceptions contribute to invisibility of peace psychology
- Invisibility tacitly supports belief that violence is the natural state of human affairs
- Invisibility promotes ignorance among practitioners who could promote peace in the family, workplace, community, and between nations
- Denies citizens and policy makers insights
Thank you!