

Summaries

Rebecca Gulowski & Christoph Weller: Civilian Conflict Management. Critique, Conception, and Theoretical Foundations. “Civilian Conflict Management” is predominantly a term used in the political domain. In contrast, this paper offers a theoretical reading of its three elements in order to enable differentiated analyses and to open up critical perspectives in this field. We first identify the internal contradictions in the conceptualisation of “civilian” in “Civilian Conflict Management”. Secondly, referring to the work of Simmel, Coser, Dahrendorf and Mouffe, we develop conceptual foundations for a profound theoretical notion of “conflict”. Building on this, thirdly, there follows the exploration of “conflict management” as a process of socialisation in the face of social change. This threefold conceptualisation of the term “Civilian Conflict Management” highlights the transformation of conflicts at the structural, institutional, and actor levels, and, at the same time, supports political criticism of intervention in foreign conflicts.

Julian Bergmann: EU Peace Mediation under Scrutiny – Between High Aspirations and Complex Realities. Since the early 2000s the European Union has established a considerable track record as a mediator in intrastate conflict. Particularly in the countries of the Western Balkans, the EU has undertaken a number of mediation initiatives. Mediation is a corner stone of the EU’s approach to managing and preventing crisis and violent conflicts through civilian means. But to what extent has the EU lived up to its own aspirations in the field of civilian conflict prevention and mediation in particular? This article addresses this question along two dimensions. First, it examines the EU’s ambitions to develop and strengthen its capacities in the field of mediation. Second, it focuses on the actual outcomes of EU peace mediation efforts and their contribution to successful conflict resolution. Regarding the first dimension, the article draws the conclusion that the EU has indeed lived up to its aspirations by strengthening its institutional architecture and capacities for peace mediation. Nevertheless, this has also led to institutional fragmentation, which increased the need for coordination between the involved institutions. With regard to the second dimension, two case studies (the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue and the Geneva Talks on the territorial conflicts of Georgia) demonstrate that EU peace mediation had a positive influence on the dynamics of both conflicts. Having reached partial successes, the mediation processes, however, could not provide a comprehensive resolution in both conflicts. The specific context of these conflicts, in which the EU would be assumed to have political leverage due to the prospect of future EU membership, demonstrates the limits of its effectiveness in peace mediation.

Daniela Pastoors: Consultant in Conflict – Different Roles in Peace and Conflict Work. Third party experts, taking on various different roles, are often called to intervene in conflict transformation. Here the term “consulting” is often used, without clearly defining what is meant by it. This paper focuses on the roles of civil service

peace professionals, and introduces concepts for distinguishing and classifying third party interventions and consulting roles, as well as discusses them. It shows that the differentiation between directive, transitive, and prescriptive approaches, on the one hand, and non-directive, reflexive, and elicitive approaches, on the other hand, are as relevant for consultants as they are for peace workers. Thus, the paper pleads for self-reflective engagement within the role of intervening third parties and, following, for exchanging insights between consulting science and peace and conflict studies, and for transdisciplinary cooperation between practice and research.

Carina Pape: The New Visibility. Second-Order Civil Disobedience. This paper focuses on the civil disobedience of refugees and the creation of new forms of political communities. Civil disobedience is an important part of democracy. According to Habermas, civil disobedience has to stay in suspense between legality and illegality in order to keep its transformative power. As new forms of political community formation cannot be promoted within conventional ideas of national democracies (e.g. Niesen), the concept of civil disobedience may be more appropriate. Especially due to their new visibility, the tension between legality and legitimacy allows us to describe refugees' actions as civil disobedience. If we do not judge a person's legally acknowledged participation (citizenship) as decisive, but the participation in form of the acknowledgement of that (nearly just) society through the person, there is no reason to deny the refugees the "right" to civil disobedience. The plus of this civil disobedience of a second order – a cosmopolitan disobedience – is that it has developed from practice. It is a transboundary form of civilian participation, which simply works.