**Peace Anxieties: Ontological Security and Conflict Resolution**

Building on the notion of ontological security, as developed by Giddens (1991) and its applications to international relations theory, this paper examines the ways in which the resolution or transformation of conflicts can generate anxieties at the individual, group, societal, and state levels, and consequently set in motion social and political processes that reproduce and reactivate the conflicts. Covering a wide range of conflict cases at various stages of negotiation and resolution (Cyprus, Israel-Palestine, Turkey’s Kurdish conflict, and the Karelian conflict between Finland and Russia), I focus on three ways in which ontological security concerns impact conflict and resolution processes. First, conflict resolution induces ontological insecurity, a state of general anxiety where the ability to sustain a coherent narrative and answer questions about doing, acting, and being is diminished. Second, ontological insecurity at the individual, group, and state levels may set in motion political and social processes that reproduce and reactivate conflicts. Thirdly, coping with anxieties in conflict resolution necessitates the formulation of alternative self-narratives at the individual, societal, and state levels that re-situate the Self in relation to the Other and to the world at large, and that become embedded in new habits and routines.