

# Identity and Conflict

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MW: 4 hours

## Overview

This intensive month-long course is designed to explore complex interrelations of social identity and postmodern conflicts in society with the emphasis on the role of identity in processes of conflict resolution and transformation. Critical rethinking of ethnic, national and religious identities as both generators and outcomes of conflict will be important part of the course. Course aims to extend knowledge on structure and dynamic of identity-based conflicts and to develop a framework for their resolution. Course includes lectures, simulations, and case studies. The final assignment of the course requires students to design an intervention into a conflict of their choice.

### **Assessment of Students:**

Students participating in the full course will be graded based on the following:

1. Active participation in the class activities is worth 50% of the final grade.
2. Students are required to design an intervention into a conflict of their choosing. The case study can be drawn from the organizational, communal, national, or international level and should involve identity conflict in any form. The research paper should be 10 pages in length and is worth 50% of the final grade.

### **SOURCES FOR READING:**

- Allison, Roy and Lena Jonson, eds (2001). *Central Asian Security: the New International Context*. London: Royal Institute of International Affairs
- Atabaki, Touraj and John O'Kane, eds (1998). *Post-Soviet Central Asia*. Amsterdam: The International Institute for Asian Studies
- Ellemers, N., Spears, R. & Doosje B. *Social Identity*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 1999
- Brewer, M. B. (2003). *Intergroup relations*. Buckingham [England] ; Philadelphia, PA : Open University Press.
- Brubaker, R. (1996). *Nationalism reframed: nationhood and the national question in the new Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Horowitz, Donald (1985). *Ethnic Groups in Conflict*. Berkely, CA: University of California Press
- Kriesberg, Louis (2002). *Constructive Conflicts: From Escalation to Resolution*. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield
- Mesbahi, Mohiaddin, ed (1994). *Central Asia and the Caucasus after the Soviet Union: Domestic and International Dynamics*. Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida
- Miall, Hugh, Oliver Ramsbotham and Tom Woodhouse, eds. (1999). *Contemporary Conflict Resolution: the Prevention, Management and Transformation of Deadly Conflict*. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press
- Peimani, Hooman (1998). *Regional Security and the Future of Central Asia: the Competition of Iran, Turkey and Russia*. London: Praeder

Rothman, J. *Resolving identity-based conflict in nations, organizations, and communities*. - San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 1997

Volkan, Vamik (1997). *Bloodlines: From Ethnic Pride to Ethnic Terrorism*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux

### **Weekly Schedule**

- May 17: Monday            Introduction to Course  
Introduction to Social Identity
- May 19: Wednesday        Theories of Social Identity  
Reading: Ellemers:6-34; 59-83 Volkan: 17- 29; 36- 49, 81-100;
- May 24: Monday            Multiple social identities. Formation of Social Identities in Central Asia  
Reading: Atabaki: 1-34, 35-61; Mesbahi: 1-16, 209-253, 234-247
- May 26: Wednesday        Identity and conflict  
Reading: Ellemers: 35-58; Kriesberg: 2- 24, 55-64; Rothman: 5-12
- June 1: Tuesday            Ethnic Identity And Conflict  
Reading: Horowitz: 51-88; 96-105; 147- 166; Volkan: 101-116, 157-167
- June 2: Wednesday        National Identity, Nationalism and Patriotism. Post-Soviet Nation-Building in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan  
Reading: Brubaker: 13-23, 55-79; Allison/Jonson: 24-43; Atabaki: 62-72, 137-143, 204-230, 283-323; Meshabi: 119-132; 133-148; 149-163; 164-190; 10, 191-208)
- June 7: Monday            Identity-Based Conflict Resolution:  
Reading: Brewer: 88-109, Rothman: 5-52, Kriesberg: 268-300
- June 9: Wednesday        Religious Identity and Reconciliation. Religious identities in Central Asia  
Reading: Peimani: 28-40
- June 14: Monday            Early Warning and Conflict Transformation in Central Asia  
Reading: Allison/Jonson: 49-65; 219-240; 247-264; Miall: 95-127; Mesbahi: 34-55; 56-74
- June 15: Tuesday            Integration. A Research and Practical Agenda

### **Additional reading**

Ashmore, Richard D., Jussim, Lee, and Wilder, David (Eds). (2001) *Social identity, intergroup conflict, and conflict reduction*. New York, N.Y.: Oxford University Press.

Connor, W. (1994). *Ethnonationalism: The Quest for Understanding*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Helmick , Raymond G. & Petersen, Rodney L. (Eds). (2001). *Forgiveness and reconciliation: religion, public policy & conflict transformation*. Philadelphia : Templeton Foundation Press.

Herb, Guntram H. and Kaplan, David H. (Eds).(1999). *Nested identities : nationalism, territory, and scale*. Lanham, Md. : Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Kegley, C., ed. (2003) *The new global terrorism: Characteristics, Causes, Controls*. Upper Saddle River, N.J.:Prentice-Hall.

Kelman, H. C. Nationalism, patriotism, and national identity: Social-psychological dimensions// D. Bar-Tal & E. Staub (Eds.), *Patriotism in the lives of individuals and nations*. Chicago: Nelson-Hall, 1997.

Korostelina, Karyna.(2003) The Multiethnic State-Building Dilemma: National and Ethnic Minorities' Identities in the Crimea. *National Identities*, 5, N 2, p. 141-159

Lederach, John Paul (1997). *Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies*. Washington, D.C.

Monteville, Joseph (1991). *The Psychodynamics of International Relationships*. Lexington, Mass: Lexington Books.

Ross, M. H. (2001). Psychocultural interpretation and dramas: Identity dynamics in ethnic conflict// *Political psychology*. –N 22.- P. 157-178.

Renshon, Stanley A.. and Duckitt , John (Eds). (2000). *Political psychology : cultural and crosscultural foundations*. New York : New York University Press.

Sears, David O., Huddy, Leonie, and Jervis, Robert.(Eds) (2003). *Oxford Handbook of political psychology*. New York : Oxford University Press.

Smith, Marc A. and Kollock, Peter (Eds). (1999).*Communities in cyberspace*. London ; New York : Routledge.