

Explorations in Peace & Conflict Research

NONKILLING EDUCATION

Åbo Akademi University
Vasa, Finland
March 23-25, 2015

International Conference hosted by the Program
in **Peace, Mediation and Conflict Research**

Åbo Akademi University in Vasa, home of the Programme in Peace, Mediation and Conflict Research, will co-organize with the Center for Global Nonkilling, a nonprofit organization for research, training and advocacy on the prevention of lethal violence, a exploratory interdisciplinary conference on the role and potential of education in bringing about a killing-free world. The event will bring together scholars and practitioners in the fields of education, anthropology, psychology, political science and philosophy to promote a creative exchange of ideas.

Focus

- Poor education as a causal factor of killing and violent behavior
- The educational consequences of violent environments and potential benefits of moving toward killing-free societies (with no killing, threats to kill or conditions conducive to killing), and
- The educational measures and transformations relevant to building societies where human killing is greatly reduced and eventually absent.

A preliminary list of discussion topics include:

- The educational aspects of transition to a killing-free society
- What can we learn from peaceful societies, namely simple hunter-gatherers, in terms of parenting, early childhood development and educational practices?
- Can we deconstruct the different types of violence (direct, structural, cultural) that are reproduced in educational institutions as social subsystems and reconstruct peaceful/nonkilling educational paradigms?
- How to bridge the nonkilling approach with environmental education, ecojustice education, human rights education and indigenous-inspired education? How does this relate to extending nonkilling principles to respectful treatment of nonhuman animals and other forms of life?
- How does nonkilling education relate to strategies to decrease bullying and intolerance among school children to bring about discrimination and prejudice-free society are effective?
- What educational methods for teaching ethnically and religiously mixed classes in order to create culturally inclusive classroom environment are effective?
- Peaceful and dialogic-participative teaching methodology.
- Needed changes in undergraduate and graduate teacher training, textbooks, and research.

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NONKILLING
Measurable, Inspirational, Transformative

Program

Monday 23

19:00 Evening Welcome dinner

Tuesday 24

09:30 Registration at Åbo Akademi Auditorium
10:00 Opening remarks (K. Björkqvist, I. Grigaityte & J. Evans)
10:15 Participant introductions
10:30 Plenary: *Cultivating a Non-Killing Ethic in Children from the Ground Up*, Darcia Narvaez (Notre Dame University, USA)
11:15 Q&A
11:30 Lunch break
12:30 Panel: *Cultural Insights on Nonkilling Education*
- Piero Giorgi (University of Otago, New Zealand)
- Klāvs Sedlenieks (Rīga Stradiņš University, Latvia)
- Mikaela Björklund & Liselott Forsman (Åbo Akademi)
13:45 Panel discussion and Q&A
14:00 Coffee break
14:15 Panel: *Nonkilling Education in Contemporary Thought*
- Sofía Herrero Rico & Sonia París Albert (UNESCO Chair of Philosophy for Peace / Jaume I University, Spain)
- Tom Børsen (Aalborg University, Denmark)
15:30 Panel discussion and Q&A
15:45 Book launch: *Social Responsibility of Scientists in Military Settings*, Tom Børsen, Editor.
16:00 Vasa Statement Brainstorming session
16:30 Adjourn

Wednesday 25

9:30 Plenary: *Nonkilling and Social Emotional Learning*
Shelley Hymel (University of British Columbia, Canada)
10:15 Q&A
11:00 Panel: *Mediation, Conflict Resolution and Violence Prevention in School settings and the Media*
- Patrik Söderberg (Åbo Akademi)
- Emmy Godwin Irobi (UC Berkeley, Poland/Nigeria)
- Klas Backholm (Åbo Akademi)
12:15 Panel discussion and Q&A
12:30 Lunch Break
13:30 Workshop: *Media Strategies for Nonkilling Education*
Jean Paldanius (Nonkilling Generation/CGNK)
Reviewing a *Nonkilling Parenting Guide* and a *Nonkilling School Guide and Curriculum Guide* proposals
15:00 Coffee break
15:15 Plenary discussion: *Drafting the Vasa Statement on Education for a Killing-free World*
16:30 Closing remarks

FREE REGISTRATION

emailing info@nonkilling.org or ingrida.grigaityte@abo.fi
Conference Program and information available at:
www.nonkilling.org & www.abo.fi/fakultet/socvetpeace

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