

## Call for Papers

# NORDIC PEACE REVISITED

18-19 March 2019

Venue: Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)

(Organising partners: UiO:Nordic - Nordic Branding; PRIO; TAPRI)

In contemporary political mythology Norden is both a region *of peace* – a quintessential Deutschian ‘no-war’ security community of social cohesion and societal resilience – and a region *for peace* – as active proponents of multilateral peace support, humanitarian and development aid and a rules-based international order. Although questions can be raised about this image it is one that endures, with regional leaders often depicting the Nordic countries as being ‘world leaders in peace’. Indeed, peace has often been portrayed as a Nordic export and competitive edge, with this no less evident than in how the region is often described as possessing unique expertise in conflict resolution and where Nordic peace has been cultivated as a global brand – most evident in the annual awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize by the Norwegian Nobel Committee.

Given the prevalence of such images it is surprising that academic analyses of the phenomenon have been relatively limited. Those that do exist have generally sought to account for the emergence and endurance of Nordic peace either by arguing that it was a product of the Cold War balance of power and/or that it has been fundamentally reliant on the region’s (proclaimed) high levels of cultural commonality and convergence. Both explanations can be challenged. However, broader questions related to the historical development of Nordic peace, its mobilization in foreign policy and its infusion into the identity politics of the region have received less coverage. Meanwhile, discussion of contemporary challenges and potential opportunities for Nordic peace is limited. With the ‘post-Cold War era’ now increasingly depicted as over, and in a context of new regional, European and global challenges, the time is ripe for revisiting theoretical and empirical debates about Nordic peace, and in particular considering how ‘Nordic peace’ is being re-inscribed for a new age.

Papers are therefore invited for a two-day conference on the theme of ‘Nordic Peace Revisited’. The conference will involve academics and practitioners, but where academic papers will be collated for publication, either in special issue format or an edited volume as part of arrangements with Cambridge University Press and Oxford University Press. We are interested in papers that explore the concept and idea of Nordic peace from diverse and interdisciplinary perspectives. Indicative themes/questions for exploration include:

### History

- How did the Scandinavian/Nordic countries change from mutual enemies to peaceable members of a Nordic community?
- How important has civil society been in generating, maintaining and mobilizing the sense of intra-Nordic communality?
- To what extent does Nordic peace owe a debt to the region’s Lutheran heritage?

## Theory

- To what extent does Norden conform with, challenge or offer possibilities for the further development of security community theorizing?
- Is Norden better understood as a “peace community” rather than a security community?
- Does Norden possess a distinctive understanding of peace? If so, how important have Nordic peace researchers been for this?
- Can/should Nordic peace be generalized or used as a model in other places?

## Identity/ies

- How are identifications of Nordic peace maintained and renewed?
- What particular forms of collective memory, visual representations and identifications of Nordic peace are cultivated and invoked?
- To what extent has Nordic peace been re-conceptualised from an identity to a brand of competitive advantage? What are the potential implications of this?
- To what extent have the Nordics presented themselves as a model of peace?

## Foreign Policy

- How and why have the Nordic states adapted and integrated notions of (Nordic) peace into their foreign policy agendas, including development of international law?
- To what extent have particular individuals been central to cultivating the idea of Nordic peace within the different states’ foreign policy agendas, as well as internationally?
- How far is a focus on development and transitional justice a part of the Nordic foreign policy brand of peace diplomacy?
- To what extent has Nordicness itself been capitalized upon as a valuable asset in the region’s efforts at peace diplomacy?

## Nordic Peace in the Twenty-First Century

- How resilient is Nordic peace/the Nordic countries to the various crises currently challenging Europe?
- Will Norden remain the peaceful corner of Europe, or is societal peace in the region already fundamentally contested?
- How (if at all) is Nordic peace being squared with renewed militarism in the foreign policies of some of the Nordic states?
- To what extent is Nordic peace as a foreign policy brand being reframed towards new areas of perceived competitive advantage (e.g. gender)?

## **PARTICIPATION**

If you would like to participate in the conference please send a proposed paper title with abstract to the conference administrator: Tori Loven Kirkebø ([t.l.kirkebo@jus.uio.no](mailto:t.l.kirkebo@jus.uio.no)). ***The deadline for proposals is 30 November 2018.***

**For further information please contact a member of the Organising Committee:**

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