



**Liberal peace: Value-Based External Models and Local Alternatives in Peacebuilding**  
International Conference, Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po)  
With support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland  
**June 16-17, 2008**

**Call for Papers**

*Closing date : 22 February 2008*

**Background**

The CERi Program for Peace and Human Security (CPHS) at L'Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po) in Paris has been engaged in research and policy development in the field of peacebuilding for over two years. Having held a conference on integrated peacebuilding in June 2006 and a seminar on the role of the UN Peacebuilding Commission in November 2007, the CPHS will now convene an international conference focused on the conceptualization of peacebuilding initiatives around the liberal peace model and their alternatives.

In general, enquiries into peacebuilding missions have dealt with efficiency questions, i.e., how actors are integrating, how they are planning and how they are assessing success, and whether integration or coordination is the best modality for peacebuilding. Less, however, has been developed about the legitimacy of actually “building” peace on the basis of a set of presumptions on values.

Driven by the general notion of democratic peace, the international community has utilized liberal models to reconstruct societies after conflict. Liberal peace in practice can be characterized as embracing certain processes and values—democracy, free markets, human rights, integration into globalization, state-based security and citizenship.

Yet, these components of the liberal peace model are not necessarily universally understood or accepted. Furthermore, these models are often both premised on competition and participation, processes that can exacerbate existing tensions or conflicts, particularly in societies having recently experienced violent conflict. Local alternatives or adaptations have also emerged and force us to reflect upon the liberal peace model as it has been operationalized by the international community.

While these processes and values may be desirable end goals, the diversity of interpretations amongst actors—international, national, and local—requires at least clarification of understandings around liberal-based models and assumptions about “peace”. Attention now needs to be focused on how underlying assumptions impact the strategy and implementation methods of peacebuilding operations. There is also a need to evaluate the liberal peace model for its relevance in a variety of local settings.

## Conference Description

The CPHS is now organizing a third international conference, *Liberal Peace: Value-Based External Models and Local Alternatives*, to be held June 16-17, 2008 in Paris to focus on the conceptualization of initiatives around the liberal peace model and their alternatives.

The aim of this conference is:

- To elaborate on the conceptualization of the liberal peace model and its current critiques;
- To examine the processes and the related assumptions around democratization in post-conflict situations
- To examine the processes and the related assumptions of economic liberalization in post-conflict situations;
- To identify local alternatives or adaptations that have emerged, and
- To enquire about the ultimate nature, role and responsibilities of the post-conflict states.

The two day conference conference will include plenary sessions and concurrent workshops:

### **Plenary Session 1: Liberal Peace: concepts, critiques, and challenges**

Some of the questions to be examined include:

- What are understandings and assumptions around the concept of “liberal peace”?
- Is there consensus on the models and methods and if so, what are the elements that consist of this consensus?
- What are the current critiques of the model?
- What challenges have emerged through an examination of the implementation of liberal peace?

### **Workshop 1: Models: Democratization post conflict and its alternatives**

Some of the questions to be examined include:

- What are assumptions about “liberal democracy” in post-conflict settings?
- How have these assumptions been negotiated between external and internal actors?
- How has the implementation process converged or diverged with assumptions?
- Has the process of democratization been a source of peace or instability or both? How?
- What are the possible different or alternative models of democracy?

### **Workshop 2: Models: Development models post conflict and their alternatives**

Some of the questions to be examined include:

- What are assumptions about “liberal market economy” in post-conflict settings?
- How have these assumptions been negotiated between external and internal actors?
- How has the implementation process converged or diverged with assumptions?
- Have the processes of liberalization and economic development been a source of peace or instability or both? How?
- What are the possible different or alternative models of development?

### **Workshop 3: Local alternatives: ownership, resistance, and cooption**

Some of the questions to be examined include:

- How have liberal-based assumptions about peace been negotiated between external and local actors?

- What examples have emerged on local or indigenous models or processes for peace and peacebuilding?
- What alternatives to the liberal peace model have emerged from local settings?
- Can these processes (international initiatives and local alternatives) occur concurrently and what are the implications for peacebuilding?

**Plenary Session 2: Ultimate nature, role and responsibilities of the post-conflict states.**

Some of the questions to be examined include:

- What are presumptions about the nature, roles and responsibilities of the post-conflict state in the liberal peace model?
- How can this model for the state be evaluated?
- What alternatives are available?

**Submission Guidelines**

- Contributions based on case studies are particularly welcome.
- Abstracts of one page are invited from academics/practitioners/policymakers/advanced graduate students. Please include your full contact details as well.
- Closing date for submission: 22 February 2008
- Abstracts will be reviewed by the CPHS team and successful applicants will be notified shortly afterwards. Final papers will need to be submitted by 30 May 2008.
- Publication of papers in an edited edition is being considered.
- Limited travel grants may be available and will be distributed based on need, especially for participants from developing countries.
- Proposals as well as other inquiries may be sent via email to Hitomi Kubo, Program Manager, CPHS [cphs@sciences-po.fr](mailto:cphs@sciences-po.fr)
- For more information and regular updates on the conference, please visit our website at [www.peacecenter.sciences-po.fr](http://www.peacecenter.sciences-po.fr)

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