

Journal of Critical Peace Studies (JCPS)

About the Journal

The Journal of Critical Peace Studies (JCPS) is an unconventional academic and video journal centering the voices and lived experiences of racialized, marginalized, and colonized communities across Peace Studies, International Relations, and related disciplines.

We seek to reclaim “peace” from structures of power that historically use it to suppress dissent. Instead, we define peace from the location of the oppressed: peace as liberation from structural, cultural, and epistemic violence, grounded in critical consciousness and transformative action.

Call for Papers

JCPS launches at a pivotal historical moment. The world has shifted dramatically since October 2023, as witnessed through continuing genocides in Gaza, Sudan, Congo, and Yemen; the collapse of the liberal peace architecture and the rules-based order; the intensifying climate emergency; and the advancing AI raising urgent questions for Higher Education. At the present chaotic moment, the rhetoric of modernity that used to mask the dark side of colonial modernity has lost its power to convince people of modernity's promise.

The promise of modern university has also lost credibility. While neoliberal universities continue to emphasize metrics, rankings, and cosmetic notions of “excellence,” they evidently lack courage to address the most pressing issues of our times. The Gaza justice movement and global student intifada have challenged university systems worldwide, exposing how the institutions that champion freedom of speech brutally silence, suppress and penalize student dissent.

At the present chaotic moment, critical scholars must intensify their critique of modernity, but they also need to focus more on building alternative political, social, and epistemic systems that defy and dismantle the logics of coloniality.

We invite contributions that speak directly to this moment. We welcome working papers or research proposals across, but not restricted to, the following questions/ domains:

- How logics of colonial modernity operate in academic, political, social spaces.
- How can we undo logics and mechanisms of colonial modernity and imagine build alternative systems
- The present and future of liberal / neoliberal/Westernized universities ; critique of neoliberal metrics, rankings, AI discourses, future imaginations/visions , higher education policies, notions of knowledge economy, human capital, success (Critical University Studies)
- Imagining/enacting knowledge spaces outside the university (alternative logics, alternative knowledge making and sharing mechanisms based on relational logics)

- Exploring, mapping, and questioning connections between genocides, wars and multiple forms of epistemic violence/ injustice; proposing clear pathways to undo epistemic violence and injustice.
- AI rhetoric, logics, developing/changing research and education cultures / Critical AI Studies
- Issues of Climate Justice/ indigenous visions , pathways to ecological balance / environmental justice
- Reparations and Restorative justice
- Exploring avenues for Autonomous Social Sciences, decolonizing knowledge/power/being, imagining and collecting pathways towards decolonial futures; Rethinking Social Sciences and Humanities education policies and practices, especially in parts of the Global South
- Challenges, dilemmas of walking decolonial pathways, and suggestions to overcome them.
- Charting liberatory agendas for peace and peace studies; questioning Western liberal peace practices; imagining, developing, collecting, and enacting pluriversal peace agendas.
- Exploring indigenous knowledge systems, logics, knowledge / research traditions, historical connections and encounters between people, ideas, and civilizations.

Building Liberatory Possibilities of Knowledge Sharing

JCPS challenges restrictive publication practices by liberating how knowledge is produced, evaluated, and shared - shifting the focus from research as a static end-product to relational, transparent ongoing process.

We are starting this journey by inviting your contributions as ongoing, developing or completed projects in shape of working papers/proposals with a description of your learning journey ;

1. *Share your Learning Journey along with your papers/proposals*

Your context / location, positionality, why you chose to work on this problem, why is it significant for you, if it's a theoretical, conceptual exploration, reflexive account, participatory action research project or other possibility of knowledge making/sharing. What do you hope to achieve through this work. If there is more than one author, you may like to share how and why you chose to work together. Anything else that you think is relevant and you want to share.

Also, if you would not like to share personal stories with your paper, you can simply state that with your submission. We respect your space and preferences.

2. *Mark your working papers/project proposals as 'Active' or 'Wrapped for now';*

- a) **‘Active’** if you are currently working on them. In this case, you can share subsequent updated drafts of your work after 3-6 months. The aforementioned description can be expanded, if needed, while you are working on your projects. Also mention how your project is making a difference as you continue your work. We can have peer reviews at two different stages for active projects.
- b) **‘Wrapped for now’** if you are submitting work that has been completed/ concluded/wrapped from your end.

3. *Public Paper Review:*

After careful selection of the working papers/proposals by our editorial team, we shall invite the authors to a live online peer review session where our experienced reviewers shall offer their comments on the papers as a conversation with the author.

We would like to upload these sessions on the journal page as we want to make more people involved in the knowledge making process. Also, we wish to promote transparent practices in knowledge making process. However, if the authors do not wish to make the review public then that would be our choice as well.

Submission Guidelines

We invite researchers, educators, scholars, students, peace practitioners, and policymakers to submit working papers or project proposals.

Length: 1500 – 3000 words (flexible)

Due Date: 1st December 2026 (This is when we begin the review process)

Submission Email: thepluriversitylahore@gmail.com

Important Note:

We welcome bilingual and multilingual submissions, but we have limited editorial capacity at the moment in terms of language proficiency. We shall still be happy to keep our doors open for different languages and acknowledge our limitation every time we have to exclude any work owing to our limited capacity. We also welcome peer reviewers who can review works in languages other than English.

We welcome imaginative, creative, reflexive expressions of knowledge embedded in our lived experiences. Feel free to imagine, think, write, and share without restrictions. We are eager to listen to you.