

# 10TH EURASIAN PEACE SCIENCE CONFERENCE



JANUARY 13, 2022



World International  
Studies Committee



GLOBAL RESEARCH NETWORK ON  
PEACEFUL CHANGE



Time Slot F: 18:00-19:45 GMT

F.3. / Roundtable

*"Urban Peacebuilding in Times of a Pandemic"*

## Roundtable Abstract

The 'local turn' in peace studies draws attention to urban peace processes and to the central concept of urban peacebuilding. Urban peacebuilding is a strategy which seeks to mitigate tensions and create communications and interactions between rival groups in contested and divided cities. The city with its many characteristics - proximity between rival groups, economic dependence, or shared spaces - is a dynamic and volatile ground for peace processes. The Covid-19 pandemic that has plagued the world for the past two years has been particularly prevalent within cities. It alienates residents from each other and forces municipalities to address diverse communities in the city and the crisis triggered a potential for exaggerating conflict but also for intergroup cooperation. The proposed round table will bring scholars of urban peace building with specializations on different cities, such as Jerusalem, Nicosia, Belfast, Johannesburg and Mostar. The scholars will present their findings and insights on divided cities through the theoretical perspective of urban peacebuilding and will try to answer the following questions: (1) What is the difference between urban peace and state-centric peace? (2) How did the COVID-19 crisis affect the relations between rival groups in contested cities? (3) What are the main conclusions and recommendations regarding peace settlements and arrangements for contested cities?

## Chair Full Name

Dan Miodownik

## Chair Level of Studies

PhD

## Chair Academic Rank

Associate Professor

## Chair Academic Affiliation

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

## Chair Email

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## Chair Bio

I am an associate professor in the departments of political science and international relations, the director of the Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations, and the associate dean for research of the faculty of social science at the University of Jerusalem. My research examines the emergence, unfolding and regulation of anti-regime mobilization, protest behavior, ethnic polarization, and civil wars. I also have significant interest in computational modeling and geographic information systems. I teach both graduate and undergraduate classes on ethnic mobilization, civil wars, interstate conflicts: violence and regulation, introduction to political science, honors workshop, social movements, and research methods.

## 1st Participant Full Name

Scott Bollens

## 1st Participant Academic Affiliation

University of California, Irvine

## 1st Participant Email

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## 1st Participant Bio

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Scott A. Bollens is Professor of Urban Planning and Public Policy at the University of California, Irvine, where he holds the Warmington Chair in Peace and International Cooperation. He studies the role of urbanism in cities and countries challenged by nationalistic ethnic conflict and political transformations. Prof. Bollens has interviewed over 360 urban and community leaders in 9 politically polarized cities over the past 25 years. His sixth book on this subject is *Bordered Cities and Divided Societies: Humanistic Essays of Conflict, Violence, and Healing* (March 2021, Routledge.)

## 2nd Participant Full Name

Ivan Gusic

## 2nd Participant Academic Affiliation

Malmö University

## 2nd Participant Email

ivan.gusic@mau.se

## 2nd Participant Bio

Ivan Gusic is Researcher at Malmö University and Associate Research Fellow at the Swedish Institution for International Affairs. Ivan is interested in and has published on the overlapping topics of ethnonational conflict, peacebuilding, postwar cities, urban violence, and peace theory. Ivan is currently involved in two research projects, one which focuses on urban peacebuilding and the constructive potential of the postwar city and the other which maps and explains conflict-related violence in postwar cities.

## 3rd Participant Full Name

Ceren Boğaç

## 3rd Participant Academic Affiliation

Eastern Mediterranean University

## 3rd Participant Email

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## 3rd Participant Bio

Dr. Ceren Boğaç is a community resilience activist and architect. She is an Associate Professor at the Eastern Mediterranean University, Department of Architecture. She has a Master and PHD in environmental psychology under the scope of architecture major. She conducted post-doctoral research on architectural design pedagogy at the Academy of Art Design and Architecture in Prague, Czech Republic. Her specific areas of expertise include sense of place, place attachment, meaning in architecture, ecocity/eco-architecture, and urban peace-building studies.

## 4th Participant Full Name

Lior Lehrs

## 4th Participant Academic Affiliation

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## 4th Participant Email

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## 4th Participant Bio

Lior Lehrs is a Research Fellow at The Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He was a Postdoctoral Fellow at New York University and a visiting scholar at the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University. His research topics include theory and history of conflicts, peace and diplomacy and he deals with various conflict areas such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Northern Ireland, Cyprus and the Balkans.

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## 5th Participant Full Name

Noam Brenner

## 5th Participant Academic Affiliation

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## 5th Participant Email

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## 5th Participant Bio

Noam Brenner is a PhD candidate at the Department of Political Science at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a research fellow at the Harry S. Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace. His dissertation named "Community Leadership in Divided Cities: Institutions, Residents and Leaders" deals with current urban political problems, particularly in Jerusalem. His research interests include leadership studies, narrative analysis, divided societies and cities and public administration.