

Lessons learned from Peace and Conflict Studies (PACS): Finding solutions for “economic inclusion” challenges for Migrant Professionals

The objective of this presentation is to highlight connections between two fields that have so far not been much in conversation with each other, i.e., the interdisciplinary field of Peace and Conflict Studies and Migration Studies. Migration is one of the most significant issues that we live in our everyday lives today, and it is important that we think about it in multi-perspectival ways, and that its “management” can take into account interests of all population groups.

PACS is rich in key theories and values, as well as tools that have potential to be employed to build better understanding around migration-related contexts and conflicts. For example, systemic barriers to employment integration faced by internationally educated professionals, if seen through a PACS lens, could easily be conceptualised as structural conflict. Similarly, a practitioner approach to seeking solutions to economic inclusion issues may be found in strategies grounded in conflict-resolution theory and grassroots peace-building practices.

My doctoral research in the field of migration-transition and integration relates to economic inclusion barriers and solutions for visible minority skilled newcomers in Winnipeg, and the study is situated in an interdisciplinary PACS framework. This paper presents some findings that emerge from my study, to make an argument that aligning these two fields enhances the potential to create new and insightful solutions. With application of perspectives and practitioner tools from PACS, peace-building and social justice, to the field of migration, new avenues and paradigms of research, analysis and praxis are likely to open.

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Peace and Conflict Studies