What Is the Peace+Justice Studies Initiative?

**Peace & Justice Studies** is an interdisciplinary academic field that emphasizes the study of nonviolent and transformative responses to injustice, conflict, and violence. Areas of study include the following:

- **Nonviolence, violence, and civil resistance**: theories and meanings of nonviolence and violence; history, principles and methods of dissent, communication, art, organizing, and individual and social change.
- **Peacemaking**: seeking to prevent, resolve, or transform conflicts – including war, genocide, human rights violations, non-state and state terrorism, and ecological destruction – through nonviolent means.
- **Transformative justice**: liberation, restoration, reparations, healing, and reconciliation as alternatives to retribution.
- **Well-being**: creating and sustaining health and quality of life in individuals, groups, societies, and ecosystems.

The **Peace+Justice Studies initiative (PJSI) at Stanford**, with support from the Hoagland Award Fund for Innovations in Undergraduate Teaching, works to develop and strengthen course offerings in these areas and to support interactive learning among students, faculty, and the world beyond our campus.
Brief history

Earlier “Peace Studies” course taught by multiple faculty (1984-2004)

   -> Stanford Center on International Conflict and Negotiation

Current student-initiated faculty/staff group won a 3-year curricular grant (2013-2016)

Year one completed, two years left
First year summary

Student and faculty outreach

Website developed and language agreed on

Course: “Building Digital History: Social Movements and Protest at Stanford” (Winter Quarter)

Conference: “Nonviolent Action Amidst Violent Conflict” (May 30-31)
Student film *Reimagining Violence: Peace+Justice Studies at Stanford*
Nonviolent Action Amidst Violent Conflict

Stanford Peace & Justice Studies Initiative is pleased to invite you to its first conference. Attention to nonviolence in theory and practice has gone far beyond pious invocations of Gandhi or sonorous soundbites from Martin Luther King. Nonviolent action, from principled to pragmatic, is studied by political scientists, strategists, activists, historians, ethicists, and psychologists, among others. How effective is it? How do nonviolent and armed resistance intersect in particular struggles? What does morality have to do with it? How far-reaching are the transformations that are being sought?

Register at bit.ly/PJStconference

Saturday, May 31st

8:00 – 10:00 Breakfast + Registration
10:00 – 12:00 Resistance in Apartheid-Era South Africa
Joel Samoff, Stanford University. Challenging Apartheid: Department Seemed Far Too Weak.
Grant Parker, Stanford University. Sharpeville and After: Violence in the Struggle Against Apartheid.
12:00 – 1:00 Lunch provided for registered attendees.
1:00 – 3:00 Palestinian Modes of Resistance & The Rise of BDS
Omar Dinaj, McGeorge School of Law, University of the Pacific. From Ideology to BDS: Law’s Changing Role in the Palestinian Struggle.
David Falusbo-Eku, Stanford University. Caring about Peace and Justice.
3:00 – 3:30 Break.
3:30 – 5:00 Closing Address
Interpreting Nonviolence
Judith Butler, Maxine Elliot Professor in the Department of Comparative Literature and the Program of Critical Theory at the University of California, Berkeley.
5:30 – 8:00 Student break-out sessions: Peace, Justice, and Stanford?
In this student-led workshop, we will ask: What could peace & justice studies provide that is not offered by other programs? What role can students play in developing this program at Stanford? What are the next steps?

Friday, May 30th

5:30 – 4:00 Registration
4:00 – 5:30 Keynote:
Overcoming Repression through Nonviolent Resistance:
The Ultimate Asymmetric Killers.
Stephen Zunes, Professor of Political and International Studies, University of San Francisco, examines how strategic nonviolent action has become a more powerful than war.
5:30 – 6:00 Screening
6:30 – 8:00 Dinner & Film
Dinner for registered attendees.
Screening of A Call: Martin Luther King in Palestine, directed by Centene Yacur, begins at 8:00.

Co-sponsored by the Center for African Studies and the Martin Luther King Jr. Research and Education Institute.
Plans for the next two years

Mount 2 or more new courses

Peace & Justice Studies Colloqium
Intro to Peace & Justice Studies
Practicum and/or film series?

“Helix” (certificate cluster) proposal

Foment new courses to be taught by others
Research on internship and career paths
More conferences in 2015 and 2016
Proposal for Stanford Development office
Challenges

Stimulating overburdened faculty to support us and develop courses

Establishing a unique niche within Stanford’s alphabet soup (Hoover, FSI, CISAC, CDDRL, CCSRE, FemGen, Urban Studies, Haas Center)

Establishing a strong student base