

Rethinking Ethics in Conflict Studies: Critical Engagements, Decolonial Futures, and the Politics of Research

This edited volume seeks to reimagine the ethical foundations of conflict studies. Grounded in the belief that scholarship on war must be a critical, morally engaged practice - not a celebration of violence or power - it invites contributors to interrogate how we study conflict, whose voices we center, and what responsibilities we bear as researchers, educators, and practitioners.

Expanding upon the *Commitment to Ethical Conflict Studies* statement, this volume will explore how ethics can be re-engaged as a living, contested, and transformative force in the study of war, peace, and political violence. McGill-Queen's University Press is keenly interested in the publication of this volume upon completion of all chapters.

We welcome proposals from scholars, practitioners, activists, and artists across disciplines and geographies. Possible themes include (but are not limited to):

- Decolonizing Conflict Studies
- Research Ethics Beyond Bureaucracy
- Emotional Labour, Researcher and Audience Vulnerability
- Military History and Ethical Reckoning
- Digital Warfare and Surveillance Ethics
- Pedagogies of Conflict
- Art, Memory, and Representation
- Peacebuilding and Moral Complexity
- Environment and Impact
- Gender and Violence

We especially encourage submissions from:

- Early-career scholars and graduate students
- Researchers from underrepresented regions and communities
- Practitioners working in conflict zones or peacebuilding initiatives
- Interdisciplinary thinkers and creative contributors

Abstract Deadline: January 1, 2026

Abstract Length: 300–500 words

Notification of Acceptance: February 2026

Full Chapter Deadline: July 1, 2026

Chapter Length: 5,000–7,000 words, excluding endnotes

Submission Email: jheckman@brocku.ca

Format: Word document, 12-point Times New Roman, double-spaced, Chicago style citations

and endnotes

This volume is not just an academic exercise; it's a call to action. We aim to build a community of scholars and practitioners committed to ethical rigor, critical reflection, and transformative justice in the study of conflict.

Commitment to Ethical Conflict Studies:

"As a conflict scholar, my work is grounded in critical examination, not reverence. Scholarship on war must never serve as an endorsement but rather as a critical study of its profound impact on nations, societies, and the individuals who endure its consequences. War should never be celebrated or idealized - it represents the collapse of diplomacy, the arrogance of ignorance, and the cause of immeasurable pain. I study conflict to deepen our understanding of its causes and to contribute to a future where war is seen as the last and most regrettable option. In remembering those who have served, I commit to honouring their sacrifices by advocating for a future where peace is pursued with wisdom, knowledge, and unwavering resolve."

(Author: John R. Heckman)

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John R. Heckman is an interdisciplinary researcher who explores the creation and consumption of information in digital media. His main area of interest is the utilisation of social media platforms for information dissemination and the emergence of digital warfare as a field of study, with a particular emphasis on media and conflict.

Jeff Noakes has been the Historian, Second World War, at the Canadian War Museum since 2006. He has worked as a curator and researcher on subjects related to Canada's military and diplomatic history during the twentieth century and is also the author or joint author of various publications related to the World Wars, the Cold War, and the Arctic.