

***Forging critical reflections on conflict resolution and international mediation in Latin America: a research project from the Global South Unit for Mediation (GSUM)***

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Differently from considering a new perspective on conflict resolution and international mediation, the research revisits some critical stands on peace and violence and, from there, suggests a particular instrumental path both to move across contemporary critiques to ending conflict and to promote knowing encounters between these very critiques and still dominant approaches to conflict resolution and international mediation. While this research does not articulate an (alternative) answer to common questions regarding how to manage peace and security in post-colonial settings, it proposes, nevertheless, a specific heuristic device - named "Global South" (GS) - to help framing and stimulating more inclusive and inventive debates on violence, armed conflicts and third-party intervention. In this interpretative maneuver, "global" and "south" combines a preoccupation with, for instance: a) the wider social practices and discourses of war and violence in which conflict resolution and mediation processes are embedded with and b) the multiple exclusions and hierarchies reproduced by the very dominant practices and discourses on ending conflict and on building sustainable peace. Building on this proposition, it is expected that this ongoing research, supported by the Global South Unit for Mediation (GSUM, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) stimulates the establishment of institutional spaces and dialogues in Latin America which are not only open to a multiplicity of voices and epistemological positions but also, above all, are concerned about problematizing the dichotomies that constitute our conventional understandings on conflict resolution and international mediation.