



# CONFLICT RESEARCH SOCIETY

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## Moral Restraint in War: Thinking About its History

The Conflict Research Society and [OxPeace](#) will co-host a webinar with [Professor Alexander Bellamy](#) on Friday, 4 June at 12:30 BST.

What makes moral restraint in war possible? How have moral restraints been constructed and how – and why – have they changed over time? To what extent do such restraints actually restrain and what factors tend to shape this?

This talk introduces a new project on the history of moral restraint in war. It starts from the premise that war and virtue stand in tension, that since wars must be fought, and won, it is not obvious or inevitable that soldiers and leaders would impose moral constraints on its conduct, constraints that might inhibit their capacity to win. The project takes a historical approach to the question, focusing not just on the ideas but on the practice of war as well. It begins – and this talk focuses on – the ancient Greeks, suggesting that the Greek world exhibited few constraints and identifying six central factors that might explain this. It is speculated that changes to the nature, content, and applicability of moral restraints can be traced to changes to these six factors beyond the Hellenistic period.

Watch out for further details regarding registration in the coming weeks.

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## Calls for papers

**Peace Science Society (International)**

Date: 11-13 November 2021

Place: Washington University in St. Louis

Abstract submission deadline:

**24 May 2021**

See the full call and submit an abstract

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## Peace and Conflict Jobs

### **Associate Professor in Security, Conflict Studies and Governance, University of Leeds UK**

Deadline: 15 May 2021

[Full advertisement](#)

### **Data Analyst, Legatum Institute, London, UK**

Deadline: 20 May 2021

[Full advertisement](#)

### **Research Associate, University of Sheffield, UK**

Deadline: 24 June 2021

[Full advertisement](#)

### **Health and Peace Consultant, Interpeace, Remote location**

Deadline: Open until filled

[Full advertisement](#)

For peace and conflict jobs in the tertiary sector see the website of the [European Peacebuilding Liaison Office \(EPLO\)](#), which lists vacancies for its many members.

For Academic positions see [jobs.ac.uk](#) and [THE](#).

For European academic funding opportunities (including PhDs, Postdocs, etc.) see [EURAXESS](#).

If you have any recommendations to add to this list, please hit reply to this email and let us know!

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## Upcoming Events/Opportunities

### [Seminar Series: Responding to Disruption: Government, populism, the pandemic, and the breakdown of public trust](#)

After a year of global pandemic, a US election conducted in near dystopian circumstances and, for some, the existential challenge of Brexit to the EU and UK,

issues of public trust in the ability of governmental institutions to achieve effective policy solutions would seem inevitable. This has manifested in international relations as inconsistent Trump led US foreign policies have moved away from multilateralism and internationalism; as authoritarian and populist style politics gained voter credence to compete with liberal democratic national political solutions; and as the pandemic stubbornly overcame well intended but weak, confusing, and sometimes reluctant governmental health and economic policy responses.

In the light of, hopefully, a more optimistic vaccine led upland in this new year, what responses can be expected from international and national governments to re-establish trust in the efficacy of liberal and Democratic politics? What lessons, if any, have been learned?

In a program of webinar Q&As, organized by the Archbishop Desmond Tutu Center and the MA in Politics and International Relations at Liverpool Hope University, invited experts in their field comment on pathways towards the reestablishment of public trust in a post Covid/Brexit/Trump environment.

Next event: **7 May**: “Sino-American Relations: Is Mistrust Inevitable?”. With Emeritus Professor Anthony McGrew.

Check out the line up of upcoming events and register [here](#).

### [OxPeace \(Oxford Network of Peace Studies\) Conference 2021](#)

‘Peace in the Nuclear Era: threats, treaties and public understanding’

Saturday, **15 May 2021** (by Zoom)

09:00 to 13:15 BST

Registration is open and free.

This conference aims to look at the present state of nuclear treaties and nuclear capabilities, consider future threats and opportunities, and assess public understanding and the role of civil society in determining future directions. An opportunity to learn facts and assess where the world is heading in this vital area for peace, conflict and international diplomacy.

## CRS Members in Action

### **Biden’s first 100 days ... ethical foreign policy**

Biden’s [first 100 days](#): “[America won’t back away from our commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms](#)”.

[Turkey](#). [President Joe Biden recognized the Armenian Genocide](#). See

also [Samantha Power's book on genocide](#), 2002.

\_\_\_ [Libya](#), 2011. Samantha Power, along with [Susan Rice](#) and Hilary Clinton, perceived a threat of genocide in Libya: [Obama pushed to war by the fight of the Valkyries](#); "[Fight of the Valkyries](#)". ... [Obama, the financial crisis, the Arab Spring and Libya– the lessons of history and mathematical social science](#) (2011)

\_\_\_ [Iraq](#). Robin Cook, [Foreign Secretary and architect of an ethical foreign policy](#), later resigned over the Iraq war ([speech](#), [Hansard](#), 2003) ... [Rory Stewart Governing Iraq ... Adding complexity to game theory](#) (2006)

\_\_\_ [Ukraine](#) is experiencing [heightened tension](#) ... [Ukraine: united or divided? West and East; living with others](#) (2014)

\_\_\_ [9/11](#). Steve Smith's highly provocative presidential address [Singing our world into existence: international relations and September 11](#). Gordon Burt's recasting of the ideas: [Debating the mathematical science approach to international relations](#).

See an [expanded version of this piece by Gordon Burt](#).

**DO YOU HAVE AN UPDATE FOR THE CRS?**

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