



**VIRTUAL ENCYCLOPAEDIA  
POST- AND DECOLONIAL PERSPECTIVES IN PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES**

**Guidelines for Authors**

Dear Author(s),

These Guidelines for Authors have been created to facilitate the preparation of your contribution to the VIRTUAL ENCYCLOPAEDIA ON POST- AND DECOLONIAL PERSPECTIVES IN PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES. We encourage you to read these guidelines while preparing to submit your entry properly.

Please note that all entries must follow these standard specifications to guarantee a consistent structure and format. Please do not be concerned with the final layout since the Postcolonial Hierarchies Network will provide this.

Concerning all questions relating to formal aspects, such as the structure of your entry or the submission procedure, please contact Dr. Viviana García Pinzón at: [viviana.garcia.pinzon@abi.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:viviana.garcia.pinzon@abi.uni-freiburg.de).

**1. Description**

The Virtual Encyclopaedia aims to offer a compilation of theory and empirical research in peace and conflict studies from de- and postcolonial approaches, emphasising contributions from the research network 'Postcolonial Hierarchies in Peace and Conflict'. While a defining feature of encyclopaedias has been their purpose of collecting knowledge and providing definitions from a universal perspective, the Virtual Encyclopaedia goes against this notion and strives to **capture and reflect concepts' contested character and context relevance**. Rather than a collection of unambiguous and all-encompassing definitions, the Virtual Encyclopaedia aims to provide the readers with the tools to critically approach the field of peace and conflict studies from the lenses of postcolonial approaches and decolonial debates.

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As a part of the 'Postcolonial Hierarchies in Peace and Conflict' network, the Virtual Encyclopaedia aims to address epistemic hierarchies and inequalities by promoting the inclusion of multiple voices and perspectives. In this regard, contributions based on co-authorship among authors from different disciplines, regions, and career stages as well as on processes of co-production between scholars and other actors/organisations are highly desired.

## **2. Targeted Audience**

The Virtual Encyclopaedia offers an open-access platform with a focus on peace and conflict studies for three types of audiences:

### Academic community:

The Encyclopaedia will contribute a compendium on theoretical and methodological debates and the breadth of empirical advancements. This work will serve as a guiding reference for scholars and students, at graduate and postgraduate levels, from the different disciplines of social sciences, with a strong emphasis on the field of peace and conflict studies.

### Practitioners and policymakers:

An exploration of practice in the field of peace and conflict studies is a central aim of the Virtual Encyclopaedia. The project strives to reach practitioners and policymakers to raise awareness of how knowledge and political practices are entangled with the colonality of power and often contribute to the perpetuation of inequalities and injustices underpinning the (re)production of violence.

### Civil society organisations and activists:

The Encyclopaedia recognises and includes different forms of knowledge and a plurality of voices beyond academia. Hence, including activist and civil society organisations in the collaborative networks at the base of content production processes is central. Following the same rationale, these actors constitute one of the target audiences of the Encyclopaedia.

## **3. Structure**

The Virtual Encyclopaedia's lemmata are organised alphabetically. Additionally, they are also classified into two interrelated clusters. The clusters are "Theoretical and conceptual debates" and "Knowledge production and dissemination". Besides the clusters, the Virtual Encyclopaedia will connect its contents through interlinks and classify the material using tags. The entries in the Encyclopaedia may include text, video, audio, images, artwork, empirical examples, vignettes, music, or storytelling. Each entry will feature references to other materials, either within the Encyclopaedia or external, and suggestions for further readings. Entries should be concise and clearly related to the network's focus.

## **Type of entries**

The Encyclopaedia contains two types of entries:

### Conceptual/theoretical-oriented:

This type of entry focuses on key concepts and theories in the field of peace and conflict studies as well as those relevant from post- and decolonial perspectives. Some possible structuring rationalities of an entry can be: a critique/deconstruction of existing approaches from the perspectives of postcolonial approaches and decolonial thought, a comprehensive summary of the genealogy and trajectory/ies of specific concepts, or proposing new conceptualisations or theoretical approaches. The entry should offer a good balance between in-depth analysis and conciseness.

The target length for conceptual/theoretical-oriented entries is 1,500-2,500 words (excluding heading, extended abstract, references and further suggested materials).

### Empirical-oriented:

This type of entry critiques or illustrates a concept or theoretical approach based on empirical analysis. Empirical entries are plural in terms of methodological approach, featuring quantitative and qualitative research, as well as writing styles (e.g., vignettes and storytelling). While the empirical aspect is crucial in this type of entry, they are not intended to be a research report. Hence, the author must be explicit about the concept or theory they aim to address in the entry and the relevance and connection of the empirical analysis/case(s).

Empirical-oriented entries should not exceed 2,500 words (excluding heading, extended abstract, references and further suggested materials).

## **Entries' organisation**

All entries should follow a similar structure without being overly rigid, beginning with the title and author(s) affiliations. The full entry should be structured with coherent subheadings, ending with corresponding references. The use of tabular material, figures, and other visual materials, such as videos and images, is encouraged.

Entries should be organised as follows:

- Title (Concrete and concise. The lemma in the case of conceptual/theoretical-oriented entries and the lemma and some words regarding the empirical focus for the empirical-oriented ones).
- Affiliation: Author's (and co-author's) name(s) and email address, Institution(s), city, and country.
- Heading (50-100 words): Text indicating the content or central argument of the entry. It should serve as a teaser, a short text aimed to spark the readers' interest.

- Extended abstract (300-500 words), including lemma's definition (when possible), an overview of the argument (and, given the case, empirical analysis). Extended abstracts should contain all relevant aspects covered in the entry and be written in an understandable way for audiences beyond the academic community.
- Keywords (5-6)
- Introduction (optional)
- Main text with headings and subheadings
- Conclusion (optional)
- References
- Cross-references
- Further readings (optional)

### **Style and format**

- Entries need to be concise and comprehensible to readers outside specific fields.
- Entry text should be double-spaced. Do not format text in multiple columns.
- All acronyms and abbreviations should be defined at first mention.
- Reference style: The Encyclopaedia uses APA style (7th version).
- Headings: Limit sections and sub-sections to 3 heading levels. Make sure heading levels are clearly indicated in the text.
- Footnotes should be numbered consecutively.
- Language: The Virtual Encyclopaedia will be published in English (British). However, authors can write their contributions in Spanish, French, or Portuguese. The text will be translated into English, and the entry will be published in both languages.

### **4. Editorial process, publication, and updates**

Entries will not go through a peer-review process as such. However, one of the members of the 'Postcolonial Hierarchies' network will read the entry and suggest changes and adjustments. Likewise, the Encyclopaedia's editorial team will review it and make suggestions regarding content and style. While authors are not required to implement all the changes/edits suggested, we encourage them to consider them and explain their decision to reject/disregard said suggestions when necessary.

All entries will be copy-edited before their release on the webpage.

As the development of the Virtual Encyclopaedia is an open process, entries are subject to periodical updates in either their content or connections to other material within the Encyclopaedia (Intralinks, interlinks, tags, and multimedia). Authors are welcome to update their entries. The editorial team may also invite the author to update their text. The team will always inform the author about changes to their entry (e.g., interlinks).