

## **Religion, Conflict and Peacebuilding PhD Concentration Practicum**

One of the requirements of the Religion, Conflict, and Peacebuilding concentration is that each student will undertake, at some point in the program, an internship or field work experience suitable to the concentrator's plan of research (this may be part of a course assignment, dissertation research, or summer experience). Regardless of the structure, students will undertake the internship with the supervision of a faculty advisor who shall be responsible for aiding the student in processing her or his experiences and learnings.

The goals of the practicum are as follows:

- To help students gain familiarity and experience with the realities of undertaking work in organizations dealing with religion, conflict, and peacebuilding;
- To provide students with an opportunity for ongoing engagement with and reflection on work in the area of religion, conflict, and peacebuilding.
- To provide an arena for developing and practicing one's skills in participant-research;
- To provide an environment in which students can begin to develop a grounded theory in the area of religion, conflict, and peacebuilding.

While the placement site itself will depend upon the individual student's interests, skills, and goals, the following list illustrates the variety of acceptable options.

**The Elijah Interfaith Institute:** The Elijah Interfaith Institute is a multinational organization dedicated to fostering peace between the world's diverse faith communities through interfaith dialogue, education, research and dissemination. Our unique programming generates interfaith dialogue at the highest levels, bringing together world religious leaders and renowned scholars the world over, through research projects, public conferences and community-based initiatives. <http://www.elijah.org.il/>

**The Interfaith Encounter Association:** The Interfaith Encounter Association (I.E.A.) is dedicated to promoting peace in the Middle East through interfaith dialogue and cross-cultural study. I.E.A. believes that religion can and should be a source of the solution for conflicts. I.E.A. realizes its vision by through interfaith encounter groups, or centers, that bring together neighboring communities each month for joint study. These groups are led by interfaith coordinating teams with one person from each religious community. The goal is to develop relations of mutual respect and friendship while respecting and the distinctive identity of each community. These groups are to act as models for the surrounding community of how multiple faiths can live side by side in peace, as well as growing islands of coexistence. <http://www.interfaith-encounter.org/index.htm>

**Jerusalem Peacemakers:** Jerusalem Peacemakers is a network of independent interfaith peacemakers based on personal relationships. Jerusalem Peacemakers does not have offices or paid staff, feeling that an absence of formal organizational structure makes it closer to the real issues and to the people on the ground. <http://www.jerusalempeacemakers.org/home.html>

**The International Summer School on Religion and Public Life (I.S.S.R.P.L.):** I.S.S.R.P.L. provides a laboratory for the practical pedagogy of tolerance and living with difference in a global society. Its goals are to produce new practices and understandings for living together in a world populated by people with very different political ideas, moral beliefs and communal loyalties. Its focus is on religion, as our religious identities are our most exclusive and our religious communities are those to which we devote our greatest loyalties. In our diverse but increasingly interconnected world, we need to find ways to live together. *The school takes these very real, critical and defining differences, especially communal and religious differences between people, as the starting point of a publically shared life.*

[www.issrpl.org](http://www.issrpl.org)

**Tony Blair Faith Foundation:** The Tony Blair Faith Foundation aims to promote respect and understanding about the world's major religions and show how faith is a powerful force for good in the modern world. Faith is vitally important to hundreds of millions of people. It underpins systems of thought and of behaviour. It underpins many of the world's great movements for change or reform, including many charities. And the values of respect, justice and compassion that our great religions share have never been more relevant or important to bring people together to build a better world. But religious faith can also be used to divide. We have seen throughout history and today we still see how it can be distorted to fan the flames of hatred and extremism. The Tony Blair Faith Foundation is a response to these opportunities and challenges. We will use the full power of modern communications to support and step up efforts at every level to educate, inform and develop understanding about the different faiths and between them. At the same time, the Foundation will use its profile and resources to encourage people of faith to work together more closely to tackle global poverty and conflict. By supporting such inter-faith initiatives, the Foundation will help underline the religion's relevance and positive contribution.

<http://tonyblairfaithfoundation.org/>

**The Coexist Foundation.** The Coexist Foundation seeks to: Promote, encourage and support engagement between Jews, Christians and Muslims both individually and through their respective communities through dialogue, education and research. Promote and facilitate the education of the public in the Jewish, Christian and Islamic faiths and belief and in particular to advance the knowledge and understanding of: the teachings, traditions and practices of the Jewish, Christian and Islamic faiths; the shared history of the Jewish, Christian and Islamic faiths; both the common ground shared by the faiths and the theological, philosophical, cultural, political, and economic bases of and differences between the Jewish, Christian and Islamic faiths and communities. Promote for the benefit of the public, religious harmony between Jews, Christians and Muslims by encouraging among them a greater understanding and appreciation of each other's distinctive faith, beliefs, and practices and their common ground. And to this end also to promote friendship, goodwill and mutual trust among them.

<http://www.coexistfoundation.net/index.htm>

**Atlanta: City of Peace:** Atlanta: City of Peace seeks to transform Atlanta into a global capital of peace through building on Atlanta's Global Peace Legacy. We believe that millions and hundreds of millions of people worldwide already look at Atlanta as a city of peace because it is the home of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We seek to establish in Atlanta: The Global Peace Academy, The Global Peace Concert, The Global Peace Flight, The Global Peace Garden, The Global Peace Museum, The Global Peace Tower, and The Global Peace Walk.

<http://www.atlpeace.org/>

**International Summer Camp Youth and Heritage "Ćuprija":** International Summer Camp Youth and Heritage "Ćuprija" is a joint enterprise of International Forum Bosnia and Lëtzebuenger Guiden a Scouten that started in 2006. The aim of this program is to bring together youth from across the globe and provide them with the opportunity to take part and contribute to the rehabilitation of a local plural community which was devastated by war and by ideological images of irreconcilable religious and ethnic differences.

<http://www.cuprija.ba>

**Global PeaceWorks:** Global PeaceWorks seeks to create opportunities for people of diverse faiths and spiritual traditions to live together, perform charitable service and explore spirituality. Living as an international, interfaith family, we perform service, focus on interfaith dialogue and visit sacred sites. We support existing interfaith dialogue and interfaith conferences with a real-world expression of peace-building through action.

**Southern Truth and Reconciliation (S.T.A.R.):** S.T.A.R. responds to requests from communities with histories of lynching and other communal forms of racial and ethnic violence. S.T.A.R. partners with communities to adapt the truth and reconciliation process to local needs, on the premise that truth-telling and acknowledgement by all stakeholders must precede healing, reconciliation, and justice for the entire community.

<http://www.southerntruth.org/>

**World Pilgrims:** In World Pilgrims Jews, Christians, Muslims and adherents to other faiths travel together to a country or region that has religious significance for each faith. The hope is that by sharing the sacred journey, true dialogue and learning take place. The participants not only deepen their personal faith by visiting some of the most sacred sites of their religious tradition, they also gain an appreciation of the shared elements of the three religious traditions and an understanding and respect for the differences. Through travel they establish personal friendships with pilgrims from all three faith traditions. World pilgrims depends upon the unique dynamic that develops when people travel together as they adjust to each others' needs and establish meaningful friendships with other members of the group. The Pilgrims return home better prepared to live together in our religiously diverse world, and committed to work together for greater cooperation, justice, goodness and peace.

<http://www.faithallianceofmetroatlanta.org/>