

Was tun? – Kunst, Film und Design im Spannungsfeld von Krieg und Frieden

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Mittwoch, 27. November, 17:00 – 20.00 Uhr:

Kunst und Politik in der Friedensarbeit

Ralph Dittli (Politologe, Swisspeace)

Shoghakat M. Galstyan (Co-Direktorin, MiHR Theatre, artasfoundation)

Tamara Janashia (Arts Manager, Culture and Management Lab/artasfoundation))

Moderation: Silvia Henke

Raum 745_055

Roland Dittli holds a MA in Modern History from the University of Bern. In his capacity as Co-Head of the Peacebuilding Analysis and Impact Program he directs swisspeace's innovation and development in the area of peacebuilding methodologies. Roland has over 20 years of experience in improving the impact of aid projects in conflict contexts. He has successfully implemented projects, trainings and advisory services for governmental, non-governmental and multilateral actors as well as regional development banks. As the swisspeace focal point for the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) he develops the swisspeace regional project portfolio and key partnerships. The swisspeace program focuses on Palestinian reconciliation and strengthening the excellence of higher education institutions in conflict transformation. Roland has been involved in activities aimed at overcoming the internal Palestinian division since 2011 and is now actively mobilising support for the universities in Gaza to prevent their collapse.

The input will start by laying out some basic tenets of how a peacebuilding organisation looks at the escalation, war crimes and mass atrocities happening in the Middle East. How can this conflict be analysed and understood in ways that do not only deepen feelings of frustration and helplessness? It will do so by presenting obstacles and supports on the way to a more constructive engagement with this conflict and then proceed to identify specific avenue for "what we can do" as individuals, institutions and beyond.

Shoghakat Milke-Galstyan was born in Yerevan, Armenia. She is active as actress, dancer and art manager/art organizer. Her passion is the contemporary performing arts. She is the founder and soloist of the MIHR theatre, manager of the Tiezerk Band and lecturer at the Yerevan State Institute of Theatre and Cinematography. She is the author/director of projects in the USA, Germany, France, Cyprus, Georgia, Turkey, Russia, Armenia and other countries. In 2016 she received the honored Golden Medal from the Ministry of Culture of RA. In 2017 she attended successfully the CAS Arts and International Cooperation at the Zurich University of Arts.

This presentation explores the intersection of arts, popular culture, and peacebuilding efforts in Armenia, focusing on the transformative role of art as a medium for documenting and processing critical information. The research explores how artistic practices and popular cultural expressions address societal challenges, amplify marginalised voices, and engage diverse audiences in processes of reconciliation and nation-building. Emphasising interdisciplinary approaches, the findings demonstrate how arts and popular culture contribute to creating sustainable frameworks for peace and advancing social cohesion in Armenia's evolving landscape.

Tamara Janashia

Ms. Janashia is the founder and director of the Tbilisi, Georgia-based non-profit organization Culture and Management Lab (CML), which is active in the realm of arts, cultural exchange, cultural policy and strategic development, professional development of cultural managers in the South Caucasia, Central Asia and Europe. In parallel to running CML she currently also serves as a coordinator of the Tbilisi Architecture Biennial and a project manager at artasfoundation (Switzerland). Ms. Janashia holds MBA degree from the University of Maine, Orono and BA from the Tbilisi State University in the field of classical philology.

The role of art as a tool for documentation, and processing of information, use of a creative approaches for involvement of a wider audience in participatory practices and raising awareness on urgent ongoing political issues. How to create alternative ways of addressing the crisis, building up self-sustainable artistic platforms and raising a new generation of civil society that will be involved in the process of self-determination of a nation.