

# CONTRIBUTORS



Wim Laven, Ph.D, instructor of peace studies, political science, and conflict resolution, focuses his research on forgiveness and reconciliation, which he relates to his wide range of work and research experiences. His experience in the field spans 4 continents and includes many processes from mediating disputes in small claims court, to interventions during complex humanitarian disasters. He is on the executive boards of the International Peace Research Association and the Peace and Justice Studies Association, and is the Editor in Chief of the Peace Chronicle.



Gabriel Ertsgaard is the Interviews Editor for The Peace Chronicle. He earned his Doctor of Letters from Drew University with a dissertation on environmental themes in a medieval legend. He previously taught university English courses in the United States and China. His criticism, poetry, and fairy tales have appeared in various print and digital publications.



Emma (Emsie) Lovejoy (they/them) is a graduate student, author, and the Production Manager for the Peace Chronicle. They received their B.A. in Social Justice Studies in 2020, from Miami University, and are currently working on their M.A. in Public History at UMASS Boston. As a writer and public historian, Emsie hopes to create opportunities for others to explore their connections to people and places past and present, and to consider their own role in shaping future-history.

Casey Niccoli is a celebrated American artist, music video director, and filmmaker, who resides in Joshua Tree, located in the California desert.



Jo Ann Oravec (MA, MS, MBA, PhD) is a full professor in the College of Business and Economics at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater (Department of Information Technology and Supply Chain Management), as well as the Holtz Center for Science & Technology Studies, UW-Madison. Her publications include *Good Robot, Bad Robot: Dark and Creepy Sides of Robotics, AI, and Autonomous Vehicles* (Springer) and *Virtual Individuals, Virtual Groups* (Cambridge). She was the first chair of the Privacy Council of the State of Wisconsin. She was a visiting fellow at Oxford and Cambridge.



Michael Minch, Ph.D., is professor of Peace and Justice Studies Program at Utah Valley University and Director of Summit: The Sustainable Development and Conflict Transformation Global Knowledge and Action Network. He is author of numerous books, book chapters, and scholarly articles and is a regular presenter at local, state, and national conferences. Additionally, Minch helps lead international study trips and is currently working with colleagues to build The Conflict and Peace Research Center in the Balkans. Minch is also the Publications Chair for the Board of Directors of the Peace and Justice Studies Association.

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Michelle Harris is a Research Fellow at the University of Portland. She is currently a second-year doctoral student working toward her Education Doctorate. She is also the US Coordinator for the Schools of Mass Destruction through ICAN. Her areas of focus are Restorative Practices in Education and Best Practices in Education. She has also served as the Mini-Grant Program Co-Coordinator for PJSA since 2021. In her off time, Michelle enjoys spending time with her family, hiking, and many crafting projects.



Madeline Jubran is pursuing her PhD in Clinical Psychology at Nova Southeastern University. Her research interests include analyzing communication styles among distressed couples as well as exploring other determinants of relationship functioning, specifically within couples from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds. Madeline is the OurRelationship practicum coordinator, guiding and supervising trainees in the delivery of the OurRelationship intervention to couples nationwide.



Brittany Hylander is pursuing her Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology at Nova Southeastern University. Her clinical interests include helping older adults and their families with the transition and difficulties that can come with aging and guiding organizations on diversifying their workforce and creating a more inclusive environment for employees and those they serve. From 2022-2023, Brittany was the Lead Coach Supervisor for the OurRelationship program. In this position, she oversaw coach operations, facilitated weekly peer-to-peer group supervision, and acted as the diversity liaison by organizing monthly Diversity Process Groups, all to improve program delivery to couples nationwide.



Alexia Hirlemann is pursuing her PsyD in Clinical Psychology at Nova Southeastern University. As a therapist, she is interested in helping adults and families who are struggling with anxiety or depression, as well as supporting individuals and couples in developing strategies to manage stress and navigate life transitions. Alexia has been a Coach for the OurRelationship program since 2021, and has worked with couples in both English and Spanish within all the OurRelationship population specific programs. The brief case study presented above is one of Alexia's cases.



Dr. Emily Georgia Salivar is a licensed clinical psychologist and Assistant Professor in the [Department of Clinical and School Psychology](#) at Nova Southeastern University. Her research focuses on implementing flexibly delivered interventions for romantic couples in distress as well as understanding contributors and protective factors within intimate relationships. She has specific interest in working with underserved populations. She directs the OurRelationship clinical practicum providing trainees experience working with a diverse set of conflictual couples across the nation.



Zeev Zilber, born and raised in Israel, is a personal and business consultant, certified therapist, and a published author. In his previous career he is a retired executive from the Israeli high-tech industry, who served as CEO and Chairman of several private and public software companies. Has a BA degree in Social Sciences focusing on Psychology and Management from The Israeli Open University, and a master's degree in Conflict Management and Resolution from NOVA Southeastern University in Florida.

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Vanessa Meng or Ms. Butterfly is an educator, healer and creator. She is an educator of writing and poetry, yoga and environmentalism. She is currently also a Master's student in Applied Psychology focusing on multicultural approaches to psychology and artistic therapy techniques. She is a spoken word poet of 10 years. She grew up in Hong Kong and Beijing, and graduated from Swarthmore College in 2020 with High Honors in Philosophy and Peace and Conflict Studies. You can see her website here [www.msbutterfly.com](http://www.msbutterfly.com).



Lauren Michelle Levesque is an assistant professor in and Director of the Providence School of Transformative Leadership and Spirituality at Saint Paul University, Ottawa, Canada. Her recent works have been published in arts-focused, peer-reviewed journals such as Music and Arts in Action, Art/Research International, and Research in Drama Education. She is the co-founder of the Research Group on Imagination, Storytelling, and Spaces (<https://imaginestories.space>) and sits on the Editorial Board of the Song Studies book series, published with Amsterdam University Press (<https://www.aup.nl/nl/series/song-studies>).



Sowmya Ayyar is a Research Scholar with the Malaviya Center for Peace Research at Banaras Hindu University. She is also the Founder of Prafull Oorja Charitable Foundation, an NGO that trains yoga therapists to serve communities in vulnerable conditions. She has published work on yoga in relation to peace. Sowmya's current research is on Women, Diplomacy, and Peace, focusing on Indian cultural contexts. In her free time, Sowmya writes poetry and composes Indian classical music on social justice issues, nature, spirituality, music, and India.



E.J. Bahng is an associate professor in the School of Education, and equity advisor in the College of Human Sciences at Iowa State University, Ames, IA. She has recently been elected as Gender Advisor for the Muon Collider collaboration at CERN. She develops interdisciplinary and integrated STEM and the Arts-based (STEAM) curricula and mentoring programs that are rooted in the Communities of Practice approach. In 2020, she co-authored *Children Doing Physics: How to Foster the Natural Scientific Instincts in Children* (2nd Edition). Since 2019, she is a member of the ISU Sustainable Peace Faculty Learning Community and, since 2021, a co-convenor of the Critical Friends Faculty Learning Community for Multilingual Multicultural Women of STEM. She recites Shakespeare for meditation. She is a daughter, a sister, and also writes children's books, [Aari's Arirang Adventure](#), [Bird's WAY](#), [Grand Mothers](#).



Everline Obondo is the Founding Director of Generation Concern Foundation, a grassroots community service Organisation that works to empower Women and Girls in rural areas of her country Kenya. She is also the Country's Team Leader for Sunshine Family Volunteers for Peace, a project of Global Peace Women International.



Barbara Leigh Cooney has been a life member of PJSa since the days of COPRED. She is a retired educator, having initiated a Peace Studies program at Kobe College, Japan, spent a sabbatical year at the University of Bradford, and taught peace seminars to Iteso and Karamojong tribes in rural Uganda. She is currently an Ambassador with the historic peace boat Golden Rule.

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