



The Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP) of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies is looking for a Masters-level student to fill the position of

Student Researcher (part-time, 10 hours per week)

For the SNSF-funded project “An apomediated peace? The role of digital technologies in international peacebuilding”

Application deadline: December 1st, 2020
Start date: January 1st, 2021 (or upon mutual agreement)
Duration: 9 months, with possibility of extension

Background:

Digital technologies play an increasing role in international efforts to resolve armed conflict and build peace. Conflict parties and stakeholders increasingly use digital technologies, and especially social media, to further their agendas and interests. However, international organizations and civil society actors now also commonly use digital technologies, or “PeaceTech”, to prevent conflict, support mediation efforts and build peace. To examine the role of digital technologies in international peacebuilding, the CCDP will conduct the research project “An apomediated peace? The role of digital technologies in international peacebuilding”. The project will investigate how peacebuilding efforts are shaped by the increasing digitalization of conflict-affected contexts. In the first year, it will map the digital landscapes for various conflict-affected countries, to better understand how peacebuilding actors use technology, and how this changes peacebuilding dynamics.

Tasks and responsibilities:

The student researcher will support the principal investigator, Dr. Andreas Hirblinger, in the implementation of the research project. This will involve:

- Desk research about the use of digital technologies in peacebuilding in several country settings (for instance, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Ukraine, Ethiopia, Myanmar)
- Support online interviews through note taking and transcription
- Qualitative Data Analysis (QDA) of primary sources, such as online media, documents and interviews
- Support the organization of field trips, workshops and conferences



- Support the communication of results, including through the editing of conference papers, scientific publications, blog posts and project proposals

Required qualifications:

- Enrollment in a Master's programme of the Graduate Institute until at least September 2021
- Good knowledge of the fields of peacebuilding, peace mediation or peacekeeping as well as a demonstrated interest in digitalization and technology
- Strong analytical skills and qualitative research skills. Good knowledge or prior experience with QDA software. Experience with network mapping methods, discourse analysis, material-semiotic approaches, or text mining methods is an asset
- Creativity and a motivation to explore new research fields that lack existing knowledge
- Ability to work autonomously and self-driven
- Strong organizational and communication skills
- Fluent command of the English language, orally and in writing. Knowledge of other languages (French, Arabic, Amharic, Sinhala, Tamil, Burmese) may be an asset

Applications:

To apply, please submit a cover letter and CV by email to ccd@graduateinstitute.ch, addressed to Dr. Oliver Jütersonke (CCDP Head of Research).

The deadline for this application is December 1st, 2020 CoB. Interviews will be held in the week beginning Monday 7th December 2020.