

Österreichisches Religionspädagogisches Forum 32 (1/2024)

**War. Peace. Religion
Contexts and Perspectives**

Call for Papers

The large-scale attack of the Russian military on Ukraine since February 2022 has shaken Western European societies in a massive way and has exposed the fragile nature of peace. Within the European Union, new discussions are emerging along the positionings on the warring parties. New challenges and shifts in discourse can also be found in churches and theology: Tensions within Orthodoxy, which became evident worldwide at the latest with the recognition of the Orthodox Church in Ukraine by the Patriarch of Constantinople, have intensified worldwide; the theological and spiritual attitude on the war is sometimes hotly contested, and sometimes attempts are made to avoid the issue for the sake of ecclesiastical unity. While there is a broad consensus in the Protestant and Catholic churches in German-speaking countries to condemn the attack on Ukraine and to help refugees, there are controversies about positions on peace ethics in view of the debates about the appropriate forms of support for Ukraine (diplomacy, economic sanctions, arms deliveries). Thus, religious education is not unaffected by all this.

In the fields mentioned above – such as politics and society, churches and theology, as well as religious education – it can be observed that, on the one hand, the view of war and peace is characterized by the tension of applying previous convictions, interpretations and strategies to the current situation, and, on the other hand, that these convictions, interpretations and strategies are more or less revised in the light of the current situation.

Against this background – also beyond the current focus on Ukraine – contributions to the broad thematic field of religious education in the face of war and peace are sought, which formulate inquiries to the theory and practice of religious education as well as develop constructive new ways of thinking in particular *from specific contexts* (regional and local, historical, denominational, biographical, disciplinary ...).

The following questions exemplify how religious education topics could be connected to such a contextual perspective:

- Which insights of the peace educational discussions shaped by the Cold War within German-language religious education studies of the 1980s prove to be sustainable in view of the Neo-imperial Russian war of aggression from 2022, and which of these insights would have to be further developed or revised in which way?
- Which experiences and arguments from which current Eastern European debates could or should be perceived in German-speaking countries regarding the discussion of peace-ethical topics in religious education?
- To what extent do theological and religious education questions and reflections change in countries and regions in which or by which war is currently being waged or has been waged in the last decades? To what extent do impulses arise from this for theology and religious education in regions not directly affected by war?
- How can war and violence be talked about in schools in such a way that the different biographical and family backgrounds of the students (e. g. with families in and from Germany, Ukraine, Russia, Somalia, Syria, Afghanistan ...) are adequately taken into account? Which empirical results or reflected experiences from own practice should be taken into account?
- Since February 24, 2022, there has been an increased perception of the need to address Orthodox Christianity in Catholic and Protestant religious education, as already in view of the use of religious and confessional categories to label national groups in the disintegrating Yugoslavia of the 1990s. The concern to impart knowledge about Orthodoxy in general and about the current political role of the Orthodox Church(es) in particular may be in tension. Against this background, how can criteria for didactic decisions be justified in the context of different tasks and subject areas of religious education (ecumenical learning, religion and politics, religion and ideology, peace ethics ...)?

(Proposals for) contributions to the bilingual issue (German, English) can be submitted in German or English. Scholars from Eastern and Southeastern Europe reflecting on their experiences with war and peace efforts are especially welcome, as well as contributions dealing with a topic in a comparative contextual perspective.

The editorial board and staff of the ÖRF are encouraging further contributions on this subject as well as papers (abstract) on topics that go beyond this theme. The next edition will be published in May 2024.

Please send the **announcement** of your contribution to the following e-mail address: oerf.redaktion@uni-graz.at. You will receive short feedback. If you have received a positive one and your article is ready, upload it independently to our website: <http://oerf-journal.eu/>

We also ask you to submit **recent publications** for review as well as your **synopsis of highquality academic qualification papers** from the field of religious pedagogy (master thesis, diploma thesis, ...).

The editorial procedure as well as the formalities for submission can be found on our website: <https://oerf-journal.eu/index.php/oerf/about/submissions>

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Timeline

Announcement of suggested contributions:

deadline November 15, 2023

Submission deadline for contributions for the double-blind-peer-review:

January 15, 2024

Submission deadline for reviews and final thesis:

February 16, 2024

Publication date:

May 2024