

# HERBERT C. KELMAN INSTITUTE

## for interactive conflict transformation

**Dear readers, partners and friends,**

These are exciting times for the Herbert C. Kelman Institute for Interactive Conflict Transformation!

First of all, our revered friend and honorary president Herbert C. Kelman will celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017. And we – the Team of the Institute – have seized this extraordinary opportunity to organize the [3<sup>rd</sup> Conference on the Transformation of Intractable Conflicts](#) from March 16-18 hosted by Harvard's Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, and implemented together with the Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation, the ASPR, the University of Graz Faculty of Law, and the University of Klagenfurt Centre for Peace Research and Peace Education. The preliminary program is available [here](#) – we will keep you informed about this event.



**From left to right:** Husam Zomlot, Ambassador (Palestine), Gudrun Kramer,

Moderator from the Kelman Institute (Austria), Hilik Bar, Secretary General of the Labour Party (Israel) and Professor Herbert C. Kelman

At the 2nd Conference on the "Transformation of Intractable Conflicts" at Harvard University, September 2015.

Secondly, we welcome two new members into our Team: Astrid Reinprecht joined in January this year. She will be responsible for media and communication. Jakob C. Fürst came in just before the summer. He assists with all internal affairs.

Thirdly, we proudly announce that Gudrun Kramer, co-founder of the institute and member of the board, has been appointed as the new director of the [Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution](#) (ASPR) in Stadtschlaing starting with April 2017. We congratulate her and look forward to a continued fruitful cooperation.

Finally, we present: ... **the first newsletter by the Kelman Institute** ...!

We plan to publish a regular newsletter with relevant information on past achievements, ongoing activities and future plans. We try to be as succinct but informative as possible.

Have a good read and stay with us!

For the Kelman Team:

Astrid Reinprecht, Editor

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#### Publications and Research

For those of you who would like to learn more about Herbert C. Kelman's pioneering ideas and concepts, you will very likely enjoy the **new volume** "Resolving Deep-Rooted Conflicts – Essays on Theory and Practice of Interactive Problem-Solving" by **Herbert C. Kelman**, edited by Werner Wintersteiner and Wilfried Graf. It's **hot off the press from Routledge**, [available as an e-book or as a hardcover!](#)

Should you wonder about developments in the research in and for peace in Austria, the [yearbook](#) of the Center for Peace Research and Education [ZFF](#) will provide you with refreshing insights and arguments (German only!). Around

#### Recent Events and Conferences

Our team affiliates and members of the board and the team have been **promoting the institute's agenda at various events**. These were our most prominent stops over the last couple of months:

From May 22-24, Augustin Nicolescou, together with board members Wolfgang Petritsch and Gunther Neuman, participated in the **conference for OSCE Mediterranean partner countries** hosted by the Spanish Foreign Ministry at the Escuela Diplomatica in Madrid, **co-organised by** the Austrian MFA, the OSCE CPC Mediation Support Team, together with **the Kelman Institute**, the ASPR Stadtschlaing and the Toledo

40 experts contributed to the question of **why peace research in Austria is dearly needed in times of multiple crises**. There you will find an article from Wilfried Graf about the history, current projects and the methodological approach of the Kelman Institute.

If you prefer a prompt injection with new ideas, you might want to check up on Ursula Baatz's [article on Buddhism and peace](#) in the journal Polylog or on our board member Professor Hanne-Margret Birckenbach's interview on refugees and [alternative forms of intervention in the Middle East](#) Conflict (both in German only!).



**Professor Herbert C. Kelman**

#### Ongoing Initiatives

##### It's Time We Talked About... the Holy Esplanade

The Holy Esplanade in Jerusalem – the Har HaBayit (The Temple Mount) to Jews and al-Haram al-Sharif (The Noble Sanctuary) to Muslims – is a site of competing religious claims, where growing political confrontation have regularly spilled over into violence in and around the site. A just and sustainable peace for Israel and Palestine is unlikely without addressing this conflict. Since October 2015, the Kelman Institute has therefore been supporting influential religious leaders in action research about positions, interests and needs of different stake-holders. **On 21 and 22 of September** the Kelman Institute organized the first two-day-workshop with its team of four local and two international advisors in Jerusalem. The project will be renewed and expanded in 2017, with support from the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs and the Foreign Ministry of the Netherlands. (...)

##### The "Peace Region Alps-Adriatic" is growing ...

The project "Building the Peace Region Alps-Adria (PRAA) – Envisioning the Future by Dealing with the Past. Promoting Open and Inclusive Dialogue and Public Discourse within Austria and Slovenia and between the Countries" is an ongoing dialogue-project between representatives of the Slovenian and Austrian (mainly Carinthian) civil societies, particularly majority populations and national minorities, which started in 2013. **On 13 and 14 of September** the Kelman Institute organized a two-day-workshop in Piran/Slovenia. Besides including members from the Italian civil society and deepening the exchange, the dialogue-workshop paved the way towards to the project's next phase goal of documenting the work of the dialogue project in the coming year. (...)

International Centre for Peace (CITpax). 25 civil society experts on dialogue and mediation discussed ["Dialogue in Search of Social Cohesion"](#), moderated ia. by Gunther Neumann.. Ambassador Petritsch then relayed the experts' findings to the OSCE Mediterranean Contact Group first ever Ambassadors' Retreat..

In June, Augustin Nicolescou **delivered a training** on [Conflict Analysis and Conflict Sensitivity](#) at the **OSCE Academy** in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, as part of a training for local development and conflict resolution practitioners from across the region.

On July 6, Augustin Nicolescou and Jakob Fürst **attended the conference** ["The OSCE as Mediator"](#) at the German MFA in Berlin. Their participation was facilitated by the Austrian BMEIA with the goal of exploring ideas for peace mediation and dialogue projects in the framework of the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship in 2017.

On August 27, Jan Brousek and Linda Schönbauer-Brousek **gave a workshop** on Interactive Conflict Transformation at the Grüne Sommerakademie in Stadtschlainig.

Over the course of the summer, Wolfgang Petritsch **taught a seminar** at **Berkeley University** about the changing international environment for war and peace and invited Gudrun Kramer and Wilfried Graf to give a lecture about "Dealing with Conflicts in Israel and Palestine" on July 12. Details on recent activities, interviews and publications by Wolfgang Petritsch can be found [here](#).

On Sept 1st, Jan Brousek **presented** on interactive conflict transformation in the Alps Adriatic Region **at the conference** ["Freedom and Justice as a Challenge of the Humanities"](#) organised by the Humanities Forum in Ljubljana.

On September 21, at the occasion of the International Day of Peace, Wolfgang Petritsch **gave a talk** about [peace in the Middle East](#) at the Robert-Jungk Library in Salzburg, laying out the historical roots as well as current consequences of the Middle East conflict.

Following a [call for dialogue](#), signed by conflict researchers and practitioners, we are currently evaluating how our method could be implemented in the Ukrainian case. **In September 2016** Jakob Fürst and Georg Blaha participated in a **study trip to Ukraine** to explore ongoing dialogue initiatives among the various conflict parties in and around Kiev and Kharkiv and how we could support them.



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