

Panel: "Methods from the margins": Decolonizing Elements of Methodology in Conflict Research

Colonial relations are deeply inscribed in research methods, often based on researching an Other categorized as an object unable to reply. Concepts like "going to the field" or "expert interview" make these asymmetrical relations apparent.

In contexts of conflict and violence we might feel pressured to express ourselves in particular codes to avoid political positioning or speaking directly to existing power relations. Those (physically) affected by conflict are often the ones with real expert knowledge, are able to codify it and most competent in analyzing it. The insight that knowledge is socially situated changes the approach to the term "expert", potentially making it obsolete. What effect does "critical" research have on the agency of those conventionally being made mere objects of study? How can methodological reflections contribute to changing narratives of conflict? Wouldn't research claiming a decolonized methodology imply much more strategic, political approaches, challenging power relations and the practice of research as we do it?

Understanding researcher/researched as political subjects, this panel welcomes contributions taking on what collaborative research and knowledge production could really mean, if they are 'doable' within the academic system and still counteract inherent coloniality.