

**Peace Leadership Affinity Group  
Conference Highlights**

**16<sup>th</sup> Annual ILA Global Conference | San Diego, CA | Friday, October 31, 2014**

Dear members of the Peace Leadership Affinity Group,

For those of you who couldn't join us in San Diego, I think I can speak for our group that our interactions, business meetings and new networks give the impression that our ideas get more and more solidified. We are particularly surprised by the strong support, enthusiasm and expressed commitment by so many for our group and what it stands for. We are also confirmed in our initial impression that the complexity of peace goes so far beyond what any of us can handle by him or herself. In contrast, it seems to be easy to engage in a culture of war – but at what cost!

Our business meeting attracted an interesting group of members embodying experiences, skills, knowledge and organizations that, combined, could develop robust solutions for peace leadership. We also have now a growing membership within ILA that we hopefully can attract to our projects.

At our meeting we discussed the following for next year:

- Welcome to PLAG's co-convenor, Whitney McIntyre Miller, assistant professor of graduate leadership programs, with Chapman University.
- Whitney and Erich have started to identify materials on peace leadership. So far, we have mainly focused on published books. We wish to continue this work and, please note, we are very dependent on your input. So, please, let us know about your favourite books **and other materials such as articles** that speak to the concept of peace leadership. We plan to post regularly to report on our progress (please visit <http://paremtheory.weebly.com/peace-leadership-references.html>.) As a result, we envision making a Bibliography available for all of us. This then can be used to do book reviews and other valuable work.
- In our explorations last year and in our discussions we also came across a conundrum that sort of explains our struggles with peace leadership and validates our group and its efforts. We noticed that we know many in the peace community writing about peace and engaging in peacebuilding. We also know of many who are involved in leadership and do wonderful work to bring together people with varying interests and who engage people in non-adversarial conflict resolution processes. So, it seems that there must be much common ground between both constituencies though we didn't find too much on a combination of both, that is peace leadership. **Thus, we think it is prudent to develop conceptual clarity about peace leadership.**
- As a first step we think it would be a good idea to develop a list of organizations that seem to use peace leadership. There are already programs that provide for this knowledge network, such as the Alliance for Peacebuilding, the Joan B. Kroc School of Peacebuilding Network and the Fetzer Institute's mapping, etc.

- We hope that we can have a presentation in Barcelona with representatives from ILA MIGs addressing how peace leadership is manifest in all kinds of leadership orientations.
- We are interested in how peace leadership education/training is delivered. This would require some research into programs such as at the Peace University in Costa Rica, the new M.A. program at the University of San Diego, leadership programs and the many conflict analysis, peacebuilding programs.
- There is also some interest in having a pre-conference workshop in Barcelona on peace leadership. The affinity groups seems to be content to use a whole day to explore the idea of peace leadership whereas we would be very interested in the input from the other interest groups at ILA.
- We think that we should share our skills and our knowledge! One way of doing this is to invite publications on your involvement in peace leadership or on your vision. We can edit those submissions and collect them in a PLAG electronic *Peace Leadership Journal*.
- All this requires the input of many and we are still struggling how to best facilitate dialogue. We have the discussion forum for our Affinity Group embedded in the ILA website. This hasn't been used much, though. Thus, we established a LinkedIn group. **If you are interested, please send an e-mail to Erich ([erich.schellhammer@royalroads.ca](mailto:erich.schellhammer@royalroads.ca)) and he will forward it to Doug Banner who manages the site.**

So, this is just the core of what has transpired during this year's engagements at the Annual Conference. There is much more and we hope that we have many presentations, workshops, etc. on peace leadership at the next Annual Conference in Barcelona! Please use our forums to find collaborators or to receive feedback on your ideas. We are looking forward to another year of "growing up." It is hard to be patient when there is so much reliance on force to resolve conflict though we do have the means for a culture of peace!

Erich Schelhammer

Whitney McIntyre Miller