

NCCR Trade Regulation Brown Bag Series

Gary Goertz, Professor of Political Science and Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame

The Puzzle of Peace: The Evolution of Peace in the International System

Friday, 9 December 2016, 12.30 – 13.30

Silva Casa Auditorium, World Trade Institute, University of Bern
Hallerstrasse 6, 3012 Bern, Switzerland

Abstract

Gary Goertz's most recent book *Puzzle of Peace* moves beyond defining peace as the absence of war and develops a broader conceptualization and explanation for the increasing peacefulness of the international system. The authors track the rise of peace as a new phenomenon in international history starting after 1945. International peace has increased because international society has developed a set of norms dealing with territorial conflict, by far the greatest source of international war over previous centuries. These norms prohibit the use of military force in resolving territorial disputes and acquiring territory, thereby promoting border stability. This includes the prohibition of the acquisition of territory by military means as well as attempts by secessionist groups to form states through military force. International norms for managing international conflict have been accompanied by increased mediation and adjudication as means of managing existing territorial conflicts.

The book reconceptualises peace as more than the absence of war and provides the first data set on peace in the international system. Furthermore, it presents the only study to systematically trace the evolution of peace in the international system and offers a theory for the rise of peace based on the management of territorial conflict.

Biography of the Speaker

Gary Goertz is a scholar of international conflict, conflict management, and peace. He is the author or co-author of 10 books and more than 50 articles and chapters on international conflict and peace, institutions, norms, and methodology. His publications in this area include *Contexts of International Politics* (1994), *Explaining War and Peace* (2007) and, with Paul Diehl, *Territorial Changes and International Conflict* (1992) and *War and Peace in International Rivalry* (2000). A major focus of his current research is the Causes of Peace project, which explores the rise of peace in the international system. One central area of activity is the theory of international institutions and norms, which was an important part of his book *Contexts of International Politics* (1994), then expanded and developed in the book *International Norms and Decisionmaking: A Punctuated Equilibrium Model* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2004). Goertz's other major research emphasis is methodology. His methodological works include *Social Science Concepts: A User's Guide* (2006), *Politics, Gender, and Concepts: Theory and Methodology* (2008), and *A Tale of Two Cultures: Qualitative and Quantitative Research in the Social Sciences* (2012).

Participation is free of charge, no registration is needed.

We warmly welcome you to join our seminar at the World Trade Institute!

NCCR Trade Regulation Brown Bag Seminars are 30-minute presentations, given by external or in-house researchers. The presentations are followed by a 30-minute Q&A session. The Brown Bag concept comes from the US; it means that people bring their own lunch and eat it during the presentation.