

Project Title: Emerging Powers and Peace Interventions: A Challenge to Liberal Peacebuilding?

Project Duration: 10 Months (October 2021-September 2022)

Funding Institution: Fulbright Commission

Host Institution: George Washington University

Project Team: Assist. Prof. Dr. B. Toygar Halistoprak (Principal Investigator)

Project Summary: This research project bridges two converging subfields, namely Foreign Policy Analysis and Peace Studies by delving deeper into emerging powers' increasing activism in the practice of peacebuilding. The project is shaped around the broad research question of how does the increasing activism of emerging powers impact the practice of peacebuilding. More specifically, it aims to investigate whether the emerging powers' increasing activism challenges the liberal peacebuilding as argued in the literature. It also inquires into the question of how do the peacebuilding mentalities of emerging powers differentiate from traditional western actors. The project seeks to juxtapose two sets of peacebuilding actors. First set of actors are categorized as traditional actors. These are actors, varying from state actors to international organizations and NGOs, which are inherently correlated with liberal peacebuilding. The United States (US), United Nations (UN) or United States Institute of Peace (USIP), for instance, can be categorized under this set of actors. These actors are known not only with their military and financial support to the operations, but they are also considered as the agents of a knowledge production campaign that upholds liberal values in peacebuilding. The second set of actors are newly emerging peacebuilding agents that are categorized with different tags such as "middle powers" and "emerging powers" in FPA literature. The research that is carried out in the US specifically focus on the analysis of the first set of actors' peacebuilding rationales. Further data is collected on the peacebuilding texts of the US and United Nations (UN) and peacebuilding NGOs as the actors that are identified with liberal peacebuilding. By doing so, the project seeks to fulfil two broad research objectives: 1) To explore the similarities and differences between the peacebuilding rationales of emerging actors and traditional/liberal actors. 2) To observe the impact of emerging powers over the general course of peacebuilding.