



WORLD ANTHROPOLOGY CONGRESS

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WORLD ANTHROPOLOGY CONGRESS-2023

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ROUND TABLE TITLE:

GLOBAL PEACE, DEVELOPMENT AND THE CHALLENGES OF CONTEMPORARY TRANSFORMATIONS AND ALTERNATIVE PLANETARY FUTURES: TOWARDS A NEW ANTHROPOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY OF WORLD SPHERES

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ABSTRACT

Peace and development are perennial human and societal challenges. Our contemporary world calls for new visions and practices of peace and development as well as realizing integral links between them. Peace refers to both soulful inner peace as well as structural and cultural peace. Peace involves self, society and the world in interconnected ways. Soulful and structural peace arises in the midst of both structural and soul-inflicting violence. Development helps us overcome violence and create new conditions of peace though mainstream models of development have violence built into them to some extent. Development means both inner development as well as development of society. Both self-development and social development refer to ethical, aesthetic, political, economic and spiritual development.

Peace and development today are global processes and we need to understand their vision and practices in the face of increasing violence and violation in self, society, culture and the world. Our existing structures and discourses of society such as capitalism, climate change and Covid-19 bring to fore varieties of violence and violations in our contemporary world and they heighten the need for new movements of peace and development. These efforts take place in our public spheres but these spheres are not only public, they are also soul spheres. The spheres are not only places of public reason and politics as conceptualized in modernist conceptions of public sphere, they are also places and times of work on appropriate self-formation, faith and alternative deliberations and meditations which contribute to making of peace and development. Realization of global peace and development today calls for alternative realization of not only public spheres but world spheres which involve both public spheres, soul spheres as well as spheres of Nature and Divine.

In our roundtable, we explore some of these issues. We explore how we can build upon anthropology, philosophy and literature in creative ways to deepen and widen our visions and practices of global peace and development and a new realization of world spheres. We also explore the challenges of contemporary transformations and alternative futures where we move from conflicts and violence towards beauty, dignity and dialogues in self, cultures and the world. We hope to explore following themes, among others:

1. New Visions of Global Peace and Development for our Contemporary World
2. Rise in Structural and Soul-Inflicting Violence and the Challenges for Peace and Development
3. Rethinking Public Sphere, Anthropology and Peace: Philosophy, Anthropology and Literature
4. Global Peace and Development: Towards a New Anthropology and Philosophy of World Spheres

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