

WHAT DOES PROFESSIONALIZATION MEAN IN PEACE RESEARCH?

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Summary

The chapter contrasts peace movement value-based idealism with governmental fact-based realism, find both of them wanting, and and argues for a position combining them and beyond both.

Professionalisation implies a solid value commitment against human suffering, in favor of human fulfillment, a knowledge base of the conditions for violence and for negative and positive peace and skills to bring about both, like mediation and conciliation skills. A number of examples of conflicts are given, as well as a major part of professionalization, a code of conduct.

1. On Professionalization in General

Generally, the sociology of professions identifies three characteristics of a profession:

1.1 Range of skills

There is a range of skills with which a range of professionals will handle a range of problems for a range of clients, with proven competence. The clients have an idea of what to expect from the professional, and the professional of what to expect from a client. (The chapter is based on a Keynote, International Peace Research Association, Calgary 1/7/2006)

1.2 Professional code of conduct

There is a professional code of conduct, defining the relation of a professional to the clients, other professionals and others. The code of conduct may be supported by an oath.

1.3 Pattern of accountability

There is a pattern of accountability of the professional to the clients, to other professionals, and to others. Professionalization of peace work moves us beyond peace research and studies, both indispensable for skills. The purpose of peace research is to produce intersubjectively communicable and verifiable knowledge according to the general rules of research.

Thus, research is incompatible with secrecy, as research has to take place in public space. And one purpose of peace studies is the communication of the findings of peace research, in line with general rules for education, another public space activity. The free access of the rest of society to what happens is of the essence. As peace workers are not planning to hurt or harm, in other words to exercise violence, s/he has nothing to conceal.

In the following a person exercising the peace profession will be referred to as "peace worker", like "social worker", or "peace professional" like "health professional". Others may find "peace specialist" more dignified. "Manager" must be avoided as active participation of the clients, those seeking professional advice, is of the essence. "Facilitator" is much better.

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Biographical Sketch

Johan Galtung - Born in Norway 1930, PhD in mathematics and in sociology, 13 honorary degrees around the world, author of more than one thousand articles and one hundred books, among them *Peace By Peaceful Means*, London: SAGE, 1996. Founder of the International Peace Research Institute Oslo in 1959, the *Journal of Peace Research* in 1964, *TRANSCEND* in 1993 and *TRANSCEND* Peace University in 2003. Mediator in many conflicts around the world.