

Unconditional Spaces – A Healing Phenomenon in Peace Building

Abstract:

Within this paper I conceptualize “unconditional spaces” as an “open Gestalt” that strives for completion in our society and the field of peace building. Based on a transrational understanding of peaces, I draw a multidimensional picture of unconditional moments, such as peak experiences, and unconditional attitudes, as found in humanistic psychology, and combine them in a holistic worldview.

Referring to the correspondence of the inner and the outer world, “unconditional spaces” hold the potential of “safe havens” and catalysts for personal and collective transformation. They offer appreciating, non-judgmental and healing fields, where opposing parties are invited to lay down their arms for a moment in order to open up for peaceful realities.

Following an explorative path through psychological and philosophical traditions, systems theory, natural sciences and methods of peace and conflict resolution, I draw a colorful picture of unconditionality and weave an expanding carpet of “unconditional spaces”. Once settled in the field of peace building, the gestalt of “unconditional spaces” itself can be questioned and transcended through full integration in our individual and social lives.