

## The Interdisciplinary Seminar on Conflict and Violence

promotes interdisciplinary exchanges among faculty and graduate students interested in the topics of conflict, violence and peace from a wide range of departments across campus

# Dr. David Reinhard

**Post-doctoral Research Associate, UMass Amherst**

## The rival within:

## Rivals as part of the self and social identity



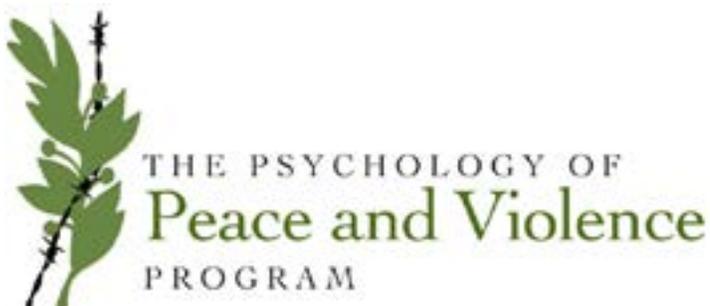
Dr. David Reinhard is a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Psychology of Peace and Violence Program at UMass Amherst. He is funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation, awarded to program faculty member Dr. Bernhard Leidner, that examines the consequences of past collective trauma on intergroup relations in the present.

His research also examines how shared competitive (and cooperative) histories influence the way people think about and pursue their goals, exploring competitive histories in intergroup and interpersonal conflicts (by contrasting *rivalry* from *mere competition*) and cooperative histories in intragroup alliances (by examining *intergenerational* group identities). His research received funding from the *American Psychological Association (APA)*, *Society*

*for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)*, and *Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI)*. He has published in scientific journals such as *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology and Science*.

**ABSTRACT:** While competition refers to a single instance of parties having negatively linked goals, rivalry is a subjective competitive relationship based on a shared history of notable competitions. Dr. Reinhard will discuss a new theoretical perspective on ingroup identity contending that rival (vs. non-rival) outgroups are incorporated into people's image of the self and the social groups they belong to. As such, in a rather paradoxical and perhaps controversial way, people may be hesitant to let go of conflicts with rivals, as letting go of the rivalry would mean to let go of part of the self and social identity, thereby perpetuating the cycle of violence. While existing theories and models of large-scale conflict are based on the core assumption that groups engage in conflict because their material (e.g., resources) or psychological needs (e.g., safety) are frustrated, this perspective provides a fundamentally different explanation for why conflict exists, the psychological functions it serves, and why it is very difficult to resolve. Recent empirical work and implications for conflict resolution are discussed.

**Tuesday, November 27, 2018 4:00 - 5:00 P.M.**  
**Commonwealth Honors College Events Hall East**



UMASS AMHERST DEPARTMENT OF  
Psychological and Brain Sciences