Review of: "Reflections on Bordering, Micropolitics and Everyday Life in Peacebuilding Processes: Revisiting the Lingering Legacy of the 1949 Armistice Agreements"

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This paper by Max Stephenson Jr. and Laura Zanotti is topical, and given the present crisis in Gaza, it is also extremely pertinent to the long-running Arab-Israeli conflict. The article addresses the 1949 Armistice Agreements, which established the borders of the state of Israel and are still a source of conflict. While micropolitical interventions do not address a multidimensional and complex ongoing conflict, the authors argue that they are a tool for challenging the manifestations of state power that are constantly reinforcing identities and sustaining discord, particularly around borders, and are a necessary step toward building peace.

 The authors emphasize the possibilities of a micropolitics of peace that deals with the practical implications of conflict and bordering in everyday life, as well as the emotions of those who live in these contested places. The emphasis has been on how auto-ethnography has studied such interactions along conflict lines in East Jerusalem, but if extended to the Gaza Strip, the approach might become even more significant.

The current violence in Gaza emphasizes the necessity of knowing the life experiences of the affected people and viewpoints. When we consider diplomacy's failure to end the conflict or at least impose a ceasefire, the authors argue that peace-building efforts must go beyond diplomatic and political negotiations to include the everyday experiences and emotions of people living in these contested areas. This may increase the possibilities for micropolitics of peace and more durable and inclusive solutions. Authors should update the article by describing contemporary events and how they relate to the 1949 Armistice Agreements, as well as exploring any possibilities for peace based on micropolitics.

The inability or failure to adjust to the changing circumstances of the conflict runs counter to a "peace-building" paradigm based on the recognition that these processes are woven into intricate adaptive systems in which various influences operate in unpredictable ways, yielding unexpected results.

The essay presents a thought-provoking viewpoint on the Israeli-Palestinian issue, although it may be enhanced in a few places. Priority should be given to further defining how theories from quantum social science, affect theory, and feminist political geography may be incorporated in a more seamless manner. How various ideas could interact and inform the writers' own argument, in particular.

The use of auto-ethnography to count the forms of encounter along conflict borders in East Jerusalem provides incredibly

valuable insights, but it is important to show how these can be generalized to accommodate more diverse perspectives and include the entire region where conflict has been raging for more than a century. An essential topic or question is how to promote these micropolitical acts and what they could look like in the context of this specific conflict.

More case studies, tangible instances, or empirical data must be offered to back up the authors' plea for a shift from the macro to the micro in peace-building tactics. This is especially critical in the Middle East, where Libya, for example, has experienced strife and civil conflicts with major border consequences since the fall of the Gaddafi dictatorship in 2011 by a NATO-led military assault ruined an otherwise peaceful popular uprising.

It is also important that the conclusion, where the findings are presented, pay more attention to the implications of the study on future peace-building theories and practice especially in the region.

The failure, for example, in conflict mediation efforts in Libya that underline the deficiencies and inconsistencies inherent in the role of supranational organisations in conflict mediation in the MENA region in general and in Libya in particular.

Lastly, although the paper gives the presumptions of the micropolitical interventions a lot of promise and instrumentality, it hasn't done enough to confront the difficulties and possible drawbacks of these interventions. Additionally, when it comes to redefining political agency, Quantum Social Theory is overemphasized. This strategy could be really inventive, but it seems very abstract and could be hard to grasp.