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Studying Peacekeeping: Unpacking the Methodological Divide

Friday 5 June 2026 09:00 (1h 30m)

This roundtable launches a newly published forum in International Peacekeeping that revisits the enduring methodological divide in peacekeeping research. While large-N statistical studies and in-depth qualitative analyses often appear to generate contrasting findings, contributors argue that these approaches reflect different research questions and assumptions rather than irreconcilable differences. The forum highlights opportunities for dialogue, collaboration, and methodological pluralism, ranging from joint research agendas to relational approaches that foreground dynamic interactions in peacekeeping practice. In doing so, it asks how peacekeeping research can move beyond a “dialogue of the deaf” to produce cumulative, policy-relevant knowledge. Bringing together contributors of this forum, this roundtable provides a space for reflection on how we study peacekeeping and how peacekeeping scholarship can continue to inform international efforts to manage conflict in an era of shifting global order.

Track Classification: Peacekeeping, Peacebuilding and Human Rights Working Group