

Future Sustainability Built on Present Injustice? A Critical Engagement with the Concept of Environmental Peacebuilding

Against the background of the increasing securitisation of climate change, environmental peacebuilding has emerged as a 'green' alternative to traditional post-conflict peacebuilding approaches. However, few studies have questioned the initial appeal of the concept itself and thereby the type of peace that it promotes. This paper argues that rather than providing a blueprint for sustainable peace policy-making, environmental peacebuilding can in fact feed into existing conflict dynamics by reinforcing the injustices of the neoliberal peace. Instead, the analysis suggests that its merits are to be found when using it as a conceptual lens through which we can examine deeply flawed mechanisms of unsustainability inherent to many post-conflict peacebuilding processes themselves. Using EU peacebuilding policies in Kosovo as an illustrative example, the paper discusses how a more critical engagement with environmental peacebuilding can inform policies addressing existing socio-ecological injustices, and thereby aid in building a more equitable peace.