

## Course Overview

# THE CONCEPT OF HUMAN SECURITY AND ITS APPLICATION TO BUILDING PEACE

Professor: SHAHRBANOU TADJBAHSH

Language of instruction: English

Number of hours of class: 2.5

### Objective of the Course

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The objective of the session is to familiarize students with an alternative conception of security, one based not on concerns for the survival of the state, but for the wellbeing, survival and dignity of people and communities. How does this shift of point of view offer different answers to the questions whose security, security from what and security how? The session will examine how the human security approach differs from realism and liberalism and what alternative policy approaches it offers to policy challenges such as how to build sustainable peace and what to do with violent extremism.

### Summary

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Why does peace often fail and conflicts and insecurities abate? Could the problem be the conceptualization of the ultimate goal of “peace” and ‘security’ and the way that these objectives are sought in practice? Ultimately, do the concepts of peace and security have similar connotations for people, society and the state? This Master Class encourages you to reflect critically on the meanings that have been attached to the concept of peace and security from different perspectives: a state/traditional security lens that seeks peace through law and order, an institutional lens that relies on the development needs of society, and a human security perspective that sees peace as the emancipation of people and the fulfilment of their needs. Each conception of security has a different approach for how peace can be built and maintained.

We will first cover concept of Human Security as it was introduced in the 1994 *Human Development Report* of UNDP before applying it to the different ways that these questions can be answered: why we need security, what kind of security is desirable and how we can achieve it. We will then apply the concept to understanding the concept and practice of peacebuilding as well as to understanding the root causes of violent extremism and terrorism and explore different ways that they can be tackled from a policy perspective.

### READING LIST

- Alex P. Schmid, « Radicalisation, De-Radicalisation, Counter-Radicalisation: A Conceptual Discussion and Literature Review », *ICCT Research Paper* March 2013

- Futamura, Madoka, Edward Newman and Shahrbanou Tadjbakhsh, *Towards a Human Security Approach to Peacebuilding*, United Nations University Research Brief, No.2 (2010),
- Tadjbakhsh, Shahrbanou, "Human Security", in Cathal J. Nolan (Ed), *Ethics and Statecraft: The Moral Dimension of International Affairs*, 2015, Third Edition, New York : Praeger

## Main Professor Biography

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**Shahrbanou Tadjbakhsh** is a specialist in human security, peacebuilding, counter-terrorism and radicalization, with geographic specialization in Central Asia and Afghanistan. She teaches at Sciences Po within the Paris School of International Affairs (PSIA), Master's Level courses on Human Security and a course on Understanding and Responding to Radicalization as well as a Summer School Program on Human Security. Prior to the Sciences Po, Tadjbakhsh taught at Columbia University (New York) as an adjunct professor and has been a visiting professor at universities in Kabul, New Delhi, Pretoria, Moscow and Dushanbe. Tadjbakhsh has been working as a consultant with various UN organizations and the OSCE for the past two decades. In 2017-2018, she worked as an Advisor to the Government of Kazakhstan during their Presidency of the Security Council (January 2018) where she helped draft a Code of Conduct for the Achievement of a World Free of Terrorism which was signed by more than 70 countries in September 2018. Between 2010 and 2018, she worked as a consultant for the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia (UNRCCA) and the UN Office on Counter Terrorism (UNOCT), implementing the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia. She has also worked with OSCE on radicalization in Central Asia. Between 2010 and 2016 she was a researcher at the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) working on Regional Security Complexes around Afghanistan and between 1993 and 2003, she worked at the UN Development Program (UNDP). Tadjbakhsh holds a Bachelor's Degree from Georgetown University (1987), a Master's Degree (1991) and a Doctoral Degree (1994) from Columbia University. She is the author of dozens of publications, including three major books: *A Rock Between Hard Places; Afghanistan in its Regional Security Complexes* (with Kristian P. Harpviken) (Oxford University Press/Hurst Publishers, 2016), editor of *Rethinking the Liberal Peace: External Models and Local Alternatives* (Routledge 2011) and author with Anuradha Chenoy of *Human Security: Concepts and Implications* (Routledge, 2007).