

## CR&DALL Seminar Series 2024-25:

### Peace, Security and Education in Russia – What do youth learn and how do teachers feel about it?

**Presenters:** Yulia Nesterova and Daria Khanolaine

**Date:** Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October, 16:00-17:30

**Location:** Student Common Room, Level 5, St Andrews Building, University of Glasgow



This seminar will present key insights and reflections from a research project that focussed on education, peace, and security in Russia. It is supported by CR&DALL and the British Association for Comparative International Education.

In addition to the current war on Ukraine waged by Russia, Russia is the least peaceful country in the world (ranked 160 out of 163 countries) (Institute for Economics & Peace, 2022) and has found it severely challenging to transition to democracy. Its population faces “insecurities regarding the condition of democratic systems, distrust of major societal institutions and rising populism” (Bui-Wrzosińska, 2019, p. 3). In 2020, Russia was ranked 144 (out of 176 countries) as regards the quality of democracy

(Democracy Matrix, 2020). These statistics paint a bleak picture, although it is worth noting that opinion polls and empirical studies in Eastern Europe and Russia show that the general public does embrace key ideas and ideals of democracy (Sianko et al., 2022). Against this backdrop, we investigated what is happening in Russia’s education system as regards peace and security.

The seminar will consist of four parts.

- First, drawing on the curriculum analysis, we will present what kind of peace-related values, skills, and knowledge the government seeks to instil in young people.
- Second, drawing on the analysis of new educational programmes and regulations in formal and non-formal educational spaces, we will showcase how Russia has been securitising and militarising its education since the invasion of Ukraine in 2022.
- Third, we will report the findings from a survey conducted with Russian teachers that explored what teachers think about peace, war, and education.
- Finally, considering the challenges we faced in conducting this research, we will reflect on the challenges and ethics of engaging affected participants in times of war.

This will be an interactive seminar where together we ask questions, discuss insights and reflections, suggestions for future research and new angles to look at the data.

All are welcome and there is no fee for this event. Tea/coffee and biscuits will be available but please bring your own cup if you can. We are trying to minimize waste.

### **About the speakers:**

**Yulia Nesterova, Ph.D.** is a Lecturer in International and Comparative Education at the University of Glasgow. Her research focuses on peace education; community engagement in peacebuilding; and youth-inclusive peace processes. She is a member of the International Working Group on Youth, Peace, and Security at FBA, the Swedish Agency for Peace, Security and Development and a co-chair of Peace Education SIG at CIES.

**Daria Khanolainen, Ph.D.** is a postdoctoral researcher at the EDUCA flagship in Finland. Her research focuses on contributing to the development of safe and inclusive educational environments for all learners, with a particular emphasis on marginalized identities. She explores a wide range of factors that influence children's academic achievement and tracks these factors longitudinally, while also examining the well-being of both children and their teachers.