Peace and conflict research can provide critical solutions for global security and prosperity. UNT offers one of the strongest peace science research programs in the United States to advance the theory and practice of peace-building, with recognized faculty expertise in subjects including international relations, human rights, civil conflict, immigration, and comparative politics. A comprehensive curriculum is strengthened by an infrastructure of advanced resources. UNT’s annual peace conference joins faculty with distinguished peace leaders from different countries to address important issues in peace security. The affiliated Human Security, Democracy, and Global Development research cluster works with colleagues and global partners to protect human rights, promote economic development, foster public health, and improve relations with neighbors. The Castleberry Peace Institute, organizational home to the cluster, sponsors cutting-edge research and educational programs on the causes of war and peace. Emerging technologies such as data visualization, geospatial analysis, and natural language processing augment traditional statistical methods and position UNT to collect, analyze, and present data at the forefront of conflict and security research.

- National leader in the field of peace and conflict research and home to the Castleberry Peace Institute, a resource for advanced analysis and evaluation of peace policy options
- Editorship and university host of the American Political Science Review, the premier journal of political science
- Annual UNT-International Peace Conference brings scholars, peace activists, faculty, and distinguished leaders from the community and around the world to discuss issues concerning peace security and communal harmony
- Distinguished partners include the U.S. Department of Defense, the United Nations, the World Bank, and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation
- One of only two "National Science Foundation—Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)" programs related to peace studies in the country

Representative Faculty

T. David Mason, Director of the Castleberry Peace Institute; and Regents Professor of Political Science: civil conflict; peace building; and post-conflict transitions

Idean Salehyan, Associate Professor of Political Science: civil conflict, environmental security; refugees; and Africa

Marijke Breuning, Professor of Political Science: foreign policy; development; and foreign aid

Jacqueline DeMeritt, Assistant Professor of Political Science: human rights; international advocacy groups; and repression

Andrew Enterline, Associate Professor of Political Science: international conflict; foreign policy; and counterinsurgency

Michael Greig, Associate Professor of Political Science: international conflict; peacekeeping; and mediation

Paul Hensel, Professor of Political Science: international conflict; and conflict management

John Ishiyama, Professor of Political Science: democratization; ethnic politics; and Eastern Europe

George James, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religion Studies: South Asian philosophy and religion; and environmental issues and movements in India

Jose Martinez, Assistant Professor of Economics: Mexican migration; economic development; and labor economics

Michael McPherson, Associate Professor of Economics: international trade; development; and Africa

James Meernik, Professor of Political Science: human rights; and international tribunals

David Molina, Associate Professor of Economics: border economies; and immigration

Nada Shabout, Associate Professor of Art History: cultural destruction and preservation; identity politics and art; and the historiography of Arabic and Iraqi art

Qaisar Abbas, Director of the UNT-International Peace Conference: peace; media; literature; and sociopolitical developments in South Asia and the Middle East
Select Research Resources

Castleberry Peace Institute
The UNT-based Institute sponsors cutting-edge research and educational programs on the causes of war and peace, both within and between nations. The institute supports and coordinates research among faculty, students, and the affiliated research cluster. The Peace Research Laboratory operates as a unit of the Institute and provides technical support for research projects related to issues of human security, conflict resolution, human rights, and development.

UNT-International Peace Conference
Scholars, peace activists, faculty, community leaders, and distinguished guests from around the world convene to discuss issues concerning peace security and communal harmony. The annual conference focuses on a different geographic region each year with theme-based sessions aimed to address conflict through innovative peace-building strategies. The event involves more than a dozen UNT departments, centers, and offices as sponsors, including the Castleberry Peace Institute, UNT-International, and the Contemporary Arab and Muslim Cultural Studies Institute.

RAVE: Research and Visualization Environment
RAVE offers comprehensive computer resources to help scholars visually analyze large amounts of complex data for graphically intensive research, simulations, statistics, and design. The state-of-the-art space features high-powered workstations, visualization software, and a large-scale, video display wall for analysis with superior graphical output to enhance and explain research.

UNT Libraries, Digital Projects Unit
The Digital Projects Unit is a resource for Peace Science scholarship at UNT. Advanced digital services include imaging, archival storage of electronic files, metadata development, and other activities as needed. The teams’ ambitious pursuit of research opportunities in digital preservation, coupled with a robust technological infrastructure, provides digital content to audiences worldwide.

American Political Science Review
The foremost scholarly research journal of political science, APSR presents peer-reviewed research articles by political scientists of all subfields. It is one of three journals published by the American Political Science Association (APSA), the leading professional organization for the study of political science. The APSA brings together political scientists from all fields of inquiry, regions, and occupational endeavors within and outside academe in order to expand awareness and understanding of politics. UNT is the new host institute for the journal and assumes editorial responsibilities.

Gujarat Vidyapith University
This center of learning was established in Ahmedabad by Mahatma Gandhi in 1920 and declared a deemed university in 1963. GV hosts many scholars that specialize in the study of “ahimsa”—an attitude of non-violence in thought, speech and deed towards all living beings. GV offers an extensive, historical archive in peace studies, peace journalism, and materials related to Gandhi’s pioneering brand of political activism.

Contributing Research Cluster:
Human Security, Democracy, and Global Development
humansecurity.unt.edu