

# Kathryn Wasserman Davis Collaborative in Conflict Transformation

## Our website is now live

Come learn about our early efforts and initiatives at the Kathryn Wasserman Davis Collaborative in Conflict Transformation. We are adding new content throughout the coming weeks as we launch several new projects. Click below or use go/ctc

[Click to learn more](#)



## News

### CALL: Conflict Transformation Research Grants for Middlebury Faculty & Research Associates

The Kathryn Wasserman Davis Collaborative in Conflict Transformation invites proposals for grants to support research on the topic of conflict transformation. Our definition of conflict transformation will remain broad and flexible in order to accommodate a wide variety of research projects. Core to our understanding of conflict transformation is the belief that conflict can be productive, generative, and crucial for social change. You can read more about our approach on our [What is Conflict Transformation](#) page. Check out our website's [Research page](#) for more information. Scroll down to learn about our past recipients.

#### Congratulations to our Spring 2022 grant recipients!

##### Middlebury College

**Andrea E. Robbett & Peter Hans Matthews**  
Meta-Perceptions, Trust, and the Transformation of Partisan Conflict

**Chong-Suk Han**  
Addressing Racism in the Gayborhood

**James Chase Sanchez**  
In Loco Parentis

**Jennifer D. Ortegren**  
"We Live With Love For Each Other" How Muslim and Hindu Women Transform Conflict in Middle-Class India

**Rebecca A. Mitchell**  
Deconstructing the "Russian Idea": Emigre Visions from Lenin to Putin

##### The Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey

**Anne C. Campbell**  
"How do you give back to a community that doesn't want you?" International LGBTQIA + students transformative education and tumultuous returns

**Alex Newhouse**  
Investigating Online and Offline Intersections Between Militant Accelerationism and Great Power Relations

**Jade McGlynn**  
Monterey Trialogue Initiative. Initiative in Russian Studies.

**James A. Lamson, Hanna Notte, & Sarah Bidgood**  
Employing Strategic Empathy to Address Adversaries' Acquisition, Threat, and Use of Strategic Weapons: A Fresh Look at "Demand Side Factors"

**Pushpa Iyer**  
Indigenous Perspectives on the Conflict-Environment Nexus

## Summer Programming

Over 80 undergraduate students from Middlebury College and other partner institutions participated in summer programming within the Collaborative's Experiential Learning and Community Engagement focus area. The summer kicked off with students participating in the Center for Careers and Internships' Trek to Washington DC, the Privilege and Poverty Internships, the Jiran program, and the History in Translation Program. Here are some highlights!

### Student Trek to Washington DC



The Center for Careers and Internships and the [Middlebury in DC](#) office collaborated to provide a fully funded Student Trek to Washington DC from June 5-8. The objective was to expose students interested in areas of conflict transformation, including peace and security studies as well as migration and refugee issues, to real-world professional experiences that will enable them to apply their liberal arts learning while informing their career exploration and other post-graduate planning.

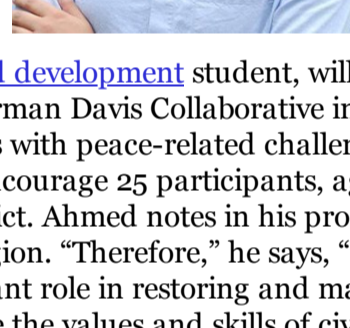
Over the course of four days, 14 students and three staff visited a variety of organizations including FHI360, Search for Common Ground, Alliance for Peacebuilding, Embassy of Qatar, Bridge Alliance, United States Institute for Peace, International Monetary Fund, Center for Nonproliferation Studies, Friends Committee on National Legislation, and Capitol Hill to visit with the Vermont delegation.

### History in Translation



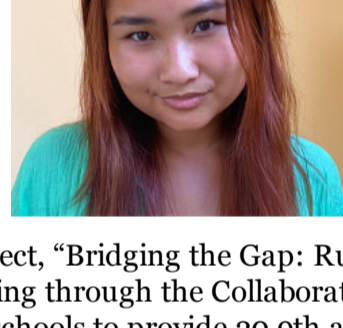
Since 2020, undergraduates from Middlebury College and International Christian University have collaborated on the translation of primary source documents and interviews detailing the experiences of Japanese Americans living under Executive Order 9066. The Summer 2022 History in Translation program built on these efforts, providing opportunity for students from Japan and students from the United States to gather in a shared space and time to further explore and study this history and its lived impacts, identify and consider how and why our assumptions and perspectives on history conflict (and do not), and to understand how the transformational potential of these historical explorations can be applied to the challenges and opportunities of our present - and our work and pursuit of social justice.

## Projects for Peace Grant recipients supported by us



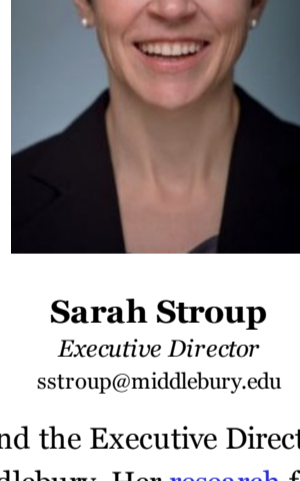
Mohamed Ahmed, an [international policy and development](#) student, will be working on his project, [Peace Story](#). Peace Story will be supported by the Kathryn Wasserman Davis Collaborative in Conflict Transformation and will take place in Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, and Syria—countries with peace-related challenges and high numbers of young people—with a focus on Syrian refugees in Lebanon. It will encourage 25 participants, ages 18 to 25, to recognize their roles in promoting peace and preventing violent conflict. Ahmed notes in his proposal that youth account for roughly 30 percent of the total population of the Arab region. "Therefore," he says, "engaging Arab youth in peace building and sustainable development could play a significant role in restoring and maintaining stability in the entire region as well as the world. To do so, youth need to incorporate the values and skills of civic education, dialogue, tolerance, and taking actions to be able to impact their communities and open spaces of cooperation."

Adapted from the [Middlebury Institute of International Studies Newsroom](#).



Nhi Dang '23 is currently carrying out her project, "Bridging the Gap: Rural Education in Vietnam" through the Projects for Peace program supported by funding through the Collaborative in Conflict Transformation. Dang's project is working directly with two rural Vietnamese schools to provide 20 9th and 12th graders with 3 months of tutoring in math, grammar, and English to prepare for national exams. This project aims to address educational disparities caused by the lack of technological resources and equipment in many rural schools in Vietnam, especially since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and the widespread shift to remote learning. The [Projects for Peace](#) university network is administered at Middlebury's [Center for Community Engagement](#), while Middlebury student projects are evaluated and supported by the [Innovation Hub](#).

## Meet our Conflict Transformation team



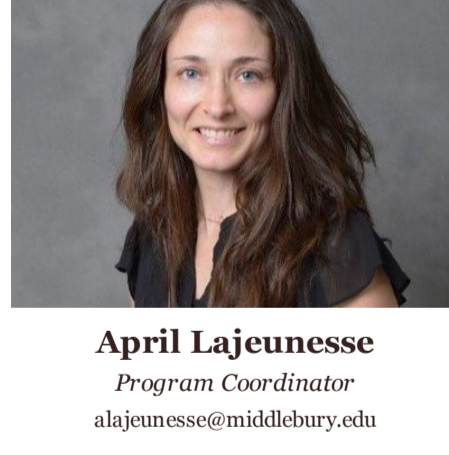
**Sarah Stroup**  
Executive Director  
sstroup@middlebury.edu

Sarah Stroup is a professor of political science and the Executive Director of the Kathryn Wasserman Davis Collaborative in Conflict Transformation at Middlebury. Her [research](#) focuses on international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) in humanitarian relief and human rights, and she is the author of two books and a dozen articles and book chapters. At Middlebury, Stroup teaches courses on non-state actors, international organizations, humanitarian relief, and international political economy. She is a former faculty co-director of the [Engaged Listening Project](#).



**Erin Anderson**  
Program Manager  
erina@middlebury.edu

Erin Anderson brings more than a decade of experience in higher education management and research to the Collaborative. In her current role, she will be working to translate the leadership's vision into operational program elements. In her most recent role as Associate Director of Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs for NYU Abu Dhabi, where she oversaw infrastructure-building for new graduate programs. She has also held positions with Susan Terry of Champlain College and the Harvard Graduate School of Arts & Sciences. Her research interests focus on universities' identities as incubators for the public good, and the tensions that arise from competing visions of that identity. She holds an MA in Religion & Society from Boston University and a BA in English Literature and Religious Studies from New York University. Erin lives in Waltham, VT with her husband, daughter, two cats, and five chickens.



**April Lajeunesse**  
Program Coordinator  
alajeunesse@middlebury.edu

April is delighted to be serving on the team for the Kathryn Wasserman Davis Collaborative in Conflict Transformation at Middlebury College. In addition to the work that April is doing at Middlebury College, she is serving as a mediator and Professional Coach within communities of Vermont and beyond. Her educational background includes a master's Certificate in Conflict Transformation Across Cultures and Mediation from The School for International Training in Brattleboro, Vermont. She has completed professional mediation trainings with Susan Terry of Champlain College, apprenticed with Vermont Mediator Neale Rodar, and shadowed Vermont lawyer and Mediator, Tad Powers. April has extensive experience serving those navigating end-of-life and hospice, as well as, families who are walking with Alzheimer's and Dementia. April intends to serve the needs of our community by offering present and compassionate Mediation, Facilitation, and Coaching in order for individuals and multiple parties to find solutions of the highest benefit for all involved.

## Events

### Looking Back

#### Conflict Transformation June Retreat

On June 6-8, 2022 the Collaborative welcomed nearly 50 colleagues and community members for an exploration of Conflict Transformation at the beautiful Bread Loaf campus. Participants included faculty and staff from our Monterey, Bread Loaf, and Middlebury campuses, and local community partners. The retreat featured discussions among "pillar" leaders, sample professional development sessions, and talks by [Laurie L. Patton](#) and [Pushpa Iyer](#). The discussions explored what Conflict Transformation means to this initiative, our institution, and the public, both regionally and globally.



### Looking Ahead

#### Clifford Symposium

September 22nd-24th

Continuing with a spirit of curiosity and learning, we are looking forward to the [Clifford Symposium](#) this September. We will hear from keynote speaker John Paul Lederach, Professor Emeritus of International Peacebuilding at the University of Notre Dame, and an expert in the field of Conflict Transformation within a modern context. During the three days of the Clifford, Middlebury will host several panel discussions, talks, a student poster session, community meals, as well as opportunities to learn more about the mission and vision of the Collaborative.

*Same but Different*  
September 23rd



*Same but Different* is a collaboration between Christal Brown and Lida Winfield, exploring their similarities and differences in a cultural commentary on race, age, and gender. 44 years young and recently orphaned, Lida grew up in the North, Christal grew up in the South, both of them grew up inhabiting small towns. Lida is white, Christal is Black. As children, Christal was considered a genius and Lida was labeled dumb. At this point in their lives, Lida and Christal have both lived the rigors of being artists, professors, educators, and survivors of life.

*Same but Different* runs for a half hour, followed by the show will be a question-and-answer session with the artists. *Same but Different* was created with support from Middlebury Performing Arts Series, The Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, and the National Performance Network.

Contact Us



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