How may pedagogical practices in diverse contexts contribute to or limit democratic agency to contribute to building just peace? In related qualitative research projects, girls and boys in Mexico, Colombia, Iran, and Canada expressed various understandings of, and potential responses to, economic inequality conflicts. Participating youths’ understandings of conflicts such as poverty, unemployment, global resource-inequality, and drug trafficking — informed by their lived experiences — varied by country, gender, and socioeconomic status. Yet the potential citizen responses they imagined to these conflicts were remarkably alike, emphasizing individual actions and sometimes a sense that it was impossible to transform these situations of un-peace. Teachers’ enacted curriculum in these contexts did not always intersect with the expressed concerns or understandings of participating students. For instance, in Mexico, Colombia, and Iran, students were very concerned about corruption in their countries, and wanted learning opportunities to analyze this problem, as they saw it as preventing democratic action to alleviate economic inequality conflicts. However, generally experienced curriculum did not provide much learning space to understand citizenship participation mechanisms, via social movements or formal politics, that could contribute to holding government accountable for conflict transformation. The session will invite comparative discussion of three research papers:

Najme Kishani Farahani (PhD candidate, C&P + CIDE)
**Hope Amidst Violence:**
Youths’ Lived Experiences of Equality Conflicts in Iran

Angela Guerra-Sua (PhD candidate, C&P + CIDE)
**Addressing Resource Conflicts:**
Colombian Students’ Understandings and Teachers’ Lessons

Kathy Bickmore (Professor, C&P + CIDE)
**Global(ized) Citizenship Education:**
Economic Inequity Conflicts in Youths’ Lives and Schooling in Mexico and Canada
Najme Kishani Farahani is a PhD candidate with the department of Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning, at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto. Her research interests focus on comparative democratic citizenship, conflict transformation, and agentic peacebuilding teaching and learning. Najme, under the supervision of Dr. Kathy Bickmore, has been part of the ‘Peace-Building Citizenship Learning in Contexts affected by Violence’ research project, examining how teaching and learning activities may contribute to tangible peace-building citizenship consequences in the lives of young people.

Angela Guerra-Sua is a PhD candidate with the department of Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning, at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto. Her research in violent and marginalized contexts of Bogotá, Colombia investigates what social sciences teachers are teaching, in comparison with their students’ understandings and concerns of violence and conflict issues. Her research interest is to understand how school practices may facilitate (or impede) peacebuilding and citizenship learning opportunities in that context. Angela is constantly looking at ways to teach about conflicts and ways to achieve a positive peace. Besides teaching history at the school and university level, Angela has worked in the past at UNESCO proposing ways to prevent and challenge violent extremism through educational initiatives.

Kathy Bickmore is Professor in Curriculum and Pedagogy (CTL) and current Director of the Comparative International and Development Education Centre and graduate specialization at OISE, University of Toronto. Her interests include the complex roles of K-12 public schooling and curriculum in conflict, peace-building and democratic education, from international comparative perspectives. She guest-edited Peace-building (in) Education: Democratic Approaches to Conflict in Schools and Classrooms (Curriculum Inquiry 44:4 September 2014) and co-edited the book Comparative and International Education: Issues for Teachers (revised edition 2017, Canadian Scholars Press).

Thursday October 15, 2020 4:30-6:00 PM
Chair: Kathy Bickmore
OISE Room 7-105 | 252 Bloor Street West, Toronto
To login to ZOOM: https://zoom.us/j/661234725