

December 10, 2018

Re: "EDUC-ACTORS: FROM CONTEXT TO TEXT. RETHINKING PEACE, CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP IN HIGH EDUCATION, THROUGH THE ENCOUNTER WITH THE ARTS AS GENERATORS OF A CULTURE OF PEACE".

To whom it may concern

The International Christian University (ICU) and its Rotary Peace Center (the only peace center offering graduate level education in Asia and one of only six centers worldwide) have actively participated in the conceptualizing, design and hosting of the global academic initiative *Rethinking Peace Studies*, an international and transdisciplinary academic engagement that has aimed from 2014 to 2016 to voice, reflect and rethink the diverse opportunities and challenges faced not only in the discipline of Peace Studies but also in Education for Peace, and to interrogate the role of education in peacebuilding and conflict transformation. Pease see here for details: <u>https://rotaryicu.wordpress.com/</u>

http://www.rethinkingpeacestudies.com/

In my capacity as a director of ICU's Rotary Peace Center and as an organizing committee member of Rethinking Peace Studies, I consider that the research and educational project proposed vill significantly widen the scope of Peace Studies, and Peace Education, in particular. The Fundacion Cultura de Paz and Daniel Fernandez have created an educational proposal that enhances a humanistic pedagogy which links academia and empirical experience, and bridges de gap between a western and non-western understanding of the world. It, furthermore, seeks to explore the possibilities for educational and critical thinking opened up by audiovisual technologies in an interconnected world, by placing emphasis on the *local* context in which Peace and Conflict transformation can occur.

It is for that reason that I whole-heartedly endorse this pedagogical model, its goals and its methodology. Indeed, I wish to extend an invitation to Daniel Fernandez and Fundacion Cultura de Paz, to develop lecture sessions in my Peace and Conflict class which is the core course in the Peace Studies MA program at ICU.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Giorgiandrea (Giorgio) Shani Professor of Politics and International Relations, International Christian University, <u>gshani@icu.ac.jp</u>

Visiting Senior Fellow, Centre of International studies (CIS) London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

President, Asia-Pacific Region, International Studies Association <u>https://www.isanet.org/ISA/Regions/Asia-Pacific</u>