



Emily Evans

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Emily is a socio-cultural anthropologist and peace innovator currently working as the Programs and Research Officer at the Peace Innovation Initiative. As a scholar and practitioner, she actively works to design and launch actionable and sustainable solutions for rebuilding our increasingly polarized public sphere through innovative research and cross-sectoral connections. Over the past 10 years, she has dedicated herself to uncovering the root causes of complex social and political issues that prevent various communities from experiencing stability and peace. Drawing upon lessons from deeply divided societies around the world, her research uses ethnographic data to generate deeper understandings of present issues and the people involved with focus on illuminating the often-misunderstood relationship between belonging narratives and political engagement. Believing that the ability to create space for paradox and conflict is critical for catalyzing peace and belonging within and between groups, she translates her findings in ways that rehumanize while maintaining the cruciality of accountability for hate-based action. With a commitment to both academic research and peacebuilding, she is currently researching how change happens within nonviolent and populist movements as she works to develop the field and practice of peace innovation.

In 2021, she pursued this commitment at King's College London as an MA student in Conflict Resolution in Divided Societies. Her graduate dissertation was a secondary ethnographic study of white rural and industrial American communities and the collective narrative that informed political engagement from 2008 to 2016. As part of this and other research projects, she has sought to make sense of the intricacies of public opinion and affective experience around issues including immigration, racism, and economic instability. Emily also has a BA in Anthropology and a Certificate in Peace and Conflict Studies.

While her research and work are grounded in cultural anthropology, social psychology, and political science, she has a passion for harnessing the power of cross-cultural and cross-sectoral thought and engagement for good. Having grown up in the US, the UK, and the Netherlands, her desire to connect across differences and bridge divisions in the midst of conflicting interests was nurtured from a young age, and she continues to incorporate these lessons into her everyday life, travels, research, and programmatic work.

