Contents

1. Introduction 1

2. Classical and Constructivist Pragmatism 7
   2.1. Classical Pragmatism 7
   2.2. Pragmatism with a Constructivist twist 17
   2.3. Pragmatism and the “False Gods” of Peace Research 19

3. Positivism: Social Engineering of Peace 24
   3.1. Classical Pragmatist science and engineering 24
   3.2. Mainstream peace research as social engineering 26
   3.3. Optimizing pragmatism in traditional causal analysis 32
   3.4. Critique of the social engineering of peace 37
   3.5. Moving from classical pragmatist peace research to neo-pragmatist peace research 44

4. Towards a social science of peace 46
   4.1. Problems of deterministic knowledge of peace and war 46
   4.2. Modeling purposive conflict behavior 56
   4.3. The relevance of game theory for modeling the reasons for action 65
   4.4. Social structures that make peaceful actors choose belligerence 68
       4.4.1. Structures that make peaceful actors choose belligerence: the anatomy of the prisoner’s dilemma model 69
       4.4.2. Problems in seeing conflict settings as prisoner’s dilemma structures 74
       4.4.3. Structures that make peaceful actors choose belligerence: the bargaining game model 83
           4.4.3.1. Making the opponent more dependent on a solution 91
           4.4.3.2. Making oneself less dependent on a solution 98
           4.4.3.3. Making oneself more determined about one’s terms of peace 107
   4.5. Bargaining and rationality 112
5. Interpretations as a conflict reality
   5.1. Introduction
   5.2. Social rationality and the constitution of bargaining structures
   5.3. Reconstruction of other conflict situations

6. Social construction of structures of peace and conflict
   6.1. Social constitution of conflict realities
   6.2. Implications of the social constitution of social realities on peacemaking

7. Critical approaches and peace
   7.1. What kinds of “natural” connotations and associations does the word security in its current practice smuggle into our thinking?
   7.2. What kind of critical perspectives could be useful for peace research and peace? Feminine and Third World critical perspectives
   7.3. Positive Critical Perspectives

8. Intellectual opportunities for the creation of a less violent world
   8.1. Normative considerations in relation to what to consider as real
   8.2. How are social constructs created and transformed?
   8.3. What kind of social transformation should peace and conflict studies support?
   8.4. Problems in the transition to a cosmopolitan security community
      8.4.1. The problem of asymmetry of solidarity and agency
      8.4.2. The problem of asynchrony of collective security agency in the Global North and Global South
   8.5. How do we proceed from here: can paradigms give prescriptions for peace action?

9. Conclusions and missions for pragmatist peace research