In this seminar, Dr Fontana maps the uncharted territory of education reform in peace agreements and in their aftermath to explore a facet of cultural violence and challenge some widely shared assumptions as to the place of education in post-conflict societies.

She will employ rich and detailed qualitative data collected in Lebanon, Northern Ireland and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (including over 75 semi-structured interviews, official reports and documents) as well as a new dataset of educational clauses in intra-state peace agreements concluded between 1989 and 2016 (Dataset of Political Agreements in Internal Conflicts).

Her findings suggest that the implementation of post-conflict education reforms is constrained by the values and practices of the wider political system (in this case, power-sharing). They also suggest that education is a force for short-term conflict prevention, but not necessarily for the long-term transformation of civil wars.