



## Lester Kurtz, PhD

Professor, Sociology and Anthropology; Professor, Mason Korea

### Education

PhD, Sociology, University of Chicago

### Key Interests

Social Movements | Sustainability | Sociology | Gandhi | Sociology of Religion and Culture  
| Nonwestern Social Theory | Happiness and Wellbeing | Sociology of Nonviolent Civil  
Resistance | Social Change

### CONTACT

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### SELECT PUBLICATIONS

- › Kurtz, Lester R. (2008). Encyclopedia of violence, peace & conflict. Amsterdam: Elsevier.
- › Kurtz, Lester R. (2016). Shifting economic paradigms, mobilizing nonviolent resistance. *Ahimsa Nonviolence*, 7(2), 129-133.
- › Kurtz, Lester R. (2015). Fighting violence against women: A toolkit. In *Women, war and violence: Typography, resistance and hope*. Edited by Mariam M. Kurtz and Lester R. Kurtz, 2, 559-591. Santa Barbara: Praeger.
- › Kurtz, Lester R. (2008). Gandhi and his legacies. 2nd Amsterdam Encyclopedia of Violence, Peace and Conflict.

### Research Focus

My research focus involves cultural and religious foundations of violence - including violence against the environment and the interaction among various kinds of violence (direct, structural, cultural, and ecoviolence) are being addressed by nonviolent alternatives. I am studying those alternatives and the nature of violence and how people are transforming society toward a sustainable future.

### Current Projects

- The Warrior and the Pacifist: Religion and the Rhetoric of Violence. Gandhi's revolutionary synthesis of contradictory motifs that run through all of the world's religious and ethical traditions with the nonviolent activist motif.
- Nonwestern social theory - rethinking our social theory by incorporating indigenous knowledge and nonwestern theories of social life and action.
- Violence, Peace and Conflict - editing a 3rd edition of a 4-volume encyclopedia (Elsevier).
- Asian contributions to peacebuilding and sustainability.