

TOWN AND GOWN: THE CONSORTIUM FOR PEACE  
STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY 2005-  
2015 AS A CASE STUDY IN ACADEMIC-COMMUNITY  
PARTNERSHIPS

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This study examines the history of one attempt to establish a peace studies program at a Canadian university through the lens of social movement and organizational/institutional theory. For ten years the Consortium for Peace Studies at the University of Calgary tried to establish a peace studies program. This article discusses how the Consortium came about, the barriers it faced in achieving its goals, and the reasons for its failure. Ideological and institutional resistance, as well as a lack of long-term funding, were the main factors in the Consortium's demise. Likewise the Consortium's initial adoption of a hybrid model of an academic-community partnership in its governance resulted in both positive and negative consequences. The history of the Consortium offers valuable insight into issues that arise when an academic-community partnership acts as a change agent in a traditional academic environment.

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## BACKGROUND

The Consortium for Peace Studies existed at the University of Calgary (U of C) from 2005 to 2015. The history of its founding, evolution, and ultimate closure is important for the field of Peace Studies because it highlights both the successes and perils of academic-community partnerships, especially in contexts of ideological tension and institutional rigidity. This article is a combination of history, personal memoir, and case study. It is written by one

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