



**« Scientific Pacifism » in the Belle Époque:
Alfred H. Fried's Efforts to Promote Peace across National Borders**

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Based on a case study of the Austro-German peace activist Alfred Hermann Fried (1864-1921), this paper explores transnational aims and efforts in the period of the Belle Époque. As a member of the *Deutsche Friedensgesellschaft* and the *Österreichische Friedensgesellschaft*, Fried played a key role in shaping German-speaking pacifism at the fin de siècle. His impact on peace-related debates was linked to his prolificacy as an author: alongside countless pamphlets and books, Fried also edited the journal *Die Friedenswarte*, thus sustaining a key vehicle for the dissemination of pacifist ideas.

Whilst acknowledging Fried's significance for the German peace movement, my paper focuses on the ways in which his work transcended national boundaries. The transnational dimension of Fried's pacifism can be traced in two different ways, namely at a theoretical and a practical level. In his writings, Fried expounded the concept of a 'scientific pacifism' which interpreted rising global interdependence as a force towards international order. The paper will show how such notions formed part of a dialogue that involved activists from different countries. To this end, it sets Fried's ideas in relation to Norman Angell's critique of international armament, and to Paul Otlet and Henri La Fontaine's emphasis on the significance of international organisation(s).

Furthermore, in dealing with the practicalities of transnational efforts, the paper considers Fried's activity within several networks and organisations: one such example was his membership of the International Peace Bureau in Bern, which served as a focal point for the collaboration of national peace societies. Another case is Fried's contact with the Brussels-based Union of International Associations (*Union des Associations Internationales*,



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UAI). In this context, the paper will discuss both the extent and the setbacks associated with Fried's contribution to the UAI's *Annuaire de la Vie Internationale*.