

# *Why is the world at war? – a call for engagement*

As this brutal year ends, the world is at war.

Two ‘great’ wars are underway in the world: one is in the Ukraine; the other is in the Middle East. However, lesser wars are underway in 30 different places over the legitimacy of governments, territory, the environment, religion and racial difference; at other sites, ‘drug wars’ rage, and the war on the poor and migrants continues unabated in every corner of the world.

Worryingly, ‘war-talk’ – to use Arundhati Roy – is on far too many political lips while the global arms trade is flourishing.

War and conflict are at the heart of the Humanities and the Social Sciences. Technological developments have influenced these approaches, which markedly change the nature of all social relationships. Understanding and explaining our times demands approaches not prescribed by the intellectual grammar and vocabulary of individual disciplines.

**Platform** is interested in hosting a series of free-hand interventions addressing the question, ‘Why is the World at War?’

Please note that we are calling for thoughts on the longer-term encompassing social, political, and environmental issues underpinning conflicts in the contemporary world, rather than the immediacies of wars.

Ideally, each contribution should be at most 1500 words (excluding foot-notes). There is no submission deadline, but we will approach individuals and invite them to contribute.

**Platform** can be accessed at <https://journals.ufs.ac.za/index.php/aa/index> [for background, especially 54(1), 2022].



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