Image "Mud and Water Façade – Bahir Dar – Ethiopia" by Adam Jones, PhD / Global Photo Archive / Flickr

Restoring Peace: Building post-conflict societies

Archbishop Desmond Tutu Centre for War and Peace Studies Annual International Conference, July 3 2017

CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS
This conference aims to explore the ways that a multiplicity of actors and processes advance peace and stability in societies overcoming conflict. It also seeks to interrogate not only traditional issues related to peacebuilding such as security, human rights and economic development, but also aspects related to the symbolic and cultural expressions of reconciliation and social cohesion.

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Reducing Structural Violence in Post-Conflict Societies: Approaches to Land and Rural Reform in Montes de María, Colombia.

Dáire McGill, Ulster University

Abstract

This paper applies the transformative justice theoretical framework to explore structural violence and the impact of various post-conflict initiatives. I do this by creating an innovative structural violence reduction matrix to analyse initiative's diagnostic, process and outcome dimensions – all three need to be considered in any attempt to address structural violence in post-conflict periods.   This is grounded empirically in the study of two different rural public policy initiatives - the land restitution programme (LRP) and Peasant Reserve Zones (ZRC) - to reduce structural violence in Colombia. The LRP is a well-resourced transitional justice process arising from the 2011 Victims Law that aims to return land to people displaced by violence since 1991 (Acción Social 2011). ZRCs are a state strategy to organise rural property, eliminate land concentration, extend peasant landholding, promote rural development, encourage community participation in local development plans, protect the environment, and safeguard peasants' economic, social and cultural rights (Colombia 1994; Incoder 2011). The research aim is to investigate how initiatives affect structural violence in rural Colombia by analysing their operation in the Montes de María. Intermediate objectives include understanding their problem framing; explaining their operation; analysing their depth and nature of community participation; and measuring their impact on levels of structural violence approximately 5 years after inception. Of particular interest is analysing how peasant communities obtain agency through social mobilisation and demands for transformative peace and justice, and how their organisations experience, adapt and respond to public policy initiatives. Diverse data and research methodologies are utilised: textual analysis of state laws and policy documents; semi-structured interviews with peasants in Montes de María; and socioeconomic statistics. I use process tracing to see how initiatives were created and implemented; and thematic analysis to show how people experience structural violence and how they interact with the initiatives under study.

Keywords: Structural Violence; Land Restitution; Peasant Agency; Transformative Justice; Colombia.

Biography

Mr Daire McGill: PhD candidate at the Transitional Justice Institute, Ulster University. Previously received a BA from the University of Liverpool and an MSc from the University of London. His current research utilises the theoretical framework of transformative justice to analyse the contribution of rural initiatives in reducing structural violence in Colombia. This is expected to give insights into necessary characteristics to address structural violence, and the wider question of whether a transitional justice approach is appropriate to do so. Further

research interests include processes of state formation, societal resilience, exclusion and inequalities.

Need to Restore Peace by Increasing Awareness regarding Sustainability and Green Energy in Societies – A Major Environmental Challenge

Hitika Dhingra, Guru Nanak Dev University
Sargun Kaur Sachdeva

Abstract

"I don't understand why when we destroy something created by man, we call it vandalism, but when we destroy something by nature we call it progress" (Ed Begley Jr.).

There is more energy conversation going on these days than energy conservation. The pyramid of life is on very tremulous ground. Saving and protecting the environment is not a subject anymore. It is survival veracity. No war machine, however strong, can repel the dangers to our ecological security. Furthermore, there is no technology available anywhere in the world, which can recreate soil, bring to life extinct species. With growing energy demand and concern for depletion of conventional fuel resources, there is an urgent need to increase awareness regarding usage of green energy. In this study emphasis has been placed on respondent's awareness and opinion on ecosystem, global warming, climate change and benefits of renewable energy. The sampling unit consists of different individual respondents of different gender and age of Amritsar city. The sample size of the study is three hundred and fifty-seven respondents. Descriptive research using interview schedule was done, whereby the data was collected with the help of a questionnaire. The inputs from the data were factored (using factor analysis) to derive at the necessary conclusions to enhance awareness regarding use of Green energy. On the grounds of demographic profile of respondents, the difference has been found significant gender-wise, age-wise, occupation-wise and education-wise (using chi-square).

It has come to light that lack of awareness can result in a major lag between the time when decision-makers express their interest in going forward with a proposed initiative and the time the proposal wins' acceptance by a majority of the public.

Keywords: environmental, renewable, non-conventional, awareness, green energy

Biography:

Hitika Dhingra is currently a senior research fellow at Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, India, and is pursuing doctoral degree. The topic for the research is "Growth, Management and Green Initiatives by Punjab Energy Development Agency- A case study". Hitika has post

graduated with the Master's Degree in Business and Administration. Hitika has also cleared National Eligibility Test (NET) by UGC, India.

Sargun Kaur Sachdeva has just completed B.A. Honours in Sociology from Jesus and Mary College, University of Delhi, Delhi, India. Sargun is going to join London School of Economics in September for the degree of M.Sc. in Gender, Development and Globalisation.

Climate Change and Mass Atrocity Prevention
Stephen McLoughlin, Liverpool Hope University
Pedram Rashidi, University of Queensland

Abstract

While climate change has begun to attract attention amongst genocide scholars, the relationship between climate change and mass atrocities has been largely overlooked. However, we know that circumstances involving desertification and protracted droughts have been a contributing factor to cases of mass violence in the past. We also know that climate predictions suggest more frequent cases of desertification and drought (and other extreme weather events), in many temperate regions where further stress will induce mass displacement. One of the great policy challenges for governments and communities in the 21st century will be how to manage climate change-induced displacement. This presentation makes a contribution to this challenge by conducting a review into two clusters of research. First, it examines IPCC reports to chart the established links between climate change and conflict. Second, we review literature within the field of comparative genocide studies to evaluate the extent to which such scholarship has considered climate change as a potential driver for genocide and other mass atrocities. The purpose of this is to investigate the current status of knowledge on the relationship between climate change and mass atrocities, in an effort to highlight ways that research that research into mass atrocity prevention can be informed by the growing impacts of climate change.

Keywords: climate change, genocide, mass atrocities, prevention.

Biographies

Stephen McLoughlin is a Lecturer in International Relations at Liverpool Hope University. His research interests include mass atrocity prevention, the role of the UN in conceptualising and carrying out prevention, the causes of genocide and mass atrocities, and the Responsibility to Protect (R2P). Stephen is particularly interested in why it is that mass atrocities *do not* occur in places where the risk factors associated with such violence are salient. His publications include the monograph, *The Structural Prevention of Mass Atrocities*, published with

Routledge; and the journal article, 'From Reaction to Resilience in Mass Atrocity Prevention: An Analysis of the 2013 UN Report '*The Responsibility to Protect: State Responsibility and Prevention',* recently published in *Global Governance.*

With a Master's degree in material science (physics), Pedram Rashidi gained over 12 years' experience in the Iranian and Australian energy industries, both in research and practice, before completing a PhD on global environmental governance in 2017. This research at the University of Queensland (UQ) draws on his experience in the (renewable) energy sector and long-time interest in the philosophy of science and energy policy. Analyzing the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports within their institutional context and with regards to their policy implications, Pedram has critically investigated the nexus between knowledge production and policy making in the climate change discourse.
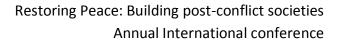Pedram intends to continue his investigation of global environmental governance, as well as the implications of climate change for other areas of International Relations, such as violent conflict.

Romanticised, Regurgitated, and Reconstructed Memory: Narratives of Post-Conflict Youth in Northern Ireland
Donna Halliday Liverpool John Moores University
Neil Ferguson Liverpool Hope University

Abstract
While Northern Ireland has been considered to be officially in a state of peace for some years with the Belfast Agreement fast approaching its twentieth anniversary, problems continue to linger. Unresolved issues around the legacy of the troubles still plague Northern Ireland, particularly around issues of identity, and remembering/dealing with the past. As such, narratives of the past remain conflicted and contested, which in tandem with cultures of silence have created a socio-political void that serves to maintain a state of 'them' and 'us', and a victim mentality within the communal psyche creating a barrier to full reconciliation. It is within this context that post-conflict youth experience peace and make sense of the past. This paper seeks to examine the role of communal recollections about the past in shaping the socio-cultural narratives of the post-conflict generation. Research suggests that collective memory has a pivotal role in the construction of socio-cultural identities and maintaining narratives of victimhood. Indicating that unresolved trauma from past conflicts can remain in the collective psyche and transferred to younger generations. However, less focus has been given to the presence of post-memory in younger generations within current debates and how this may influence young people who may see it as their role to right perceived wrongs. As such, this paper seeks to address the role of post-memory in shaping the identities of young people via an examination of how narratives of past 'histories; both national and personal can

encapsulate and transfer psychological trauma experienced by previous generations, onto younger generations thereby creating and maintaining resentment and hostility leading to a 'us' and 'them' mentality through the generations. Drawing on recent research with youths in Northern Ireland this paper will consider the influence of post-memory on youth via an exploration of how narratives of the past shape the social, cultural and political lens of young people and the potential implications this may have for the future of peace in Northern Ireland

Key Words: Northern Ireland; Youth; Memory; Trauma; Peace

Biographies

Donna Halliday (PhD, Hope, 2015) is a Senior Lecturer in Criminal Justice at Liverpool John Moores University. Her research is interdisciplinary and focuses primarily on Northern Ireland, inter-generational trauma, collective/post-memory, victimisation, transitional justice, and how this interacts with practices of political violence. She has previously lectured at Liverpool Hope University, and has also been a Research Officer for the School of Humanities and Social Science at Liverpool John Moores University, a Researcher for the Behavioural Epidemiology unit at the Centre for Public Health, LJMU, and an ESRC Research Assistant at The University of Central Lancashire.

Neil Ferguson (D.Phil., Ulster, 1998) is Professor of Political Psychology at Liverpool Hope University and Visiting Fellow to the Changing Character of War Programme, Pembroke College, Oxford. His research and writings are based in the fields of psychology, politics, terrorism studies and peace building. He previously served as the Director of the Desmond Tutu Centre for War and Peace Studies, a Research Fellow at University of St Andrews, and lectured at the University of Ulster. Professor Ferguson is currently a member of the Governing Council for the International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP). He also serves on the editorial boards of the Journal of Moral Education and the Journal of Social and Political Psychology and is a trustee of the Journal of Moral Education Trust.

Violated Identities and Elusive Peace: Stigmatization and Struggle for Reintegration Among Victims of Boko Haram's Insurgency in North Eastern Nigeria.

Medinat Abdulazeez

Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA), University of Zurich, Switzerland and the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology (MPI). Doctoral Candidate History and War Studies (NDA) and Institute for Social Anthropology and Ethnology (UZH).

Abstract

In the face of Boko Haram's insurgent activities and counter-insurgency actions against it, over 2.9m people have been displaced in the area, turning the once boisterous economic powerhouse of the Lake Chad Basin to a ghost town of refugees and internally displaced persons. Boko Haram has however been reduced to a guerilla force. With obviously reduced but intermittently resurging Boko Haram attacks, the government and people of the north east have demonstrated resilience by attempting to rebuild, rehabilitate and hasten the peace and recovery process. This paper is focused on this. More specifically, the research intends to study in-depth the north-east's social recovery process. Destroyed infrastructures are being rebuilt even as Boko Haram's sporadic attacks continues to destroy them and rupture the fabric of safety. Refugees and IDPs are being returned to former abodes or resettled in camps and host communities. From this, certain social rubrics emerge- Discrimination and Stigmatization. Returnees for example who were prisoners in Boko Haram enclaves but were rescued by security forces are been discriminated against in communities where they have returned to. They are regarded as 'tainted'. Confessed or former Boko Haram members are no longer trusted, leading to a breakdown of family ties and increasing alienation. Women and children who were sexually abused by Boko Haram, or in displacement camps are being subjected to ridicule, humiliation and stigmatization, and children from such relationships are viewed in the realms of terrorist protégés. What do these social rubrics portray to the political, economic, social and cultural reintegration of the north east? This, and north eastern Nigeria's arduous journey to seemingly elusive peace is the bane of this paper.

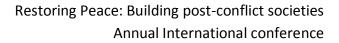**Key words:** Boko Haram, Insurgency, Peace, Stigmatization and Discrimination.

Biography:

Medinat Abdulazeez is a doctoral candidate affiliated with the Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA), the University of Zurich, Switzerland and the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology. Research interests include but are not limited to: violent conflicts, civil war, insurgency, religious violence, conflict resettlement and reintegration, with a regional focus on the Lake Chad Basin of West Africa.

Cartographies of transformation: Mapping social movement in post-conflict space

Susan Forde, Liverpool Hope University

Abstract

In contemporary conflict, city spaces are frequently structurally damaged or destroyed. Following an intra-state conflict, this space can also be divided. This paper has two central points, the first, that a deeper inquiry in to social use of divided spaces is required in post-

conflict scholarship, and secondly, this work proposes that post-conflict reconstruction should be, when possible, participatory in nature, involving local social actors in the process. The case study of research conducted in the city of Mostar in Bosnia-Herzegovina, is discussed with regard to exploring social movement in a divided city, and to propose the viability of participatory approaches to research regarding the post-conflict reconstruction of space. The city of Mostar has been divided since the start of the Bosnian war in 1992, and is now split in to six areas, three are Bosniak on the East side, and three are Croat on the West side. The divisions of the conflict have been passed transgenerationally, through political, social and educational narratives. Accordingly, there are limited opportunities for individuals to learn to engage across ethno-nationalistic divides. Methodologically, the paper utilises cognitive mapping and narrative interviews to explore the use of the city space, and presents participants' narratives of spaces in the city which would benefit renovation, restoration or transformation. This paper will present narratives of social movement in the city with respect to the ethno-nationalistic division, other sub-divisions and the facilitation of conflict transformation. Fundamentally, the work evidences that in Mostar, social actors do traverse the institutional divides in the city. The paper also presents the benefits of participatory research approaches in post-conflict spaces with an emphasis on putting forward local narratives of the potential use of space.

Key words: Conflict transformation, Bosnia-Herzegovina, post-conflict, mapping, participatory.

Biography

Susan Forde is a Visiting Lecturer at Liverpool Hope University, where she recently completed her doctoral thesis. Her research interests include spaces and places of peace, divided cities, mapping as a methodology, participatory research approaches, and gender and peace. Part of the research she conducted for her thesis has been published in an article in Cooperation and Conflict journal entitled 'The bridge over the Neretva: Stari Most as a stage of memory in post-conflict Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina.'

What about 'getting on with it' in post-peace agreement Belfast?

Eric Lepp, University of Manchester

Abstract

In the years after the Belfast Giants ice hockey team was established in 2000, the organisation utilised slogans like "Game for All, Game for Everyone" and "In the Land of Giants Everyone is Equal" in an effort to mark themselves as non-sectarian spectator sport. These marketing campaigns, along with the arena's location in the landmark regeneration project, the Titanic Quarter, and the fact that the sport had minimal historical significance in the region,

generated a fan base that was both resistant to and exhausted by the Troubles. However, as I spent a season sitting side-by-side fellow fans in an effort to better understand the webs of social relationships occurring between team supporters, particularly how and whether this unorthodox activity offered an opportunity for authentic bridging across historical division, any discussion framing the space as one of 'peace' or 'reconciliation' was rejected – such political statements were generally as unwelcome in this space as any sectarian symbols.

This pushback is a result of top-down, liberal peace frameworks which have politicised terminology and over-accentuated actions identified as peace-building or reconciliation-focused – the two main priorities of the EU Peace Programme and its funding to numerous and varied initiatives since 1995. By and large, the supporters wanted neither to be labelled by the division that remains evident outside the arena, nor as a peace initiative. This paper presentation thus questions whether the normalcy of interaction in attending a hockey game where one might be seated next to someone who they would not live next to as representative of the move towards 'getting on with it' in present day Belfast.

Biography

Eric is writing up a PhD for which he completed his fieldwork in Northern Ireland exploring activity that incorporated interactions with 'the other' in divided Belfast. Through this examination he looked at how spaces of encounter work towards generating broader peaceful change. In his research on cross-community interaction in Belfast, he focused on the ice hockey arena as a space of encounter across historical division. As a means adapting to the research environment, he used the seating arrangement of being to the left or the right of the interviewee and the sharing of an experience to make a connection that is not scripted; perhaps aided by informality, the ethnographic-informed approach presented a great opportunity for opening the door to discussion that would not occur otherwise.

Imperialism by another name? Questioning the Legal and Moral Prerogative of the United Nations to Establish International Territorial Administrations
Joanna L D Wilson, University of Glasgow

Abstract

Post-conflict International Territorial Administration (ITA) by the United Nations (UN) exposes a common dichotomy of values facing the international community: between strategic and humanitarian motivations; between the international and the local; between the legal right to control and govern, and the moral obligation to retain contextual specificity and cultural authenticity.

It is argued that, while the UN may have the legal right to administer territory in post-conflict societies, in order to maintain or restore domestic and international peace and security, these operations should also be characterised by the moral responsibility to recognise the cultural particularisms and requirements of each individual socio-political, economic, and geographical context in which they are conducted.

Motivated by Booth's postulation of the academic responsibility to "unsilence the silenced", the 'Western-centric' nature of ITA will be exposed. The legal regime will be presented, not as a wholly uncomplicated, virtuous pursuit, but rather as a form of imperialism that can involve the imposition of a 'Westernised', and thereby often culturally inappropriate, legal system upon 'non-Western' societies.

While the need for ITA in post-conflict societies is recognised, it is also shown, with reference to theories of Cultural Violence, the Democratic Peace, 'Othering', Legitimacy and the Standards of Civilisation, that these missions can sometimes lead to more harm than good for local peoples, particularly when a quick post-war 'fix' evolves (often accidentally) into an unsatisfactory long-term situation of negative peace, causing the post-war society to come to depend on its international administrators.

It will be concluded that the illumination of ITA's faults and imperialistic tendencies highlights avenues of improvement that could ultimately aid the UN, and indeed the international community as a whole, in its pursuit of international peace and security.

Keywords: International Territorial Administrations, Peacebuilding, Law and Morality, Imperialism.

Biography

Joanna is a Research Associate in International Law, Conflict and Security and first year PhD candidate in International Humanitarian Law (Autonomous Weapons Systems) at the University of Glasgow (Supervision: Robin Geiß/Christian J Tams). She holds a First Class MA(Hons) in International Relations and Spanish from the University of St Andrews, and an interdisciplinary LLM in International Law and Security, with Merit, from the University of Glasgow, for which she was awarded the prize for the most outstanding student. Prior to her PhD, she worked at IES Villajunco in Santander, and the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law in London. Research interests include peace and conflict studies; global security; the laws of armed conflict; critical approaches to international law; the importance of cultural awareness in international law and international relations; and the relationship between law and morality.

News media representation of the abduction of 276 Chibok school girls in Borno state, North East Nigeria, by Boko Haram sect on 14th April 2014: An analysis of Daily Sun, Daily Trust and Leadership newspapers

Nancy Brian Mbaya, PhD Student, University of Chester

Abstract

This is a study on news media representation of the abduction of 276 female students of Government Girls' Secondary school in Borno state, Nigeria by the Boko Haram sect: An analysis of Daily Sun, Daily Trust and Leadership newspapers. This study sets out to analyse news media representation of women in this abduction. It also attempted to find out if Nigerian newspapers cover stories of conflicts in the same way or not. To do this, it drew on post-colonial theories and theories of feminism and argues that media representation of the abduction reflects the notion of patriarchy right from colonial times to post colonialism. This study also argues that patriarchal values fed by colonialism, religion, culture and tradition in Nigeria permeates news media narratives about the woman which is steeped in gender clichés and stereotypes.

To carry out this investigation, a mixed method approach was used. Quantitative content analysis and qualitative analysis were therefore used to examine news media representation of the abduction. Results of this study indicate that gendered and powerlessness frames coupled with the word patriarchy and its derivatives dominated media narratives about the abduction of the Chibok girls. Stereotypical phrases and gender clichés dominated newspapers' representations of the abduction. Similarly, the newspapers analysed reinforced neo-colonialism through their over reliance on foreign media and wire services as major sources of daily reports about the abduction. This work demonstrates a need for training and retraining of Nigerian journalists in conflict reporting with emphasis on gender sensitive journalism to cope with the challenges of the insurgency.

Keywords: Women, Abduction, Boko Haram, Representation, Stereotypes

Biography

Teaching activities: "Comparative International Journalism" and "From Watergate to Hack gate: Journalism Ethics and Issues." Member International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR), European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA), Society for International Development (SID), Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ). Worked as a news reporter, editor and Director of News and Current Affairs in Borno Radio Television Corporation (BRTV); Special Adviser on Media Affairs to Borno

government and editor The Beacon Magazine in Nigeria. Volunteer with West Cheshire foodbank.

The role of the media system in Colombian peacebuilding

Catalina Montoya Londono, Liverpool Hope University

Abstract

The last two decades have seen a body of literature focused on the characterization of media systems linked to political systems in a comparative perspective. In particular, Colombia, Mexico, Brazil, Portugal and Mediterranean countries have been identified with *Polarised Pluralist Systems* (Hallin y Papathanassopoulos, 2002). The features of this system are the low development of the mass press, partisan journalism, high instrumentalization of media and clientelistic practices by elites, a weak regulation of the private sector and media concentration into monopolies. More recently, a *Liberal Captured Model* (Márquez Ramírez, M. and Guerrero, M.A., 2014) has been proposed for Latin America. The model is inspired by liberal principles of freedom of expression, press and businesses, and the defence of private, commercial and competitive media outlets (similarly to the USA). Nevertheless, in practice, the system does not consolidate as truly competitive or independent in their regulation dynamics from private and political interests due to a low regulatory efficiency, clientelism and the instrumentalization of journalism by elites. Based on documentary research, the present paper discusses the Colombian media system and proposes a (Neo)liberal Besieged Model rather than a purely Liberal Captured Model. Accordingly, the system is inspired by neoliberal rather than purely liberal principles at a commercial level. Nevertheless, journalists are besieged by political, economic and the facto powers in the context of the armed conflict, without being completely captured by them. The paper argues that, although the challenges of the media system by far surpass the context of the armed conflict, the media system in Colombia is detrimental to peacebuilding. Accordingly, the protection of the reputation of those with political and economic power override the understanding of information as a democratic and public good, and the broader dynamics of corruption fuelling the conflict remain unchallenged and underreported.

Keywords: Colombian conflict, Colombian media system, Liberal captured model, (neo)liberal besieged model, peacebuilding.

Biography

Dr Catalina Montoya Londono is a lecturer in International Relation and director the MA programme in International Relations in the Department of History and Politics at Liverpool Hope University. She is also the Director of the Archbishop Desmond Tutu Centre for War and Peace Studies. Her research interests include relationships between states, civil society and

media in the context of conflict and peacebuilding, and international relations with particular emphasis on Latin American Politics. Her academic research experience in the field dates back from 1997. So far, she has published three books, book chapters and articles in English and Spanish on the impact of event driven news on the projection of US foreign policy, political-media systems, political and media debates on transitional justice, and communication projects by media and civil society organizations aimed at building democracy and human rights with particular emphasis on Colombia and Latin America.

Depicting Local Factions over Peacebuilding: A Case Study of the Peace Accord Implementation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh.

Sajib Bala, Hiroshima University

Abstract

In the contemporary peace and conflict research area, peacebuilding in a post-conflict scenario has turned out to be a formidable challenge for the majority of peacemakers. In Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) of Bangladesh, where CHT Accord had been signed in 1997 between the representatives of the Government of Bangladesh (GOB) and the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS, the United People's Party of the CHT), the political front that has waged an armed struggle for the autonomy of CHT, to end decades old conflict between the mainstream Bengali elites and the Hill people living in the area. However, effective peacebuilding is yet to take a concrete and positive shape. In particular, the disunity among the local actors is now considered to be one of the impediments to the way towards a comprehensive peace. There is no gainsaying that since the inception of signing of the Accord, factionalism among the elite groups who represent the voice of ethnic minorities has placed its implementation at risk. Along with other breakaway factions of PCJSS, recently formed regional political party, United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) is one of the glaring examples. As of signing the Accord, these factions have become more visible, with some factions supporting the Accord, while others oppose it. Moreover, peacebuilding would be very much closer if full implementation of all clauses in the Accord had been carried out. In this article, it is argued that the continuation of this factional rivalry is provoking to the weaknesses in the implementation of the Accord thus thwarting peacebuilding efforts in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). In order to consolidate the peacebuilding initiatives through implementing the Accord, calls for the primacy of unity among the indigenous groups and for the positive will of the majority Bengali elite, have been made.

Keywords: Factions, Peace, Peacebuilding, Accord, Implementation.

Biography

Mr Sajib Bala is a Doctoral student at the Department of Peace and Co-existence, Hiroshima University, Japan. After accomplishing Bachelor and Master Degrees in Political Science from University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, he has joined the Department of International Relations, Jahangirnagar University as a Lecturer in April 2011 and continuously serving as Assistant Professor (currently, on study leave) since May 2014. He is the author of five research articles that have been published in peer review academic journals at home and abroad.

Faith, Relationships and Peacebuilding

Samantha Carney, Liverpool Hope University

Abstract

Discussing religion in relation to building a long-term peace inevitably raises questions about the relationship between religion and conflict. The relationship between religion, conflict and peace can be understood as flowing from the human experience of the sacred. The debate around the contribution of religion to peace has focussed on exploring the positive contribution of religion, and how religious institutions and organisations make use of its position within civil society. In response to the literature this paper demonstrates that the potential of religion as a resource for peace can be found when the debate is shifted from religion to faith, from the institution to the individual. Drawing upon the authors' own research into the motivations of Christians involved in supporting refugees, the paper will show that the work of these individuals is underpinned by faith. This paper proposes that the contribution of faith towards peace is centred in relationships. Therefore, relationships fostered through faith based activities are crucial to understanding the concept of reconciliation. Reconciliation involves the restoration of right relationship, a relationship that is focussed on solidarity, justice and human dignity. The intention of this paper is not to suggest that faith is the key to sustainable peace but to argue that in focussing on reconciliation as an expression of faith, individuals and communities have the potential to build positive relationships and peaceful communities that work for the common good. Shifting the focus from the institution to the individual highlights how individuals, alongside post-conflict peacebuilding efforts across all levels of society, can effectively make use of their faith as a resource for peace.

Key Words: Reconciliation; Relationship; Faith; Peace; Peacebuilding.

Biography

Samantha Carney is currently studying for a Masters in Peace Studies at Liverpool Hope University. As part of her Master's programme Sam has undertaken qualitative research into

the Christian response to the refugee crisis. This research has explored the contribution of religion and faith to peace by focussing on three main themes: Theological contribution; operational contribution; and personal contribution. Prior to embarking on her Masters, Sam had a background in education and business. As a teacher Sam spent time working in both faith and community primary schools and held the role of subject leader for Religious Education.

Sam's current research interests are: Gender and religious peacebuilding; Religious Education and Peace Building; Migration and integration

"I'm Not that Chained-Up Little Person" [i]. Four Paragons of Victimhood in Transitional Justice Discourse
[i] Frederick J. Perren & Dino Fekaris, *I will survive*, *on* Love Tracks (Universal Music Publishing Group 1978).
Adriana Rudling, teaching fellow, Universidad Rosario (Colombia)

Abstract

Despite a flourishing body of literature on transitional justice that makes plain the "growth of the cultural icon of the victim," we know surprisingly little about the differences amongst victims in terms of capabilities, and transitional justice needs, expectations. On the one hand, this occurs because of generic, or anecdotic, descriptions of victims, which homogenise victimised individuals and impede the process of understanding them as political subjects. On the other hand, research that returns agency to victims, and acknowledges the organised political nature of victimhood by focusing on victims' organisations, sees these either as political and legal pressure groups engaged in the articulation of transitional justice policies or as emblematic associations whose development is to be chronicled. I present four models of victimhood, that is the ideal(ised), the traumatised, the resilient, and the collective victim, which negate the diversity of victims, and, in some cases, contravene empirical realities. In the second part of my presentation I argue that, in order to genuinely comprehend victims, we need to consider how victims' agency works at the individual level where differences between them, usually based on pre-existing identities, are influential not only in terms of how transitional justice interests, demands and expectations take form, but also in how organisations develop. Victim agency is not exclusively directed against the state or transitional justice actors, but also towards other victims, some of whom are fellow members of the same organisation. Without looking inside victims' associations, and reflecting over how differences in terms of capabilities, needs, expectations and interests set members apart, our comprehension of victims is truncated.

Keywords: victims, transitional justice, agency, heterogeneity, identities

Biography

My research expertise lies in human rights, broadly defined. I am particularly interested in victims of gross and systematic human rights violations, the effects of transitional justice mechanisms on their organisations, their satisfaction with and participation in transitional justice policy, and the diffusion of human rights norms through supranational courts. I hold a PhD from the Department of Politics, the University of Sheffield, with a specific focus on victims' organisations and transitional justice. For the past year, I have been a Teaching Fellow in Quantitative Analysis at the Universidad del Rosario, Bogota, Colombia.

Culture and Conflict in Myanmar: the complexity of peacebuilding interventions.

Rachel Julian, Leeds Beckett University

Abstract

Civilians living amidst violent conflict, like everyone experiencing conflict, know who is involved, the history, what makes it worse or lessens the impact on them. They have knowledge that those outside the conflict do not possess. The dominant peace and conflict intervention strategies of international agencies and NGOs begin with assessing the conflict situation using models based on western understanding of conflict trajectories, community resilience, and peacebuilding, with an outsiders understanding. Although local people may be involved, their knowledge is rarely informing intervention and support strategies. To study how this has an impact on creating sustainable peacebuilding we have taken the case study of Myanmar. As Myanmar is experiencing massive transition, the many conflicts, and the continuing violence, hampers attempts towards peace and reconciliation. This research is studying how cultural knowledge and life experience can provide insights into the multiple conflicts experienced by people and communities. This presentation will show the response of artists, musicians, singers and filmmakers, the building of movements and the entwining of daily lives and local peace building in Myanmar. Using a methodology drawing on Adam Curle (empowerment), John Paul Lederach (curiosity and patience), feminist ethnography and cultural studies understanding of lived experience, we show that the experience of living in, and working to transform, conflict is more complex then our current analysis models and intervention strategies allow. The case study of Myanmar shows how cultural knowledge does create new perspectives and understanding, challenging us to rethink and review the assumptions we hold in peacebuilding intervention work.

Key words: culture, conflict, Myanmar, peacebuilding, knowledge

Biography

Dr Rachel Julian is Senior Lecturer in Peace Studies art Leeds Beckett University.

Dr Rachel Julian has 25 years of experience working internationally in peace and conflict including disarmament, peacebuilding, nonviolence and Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping. She spans the practice-research divide by maintaining strong connections to the practice of creating peaceful communities as well as innovative research in understanding how local people are key to success in prevention violence and sustainable peace. Rachel's work centres on the importance of engaging, involving, and being led by local people in communities affected by violence, conflict and who work for peace. This focus has included community projects in the UK, the work of international NGO Nonviolent Peaceforce, and AHRC-ESRC PaCCS funded research into how local civilians in Myanmar are entwining their daily lives with non-violently protecting people from armed violence, saving lives and monitoring bi-lateral agreements.

Beyond Visible Peace: Young People and Post-Conflict Integration in Northern Uganda
Eric Awich Ochen, Makerere University Kampala

Abstract

In most post-conflict societies, the interest of the international and national media and global public as a result wane after initial peace agreement are signed; and 'the war ends'. What happens thereafter? Do we really have significant attention directed at redressing the aftermaths of wars and the ravages wracked on communities, especially those pertaining to human development capabilities? This paper uses the Northern Uganda conflict to reflect on the concept of positive peace: what does it mean for the young man in Northern Uganda and what has changed for them ten years after cessation of hostilities? For Northern Uganda, the cessation of hostilities and the resultant recovery and development interventions did not seemingly bring about the much anticipated social integration, and returning the community to normalcy. This is especially the case when we look at the situation of the youth, mainly those born and bred in the formerly internally displaced person's camps. We see disengagement between the young people and their communities in significant levels, socially, economically and politically. The youth seem to be moving away from the 'normal' expectations and taking on increasingly deviant behaviour such as gambling, drug use, alcoholism and above all failing to embrace community productive enterprises. Emergent conflicts are visible in the youth's personal and social interactions, among each other, with their family and wider community (including established authority). I present evidence to show that the level of tension is high and potentially detrimental towards the attainment of positive peace, with it perhaps a failure of the reintegration agenda? Could these be fertile grounds for the commencement of another conflict that may be disruptive towards the attainment of desired social harmony?

Key words: Youth, Post-conflict, Contextual disengagement, Recovery, reintegration

Biography

Dr Eric Awich Ochen is Honorary Visiting Senior Lecturer and Commonwealth Academic fellow at the University of Bradford's John and Elnora Ferguson Centre for African Studies. He is also a Senior Lecturer at Makerere University's School of Social Sciences, Uganda. He has worked with several Non-Governmental Organisations and supported numerous development agencies as a consultant within post-conflict northern Uganda. He is the author of several articles on children and young people in conflict situations, spanning publications in journals such as Child Abuse and Neglect, British Journal of Social Work, Journal of Community Practice, Anthropology Southern Africa, Infant Mental Health journal and several high quality book chapter contributions. Dr. Ochen is currently working on a post-doctoral project on how Young people participate in post conflict peace building in northern Uganda, and an assessment of how youth subcultures influences young people behavior in a formerly conflict affected areas. Dr Ochen holds a PhD from University of Huddersfield, M.Sc. in Development and Project Planning (with Distinction) from the University of Bradford and a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and Social Administration, from Makerere University in Uganda

Performance: A Call to Arms
Sarah Black & Esther Wilson
A performative response to
The Mother's Day Proclamation
- Julia Ward Howe (1870)

Join us the Congress of Women on our pilgrimage towards the creation of *The Mother's Day Project*.

This is a performance presentation called a *Call to Arms* exploring the development of a future international Mother's Day ritual, that is truer to the intention of Julia Ward Howes vision in the *Mother's Day Proclamation* (1870). We create a space where through performance, music, digital art, film and movement the Members of the Congress bring alive their own performance practices framed within the shared vision of the Mother's Day Project.

After the performance, we contextualize this work and invite members of the audience to engage, debate with us.

The Mother's Day Project, an international, interdisciplinary, cross-borders project that works directly with female artists whose work centers on the ideologies of mothering, peace and the global crisis of war. We explore multidisciplinary approaches to linking academics, practitioners to engage with the work of artists across the globe whose focus is on the practice of peaceful strategies.

We unveil our intentions to develop a

Digital Homeland - a web narrative site, an ongoing, borderless space where connection, sharing, inspiration and collaboration can be possible, in order to encourage the spiritual, cultural and intellectual advancement of the 'great human family' (Ward Howe 1870).

Keywords: Mothering, Peace, Homeland, Performance, Border (less).

Biographies:

Sarah Black is a lecturer in dance and performance studies at Liverpool Hope University her teaching focuses on dance and film installation, auto-ethnographic and autobiographical dance practices. Her current research focuses on developing a maternal arts practice located within her family home. This work is critically framed with maternal and feminist ethics and narrative performance strategies. Sarah is currently a PhD student at Middlesex University; entitled Mother as Curator – Doing Family, where she has presented internationally. Sarah has taught and performed the Limon Institute New York and continues to develop a Humphrey Limon based technique taught in Higher Education.

Esther Wilson started out as an actor but after winning one of the BBC's Northern Exposure Awards – Short film category 'The Swimming Man' she has focused more on writing. She has written for Red Ladder Theatre Company, The Liverpool Lantern Company, Zho Theatre, and Hope The Unity Theatre. Liverpool Everyman/Playhouse. Major credits include – BBC R4, Hiding Leonard Cohen – Winner of the 2004 Mental Health in Media's best Radio drama award and Hush Little Baby was also shortlisted. In 2006 Esther was commissioned to write a ten-minute Radio short, 'Writing of Harlots' for BBC's Freethinking Festival.

Barricades, 2015

Art Exhibition:

Les peuples figurants / History's extras

Steph Goodger

Biography:

Steph Goodger was born and grew up in Kent. She received a BA in Fine Art from the University for the Creative Arts in 1995 and an MA from Brighton University in 1999, before moving to France in 2004. Since then she has lectured in Art History at l'École du Commerce de l'Art et de l'Action Culturelle, Bordeaux, and taught at l'École d'Arts Plastiques, Libourne. She is still based in Bordeaux, and travels regularly to the UK, where she often exhibits.

Exhibitions in 2017 include Nine Painters, curated by Richard Davey (John Moores judge 2016) at Syson Gallery, Nottingham; Painting [Now] Studio One Gallery, London; The Arca Project: An Exhibition Inspired by the Work of WG Sebald, curated by Graeme Gilloch and Michael Hall, at PayneShurvell, Suffolk; and The Ghost of Painting (November 2017) in collaboration with Julian Rowe, Galerie Rez de Chaussée, Bordeaux, France

Exhibitions in 2016 included the John Moores Painting Prize, Walker Gallery, Liverpool; Cherry Time, in collaboration with Julian Rowe, at Elysium Gallery, Swansea; Of the Sea, Chatham Historic Dockyard; and Blind Plural, a group exhibition at Hundred Years Gallery, London.

Goodger was also selected for The Open West, Discerning Eye, and Creekside Open in 2015; Folkestone Triennial Fringe in 2014; Threadneedle Prize in 2012; and John Moores 23 in 2004.

Awards include, the South of England Prize, at National Open Art in 2014, and the Winsor and Newton Painting Prize, at The London Group Centenary Open in 2013.

Recently published interviews: Floorr Magazine, Issue 6, London http://www.floorrmagazine.com/issue-6/steph-goodger; and CCQ Magazine, Issue 10, Cardiff https://issuu.com/ccqmag/docs/ccq10 (page 25-33)

Website: www.stephgoodger.com

'Revolution is a drama perhaps more than a history, and its pathos is a condition as imperious as its authenticity.' A quote by the Nineteenth Century revolutionary Auguste Blanqui

L' Année Terrible (The Terrible Year), as Victor Hugo put it, of 1870-71, saw the beginning and ending of both the Franco-Prussian War and the Paris Commune. Les Non-réclamés (The Unclaimed) and the Barricades, are two parallel themes Ive pursued in response to the Paris

Commune, through the study of two photographers, Adolphe-Eugène Disdéri and Bruno Braquehais. The Communards were photographed posing theatrically on the barricades by Braquehais, then still and silent in their coffins by Disderi. Although nothing is quite what it seems, as barricades were often quickly assembled in order to take the photograph.

I've always been interested in the artificiality of staging. I see painting as a form of staging, or re-staging, so I'm naturally curious about other forms. In the barricade photographs of the Paris Commune, the barricade itself is a platform of power, a kind of spontaneous architectural rebellion. On this makeshift stage, in front of the camera, the Communards posed and played up to the lens. Their bravado is absurd, humorous, and that adds to its poignancy.

Staging, as a form of fictive and physical containment, requires some kind of enclosed space. I made a paper peepshow theatre from a barricade photograph. Peepshows were popular optical toys in the Nineteenth Century. They were sold as souvenirs of an event, place or theatre production; a re-staging in miniature. Viewed through a small peep-hole in the front, the peepshow I constructed restored three-dimensionality to the flat surface of the photograph. It is a kind of artificial return to a moment long passed; a reversal of Barthes' notion of a photograph as flat death.

Painting, for me, is fundamentally concerned with containment and release, or holding and letting go; life and death. In, Les Nonréclamés series, for example, the subject may be dead, but the paint has life, which defies it. A sense of voyeurism is present in both the peepshow and the coffins. It seems especially wrong to look at the dead in those crudely hewn, open boxes. The fact that they are unclaimed makes their fate all the more poignant. They are History's extras, the non-heroes from any scene of conflict. One has to look, to study, to try to make sense of all the details, which feel like they should add up to something but don't. The absence of ultimate meaning goes hand in hand with the absence of life, or, the presence of absence, as Roland Barthes describes it in Camera Lucida.