



Global-local Issues in Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding in Practice

NEW HORIZONS
IN INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION



NAFSA
2015

Annual
Conference
& Expo

MAY 24-29, 2015
BOSTON, MA USA

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Association of
International Educators

Conflict

- Inevitable and normal; also has social functions
- Various levels of analysis: interpersonal, inter-group, intra-group, international
- Multi faceted and interrelated
- Integrated approach to understanding, diagnosis, intervention and evaluation imperative

Contemporary Conflict Context

- **Conflicts & responses; international & local**
- **Internationalized local conflicts & international response models**
- **International-local response challenges:
Sierra Leone illustration**

Sierra Leone

- Civil war horrors:
 - multiple causes
 - multi level effects
- 1991 – 2002 RUF wreaks havoc
- Govt hires Executive Outcomes
- ECOMOG, UN (UNAMSIL) & the British all in it



Sierra Leone: Resolution & Peacebuilding

- **Military interventions**
- **Negotiations**
- **Truth Commission**
- **Hybrid criminal tribunal**

Then “Fambultok”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rQsBy7b1Prc>
- What of the TRC & the Trials?
- Why locals reverted to own practices despite the Truth Commission and the Trials
- Question: What works and for who?

Tensions

- Timor-leste
- Rwanda
- Uganda
- Colombia - Confianza, insider partial mediator...
- Canada (multiculturalism)
- The classroom

Systemic problem...

- Internationalized conflicts, internationalized interventions
- Increasingly aware and assertive locals
- Advent of feminist truth challenges, post-colonial thinking, post modernism; **yet**
- The universalization juggernaut (human rights) tension with the localization of meaning, experiences & responses
- How work with the creativeness of diversity and the complexities of divergence?

Context Challenges

- In conflict, the stakes are high: death, destruction, trauma etc
- Teaching & training scholars and practitioners to operate in complex contexts
- A changing “Over there”, a changing “over here”
- Increased human mobility – the presence of the locals over here
- Death of the melting pot (cultures, practices are not surrendered at the immigration desk)

Some developments in process reconciliation

- **Parallel processes – Sierra Leone (TRC, Trials and Fambul Tok)**
- **Confrontations – Timor Leste, Uganda**
- **State sponsored merging – Rwanda**
- **Hybridity, the merging of systems – Epworth example**

What to do?

- Discursively achieved commonality
- Many worldviews and none is privileged
- Level of diversity inevitable and even desirable
- New consciousness:- inculcated awareness of difference “You too are the other”
- Make our peace with conflict – its not going away
- Increasingly mixed academy, workplace and workspaces