

**CONF 695 – Post-Conflict Contexts: Between Global and Local
Spring 2011**

Instructor: Professor Leslie Dwyer
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Class Time: Wednesdays 4:30-7:10
Class Location: Arlington Campus, Founders Hall 479
Class Prerequisites: CONF 501/801 or permission of instructor

Course Description:

This is a graduate course designed primarily for ICAR Masters/Ph.D. students. Students should have already taken, or currently be enrolled in, CONF 501 or 801 prior to enrollment.

This course will examine the social worlds that emerge in the aftermath of violent conflict, paying special attention to issues of structural inequality, memory, narrative, gender, cultural practice, and identity. It will critically evaluate theories and practices of transitional justice, including retributive justice, reparations, truth-telling, reconciliation, memorialization and psychosocial repair; consider the forms of social change and governance that emerge out of post-conflict humanitarian practice; and explore the dynamic frictions that take place when globalizing models for post-conflict psychosocial and community repair engage with local realities. The focus in the course is international in scope, stressing the importance of attending to the translations (and mistranslations) that occur when post-conflict interventions are put into practice in settings often very different from the ones that mark their origins. By the end of the semester, students should be familiar with broad themes in the transitional justice literature, and have honed a critical sensibility allowing them to think creatively about culturally and politically appropriate post-conflict programming.

This course is not a lecture course. Rather, it is an intensive graduate seminar designed to promote collaborative, critical dialogue. Participants are expected to arrive in class having thoroughly read and reflected on the week's readings, prepared to actively engage in discussion. Over the course of the semester, each student will be responsible for facilitating one hour of class time.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

Grading for the course will be determined as follows:

Participation: 10%
Class facilitation 15%
Short reading essays (5 total): 25%
Midterm report: 20%
Final report: 30%

Participation:

Your grade for participation will be based upon the quality and consistency of your contributions to our class discussions. Each week, you should be prepared not only to summarize what you have read and to discuss the authors' main points, but to provide a critical perspective on our texts and their relation to other social theories and to issues of conflict analysis and resolution, both broadly and in particular settings. The questions you should be asking yourself as you read for class include: What are the authors' main concerns? How are they framing key theoretical concepts? Are their arguments logically compelling? How can we relate their arguments to the field of conflict analysis and resolution? How might they help us to better understand particular post-conflict social landscapes? What might be left out of a particular analysis that it would be important to explore? A superlative evaluation for participation will require you to regularly contribute your ideas to our discussion, as well as to serve as a generous interlocutor for your seminar colleagues. In other words, it is not the quantity of your contributions but the quality that matters most, as well as your ability to raise issues that spark collaborative consideration, and to listen openly to others' perspectives.

Short Reading Essays:

Five short (approximately 2-4 double-spaced pages) essays will be required over the semester. These essays should critically analyze the readings assigned for the week in which they are being submitted, and discuss their potential relationship to the field of conflict analysis and/or resolution. Essays should briefly lay out the main concerns of the readings, considering their theoretical assumptions and claims. You should be thinking critically about the logic and perspective underlying the readings, as well as how they relate to other theories we are discussing and to our understanding of conflict and post-conflict dynamics more generally.

You may choose which weeks you wish to submit essays. Please submit them by hard copy during the class when the particular readings are being discussed. These essays WILL NOT be given individual grades, although they will be returned with comments. They need not be polished pieces; feel free to use them as another space for dialogue with the instructor, and for raising critical questions, confusions, or concerns. Your short essay grade will be a cumulative one, reflecting your overall demonstrated effort at engaging substantively with the readings.

Midterm Report:

In order to gain a deeper familiarity with local post-conflict issues, each student will write a report (7-10 pages) providing an overview of a post-conflict social and political setting and the interventions that have been attempted there, drawing upon outside research. These should be in the form of "briefings" that attempt to convey the overall post-conflict situation. While you will need to think analytically about how to frame your own narrative of the conflict, and how to focus your description of the post-conflict practice context, these midterm reports are not meant to be full-fledged "evaluations" of what has been attempted but rather thoughtful, descriptive overviews. For

the final report assignment, these midterm reports will be revised and expanded, adding a critical/evaluative component (see below). Midterm reports will be due in class on **Wednesday, March 23**.

Final Report:

A final report of 15-20 pages will be due at the conclusion of the semester, by 5 p.m. on **Tuesday, May 10**. This should be an expansion of the midterm report, adding a critical dimension that draws on our class readings and discussions. These reports should detail a particular post-conflict context and interventions, and provide a critical discussion of successes, failures, and future directions for programming. We will be discussing details and possibilities for this assignment in much greater detail in class.

Course Policies:

Late assignments or “incomplete” grades will be given only in cases of personal or family crisis. You **MUST** discuss the possibility of such arrangements with me beforehand rather than waiting until an assignment is due. Failure to turn in an assignment on time without prior discussion will result in a failing grade for that particular assignment.

Given the importance of your active, thoughtful participation to the success of the class and your own ICAR career, attendance at all course meetings is expected. If you must miss a class, please let me know beforehand by email. Missing more than one or two classes over the course of the semester will inevitably result in a lowered “participation” grade.

All students should familiarize themselves with GMU’s Honor Code and the university guidelines for the proper use and citation of sources. See the ICAR handbook (http://www.gmu.edu/departments/ICAR/newstudent/Appendix_L.pdf) for clarification of related issues, or ask me if you have any questions. It is much better to ask prior to turning in an assignment, rather than waiting for a faculty member to notice something that should have been cited. I take the issue of plagiarism very seriously. Cases of suspected plagiarism will be referred for evaluation to GMU’s Honor Committee, which may recommend penalties of expulsion from the university for serious violations.

Readings will be posted on Blackboard. I will also be setting up a class Ning site on the ICAR network (<http://icarcommunity.ning.com>) where announcements and discussions will be posted, so please make sure you are registered on the site. I will also be communicating with you outside of class by email. Please make sure your GMU email account is activated and that you check it regularly. Should you have questions, concerns or ideas you would like to discuss, feel free to make an appointment to meet in my office, or to communicate via email. We can also arrange phone conversations as needed to accommodate our respective schedules.

Course Materials:

The following texts have been ordered through the Arlington Campus Bookstore:

Rosalind Shaw and Lars Waldorf, eds. 2010. *Localizing Transitional Justice: Interventions and Priorities After Mass Violence*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Alexander Laban Hinton, ed., 2010. *Transitional Justice: Global Mechanisms and Local Realities After Mass Violence*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.

All other course readings will be available on Blackboard.

Course Schedule:

Week 1: Wednesday, January 26: Introduction to the Course

Film: "Introduction to Transitional Justice," Lecture by Paul van Zyl, International Center for Transitional Justice, UN Audiovisual Library of International Law (40 minutes). (We will watch this in class, but if you want to review it, it is available at: http://untreaty.un.org/cod/avl/ls/vanZyl_CLP.html)

Discussion: Course aims and expectations, TJ vs. CAR

Week 2: Wednesday, February 2: Transitional Justice: Guiding Principles

Read: "What is Transitional Justice?" International Center for Transitional Justice. At: http://untreaty.un.org/cod/avl/ls/vanZyl_CLP.html

Teitel, Ruti. "Transitional Justice Genealogy." 2004. *Harvard Human Rights Journal*, vol. 16, pp. 69-94.

UN Security Council, *Report of the Secretary General on The Rule of Law and Transitional Justice in Conflict and Post-Conflict Societies*, S/2004/616, August 23, 2004.

Aukerman, Miriam, 2002. "Extraordinary Evil, Ordinary Crimes: A Framework for Understanding Transitional Justice." *Harvard Human Rights Journal* 39:39-97.

Week 3: Wednesday, February 9: Post-Conflict Justice

Orentlicher, Diane 1991. "Settling Accounts: The Duty to Prosecute Human Rights Violations of a Prior Regime." *Yale Law Journal* 100(8):375-416.

Minow, Martha. 1998. *Between Vengeance and Forgiveness*. Boston: Beacon Press. Chapter 3 'Trials' pp. 25-51.

Goodale, Mark and Kamari Maxine Clarke, 2009. "Understanding the Multiplicity of Justice." In M. Goodale and K. Clarke, eds. *Mirrors of Justice: Law and Power in the Post-Cold War Era*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Hirsch, Susan, 2009. "The Victim Deserving of Global Justice: Power, Caution, and Recovering Individuals." In M. Goodale and K. Clarke, eds. *Mirrors of Justice: Law and Power in the Post-Cold War Era*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Film: "The Reckoning: The Battle for the International Criminal Court" (2009; 98 minutes)

Week 4: Wednesday, February 16: Truth/Justice/Reconciliation

International Center for Transitional Justice, 2009. "Documenting Truth." Available at: http://www.ictj.org/static/Publications/ICTJ_DAG_DocumentingTruth_pa2009.pdf

Amy Gutman and Dennis Thompson, 2000. "The Moral Foundations of Truth Commissions", pp. 22-45, in Rotberg, Robert and Dennis Thompson (eds.), *Truth versus Justice: The Morality of Truth Commissions*, Series in the University Center for Human Values, Princeton, Princeton University Press.

Wilson, Richard, 2005. *The Politics of Truth and Reconciliation in South Africa: Legitimizing the Post-Apartheid State*, Cambridge, Studies in Law and Society, pp. 1-30.

Avruch, Kevin 2010. "Truth and Reconciliation Commissions: Problems in Transitional Justice and the Reconstruction of Identity." *Transcultural Psychiatry* 47(1):33-49.

Robben, Antonius 2010. "Commentary on Avruch: Group Dynamics in Social Reconciliation Processes During Transitional Justice." *Transcultural Psychiatry* 47(1):50-54.

Film: "Long Night's Journey into Day" (2000, 94 mins.)

Week 5: Wednesday, February 23: Memory Politics

International Center for Transitional Justice, 2008. "Memorialization and Democracy: State Policy and Civic Action." Available at: <http://www.ictj.org/images/content/9/8/981.pdf>

Hamber, Brandon and Richard Wilson 2002. "Symbolic Closure through Memory, Reparations and Revenge in Post-Conflict Societies." *Journal of Human Rights* 1(1):35-53.

Jelin, Elizabeth 2007. "Public Memorialization in Perspective: Truth, Justice and Memory of Past Repression in the Southern Cone of South America." *International Journal of Transitional Justice* 2007 1(1):138-156

Cole, Elizabeth, 2007. "Transitional Justice and the Reform of History Education." *International Journal of Transitional Justice* 1(1):115-137

Week 6: Wednesday, March 2: Reparations

International Center for Transitional Justice, 2007, "Reparations in Theory and Practice." Available at: <http://www.ictj.org/static/Reparations/0710.Reparations.pdf>

De Greiff, Pablo. 2006. "Repairing the Past: Compensation for Victims of Human Rights Violations." In P. De Greiff, ed., *The Handbook of Reparations* (New York: Oxford University Press), pp. 1-18.

Rubio-Marín, Ruth and Pablo de Greiff, 2007. "Women and Reparations." *International Journal of Transitional Justice* 1(3):318-337.

Miller, Zinaida 2008. "Effects of Invisibility: In Search of the 'Economic' in Transitional Justice." *International Journal of Transitional Justice* 2(3):266-291

Week 7: Wednesday, March 9: Psychosocial Repair

Barsalou, Judy, 2005. "Trauma and Transitional Justice in Divided Societies." Special Report 135, The United States Institute of Peace, Washington , DC.

Robben, Antonius 2005. "How Traumatized Societies Remember: the Aftermath of Argentina's Dirty War." *Cultural Critique* 59:120-164.

DSM IV-R, "Post Traumatic Stress Disorder."

Judith Herman, 1997. *Trauma and Recovery: The Aftermath of Violence – From Domestic Abuse to Political Terror*. Basic Books. Excerpt.

Save the Children, 2004. "Children in Crisis: Good Practices in Evaluating Psychosocial Programming."

***** SPRING BREAK 3/14-3/18 *****

Week 8: Wednesday, March 23: Critical Perspectives on Post-Conflict Humanitarianism

Wilson, Richard and Richard Brown, 2009. *Humanitarianism and Suffering: The Mobilization of Empathy*, Chapter 1.

Foucault, Michel 1991. "Governmentality." In *The Foucault Effect: Studies in Governmentality*. G. Burchell et al. eds., University of Chicago Press.

Pandolfi, Mariella, "Laboratory of Intervention: The Humanitarian Governance of the Postcommunist Balkan Territories." In Mary-Jo Good, Sandra Hyde, Sarah Pinto and Byron Good, eds. *Postcolonial Disorders*, ch 5.

Fassin, Didier. 2007. "Humanitarianism as a Politics of Life," *Public Culture* 19, pp. 499-520.

Kennedy, David 2004. *The Dark Side of Virtue: Reassessing International Humanitarianism*, Chapter 9.

Week 9: Wednesday, March 30: Local Justice

Orentlicher, Diane 2007. "'Settling Accounts' Revisited: Reconciling Global Norms with Local Agency." *International Journal of Transitional Justice* 1(1):10-22.

Richard Wilson, 2005. "Judging History: The Historical Record of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia." *Human Rights Quarterly* 27 (3): 908-942.

Shaw, Rosalind and Lars Waldorf 2010. "Introduction." In *Localizing Transitional Justice: Interventions and Priorities After Mass Violence*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Weinstein, Harvey et. al. 2010. "Stay the Hand of Justice: Whose Priorities Take Priority?" In Rosalind Shaw and Lars Waldorf, eds., *Localizing Transitional Justice: Interventions and Priorities After Mass Violence*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Hazan, Pierre 2010. "Transitional Justice After September 11: A New Rapport with Evil." In *Localizing Transitional Justice: Interventions and Priorities After Mass Violence*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Week 10: Wednesday, April 6: Truth and Reconciliation: Local Translations

Ross, Fiona 2010. "An Acknowledged Failure: Women, Voice, Violence, and the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission. In Rosalind Shaw and Lars Waldorf, eds., *Localizing Transitional Justice: Interventions and Priorities After Mass Violence*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Theidon, Kimberly 2010. "Histories of Innocence: Postwar Stories in Peru." In Rosalind Shaw and Lars Waldorf, eds., *Localizing Transitional Justice: Interventions and Priorities After Mass Violence*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Rosalind Shaw 2007. "Memory Frictions: Localizing Truth and Reconciliation in Sierra Leone." *International Journal of Transitional Justice* 1:183-207

Rosalind Shaw 2010. "Linking Justice with Reintegration? Ex-Combatants and the Sierra Leone Experiment." In Rosalind Shaw and Lars Waldorf, eds., *Localizing Transitional Justice: Interventions and Priorities After Mass Violence*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Waldorf, Lars 2010. "'Like Jews Waiting for Jesus': Posthumous Justice in Post-Genocide Rwanda." In Rosalind Shaw and Lars Waldorf, eds., *Localizing Transitional Justice: Interventions and Priorities After Mass Violence*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Week 11: Wednesday, April 13 Local Translations, continued

Nee, Ann and Peter Uvin 2010. "Silence and Dialogue: Burundians' Alternatives to Transitional Justice." In Rosalind Shaw and Lars Waldorf, eds., *Localizing Transitional Justice: Interventions and Priorities After Mass Violence*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Baines, Erin 2007. "The Haunting of Alice: Local Approaches to Justice and Reconciliation in Northern Uganda." *International Journal of Transitional Justice* 1(1):91-114

Finnstrom, Sverker 2010. "Reconciliation Grown Bitter? War, Retribution, and Ritual Action in Northern Uganda." In Rosalind Shaw and Lars Waldorf, eds., *Localizing Transitional Justice: Interventions and Priorities After Mass Violence*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Dwyer, Leslie 2009. "A politics of silences: violence, memory and treacherous speech in post-1965 Bali." In Alex Hinton and Kevin O'Neill, eds., *Genocide, Truth, Memory and Representation: Anthropological Approaches*.

Okello, Moses Chrispus 2010. "Afterword: Elevating Transitional Local Justice." Rosalind Shaw and Lars Waldorf, eds., *Localizing Transitional Justice: Interventions and Priorities After Mass Violence*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Week 12: Wednesday, April 20: Local Translations, Continued

Alexander Laban Hinton, ed., 2010. *Transitional Justice: Global Mechanisms and Local Realities After Mass Violence*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press. Please read the introduction plus 4 articles of your choice.

Film: "New Year Baby"

Week 13: Wednesday, April 27: Critical Perspectives on Trauma

Arthur Kleinman, "Violence, Culture and the Politics of Trauma," In *Writing at the Margins: Discourse Between Anthropology and Medicine*, pp. 173-189.

Fassin, Didier 2008. "The Humanitarian Politics of Testimony: Subjectification through Trauma in

the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.” *Cultural Anthropology* 23(3):531-558.

Fassin & Rechtman, 2009. *The Empire of Trauma: An Inquiry into the Condition of Victimhood*, excerpt

Erica Caple James, 2008. “Haunting Ghosts: Madness, Gender and *Ensekirite* in Haiti in the Democratic Era.” In M. Good, S. Hyde, S. Pinto and B. Good, eds., *Postcolonial Disorders*. University of California Press.

Dwyer, Leslie and Degung Santikarma, 2007. “Post-traumatic politics: violence, memory and biomedical discourses of suffering in Indonesia” in *Understanding Trauma*, L. Kirmayer, R. Lemelson and M. Barad, eds. NY: Cambridge University Press. 2007.

Week 14: Wednesday, May 4

NO READINGS

For this final class period, we will be sharing examples of post-conflict projects we find interesting and inspirational.

FINAL PAPERS DUE TUESDAY, MAY 10