Addressing Religious Content and Actors in Peace Work: Training Experiences and Gaps

- Angela Ullmann & Cora Alder, Program on Culture and Religion in Mediation (CARIM), Center for Security Studies (CSS), ETH Zurich
- Edla Puoskari & Alessandro Rossi, The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers
Overview & aims of the session

// Empirical trends: Provide research why looking at religion in conflict matters for peacebuilding.

// Exercise: Practice part of one conceptual tool for understanding and analyzing religion’s role in conflict.

// Lessons learned: Reflect on the state of the art of training on religion in conflict for peacebuilding.

// Open exchange: questions & comments, needs for training, challenges and current gaps in training, how to address them, etc.
Map: Based on RELAC data from Svensson, Nilsson (2017).
**Religion and Mediation Course 2018 (RMC)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon, 27 August</th>
<th>Tue, 28 August</th>
<th>Wed, 29 August</th>
<th>Thurs, 30 August</th>
<th>Fri, 31 August</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNDERSTANDING</strong></td>
<td><strong>Religious identity challenges</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mediation space</strong></td>
<td><strong>Roleplay</strong></td>
<td><strong>Process design exercise</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction &amp; overview of conflict and mediation</strong></td>
<td>Joe Campbell, Formerly of Mediation Northern Ireland</td>
<td>Jean-Nicolas Bitter, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs &amp; Angela Ullmann, CSS, ETH Zurich</td>
<td>Owen Frazer &amp; Angela Ullmann, Center for Security Studies, ETH Zurich</td>
<td>Angela Ullmann, Center for Security Studies, ETH Zurich</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Analyzing religion’s role in conflict</strong></td>
<td><strong>Analysis tool &amp; group exercise</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mediation space circuit</strong></td>
<td><strong>Roleplay</strong></td>
<td><strong>Group work &amp; plenary presentations</strong></td>
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<td>Owen Frazer &amp; Angela Ullmann, Center for Security Studies, ETH Zurich</td>
<td>Owen Frazer, Center for Security Studies, ETH Zurich</td>
<td>Owen Frazer &amp; Angela Ullmann, Center for Security Studies, ETH Zurich</td>
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<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation of the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers</td>
<td>Dare to share</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Analyzing religion’s role in conflict (continued)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Continue group exercise</strong></td>
<td><strong>Faith-based intra-group work</strong></td>
<td><strong>Roleplay (continued)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Plenary presentations (continued)</strong></td>
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<td>Dishani Jayaweera, Center for Peacebuilding and Reconciliation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worldview challenges</td>
<td><strong>MEDIATION APPROACHES</strong></td>
<td><strong>Faith-based intra-group work (continued)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Religion &amp; Inclusion</strong></td>
<td><strong>Transfer to practice &amp; closing</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jean-Nicolas Bitter, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs &amp; Angela Ullmann, Center for Security Studies, ETH Zurich</td>
<td><strong>Mediating in religious identity conflicts</strong></td>
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<td>Cora Alder, Center for Security Studies, ETH Zurich</td>
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<td>Joe Campbell, Formerly of Mediation Northern Ireland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Night Out</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
<td>Dinner &amp; Evening Talk</td>
<td>Dinner &amp; Shopping</td>
<td>Departure (from 17:00)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dinner</td>
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**Logos:**
- Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
- Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA
- Directorate of Political Affairs DP
- MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF FINLAND
- The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers
- CSS ETH Zurich
From Self-reflection to Action

1. Self-reflect
2. Understand the context
3. Analyze the conflict
4. Map peacebuilding
5. Turn Analysis into Action

Central African Republic

Tunisia

What role do religious identities play in the conflict?

What role do religious claims by the conflict parties play?

From Religion and Mediation Course 2018, Owen Frazer and Angela Ullmann “Analyzing Religion’s Role in Conflict”
Group exercise: Analyzing Religion’s Role in Conflict

Who (actors): How important is religious identity? How are religious identities influencing the conflict?

What (issues): Which issues arise because of religious differences? In what way? How are these issues driving the conflict?

From Religion and Mediation Course 2018, Owen Frazer “Analysis Framework”
## Analysis Guide

### Religion in Conflict and Peacebuilding

#### Quick Reference Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUESTION TO CONSIDER</th>
<th>STEP 1 Self-Reflect</th>
<th>STEP 2 Understand the Context</th>
<th>STEP 3 Analyze the Conflict</th>
<th>STEP 4 Map Peacebuilding</th>
<th>STEP 5 Turn Analysis into Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHERE?</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Where is the conflict located within the wider geographic and demographic context?</td>
<td>Where is the conflict taking place and who is affected?</td>
<td>Where, and with which sectors of society, are peacebuilding actors working?</td>
<td>Where will you work?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographic and social location</td>
<td>Where do you already know about the context?</td>
<td>Which geographic areas have particular religious significance?</td>
<td>What areas of religious significance overlap with areas of conflict?</td>
<td>What areas of religious significance feature in peacebuilding activities?</td>
<td>What is your religious identity group? How do you address the conflict?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social location</td>
<td>What do you know about the context that will help you with your conflict analysis?</td>
<td>How does religious identity shape the structure of society?</td>
<td>How do areas of religious significance overlap with areas of conflict?</td>
<td>What religious identity groups do peacebuilding activities engage with?</td>
<td>Where will you work?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the position people hold in their community as a function of their gender, race, class, age, ability, religion, and other characteristics that relate to power and privilege</td>
<td><strong>WHAT?</strong></td>
<td>What are your assumptions about what is driving and mitigating the conflict?</td>
<td>What are the context’s main political, economic, social, and cultural characteristics?</td>
<td>What conflict drivers have you addressed?</td>
<td>What will you work within?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Factors and issues that are contributing to conflict and peacebuilding</td>
<td>What is your assumption about religion and its role in the conflict?</td>
<td>What are the dimensions of religion, if any, are involved in driving the conflict?</td>
<td>What dimensions of religion, if any, are involved in driving the conflict?</td>
<td>What conflict drivers have you addressed?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHO?</strong></td>
<td>Who are you and why might you be suited to work in this area?</td>
<td>Who are the actors with social and political influence?</td>
<td>Who are the actors involved in the conflict?</td>
<td>Who are the peacebuilding actors and whom are they working with?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actors, their characteristics, and their attributes</td>
<td>What is your organization’s self-defined and perceived religious identity or affiliation?</td>
<td>Who are the actors within the conflict context?</td>
<td>Who are the actors in the conflict and what are the relationships among them? Which actors are associated with a religious or nonreligious identity?</td>
<td>Who are the religious actors involved in the conflict?</td>
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Lessons from Practitioner Exchange

Practitioner Exchange: Training on Religion and Secularity in Conflict for Peacebuilding, The Hague, 10-12 May 2017

1. Continuing need for training and tools to understand and address the role of religion in conflict transformation. (Al Amana Mapping)

2. Five strategic elements to keep in mind: course design, course content, training methodology, evaluating training, course advertising.

3. Needs further reflection: strategic communication and messaging to policy makers and practitioners about why they need to learn about religion and secularity in conflict for peacebuilding.
Institutional Set-ups

// Training: RMC, UNRMC, tailor-made formats, in-country, coaching, inputs in other courses (OSCE, ETHZ MAS MPP, etc.), ToT

// Applied Research: lessons from good practice, critical reflection, focusing on cases and methodology

// Process Support: directly or indirectly supporting in-country efforts on analysis, approaches, process design

// Networking: linking existing and future efforts, mapping, sharing knowledge and products, exchange
Further Reading


Thank you

Contacts:

Angela Ullmann (ullmanna@ethz.ch) & Cora Alder (alderc@ethz.ch), Program on Culture and Religion in Mediation (CARIM), Center for Security Studies (CSS), ETH Zurich, www.css.ethz.ch

Edla Puoskari (edla.puoskari@peacemakersnetwork.org) & Alessandro Rossi (Alessandro.Rossi@peacemakersnetwork.org), The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, www.peacemakersnetwork.org