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Peace and Conflict Studies

- Understanding Oil Company – Community Conflicts in the Niger Delta (Nigeria)

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- Encounters in the Looking-glass of Time: Longitudinal contribution of a Life Story Workshop to the dialogue between Jewish and Arab Young adults in Israel

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- Challenges in Laotian Refugees Search for Freedom

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- Enigmatic Bosnia Matters: Coexistence in Bavljinje during the Light and Darkness of Yugoslavia's War.

Adnan Cardzic and Sean Byrne

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Peace and Conflict Studies is indexed and/or abstracted in Peace Research Abstracts Journal, Public Affairs Information Service, Sociological Abstracts, ERIC, Psychological Abstracts, PsychINFO, Political Science Manuscripts, International Political Science Abstracts and Worldviews.

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About the Authors

Dan Bar-On is a Professor of Psychology at the Department of Behavioral Sciences at Ben-Gurion University. He is also the co-director of PRIME (Peace Research Institute in the Middle East) near Beit Jala in the West Bank. He is the author of several books, among others - *Legacy of Silence: Encounters with Children of the Third Reich* (Harvard University Press, 1989), *Fear and Hope: Three Generations of Holocaust Survivors' Families* (Harvard University Press, 1998) and *The Indescribable and the Undiscussable* (Central European University Press, 1999). In 1996 he was awarded the *David Lopatie Chair for Post-Holocaust Psychological Studies*. In 2001 he received the Bundesverdienst Kreuz First Class, from German President Dr. Johannes Rau. In 2003 he received the Eric Maria Remarque Peace Prize in Osnabruck, Germany. In 2005 they received the Victor J. Goldberg IIE Prize for Peace in the Middle East and the EAEA 3rd Out-of-Europe Grundtvig Award on Active citizenship in a democratic society. He can be contacted at danbaron@exchange.bgu.ac.il.

Sean Byrne, a native of Ireland, is professor and director of the doctoral program in peace and conflict studies, and director of the Arthur V. Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice at St. Paul's College at the University of Manitoba. He can be contacted at Sean_Byrne@umanitoba.ca

Adnan Cardzic, Bs.Sc., University of Manitoba, is a native of Bosnia. His area of interest is analyzing abnormalities within societies. He can be contacted at acardzic@hotmail.com.

Charlene Cook is a Doctoral Student at the Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto. She is also a member of the Graduate Collaborative Program in Women's Studies. She can be contacted at charlene.cook@utoronto.ca.

Tal Litvak Hirsch received her Ph.D. in Social Psychology from Ben Gurion University of the Negev in Beer Sheva, Israel. Her research foci are: a. the perception of "others" as part of collective Israeli identity. b. the long-term psychosocial impact of the Holocaust on survivors and their families c. Evaluation research. In 2003-4 she was a research fellow at the Truman institute of peace at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. In 2005 she was a Fulbright scholar at Earlham College. Currently, she is a researcher and lecturer at the department of behavioral science at Ben Gurion University of the Negev. Apart of her academic work she is also a clinical psychologist working mainly with children and adolescents. She can be contacted at hirscht@zahav.net.il.

Ibaba S. Ibaba holds a Ph.D. in Political Science (Development Studies) and teaches Political Science with the Niger Delta University. He has special interest in Niger Delta Studies and his articles/papers have appeared in books and journals.

His works also include; two books, *Foundations of Political Science* (2004) and *Understanding the Niger Delta Crisis* (2005). He can be contacted at *eminoai Baba@yahoo.com*.

Stephanie Stobbe is an active trainer and ADR practitioner with B.A.s in Psychology and Conflict Resolution Studies, and a M.A. in Conflict Resolution from The McGregor School of Antioch University in Ohio. She has developed and taught various Conflict Resolution Studies Curricula to students at the elementary, junior high and high school levels in Manitoba. As an associate of the Centre for Conflict Resolution International, Ltd., Stephanie has developed Alternative Dispute Resolution training materials for the organization and facilitated in its seminars, workshops and interventions dealing with organizational conflict management. She has also worked as a researcher with The Action Evaluation Research Initiative. Her research interests include interpersonal disputes, refugees and cross-cultural issues, and Laotian traditional conflict resolution methods. Stephanie is currently a full-time faculty member in the department of Conflict Resolution Studies at Menno Simons College at the University of Winnipeg. She can be contacted at *s.stobbe@uwinnipeg.ca*.

Donna Winslow, Ph.D. is the former coordinator of the Programme for Research on Peace Security and Society at the University of Ottawa, Canada. She currently holds the Chair of Social Anthropology (development and social transformation processes) at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam. She can be contacted at *d.winslow2@chello.nl*.

Notes: PCS transitioned from its style guide to the Chicago Manual of Style in 2005, with input from the readers, contributors, and editorial team.

UNDERSTANDING OIL COMPANY – COMMUNITY CONFLICTS IN THE NIGER DELTA (NIGERIA)

Ibaba Samuel Ibaba

Abstract

This paper examines the contradictory realities that have thrown up the conflicting relationship between oil companies and oil producing communities in the Niger Delta of Nigeria. To achieve this objective, the paper, after the introduction which provides the background and framework of analysis, situated the conflict in its political setting. It established that the privatization and ethnicisation of politics in Nigeria, has resulted to a resource distribution system that alienates Oil Producing Communities from the oil wealth. State legislations on the oil industry and manipulations of the revenue allocation system have made this possible. The article demonstrates that although the causes of the conflicts are complex and interrelated, material deprivation is central to the conflicts. It highlights oil based environmental degradation induced productivity losses and occupational disorientation, inadequate compensation for damages caused by oil industry activities, poor channels of communication by the oil companies, failed community development programmes of the oil companies, among others as causes of the conflicting relationship. The paper notes that current policies have not addressed these factors that motivate conflict. In addition to compensation, the paper suggests the integration of the people into the oil economy, and the direction of public resources to public good as the likely solution.

**ENCOUNTERS IN THE LOOKING-GLASS OF TIME: LONGITUDINAL
CONTRIBUTION OF A LIFE STORY WORKSHOP TO THE DIALOGUE
BETWEEN JEWISH AND ARAB YOUNG ADULTS IN ISRAEL**

Tal Litvak Hirsch and Dan Bar-On

Abstract

The field of encounter groups between Jews and Arabs in Israel is commonly discussed in academia; nevertheless, despite the multitude of studies that deal with encounter groups, longitudinal research in this area is very limited in the literature. The purpose of this article is to pinpoint, the contributions of an encounter group that was researched over a long period of time. The article describes the results of a four year longitudinal, qualitative study of a group of Jewish and Arab university students. Initially all of the students took part in a year-long encounter group workshop that was based on the "life story model". We recognized that our students went through a process during the seminar and the next few years that followed it. Based on the analyses of interviews with the participants we have created a four stage model that we would like to suggest as a means for examining participants processes in the looking glass of time. We discuss the contributions as well as problematic aspects of the "life story" method and suggest recommendations and implication for future experience with this method in different contexts and groups.

CHALLENGES IN LAOTIAN REFUGEES SEARCH FOR FREEDOM

Stephanie Phetsamay Stobbe

Abstract

The small, landlocked country of Laos has followed a challenging path towards freedom. The conflict of the Vietnam War led to massive exodus of Laotian refugees. The paper will explore Amartya Sen's concept of freedoms and Martha Nussbaum's central human capabilities as applied to Laotian refugees in Canada. A discussion of Laotians' understanding of freedom, challenges of resettlement, and effective processes in adjustment to western culture will be presented. This dialogue is critical in developing policies and programs to address conflicts faced by refugees as they strive to increase their quality of life.

**THE ROLE OF GENDER IN CIVIL – MILITARY COOPERATION: A
UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR CHANGE**

Charlene Cook and Donna Winslow

Abstract

Post-conflict reconstruction provides a unique opportunity to redress the experience of women during war and capitalize on the shifting gender roles prompted by conflict to advance a more equitable female citizenship. However, most post-conflict initiatives have not incorporated a gender-based action plan, impeded by a disparate prioritization of gender by civil and military actors. In order to ensure equitable post conflict outcomes, gender representation and mainstreaming must be comparably prioritized by civil and military engagement in peace building. This paper explores Bosnia as a case study to highlight the necessary role of civil-military cooperation in gender-based peace building.

**ENIGMATIC BOSNIA MATTERS: COEXISTENCE IN BAVLJINJE
DURING THE LIGHT AND DARKNESS OF YUGOSLAVIA'S WAR**

Adnan Cardzic and Sean Byrne

Abstract

Constructive stories of coexistence during protracted interethnic conflict are rare; however, they have important implications for interethnic reconciliation and peacemaking (Senehi, 2002). The events that took place in the village of Bavljinje highlight the humanity displayed by neighbors in the midst of ethnic cleansing. Such stories illustrate that positive relationships can prevail in interethnic warfare and can be an important source of healing from the trauma of violent ethnic conflict. The story of Bavljinje also indicates the complexity of intergroup conflict and the need of such powerful metaphors in the postconflict peacebuilding process.

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Dr. Howon Jeong,	1994-2002
Dr. Sean Byrne,	2002-May 2003
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Peace and Conflict Studies

Nova Southeastern University
Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Department of Conflict Analysis & Resolution

3301 College Avenue

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314

Phone: 954-262-3048 Fax: 954-262-3968

Email: shss@nova.edu

<http://shss.nova.edu/pcs/>