



SYMPOSIUM

Cycle of Violence in Post-Conflict Settings

Theory, Facts and Policy Responses

Date: 30 January 2017
Time: 9.00 – 17.00 (including lunch) followed by drinks
Location: NSCR (Colloquiumzaal)
De Boelelaan 1077a
(entrance from Buitenveldertselaan)
1081 HV Amsterdam

Registration: secretariaat@nscr.nl

Please register by 24 January 2017 as available places are limited

A cycle of violence model offers a framework for examining the impact of mass violence and its aftermath on family functioning, parenting and child development. It lays bare how violence transfers from one generation to the next; a transfer that may take place within families, in communities and/or within a society at large. Theory on the cycle of violence has been tested among war veterans and among victims of child abuse. It has also been used in criminological research on the intergenerational transmission of offending. Yet, many questions remain, particularly regarding the mechanisms through which new generations are confronted with and may learn to adopt violence, or mechanisms that may lead to resilience. For instance, due to compromised parenting, children may learn pro-violent attitudes (and violence as a coping strategy). Recent research also suggests that symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder facilitate or enhance intergenerational transfer of violence. Traumatic experiences during the period of violence may create difficulties in taking care of children and have been shown to sometimes lead to harsh disciplining strategies. Indeed, it has been found that rates of familial violence are relatively high in post-conflict settings. As such, children brought up by traumatized parents in post-conflict environments may be more prone to use violence in their day-to-day life as a coping strategy. The theory on the role of traumatic experiences in the cycle of violence in post-conflict societies and conflict-affected populations has received only limited attention, and empirical findings are relatively scant. This meeting is meant to open a discussion on this intriguing topic.

Specifically, the meeting aims to bring together various stakeholders involved in research, policy development and practice (including academics, policy makers and NGO representatives) to advance understanding of and ways to deal with the cycle of violence in post-conflict settings and among conflict-affected populations. The meeting aims to - in an informal and engaging way – promote discussion and exchange experiences across disciplines, countries and experts. Since this meeting is organised as one of the final steps in the research project ‘Breaking the Cycle of Violence: Potential of Community Based Socioterapy (CBSP) in Rwanda’ funded by the Dutch Organization for Scientific Research (NWO) under its WOTRO funding scheme, a focal point in the programme will be the outcomes of this project and the potential future use of these outcomes by the community-based socioterapy program in Rwanda and in policies and other practices in Rwanda and beyond, in different post-conflict areas.

Programme:

9.15 – 9.45

Registration and coffee

9.50

Opening

Prof.dr. Catrien Bijleveld (Director of the NSCR)

10.00 – 12.00

Cycle of violence – Theories and Case Studies in Post-conflict Contexts

Chair Dr. Barbora Hola (Assistant Professor VU Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

Dr. Veroni Eichelsheim – Cycle of Violence: Criminological Theories and Research Findings (Researcher NSCR, The Netherlands)

Dr. Lidewyde Berckmoes – Intergenerational Transmission of Violence and Resilience in Burundi (Postdoc Researcher NSCR; UvA; UNICEF, The Netherlands)

Carola Tize - To be ‘tolerated’: The intergenerational effects of long-term refugee status amongst Palestinians in Berlin (Doctoral Researcher, UvA, The Netherlands)

Theoneste Rutayisire - Breaking the Cycle of Violence? Potential of Community-based Socioterapy in Rwanda (preliminary results WOTRO research)

Each panellist will have 20 minutes presentation, after which the floor will be open for a discussion.

12.00-13.30 – Lunch

13.30-15.30

Rwanda, Community-Based Socioterapy and Intergenerational Concerns

Chair Dr. Barbora Hola

Emmanuel Ngendahayo – Community-based Socioterapy in Rwanda 2005-2016: Introduction (5 minutes)

Emmanuel Sarabwe – The Philosophy, Practice and Effectiveness of Community-Based Socioterapy with a Specific Focus on Family Violence related to the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda

Prof.dr. Annemiek Richters – Parent-Child Communication and Self-Representations among the Second Generation in Post-Genocide Rwanda – CBSP research findings

Discussants:

Discussant 1: Prof.dr. Joop de Jong (University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

Discussant 2: Marianne Vysma (Jungian psychoanalyst and medical anthropologist)

After 5 minutes introduction by Emmanuel Ngendahayo (a board member of the Community Based Socioterapy Program in Rwanda), each panellist will have 25 minutes presentation, after which two invited discussants will each (10 minutes) reflect upon the presentations taking into account their own research and practical experiences. General discussion will follow.

15.30 – 16.00 – Coffee

16.00 – 17.00 – Taking Stock and Setting Agenda for Research, Policy and Interventions

Moderator Prof.dr. Annemiek Richters

General discussion; Summary of the day; Remaining questions; Knowledge gaps; Best practices

17.00 - Drinks