

Conference: Social and Transformative justice in conflict and post-conflict settings – a comparative approach

Time: 13th-16th November 2018

Place: Smallville Hotel, Beirut, Lebanon

Organized by: Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung Beirut Office

Description of the conference:

Based on the assumption that most conflicts are rooted in socio-economic causes that usually continue in the period during and after the conflict, we want to discuss the topics of social and transformative justice in contexts of conflict and post-conflict. The workshop will deal with four main topics: a) Local Struggles for Social and Transformative Justice, b) „Shrinking Spaces“ for civil society in conflict and post-conflict c) The Economics of War/Post-War Economics and d) Civil Conflict Management. Our objective is to look at these topics comparatively. Therefore, we are inviting discussants and experts about regions as Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, East-Timor, Bosnia, Ruanda and Colombia.

Objectives:

- To look at enduring and selected struggles for social justice in settings of former and current contexts of conflict and violence.
- To connect the concept of transformative justice with social justice
- To re-consider relations between social (in-)justice/socio-economic crises and conflict
- To look at relations of economy and war/conflict
- To discuss different concepts of civil conflict resolution

The workshop will kick off with a public keynote and continue for the next three days with panels on the four main topics as well as field visits inside Lebanon. Each panel will have a short input presentation and then discuss different case studies in the group.

Panel 1: Local Struggles for Social and Transformative Justice

Input: Waddad Halwani/Nizar Saghiyeh and Damir Arsenijevic

Over the course of this panel we will compare different local contexts that offer examples of initiatives fighting for the implementation of social and transformative justice in conflict and post-conflict settings. We will have a look at examples that highlight the connection of social and transformative justice.

Possible question for this panel:

- What kind of initiatives for the implementation of social and transformative justice can be found?
- What kind of challenges do they face in conflict and post-conflict contexts?
- How do activists perceive the connection between social and transformative justice?

Panel 2: „Shrinking Spaces“ for civil society in conflict and post-conflict

Input: Anja Justen und N.N.

Panel 2 will look at the role of civil society in conflict and post-conflict settings. We seek to ask for possibilities for these actors in conflicts but also in peace processes in light of shrinking spaces. Shrinking spaces will be understood as legal, political, administrative and financial obstacles and limitations that complicate the work of civil society actors. The panel asks for approaches and strategies of these actors to act within these shrinking spaces.

Possible question for this panel:

- What are “shrinking spaces”? Who creates and shapes them?
- What role do “shrinking spaces” have in conflict and post-conflict settings?
- How do they affect civil society actors in conflict transformation and peace building?
- How do these actors act within “shrinking spaces”? Which approaches and strategies do they adopt?
- What role do external actors play?

Panel 3: The Economics of War/Post-War Economics

Input: Werner Ruf and Jamie Allison

The third panel’s main focus will be on economic aspects of conflict and post-conflict environments – based on the notion that economics play a central role before, during and after a conflict where social and transformative justice is lacking. We will have a close look on socio-economic dynamics before the outbreak of a conflict as well as war economics (trade of weapon, exploitation of natural resources, price, increase and inflation) and post-conflict economics (reconstruction).

Possible questions for this panel:

- What kind of impact does socio-economic inequality have on the outbreak of armed conflicts?
- How are these inequalities perpetuated throughout the course of an armed conflict?
- How would you describe modern war economics? What examples can be found?
- In what way can socio-economic inequalities be put on the agenda of post-conflict negotiations?

Panel 4: Civil Conflict Management

Input: Jan van Aken and Adriana Maria Benjumea Rua

Traditionally, civil peace activism is perceived as one of the main tools of leftist peace policies. In the fourth panel of our workshop we will examine civil peace activism and question its inherent leftist qualities. In that way, we will combine civil peace activism with the concepts of social and transformative justice.

Possible questions of this panel:

- What kind of alternative civil answers to violent conflict exist?
- What is the relationship of escalation and de-escalation in civil peace activism?
- How would you describe a “civil”, left position regarding contemporary armed conflicts and how would this position be ideally described?

Conference Schedule

Day	Time	Activity	Inputs
Monday, November 12 th	Whole day	Arrival	
Tuesday, November 13 th	5 pm until 6:30 pm	Public Keynote: War and Capitalism	Fawaz Traboulsi, Discussants: Igor Stiks and Ingar Solty
	From 7 pm onwards	Reception	Welcoming words from Miriam Younes and Boris Kanzleiter
Wednesday, November 14 th	9:00 am - 10:30 am	Keynote: Transitional Justice and social justice	Erin Daly Discussant: Mathias Reuss Moderation: N.N.
	10:30 am- 11:00 am	Coffee break	
	11:00 am - 1:00 pm	Panel 1: Local Struggles for Social and Transformative Justice	Input: Waddad Halwani/Nizar Saghiyeh and Damir Arsenijevic Moderation: N.N.
	1 pm – 2 pm	Lunch Break	
	2 pm – 4 pm	Panel 2: „Shrinking Spaces“ for civil society in conflict and post- conflict	Input: Anja Justen and N.N. Moderation: N.N.



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	4 pm – 5 pm	Concluding remarks for day one	N.N.
Thursday, November 15th	10 am – 12 pm	Panel 3: The Economics of War/Post-War Economics	Input: Werner Ruf and Jamie Allison Moderation: N.N.
	12 pm – 1 pm	Lunch Break	
	1 pm – 3 pm	Panel 4: Civil Conflict Management	Input: Jan van Aken and Adriana Maria Benjumea Rua Moderation: N.N.
	3 pm – 4 pm	Concluding remarks for the conference	N.N.
	4:30 pm until 6 pm	Political city tour	
Friday, November 16th	Whole day	Fieldtrip to Tripoli	
	Departure		

Conference Participants

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