

Proposal for a Cross-School Bring Your Own Idea Gathering

Post-Conflict Cultures

Proposed by:

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Description of Topic

We propose to explore the subject of post-conflict cultures from a range of scholarly and disciplinary angles. Drawing together faculty from as many as five schools of the university, it will explore a number of questions arising in the aftermath of profound social and political conflict, including: the search for justice and accountability; the political, legal, and psychological challenges of returning to peace; the residual effects of violence, whether for those who suffer, witness, or perpetrate, it; the need for healing and restoration, whether of real bodies, social systems, or cultural identities; and how the memory of conflict is shaped in legal, historical, medical, and artistic practices.

Significance of Topic

The study of post-conflict societies has relevance for a vast range of time periods and scholarly fields, and as such, it lends itself particularly well to collaboration across disciplines and schools. The effort to understand the complex range of problems that follow conflict and violence has both a strong historical dimension and pressing contemporary relevance. The faculty engaged in this group would have an opportunity to consider how people in the past have responded to the challenges of the post-conflict context and how the twenty-first century will respond to the conflicts and wars of our current age. At present, numerous faculty members across the university are conducting important work on the ramifications of conflict, but they are doing so in relative isolation. This includes historians and humanists who study past post-conflict societies; legal scholars who study the impact of war crimes trials and tribunals; and faculty in medical fields and others who work with military personnel in the transition from conflict to peace. The goal of this group would be to generate an interdisciplinary dialogue about post-conflict societies that would not only bear fruit for our individual research projects, but would undoubtedly lead to enrichment in the classroom and better-informed service opportunities.

Potential Faculty Participants

- Iver Bernstein (College of Arts & Sciences), Professor, Department of History
- Elizabeth Borgwardt (College of Arts & Sciences), Associate Professor, Department of History
- Mark Brostoff (Olin School of Business), Associate Dean, Yellow Ribbon Program Advisor
- Rumi Kato Price (School of Medicine), Professor, Department of Psychiatry
- Tabea Linhard (College of Arts & Sciences), Associate Professor, Romance Languages & Literatures
- Angela Miller (College of Arts & Sciences), Professor, Department of Art History & Archaeology
- Amanda Moore McBride (Brown School of Social Work), Associate Professor, Associate Dean for Social Work, Director, Richard A. Gephardt Institute for Public Service
- Leila Nadya Sedat (School of Law), Henry H. Oberschelp Professor of Law, Director of the Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute
- Karen L. Tokarz (School of Law), Charles Nagel Professor of Public Interest Law & Public Service; Professor of African and African-American Studies
- Anika Walke (College of Arts & Sciences), Assistant Professor, Department of History

Preferred Format for Gatherings: coffee