

ACPR

African Conflict & Peacebuilding Review

Call for Papers

The Arts and Peacebuilding in Africa: Creative Approaches to Transforming Conflict

African Conflict and Peacebuilding Review (ACPR) is seeking contributions for a special issue on "The Arts and Peacebuilding in Africa: Creative Approaches to Transforming Conflict." Contributions from African and Africa-based scholars, practitioners, and artists are particularly encouraged.

Guest Editors

Dr. Olivier Urbain, Toda Institute for Global Peace and Policy Research

Lindsay McClain Opiyo, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame

Special Issue Concept

ACPR "is an interdisciplinary forum for the critical study of the causes of conflict, the institutional arrangements that are most likely to maintain peace, and the cultural elements that promote or hinder peace." The arts have been called the "missing link in the field of conflict resolution and peacemaking."¹ For this special issue, ACPR seeks works from scholars, practitioners, and artists that illuminate the ways in which the arts have helped or hindered peacebuilding in Africa. From performing arts to plastic arts, from storytelling and poetry to photography and filmmaking, artists across the continent are creating change in their communities, countries, and regions through creative acts. In some contexts, these arts initiatives have created spaces for dialogue and positive peace among and between conflict-affected people. Yet in other cases, the arts and artists have promoted and contributed to devastating violence and unrest. This special issue seeks to generate deeper discussion on the matter and highlight initiatives, methodologies, and theories pertaining to the arts and their roles in peacebuilding in Africa. Perhaps by better understanding and illuminating the ways in which people and societies in Africa interact with and interpret the creative arts in times

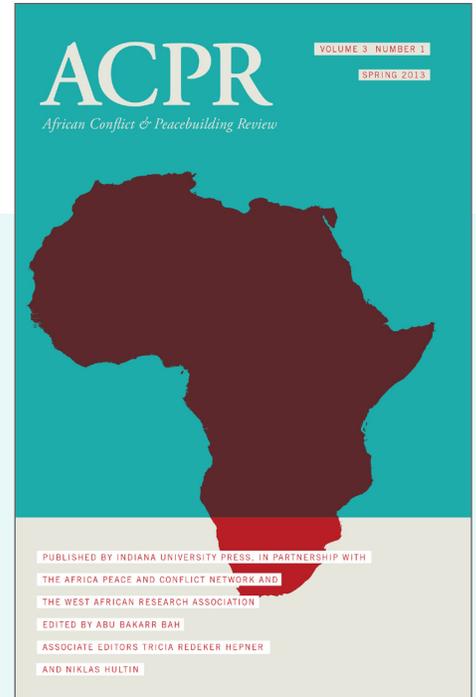
of conflict and peace, we can tap into the enormous creative potential on the continent and build a more sustainable peace in its conflict-affected areas.

Paper Topics

Potential topics may include, but are not limited to:

- »» The relationship between the arts and peacebuilding in Africa
- »» Methodological and theoretical approaches to arts-based interventions in Africa
- »» Psychosocial impacts of the arts on individuals and communities in Africa
- »» The arts and transitional processes for justice and reconciliation in postconflict African societies
- »» The arts as dialogue, solidarity, advocacy, exchange, education, and/or transformation in Africa
- »» Indigenous forms of art and creative expression in Africa and ways they are related to peace and conflict
- »» Empathy, "othering," and the arts in Africa
- »» The arts and African armed groups

(Continued on back page)



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¹LeBaron, Michelle. 2011. "Foreword." *Art in Action: Expressive Arts Therapy and Social Change*. Ellen G. Levine and Stephen K. Levine, eds. Philadelphia: Jessica Kingsley.

We define the arts and creativity broadly and welcome submissions on a variety of creative processes, including, but not limited to: comedy, craft making, dance, digital media, drama, drawing, film, graphic design, literature, music, painting, photography, poetry, sculpting, and storytelling.

Paper Categories

This special issue will accept submissions for the following kinds of works: scholarly research articles, briefings, reviews, and multimedia. Please see below a brief description of each and visit *ACPR's* **FOR AUTHORS** page for more information on each category. <http://www.jstor.org/page/journal/africanpeace/forAuthor.html>

- *Scholarly Research Articles*—Typically 8,000-10,000 words (including all notes and references) and must meet the academic research standards of works published in scholarly journals
- *Briefings*—Typically 4,000-5,000 words (including all notes and references) and offer something of potential value to scholars, policymakers, or practitioners in our field
- *Reviews*—Typically 1,000-1,500 words (including all notes and references) and offer analysis on books, films, plays, or exhibitions
- *Multimedia*—Typically include audio, video and/or photographs with, at a minimum, a brief write-up, and provide descriptive or analytical discussions of events, themes, and issues that are intellectually stimulating, aesthetically engaging, and suitable for teaching

Style Guidelines

All papers must strictly follow the *ACPR* style for references, citations, headlines, etc. Please see the *ACPR* style guidelines at http://www.jstor.org/userimages/ContentEditor/1330458791892/Final_ACPR_SG.pdf

Special Issue Timeline

Interested contributors are asked to submit a 250- to 300-word abstract describing their proposed submission to Lindsay McClain Opiyo (lindsayopiyo@gmail.com) by **March 15, 2014**. Submission abstracts should include a title and a brief description of the

issue(s) examined, the preferred submission category, the methodological and theoretical standpoints guiding the research, the main arguments made, and the general conclusions offered, as relevant. Invitations to contribute a paper will be issued by **April 1, 2014**, with full papers due by **June 1, 2014**. All papers will be peer-reviewed before a final selection is made of works to be included in the special issue.

Barring any unanticipated delays, the special issue is expected to be published as the Spring 2015 (Vol. 5, No. 1) issue of *African Conflict and Peacebuilding Review*.

Guest Editors

Dr. Olivier Urban is the director of the Toda Institute for Global Peace and Policy Research (Tokyo and Honolulu) devoted to the promotion of global peacebuilding through academic exchanges, conferences, and publications. He is the founder and director of the Transcend: Art & Peace Network, an online organization promoting research on the links between peacebuilding and the arts. He holds a PhD in Literature from the University of Southern California (1990) and one in Peace Studies from the University of Bradford (2009). Publications related to music and peacebuilding include *Music and Conflict Transformation* (ed., 2008), *Music and Solidarity* (co-ed., 2011), and *Music, Power and Liberty* (co-ed, slated for 2014). Publications related to Daisaku Ikeda's writings and actions for peacebuilding through dialogue include *Daisaku Ikeda's Philosophy of Peace* (2010), *Daisaku Ikeda and Dialogue for Peace* (ed., 2013), and *A Forum for Peace: Daisaku Ikeda's Proposals to the UN* (ed., 2014).

Lindsay McClain Opiyo is a graduate student in Peace Studies at the Kroc Institute for Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame and coordinator of the Everyday Peace Indicators (EPI) project, a two-year research study to investigate alternative, bottom-up perceptions of peace and safety in twelve communities in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Uganda, and South Sudan. She is the co-founder of Music for Peace (MfP), an initiative to promote the power of music in peacebuilding and build solidarity among artists from conflict and postconflict areas in Africa. She was formerly the Communications Team Leader at the Justice and Reconciliation Project (JRP), a Ugandan organization that works for justice and reconciliation with grassroots communities. Her publications include several articles on the arts and peacebuilding and victim-centered transitional justice in northern Uganda as well as a chapter on youth and transition in *Political Conflict and Peace Building in the African Great Lakes Region* (2013).