



Disentangling International and Local Understandings in Peacebuilding. Insights from the 'Laboratory' of Bougainville

Research Programme 2013-2018/

Conflict Transformation in the Fault Lines of World Society

Project description

The project, which is funded by the German Foundation for Peace Research, addresses the relationships and interactions of international and local actors in post-conflict peacebuilding interventions. It explores the changes that occur in the course of their interactions with regard to the actors' perceptions, expectations, attitudes and activities, and how these changes lead to recalibrations of relationships and, consequently, a re-articulation of the overall peacebuilding exercise.

It will do so primarily through an in-depth case study of post-conflict peacebuilding on the island of Bougainville in Papua New Guinea, whose peacebuilding process stands out as a success story, and whose insularity as well as its smallness make it a kind of a peacebuilding 'laboratory'. In narrative and problem-centred interviews, in which the interviewees will be confronted with the narratives of the respective 'other side' in a second round, different understandings of peace(building) and their embeddedness in specific worldviews and epistemologies will be explored. The Bougainville case study will be complemented by a study which explores whether similar processes can be identified in other small states or de facto states such as Somaliland, Sierra Leone and Timor Leste.

By substantiating the 'local turn' and by disentangling 'the local(s)' and 'the international(s)', the project advances research on relationality, complexity and hybridity in peacebuilding. On this basis, it sketches new, policy-oriented ways for reflecting on and changing peacebuilding practices, exploring avenues for initiating dialogue and mutual learning.

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Project team

Project management

- *Prof. Dr. Tobias Debiel*
- *Dr. Volker Böge*

Project staff

- *Patricia Rinck (M.A.)*

Peacebuilding im Spannungsfeld internationaler und lokaler Wahrnehmungen Einsichten aus dem ‚Laboratorium‘ Bougainville

Publications

Boege, Volker / Rinck, Patricia / Debiel, Tobias: Local-International Relations and the Recalibration of Peacebuilding Interventions Insights from the ‘Laboratory’ of Bougainville and Beyond, INEF-Report 112. Duisburg: 2017.