

Paper VIII: Research Methodology and Field Work

The paper introduces students to key methodological concepts and tools for analyzing conflict and peace building initiatives. It familiarizes them to issues relating to social science research while providing them with frameworks for undertaking research in conflict studies. The paper looks at the following in much detail: techniques of data collection, issues in conflict management, the assessment of peace processes and of reconstruction.

Unit I: Frameworks for Conflict Analysis

1. Comparing Frameworks: World Bank, Gurr-Harff
2. Early Warning Signals
3. Studying the Field: The Historical Method; Ethnography and Observation

Unit II: Accessing and Collecting Conflict Data

1. Planning Empirical Research: Formulating Hypothesis, Defining Concepts
2. Methods of Data Collection; Data Processing; Data Interpretation
3. Objectivity and Value Neutrality; Reflections on Issues of Ethics

Unit III: Critical Issues in Conflict Management

1. Identifying Refugee Flows
2. Planning Humanitarian Aid
3. Organising Civilian Protection

Unit IV: Monitoring/Assessing Peace Processes

1. Peace Audits
2. Benchmarks of Implementation
3. Coordination Methods: Tracks, Actors and Agencies

Unit V: Assessing Reconstruction

1. Measurement of Needs
2. Fund Raising
3. Programme Evaluation

Suggested Readings:

1. Hugo Slim and Paul Thompson, *Listening for a Change: Oral Testimony and Development*, Panos, 1993
2. Steinar Kvale, *Interviews: An Introduction to Qualitative Research Interviewing*, Sage, 1996
3. Maurice Punch, *Politics and Ethics of Fieldwork*, Sage, 1986
4. Daniel Druckman, *Doing Research: Methods of Inquiry for Conflict Analysis*, Sage, 2005
5. Vandana Desai & Robert B. Potter (eds.), *Doing Development Research*, Sage, 2006
6. Carolyn Nordstrom and Antonio C. G. M. Robben (eds.), *Fieldwork under Fire: Contemporary Studies of Violence & Culture*, University of California Press, 1996
7. Myron Weiner, "Bad Neighbors, Bad Neighborhoods: An Enquiry into the Causes of Refugee Flows", *International Security*, Summer 1996, Vol. 21, No. 1
8. Mary B. Anderson, *Do No Harm: How Aid Can Support Peace—Or War*, Boulder, London: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1999
9. Mark McGillivray and Farhad Noorbakhsh, 'Aid, Conflict and Human Development' (Paper presented at the conference, Making Peace Work, World Institute for Development Economics Research, United Nations University, Helsinki, June 4-5, 2004)
10. Luc Reyhler & Thania Paffenholz (eds.), *Peacebuilding: A Field Guide*, Boulder, London: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2001
11. John Paul Lederach & Janice Moomaw Jenner (Eds.), *A Handbook of International Peacebuilding: Into the Eye of the Storm*, Jossey-Bass, San Francisco, 2002
12. 'Briefing papers: Underwriting and Coordinating Post-Conflict Recovery' (Bellagio Conference Center of the Rockefeller Foundation, February 1-5, 1999)
13. Stephen Jackson, 'The Challenges and Contradictions of Development and Conflict' (A Background Paper for the INCORE Summer School, June 10-14, 2001)
14. Cheyanne Church & Mark M. Rogers, *Designing for Results: Integrating Monitoring and Evaluation in Conflict Transformation Programs*, Washington DC: Search for Common Ground, 2006
15. World Bank, Conflict Analysis Framework
16. Ted Guw & Barbara Harff, Minorities at Risk Project
17. Carnegie Commission on Preventing Deadly Conflict <http://www.carnegie.org/>
18. Berghof Research Center for Constructive Conflict Management <http://www.berghof-center.org/>
19. UNHCR, *Assessing Refugee Needs* <http://www.unhcr.org>
20. UNDP, *Evaluating Aid and Reconstruction Programs* www.undp.org
21. USAID, *Evaluating Post Conflict Reconstruction* www.usaid.gov/
22. EBRD, *Planning Reconstruction* www.ebrd.com/
23. DFID, *Measuring Needs* <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/>
24. ICRC, *Assessing Needs* (Software for Divided Families and Tsunami Displaced)
25. FES www.fes.de/