

Workshop: Moving From Transitional to Transformative Justice

**Heslington Hall
University of York
Monday 1 November 2010
10 am – 4 pm**

Overview

The aim of this workshop is to advance the research agenda for a new Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) research network on transformative justice in advance of a major conference at the University of Leeds in May 2011.

This network, which was created in 2010, is led by the Centre for Applied Human Rights at the University of York and the Centre for Global Development at the University of Leeds. It brings together an international team of scholars and practitioners interested in transformative justice and the role of non-governmental actors from a wide range of institutions: the White Rose universities (Leeds, Sheffield, and York), other WUN universities (e.g. Bergen, Cape Town, and Sydney), and non-WUN partners (e.g. Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation, Chr. Michelsen Institute, Overseas Development Institute). For more information about WUN and this research network, see <http://www.wun.ac.uk/research/transformative-justice-network>.

Over the past 20 years, there has been a proliferation of ‘transitional justice’ mechanisms (primarily, criminal tribunals and truth commissions) that have promised accountability for perpetrators and redress for victims. Most of these mechanisms have focused on the level of the state and on state-related institutions in countries of the Global South, often supported by intergovernmental organisations. Yet, the performance and impact of such mechanisms has been at best ambiguous and at times disappointing. Furthermore, these interventions have been critiqued for treating the symptoms rather than the causes of conflict. This suggests the need for a newer research agenda, one that offers a concept of justice that is more ‘transformative’ than ‘transitional’, i.e. that seeks to change pre-conflict structures in ways that are more inclusive, less unequal and more fair.

This research agenda will also examine processes for the creation, diffusion and “vernacularization” of norms of transformative justice. This will include: (1) focusing on the role of non-governmental actors (e.g. research and advocacy organisations, faith-based organisations, social movements and activist networks), in shaping global discourses and practices of transformative justice; and (2) identifying Global South to North and South to South processes of transmission and influence in promoting transformative justice.

Programme

- 10:00 Welcome, introductions and overview of the day
- 10:30 Presentation of transformative justice concept note
- 11:00 Responses by invited commentators
- 12:00 Open discussion
- 1:00 Lunch
- 1:45 Responses by invited commentators
- 2:45 Open discussion
- 3:45 Wrap-up and action points

Invited Commentators

Anne Aghion (award-winning director of *My Neighbor My Killer*)

Dr. Pilar Domingo (Overseas Development Institute)

Dr. Susanne Karstedt (University of Leeds Law School)

Dr. Gabrielle Lynch (Department of Politics and International Studies, University of Leeds)

Dr. Tshepo Madlingozi (Khulumani Support Group and Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria)

Dr. Kimberly Theidon (Department of Anthropology, Harvard University)

Dr. Hugo van der Merwe (Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation/University of Cape Town)