

## **CALL FOR BOOK CHAPTER CONTRIBUTIONS**

### **African Frontiers: Insurgency, Governance and Peacebuilding in Post-Colonial States**

#### **Editors**

John Idriss Lahai, PhD & Tanya Lyons, PhD

The quest to reconfigure the social, political and economic structures of post-colonial African states has also led to or coincided with the expansion of frontiers of war and peace on the continent. Characteristically, this expansion has had a major impact on the patterns and nature of insurgency and peacebuilding within the geographies of space: community spaces, war zones, individual/collective spaces of memory, radical, political (ideological/fundamentalist) spaces, environmental spaces, and spaces of violent/non-violent resistance/activism in the continent. The contentions and contradictions that characterize the polyphonic theoretical perspectives about these spaces within post-colonial African states has also impacted the ways in which we understand and interpret, first, the dynamics of (armed/non-armed) insurgent activism; second, the convergences and/or cleavages of insurgent groups' governance framework, conflict management and the neo-liberal and post-colonial peacebuilding agenda; and third, the relationships between insurgent (violent and non-violent) groups and grassroots peace networks, and the impact such relationships have had on the discourse of state (re)formation within the continent.

While there has been a steady decrease in the numbers of conflicts and an increase in the numbers of peacebuilding activities globally, in Africa the nature of localized political economy of insurgency, the fluidity of inter-factional relationships, insurgent groups' governance models and the engendered post-colonial narrative of violence (and the accompanying counter neo-liberal narratives) have led to the reconfiguration of the geographies of peacebuilding and the emergence of unconventional peace activism and strategies aimed at addressing these issues and promote people-centric peacebuilding in the continent.

We would like to invite you to contribute a chapter to this volume.

This edited collection aims to expand on the discourses of insurgency, (rebel/state) governance and peacebuilding into an engagement with one or more of the following non-exclusive themes:

- 1) Unconventional armed/non-armed insurgency in Africa;
- 2) Rebel-State Governance Architecture and the political economy of civil wars;
- 3) the politics of insurgent environmentalism and the war-peace nexus;
- 4) armed insurgent groups and the neo-liberal peacebuilding agenda for the post-colonial state;
- 5) Population dynamics and insurgent groups' patterns of warfare;
- 6) People's power and agency in war/peace activism;
- 7) peace processes and the landscapes of non-violent peace activism in Africa; and
- 8) The role of marginal/minority groups in insurgent (violent/non-violent) movements and in peace processes;

We are particularly interested in chapters that explore these issues from an interdisciplinary (within a case study-specific) perspective that draws from social anthropology, political science and strategic studies, peace and conflict studies, memory and religious studies, visual culture and other disciplines in the humanities and the social sciences. Chapters that situates the post-colonial and neo-liberal discourses of insurgency, governance and peacebuilding within the geographies of space are also welcome.

#### **PROPOSED TIMELINE**

Interested contributors are asked to submit a 250-500 word abstract describing their proposed chapter to the editors: Dr. Tanya Lyons ([tanya.lyons@flinders.edu.au](mailto:tanya.lyons@flinders.edu.au)) and Dr. John Idriss Lahai ([johnlahai@yahoo.com](mailto:johnlahai@yahoo.com)) by 30 June 2014. Abstracts should include a title and a brief description of the issue(s) examined, the methodological and theoretical standpoints guiding the chapter, the main

arguments made, and the general conclusions offered, as relevant. Please also include a short biography or resume.

Prospective Chapter authors may also like to consider sending their abstracts to the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual AFSAAP Conference to be held in Dunedin, New Zealand on November 26-27 (more details from [www.afsaap.org.au](http://www.afsaap.org.au)). The deadline for this is also June 30<sup>th</sup> (send abstracts to [afsaap2014@afsaap.org.au](mailto:afsaap2014@afsaap.org.au)). The conference will be an ideal opportunity for some chapter authors to meet and workshop their ideas in a panel).

## **ABOUT THE EDITORS**

**John Idriss Lahai, PhD**, is an applied international studies scholar with broad interests in humanitarian action, nation building and development, with a focus on Peace and conflict impact assessment; Armed conflict/civil insurgency; The "peace-security-development nexus"; State (trans)formation and state "failure"; Stabilization and external humanitarian intervention/action; Post-conflict development; Post-colonial theory; Non-state actors and development; The "gender-governance/development nexus" in Sub-Saharan Africa. He earned his PhD in Peace and Conflict Studies from the School of International Studies, University of New England, Australia (Programme on structural Inequalities, Gender and Armed Conflicts). He also holds a Master's of Arts (Cum Laude) in International Law and The Settlement of Disputes from the United Nations Mandated University for Peace (UPEACE), Costa Rica, and certificates in International Refugee Law and International Humanitarian Law from UPEACE. Much of his academic and applied work has investigated the experiences of young people, women and marginal insurgent groups on the margins of society and the political economy, seeking to integrate perspectives from anthropology, strategic studies, political economy and human rights. Dr. Lahai is the author of numerous publications in edited volumes and journals. He is also currently working on two book-length manuscripts: "*The gendered Frontiers of Conflicts in Post-Colonial Sierra Leone*"; and "*Humanitarianism in Africa: Global Process and Local Realities*" (with Professor Marisa O'Enor).

**Tanya Lyons, PhD**, is President of the African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific - AFSAAP- and Editor of the Australasian Review of African Studies; Chair - Australia-Africa University Network Consultative Group; Chair - Africa Interest Group Flinders University; Honors Coordinator, Department of International Relations, Flinders University; Coordinator School of International Studies Consultative Committee. She is also a Senior Lecturer in the School of International Studies at Flinders University, Adelaide, where she specializes in teaching African political history. Lyons is the author of *Guns and Guerrilla Girls: Women in the Zimbabwean Liberation Struggle* (2004). She has co-edited the books: *New Engagement: Contemporary Australian Foreign Policy Toward Africa* (with David Mickler, 2013), and *South Sudanese Diaspora in Australia and New Zealand: Reconciling the Past with the Present* (with Jay Marlowe and Anne Harris, 2013), and *Africa on a Global Stage* (with Gerry Pye, 2006), and written chapters on "Australian Foreign Policy Toward Africa" (2012) and "The State of African Studies in Australia" (with Elizabeth Dimock, 2007).