Violence and Social Change
A one day Symposium at the School of Education and Social Work
FASS
March 8 2018
Old Teachers College 306 A22, Manning Road, The University of Sydney

Theme

Social change is produced by contradictory forces. Violence is usually understood as an affront to the life and dignity that is supported by social structures, an approach seen in Galtung’s concept of ‘structural violence’. In this sense violence, in its destructive power and selective administration of suffering, is understood to un-make the social.

Yet it is also true that new forms of sociality appear because of violence. Historically, violence has been pivotal in the creation of colonial, class, racial and gender structures. This aspect of violence is seen in dramatic contemporary form in the civil conflicts in South Africa and Colombia, explored in the book that will be launched at this Symposium. From this comes a concept of much wider application, including in Australian life: when violence is systematic and permanent, it becomes a social structure.

Communities affected by protracted conflicts and socio-political violence develop forms of resistance and produce alternatives to re-make social connections fractured by violence. Both the actors and the strategies need attention. Violence, and responses to violence, are gendered; women are often key actors in the re-making of the social. Strategies to promote just social change often include both formal and informal education.

We invite to this Symposium both researchers, and practitioners (in education, welfare and conflict resolution), interested in the analysis of structures of violence and their transformation.

Key questions to be discussed are:

- What happens when violence is not just destructive, but becomes a social structure in itself?
- What can be learnt from recent experiences of negotiated conflict resolution between revolutionary groups and states?
- What is the role of education in the reconstruction of societies affected by protracted conflicts?

Sponsors

- Sydney Social Justice Network
- Sydney Social Policy Research Network
## Agenda

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<tr>
<td>8.30 – 9.00</td>
<td>Register, distribution of agenda</td>
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<td>9.00 - 9.10</td>
<td>Acknowledge of Country, welcoming words, presentation of the event</td>
<td>Remy Low, U Sydney</td>
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<td>9.10 - 9.30</td>
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| 9.30 - 11.00 | First Panel Violence as Social Structure                                  | Panellists: Thalia Anthony, UTS
Stephen Tomsen, Western Sydney U
Moderator: Fernando Serrano, U Sydney |
| 11.30 - 13.00| Second Panel Dealing with Conflicts: lessons from Latin America          | Panellists: Michael Humphrey, U Sydney
Estela Valverde, Macquarie U
Moderator: Luis Angosto Ferrandez, U Sydney |
| 14.00 - 15.30| Third Panel Education in/for/against violence                            | Panellists: Alison O’Grady, U Sydney
Victoria Rawlings, U Sydney
Kevin Lowe, Macquarie U
Moderator: Remy Low, U Sydney |
| 15.30 - 17.00| Book Launch Homophobic Violence in Armed Conflict and Political Transitions (Palgrave McMillan, 2018) | Opening remarks: Raewyn Connell, U Sydney
Reading of book excerpts: Fernando Serrano, U Sydney, author
Respondents: Kane Race, U Sydney
Beth Goldblatt, UTS
Moderator: Remy Low, U Sydney |

**Cost:** Free but RSVP at the link below

**Registration:**


**URL:**


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