Invitation to the KOFF Roundtable on

Peacebuilding Success and Failure: Reconsidered from the Ground

14:00-16:30 on 11 June 2014, swisspeace, Sonnenbergstrasse 17, Bern

with the participation of

Séverine Autesserre  Ass. Professor at Barnard College, Columbia University
Sidonia Gabriel  Project Director KOFF, swisspeace

What accounts for peacebuilding success and failures? While most analyses adopt a macro-level perspective to assess this question, Séverine Autesserre suggests reconsidering it from the ground.

In her most recent book, Peaceland: Conflict Resolution and the Everyday Politics of International Intervention she suggests a new explanation for why international peace interventions often fail to reach their full potential. Based on several years of ethnographic research in conflict zones around the world, she demonstrates that everyday elements – such as the expatriates’ social habits and usual approaches to understanding their areas of operation – strongly influence peacebuilding effectiveness.

Individuals from all over the world and all walks of life share numerous practices, habits, and narratives when they serve as interveners in conflict zones. These common attitudes and actions enable foreign peacebuilders to function in the field, but they also result in unintended consequences that thwart international efforts. Certain expatriates follow alternative modes of thinking and doing, often with notable results, but they remain in the minority.

Through an in-depth analysis of the interveners’ everyday life and work, Séverine Autesserre proposes innovative ways to better help host populations build a sustainable peace. These new insights will be discussed by Sidonia Gabriel.

You are kindly asked to confirm your participation by Friday 6 June 2014 to Sara Hellmüller (sara.hellmueller@swisspeace.ch). Please note that the discussion will be held in English.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the event.

Best wishes,

KOFF Centre for Peacebuilding

Sara Hellmüller
Program
14:00  Presentation by Séverine Autesserre
14:45  Reflections by Sidonia Gabriel
15:15  Break
15:45  Discussion
16:30  End of event

Moderation
Sara Heilmüller, swisspeace