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<td>Title</td>
<td>Compassionate Witnessing of Post-conflict Trauma: Engaging African Diaspora Communities in Healing and Reconciliation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Authors</td>
<td>Khalema, N.E and Yohani, S</td>
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<td>Monograph/book*</td>
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<td><em>(For monographs/chapters, a letter from publisher must be submitted as proof of peer review.)</em></td>
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<td>1st African Water Symposium and the 5th International Conference on Conflict Management, Peace Economics, and Peace Science, University of the Free State (June 21, 2013)</td>
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<td>Confidential?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submitted by</td>
<td>Dr. Ernest Khalema</td>
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<td>Submission date</td>
<td>November 27, 2013</td>
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June 21, 2013

Peace Economics and Peace Science
5th International Conference on Conflict Management
Paper presented at 1st African Water Symposium

8 Mr. Attono Rurangwa
Acknowledging Dr Linda Kreriter (University of Calgary)
Associate Professor & Director Counselling Center,
Sophie Yohani, PhD, RPsych
University of Alberta (Canada)

Ernest Nene Khalema, PhD
Adjunct Professor of Public Health, University of Alberta (Canada)
Senior Research Specialist (HSRC-HSD South Africa)

Communities in Healing & Reconciliation
in Canada: Engaging African Diaspora
Compassionate Witnessing of Post-Conflict Trauma
Judith Herman

Trauma: "The Dialectic of Subject to the Victim as Witness as Well"

Witnesses as well
The paper focuses on our own "Witnessing" (lead by Canada since 2000) and Somali communities who were migrants in Rwanda, Liberia.

Reflect on three case studies (RW and LM) as a framework for researcher witnessing (CW) as a framework of researcher engagement and entity with traumatized communities.

Use of Kaethe Weininger’s, strategy of compassionate war as witnesses, participants, and survivors.

Exploring our process as researchers engaging with migrant communities who experienced the trauma of

Brief Outline
The Impact of Trauma

- Struggles in Interpersonal Relating
- Physical health problems
- Consequences
- Substance use disorders and related mental and emotional health disorders
- Tremendous range of outcomes
- Trauma exposure increases the risk of a broad and touches multiple life domains
Memories of conflict
Engagement with community
Establishing research priorities
Getting started

Historical context (research fatigue, distrust)
Why this research?
Who should participate?
What is community?

Doing research with post-conflict communities
Community consultations to establish
(intervention that included a research component)
Engagement with community leaders about
Meeting with community leaders (June 2010)
Leaders, church and faith communities.
Invites: (over 300+) community members and
Community Organizations - April 2010
Major commemoration event targeted at the

Getting Started
Responding to offers of engagements

- Ideas originated in the community
  - Interventions with youth (psychosocial, integration)
  - Community cohesion (asset mapping-what's happening in the community)
  - Redevelopment projects to re(built) Rwanda
- Ideas originated from researchers
  - Understanding community resilience post-conflict within the transition context.
  - Community training workshops for youth and community leaders to understand post trauma
Beliefs about self
Work with colleagues
Providing care

May be related to
Working in helping, care giving systems
Pleasure and satisfaction derived from
The positive aspects of helping

Compassion Satiastion

Researchers Challenges
Work-related trauma
Work with colleagues
Providing care
Systems may be related to
The negative aspects of working in helping
The negative aspects of helping
Compassion fatigue
Researchers' challenges
Interventions

Building trust in the midst of chaotic crises

Internalized

Subtle and can easily be denied or

Manifestations of loss and grief are often

Hard to put aside

Ungthing memories they are working

Risk re-traumatizing the survivors by

Community Challenges
Weingarten (2003) hypothesizes that researchers who are aware of the meaning of the violent events experienced by their respondents but who find themselves helpless to take action or without any path for taking constructive action are the most at risk for developing vicarious trauma.
Each witness position affects:

Witnessing, Wonder, and Hope
Emergence of a collaborative process of mutual transformation (researcher/subject) post conflict

- Empathy and resilience
- Collegial support
- Critical dialogue
- Management
community for action

Identity tangible resources within their

another

regain a sense of connectedness with one

between researchers and the communities

This in turn facilitated a mutual learning process

from the lens of the community members

The research process allowed access to communities

transition due to conflict

Communities that have undergone rapid and untimely

Framework for initiating and sustaining change in

compassionate witnessing
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For correspondence please contact:

Rea Leboha

Thank You


References

- Refugees and mental health. Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine, 159, 585.
Selected References