

Conflict-induced, Transgenerational, Collective Trauma and Aid Effectiveness: An Annotated Bibliography

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1. Introduction

The complexities of conflict-induced, transgenerational, collective trauma present significant challenges to the effectiveness of international aid, particularly in post-conflict environments. While a substantial body of research exists on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)¹ and Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS)², the intersection between collective trauma and aid effectiveness remains underexplored. This gap is especially pronounced when examining how trauma affects efforts to rebuild societies, establish equitable governance, protect human rights, and foster economic and social development.

This annotated bibliography has been compiled to provide a comprehensive overview of existing literature that informs our understanding of these issues, having in mind three (potential) case-studies: Afghanistan, South Sudan, and Ukraine. The selected works explore various dimensions of trauma, governance, and aid effectiveness. They aim to shed light on how long-standing, collective experiences of conflict shape the outcomes of international interventions. Additionally, they aptly portray the development of trauma from its root causes to its effects on both victims and aid workers.

Our research seeks to address an important hypothesis: that collective, transgenerational trauma can significantly impede the impact and sustainability of international aid. This hypothesis emphasizes the importance of considering localized structural and cultural factors in the design and implementation of aid programs and conflict analyses, moving beyond PTSD- and MHPSS-informed approaches to encompass broader socio-political dynamics. To explore this hypothesis thoroughly, we undertook a rigorous process of selecting and annotating relevant literature, ensuring that our bibliography provides a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of how collective trauma affects aid effectiveness. The following section details our approach to compiling and reviewing sources, as well as highlights the key criteria and methodologies employed in our data selection and annotation efforts. Together, the literature confirms our hypotheses with supporting information and possible recommendations.

Selection, Screening and Annotation Process

The creation of this annotated bibliography involved a systematic and thorough process to ensure that the selected works were both relevant and comprehensive in addressing the research question: *Does conflict-induced, collective trauma affect the effectiveness of international assistance to support communities that have endured prolonged periods of*

¹ See, for example: Schrader, C. and A. Ross (2021). 'A Review of PTSD and Current Treatment Strategies', *Missouri Medicine*, Nov-Dec 118 (6), pp. 546-551.

² See, for example: UNHCR (2024). *Emergency Handbook: Mental Health and Psychosocial Support*. Geneva: UNHCR. Available from: <https://emergency.unhcr.org/emergency-assistance/health-and-nutrition/mental-health-and-psychosocial-support-mhpss>.

conflict? And, if so, how and to what degree?

We determined thematically relevant keywords in a brainstorming session on our research interests and the respective topics of the target texts. Next, we conducted systematic searches across three academic databases: Scopus, PubMed, and JSTOR. In addition, we accessed reports from international organizations, such as the United Nations (UN) organizations that are involved in international aid interventions.

To initiate the search, we based our queries on 25 different combinations of thematically relevant terms (as outlined below) relating to Trauma, Conflict, and Humanitarian Aid and limited the results to the period of 1990-2023. After removing the duplicates, we refined the initial dataset through a title screening process for relevance. When the database queries matched our search terms to both resource titles and contents, we further narrowed down our corpus by including only those resources whose titles matched keywords in at least one of our areas of interest for further relevant findings. To match titles related to trauma, we reviewed resource titles for the keywords 'Trauma,' 'Generational,' 'Collective,' and 'Social Fabric.' For titles relating to conflict, we controlled the presence of the keywords 'Conflict,' 'Chronic,' and 'Armed.' Finally, titles associated with humanitarian aid were matched by checking for the keywords 'Aid,' 'Inefficiency,' 'Efficiency,' 'Humanitarian,' and 'Response.'

This screening process produced a dataset more closely aligned with our research scope, each containing at least one of the relevant keywords in their title. Abstracts and executive summaries were then reviewed to determine if the full text warranted closer examination. While this process contained an inherently subjective element, each finding was evaluated by at least two members of our team as suggested by Polanin et al. (2019).³ We considered factors such as whether the abstract talks more about collective trauma than individual trauma, whether it covers a context in which aid could have been (or was) supplied, whether it covers more than the (mere medical) effects of trauma, whether it discusses trauma that is the result of conflict or not, and whether it could be seen as appealing to all three of our thematic categories (i.e., conflict, trauma, aid). Where the two researchers disagreed on whether to include an item, a third researcher gave the final verdict.

At this stage, we cross-checked the results of our search with Google Scholar. Most of the articles that were found by searching some of our keywords, 'trauma research,' 'generational trauma,' and 'conflict trauma' via Google Scholar were already in our database. Some other works found through this cross-check that were not in our database were manually added to our corpus.

In addition, we submitted our annotated bibliography to an independent peer review. This review identified some books that are very relevant to our research topic. Several of the

³ Polanin JR, Pigott TD, Espelage DL, Grotzinger JK. (2019). 'Best practice guidelines for abstract screening large-evidence systematic reviews and meta-analyses', *Research Synthesis Methods*, 10 (3), pp. 330-342. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1002/jrsm.1354>.

suggested works have been included in this version of the bibliography. However, some of these works were either published in Spanish or French or prior to 1990. Due to the lack of capacity or knowledge of other languages of our research team, they will be integrated at a later stage in our research (see Annex A).

Documents that met the selection criteria were then read in full, with key insights, themes, and findings noted. We also reviewed the bibliographies of key articles to identify additional sources for this bibliography.

The final step involved writing concise and informative annotations for each selected document. Each annotation was designed a) to summarize the main arguments, findings, or contributions of the work, b) to highlight the relevance to our research question, specifically how the document contributes to understanding the relationship between collective trauma and aid effectiveness, and c) to examine the strengths and limitations of the work, offering an assessment of its scholarly value and applicability to our research to establish how the body of work we are annotating measures up in relation to our research.

Through this annotated bibliography, we aim to provide a foundation for further exploration of how collective trauma impacts the effectiveness of international aid interventions. By reviewing the existing literature, we hope to contribute to a deeper understanding of how to improve the effectiveness of aid in communities that have endured prolonged conflict, ultimately supporting more sustainable and fair post-conflict reconstruction efforts. In sum, the following annotated bibliography presents a curated selection of key works that inform our research, offering valuable insights and analyses pertinent to our investigation on trauma and aid effectiveness. We hope this annotated bibliography will become a living document, adding more literature as our research progresses over time.

Finally, we would like to thank the UA Ruhr's College for Social Sciences and Humanities, because it provided a space for some of the discussions on the contents of this IFHV Working Paper and one of its fellows anonymously reviewed a first draft of this Paper.

2. Annotated Bibliography

Abraham, N., Torok, M., and Rand, N. T., 1994. *The Shell and the Kernel: Renewals of Psychoanalysis*. Chicago, London: University of Chicago Press.

This book by Nicolas Abraham and Maria Torok is a fundamental contribution to the study of psychology. Its chapters include: Instruments in Psychotherapy, Femininity in Psychoanalysis, Toward a Conceptual Renewal of Psychoanalysis, New Perspectives in Metapsychology, Secrets of Posterity: the Theory of the Generational Phantom, and Psychoanalytic Communion.

These chapters consist of a collection of essays by the authors written over a period of more than 20 years. The authors emphasize being open-minded towards the lived experience of persons' suffering, without falling into the trap of being stuck in existing theories.

In this translation from the original French edition in 1987, Nicholas T. Rand, who worked closely with Maria Torok, provides his review as an introduction to the book. Introjection is one of the main principles that derive from the essays of Abraham and Torok. This concept "represents both the aim and the specific course of psychic life from birth to death" (p. 9). Introjection is elaborated from examples in literature, such as Maupassant's "At Sea" which shows a "successful introjection" (p. 19) through overcoming the trauma by mourning. Whereas in the example from Camus's "The Stranger," an unmourned death engenders death. These examples demonstrate the perspective of the authors in a way similar to our research: "The collective disregard for painful historical realities" has destructive effects on lives (p. 21).

Overall, while all chapters are significant for our research in the analysis of psychology and trauma, the part about "the transgenerational haunting" – "the phantom" – will contribute most to the discussion of intergenerational trauma in our research.

Agaibi, C. E., and Wilson, J. P., 2005. Trauma, PTSD, and Resilience: A Review of the Literature. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 6 (3), pp. 195-216. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838005277438>.

This article provides a comprehensive review of the literature concerning trauma, PTSD, and resilience. Agaibi and Wilson explore various aspects of trauma, including psychological effects, risk factors, resilience, coping, and adaptation. They discuss PTSD as a common outcome of trauma exposure, analyzing different theoretical frameworks

and models of PTSD and posttraumatic resilience.

While the authors evaluate existing research on trauma and PTSD, they also highlight gaps in knowledge and inconsistencies in findings across studies. They discuss the complexities and varying definitions of resilience, emphasizing factors that contribute to an individual's ability to cope and recover from trauma. The review integrates findings from psychological, neurobiological, and social perspectives, offering a holistic view of trauma and its aftermath.

This review is valuable for researchers, clinicians, and policymakers interested in trauma-related issues similar to our research. It synthesizes a large body of literature, making it a useful resource for understanding current perspectives on trauma, PTSD, and resilience. Our research also utilizes the findings from the literature review for grouping stressors affecting communities to understand the collective trauma that occurs. The article provides implications for future research directions and interventions aimed at promoting resilience and recovery among trauma survivors.

Agaibi and Wilson's review contributes significantly to the field by consolidating diverse research findings on trauma and PTSD. The study emphasizes the importance of resilience in mitigating the adverse effects of trauma and informs clinical practices and public health initiatives focused on trauma prevention and intervention.

Almoshmash, N., 2016. The Role of War Trauma Survivors in Managing Their Own Mental Conditions, Syria Civil War as an Example. *Avicenna Journal of Medicine*, 6 (2), pp. 54–59. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.4103/2231-0770.179554>.

In this article, Nadim Almoshmash encourages war survivors, when individually suitable and facing limited resources, to employ self-management strategies to cope with their trauma, especially in conflict or refugee camp settings. He uses the Syrian Civil War as a case-study. His research highlights the significant psychological impact of war on individuals and explores how survivors can utilize various coping mechanisms to manage their mental health unless specialized treatments are needed. Almoshmash emphasizes the importance of self-reliance and community support in the absence of formal mental health services. The study provides valuable insights into the resilience and resourcefulness of war-affected populations and underscores the need for developing accessible mental health interventions tailored to the unique needs of trauma survivors in conflict zones.

The focus on the specific sociocultural context of Syrians and a lack of intergenerational collective trauma lens may limit the generalizability of these findings to other conflict settings for our research. Still, the findings suggest that empowering individuals with

self-help techniques can be an effective component of providing mental health care in conflict-affected regions and overcoming trauma during post-conflict reconstruction. This may also imply that international assistance might fail if the coping mechanisms of affected communities are overlooked. This study can support our research as an example of the importance of community empowerment in processing trauma during post-conflict recovery.

Arega, N. T., 2023. Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Interventions for Children Affected by Armed Conflict in low-and-middle-income Countries: A Systematic Review. *Child & Youth Care Forum*, 52(6), pp. 1431-1456. New York: Springer US.

Arega's systematic review aims to present Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) interventions designed for children in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) affected by armed conflict. The study employs a systematic review methodology, using the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) standards. It reviews a wide range of empirical studies and reports that assess MHPSS interventions in various conflict-affected settings. The selection criteria focused on peer-reviewed articles published between 2016 and September 2022, emphasizing mental health interventions aimed at children or adolescents who have experienced psychological trauma due to conflict, in a low- and middle-income country. The findings were then analyzed through the bio-ecological model on individual, family, school, and community levels.

Arega's findings suggest that recently, MHPSS interventions have been more family-based and have positive outcomes. While school-based interventions were also effective, conflict situations can constrain the sustainability and accessibility of schools. However, research shows that culturally accepted healing activities of communities have not been explored. Arega argues that instead of using Western treatment models, implementing culturally accepted community-based MHPSS interventions may be more beneficial in the long term in LMICs, given their wider reach and the limited number of mental health professionals.

As a limitation of this study for our research, the scope of this study concerns children and does not directly address the broader implications of collective trauma for international aid effectiveness in post-conflict reconstruction, including governance, the rule of law, or economic development. However, this article is useful for understanding how trauma-informed interventions are applied in post-conflict settings and for highlighting the gap between addressing individual trauma and collective, community-wide issues. Arega's critique of the limited focus on collective interventions to address trauma supports our research hypothesis that addressing transgenerational, conflict-induced trauma requires moving beyond individual-based MHPSS interventions and

focusing on broader structures.

Barber B.K., McNeely C.A., El Sarraj E., Daher M., Giacaman R., Arafat C., et al., 2016. Mental Suffering in Protracted Political Conflict: Feeling Broken or Destroyed. *PLoS ONE* 11(5): e0156216. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0156216>.

This study investigates the mental suffering experienced by individuals living in prolonged political conflict, focusing on the Palestinian population. The research aims to explore the psychological impact and the subjective experiences of mental suffering in this context. Using a mixed method approach, the study first employed an interview phase followed by a survey phase. Findings reveal significant mental suffering among participants, including “feeling broken or destroyed,” with notable variations in the nature and severity of their experiences. Factors such as age, gender, socioeconomic status, and direct exposure to violence were analyzed to understand their correlation with the reported mental suffering. The study emphasizes the importance of identifying “locally grounded” methods and measures to find solutions for these problems.

The research concludes with a call for comprehensive mental health support systems in conflict zones and highlights the need for international action to address the root causes of such conflicts.

This study contributes to the field of mental health by providing a detailed examination of the psychological impacts of prolonged political conflict and supports the necessity of our research by underscoring the urgency of developing culturally sensitive interventions. Although having various strengths, this study’s findings, including mental suffering measure of “feeling broken or destroyed,” have limitations in their applicability to other settings. The authors urge further research to be conducted in other conflict settings to validate this measure. This aligns with our research objective of understanding context-specific conflict-induced trauma.

Barber, B.K., McNeely, C., Olsen, J.A., Belli, R., Doty, S.B., 2016. Long-Term Exposure to Political Violence: The Particular Injury of Persistent Humiliation. *Social Science & Medicine*, 156, pp. 154-156. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2016.03.011>.

This study examines the long-term impact of political violence on adult functioning, focusing specifically on the effects of persistent humiliation in the context of Palestine. The researchers tracked exposure to five forms of political violence—being shot at, home raids, physical assault, verbal abuse, and witnessing humiliation—over a 25-year period (1987-2011) in a sample of 1,788 adults using an innovative event history calendar method. A latent profile analysis revealed that 12% of participants experienced persistent

humiliation, particularly those in areas with a strong military presence (Barber et al, 2016, p. 1). The findings suggest that these individuals reported significantly lower economic, political, psychological, and health outcomes compared to those who experienced intermittent violence. Paradoxically, they also exhibited higher levels of social cohesion and political expression. The study demonstrates the utility of the event history calendar in capturing detailed life events across time as part of longitudinal research on conflict exposure.

In relation to our research, the findings may have limited generalizability to other regions experiencing similar protracted conflicts. The authors also call for further studies to explore additional forms of humiliation, as this study focused specifically only on two types: witnessing the humiliation of a close person and experiencing verbal abuse. Overall, this research highlights the overlooked and long-lasting harm caused by persistent humiliation in conflict zones, offering crucial insights for scholars and policymakers in psychology, conflict studies, and public health.

Caruth, C. ed., 1995. *Trauma. Explorations in Memory*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Cathy Caruth, the editor of this volume, aims to analyze trauma's influence on psychoanalytic practices and on other cultural spheres, such as film and activism.

The book is divided into two parts, one concerning the "possession by the past" (p. 151), and the other related to accessing and recollecting the historical trauma. The chapters, which include interviews and essays from scholars and practitioners across various disciplines, aim to address social and historical issues from clinical and theoretical perspectives.

In these essays, many significant topics, ranging from AIDS and child abuse to the Holocaust, are discussed. The authors explore the ways literature and new approaches across other disciplines contribute to the understanding and interpretation of trauma. Overall, the book is useful for researchers and scholars dealing with trauma, similar to our research. The book will also be useful for developing a theoretical framework about trauma.

Caruth, C., 1996. *Unclaimed Experience. Trauma, Narrative, and History*. Baltimore, Md.: Johns Hopkins University Press.

In this book, Cathy Caruth discusses the readings of traumatic experiences in literature and other arts. The chapters deal with various works, including *Moses and Monotheism*, written by Freud; *Hiroshima, Mon Amour*, a movie directed by Alain Resnais and written

by Marguerite Duras; and other works by Paul de Man, Immanuel Kant and Heinrich von Kleist.

Caruth explains that she highlights the “language of trauma” in literature throughout these chapters, instead of cases from real life. In doing so, she focuses on the narration of a traumatic event and the “central problem of listening, of knowing, and of representing that emerges from the actual experience of the crisis” (p. 5). She argues that each narration has its two sides: “a crisis of death and the correlative crisis of life: between the story of the unbearable nature of an event and the story of the unbearable nature of its survival” (p. 7).

Even though the work of Caruth received criticism from other scholars, such as Ruth Leys, her work has become a classic in the field of trauma studies. Consequently, it is also significant in our research for laying the groundwork in existing scholarly work about trauma.

Clancy, M. A. and Hamber, B., 2008. Trauma, Peacebuilding and Development: An Overview of Key Positions and Critical Questions. Paper presented at the Trauma, Development and Peacebuilding Conference, Project run by INCORE and funded by the IDRCE, New Delhi, India, September.

This paper examines patterns to address trauma resulting from complex political emergencies, within the framework of peacebuilding and development. The authors present key concepts such as “complex political emergencies,” “peacebuilding,” “development,” and “trauma.” It also critically compares psychotherapeutic and psychosocial approaches to trauma in post-conflict settings, analyzing their relevance and limitations in addressing extreme trauma caused by political violence.

The paper adopts a theoretical approach and provides a critical analysis of the literature on trauma, peacebuilding, and development. The authors explore psychotherapeutic approaches, especially the rise and application of PTSD as a diagnostic tool. They find that while psychotherapeutic approaches, particularly PTSD, have gained traction in addressing trauma, they may not be the best fit for complex political emergencies. Critics argue that such medicalized frameworks can depoliticize trauma, focus excessively on individual suffering, and neglect the societal impact of political violence, which often involves the destruction of social structures, relationships, and institutions.

The authors argue that psychosocial approaches are often better suited than psychotherapeutic methods to address extreme trauma resulting from political violence. As political violence aims to destroy social bonds and institutions, addressing trauma through interventions that consider the societal context together with the individual

symptoms becomes significant, aligning more closely with peacebuilding and development goals. They contend that while psychosocial approaches are more contextually appropriate, they still face substantial challenges, particularly in cross-cultural applications and their capacity to address structurally embedded root causes of violence.

The authors' advocacy for a psychosocial approach offers a more holistic framework for addressing trauma, which can be applied to understanding how social structures and relationships influence both mental health and long-term recovery in conflict-affected regions. One limitation is that the paper remains largely theoretical, lacking extensive empirical data or specific case-studies that illustrate the real-world application of these approaches as best practices. This limits its practical applicability for studies focused on policy or field-level interventions. Nevertheless, the paper is highly useful for researchers exploring the role of trauma in post-conflict recovery, particularly in linking trauma with broader peacebuilding and development strategies, much like our research. It may be also used to support our research by critically examining the dominant frameworks used to address trauma in post-conflict situations and offering a psychosocial lens that integrates trauma recovery with peacebuilding and development efforts.

Çelik, F., 2024. Zum Vermächtnis Dersimer Abstammung: Das Trauma des Dersim-Massakers 1937/38. In C. Gudehus & A. Husenbeth (Hrsg.), *Dersim – Identität und Vernichtung* (S. 247–265). Psychosozial-Verlag, Gießen.

Sometimes a single event — a war, a massacre, an act of systematic violence — is enough to shape not just one generation but entire family lines. What the first victims cannot express or process lives on in the bodies and minds of their children and grandchildren. This phenomenon is called intergenerational trauma. It arises when experiences of extreme violence remain unresolved and manifest through silence, fear, or mistrust. Often this happens unconsciously — through emotional bonds, patterns of upbringing, and the way relationships are formed. As a result, descendants inherit the emotional traces of the past: inner restlessness, nightmares, depressive moods, or a deep sense of insecurity, even though they never directly experienced the original violence. Intergenerational trauma thus operates not only on an individual level but also collectively — as a persistent “illness of memory” that shapes identities and the self-understanding of entire communities, especially where recognition and reckoning are absent.

Particularly striking examples can be found among the descendants of Holocaust survivors and the victims of the Dersim Massacre. Research on children of Holocaust survivors shows that they often develop symptoms similar to those of their parents — such as depression, anxiety, or insomnia — despite having experienced the trauma only

indirectly. In Dersim, too, the effects have persisted across generations: many descendants grew up in families where silence and taboo defined the legacy of violence. This silence served partly as protection, but also as a response to fear, shame, and the lack of social recognition. Only later generations began to speak about what had happened and to integrate the buried pain into their own identities. In doing so, personal and collective memory intertwined — the trauma did not remain in the past, but became a continuing presence within the social and psychological life of the community. The collective intergenerational trauma also makes it difficult to trust (the state or other groups, for example) and invest in future activities, because of a lingering fear that things can or will be destroyed again.

Danieli, Y. ed., 1998. *International Handbook of Multigenerational Legacies of Trauma*. New York: Plenum Press.

This edited book by Yael Danieli focuses on the trauma that impacts society as a whole, stemming from mass atrocities, repression, or widespread diseases. The book is divided into 11 parts with a total of 40 chapters, including the introduction and conclusion. The chapters' themes cover a wide range of topics, such as the Holocaust, the genocide of Armenians, and the traumas of Indigenous Peoples in Australia and families of AIDS patients.

This book, considering the wide-ranging topics from many authors involved with an emphasis on multigenerational effects of trauma, emerges as the first to study trauma from different contexts with a multidisciplinary approach. It also introduces the theory of Trauma and the Continuity of Self: A Multidimensional, Multidisciplinary, Integrative Framework (TCMI) to examine the transmission of trauma into future generations.

As a classic in the field of trauma studies, Danieli's edited book positions itself as an important source for many researchers and practitioners, especially for connecting the broader historical and cultural context with trauma. It can also provide the basis of conflict-induced intergenerational trauma in our research.

Emmel, N., 2020. Post-disciplinary Realism. *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*, 24 (1), pp. 95–108. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1080/13645579.2020.1803526>.

In this article, Nick Emmel explores different research methodologies, including multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary approaches. He then elaborates on the concept of "post-disciplinary realism," arguing for an approach to social research that moves beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries. Emmel contends that contemporary societal issues are complex and interconnected, therefore necessitating a methodological shift that integrates insights from diverse disciplines, including

practitioners. He critiques disciplinary silos and advocates for a rigorous, systematic approach to studying social phenomena. Emmel's work contributes to ongoing discussions in social research methodology, proposing a more holistic understanding of social realities that can better address the complexities of real life.

This is very relevant to our research methodology, as it involves an array of disciplines in examining a societal issue: the effects of conflict-induced collective trauma on social harmony, economic prosperity, and political justice. In our research, as Emmel suggests, there will not be a “hierarchy of evidence” collected from different disciplines. However, as a limitation, the practical implementation of such an approach in research projects requires more detailed guidance and examples, while the call for methodological pluralism is well-founded.

Feierstein, D., 2023. *Memories and Representations of Terror. Working Through Genocide*. London: Routledge.

In this book, Daniel Feierstein examines the connections between memory and representation. Drawing mainly on the social sciences, but also on neuroscience and psychoanalysis, he aims to elaborate on the impact of memory on social and personal identities in five chapters. He particularly focuses on genocide-induced trauma and its effects on society.

The author begins with background on the Argentinian context. Taking the complexity of its context into account, Argentina acts as an example of a society dealing with immense trauma after lethal state repression or genocide. On the one hand, enforcing national law against those involved in human rights violations has been essential for memory and healing in the transitional justice process after the state violence in the 1970s. On the other hand, he argues that the use of the term “genocide” in the narrative of this widespread violence helped the healing process in society in its aftermath.

In this first volume of a three-volume book series, Feierstein demonstrates the potential of narratives in the healing processes (whether those narratives support those processes or not), using the “symbolic enactment” concept. The volume is significant for those working on collective memory, social identity and mass atrocities, as we will attempt in our research.

Galtung, J., 1990. Cultural Violence. *Journal of Peace Research*, 27 (3), pp. 291-305.
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022343390027003005>.

Johan Galtung's seminal work on cultural violence, a significant expansion of his earlier theories on structural violence, is a cornerstone in our understanding of this complex

issue. He defines cultural violence (p. 291) as “any aspect of a culture that can be used to legitimize violence in its direct or structural form.”

Galtung first describes peace as the combination of satisfying human needs and maintaining ecological balance. When these needs are unmet, trauma occurs, which can lead to collective trauma. This causes either direct violence or apathy. Later on, Galtung argues that cultural aspects –religion, ideology, language, art, and empirical and formal science– shape perceptions and attitudes, making violence seem acceptable or even necessary. He elaborates on Gandhian perspectives for a more peaceful society that should be based on less social space in human life and less social time between means and ends. This article is pivotal in understanding how cultural norms and values can justify or legitimize violence and hinder peace efforts. Galtung provides a comprehensive framework for analyzing the roots and manifestations of violence in societies by illustrating the interplay between cultural, structural, and direct violence. This framework is very significant for our research to formulate our problem statement and demonstrate the cycles of violence and its effects, which, in the long term, prevent peace in societies with a violent, traumatizing past.

While Galtung's work is undeniably groundbreaking, it is not without limitations. The broad and abstract nature of his approach can make it challenging to apply the concept of cultural violence to specific, practical situations in our research. This calls for further empirical research, such as ours, to validate and operationalize his ideas effectively in different contexts, highlighting the need for ongoing development in peace studies and international aid.

Nevertheless, the article remains foundational for scholars and practitioners in peace studies, conflict resolution, and related fields. It offers insights into the importance of addressing cultural dimensions to achieve sustainable peace.

Gitau, L. W., 2016. *An Exploration of Trauma Interventions and Building Peace: The Case of South Sudanese Refugees in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya*. PhD diss., University of Sydney.

This doctoral dissertation examines the relationship between trauma interventions and peacebuilding among South Sudanese refugees in the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya. Lydia Wanja Gitau explores how trauma impacts individuals and communities, and how addressing trauma is crucial for sustainable peacebuilding. The author delves into the refugees' journeys, experiences of trauma, and the processes of peacebuilding, emphasizing the necessity of community-based approaches and trauma sensitivity in interventions.

Gitau employs qualitative methods including grounded theory, phenomenology, and narrative inquiry. The study uses semi-structured interviews designed through interpretive interactionism. Sampling techniques include purposeful sampling and maximum variation sampling. Data is analyzed using grounded theory and narrative inquiry, with phenomenology as the underlying philosophy. The author also reflects on her own perspective: her African cultural background, Western education, community counseling practice in Kenya, informal interactions with South Sudanese refugees in Kenya and Sydney, Australia, and extensive research in refugee trauma, interventions, and peacebuilding.

Gitau argues that sustainable peace requires not merely reforming public institutions but addressing the trauma caused by conflict. The study critiques the UN's approach, which focuses on institutional change, and the Global Peace Index, which lacks trauma-related indicators. The research underscores the importance of trauma-sensitive interventions. Effective interventions must consider the pain of torture, loss, and emotional voids experienced by survivors. MHPSS interventions should be integrated rather than compartmentalized to facilitate comprehensive peacebuilding.

However, the study is limited to the population in Kenya, which introduces an additional layer of trauma related to displacement. This focus excludes those still in conflict areas, thus not capturing the full spectrum of experiences.

This dissertation contributes to the fields of peace studies, trauma studies, and refugee studies by providing a nuanced understanding of the role of trauma interventions in peacebuilding. It offers practical recommendations for policymakers, humanitarian organizations, and practitioners working with refugee populations. Furthermore, because this dissertation and our proposed research share a similar research focus, research community, and comprehensive methodology, this dissertation is significant for informing our research.

Hämmerle, P., 2004. Peace Building and Reconciliation in Divided Societies. In R. Blocksome, N. Szabolcs and P. Šajda (eds.) *Medi(t)ations, (Re)conciliations: Conflict Resolution and European Integration: Ecumenical Anthology III*. Bratislava, Slovakia: BGÖI & WSCF-CESR. Available at: <http://www.koed.hu/medit/pete.pdf>.

This chapter, authored by Pete Hämmerle, explores peacebuilding and reconciliation in societies deeply divided by conflict. It draws heavily from the work of John Paul Lederach and a seminar by the Central European Subregion of the World Student Christian Federation. The chapter delves into the complexities of these processes, offering a nuanced understanding of the challenges and opportunities they present.

Hämmerle examines the complexities of addressing and resolving conflicts stemming from deep-rooted societal divisions. The chapter combines theoretical frameworks with practical strategies and approaches to foster sustainable peace, promote constructive dialogue, and rebuild trust among conflicting parties. By interrogating the underlying causes and manifestations of division and conflict, it offers valuable insights into reconciliation and post-conflict reconstruction. The chapter also demonstrates the complexities of navigating sociopolitical landscapes marked by historical grievances, cultural differences, and power imbalances, drawing on Lederach's insights.

This chapter is particularly useful for our research as it aligns with our problem statement: addressing the challenges of peace and reconciliation in divided societies. It provides insights into the peacebuilding process, including the “socio-psychological dimension (dealing with trauma)” (Hämmerle, 2004, p. 19), and emphasizes the importance of community perceptions towards peace, justice, truth, mercy, and a shared vision of the future. It is important to note that the article does not provide many details about the case-studies regarding reconciliation.

Hester, L., 2016. Examining Peacebuilding Through a Trauma Lens: Practitioner Reflections on Programs for Youth Exposed to Traumatic Stressors in Intergroup Conflict. *Peace and Conflict Studies*, 23 (2), Article 3. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.46743/1082-7307/2016.1345>.

In this qualitative study, Hester explores the impact of traumatic stress on youth involved in intergroup conflicts and the implications for peacebuilding programs. Hester's study offers a critical examination of how trauma impacts young people's involvement in peacebuilding initiatives. By evaluating practitioners' reflections on the integration of trauma-sensitive approaches in youth programs, the article highlights their importance in peacebuilding programs. It underscores the need for psychological support in peacebuilding initiatives, highlighting the need to revisit and adapt traditional peacebuilding practices to better address the psychological needs of affected youth and their participation in peacebuilding efforts. This contribution is significant as it bridges the gap between trauma studies and peacebuilding, proposing practical strategies for more effective interventions. In this way, the study supports the problem statement of our research, and it will also inform our research when looking at the effects of trauma on peacebuilding efforts.

This work contributes to a deeper understanding of the nexus between trauma and peacebuilding, offering practical insights for more effective program design. This article targets academics, practitioners, and policymakers in the fields of peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and trauma-informed care. It is particularly relevant for practitioners who directly work with youth affected by intergroup conflicts and trauma.

One limitation of the study is its reliance on limited qualitative data from practitioners' reflections, which may introduce subjective biases and limit the generalizability of its findings. To overcome these limitations and to validate and expand upon these findings, further empirical research, such as ours, incorporating quantitative data and a broader range of programs, could provide a more comprehensive understanding of the impact of trauma on youth in conflict settings. In summary, Hester's article is a valuable resource for enhancing the effectiveness of peacebuilding programs by integrating a trauma-sensitive lens.

Hirschberger, G., 2018. Collective Trauma and the Social Construction of Meaning. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 9 (1441), pp. 1–14. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2018.01441>.

In this article, Gilad Hirschberger explores the interaction between collective trauma and the social construction of meaning for both victim and perpetrator groups. Drawing on a range of mainly psychological literature, his conceptual analysis demonstrates that while collective trauma has long-term effects socially and psychologically, it also derives meaning and forms a social identity characterized by purpose, values, efficacy, and collective worth. This identity construction is influential for social cohesion and future growth.

He argues that for victim groups, collective memory influences the social identity formation, a positive collective identity and a sense of worth. The group reorients itself through comparisons with other groups and by reshaping collective memory to maintain a positive self-perception for survival. However, collective memory may lead to the adoption of aggressive policies with adverse effects on out-groups. Additionally, social representations of history help frame the social identity, beyond merely understanding historical events.

For perpetrator groups, historical trauma in collective memory is a threat to their group identity. Those who have high belonging to the perpetrator group may reject and distort history to maintain their positive self-image through defensive representations. In contrast, when one's group identification is lower, collective guilt starts to emerge. Defense mechanisms encompass denial, reconstruction of unfavorable events to protect group reputation, or seeking historical closure. Closure could be positive if it entails reconciliation, but also could be hostile if it stems from the heavy burden of guilt. Acknowledging responsibility is difficult for members of the perpetrator groups because it requires confronting the group's moral failures, which can lead to distancing oneself from the group.

Although the article presents a few real-world examples, it remains largely theoretical and lacks case-studies related to post-conflict reconciliation or the effectiveness of international aid. Nevertheless, it is useful in highlighting the effects of collective trauma among victim and perpetrator groups. It is relevant for academic research on memory, identity, and intergroup relations in the aftermath of conflicts, similar to our research, and offers insights that can inform peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts.

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), 2007. *IASC Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings*. Geneva: IASC.

The IASC Guidelines provide a framework for ensuring the mental health and psychosocial well-being of individuals in emergency settings. They offer strategies and actions that humanitarian actors can take to address the mental health and psychosocial needs of affected populations. The guidelines emphasize the importance of integrating mental health and psychosocial support into humanitarian response efforts. It also highlights that humanitarian actors cannot perform all indicated tasks by themselves.

The guidelines contain a matrix for mapping actions in the protection and promotion of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) that encompass minimum and comprehensive responses for emergency preparedness. These guidelines cover key points in different areas of humanitarian action, including but not limited to, assessment, monitoring and evaluation, coordination, and protection and human rights standards.

The guidelines are widely recognized as a comprehensive and essential tool for addressing mental health and psychosocial issues in emergencies. They are praised for their practicality, with clear, actionable steps for implementation. However, there is still the potential bias of Eurocentricity in the guidelines. Furthermore, the effectiveness of these guidelines depends on the capacity and resources of the implementing agencies, with challenges arising in contexts with limited infrastructure or support systems.

For our research, these guidelines offer a valuable reference point for studying the implementation and outcomes of mental health and psychosocial interventions in emergency settings. The guidelines can improve MHPSS programs and other humanitarian aid efforts, and serve as a benchmark to evaluate the effectiveness of different approaches and identify best practices in Afghanistan, South Sudan, and Ukraine for our research.

Khan, W., 2022. *Conflict in Kashmir: Psychosocial Consequences on Children*. In S. Deb (ed.): *Child Safety, Welfare and Well-being. Issues and Challenges*. 2nd ed. 2022. Singapore: Springer Nature, pp. 103–115.

In this chapter, Waheeda Khan explores the profound impact of the ongoing conflict in

Kashmir on children's psychological and social well-being. Khan provides the historical context of the Kashmir conflict to understand the enduring nature of the crisis and its pervasive effects on the civilian population, particularly children. The author analyzes various stressors faced by children in the region due to armed conflict including exposure to violence, displacement, and the loss of family members.

She highlights symptoms such as anxiety, depression, PTSD, and behavioral problems, supported by both qualitative and quantitative data. The chapter also discusses the breakdown of social structures, including disrupted schooling and community networks, which further exacerbate children's psychosocial issues. Khan emphasizes the critical need for comprehensive mental health programs, community-based support systems, and policies aimed at safeguarding children's rights and well-being in conflict zones to mitigate these adverse effects.

This work is significant as it sheds light on an often overlooked aspect of the Kashmir conflict, emphasizing the long-term psychosocial effects on the youngest population. It is also relevant for this research to show that addressing these issues is important not only for the affected individuals but also for the broader goal of achieving lasting peace and stability in the region. The study can be used in our research as an example of the reproduction of violence due to the unaddressed trauma of a generation. Although Khan focuses only on children rather than the entire population as our research will, it is nonetheless significant for policymakers, mental health professionals, and anyone interested in the intersection of child welfare and conflict studies.

Kip, A., Priebe, S., Holling, H. and Morina, N., 2020. Psychological Interventions for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Depression in Refugees: A Meta-Analysis of Randomized Controlled Trials. *Clinical Psychology & Psychotherapy*, 27 (4), pp. 489-503. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1002/cpp.2446>.

In this meta-analysis, the authors investigate the effectiveness of psychological interventions in treating PTSD and depression among refugees. The authors reviewed randomized controlled trials (RCTs) to evaluate different psychological interventions. The analysis included 17 RCTs with a total of 1,259 participants. The findings indicated that psychological interventions are generally effective. Narrative exposure therapy (NET) showed effective results in reducing symptoms of PTSD and depression.

The study is robust in its methodology, employing a comprehensive search strategy and stringent inclusion criteria for RCTs, including medication usage to prevent incorporating the effectiveness of psychopharmacology in the results. The authors' use of meta-analytic techniques allows for a detailed examination of the efficacy of various psychological treatments. However, the study acknowledges its limitations, which place

a restraint on our research as well, such as the heterogeneity of the included studies and the variability in intervention delivery and settings. This analysis is valuable for clinicians and policymakers aiming to implement effective mental health interventions for refugees.

This article contributes significantly to the field of clinical psychology by providing evidence-based recommendations for treating PTSD and depression in refugees. It highlights the importance of tailored psychological interventions and supports the use of trauma-focused therapies. The study offers a solid foundation for understanding which therapeutic approaches are most effective and urges further studies to explore evidence-based treatment recommendations. Both the methodology and the findings will be beneficial for our research in regards to measuring the effectiveness of international aid for populations with collective trauma.

Kordon, D., Edelman, L., Lagos, D. and Kersner, D. eds., 2012. *South, Dictatorship and After... Psychosocial and Clinical Elaboration of Collective Traumas*. EATIP. Buenos Aires.

This book by the Argentine Team of Psychosocial Work and Research (Equipo Argentino de Trabajo e Investigación Psicosocial, in short EATIP), studies memory as a means of healing to reconstruct the social fabric of the Argentinian and Latin American societies that have been damaged deeply by State terrorism and human rights violations during dictatorships.

Drawn from the experience of EATIP's team, the book delves into the aftermath of state-induced repression and atrocities in Argentina. It consists of five broad sections, each including multiple chapters. In their respective order, the parts illustrate:

- 1) the applied clinical methods for assistance to various groups, including victims of torture, their communities and Latin American refugees;
- 2) the issues stemming from the re-traumatization of affected communities during the trials against the genocidaires and the EATIP therapists' approach and reflections in providing support to them;
- 3) the influence of psychosocial trauma in culture stemming from violence and insecurity, as well as seen in media and communications;
- 4) the ways in which transgenerational trauma caused by State terrorism transferred to the offspring of Latin American missing persons and political refugees, and lastly;
- 5) ongoing issues with the provision of mental health services, including those regarding informed consent, subjectivity of specialists providing care, or patients who were perpetrators of torture.

Overall, the authors - EATIP professionals - provide a comprehensive demonstration of trauma research in practice with their work in Argentina and Latin America. In this way, they detail the different aspects of dealing with trauma through justice and memory as well as the dilemmas facing mental health professional in providing care. The book is a valuable resource for practitioners and for those researching trauma, including our research. As it covers an extensive area of trauma's effects and exemplifies the transmission of transgenerational trauma to the next generations, the book will be useful in our research, either in a technical background chapter or as a case study.

Kromják, L. and Karamehić-Muratović, A., eds., 2025. *Intergenerational Trauma in Refugee Communities*. Abingdon Oxon, New York NY: Routledge (Memory studies).

This book edited by Laura Kromják and Ajlina Karamehić-Muratović spans a wide spectrum of geographies, focusing on the intergenerational trauma of refugees from the violence and persecution they were subjected to, as well as their migration process. In the introduction, the editors of the book set the tone about the transmission of trauma, refugees' experience of trauma and intergenerational trauma.

Delving into longer-term intergenerational effects caused by historical, cultural, and economic trauma on refugees and their future generations, this edited volume offers a selection of interdisciplinary and global scholarship on the topic. Its research questions aim to gain a deeper understanding of the refugee experience. They seek to explore approaches to preventing the transmission of generational trauma in refugee groups sensitive to the local culture, as well as interventions for the descendants of refugees, directed at addressing their inherited traumas, to improve social relations.

The chapters focus on various refugee groups: Armenians, Palestinians, Polish Jews, Ukrainian Holodomor survivors, Nicaraguans, Kurds, Iranians, Somalis, Eritreans, Bosnians, Afghans, Koreans, and Vietnamese, using qualitative and quantitative research methods across disciplines.

Overall, this book emphasizes the impact of intergenerational trauma in refugee populations. It makes a significant contribution to the growing body of research in the social sciences that examines trauma, memory, reconciliation, and social fabric, while serving as a valuable source for practitioners in refugee settings and mental health. The book could provide a detailed insight into intergenerational trauma, its transmission, and its effects on a community, which is also relevant to our research.

LaCapra, D., 1994. *Representing the Holocaust. History, Theory, Trauma*. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press (Cornell paperbacks).

Dominick LaCapra explores the interaction between history and theory with the object of analysis. He highlights the historical aspect of psychoanalysis in relation to other social and political topics. The book begins by examining canons and texts, debates of historians, and the historical representations of the Holocaust. After delving into the problems concerning the Holocaust, or Shoah, the author examines the work of theorists, such as Paul de Man and Martin Heidegger, in their relation to trauma and Nazism. The book concludes by pointing out the concepts of “acting out” and “working through.”

While taking the responses to trauma as “acting out” into account, the author underlines the importance of “working through” trauma for one’s present and future. Acting out conveys replicating the past trauma in the present, and working through represents the trauma that is mourned, engaged by oneself, and integrated into one’s consciousness.

Altogether, LaCapra brings a significant analysis of the Holocaust from a theoretical and historical perspective, showing its representations and the narratives and debates around it. As an influential work within the field, the book is useful for our research in dealing with the topic of trauma and its repercussions when left unaddressed, as well as for other researchers and practitioners in trauma and historical studies.

LaCapra, D., 1998. *History and Memory after Auschwitz*. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press.

Dominick LaCapra examines the aftermath of the Shoah, the Hebrew term for the Holocaust, with a focus on the relation between history and memory. The book includes six chapters, starting with the debates of history and memory and historical debates around the genocide. Then LaCapra continues by analyzing Albert Camus’s book *The Fall*, Claude Lanzmann’s documentary film *Shoah*, and Art Spiegelman’s comic strip *Maus*. The book concludes with a discussion on psychoanalysis, memory, and ethics.

LaCapra applies his analytical lens using the concepts of “acting out” and “working through” in these works and historical debates. Examining the responses to mass atrocity and trauma, these concepts explain different reactions such as reproducing trauma or reflection and responsibility. The author highlights the significance of the actions of working through to keep in mind for scholars and practitioners while refraining from simply repeating traumatic events in their work. Overall, the book presents itself as a valuable resource for those studying genocide, human rights atrocities, and corresponding trauma, similar to our research.

Leslie, H., 2001. Healing the Psychological Wounds of Gender-Related Violence in Latin America: A Model for Gender-Sensitive Work in Post-Conflict Contexts. *Gender and Development*, 9(3), pp. 50-59.

Helen Leslie's paper presents a model for trauma interventions that are both gender-sensitive and culturally informed while exploring the psychological consequences of gender-based violence (GBV) in post-conflict Latin America. In her examination of Latin American women's lived experiences with GBV, the author details various forms of violence including physical abuse, psychological trauma, and the disappearances of women, all of which contribute to both individual and collective trauma. These experiences often lead to chronic mental health issues among survivors. Leslie critiques the tendency to medicalize these effects as PTSD, arguing that such a universal framing obscures the underlying political, social, and economic factors that contribute to trauma. She advocates for healing through participation in social movements, sharing testimonies, and focusing on women's empowerment.

Leslie develops her healing model based on research conducted with the El Salvadorean NGO Las Dignas, employing a feminist research methodology and drawing insights from gender and development literature. This model emphasizes conscientization and the reconstruction of gender roles and identities, fostering both personal and collective empowerment. The "Las Migras" approach acknowledges the different impacts of gender-related violence on men and women, utilizing feminist theory to help women rebuild their self-identities and recognize their strength and capabilities as citizens.

Her model not only integrates mental health considerations into discussions about gender and development but also serves as a practical tool that can be applied in various countries affected by political conflict. It highlights the links between the disempowering effects of GBV during conflict and the empowering outcomes of gender-specific healing approaches.

While Leslie's framework is significant for researchers investigating trauma recovery in post-conflict contexts—especially regarding the intersection of gender, mental health, and social structures—she emphasizes the need for further research that includes men's perspectives and examines the transformation of gender relations following conflicts.

This article can inform our research by offering a gender-sensitive perspective on trauma recovery in post-conflict regions. It will aid in developing strategies that address the distinct mental health needs of women impacted by violence, ensuring that peacebuilding and development efforts encompass these gendered experiences. By providing insights into how social and cultural contexts influence trauma recovery, Leslie's work offers valuable guidance for customizing interventions for marginalized

groups in conflict-affected areas.

Leys, R., 2000. *Trauma. A Genealogy*. Chicago, London: The University of Chicago Press.

Ruth Leys studies the concept of trauma in its historical development. Starting with a focus on the origins of trauma studies and PTSD, she aims to examine issues within trauma studies. She argues that rather than only listing the events and developments of trauma studies, she will dive deeper into the genealogy of trauma.

In the different chapters of the book, Leys examines various topics, noting that historically, the periods of “forgetting and remembering” (p. 15) take turns. The book begins with Freud’s legacy in trauma, Morton Prince’s work on multiple personality disorder, and the debates around the trauma treatment of war veterans after World War I. It continues with Sandor Ferenczi’s work on sexual trauma and disassociation, Ferenczi’s and Mikkel Borch-Jacobsen’s work on the topic of simulation, and the work by William Sargant on drug catharsis. After a detailed analysis and criticism of the neurobiological theories of Bessel A. van der Kolk, the last chapter focuses on the work of Cathy Caruth and criticism thereof. In the conclusion, with a brief summary of each chapter, Leys highlights that the two theories of the trauma concept (1) mimetic and 2) anti-mimetic have been influential in trauma studies with different interpretations. It is therefore also important for practitioners not to apply only one theory directly in practice due to this “mimetic-antimimetic structure” (p. 307).

This influential book by Leys conveys a strong theoretical discussion on trauma, making it highly relevant for researchers in behavioral sciences and the humanities. It will also be useful in our research for preparing the ground of its theoretical framework.

Pedersen, D., 2002. *Political Violence, Ethnic Conflict, and Contemporary Wars: Broad Implications for Health and Social Well-Being*. *Social Science & Medicine*, 55, pp. 175-190.

Duncan Pedersen begins this article by situating contemporary wars within their historical evolution, tracing the transformation of group identity struggles into the formation of nation-states and, following World War II, the shift toward predominantly conflicts within states. Pedersen asserts that the consequences of collective violence beyond physical harm include, but are not limited to, migration flows, lower resources, higher rates of diseases or epidemics, and the lingering threat of landmines. These consequences create cracks in the social fabric of affected groups while affecting their well-being.

Pedersen explains that while extensive research about trauma and PTSD exists in so-

called Western countries, a significant gap in research into how non-Western communities experience collective trauma resulting from war and political violence remains. Furthermore, he critiques medicalized humanitarian action, where “trauma counselling” is offered, often disregarding the positive outcomes within the community as part of the spectrum of responses to collective trauma (p. 186). However, a substantial evaluation of whether these interventions work better than existing community-based coping mechanisms is missing.

Pedersen highlights the need to recognize the social dimensions of health. This will contribute to understanding not only the roots of collective suffering but also its healing. Taken together, the insights gained from this paper may be of assistance to conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and psychosocial research. Although the current study is based on a theoretical approach, it will be useful in our research to expand the understanding of the links between collective trauma and socio-political and cultural frameworks.

Robjant, K., Schmitt, S., Carleial, S., Elbert, T., Abreu, L., Chibashimba, A., Hinkel, H., Hoeffler, A., Rukundo Zeller, A.C., Rockstroh, B., and Koebach, A., 2022. NETfacts: An Integrated Intervention at the Individual and Collective Level to Treat Communities Affected by Organized Violence. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 119 (44), e2204698119.

This article presents the effectiveness of "NETfacts," “an integrated model of evidence-based individual trauma treatment (Narrative Exposure Therapy [NET]) and a trauma-informed community-based intervention (NETfacts)” (Robjant et al, 2022, p. 1) that are designed to address the impact of organized violence on communities. The study details the development and implementation of NETfacts, focusing on its effectiveness in addressing both individual and collective trauma within affected communities.

It provides empirical evidence supporting the effectiveness of NETfacts, drawing on data from evaluations to demonstrate its impact on reducing psychological distress, fostering social cohesion, and promoting post-traumatic growth among participants. It shows that community based MHPSS interventions have higher effectiveness in improved social relations, reduced violence, and trauma symptoms, and improved Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) processes.

Overall, this article contributes to the literature on interventions for communities affected by organized violence, offering insights into the development, implementation, and outcomes of an integrated approach to addressing the complex needs of survivors and communities. The study is useful for this research as a concrete example of trauma treatment that contributes to understanding the effectiveness of peacebuilding interventions in conflict settings. However, as a limitation, with its focus on the NETfacts

model, the study may not be applicable in different environments. Nevertheless, it provides an important case-study that can be used to draw parallels with other conflict-affected regions such as Afghanistan, South Sudan, and Ukraine, to demonstrate that addressing both psychological distress and social cohesion is significant for fostering post-conflict reconstruction and sustainable peace.

Staub, E., 2006. Reconciliation after Genocide, Mass Killing, or Intractable Conflict: Understanding the Roots of Violence, Psychological Recovery, and Steps toward a General Theory. *Political Psychology*, 27(6), pp. 867-894. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-9221.2006.00541.x>.

From the example of the Rwandan genocide, Ervin Staub combines an evaluation of reconciliation interventions he and his colleagues implemented with existing literature to examine the psychological effects of mass violence on both victim and perpetrator groups, and to explore pathways to reconciliation. Defining reconciliation as the acceptance between groups of each other, the author emphasizes that psychological changes are as important as institutional changes in preventing future violence and promoting peace.

Staub argues that survivor groups need to heal to be able to trust other groups in their survival; otherwise, they risk becoming the perpetrators of the future. Perpetrator groups, including bystanders and witnesses, need to overcome their resistance to accepting their role in violence to reverse shifts in their identity following mass atrocities. Interacting with the source of trauma is helpful to generate trust and empathy as part of reconciliation.

Accordingly, Staub and colleagues implemented a useful country-wide radio program in Rwanda for community education, group sharing, and listening to the experiences of others. Additionally, understanding sources of violence such as the frustration of needs, can highlight where to begin reconciliation to avoid future violence. To this end, another intervention by Staub and colleagues about training the community on the origins and community-wide effects of genocide was successful in trauma healing.

Notably, Staub asserts that there are interdependent levels to reconciliation: the psychological, political, institutional/structural, and cultural. The contribution of each is crucial, but they are interconnected. For example, creating a shared history and future is important for reconciliation as well as justice and making amendments.

This study is very useful for policy makers, academics, and peacebuilding practitioners by underlining the significance of trauma healing and reconciliation for the prevention of repeated violence with an evaluation of applied efforts. Even though the country in

question is different from the focus countries in our research, extensive coverage of societal dynamics in this study provides valuable insight for our research.

Stern, J. and van der Kolk, B., 2024. *POV: The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and the Psychology of Trauma*. Boston University. Available at: <https://www.bu.edu/articles/2024/the-israeli-palestinian-conflict-and-the-psychology-of-trauma/>.

Jessica Stern and Bessel van der Kolk look at the dynamics between Israelis and Palestinians from a trauma response perspective and the operational logic of terrorism. As an opinion article, they argue that it is known that “hurt people hurt people” in trauma studies. In this regard, the terrorist attack by Hamas and the indiscriminate retaliation by Israel are a real-life example of this phenomenon. The authors claim that retributive attacks seldom work for the intended purpose, bringing more violence and causing more deaths. Explaining this logic through historical examples such as the Libya-US and Irish Republican Army-Britain, they suggest that Hamas’ attacks might engender a more aggressive response from Israel, with Hezbollah and Iran possibly being drawn to the conflict.⁴

While political scientists have predicted and warned that more violence would erupt under the right-wing Netanyahu government, the authors argue that nonviolent resistance would have been more beneficial for the interests of Palestinians as “the victims of the victims” from a historical perspective. Despite other nonviolent resistance examples being successful, such as South Africa as a multiethnic state, currently neither Hamas nor Israel are interested in such a state where both communities would enjoy equal rights.

The authors argue for the removal of Hamas from power as well as the prevention of civilian killings to break the cycle of violence between the parties. Additionally, cultivating empathy in survivors would be necessary to break the cycle of trauma, considering their trauma from violence. The authors highlight the possible paths forward, recommending that reconciliation would be key in stopping further violence.

The opinion piece is valuable in pointing out a vivid example of intergenerational trauma and violence relationship. Although the article does not include empirical evidence, our research would benefit from this analysis in demonstrating the effects of intergenerational trauma for reconciliation.

⁴ Given that this opinion piece is from 2024, the authors have foreseen the events unfolding in the conflicts between Iran and Israel and Hezbollah and Israel between 2024 and 2026 – and perhaps later.

UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), 2022. *Human Development Report 2021-22: Uncertain Times, Unsettled Lives: Shaping our Future in a Transforming World*. New York.

This report from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) offers an in-depth analysis of contemporary global challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and increasing inequalities and polarization. The document provides data-driven insights into how these issues are reshaping human development worldwide.

The report explores the negative outcomes of the Anthropocene. The 2021-22 edition also highlights the concept of "uncertainty" as a pivotal theme, examining how economic, environmental, and political instabilities make it hard to predict the future globally. It emphasizes the interconnectedness of these crises and their compounded effects on populations.

The report consists of two parts: the first part starts with a discussion of certain themes and processes, such as uncertainty, Anthropocene, and polarization. It then elaborates on mental distress and its effects on human development as well as transformation processes. The second part includes a detailed examination of polarization, human development, and transformation through cultural change and technology. Throughout these parts, the report provides updates on Human Development Index (HDI) trends, climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

This report is an essential resource for policymakers, researchers, and anyone interested in understanding the multifaceted nature of current global challenges and the strategies required to navigate them effectively. It underscores the need for a collaborative and adaptive approach to shape a more equitable and resilient future. The report is useful for our research through its consideration of the restraining effect of mental distress on development. Additionally, it provides insights and policy recommendations for transforming towards a better future by evaluating social and cultural conditions as well as several principles including solidarity, inclusion, flexibility, and creativity. However, as global circumstances change rapidly, the findings of the report might be temporally less relevant.

Vallières, F., Hyland, P. and Murphy, J., 2021. Navigating the Who, Where, What, When, How and Why of Trauma Exposure and Response. *European Journal of Psychotraumatology*, 12(1). Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1080/20008198.2020.1855903>.

Vallières, Hyland and Murphy examine findings from seven studies as part of the Collaborative Network for Training and Excellence in Psychotraumatology (CONTEXT) to

improve the trauma responses provided to trauma-exposed groups. They highlight that context-specific analysis of trauma exposure is necessary to spur on healthy recovery. Moreover, they argue that the literature about negative trauma responses leans its input data on Western, Educated, Industrialized, Rich, and Democratic (WEIRD) societies. Therefore, diagnostics of trauma and response measures to trauma might lack validity and reliability while treatments might lack acceptability and accessibility when applied in non-WEIRD contexts (2021, p.4).

Bringing researchers and practitioners on trauma response together, the authors' analysis of the studies in which direct or vicarious trauma was investigated underscores the significance of social support in trauma responses. The authors suggest that the likelihood of trauma increases when social support is lacking and decreases when social support is available.

Overall, the article is valuable in demonstrating the importance of context in understanding trauma exposure for trauma researchers, practitioners, and policymakers. However, its usage in our research could be confined only to the theoretical background, as it does not explore real-world examples in detail.

Vollhardt, J. R., 2012. Collective Victimization. In L. R. Tropp, ed. 2012. *The Oxford Handbook of Intergroup Conflict. Oxford Library of Psychology. Oxford Academic* (online edn). pp. 136-157. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199747672.013.0009>.

Johanna Ray Vollhardt's comprehensive review examines collective victimization in relation to cycles of conflict. Drawing primarily from social and political psychology literature and historical analysis, Vollhardt argues that violence stems from intergroup relations: either a motivation of victimized groups to take revenge or self-defense to prevent the repetition of the victimization. One must differentiate between the "objective experience of collective victimization" and the "subjective perception of collective victimhood" across macro-, meso-, and micro-levels of society to better understand their consequences.

Furthermore, Vollhardt analyzes collective victimization with various characteristics to comprehend the behavioral responses given in a range of situations: personally experienced and transmitted victimization; experience of a present or past event; violence in a single incident or over a longer time; and recognition of victimization by the perpetrator group and the international community. Strong identification with the victimized group or personal experiences of collective victimization shape the group members' reactions with either more support for hostilities and military, demand for reparations, and decreased empathy for others' suffering, or conversely, more support

for other victimized groups. Meanwhile, victim beliefs can have constructive and destructive functions for intergroup dynamics.

This study offers a valuable analysis to use in our research to understand the effects of collective victimization before examining its effects on international assistance. Vollhardt calls for more research, though, in evaluative measures and longitudinal studies to analyze the influence of victim beliefs on behaviors towards others. Moreover, without a geographical focus, this study remains theoretical rather than practical. Overall, the chapter would nonetheless fit well in a literature review or theoretical background in research, focusing on social psychology, conflict resolution, and international relations.

3. Annex

This annex contains books that we either could not access or were written in languages that we do not know well enough to review properly.

- Anzieu, D. ed., 1987. *Les Enveloppes Psychiques*. Paris: Dunod (Inconscient et culture). Published in an English as: Anzieu, D. ed., 1990. *Psychic envelopes*. London: Karnac Books.
- Berezin, A. N., 2010. *Sobre la crueldad. La oscuridad en los ojos*. Buenos Aires: Psicolibro ediciones (Ensayo psicoanalítico).
- Bermann, S., Edelman, L., Kordon, D., Müller-Hohagen, J., Pavlovsky, E., Stoffels, H. and Viñar, M. N., 1994. *Efectos psicosociales de la represión política. Sus secuelas en Alemania, Argentina y Uruguay*. Buenos Aires, Córdoba, Argentina: Lugar Ed. distribuidor; Goethe Inst.
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