

PO5006 Graduate Seminar in Peacebuilding

Dr. Ingrid Samset, room no. F1024, email address: ingrid.samset@ul.ie

Aims and Objectives

As a student of this module, you will be trained in thinking critically about what peacebuilding means in our time and what it should aim at. By actively taking part, by the end of the course you should be able to:

- Identify different meanings of peacebuilding,
- Account for why peacebuilding rose to become a central concern for the international community from the early 1990s onwards,
- Outline the key components of international peacebuilding and explain how each is supposed to help build peace after large-scale conflict,
- Identify and discuss dynamics that international peacebuilding has been criticized for, and
- Critically evaluate local as well as international peacebuilding practices and policies.



Photo: Huambo, Angola 2007 © Ingrid Samset

Contents

Since the end of the Cold War, peacebuilding has become a key policy priority for the international community. What does the peacebuilding agenda signify? And what conflict trends does it respond to? These questions form entry points to this course, which will examine the core components of the liberal peacebuilding agenda and how they have evolved. We will investigate how economic recovery, democracy, security, statebuilding, and transitional justice are thought to be central for the building of peace after violent conflict, and discuss each component in light of examples from various regions. We will further examine what peacebuilding as a standardized set of policies has been criticized for. Local peacebuilding practices and international peacebuilding interventions will be scrutinized, as will the points of convergence and tension between them. We will also go beyond the 'post-conflict' context and study how peace can be built in the midst of violence, from Congo to Colombia and beyond. As insecurity today derives not only from violence but also increasingly from natural disasters, we will explore encounters between the peacebuilding and climate change agendas. The course will round off by addressing the prospects for continued consensus on international peacebuilding in a multipolar world marked by a diversity of ideas about what peace is and how it can be realized.

Core Readings

- Campbell, S., Chandler, D. and Sabaratnam, M., eds. (2011) *A Liberal Peace? The Problems and Practices of Peacebuilding*, London: Zed Books.
- Chetail, V., ed. (2009) *Post-Conflict Peacebuilding: A Lexicon*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Mac Ginty, R., ed. (2013) *Routledge Handbook of Peacebuilding*, London: Routledge.
- Richmond, O. P., ed. (2010) *Palgrave Advances in Peacebuilding: Critical Developments and Approaches*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.