ICCS seminar series podcast: Empathy Dynamics in Conflict Transformation

Posted on Thursday 7th November 2013

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The talk reported on a case study of empathy in conflict transformation and peace building initiatives in northern Kenya, implemented as part of the Conflict Sensitivity Consortium and Diocese of Maralal Integrated Peace and Livelihood project (funded by CAFOD).

Speakers:**Professor Lynne Cameron (http://www.open.ac.uk/education-and-languages/main/people/l.j.cameron)** (Open University) and **Simon Weatherbed (http://www.respond.org/pages/training-team.html)** (Responding to Conflict).

Professor Lynne Cameron (http://www8.open.ac.uk/education-and-languages/main/people/l.j.cameron) is Professor of Applied Linguistics at the Open University and ESRC Global Uncertainties Research Fellow. Her current project under this programme is 'Living with Uncertainty: Metaphor and the dynamics of empathy", which is constructing a new model of empathy in dialogue and interaction, using findings from empirical studies in UK, USA, and Brazil. The model is dynamic and multi-level, connecting emotion-based responses in face-to-face interaction with longer term individual and social processes of understanding the Other, and shifts in perceived relations between Self and Other. The first version of the model was developed through analysis of post-conflict reconciliation conversations between Patrick Magee, the former IRA bomber, and Jo Berry, whose father was killed in the Brighton bombing in 1984. This study is reported in Metaphor and Reconciliation (Cameron, 2011). Ideas from the project are disseminated on **The Empathy Blog (http://empathyblog.wordpress.com/)** .

Simon Weatherbed (http://www.respond.org/pages/staff.html) is Programme Director for Responding to Conflict (RTC). He is responsible for ensuring the delivery of RTC's work, developing new programmes and for building and maintaining relationships with RTC's partners and funders. He has worked all around the world, including in Nepal, Sri Lanka, India, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Somalia. His work spans project design and management, strategic planning, coordination, fundraising, research, and education in the contexts of war and post-war transitions

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