

Call for Papers

Special Issue of [International Communication Gazette](#): Media and Post-Conflict (Re)Development



Media and Post-Conflict (Re)Development

Scholars have suggested that Rwandan media played a role in perpetuating the 1994 Rwandan genocide by “inciting the hatred that led to violence by using an ethnic framework to report what was essentially a political struggle” (Kellow & Steeves, [1998](#), p. 107). The Rwandan government and military used national radio to perpetuate a “kill or be killed” narrative and radio broadcasts called Tutsis cockroaches, disclosed their hiding spots, and urged Hutus to slaughter their Tutsi neighbors (Kasoma, [1995](#); Kellow & Steeves, [1998](#); Mamdani, [2018](#); Paris, [2004](#)). Critics also argue that international media hold some responsibility because media attention to distant crises can trigger policy responses (McCombs & Shaw, [1972](#)), but foreign news coverage was largely absent during the Rwandan Genocide (Livingston, [2007](#)).

While Rwanda still faces development challenges, numerous positive achievements have taken place in the 24 years since the genocide relating to education (UNICEF, [2012](#)), politics (Inter-Parliamentary Union, [2016](#)) and the economy (Howard, [2014](#)). Recent research has shown that media have played an important role in this post-genocide era of reconstruction, with journalists actively working to promote unity and redevelopment, even, to some extent, at the expense of their own press freedom (McIntyre & Sobel, [2017](#); Sobel & McIntyre, [2018](#)).

In order to better understand the ways that media function in post-conflict times, this special issue of *International Communication Gazette* aims to address theoretical, social, cultural, and political issues surrounding the role of media in post-conflict eras of redevelopment. We are particularly interested in the role of media during and after conflicts such as genocides, civil wars or between-nation wars, but would consider submissions regarding media during and after coup d'états and/or times of martial law, large-scale protests, pronouncements of independence, etc.

In this regard, we welcome global comparative research and empirical studies that highlight unique media characteristics/practices/mechanisms/restrictions present in post-conflict zones and/or advance theories explaining post-conflict media phenomena. We invite contributions including but not limited to the following areas:

- Case studies surrounding the applicability and validity of media development theory (also known as development media theory).

- Discussions regarding which models/theories the development of media systems in post-conflict zones have been based. There is growing awareness and critique that media theory used in the context of developing countries remains largely western-centric, so what non-hegemonic models/theories are being used?
- Questions surrounding the ways that development communication or Information Communication Technologies for Development (ICT4D) have helped and/or hindered reconstruction in specific post-conflict zones?
- Case studies and examinations of the ways in which specific national or local media environments changed before and after a conflict.
- Discussions and examples of the ways in which media have been used as tools to stop conflict and promote peace/development.
- Case studies illuminating challenges faced by media organizations in times of post-conflict redevelopment.
- Impacts of post-conflict development on press freedom.
- Ways in which journalistic practices such as peace journalism or constructive journalism have been used in post-conflict contexts.

Although we are especially interested in submissions focused on media in a post-genocide or post-civil war context, we will consider all submissions on the relation between media and post-conflict reconstruction and/or challenges that media practitioners/organizations face in post-conflict zones, regardless of theory, research design, and method.

Submission Guidelines:

Please submit an extended abstract of 800-1,000 words (not including references) describing the manuscript's research questions, methodology and primary contribution as well as a title page that includes contact information and abbreviated biographies for all authors.

Abstracts should be submitted directly via email to Dr. Meghan Sobel at msobel@regis.edu by October 30, 2018.

Tentative Timeline:

Submission deadline for extended abstracts: October 30, 2018

Editorial decision: November 30, 2018

Full manuscript deadline: April 1, 2019

Final revision deadline: October 1, 2019

Publication date: August 2020