

Knowledge for Peace

Transitional Justice and the Politics of Knowledge in Theory and Practice

Edited by Briony Jones, Associate Professor of International Development and Deputy Director, Warwick Interdisciplinary Research Centre for International Development (WICID), Department of Politics and International Studies, University of Warwick, UK and Ulrike Lühe, Researcher, swisspeace, an associated Institute of the University of Basel, Switzerland

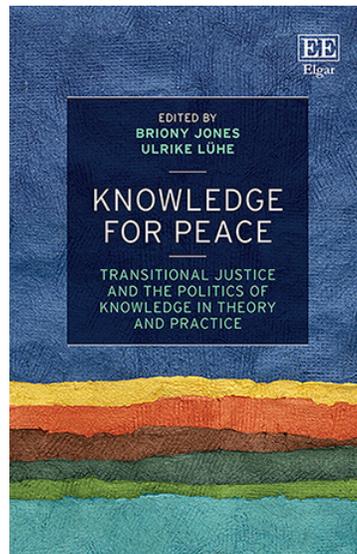
Combining the knowledge and experience of leading international researchers, practitioners and policy consultants, Knowledge for Peace discusses how we identify, claim and contest the knowledge we have in relation to designing and analysing peacebuilding and transitional justice programmes. Exploring how knowledge in the field is produced, and by whom, the book examines the research-policy-practice nexus, both empirically and conceptually, as an important part of the politics of knowledge production.

'The volume addresses an enduring conundrum in transitional justice as a field of study and an area of peacebuilding practice that concerns the political nature of knowledge production and its effects on justice for victims of war crimes. Contributors scrutinize the complexity of international versus local, state versus civil society, and normative versus structural dynamics. Critical theoretical perspectives with an eye to policy implications travel beyond the volume's empirical focus on a range of cases of justice-seeking in Africa. New insights into how transitional justice can be done better and what better transitional justice means will be of interest to scholars and practitioners alike.'

– Denisa Kostovicova, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK

'In this book, Briony Jones and Ulrike Lühe have done what many academics and policy thinkers are reluctant to do – question orthodoxy in an area of thought that has acquired a high moral plateau. The book reveals a gaping chasm between what is known, and what is unknown about the theoretical underpinnings of transitional justice and the efficiency of the solutions it so confidently prescribes. It is a work that will give researchers, thinkers, and practitioners reason to pause and reflect. It opens the door to doubt and cautions against the rush to declare a final resting point in the quest for solutions to societies in deep social and political torment. This is a critical work that should become a new benchmark for anyone acting and thinking in the field of transitional justice. The book is sure to broaden the intellectual school of transitional justice.'

– Makau Mutua, University at Buffalo, US



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