



Universität
Basel

Research Project

Regaining Trust in Post-Conflict Societies: A comparative study, Part II

Third-party funded project

Project title Regaining Trust in Post-Conflict Societies: A comparative study, Part II

Principal Investigator(s) Förster, Till ;

Project Members Heitz Tokpa, Katharina ; Koechlin, Lucy ;

Organisation / Research unit

Departement Gesellschaftswissenschaften / Visuelle und politische Ethnologie (Förster)

Department

Project start 01.10.2010

Probable end 30.09.2014

Status Completed

General theme: Because of the apparent failure of many military interventions, so called soft factors have increasingly become an issue in debates about processes of peace building. How trust informs the formation of a new, often hybrid political order in post-conflict societies remains the central theme of the project. Since the signature of the Ouagadougou peace treaty in 2007, the process of re-establishing state authority in the former rebel held parts of Côte d'Ivoire has suffered several set-backs. Many local actors do neither trust the representatives of the state nor the institutions that they want to establish. Consequently, the formation of trust in institutions and organisations will be a central focus for the second period of the project. It will also serve as a basis for the more comparative and theoretical work. This wider approach will be based on our findings from the past three years, i.e. the different types of trust in social relations and different social spaces. We aim at conceptualising the transformation of trust in a more general perspective. Research questions build on the four types of trust already identified. The main empirical questions of 2007 remain valid but will be focused more on long-term transformations of trust: Basic social trust: Does trust in a particular social space foster trust in individual and institutions related this space? Personal trust: Will trust in persons affect trust in institutions? And if so, how? Institutional trust: Is trust in institutions self-reproductive or does it need other types of trust as a complement? Normative trust: How do specific actors link trust in norms with particular persons or institutions? Methodological approach: We aim at identifying typical trajectories in the transformation of the different types of trust by relating them to particular modes of social change. We start from the assumption that this is feasible if we correlate specific situations with the change of trust from one type to the other. We thus hope to address the high heterogeneity between social settings. Empirical enquiries remain based on the Emic Evaluation Approach (triangulation of a mapping of actors, discourse analysis and practice analysis) which has proved to produce grounded, multi-faceted data. The findings are brought together in a series of workshops with other SNSF projects and will increasingly be presented at international conferences and published in peer reviewed journals. Relevance: Regaining trust is increasingly recognised as a precondition for conflict transformation in general and for the building of peace and civil security after conflict.

Keywords Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa, Africa, Political Anthropology, Statehood, Political Transformation, Namibia, State, Conflict, Trust

Financed by

Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)

Add publication

Add documents

Specify cooperation partners

ID	Kreditinhaber	Kooperationspartner	Institution	Laufzeit - von	Laufzeit - bis
298473	Förster, Till	Babo, Alfred, Dr	Université de Bouaké	01.09.2007	30.09.2013
1541242	Förster, Till	Akindès, Francis, Professor	Université de Bouaké	01.10.2010	30.09.2013
1541245	Förster, Till	Sévérin, Kouamé, Dr.	Université de Bouaké	01.10.2010	30.09.2013
366685	Förster, Till	Kocra, Lossina Assoua, Ass Prof Dr	University of Bayreuth	01.09.2007	30.09.2013
2320703	Förster, Till	Fardon, Richard, Professor	Centre of African Studies, University of London	01.02.2013	31.05.2013
2320733	Förster, Till	Thiriot, Céline	LAM - Les Afriques dans le Monde, Bordeaux	01.02.2013	31.05.2013
2320755	Förster, Till	Pratten, David, Dr.	African Studies Centre, University of Oxford	01.02.2013	31.05.2013
2320764	Förster, Till	Higazi, Adam, Dr.	King's College, Cambridge	01.02.2013	31.05.2013
2320766	Förster, Till	Knörr, Jacqueline, Prof.	Max Planck Institut für Eth- nologie, Halle	01.02.2013	31.05.2013