

TERI MURPHY

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POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

PhD. University of Cape Town: Social Psychology

Dissertation Title: *An Analysis of War Trauma and Refugee Distress Among Bosnian Muslim Women: Exploring Social and Personal Healing in the Aftermath.*

Chairs: Dr. Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela and Dr. Donald Foster.

CURRENT POSITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR PEACEBUILDING RESEARCH (2018–present)

The Mershon Center for International Security Studies – The Ohio State University

Provides strategic leadership for the Center's Search Lab and peacebuilding research portfolio, shaping institutional research priorities and advancing applied scholarship across conflict-affected contexts. Serves on the Center's Senior Management Team and contributes to institutional planning and strategy. Leads external engagement and international research collaborations, supervises postdoctoral fellows, and supports graduate and undergraduate field research.

The Search Lab – Co-Director

Co-leads an interdisciplinary research-practice platform focused on the search for persons reported missing or forcibly disappeared in contexts of political violence and armed conflict. Leads international collaborations and field-based research with partner institutions, supporting comparative, multi-country inquiry into search processes, institutional design, and community engagement.

Core responsibilities include:

- Co-leads the strategic, intellectual, and operational direction of The Search Lab as an interdisciplinary research-practice platform focused on conflict-related disappearance.
- Shapes the Lab's long-term research agenda, advancing comparative inquiry into search processes, institutional design, and humanitarian responses to missing and disappeared persons.
- Develops ethical frameworks, governance principles, and data stewardship approaches guiding research practice in contexts of political violence and uncertainty.
- Leads the identification of emerging conceptual and empirical gaps in disappearance studies and fosters the development of new interdisciplinary research questions.
- Supports competitive grant development, cross-sector research collaborations, and the production of high-impact scholarly and policy-relevant outputs.
- Cultivates and sustains international partnerships with institutional, academic, and field-based actors, supporting the integration of research into policy and humanitarian practice.
- Contributes to pedagogical innovation and mentorship, including curriculum development, practitioner-oriented training, and supervision of graduate researchers and fellows.

Institutional Research Leadership

- Shapes and advances comparative peacebuilding frameworks, analytical models, and conceptual tools for understanding political violence, transitional justice, and social repair.
- Leads and designs cross-national and comparative research initiatives across conflict-affected contexts, integrating field-based and interdisciplinary approaches.

- Co-directs and coordinates the Transitioning from Violence Consortium, fostering a global research-practice network on locally grounded peacebuilding strategies.
- Conducts field-based research and leads the production of analytical, conceptual, and policy-relevant outputs on conflict transformation and post-violence recovery.
- Develops shared standards, frameworks, and ethical principles for collaborative peacebuilding research and practice across institutional and geographic contexts.
- Engages with governments, INGOs, and multilateral organizations to translate research insights into policy design, program development, and implementation strategies.
- Supports the development of research-informed and contextually grounded policy processes across peacebuilding, humanitarian, and governance settings.

Research Projects and Collaborative Initiatives

The Search for the Disappeared: Working with Persons who Participated Directly or Indirectly in the Hostilities - PPDIH (2026-current)

Partner: The Search Unit for Persons Reported as Missing – UBPD (Colombia)

Description: Uses a threefold design to examine: (a) how institutional search processes can ethically engage PPDIH as holders of sensitive information under conditions of uncertainty, risk, and incomplete knowledge; (b) how such engagement shapes self-understandings, relationships, and possibilities for repair over time; and (c) how encounters between families and PPDIH generate fragile, contested, and at times restorative forms of recognition and repair within humanitarian search processes; integrating ethical, relational, and epistemic dimensions of post-conflict search practices.

Ritual Landscapes: Returning the Disappeared of Colombia (2024-current)

Partner: The Search Unit for Persons Reported as Missing – UBPD (Colombia)

Description: Examines the interface between institutional search processes and cultural and psychospiritual practices, with a focus on the role of ritual in the search, recovery, and dignified return of the disappeared; analyzing how ritual practices mediate grief, recognition, and social repair within state-led humanitarian processes.

Post Agreement Reconciliation(s) in Changing Political Eras: Comparing Northern Ireland, Colombia, and Basque Country (2023-current)

Partners: Partners: Bradford University (UK), Brunel University (UK), University of Bristol (UK), Georgetown University (USA), Guernica 37 Group, OSCE Academy (Kyrgyzstan), Philipps-University Marburg, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana (Colombia), Queen's University (Northern Ireland), Ulster University (Northern Ireland), University of Basque Country (Spain), University of Deusto (Spain), University of Leuven (Belgium), University College Stockholm, and Utrecht University (the Netherlands).

Description: Designed and launched a multi-partner comparative research initiative examining post-agreement reconciliation across distinct political eras; led identification of case studies and principal investigators, facilitated iterative collaborative design processes, and convened international workshops; contributing as lead researcher and editor to a special issue volume, shaping comparative conceptual frameworks on reconciliation, temporality, and political transition.

Federalism, Cultural Identity, and Insecurity in Nepal (2023-2026)

Partner: International Alert Nepal

Description: Conducted a peace audit of Nepal's constitutional commitments to inclusion and post-2015 governance reforms; analyzing the intersection of cultural identity, insecurity, and federal restructuring, with comparative attention to patterns of participation and exclusion across district, provincial, and national levels; facilitating the co-development of a research-informed policy intervention with government stakeholders, researchers, IGOs, INGOs, and civil society actors.

Local Approaches to Violence Disengagement and Social Healing – Rituals, Rites, Ceremonies, and Other Transformational Processes (2021-2025)

Partners: United States Institute of Peace, Ulster University, Northern Ireland Executive, Corrymeela Peace Centre

Description: Designed and led a global comparative research initiative mapping local, customary, and religious approaches to violence disengagement and social reintegration; building and sustaining an international practitioner-research network, facilitating thematic working groups, and convening cross-regional learning exchanges; producing practice-oriented guidance and convening global events linking empirical research with policy and field application.

Research Platforms and International Consortia

Transitioning from Violence: International Consortium (2019–current)

Partner(s): Multi-country academic, policy, and practitioner network

Description: Convenes global practitioners and researchers to advance locally grounded peacebuilding strategies; identifies approaches to dismantling structures that sustain violence and supports social healing; develops shared research and policy agendas; builds communities of practice; and disseminates comparative findings to local, national, and international audiences.

From Violent Political Conflict to Criminalization (2025–present)

Partners: University of Bristol; Pontificia Universidad Javeriana; University of Bradford; InSight Crime; Northern Ireland Executive Programme on Paramilitarism and Organized Crime

Description: Facilitated a multi-partner research initiative developed through a convened international working group and workshop series on the relationship between violent political conflict, criminality, and criminalization; examining how organized violence and criminal networks overlap before, during, and after conflict, and supporting comparative analysis across cases; providing on-going support to a multi-national research team.

Women, Peace, and Security (2018–2025)

Partner: Christian Aid Burundi

Description: Led a research-to-practice initiative; conducting contextual analysis of factors that encourage or inhibit Burundian women's meaningful engagement in formal and informal peace interventions; co-designing surveys, training women researchers, facilitating workshops, and contributing to reporting and grant development.

Triple Nexus Analysis and Implementation (2018–2022)

Partners: Christian Aid Ireland, Christian Aid Burundi

Description: Established baseline analysis of Triple Nexus implementation across humanitarian, development, and peace programming; supported monitoring and evaluation frameworks and adaptive learning processes.

Conflict Sensitivity Review, Policy Development, and Global Implementation (2018–2020)

Partner: ARK DMCC Lebanon and Jordan

Description: Conducted institutional conflict sensitivity reviews across Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan programming; developed training frameworks and supported implementation monitoring systems.

Violence to Peace Action Framework Implementation (2018)

Partner: Christian Aid Ireland, Christian Aid South Sudan

Description: Facilitated training processes for local peacebuilders and supported cross-group dialogue initiatives, contributing to mediation processes involving faith-based and community leadership structures.

Applied Research and Policy Partnerships

DPC Racial Equity Initiatives (2019–2024)

Partner: Divided Community Project

Description: Served as investigator for a major research grant; co-designed and convened international symposia and dialogues; developed guidance for transitional justice-style commissions; facilitated engagement among practitioners and policymakers; and led public programming.

The Politics of Humanitarian Assistance in Türkiye (2022–2024)

Partner: Doctors Worldwide – MDM Türkiye

Description: Conducted collaborative research on humanitarian policy and practice; analyzing ethical and operational decision-making in complex environments; and developing policy-relevant tools and insights.

Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support for Front-line Workers in Kurdistan (2022–2023)

Partner: Baghdad's Women's Association Iraq and Kurdistan

Description: Co-developed a trauma-informed, gender-sensitive framework to support the psychological, social, and spiritual well-being of frontline staff; strengthening organizational resilience through integrated approaches to coping, care systems, and psychosocial support in high-stress humanitarian contexts.

Mental Health and Psycho-Social Well-Being for Frontline Peacebuilders – Global Model (2018–2022)

Partner: Tearfund (Global)

Description: Developed a research-informed model for strengthening the capacities and well-being of faith-based

peacebuilders operating in conflict settings, integrating psychological, social, and spiritual dimensions of resilience in protracted conflict environments.

PREVIOUS POSITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; INTERIM DIRECTOR (2016–2018)

Corrymeela Peace Centre – Ballycastle, Northern Ireland

Led an analytic review of organizational peacebuilding programming and co-facilitated the development of a participatory strategic plan (2018–2021); supervised 35 staff and 25 volunteers while overseeing financial and operational functions; designed and facilitated cross-community dialogue and restorative justice processes, scoped and developed new peacebuilding initiatives, and mentored program leaders; and convened cross-sector networks of government, civil society, academic, policy, and faith-based leaders to strengthen collaboration and knowledge exchange.

SENIOR ADVISOR AND ANALYST (2013–2018)

Istanbul Policy Center (IPC) – Istanbul, Türkiye

Established a conflict research and programming hub and cultivated a strategic partnership with Türkiye’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs; conducted policy-relevant research on humanitarian and development frameworks, including TİKA, and produced actionable recommendations; developed collaborations with international organizations such as the UN Friends of Mediation, PRIO, OSCE, and Saferworld; and designed and delivered conflict analysis, resolution, and peacebuilding trainings for diplomatic audiences, convened Women, Peace, and Security platforms, and mentored junior analysts.

FACULTY AND CHAIR – GRADUATE PROGRAM IN CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND RESOLUTION (2011–2014)

Sabancı University – Tuzla, Türkiye

Provided leadership in the development of a graduate program in conflict analysis and peacebuilding, advancing both research and practice; integrated field-based knowledge into curriculum design, emphasizing applied methods and practice skills; and supervised graduate research, practicums, and theses, and taught seminars in conflict analysis, resolution, and peacebuilding.

CO-DIRECTOR (2005–2011)

South Africa Community Fund – Cape Town, South Africa

Provided strategic leadership and programmatic oversight for restorative justice and social reconciliation initiatives in partnership with the Anglican Diocese of Western Cape, the University of Cape Town, and community leaders; and engaged national partner organizations, civil society, religious institutions, and government stakeholders in the design and implementation of programs.

DIOCESAN MEDIATOR; CHAPLAIN – ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY (1996–2005)

Episcopal Diocese of Arizona – Phoenix, AZ

Developed a diocesan alternative dispute resolution system and designed and facilitated mediation processes across community, parish, and organizational settings; mediated civil cases in Maricopa County Justice of the Peace courts; and developed and taught courses in social justice and conflict and peace studies, served as a Fellow at the Center for the Study of Religion and Violence, and mentored faculty, staff, and students.

PREVIOUS RESEARCH, POLICY & PROGRAMMING (selected)

Violence to Peace Global Strategy (2015–2018)

Partner: Christian Aid Ireland

Description: Developed Christian Aid Ireland’s Violence to Peace Global Strategy, establishing a best-practice framework for peacebuilding across country programs; supported global rollout with senior leadership; led training initiatives; and provided technical guidance to ensure context-sensitive implementation across field settings.

Barriers to Justice (2017–2018)

Partners: Ministry of Justice (Afghanistan); Coordination of Rehabilitation and Development Services

Description: Conducted comprehensive research on barriers to justice for women, girls, and marginalized populations in Herat; provided contextual analysis; co-designed programs to strengthen linkages between formal and informal justice systems; engaged traditional justice actors to enhance rights-based practices; and supported capacity-building and public awareness efforts.

Countering Youth Extremism in Somalia (2018)

Partners: Embassy of Türkiye (Mogadishu); Somali Peace Line; Life and Learning Institute

Description: Facilitated a participatory program design process with Somali youth leaders; supported the development of locally grounded initiatives to counter violent extremism; and strengthened youth leadership capacity for community-based prevention efforts.

Transitional Justice: Syria (2016–2018)

Partner: Civil Society and Democracy in Syria

Description: Convened and facilitated dialogues among Syrian Interim Government representatives, civil society actors, journalists, and human rights advocates; designed and led workshops on transitional justice models; and supported knowledge exchange across stakeholder groups.

Conflict Analysis and Peacebuilding Training (2014)

Partner: Kosovo Ministry of Justice

Description: Designed and delivered training for government officials, diplomatic personnel, and military leaders; strengthened institutional capacity in conflict analysis and peacebuilding; and provided applied tools for policy and practice.

Diplomatic Academy – Türkiye (2012–2013)

Partner: Ministry of Justice (Türkiye)

Description: Developed curriculum and taught mediation and peacebuilding modules for senior diplomats; delivered training for international diplomatic cohorts; and supported capacity-building for conflict resolution in complex political environments.

Roboski/Uludere Airstrike Assessment (2012–2014)

Partners: Families of victims

Description: Conducted a community-based assessment following the 2011 military airstrike; analyzed social, political, and psychological impacts; and designed a trauma-informed intervention to support affected families and communities.

Intra- and Interfaith Peacebuilding through Dialogue (2008–2012)

Partners: Small Steps; Žene ženama; Center for Nonviolent Action (Bosnia)

Description: Supported the design and implementation of sustained intra- and interreligious dialogue initiatives; facilitated workshops and dialogue processes for civil society leaders and peace practitioners; and led women's healing circles focused on trauma recovery and reconciliation.

PUBLICATIONS

Articles (Peer-Reviewed)

Murphy, T., et al. (under review). Post-agreement reconciliation(s) in changing political eras: Comparing Northern Ireland, Colombia, and the Basque Country. *Cooperation and Conflict* (special forum).

Murphy, T., et al. (under review). The dignified return of Father Camilo Torres: Ritual in practice. *Journal of Disappearance Studies*.

Murphy, T., et al. (2014). Simulation games in teaching international relations: Insights from a multi-day, multi-stage, multi-issue simulation on Cyprus. *International Studies Perspectives*, 15(4), 394–406.

Edited Volume

Murphy, T. (Ed.). (2026). *The road to reconciliation*. Pedro Arrupe Human Rights Institute.

Policy Briefs, Technical Reports, and Applied Publications

Murphy, T. (forthcoming). How rituals, rites and ceremonies can support social healing: Reintegration and rehabilitation after violence. Kroc Institute, University of Notre Dame.

International Alert. (2026). Federalization in Nepal: A peace and conflict perspective (Co-author).

International Alert. (2026). Federalization in Nepal: Post-federal power devolution from Koshi, Madhesh, and Sudurpaschim provinces (Co-author).

International Alert. (2026). Federalization in Nepal: Inclusion with limits—Assessing conflict risks in Nepal’s federalization process (Co-author).

Murphy, T. (Ed.). (2025). Reconciliation in practice papers. Mershon Center for International Security Studies.

Murphy, T. (2025). Ritual landscapes: Returning the disappeared of Colombia—Initial findings summary. Mershon Center for International Security Studies & UBPD.

Murphy, T. (2020). MHPSS and frontline worker nurture model. Tearfund.

Murphy, T. (2019). Conflict sensitivity framework and training guide. ARK DMCC.

Murphy, T. (2018). From violence to peace action framework. Christian Aid Ireland.

TEACHING (SELECTED COURSES)

Graduate Teaching

Conflict resolution, mediation, and applied peacebuilding practice
Human security and post-conflict societies
Memory, trauma, and political violence
International development in conflict-affected and post-colonial contexts
International conflict analysis and engagement
Religion, violence, and conflict transformation
Social research methods
Practice-based and clinical teaching:
Mediation Clinic (Arizona State University School of Law)
Conflict resolution practice and experiential learning courses

Undergraduate Teaching

Peacebuilding, conflict transformation, and restorative justice
Transitional justice and post-conflict reconstruction
Human rights, democracy, and global governance
Social movements, protest, and political change
Religion, nationalism, and ethnic conflict
Global diversity and social justice
Introduction to peace and conflict studies
Justice theory and restorative justice frameworks

EXECUTIVE BOARD SERVICE (SELECTED)

Divided Community Project Steering Committee
Education for Citizenship Initiative Implementation Group (OSU (Ohio State University))
Corrymeela Executive Council
Norwegian Institute for International Affairs; BRICS+T Civil Capacity Initiative
Center for Civil Society and Democracy in Syria/U.S. Executive Board
Christian Aid’s Tackling Violence Building Peace Advisory Committee