

19.4.25

Fellowship ID: P17780

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Be sure to enter the Fellowship ID

Form 7 / 様式 7
外国人特別研究員作成 / By Fellow

2019 / 4 / 16

JSPS Fellow's

Signature (Handwritten only) :



Research Report (by Fellow) (Cover Page)

I hereby submit the research report of my fellowship.

- ✓ 1. Name (Print) : Simangan, Dahlia Collado
- ✓ 2. Nationality : Filipino
- ✓ 3. Host Institution : Kanagawa University
- ✓ 4. Host Researcher : Hiroya Sugita
5. Title of Research in Japan : Bringing the Liberal Back in Peacebuilding:
Why local involvement in rebuilding post-conflict societies fails to build peace
- ✓ 6. Fellowship Tenure : From 2017 / 09 / 01 To 2019 / 03 / 31
(YYYY) (MM) (DD) (YYYY) (MM) (DD)

*Notes for writing the Research Report

***Type this form except the date and the signature.**

Please prepare your Research Report in English or Japanese within three to ten pages including this page. The contents should include:

7. Background of Research

International peacebuilding has a mixed record of successes and failure. The United Nations (UN) has led several peacebuilding efforts in post-conflict societies since the early 1990s. It has carried a liberal peacebuilding framework into its peace operations by emphasizing the establishment of democratic institutions and market economy and the promotion of justice and human rights as the foundations of peace. Although UN peace operations have contributed to the decline in civil wars and major conflicts, the incidents of relapse into conflict in societies where the UN has intervened, however, have raised doubts about the viability and effectiveness of liberal peace assumptions.

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One of the criticisms of UN peace operations is the lack of local involvement in the peacebuilding process. The top-down, Western-based, and exclusionary approaches to peacebuilding have sidelined the unique local contexts of post-conflict societies and the peace aspirations of those who experienced the conflict. The crisis of liberal peace, the increasing preference for the local turn, and the risks of conflict relapse keeps the debate on post-conflict peacebuilding timely and relevant yet unresolved. These dilemmas in international peacebuilding prompted this research project to examine the implications of the UN's presence and efforts in rebuilding post-conflict societies and the potential of localized peacebuilding approaches in building and sustaining peace.

Despite the implementation of the liberal peace framework and the varied ways of local involvement, Cambodia, Kosovo, and Timor-Leste—three cases that hosted UN transitional administrations—have experienced a reversal to conflict during or after the peacebuilding process. The research project, therefore, sought to answer the question of why local involvement in rebuilding post-conflict societies fails to build peace. I examined how the UN transitional administrations in Cambodia, Kosovo, and Timor-Leste conducted local involvement while fulfilling their liberal mandates in the areas of security, justice and reconciliation, and economic development. This examination brought to light the types of local involvement that inhibit the emancipatory potential of local agency and hinder the pursuit of inclusive and lasting peace.

8. Research methodology

To examine liberal peacebuilding in practice, the research conducted a comparative analysis of the UN transitional administrations in Cambodia, Kosovo, and Timor-Leste and the implementation of their liberal mandates as embedded in the UN resolutions and regulations that guided the transitional administrations. I used these mandates as analytical categories. To observe the local turn, I focused on the involvement of local actors, agencies, and norms in the peacebuilding process. To draw conclusions from the comparative analysis of the case studies, the book asks the following sub-questions in the discussion of the three case studies. What were the mandates of the transitional administrations? How were the mandates implemented? What were the outcomes of the implementation of the mandates? Was there local involvement in the implementation of the mandates? How were local actors, agencies, and norms involved in the implementation of mandates? What were the outcomes of local involvement?

The data for analysis was drawn from 73 interviews with individuals who were involved in the UN transitional administrations. I obtained personal insights from UN officials, local leaders, and members of civil society organizations and asked them about their participation and experiences in and during the transitional administrations, their perceptions of UN programmes, their peace aspirations, and their recommendations for future peacebuilding missions.

9. Results/impacts

Note: As much as possible, describe the contents and results of your research in a manner that is easily understandable to a non-specialist in your field. Provide a concrete description if (1) papers related to your work have been published in major academic journals, (2) particularly outstanding research results were achieved, or (3) patent applications have been made or other tangible outcomes achieved through the research.

The main outcome of my research fellowship is a book entitled, *Liberal Peacebuilding and Local Involvement: A Liberal Renaissance?* published by Routledge on 29 January 2019. In the book, I argue that the conceptual and operational departure from the holistic and comprehensive origins of liberal peacebuilding paved the way for the liberal peace crisis. Using the cases of Cambodia, Kosovo, and Timor-Leste, the book evaluates how the United Nations transitional administrations in these three post-conflict societies implemented their liberal mandates and how their involvement of the local actors affected the conduct of their peacebuilding activities. The evaluation of these case studies demonstrates that while local involvement is imperative to peacebuilding, illiberal local involvement may restore an elite-centered status quo and reinforce or create new forms of conflict and violence.

I also published my research findings about liberal peacebuilding and local involvement in reputable peer-reviewed academic journals. Three papers deal with hybrid peacebuilding in Cambodia, Kosovo, and Timor-Leste and how the unequal interaction between international and local actors and agencies has produced a short-term, negative peace that benefits only the political elite. These papers have been published in *Third World Quarterly*, *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding*, and *Asian Journal of Peacebuilding*. Furthermore, two articles on the local dimensions of peacebuilding have been submitted to *International Peacekeeping* and *International Studies Perspectives*. The paper for the first journal has been revised and is currently under review. The paper for the second journal has received a major revision decision and is currently being revised for re-submission.

In May 2018, I travelled to Phnom Penh and Siem Reap in Cambodia to conduct a fieldwork about mine action, which is a security component of post-conflict rebuilding. The lands of Cambodia are still heavily contaminated of landmines and unexploded ordnances from its past conflicts. I interviewed government officials and civil society organizations involved in mine action and observed a demining unit in operation to explore the link between mine action-related civil society and transitional justice. The data collected from the fieldwork is discussed in greater detail in a forthcoming co-authored paper to be published in the *Global Change, Peace and Security* journal.

My JSPS fellowship enabled me to attend international academic conferences to present my working papers. These conferences helped me to develop my research projects and expand my research network. The feedback I received from my paper presentations was crucial in refining my manuscripts for future publication. The conferences also served as venues for me to explore potential research collaboration with scholars within and outside Japan.

In addition to my main research project, I also embarked on new projects related to peacebuilding. For one, I started engaging with the current literature that links peacebuilding with urban studies. Urban peacebuilding examines the social use of spaces and places in peace formation or conflict promotion. My research proposal on urban peacebuilding in Marawi City has been recognized by the Women's Caucus of the International Studies Association (ISA) with a 2019 Deborah Gerner Professional Development Award. My JSPS fellowship allowed me to conduct a preliminary fieldwork in Marawi City in the Philippines in March 2019. The findings from this fieldwork will be presented at a conference in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina in June 2019 organized by the International Political Science Association (IPSA).

The second project I started during my fellowship is a multidisciplinary research collaboration with my fellow JSPS postdoctoral researchers at the United Nations University-

Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS). I am leading a project that looks at the varied experiences of human societies in the age of the Anthropocene. For the first outcome of this project, I will be chairing a panel of papers that situate different regional orders vis-à-vis human existence, risks, and survival in the new geological epoch of the Anthropocene. The panel proposal has been accepted to the IPSA conference to be held in Nagasaki in August 2019. My research collaborators and myself agree to work on the publication of a journal issue and an edited book within the next two years. I also have a paper that systematically reviews the academic literature on the Anthropocene focusing on the Asia-Pacific region accepted to the ISA Asia-Pacific conference to be held in Singapore in July 2019. Another paper focusing on the pursuit of peace in the Anthropocene has been accepted for presentation at the ISA conference in Belgrade, Serbia in June 2019. In connection with my new research interest on the International Relations in the Anthropocene, I have a paper submitted to the *Australian Journal of International Affairs* about the Asia-Pacific experience in the Anthropocene. The paper has been reviewed is currently being revised for re-submission.

On top of my current research projects, I am also engaged in public discussions about the political and human rights issues in my home country, the Philippines. I have written a journal article about the war on drugs in the Philippines published in the *Journal of Genocide Research*. I also have a forthcoming co-authored commentary about the communist insurgency in the Philippines and Indonesia, also to be published in the said journal.

10. Research Presentations during the period of the fellowship (Name of the conference, title, place, date)

- a. International Political Science Association (IPSA) World Congress, *Borders and Margins*, Brisbane, Australia: 21-26 July 2018.
- b. IDAS International Conference, *Transformation and Challenges in the Asia-Pacific: The Next Decade and Beyond*, Taipei, Taiwan: 23-24 November 2018.

11. A list of paper published during or after the period of the fellowship, and the names of the journals in which they appeared (Please fill in the format below). Attach a copy of each article if available.

Author(s)	Title	Name of Journal	Volume	Page	Date	Note
Simangan, Dahlia	International Peacebuilding and Local Involvement: A Liberal Renaissance?	*Book: Routledge			2019	
Simangan, Dahlia	When Hybridity Breeds Contempt: Negative Hybrid Peace in Cambodia	Third World Quarterly	39 (8)	1525-1542	2018	
Simangan, Dahlia	Domino Effect of Negative Hybrid Peace in Kosovo's Peacebuilding	Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding	12 (1)	120-141	2018	
Simangan, Dahlia	Is the Philippine 'War on Drugs' an Act of Genocide?	Journal of Genocide Research	20 (1)	68-89	2018	

Simangan, Dahlia	A Detour of the Local Turn: Roadblocks in Timor-Leste's Post- conflict Peacebuilding	Asian Journal of Peacebuilding	5 (2)	195- 221	2017	
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12. Awards during the period of the fellowship (Name of the award, Institution, date etc.)
 - a. Deborah Gerner Grant for Professional Development, International Studies Association (ISA) - Women's Caucus (WCIS), sponsored by Lynne Rienner Publishing, March 2019.