

About the troubles and joys of co-authorship: A collaborative reflection from peace and conflict writers

Laura Villanueva and Claudia Milena Giraldo

InnPeace Fellows

Wednesday 28th November, 2018, 4 pm
Grillhof Seminar Center, Grillhofweg 100, 6080 Vill-Igls

On the occasion of the first Incoming InnPeace Fellows, our writers in residence Laura Villanueva (Executive Director of the Centre for Conflict Analysis and Resolution of George Mason University) and Claudia Milena Giraldo Gómez (Director of the NGO TEJIPAZ – Weaving Territories for Peace in Granada, Colombia), will engage in an academic dialogue about co-authorship.

During their week-long stay at the Grillhof Seminar Center, Laura and Claudia will be co-writing a chapter for the fourth volume on *Local Peace Communities: Facing A National Peace* (edited by Christopher Mitchell, Landon Hancock and Cécile Mouly).

They will share their experience as co-authors and invite a larger dialogue with the audience about the many pieces and many peaces that transform one's (mostly lonely) academic endeavor of writing when done in team in a collaborative spirit.

Early-stage career academics are especially invited to attend this talk that will deal with the following methodological questions:

- What does it imply to co-author an academic piece?
- How does the collaboration and co-creation of the piece change our writing style, choice of topic, rhythm and ultimately publication vis-à-vis a monograph?
- Which kind of methodologies can we envisage that are more appropriate and suitable for collaborative writing of academic texts?

The dialogue will be bi-lingual (English and Spanish) with consecutive translation when needed.

Meet the InnPeace Fellows

Laura Villanueva, Executive Director Center for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University



She is a peacebuilding practitioner with 15 years of peacebuilding project management, development, and practice in the field. Her experience and practice began at Gernika Gogoratuz Peace Research Centre. In 2007 she joined a Japanese NGO that has developed a people-to-people harmony-building process, which is on-going and co-located in Japan and the Middle East. She has also used an elicitive peacebuilding approach in other parts of the world most recently in Colombia. Presently, she is the Executive Director for the Center for Peacemaking Practice at George Mason University's School for Conflict Analysis

and Resolution.



Claudia Milena Giraldo Gómez, Director NGO TEJIPAZ (Weaving Territories for Peace – Colombia)

A graduate in public accounting has experience in the construction of public policies for the integral attention and reparation of victims of the armed conflict and the displaced. She has worked as a community manager where she supported projects that guaranteed attention to the displaced population in the Municipality of Granada Antioquia and, in turn, in other municipalities in that department. She was Secretary of Government of the Municipality of

Granada Antioquia in the period 2012-2015 and is currently director of Tejiendo territorio para la Paz (TEJIPAZ).

About the Incoming InnPeace Fellowships

The Incoming InnPeace Fellowships hosts outstanding academics and professional peace workers from all over the world who want to conduct a particular Peace and Conflict Studies related project or research activity, while sharing their insights and experiences with the larger academic community. Interested in exchange, international collaboration and fostering the advancement of the Transrational Peace and Elicitive Conflict Frameworks, in theory and practice, the InnPeace Incoming Fellows enjoy their stay at the Grillhof Seminar Center, a place committed to the heart of peace and conflict work.

More information: innpeace@uibk.ac.at

Publication summary

Volume 4. Local Peace Communities in Colombia; Facing A National Peace.

Editors: Cécile Mouly, Landon Hancock & Christopher Mitchell.

Central Theme

The central theme of this project concerns the opportunities and obstacles confronting local peace communities and their grassroots peace-building initiatives once some form of national peace has been achieved. We are focusing on communities that have previously attempted to maintain some form of localized peace around or within themselves, but now confront new dilemmas arising from the initial stages of a national peace process – an agreement to end violence and to reconcile previous adversaries. Hopefully, it will also shed light on the way in which local and national peace initiatives interact and reinforce – or negate – one another.

Chapter summary

Following the signing and implementation of the 2016 peace agreement between the Colombian Government and the Farc, Granada, like other municipalities in which local peacebuilding initiatives that were part and parcel of peacebuilding networks have continued their work with renewed expectations, uncertainties, and fears. The transition from violent conflict to a less violent, post-agreement period can be traced through the history of local networks. It was these local networks,

spearheaded by community led-organizations, that were continuously weaving the horizontal and vertical relationships that are represent peace infrastructures.

This chapter will describe the working landscape of community-led organizations in this municipality in the Department of Antioquia. Exploring what networks exist and what they did before, and do now after the agreement will yield a rich tapestry of the linkages that constitute peacebuilding efforts, many of which hail back decades. In turn, this description will shed light both on how networks operate, and on their strengths and weaknesses. It will also inform international peacebuilders about what they need to understand concerning these networks. Hence, they will be able to collaborate in a fruitful and effective manner so as to strengthen and support the networks in their efforts to building sustainable peace.

This chapter is written jointly by a resident of the Municipality of Granada and a scholar-practitioner from the United States. Both have collaborated with other local citizens to build a new community-driven initiative known as Tejiendo Territorio para la Paz (Tejipaz.) Because of this collaboration, the approach we bring to this chapter is based on both a local and an international understanding of Granada, and the working relationships we established in working towards the same end - a sustainable peace that will ensure non-repetition of the conflict.