

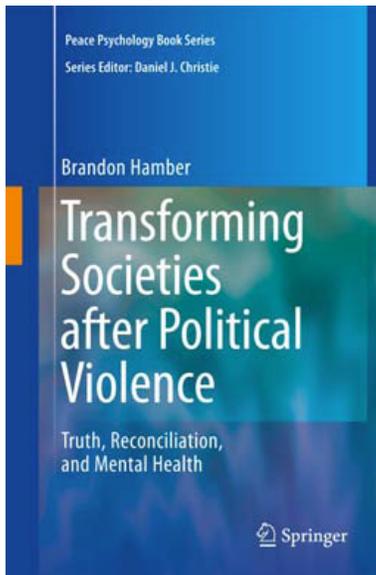
Book Launch



CSVr
The Centre for the Study of
Violence and Reconciliation



Transforming Societies After Political Violence Truth, Reconciliation, and Mental Health



2009. VIII, 249 p. 2 illus.
(Peace Psychology Book Series) Hardcover
ISBN 978-0-387-89426

To mark the launch of Professor Brandon Hamber's new book *Transforming Societies After Political Violence: Truth, Reconciliation, and Mental Health* (Springer, 2009) the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation and the International Conflict Research Institute (INCORE) will be hosting a conversation about the book followed by wine and snacks. You are invited to join us.

Date: 3 December 2009, Thursday
Time: 5:30-7:00pm (including refreshments)
Venue: The Common Room, 4th Floor, Kramer Building
Middle Campus, UCT (Cape Town, South Africa)

In conjunction with the *Beyond Reconciliation Conference 2009* hosted by the University of Cape Town. More at www.beyondreconciliation.co.za

Launch

Presenter:

Brandon Hamber

University of Ulster, Northern Ireland
Director, INCORE

Chair:

Umesh Bawa

Department of Psychology
University of Western Cape

Author

Brandon Hamber is Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies and Director of INCORE, an associate site of the United Nations University, based at the University of Ulster. Prior to moving to Northern Ireland he co-ordinated the Transition and Reconciliation Unit at the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation in South Africa.

About the Book

Transforming Societies after Political Violence offers a template for those tasked with providing truth, justice, reconciliation, and healing. This interdisciplinary study identifies complex relationships between recovery from political violence and the psychological processes that accompany widespread social change, showing how these can be integrated to strengthen both individual and society. Author Brandon Hamber draws on his extensive experience in South Africa and comparative examples to examine the centrality of mental health issues in transitional justice, and the social, cultural, and identity issues involved in meeting the needs of victims. In discussing reparations (what the author terms "repairing the irreparable"), the power of ambivalence, and especially concepts of closure, he eloquently sets out professionals' roles in helping survivors move beyond the toxic past without covering it up or becoming mired in it.

"With plentiful, poignant stories, and clear policy recommendations, this book should help shape – and greatly improve – future endeavors to confront unimaginable memories and pain" (*Priscilla Hayner, ICTJ and author of Unspeakable Truths*)

"Hamber nails this tricky subject with humility, insight, learned insight, and golden recommendations...if you are interested in how humans try to grapple with the consequences of man's brutality to man, and ultimately the truth, read it!" (*Thulani Grenville-Grey, former South African TRC Mental Health Specialist*)