

**University of
Oxford**

Comparative and International
Studies in Education

**United Nations
Children's Fund
UNICEF**

International Conference

Education and **C**onflict:
Research, **P**olicy and **P**ractice

11th and 12th April, 2006

Exeter College, University of Oxford

Introduction

Violent social conflict has increased sharply over the last half century, to become a major destabilising factor in many parts of the world. Such conflicts have been variously ascribed to inequalities between groups based on ethnicity, religion, access to goods and services (including education) or control of political power.

Large scale and intensive conflict leading to a breakdown in social order usually plunges a country into an emergency situation that requires humanitarian and other forms of response from the international community. The highest priority is normally given to saving lives and ending armed hostilities. Education has now been accepted as an integral part of such humanitarian response, because of its critical role in helping to restore normalcy, safeguarding the most vulnerable population (children), protecting girls and other groups of at-risk children, providing psycho-social care for traumatised young victims and beginning the process of reconstruction and reconciliation or peace building. Much experiential knowledge has been gained over the years in using education as part of humanitarian response and later reconstruction. At the same time research into social conflict suggests that education can be a causal factor that precipitates conflict as well as the answer to promoting tolerance, peace and social harmony.

So, although there is a powerful relationship between education and conflict, its direction is not always certain. Education can play an important role in unifying divided societies and mitigating conflict and violence, but it can also create or perpetuate inequality and hence intensify civil conflict and violence. The structure, content and accessibility of education help to determine if it serves to unify or to divide citizens. For example, explicitly teaching difference and the superiority of one ethnicity as against another or segregating schools can all be factors that perpetuate conflict.

This conference explores the relationship between education and conflict from a causal as well as a remedial perspective. It seeks to sharpen the debate about the potentialities of education in perpetuating or mitigating conflict, and so to stimulate policy dialogue about the nature of educational structures, content and accessibility in fragile, and conflict-prone societies. The conference will also review the role of education within an overall strategic international response to conflict and violence in terms of immediate humanitarian response as well as, more importantly, longer term reconstruction and reconciliation. Cross fertilisation of ideas and experiences from research on social conflict and from the practice of education response to emergencies will be used to generate a vibrant research agenda as well as to inform and guide policy and practice in education in emergencies and post conflict situations.

Organisation

The conference is jointly organised by the University of Oxford and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). It is hosted by the University of Oxford, Department of Educational Studies, Centre for Comparative and International Education. It aims to provide an opportunity for theoretical discussion about the determinants of conflict and the role of education in post-conflict reconstruction.

The first day of the conference will include presentations from UNICEF, UNESCO, the World Bank, the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE), Bilateral Organisations, and academics. A number of case studies will be presented. Key themes will include: theoretical underpinnings of education and conflict; and linkages between policy, practice, and research. The second day of the conference provides an opportunity to discuss and make inputs and recommendations to UNICEF's new Education Strategy Paper, as well as to propose a new research agenda in this field and to agree upon a way forward between the agencies.

Objectives

- To develop a better understanding of the interrelationship between education and conflict, especially the causes of conflict, educational policies for its prevention and practical field-based examples of conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction.
- To discuss and evaluate the key educational strategies employed in humanitarian crises and post-conflict situations.
- To appraise UNICEF's new education strategy with emphasis on its emergencies and post-conflict dimensions

Seminar Programme

- 9.30 **DAY 1:** Arrival and Registration (Entrance Exeter College)
- 10:00 **Opening Session**
Welcome and Opening Remarks by *Cream Wright (UNICEF)* and *John Furlong [invited] (University of Oxford)*
- 10.45 Coffee
- 11.15 **Session 1: Education and Conflict: Theory and Research**
Speakers include: *Peter Buckland (World Bank)*, *Jason Hart (University of Oxford)*, *Lynn Davies (University of Birmingham)*, *David Johnson (University of Oxford)*
- 1:00 Lunch
- 2:00 **Session 2: Education and Conflict: Case Studies**
Speakers include: *Peter Nolan (Ulster University: Northern Ireland)*, *Robert Fuderich, (UNICEF: Kosovo)*, *Susan Nicolai (Save the Children: Timor Leste)*, *Jeaniene Spink (University of Oxford: Afghanistan)* and *Bridget Machinda (ERNWACA: East and West Africa)*.
- 3:15 Coffee
- 3:45 **Session 3: Educational Response to Conflict: Policies, Principles and Standards**
Speakers include: *Rebecca Winthrop (INEE)*, *Vijitha Eyanggo (USAID)*, *Eva Ahlen (UNHCR)* and *Pauline Rose (University of Sussex)*.
- 5.00 End Day One [Drinks and Canapés served in the gardens of Exeter College for all participants]
- 9.30 **DAY 2:** Arrival and Registration (Entrance Exeter College)
- 10:00 **Session 4: Education and Post-Conflict Reconstruction in UNICEF's New Education Strategy**
Presenter, *Cream Wright (UNICEF)*
- 10:45 Coffee
- 11:15 **Session 5: Education and Post-Conflict Reconstruction: Response and Group Discussions**
- 1:30 Lunch
- 2:30 **Session 6: Implications for Research, Policy, and Practice**
Summary of presentations including key issues and conclusions from the proceedings of the conference. Proposals for a research agenda. Chaired by Cream Wright and David Johnson.
- 4:00 **Closing Remarks**
Agreements on next steps for different agencies and partners. A way forward?
Presentations *Cream Wright and David Johnson*

More Information

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Travel Information

Directions

Exeter College's front entrance is in Turl Street, just off George Street, in the heart of Oxford. If you are coming by car, parking is not easy. You may unload at the College entrance, but you may not park. Car Parking can be organised near to the college by prior arrangement (£10/day) There is also a 'Park and Ride' bus service that operates from Oxford's ring road.

By rail

Trains run at least once an hour between Oxford and London, and twice an hour during peak times. Oxford is also on the main cross-country routes. The railway station is a mile (1.6 km) from the College. From London (which is 56 miles, 90 km from Oxford) there are regular trains from Paddington Station, and very frequent coaches from Victoria. For details of times and fares, telephone 0345 484950 (24 hours). Or visit <http://www.rail.co.uk>

By coach/bus

The bus station is half a mile (0.8 km) from the College. There are regular bus services to Oxford from all the London airports, as well as a train link from Gatwick. The Oxford Bus Company (tel: +44 (0) 1865 785400) and the Oxford Tube (tel: +44 (0) 1865 772250) run frequent buses, 24 hours a day, between London (Victoria Bus Station) and Oxford.

Direct and regular services to Oxford from Heathrow and Gatwick airports are run by the Oxford Bus Company. Coach services from other parts of the country are also available. See the National Express web-site (www.nationalexpress.com) for more information.

Taxis

Courtesy Cars: +44 (0)1865 874787 or 873497 / ABC Taxis: +44 (0)1865 770077 or 775577 / CCB Cars: +44 (0)1865 876699 - <http://www.cbcars.com/>

Accommodation

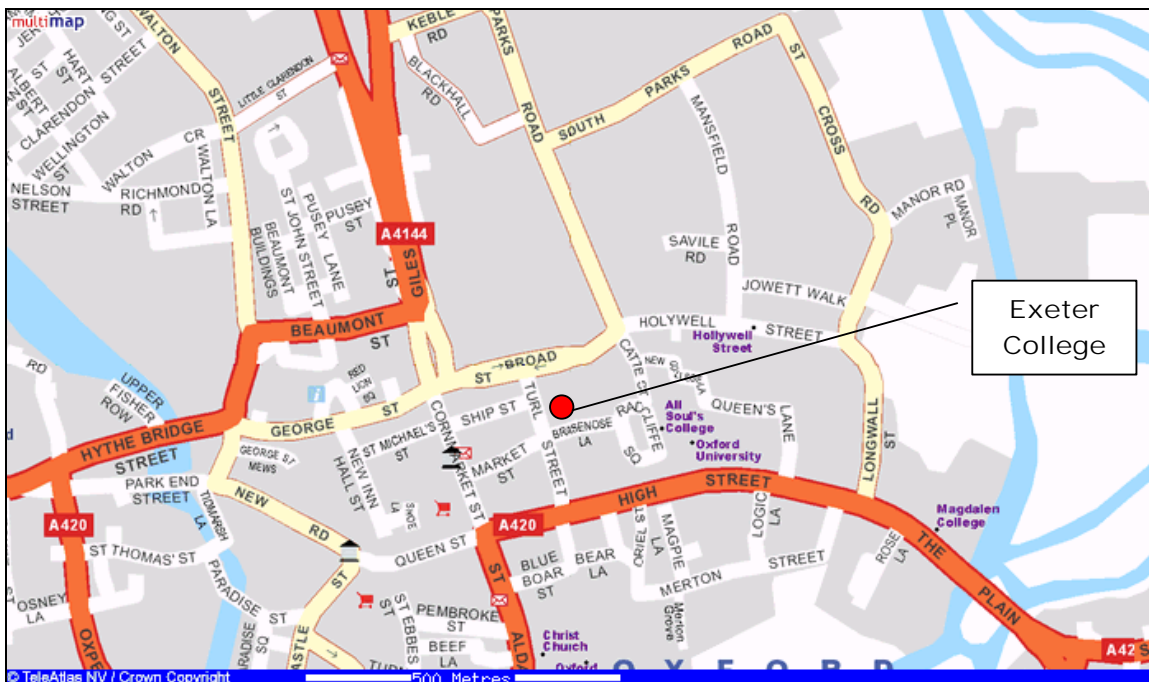
Accommodation in Oxford can be provided through Exeter College although rooms are limited and bookings must be made in advance. An ensuited room at the college will normally cost £75/night including breakfast. One room, which includes two single rooms, with a joint bathroom and sitting room, are available for a reduce rate per person. Single bed and breakfast rooms with shared bathroom is £49/night. If you require assistance with accommodation, please indicate this on your registration form.

Address

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Fax: +44 (0) 1865 279645
Web page: <http://www.exeter.ox.ac.uk/>



**University of
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Comparative and International
Studies in Education

**United Nations
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International Conference

Education and Conflict: Research Policy and Practice

**University of Oxford, United Nations Children's Fund
Exeter College, Saskatchewan Lecture Theatre, Turl Street OX1 3DP
Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th April, 2006 from 09.30 to 16.30**

Registration

Please complete the Registration Form and email a copy to Jeaniene Spink (jeaniene.spink@edstud.ox.ac.uk). Registration forms should be completed as soon as possible to ensure a place. Placements will be confirmed by email. A cheque for £70.00 is required at registration on the first day of the conference made payable to "Department of Educational Studies, University of Oxford". Please direct all registration queries to Jeaniene Spink [email above] and venue queries to Philip Munday, Conference and Events Manager, Exeter College, tel (01865) 279653, fax (01865) 279630.

Name:	
Organisation:	
Position:	
Address:	
Area of Interest / Expertise:	
Telephone:	
Email:	
Special Dietary & Other Requirements:	
Accommodation Requirements	

Payment can be made by cheque or cash at the time of registration at Exeter College.

Places for the conference are limited. Participants will be informed of a confirmed place by email.

More Information

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