Building Bridges of Peace: Mechanisms of Trans-local and Gender Cooperation in Changing the Meaning of Places as Spaces for Human Security

Roseline Dr. Munwang'o Achieng'[1]

[1.]Monash South Africa, Sociology, Johannesburg, South Africa

emeraldachieng2009@gmail.com

Building Bridges: Mechanisms of Trans-local and Gender Cooperation in Changing the Meaning of Places as Spaces for Human Security is the reworked title of my forthcoming book, which is based on my Ph.D. Thesis[1]. In this thesis, I analysed how, despite violent conflicts of an ethnic orientation spurred by ruthless political power garnering, through their agency, social groups from different ethnic backgrounds formulate mechanisms for making peace. These mechanisms, which I conceptualized as trans-local and gender cooperation at different levels, have enabled groups achieve a level of security and engage in both political and social economic activities.

However, the question that begs a deeper analysis is, why at the advent of political power garnering, these socially embedded peace making efforts are abandoned and groups fall into a new state of conflict. Conceptually, the question is why is it that such socially embedded mechanisms for making peace have not translated to a strong in built peace that offsets the divisive capacities emergent when politicians contest for political power and representation?

Contextualising this conceptual analysis in the Rift Valley Province of Kenya, an area that has witnessed violent conflicts of an ethnic nature with each consecutive national elections, I will argue from the premise that for socially embedded mechanisms of peace making to translate to strong peace building mechanisms, a civic consciousness that we all belong despite our ethnic differences has to be nurtured. I conceptualise this as political ethnic pluralism. Secondly, the issue of entitlement and mechanisms for sharing and redistribution of these is critical. Thirdly, how third parties, be they civil society groups, UN bodies, or third sector groups can come in and contribute to further enhance these rudimentary forms of peace making into strong peace building mechanisms in a community making peace with itself will be explored.

Key words:
Trans-local co-operations, gender relations, post conflict reconstruction, peace building political ethnic pluralism, redistribution, entitlements, third parties

---

[1] The thesis is titled "Home away from home?" Internally displaced women and their trans-local and gender cooperation in changing the meaning of places – Langas and Burnt Forest, Rift Valley Province, Uasin Ngishu District, Eldoret, Kenya