

Agenda for General Discussion

1. What are the (unique) conflict patterns and the issues to be addressed in Southern Africa?

- Settler colonialism, racism and capitalist penetration (background of neoliberal globalization).
- Centrality of the violent history of the land dispossession of the indigenous people.
- Autochthony; Migration and historical layers; Precarious positions of minorities.
- Indigenization and political/economic nationalism against neoliberal reform.
- Polarized views on “good governance” and “traditional values”: hybrid institution?
- External contexts: security system and scramble for resources.

2. What are “African Potentials” operating in conflict resolution and coexistence?

- Negotiated consensus; Are players fixed entities with fixed identities?
- Ownership of history, and the respect for the ancestry; Whose history?
- Relational views on humans (and the nature); and openness?
- Community-based, from within; Culturalist vs. political economy approaches?
- Always constructed and invented; Only imaginary?

3. Where can “African Potentials” be utilized for conflict resolution and coexistence?

- Process-oriented, and relating to the past, at multiple loci (at different levels: village/locality/nation/continent/global solidarity):
 - Land reform
 - Ecology and resource management.
 - Projection of (national) identity, dealing with past injustice.
 - Power-sharing, regional mediation, and post-conflict reconciliation.
 - Other critical milieus: class relations, gender and patriarchy...
- When (how it takes) to judge success; measurement?

4. What kinds of articulation between local practices and formal mechanisms (state structure, regional organizations, etc.) can be envisioned?

- Roles of chiefs. Should be institutionalized? To what extent, in what way?
- How about the agency of ordinary people? How voices are heard?
- State intervention; “Uncaptured” peasantry?
- SADC as a community? Regional conflict/security regime (protection).
- (Universal) rights and (local) traditions; Harm/utility of each (or of their combination)?

5. Some resonance between “African Potentials” and “Asian potentials”?