14. Local Communities as Agency in International Conflict Conciliation Frameworks: Re-visiting "African Potentials"

Edward K. Kirumira (Makerere University)

According to Kirumira, it is important to recognize that without necessarily re-inventing tradition, African folklore and rituals reflect community as a form of agency. Community members are actors, both individually and collectively, in solving conflicts. It is therefore important to investigate how local knowledge can be utilized, not as an alternative discourse, but as an engaging discourse in international conflict conciliation. By taking stock of the abundant research focused on the African continent, it may be possible to identify which "African Potentials"-related interventions have been tried and how they have helped to enrich or re-direct (rather than replace) existing international conflict conciliation frameworks.