From Conflict to Peace Assessment: new methods for identifying latent peace capacities in Myanmar

Stephen Gray and Nikolas Katsimpras – May 2012 --> present

“Please use your liberty to promote ours”
- ASSK, 1997

“None of this is irreversible”
- ASSK, March 2012

“progress toward democratization and national reconciliation is irreversible”, Clinton - May 2012

ASSK first imprisoned under house arrest 1989

1997

ASSK released from house arrest 2010

ASSK enters parliament April 2012
What’s happening in Burma?
Progress, pitfalls and unintended consequences

Opening political space

Protest
Peace negotiations

Resurgent ethnic conflict
Resurgent ethnic conflict
IDP crisis
Dynamical Systems Theory as a Peace Assessment Methodology

THEN
Negative

60 years of intractable conflict

NOW

Change, fragility, unpredictability

Research Question:
How do people, events and relationships affect the probability that sustainable peace will emerge in Burma?
Research Question

How do people, events and relationships affect the probability that negotiations will produce sustainable peace?

Methods

Network Analysis (Actors)

Loop Mapping (Events/Issues)

Data Collection

Meso level (national)

Micro level (local)

Observation

Interviews

Mapping

Identifying Actors and Developing Questions/Exercises
## NETWORK ANALYSIS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Business</th>
<th>Political</th>
<th>Ethnic</th>
<th>Provider/recipient</th>
<th>Civil society</th>
<th>Military</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group Name</strong></td>
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<td><strong>What is their scale?</strong></td>
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<td><strong>How much power does this actor have to influence the probability of sustainable peace?</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Who does this group influence/influenced by?</strong></td>
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<td><strong>What type of relationship do you have with them?</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Do you have cooperative, mixed or competitive goals?</strong></td>
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<td><strong>What is the strength of your relationship?</strong></td>
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NETWORK ANALYSIS
What will a network map look like?

**Figure 6: Conflict Map for Encroachment in Queen Elizabeth Conservation Area, Uganda**
How do we identify latent peace capacities?
Chronologies of events: how do you map alternative realities?

Civil unrest

No peace dividend

?
Exploring Future Scenarios

What will be different if you gain independence from Burma? How might things be better in 5 years? How might things be worse?

What might happen if in the 2015 elections are free and fair?

What would happen if the international community starts to see you as a threat to the positive reform process that is happening?

What would be different in five years if the government agreed to your demands?

What local, national and international groups have the most potential to influence the sustainability of peace in Myanmar?
Chronologies of events: how do you map alternative realities?
Meso and Macro Analysis

China

Thailand

YANGON

Myanmar (Burma)

Thailand