BRINGING VICTIMS TO THE TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE TABLE:

THE CONUNDRUM OF INCLUSION AND THE NETWORKMANIA

Dr Astrid Jamar
Political Settlement Research Programme, University of Edinburgh
Why and how are victims integrated in a given transitional justice context?
What are the risks associated with such international driven inclusion agenda?
What is entailed by the Networkmania Conundrum?

*The context: Burundi: A TRC in Conflict*
“Like the notion of consultation, the idea of victim participation has become a mantra in the field of transitional justice. However, the rhetorical commitment to these ideas is not matched consistently by actual practice.”

Pablo de Greiff, UN special rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, 2016.

“Despite all the talk about victim empowerment then, the victim produced by transitional justice NGOs and others in the international human rights movement is a hapless, passive victim dependent on NGOs and others to speak for her and argue her case... Politics of disempowerment and trusteeship – with a heavy missionary slant – are reproduced.”

1. AC GENOCIDE: Openly against the CNDD-DD, they organise commemorations across the country and provide legal aid to survivors (specifically for Tusti victims who have been attacked by Hutu rebels around in the 90s).

politisques – Created in 2012 by the Head of Programme of La Benevolencia, a Burundian national. It has no funding but logistic support from La Benevolencia. It is a platform organisation for victims associations that are out together by the same group of local
Inviting Victims to the Table

Reflection Group of Transitional Justice (2011)
FONAREC/JT (2012)
Search For Common Grounds (late 90’s)
Inclusion Today
Silenced and Invisible Politics:

- Overlapping of networks
- Political Lauded dates and places
- Incompatible Networks
- Participation and Co-optation
- Reshuffle Power in Civil Society politics

The proliferation of networks making victims available and prepared for the official transitional justice process
Proliferation and formalisation of association: easy access to victims, create constituency, respond to participation expectation

Expend the type of activities and capacities of their association beyond what they would usually do, including bureaucratisation

Strengthen their capacities to formulate demands and statements about the transitional justice process

Expose them to security and political risks

Expose them to disillusionment due to increase of expectations