

BOOK PROPOSAL

COMMUNICATIONS IN AN ERA OF GLOBAL CONFLICTS *Theories, Systems, Strategies and the African Context*

Editors

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SYNOPSIS

Conflict, almost always, is a failure of communication; and without effective communication resolution to conflict can be illusive. The last three decades have seen unprecedented innovations in communications technologies. The implications of these innovations now under gird nearly every significant trend in human activity around the world, including politics, business, and other social interactions among the people of the global community. Because of these innovations, there appears to be a foregone conclusion that communication among people in the global community as a whole is now more efficient, more instantaneous, more dependable, and more globally oriented than ever before. In the first half the 20th century such megatrends in communication were left only to the imagination. But as the second half of that century began, there were inevitable signs of a new era of communication in which people had hoped that increased technological innovations would engender

peace and harmony in the global community. Yet, although current trends in communications have had significantly positive impact on the global community, peace and harmony continue to elude the world, with explosive events and internecine conflicts dominating the daily news.

On the one hand technology has without doubt enhanced communicative interactions at all levels – interpersonal, group, intercultural, organizational, international, etc. On the other hand there is strong evidence of the pivotal role of new and advanced communication systems in processes used to instigate conflict or facilitate peace and harmony. Thus, as Aldus Huxley speculated many years ago, *communication* is a force and as such it can be used either for good or for bad purposes.

The book assesses trends in communications and their implications for conflicts in the African context. In doing so, the various chapters adopt a multidisciplinary approach with perspectives drawn from communication and conflict theories, strategies, and systems. In this sense, the book is unique for its multidimensional approach, a long over due addition to the growing literature on conflict in Africa in general, and specifically to the media/communication dimensions of African conflicts.

BOOK SECTIONS

The book will be divided into four parts:

- Part 1: Overview: Communication and Conflict
- Part 2: Theories of Conflict
- Part 3: Systems Perspectives on Conflict
- Part 4: Conflict Strategies
- Part 5: Africa in an Era of Global Conflicts

REQUIREMENTS FOR PROSPECTIVE AUTHORS

Prospective authors will prepare their contributions based on one of the above categories as a thematic framework that will guide each contribution. For example, contributions which focus on the role of communication (including communication technologies and systems as well as interpersonal/intercultural factors) in conflict will fall under Part 1 (Communication and Conflict). Chapters on the mass media as instigators of conflict or facilitators of peace will also fall under this category.

Manuscripts dealing with explicating the significance or role of communication and conflict theories to enhance understanding of certain conflict situations will fall under Part 2 of the book (Theories of Conflict), those dealing with the who (key players), what, when, why, etc. of a conflict situation will fall under Part 3 (Systems Perspectives on Conflict), and those dealing with specific instances and processes leading to successful or unsuccessful conflict resolutions and outcomes will fall under Part 4 (Conflict Strategies). Part 5 will focus on case studies.

The underlying assumption of all the chapters will be the pivotal role of communications – mass communication, interpersonal communication, intercultural communication, organizational

communication, communication technologies, etc. – in conflict and conflict resolution with emphasis on the African context. Prospective contributors are encouraged to provide some theoretical framework for their work. Manuscripts will be evaluated on the basis of their quality and the extent to which they reflect the thematic criteria suggested earlier.

Please submit, via e-mail, a one-page abstract of no more than 250 words of your proposed chapter contribution to the address below by June 30, 2005.

MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION & APA STYLE

All contributions for this book will be prepared based on the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 5th edition (APA Style Manual). Each contribution will have a separate title page with the authors contact information, including institutional affiliation, full address, phone numbers and e-mail address.

Authors are required to prepare their contributions in MS Word, and then send the completed manuscripts to:

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TENTATIVE TIME TABLE

Deadline for submission of abstracts: June 30, 2005
Deadline for submission of completed manuscripts:.....December 15, 2005
Review of Manuscripts:.....January 31, 2005
Submission of Book manuscript to publisher:.....May 31, 2006
Expected date of publication of book:.....December 15, 2006