

# Pedagogies of Peace and Conflict in the Great Lakes Region

We know that armed conflict breeds conflict. We know that political, economic and demographic factors inform conflict repetition, but we do not know why accumulated conflict risk factors only sometimes pay out in more violence. But what if we also take seriously what ordinary people do in peacebuilding or conflict regeneration?

In this project we investigate the informal pedagogies of peace and conflict among conflict-affected families. Scientifically, this is uncharted terrain. We unravel the implicit, explicit, verbal, embodied and materialized “teachings” derived from experiences of war through in-depth ethnographic case studies in the Great Lakes region, notorious for (historically) repeated outbreaks of mass violence. We include families of Congolese, Burundian and Rwandan descent in Rwanda - emroiled in different past and ongoing conflict histories. Understanding the ‘local’, ‘human factor’ helps improve knowledge about potential conflict relapse. Importantly, it will also allow for ordinary people to reflect on and take part in shaping their own, peaceful futures – which until now, is often left to governments and peacebuilding experts.



**Muddy waters, Burundi.**  
Picture by Lidewyde Berckmoes

## Project details

The project runs from June 2022 – August 2023. It is carried out by the African Studies Centre Leiden in collaboration with the University of Rwanda. Involved researchers are Lidewyde Berckmoes (PI, ASCL), Juul Kwaks (junior researcher, ASCL), Prof. Stefan Jansen (contact person, UR) and Armel Karubu (senior researcher, ASCL).

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## More on the afterlives of conflict...

Findings will be shared multi-modally online over the course of the project and in an academic peer-reviewed publications. Please check: [www.afterlives.nl](http://www.afterlives.nl) to read more about this and related projects.