

## CONFERENCE

### THEATER FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION: EAST AFRICA, EASTERN EUROPE, AND EAST NEW JERSEY

OCTOBER 13-15, 2014

Faculty of *Artes Liberales*  
University of Warsaw  
ul. Dobra 72

#### *Sponsored by*

The Africa Program of the Carnegie Corporation of New York  
Faculty of *Artes Liberales*, University of Warsaw  
*Institute of Artes Liberales* Foundation  
Rutgers University  
American Council of Learned Societies

All sessions are open to the public.

All students and faculty of the University of Warsaw are cordially invited to attend.

#### MONDAY 13 OCTOBER (Conference Room, Dobra 72)

Session one 9:30 – 12:00 (Andrzej Tymowski, moderator)

9:30-10:00 *Greetings and opening remarks*

**Joanna Regulska**, Vice-President for International and Global Affairs, Rutgers  
University New Brunswick, NJ USA

**Ernest Okello Ogwang**, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs), Makerere  
University Kampala, Uganda

**Mona N. Mwakalinga**, Deputy Principal, College of Humanities, University of Dar es  
Salaam, Tanzania

**Andrzej Tymowski**, University of Warsaw and American Council of Learned Societies  
**Jerzy Axer**, Dean of the Faculty of *Artes Liberales*, University of Warsaw

10:00-10:15 *Questions to participants regarding working definitions and the challenges of a cross-cultural project – Andrzej Tymowski*

10:15 – 12:00 *Theater for Conflict Resolution: theory and practice in Tanzania and Uganda*

**Penina Mlama** — video of Tanzanian performance on conflict resolution (20 min.)

**Jessica Kaahwa** — video of Ugandan performance on conflict resolution (20 min.)

**Marta Bucholc**, comment (5 min.)

**Joanna Krakowska**, comment (5 min.)

*Discussion*

*Lunch break*

**Session two** 15:00 – 17:30 (Andrzej Tymowski, moderator)

***Theater practices of the Borderlands Foundation***

**15:00—15:45** Videos: “Issa Valley” and “Kroniki Sejnieńskie”  
Commentary and discussion

**15:45 –17:30** **Krzysztof Czyżewski** and **Małgorzata Sporek-Czyżewska** — “Theater and *deep culture*”  
(20 minutes)

**Abdullah Mohamed**, comment (5 min.)

**Dominica Dipio**, comment (5 min.)

**Elizabeth Sloan Power**, comment (5 min.)

**Okello Ogwang**, comment (5 min.)

**Michał Mizera**, comment (5 min.)

***Discussion***

**TUESDAY 14 OCTOBER (Conference Room, Dobra 72)**

**Session one** 9:30 – 12:00 (Andrzej Tymowski, moderator)

***The social, cultural, and political histories of participatory performance in Tanzania, Uganda, USA, and Poland***

**Kedmon Mapana** – “Theater for Development in socialist and post-socialist Tanzania” (15 mins.)

**Dominica Dipio** – “Theater for Development in conflict-torn Uganda (15 mins.)

**Ian Watson** – “Community theater in the USA: From the Federal Theater Program in the Great Depression to the Theater of Civic Engagement today” (15 mins.)

**Dorothea Sobstel** and **Krzysztof Rutkowski** — “The Grotowski tree and its branches” (15 min.)

**Jessica Kaahwa**, comment (5 min.)

***Discussion***

**Lunch break**

**Session two** 15:00 – 17:00 (Ernest Okello Ogwang, moderator)

***Theater traditions and participatory performance practices***

**Penina Mlama** – “Why we teach Grotowski in Tanzania” (15 min.)

**Jessica Kaahwa** – “Is Boal’s and Freire’s call for conscientization still relevant?” (15 min.)

**Antonio Guerra**, comment (5 min.)

***Discussion***

**WEDNESDAY 15 OCTOBER (conference room, Dobra 72)**

**Session one 9:30 – 12:00 (Andrzej Tymowski, moderator)**

***Giving voice to the marginalized and excluded***

**Penina Mlama** — “The potential of theater for identifying sources of conflict in post-*ujamaa* Tanzania” (15 min.)

**Susan Kiguli** — “The Social Impact of Participatory Performance Practices” (15 min.)

**Elizabeth Sloan Power** — “Participatory Communication as a Reciprocal Performance Practice (15 min.)

**Antonio Guerra**, comment (5 min.)

**Session two 13:00-15:30 (Susan Kiguli, moderator)**

***Case studies in participatory performance practices***

**Mona Mwakalinga** — video presentation on Theatre for Development (TUSEME) in Tanzania (15 min.)

**Benge Okot** — “Upcoming projects in Uganda” (15 min.)

**Ian Watson, Elizabeth Sloan Power** — “The Urban Civic Initiative in Newark” (15 min.)

**Zofia Dworakowska** — “Animation of Culture at the Institute of Polish Culture UW” (15 min)

**Jan Podniewski** — “Examples of participatory practices in Warsaw”

## **WORKING DEFINITIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE ON THEATER FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

The designation “**theater for conflict resolution**” is well known in East Africa as a form of Theater for Development, a broad set of studies and practices in which theatrical and para-theatrical techniques are used for social communication and social action.

For the purpose of this conference, “**theater**” is defined as **participatory performance practices**. The objective is to attempt to reach a consensus on the meaning of “participatory performance practices” that can form the basis for an international, cross-cultural, comparative project.

“**Conflict**” refers to **tensions among groups and individuals arising from dislocations, animosities, and exclusions**. Such tensions often spark violence. The primary aim of theater for conflict resolution is to increase mutual understanding and defuse tension before violence erupts or to promote reconciliation in its aftermath, rather than to respond to violence directly.

“**Resolution**” in these situations means work within local communities **to identify the sources of tension and to develop methods for reducing and dissolving them**. Examples of participatory performance practices for the resolution of conflict include work with military units in Northern Uganda, with armed rebel forces in Kurdistan, and with militia units in Northern Ireland during The Troubles. But they also embrace work with women and girls, marginalized urban youth, and rural communities as they seek to understand barriers to inclusion and how they might be overcome.

This conference contributes a humanistic perspective to Carnegie Corporation’s initiative on **Peacebuilding in Africa**. The experience of theater scholars and practitioners from Uganda, Tanzania, Poland, and the USA allows comparison across continents and cultures.

**THEATRE FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION:  
EAST AFRICA, EASTERN EUROPE, AND EASTERN NEW JERSEY  
OCTOBER 13-15, 2014  
PARTICIPANT LIST**

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**Małgorzata Sporek-Czyżewska**, Borderland Foundation, Sejny, Poland

**Dominic Dipio**, Makerere University, Uganda

**Zofia Dworakowska**, University of Warsaw, Poland

**Antonio Guerra**, Universidad de Sevilla

**Jessica A. Kaahwa**, Makerere University, Uganda

**Susan Kiguli**, Makerere University, Uganda

**Joanna Krakowska**, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland

**Kedmon Mapana**, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

**Joanna Maulbeck**, Rutgers University, New Jersey, USA

**Michał Mizera**, University of Warsaw, Poland

**Penina Mlama**, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

**Abdullah Mohamed**, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

**Melissa Mott**, Rutgers University, New Jersey, USA

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**Ian Watson**, Rutgers University, New Jersey, USA.