

The Anthropocene: Politik—Economics—Society—Science

Lydia Wanja Gitau



Trauma-Sensitivity and Peacebuilding

Considering the Case of South Sudanese
Refugees in Kakuma Refugee Camp



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Cover photo: Newly arrived refugees at the Kakuma Refugee camp Reception Centre: *Source* The Author. The photo on page 87 shows a refugee posing with some samples of her embroidery work. *Source* © The Author. Photo used with permission from Teresa Achol.

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*This book is dedicated to those
Who have watched their homes shattered
And seen their loved ones murdered
Suffered the agony of wars they did not allow
Scampered for safety in places they had not foreseen
And are begrudged a location on this earth.
'Peace is you'.*

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Sydney, Australia
March 2017

Lydia Wanja Gitau



Map 1 Map of Sudan: *Source* Library of Texas Austin, Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection; at: http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/africa/txu-oclc-21940066-sudan_pol_2007.jpg. Free use of maps that are not copyrighted based on conditions that are at: <https://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/faq.html>



Map 2 Map of South Sudan. *Source* United Nations, Department of Field Support, Cartographic Division, Map No. 4450, Rev. 1 (October 2011). Permission was granted by the UN Cartographic Division

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

AI	Appreciative Inquiry
APA	American Psychiatric Association
APT	Amani People's Theatre
AU	African Union
CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere
CEWARN	Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism
CPA	Comprehensive Peace Agreement
CPT	Choosing Peace Together
CRM	Community Resilience Model
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CTR	Catastrophic Trauma Recovery
DNA	Dialogical Narrative Analysis
DO	District Officer
DRA	Department of Refugee Affairs
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
DSM	Diagnostic and Statistical Manual
DSM-IV-TR	Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition, Text Revision
EU	European Union
GPI	Global Peace Index
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ICG	International Crisis Group
ID	Identity Card
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IJR	Institute for Justice and Reconciliation
IOM	International Organization for Immigration
IRC	International Rescue Committee

IRIN	International Regional Information Networks
JRS	Jesuit Refugee Services
LWF	Lutheran World Federation
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
NCA	Norwegian Church Aid
NCP	National Congress Party
NGOs	Nongovernmental Organizations
PTSD	Posttraumatic Stress Disorder
RSD	Refugee Status Determination
SPLA	Sudan People's Liberation Army
SPLA/M	Sudan People's Liberation Army/Movement
SPLM/A—IO	Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army—In Opposition
SWAN	Sudan Women's Association in Nairobi
TPO	Transcultural Psychosocial Organization
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNMIS	United Nations Mission in Sudan
UPR	Unconditional Positive Regard
US	United States
USD	United States Dollar
WFP	World Food Programme
WICP	Welcome and Information Project
WTF	War Trauma Foundation
WUSC	World University Services of Canada

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Introduction: Starting the Journey

My interest in researching and seeking to understand the situation and experiences of the South Sudanese began in 1995 when I visited Khartoum and interacted with people of South Sudanese origin then living in Khartoum, Northern Sudan, many of them displaced due to the conflict in South Sudan. The interest was nurtured over the years as I interacted with South Sudanese refugees living in Kenya, and further established during a training session on trauma recovery that I participated in at Dadaab Refugee Camp in Northeastern Kenya in October 2011, which involved some South Sudanese refugees. In order to understand the experiences and situation of South Sudanese refugees better, I chose to conduct research in Kakuma Refugee Camp, due to its concentration of refugees from South Sudan.

This book examines the traumatic experiences of the South Sudanese refugees, the interventions they receive in Kakuma refugee camp, and the link between those interventions and peacebuilding. In exploring the relationship between trauma and peace for the South Sudanese refugees in Kakuma, this book discusses how a focus on the victims, what they have suffered, and how their pain and anguish can be appreciated and alleviated, is of paramount importance to peacebuilding and can augment current strategies towards sustainable peace.

The research on which this book is based was carried out using semi-structured interviews with South Sudanese refugees in Kakuma. The interviews consisted of a framework of themes to be explored and a number of guiding questions, and were open to new ideas arising as a result of what the participants said. The design of interviews was informed by the interpretivist theory of social science which pays attention mainly to the context of events and meanings of phenomena (Denscombe 2003, p. 280). Principally, Denzin's (1989) concept of *interpretive interactionism* informed the interview design. This is a mode of qualitative research that seeks to capture the voices, emotions and actions of those studied, and to understand their individual and anecdotal experiences. In his approach, Denzin is interested in the interrelationship between 'private lives' and 'public responses' to personal troubles, and emphasizes the uniqueness of each individual life.

The guiding questions asked of the participants were open-ended, to create space for the participants to narrate their experiences (Galletta 2013). The questions