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Catalytic Workshop: Transnational Actors and Conflict Outcomes  
The 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention of the International Studies Association  
March 31, 2012

Use of Funds

The Catalytic Workshop met as scheduled from 9:00am-6pm. All 6 approved participants attended and provided research presentation. The approved Workshop budget consisted of:

- Room Rental: \$200
- Power strip for 5 laptops: \$25
- Flip chart and markers: \$45
- Coffee Breaks for 6 people: \$144
- Lunch boxes for 6 people: \$238.80
- Lunch soft drinks/mineral water for 6 people: \$30
- Per Diem for 5 people (1 day only, North American): \$375
- Per Diem for 1 person (2 days, non-North American): \$150
- Lodging for 5 people (1 night only, North American): \$1120
- Lodging for 1 person (2 nights, non-North American): \$448
- Total Budget: \$2275.80

All budgeted funds were used. Four participants had laptops, so the power strip was useful. As chair, I used several pages of the flip chart during a brainstorming session.

Meeting

The purpose of the Workshop was to permit scholars who work in diverse areas related to transnationalism to compare their research, to potentially discover common interests in seemingly disparate fields, and to suggest collaborators to be invited in for future projects. The intent of the Workshop is to ultimately yield compiled publications as either a single edited volume or one or two roundtable journal issues. Given this goal, the number of scholars invited was kept to a feasible number, but with participants from multiple countries and at various professional ranks, with the intent that others would be invited to participate based on group consensus. Participants also encouraged colleagues who worked in related areas to drop by the afternoon portion of the workshop on an informal basis, however none did, with some who were invited noting that they did not arrive until after the workshop was over.

At the conclusion of the workshop, a couple of participants noted that they had been concerned before arriving that we would have difficulty filling an entire day with only 6 participants, but that they were quite happy with the use of time. The morning session up to the first coffee break was filled by a brainstorming discussion of a working definition and scope of transnationalism and how various topics that typically fall under that rubric might relate to each other and to other research agenda in the discipline. The second half of the morning session involved another brainstorming session on the topic of which colleagues or potential contacts might be approached to join a comprehensive examination of how different types of transnational actors influence conflict outcomes, both in armed conflict and in other forms of contentious politics. After lunch,

participants presented their own research, with presentations interspersed with an informal discussion of the striking similarities between the methods and functional similarities of diverse transnational actors, from diaspora lobbying groups, to feminist NGOs, to armed Islamists. The workshop ended with an agreement to organize two panels (or a two-part panel) for next year's annual convention, tentatively with one focusing on violent transnational actors and one focusing on non-violent transnational actors.

#### Publication Plans

At this time, based on the brainstorming session, participants have invited two other individuals who worked in related areas to join the project. (Jonathan Agensky of Cambridge University who researches the influence of faith-based evangelical groups on the Sudanese conflict, and Craig Kaufman of the University of Oregon, who researches how transnational environmental NGOs influence water development projects.) At this time we are proceeding with organizing two panels of 4-5 participants for next year's annual meeting to share the results of our collaboration at the Workshop. As noted, these will tentatively be organized by the dichotomy violent/non-violent, but some participants believe that the panels should recreate the interesting parallels between violent and non-violent actors that we discovered at the Workshop, so this has not yet been finalized.

We are in discussion as well about whether to pursue an edited volume on the subject of "transnationalism in conflict/world politics" or else two roundtable journals issues also potentially organized by violent vs. non-violent actors. Given that 3 of the 6 participants presented research related to "foreign fighters" in civil conflicts, and that the same 3 will also be on a panel at BISA in June specifically on the topic of foreign fighters, there is some discussion that a spin-off project might be warranted, with perhaps some work solely focusing on foreign fighters, while other participants might be brought in to expand the violent actors side in that event.

An editor at Palgrave-Macmillan expressed interest in an edited volume based on the Workshop. Among those who favored a special journal issue, *Cambridge Review of International Affairs* was recommended as a venue. Discussions will continue as we organize the panels for next year's meeting.