SHORT READING LIST
CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION COLLABORATIVE AT MIDDLEBURY

WHAT IS CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION?

Amanda Ripley, *High Conflict: Why we get trapped and how we get out* (Simon and Schuster, 2021).
- This clearly written book distinguishes between high conflict and healthy conflict. The appendices are helpful guides to recognizing and preventing high conflict.

- Co-founder of Harvard’s Program on Negotiation, Ury uses a conflict transformation framework to explain how conflicts from coal mines to Colombia can be addressed constructively.

- This is a seminal textbook in conflict studies, and Dayton spoke at Middlebury in January 2023.

- Lederach identifies four key dispositions: a focus on relationships, complexity, creativity, and risk-taking. He is on our advisory board and was the 2022 Clifford symposium keynote speaker.

CRITICAL SELF-AWARENESS

- This foundational, easy to read book suggests specific steps to ensure that challenges to our identity and old communication habits do not get in the way of constructive conversations.

- Kroll approaches Argument as a bodily practice where peace can be a deliberate outcome.

- Projects for Peace’s Betsy Vegso describes this as “a powerful, critical read which also remains hopeful about the possibilities for change.” Oliveira spoke at the college in Summer 2024.

DIALOGUE AND DELIBERATION

- Dialogue is “a process of talking and listening with the express purpose of building relationships and fostering mutual understanding” (159). Thomas is on our external advisory board.

Longo, Nicholas, and Timothy Shaffer, *Creating space for democracy: A primer on dialogue and deliberation in higher education* (Stylus Publishing, LLC, 2019).
- This volume identifies dialogue as essential for learning and for the civic skills necessary for democracy. Multiple chapters profile different organizations that use dialogic practices.

- This document from a practitioner-scholar network maps out different dialogic approaches and describes structured dialogue as part of conflict transformation.

INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE

- The director of the Negotiation and Conflict Resolution program at Columbia highlights self-awareness and communication as contributors to conflict resolution and transformation.

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- Avineri identifies dispositions to foster (e.g., critical empathy, ethical engagement) and the tensions that emerge in intercultural immersion experiences. Avineri directs the Graduate Pillar. Schirch, Lisa, and David Campt, The Little Book of Dialogue for Difficult Subjects (Good Books, 2007).
- Schirch and Campt bridge dialogic practices and intercultural communication. Campt visited Middlebury in January 2023 and is on our external advisory board.

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

- Facilitators of restorative justice must do the work of developing their multicultural competence to work effectively across multicultural groups.
- This case study examines the possibilities and limits of restorative work at structural levels.
- This clearly written primer identifies restorative justice as a compass that helps us invite accountability and restore relationships when harm has been done.

MEDIATION AND NEGOTIATION

- brown offers core principles, self-assessment tools, and a distinction between facilitation and mediation. brown was the Clifford 2021 keynote speaker.
- This transformative model of mediation proposes that moral growth in interpersonal conflict is possible by empowering oneself and recognizing ‘the other.’
- With attention to the power dynamics that often perpetuate marginalization, Federman offers tools to help negotiators find untapped sources of influence and make meaningful impact.

CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION FOR STRUCTURAL CHANGE

- This exhaustive study of peacebuilding efforts highlights the critical role of linking efforts that reach both key people and more people.
- This edited collection showcases research in which a reluctance to use violence and broad coalition building is critical to effective civil action.
- In these clear narratives, Giridharadas shows how persuasion is critical to social and political change and requires real listening, powerful stories, and engagement across difference.