

Second Call for Proposals: *Mediation Arguments*

11 March 2013

The Centre for Mediation in Africa has issued a second call for proposals for its working paper series, *Mediation Arguments*.

Interested authors are invited to submit a 3-4 page proposal with a synopsis of the paper they would like to write. The deadline for these proposals is 22 April 2013.

The proposals will be judged by the series editors: Prof Maxi Schoeman, Prof Laurie Nathan and Prof Sandy Africa at the University of Pretoria. They will select 3-5 of the best proposals. The successful authors will receive a contract that includes terms of reference, a style sheet and deadlines. They will be paid US\$4,000 on satisfactory completion of the paper.

Mediation Arguments addresses two overarching questions: what accounts for success and failure in mediation efforts aimed at ending civil wars and other high intensity conflicts, and what can be done to heighten the prospect of success?

Our assumptions are as follows: the success or failure of mediation is a consequence of many factors, the most important of which is the will of the disputant parties; it is nevertheless valid and possible to investigate the style and strategy of the mediator as a distinct and significant variable; and, on the basis of sound evidence, it is possible to establish a causal relationship between the mediator's style and strategy, the positions adopted by the parties and the outcome of the mediation.

The working papers must address the overarching questions of the series by presenting a thematic argument based on empirical evidence from one or more mediation cases. Relevant themes include dealing with spoilers; the salience of culture in mediation; negotiating power-sharing arrangements; constitutions as peace agreements; negotiating a ceasefire; election-related mediation; determining when a conflict is ripe for resolution; tackling the regional dimensions of national conflicts; co-ordination between the UN, the AU and sub-regional bodies; applying pressure on parties; biased versus impartial mediation; and the need for intelligence in international mediation.

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The working papers should have a strong empirical grounding, build on the academic literature and follow the academic style of Zanker (2013) and Nathan (2009). They should be 8,000-9,000 words, including notes and references.

You can send your proposal to Laurie Nathan (laurie.nathan@up.ac.za). The proposal should indicate the mediation case(s) that will be examined; the theme that will be addressed; the policy argument that will be presented; and the author's knowledge of the selected case(s) and relevant literature.

Zanker, Franzisca 2013. Legitimate representation in mediation processes: civil society involvement in Liberia and Kenya. *Mediation Arguments* no. 1, Centre for Mediation in Africa, University of Pretoria
(<http://web.up.ac.za/sitefiles/file/46/1322/17295/Mediation%20Arguments%2001.pdf>).

Nathan, Laurie 2006. No ownership no peace: the Darfur Peace Agreement. *Working Paper* no. 5, Crisis States Research Centre, London School of Economics
(http://peacemediation.net/resources/documents/Nathan_2006_No_Ownership.pdf).

