

## Invitation to a public conference on

### Peacebuilding Success and Failure: Reconsidered from the Ground

18:15-20:00 on 10 June 2014

University of Basel, English Seminary (Schönes Haus), Nadelberg 6, 4051 Basel  
Grosser Hörsaal, E00\001

The event will be followed by an aperitif.

#### Presenter

Ass. Prof. Dr. Séverine Autesserre (Barnard College, Columbia University)

#### Moderation

Prof. Dr. Laurent Goetschel (swisspeace, University of Basel)

What accounts for peacebuilding success and failures? While most analyses adopt a macro-level perspective to assess this question, Séverine Autesserre suggests reconsidering it from the ground.

Séverine Autesserre is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Columbia University, specialized in civil wars, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, humanitarian aid, and African politics. In her most recent book, *Peaceland: Conflict Resolution and the Everyday Politics of International Intervention* she suggests a new explanation for why international peace interventions often fail to reach their full potential. Based on several years of ethnographic research in conflict zones around the world, she demonstrates that everyday elements – such as the expatriates' social habits and usual approaches to understanding their areas of operation – strongly influence peacebuilding effectiveness.

Individuals from all over the world and all walks of life share numerous practices, habits, and narratives when they serve as interveners in conflict zones. These common attitudes and actions enable foreign peacebuilders to function in the field, but they also result in unintended consequences that thwart international efforts. Certain expatriates follow alternative modes of thinking and doing, often with notable results, but they remain in the minority. Through an in-depth analysis of the interveners' everyday life and work, Séverine Autesserre will present innovative ways to better help host populations build a sustainable peace.

No registration is required.

For more information please contact Sara Hellmüller, [sara.hellmueller@swisspeace.ch](mailto:sara.hellmueller@swisspeace.ch).

Best wishes,

swisspeace

Sara Hellmüller