

Good Men and Women Will Step Forward: Research and the Need for Best Case Thinking in Post-Conflict Burundi

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"Amahoro" is the Kirundi word for peace. After forty years of genocide and civil war and despite recent news reports in April 2015 of protests and violence over upcoming elections, impoverished Burundi is primed to model a transformative way forward. Founded in 1999 with a commitment to peace and reconciliation, its University of Ngozi is uniquely situated to be a laboratory for this effort. For its part, Colorado State University is

well positioned to be a partner in the research that is needed to inform this effort.

Those committed to this work, what we have termed the Amahoro Project, believe that development must wed with educational reform to prepare new leaders and professionals to heal the nation's wounds, foster civil society, and build up the needed infrastructure. Accordingly, we use locally generated cases for more of the curriculum as we attempt to shift from surface or memorized learning toward deeper and more cooperative learning, and more emphasis on critical and creative thinking.

Our research in Burundi over the past four years has culminated in a new book, *Conflict, Reconciliation, and Peace Education: Moving Burundi Toward a Sustainable Future* (Timpson, Ndura, and Bangayimbaga, 2015). Along the way, we have met many people who offer inspiring testimony about the resilience of the human spirit. When asked if he had lost anyone during the violence in Burundi in the early 1990's, "J" quickly says, "Yes, everyone I knew." Yet, his optimism is real. "M" is an English teacher. He was only four in 1972 when the legacy of colonization saw the Tutsi dominated military kill some 200,000 Hutu and usher in thirty years of civil war. "After my father was tortured, my family fled to a Rwandan refugee camp. School provided a way forward and I eventually became a teacher before returning to Burundi." With a young family, his optimism about the future is also deep and genuine.



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"N" is a graduate of the University of Ngozi. "I fled my village in northern Burundi when the violence erupted. Only eight years old, I saw neighbors killing neighbors in my village and quickly fled to the forests. Fortunately, a Hutu family stepped forward to take me in. To this day, I am friends with the family that harbored me." "N" is steadfastly "optimistic that good men and women will step forward to lead the country into a brighter future."

All three of these stories are examples of the "best case thinking" that Elise Boulding (2000) insists we must report. Her book, *Cultures of Peace*, contrasts the "worst case thinking" that pulls many people toward events of violence, toward a history that is too focused on



Rice sifting in Burundi village

war. Instead, she wants us to better understand the intervening periods of peace. Who gets the credit for resolving conflicts without resorting to violence?

Peace, Boulding insists, is a very complex topic and worthy of serious study. In the U.S., for example, while we generously fund four military academies, we have none dedicated to peace. We have a Department of Defense but no Department of Peace. Currently, the U.S. spends nearly as much on its military as the rest of the world combined.

Emerging from its own civil war, the founders of the University of Ngozi saw the importance of "best case thinking" and made a firm commitment to the promotion of peace and reconciliation. When will others follow their lead? Among many needs, we want more scholars from different disciplines to join us and help define the best way forward.

Living Fully In Retirement: Retired But Not-Retired

Drs. A-Young and Robert Woody, Emeritus Faculty,
Department of Biochemistry, Colorado State



A-Young Woody left behind her professional scientific life upon her retirement in 2005. Robert Woody, on the other hand, has continued to do research following his official retirement in 2008. We will each describe our individual activities and then our joint activities.

A-Young: My retirement freed me to do some of the things I wanted to do for a long time. First, I started catching up with the broader aspects of science by reading more widely and attending seminars.

Second, I wrote about my life in Pyongyang, Korea; my family's flight to South Korea at the end of WWII; life in the south and during the Korean War; my undergraduate student life, and meeting Robert at the University of California, Berkeley; my graduate student and post-doctoral life at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, and meeting Robert again at Cornell; life with Robert, working as a husband-and-wife team at CSU on RNA polymerase function and mechanism; raising our two sons, and beyond.

Third, I translated my father's autobiography from Korean to English. My father participated in the March 1, 1919 uprising against Japanese rule. He had to flee Korea and thus began his colorful life in exile. His travel to the U.S. was arduous because the U.S. government would not provide Korean students with visas because of the Red scare. He worked at the provisional government of Korea in Shanghai, China, for one year; Marseille, France, where he worked at a factory for one year; Paris, where he helped dispose of WWI artillery shells and other relics of the war. He finally came to the U.S., but had to jump ship at Galveston, Texas, and make his way to San Francisco to join the Korean underground. He obtained his education in the U.S., all the way from high school to university and beyond. He returned to Korea in 1932 after the 1929 stock market crash.

Robert: Because my work is computational and theoretical, I have been able to continue research without benefit of a lab. I have been fortunate to have productive collaborations with several young scientists.

My research has centered on the application of spectroscopy, especially circular dichroism (CD) to the study of protein structure and protein folding. Since my retirement, I have resolved several long-standing problems in this area. For example, Rino Pescitelli and I have shown that the CD of rhodopsin, the visual pigment of vertebrates, is determined by the twist of the retinal that is responsible for absorbing light, thus validating the use of CD to monitor this twist.

I co-edited a two-volume treatise, *Comprehensive Chiroptical Spectroscopy*. I was also recently invited to write a review on the historical development and current state of protein CD for *Biomedical Spectroscopy and Imaging*.

A-Young and Robert wrote a joint autobiography this year and gave a copy to each of their sons.

We enjoy traveling, both domestically and internationally. In 2011, we visited France (Paris and Normandy) and London with our family. In 2014, we were invited to participate in the 18th Hiroshima International Symposium on Synchrotron Radiation and a satellite workshop on Circular Dichroism Spectroscopy. We also visited Korea, especially the Korean National Cemetery in Taejon, where A-Young's father is buried.

This spring, we had a reunion of our immediate family in San Francisco. In June, there will be a Moon family reunion in Dallas, Texas, where we will see our children again.

A-Young's former housemates from Cornell will hold their next reunion in September in Portland. In June, we will host a reunion of Robert's close friends from Newton (Iowa) High School here in Fort Collins.

We enjoy opera, concerts, theatre, reading, and CSU Women's Gourmet activities.

**Don't forget the SSS website at
<http://seniorscholars.colostate.edu>. You can find there:**

- Our mission
- Retirement resources
- Perks and privileges
- News, tours, events and past newsletters

Long-Term Care Planning and YOU!

Long-term care (LTC) is a variety of services that help meet both the medical and non-medical needs of people with a chronic illness or disability who cannot care for themselves for long periods of time. It is common for long-term care to provide non-skilled care, such as assisting with normal daily tasks like dressing, bathing, and using the bathroom. Increasingly, long-term care involves providing a level of medical care that requires the expertise of skilled-care practitioners to address multiple chronic conditions. Long-term care can be provided at home, in the community, in assisted living, or in nursing homes. Long-term care may be needed by people of any age.

Quick Facts...

- 70 percent of people 65 or older will need long-term care.
- Care periods average 4 years for women and 2 for men.
- Currently, 43 percent of LTC claims are for one year or less; 15 percent exceed 5 years.
- To qualify for benefits, you are eligible if you can't perform two or three out of five or six activities of daily living (ADLs), including bathing, dressing, continence, toileting, or eating.

CSU Extension Pamphlet No. 9152 provides valuable guidance for the selection of LTC insurance outside the CSU system. It suggests LTC insurance comparison criteria and suggests where to find further information.

(<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/consumer/09152.html>)

New hired full-time employees under 66 have 75 days to enroll in the voluntary Group Long-Term Care insurance plan available from Genworth (www.genworth.com/groupltc – Group ID: CSU and access code groupltc.) from their date of hire with limited underwriting. Those over 69 must satisfy full medical underwriting requirements.

From the Executive Committee

*Tom Boardman,
SSS President*



Greetings CSU Society of Senior Scholars (SSS) members! By all accounts we have had a very successful spring semester with the many events that your SSS has accomplished. We heard five presentations by well-prepared speakers on a variety of topics ranging from the Supreme Court to environmental issues along the U.S. and Mexican border. We learned about two Archival Libraries at the CSU Morgan Library: one holding the "Treasures of the Library" and the other on the Historic Photographic collection. We are already planning to learn about the Germans from Russia Archive this fall.

The Library also hosted two events presented by Apple. The first one was on Apple Apps for the iPad, and the second was showcasing the new OS X Yosemite operating system for Mac computers. We attended a behind-the-scenes tour at the new Avenir Museum for clothing and textiles hosted by Doreen Beard, their new manager. The museum will likely open to the public early next year and we will offer another tour then. Ram Trax offered two tours this spring and will offer another one this summer when we attend the Arts and Gardens Tour on July 22 from 10-noon at the University Center for the Arts. The Executive Committee appreciates your participation in our events and looks forward to your suggestions for additional programming.

Summer and Fall Happenings:

Summer 2015:

June 17-August 5: Lagoon Concerts, West of Lory Student Center, Wednesday evenings, 6:30 p.m.

- 🌸 **June 17:** The Damsels
- 🌸 **June 24:** Swing Je T'aime
- 🌸 **July 1:** Mama Lenny and the Remedy
- 🌸 **July 8:** Wendy Woo Band
- 🌸 **July 15:** Three Shots
- 🌸 **August 5:** Danielle Ate the Sandwich
- 🌸 **July 22:** 10 to noon, Arts and Garden tour, UCA

Fall 2015:

- The joint Osher Perks & Senior Scholars presentations this fall are again offered from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at Pathways Hospice on Carpenter just east of College (US287).

September 21, 2015

- Dr. Robert Meroney will discuss "Earthquakes: 1923 Tokyo experience, 2011 Fukushima experience. Can they happen in Colorado?"

October 19, 2015

- Dr. Robert Hoffert's presentation is entitled "The Federalist Papers – Answer to America's Perennial Political Question: What Is the Meaning and Intent of the Constitution."

November 16, 2015

- Fort Collins historian, author, and columnist Ms. Barb Fleming will combine several of her history anecdotes into: "Fort Collins: From Fort to Town to City."

Editor's Meditation

What Is Your Code of Conduct?

Robert N. Meroney,
Editor and Veep SSS



Ethics and morality have been the subject of discussion for more than 3,000 years. Greek philosophers like Plato and Aristotle suggested ethical codes, while religious prophets, and the Boy and Girl Scouts, have promoted morality. Ethical codes are taught through classes in Philosophy and emphasized by the professions of Business, Engineering, Medicine, and Law.

Some argue that a person strictly following ethical principles may not have any morals at all. Likewise, one could violate ethical principles within a given system of rules in order to maintain moral integrity.

- We obey ethical rules because society says it is the right thing to do.
- We obey moral principles because it makes one uncomfortable, remorseful, or depressed

The old schools of ethical decision making propose cognitive or normative methodologies based on moral reasoning:

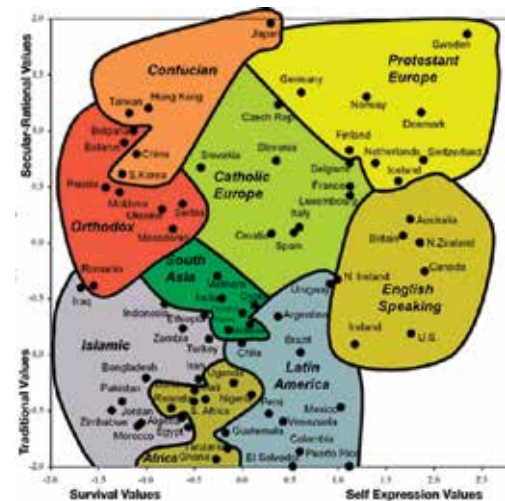
- **Utilitarianism:** What produces the greatest good for the greatest number of people – i.e., what are results of decision?
- **Deontological approach:** Immanuel Kant (1724-1804) – morality is judged based on the action's adherence to rules or principles, i.e., decisions based on duty, authority, rules, or God's commands.
- **Consequentialism or teleological approach:** Only the consequences can determine whether a given act is good or bad. (But who decides: i.e., what is good for the fox may be bad for the rabbit.) E.g. Mohism
- **Virtue Based:** The personal character of the decision maker determines ethical decision, i.e., intentions are more important than decision.

A social psychologist named Jonathan Haidt from University of Virginia has written a book titled "The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion," Pantheon, 448 pp, 2012. His research hopes to help people understand and respect the moral motives of their enemies. He is trying to understand the moral stance and dispositions of liberals and conservatives.

His starting point is moral intuition – the nearly instantaneous perceptions we all have about other people and the things they do. These intuitions feel like self-evident truths, making us righteously certain that those who see things differently are wrong. Haidt argues how these intuitions differ across cultures, including the cultures of the political or religious left and right.

Interpretation of what is moral is influenced by cultural norms. Different cultures have different beliefs about what is right and wrong. Cultural relativism says there is no singular truth about what is ethical or moral. Ethno-centricity involves the belief that one's own culture is superior to other cultures.

The World Values Survey (WVS) is a global research project begun in 1981 that explores people's values and beliefs, how they change over time and what political and social impact they have.



The 2010 Inglehart-Wezel cultural map of the world based on the WVS survey. <http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/wvs.jsp>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Values_Survey

Examples of cultural ethics might include attitudes toward honor killing, graft, gender-based bias, display of hair by women, treatment of family versus strangers, incest, marriage outside ethnic group, etc.

"Morality is ultimately a system of rules that enables groups of people to live together in reasonable harmony. Among other things, culture seeks to replace aggression with morals and laws as the primary means to solve the conflicts that inevitably arise in social life."

– Roy F. Baumeister, Florida State University

So what do you think?

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Colorado State University:

For Those Ages 50 and Better



The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Colorado State University welcomes Dr. Robert Hoffert as our new co-director. Dr. Hoffert brings with him a rich academic background and long history of service to CSU. We are looking forward to the positive impact his contributions will bring to our members.

“The Osher Advisory Council and I are looking forward to Bob’s talents, experience, and network connections moving our curriculum to a new and exciting level,” said current Osher Co-director, Jean Morgenweck, of her new counterpart.



Dr. Robert Hoffert

A professor of political science and philosophy at CSU for more than 30 years and former Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Dr. Hoffert came out of retirement to step into this new role with Osher. Members may already know him from courses he has taught in the past, including one of his favorites, “Religion and Politics in the Lives of Twelve Influential Americans.”

Dr. Hoffert is excited about the opportunities presented by his work for Osher. “My work now is centered on one of my lifelong commitments as an educator – learning as the vehicle for building our humanity.”

Hoffert says that his favorite part of Osher has always been the community of members and their shared passion for lifelong learning. Of his new job he says, “The highlight so far has been expanded opportunities to meet and get to know a group of dedicated and competent Osher members.”

Looking to the future of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at CSU, Bob says: “Most of all, I want to contribute to the development of a rich variety of program opportunities for Osher members that will stimulate and extend their learning and deepen the possibilities of their own humanity. In addition, I hope we’ll be able to build our membership base, operate with fiscal soundness, and strengthen the relationship between CSU and its regional community.”

Learn more about Osher by visiting the website at www.osher.colostate.edu or calling 491-7753.

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