

## **Local Memories and the Search for Truth and Justice in Contemporary Kenya**

Gabrielle Lynch<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Leeds , School of Politics and International Studies , Leeds, UK

[g.lynch@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:g.lynch@leeds.ac.uk)

Following Kenya's post-election violence of 2007-8, there has been much soul searching regarding the country's purported crisis of 'national' identity and a new commitment to 'nation-building' as reflected, for example, in the establishment and work of the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC). These discussions and efforts have been closely linked with discussions about truth, justice and reconciliation and, more specifically, the work of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC) and investigations by the International Criminal Court (ICC). This paper analyses some of the debates that have surrounded the work of the NCIC, TJRC and ICC, and looks at how contested memories are playing out in contemporary political contexts. The paper aims to show how different actors and groups have sought to politicise and appropriate particular readings of the past in an effort to demand a particular response to, or means of, 'transitional justice' and 'nation-building', which they believe will best protect and promote their interests, and the implications of this.