

Relational Peacebuilding: the Newick Park Initiative in South Africa, 1986-1994

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The world in 2015

- general lack of an integrated international response to crisis situations
- need for the proactive use of 'smart power' to uphold peace, security and promote development

The Question

How are

–peace,

–security and

–development

to be held together?

The place of 'track two' diplomacy

bridging the chasm between the present
divides and the future possibilities

Newick Park Initiative

series of consultations 1987 - 1991



Newick Park process

- brought together a **representative group of interlocutors** in touch with the protagonists
- **future-focused, research-based consultations**

Outcome

Enabled those
involved **to look
beyond the
present conflict
to ways of living
peacefully
together** in the
future



Other similar initiatives by NPI



Rwanda 1994-99



Sudan 1999-2003

Relational Thinking

parity -- mutual dignity & respect

directness -- quality of communication

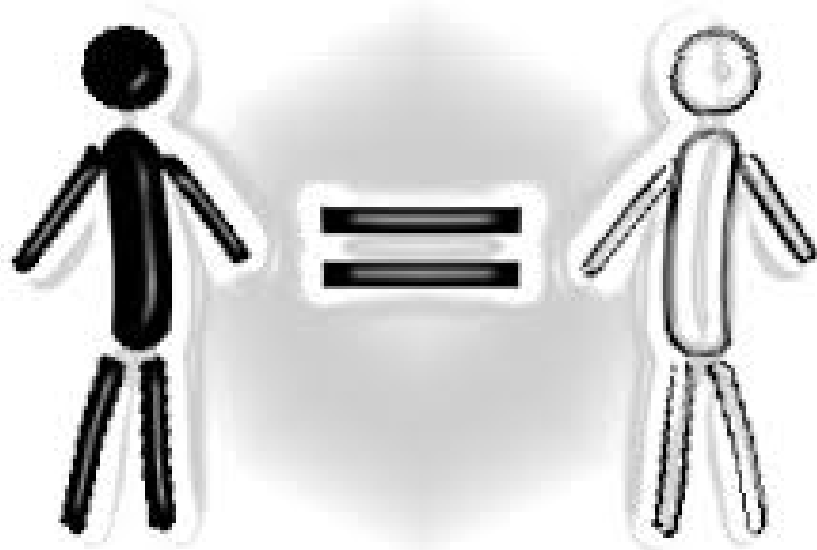
continuity -- time & stability.

multiplexity -- breadth of knowledge

commonality -- shared purpose & values

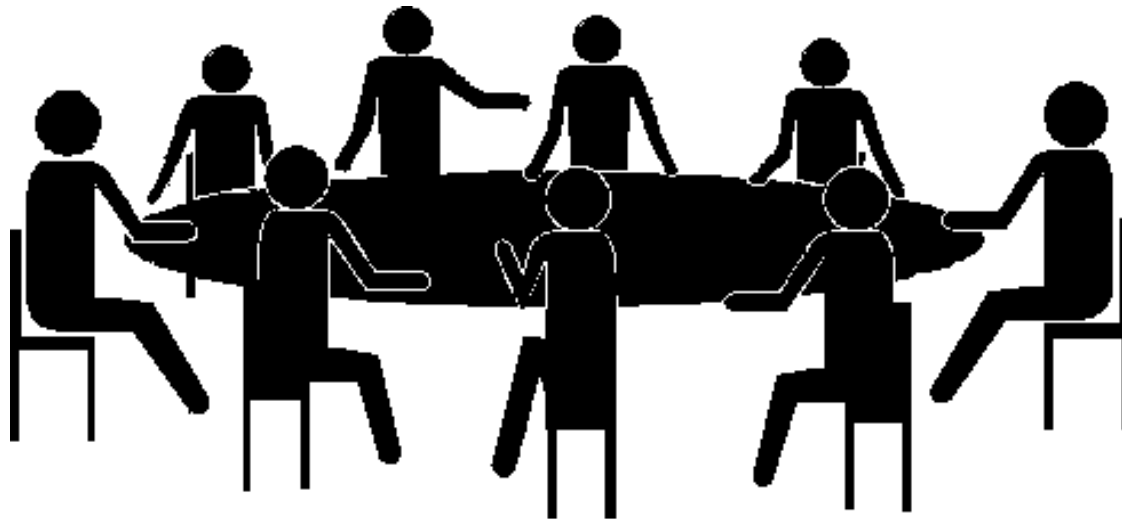
Parity

participants attend in their
personal capacities and are
treated equally



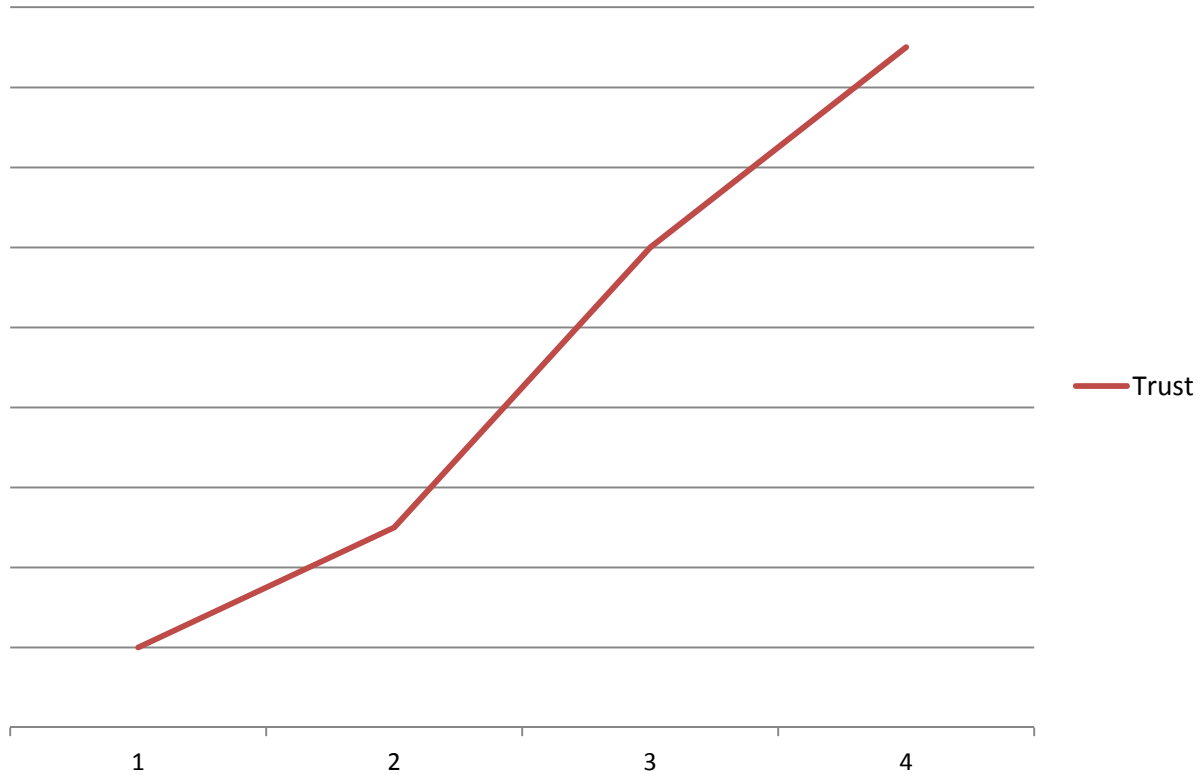
Directness

**face to face conversation in
a safe environment**



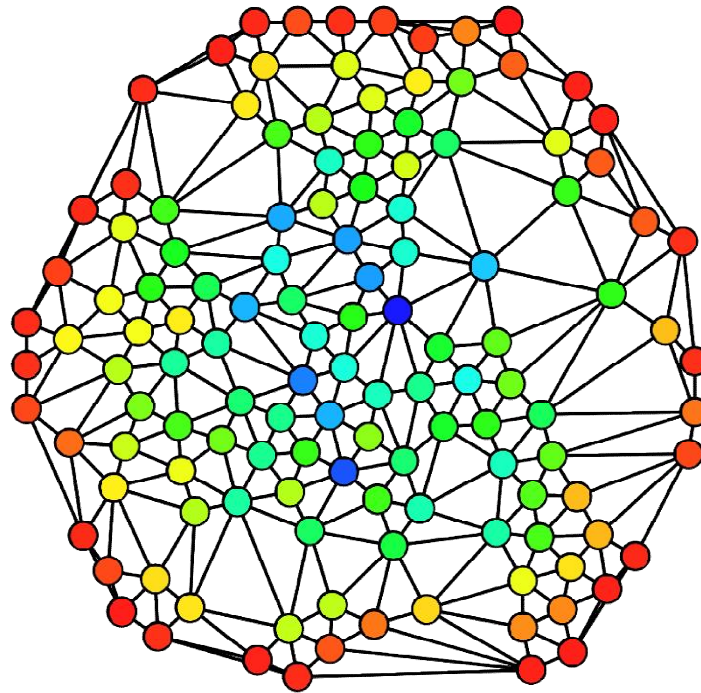
Continuity

owned by the participants with increasing trust over 4 years



Multiplexity

developed a **systematic understanding** of where the participants are **coming from** and the **comprehensive ramifications** of the issues



Commonality

foundation of **shared principles** and **values**



Relational Peacebuilding

– key elements

- Find and invite the right people
- Nurture relationships
- Undergird by systematic research for open-ended yet principled consideration of the issues