



**NA-USIP Roundtable:  
Workshop on Sensing and Shaping Emerging Conflicts**

October 11, 2012

National Academy of Sciences  
2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 120  
Washington, DC

The Objective of this Workshop is to identify major opportunities and impediments to providing better real-time information to actors directly involved in situations that could lead to deadly violence. We will consider several scenarios of potential violence drawn from recent country cases, and consider a set of technologies, applications and strategies that have been particularly useful—or could be, if better adapted for conflict prevention or mitigation by people in a position to do so.

**AGENDA**

**8:30 a.m. Breakfast**

**8:45 a.m. Roundtable Charge to the Workshop**

By the end of the day, we seek to identify promising strategies for direct application of technology tools and techniques to emerging conflicts. The goal is to provide insights and information to inform the design of field tests of collaboration between local actors, supportive peacebuilders and expert technologists to increase the constructive impacts of sensing technologies and applications.

*Roundtable Adviser: Fred Tipson, USIP*

**9:00 a.m. “Peacebuilders” Meet “Data Scientists”**

How can various sensing technologies assist local populations and peacebuilders in zones of conflict or potential conflict to anticipate, understand and prevent deadly violence?

**Candidate Peacebuilding Problems/Settings**

*Joint Presentation: Lawrence Woocher, SAIC  
Dennis King, State Department  
Fred Tipson, USIP*

**Candidate Technologies:**

*Joint Presentation: Prabhakar Raghavan, Google  
Duncan Watts, Microsoft  
Patrick Vinck, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative*

**10:30 a.m. Break**

**10:45 a.m. Recent Experience in Zones of Tension/Conflict**

How was technology used by local actors, whether citizens, government agencies, or outsiders, to understand their situations and influence the outcomes of events?

*Speakers: Patrick Meier, Ushahidi (Kenya)  
Sanjana Hattotuwa, ICT4Peace (Sri Lanka)  
Moderator: Lawrence Woocher, SAIC*

**12:15 p.m. Lunch and PeaceTech Lab Presentation**

*Speaker: Sheldon Himelfarb, USIP*

**1:00 p.m. Factors Affecting the Use of Technologies in Conflict Settings**  
What is the process, whether facilitated or not by outsiders, by which technologies are adopted/adapted in local settings? What are the challenges these capabilities could best address?  
*Speakers: Chris Spence, National Democratic Institute  
Emmanuel Letouzé, UN Global Pulse*  
*Commentator: Joseph Bock, University of Notre Dame*  
*Moderator: Prabhakar Raghavan, Google*

**2:30 p.m. Break**

**2:45 p.m. The Darker Side of Technologies Used to Sense Conflict**  
For all of the potential benefits of various technologies in facilitating political participation and change, various actors may take advantage of these very capabilities to repress change and even provoke deadly violence. What are the ways that repressive governments or reactionary groups have exploited technologies (or might do so) to stifle expression or target activists, and how can these “darker” uses be prevented or mitigated?  
*Speakers: Ivan Sigal, Global Voices  
Rafal Rohozinski, The SecDev Group*  
*Moderator: Lawrence Woocher, SAIC*

**4:15 p.m. Next Steps**

**5:00 p.m. Adjourn**