

Penn State Journal of Law & International Affairs

Volume 2 | Issue 1

April 2013

Foreword

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ISSN: 2168-7951

Custom Citation

2 Penn. St. J.L. & Int'l Aff. i (2013)

The Penn State Journal of Law & International Affairs is a joint publication of Penn State's School of Law and School of International Affairs.

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2013

VOLUME 2 NO. 1

FOREWORD

The gap between those who conduct mediation and those who study mediation is inexplicably enormous. Complaints about the gap come not only from academics who would like to see some attention paid to their analysis by practitioners but from as deep into the practitioners' world as the United Nations Secretariat, who would like to be useful in training newly selected envoys. The complaints from the practitioners' side frequently cite (when at all) the academic's language, which they find too difficult. Indeed, the [Department of Political Affairs \(DPA\)](#) of the U.N. Secretariat has recently established an International Academic Advisory Council to promote more systematic exchanges linking theory and academic analysis with practice and to support the generation and dissemination of knowledge for mediation practitioners. This is precisely what this issue of the [Penn State Journal of Law & International Affairs](#) intends to do, and it carries it off with skill and knowledge. Without talking down, the articles lay out established understandings drawn from mediation practice when it is well done and then carry forth the implications of established knowledge into new questions. The ball now is in the practitioners' court, to use and test the transmitted knowledge, provide the world with better results from mediation, and provide the analysts with new data to turn into knowledge.

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