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Speaker: **Prof. Tamsin Bradley, University of Portsmouth**

Topic: ***Art Heritage and Resilience in South Sudan: A Gendered View***

Date: **Thursday, February 18th, 2021**

Time: **12:00 – 1:30 PM (EST)**

Place: **Zoom Webinar: [Register Here](#)**

**All Are Welcome!**

## ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Professor Tamsin Bradley is a social anthropologist and applied researcher who has worked for over twenty years to end violence against women and girls by researching evidence around what works to end it. She is currently Professor of International Development at the University of Portsmouth and has projects across South Asia and Africa. Her research interests are in:

- ending violence against women and girls
- promoting social inclusion (including gender, disability and mental health)
- harmful cultural practices (including female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage and breast ironing)

Tamsin has worked as part of large development programmes for example Free Sudan from FGM, and now the FCDO programme supporting the African Led Movement to end FGM. Current research council research includes a project exploring art, heritage and resilience in South Sudan. She has published 4 monographs, 2 edited volumes and many journal articles. Her most recent volume is titled 'Global Perspectives on Violence against Women and Girls' (2020 Zed Press).

## ABOUT THE TALK

Resilience is generally defined by a capacity to withstand (or recover from) shocks. Furthermore, it seems to emerge within the space opened up by 'developmental relief models'. The models used to shape resilience work are Accountability to Affected Population (AAP) and Communicating with Communities (CwC). Both these models are universally applied and are not currently flexible enough to capture and integrate effectively tradition and culture. As a result, tradition and cultural heritage are often still seen as obstacles to resilience building rather than a potential resource, this is particularly the case in relation to gender. Whilst we are not disputing that patriarchal values are embedded into cultural and religious mind-sets. We argue that the resource cultural spaces provide are complex and aspects can be harnessed for positive ends (see Bradley 2010, 2016). This paper will unravel the disconnects between humanitarian approaches to responding to gender based violence in conflict and the reality of how such concepts find their way into operations. The paper will draw on examples of how downstream partners attempt to interpret the technocratic demands of donor programming into local contexts. The reality of this process often leads to challenging activities that seem to endorse rather than transform inequalities. Using these examples, this paper claims there is a desperate need to do things differently beginning and not ending with the local context. The paper argues that a culturally sensitive lens has the potential to generate different and innovative ways of generating positive change.