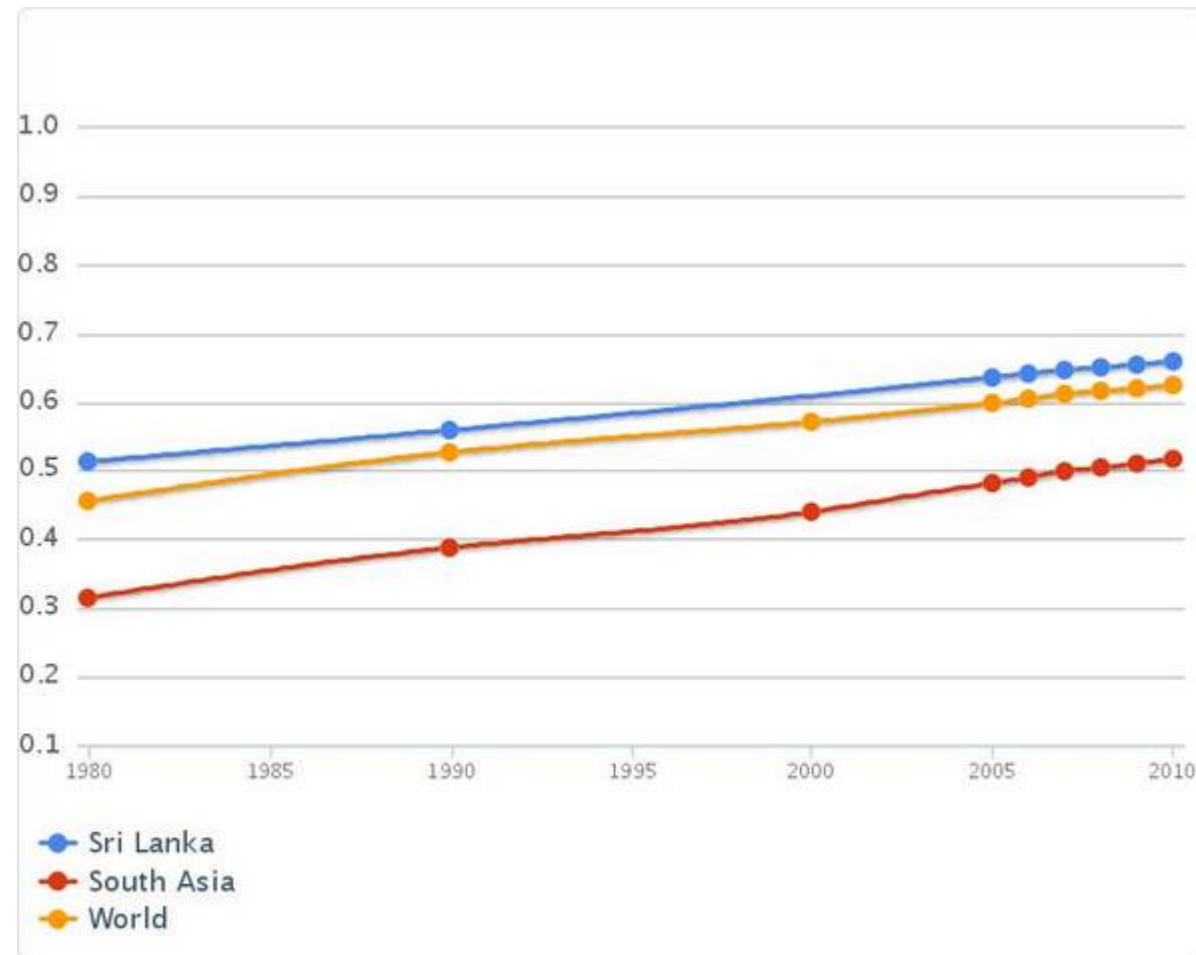

The hidden transcript of peace:
Everyday Peace Indicators – a proposal
Dr Roger MacGinty
University of St Andrews

The one minute presentation

- Current peace-related indicators often technically correct but give an inaccurate impression of the locality. Often just see the public transcript.
 - How do we access the hidden (or non-obvious) transcript?
 - Propose a new bottom-up, local-level type of indicator
 - Argue that these could be ‘indicators +’ by having a conflict transformation dimension, as well as information-gathering function
-

The picture from orthodox indicators: Sri Lanka HDI 1980-2010



Examples of locally-defined indicators

- The resumption of cultural practices that declined during conflict
 - The health and adoption of stray dogs
 - Storeowners painting their storefronts
 - A decline in sectarian graffiti
 - Cross-ethnic sales in the market
-

Peacebuilding's 'technocratic turn'

- Norms and practices from the business world find their way into the public and third sectors
 - Statebuilding and peacebuilding interventions award opportunities for technocratic intrusion
 - Conflict framed in technocratic ways by governments, IOs, INGOs. Technocratic analyses lead to technocratic prescriptions
 - Peacebuilding develops a peculiar bureaucratic infrastructure and material culture
-

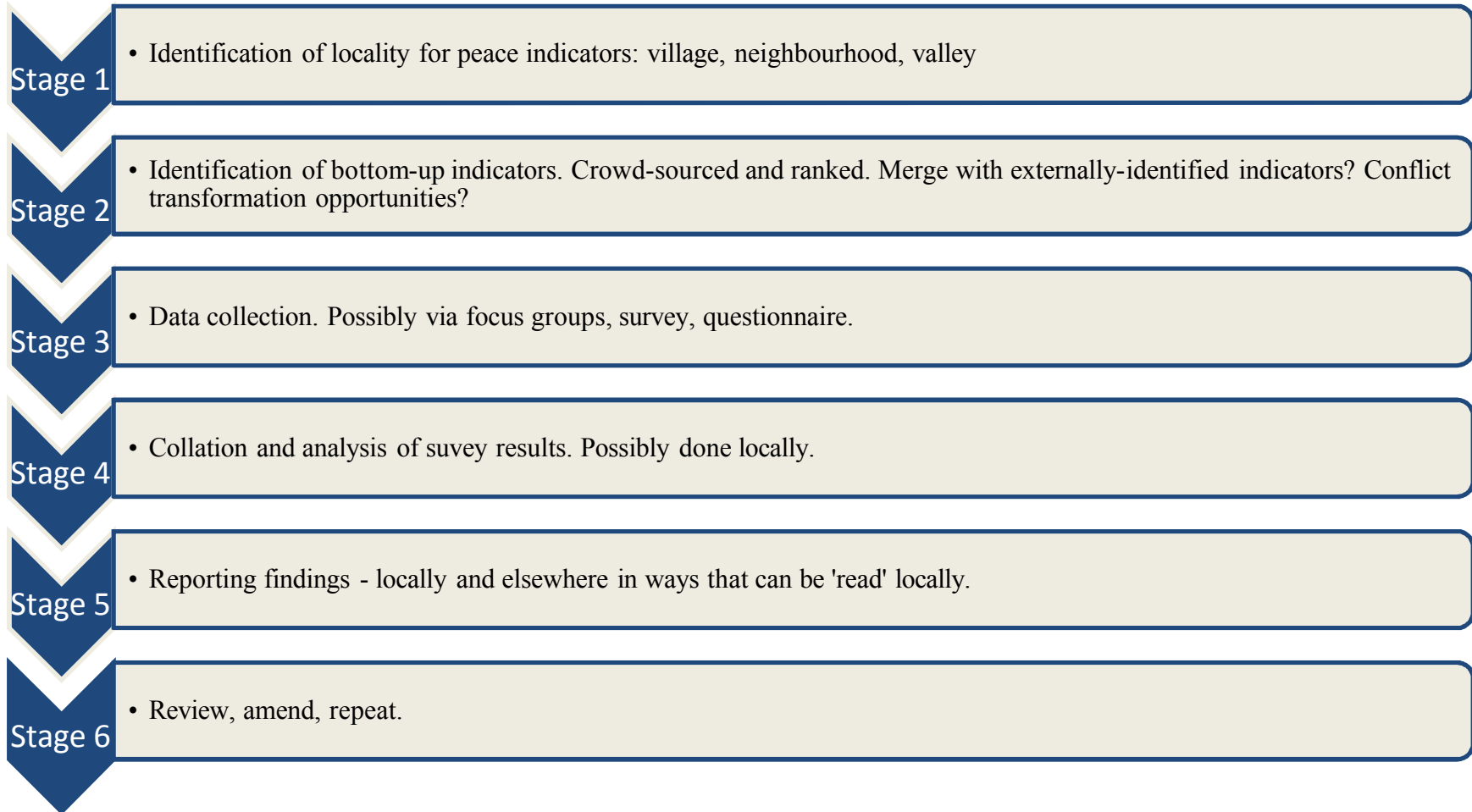
Criticisms of current peace-related indicators

- Don't always measure peace
 - Often restricted to measuring peacebuilding projects
 - Top-down. Reflect wider power dynamics/epistemology
 - Subaltern position of the subjects of research may be reinforced by the ways indicators are represented and disseminated
 - Often unable to see the differences within and between communities
-

Everyday Peace Indicators – Guidelines

- Locally-based
 - Non-prescriptive
 - Ranked
 - Open to change
 - Safeguarded against elite capture
-

Everyday Peace Indicators – the mechanism



Advantages for local communities:

- Help convey a more accurate, time-sensitive and locally-nuanced picture of the community. This might help target assistance
- Conflict prevention potential; direct attention to areas that might benefit from peacebuilding
- Conflict transformation potential; constructing peace indicators encourages community members to engage constructively with each other

Advantages for donors, international organisations:

- More accurate
 - Participative, local ownership
 - Low cost
 - Complement existing measures
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