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**Conflict Resolution & Traditional Justice System of the San People
in Collaboration with “The Platfontein San Dispute Resolution Field Research Team”**

Abstract

Inspired by the need to find lasting solutions to violent conflict, the author stated the research problem by asking how the centrality of community knowledge can be attained to end conflict, with specific emphasis on community engaged participatory research as a specific method to equalise discourse with communities in conflict. The theoretical concepts of innovative conflict resolution and community engaged participatory research are presented with specific reference to the research with the San of South Africa to illustrate how community engaged participatory research can be used to attain the centrality of community knowledge for conflict resolution and transformation. A paradigm of innovative conflict resolution was found that requires action beyond the focus on quick solutions to address immediate conflict towards the ultimate objective of transformation, that would involve the change in dualistic behaviour to that of restoring relationships, as well as doing away with unjust structural configurations in society towards equality among all, including the San as equal partners.



Keywords: Conflict resolution; conflict transformation; participatory research; San; Africa; South Africa"