

Africa Research Forum Easter 2015

**Wednesday 29th April 1-2 pm,
Room S1, Alison Richard Building**

**Dr Paul Omach, CAPREx Fellow,
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NGOS, TRADITIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND PEACE- BUILDING IN NORTHERN UGANDA

The paper examines how interaction of local institutions with international donors has impacted on local-level peacebuilding processes in northern Uganda. Local institutions deriving their legitimacy from tradition have been reinvented among the Acholi people to provide leadership in countering the government's narrative of the conflict and to turn perceptions towards peace. The revived local institutions are dependent on donors. NGOs have financed ceremonies to anoint 'rwodi', or chiefs, and their activities at the central office in Gulu town. Chiefs attend training workshops organized by NGOs and are provided 'per Diem'. However, some of the local peacebuilding activities they perform are originated from and financed by NGOs. This raises concerns about the legitimacy of the contemporary local peacebuilding activities.