Prospects for Peace: 
Student Perceptions of Transitional Justice in Post-Genocide Rwanda
• 1926-32
  – Identity cards issued (Hutu, Tutsi, or Twa)
• 1959
  – Tutsi king dies; massacres of Tutsi
• 1962
  – Independence from Belgium
• 1973
  – Military Coup by Juvenal Habyarimana
• 1989
  – Years of drought; agriculture production declines
• 1990
  – Largely Tutsi RPF invades from Uganda
• **1993**
  - More RPF invasions
  - Arusha Agreement signed
  - Black Hawk Down (Somalia)
  - UNAMIR mission approved

• **1994**
  - April 6: Habyarimana’s plane shot down; road blocks established and killing began within the hour, at 3 times the rate of the Holocaust
  - April 16: UN reduces UNAMIR by 90%
  - July 4: RPF takes Kigali
  - July 18: Ceasefire announced
Gacaca (gah-cha-cha)

“...simultaneously one of the best, most dangerous, and possibly last chances Rwanda has.”
Gacaca (gah-cha-cha)
“…simultaneously one of the best, most dangerous, and possibly last chances Rwanda has.”

Is Gacaca effective?
Are Rwandans reconciling?
Can Hutu and Tutsi live peacefully together again in Rwanda?
What is the relationship between ethnicity and perception of *gacaca*?

- Interviews with 32 students of the National University of Rwanda (NUR)
- Observation of a Category One *Gacaca* appeal trial
- Documents in Kigali?
Interview Observations

Ethnicity determined by identification as “survivors”

Hutu and Tutsi had very positive answers to general questions

Hutu and Tutsi were more critical on specifics
Interview Observations

• Agree with the vision of *gacaca*, but not implementation

• Slight variation in perspective of Hutu and Tutsi

• “Peace in pieces”
“You have to make advocacy for Rwanda.”
MURAKOZE CYANE

IROP
Dr. Georgeann Murphy
Dr. Dana Hamel
Mr. Ellis Woodward

Dr. Alynna Lyon
Professor Paul Rutayisire
Family and Friends
and You!


