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978-1-107-66377-0 - Teaching Contested Narratives: Identity, Memory and Reconciliation
in Peace Education and Beyond

Zvi Bekerman and Michalinos Zembylas

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Teaching Contested Narratives

In troubled societies narratives about the past tend to be partial and explain a conflict from narrow perspectives that justify the national self and condemn, exclude and devalue the “enemy” and their narrative. Through a detailed analysis, *Teaching Contested Narratives* reveals the works of identity, historical narratives and memory as these are enacted in classroom dialogues, canonical texts and school ceremonies. Presenting ethnographic data from local contexts in Cyprus and Israel, and demonstrating the relevance to educational settings in countries which suffer from conflicts all over the world, the authors explore the challenges of teaching narratives about the past in such societies, discuss how historical trauma and suffering are dealt with in the context of teaching, and highlight the potential of pedagogical interventions for reconciliation. The book shows how the notions of identity, memory and reconciliation can perpetuate or challenge attachments to essentialized ideas about peace and conflict.

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Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	page vii
<i>Permissions</i>	viii
Part I Introduction and theoretical underpinnings	
1 Introduction	3
2 Problematizing peace education romanticism	24
3 On conflict, identity and more	44
Part II Living and teaching contested narratives	
4 Victims and perpetrators: how teachers live with contested narratives	71
5 (Im)possible openings	86
6 The everyday challenges of teaching children from conflicting groups	100
7 The emotional complexities of teaching contested narratives	114
Part III Mourning, forgiveness and reconciliation: problems and possible solutions	
8 The nationalization of mourning in troubled societies	135
9 The work of mourning in schools: ambivalent emotions and the risks of seeking mutual respect and understanding	148
10 Forgiveness as a possible path towards reconciliation	164
	v

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Frontmatter
[More information](#)

vi	Contents	
Part IV Conclusions: implications for peace education		
11	Becoming critical design experts in schools	185
12	Memory and forgetting: a pedagogy of dangerous memories	196
13	De-essentializing identity	213
14	Designing different paths for reconciliation pedagogies	224
	<i>References</i>	231
	<i>Index</i>	256

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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