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A processual framework for analysing liberal policy interventions in conflict contexts

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Supplementary Appendix

Supplementary information on the research process

Research in Tunisia took place mainly in the capital Tunis, with shorter research trips to Gafsa and Kasserine in the central regions of the country. Research in the United States took place mainly in New York City, Washington, DC, and a shorter trip to the San Francisco Bay Area.

I selected my interview partners through a combination of strategies¹: through their political importance/salience, e.g. according to their function in the political configuration, through opportunistic or snowball sampling. While those interview partners that were somehow involved in the TJ process may be better represented, I also deliberately chose interview partners outside of a confined ‘transitional justice bubble’ to gain a broader perspective. For example, I interviewed parliamentarians from different parties, even if they did not have an explicit link to transitional justice, similar for civil society representatives. The interviews were complemented with (participant) observations for example at conferences, truth commission workshops or public hearings, and at sites such as parliament.

Initial contact was most often established by phone. Especially for Tunisian actors, communicating via e-mail was much less common than via phone calls, SMS, or Facebook (the latter I used very rarely). When setting up interviews with representatives of organisations or institutions for whom I did not have individual contact details, I usually visited the organisation’s seat without prior appointment. In this way I was often able to fix appointments for a later date or receive the phone number of a contact person. Observations took either place at public events, upon invitation (e.g. closed workshops at the truth commission) or after obtaining official accreditation (truth commission public hearings).

Most interviews took place individually and in person, some of them in groups, some of them with additional interviewers (for example a journalist or other researcher), and some of them via video or phone. Most interviews were conducted in French, some in English and some of the in-person interviews with non-professional and of the phone interviews with professional translation from Arabic to French or English. For in-person interviews, most of the time my interview partner suggested the interview location.

¹ See Miles, Matthew B., A. Michael Huberman, and Johnny Saldaña. 2014. *Qualitative Data Analysis: A Methods Sourcebook*. 3rd ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Interviews were usually topic-centred with an open, narrative start. Some were more technical, while others were more perception or opinion-based. I was able to record most interviews, which were then transcribed with the help of two research assistants. For those interviews I was not able to record, I took hand-written notes and wrote memos afterwards. The interviews were then coded in several partial and one complete coding-cycle after the main data collection period had ended. (Interview from 2019 and 2020 were therefore not included in that complete coding cycle and integrated later). Notes from observations were used as complementary material.