

Why Political Economy?

- Political Economy of Education is the study of the relationship between Economics, Politics and Education
- Since 2000 increase in interest in Political Economy from policy agencies: EU, USAID, World bank, DFID toolkits and approaches
 - Policies/programmes don't fail just because they are not well-designed
 - They often fail because of factors beyond the particular programme – externalities that are often excluded from mainstream education research and policy analysis
 - Conflict Contexts are particularly prone to these influences

What is Political Economy of Education Analysis?

- PE is an array of approaches, from a very **narrow neoclassical/new institutionalism** (Grindle, 2004) to a **broad cultural political economy of education** (CCPEE: Robertson and Dale, 2013) and spans a range of disciplines.
- PE broadly sees educational policies and interventions as **underpinned** by **political** and **economic interests** and **preferences** that political economy analysis can unpack.
- PE can be useful for both **Policy/Programme Support** , but also for **Policy Critique** – research as watchdog !

Education Politics Vs The Politics of Education

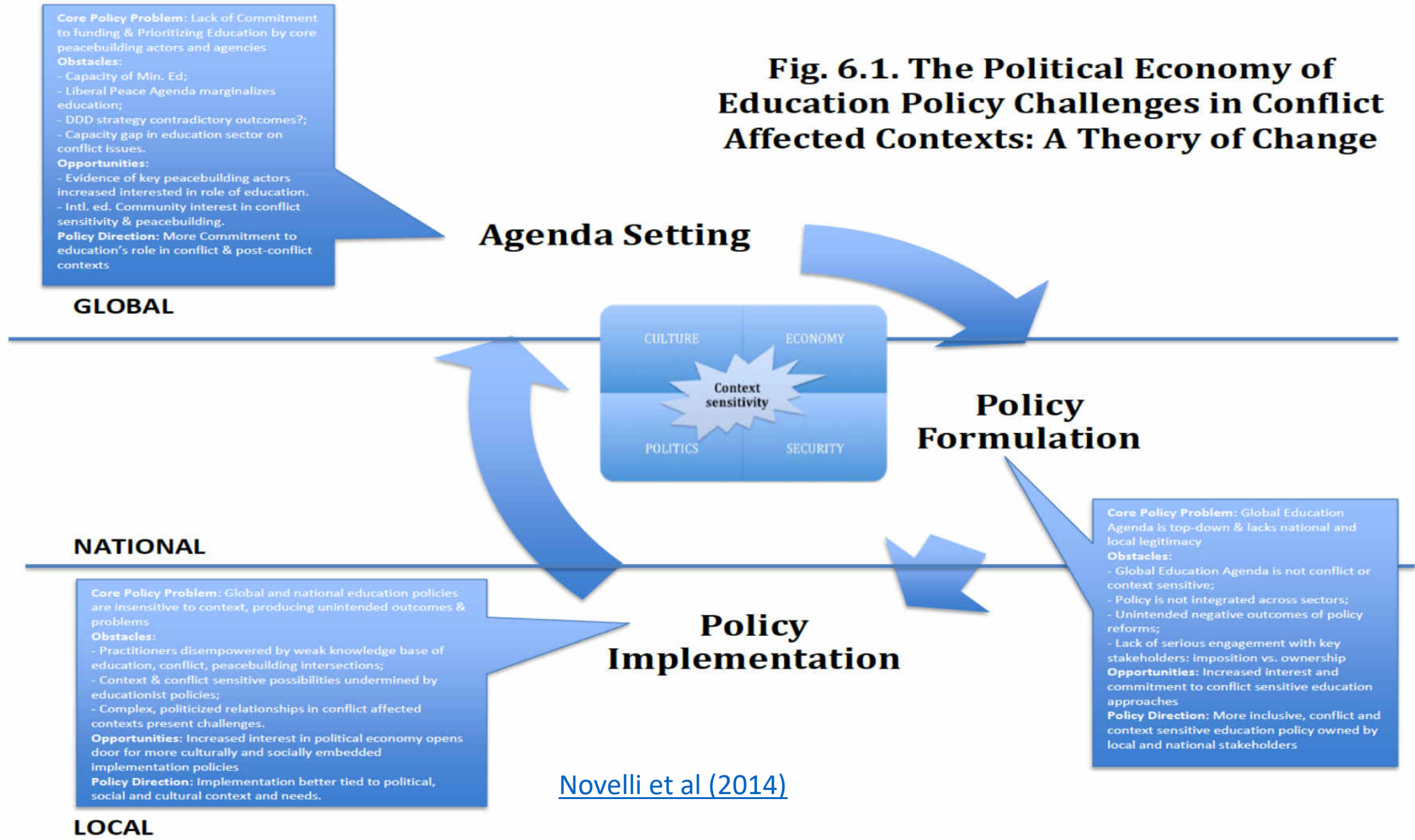
Useful to draw on a broader critique of mainstream educational research by Roger Dale ([Dale, 1999](#), [Dale, 2000](#), [Dale, 2005](#)).

- Much educational research can be located within a notion of **'education politics'**, i.e. it concerns itself with debates internal to the education system
- He contrasts this with a **'politics of education'** approach which seeks to understand **education problems and systems as embedded within a complex local, national and global political economy**
- Can't bracket off education problems from their broader environment



What is the bigger picture that Political Economy reveal?

Fig. 6.1. The Political Economy of Education Policy Challenges in Conflict Affected Contexts: A Theory of Change



Novelli et al (2014)

POLITICAL ECONOMY & AGENDA SETTING

Geo-Politics & Geo-Economics in the Global Education Agenda

- Security & Austerity (Geo-politics & Geo-economics)
- During the Cold War – Aid closely linked to Cold War objectives
- Post Cold War critique and renewal
- Then came 9/11
- Then came 2008 Financial Crisis
- Now aid seems to be closely linked to Western Security – Western Economy – Western Prejudices & lack of humanity

The Geography of Aid to Conflict Affected Contexts

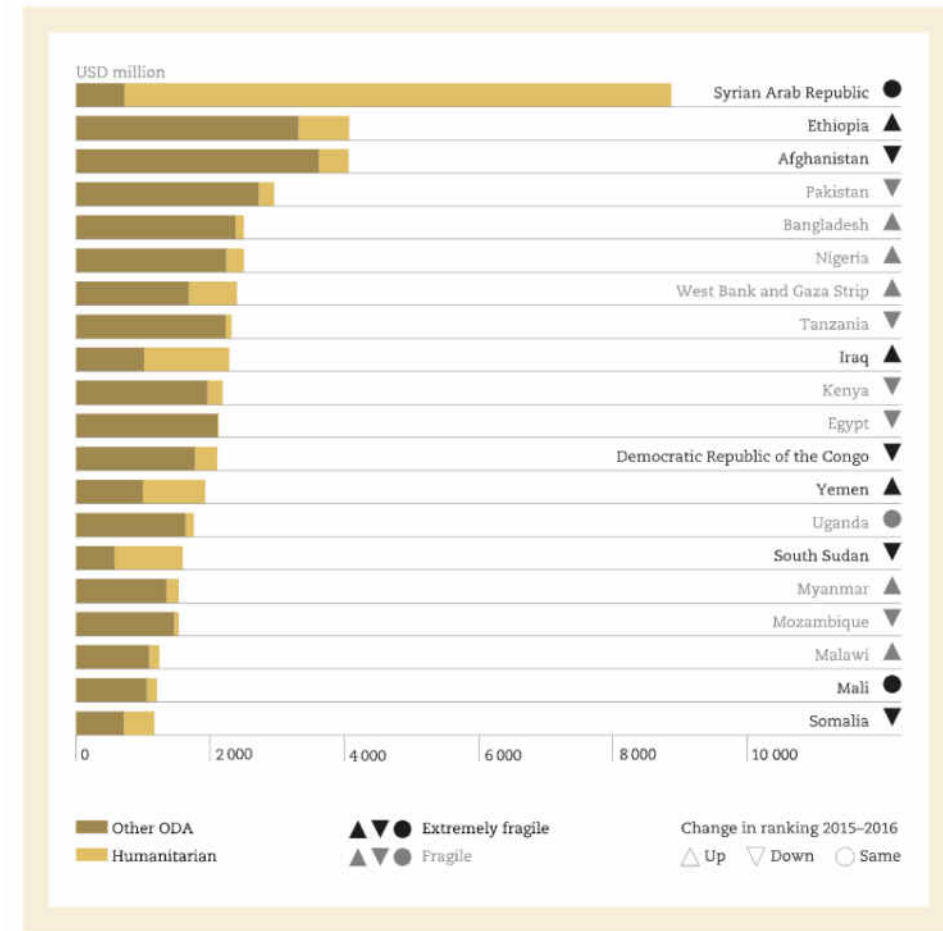
**TABLE 2.2. Top 10 recipients of official development assistance (ODA)
(% of total ODA to fragile states, 2005 and 2010)**

Country		ODA Rank 2010	Percent of total ODA to FS 2010	Percent of total humanitarian aid to FS 2010	ODA Rank 2005	Percent of total ODA to FS 2005	Percent of total humanitarian aid to FS 2005
Afghanistan	●	1	12.8%	7.1%	3	5.3%	5.1%
Ethiopia	●	2	7.1%	7.6%	4	3.6%	10.7%
Congo, DR	●	3	6.8%	5.3%	5	3.5%	5.1%
Haiti	▶	4	6.2%	19.1%	18	0.8%	1.1%
Pakistan	●	5	6.1%	17.2%	7	3.0%	8.2%
West Bank and Gaza	▶	6	5.1%	4.0%	12	1.9%	2.1%
Iraq	●	7	4.4%	2.4%	1	40.9%	11.0%
Nigeria	●	8	4.1%	0.1%	2	11.9%	0.2%
Sudan	●	9	4.1%	10.9%	6	3.4%	22.2%
Uganda	●	10	3.5%	1.0%	10	2.2%	2.9%
Bangladesh	◀	13	2.8%	1.0%	9	2.4%	0.3%
Congo, Rep.	◀	14	2.6%	0.2%	8	2.6%	0.2%
Total percent received by top 10 ODA recipients			60.1%	74.8%		76.6%	62.9%

● In top 10 both years ▶ Into top 10 2005-10 ◀ Out of top 10 2005-10

Source: OECD International Development Statistics (IDS) online databases on aid and other resource flows, available at www.oecd.org/dac/stats/idsonline

Figure 4.4. Top 20 ODA recipients among fragile contexts, 2016



Source: (OECD, 2018^[1]), "Detailed aid statistics: ODA official development assistance: disbursements", OECD International Development Statistics (database), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/data-00069-en>

The Geography of Aid to Conflict Affected Contexts

- Aid is not equally distributed among fragile contexts and is heavily concentrated in a few of these places. In 2016, a total of USD 50 billion, or 74% of ODA spent in fragile contexts, was concentrated on 20 of the 58 fragile contexts. Further, just 10 of these contexts, which are often referred to as aid darlings, received 50% of all ODA to fragile contexts, or almost USD 35 billion. This concentration continues a trend. For instance, during the 11-year period from 2003 to 2012, Afghanistan and Iraq together accounted for fully 22% of all ODA to contexts then classified as fragile

OECD (2018) States of Fragility

Brexit – Aid for Trade in Africa – 2018



*“today I am committing that our development spending will **not only combat extreme poverty**, but at the same time tackle global challenges and **support our own national interest**. This will ensure that our investment in aid benefits us all, and is fully **aligned with our wider national security priorities**.”*

Rt Hon Theresa May, UK PM, (August 28th, 2018)

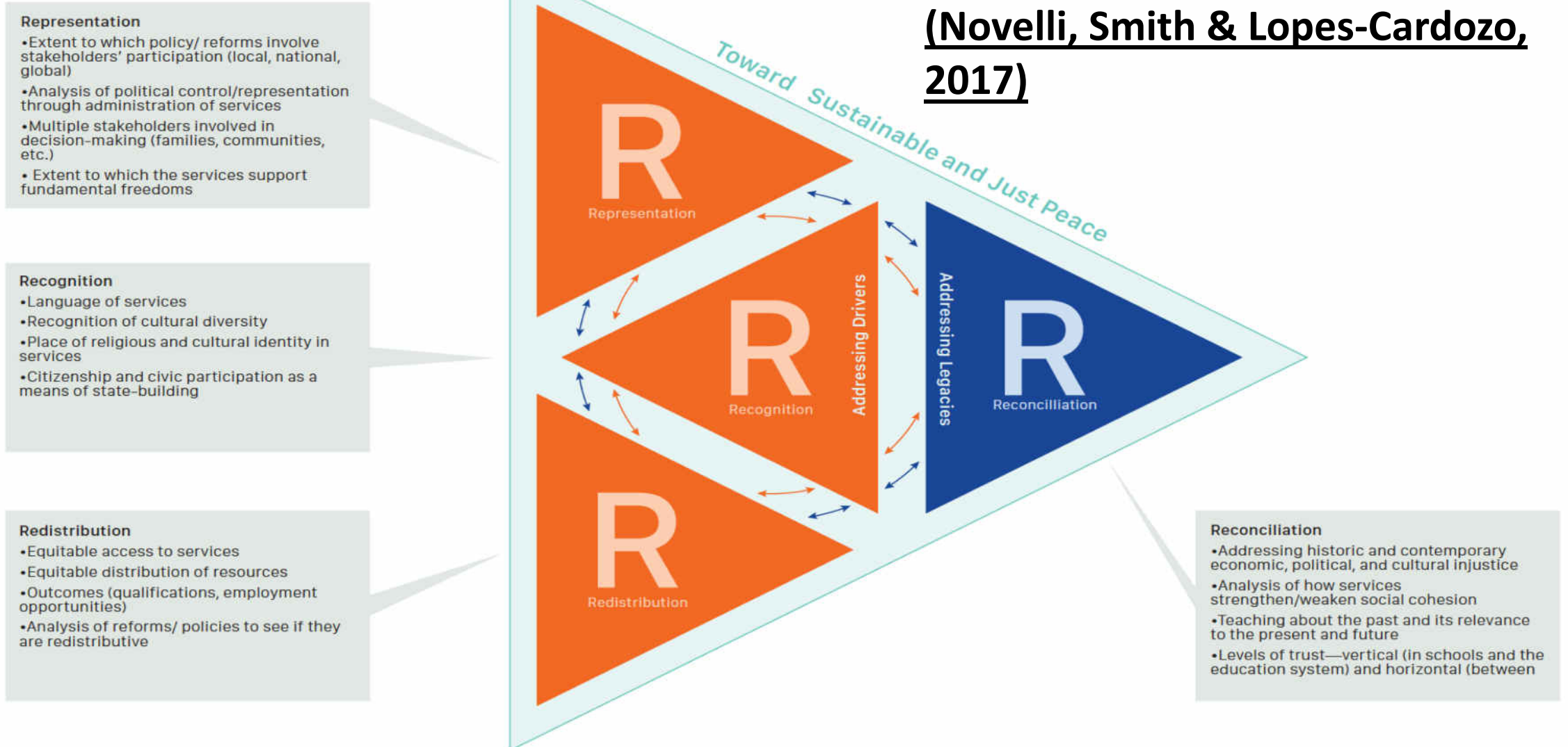
Refugees



- Political Economy Analysis can raise issues about the broader logics of Refugee Policy and Education.
- Locate the boom in funding for research and policy on education for refugees in a context of xenophobic nationalism, populism and the mainstreaming of racist policies.
- Reflect on the winners and losers in the New Development Focus and its effects on poverty and marginalization.

POLITICAL ECONOMY TOOLS FOR POLICY FORMULATION & IMPLEMENTATION

The 4 Rs Framework (Novelli, Smith & Lopes-Cardozo, 2017)



In today's workshops

Thematic
workshops
11:00 – 12:30

**Political Economy -
National Actors &
Issues:** Kelsey Shanks
(University of
Ulster/Global
Challenge Research
Fund), Tejendra Pherali
(IoE-UCL)

Thematic
workshops
12:30 – 15:00

**Political Economy -
Political Economy
Analysis:** Alan Smith
(University of Ulster,)
Simone Datzeberger
(IoE-UCL)