

POSTGRADUATE NETWORK

DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

6.07.20 | ONLINE MEETING

POST GRADUATE NETWORK MEETING JULY 2020

EVENT DETAILS

The DSAI Postgrad Network held its first online meeting for Summer 2020 on the 6th of July between 2.00-3.00pm.

It was chaired and moderated by Dr Nita Mishra, Researcher on Social Inclusion at Department of Food Business & Development, UCC.

Speakers were:

- Sophie Healy-Thow, BSc student, Department of Food Business & Development, UCC,
- Ami Matsutani, MA student, Peace & Conflict, UCD,
- Nguyen Nguyen, PhD candidate at Applied Language and Intercultural Studies, DCU.

Participants included development practitioners and academics.

OVERVIEW

Sophie Healy-Thow gave her presentation on her experience as a youth activist. She was recently appointed by the UN Secretary General to be a Lead Group Member of the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement (SUN) and has been a trustee on the board of Action Aid UK since she was 17 years old.

She spoke about how she became interested in nutrition and young people's rights by conducting school science projects about food insecurity, winning the BT Young Scientist, the EU Contest for Young Scientists and the Google Science Fair with two others. Since then she's spoken at many conferences and events and made a TEDx talk entitled Food Security Everybody's Business. In these areas she was lucky to meet a lot of different youth activists and a lot of professionals making the decisions that impact the planet's future. In these areas she found that the conversations between the professionals and the youth activists were not being had the way they needed to. That's why with the help of Concern Worldwide she's creating a podcast to open up this dialogue to ensure that some of the biggest issues of our time are being spoken about in an open and honest way between young people and the professionals in the field. Her first podcast entitled: A Race Against Time will feature Lawrence Haddad the Executive Director of GAIN and Valery Molay Ireland's UN Youth Delegate. This space is of utmost importance to ensure young people aren't just the tokens in the room but they are there as the decision makers not just of the future but the decision makers of the now.

POSTGRADUATE NETWORK

DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

6.07.20 | ONLINE MEETING

POST GRADUATE NETWORK MEETING JULY 2020

She also spoke about her experiences of attending conferences where she was the only young person in the room, how there was very little framework for youth participation and at times this can be disempowering as a young person. But, there are ways to combat this, there is hope. A few ways to improve upon hearing the youth voice is, having young people on your board of trustees, making research young person friendly, including activists in everything you do, be flexible with your working style and engage!

Ami Matsutani presented about her research she was working on. She was working on for her thesis to research the education of gender equality to young students in Zambia where she supposed to do an internship if there was no COVID-19. She mentioned about the situation in Zambia as well.

Nguyen Nguyen gave an overview of his PhD research funded by the School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies (DCU) which focused on the translation of terminology and concepts in development practice in Vietnam.

The communication of dominant terms and concepts has been hindered between different groups of development organisations, donors and stakeholders because of the different translation equivalents in Vietnamese for terms such as “resilience”, “civil society”, “wellbeing”, “participation” and so on. This challenge has brought about very divergent practice and approaches in policy-making in Vietnam, especially at local and community levels. By scoping key literatures in both translation studies and development studies, Nguyen’s research systematically problematised the mentioned situation. The main outcome was the identification of the research problem space of: terminology, practice, policy, and knowledge. A research design of multiple methods that combined empirical text analysis and and ethnographic fieldwork was developed. Nguyen briefly introduced his empirical text analysis study, then discussed different translation equivalents in Vietnamese for the term ‘resilience’. At this stage, Nguyen is moving into ethnographic fieldwork in Vietnam to understand the sociological and contextual aspects of translation in development work. The actual schedule of fieldwork depends largely on the current COVID-19 pandemic situations.

POSTGRADUATE NETWORK

DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

6.07.20 | ONLINE MEETING

POST GRADUATE NETWORK MEETING JULY 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

- All participants had a chance to share their comments on the presentations and their thoughts about the three different subjects.
- Having three lecturers at the meeting was useful because it meant word was getting across and more students at Bachelors' level may find this platform useful to share their research.
- Sophie's presentation made a passionate plea to get the youth engaged in forums such as the DSAI which found resonance in enlisting another BSc level student for our next webinar.
- Ami's talk on coping with the disappointment of not being able to visit the NGO in Zambia led to her writing on the about the NGO's education related work showcasing different ways of engaging in fieldwork in a COVID19 scenario.
- Nguyen's research on challenging the western-centric language in development discourse is a space in the field of decolonial perspectives to look out for!

RESOURCES

The power point presentations of Sophie and Ami are available [here](#) and [here](#).