



Maynooth University

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Department of International Development

Research, Engagement and Practice Seminar
(REAPS) series

March/April 2022

REAPS - Research, Engagement and Practice Seminars

From March to April 2022, academic staff of the Dept. of International Development will collaborate with development practitioners and engaged researchers to co-host a series of 1-hour conversations reflecting on their work and the latest research from their discipline.

Purpose of Series

The series showcases staff research interests, stimulates increased external collaboration and draws attention to important emergent research themes in International Development.

Throughout the series, staff members of the Department of International Development will present their background in the field of international development, their personal research work and interests, and discuss new emergent themes in the discipline.

They will be joined by an academic colleague or practitioner who will present their own experience, perspective, and critical observations. This will of course be followed by an invitation to seminar participants to join the conversation in response to the presentations.

See series schedule details and registration links below.



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Series Schedule

Date / Time	DID Presenter	Guest Presenters
Tues 22 nd March 1- 2pm	Eilish Dillon	Aoife Titley & Laura Thornton

Title: 'Shifting Perspectives - From North-South to the Global in GCE'

Coinciding with MU Social Justice Week

This seminar will explore the implications of shifting from a 'North-South' to a 'Global' focus in global citizenship education. How can we do critical education in a way which engages people in Ireland more actively in shaping a better world for everyone? What does it mean to think beyond charity and helping others in the global South to embracing our collective roles, responsibilities and complicities in relation to global inequality and injustice? Can a global focus help us to teach and learn for a more sustainable, inclusive and hopeful future?

These issues will be explored by Dr. Eilish Dillon of the Department of International Development alongside colleagues from the Froebel Department of Early Childhood and Primary Education, Aoife Titley and Laura Thornton.

Dr. Eilish Dillon

Eilish is Head of the Department of International Development, Maynooth University. She has developed and facilitated a range of classroom-based and online development-related programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate level, and her current teaching focuses on contemporary development issues and theories as well as on qualitative research. Eilish has been actively engaged in development education and activism in Ireland for over 30 years and her work has straddled both formal and non-formal education contexts. She has recently (2017) completed Doctoral research entitled 'How Critical is Talk? Discourses of Development Education among Facilitators in Ireland'. She is particularly interested in exploring different constructions of criticality when it comes to development and global education and is actively engaged in research and publications on discourses and representations of and within development policy and practice in Ireland. Her most recent research, *Shifting the Lens on Ethical Communications in Global Development: A Focus on NGOs in Ireland* is available on

<https://mural.maynoothuniversity.ie/14972/>



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Aoife Titley

Aoife is the lecturer in development and intercultural education (DICE) in the Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education in Maynooth University. Before becoming a teacher educator, she worked as an education researcher and a post-primary teacher. She has also been involved in the design and development of numerous cross-curricular publications for primary schools, including for Amnesty International Ireland, GOAL and the Ethical Education Curriculum of the United Arab Emirates (Pearson).

Laura Thornton

Laura is a founding member and currently chairperson of, the Froebel HOPE Teacher Education Partnership. For the past 17 years, she has been a Lecturer in Froebel Dept. of Primary and Early Childhood Education, teaching Visual Art Education, Reflective Practice and Curriculum studies, across multiple programmes. She trained as an artist, studying disciplines of Fine Art, before qualifying as an art educator. She studied Special and Inclusive Education in Roehampton University, and has trained in Narrative Therapy. Laura has worked across all sectors of education, from Early Years to Primary, Secondary, Adult and Special Education.

Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/shifting-perspectives-from-north-south-to-the-global-in-gce-tickets-272039346007>

Friday 1st April 1pm

Kieran Doyle

Sean McGearty

Theme: EU efforts at peacebuilding, large scale interventions and alignment with SDG 16

<https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal16> to promote peaceful and inclusive societies.

Large-scale international interventions in Afghanistan, Iraq and South Sudan have not delivered peaceful states. Nor have international efforts turned Mali, CAR or other conflicted affected countries into stable and prosperous countries. Supporting peaceful and accountable states takes time, is difficult and suffers setbacks. Often the lack of progress has been based on 'insufficient ownership' of the peacebuilding process by local actors. The problem is that local ownership cannot be generated from the outside. Ultimately, it depends on the political calculations made by local leaders, based on their values and interests.



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The fate of countries are in the hands of elites – not only those in charge of govts., but elites at all levels of society. Nudging them towards peace must start by understanding what incentives they have to either block or drive change. This means redoubling efforts to engage with all actors on the ground, aligning all instruments behind the single goal of supporting sustainable peace, and accepting that not all change is possible at the same time.

Where efforts have been most successful has been when they have focused on building existing local capacity for peaceful interaction. The challenge for missions is encouraging how positive leadership at local level can be supported and integrated into the wider aspects of societal governance.

In 2017 the Chief of Policy and Best Practices in UN Dept. of Peacekeeping Office and Field Support, New York called for a different approach to peacebuilding. Perhaps some of her thoughts are pertinent. She outlined her interest in rethinking the drivers of conflict such as the impact of inequality rather than poverty. How do we tackle the problem of lack of trust between the state and society? In future, she advocated that more focus was needed on the subnational and building trust with the community.

How can the EU align with SDG 16 <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal16> to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels?

Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/290719930137>

Friday 8th April 2pm – 3pm

Paddy Reilly

Ntombi Nyathi and Peter Dorman

Theme: “The Future of Freirean Education: A Further Conversation”

In October 2021 the Department of International Development (DID) held a conference to mark the centenary of the birth of Paulo Freire and used this event to explore the question with other actors — in higher education, international development practice, and local community work — of the relevance of Freire’s ideas and approaches to their work today. As we complete written papers reflecting on the conference, we share some of the insights gained from the event, and six months on, seek to look to how Freirean approaches may be employed in future



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work for change. Paddy Reilly lectures on Participatory Adult Learning for Development and other modules within the MA programme at Maynooth, and within these, Freire has been examined and critiqued here and in many other venues — including courses run with partners overseas — over many years. He will be joined in this seminar by Ntombi Nyathi, (Training For Transformation in Practice at Grail Centre, South Africa, and Zimbabwe) — a long-time partner of DID, and, Peter Dorman, a practitioner working in community education in Ireland. All in this conversation are experienced educators employing Freirean approaches in their respective locations, North and South.

Among the questions we will be discussing:

Is Freire an important, but largely historical influence on our work going forward? Or, do we see Freirean ideals and ideas remain at the centre of our work? What do we say to the view that Freire has been relegated to being a cosmetic façade on work for development / education in the twenty-first century? Can we explore some practical examples of how we may still draw upon some of Freire's principles and approaches?

Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/290662859437>

Wednesday 13th April: 2 - 3pm

Niamh Rooney

Nisha Lama Karki & Caroline Nkirote

Title: "From 'Results Based' to 'Adaptive' Approaches... Reflections on experience, challenges and opportunities".

This seminar will share and reflect on experiences of results-based approaches in development practice, exploring some misunderstandings of and challenges in applying a results-based approach in practice. What implications do these experiences pose for the potential promotion and adoption of adaptive programming approaches in development practice? What has been the experience of adaptive approaches so far? What are the successes and challenges of applying an adaptive approach? What do organisations need to consider before a shift to adaptive approaches?



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These issues will be explored and debated by the Dept. Of International Development (D.I.D.) in collaboration with the DSAI Adaptive Programming Study Group, with Niamh Rooney, D.I.D. and Nisha Lama Karki & Caroline Nkirote, Action Aid.

Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/results-based-to-adaptive-approaches-in-development-practice-tickets-306319579107>

Friday 29th April 1 – 2 pm

Tom Campbell

Dr Ann Waters-Bayer & Dr Hussein Tadicha Wario

Title: Beyond Climate Change: The politics of economic transformations and green energy investments in Africa's pastoral rangelands



In the first part of this seminar Dr. Tom Campbell, from the DID, will unpack some of the myths and assumptions around pastoral rangeland areas and pastoralism. Drawing on insights from his recently completed doctoral research, he will focus on the ways in which discourses and narratives around pastoralism are promulgated within national policies focused on climate change, green growth and drylands development in Ethiopia and Kenya, the agency and interests of different actors shaping these policies, and the implications of these policies for pastoralist livelihoods.

In the second part, Dr Ann Waters-Bayer* and Dr Hussein Tadicha Wario** will explore how the rangelands in Africa and elsewhere are increasingly being targeted as a 'new frontier' for renewable / green energy investments.

Presenting findings from a recent research project for the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Foundation she will discuss what this means for traditional rangelands users such as pastoralists, and what can be done to ensure a just transition to green energy in rangeland areas.



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* Dr Ann Waters-Bayer is a rural sociologist who co-founded the ProInnova network to support local innovation in low-external-input systems such as pastoralism. She is a member of CELEP through the Agrecol Association and involved in numerous initiatives such as a report on gaps in pastoralism research and co-ordination of the International Year of Rangelands & Pastoralists.

** Dr Hussein Tadicha Wario comes from a Borana pastoralist family in northern Kenya and did his doctorate in agricultural sciences, specialised in resource management in pastoral production systems, at the University of Kassel, Germany. He is the director of the Centre for Research and Development in Drylands (CRDD) in northern Kenya. His research is focussed mainly on social ecology and resource governance in dryland areas.

Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/290318880587>

Friday

Patrick Marren

To be confirmed

Theme: Challenges of supporting partners in conflict and regime change situations

Title: Walking with you: Partnership in a time of regime change

The sudden implosion of the Afghan government in August 2021 caught many observers by surprise including many development actors. Harrowing stories of Afghans fleeing for their lives filled media coverage over the following weeks. Many fled the Taliban fearing for their lives because they had worked the deposed regime or various supporting militaries, and in some cases development agencies and civil society organisations.

The resulting vacuum, left many Afghans a risk of humanitarian disaster, and posed serious challenge to donors government and donor agencies – how should they work in the new Afghanistan, and if so on what basis? This problem is not new, agencies have experienced similar challenges for many decades, from Syria to Myanmar, Somalia to Bosnia.

This talk wants to explore the challenges experienced by operational agencies in such situations of regime change. How do agencies partner with host country organisations that they have supported for years when everything changes? What are the immediate responses and the longer terms transitions that must be made.



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Registration details to follow.