



Department of International Development

Maynooth Research Week Seminar

‘Recent Research on International Development Practice’

Online on Teams

Wednesday, 20th October 2pm – 3.30pm.

This seminar will explore research being undertaken at the Department of International Development. Participants will be invited to critically reflect on each topic with reference to its relevance for international development thinking and practice today. Open to all.

Contributors:

Dr. Eilish Dillon, Head of Department at Maynooth University, Department of International Development – **Supporting Ethical Communications among NGOs in Ireland – Barriers and Opportunities**

Patrick Ekeson, Member of the St. Patrick’s Missionary Society (Kiltegan Fathers) and MA in International Development Student - **The role of Grassroots Organisations in promoting the 2030 Agenda Goal 16 and Sustainable Local Peacebuilding in Post-Conflict Bauchi State, Nigeria**

Dr. Sinéad McGrath, Module Lecturer at Maynooth University, Department of International Development – **The Role of International Migrant Organisations with Internally Displaced Women in the Context of Post-Conflict Transitional Justice in Colombia**

To participate in the seminar, please send an email to: internationaldevelopment@mu.ie for the Teams event link.

All are Welcome.

Contributions

Dr. Eilish Dillon will explore the question: 'What are the barriers and opportunities for supporting ethical communications among non-governmental development organisations (NGDOs) in Ireland today?' Despite decades of criticism about the ways in which issues, peoples and places have been represented in global development (GD) communications, problems remain with regard to the portrayal by NGDOs of colonial stereotypes, 'us' and 'them' binary relationships and identities, and their use of images of people in the 'global South' as undignified victims who are objects of aid. Why do such representations persist? Are efforts to support ethical communications, for example through the Dóchas Code of Conduct on Images and Messages working? Eilish will address these issues with reference to her recent IRC-funded 'New Foundations' research on ethical communications among NGDOs in Ireland, which was conducted in association with Dóchas.

Patrick Esekun will discuss his recently-completed Masters research in International Development on the role of grassroots organisations like Sharing Education and Learning for Life (SELL) Foundation in promoting the 2030 Agenda Goal 16 and sustainable local peacebuilding in post-conflict Bauchi State, Nigeria. With ongoing challenges in terms of gender equality, climate change, conflict, insecurity, weak institutions, and marginalisation and exclusion, the need for justice, peace and sustainable livelihoods is critical for 'leaving no one behind'. Patrick draws on Paulo Freire's dialogical-participatory approach to learning, finding that local stakeholders' can make a valuable contribution to local peace. Respecting local cultures and belief in the power of local capacities, ideas and solutions, dialogue with all stakeholders in peacebuilding processes is critical for sustainable local peace. This is particularly important in the context of poor governance, state ineffectiveness and lack of inclusivity in peacebuilding processes in the region.

Dr. Sinead McGrath will discuss the question: 'Do programmes run by international migrant organisations provide effective remedies for internally displaced women in the context of post-conflict transitional justice?' She will draw on her doctoral thesis on Colombia, which aims to join the dots between discussions of gender and displacement, displacement and transitional justice, the programmatic work of international organisations (IOs) in relation to these issues, and the experience of women beneficiaries of these IO interventions. Rejecting prevailing discourses that position IDP women as victims who lack agency, the thesis whether IO programming provides effective platforms from which women can exercise their agency in transitional contexts. These questions are all explored in relation to the case study of Colombia – a country with one of the highest rates of conflict-related internal displacement in the world – and the interventions of the UNHCR and the IOM.