

Plan Overview

A Data Management Plan created using DMPTool

Title: Ethical Issues in 21st Century International Development

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Funder: National Science Foundation (nsf.gov)

Template: NSF-SBE: Social, Behavioral, Economic Sciences

Project abstract:

This research explores issues of unethical policies, practices, and systemic violence in early 21st century international development. While more nuanced than before, the lingering effects of neocolonialism are still experienced by many in the global South. This project intends to further dialogue among the international community, using this research as a platform for the voices of researchers and practitioners in low-income regions. This work seeks to redefine modern-day neocolonial theory, by placing their perspectives, terms, and knowledge at the center. The purpose is to help better understand microaggressions, internalized and systematized disparities in international development policy and practice, which often are insensitive to regional culture, context, and socio-political dynamics.

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Ethical Issues in 21st Century International Development

Jessica Hanson-DeFusco will be responsible as the Principal Investigator including leading the IRB through the University of Texas-Dallas process before any data collection. This work is primarily theoretical so IRB exception status is anticipated. She will work for part-time during the summer of 2022 and 1 month in 2023 to finalize publication to be disseminated through peer-review journals and university-press publisher. \$1000 is used for publication fees. She will also travel to work with Sakil Malik in DC and vice versa twice a year, thus the anticipated travel. She will also be in charge of managing the project, data management which will be kept in an encrypted Dropbox with access made available to Sakil Malik (co-PI consulting) and to Post-doc Associate. Dr. DeFusco will also mentor the Post-doc Associate, helping she/he/they to support theoretical development of reconceptualized neocolonial attitudes and practices pervasive in international development, as well as help write and edit sections of the publication. This will be done in Year 2 when more progress has theoretically been developed by Malik and DeFusco. Daniel Gray, will be an external non-American consultant, from Liberia with expertise in sociology in the global South. He will provide feedback on the developed theories with compensation as stated in the budget during year 1, and then a final feedback for the finalized document in Year 2. With Covid-19, it may be difficult for Gray to travel to the US, but the travel budget will be used if possible in Year 2 to support Gray to come for draft workshop of scholarship in summer of 2022. A graduate student will be hired to work Year 1 2022 for one semester to support editing, research literature review, and other administrative tasks as required. The student will receive acknowledgement in the publications for supporting the research, as will the Post-doc who will work for 3 months in the summer during Year 2 of 2023.

As this is primarily a theoretical piece, most of the work will center on an extensive literature review of international development and neocolonial theory, along with some case studies provided in interviews with voluntary participants. For this reason, an IRB will be done by Jessica Hanson-DeFusco as the PI, with Sakil Malik as a co-investigator (consultant). Any interviews will be conducted anonymously, with no personal information documented, other than the stories and perspectives that are shared about the state of ethical policies and practices in the realm of international development today in the global South. These interviews will be recorded and kept in an encrypted file with only access by Dr. DeFusco and Mr. Malik. Transcriptions will be done by Dr. DeFusco and will be kept sealed in the file for 2 years per IRB requirements.

A database of an extensive literature review (estimated 1000) related to the topic of publications and scholarship will be developed using Excel. This will be made available as an open source document at the end of the research if requested from Dr. DeFusco, and contact information will be provided in publication. Also all references will be cited in APA format in publication.

Data retention of any interviews will be kept sealed in a zip drive encoded as well as an encrypted file on Dropbox by Dr. DeFusco per IRB requirements.

Data retention of the literature review informing the theoretical modeling of reconceptualizing modern day international development neocolonialism will be made as an open source document, and will be kept for no less than 10 years to support other future research endeavors by the team or other researchers who wish to expand on the theoretical implications of the this publication.

All interviewed participants will be voluntarily, informed of the IRB process and consent from signed, and their contributions will be kept anonymous to guard against retribution or issues that can arise in sharing their experiences in international development.

All literature review resources will be cited using APA in the publication product. Likewise, a literature review

excel tool that records each source, with abstract, key words, link, and APA citation of authors will be maintained and available per request to Dr. DeFusco, whose contact information will be offered in publication. The final products will be either a series of peer-review journal articles and/or a book published by a university-press publisher.

Data will be kept in an encrypted dropbox file by Dr. DeFusco, with all interview recording and transcripts only shared with Malik. The files will be kept for 2 years and then destroyed (deleted) per IRB requirements.

Repositories will be kept in University of Texas dropbox file with an encrypted code by Dr. DeFusco for 2 years. A zip drive that is also encoded will be kept as well to ensure data is not accidentally lost, but will be kept sealed per IRB. All interviews and related data will be deleted after 2 years. IRB consent forms will be kept in the repository mentioned above for up to 5 years.

Literature review data will be open-access. During research period, it will be maintained by Dr. DeFusco and Malik with support by graduate student, and access by Post-doc in Year 2. But data management will be overseen by Dr. DeFusco.

Question not answered.

Planned Research Outputs

Dataset - "Literature review of most relevant sources for Neocolonialism and ID Theory"

The LR will be a database of at least 1000 top-cited or relevant works from Google Scholar and other search engines on neocolonialism and international development theory that help inform a new conceptualization of 21st century international development and unethical issues.

Text - "#UnwokeID- Ethical Issues in 21st century international development book"

The book and potential peer-review article publications will be the final product(s) of this research. It will present the theoretical conceptualization of how neocolonialism has affected or still exists in international development policies and institutions like USAID, the World Bank, and American-based international nonprofit organizations like Save the Children and Plan International. The book will be published through a university-press publisher. Any journal articles will be submitted to social science peer-review journals.

Keywords

International development, policy, ethics, inclusive collaboration, inequality, microaggressions, systemic inequalities, international nonprofit management, neocolonialism

Proposed Table of contents

Book Length: 125-150 pages

Chapter 1: Brief history of International Development

Abstract: Often debated is whether international development theory exists in literature, but for any expert who has worked in international development the answer is clear. This chapter provides an overview of the major theoretical periods that defined international development, such as: modernity, basic needs assistance, human development, and good governance. This overview provides students of international development a better understanding of how contemporary development assistance and foreign aid evolved and the marks that each period left on 21st century theory and practice.

Chapter 2: Policy Cycle & Players

Abstract: This chapter presents the policy cycle in relation to work in international development (ex-ante and ex-post) policy and practice. It also summarizes key stakeholders at all levels- international, regional, national, and localized/community level who play a role in development policy and programming. This chapter is meant to help students get a better understanding of how policies and programs are designed, implemented, and evaluated for impact. Moreover, it helps students understand a variety of career opportunities that they may consider entering

including grant writing, program and policy implementation, nonprofit management, finance/accounting, ITC, technical consulting, research and monitoring & evaluation, specialists, and advocacy. This chapter is based on frequent feedback from nonprofit graduates that they were not fully aware of the different career paths afforded to professionals entering international development. Had they been more aware, they could have better tailored their studies and internships to gain more useful experience and knowledge to lend to their field.

Chapter 3: Violent, coercive, or paternalistic policy and programming in international aid

Abstract: While development policies and programs are made with ‘good intentions’, they often are developed in western headquarters, and implemented top-down from international offices to host-national offices to implement with little to no say in the design or implementation strategy. The chapter presents various real-world case studies of national-level nonprofit organizations, civil society organizations, and grassroots advocacy groups, in which they were contracted with no decision-making process to implement projects and policies which ultimately failed to have the sustainable impact. Each case study comes with a series of discussion questions to generate lessons learnt and consider alternative strategies that in the end could have improved these scenarios. Policies and programs engineered in a silo often have unintended consequences (often termed fatal remedies).

Chapter 4: Unethical practices in international development partnerships between international stakeholders and national partners

Abstract: Development and foreign aid assistance is meant to help improve the quality of life, democratic freedoms, and human capacity of people in low-income regions. Yet, often what is preached by western-educated experts and professionals isn’t necessarily what is practiced. This chapter presents various case studies of implemented policies and programs that were riddled with ethical and moral issues. These cases describe negative attitudes, microaggressions, and systemic inequity by international consultants who call host-national partners derogatory and even racist names behind their backs, to INGOs that mainly place white professionals in key management positions, to pay discrimination, and human resourcing violations including toxic work environments and enforced national staff overtime without financial compensation. The chapter further offers checklists and self-assessment tools that young professionals can use to assess personal and organizational practices and attitudes, and to motivate teams to come up with improvement strategies and priorities to promote a more inclusive partnerships and compassionate work environment.

Chapter 5: Unequitable representation- concerns of limited or ignored voices and perspectives by host national and regional development experts, nonprofit workers, and beneficiaries

Abstract: This chapter examines the laws and policies that many global South nations like Kenya and Liberia are putting into place, along with progressive nonprofits, that protect the rights of their staff, break glass ceilings often put on host-national staff (people of color) including equitable chances for advancement, equal benefits and compensation. It also presents various case studies of real-life experiences of nonprofit and UN employees who are citizens of low-income regions who face repeated experiences of workplace discrimination- from Liberian nonprofit workers threatened to become Ebola responders or loose their jobs; to a female doctor from Bangladesh who was hired to work for an international nonprofit in Washington DC but was paid 40 percent less than her equivalent American counterparts; a USAID-funded contractor who made national employees work 60 hour weeks without paying overtime; to an INGO in Sierra Leone whose director refused to hire any ‘nationals’ as project

managers. Each case study comes with discussion questions for the audience to discuss the issues and consider solutions to avoiding these ethical violations in the future. The chapter also comes with developed tools that agencies can use to improve human resourcing systems and eliminate issues of discrimination or glass ceilings for colleagues from Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Chapter 6: Reconceptualizing Neocolonialistic Practices

Abstract: Contemporary terminology reflecting evolved stage of neocolonialism in development and global South philosophy and scholarship This work proposes to re-examine, update, and advance the philosophic representation of neocolonialism in contemporary international development. The term of neocolonialism is first recorded in literature in the early 1960s, as most colonies were breaking away as independent, democratic nations, in Africa, Latin America, and south-east Asia. Since Nkrumah's 1965 work, *Neo-colonialism: The Last Stage of Imperialism*, concepts of neocolonialism evolved as major topics in both development theory and global South philosophy. Most scholars and practitioners in international development are informed by decades-long body of literature focusing on human capital, human development, and human progress. But the great majority of literature reflects westernized biases against the global South, and the need to make periphery/low-income nations progression mimicking that of metropolises/global North. In international studies, the study of neocolonialism warrants vital consideration of socio-economic and political state of Africa, post-independence from colonial rule, as well as the ongoing effects that ex-colonizing nations exhibit on the global South's socio-economic and political ideology. Yet, how much does the literature on neocolonialism reflect the evolution of development in the early 21st century? Some scholars contend that new neocolonialism is 'globalization' in which low-income regions are economically, political, and culturally dominated by Europe and the West (Afisi, 2009; Basu, 2016; D'Souza, 2007; Easterly, 2006; Mazrui, 2002; Maduagwu, 2000). Yet globalization is only the stage upon which modern day development is implemented.

The power dynamic in international development has shifted, but only a bit towards the center, leaving today's version of neocolonialism not where it was but also not eliminated. Racism, discrimination, and systemic violence may be more nuanced in modern policy and practice, but the effects still are catastrophically experienced by global South members. A new dialogue is thus needed, using a platform that highlights the voices of researchers and practitioners in the global South, placing their perspectives, terms, and knowledge at the center, to help new generations of international development and human rights to understand our microaggressions, internalized and systematized disparities in international development policy and practice, which often are insensitive to regional culture, context, and sociopolitical dynamics. Based on definitions and perspectives of global South researchers and practitioners, this chapter will offer updated theoretical diction and concepts that speak to the issues of ethical policy and practice in international development in the early 21st century. It will build on concepts already catching fire around the world, inspired by social justice movements like Black Lives Matter and #MeToo.

Planned research output details

Title	Type	Anticipated release date	Initial access level	Intended repository(ies)	Anticipated file size	License	Metadata standard(s)	May contain sensitive data?	May contain PII?
Literature review of most relevant sources for Neo ...	Dataset	2023-08-30	Open	None specified	50 MB	None specified	None specified	No	No
#UnwokeID-Ethical Issues in 21st century internat ...	Text	2023-08-30	Open	None specified		None specified	None specified	No	No