

Women in Research Collective

In 2017, we organized a group of women at Kyambogo University who are interested in collaborating and supporting one another in research efforts. Winfred Kyosaba served as the chair of the group. Thus far, we met twice with the group in person for training and organizing, we supported the group through email exchanges, we arranged for a distance education consultation with Maria Elena Torres and Maddy Fox of the Public Science Project – CUNY Grad Center (CPAR research). We are planning their inclusion in a large scale “Women We Love” project.

Below are just a few examples of emails that illustrate how the effort is moving. It has been challenging for the women to find time to meet and work together despite much enthusiasm. When Chalmer Thompson and I visit again this fall, we will spend time with this group seeing how it might develop.

Re: Re- Women in Research

Sarah Bunoti <sbunoti@gmail.com> Dennis, Barbara;Deborah Ojiambo <deborahojiambo@yahoo.com>;Juliet Nakazibwe <julietnakazibwe@gmail.com>;Beatrice Kyamazima <kyamazimab@gmail.com>;Farida Nandi <fariug@yahoo.com>;Goretti Kaahwa <kaahwa.goretti@yahoo.com>;winfred kyosaba <ekyowinnie@yahoo.co.uk>;Thompson, Chalmer Elaine;Nakasiita Kirabo Nkambwe <nakasiitakirabonkambwe@ymail.com>;Christine Lamunu <clamunu@yahoo.com>;Jane Namusoke <janenkonde@gmail.com>;Namugenyi Mastullah <nyinikabyanmb@gmail.com>;

Dear Barbara,

It was a very enriching experience to hold such a successful online meeting: my first one ever! Thank you and Chalmer for making it happen.

Our heartfelt gratitude to Maria and Madeline for the educative presentations.

I love your story about your niece! It says a lot about your emotional involvement in her wellbeing. My Professor in Makerere refers to this as Personalisation! !

Your story not only is helpful in making me (and I am sure other WIR) understand self reflection as a key component of CPAR, but also makes an important point of reference for my personalisation section of what I am working on.

Thank you again and we look forward to your continued guidance as we develop our ideas.

I wish you a blissful weekend.

Sarah

On Jul 21, 2017 9:23 PM, "Dennis, Barbara" <bkdennis@indiana.edu> wrote:

My dear Women in Research Collective Members,

It was lovely to connect with you all today. Thanks to Sarah for chairing our meeting.

I wanted to share a few thoughts. First of all, it is exciting to be learning CPAR. I know it requires some new thinking and I want to encourage all to support one another in this process as we find ways to move beyond traditional approaches to research.

Secondly, I wanted to share two stories with you about my own passion for this research topic. First, I was a special education teacher in public schools. I had wanted to be a special education teacher since I was in the P6. I have a really special story about that. I will send it to you next week.

My second story I will write out here - my niece Hannah lives with Rett Syndrome. It is a mutation of the X chromosome. She cannot use her hands, cannot talk, is cognitively impaired, not toilet trained and has some mobility challenges though she is still able to walk a bit if aided. She is 12 almost 13. She has started developing physically including menstruation. She is really quite vulnerable. We mostly have her surrounded by people we trust, but then we hear of abuse within those circles of trust and it strikes fear into us. Were she to be sexually assaulted, her ability to seek justice, communicate, heal psychologically and so forth would be extremely limited. We are beginning to wrestle with what it means for her to be sexually maturing and physically maturing in the midst of the challenges she lives with. We are also beginning to wrestle with how we respect her autonomy and still care for her in this delicate domain of life. People in the US do not tend to talk about such things, even the abuse of disabled girls is not talked about openly very often. It brings tears to my eyes to think about this issue. I hope by learning to understand the experiences of others girls whose abilities do not work with societal expectations and whose societies continue to promote sexual exploitation and sexual oppression against gender and sexual minorities that I will also gain new understandings and skills to serve the needs of my niece. Furthermore, I hope to contribute to making this less of a worry for disabled girls and their families - I want to change the world.

With much affection,

Barbie

From: Deborah Ojiambo <deborahojiambo@yahoo.com>

Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2017 3:52 PM

To: winfred kyosaba; Dennis, Barbara; Thompson, Chalmer Elaine

Cc: Ali Baguwemu; Sarah Bunoti; Nakasiita Kirabo Nkambwe; Beatrice Kyamazima; Jane Namusoke; Gorette Kaahwa; Namugenyi Mastullah; Farida Nandi; Juliet Nakazibwe; Christine Lamunu

Subject: Re: Re- Women in Research

Dear Colleagues

Thank for this initiative. I am sorry for delaying to respond. I am working on a number of things including exams for students at Makerere.

Barbara and Chalmer-thanks for your commitment to us and for your mentorship support.

I like the idea of developing collaborative research projects.

Regards,

Deborah

On Monday, June 12, 2017 3:50 AM, winfred kyosaba <ekyowinnie@yahoo.co.uk> wrote:

Good morning Dr. Ali and women in research.

This email serves to respond to Professor Barbara's recommendation two "Promoting egalitarianism". I am pleased to report that I have managed to reach the women by email and telephone calls. I have included the addresses on this platform for continuous communication. Awaiting for a few who would like to comprehend the documents sent for appropriate feedback.

Those within Kyambogo, you can get in touch with Beatrice for the copies of the documents Barbara sent. I also have hard copies in case you would like to photocopy.

Hope to have a meeting soon.

Regards

Winnie

On Saturday, 3 June 2017, 16:46, "Dennis, Barbara" <bkdennis@indiana.edu> wrote:

Dear Esteemed Women Scholars and Dr. Ali,

I apologize for my delay in responding. I was excited to read your notes and pleased to see the enthusiasm with which you are prepared to move forward with a Women in Research collective. I am attaching a few articles on CPAR so that we can begin with an exploration of the theory and methodology as ways to think through our work as women scholars. I have included a couple of articles by Michelle Fine and/or Maria Elena Torre are the scholars that Chalmer and I are trying to organize a meeting with.

I would like to propose a couple of structures that I have seen work well for such collectives.

(1) Regularly schedules meetings through which one of a couple of things are done - (a) one person might share their research work as it stands and get feedback, (b) there might be a discussion of an article that we all read, (c) there might be discussion of a collaborative research project.... other things can be included as well, but it is usually good to focus the meetings on a single agenda effort and have someone facilitate.

(2) Promoting egalitarianism is really crucial and we have to work together on this. It includes making sure every single person gets opportunities to talk, respond, and share their views.

(3) Setting goals that are collaboratively shared.

These are just some ideas.

About people - are there others like Sister goretta who might be included? Can we also get Jane included in the group? And maybe there are others? How about Deborah? I know Jane and Deborah are not at Kyambogo, but we want to create an inclusive network.

Regular meetings that are set at the same time are really helpful. It might be possible for Chalmer and I to participate in our absence in the meetings by sending thoughts on the agenda focus ahead of time and/or providing reflections afterwards. There might be times when we can skype in, though I know the cost of internet is no small matter.

I feel quite excited about the group and its mentoring opportunities.

From: winfred kyosaba <ekyowinnie@yahoo.co.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 12:47 PM
To: Thompson, Chalmer Elaine; Dennis, Barbara
Cc: Ali Baguwemu; Sarah Bunoti; Nakasiita Kirabo Nkambwe; Beatrice Kyamazima
Subject: Re- Women in Research

Hello Chalmer and Barbra,
Greetings from Kyambogo University, hope you are well.
On behalf of the women's group, I would like to thank you for the offer to mentor and support women in research. I am happy to inform you that Sarah, Kirabo, Beatrice and I met on Monday 15/5/2017 and deliberated on some issues (Please see the minutes attached). Your guidance is appreciated.
We thank you for the initiative and promise to do the best we can.
Regards
Winnie

7/4/2017

Hello dear chairman and our colleagues,

Barbara and I were able to firm up many of the details of our visit with the CPAR consultants. We still have some minor things to settle (mostly with how to construct our time), but I first wanted to see if our plan to meet with you via Skype or Zoom was possible.

Winnie, please do let us know how you are doing. We want very much for the Women in Research to be involved in the meeting.

Here's what we've already arranged: Barbara and I will travel to New York Wednesday evening, June 19th. Early that morning, we can begin the Skype or Zoom link with you. We can begin as early as 7 am our time, which would be 2 p.m. your time. Is this a good time for that Thursday the 20th? If not, please let us know a better, later time to meet. We could meet you in the evening.

We'll want to have another meeting that following day, Friday the 21st. Again, please let us know when the best time would be for the meeting. We can meet as early as 7 a.m. our time (and 2 p.m. your time).

I think Zoom may be the better way to connect. If one person will subscribe to Zoom, which is free, and test is out with me this week, that would be especially good.

I believe the best way to join Zoom is for one of you sign up here: https://www.zoom.us/?zcid=1173&gclid=CKn91L_u79QCFQUdaQodFPcliw

Once you sign up, let me know and I'll schedule a time for us to meet only for a 'test' before the 20th and 21st. I'd like to make sure things work out. What would be even better is to have this test done at the same location we plan to have the meeting with the consultants. Will it be at Noma? At the conference room in the Faculty of Education?

And most importantly, if these plans for the consultation meeting all sound fine, please let us know how best to use our time. What we proposed with the consultants is that they spend some time talking about CPAR and then work very specifically in helping us move forward on any number of things --- the grant proposal writing for building (on) the doctoral program, a

grant proposal for the next research project (maybe with older children), the children's book project, and so forth.

And we asked that there be some time dedicated specifically for the Women in Research. Winnie, we didn't write the entire group, but would be happy to do so, if you would like.

The test on the 7th shouldn't take more than a few moments, OR we could arrange to make sure that some of that time is used to help organize and plan for the meeting with the consultants.

Either way, with the purchase of data for any of our contacts, please keep your receipts and if possible, send it to me through email. I can also try to arrange a way to fax me as well, whatever way is best.

Thank you, everyone!

Chalmer

6/22/2017

Hello Colleagues,

Barbara and I had a conversation yesterday with one of the leaders, Dr. Maddy Fox, of the Public Science Project. These are the people who conduct an institute each year on Critical Participatory Action Research (CPAR).

Please recall that we mentioned during one of our conference presentations in April that we wanted to share this workshop with you using technology, maybe with the use of NOMA facilities. I believe you all were receptive to this, but if I am wrong, please do correct me!

They are eagerly willing to consult with ALL of us --- Barbara and me who will travel to New York, and as many of our colleagues there at KYU who are able and willing to attend. (We also

hope that David Onema can also attend if he is available). In thinking ahead about the African Capacity-Building Foundation grant, as well as other grants we set our sights on, having this consultation could be of help in our future work in developing doctoral education at KYU in particular, and in helping to create meaningful change in Uganda.

Barbara and I thought we might divide up the consultation into two sessions: one for the broader faculty in psychology, and the other for the Women in Research group. I have included Winnie here specifically because she is in both groups.

For the broader group: The information presented in this consultation could be helpful in several ways. It can be used to think about the research conducted in the doctoral program (or as only ONE type of research conducted), or it can be used to help us think about the next research projects we want to conduct. As related to this latter idea, perhaps we can embark on a project similar to the interviews of primary school pupils but that will include older pupils. We could also use CPAR as we continue the work of creating children's readers. And of course the list can go on; these are just some ideas.

For the Women in Research group: The information presented in this consultation could be helpful also in a number of ways. The group can make use of the information as individual members may wish to consider adopting designed guided by this approach. The information could also help inform a shared research project and the leaders to give specific details about how to go about doing this. They have several examples of the use of CPAR that have been used in the U.S.

We had a difficult time coming up with some dates that would work with our schedules, so we are hoping that the dates we have arranged will be fine for most everyone there at KYU. We will meet early morning our time, so that the time will not be too late there. The dates are July 20th and 21st, and Thursday and Friday. We still need to confirm times, but tentatively, we can begin as early as 2:30 p.m. That's 7:30 am our time (Barbara, I checked and the time difference actually IS 7, not 8 hours). We will do this for both days.

So I write today to ask:

1. Is there willingness to meet for the consultation?
2. Our thoughts were that if there is willingness, we could meet with the first (broader) team from 2:30 to 4, and the second group from 4:15 to 6 -- or switch. Your thoughts?

3. How much will the use of NOMA or whatever space is used, as well as any costs for the connectivity be? We will provide the money to cover these costs.

4. We can talk before this meeting about agenda. We should also plan a practice run just to make sure everything is working when the consultations actually occur. We can also provide the funding for this. We were thinking that a better way to do this is using Zoom instead of Skype. Thoughts about this?

Sorry for this very lengthy email! I look forward to hearing from you, and I realize that it may take some time to respond. Be well, my colleagues.

Chalmer