



WORKSHOP ABSTRACT

Dialogue and participation: a multivocal representation of women.

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Abstract: In our 90-minutes interactive workshop, we will collaboratively explore with participants the images of women and the contemporary socio-cultural challenges they face in a space of collective reflection. The workshop offers participants a collaborative form of knowledge production to create a space of shared interpretation. We will use the method of Silent Floor Discussion, which creates opportunities for open dialogue and debate through the use of written and non-verbal creative activities (e.g. drawing). The aim of the workshop is to learn about the participants' perceptions of women and contemporary challenges, and then to interpret them in the same framework as the self-representations that emerged from a particular participatory linguistic ethnographic research (2020-2021). The self-representations are multimodal research results in the form of memes and will be shared with the conference participants by Isabela Botezatu, the local project leader. Our workshop, being participatory and dialogue-based, promises multivocality (Clifford 1988): it allows for challenging the dominant narratives of cultural, linguistic and other social practices that present minority women mainly as specialists in folklore, healing and sacred communication. Our workshop challenges the dominant narratives by 1) not only creating a space for the self-representation of young women from the Moldavian region of Romania, but also 2) building the questioning process on dialogue and negotiation of interpretations among the workshop participants. On the one hand, the workshop provides an opportunity to partially explore the different perspectives and, on the other hand, allows the participants to represent the shared knowledge in the form of memes at the end of the workshop. We invite people to share their knowledge in our collaborative space being interested in women in minority settings and participatory approach.

SESSION SCHEDULE

Monday, September 23, 2024 | Slot 1 | Room 2

Marina Quine: Women in Artisanal Fishing in Peru: Roles, Importance, and Inequality

Sára Szabó: Links between the image of "good mother" and the local position of early childhood professionals

Eline De Jong: Beyond barriers: reflections on working with two women's groups in a social housing cooperative

Monday, September 23, 2024 | Slot 2 | Room 2

Open Session

SESSION PAPERS

Women in Artisanal Fishing in Peru: Roles, Importance, and Inequality

Marina Quine

Artisanal fishing has been a fundamental pillar of the economy and culture in Peru, especially in coastal regions since time immemorial. However, in recent decades, this sector has faced a series of challenges such as the decline in catches; informality, which hinders access to social benefits and government support programs; as well as the lack of adequate fishing infrastructure in ports and coves, which are limited and, in many cases, obsolete, affecting the quality of the product and the competitiveness of the sector.

Added to this is gender inequality, even though women actively participate in the entire value chain of the artisanal fishing economic dynamic, they often face discrimination and a lack of opportunities to access leadership and decision-making positions.

Thus, in this research initiated in May 2023, we seek to study different aspects of the OSPAS (social organizations of artisanal fishermen) in the Ica Region of Peru, including ethnoecological, socioeconomic, and gender-focused aspects.

For this preliminary report, we will focus on evaluating the problems of the OSPAS, their development perspectives, and the importance of the role of women in artisanal fishing in this region, which also hosts the second-largest community of artisanal fisherwomen in Peru.

As part of the ongoing actions, we are supporting the OSPAS in the process of improving their organizational capacity and visibility at the regional and national levels, with the creation of the first Federation for the Integration of Empowered Women in Artisanal Fishing of Peru (FIMEPAP), which will allow them to access social benefits to improve their quality of life.

Links between the image of "good mother" and the local position of early childhood professionals

Sára Szabó

The presentation focuses on the results of a fieldwork conducted in a disadvantaged, ethnically divided settlement in Hungary, Nógrád County, using ethnographic methods such as participant observation and semi-structured interviews to explore the organisation of institutional early childhood care (0-3 years). By examining the practices and narratives of the employees of care institutions and services in the settlement, as well as the relationship between the caregivers and the families and mothers concerned, the research explores how the organisation of care fits into local hierarchies and networks.

The research describes professional as actors, street-level bureaucrats (Lipsky 1980), who mediate state-level policies as an extended arm of the state, organise the population at local level, but who are also embedded in the local community. The presentation will show how the professionals convey expectations and patterns to families and mothers in their everyday practices of what 'good care and parenting' and 'good mother' means, and how the position of professionals in the locality determines their practices and narratives, and the relationship they can develop with the mothers concerned. The novelty of my work is exploring the impact of locality and positionality on the formation of mother image and the relationship between professionals and mothers, showing that the professionals themselves can (re)produce gender, class and ethnical relations, inequalities and hierarchical distinctions or even form relations of solidarity. The presentation puts particular emphasis on the gender aspects, since due to the assumption in Hungary that caring is essentially a female duty (Fodor 2022), both the professionals and the parents in the institutions are almost exclusively women. By exploring the voices and positions of women in different roles and statuses in the reproductive sector, the research seeks to show what can create boundaries between women and on what basis women's solidarity can be built.

Beyond barriers: reflections on working with two women's groups in a social housing cooperative

Eline De Jong

As part of my ethnographic fieldwork with a social housing cooperative for low-income families with a migration background, for several months I participated in two women's groups which were organized among female residents living in the same neighborhood. In these group meetings, which were facilitated by a social worker, the women got together to discuss various topics such as work and volunteering, homework tutoring for their children, or domestic affairs. Every now and then, the meetings centered around specific civil society initiatives: for instance, a representative of a family-focused non-profit visited one of the meetings, and a field trip was organized to a local welfare organization. But the women's group gatherings were also about creating an informal get-together. They presented an opportunity for the women of various backgrounds to practice Dutch, exchange everyday experiences, and share drinks and food (participants often brought home-made baking). By attending these gatherings for the better part of a year, I gained a different perspective on my research practice, and I became especially interested in questions of representation and interpretation beyond the 'traditional' methods.

As part of my involvement with the women's groups, I started exploring participatory methods. Together with the women, we conducted a photovoice exercise, whereby the women took pictures of places in their homes and neighborhoods that evoked certain positive or negative feelings. We then discussed and reflected on these different pictures, trying to map what home means to participants and thinking about how they view the housing cooperative that they are a part of and what they would like to change. Through this method, I aimed to include different perspectives beyond the dominant language and cultural perspectives. I would like to learn more about participatory methods and shared knowledge production, hence my interest in your workshop at VANDA.