

Trans-National Education: Global Wellbeing or New Imperialism?



ICHEM led a session on the role of transnational higher education on global wellbeing and new imperialism at the British Council Going Global Conference on 2 June 2015 at the Queen Elizabeth Centre in London. The session was chaired by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Dame Glynis Breakwell, curated by Professor Rajani Naidoo, Director ICHM with concluding remarks highlighting good practice and areas of concern by Professor Colin Grant, Pro Vice Chancellor International.

In her opening presentation Professor Naidoo suggested that many of the major issues facing humankind such as the destruction of the environment, rising inequality and violence across borders can only be solved by countries and universities working together. In this context, the question of how higher education contributes to global wellbeing is crucial. She highlighted barriers including a unhealthy competition fetish and urged researchers and policy makers to focus on trailblazer institutions leading initiatives for global wellbeing. Two films were shown. 'TNE: What's in it for us?' produced by Professors Melanie Walker and Jonathan Jansen and 'Beyond the Boundaries' produced by DBA participants and alumni Dr Luz longsworth and Deborah Souza-Okpofabri, University of West Indies and Dr Kofi Nkrumah-Young, University of Technology, Jamaica.

ICHEM devised multiple, open fishbowl conversations which were used for the first time in *Going Global* to engage the audience of around 80 in dynamic, participative discussion. Fishbowl presenters included Dr Rozzilini Fernandez-Chung (HELP University College, Malaysia) Dr Christopher Hill (University of Nottingham, Malaysia), Mr Liam Roberts (Association of Commonwealth Universities), Mr Johannes Tarvainen (United Nations High Commission for Refugees) and Professor Melanie Walker, University of the Free State). Respondents included DBA participants Caroline Baylon (University of Bath), Professor Nigel Healy (Nottingham Trent University), Dr. Rachel Johnson (Yale-NUS College) and Dr Vicky Lewis, VickyLewis Consulting, joined by Miguel Antonio Lim, Aarhus University, Denmark.

Key issues for policy and research included an acknowledgement of the huge benefits and opportunities offered by transnational education, the tensions that market forces and rankings bring to partnerships, how to recognise local culture without becoming immersed in cultural relativism and the importance of higher education for refugees in rebuilding communities and offering intellectual support to young people who will become tomorrow's leaders.

Going Global <http://www.britishcouncil.org/going-global/programme/sessions/tne-global-wellbeing-or-new-imperialism>

Interview with Professor Dame Glynis Breakwell

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/education/ihe/what-we-do/going-global-conference/conference-highlights/going-global-2015-london/speaker-interviews/Professor-Dame-Glynis-Breakwell>

Video 1 Whats in it for Us?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BE0zg8EZvLU>

Video 2 Beyond the Boundaries

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cMUhMnTr6W8>