

OPENGOV HUB PANEL DISCUSSION – FULL SPEECH

TITLE: Persisting Gender Issues Around The World

PRESENTATION FORMAT: Panel Discussion

SESSION SUMMARY: D3 System's new Gender Research initiative is bringing together thought leaders from academia, non-profits, and research institutions to share social science contributions to the field of gender studies. The panel discussion, "Persisting Gender Issues Around the World," will cover access to healthcare, educational attainment, financial inclusion, and security.

DATE: Thursday, August, 20, 2015

TIME: 10:30-11:30 PM

LOCATION: OpenGov Hub, 1110 Vermont Ave, NW, #500, Washington, DC 20005

INTRODUCTION:

Good morning and thank you for coming to our inaugural panel discussion sponsored by D3 System's Gender Research Initiative. Today we are bringing together researchers from academia, non-profits, and research institutions to share public opinion survey results on "Persisting Gender Issues Around the World," with a focus on financial inclusion, healthcare, and security.

I am the moderator this morning, Samantha Chiu. Before we begin the panel today, I'd like to introduce the Gender Research Initiative at D3 Systems, and more importantly a research question to the audience: "What is Gender Research?" This question and your answers, I hope will not only contribute to our discussion today, but also contribute to the research agenda for the Gender Research Initiative.

Since 2007, D3 Systems has sponsored The Women in Muslim Countries Data Project and collected public opinion survey samples from across more than 35,000 respondents in over 26 different countries. Our most recent addition to the collection is from July 2015 in Bangladesh. The data sets are nationally representative samples, with some subsets of urban only samples, collected using face-to-face or computer-assisted telephone interviewing methods.

After presenting our research at conferences over the past couple of years, our team realized that the collection of data we had was more than just a public opinion survey of women in Muslim countries; and, that our research could not be solely situated on women, a religion, or even a country or region.

Today, D3 System is launching The Gender Research Initiative. This Research Initiative will continue to collect nationally representative data, but it will include both men and women and focus on relevant and timely topic areas. D3's Gender Initiative specializes in the application of a high-value resource, public opinion surveys, that has the potential to improve and advance gender related initiatives across the private sector, development, and academia.

Again, my question for the audience today: "What is Gender Research?" Is it the study of women, men? Does gender interplay with other issue areas? Is gender research the study of gender gaps? Like the ranking and knowledge gained from The World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index? Is it to investigate the role of women? Or, is gender research the scientific endeavor to develop an index, a measurement, a scale – a way to quantify, model, and predict the effects of gender?

What about from the other perspective where we do not take a gendered approach? Where we focus on issues like security, education, and economy, first? Take for example some of the frameworks for international development institutions like the Sustainable Development Goals of 2030 (SDGs) and the Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review (QDDR): gender is not listed as an exclusive issue area in the framework or set of universal goals, targets, and indicators; rather, for example, the QDDR consists of four strategic priority areas including, countering violent extremism, open democratic societies, inclusive economic growth, and climate change. Here, it is not that gender issues are overlooked, it is that they are inherent to each issue area. What is gender research? Does gender stand alone as its own initiative, or is it integrated in what we research?

I believe that better understanding public opinion will play a role in better understanding the nuanced branches of gender research?

To launch the research initiative at D3 Systems, our team is debating the answer to this question through rigorous scholarly and scientific research. We have most recently analyzed global gender gaps and identified several key thematic areas which interact or effect the size of the gap: financial empowerment, security and violence, and healthcare/health access. We believe that these topical areas affect the social, economic, and political structural barriers, or other interacting factors. We are interested in how gender might be juxtaposed and how it may interact with these issue areas.

Today we have brought together experts on each topic: Nathaniel Kretchun from InterMedia will present the topic of financial inclusion and household dynamics; Samera Zaidi from D3 Systems will present her co-authored research with Dr. Nafisa Halim from the Center for Global health and Development at Boston university, on dynamic health topics in Bangladesh; and, Ms. Rebecca Turkington from The Institute for Women, Peace, and Security at Georgetown will discuss security, conflict, and the role of women in the peace process in South Sudan; Then, I will open up the session to the public for questions. To note: The public opinion survey results, data, and evidence contributing to our scholar's findings are from our D3 Gender Research sponsored studies, and spotlighting our most recent wave of data collected in Bangladesh last month.

With that, I would like to welcome our panelists.

SPEECH MAP

- I. Introduction:
 - a. “Inaugural panel discussion”
 - b. “Sponsored by D3 System’s Gender Research Initiative”
 - c. To share public opinion survey results on persisting gender issues around the world: financial inclusion, health conditions, security, and conflict
- II. Outline talk to audience:
 - a. GRI
 - b. “What is Gender Research”
- III. WIMC to “more than just a public opinion survey of women in Muslim countries; and that our research could not be solely situated on women, a religion, or even a country or region.”
- IV. “D3’s Gender Initiative specializes in the application of a high-value resource, public opinion surveys, that has the potential to improve and advance gender related initiatives across the private sector, development, and academia.”
- V. Question to audience:
 - a. “What is Gender Research?”
 - b. “Does gender stand alone as its own initiative, or is it integrated in what we research?”
- VI. “I believe that better understanding public opinion will play a role in better understanding the nuanced branches of gender research?”
- VII. Financial empowerment, security and violence, healthcare/conditions/access – key, current, topical areas
- VIII. Introduce panelists:
 - a. “Nathaniel Kretchun from InterMedia will present the topic of financial inclusion and household dynamics
 - b. Samera Zaidi from D3 Systems will present her co-authored research with Dr. Nafisa Halim from the Center for Global health and Development at Boston university, on dynamic health topics in Bangladesh
 - c. Ms. Rebecca Turkington from The Institute for Women, Peace, and Security at Georgetown will discuss security, conflict, and the role of women in the peace process in South Sudan”