

The Fall SDTIC meeting (10/28/22 @12-2 PST), *Democracy, Human Rights, Civic Attitudes and Politics*, will explore the fun times of conducting Human Rights centered research in challenging global contexts. We hope to inspire a broad discussion through sharing experiences of work in such contexts (including the U.S., Central America, the Balkans, Eurasia, Central Asia, South Africa and beyond). It is important, for those of us who have gathered interesting global perspectives through our work, to share those insights and raise awareness around the challenges. It is equally important for those who have questions, doubts, ideas, curiosities... to share too, as questions after all, are the substance of our work as researchers. Moreover, spaces in which we all work are often wedged in between government(s), academia and the nonprofit world, whether we intended that or not, and a broad discussion about the pitfalls of translating research into practice, especially in the context of Human Rights work, would serve us all, very well.

The fluid and highly flexible plan for the symposium then, is a moderated panel with Zina, Franklin, and a few colleagues (TBD) whose work fits with the theme. Being as our lenses here are global, we would like to spark up a larger conversation about regionally-impacted challenges, differences, issues and tensions when it comes to working in different *Democracy and Human Rights* spaces. All that while working within the “SDT as a global force for good” framework!

Part I: An overview of the key discussion points for the symposium (Zina and Franklin)

- The advantages and the pitfalls of conducting Human Rights research in, and for three very different arenas: the academia, the government, and the nonprofit/INGO sector
 - tensions and discrepancies between the three sectors
 - connecting the dots between the three sectors in working for larger impact
 - challenges of research-to-practice endeavors in the Human Rights field
 - sharing findings and navigating political and academic backlash
 - publishing pitfalls - promoting and uplifting interdisciplinarity, fair crediting and multiculturalism in what is published

Part II: Regional and global and deeper dive (Panel - discussants TBD)

- Regional connections and distinctions: How different governments, economic systems, civil society structures, and nonprofits dictate both the limitations and the pace of work
 - Doing research on democracy, human rights, and violence, in another country
 - What can we ask and not ask in our research in each locale?
 - What may be too risky for participants?
 - How do we protect the participants and/or collaborators?
 - Functioning as a researcher in volatile / risky governmental systems

Part III: Developmental research and global challenges (Panel discussion and presentations)

- Working with the global youth: What have we learned / or had to unlearn about culture and development in different parts of the world.
 - What is the impact of trauma on development in societies where Human Rights abuses are systemic and prevalent
 - How can we establish trust, as researchers, with youth from different cultures

Part IV: Open forum discussion for all participants (Break out Rooms)

- Discussing the current Human Rights crisis situations: How might you conduct research on that issue?
- In your own research, do YOU have to navigate through any of the conditions (politics, governments, violence, human rights issues, etc.) which you might be inquiring about from your youth or adult research participants?
- Does your research on these topics inform your own beliefs, and vice versa?