

MPhil. / PHD

Somali Women Graduates in London: Navigating 'Success' in Education

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Introduction and Research aims/questions

- Key aim of this research is to explore the educational narratives of young women from the Somali community in London.
- What factors have contributed to the increased rates of achievement and participation in Higher education : within the family, within the individual, within the community?
- How do these young women perceive themselves and their identities in relation to their education?

Materials and methods

- 5 semi structured interviews with Key informants from the Somali community in London
- 25 in depth semi -structured narrative interviews with young Somali women graduates.
- Thematic analysis using critical, feminist perspectives

Provide a brief overview of where you are up to in your research and be specific about how you are using it to support/underpin/enhance your teaching.

❖ I have undertaken most of my research interviews

❖ I am writing up my methodology and several chapters near completion

❖ I am preparing for Transfer in the coming months

❖ Undertaking this extended and in-depth research has had a vast impact on my teaching in multifarious ways some explicit and some more subtle

❖ Working on the research methodology has given me the opportunity to engage in depth with new approaches and developments in research theory that happened during the period since I studied for my BA and MA. I now value highly the importance of including the influence of these approaches in my teaching to the third year dissertation students.

❖ Exploring the educational experiences of young women from a minority ethnic group and the notion of post-colonialism that permeates the dialogues of young people that I am speaking with, has enlightened me to the importance of inclusive and enabling practices in teaching and has enhanced my perspective on this specifically regarding the issue of representation by authors, researchers and theorists from varied cultural backgrounds in our resources.

Conclusions/next steps

- Goals.....
- to complete transfer before the end of the year.
- To complete all interviews, transcripts, before end of year
- To work on analysis and writing up in 2018
- To complete toward end of 2018 / beginning of 2019
- To produce some publications during this period and beyond based on some key elements of my research

Key Literature/Literature cited

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Thomson, P. 2010 'Bringing Bourdieu to 'widening participation' policies in higher education: A UK case analysis' In M. Apple, S. Ball and L. Gandin *The Routledge International Handbook of the Sociology of Education* London: Routledge Ch. 28 pp. 318-328

