



Photo: ICBWers at potluck event

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Greetings ICBWorld Colleagues!

When ICBWorld launched in 2009, we used to meet informally in one another's homes in the metro DC area. It was fun to see who would show up, what new people we might meet, and to learn what kind of consulting they did. It used to take forever to go around with introductions, as we slowly got to know each other. This was before zoom, so we would hold a phone as a microphone so those online could hear us. We enjoyed great foods and got a peak at each other's homes too!

Now we are onto our fourth month of regular virtual roundtables, where we are back to exploring some original themes, and new ones, on how we can sharpen our consulting acumen "for a better world". In this issue we captured some highlights of recent discussions regarding decolonization and storytelling in consulting.

On page four, another of ICBW's partners, Kirrin Gill, shares about her passions, consulting experiences and struggles.

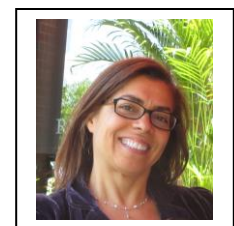
We hope you'll join us throughout the summer for our continuing lively roundtables (listed on page 4). And if you want to experience good eats, as we did before, come on out to Arlington for our July 28 potluck. I promise it'll be scrumptious and you'll meet some fascinating people!

Harambee*,

Marjorie Macieira

ICBWorld Chair

marjmaci@yahoo.com



* "We all pull together" in Swahili





ICBWorld Virtual Roundtable Discussion: Decolonialization and Localization

April 2023

Elizabeth Gardiner and Elizabeth Westley co-hosted this meeting, which defined decolonialization and localization, and discussed implications for consultants. Highlights of the session follow.

Definitions

Decolonization:

- 1.** *Process by which colonies become independent of the colonizing country* (Encyclopedia Britannica)
- 2.** *Decolonization or decolonization is the undoing of colonialism, the latter being the process whereby imperial nations establish and dominate foreign territories, often overseas. Some scholars of decolonization focus especially on independence movements in the colonies and the collapse of global colonial empires.* (Wikipedia)
- 3.** *It's the tale of colonization, yes, but it's simply White Supremacy. And this is what we see.... White Supremacy is what has brought slavery and colonization... to justify the colonization they theorized that we were inferior... that they are there to save us, so that the White people in Europe start to believe that the colonization was good for us. When the colonization has only one objective: to steal our land and our riches and to kill all those who opposed to it... So the movement to decolonize global health, it's OK, but I prefer that it's a movement to fight White Supremacy in global health. And that's how I name it.* (Global Health Matters: Actions for Decolonizing Global Health. Agnes Binagwaho, Vice Chancellor of the University of Global Health Equity in Rwanda)

Localization: *"USAID defines localization as the set of internal reforms, actions, and behavior changes that we are undertaking to ensure our work puts local actors in the lead, strengthens local systems, and is responsive to local communities."*

Discussion

- Some organizations in our field inadvertently maintain the status quo. For example, by requiring applicants to be article lead authors, younger people in the field will not qualify.
- Framing the issue with terms such as "Anti-colonialism" or "Colonialism" can be alienating, offensive and/or polarizing.
- There is tension between wanting to work oneself out of a job and wanting to continue to command the same consultant fees for doing the job.
- There is tension around letting go of owning success. Many goals and benchmarks are set by donors. At the end of the day, donors are still calling the shots.

Questions

- We should ask ourselves, what would we lose if... and what would we gain if...
- How can we transition resources as well as power (human capacity, skills, technology)?
- What is ideal/too ambitious/too slow for expect for the speed of decolonialization?

(continued on next page)

To advertise/share ICBWorld info, resources and membership with colleagues, just refer them to the link below:



<https://icbworld.org/>

What can/should we do as consultants?

- Lift the voices of the people being served.
- Power and resources need to shift to be closer to the issues being addressed.
- The context must be understood in order to prepare the best interventions.
- Work to incorporate local actors into decision-making at higher levels.
- Local staff often need financial and communication resources. Aim to use our (consultant) experience and expertise to support local staff and locally-run organizations. For example, if they don't have internet service, they could use our help to communicate with donors.
- Advocate for locals and young voices to be lead authors or receive appropriate recognition.
- Advocate for more egalitarian pay and compensation.

What other ideas do you have? Please feel free to share with membership!

Please note that ICBWorld has collected some resources on this topic in the library section of the website being currently revamped and will be available soon. For a recording of the session, please contact: Elizabeth Gardiner at: elgardiner@yahoo.com



STORYTELLING IN CONSULTING??

This month, ICBW member Sara Gomez shared about storytelling and why it is so important to help bring visibility and credibility to our work.

She reviewed some storytelling tips and talked about important ethical considerations when sharing the stories of others, especially those of children and young people. Sara says "Pay attention to your discomfort – it may be telling you something".

Some of her tips:

- There is no single formula or framework for storytelling.
- Simplify your writing – less is more, cut out the jargon.
- Start strong and surprise your reader. Keep them engaged.
- Small stories can cover big issues and have strong messages
- Describe relatable characters.
- Convey obstacles and challenges -keep it realistic.
- Consider using animation, a cartoon or avatars when you cannot show someone's actual face.

For access to roundtable recording contact: saraegomez@gmail.com

Membership Update

Thanks to all who renewed their memberships for the 2023 season! In case you were wondering we standardized membership fees at \$30 this year as we continue development of our website and other supporting systems.

Renewing ensures your access to the listserv with timely advice, opportunities and resources. If you haven't yet or wish to join you can do so here:

<https://icbworld.org/su/>

For further assistance, or any listserv issues please reach out to: Kirrin Gill <kirringill@hotmail.com> or our web guru Joe Mando at: joemando2010@gmail.com



Upcoming and Recent Events

UPCOMING/SAVE THE DATE!

ICBWorld is hosting virtual Roundtable discussions each month and members are invited to attend and also co-host conversations around themes of interest. Share your experience, tips or invite a speaker or share a resource. For scheduling contact: Pattie Gross pattie.murray@gmail.com



Date	Event	Contact
July 6 12-1pm EDT	Virtual: Consulting Conundrums	Jennifer Winestock Luna jenniferwluna@gmail.com
July 28 5-8pm EDT	In-Person: Potluck Dinner in Arlington, VA	Afaf Khoshman khoshmanafaf@gmail.com
August 4 12-1pm EDT	Virtual: RFPs and Proposal Development	Pattie Gross pattie.murray@gmail.com & Alfredo Ramirez alfredo@prosal.io

RECENT

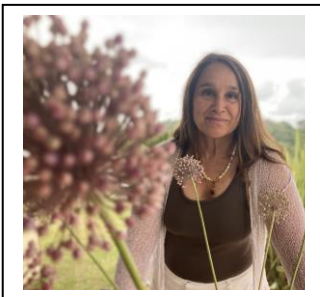
Anticolonialism and Localization

Virtual Rdtable – Elizabeth Gardiner and Elizabeth Westley led an inspiring discussion on how consultants can make a difference. Read some ideas shared on page 2.

Spring Hike on C&O Canal – Cinco de Mayo celebration, organized by Patti Petesch, with a perfect spring hike and much good cheer (see photo on left).

Storytelling – Sara Gomez led a lively conversation on how you can rely on storytelling for your consulting work (see page 3). Contact Sara for recording access: saraagomez@gmail.com

CONSULTANT OF THE MONTH: Get To Know Your Colleagues!



Name: Kirrin Gill

Residence:
Biot, France -- A village renowned for its artist community between Nice & Cannes

INTERESTING FACT: I accidentally became a cacti aficionado. They are surprisingly forgiving plants. They shrink a little when you entirely neglect them and grow ferociously when watered. Here in the South of France they stick around through the heat of summer and spread whenever they get the chance. The unexpected charm of their blooms is hard to resist. I've accumulated containers big and small overflowing with cacti, mostly obtained from clippings, sometimes surreptitiously. Now I'm on to wilding my garden and trying out other drought resistant local plants. Here's me with the wild onion blossoms that sprung up recently. Majestic despite their humble origins.

TYPE OF CONSULTING: I specialize in Gender, Health and Innovation, with a focus on private sector partnerships. What we can achieve through development groups, international agencies and NGOs is a drop in the ocean compared with the power of business, so it is critical to get them involved in our efforts. I do research and writing, capacity building, and monitoring, learning and evaluation for my clients and have worked on a wide range of subject areas, including diversity, equity and inclusion, technology and innovation, SRHR, adolescent health, and empowerment.

AN ICBWORLD EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHT: Job opportunities are a great benefit of our network, but as important to me are the like-minded and inspiring people I've met through ICBWorld. I recently reconnected with a wonderful former colleague with whom I had lost touch.

CONSULTANT STRUGGLE & ADVICE FOR OTHERS: In over a decade of consulting from the South of France I haven't found colleagues in our field here, so isolation has been an issue. I love being able to work from cafés and to be available for my family, but I miss the community and intellectual stimulation of having colleagues nearby. Being part of ICBWorld has helped, but I have found no ultimate solution. It's an ongoing challenge to achieve the right balance. I've realized I need to schedule time to connect with others, in person and online. I'm now connecting online with colleagues and ICBWorld folks and meeting in person socially with entrepreneurs, global nomads, and artists here in the South of France to get my dose of creative energy.