



SEPTEMBER 2023:

Reflecting on the UNESCO-MAP Dialogue on Arts Education...

Hello <<First Name>> and welcome to our September MAP newsletter!

Here is a snapshot of our recent activities, including our joint event with UNESCO Kathmandu to celebrate International Peace Day, project updates (from Nepal, Rwanda, and Kyrgyzstan) and reflections from some of our Monitoring Evaluation & Learning (MEL) researchers at the University of Northampton. Don't forget you can join in the conversation on Twitter: #EverydayPeacebuilding.

Each month we provide updates on our activities, insights on which approaches work best, and opportunities to join events and webinars on topics of interest to you. In this issue we cover:

SPOTLIGHT: The UNESCO-MAP Dialogue in Kathmandu

Project updates

Forthcoming webinar/events

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL)

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SPOTLIGHT: **The UNESCO-MAP Dialogue on Arts Education in Kathmandu**



On 21 September 2023, Mobile Arts for Peace (MAP) in Nepal, together with UNESCO Kathmandu, organised a National Dialogue on Culture and Arts Education. The event mobilised diverse voices and practices, bringing together young people and key national stakeholders working in the field of culture and arts education.

The roundtable celebrated promising local to national arts-based practices through exhibitions, performances and reflective dialogues, but also began to envisage the integration of these practices into formal and informal education systems and curricula. Using evidence and practices from MAP, UNESCO and other organisations, and practitioners, the dialogue began creating a roadmap to shape curriculum development and innovative arts education in the country.



Image theatre and Deuda in action!

Photo credit: Human Rights Film Center (HRFC)

live-tweeting with the support of our YAARs (Youth Advisory Advocacy Researchers) and adult researchers on-site, acting as citizen journalists! We're very grateful to our YAAR members Juhi Adhikari, Prasiddhi Shakya, and Neharika Shrestha, as well as [Nar Bahadur Saud](#) and [Sarah Huxley](#) who together, captured and shared moments and key quotes from the events so that it could be shared on MAP Twitter, giving a sense of being there from afar, and a chance to enjoy the event.

Check out some snippets of the event captured by our reporters [here!](#)



"An image speaks for itself. We got the chance to experience this, and felt really amazing how no words, just body language, and portrait images can convey a lot of messages. Being part of YAAR (Youth Advisory Advocacy Research) developed my critical thinking, leadership, communication, personality, and much more. Through research, we found out that peer-based learning is more effective, because we are of a similar age group and are more comfortable to express ourselves."

(Youth Researcher YAAR Team from Nepal, stated during UNESCO-MAP National Dialogue on Culture & Arts Education)



Project updates



PI/Col interviewing a famous Deuda singer - Dikra Badi, from Kailali district. Photo credit: Nar Bdr Saud

Deuda Folklore & Social Transformation in Nepal: In September, [the commissioned project team](#) embarked on a productive **follow-up visit to Kathmandu and Dhangadhi in Nepal**. During this trip, they engaged in insightful interviews with a wide array of individuals, from scholars and artists to community influencers and **Deuda folklore** performers. These discussions delved into the intricate dynamics of gender, power, caste, and transformations within the context of Deuda and culture. The team is now compiling their field study findings, which will soon be transformed into a compelling journal paper and an enlightening book chapter. Stay tuned for more exciting developments!

The **Gira Ingoma - One Drum Per Girl** project held the **second edition of the Ingoma Nshya Festival** on 18 August 2023 at the University of Rwanda Huye Campus Stadium. After three months of weekly training in drumming, warrior dance, poetry, singing and juggling, 250 girls from 10 primary and secondary schools in Huye District came together to assert themselves through these artistic expressions, in order to challenge socially embedded practices of gender discrimination and social exclusion.

Here is an extract from the poem **"Ingoma Iwacu"** by Niyonshimiye Devotha and Utetiwabo Lil Veronique, Groupe Scolaire Cyarwa

*"Ndumukobwa ubereye u Rwanda
Ndumukobwa uberewe no guhanga
Ndumukobwa uberwa no guhamiriza
Ndumukobwa uberwa no kuvuza ingoma
Nkaba umukobwa wu Rwanda"*

Contact: Odile Gakire, kiki_odile@yahoo.fr



Photo credit: Woman Cultural Centre

**"I am a worthy daughter of Rwanda
I am a girl who wears creativity perfectly
Warrior dance fits me
Drumming fits me
I am a Rwandan girl!"**

MORE FROM RWANDA

On 19 September 2023, the **Foundation for Tolerance International (FTI)** introduced the MAP project at **Yntymak Week**, uniting various stakeholders including the Peacebuilding Hub of Kyrgyzstan, CSOs, INGOs, and government entities. The Yntymak Week aligned with International Peace Day, the UN System Leadership Framework, and Key National Concepts of the Kyrgyz Republic. During the event, project participants, including MAP School Clubs and young researchers, shared insights on using arts-based methods for conflict resolution and promoting dialogue between young people and adults. To learn more about the event see [Anna Smirnova's](#) insightful [blog](#)!

Contact: Tajyka, shabdanova.fti@gmail.com



MAP club members, FTI, and AHRC UoL PhD, Anna Smirnova at the Yntymak Week. Photo credit: FTI

Events



Revitalising Tradition to Inform Curriculum

UNIVERSITY OF
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Thursday 19 October 2023,
12:00 - 14:00 BST



Online

Interpretation from English into Bahasa Indonesia, Kyrgyz, Nepali, and Kinyarwanda will be provided.



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MAP Webinar Series #2: Revitalising Tradition to Inform Curriculum

Free online webinar | 19 October 2023 | 12 - 2pm BST

Join us for our upcoming webinar series featuring projects from **Indonesia and Nepal** that explore the importance of revitalising tradition for education, especially for youth. In addition, Professor **Olga Ovcharuk** will share her visioning of how arts education can contribute towards the reconstruction of Ukraine. Don't miss this enriching discussion!

For more information, contact: MAP@lincoln.ac.uk

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL)



Youth Advisory Board and Reflexivity...

At a Youth Advisory Board (YAB) meeting, the MEL team from the University of Northampton and the YABs delved into a thought-provoking session on reflexivity, trying to unravel its multifaceted nature.

We considered what it really means to be reflexive: is it a mere recollection of past experiences, a critical review, or a deep engagement with memories in order to gain meaningful insights? The enigma of reflexivity has kept researchers thinking, exploring its essence and the most effective ways to apply it in research endeavours.

Our Youth Advisory Board faces a unique challenge: to engage in both **personal reflection** on their research practices and **facilitating reflexivity** for individuals within the projects they lead. It's a delicate balance, an art of self-reflection and collective growth. You can read more about YAB and reflexivity in [Michael](#) and [Ecem's blog post](#).

Next month we will be launching our MAP podcast series!

Please do look out for these! If you have any feedback, or would like to be involved, contact: **Koula**, koula.charitonos@open.ac.uk

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