

Summary

I am a change maker with 10 years fostering social justice and social mobility. Grounded in a foundation of queer feminist epistemology and SOGIESC mainstreaming, I strive to engender equal opportunities and empower marginalized populations, particularly women and sexual minorities in the Global South by creative advocacy, community development, and research.

Education

M.A. in Women's and Gender Studies - Erasmus Mundus' GEMMA program (in progress), Utrecht University & Oviedo University, the Netherlands & Spain
B.A. in Psychology, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA, USA

Contact

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Employment history

Women Who Make a Difference

Founder

September 2014 – present

Key achievements

- Promoted the efforts of women and people assigned female at birth in civil society, especially those from the Global South or marginalized groups, by amplifying their voices and empowering their capacities.
- Advised local, national, and international organizations working in the LGBTIQ and gender equality fields in organizational strategy, program development and quality, and evidence-based advocacy, including working with the UNESCO's gender program in their SOGIE-inclusive education program and policy paper in Viet Nam.
- Developed We Talk Gender program to increase awareness on gender equality for 40 high school students and the Rainbow School Project training series to build practical capacity for 100 school-based LGBTIQ activists, who had gone on to implement around 30 impactful projects in their schools and communities.
- Trained more than 150 youth leaders and representatives from CSOs in effective programming and intersectional feminist mainstreaming.

Self employed

Independent Researcher/
Research Assistant

May 2007 – present

Selected clients

National Institute of Nutrition, University of California in Davis, University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Viet Nam National University, Rural Development Services Centre, Oxford University Clinical Research Unit, Bitacora Social Research Institute in Mexico, ICS Center, The Washington Post, The Australian.

Key achievements

- Co-designed and ran a quantitative survey studying gender equality in ethnic minorities, measuring the influence of recent public policies, governmental aid, and microfinance programs in the Muong, Dao, and Hmong ethnic communities.
- Conducted a comparative ethnographic studies on motherhood practices, cultural beliefs, baby nutrition, and gender/class equality in the urban setting.
- Conducted three qualitative studies exploring the correlation between child malnutrition and weaning practices in the rural area of Phu Tho; Based on findings from community engagement work, proposed further intervention programs to local health centers, Women's and Farmers' Unions.
- Led a team in a participants-led, community-egaged study on occupational practices related to zoonotic diseases among traditional butchers in the Mekong Delta.
- Edited a research article on the psychological profile of girls surviving sexual abuse in Viet Nam, to be published in a European psychology journal.
- Authored the first draft of the Social Work Curriculum for Working with LGBTIQ Children & Youth for Viet Nam National University's Social Work Department.
- Authored and edited the thrice-reprinted Teaching Tolerance guide for teachers and Rainbow School Manual for Student Activists, currently used and referenced by the UNESCO and dozens of high schools and universities in Viet Nam.
- Interviewed and reported on mail-ordered brides from the Mekong Delta to Korea, Amerasian babies stuck in Viet Nam after the war and reunification, and Vietnamese refugees to Australia.

Viet Pride

Board of Organizers

July 2013 – August 2016

Key achievements

Ha Noi & Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam:

- Organized the biggest LGBTIQ policy and community advocacy event in Viet Nam, including the second to fifth annual bicycle rallies and fourth parade, rallying up to 8000 participants; month-long series of public and community events educating sexuality diversity and empowering sexual minorities in 37 provinces.
- Coordinated relationships with embassies, UN agencies, and NGO partners and donors.
- United the national Viet Pride and facilitated the establishment of the Viet Pride Ha Noi Working Group from a severely fractured movement.
- Promoted collaboration in LGBTIQ-related programs among established child-focused organizations and networks. Coordinated several leadership conferences in collaboration with senior management team.

Save the Children

Child Rights Governance

Senior Project Officer

February 2015 – March 2016

Child Rights Governance

Project Officer

December 2013 – February 2015

Key achievements

LGBT Street Children & Youth Project, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam:

- Authored two documents winning international competitions on monitoring & evaluation.
 - Led the development of the Child Rights Governance & Child Protection thematic areas' 2016-2020 Country Strategic Planning for Save the Children (SC) in Viet Nam.
 - Drafted the Diversity and Equality for all Genders and Sexualities Policies for SC in Viet Nam and the Global Policy Paper on LGBTIQ Children for SC International.
 - Developed the 2016-2018 joint LGBTIQ education strategy for SC Viet Nam with CSO networks and education institutions.
 - Advocated successfully and provided guidance to integrate LGBTIQ children and youth's perspectives and protection issues into child-focused CSOs' agendas.
- Promoted the rights, non-discrimination, & protection of LGBT street children & youth by:
- Co-designed, oversaw, reviewed, and edited a study on discrimination against LGBTIQ young people in Ho Chi Minh City, referred to by the UNDP and UNESCO in their Vietnamese LGBTIQ reports and papers;
 - Designed and implemented workshops on LGBTIQ and child rights and safeguarding for 400 staff from the government, CSOs, social workers, youth leaders, & students;
 - Established & coordinated a network of child-focused governmental and civil offices to strengthen their protection of LGBTIQ street youth and improve service access;
 - Built and facilitated a community-based, peer-led outreach program serving 600 LGBTIQ street children and youth intakes.

Bryn Mawr College's Office of Intercultural Affairs

Head of Women's Center, Community Diversity Assistant

September 2008 – April 2013

Key achievements

Bryn Mawr, PA, USA:

- Initiated four campaigns promoting reproductive rights & gender equality in education.
- Coordinated a global network of socially responsible organizations to create employment and leadership opportunities for 200 women under 25.
- Directed biweekly educational events in gender equality and sexual health.
- Programmed six leadership training and capacity building workshops for 23 student organizations addressing diversity issues including race, class, gender, and sexuality.

Awards and scholarships

- Erasmus Mundus Scholarship 2016 (European Commission)
- LGBT Appreciation Awards 2016 – Inspiring Person of the Year nominee
- LGBT Appreciation Awards 2015 – Advocate of the Year nominee
- Top Nine Emerging Leaders in Viet Nam – People to Watch 2015, also nominated for Young Influential People of Viet Nam – 30 Under 30 2015 (Forbes)
- Fellow of the International Visitor Leadership Program 2015 – Preventing and Responding to Bias-Motivated Violence Against LGBT Persons (U.S. Department of State), also grant to develop the Guidelines for Working with LGBTIQ Children & Youth
- Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative Seeds for the Future 2015 (U.S. Department of State)
- Second place of Phoenix Competition 2015 for M&E lessons (Save the Children)
- Winner of Documenting Best Practice in Urban Programmes 2014 (Save the Children)