

Summary of my activities 2012

HumanDHS Oslo Workshop, August 2012

- This workshop was a valuable experience. I enjoyed meeting extraordinary people and was thrilled by the many wonderful activities presented.

Integral Design Group Workshop, August 2012

- The Integral Design Group is a trans-disciplinary group of researchers and designers working on new design paradigms for a sustainable future. Design can be design of material goods or design of services, or personal and social design.
- Group members are designers, philosophers, anthropologists, and other professions. Most are either from Norway or from India.
- They like to have the viewpoint of HumanDHS represented in their group. The workshop started with creative exercises to describe and analyze instances of humiliation as reported in the media. This was taken as starting point and framework to discuss various design projects. I presented the olpc project as an example of “designing basic education” in an unconventional way.

olpc Germany meeting November 2012

- People from the German chapter of the olpc association gathered with people from other NGOs who had together implemented a rollout of XO laptops to a school near Kigali, Rwanda. Achievements and future challenges were presented.
- I presented the need to augment basic education on math and languages with an education on social matters and discussed how to foster this using the XO laptops.

Dignity Press Operations

- Dignity Press had a good start in 2012 with 5 books published.
- About 10 more books are in the publishing pipeline, roughly the same number is proposed to us but no decision is made yet.
- 2012 was a test of our concept and proved partly successful: With me as the only person devoting substantial time to DP, about 6 books published per year looks to be the most what is manageable. Of course this is just a rough number, as the editorial effort varies substantially from book to book.
- Using Lightning Source as print and distribution partner works well. The work flow and financials don't cause major problems.
- The Dignity Press website is up and running. People can buy books there, as well as via Amazon or Barnes&Noble.
- Our calculation also was about right. Dignity Press is operating now near break-even. We are able to pay royalties to authors (more than 400 dollars up to now). For the start-up year I see

this as a promising result. It is likely that we will gain some money for HumanDHS in future years.

- The co-operation with authors was highly rewarding and a source of valuable insight for me. I am also proud to have heard from authors that they liked to work with Dignity Press.
- The limits of this model are clearly that there is not enough capacity for marketing of the books. We had decided to start spreading the word about Dignity Press after having published four books. Now is the time to do it, but I rarely find time to develop a good marketing concept, even less to take care of the daily work to implement it.
- Unfortunately we could not re-start the Journal on Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies, as we planned for 2012. This was also due to lack of time.
- In conclusion: Dignity Press had a successful start-up year. It is really fun to see good manuscripts from our authors to develop into wonderful books. My dream is to find more volunteers for some important work packages: 1) reviewing manuscripts for authors to make a decision about publishing or not, 2) proof reading and indexing of books in final stage of publication, 3) spreading the word about the books in social media, plus other marketing activities like searching for reviewers, placing articles in traditional media, etc.

World Dignity University

- My contribution to the WDU was mainly to take care of the web pages. However, activity there was low. Up to now most WDU-related content is put to the HumanDHS web pages, not the WDU site.
- Initially I had prepared to use moodle tools like Wiki and Forum as a place to develop the WDU concept. This did not work. Apparently the entrance barriers were too high.
- A first course “Collaborative Inquiry with the Kichwa Community” is currently set up. Mariana Vergara is driving this. We have already enrolled roughly 20 co-learners (students and professors) in this course, which is to start soon.
- The WDU received a couple of partnership requests from other institutions. Examples are:
 - Harvey Newman, Ted Schulman (www.floearth.org, evolutionary potential of the Open Source movement)
 - Heidi Berg (Amazon teacher education)
 - Hari Bansh Jha (Center for Economic and Technical Studies, Nepal)
 - Ruku Kausay community in Ecuador
 - Stephen Iwuoha Chima: <http://www.wduecopsych.blog.com/>, online ecopsychology study
 - Partnership agreement signed with Pablo Razeto Barry, Universitas Nueva Civilizacion
 - Jaqueline Ogega, Women, Religion and Peacebuilding
 - Sultan Muhammad Razzak, International Culture University
 - Anoop Swarup, Bala Kumble, Global Knowledge Alliance
 - Anna Grear, GNHRE (Global Network for the Study of Human Rights and the Environment)
 - more prospective WDU partners ...
- Developing these requests into working partnerships would need a team and in my opinion should be preceded by defining priorities for our WDU efforts.