

Thursday 1 December | Human Library Event

On the 1st of December we hosted the Human Library event, an event that was part of our crowdfunding campaign to help SID-NL raise funds for our SID-ISS Spring Debate Series on global development issues. By supporting our campaign, we can keep facilitating this platform for debate; for people to gather, discuss ideas, and expand their knowledge.

At the **Human Library** people were able to lend out people instead of books to increase mutual understanding of one another, as well as promoting awareness of what it means to work within the field of development, and the many facets there are to it. Our 'books' were SID members who have had extensive experience within the field of development, and provided the 'readers' with unique insight into this work.

The titles of the books available were: 'Balkan Activist', 'The End of Development: Non-Western Philosophies of Wellbeing', 'Discussing International Development', and 'A Glossy Magazine On Our Personal Drives To Create A Better World'.

The books could be lent out from the Coffee Lounge at the ISS, and were subsequently 'read' by the attendees. Here, the books and the participants had the chance to have a conversation about the topic of the book, as well as exchange ideas and personal insights.

Although each conversation was different, both the books and the readers left with a new understanding of each other when it came to personal motives and understanding, individual experiences, and work-related achievements. For example, in one conversation with the book 'The End of Development: Non-Western philosophies of Wellbeing' by Dorine van Norren, the similarities of African philosophies (particularly of Ubuntu) and Native American ideas were discussed, which then led to the topic of Dorine's personal motives and observations through her experiences as a diplomat and development analyst. Similarly, in a conversation with 'A Glossy Magazine On Our Personal Drives To Create A Better World' by Evelien van Egmond, both the book's and the reader's personal drive and how this related to serving the greater purpose of creating a better world was extensively discussed. In a conversation with the book 'Balkan Activist' by Sever Dzigurski, the reader learnt about what being an activist in Serbia really meant, the struggles of institutional reforms, and the passion, values, and beliefs in everyday activism. The conversations with Sandra Rottenberg as the book titled 'Who Talks with Who and What About?' revolved around her experience as a producer, journalist and writer, and how her views on development have changed throughout the time.

A special thank you to our books Sever Dzigurski, Evelien van Egmond, Dorine van Norren, and Sandra Rottenberg, and thank you to everyone who has donated and supported our campaign so far to keep us facilitating our platform for discussions, networking, and the exchange of knowledge!

Want more? Join SID now!

Join SID NL and become part of a debate-driven network of experts and professionals in the field of international development. As a member, you can attend our monthly discussions for free!



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