

Beyond the Implementation of Development Goals: Adult Learning as Appropriation.

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Two doctoral candidates explore sustainable development in Myanmar through a theoretical lens. The contribution of critical hermeneutics, in everyday parlance the critique of interpretations, suggests the movement of development practice beyond the implementation of development goals. Within an interpretive paradigm, this thesis suggests the far more difficult achievement of seeing ourselves amongst others. As anthropologist Clifford Geertz suggests: "If interpretive anthropology has any general office in the world it is to keep reaching this fugitive truth." This paper explores the importance of adult learning in sustainable development. One example of this practice will highlight microfinance schemes and the roles in which language, narrative and imagination play in understanding what assessments are really demonstrating within the provision of financial services to the poor and the revelation of authentic narratives of the people with whom we work with, and for in the field. The implications of this work, while set in the context of development programmes in Myanmar, enlarges the discussion on development on a global scale.