



AMICAL 2021



AUN-AUCA COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITY

Crossing Borders through Digital Media and Dialogue



Emilienne Akpan (AUN) and Ekaterina Galimova (AUCA)

What moment do you think this is?



Rationale

- The restrictions imposed by the coronavirus pandemic changed the patterns in instruction and collaboration.
- Because of the different ways that students were generally affected by the 'isolation', we agreed to connect our students with their peers in another institution to discuss how different topical issues affected them.
- The inter-university online discussions between the [American University of Nigeria \(AUN\)](#) and the [American University of Central Asia \(AUCA\)](#) were initiated as a student-centered educational forum which connects the community of learners from our institutions beyond classroom instruction.
- This is to encourage constructive critical discussions about topical matters to promote an understanding of values, belief systems, perspectives, visions and approaches that reflect the respective motherlands, customs, traditions and principles represented in the participants.

Considerations for the Virtual Discussion

The Virtual Discussion collaboration included the following:

- (a) Pre-discussion faculty deliberations and consultations with students
- (b) Connections with peers and active preparations
- (c) The discussion
- (d) Post-discussion reports and evaluations

Pre-discussion faculty deliberations and consultations with students

- Prior to giving the assignment to students, the faculty agreed on the topic and the timing of the virtual event.
- The target topic had to be connected to the two syllabi and the interests of the participating students.
- The selected topic could be determined by the faculty or group monitors' correspondence, which is rather time-consuming. In our case, it took us up to 3 weeks to determine the topics.
- Students were to be divided into groups for icebreaker email introductions prior to the event.
- Post-discussion surveys would be distributed after the event.

Icebreaker Email Introductions

Aiana Sharsheeva.

On Tue, Apr 20, 2021 at 5:26 AM Layuza Yakubu Jalabu <layuza.jalabu@aun.edu.ng> wrote:

LAYUZA YAKUBU JALABU

A00023014

INSTRUCTOR: MRS EMILIENCE AKPAN

19-04-21

WRI 101 SECTION 2

Mrs. Emilienne Akpan emilienne.akpan@aun.edu.ng

Dr. Ekaterina Galimova galimova_e@auca.kg

Dear group partner Aiana, my name Layuza Jalabu but in short form it's lala. I was given birth in Nigeria, Adamawa State. I also grew up there, but I'm from Kano State. I am a happy person as my friends say, I am good academically, I always smile and I love interacting with calm and intelligent people. I am studying Chemical Engineering at AUN University in Yola. What course are you studying? I hope the study is going smoothly for you.

Being in a university is not as easy as I thought it will be. Although it is not giving me much of a hard time. How is schooling there? I hope it's fun and understandable. I was informed that we are going to have a debate on a topic that will be chosen by us. I was also told that we will have a virtual meet up. I'm looking forward to having the debate with you.



Sharsheeva, Aiana <sharsheeva_a@auca.kg>

to Layuza, me ▾

Tue, Apr 20, 7:38 PM



Dear Layuza,

Nice to get acquainted with you. May I call you Lala? I'm from Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. I am a sophomore student of the Economics Department at American University of Central Asia. For me it is not so easy to study at the university, especially my required Economics courses. However, studying brings me pleasure.

Chemical Engineering seems interesting. What do you study?

I'm also looking forward to participating in debate with you!

Best wishes,

Aiana Sharsheeva.

(Galimova & Akpan, "[Introductory Emails]", 2021)

Connections with Peers and Active Preparations

- At AUN, students were encouraged to introduce themselves via email to their peers and also conduct independent research using the library's database and any other credible information sources to build their reading, academic writing and critical thinking skills.
- At AUCA, the discussion was connected to their term paper or Video Project and while preparing for the assignment each student was assigned for individual consultations via the teacher's "Personal Meeting room" on Zoom. Students were introduced to the basics of interview. They created a questionnaire with the help of GFs. In addition to the core texts that students discussed in class, it was important for the faculty to guide the students in searching for other materials and post them on the e-course. Sources included scientific articles, documentaries, movies, or other fiction stories related to the topic. To check the students' preparedness, there were debates on post-colonialism and its values.
- Guidelines were also provided on how students should watch, read, and gather the material and there were prompts on which notes to take and what leading questions to answer during this process. Questions included: Who is the main character, where does the action take place, what is the main idea of the text/ documentary? What connection does the main idea have with your own research paper? What is the most surprising/shocking episode in the movie/article and why is this so? In what part of your research paper are you are going to use it and why?
- For fluency in communication students also practiced using transitional phrases and sentence starters to agree with a previous speaker, express polite disagreement or ask a clear question. Students who needed support were encouraged to make reference to a designated handout during the online event.

Active Preparations Ctd.

- In a subsequent arrangement at AUCA, depending on the personal skillsets students wished to enhance during the discussions, students were given specific roles:
- Those willing to develop their leadership skills were assigned as hosts and guided on how to lead and record a discussion.
- Students willing to interview their peers from the collaborating university prepared the questionnaire and studied how based on the topic of interest to conduct an interview for research Video Project (see Ayana Sharsheeva's Video Project on Sexual Harassment)
- Those with anxieties about engaging with new people for the first time were encouraged to prepare questions, read them at the meeting and respond to the questions asked.
- Volunteers interested in hands-on movie-making skills were asked to introduce their native country by creating 1-2 minute long videos, e.g. (Daria Bajdakova – The Kyrgyz Republic), Gulrukhsor Vanjieva – AUCA)
- Students interested in writing had the option to express themselves through poetry, or essays that met newspaper article standards (Bolot Bekturganov)

The Discussion Part 1

- As the international virtual discussions conducted between two universities in different countries, the hosts presented themselves, guests of the discussion, and their respective students before playing promotional videos about their countries and universities. While the videos were taken from the main websites of both universities, students were encouraged to create their own introductory videos.
- During the virtual discussion, students were encouraged to set their short-term goal, take notes and ask pertinent questions for clarification of ideas/cultural contexts, further discussion or follow-up essays to get extra points. (See Handout 1 “Questions to keep in mind during the discussion or text annotation”)

The Discussion Part 2

- Breakout rooms were created to simulate the AMICAL 'unconference' idea.
- Students were given the options to move from one room to the other and contribute to the discourse on different contemporary topics that youth either witness, read about or can identify with on a personal level. This gave the AUCA students the opportunity to get firsthand information from their peers for their respective research papers.
- Links to related Google Form questionnaires were shared with AUN students

BreakoutRoom discussion

The image shows a screenshot of a Zoom breakout room discussion. The main window displays four video feeds of participants: Salome Bulus, Sexual Harassment Aiana 1, fatima.umar, and Faiza Abdul. Below the video feeds, the name 'Mustapha Abub...' is visible. To the right, a chat window is open, showing a discussion about sexual harassment in Nigeria. The chat messages are as follows:

03:58 PM
От меня Все:
1. Why do many people who suffer from sexual harassment keep silent?
2. Are the citizens of Nigeria able to receive free protection of their rights, and what should be done for that?

04:10 PM
От меня Все:
3. What is the government's attitude to this problem? Is there enough focus on reducing harassment?
Sharsheeva_a@auca.kg

04:11 PM
От Mustapha Abubakar ко мне Все:
If we can ask you some questions

От fatima.umar ко мне Все:
I said what do you think of culture and society believe and action on social harassment

At the bottom of the chat window, there is a text input field with the placeholder 'Введите здесь сообщения' and a 'Файл' button. A Windows activation watermark is visible in the bottom right corner of the chat window.

(Sharsheeva, "BreakoutRoom (Sharsheeva)", 2021)

How do you define harassment ?

21 responses

a non consensual physical or emotion affect on another person

I think harassment is simply aggressive approach

Harassment is aggressive pressure or intimidation

Forcing your partner in doing something

harassment is any form of harm/abuse inflicted on a person

Pestering someone to do what they are uncomfortable with and may not have the supportive structure to resist or report.

Harassment is a violation of personal boundaries and subordination, humiliation and violation of privacy.

Unwanted sexual attention from other people.

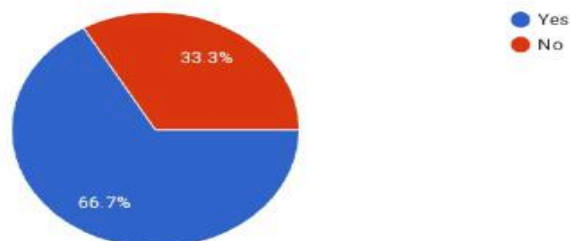
What do you think do women have the same rights in Kyrgyzstan or in your country compare to men ?

21 responses



Have you ever faced with problems such as discrimination and harassment?

21 responses



Sample of a student Questionnaire

(Sharsheeva, "Sexual Harassment")

Post-discussion reflections and evaluations

- At AUN, the class reflected on the experience and then wrote reflection papers to assess their note-taking, note-making, listening, paraphrasing and academic writing skills. One essay was chosen for publication in *AUNthisWEEK*, the university's weekly newsletter.
- At AUCA, the faculty gave post-discussion options: participation in the online follow-up forum posted on the e-course; writing a 500-word argumentative/compare and contrast essay related to the international virtual event; writing a newspaper article for publication in the AUCA *NewStar* student newspaper; or producing a video about the event. (Rubrics and peer review forms to essay types and a self- assessment were provided)

1st-2nd discussion publications

AUCA / About AUCA / AUCA News

AUCA student Ratibor Goriainov (TCMA) shares his impressions about International Online Discussions between AUN and AUCA

June 8, 2020

##online_learning_experience

Recently, AUCA professor Ekaterina Galimova together with AUN professor Emilienne Akpan launched the International Online Discussions between the American University of Nigeria and the American University of Central Asia. Here is a story of Prof. Galimova's student Ratibor Goriainov (TCMA) about his experience with the new online occasion.

"While in the USA, my dad met Mr. Lawal who is a cyber policeman from Lagos, Nigeria. Mr. Lawal is an amazing, open person, and well-known in his field. He has never been to Kyrgyzstan. Mr. Lawal began to dream of a trip to Kyrgyzstan and bestowed Nigerian national outfit designed by himself to my father hoping that someday they would meet again in Kyrgyzstan.



- https://www.auca.kg/en/auca_news/4197/

CONNECTION BETWEEN AUN AND AU CENTRAL ASIA

AUNThisWEEK | 29 April 2020



What a bright day on April 8, 2020. The lovely mango tree through my window was leafing arms to pray. Then my Writing 101 instructor, Ms. Emilienne Idorenyin Akpan, announced that she had finalized preparations for our online

<https://www.aun.edu.ng/index.php/news-events/news/connection-between-aun-and-au-central-asia>

3rd-4th discussion publications

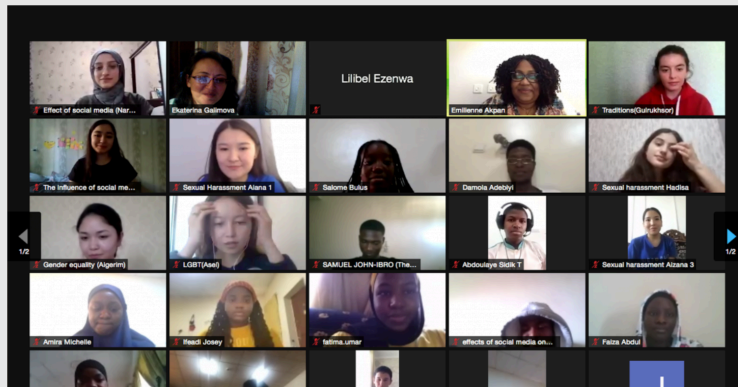
<https://www.aun.edu.ng/index.php/news-events/news/crossing-borders-a-conversation-with-central-asia>

https://auca.kg/en/auca_news/4650/

AUNThisWeek

CROSSING BORDERS; A CONVERSATION WITH CENTRAL ASIA

AUNThisWEEK | 15 May 2021



The chance to share, experience, and relate with peers from different cultures, backgrounds, and countries is a privilege; and it is one that the American University of Nigeria (AUN) provides through various platforms.

On 3rd May 2021, my composition class participated in a virtual inter-school discussion between students of the American University of Nigeria located in Yola and the American University of Central Asia (AUCA) located in Kyrgyzstan. This was the fourth in the series initiated by the course instructors - Emilienne Akpan of AUN and Ekaterina Galimova of AUCA.



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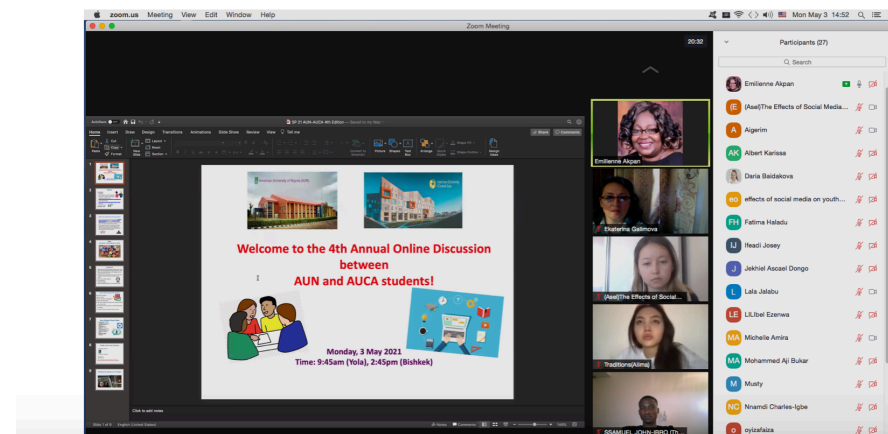
DEVELOPMENT

AUCA / About AUCA / AUCA News

Neither Pandemic Nor Distance could stop AUCA students from Finding Friends on the other Continent

May 6, 2021

In spite of the day off both in Nigeria and the Kyrgyz Republic, students from both countries were willing to have an online discussion that took place on May 3rd, 2021. Ekaterina Galimova, Professor of FYS and SYS, American University of Central Asia (AUCA), together with her colleague Mrs. Emilienne Akpan, Director of the Writing Center, from the American University of Nigeria (AUN), conducted the 4th Virtual Discussion between AUN and AUCA students devoted to *The Effects of Social Media on the Youths*.



VideoProject on Sexual Harassment



(Sharsheeva, Usupbaeva, & Giyoeva, "VideoProject on Sexual Harassment", 2021)

Analysis of Post-Discussion Survey

- Based on the Questionnaire conducted between the AUN and AUCA students, we need to continue our project and organize an International Society devoted to Debates, Discussions, Arts, etc.
- If you feel, you want to join use, please let us know.

OUR CONTACTS

- Emilienne Idorenyin Akpan **emilienne.akpan@aun.edu.ng**
- Ekaterina Galimova **galimova_e@auca.kg**

Thank You for Listening!



References

- AUCA student Ratibor Goriainov (TCMA) shares his impressions about International Online Discussions between AUN and AUCA. (2020, June 8). Retrieved June 23, 2021, from https://www.auca.kg/en/auca_news/4197/
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- [E-mail to E. Galimova & E. M. Akpan]. (2021, April 20).
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