

## **How Can We Cultivate Dignity**

Doaa Rashed

14<sup>th</sup> Annual HumanDHS Workshop

Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>

Over the years, I became more interested in the topic of cultural identity, diversity and the intentionality of the pursuit of inclusion. Sharing respect and appreciation of one another both on the individual and cultural level cultivates a feeling of togetherness among individuals in a community. Inclusion in higher education often is understood to be about lowering the barriers that unfairly impede the full participation of all college-age populations in the United States. I am currently developing conversations on the intentionality of inclusion and diversity efforts undertaken by college students and faculty members. The aim of these conversations is to raise awareness among students about what they can, or may be already doing, to understand and embrace each other. These conversations are the first steps in a larger pedagogical and activist project that will incorporate students' (preferably in collaboration with faculty from different disciplines) own project proposals that aim to cross-borders and collaborate with college students from other campuses and cultures. While these will mostly be small-scale projects, I believe, they will reveal the usefulness (as well as the challenges and risks) of cross-border contact among diverse students, and demonstrate how much we have yet to learn from each other if we are willing to stretch across differences, make ourselves vulnerable, and listen to one another.