

Doung Lý



In 2008, Doung Lý’s family immigrated to Philadelphia from Vietnam. At his neighborhood school, he and several of his peers experienced racial harassment from other students. Doung and his friends responded in the winter of 2009 by launching an eight day boycott against the administration to protest their inaction in protecting students’ physical and emotional well-being. The boycott eventually turned into a lawsuit against the school district, with the U.S. Department of Justice ruling in favor of the targeted students. He was recognized for his efforts with the Princeton Prize in Race Relations, Philadelphia Magazine’s 2010 “Heroes of the Year” award, and the 2011 “Hope for Future Generations” award. Doung is currently a graduating senior in the College of Arts and Sciences majoring in Sociology with a concentration in Structures of Opportunities and Inequalities, and minoring in Asian American Studies. He is now a part time youth organizer at BPSOS – Delaware Valley working with Vietnamese immigrant youth on political education and leadership development. In his free time, Doung can be found hanging out with his youth, checking in with his youth, or complaining about his youth. Doung will become a full time youth organizer at BPSOS – Delaware Valley after graduation.

CAPSTONE PROJECT

“Spiral of Consciousness: A Theoretical Framework on Youth Political Development”

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Rand Quinn, Graduate School of Education, Teaching, Learning, and Leadership Division

December 2014 marked the 5th anniversary of an event that has changed the way I thought about society and, quite literally, my life. In these past five years since that day, I have been fortunate enough to have the opportunity to work with BPSOS – Delaware Valley (BPSOS-DelV) under different capacities, from a youth participant to a volunteer to a board member to now a youth organizer. I am only one of the many youth who have been through, and graduated from BPSOS-DelV’s organizational youth programming pillar, the Southeast Asian Youth Empowerment Program (SEAYEP). This research project attempts to complete two major goals. First, I will give an analysis and evaluation of a few instances (“stages”) in BPSOS-DelV’s youth programming history since my mentor Nancy Nguyen took over the organization in April 2009. I will also discuss and analyze this history as a whole, and introduce a theoretical framework—the Spiral of Consciousness (SoC)—that underlies the organization’s youth work. Second, I will present the findings based on an empirical study conducted during a summer program using pre- and post-program surveys and interviews to evaluate the effectiveness of said theoretical framework and its implications. After these two major sections, I will propose some changes (theoretical and practical as well as programmatic and logistical) with the hope that these changes, if implemented or considered, will improve our future potential and capacity to work with youth and resolve some of the shortcomings that SEAYEP is currently facing.