Ambassador Karl Eikenberry to join the Buffett Institute as its first executive director

The Buffett Institute is excited to embark on a new chapter of growth as it welcomes Karl W. Eikenberry, former US ambassador to Afghanistan, as its first executive director. He will officially assume the role on September 1, 2016.

In an official statement, President Morton Schapiro said, “We are thrilled that Ambassador Eikenberry will be the inaugural leader of the Buffett Institute at such an important juncture in Northwestern’s history. He has played a highly visible role on the world stage with his frank and insightful ideas about some of the most critical issues of our day and will play a central role in taking the scope and impact of our global programs to an entirely new level.”

Eikenberry currently teaches at Stanford, where he is the Oksenberg-Rohlen Distinguished Fellow and a faculty member of the Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center. He also is affiliated with the Center for Democracy, Development and Rule of Law; the Center for International Security and Cooperation;

continued on page 4
MISSION

The Buffett Institute addresses critical global issues through collaborative research, public dialogue, and engaged scholarship.

Learn more at buffett.northwestern.edu

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NEWSLETTER

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Cover photo taken by Parker Levinson (WCAS 2018) at the Menengai Crater in Nakuru, Kenya. Parker participated in GESI’s first-ever fall quarter session in Kakamega, Kenya – the newest location offered in the GESI study abroad program.
In September, the Buffett Institute launched three interdisciplinary research groups after putting out a call for new, “big ideas” in global research. In just a few months, these groups have begun to put down roots at the Buffett Institute and expand their reach to the greater Northwestern community and beyond.

Buffett’s research groups were created with many possible outcomes in mind, including setting new research agendas and shaping the global research community surrounding specific and critical global issues. By creating and supporting collaborative, sustained, multidimensional research programs, the Institute sees the potential for such groups to become world-class academic programs and centers. In this issue, we’re pleased to share the recent activities and vision of one of those three groups.

Looking at religion in a whole new way

Led by director Elizabeth Shakman Hurd (political science) and associate director Brannon Ingram (religious studies), the Global Politics and Religion (GPR) research group brings together innovative thinkers in search of new understandings of and creative responses to the challenges of socially and religiously diverse worlds. Their research vision is partially inspired by and expands upon Hurd’s recently completed research project, “The Politics of Religious Freedom,” which was jointly based at the Buffett Institute and the University of California-Berkeley, and funded by the Henry Luce Foundation.

Interest in the study of the intersection of religion, law, and politics has increased greatly over the past few years, but the field is still very underdeveloped. Current studies on the topic are often limited and compartmentalized in individual disciplines. GPR hopes to help create a brand new academic discipline and produce new forms of knowledge that will inform academic, public, and policy debates nationally and globally.

The group is unique among US research institutions that study religion and politics because it looks past the common public perceptions that religion is either the source of all morality and something to be celebrated, or a root cause of violence and global instability. They see religion as an essential aspect of human life, contributing to all domains of society and politics including the formation of gender, sexual, racial, national, and ethnic identities.

Collaboration among individuals that transcends disciplinary, geographical, national, and methodological boundaries will be an essential driver of the group’s growth and research over the next few years. GPR is hosting interdisciplinary reading seminars, lectures, and workshops to provide a space for faculty, students, and visiting scholars in fields such as political science, sociology, religious studies, history, law, and anthropology to share and develop their work in the context of a vibrant and supportive research community. The group has already established several new connections between Northwestern and national and foreign institutions in the US, Canada, and Europe.

continued on page 7
and The Europe Center. As a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, he participated in its Commission on the Humanities and Social Sciences, their Commission on Language Learning, and led a project on the threats to global security posed by civil wars. He is a graduate of the US Military Academy and has master’s degrees from Harvard University and Stanford University in East Asian studies and political science, respectively. He was also a national security fellow at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government.

Before his arrival at Stanford, Eikenberry served from May 2009 to July 2011 as the US ambassador to Afghanistan. He had a 35-year career in the US Army, retiring in 2009 with the rank of lieutenant general after serving as the deputy chairman of the NATO Military Committee in Brussels and previously commanding the US-led military coalition in Afghanistan.

Eikenberry serves as a trustee for the International Institute for Strategic Studies, The Asia Foundation, and the National Committee on American Foreign Policy. In addition to being a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, he is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the American Academy of Diplomacy, and the Council of American Ambassadors. He previously was the president of the Foreign Area Officers Association. His articles and essays on US and international security issues have appeared in Foreign Affairs, The Washington Quarterly, American Foreign Policy Interests, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Foreign Policy, and the Financial Times.

In a joint statement to the Buffett Institute community, Director Bruce Carruthers and Director of Programs and Research Brian Hanson said, “Ambassador Eikenberry brings an unusual and outstanding combination of skills, knowledge, experience and connections to the Buffett Institute. His military and diplomatic background will enrich the Buffett Institute’s expanding activities and offer new ways to realize the ambitions expressed in Roberta Buffett Elliot’s recent gift. We very much look forward to working with him in our next chapter of growth.”

After his appointment was announced, Karl answered a few questions about becoming the Buffett Institute’s first executive director:

**What drew you to the Buffett Institute, Northwestern, and this new role?**

There were many good reasons I was drawn to Northwestern and the Buffett Institute, but three stand out. First, Roberta Buffett Elliot’s extraordinary commitment to improving the world of today and tomorrow. Second, Northwestern University’s excellent reputation as a center for research and education. And third, the tremendous honor of joining a superb institute with such a dedicated and talented group of faculty, fellows, and staff, and together with them contributing to the mission of positively transforming the university’s global studies program.

**What do you look forward to working on here when you arrive next fall?**

I look forward to learning from the Institute’s stakeholders—faculty, fellows, students, staff, partners, and donors—about the research, education programs, and possibilities at Northwestern and at the Buffett Institute. There are many exciting projects and activities that are already well-established at the Institute and have the potential for further growth. Additionally, the grant money will allow educators, researchers, and students at Northwestern and at partner organizations to collaborate and innovate across interdisciplinary and geographic boundaries, and conduct intellectually trailblazing work.

**What are your goals for the Buffett Institute during your time here?**

Northwestern and the greater Chicago area offer an excellent platform for convening public dialogues on the major global issues of the day. I look forward to helping make that platform ever more prominent and available. ♦
Buffett Institute faculty recognition

Stay up to date with all the latest news on Buffett faculty affiliate awards, honors, and media mentions by following the Buffett Institute Twitter account @BuffettInst

Honors & Awards

Brent Huffman (journalism), director of Saving Mes Aynak, received the prestigious IAFOR Documentary Film Award IDFA Honorary Award on November 14 in Kobe, Japan at the 2015 IAFOR Documentary Film Award & Festival.

Elizabeth Shakman Hurd (political science) was awarded a $390,000 grant from the Henry Luce Foundation for a three-year collaborative research project (2016–2019) entitled “The Politics of Religion at Home and Abroad.”

Thomas W. McDade (anthropology) was elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

Joel Mokyr (economics, history) received the 2015 International Balzan Prize for his groundbreaking work on the economic history of Europe and roots of technological change. Mokyr is one of three Americans to be awarded the prestigious prize.

Publications

Karen Alter (political science, law) published an op ed in US News & World Report, titled, “The Least Bad Option in Syria,” arguing that it is both an ethical and strategic imperative for the US to end the civil war in Syria.

Geraldo L. Cadava (history, Latino/a studies) wrote an op ed for the LA Times “Marco Rubio, meet ’Boxcar Ben’ Fernandez, America’s first Latino presidential candidate.”

Elizabeth Shakman Hurd (political science) wrote an opinion piece for Al Jazeera in the article, “Reporter’s jailing reflects Iran power struggle.” He and his book were also featured in the Guardian article “New book on basij helps explain how Iran’s hardline faction keeps country captive.”

Richard Joseph (political science) was interviewed on WBEZ Chicago’s Worldview in July 2015 to discuss the president of Nigeria’s firing of his military leadership.

Benjamin Page (political science) had his research featured in The New York Times article on Governor Bruce Rauner, “A Wealthy Governor and His Friends Are Remaking Illinois.”

Galya Ruffer (political science, CFMS) was interviewed by ABC7 Chicago in November for a segment on Syrian refugees and their resettlement in Chicago. She also appeared as a panelist on WTTW’s Chicago Tonight to discuss resettlement of Syrian refugees in Illinois.

Appearsances & Mentions

Saeid Golkar, Buffett visiting scholar, was cited in Al Jazeera in the article, “Reporters jailing reflects Iran power struggle.” He and his book were also featured in the Guardian article “New book on basij helps explain how Iran’s hardline faction keeps country captive.”

Rachel Riedl (political science) co-wrote a piece for the Washington Post titled, “As Pope Francis calls for compassion toward the poor in Africa, what are African churches doing?” where she discussed her recent research on Pentecostal churches in Kenya.

Juliet Sorensen (law) wrote an opinion piece for the Huffington Post, titled, “Corruption in an Era of Climate Change: An Ever-Closing Circle?”

Washington Post’s Monkey Cage blog.

Eugene Kontorovich (law) wrote an op ed for The New York Times titled “Europe mislabels Israel” in response to recent efforts by the European Commission to start labeling certain products as from “Israeli Settlements” instead of “Made in Israel.”
The Buffett academic community continues to grow and evolve in exciting ways thanks to Roberta Buffett Elliott’s recent gift. In addition to launching three new interdisciplinary research groups, four new working groups, four global partnerships, and a graduate student conference on global issues, the Institute welcomed its first cohort of postdoctoral fellows this past September.

This new fellowship provides support to top-notch researchers at the beginning of their careers, who in turn enhance the Northwestern community through participation and collaboration with multiple departments, centers, and groups on campus.

“These two-year positions will allow post-docs to develop their ideas, initiate new projects, publish their results, and enrich the interdisciplinary intellectual life of the Institute,” says Director Bruce Carruthers. “Buffett post-docs also have the opportunity to teach Northwestern undergraduates, gaining valuable classroom experience while imparting their cutting-edge ideas. And even after they move on and as their careers advance, the Buffett Institute will benefit from an ever-growing network of former fellows, linking us to people and research institutions around the world.”

Although they have only been on campus for a few months, they are already settling into life at Northwestern. “It’s lovely to be here! Everyone has been very welcoming and I keep finding new places on campus that I enjoy,” says postdoc Maria Akchurin. “I’ve been fortunate to start at the same time as two other Buffett postdocs as well as some really interesting visiting scholars. This has already created a sense of community and allowed me to learn about research from distinct perspectives in the social sciences and different parts of the world. The talks at Buffett and other parts of the university every week have been great for learning about recent research and starting to see familiar faces around campus.”

We encourage you to get to know all three of our postdocs and welcome them to the Northwestern community:

Maria Akchurin
PhD in Sociology, University of Chicago

Where you can find her at Northwestern: Sociology, International Studies, Latin American & Caribbean Studies, Comparative Historical Social Science (CHSS), Global Engagement Studies Institute (GESI)

Current research: Maria studies the privatization of water utilities in Argentina and Chile. She is currently consulting archival materials and secondary historical sources on the World Bank, WHO, and other international organizations to understand how the human rights focus on water access inadvertently created an opening for the rise of the water privatization paradigm at the global level. She is also continuing her research on water-related conflicts in Chile and labor politics in Argentina.

Course she’s teaching in spring 2016: SOCIOL 376 – Topics in Sociological Analysis: Environment, Politics, and Society

Kathleen Klaus
PhD in Political Science, University of Wisconsin

Where you can find her at Northwestern: Political Science, The Program of African Studies, Equality Development and Globalization Studies (EDGS), Comparative Historical Social Science (CHSS), Political Parties Working Group, Security Studies Working Group

Current research: Kathleen’s research examines the links between land, ethnic identity, migration, and violence in Africa. Her projects include exploring how campaign appeals that exploit themes of group injustice around
land in Kenya affect support for political candidates, researching the link between internal displacement and conflict between “hosts” and “migrants” in Kenya, and studying how grassroots political parties mobilize voters in Ghana. Over the next two years she will also be working on her book manuscript, Claiming Land: Institutions, Narratives and Political Violence in Kenya, which is a study of land and the process of electoral violence in Kenya.

Course she’s teaching in spring 2016: INTL ST 390 – Special Topics: Land Rights and Conflict in a Global Perspective

Nermeen Mouftah
PhD in Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, University of Toronto

Where you can find her at Northwestern: Anthropology, Middle East & North African Studies, Religious Studies, Global Politics & Religion Research Group

Current research:
Nermeen is currently at work on the manuscript Subjects of Faith: Literacy and New Public Religion in Egypt, which unpacks how a literacy movement born out of the January 25 uprising mobilized the renegotiation and reconstitution of piety and politics. She is examining how literacy development is a part of Islamic reformist frameworks that are shaping public religion in post-Mubarak Egypt.

Course she’s teaching in spring 2016: ANTHRO 350 – Anthropology of Religion

The Buffett Institute will announce its next round of postdocs in spring 2016. Learn more about the program at buffett.northwestern.edu/funding-grants/buffett-postdocs.

Public Programming at Northwestern

GPR held its inaugural event in October, welcoming Rajeev Bhargava from the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies. His talk, “Living with religious diversity: a view from ancient India,” explored how ancient texts from the Indian emperor Ashoka Maurya could help provide an alternative to modern Western conceptions of religion, toleration, and politics. The group also has a graduate student workshop, which held its inaugural event on November 2. Current graduate student members hail from political science, religious studies, history, and anthropology.

The group will host two more public lectures this year: Anver Emon, a leading scholar of Islamic law, and Kabir Tambar, a sociocultural anthropologist who works at the intersections of political anthropology and the anthropology of religion will both speak at Northwestern in the 2016 spring quarter.

Studying the Politics of Religion at Home and Abroad

In November, GPR director Elizabeth Shakman Hurd and Winnifred Fallers Sullivan of Indiana University were awarded a $390,000 grant from the Henry Luce Foundation for a three-year collaborative research project (2016–2019) entitled “The Politics of Religion at Home and Abroad.” Sullivan, Hurd, and their collaborators will study the politics of religion from an “inside/outside” vantage point to better understand the symbiotic relation between US domestic and foreign policy, past and present, with regard to religion and religious governance. It will be based primarily at Northwestern and supported by the Luce Foundation’s Henry R. Luce Initiative on Religion in International Affairs.

Working in tandem with and significantly enhancing the activities of Global Politics and Religion, the project will include a research program as well as educational and public outreach elements. In addition to graduate student career and research support, a new two-year postdoctoral fellowship will be launched to support a junior scholar working in this area of study. A sub grant to Indiana University will support faculty and student research connected to the project.

Learn more about the Global Politics and Religion research group at buffett.northwestern.edu/programs/gpr and the Politics of Religion at Home and Abroad project at buffett.northwestern.edu/programs/religion-home-abroad.

Learn more about the Henry R. Luce Initiative on Religion in International Affairs at www.hluce.org/hlucerelintaff.aspx.
Since the Syrian Civil War began in 2011, more than four million Syrians have been forcibly displaced from their home country. But the resulting refugee crisis from the war didn’t catch the full attention of US news outlets until recently with events like the November 13 Paris attacks and subsequent calls from US politicians to ban Syrian refugees from entering the country.

For the fall quarter, the Buffett Institute hosted a series of events that examined the Syrian refugee crisis and encouraged public dialogue on issues surrounding forced migration and refugee resettlement. Interdisciplinary collaboration between Buffett visiting scholars, the Keyman Modern Turkish Studies program, the Center for Forced Migration Studies, as well as Northwestern students and faculty led to an impressive offering of events that brought much more depth, insight, and nuance to understanding refugee issues currently making headlines in the news.

Syrian refugees in Turkey

Although in 2015 Western media often framed the forced displacement of Syrians as a European crisis, since 2011 Turkey has absorbed the largest number of Syrian refugees (estimated 2 million) of any country. Turkey faces unique challenges due to the sheer number of people entering the country as well as government policies and infrastructure that were not built to accommodate such a huge influx of people for such a prolonged (and possibly indefinite) period.

In November, Keyman Modern Turkish Studies and the Center for Forced Migration Studies co-hosted the symposium, "From Temporary Protection to Permanent Settlement: Challenges to the Integration of Syrian Refugees in Turkey," which brought together scholars from Turkey, Canada, and the United States whose work focuses on the challenges to integration for Syrian displaced populations. In the day-long event, panelists from Northwestern, DePaul University, York University, Syracuse University, the University of Washington, and the World Bank discussed the current legal, political, historical, organizational, social, and economic challenges to refugee integration in Turkey.

Examining the US refugee resettlement process

In early December, when debate on refugee (and particularly Muslim and Syrian refugee) issues began to reach their peak in US news, the Center for Forced Migration Studies hosted an event to celebrate the launch of its new Refugee Resettlement Research Program, funded by a generous gift from Aaron Edelheit.

The event, titled "US Refugee Resettlement: a global model for successful humanitarian response?“ did not focus solely on resettlement of Syrian refugees, but the topic came up frequently in both in the panel discussion and Q&A. Moderated by WBEZ Worldview’s Jerome McDonnell, the panelists offered insights into the complex, sometimes opaque process of resettling refugees in the US.

Panelist Robert Carey, Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement, explained that potential US refugees “go through the most rigorous screening process for any individual..." continued on page 16
Khalida Brohi named inaugural Buffett Award winner

The Buffett Institute is thrilled to announce that the winner of the inaugural Buffett Institute Award for Emerging Global Leaders is Khalida Brohi, 26-year-old social entrepreneur and global activist.

Khalida is the founder of Sughar Empowerment Society (known as Sughar), a nonprofit organization that provides socioeconomic opportunities to rural and tribal women of Pakistan.

Made possible by Roberta Buffett Elliott’s recent gift to Northwestern, the $10,000 Buffett Award recognizes outstanding leadership in a person early in her career working in the areas of global health, social or economic development, human rights, climate change, food security, or other issues of global significance.

“The Buffett Award was established to recognize and energize the accomplishments of young global leaders like Khalida,” says Bruce Carruthers, director of the Buffett Institute. “In honoring her achievements, we want to encourage her and other young leaders like her to continue their important work.”

The Buffett Award winner is chosen by Northwestern undergraduate students. Members of the Buffett Institute’s Undergraduate Affiliate Program voted for their choice at the beginning of the fall quarter. Khalida was announced the winner at the Buffett Institute’s annual alumni breakfast on Saturday, October 17, 2015.

“Khalida’s courage and approach to empowering the confidence and skills of Pakistani women through socio-economic development and education in enterprise clearly resonates with the Northwestern community, as she received enormous support from our Buffett Undergraduate Affiliate voters,” says Emory Erker-Lynch, the Buffett Institute’s manager of undergraduate initiatives.

Khalida will come to Northwestern’s campus on Monday, April 18, 2016 to participate in a half-day workshop with students, give a public address to the Northwestern community, and accept her award. The event will be an extraordinary opportunity for Northwestern undergraduates interested in social issues and international development, according to Carruthers: “In bringing Buffett Award winners like Khalida to campus, we will build links between the Northwestern community and a group of very special people who are still at the earliest, and in some ways most exciting, stages of their careers.”

About Khalida Brohi

Belonging to the Balochistan province of Pakistan, Khalida has lived her life surrounded by beautiful traditions and rich cultures. However, amidst this beauty, she has witnessed the harshness of cultural restrictions on women that deprive them of decision-making powers and can lead to domestic violence.

Khalida launched Sughar in 2009 to fight against such customs and restrictions on women. She declared the word “Sughar,” meaning skilled and confident woman, ought to be used for every single woman in Pakistan, as each one of them has the skills and confidence to help them succeed. The Sughar Empowerment Society offers a vast number of opportunities for these women, including resources to create and sustain rural, woman-owned businesses.

With the successful launch of Sughar, Khalida’s plans for the next 10 years are to change the lives of one million women in Pakistan. She has been named among Newsweek’s “25 under 25 Women of Impact” as well as one of Newsweek’s “100 Women Who Matter in Pakistan.” She was awarded the Woman of Impact Award by Women in the World Foundation, Women Excellence Award by National Government of Pakistan, Young Champion Award by University of Singapore, and The Unreasonable Institute Fellowship Award.

Along with her roles as social entrepreneur and activist, she is the sister of eight siblings and a practicing Sufi.
One of several new undergraduate programs introduced in 2015, the Community-Based Research (CBR) Fellowship provides the opportunity for former participants of the GESI study abroad program to return to GESI project sites and work with their in-country partners. However, this new program is not a “GESI 2.0,” but a research opportunity for undergraduates already familiar with asset-based community development. CBR Fellows build upon their previous experience with GESI by researching past student projects and supporting in-country partners such as the Foundation for Sustainable Development (FSD) and Social Entrepreneur Corps (SEC).

Like GESI students, CBR Fellows adjust their objectives for the summer based on feedback from local community partners, resulting in a diverse range of research projects. This past summer, CBR Fellow Stephanie Medina (WCAS 2016) worked with a Dominican NGO to find better ways to define and identify empowerment within one of their women’s self-help groups. Yaritza Sandoval (WCAS 2016) traveled to Doringbaii, South Africa, to study why a tight-knit village with sufficient social services was lacking in small businesses and entrepreneurial ventures, and therefore lacking in employment opportunities. Bria Royal (SoC 2016) chose to conduct a deeper examination of GESI group dynamics in Bolivia to learn more about how diverse teams of students work together in an international setting.

CBR Fellow Chris Harlow (WCAS 2016) traveled to Uganda to assess past GESI projects and work with the FSD Uganda team to get more in-depth community feedback on GESI teams’ past work. He followed up on more than half a dozen GESI projects completed in 2009-2014 in partnership with local organizations such as St. Francis Health Services.

St. Francis is a clinic located a few miles outside of Jinja that helps patients who are infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS. One of its signature programs is the Source of the Nile Grandmothers (Jjajas) and Orphans Support Group. Due to the high incidence of HIV/AIDS, many working-age Ugandans have died of the disease, leaving behind orphans who often end up being cared for by their grandparents (Jjajas). Many Jjajas experience a significant economic burden in caring for these children, and so the Source of the Nile Support Group was created to teach the importance of saving while encouraging Jjajas to embark on income generating projects.

Chris’ follow-up report on 2009’s Mushroom Project at St. Francis uncovered an excellent example of GESI’s lasting impact.

**About the 2009 St. Francis Health Services Mushroom Project**

“A group of GESI interns worked with St. Francis in 2009 to build on their savings and loan project by putting renewed energy into a stalled mushroom growing project, which was seen as a means to grow mushrooms that could be sold by Jjajas for a profit, or eaten in order to add variety and additional nutrients to their diets. The interns worked with five local families who were provided with the tools and information necessary to start their own mushroom gardens. The team also brought a local mushroom expert to host a seminar and teach about nutrition, created a mushroom growing guide in English and Luganda, and worked with one Jaja in particular to keep the program going after the interns left Uganda.”

The Mushroom Project status in 2015

“Constance, the Jaja Coordinator for St. Francis, introduced us to two Jajas who were part of the original community groups that the GESI students worked with: Judith and Catherine. Neither Judith nor Catherine had known how to grow mushrooms prior to the summer of 2009 when the GESI stud-
Left: Jjaja Judith with her children. Right: Jjaja Catherine shows off her darkroom where she grows mushrooms.

Students arrived and helped them to learn the process. “While the families and individuals who participated in The Mushroom Project are no longer working collectively, the influence of the program has spread significantly. Constance estimated that 2-3 Jjajas in each community/village now grow mushrooms, and that some collective action occurs. Catherine, for example, takes mushrooms from several older Jjajas in her village and sells them on their behalf, since they are too old to travel regularly to the market.

“Since the GESI students left in 2009, Judith and Catherine have trained a number of other individuals. Catherine estimates that she has trained at least 10 people in the last few years and that most of them grow mushrooms regularly. Instead of selling her mushrooms at the market, Catherine typically sells them outside of the local hospital and at the St. Francis health clinic. She has developed a presentation that she gives at the hospital espousing the nutritional benefits of mushrooms, and particularly the benefits for HIV-positive patients. These patients then usually buy mushrooms after Catherine’s presentation.

“In regard to the mushroom guide that had been developed, Catherine—unprompted—mentioned the guide and that she had given it to a friend who wanted to learn how to grow mushrooms.

“When I asked Judith if I could take a picture of her to share with the GESI students back home, she called two of her grandchildren to join in the photo [pictured above] and said: “He was 13 and she was 9 when the students came, and mushrooms have been paying for their school fees ever since.”

“Catherine was so proud of the darkroom and hanging mushrooms that she has in her house (the same room the GESI students helped her to build). She said she hasn’t missed a single growing cycle in six years and that the money she’s made has been enough to sustain her house, providing food and school fees for her five grandchildren.”

About the CBR Fellowship

After his return from Uganda, Chris reflected on what the CBR Fellowship meant to him: “Being a CBR Fellow was the highlight of my time at Northwestern. Learning can happen in a classroom in Evanston and also in a village in rural Uganda. Community members became my teachers and their stories my textbooks. The Buffett Institute gave me the rare opportunity to experience international community development as an undergraduate when similar opportunities are normally reserved for graduate students or experienced professionals. This past summer has shaped my international perspective and shifted my life-long career aspirations. So often undergraduate students feel like they cannot make a difference, but I came away from my summer as a CBR Fellow feeling just the opposite.”

The Community-Based Research Fellow position is open to alums of the GESI program as an opportunity for sustained engagement with GESI host communities. Applications for the 2016 CBR Fellowships are due February 1, 2016. Fellows will receive up to $6,000 in funding for travel, living expenses, immunizations, travel medical insurance and stipend. Learn more about the program at buffett.northwestern.edu/global-engagement/career-support or email Emory Erker-Lynch, Program Manager of Undergraduate Initiatives at emory.erkerlynch@northwestern.edu. ♦
GESI's ongoing partnership with UGER helps promote reproductive health in India

Each year, the Global Engagement Studies Institute (GESI) sends undergraduate students from around the country to collaborate on grassroots projects with local NGOs in Bolivia, India, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, Uganda, and Kenya. Several teams of GESI students have collaborated with Jatan Sansthan in Udaipur, India, where students helped develop their innovative and globally recognized UGER sanitary pad product.

GESI 2011: A Partnership Begins

In the summer of 2011, GESI students Colette Ghunim, Danielle Littman, Kalindi Shah, and Abigail Weitman traveled to Udaipur, India, for their 10-week internship with Jatan Sansthan, a grassroots NGO that works with rural populations in the state of Rajasthan. Upon arrival, they were tasked with assisting a self-help group (SHG) and cooperative business for low-income women. After some initial interviews and research, the interns found that the SHG women had been trained by Jatan to sew, but the bags they were sewing were not selling. It was time to re-evaluate their product and marketing strategy.

But none of the four GESI students had a business background, and they were initially concerned that meant they were unqualified to help. However, as Danielle Littman discovered, “it was a little better not being experts” in the business field, because they sought what turned out to be a more effective and sustainable option.

With assistance from Jatan, the GESI interns found business and marketing experts in Udaipur to provide professional advice. These local experts led educational sessions for the SHG on business marketing and product research. The GESI interns also brought the SHG to local banks where employees were able to speak to them about obtaining credit and business loans.

After weeks of training and planning, the women’s SHG was getting close to a final decision on what would be their new signature product. However, the internship was quickly coming to a close, and the GESI students would be back home before the SHG reached their final decision. Before leaving, the GESI team gave the SHG seed funding to help launch the new product in the following year. It was a bittersweet end to the project: great progress had been made, but there was still so much more to be done, and the interns wouldn’t be there to see it.

“We felt like we only did a little, but at least we didn’t bite off more than we could chew – it was a manageable amount of work,” recalled Danielle.

“New Beginnings” at Jatan Sansthan

The GESI interns had no idea that 2011 would end up being such an important year for Jatan and the women’s SHG. Soon after the four students returned home, Jatan and the SHG enlisted the help of Lakshmi Murthy, a graphic designer and a social activist from Rajasthan focused on developing media for rural women and teenagers on issues related to sexuality. Her design firm, Vikalp Design, worked with Jatan to develop an eco-friendly cloth sanitary pad for rural women that could be sewn and sold by the women of the SHG.

Besides having appeal to local markets and being simple to make, the cloth pad functions as a healthy, environmentally safe replacement for the traditional...
menstruation management methods of rural India. In Udaipur and many other regions of India, many women still have very little knowledge about menstruation and reproductive health.

In rural areas of India, using dirty rags or cloth filled with sand or ash to manage periods is not uncommon and poses a major health risk. In more affluent and urban regions, synthetic disposable pads are common but still extremely expensive for a large portion of women. The reusable cotton cloth pads cost less, produce less harmful waste, and could help provide a sustainable livelihood and income for rural Indian women.

The SHG also finally decided on a name: UGER, which means “new beginnings” in Mewari, a major dialect of Rajasthan. The name signifies a “new beginning” in how women approach their health and menstruation, but also hopefully a new beginning in overall attitudes towards menstruation in India, where it is still a very taboo subject. Their product would become known as UGER pads.

GESI 2012: Bringing UGER to market

Not long after UGER’s official debut, a new cohort of GESI interns returned to Jatan in 2012. UGER needed training, product testing, and a well-defined marketing strategy to increase their sales. With the help of Lakshmi Murthy, GESI interns Stephanie Charouk, Nathaniel Henry, and Rachel Vrabec facilitated a five-day workshop during which six UGER women created a trial run of 80 sanitary pads.

In addition to conducting training sessions on how to sew pads, the interns developed marketing materials and updated the Jatan website to facilitate selling them to a wider audience. In order to increase awareness of both the product and best practices in women’s reproductive health, they sent product samples and pamphlets to NGOs across India that work with rural women.

Major growth in 2015

In 2015, UGER has increased production of its pads to 300–450 per day. Sales have recently increased dramatically: UGER sold 30 pads a month in 2014 and is now selling an average of 200 a month in 2015. The product and its benefits have been highlighted recently in several major Indian and global news outlets. In 2015 UGER has become an international brand and a symbol for a more progressive approach to women’s reproductive health in India.

It was also in 2015 that a group of GESI interns returned to Jatan to work with UGER. Unlike their 2011 and 2012 GESI predecessors, Jematia Chepyator, Vivien Hastings, and Kamila Muhammad had a fully developed product ready to sell. However, they still had a significant challenge in continuing to educate rural women and teenagers about menstruation, reproductive health, and why cloth pads are a good alternative to some of the traditional unhygienic methods.

As a means to educate, build community, and increase product awareness, the three interns help set up workshops for local women to learn more about reproductive health. They shared health knowledge and worked to dispel common myths about menstruation in the community – certain foods they were banned from eating, places they were not allowed to go, and items they were not allowed to touch while on their period. They created books and guides so that future community members and Jatan staff can continue their work and continue to build on their success. And they even started an online store for UGER pads on Etsy. Learn more about 2015 GESI students’ work with Jatan Sansthan.

With such exciting growth in just a few short years, we can’t wait to see what the future will bring for Jatan and the women of UGER.
New publications from Buffett Institute faculty affiliates

BOOKS

Brian T. Edwards, MENA Studies. 
*After the American Century: The Ends of US Culture in the Middle East* (Columbia University Press, 2015).

When Henry Luce announced in 1941 that we were living in the “American century,” he believed that the international popularity of American culture made the world favorable to US interests. Now, in the digital twenty-first century, the American century has been superseded, as American movies, music, video games, and television shows are received, understood, and transformed. How do we make sense of this shift? Building on a decade of fieldwork in Cairo, Casablanca, and Tehran, Brian T. Edwards maps new routes of cultural exchange that are innovative, accelerated, and full of diversions.

Elizabeth Shakman Hurd, Political Science. 

In recent years, North American and European nations have sought to legally remake religion in other countries through an unprecedented array of international initiatives. Policymakers have rallied around the notion that the fostering of religious freedom, interfaith dialogue, religious tolerance, and protections for religious minorities are the keys to combating persecution and discrimination. *Beyond Religious Freedom* persuasively argues that these initiatives create the very social tensions and divisions they are meant to overcome. Hurd looks at three critical channels of state-sponsored intervention: international religious freedom advocacy, development assistance and nation building, and international law. She shows how these initiatives make religious difference a matter of law, resulting in a divide that favors forms of religion authorized by those in power and excludes other ways of being and belonging.

Ozge Samanci, Radio/Television/Film. 
*Dare to Disappoint: Growing Up in Turkey* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR), 2015).

Growing up on the Aegean Coast, Ozge loved the sea and imagined a life of adventure while her parents and society demanded predictability. Her dad expected Ozge, like her sister, to become an engineer. She tried to hear her own voice over his and the religious and militaristic tensions of Turkey and the conflicts between secularism and fundamentalism. Could she be a scuba diver like Jacques Cousteau? A stage actress? Would it be possible to please everyone including herself? In her unpredictable and funny graphic memoir, Ozge recounts her story using inventive collages, weaving together images of the sea, politics, science, and friendship.

Shalini Shankar, Anthropology and Asian American Studies. 

This book explores how racial and ethnic differences are created and commodified through advertisements, marketing, and public relations. Drawing from four years of fieldwork at Asian American ad agencies, the author illustrates the day-to-day process of creating broadcast and internet advertisements. She examines the adaptation of general market brand identities for Asian American audiences, the ways ad executives make Asian cultural and linguistic concepts accessible to clients, and the differences between casting Asian Americans in ads for general and multicultural markets. By making the category of Asian American suitable for consumption, ad agencies shape the population they aim to represent.
This book is the first academic study to shed critical light on the political and economic pressures that shape how US scholars research and teach about the Middle East. The authors show how Middle East politics and US gender and race hierarchies affect scholars across their careers. They detail how academia is infused with sexism, racism, Islamophobia, and Zionist obstruction of any criticism of the Israeli state. *Anthropology’s Politics* offers a complex portrait of how academic politics ultimately hinders the education of US students and potentially limits the public’s access to critical knowledge about the Middle East.

**ARTICLES**


  Drawing on interview-based ethnographic research in Ankara, this article studies formations of femininity across social classes in urban Turkey. It centers on four young women, who have unequal access to economic resources and different cultural meanings. Through their biographies, this paper examines the effects of social class on experiences of gender and negotiations of femininity and also demonstrates common narratives that young women employ in negotiating gender.

- **Clare Cavanagh, Slavic Languages and Literature.** “‘Non-strategic’ Eastern Europe and the Fate of the Humanities,” *East European Politics & Societies* 29 (1) 2015: 3-9.

  Until recent events intervened, Eastern European Studies found themselves under attack at higher education institutions for being, among other things, “non-strategic.” The same notion, if not the same terminology, is applied increasingly to the humanities and non-quantitative social sciences, which lose ground daily to the so-called STEM disciplines in both educational policy and practice. How do we defend the study of Eastern European literature and culture in the current academic climate? This essay defends the centrality both of literary and Eastern European studies in the 21st century curriculum.


  This article investigates how material poverty functions as a cultural space, specifically addressing when an individual with cultural and social capital adopts a life of low income in order to form other social identities. It examines two groups that use low income to further other goals but differ in their temporal lens: “transitional bourgeoisie,” and “embedded activists.” Relying on 37 in-depth interviews it asks, how do people in strategic poverty construct satisfying lives? What cultural tools and skill-sets do informants draw upon to negotiate their economic circumstances and middle-class backgrounds?

- **Brannon Ingram, Religious Studies.** “Crisis of the Public in Muslim India: Critiquing ‘Custom’ at Aligarh and Deoband” *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies* 38 (3) 2015: 403-418.

  This article argues that Sayyid Ahmad Khan and Ashraf Ali Thanvi were, respectively, exemplars of what the author calls the liberal critique of custom and the Islamic legal critique. It contends that a range of overlapping semantic fields in their Urdu works opens up new lines of inquiry in comparing Aligarh and Deoband. The author suggests that “the public” was a shared frame through which they envisioned implementing their projects. At the imagined center of these publics, they located a new sort of Muslim: literate, self-regulating, guided by rationality and free of the moral and social entanglements of “custom.”


  This article provides an overview and critical analysis of Brunkhorst’s forthcoming book *Critical Theory of Legal Revolutions*. First, it analyzes the specific way Brunkhorst approaches social evolution in order to reconstruct the four great legal revolutions that led to the formation of modern law.  

  continued on next page
It also raises concerns regarding its Eurocentrism, a concern about the methodological distinction between evolutionary and revolutionary change, and a concern about the systematic role of religion and religious ideas.


For many decades, economists dismissed culture as irrelevant to most questions in economic growth. However, in the past decade they have rediscovered its importance in the emergence of the rapid and unprecedented process of economic growth since 1850. In retrospect, this development seems inevitable. Once it was accepted that institutions are important for explaining differences in national per-capita income today, culture—the beliefs and values on which institutions were founded—could not be far behind.


US commentators often contend that our constitutional structure of government can be reformed to promote the general welfare at the expense of special interest groups. Supposedly, one such constitutional innovation is Congress’s delegation of significant international trade authority to the president. However reciprocity and delegation of trade authority to the president were themselves products of interest group politics. There are likely no constitutional structures that will guarantee a path to free trade; instead, the relationship between free trade and constitutional institutions is contingent and dependent on interest group politics.


Since 2012, the Deportation Research Clinic at the Buffett Institute has been pursuing research on government misconduct under the rubric of what the author calls “forensic intelligence.” This article draws on a diverse selection of scholarship to explain the relation of “forensic intelligence” to the predominant “national intelligence” paradigm. The article concludes by describing how US government and economic elites distort research and teaching priorities, and provides examples from Northwestern University.

SYRIAN REFUGEES continued from page 8

entering this country, including biometric checks and in person interviews.” Over the past several years, the US has taken in around 70,000 refugees annually, but only about 2,000 Syrian refugees have been admitted to the US since the crisis began. According to Carey, there are plans to eventually boost that number to 100,000 refugees annually. “Other countries do follow the US’s lead when the US retracts or expands their refugee program. Our processes do not change quickly and decisions to admit refugees to not happen quickly.”

Both Carey and panelist Ngoan Le, the Illinois State Refugee Coordinator at the Department of Health & Human Services, fielded questions from the audience about recent statements from US state governors, including Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner, to ban Syrian refugees from resettling in their state. Carey said that while governors hold an important consultative position on refugee resettlement, resettlement services are administered by the federal government, and “those services will be provided regardless of race, religion, or country of origin.” Le stated, “We have not been asked to stop resettling refugees [in Illinois].”

The panel also raised questions that CFMS Director Galia Ruffer and Buffett visiting scholar Jessica Darrow hope to answer in the Refugee Resettlement Research Program. Ruffer, Darrow, and other CFMS scholars will be looking at resettled refugee integration experiences one, five, and 10 years out in six different states as well as analyzing public perceptions of refugees. The US currently takes in more than half of all resettled refugees, but very little research has been done on how well US refugee resettlement services are working. The program hopes to bring the potential economic benefits of resettlement into public discussion. Learn more at buffett.northwestern.edu/programs/migration/research.
New Faculty, Staff, and Visiting Scholars

Please welcome the following faculty, staff, and scholars in global studies to the Buffett Institute and the Northwestern community.

Alejandro E. Carrión is a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Latina/o Studies. His research focuses on the intersection of Latinos and education; more specifically the transition from high school to college for Latino males. He has taught sociology and Latino Studies at Brooklyn College, The City College of New York, Manhattan College and Hostos Community College. Alejandro has a rich background in piloting and directing programs that assist students with their college transition, such as the CUNY Black Male Initiative and Let’s Get Ready SAT prep program. Alejandro received his PhD in urban education from The Graduate Center at the City University of New York, an MS in Urban Affairs from Hunter College, and a BS from Binghamton University.

Yael Dekel (PhD, NYU, 2014) is a postdoctoral fellow at the Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies. She is interested in Israeli literature and specifically the way in which it takes part in the relationship among discourse, social norms, power dynamics, ideology and the state. Her teaching interests include: trauma studies, silence in literature, protest poetry, Palestinian and Israeli war literature. In her work as a translator and editor, she committed to introducing different texts that deal with issues of race, sexuality and identity politics to the Israeli canon.

Annie Zean Dunbar is the new Program Coordinator for the Center for Forced Migration Studies. Zean received her master’s in social service administration at the University of Chicago with a focus on international social welfare and refugee resettlement. Zean’s research interest include trauma and reconciliation, secondary migration, and long-term resettlement. Prior to joining CFMS, Zean worked in multicultural communities as a program manager, survey researcher, and case manager.

Sara Hernández joins the economics department after receiving her PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2015. She specializes in development and labor economics. In particular, she has studied the feminization of the labor force in developing countries. Her work investigates the implications of this increasingly broad-based phenomenon for individuals, households, and, by extension, communities.

Laura Sachiko Fugikawa, visiting assistant professor in Asian American studies, holds a doctoral degree in American studies and ethnicity with a certificate in gender studies from the University of Southern California. She is currently finishing a book manuscript, Displacements: the Cultural Politics of Relocation, which is a comparative analysis of narratives surrounding mid-twentieth century relocation and assimilation campaigns directed at Japanese American and American Indian communities and their aftermaths.

Meagan Keefe is the new associate director of the Program of African Studies. Meagan was most recently at The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, working on policy reports that focused on nutrition, climate change, and agricultural development. She previously worked for the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), where she served as the country coordinator in Accra, Ghana, managing their country strategy support program. She was continued on next page
a Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellow based at IFPRI working on governance issues, effects of the food price crisis, and sustainable land and water management technologies. She began her career in international development as a Peace Corps volunteer in Honduras, where she worked with agricultural communities to improve natural resource management. She graduated from St. Olaf College with a BA in economics and earned an MS in natural resource management from the University of Minnesota.

**Fredrik Meiton**, Science in Human Culture postdoctoral fellow, is a historian of science and technology in the modern Middle East. His research focuses on the intersection of politics, science, and technology, especially in the context of colonial development. He is currently at work on a book manuscript based on his dissertation, with the working title “Electrical Palestine: Jewish and Arab Technopolitics under British Rule.” The book charts the construction of Palestine’s electric grid as it co-evolved with the increasingly divided politics and society of the area, in an effort to rethink both the origins of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the interplay of power and technology more broadly.


**Amy Settergren** is the new outreach coordinator for the Program of African Studies. Amy joined the PAS staff to support the program’s work on the Title VI grant in coordinating K-12 teacher training activities and community college outreach as well as data collection and reporting. Amy is a Northwestern PAS alumna who received her PhD in history in 2006 with a dissertation on royal marriage in Asante. During her time at Northwestern she served as a freshman advisor for WCAS and as assistant master of the International Studies Residential College. She has taught African history courses at Northwestern, College of DuPage, and Lake Forest College.

**Jillian Ware** joins the Buffett Institute as a financial assistant. She graduated from Northeastern Illinois University in 2014 with a BA in psychology. For her senior capstone project, she developed a collections policy for the Cambodian Association Heritage Museum. During college she was a peer leader for statistics and research methods, where she tutored students and graded their assignments. After graduation, she worked at AbbVie for six months before joining the Buffett Institute. She speaks fluent Spanish and has traveled to the Bahamas, Peru, Dominican Republic, Mexico, France, Spain, Italy, Germany, the Philippines, Canada, and Guatemala.
Upcoming funding & program opportunities at Buffett

- indicates the opportunity is for undergraduates, - for graduate students, - for faculty.

All grants, funding, and program opportunities at the Buffett Institute are listed at buffett.northwestern.edu

**Winter 2016 Application Deadlines**

**January 15**

Scholarships for the GESI 2016 program
Students who are seeking financial aid to be able to participate in the GESI study abroad program should apply by this date.
gesi.northwestern.edu

**January 15**

Davis Projects for Peace
This $10,000 social action fellowship allows undergraduates to design their own grassroots projects.
buffett.northwestern.edu/funding-grants/davis-projects-peace

**February 1**

Community-Based Research Fellowships
Open to GESI alums. See pages 10-11 to read more about this undergraduate research program.
buffett.northwestern.edu/global-engagement/career-support

**February 1**

Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Research Grants
Funds individual or group research projects in modern Turkish studies. Projects collaborating with Turkish institutions and colleagues will be given priority.
buffett.northwestern.edu/funding-grants/keyman-turkish-studies

**February 1**

Postdoctoral Fellowship in Modern Turkish Studies
For scholars in social sciences and humanities whose research addresses transnational social processes, problems, or conflicts in connection to contemporary Turkey and have received their PhD between January 1, 2011 and August 31, 2016. In addition to $55,000 salary, Fellows are eligible for $5,000 per year to fund research and conference travel, and up to $2,000 in reimbursement for relocation expenses in the first year.
buffett.northwestern.edu/programs/turkish-studies/postdoc

**February 1**

Graduate Dissertation Research Grants
Funds fieldwork outside the US for Northwestern doctoral students writing dissertations on comparative and international topics.
buffett.northwestern.edu/funding-grants/graduate-dissertation-research-travel

**February 1**

Crown Family Middle East Research Travel Grants
Funds travel for research projects in the Middle East.
buffett.northwestern.edu/funding-grants/crown-middle-east-travel

**February 8**

One Acre Fund Post-Graduate Fellowship
In partnership with the Buffett Institute, the One Acre Fund is offering a two-year paid post-grad fellowship in Rwanda that supports in-country leadership.
buffett.northwestern.edu/global-engagement/career-support

**February 10**

GESI 2016 Fall Program Final Deadline
gesi.northwestern.edu

**March 1**

GESI 2016 Summer Program Final Deadline
gesi.northwestern.edu

**April 1**

Graduate Student Organized Conference Grant
Funds a multi-disciplinary conference initiated and organized by a group of graduate students.
buffett.northwestern.edu/funding-grants/graduate-student-organized-conference-grant

**April 1**

Grants for Working Groups
Funds working groups to establish and maintain communities of scholars engaged in sustained scholarly activities around shared research interests.
buffett.northwestern.edu/funding-grants/working-group

**April 1**

“Big Ideas” Grants
Funds “big ideas” in global research that have the potential to transform scholarly activity at Northwestern and beyond. Proposals will ideally be interdisciplinary, and are encouraged to integrate and engage the full range of resources that the Buffett Institute can provide.
buffett.northwestern.edu/funding-grants/big-ideas

**April 1**

Global Partnerships Grants
Supports partnerships and collaborations between Buffett-affiliated groups and foreign universities and academic research institutes.
buffett.northwestern.edu/funding-grants/global-partnership-funds

**April 1**

Edited Volume Conference Grants
Designed to produce significant publications on cutting edge, interdisciplinary research. Proposals must be interdisciplinary and include a plan for a significant publication at project end.
buffett.northwestern.edu/funding-grants/edited-volume-conference
EDGS welcomes back director Joshua Oppenheimer for a screening of *The Act of Killing* sequel *The Look of Silence*