Renowned economists launch Buffett’s Global Poverty Research Lab

On September 1, the Buffett Institute officially launched its Global Poverty Research Lab, a collaborative research center that uses empirical evidence to address the challenges of overcoming poverty and improve well-being in the developing world. The Lab’s founding directors are Buffett Institute faculty fellows and recent Northwestern arrivals Dean Karlan, Nemmers Distinguished Professor of Economics and Finance at Kellogg, and Chris Udry, King Professor of Economics in Weinberg College.

Karlan and Udry join a growing group of scholars at Northwestern who study development economics and will also be involved in Lab activities, including Lori Beaman (economics), Erika Deserranno (managerial economics & decision sciences), Jacopo Ponticelli (finance), and Nancy Qian (managerial economics & decision sciences).

“Northwestern has become much more committed to international development in the period of my absence,” says Udry, who worked at Northwestern as an economics professor from 1990 to 1998. “There’s a strong base of people working in the area here. The administration was extremely supportive of an effort to energize and build on that strength and make the university a global center.”

Udry and Karlan see the Buffett Institute as a perfect example of how things have changed at Northwestern over the last 20 years. “There’s a lot of energy and a commitment from the top to be a leader in development. The Buffett Institute...”
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The Buffett Institute addresses critical global issues through collaborative research, public dialogue, and engaged scholarship.

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This publication is available online at buffett.northwestern.edu/research/newsletter.html

Cover photo by Sindhunata Hargyono, graduate student in anthropology and Aryman scholar. He took it this summer during his dissertation research in Indonesia, which was funded with a grant from the Buffett Institute. His caption:

"An elder had died. Collectively, people carried the dead to his last resort, the cemetery. Traditionally, only deceased aristocrats (paren) would have their wooden caskets painted. However, with the decreasing role of adat (custom) since the intensification of Christianity in the 1960s coupled with the increasing availability of ready-made paint cans, non-aristocrats have started to mimic the aristocratic style of life cycle rituals like funerals. The people who wear thin brown cloths on their head, like the two sitting by the casket, are close relatives. The cloth signifies grievance. After the funeral, they would start wearing similar-colored woven rattan on their head to express grief."
A message from Director Bruce G. Carruthers

My fourth fall as Buffett Director begins much like my first did, with almost too many good things going on. This year we welcome the arrival of Chris Udry and Dean Karlan, two leading economists who will be co-directing the new center for development economics within the Buffett Institute, officially called the Global Poverty Research Lab. When combined with the researchers already here, their arrival from Yale University brings instant prominence to Buffett, and to Northwestern, in the field of development economics. (Read more on the front cover)

The Buffett Institute relies heavily on a faculty advisory council to set the strategic direction and help with the decisions we make. This is a group of senior scholars whose good judgment is critical in evaluating the large amount of proposals and requests we receive. I wish to thank Ken Alder (history) and Jim Mahoney (political science, sociology) for their stellar service over the past two years and to welcome Héctor Carrillo (sociology, sexuality and gender studies), Jeannette Colyvas (SESP), William Leonard (anthropology), and Jide Nzelibe (law). D. Soyini Madison (performance studies), and Hendrik Spruyt (political science) will continue to serve. The breadth of their collective expertise is exactly what an interdisciplinary institute needs!

We are more than halfway through a strategic planning process slated for completion by the end of this coming fall quarter. The resultant strategic plan will set an ambitious direction for the Buffett Institute to develop and focus our core activities in the areas of research, teaching, and engagement. I would like to thank the many individuals who provided thoughtful input during the process.

Looking far ahead, we continue to plan for our eventual move into a rehabbed and refreshed Jacobs Center (in spring 2019, I hope), working closely with an architectural design team and Facilities Management. The construction work is already underway and the new space will house all of our activities and units in one place. I normally avoid making predictions, but I predict that having everyone together in our new Buffett home will be truly wonderful.

Pending completion of the construction in Jacobs, we’ve moved a number of offices and people this summer in order to accommodate all our new staff and activities. We are now officially “bursting at the seams.”

Among the multitude of programs associated with Buffett, this year the Program of African Studies celebrates its 70th anniversary, the Global Engagement Studies Institute (GESI) study abroad program celebrates its 10th anniversary, and the Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa (ISITA) welcomes a terrific new director, Zekeria Ahmed Salem, who will also be a senior member of the political science department. We also welcome our largest group of new scholars and staff to date. (You can read more about them on page 12.)

Since last fall’s letter, political events around the world, including here in the United States, have only strengthened my belief in the importance of research, open intellectual inquiry, engagement with the world, and the global exchange of people and ideas. We at the Buffett Institute have been challenged by new restrictions on the physical movement of scholars and students and the specter of censorship and political intimidation. So far, we have managed to protect the inward flow of guests from abroad and the outward flow of Northwestern researchers and students, and the autonomy of our research activities remains intact. Free expression lies at the foundation of an open and democratic society, and it is our responsibility to leaven those expressions with evidence, knowledge and logic. It’s what we must do.

Bruce G. Carruthers
John D. MacArthur Professor of Sociology
Director of the Buffett Institute
New groups, faculty fellows, partnership added to the Buffett Institute for fall 2017

Two new working groups and one global partnership have been added to the Buffett Institute’s growing roster of interdisciplinary research initiatives.

**Kehinde Adekola** (Feinberg) leads a new global partnership between the Feinberg School of Medicine’s Center for Global Health, the University of Lagos, and the University of Abuja College of Health Sciences.

 Starting this fall, **Ian Hurd** (political science), **Erin Delaney** (law), and **Joshua Kleinfeld** (law) will lead the Politics of International Law working group. **Kelly Wisecup** (English), **Kimberly Suiseeya** (political science), and **Hi’ilei Hobart** (postdoctoral fellow, Native American and Indigenous Studies) will lead the Global Indigenous Studies working group.

 Northwestern graduate students **James Howard Hill, Jr.** (religious studies), **Hafsa Oubou** (anthropology), and **Matt Smith** (religious studies) have been selected to lead the next Buffett Institute Graduate Student Organized Conference, which awards graduate students up to $30,000 to host a conference centered on an interdisciplinary theme. The April 2018 conference, titled “The Politics of Movement: Racialization, Religion, Migration” will focus not only on forms of mobility such as migration, diasporas, refugees, settlements, travels, but also considers political techniques that restrict, contain, limit, manage, or move people in order to create various forms of immobility—removals, borders, prisons and confinements, ghettos and reservations, militaries and policing, colonies and camps, etc. More information at buffett.northwestern.edu/programs/grad-conference.

 New Buffett faculty fellows for 2017 include **Jordan Gans-Morse** (political science), **Dean Karlan** (finance and economics), **Rajeev Kinra** (history), **Chris Udry** (economics), and **Klaus Weber** (management).

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Faculty honors: Global Politics and Religion leaders win Luce grant in religion, journalism, and international affairs

Northwestern is a winner of the 2017 Luce/ACLS Program in Religion, Journalism & International Affairs (RIJA) Grants for Universities. The $60,000 award will support the project, Talking “Religion”: Publics, Politics, and the Media, led by Buffett’s Global Politics and Religion group leaders Elizabeth Shakman Hurd (political science) and Brannon D. Ingram (religious studies). The project will build on and expand the group’s current research.

 The project seeks to build relationships between scholars and journalists across Northwestern and beyond, creating collaborations at Medill, Weinberg College, and the Buffett Institute.

 The project is motivated by two questions:
• How can scholars and journalists of religion, politics, and public life better communicate their findings and learn from each other?
• How can they communicate their work and insights to public audiences in a way that is accessible and appealing without sacrificing nuance and complexity?

 Ingram and Hurd will develop a new course for Medill and Weinberg students on media and cultural representations of Islam in American and international public life—a critical topic today and in the future. Graduate research fellowships in Medill and Weinberg will offer opportunities for students to hone their “religion reporting” and writing skills. It will also allow the Global Politics and Religion research group to begin to engage with the larger Evanston/Chicago communities to explore these questions together at public events.

 “By receiving this prestigious award, Hurd and Ingram have realized one of the aspirations of our ‘Big Ideas’ program: to leverage Buffett support with external funding that will help develop and sustain scholarly activity,” Buffett Director Bruce Carruthers says.
ISITA brings African curators and the Herskovits Library together for workshop on African Arabic manuscripts

by Rebecca Shereikis

From August 13-20, the Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa (ISITA) and its partners hosted “Working with African Arabic Script Manuscripts”—a unique training workshop with the dual goals of increasing Americans’ understanding of sub-Saharan Africa’s rich manuscript culture, while also supporting African curators’ efforts to preserve and make accessible African collections. Thirty-five participants, including instructors, curators, and American university students, faculty, and librarians took part in lectures, hands-on sessions with Arabic and ajami manuscripts from the Herskovits Library of African Studies’ rich collection, and site visits to Chicago area libraries. Thanks to support from the Gerda Henkel Stiftung, seven curators from African manuscript libraries in Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, and Zanzibar were invited to help in the instruction and share information about their collections. Other instructors were drawn from Northwestern, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), Yale, Berkeley, Wesleyan, University of Cape Town, University of Hamburg, and Paris.

The workshop was organized jointly by ISITA and UIUC’s Center for African Studies as part of the US Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center grant in African Studies shared by UIUC and Northwestern; and the Centre for the Study of Manuscripts Cultures, University of Hamburg. Collaborating units on campus included the Program of African Studies, the Buffett Institute, the Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies, and the Center for Scientific Study in the Arts (NU-ACCESS). External collaborators included the American Islamic College of Chicago, the Field Museum, the Newberry Library, the University of Chicago’s Oriental Institute Museum, and the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library.

M.M. Jimba Moshood, Professor of Arabic at Kwara State University, Nigeria, and Director of the Centre for Ilorin Manuscripts and Culture described the workshop as “a lifetime opportunity well seized” and urged his fellow participants to “pass the knowledge we gained at the workshop to the youths around us and also think of how to organize our own workshops and conferences within the African continent.” According to Matthew Steele, a PhD student at Harvard Divinity School, “The lectures and exercises really were outstanding. From the regional focus to the breadth of topics, I can’t think of another workshop that covers as much ground or focuses as deeply on Islamic Africa. I learned an enormous amount from participating.” Plans to repeat similar workshops, possibly in Africa, were discussed as a way to continue and expand a network of African curators in the coming years.
is a manifestation of that energy,” Karlan says. “We’re hoping this [creation of the Lab] will be an inflection point for us, to be able to do work at a much bigger and better scale.”

Buffett Institute Director Bruce Carruthers agrees: “The creation of the Lab marks a new era in the Buffett Institute’s commitment to social science research on tough global issues and implications for policy.”

The Lab will support activities on campus and abroad, including cluster-focused research that will be oriented both geographically — starting off with Ghana and the Philippines — and around sectors like financial inclusion and social protection.

“Part of the concept of the clusters is the synergies that happen between projects when they’re geographically focused and overlapping, so one project can be generating data that can serve as the inspiration for another, or shared by another, and so that’s just an efficiency game,” Udry says. “But it’s also a knowledge game when you work intensively with a number of people in a focused area: unexpected interconnections come up.”

The Lab will enjoy a close working relationship with Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA), a research and policy nonprofit founded by Karlan that discovers and promotes effective solutions to global poverty problems. The partnership brings with it a network of 18 country offices and new global opportunities for Northwestern students and scholars to get involved in their work. IPA will also work with the Lab to engage in research-based advocacy and policy outreach.

At the Lab, Northwestern undergraduate and graduate students will have opportunities to work as research assistants, go into the field to do research abroad, and develop skills and competencies to become full-time contributors to the Lab’s work after graduation.

An important facet of Karlan and Udry’s work will be to build better research infrastructure, such as methodological work on survey design, data depository, electronic data collection tools, application development for staff management and behavior modification, and big data tools and servers.

“Currently the infrastructure for conducting field research is wasteful, with large surveys frequently being rolled out for the purpose of single projects,” Udry says.

The Lab will pursue questions about how to improve the research process, such as how to best conduct surveys and hire surveyors.

“We [as researchers] actually are strikingly bad about doing quantitative analysis of our own surveys and our hiring methods for surveyors,” Karlan says. “What’s the right profile for a surveyor? To give you one example, for a project in the Philippines we had a question about field agents: Would you prefer to hire an uneducated person who grew up in a rural area and is very much like the people you’re working with in terms of upbringing, or would you prefer an educated person who grew up in Manila and finished college? Who is going to do a better survey? I don’t know. We don’t reward [finding answers to these questions] professionally, from a career and academic perspective, but it could actually be really helpful and improve everybody’s work. So we want to invest in things like this.”

For the Lab’s first year, Udry and Karlan plan on spending time getting to know people on campus. They hope to collaborate with and learn more about existing research projects from their fellow Northwestern faculty as well as faculty at the University of Chicago.

The Lab’s first major event will be a conference in late October co-hosted by IPA. Researchers will discuss financial inclusion and household finance in the United States and around the world, as well as share new research on social safety nets, cash transfers, targeting, and livelihood development.

Karlan and Udry will both be giving public talks hosted by the Buffett Institute this quarter. Udry will present “Barriers to Agricultural Intensification and Technological Innovation in West Africa” on September 29. Karlan will follow on October 20 with “Social Protection for the Ultra-Poor: Lessons from Economics, Psychology and Religion.”

Full event details, time, and location can be found at buffett.northwestern.edu/about/events. Learn more about the Lab at buffett.northwestern.edu/programs/poverty-research.
Graduate students traveled to 44 countries thanks to research grants from the Buffett Institute

This summer, close to 50 Northwestern graduate students traveled to 44 countries to pursue research thanks to funds from the Buffett Institute. The majority received funding from Buffett’s graduate student dissertation research awards, which totaled over $180,000 this year. The awards provide funding for field work outside the US related to graduate dissertations on important contemporary political, economic, and social issues.

Dissertation research topics for this summer include:
• The conceptualization of blackness, indigeneity, and citizenship in Mexico
• How unequal land rights inherited from colonialism in Zimbabwe and South Africa affect current institutions and land reforms
• The impact of climate change and globalization on the local food economy in Ghana
• The impact of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR) on high courts in Brazil, Argentina, and Peru
• The formation of queer politics and public cultures in post-WWII Europe (Germany, the Netherlands, and England) through migration and transnational networks
• Syrian refugees and their intersection with and impact on Lebanon’s health care system
• The distributional impact of China’s recent acension in the World Trade Organization
• Factors behind the rise of anti-immigration policies in Russia since 2012
• British Muslims and Islamic politics in a counterterror United Kingdom

Photos from their summer abroad are at right.

Elena Rodina, graduate student in the School of Communication studying media, technology, and society, took this photo on the shore of the Caspian Sea in the republic of Dagestan (North Caucasus, Russia). She received a grant from the Buffett Institute to support her research on journalist-state relations in Russia. In this photo, girls and boys in traditional costumes have come to enjoy the view of the sea from a nearby concert hall, where they had just performed traditional singing and dancing.

Pedro Varguillas, graduate student in Weinberg College studying Spanish and Portuguese, took this photo while conducting field work in Coche Island, Venezuela. The fishermen on the photo are part of a collective that works on traditional and artisan fishing.

Kritish Rajbhandari, graduate student in Weinberg College studying comparative literature, took this photo of a Hindu temple while conducting field work in Zanzibar. His dissertation research examines contemporary novels from East Africa and India by putting them in relation with different transnational archival contexts.
Where in the world did Buffett undergrads go this summer?

Thanks to funding from the Buffett Institute, more than 80 Northwestern undergraduates had the opportunity to work, study, and conduct research in 26 countries and six continents this past summer. (Pins on the map indicate where you could find them during summer 2017.)

66 students studied abroad with Global Engagement Studies Institute (GESI), the majority of whom were funded by scholarships made possible by donors such as Roberta Buffett Elliott (WCAS ’54), Bonnie (WCAS ’69) and Mike Daniels, and the Efrusy Family Foundation.

GESI sent its first group to Jukwa, Ghana, in partnership with Amizade (see page 10). Next summer, GESI will be adding two new locations in Vietnam and Costa Rica.

Eight Buffett International SIGP winners completed internships that included marketing at a tech-focused NGO in Tunisia, promoting clean energy solutions in China, marketing youth soccer programs in Australia, designing prosthetic limbs in Paraguay (see opposite page), and developing an online community for African artists in Kenya.

Other grant winners include 16 supplemental grant recipients and seven community-based research (CBR) fellows. The CBR fellows developed community-based research projects in Ecuador, Costa Rica, Uganda, and West Virginia.

More information about Buffett undergraduate grants can be found at buffett.northwestern.edu/funding-grants/undergraduates.html.
Buffett SIGP spotlight: Izzy de la Guardia (McCormick 2019)

Thanks to a Buffett International SIGP scholarship, Izzy de la Guardia (pictured second from left) was a design engineering intern this summer at Po Paraguay, a nonprofit that 3D prints prosthetic limbs at low cost in Asunción. Here is her experience at Po in her own words:

My interest in engineering was spurred by the experience of a cousin of mine who received a lower-leg amputation after being diagnosed with osteosarcoma. I witnessed him undergo the time and cost-intensive process of testing out different prosthetics. The immense potential of developing prosthetic technologies fascinated me, but his experience made me aware of current shortfalls in accessibility, cost, and design. This motivated me to improve the quality of life of people by pursuing a degree in manufacturing and design engineering with a certificate in entrepreneurship. I currently work as a shop trainer in the Segal Prototyping and Fabrication Lab to advance my rapid prototyping skills so I can bring my designs to life.

When I learned about Po Paraguay, I immediately knew I wanted to spend my summer working for them. The nonprofit works to make quality prosthetics accessible and affordable for everyone through use of new technologies like 3D printing. Current prosthetics costs over $10,000. Having witnessed my cousin’s struggles, I know the importance of creating an affordable, customizable solution to artificial limbs to help people live their lives to their fullest potential.

Po delivers customized prosthetics from online measurements in just 15 days. Besides lowering costs through 3D printing, Po offers subsidies and payment plans for all income levels. They work with each client to create a custom product that the user is excited and proud to wear, such as an “Iron Man” hand for a young boy, or a shiny red hand to match a little girl’s favorite rain boots.

The most important lesson my internship at Po taught me is that our possibilities are limited to the size of our dreams. Po was founded by two individuals in their early twenties who identified a real need in their community—that less than 1% of people with upper limb amputations received prosthetic limbs—and took a risk to try and solve the problem.

Inspired by designs they had seen on the Internet, they purchased a 3D printer and began producing prosthetic hands, not knowing where the project would take them. The co-founders went on to win multiple entrepreneurial competitions and expand their team, or “EquiPo” [“team” in Spanish].

Po’s success story taught me that you don’t have to depend on current structures to find your dream job or to fix the world’s problems. Po’s use of principles of entrepreneurship provides a sustainable model for growth, but they are slow to let economic concerns discourage them from experimenting and exploring new projects. This concept has breathed new life into the entrepreneurship certificate that I am pursuing at Northwestern. The confidence I now have in the power of an idea will complement the technical skills I am learning in class and equip me to take a risk if I find a problem worth solving.

Because of Po’s philosophy of empowering people, I felt comfortable taking charge of my project, asking questions, and proposing and challenging ideas. I learned skills on the job that were outside of my realm of experience, and also served to highlight which skill sets I should work on when I return to Northwestern.

As a student on financial aid, it was imperative for me to get funding to cover the expenses from traveling and working abroad. Po Paraguay, as a nonprofit social venture, does not have the budget to pay for my work. Without the Buffett SIGP scholarship, I would not have been able to take advantage of this amazing opportunity.
GESI 2017: teams of students complete community development projects in six countries this summer

This summer Global Engagement Studies Institute (GESI) students traveled from Chicago to Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, Ghana, India, Nicaragua, and Uganda. In collaboration with local staff, they worked in small teams to complete community development projects that focused on themes such as global health, education, environment, youth, women’s empowerment, social enterprise development, and microfinance. Here are some of their projects:

Education Status of Sadhna Artisans’ Children
GESI team: Genesis Garcia, Gabrielle Silva, Nada Bedair
Location: Udaipur, India
NGO: Sadhna

Since 1988, Sadhna has promised to serve women in the rural, urban, and tribal slums of Udaipur. Through Sadhna’s capacity building programs of traditional Rajasthani embroidery, sewing, and block printing, these communities of women are able to build financial security and independence. Sadhna’s artisans are women typically constrained by the implications of their caste, socio-economic status, and gender. Just as Sadhna’s work and employment allows these artisans to overcome their societal expectations, education serves as a way for their children to do the same. Sadhna’s scholarships lighten the heavy financial burden that comes with education on these low-income families.

The GESI team interviewed artisan members to analyze and assess Sadhna’s scholarship program. The information and statistical data they gathered will be used to create permanent, sustainable changes in Sadhna’s education department including a simplification of the scholarship application and the spread of helpful educational resources to Sadhna artisans through their monthly meetings.

St. Francis Youth Business Start-Up
GESI team: Alana Farkas, Hira Malik, Lucia Gurrola, Ying Dai
Location: Jinja, Uganda
NGO: St. Francis Health Care Services

The Youth Empowerment Program at St. Francis Health Care Services provides mentoring and counseling to HIV positive and negative youth within the Njeru community. The youth receive education in life skills and health-related issues, and also participate in art, music, and dance. The GESI team’s community assessment revealed a significant challenge for the older youth—those between the ages of 18 and
These youth transition out of the program but do not attend school, nor do they have any source of income, but they desired an exit strategy. The GESI team developed and implemented an exit strategy for graduating youth by creating an income-generating activity. A core group of 14 youth was trained in entrepreneurship, craft-making, and information technology (printing and graphic design) in addition to teamwork and leadership skills. Ideally, these individuals will generate sufficient income to graduate from the program and support themselves.

Organization and Promotion of Pro Mujer Health Services
GESI team: Sneha Nair, Sarah Freschi, Cindy Ramos-Rico, Gui Vendemiatti
Location: Cochabamba, Bolivia
NGO: Pro Mujer Cochabamba

Pro Mujer is an international microfinance organization that seeks to eliminate poverty for women in Latin America by providing a platform of resources for underprivileged women, such as microfinance loans, workshops, and health services. After interviewing community members about their dental hygiene and knowledge about the existing clinics at Pro Mujer, the GESI team developed marketing materials (posters, brochures) to help educate Pro Mujer clients about available services. After a successful distribution of the marketing materials, they built digital templates for the materials, as well as marketing plans with timeline and external resources for future health services offered.

Composting Equals Success
GESI team: Morgan McFall-Johnsen, Muhammad Patel, Adam Chen
Location: Jukwa, Ghana
NGO: Nyankofa

The Jukwa community in Ghana is home to many subsistence farmers. In speaking with these farmers, the Nyankofa team identified two major challenges: lack of crop yield and food sources during the dry season and a limited number of feasible foods to produce.

The GESI team established a skills training association to allow farmers and other interested community members to learn new skills and diversify their sources of livelihood. They started with two skills: composting and snail farming. Composting would provide a no-cost system to create fertilizer that can increase soil quality, crop yield, and crop resilience. Snail farming would provide a low-cost, consistent source of food and income throughout the year.

The team conducted trainings and house visits, and also hired an agricultural training professional to teach the community about snail farming. Manuals for both composting and snail farming were distributed to members of the association as reference materials.
New scholars and staff for fall 2017

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

**NEW SCHOLARS AND FACULTY AT THE BUFFETT INSTITUTE**

**Sofyan Ansori**, Arryman Fellow, earned his bachelor’s degree in social anthropology at the University of Indonesia in 2009 and obtained his master’s degree at PPM School of Management in 2013. Since completing his studies, he has worked as a social researcher and lecturer for several institutions in Indonesia, with a focus on culture and environmental resources. He plans to study in Northwestern’s anthropology department with a focus on the political shifts, indigenous practices, and environmental changes that contribute to peat fires in the Central Kalimantan peatlands.

**Asma Berkane**, FIG visiting predoctoral fellow, is a graduate student visiting from ENS Lyon’s department of English literature and civilization. She is currently writing a master’s thesis about narration and postmodernist philosophy in Bret Easton Ellis’s fiction.

**Lasse Brune**, postdoctoral fellow at the Global Poverty Research Lab, focuses his research on financial inclusion in developing countries. He also has projects related to labor markets, behavioral economics and social safety nets. Brune holds a PhD in economics from the University of Michigan.

**Adèle Chevrier**, FIG visiting predoctoral fellow, holds a BA in English and literary studies from the École Normale Supérieure of Lyon. As part of her master’s program in English and Russian language, literature, and civilization, she recently wrote her thesis on the place of Russia in Vladimir Nabokov’s early short fiction.

**Johanna Günther**, CFMS visiting predoctoral fellow, is a PhD student at Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg. She holds a PhD from the Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes. Her dissertation addresses to what extent judgments of the European Court of Human Rights affect EU policy-making processes in the area of asylum policy. Johanna also works as a freelance researcher for the German Institute for Human Rights, and she consults on projects concerning social policy and public diplomacy. Previously, she completed a master’s program in European Studies at Freie Universität Berlin.

**Morgan Kaplan**, Buffett postdoctoral fellow, received his MA and PhD in political science at the University of Chicago. Prior to coming to the Buffett Institute, Kaplan was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at the Harvard Kennedy School. His primary research examines the international politics of rebellion with a focus on how insurgent groups use international diplomacy to solicit third-party support. His research also examines intra-insurgent politics, international security, and state formation. The empirical focus of his work is on the Middle East, with a specialization in Kurdish and Palestinian politics. Kaplan has conducted field work in Iraqi Kurdistan, Israel-
Palestine, Jordan, and the United Kingdom.

Dean Karlan, co-director of the Global Poverty Research Lab, is a Buffett Institute Faculty Fellow and the Nemmers Distinguished Professor of Economics and Finance at the Kellogg School of Management. His research focuses on microeconomic issues of poverty, typically employing experimental methodologies and behavioral economics insights to examine what works, what does not, and why in interventions in sustainable income generation for those in poverty; household and entrepreneurial finance; health behavior; and charitable giving. He works on issues for low-income households in both developing countries and the United States. He is the president and founder of Innovations for Poverty Action, a nonprofit organization dedicated to discovering and promoting solutions to global poverty problems, and working to scale-up successful ideas through implementation and dissemination to policymakers, practitioners, investors and donors. In 2015, he founded Impact Matters, a nonprofit dedicated to producing impact audits, which assesses whether an organization uses and produces appropriate evidence of impact.

Patrick William Kelly, Buffett postdoctoral fellow, received his doctorate in history from the University of Chicago and previously was a Mellon fellow at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He researches and teaches broadly across modern global history, and is particularly interested in how and why people, ideas, and diseases cross national borders. This interest shaped his first book, Sovereign Emergencies: Latin America and the Making of Global Human Rights Politics (Cambridge, 2018), which examines the intersection of Latin American and global human rights politics since the 1970s. It also informs his second book project on the global history of AIDS as a metaphor for contemporary globalization.

Hüseyin Levent Köker, Keyman research associate, is a graduate of Ankara Law School and holds a PhD in political science. He was previously Hans Speier Visiting Professor in the New School for Social Research. Currently working on a critical re-interpretation of constitutional politics in Turkey, Köker’s research interests include constitution-making and post-national constitutionalism, democratic political theory, secularism, nationalism, multiculturalism, and cosmopolitanism. His publications include Modernization, Kemalism and Democracy (2009), Two Different Conceptions of Politics (2008), and Democracy, Critique, and Turkey (2008).

Robie Kholilurrahman, Arryman Fellow, completed his bachelor’s degree in international relations at the University of Indonesia with a thesis titled, “State and Mobile Investors Relation on Industrialization in Post New Order Indonesia (1998-2014).” He has worked as a researcher for the Research Center for Crisis and Alternative Development Strategies (INKRISPENA), as well as for the Directorate of Foreign Politics and International Development Cooperation, Ministry of National Development Planning. Kholilurrahman plans to study political science at Northwestern, working on a project called, “The Lost Last Two Decades: Determining Factors for the Course of Indonesian (De) Industrialization After the 1997 Crisis.”

Solomon Fikre Lemma, PAS visiting scholar, has served as Dean of the College of Law and Governance Studies and Secretary of the Senate of Addis Ababa University, as well as an assistant professor at the law schools of Addis Ababa and Hawassa Universities. He received his PhD, LL.M., and LL.B. degrees from the Schools of Law of the University of Warwick, Erasmus University, and Addis Ababa University, respectively. Lemma’s research interests include law and development,
particularly the role and potential of land, business, and property laws in tackling poverty and fostering economic development in developing countries. He has served as a UNHCR volunteer at Bonga and Fugnido Camps for Sudanese refugees in western Ethiopia, contributing to his research interest in the protection and treatment accorded to vulnerable groups such as women, children, and refugees under international and Ethiopian laws.

Kotaro Nakano, Buffett Institute visiting scholar, is a social historian and professor of the World History at Osaka University. His scholarly interests are in “nation-making” in 20th-century America. He has published several books and articles on the Progressive Era, World War I, and socio/racial connotations of “Americanism,” mainly in Japanese. Nakano’s most recent research subject is “The Transformation of Civic Nationalism in the 1970s United States.” He works on the decline of the welfare state and its influences on working people, the changing meaning of martial citizenship for ethnic Americans, and post-industrial development of urban politics. Nakano earned his doctoral degree in history from Kyoto University, and he first came to Northwestern as a recipient of the Fulbright Scholarship in 1998-99.

Pap Ndiaye, Buffett Visiting Professor in International Studies, is a professor and researcher at Sciences Po, specializing in the social history of the United States, with a particular focus on minorities; the history of Chicago; the history of comparative civil rights in the United States; and the history of tech. He is also considered a pioneer of French “Black Studies.”

“Professor Ndiaye is a world-renowned scholar whose current project—and the basis of his fall courses in history—is a history of the global civil rights movements in America, the Caribbean, Europe, and Africa,” says Ken Alder, professor of history and Milton H. Wilson Professor in the Humanities, who nominated Ndiaye for the position. “To this material, Professor Ndiaye brings his perspective as a French-trained historian of the United States, a reminder that Americans should learn to see themselves from the vantage point of other places and traditions.” He will present the Buffett Visiting Professor Lecture on November 14.

Leyla Neyzi, Keyman Visiting Professor, is based in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Sabanci University in Istanbul. Neyzi received her BA from Stanford University and her PhD from Cornell University. As an anthropologist and oral historian, she listens to and archives the life stories of individuals from diverse backgrounds and communities. Her areas of interest include oral history, memory studies, European and Middle Eastern ethnography, nationalism and minorities, transnational youth and social movements.

Irene Pang, Buffett postdoctoral fellow, is a political sociologist who received her PhD at Brown University and studies issues of citizenship and rights contestation in China and India. Her dissertation provides a comparative ethnographic account of the citizenship struggles of internal migrant construction workers in Beijing and Delhi. She analyzes how everyday lived experiences, as well as larger state, market, and civil society structures, give rise to various forms of citizen silencing and citizen resistance. Pang’s broader research interests include development and sociology of the Global South, labor, dynamics of capitalism, and comparative research.

Muhammad Ridha, Arryman Fellow, holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of Indonesia and a master’s degree in development studies from Murdoch University, Australia. He currently contributes to research at the Research Centre for Crisis and Alternative Development Strategy (INKRISPENA) and at the Center of Political Studies (Pusat Kajian Politik), University of Indonesia. As a scholar-activist, Ridha
is involved with the Working People’s Party (PRP) and serves as Jakarta’s Regional Secretary of the Confederation of the Indonesian People’s Movement (KPRI). He is also a member of the editorial board for indoprogress.com, a website aimed at disseminating progressive, pro-working-class ideas in Indonesia. Ridha’s research interests include political economy, urban politics, public policy, and contemporary political theory.

Perdana Putri Roswaldy, Arryman Fellow, is a predoctoral researcher in the sociology department at Northwestern. She graduated cum laude from Universitas Indonesia’s Russian literature department in 2015. During her time as Northwestern, she will study the transmigration scheme of the Indonesian province of Riau and its contribution to the global supply chain of palm oil. Roswaldy was previously honored as Indonesia’s delegate for the ASEAN +3 Youth Environmental Forum in 2010. In addition, she is a freelance contributor for several Indonesian alternative media and webzines.

Chris Udry, co-director of the Global Poverty Research Lab, is a Buffett Institute Faculty Fellow and the King Professor of Economics. He is a development economist whose research focuses on rural economic activity in Sub-Saharan Africa. His current research examines technological change, risk and financial markets, gender and households, property rights, psychological well-being and economic decision-making and a variety of other aspects of rural economic organization. He is a Fellow of the Econometric Society and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a board member of Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development, and a research associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Senem Yildirim-Ozdem, Keyman visiting scholar, is an assistant professor of political science and public administration at Antalya AKEV University, Turkey. Her research mainly focuses on the public-private divide in contemporary political theory, the gendered nature of this dichotomy, and the concepts of social, political, and civil society. She received her doctorate in political science in 2011 from Turkey’s Bilkent University, where she also completed her undergraduate degree. She was previously a visiting researcher at UIC.

NEW STAFF AT THE BUFFETT INSTITUTE

Vincent Armentano, research analyst, Global Poverty Research Lab

Mike Bacos, communication coordinator

Susan Dennehy, business administrator, Global Poverty Research Lab

Zachary Groff, research analyst, Global Poverty Research Lab

Sami Horn, research analyst, Global Poverty Research Lab

Catherine Miano, Atlas Corps fellow, Global Engagement

Andre Nickow, research manager, Global Poverty Research Lab

Caitlin Rowe, research project manager, Global Poverty Research Lab

Ariel Schwartz, program coordinator

Kuani White, financial assistant

Please note: the Buffett Institute’s business office and the Global Engagement/GESI office have moved to the first floor of 1800 Sherman Ave. ♦
Peter Buffett is an Emmy Award–winning musician, composer, philanthropist, and author. He has received critical acclaim for his music, most notably composing the score for “500 Nations,” a CBS miniseries produced by Kevin Costner. Buffett’s theatrical production, “Spirit—The Seventh Fire,” was performed on the National Mall for the opening of Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian.

He is also the co-president of the NoVo Foundation, which supports the development of capacities in people to help create a caring and balanced world. It envisions a world that operates on the principles of mutual respect, collaboration, and civic participation, thereby reversing the old paradigm predicated on hierarchy, violence, and the subordination of girls and women.

Buffett’s book, *Life Is What You Make It*, has been translated into over 15 languages and has sold nearly half a million copies worldwide.

To bring the message of the book alive, Buffett has created a live music event. The concert will take place on Thursday, October 12, in Galvin Recital Hall at the Ryan Center. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., concert begins at 7:00 p.m. Visit buffett.northwestern.edu/about/events for more details.