Keyman Modern Turkish Studies hosts interdisciplinary conference on Kurdish politics

On November 2, Buffett’s Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Program kicked off the interdisciplinary conference “Historical and Comparative Perspectives on Kurdish Politics,” hosting about 40 junior and senior scholars who study the Kurdish issue and how it has fundamentally shaped modern Turkish history.

The conference’s goal was to provide a space to discuss and explain the historical evolution of contemporary matters pertinent to Kurdish politics in Turkey, especially within the last century, says Ayça Alemdaroğlu, associate director of the Keyman Program. It also coincided with a major event in Kurdish politics: On November 3, the second day of the conference, the Turkish state arrested at least a dozen pro-Kurdish party leaders and politicians on terrorism-related charges as part of a post-coup crackdown.

With an estimated population of 35 million, Kurds are the largest ethnic group in the world without an independent state of their own. They are also the largest ethnic minority group in Turkey: Kurds in Turkey number around 14 million, or roughly 18 percent of the total Turkish population. They have been demanding autonomy and recognition since at least World War I. After enduring decades of sectarian violence, Turkish and Kurdish politicians have entered a period where addressing this issue is more important than ever. The regime change in Iraq, the
MISSION

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CONTACT

Buffett Institute for Global Studies
1902 Sheridan Road
Evanston, IL 60208
847-467-2770
buffettinstitute@northwestern.edu

STAFF

Bruce G. Carruthers
Director

Meg McDonald
Senior Director, Operations and Strategic Planning

Ayça Alemdaroğlu
Associate Director, Keyman Modern Turkish Studies

Jeff Cernucan
Program Coordinator

Annie Zean Dunbar
Program Coordinator, Center for Forced Migration Studies (CFMS)

Patrick Eccles
Associate Director, Global Engagement Programs

Emory Erker-Lynch
Program Manager, Undergraduate Initiatives

Katherine Hapeman
Assistant Director, Research and Development

Laura Hayes
Communication Specialist

Krzysztof Kozubski
Associate Director, Programs & Communication

Frances Lowe
Program Assistant

Elizabeth R. Morrissey
Senior Program Coordinator, Equality Development and Globalization Studies (EDGS)

Meghan Ozaroski
Assistant Director, Global Engagement Studies Institute (GESI)

Corey Portell
Community Partnerships Manager

Rebecca Shereikis
Associate Director, Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa (ISITA)

Diana Snyder
Business Administrator

Jessica Smith
Program Assistant, GESI

Jeffrey Strauss
Director of Industry Programs

Jillian Ware
Financial Assistant

Holly Worthy
Communication Specialist

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NEWSLETTER

EDITOR
Laura Hayes
laura.hayes@northwestern.edu

Pictured in cover photo: Emma Danbury (SoC 2018) swings atop Montaña Redonda in the Dominican Republic during her quarter abroad with GESI this fall.

Northwestern University
Meg McDonald joins Buffett as senior director of operations and strategic planning

In November, the Buffett Institute welcomed Meg McDonald as its new Senior Director of Operations and Strategic Planning. She was formerly the Assistant Vice President for Research at the Office for Research. She says, “My first month at the Buffett Institute has been amazing, exceeding even my high expectations. It’s a privilege to be a member of this vibrant community of exceptional staff, faculty, fellows and students. I am truly looking forward to continuing to support the work done at Buffett, work that has a positive impact on the world.”

Meg spent more than a decade in the Office for Research, leading operations and strategic planning initiatives for the University Research Centers (URC). The Office for Research Planning, Administration and Finance (ORPAF), the Office for Research Communication (ORC) and the Office for Research Information Systems (ORIS) have also reported to her.

“Meg McDonald is an outstanding addition to the Buffett team,” says Buffett Director Bruce Carruthers. “Her leadership skills and administrative experience make her superbly well qualified to guide the Buffett Institute as it grows and as we continue to expand our research, teaching, and engagement activities. I am truly delighted she will be joining us.”

Meg first came to Northwestern to pursue a master’s in vocal performance at the Henry and Leigh Bienen School of Music. Upon completion of her music degree and concurrent with her employment at Northwestern, she sang professionally with companies such as Chicago Opera Theater and Evanston’s Light Opera Works. She subsequently earned her MBA from the Kellogg School of Management’s Executive MBA program. She also holds a BFA in music theater from Illinois Wesleyan University.

During her time at the University, Meg has been a member of many initiatives, committees, and workgroups. She is a founding member of the Solar Fuels Institute (SOFI), part of the Institute for Sustainability and Energy at Northwestern (ISEN). She is a past president of the Association of Northwestern University Women and is a member of NURAP: Northwestern University Research Administration Professionals. She served on the inaugural Child Care Committee that developed the fee assistance program and the partnership with the Evanston McGaw YMCA. She is active in the Kellogg Executive Women’s Network.

Meg has traveled throughout Europe, Australia, Africa, the South Pacific, and the Caribbean; she’s looking forward to her first trip to Central America over winter break. She lives in Glenview, Illinois, with her husband and son. ♦

Buffett Institute to begin strategic planning process in 2017

The Buffett Institute will commence a strategic planning process in early January 2017. This process is expected to last approximately six months, and will focus and enliven the strategic course for the Buffett Institute for the next several years.

“We are so fortunate to have a vibrant, engaged group of faculty, students, alumni, and donors – along with strong support from the leadership of Northwestern University – in this exciting new chapter. This allows the Buffett Institute to step up to an increasingly greater role on campus and in the world, as Northwestern expands its global presence. I hope that all members of the Buffett community will take the opportunity to share their goals and aspirations,” says director Bruce Carruthers.

The recent work of the Global Strategy Task Force will help inform the plan. More importantly, input from faculty, deans, administrators, and students will be sought through individual meetings, focus groups and/or surveys. The Office of Change Management has graciously agreed to provide advice and share best practices with us during the planning process. If you are interested in learning more details, please contact Meg McDonald at meg-mcdonald@northwestern.edu. ♦
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

The Arabic Literature of Africa Volume 5, The Writings of Mauritania and the Western Sahara (Brill, 2015) won the African Studies Association’s 2016 Conover Porter Award recognizing outstanding Africa-related reference works, bibliographies, or bibliographic essays published in any country during the preceding two years. The volume’s compiler, Charles Stewart, accepted the award at the ASA’s 59th Annual Meeting in Washington D.C. in December.

The volume's compilation was a six-year project led by Stewart and Sidi Ahmed ould Ahmed Salim, supported by a grant to the Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa (ISITA) from the Ford Foundation. Nominators praised the volume's “analytical rigor, depth and breadth of erudition,” describing it as a “work which transcends the class of bibliography or reference” and an “inexhaustible mine of sources and resources for avid explorers into the historic and intellectual past and present of Africa.”

Stewart, Robert Launay (ISITA interim director), Rebecca Shereikis (ISITA associate director), and Esmeralda Kale (curator, Herskovits Library), presented a copy ofALA Volume 5 to His Excellency Mohamedoun Daddah, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to the United States during a visit to the Embassy of Mauritania. The book is a gift for the Institut Mauritanien de Recherches Scientifique in Nouakchott.

Laura Leon Llerena, assistant professor of Spanish and Portuguese, won two prestigious awards for her project “Restoring the Illegible: Unexpected Indigenous Uses of Writing in Early Colonial Peru.” She spent the 2016 fall quarter as a fellow at the John Carter Brown Library, and will spend the 2017 winter and spring quarters at the Dahlem Humanities Center at the Freie Universitat in Berlin with the support of an Andrew Mellon Foundation-Volkswagen Stiftung research fellowship.

The Sylvia Forman Prize for outstanding graduate student paper was awarded to Erin Moore (Buffett postdoctoral fellow), for her paper “Detoothing Kampala: ‘Idling’ and the Politics of Evasion in Kampala’s NGO Economy.”

Publications & Mentions

Geraldo Cadava (history) wrote an opinion piece for The Washington Post, “Rural Hispanic voters – like white rural voters – shifted toward Trump. Here’s why.”

Gary Alan Fine (sociology) wrote an op-ed for The Chicago Tribune titled, “Wanted in the world of politics: a dirty little scandal to get voters to the polls” which discussed the relationship between scandal and democracy in the US.

Joel Mokyr (economics, history) contributed to the Atlantic article “Ask an economist: how can today’s college students future-proof their careers?” to talk about skill sets that will be important for careers in the future.

Aulia Dwi Nastiti (Arryman fellow, EDGS) wrote “Who actually needs ‘right to be forgotten’?” for The Jakarta Post.

Jeffrey Winters (political science) appeared on the November 16 episode of WBEZ Worldview to talk about income disparity, oligarchy, and racism and how they relate the 2016 US presidential election.
Buffett postdoctoral fellowships provide 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. The two-year position allows postdocs to develop their ideas, initiate new projects, publish their results, teach undergraduates, and enrich the overall interdisciplinary intellectual life of the Institute.

In addition to the three new Buffett postdoctoral fellows, the Institute also welcomed its first Keyman postdoctoral fellow in modern Turkish studies this fall, bringing the total of Buffett-supported postdocs at Northwestern to seven.

“Being at Northwestern has been such a pleasure – it’s an amazingly collegial place. Having a community of postdocs to strategize and collaborate with has been invaluable. And the Herskovitz Library is a truly a treasure,” says new postdoc Erin Moore.

We encourage you to get to know our new postdocs and welcome them to the Northwestern community:

Sinan Erensü  
Keyman postdoctoral fellow  
PhD in Sociology, University of Minnesota

Where you can find him at Northwestern:  
Keyman Modern Turkish Studies, Department of Sociology, Turkish Working Group, Comparative-Historical Social Science (CHSS)

Course he’s teaching in winter 2017: Understanding Global Commons: Dispossession and Resistance (sociology, environmental studies, international studies) is for students interested in political ecology and global environmental issues like climate change, land and water grabs, methods of ownership and resource management alternatives to both private and state-run solutions, and the socio-spatial history of global capitalism.

Current research: Sinan is studying what the global rise of authoritarianism means for a variety of issues dealing with the environment, including agrarian change, urban conflicts, and energy disputes. He will be presenting at Buffett’s Faculty & Fellows Colloquium on February 3 on Turkey’s recent authoritarian turn from the perspective of energy/land related disputes.

Erin Moore  
Buffett postdoctoral fellow  
PhD in Anthropology, University of Chicago

Where you can find her at Northwestern: the Department of Anthropology, Program of African Studies, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program, Kaplan Institute  

continued on page 10
Buffett undergraduate affiliates select Regina Agyare Honu as the 2017 Buffett Award winner

After a nomination and voting process led by the Buffett Institute’s undergraduate affiliates, the 2017 Buffett Award winner is Regina Agyare Honu, a Ghanaian software developer and social activist.

The annual $10,000 Buffett Award recognizes outstanding leadership in a person early in their career working in the areas of global significance. By recognizing excellence early, the Buffett Award encourages individuals to continue to make a difference.

Honu is the founder and CEO of Soronko Solutions, a software development company and social enterprise startup based in Accra, Ghana. She is also the founder of Soronko Foundation, the company’s nonprofit arm, which runs several development programs in West Africa that teach youth how to code and use technology to solve social issues.

The foundation’s largest program, Tech Needs Girls, mentors and trains young girls in coding and technology-related skills. In the three years since the program started, Tech Needs Girls has grown from mentoring 50 to over 2,000 young girls from low-income areas of Ghana. One of their goals is to ensure that these girls can attend university and avoid being forced into early marriage.

The Buffett Award puts undergraduate affiliates at the center of the process, allowing them to nominate and vote for global leaders who encourage and inspire them in their own endeavors.

Diane Arthur (SESP 2017) nominated Honu for the award last spring. Arthur first learned about Honu while studying abroad last year in Ghana:

“I was mesmerized by Regina’s work after hearing her speak at TEDx Accra. She gave a brief presentation during a session entitled Womenomics. She is an individual who has been able to innovate in order to create spaces and opportunities for people who share her gender, ethnicity, and continental identities.

“Her work stands up against years of economic and social oppression in countries that faced colonization, and is contributing to the rapid increase in development in countries like Ghana.

“As a first generation Ghanaian-American, I am elated to welcome Regina to campus as she shares a story that will undoubtedly bridge two communities very near to my heart: the youth of Ghana and my peers here at Northwestern.”

As part of her award, Honu will visit Northwestern in April to meet with students and campus groups, as well as give the annual Buffett Award lecture on April 18.

Questions for Regina

Where does your passion for technology come from?

When I was 12 years old my father brought home a computer and I played Pac-Man. I fell in love with the game. But as time went on I wanted to make my own game. I discovered that the only way to do that was to learn to code. Technology is a great tool that helps you leapfrog infrastructure gaps. I love that you can take an idea that solves a problem and build an application that is used by millions of people worldwide. I love that you can use technology and coding to drive social change. I believe we can change the single story of the African continent using technology to develop our human potential.

What do you think is the biggest challenge for women interested in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields today?

Social conditioning, stereotyping, and lack of information and role models. When girls are young in some parts of the world, they are told what their role is and what subjects they will do well in. Girls will continued on page 14
Buffett affiliate Marina Henke investigates: is UN peacekeeping becoming more deadly?

Using recently released data from the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), political scientist and Buffett affiliate Marina Henke has published a report through the International Peace Institute that sheds new light on fatalities within UN peacekeeping missions.

For the past several years, there has been widespread speculation that working as a UN peacekeeper has become a much more deadly job. Henke’s report finds that deaths from accidents and malicious acts have dropped significantly. What has risen, she says, is the rate at which UN peacekeepers are dying from illness-related causes.

“Many analysts think fatalities among UN peacekeepers are on the rise because they get increasingly deployed to quite dangerous places, for example, Mali, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan,” says Henke, who is also director of Buffett’s War and Society working group. “Using sophisticated statistical methods, I find, however, that’s not exactly the case. My research suggests instead that overall UN fatalities are not increasing.”

The UN currently does not provide any data on the specific illnesses contributing to peacekeeper fatalities, nor do they provide statistics on survival rates from accidents and acts of violence, which have presumably improved along with advances in medicine. Henke says that one of the objectives of publishing this report is to get the UN to release such data.

Despite limitations, Henke said the new dataset allows for reducing UN fatalities and therefore, strengthening the overall effectiveness of UN peacekeeping operations, but she notes that further research is needed to adequately examine whether UN peacekeeping missions have become more dangerous in recent years.

To produce these findings, Henke worked with undergraduate members of Buffett’s War and Society working group. Esther Li (WCAS 2016) and Julian Gerez (WCAS 2017) were her research assistants, helping Henke sift through the massive amounts of data released by the DPKO.

“The War and Society working group has provided me with an intellectually rigorous and helpful space to pursue my passion in studying conflict and security studies. I was born in Colombia and moved to the US when I was young partially because of the violence there, so doing work on these issues is personally important to me,” says Gerez. “One of my most fulfilling experiences with the group has been assisting Professor Henke with her report. It was a tremendous opportunity to be able to assist in creating such important work that will affect policymakers worldwide.”

The War and Society working group, formerly known as the Security Studies working group, took on the new name to reflect the group’s inclusive, interdisciplinary approach to the study of conflict and security that expands beyond the traditional realm of political science. The group currently includes faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates from political science, sociology, history, anthropology, management, journalism, and communication.

If you are interested in getting involved in the group, contact the group coordinator Franky Matisek at JaharaMatisek2018@u.northwestern.edu.
This past October, the Buffett Institute was privileged to host Margaret Nassozi Amanyire (second from right), director of the office that hosts GESI students in Uganda. While she was here, we asked her a few questions about GESI and the GESI Uganda student projects that she has overseen over the last decade as the Uganda site’s director:

**GESI students have completed more development projects through your office in Uganda than any other GESI location. Is there a successful development project created by GESI students that stands out to you? What made it a success?**

One project strikes me because of what it has come to be – a project with St. Francis Health Care Services. Students assessed the community’s priorities and what came out was these grandmothers were taking care of very many grandchildren of deceased parents who died of HIV/AIDS. The grandmothers are old and some of them are also weak, and some of them are HIV positive, and they had to take care of these children. So their priority was, how can they improve their nutrition and income so they can take care of both the children and themselves? And they came up with this idea of growing mushrooms. It was very challenging: they had never grown mushrooms and didn’t know where to start, but they did their research and before you know it, they were growing mushrooms and the jjajas [grandmothers] were so invested in it.

So then came the second group, which looked at the possibility of St. Francis manufacturing the seeds of the mushrooms. And mushrooms became a big business. It boomed – even now, grandmothers are still growing mushrooms and selling them in many different places and many others have picked up the trade – even myself! It is lucrative business; it has a lot of potential to give you money and nutrition at the same time.

Why is this project very important? As these students were trying to work out a way so St. Francis can get seeds, they had to get a clean room where they could culture the seeds. They were working with a lab technician because what they were doing required some lab technology. St. Francis gave them a room, and when the students initiated this idea, that’s the first time St. Francis looked at itself as having the possibility of establishing a lab. And that was the beginning of a lab at St. Francis.

As I’m talking now, St. Francis has the best lab in the region that tests for HIV/AIDS and other diseases. Even government hospitals are referring patients to St. Francis. They have established a whole building committed to lab activities. You have no idea how many people have been helped.

The mushrooms are still being grown and the jjajas are still happy and doing their business, and at the same time, there is this asset that was discovered and it’s helping the whole region.

**What makes GESI different from other study abroad programs you work with?**

I always praise the [GESI pre-departure] summit because it fine-tunes these students and makes them focused and ready for the experience. It introduces them to the asset-based approach to development so that when they come to field, they get started immediately, and communities are more responsive to that. Actually they ask for GESI students before they even apply!

Many universities send students to us, but you don’t feel the presence of the staff of the program, you don’t see them getting in touch to see who is doing well, who is having challenges. Preparing students is one thing, but the level of interest of the GESI staff always amazes me. Because of that interest, it also has an impact on us. These students are a priority to the university, so we also have to treat them so. You feel like people do not just throw students here.
ongoing civil war in Syria, and the continued threat of the Islamic State have all recently changed the balance of power in the Middle East and therefore the nature of the Kurdish issue.
Historically, it has been hard to conduct research on the Kurds.
“The spaces where we can talk about Kurdish politics are really restricted – in Turkey, due to the pressure from the government, and in the US, due to lack of resources and interest,” says Alemdaroğlu.
“Along the way, I received some questioning remarks about a Turkish studies program organizing a conference on Kurdish politics, and what sort of conference that will be. Would it be touting the Turkish state position? Would it be objective? Hopefully, our conference program is the best answer to these questions: that this is an academic conference and we are joined by scholars from a number of prominent institutions in North America, Turkey, and elsewhere.”

Although most of the conference focused on Turkey-related issues, it also provided a venue to address broader global issues of minority rights in places where nationalism is strong, as well as identity politics and the mobilization of minority groups. Women’s roles in politics was also a key topic – Kurdish political parties in Turkey appoint female and male co-chairpersons for all levels of representative office, ensuring at least 50 percent representation for women in Kurdish politics.

The three-day conference covered themes and concepts that have helped shape Kurdish politics in Turkey over the last century, such as the fall of the Ottoman Empire/creation of the Republic of Turkey, Turkish and Kurdish nationalism, violence and strategies of resistance, displacement, mobilization of women, contested borders and lands, and remembering and commemorating violence.

The Keyman program will continue these conversations on Kurdish politics and other critical Turkish issues in the near future. Along with conference co-organizer Fatma Müge Göçek (University of Michigan), Alemdaroğlu plans to publish the conference papers in an edited book in 2017. She believes addressing this topic with a rigorous academic approach will have benefits to all sides.

“The Kurdish issue is fundamental to the troubles Turkey is having right now. A resolution to this conflict through responsive engagement with Kurds’ socio-political demands will make Turkey a better place to live for everyone.”

♦
POSTDOCS continued from page 5

Course she’s teaching in spring 2017: Global Youth (anthropology) will draw on a variety of materials – film, fiction, music, ethnography, history, advertising, and new media – to examine how young people make lives, money, and politics around the world. The course will encourage students to question the social and economic conditions that make one “young” or “old” in the first place to find out that youth is much more than biological category – it’s a site of social change.

Current research: Erin has been writing about a ban on miniskirts in Uganda, young men in urban slums who build NGO-looking spaces to protect themselves from arrest, and young Ugandan women who “idle” instead of manufacturing handicrafts that are intended to generate sustainable incomes. She attended the International Day of the Girl Child events at the United Nations in October as part of her broader research project, an ethnography of the global movement to empower adolescent girls as it unfolded around the world and into the lives of young women living in Kampala, Uganda’s capital city.

Başak Taraktaş
Buffett postdoctoral fellow
PhD in Political Science, University of Pennsylvania

Where you can find her at Northwestern: Department of Political Science, Comparative-Historical Social Science, Keyman Modern Turkish Studies, Middle East and North African Studies, the Social Movements and Enterprise Workshop at Kellogg, Northwestern Institute on Complex Systems (NICO), Science of Networks in Communities (SONIC)

Course she’s teaching in spring 2017: Democratic Transitions (political science) offers an overview of the waves of democratic transitions. By drawing on experiences of various regions, students will discuss how well existing theories of democratization capture societal dynamics of processes of democratic transition and authoritarian survival.

Current research: Başak has recently started two new projects. The first examines the process whereby small contentious events turn into mass movements and threaten regime stability and why some issues mobilize various social groups, whereas others only mobilize specific segments of the society. The second project examines the link between unification among challengers to the authoritarian regime and democratic transition. By applying network analysis to the processes of transition to constitutional monarchy in the late Ottoman Empire and Bourbon France, the project shows that disunity among challengers prolongs authoritarian survival independently of the level of oppression and interactions with the government. Unification among contenders requires harmonizing transition strategies and sidelining irreconcilable ideological differences.

Hollian Wint
Buffett postdoctoral fellow
PhD in History, New York University

Where you can find her at Northwestern: Department of History, Global Capitalism and Law Research Group, Global Humanities Initiative

Course she’s teaching in spring 2017: Africanizing the Indian Ocean: East Africa and the Politics of Regional Analysis (history, African studies) will introduce students to the growing field of Indian Ocean studies primarily through the analysis of often-neglected African sources. It is designed to encourage students to think critically about the spaces that we study and explore both the possibilities of regional/trans-national/thassological frameworks and their limits for understanding African historical experiences.

Current research: Hollian’s research focuses on the histories and politics of credit in the Indian Ocean and abolition-era East Africa. She recently went to India to do some preliminary research for a new project, which will analyze alternative conceptions of development in the global South through historical analysis of the Aga Khan Development Network. She will be presenting part of her book project at Buffett’s Faculty & Fellows Colloquium on February 24.

The Buffett Institute will announce its next round of postdocs in spring 2017. Learn more about the program at buffett.northwestern.edu/funding-grants/buffett-postdocs. Learn more about the Keyman postdoctoral fellowship (deadline February 1) at buffett.northwestern.edu/programs/turkish-studies/postdoc. ♦
BOOKS

Michael Loriaux, Political Science. 

The EU seeks to define a role for itself in power politics while remaining firm in its rejection of power politics. In order to make power compatible with the European project, EU debate has appended a number of progressive adjectives to the word “power,” adjectives like “civilian” and “normative,” among others. This book asks what is power, such that it can be modified, tamed, and modulated by adjectives, yet remain “powerful”?

Joel Mokyr, History and Economics.

During the late eighteenth century, innovations in Europe triggered the Industrial Revolution and the sustained economic progress that spread across the globe. In this groundbreaking book, celebrated economic historian Joel Mokyr argues that a culture of growth specific to early modern Europe and the European Enlightenment laid the foundations for the scientific advances and pioneering inventions that would instigate explosive technological and economic development. Bringing together economics, the history of science and technology, and models of cultural evolution, Mokyr demonstrates that culture—the beliefs, values, and preferences in society that are capable of changing behavior—was a deciding factor in societal transformations.

ARTICLES


Drawing on ethnographic research in an upper-class district in Turkey, this article examines social and spatial experiences of young low-wage service workers who travel between their homes in low-income neighborhoods and jobs in gated communities, upscale shopping malls, and corporate offices. The paper argues that the significance of upper class districts or gated communities for urban inequality lies in the ways they relate to the outside. It analyzes the district’s effect on urban spatial segregation and urbanites’ sense of place. The study contributes to the understanding of urban inequality at the intersection of spatial, emotional, and temporal experiences of urbanites.


Why do armed groups fighting in civil wars establish different institutions in territories where they operate? Arjona tests a theory that different forms of wartime social order arise from a process in which an aspiring ruler—an armed group—expands the scope of its rule unless civilians push back. Civilians arguably have bargaining power if they can credibly threaten combatants with collective resistance. Such resistance is a function of preexisting local institutions. Using a process-driven natural experiment in three villages in Central Colombia, this article traces the effects of institutional quality on wartime social order.


This article surveys the literature on regulatory arbitrage in four settings: labor regulation, environmental protection, corporate governance, and banking and finance. For a regulatory race to occur, firms must migrate across state or country borders in response to geographic differences in the costs and benefits of regulation, and governments

continued on next page
must shape their regulatory policies with the aim of affecting those migration flows. The authors find that both these conditions hold only in rare circumstances. More commonly, political pressures within jurisdictions produce a heterogeneous pattern resembling Tiebout sorting. Such regulatory convergence results from deliberate harmonization or imitation.

Jordan Gans-Morse (Political Science), et al., “Putin’s Crackdown on Mortality: Rethinking Legal Nihilism and State Capacity in Light of Russia’s Surprising Public Health Campaigns,” Problems of Post-Communism 63 (1) 2016: 1-15. Facing a demographic crisis, the Russian government recently introduced measures to reduce alcohol consumption, traffic fatalities, and tobacco use. The relative success of these measures challenges assumptions about Russia’s culture of “legal nihilism” and lack of state capacity. Drawing on surveys of smokers at Russian universities, the authors provide evidence that low legal compliance results from low enforcement expectations, not a unique legal culture. To account for unexpectedly stringent enforcement of public health laws, they offer a theory of selective state capacity. The top leadership’s personal endorsements of policy initiatives make clear to lower-level officials which rules must be enforced.

John Hagan (Sociology), et al., “The Theory of Legal Cynicism and Sunni Insurgent Violence in Post-Invasion Iraq,” American Sociological Review 81 (2) 2016: 316-346. The authors elaborate a cultural framing theory of legal cynicism—previously used to account for neighborhood variation in Chicago homicides—to explain Arab Sunni victimization and insurgent attacks during the US post-invasion occupation of Iraq. Arab Sunnis responded to reports of unnecessary violent attacks with a legally cynical framing of the US/Coalition-led invasion and occupation, the new Shia-dominated Iraqi state, and its military and police. A post-invasion frame amplification of beliefs about state-based illegitimacy, unresponsiveness, and insecurity made predictable that Arab Sunni insurgent attacks would continue. Violence in Iraq persisted despite US surge efforts to end the insurgency.

Henke, Marina E (Political Science), “Great Powers and UN Force Generation: A Case Study of UNAMID,” International Peacekeeping 23 (3) 2016: 468-492. How are UN peacekeepers recruited? What role do the UN and its powerful member states play? Henke addresses these questions through a case study of the UN–AU operation to Darfur (UNAMID), relying on over 50 interviews and newly declassified documents. The study depicts division of labor between the UN’s technical expertise and the power of key member states. UN contributions sometimes require provision of incentives beyond regular reimbursements, so powerful UN member states step in. However, UN officials play a brokerage role in this process informing interested member states which countries would be suitable for bilateral démarches and why.

Ian Hurd (Political Science), et al., “How to Get Away with Cholera: The UN, Haiti, and International Law,” Perspectives on Politics 14 (1) 2016: 70-86. The legalization of world politics is often celebrated for reducing impunity for those who contribute to humanitarian crises. This may sometimes be true, but the opposite is also true. In 2010, United Nations peacekeepers unwittingly brought cholera to Haiti and sparked an epidemic. Legal activists have sought to hold the UN responsible. However, these efforts have been stymied by the structures of public international law. The Haiti case powerfully illustrates the dangers of legalism, which have been largely overlooked in discussions of international law, and suggests that law alone is an inadequate arbiter of responsibility in international politics.

Amanda Logan (Anthropology), “‘Why Can’t People Feed Themselves?’: Archaeology as Alternative Archive of Food Security in Banda, Ghana,” American Anthropologist 118 (3) 2016: 508-524. Today, food insecurity is associated with climatic shifts and poverty. Less well understood is how hunger took its present-day form. Logan proposes that archaeology can be an archive of food security. Material remains provide a view of changing foodways and political economy and can be used to trace processes leading to modern-day food insecurity patterns. Logan provides a case study showing how food insecurity was avoided during a centuries-long drought in Ghana, and emerged only much later as market economies and colonial rule took hold. She suggests that archaeology is essential for making processes of “slow violence” visible.

Using a multiscopic approach to global history, this article shows how a military campaign of rural pacification in southeastern China fostered entangled state-building in China and in the British colony of the Straits Settlements on the Malay Peninsula. Two nineteenth-century polities in the early stages of development—one colonial, one provincial—sought to subjugate the same set of freewheeling Chinese sojourners who long had operated beyond the orb of governmental authority. In so acting, these states became transformed themselves.


This essay examines the role of mechanisms and Bayesian inference in process tracing. With respect to mechanisms, it argues that the core of process tracing with causal inference is the identification of mechanisms understood as intervening events. The Bayesian nature of process tracing explains why it is inappropriate to view qualitative research as suffering from a small-N problem and certain standard causal identification problems. More generally, the paper shows how the power of process tracing as a qualitative methodology depends on and grows from its set-theoretic underpinnings.


The origins of modern economic growth and the Industrial Revolution that triggered it can be found in the cultural and institutional developments in early modern Europe. In this era the Republic of Letters emerged as a transnational community that solved many of the incentive problems that plagued the creation and diffusion of science and technology, and paved the way to the Industrial Enlightenment of the eighteenth century.


Have IMF lending programs undermined political democracy in borrowing countries? Building on the extensive literature on conditional lending, the authors outline several pathways through which IMF program participation might affect the levels of democracy in borrowing countries. To test the argument, they assemble annual data from 120 low- and middle-income countries between 1971 and 2007. The authors use three strategies to estimate the direction and size of the association between participation in IMF lending programs and the level of democracy. They find evidence for modest but definitively positive conditional differences in the democracy scores of participating and non-participating countries.


Scholarship on Syria has traditionally been limited by difficulty in accessing the reflections of ordinary citizens due to reluctance to speak about politics. The 2011 revolt opened exciting opportunities in this regard. Pearlman explores what we can learn from greater attention to such data, based on interviews with 200 Syrian refugees. It aids understanding of Syria and other cases by elucidating lived experiences obscured during a repressive past, providing a fresh window into national identity, and demonstrating how the act of narration is an exercise in meaning making within a revolution and itself a revolutionary practice.


The increasingly intense level of competition of the National Spelling Bee in recent years suggests that this “brain sport” has become a complex site for the politics of language standardization, media, and childhood competition. Shankar delves into this nexus to explore its heart: sound. Drawing on ethnographic research conducted at spelling bees, she examines how spellers experience the word as a mélange of sounds, the embodied processes that inform their orthographic choices, and how this sensory process made viewable for media audiences who may know little about orthography.
Chiara Pagano, PAS visiting scholar, is a PhD candidate in African history in Roma Tre University’s doctoral program in European and International Studies. She has been an associate PhD student at the Institut de Recherche sur le Maghreb Contemporain of Tunis. Her research interests concern the historical construction of “identity” and “otherness” as instruments of political control, and identification and mobilization in colonial and post-colonial Libya. In order to better address these themes, she has been conducting her research in Libya, Egypt, and Tunisia, where she also studied Modern Standard Arabic.

Tasew Tafese, PAS visiting scholar, is a PhD candidate in the field of peace and security at Addis Ababa University’s Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS). His dissertation is entitled, “Understanding the Nature of Cross-Border Intergroup Conflicts: A Study of Murle and their Neighbours along the Ethiopia-South Sudan Border.” He has a bachelor’s degree in Ethiopian language and literature, and a master’s degree in multicultural and multilingual education from Addis Ababa University in 2003 and 2009, respectively. His 2010 master’s thesis was focused on the Anyuwa Traditional Conflict Resolution. From 2003 to 2013, Tafese was a lecturer at Gambella Teacher’s Education and Health Science College, and from March 2013 to September 2014, he served as Special Secretary to the President of Gambella People’s National Regional State.

The Buffett Award was created to honor and motivate emerging leaders. Do you have any advice or traits that you think are important for leaders who want to solve global problems?

Leadership is a journey that requires passion, resilience, and not being afraid to fail. You have to mute the voice inside you that tells you are not good enough. You must realize that you are more than what you think you are. Step out of your comfort zone and you will be amazed at what you can accomplish.

What are you looking forward to during your April 2017 visit to Northwestern? Is there anything you’d like students to know about you before you come?

I am looking forward to sharing my story and inspiring them to chase their dreams. I would like them to know that anyone can be a changemaker and a leader in their own way. I want them to know to be successful you must step out of your comfort zone. Lastly, if their dreams don’t scare them, then they are not big enough.

New Visiting Scholars

Please welcome the following scholars in global studies to the Buffett Institute and to the Northwestern community.
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 Quarter 2017 Application Deadlines

**January 15**

Scholarships for the GESI 2017 Study Abroad Program
Students who are seeking scholarships to be able to participate in the Global Engagement Studies Institute (GESI) summer program need to apply by this date.
[gesi.northwestern.edu](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/global-engagement/funding/davis-projects-peace.html](buffett.northwestern.edu/global-engagement/funding/davis-projects-peace.html)

### February 1

Community-Based Research Fellowships
CBR fellows will combine community knowledge and university knowledge to address global issues through actionable research. Fellows apply their Northwestern education to real-world issues and collaboratively produce findings to support the sustainability of community-driven initiatives.
[buffett.northwestern.edu/global-engagement/community-engaged-scholarship/cbr](buffett.northwestern.edu/global-engagement/community-engaged-scholarship/cbr)

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](buffett.northwestern.edu/funding-grants/keyman-turkish-studies)

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](buffett.northwestern.edu/funding-grants/crown-middle-east-travel)

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](buffett.northwestern.edu/funding-grants/graduate-dissertation-research-travel)

**February 10**

GESI 2017 Fall Program Final Deadline
Students who want to study abroad with GESI in fall 2017 (India, Guatemala, Kenya) need to apply by this date.
[gesi.northwestern.edu](gesi.northwestern.edu)

**March 1**

GESI 2017 Summer Program Final Deadline
Students who want to study abroad with GESI in summer 2017 (Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Ghana, India, Nicaragua, Uganda) need to apply by this date.
[gesi.northwestern.edu](gesi.northwestern.edu)

**March 1**

Buffett Institute Faculty Fellowship
Full-time, tenure-line Northwestern faculty with core research interests in global, international or comparative research are invited to apply for a Faculty Fellow position with the Buffett Institute. Fellows receive a one-course reduction in their normal teaching load for up to three years.
[buffett.northwestern.edu/funding-grants/faculty-fellows.html](buffett.northwestern.edu/funding-grants/faculty-fellows.html)

**March 6**

GESI Student Instructors
For past participants of the GESI program. Instructors will provide GESI 2017 students with academic and personal support. They also assist in facilitating group discussions, observing and commenting on group dynamics, preparing feedback on weekly reports throughout the summer, and more.
[gesi.northwestern.edu/about/alums/#GESIBUFF](gesi.northwestern.edu/about/alums/#GESIBUFF)
Buffett has selected two projects for the inaugural round of the new Scholars in Israel Collaboration Fund.

The first project, led by Aaron Packman (civil and environmental engineering) includes Northwestern faculty from engineering, history, anthropology, and the new Center for Water Research, combined with Tel Aviv University and Ben-Gurion University counterparts in earth sciences, mechanical engineering, and environmental hydrology, and microbiology. This multi-institutional partnership will explore sustainable transboundary water management, linking safe water supplies, wastewater reclamation, and water reuse in Israel and the surrounding region. It will also facilitate new dialogues between communities, students, scholars, and water management and development authorities to identify collaborative approaches linking water, peace, and health.

The second project involves Northwestern faculty members Seth Stein (earth and planetary sciences) and Bruce Spencer (statistics) with coinvestigators at Hebrew University and Tel Aviv University. They will jointly explore earthquake hazards, bringing the breadth of Northwestern expertise in global fault systems with the depth of Israeli insights from Zvi Garfunkel’s (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) extraordinary 70,000 year dataset. Earthquakes cross national boundaries, and more sophisticated hazard mapping will have significant implications for urban planning and disaster response.

Both projects will involve co-authored papers, new coursework or research opportunities for students, and presentations in internationally attended conferences. Learn more at buffet.northwestern.edu/funding-grants/israel-collaboration.html