Strobe Talbott comes to Northwestern this winter as Buffett’s first Distinguished Visitor

Strobe Talbott, former president of the Brookings Institution and an expert in international relations, will be the inaugural distinguished visitor for the Buffett Institute’s Distinguished Visitors Program. Talbott was a long-time reporter for *Time* magazine before serving as U.S. Deputy Secretary of State from 1994-2001. He was president of the Brookings Institution from 2002-2017. He is currently a senior fellow in the Brookings Foreign Policy program.

“I’m excited and honored to visit Northwestern and the Buffett Institute in the course of 2018,” Talbott said. “Having met with faculty and learned about the Institute’s mission, I’m impressed by the quality of soon-to-be-colleagues and looking forward to exchanging ideas — and, of course, engaging with students. I will learn from the experience, and, I hope, my career of journalism, diplomacy and policy research in Washington might help me bring useful perspectives to the teachers, the students and the community.”

The Distinguished Visitor program brings thought leaders in international affairs, senior governmental officials, and heads of nonprofits and international institutions to engage in dialogue and scholarship on global issues with the Northwestern community. The program is made possible through the generosity of Roberta Buffett Elliott. Talbott is the first of what is planned to be a number of distinguished visitors.

Talbott also will join Northwestern

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MISSION

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

Learn more at buffett.northwestern.edu

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Cover photo: Dylan Finol (NU-Q) traveled to Cochabamba, Bolivia last summer as part of the Buffett Institute’s GESI study abroad program.
As the Chicago winter descends upon campus, one strategy to stay warm is to keep moving. So here at the Buffett Institute, we are definitely on the move!

We launched our new Distinguished Visitor program and will be hosting Strobe Talbott in winter and spring quarter. Strobe has had a spectacular career, most recently serving as President of the Brookings Institution, but previously working at a senior level in the U.S. State Department and before that as a leading journalist. Strobe will be on campus for a number of events and we are eager to hear his insights on Russia, public policy, and the current political climate in Washington D.C., among other topics.

Perhaps in anticipation of falling temperatures, three faculty affiliates joined me in traveling to Mexico City to present their research to a group of Northwestern and Kellogg alums [see story below]. Paul Gillingham, Sara Hernández, and Sera Young each discussed their work as it relates to our southern neighbor, underscoring the durable ties that Northwestern has with Mexico. Other fall successes included Peter Buffett’s October concert, and Pap Ndiaye’s public talk as this year’s Buffett Visiting Professor.

The Buffett Institute will head to East Asia in the spring to serve as a co-sponsor for Northwestern’s Asia tour. The university symphony orchestra will perform in Beijing, Shanghai, and Hong Kong, and we’ll use this trip as an opportunity to enhance the global profile of the Buffett Institute and build relationships in Asia.

Finally, I’m delighted to preview a new program for graduate students: a prestigious Buffett Fellowship program will support advanced graduate students as they complete their dissertation research and writing. There will be more details to come, but these multi-year fellowships will be awarded on a competitive basis to ABD students who have been nominated by their PhD programs. Our goal is to support excellent young researchers and have the first cohort of recipients in place starting next academic year. Stay warm, everyone!

Bruce G. Carruthers
John D. MacArthur Professor of Sociology
Director of the Buffett Institute

Northwestern alums in Mexico host Buffett Institute faculty research panel, discuss bilateral ties

On November 9, alumni leaders from Northwestern hosted a panel of Buffett Institute faculty affiliates in Mexico City to highlight the continuing collaboration between Northwestern and Mexico.

The panelists presented research on contemporary issues in Mexico. Paul Gillingham, associate professor of history, talked about U.S.-Mexican relations; Sara Hernández, assistant professor of economics, discussed social cohesion and street harassment in Mexico City; and Sera Young, assistant professor of anthropology, presented her research on measuring household water insecurity and its policy implications in Mexico.

The event was hosted by Adolfo Autrey, who received his MBA from Northwestern’s Kellogg School of Management in 1970 and is a member of the Kellogg Global Advisory Board.

“A new generation of Northwestern alumni in Mexico is coming together hosting these events in order to explore relevant contemporary issues and keep us connected to our alma mater,” Autrey said. “Cultivating global connections is a strategic priority for Northwestern, according to Fernando Chico, who earned his MBA from Kellogg in 1976 and now is one of the University’s trustees.

“We aim to bring Northwestern to the world and the world to Northwestern,” Chico said. “The Buffett Institute is one of the main vehicles for the implementation of this ambitious goal, and it is a privilege to have this panel of faculty to present in our city.” ♦
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

**Daniel Immerwahr** (history) is one of 35 recipients of a 2017 Andrew Carnegie fellowship.

**Rebecca Seligman** (anthropology) has been awarded a $102,000 research grant from the Grant Foundation to study “Cultures of Care: Exploring Inequalities in Mental Health Services Among Mexican American Youth.”

**Shalini Shankar** (anthropology) has earned a 2017 Guggenheim Fellowship. Shankar will research Generation Z, exploring how this demographic category can be defined in ways that more centrally account for the contributions of immigrants and minorities.

**Emrah Yıldız** (anthropology, MENA studies) won the Middle East Studies Association’s prestigious Malcolm Kerr Dissertation Award.

Several Buffett faculty affiliates were awarded Weinberg College Research and Innovation Grants to work on the following projects:

- **Karen Alter** (political science, law) and **Stephen Nelson** (political science) will investigate a puzzling question in global economic governance: Why have the rules governing countries’ policies toward international trade become increasingly precise, legally binding and enforceable, while the international rules pertaining to countries’ management of their currencies remain ad hoc, non-binding and largely unenforceable?

- **Doug Kiel** (history) will chronicle the emergence of Native American homelessness in the first half of the 20th century, specifically delving into the root causes of Native homelessness such as violence, trauma, dispossession and vagrancy laws.

- **Helen Tilley** (history) will co-translate the 1910 book *Ìwé Ìwòsàn* (Book of Healing), one of the few accounts of historical African healing cultures that exist in printed form.

News Publications & Mentions

**Brian Edwards** (English, MENA studies) appeared on WBEZ Worldview on December 7 to discuss the Muslim world’s reaction to Donald Trump’s announcement that the U.S. would recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

**Elizabeth Shakman Hurd** (political science) wrote and contributed to several pieces about the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar, arguing that the persecution of Rohingya Muslims goes beyond religious intolerance.

- *The Real News*: “Many Parties Complicit in Rohingya Ethnic Cleansing”
- *OpenGlobalRights*: “Religious rights advocacy won’t save the Rohingya—but what will?”

**Seema Jayachandran**’s (economics) study on paying people not to cut down trees in Uganda was widely covered throughout the media in 2017:

- *The Guardian*: “We know how to reduce deforestation – so where’s the money?”
- *Popular Science*: “Stopping deforestation might be easier than we thought”
- *The Atlantic*: “The Success of Paying People to Not Cut Down Trees”

Research from **Nancy Qian** (Kellogg) on the impact of the potato’s introduction in Europe was cited in the *Wall Street Journal* article “Economists Think Potatoes Helped Promote World Peace” as well as in the *Quartz* article “The global dominance of white people is thanks to the potato.”

**Jeffrey Winters** (political science, EDGS) made a series of media appearances this fall to discuss the release of the Paradise Papers and how tax codes are developed to protect the wealth of global elites. He appeared on the November 16 episode of WBEZ Worldview and was quoted in the *Socialist Worker* article “Offshore Treasure Island” as well as the *Guardian* op ed “How the oligarchy wins: lessons from ancient Greece.”

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.
Higher education innovator and leadership entrepreneur
Fred Swaniker named the 2018 Buffett Award winner

The Buffett Institute’s undergraduate affiliates have chosen Ghanaian entrepreneur Fred Swaniker as the 2018 recipient of the Buffett Award for Emerging Global Leaders.

The $10,000 award recognizes outstanding leadership in a person early in their career working in areas of global significance. As a founder of the African Leadership Academy (ALA) and African Leadership University (ALU), Swaniker has a lot of professional and personal insight on leadership to offer students.

Nominations for the Buffett Award are submitted by Northwestern undergraduates. Weinberg senior Nneka Onyeka says she nominated Swaniker after watching his TED talk, “The leaders who ruined Africa and the next generation who can fix it.”

“Fred Swaniker serves as an example for Africans, both on the continent and globally, who are interested in bringing positive change to Africa,” she says. “I thought it would be beneficial for the Northwestern community to become aware of the work that is being done to advance the African continent. Often, the continent is viewed by outsiders as one that lacks potential. However, it is budding with individuals who want to make a change but lack the institutions to nurture their intelligence. Swaniker’s investment in African people is something that is admirable and should be rewarded.”

About Fred Swaniker

Born in Ghana, Swaniker also grew up in Gambia, Botswana, and Zimbabwe. He attended Macalester College in Minnesota and worked for several years in South Africa. His varied experiences living in African states with both good and bad leaders is why he believes teaching good leadership in Africa is so important, and it inspired him to develop programs that help train and educate leaders for Africa’s future.

“I’ve found that leaders I’ve most admired in history had three key traits: a deep commitment and passion for their work, a willingness to continuously learn and grow through seeking knowledge and advice from others, and above all, humility,” he says.

“Effective leadership begins with having a mindset of service and an authentic commitment to solving any of the many pressing global challenges we face today. It’s also a willingness to roll up one’s sleeves to do the often difficult and often unglamorous and work it takes to make progress.”

Training the future leaders of Africa

ALU plans to ultimately train 3 million entrepreneurial, ethical leaders for Africa and the world by 2060. Recognized internationally as a leading innovator in higher education, ALU uses both hybrid learning and peer learning models to help remain accessible to as many students as possible. Courses focus on topics such as entrepreneurship, ethics, and African history. CNN called ALU the “Harvard of Africa,” Fast Company named it the 3rd most innovative company in Africa, and The New York Times hailed ALU as “one of the 8 places in the world today where history is being made.”

During his visit to Northwestern this spring, Swaniker says “I’m most looking forward to connecting the smart and talented students at Northwestern who I know are already deeply engaged in issues of global development and social justice. I am thrilled to have the privilege of engaging with them and hearing their ideas and aspirations for how we can develop a fairer, more equal and prosperous society.”

Northwestern students will have the opportunity to listen to Swaniker talk about his work when he gives the annual Buffett Award Lecture on April 25, 2018. During his visit, he also plans on visiting with campus groups that are interested in African studies, international development, social change, leadership, and entrepreneurship. Full event details will be posted closer to the lecture date at buffett.northwestern.edu/global-engagement/professional-development/buffett-award ♦
Keyman program hosts conference to explore Turkey’s recent political turn towards authoritarianism

Researchers from across the U.S. and around the world convened on October 26-28 at Northwestern to dissect Turkey’s current politics and rule of law.

The conference, hosted by the Buffett Institute’s Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Program, brought together a group of specialists and academics to present research on topics like “Authoritarianism, Past and Present,” “Legal Ambiguity, Political Control and Contention in Urban Turkey” and “Turkey’s Authoritarianism in a Comparative Perspective.” Other topics included impunity, judicial politics, environment, gender, and the media.

Turkey has often been referred to as a working model for democracy in the Muslim world, where faith and modern governance could live side by side. Conference attendees examined the recent political developments in Turkey that threaten democracy, rule of law, and academic freedom.

“Turkey now is a place where freedom of expression is largely curtailed for academics,” said Ayça Alemdaroğlu, associate director of the Keyman program. “Our main goal with this conference was to facilitate academic dialogue and exchange without fear of censorship”

“Organizing a conference on law and politics in Turkey is timely because Turkey’s authoritarian turn needs to be documented, unpacked, and perhaps demystified through critical scholarship. Additionally, the scholarship itself must be discussed and rehabilitated as uncertainty, intimidation, and violence loom large over academia.

“Our conference was quite a success on both these fronts: it brought together cutting-edge research on Turkey’s democratic backsliding, but also provided a stage for scholars working on Turkey.”

As populism continues to rise in Turkey and around the world, the conference was an important opportunity to hold comparisons and glean lessons that can be applied globally.

“The papers presented at our conference provided well-grounded narratives on how Turkish authoritarianism was constructed through legality and extra-legality, unexpectedly providing glimpses of hope that it could be de-constructed, too,” said Alemdaroğlu. “Rise of populist authoritarianism is a global phenomenon, and Turkey is not the only country in the world that is experiencing an institutional decline in its democratic capabilities. The conference did not, therefore, unfold as an area-specific event, but rather one example in Turkey that was conceptualized in a global perspective, having repercussions above and beyond the borders of a single country.”

♦
Buffett Institute fall quarter highlights, in pictures

Here are some of the photo highlights from Buffett’s fall quarter (photo credit: Mike Bacos).

The Global Poverty Research Lab held its first major event, a conference hosted with Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA). The Annual Researcher Gathering on Financial Inclusion and Social Protection was held October 27-28 at the Allen Center to convene top scholars in development economics. The conference was kicked off by Lab co-director, Buffett faculty fellow, and IPA founder Dean Karlan (above, left) and IPA executive director Annie Duflo (above, center) and included presentations from Lab members such as economics professor Cynthia Kinnan (above, right).

Author, musician, and philanthropist Peter Buffett (above, left) came to Northwestern to perform “A Concert and Conversation” at Galvin Recital Hall on October 12. Before the concert, he met with the student group International Gender Equality Movement (IGEM) to talk about his work in women’s empowerment. Peter’s family joined him in Evanston to attend the concert, including Bertie Buffett, who met with undergraduate recipients of Buffett scholarships (right).

Roberta Buffett Visiting Professor in International Studies Pap Ndiaye (left) presented his lecture, “Rumors and Echoes of the Civil Rights Movement in Africa” on November 14. The lecture dove deep into the history of the American civil rights movement and how it was seen, interpreted, and analyzed in parts of colonial Africa, from World War I to the 1960s and beyond. Provost Jonathan Holloway (above, right) introduced Ndiaye at the event.
ISITA welcomes Zekeria Ahmed Salem as its new director

by Rebecca Shereikis

In October, Zekeria Ahmed Salem (political science) arrived at Northwestern to assume the position of director of the Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa (ISITA).

“I am deeply humbled and honored to come to Northwestern University and to be appointed as ISITA’s Director,” says Ahmed Salem. “Northwestern pioneered the field of African studies in the United States, and in a sense, ISITA could not have been created elsewhere. The Institute has been a driving force behind the emergence over the past two decades of the interdisciplinary study of Islam in Africa as a vibrant area of research in the social sciences.”

Ahmed Salem specializes in Islam and Muslim politics in Africa in comparative perspective. His research engages critical debates about religion and politics, especially the interconnections between the state and religious authority, identity politics, Islamic knowledge, and political power in contemporary African societies. Based on long-term fieldwork in the northwestern African nation of Mauritania, his published work sheds light on the religious formation of the postcolonial state as well as on the intersection of Islam, ethnicity, race, and social hierarchy.

His monograph, Prêcher dans le Désert: Islam, Politique et Changement Social en Mauritanie (published by Karthala in 2013, with an English translation forthcoming as Preaching in the Desert: Islam, Politics and Social Change in Mauritania), chronicles the history of Mauritania’s Islamist sub-cultures and political trends from the time of independence in the 1960s to the present. The book explores how postcolonial authorities in this self-proclaimed Islamic polity failed in their attempt to use Islam as a uniting force in a multi-ethnic and highly hierarchical society. Based on more than 20 years of fieldwork, Ahmed Salem’s research reveals how Mauritanian Muslims of all social strata try actively to shape their political and religious lives through engagement with the bodies of religious knowledge available to them. Of particular note is the book’s focus on the role of imams of slave descent and anti-slavery activists from the Arabic speaking Harâtîn group (people from slave backgrounds) in developing, promoting, or critiquing social norms that affect social hierarchies and the legacy of slavery in the country. Moving beyond a narrow conception of the political, the book explores the intersections of religion and religious thought with social change.


Current projects include completion of a historical dictionary of Mauritania and a major new research project on the impact of African Islamic scholars at home and abroad. Article-length works in progress focus on new forms of Sufism, public debates over blasphemy, and the role of Muslim public intellectuals in shaping the public sphere in African Muslim societies.

Ahmed Salem holds an MA in philosophy and anthropology from University of Nouakchott and a MPhil (Diplôme d’Etudes Approfondies) and a PhD, both in political science, from Sciences-Po Lyon. He has taught political science and African studies for nearly two decades at the University of Nouakchott, becoming a full professor (Professeur Habilité) in 2011. He has held numerous visiting positions in Europe and the USA. His research has
been funded by the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), the Fulbright Program, the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (France), L’Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR, France), Sciences-Po Paris, the Jutta Vogel Foundation, and a number of government agencies in Mauritania and Europe.

Founded in 2000 by the late John O. Hunwick, ISITA is the oldest research center in the United States devoted entirely to the study of Islam in Africa. ISITA sponsors collaborative interdisciplinary scholarship on the Islamic tradition of learning in Africa and promotes broader awareness of the role of Islam in African societies, past and present.

“In collaboration with all of ISITA’s stakeholders, I look forward to building on the Institute’s accomplishments and its impressive international network to continue and expand the tremendous work started by John Hunwick and his successors, notably Muhammad Sani Umar and the Institute’s staff,” says Ahmed Salem. “It is of foremost importance that ISITA remain a leader in fostering research on the intellectual and cultural production of Muslims in Africa, past and present. It is also certainly vital to think more expansively about ISITA’s scope of inquiry in order to open up new avenues in terms of research, collaboration, resource mobilization, curriculum development, and outreach.

“This is an exciting time for studying religion and society. ISITA and Northwestern are very well positioned to be leaders in these discussions, especially considering that a number of on-campus initiatives are conducting cutting-edge research on global religion, society and politics. This is the right time to open a new chapter of ISITA’s history and to engage in conversations on campus and beyond on Islam and Muslim societies in a genuinely comparative perspective.”

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR continued from front page

faculty and international scholars at a conference on the consequences of globalization sponsored by the Buffett Institute and the Institute for Policy Research that will be held May 24-25, 2018.

“Over the course of his extraordinary career, Strobe Talbott has engaged global policymaking and analysis at the very highest levels, most recently as president of the Brookings Institution, our country’s most prestigious and influential think tank,” said Bruce Carruthers, director of the Buffett Institute. “Talbott will bring deep insights and rich experience to both the Buffett Institute and to Northwestern University. I am very pleased that his visit will launch a new program that invites to campus accomplished global leaders, researchers and practitioners to enrich the intellectual life of students and faculty.”

As the first distinguished visitor, Talbott will be on campus three times during the winter and spring quarters, where he will take part in major public conversations on national politics, contemporary Russia and the relationship of academic research and national policy. He will meet with undergraduate and graduate students interested in careers in journalism and public policy as well as with faculty and Buffett Institute researchers.

Talbott served in the State Department from 1993 to 2001, first as ambassador-at-large and special adviser to the secretary of state for the new independent states of the former Soviet Union, then as deputy secretary of state for seven years.

Talbott entered government service after 21 years with Time magazine. As a reporter, he covered Eastern Europe, the State Department and the White House, then was Washington bureau chief, editor-at-large and foreign affairs columnist. He was twice awarded the Edward Weintal Prize for distinguished diplomatic reporting.


In 2011, Talbott was named by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton as chair of the U.S. State Department’s Foreign Affairs Policy Board, a post he held through Secretary John Kerry’s tenure. He has also been a member of the Aspen Strategy Group, a fellow of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences and the Academy of Diplomacy, chairman of the board of the American Ditchley Foundation and a governor of the Conference of Montreal.

To learn more about the Distinguished Visitor program, visit buffett.northwestern.edu/about/people/scholars/distinguished-visitors.html
BOOKS

Karen J. Alter and Laurence R. Helfer

This book provides a deep, systematic investigation of the most active and successful transplant of the European Court of Justice: the Andean Tribunal. The tribunal is effective by any plausible definition of the term, but only in the domain of intellectual property law. Alter and Helfer explain how the Andean Tribunal established its legal authority within and beyond this intellectual property island, and how Andean judges have navigated moments of both transnational political consensus and political contestation over the goals and objectives of regional economic integration. Alter and Helfer argue that the European Court of Justice benefitted in underappreciated ways from the support of transnational jurist advocacy movements that are absent or poorly organized in the Andes and elsewhere in the world. The Andean Tribunals longevity despite these and other challenges offers guidance for international courts in other developing country contexts. The Andean experience offers timely and important lessons for European international courts.

Héctor Carrillo

*Pathways of Desire* brings us into the lives of Mexican gay men who have left their home country to pursue greater sexual autonomy and sexual freedom in the United States. The groundbreaking ethnographic study brings our attention to the full arc of these men’s migration experiences. These men’s diverse and fascinating stories demonstrate the intertwining of sexual, economic, and familial motivations for migration. Further, Carrillo shows that sexual globalization must be regarded as a bidirectional, albeit uneven, process of exchange between countries in the global north and the global south. With this approach, Carrillo challenges the view that gay men from countries like Mexico would logically want to migrate to a “more sexually enlightened” country like the United States—a partial and limited understanding, given the dynamic character of sexuality in countries such as Mexico, which are becoming more accepting of sexual diversity.

Jordan Gans-Morse

The effectiveness of property rights—and the rule of law more broadly—is often depicted as depending primarily on rulers’ “supply” of legal institutions. Yet the crucial importance of private sector “demand” for law is frequently overlooked. This book develops a novel framework that unpacks the demand for law in Russia, building on an original enterprise survey as well as extensive interviews with lawyers, firms, and private security agencies. By tracing the evolution of firms’ reliance on violence, corruption, and law over the two decades following the Soviet Union’s collapse, the book clarifies why firms in various contexts may turn to law for property rights protection, even if legal institutions remain ineffective or corrupt.

Ian Hurd

A provocative reassessment of the rule of law in world politics. Conventionally understood as a set of limits on state behavior, the “rule of law” in world politics is widely assumed to serve as a progressive contribution to a just, stable, and predictable world. Hurd’s book challenges this received wisdom. Bringing the study of law and legality together with power, politics, and legitimation, he illustrates the complex politics of the
international rule of law. Hurd draws on a series of timely case studies involving recent legal arguments over war, torture, and drones to demonstrate that international law not only domesticates state power but also serves as a permissive and even empowering source of legitimation for state action, including violence and torture. Rather than a civilizing force that holds the promise of universal peace, international law is a deeply politicized set of practices driven by the pursuit of particular interests and desires.

Wendy Pearlman
*We Crossed a Bridge and It Trembled: Voices from Syria* (HarperCollins, 2017).

Against the backdrop of the wave of demonstrations known as the Arab Spring, in 2011 hundreds of thousands of Syrians took to the streets demanding freedom, democracy and human rights. The government’s ferocious response, and the refusal of the demonstrators to back down, sparked a brutal civil war that over the past five years has escalated into the worst humanitarian catastrophe of our times. Based on interviews with hundreds of displaced Syrians conducted over four years across the Middle East and Europe, *We Crossed a Bridge and It Trembled* is a breathtaking mosaic of first-hand testimonials from the frontlines. Some of the testimonies are several pages long, eloquent narratives that could stand alone as short stories; others are only a few sentences, poetic and aphoristic. Together, they cohere into an unforgettable chronicle that is not only a testament to the power of storytelling but to the strength of those who face darkness with hope, courage, and moral conviction.

**BOOK CHAPTERS**

Bruce Carruthers

Bruce Carruthers takes on the analysis of monetary differentiation within formal organizations, banks, and other financial institutions. He demonstrates how, despite the advantages of liquidity, organizational budgeting practices create incommensurable categorical distinctions, akin to earmarks, within fungible money. Many forms of individual and organizational credit similarly involve earmarks that constrain the use and allocation of future purchasing power. Credit, Carruthers reminds us, is always earmarked in terms of who is a legitimate recipient but also often in terms of how the money can be used. A home mortgage, for example, can be used to purchase a house but not a car. Beyond his analysis of earmarking, Carruthers considers whether the financialization of the economy “has helped to monetize more of the world.” He finds instead unexpected limits to monetary valuation. In the contemporary over-the-counter derivatives market, for instance, participants often rely on non-price-based forms of valuation.

Elizabeth Shakman Hurd

Elizabeth Shakman Hurd’s chapter explores the different ways that international agents and institutions govern religion through claims and aspirations for religious human rights. Hurd does not offer a stable, fixed understanding of religion or religious freedom. She instead asks: “what is accomplished in specific contexts when social difference is conceived and governed by those in positions of authority through religious rights and freedoms? What does it entail to govern religion as right?” Hurd, along with the other authors in the collection, expresses skepticism about the project and promise of universalizing human rights. She argues that the promotion of such rights naturalizes the “very lines of difference it is meant to soften or transcend, creating, in the process, new forms of social friction by and through religious difference.”

Doug Kiel

Doug Kiel’s chapter examines the historical emergence and contemporary relevance of “blood” as a key concept for assessing Native personhood. Kiel provides a critical take on Western-based colonial and racializing violence that underpins the symbolic

*continued on next page*
and legal reliance on blood as a marker of authentic indigeneity.

**Jeffrey Winters**


Distributions of wealth reflect and reinforce how power is held in societies. This is as true in democracies as in authoritarian regimes. It is remarkable that one form of social stratification—extreme wealth concentration—has actually increased over the roughly 250-year span of modern democracy. Whatever democracy may be, it is certainly a dispersion or de-concentration of political power. We would expect concentrated political power also to concentrate wealth over time. But why doesn’t a dispersion of political power result in a de-concentration of wealth over time? This work explores the emergence of wealth stratification in human civilization. It finds that the much later emergence of democracy does not significantly disturb wealth concentration.

**ARTICLES**

**Laura R. Brueck**


This paper focuses on the writings of Uday Prakash and Ajay Navaria, both Delhi-based Hindi-language authors whose literary work focuses on the dynamics of caste in contemporary India, to consider each author’s innovative use of metafictional narrative techniques to blur the boundaries between “real” and fictional life narratives. Brueck argues that reading these texts through the critical lens of postrealism allows us to reconsider the apparently arbitrary generic distinctions between auto/biography and fiction in Dalit narratives with a careful analysis of the strategically interventionist employment of real lives in Dalit fiction.

**David Figlio (et al.)**


Educational accountability policies are a popular tool to close the achievement gaps between advantaged and disadvantaged students. However, these policies may exacerbate inequality if families from advantaged backgrounds are better able to advocate for their children and thus circumvent policy. The authors investigate this possibility in the context of the early grade retention policy in Florida, which requires all students with reading skills below grade level to be retained in the third grade, yet grants exemptions under special circumstances. They find that Florida’s third-grade retention policy is in fact enforced differentially depending on children’s socioeconomic background, especially maternal education. The authors find that the discrepancies in retention rates are mainly driven by the fact that students with well-educated mothers are more likely to be promoted based on subjective exemptions such as teacher portfolios.

**Marina E. Henke**


Side-payments are commonly used in international relations to alter the foreign policies of states. Despite their frequent usage, however, our understanding is very limited as to why certain side-payment negotiations succeed, while others fail. This article tries to remedy this shortcoming. It argues that social embeddedness between actors involved in the negotiations has a major bearing on bargaining outcomes. Under ideal circumstances, social relationships can be used to reduce information asymmetries and increase trust. But in the presence of fractured social networks, social ties can foster information bias and distrust, ultimately increasing the likelihood of bargaining failure. The US-Turkish bargaining failure over the Iraq intervention in 2003 is used to illustrate and test this theory.

**Seema Jayachandran and Martina Björkman Nyqvist**


Research on intrahousehold decision-making generally finds that fathers have more bargaining power than mothers, but mothers put more weight on children’s well-being. This suggests a tradeoff when targeting policies to improve child health: fathers
have more power to change household behavior in ways that improve child health, but mothers might have a stronger desire to do so. This paper compares health classes in Uganda that enrolled either mothers or fathers. The authors find that educating mothers leads to greater adoption of health-promoting behaviors by the household. In addition, educating one parent leads to positive spillovers on the other spouse’s health behaviors.

❚ Dean Karlan (et al.)

The authors examine the returns from owning cows and buffaloes in rural India. With labor valued at market wages, households earn large, negative median annual returns from holding cows and buffaloes, at −293% and −65%, respectively. Making the stark assumption of labor valued at zero, median returns are then −7% for cows and +17% for buffaloes (with 51% and 45% of households earning negative returns for cows and buffaloes, respectively). Why do households continue to invest in livestock if economic returns are negative, or are these estimates wrong? The article discusses reasons why we may be underestimating returns and also, if the estimates are accurate, reasons why labor and milk market failures and social norms may still lead to persistent livestock investments.

❚ Daniel Krcmaric

Why do some civil wars feature the mass killing of civilians while others do not? Recent research answers this question by adopting a “varieties of civil war” approach that distinguishes between guerrilla and conventional civil wars. One particularly influential claim is that guerrilla wars feature more civilian victimization because mass killing is an attractive strategy for states attempting to eliminate the civilian support base of an insurgency. Krcmaric suggests that there are two reasons to question this “draining the sea” argument. First, the logic of “hearts and minds” during guerrilla wars implies that protecting civilians – not killing them – is the key to success during counterinsurgency. Second, unpacking the nature of fighting in conventional wars gives compelling reasons to think that they could be particularly deadly for civilians caught in the war’s path. Contrary to the conventional wisdom, he finds that mass killing onset is more likely to occur during conventional wars than during guerrilla wars.

❚ Rachel Beatty Riedl

This article proposes four different types of research designs to highlight the conceptual, theoretical, and methodological value of an interactive sub-national cross-national approach: as a two-level interaction, as a hierarchical model, as a set of controls, and as quasi-experimental. These possibilities demonstrate the unique advantages of theorizing and empirically analyzing sub-national variation in its relation to the national superstructure. Using the example of the multi-level identities and institutions associated with religious organizations across sub-Saharan Africa, Riedl demonstrates that the impact of religious leaders on their affiliated followers’ political orientations vary according to the interactive position of each group in their local and national context.

❚ Hendrik Spruyt

A large body of scholarship in political science suggests that the material power of a dominant state is critical for the stabilization of international order. Consequently, the relative decline of the United States and the ascendance of China raise concerns regarding the stability of the current international system. By contrast, culturalist accounts such as David Kang’s East Asia before the West submit that a stable order can be based on a shared cultural framework rather than material force. Despite their many contributions, the methodological design of such analyses—Kang’s included—do not allow us to attribute Chinese hegemony in the tributary system primarily to cultural factors. Examining the salience of cultural factors for international order requires a different research design that incorporates greater variation across history and regions and that recognizes the multivocality of imperial claims to authority.
New scholars, staff at the Buffett Institute: Winter 2018

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

NEW VISITING SCHOLARS

Natalia Forrat, Buffett Institute Visiting Scholar, is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Kellogg Institute for International Studies at the University of Notre Dame. She recently graduated with a PhD in sociology from Northwestern University. Her research focuses on state-society relationships in authoritarian settings. Her book project “The Infrastructure of Authoritarianism” addresses the ways Vladimir Putin’s regime in Russia uses public sector organizations to manipulate grassroots politics and the factors that can prevent such abuse of the state.

Krisha Lim is a visiting scholar at the Global Poverty Research Lab and a senior research associate at International Care Ministries (ICM), Manila, Philippines. She works collaboratively with the Director of Research in the design and evaluation of ICM’s programs on economic, social, health, and education interventions targeting Filipinos living in ultra-poverty. Lim trains enumerators in data collection in ICM’s local offices in Visayas and Mindanao, cleans and analyzes RCT and non-RCT survey data, creates reports, and presents results to ICM staff and program partners. She also assists in co-writing papers with academic researchers on the topics of social networks and inequality. She holds a bachelor of arts in economics and international relations from University of British Columbia and a master of science in agriculture and resource economics from University of Alberta.

Eva Raiber is a visitor at the Global Poverty Research Lab. Her research is concentrated on empirical micro-economic questions that are important in a development context, currently in the fields of family economics, economics of religion, and migration. (Her research projects include the study of fertility, education and marriage in China, and religious participation in Sub-Saharan Africa. For both studies, she has been involved in the data collection process.) She is pursuing her PhD at the Toulouse School of Economics under the supervision of Paul Seabright. She is a doctoral scholar at the Institute for Advanced Study Toulouse and a visiting researcher at the International Security and Development Centre Berlin.

Etsuko Tsutsumi, Buffett Institute Visiting Scholar, received her PhD in international public policy from Osaka University (OSIPP). She is a professor of human resource management and entrepreneurship at Hokkai School of Commerce in Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan. Her academic work includes the comparative study of Japan and the United States, and her scholarly interest focuses on global harmonization in the medical device industry. Tsutsumi’s work has addressed the functions of people in HRM and entrepreneurship, HRM management systems, and social entrepreneurship – especially in the development of medical devices. Now, she is exploring mechanisms for returning benefits from the private healthcare sector to the welfare of patients and the elderly. This project is titled: “Challenges in Global Development of High Performance Medical Manufacturing.” Since she works and lives in Hokkaido, a so-called ‘domestic colony’ of Japan, she would like to explore the relationship between discrimination and regional formation in her future academic work.
Kayla Wilding is a visiting scholar at the Global Poverty Research Lab and works as a research associate for the United States Household Finance Initiative at Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA). She works on a portfolio of RCTs focused on improving low- and middle-income Americans’ financial health through the use of innovative financial products. Prior to joining IPA, she was a consultant at Bates White Economic Consulting focusing on valuations for financial litigation cases. She has also spent time working as a research intern for the Brookings Institution, the White House Council of Economic Advisers, and Refugee Women’s Network. Kayla earned both a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in economics from the University of Georgia, where she focused on international development, labor, and public finance.

NEW STAFF AT THE BUFFETT INSTITUTE

Sachet Bangia, research analyst, Global Poverty Research Lab (Economics)

Caton Brewster, research analyst, Global Poverty Research Lab (Innovations for Poverty Action)

Isabel Oñate Falomir, research/data coordinator, Global Poverty Research Lab (Innovations for Poverty Action)

Sarina Jain, research analyst, Global Poverty Research Lab

Sneha Stephen, research manager, Global Poverty Research Lab (Innovations for Poverty Action) ♦

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Kimberly R. Marion Suiseeya

For more than 30 years, diverse actors in global forest governance have sought to address the justice concerns of forest peoples—concerns about displacement, marginalisation, and loss of identity—related to forest interventions. Despite the mainstreaming of justice obligations into the global forest governance architecture and the proliferation of justice practices across multiple scales of governance, claims of injustice persist. The growing prominence of Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation plus the enhancement of carbon stocks (REDD+) as a primary mechanism for addressing global forest loss and degradation has again directed attention to the justice effects of global forest policies on forest peoples across the Global South. This paper draws attention to the role of norms in constraining and shaping policy designs and outcomes. An empirical analysis of justice norms in global forest governance, including REDD+, demonstrate that while justice possibilities under REDD+ could narrow, opportunities for norm contestation are expanding. These additional opportunities can create conditions conducive to broader norm shifts in global forest governance.

Sera Young (et al.)

Diet and nutrition-related behaviors are embedded in cultural and environmental contexts: adoption of new knowledge depends on how easily it can be integrated into existing knowledge systems. As dietary diversity promotion becomes an increasingly common component of nutrition education, understanding local nutrition knowledge systems about dietary diversity is essential to formulate efficient messages. This paper draws on in-depth qualitative ethnographic research conducted in small-scale agricultural communities in Tanzania. Data were collected in the East Usambara Mountains, an area that is home primarily to the Shambaa and Bondei ethnic groups, but has a long history of ethnic diversity and ethnic intermixing. The results suggest that dietary diversity was perceived as something all people, both rich and poor, could achieve. There was significant overlap between local and scientific understandings of dietary diversity, suggesting that novel information on the importance of dietary diversity promoted through education will likely be easily integrated into the existing knowledge systems. ♦
Northwestern University Symphony Orchestra announces 2018 Asia tour, co-sponsored by the Buffett Institute

Northwestern's top orchestral talent will travel halfway around the globe during spring break 2018 to perform in three prestigious concert halls and to serve as musical ambassadors for the University in a trip co-sponsored by the Buffett Institute.

Northwestern University Symphony on Tour: Asia 2018, from March 25 to 31, will give the student musicians a unique opportunity to showcase their talents on the world stage and to support the goal of recruiting promising students, musicians, and scholars from around the globe.

The three-city tour of Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong is made possible by an anonymous benefactor and organized by the Bienen School of Music, the Buffett Institute, and the Northwestern Alumni Association. Director Bruce Carruthers will be representing the Buffett Institute during the trip.

The Northwestern University Symphony on Tour: Asia 2018 concert schedule is as follows:

**Beijing:** Sunday, March 25, 7:30 p.m. 
Zhongshan Park Forbidden City Concert Hall

**Shanghai:** Wednesday, March 28, 7:30 p.m. 
Shanghai Symphony Hall

**Hong Kong:** Saturday, March 31, 7:30 p.m. 
Tsuen Wan Town Hall Auditorium

The concert repertoire consists of Symphony No. 5 by Gustav Mahler and Symphonic Dances by Leonard Bernstein from “West Side Story.” Additional information on the tour will be posted to northwestern.edu/symphony-tour as it becomes available.