At the beginning of the twentieth century, Bolivia was among the least successful of the countries of Spanish America at achieving a high level of social and economic development. By contrast, Uruguay was among the most socially and economically developed countries in the region. More than a hundred years later, little had changed. Bolivia continued to be among the least developed countries, whereas Uruguay continued to be one of the most developed countries.

An examination of cross-national statistical data suggests that this pattern of stability in relative levels of development applies broadly in Spanish America: the countries of Spanish America have tended to maintain their relative levels of economic and social development vis-à-vis one another going back to the nineteenth century. The countries that were the most developed more than a century ago still tend to be the most developed today; the countries that were the least developed still tend to be the region’s least developed today. Large improvements or declines within the regional hierarchy of development have been rare.

In Colonialism and Postcolonial Development, one of my goals is to identify the causes of the initial placement of countries into particular positions within the regional hierarchy of development. That is, I ask: Why did countries “get ahead” or “fall behind” in the first place? My explanation emphasizes variations in Spanish settlement and institution building.

Faculty Affiliate Research » Colonialism and Postcolonial Development: Spanish America in Comparative Perspective

by James Mahoney, Political Science

Faculty affiliates present recent research from books, articles, and project proposals.

New Graduate Student Affiliate Program

The Buffett Center is launching a new Graduate Student Affiliate Program to strengthen the relationship between the Center and its community of graduate students. Any Northwestern graduate student with international and comparative research interests relating to or with implications for contemporary political, economic, or social issues is invited to become a Buffett Center Graduate Student Affiliate.

To become an affiliate, submit the electronic
Security Working Group Examines Covert Military Strikes

by Jonathan Caverley, Political Science

What legal framework, if any, exists for covert military strikes by the United States against non-state groups within the borders of sovereign states? How can a public make informed deliberations about such consequential acts, when they are inherently secret? The Working Group on Security Studies began to explore these questions through the research of the academic year’s inaugural speaker, partnering with the Medill School’s National Security Journalism Initiative.

Tara McKelvey, the Initiative’s inaugural Research Fellow, presented her paper “America’s Shadow Warriors: Legal Dimensions of Special Forces and the Targeted Warfare.” Based on extensive reporting both in the United States and elsewhere, McKelvey explores the U.S. government’s attempts to create a legal framework that allows covert military strikes within the borders of Yemen, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and beyond. McKelvey simultaneously points out the potential for unintended consequences of such strikes, many unlikely to be considered thoroughly due to the highly compartmentalized nature of such programs.

McKelvey brings extensive experience to the project. She is the author of Monstering: Inside America’s Policy of Secret Interrogations and Torture in the Terror War, and the editor of One of the Guys: Women as Aggressors and Torturers. Her work has appeared in the New York Times Book Review, the Columbia Journalism Review, the Washington Post, and the Boston Review, and has been supported by NYU Law School’s Center on Law and Security and Stanford’s Hoover Institution.

McKelvey’s working paper can be found at www.bcics.northwestern.edu/publications/workingpapers/buffett.html.

Faculty Affiliate Research » Thinking about the Quality of Democracy
by Andrew Roberts, Political Science

Faculty Affiliates present recent research from books, articles, and project proposals.

For at least the past two decades, the holy grail in political science has been to determine the causes of democracy. Why are some countries democratic and others are not? What leads a country to move from autocracy to democracy? These questions were inspired by the tremendous explosion of democracy known as the Third Wave.

What has been neglected is what happens to countries after they democratize. Not just whether democracy survives, but whether politics changes in significant ways. Does policy improve? Are politicians more responsive to citizens? Does corruption disappear?

The study of these changes has been summed up in the phrase “quality of democracy” and has been motivated by a widespread perception that new democracies suffer from numerous ills. To get an indication of how this field has grown, consider Figure 1, which shows the number of journal articles using the phrases “quality of democracy” and “democratic quality”. This has clearly become one of the hot questions in the new millennium.

Nevertheless, there has been considerable controversy over what democratic quality means. Ask yourself what a high quality democracy looks like. Is it simply one that holds the freest possible elections and guarantees the most human rights? Or is it one with certain preconditions that help democracy to function better – things like an equal distribution of income or low poverty rates? Or is it one that produces good outcomes for its citizens – reasonable healthcare and an efficient government?

I am suspicious of all three of these answers, though I think that each gets at something important. The first conception – which I call quality as procedures – is too close to democracy itself; it measures whether democracy exists rather than its quality. The second – I call it quality as preconditions – relies too much on controversial claims about the causes of good democracy. The third – I label it quality as outcomes – forgets that democracy is indeterminate; it does not mandate any particular outcomes only the participation of the public in the making of policy.

I believe that democratic quality should instead refer to how democracy actually works and particularly to the distinctive fact about democracy which is the participation of the public in governing. I argue that we should think of quality in terms of citizen influence. A high quality democracy is one where citizens are controlling their rulers.

There are at least three ways that citizens can control their rulers, which I have laid out in Figure 2. The simplest is known as electoral accountability – at election time citizens can punish their rulers for doing a bad job or reward them for doing a good job. Throwing the bums out like this acts as an incentive for them to stay close to the public will.

Of course, elections can do more than this. Citizens may not just think retrospectively but may look towards the future and try to choose candidates and parties whose policy positions

continued on page 4
are close to their own. Here voters are selecting rather than sanctioning. I call this second mode of influence mandate responsiveness, because voters give politicians a mandate to follow through on certain policies.

Finally, elections do not exhaust the means of popular influence. Even between elections, citizens are empowered through their various civil rights to petition and lobby the government. These elections can lead the government to follow public preferences even between elections, a phenomenon I call policy responsiveness.

It is worth pointing out here that neither citizen influence nor these various modes of influence are a cure-all for a society’s problems. If one believes that citizens are uninformed about politics and policy, then democratic quality could actually lead to disastrous outcomes. Of course, detaching government from citizen control has its own set of problems as most of human history has shown.

I like this way of looking at democratic quality because it gets at the major justification for democracy and allows us to ask whether or not democracy is working for us. With few people willing to say a bad word about democracy, this conception puts their intuitions to the test: if they want citizen control limited, then where should those limitations be and who should replace citizens?

Having raised these issues, most of my research has focused on measuring the degree of popular control in the postcommunist democracies (thus Russia is excluded). Most observers believed that these countries would perform poorly on these measures. After all, citizens had grown up in regimes that gave them few opportunities to influence politics much less even create their own civil society. Meanwhile, virtually the entire political class was socialized to think of governing as a top-down process. Complicating the democratic transition was the fact that these countries were under pressure to engage in some presumptively unpopular reforms like liberalizing prices and privatizing large industries.

My work, however, has shown just the opposite. Despite relatively inauspicious conditions, citizens have done a relatively good job in controlling their rulers. Consider electoral accountability. In just about every democratic election in the region the incumbents have lost and usually by large margins. Moreover, their losses are closely correlated with economic conditions, especially unemployment rates. Governments are being held accountable.

Even more surprisingly, policy choices have remained relatively close to public opinion even in controversial areas like economic reforms and pension policy. Citizens often supported the decision of governments to privatize industry or marketize the pension system, and where they did not, these reforms did not go forward.

These results imply both that the postcommunist democracies are actually working quite well and that democracy in the substantive sense can emerge relatively quickly even after a quite repressive dictatorship. Of course, postcommunist Europe had some advantages — relatively rich and well-educated citizens and an equal distribution of wealth — but the results are still surprising and fairly hopeful for democrats around the world.

Part of my future work is to push these findings further. In the first place, I would like to look more at where and when politicians listen to citizens. In particular, I would like to explore inequalities in representation — whether politicians listen more to the rich than the poor, more to men than women — and what policy areas show the most responsiveness. Second, I would like to explore how well informed the public is about public policy. A major worry about democratic quality is whether the public’s preferences are a good basis for policy. I would love to speak to students interested in working on these issues.

Colonialism continued from page 1
during the colonial period. It is based on a broad reading of the secondary literature on colonialism in Latin America. This literature has great depth and scope, and my challenges in writing the book were not mainly related to the absence of basic information. Instead, the challenge was surveying huge literatures and appropriately synthesizing and weighing the contributions by historians in order to develop a comparative explanation that generates new theoretical insights while remaining true to the histories of the individual cases.

Two variables, I argue, go a long way toward understanding why formerly colonial territories were originally slotted into higher or lower positions in the hierarchy of development. The first variable is type of colonialism, defined by the kind of political-economic institutions implanted by a colonizer. I distinguish between mercantilist and liberal types of colonialism. Mercantilist colonialism features institutions associated with monopolies, ethnoracial-based slavery, and short-run accumulation. Liberal colonialism features institutions more associated with commercial competition, market-based labor exploitation, and long-run accumulation. I argue that Spain under the Habsburg and early Bourbon monarchy (before 1770) was closer to a mercantilist colonizer, whereas Spain under the late Bourbon monarchy (after 1770) evolved into more of a liberal colonizer.

The second key variable is level of colonialism, defined as the extent to which a colonizer brings its people and institutions to a given colonial region. Some colonial regions are cores, marked by heavy settlement and the extensive implantation of institutions. Others are peripheries, featuring light settlement and less extensive institutionalization. The extent to which a territory is a core or a periphery can shift over time.

The interaction of level of colonialism and type of colonialism produces higher or lower levels of postcolonial development. Level of mercantilist colonialism is negatively associated with level of postcolonial development. Level of liberal colonialism is positively associated with level of postcolonial development. It is wrong to conclude that liberal colonialism is better for long-run development than mercantilist colonialism. Low levels of liberal colonialism are highly detrimental to postcolonial development. One needs to take into consideration both type and level of colonialism to explain postcolonial performance.

In Spanish America, the richest countries—such as Argentina (especially around the River Plate), Uruguay, and Chile (especially in its central zone)—experienced low levels of mercantilist colonialism under the Spanish Habsburg monarchy and high levels of liberal colonialism under the late Spanish Bourbon monarchy. By contrast, the poorest countries—such as Bolivia, Ecuador, and Guatemala—underwent intensive levels of mercantilist colonialism under the Habsburgs but low levels of colonialism under the late Bourbon regime. Hence, the most simple formula for achieving higher development was to have been ignored for most of the colonial period and then to have received substantial late colonial attention. The formula for lower development was to have received massive colonial attention under the Habsburgs only to be ignored by the late Bourbon monarchy.

The book focuses closely on the role of other causal factors, including most obviously the nature of the precolonial indigenous population. The size and complexity of the indigenous population is crucial for explaining why regions experienced higher or lower levels of colonialism. The book also explores rare instances in which countries have managed to overcome the colonial legacy by substantially shifting their relative level of development within the regional hierarchy of development.

Overall, Colonialism and Postcolonial Development seeks to realize the dual promise of comparative-historical analysis: generating new theoretical insights of broad utility while offering novel understandings of particular times and places. Although the theoretical framework is applied to Spanish America, it generates hypotheses that can be tested using evidence from colonialism initiated by non-Spanish colonizers in Africa and Asia. Likewise, while the application of the theoretical framework within Spanish America does not generate new historical evidence, it does suggest novel ways of understanding the histories of these countries.

Colonialism and Postcolonial Development: Spanish America in Comparative Perspective by James Mahoney (Cambridge University Press, 2010).
Recent Publications by Buffett Center Affiliates

BOOKS


Boczkowski explains why, despite an ever-increasing access to news media, the diversity of the news that is available has decreased. The author compares two newspapers from Buenos Aires with similar outlets in the United States to understand the evolution of the supply and demand of the news in the contemporary (information) era.


The authors develop a theory of legal change by examining the different reactions of China, Indonesia, and Korea to international pressures to implement comprehensive corporate bankruptcy laws in the wake of the global economic crises of the 1990s. They find that the tensions between global and national actors produced considerable variation with respect to implementation.


This edited volume puts forth a set of essays that develop a more globalized approach to American studies. The authors offer several examples of the international circulation of American culture throughout history and develop a new standard for the discipline’s transnational aspirations.


The edited volume considers the potentially divisive relationship between political authorities and religion by exploring how the varieties of secularism provide different spaces for religion in the public sphere. Comparative Secularisms brings together a wide range of scholars to study secularisms in France, India, Turkey, and the United States.


Petrovsky-Shtern explains the emergence of a Ukrainian-Jewish literary tradition by examining the poetry and prose of five writers of Jewish descent between the late 19th and late 20th centuries. Their own experiences with marginality as Jews made them sympathetic to the Ukrainian community’s national cause, leading them to integrate their Jewish concerns into their Ukrainian-language writings.

continued on page 7
New GESI Social Entrepreneurship Program in South Africa

The Center for Global Engagement is excited to announce a partnership between its Global Engagement Summer Institute (GESI) and ThinkImpact, an international nonprofit and leader in catalyzing social enterprises in Kenya and South Africa. Two teams of four GESI students will spend the summer of 2011 at ThinkImpact’s site in rural Manyeleti, South Africa.

The GESI students will live in home stays, participate in Northwestern’s academic training, and gain Northwestern course credit, just as they do in all GESI sites. However, the South Africa site will differ from other GESI locations in that it has a distinct thematic focus on social enterprise development. Students will engage community members in order to understand their strengths and assets, and then work to discover and utilize opportunities for new social ventures.

Upon returning to the U.S., GESI students who spent the summer in South Africa will have the opportunity to apply for the ThinkImpact Fellowship, which is awarded each summer to the developers of the best business plans. ThinkImpact Fellows receive nine months of training in the U.S., seed loans for their social venture, and support for one year back in South Africa to implement their idea.

These tremendous opportunities for students to learn about and implement market-based development approaches, as well as ThinkImpact’s shared values for community-based solutions, make this partnership especially important for us. GESI applications will be accepted until March 2, 2011. Students interested in South Africa should apply earlier because space is limited. Need-based scholarships are available.

Why Does it Matter, NU? : Inspired by Mountains Beyond Mountains

Why Does it Matter, NU? was a series of events run by the Global Engagement Summit (GES), the Northwestern Conference on Human Rights (NUCHR), and GlobeMed, inspired by Mountains Beyond Mountains, this year’s One Book One Northwestern selection. The series brought together students from across the University to consider and discuss ideas of social justice, community development, global health, and the impact they—as individuals with distinct skill sets, talents, and passions—can have in working for these issues now and in the future.

The kick-off to the series, Building a Better World: Our Urgent Mandate, featured representatives from Chicago’s Voices for Creative Nonviolence. They illustrated the devastating effects of war and challenged students to consider ways to be activists for peace both now and once entering their chosen profession.

Civically Engaged Young Alumni Week: A Conference on Building Meaningful Careers and Lives, was also a part of Why Does it Matter, NU?, executed in collaboration with the Center for Civic Engagement and One Book One Northwestern. Panels of young alumni from each of Northwestern’s undergraduate schools discussed ways they have applied their passions for social justice into their careers and lives in order to make a difference in the world, and inspired students to do the same.

The final event of the series, a panel on global vs. local engagement, featured three panelists who shared their personal and professional perspectives on social justice work at home and abroad. Students discussed their roles in development work, and shared best practices for producing change wherever they may be.

The Northwestern University Conference on Human Rights (NUCHR), the largest student-organized undergraduate conference on human rights in the country, is committed to promoting the universality of human rights through academic discourse on a different topic every year. The 2011 conference, which will take place January 20-22, 2011, will focus on “Human Rights in Transit: Issues of Forced Migration.” Organizers hope to utilize this theme to analyze the effect of borders on the universality of human rights, and more specifically to discuss the roles of the host country and the country of origin in the protection of the rights of stateless migrants. Panelists and speakers will be asked to examine this issue from multiple perspectives so as to highlight all of the populations that are affected, both directly and indirectly, by this phenomenon.

NUCHR leaders chose this theme because they felt that it is both a useful tool for examining the responsibilities of various entities in the application and enforcement of human rights as well as a vital and relevant issue internationally and within the United States. The question of whether human rights can actually exist for stateless individuals is a difficult one because human rights law and rhetoric are generally framed in terms of the state. This year’s topic will directly address this issue and many others at the core of international and human rights policy. NUCHR’s hope is that this conference will simultaneously educate delegates on the issue of forced migration through several different perspectives and provide a framework for the analysis of human rights in a broader context.

In addition to planning the January conference, the NUCHR staff also puts on several programming events throughout the year and sponsors a student-led winter quarter seminar and spring break trip to Cairo, both of which will focus on the conference topic in a more intimate and experiential setting. The once-a-week seminar will focus on a different refugee population every week and the culminating weeklong trip will allow students the opportunity to interact with refugee communities, government and NGO workers, and academics in Cairo.

For further information, please visit www.nuchr.net or email NUCHR directors Scott Chilberg, Julie Kornfeld, and Katharine Nasielski at conferenceonhumanrights@u.northwestern.edu.

Congratulations to GESI ‘07 alumnus and Marshall Scholar Jacob White

The Center for Global Engagement would like to wish Jacob White hearty congratulations for winning the Marshall Scholarship to pursue development studies, with a focus on poverty, at the University of Oxford.

Among the most coveted honors for undergraduates, Marshall Scholarships provide students with at least two fully funded years of study at universities in the United Kingdom. Scholars are chosen from an extremely competitive pool of Americans nominated by their undergraduate institutions.

White’s participation in CGE’s Global Engagement Summer Institute (GESI) program (then known as Engage Uganda) played a marked role in the interests and achievements that led him to attain this award.

Jacob writes, “Engage Uganda was a turning point in my life. I had never lived in a developing country before, and the program was a seminal first experience. The training we received before we left was superb. The support in country from Northwestern staff and local partners was excellent. Living in Gulu (northern Uganda) was both heartbreaking and fascinating. The academic nature of the program was top-notch. I learned more about development theory and practice through the Engage program than from any class or program before or since. Jeff Rice, Will Reno, and Ron Atkinson played a special role in making our experience so valuable, as did Engage founder Nathaniel Whitemore.

Participating in Engage Uganda changed my interests from domestic policy to international development. I would not have joined the Peace Corps, or now be going to study development in graduate school, had it not been for this wonderful experience.”

White is currently working as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic, teaching English and tutoring in basic math and literacy.

We are proud of Jacob and wish him continued success on his academic and professional journeys.

“IfARM” at St. Francis Health Care Services in Jinja, Uganda
By Aaron Faucher, GESI ’10 alumnus and SESP ’12

This summer, I had the opportunity to intern with four other American undergraduates at St. Francis Healthcare Services in Jinja, Uganda, through Northwestern’s Global Engagement Summer Institute (GESI). Central to my team’s internship program was a project developed in conjunction with the St. Francis staff and clientele.

This project, dubbed IFARM (Initiative for Agricultural Reform and Modernization) closely involved a local population of grandmothers. Grandmothers constituted a unique, vital, and well-organized demographic of St. Francis clientele. Many were raising numerous orphaned grandchildren, were themselves widows, HIV positive, and expressed a dire need for cash income to pay their grandchildren’s school fees. The IFARM project consisted of several objectives that aligned with St. Francis’ purpose of providing comprehensive psychosocial support to those living with HIV/AIDS.

The first was a centrally located ‘demonstration farm,’ to be administered by a committee of local grandmothers. (Continued on page iv.)
My First Ever Sacrifice ... excerpted from the195.com
By Franny McGill, WCAS ’12, abroad in Morocco

As many of the other 195 writers studying abroad in Muslim countries have already blogged about, this past Wednesday was Eid al-Adha, an important Muslim holiday commemorating Ibrahim’s readiness to sacrifice his own son Ishmael to God, before God provided him with a ram to sacrifice instead.

It felt a little like Thanksgiving. Instead of turkeys, though, we saw countless sheep being transported through the medina streets via cart, donkey, car, and rope, and the pastry shops were teeming with people stockpiling up on various cookies and small cakes for the relatives arriving from all over the country. My host mom, who is not religious and loves animals, had informed me a few weeks earlier that she had never purchased a sheep before; so I assumed that, unlike my friends in more traditional homestays, I would not be witnessing a sacrifice. But that Sunday, I was interrupted from my nap by a loud “BAAAAAH” and looked out of my room to see my host siblings excitedly wrestling a sheep. My host mom had decided that she wanted to give her children, and me, the traditional Eid experience, and so she bought a ram to slaughter for the first time since her childhood.

The next two mornings, we were awoken by irate “baaahaaahs” from the terrace, and on the morning of Eid I accompanied my mom into the streets to try to find someone who would sacrifice our ram. As it turns out, other families had had an earlier start.

The medina was littered with ram heads, which boys were roasting on small fires, and there were pools of blood around all of the street drains. It looked like there had just recently been a massacre – which, from a sheep’s perspective, was not far from the truth. I had worn my rainboots because it looked overcast, and, despite the lack of rain, it turned out to be a strategic move because I didn’t have to worry about blood splashing on my jeans. We walked for about thirty minutes, wishing a happy Eid to everyone we passed and inquiring after potential butchers until a neighbor agreed to come over when he was done with his own ram.

Throughout the next two hours, boys knocked on our door every fifteen minutes asking to roast our ram head, which was still baaahing excitedly on the terrace. I was just settling into my new book when my siblings burst into my room. “Yella, Yella!” Our neighbor had arrived. We gathered on the terrace and huddled together in a very un-Moroccan like fashion as the neighbors sharpened a huge knife and then dragged our ram over to the drain and held him down. I watched the next part through slotted fingers.

For those of you who have never seen an animal killed, it was surprisingly anticlimactic. It was hard to watch the ram kicking for several minutes after its throat had been cut, but I quickly got over the copious amounts of blood on the terrace floor, and was actually somewhat intrigued by the skinning process, which went on for a good thirty minutes and was vaguely reminiscent of a banana being peeled. After the ram was completely naked, the neighbors left and my family proceeded to clean out the different organs and wash the blood down the drain. I volunteered to sweep.

I helped my mom put pieces of stomach wrapped liver on skewers to barbecue, and then made several trips downstairs to get utensils to set the table, each time inching past the gutted ram (which was now hanging in the middle of the terrace door, swaying slightly in the breeze). After thoroughly purell-ing my hands, I sat down to gorge with the rest of my family, and had my first ever bite of mutton. It was delicious—if slightly different than anything I had ever tasted before.

Then again, back home, I’m a vegetarian.

The 195 shares the stories of students and recent graduates who are abroad in some of the world’s one hundred and ninety-five countries. Founded by students at Northwestern University in 2009, The 195 is a platform for students to provoke conversation and challenge perspectives. Through the visceral power of multimedia and the intimacy of the written word, The 195 aims to bring distant parts of the world closer. We encourage you to visit the195.com to learn what other students are writing about from across the globe. And don’t forget to leave a comment ... Northwestern students will be delighted to hear from you.
The farm would serve as an interactive learning center where grandmothers could learn to raise crops and animals particularly profitable in local markets, using innovative techniques easily transferable to the small plots of land at their individual homes. While our team lacked agricultural expertise, we determined we could contribute to the demonstration farm initiative by facilitating the logistics of its development. We worked with St. Francis staff to develop interactive maps and spreadsheets to assist in planning the layout, construction, and financials of the farm. Our team also compiled a reference guide containing information on cultivation practices for many of the crops and animals the grandmothers were considering for the farm.

Our team’s other objectives expanded on a mushroom gardening project implemented by previous GESI interns in 2009. Mushroom gardening is a practice compatible with the grandmothers’ lifestyle as mushrooms yield a reasonable profit margin in the Jinja and Kampala markets, are cheap and easy to maintain, and provide nutritional benefits often lacking in the traditional Ugandan diet. Several grandmothers had adopted the mushroom initiative with great enthusiasm, and its first months saw several successful yields. However, the initiative had not yet expanded beyond its initial sites; furthermore, the grandmothers had experienced difficulty in obtaining the mushroom spores necessary to start new gardens, as these spores were distributed on a limited basis in Kampala.

Subsequently, our team’s second objective was to kickoff the St. Francis demonstration farm by coordinating a demonstration of mushroom gardening techniques at the new farm site. Grandmothers with prior experience in mushroom gardening taught grandmothers in a new village how to create and cultivate their own mushroom gardens. This served the dual purpose of launching the demonstration farm initiative and disseminating mushroom gardening knowledge to grandmothers in a new village. We worked with staff to contract local builders to construct a four-room, multi-use brick structure that would house these gardens and provide additional functions in the future. To address the issue of spore acquisition, our team collaborated with the St. Francis staff to utilize the organization’s existing assets (laboratory space and equipment) to start a spore-creation operation within the St. Francis labs. This would not only allow St. Francis to serve their grandmothers’ group by providing easy access to spores at a reduced cost, but also serve as an income generator for the St. Francis organization (who had expressed their desire to wean themselves from reliance on foreign donors).

While the lessons I learned in project management, cross-cultural communication, and team dynamics were certainly invaluable, my Ugandan friends taught me that an essential prerequisite to any social initiative is the fundamental willingness to put another’s best interests before one’s own. The father in my host family had six biological children, yet he willingly supported over ten other dependent children by providing food, housing, employment, and school fees. St. Francis’ executive director, Faustine Ngarembe, had made significant personal sacrifices for the sake of the organization and its clients; the demonstration farm, for example, was located on a plot of land he personally donated to the grandmothers’ group. Indeed, St. Francis’ most devoted staff consisted of volunteers and employees operating under full knowledge that their salary was tentative on the NGO’s often-tenuous financial status. They were driven by a passion to serve their fellow human beings.

I also learned that this capacity for benevolence is most powerful when coupled with specific expertise. Given my previous coursework in social policy and cognitive science, I often felt I had few tangible skills to contribute to the organization’s goals. My experience challenged my assumptions surrounding the usefulness of foreign volunteerism, especially untrained American volunteerism, and has inspired me to pursue additional coursework in business and marketing that I now recognize to be particularly coveted in grassroots initiatives. Fundamentally, GESI helped me form a nuanced understanding of the roles I can (and cannot) play in community-based international development, and I am incredibly thankful I had the opportunity to participate in this one-of-a-kind program.
ARTICLES


The authors test the assumption that exposure to elected female officials will make individuals more likely to vote for them in the future. Using randomly assigned gender quotas for leadership positions in Indian village councils in the state of West Bengal, they find initial evidence supporting the assumption and suggesting that exposure to a female chief councilor improves perceptions of female leadership effectiveness.


Derluguian and Earle find that different facets of chieftaincy become successful manipulation tools in the presence of weak or non-functioning formal institutions of control. Rather than representing aberrant phenomena, the authors find that chieftaincies functioned as key internal organs of the modern state.


Using multiple sources of evidence, Hauser finds that the establishment of the Linstead Market in Jamaica was earlier than typically assumed. The author analyzes the production and distribution of a local Jamaican ceramic and finds that the market space has ties to one of the most important slave rebellions of 18th-century Jamaica.


The authors utilize a dataset on assassination attempts on all world leaders from 1875 to 2004 to assess the consequences of such attempts on politics. They find that small sources of randomness, such as assassinations, can affect the intensity of small-scale conflicts and can foster moves toward regime transition.


Kontorovich examines debates from the 19th century over the constitutionality of the creation of international courts to punish slave trading. He argues that the lessons learned from those discussions can provide guidance for the contemporary debate in United States about its accession to the International Criminal Court.


Macauley chronicles the culture of illegality that developed in the Chinese administrative borderland region of Chaozhou during the Qing empire. She finds that, although official state records from the time suggest a different story, Qing authorities could not compete financially or militarily with the drug-smuggling networks that proliferated in areas such as Chaozhou.


The authors argue that Iran’s nuclear program is treated by many Iranians as sacred. Because sacred values tend to violate the cost-benefit logic of rational choice models, the strategy of presenting monetary incentives to the country to end its program may ultimately backfire.


Reno finds evidence that, contrary to conventional understandings of warlords, some leaders of illicit commercial networks can harness their popularity to launch electoral campaigns and thus protect themselves from marginalization or persecution for past deeds.

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Crown Family Middle East Research Travel Awards

The Buffett Center, with generous support from the Crown family, announces a competition for research travel awards for research projects in the Middle East by Northwestern faculty, undergraduates, and graduate students. (Graduate students must be Affiliates of the Buffett Center.) Research proposals for individual and group projects are invited in all disciplines of the humanities and social sciences. Proposals indicating collaboration with institutions and colleagues in the Middle East will be given priority.

Proposal narrative and budget (not to exceed 3 single-spaced pages):

Proposals should provide a concise description of the research, scholarship, or creative activity, including:

a. statement of nature, objectives, and expected outcome of proposed research/creative activity;

b. description of the significance of proposed research/creative activity;

c. plans for accomplishing objectives;

d. itemized budget; and

e. graduate students and undergraduates should submit a letter of recommendation from a faculty member.

Award information: The number and distribution of funded projects will be determined by the number of proposals received and the funding requested by applicants. All awards will be made as scholarship awards and will be paid out through the University’s payroll system.

Deadline: Applications are accepted both for a fixed deadline and on a rolling basis. Deadline for applications for the fixed deadline awards is February 14, 2011. In addition, funds will be reserved for applications submitted on a rolling basis throughout the year.

Selection process and notification: Awards will be decided by a committee organized by the Buffett Center. Award notification is expected around March 19 for the fixed deadline and 4-6 weeks after submission for rolling applications.

Please submit proposals electronically to Brian Hanson (bhanson@northwestern.edu).

Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Research Grants

The Buffett Center, with generous support from the Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Program, announces a competition for research grants in modern Turkish studies for Northwestern faculty, undergraduates, and graduate students. (Graduate students must be Affiliates of the Buffett Center.) Research proposals for individual and group projects are invited in all disciplines of the humanities and social sciences. Applicants may place the proposed work in an interdisciplinary context by explaining its relevance to modern Turkey. Projects may build on the work of existing research or they may be an entirely new initiative, as long as they are on modern Turkey. Proposals indicating collaboration with Turkish institutions and colleagues will be given priority.

Proposal narrative and budget (not to exceed 3 single-spaced pages):

Proposals should provide a concise description of the research, scholarship or creative activity, including:

a. statement of nature, objectives, and expected outcome of proposed research/creative activity;

b. description of the significance of proposed research/creative activity;

c. plans for accomplishing objectives; and

d. itemized budget.

Award information:
The number and distribution of funded projects will be determined by the number of proposals received and the funding requested by applicants.

Selection process:
Please submit proposals electronically to Rita Koryan (r-koryan@northwestern.edu) and Frances Lowe (f-lowe@northwestern.edu) no later than February 14, 2011.

A three-member faculty committee will review and select the projects to be awarded.

Applicants will be notified by March 15, 2011, about the results of the competition.
Graduate Student Grants

Graduate students must be Affiliates of the Buffett Center. Regular participants in the Center’s Graduate Student Colloquium series with strong proposals will receive preference in both grant competitions.

Buffett Center Graduate Student Summer Research Awards provide summer funding for fieldwork outside the United States for Northwestern doctoral students writing dissertations on comparative and international topics relevant to important contemporary political, economic, and social issues. The maximum award is $2500.

All Northwestern University PhD students at any stage in their dissertation research are eligible to apply. Applications from students conducting exploratory thesis research are particularly encouraged. These awards may not be used for language study programs, expenses in the United States, special equipment such as tape recorders, or fees for transcription or translation. Awards are normally granted for work during the summer, but exceptions can be made if warranted.

All applicants are expected to concurrently seek research support from other sources. Applicants who have previously received a Summer Research Travel Grant must also demonstrate that they have applied for funding from a source outside of Northwestern.

The application deadline is February 14, 2011. Notification of funding decisions is expected around March 19. For information on application requirements, visit www.bcics.northwestern.edu/grants/graduate.

Buffett Center Graduate Student Conference Travel Awards fund Northwestern PhD students working on international and comparative topics to attend a professional conference in their field. The maximum award is $300, and students are limited to one conference travel award per academic year. Applicants should submit proposals by email to Brian Hanson (bhanson@northwestern.edu), providing the conference name, location, and date; the student’s role at the conference (i.e. paper presenter, discussant, chair, etc.); and an estimated budget. Students should also indicate whether they have applied for or received any additional funding to attend this conference. Applicants are typically notified within two weeks of their submission.

application form available via: www.bcics.northwestern.edu/grads

The Buffett Center encourages graduate student involvement in international and comparative research at Northwestern and around the world. There are many ways in which graduate students can participate in the intellectual life of the Center:

• Join one of the Center’s many Working Groups. Some of these interdisciplinary groups focus on geographic regions of the world, while others focus on thematic areas of study. These groups meet regularly, offering members an opportunity to work together on topics of shared interest, to further their research goals, and to create communities of scholars.

• Attend weekly Faculty & Fellows Colloquia. On Fridays at noon, one Northwestern faculty member or visiting scholar presents ongoing research (see schedule on page 11). The discussions that follow provide an excellent forum for meeting potential research collaborators and scholars from other departments. Lunch is served; no RSVP is required.

• Submit a working paper for publication on the Center’s website. Email papers to Brian Hanson at bhanson@northwestern.edu for consideration.

• Apply for one of the Buffett Center Grants; only Graduate Student Affiliates are eligible (application can be submitted simultaneously).

• Join our facebook page (www.facebook.com/buffettcenter) to keep up-to-date with Center activities, and/or sign up on our website to receive emails with information about upcoming events that are customized to your interests.

To learn more, visit www.bcics.northwestern.edu/grads or contact Meghan Beltmann at m-beltmann@northwestern.edu.

Alter finds that international courts can help to encourage the implementation of policies at the national level that are favorable to international law by supporting intra- and supra-state actors that promote such policies. In this way, international courts, although they cannot compel state compliance to international law, can nonetheless serve as “tipping point actors” that foster that compliance indirectly.


Hurd responds to Michael Glennon’s criticism of the International Criminal Court’s efforts to define aggression as a crime by clarifying each of Glennon’s points in turn. He argues that Glennon’s points are not sufficient to conclude that the definition should be rejected, but they can serve to identify what is at stake in the controversies at the ICC.


Mallard explains the evolution of nuclear nonproliferation regimes by drawing attention to the interpretive quality of the constitutive treaties of those regimes. By using sociological and hermeneutic analysis, he argues that one can determine which legal rules are preserved when new treaties, which overlap jurisdictions with former treaties, are introduced.


The authors develop a formal model to explain why and how European states negotiated early European treaties. Specifically, they introduce time into their integration model, arguing that federalists spread the risk of rejection of certain, more complicated elements of treaties by spreading them out over various rounds of negotiations.


Mallard provides an alternative reading of The Gift, by Marcel Mauss. By examining the formation of Mauss’ thinking prior to its publication, Mallard demonstrates that The Gift seeks to establish a legal precedent in German culture that gifts should be paid back by counter-gifts.


Nzelibe considers how domestic actors use international law in strategic ways to forward their own (domestic) political objectives. The author examines the partisan nature of certain issues in the United States and shows how partisanship has limited the scope of the country’s international legal commitments.


Highlighting the growing trend of undergraduate students studying abroad, Streitwieser and Light examine the extent to which these students, upon their return, consider themselves global citizens. They carry out several in-depth interviews to produce a student-centered vocabulary that study abroad providers can utilize to better match their promise to cultivate global citizenship with the program outcomes they pursue.

Buffett Center Working Papers are available at: www.bcics.northwestern.edu/publications/workingpapers
Winter 2011 Events Calendar

Faculty & Fellows Colloquium » Social Strategy for Global Health Equity: Lessons from Multi-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis
Victor Roy, GlobeMed and Feinberg School of Medicine
Friday, January 14 at 12pm – Buffett Center Conference Rm.

Why Leaders Lie: The Truth About Lying in International Politics
John J. Mearsheimer, University of Chicago
Thursday, January 20 at 4pm - Scott Hall, Rm. 212, 601 University Pl., Evanston

Northwestern University Conference on Human Rights (NUCHR) » Human Rights in Transit: Issues of Forced Migration
January 20-23; for schedule see: http://nuchr.net

Center for Forced Migration Studies Symposium » The Arc of Refugee Work
Friday, January 21, 3pm to 5pm - Norris Lake Room, 1999 Campus Drive, Evanston; for schedule see:
www.bcics.northwestern.edu/programs/migration/events.html

Economic and Political Underdevelopment in the Middle East: The Role of Islamic Law
Timur Kuran, Duke University
sponsored by the Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Program
Tuesday, January 25 at 4pm – Buffett Center Conference Rm.

Faculty & Fellows Colloquium » Routing Pots: Markets, Slavery, and the Circulation of Ceramics in Two Caribbean Colonies
Mark Hauser, Anthropology
Friday, January 28 at 12pm – Buffett Center Conference Rm.

Faculty & Fellows Colloquium » Who Exactly Caused the Soviet Collapse?
Georgi Derluguian, Sociology
Friday, February 4 at 12pm – Buffett Center Conference Rm.

Faculty & Fellows Colloquium » Religio-Political Duel in Legislating and Constitution Making: The Kenya Experience
Hassan Ndazovu, PAS Visiting Scholar
Friday, February 11 at 12pm – Buffett Center Conference Rm.

Can Single Individuals Still Shape History? The Case of Osama Bin Laden
Michael Scheuer, Georgetown University
Thursday, February 17 at 4pm - Buffett Center Conference Rm.

Faculty & Fellows Colloquium » Transforming Politics, Dynamic Religion: Religion's Political Impact in Africa
Rachel Beatty Riedl, Political Science
Friday, February 18 at 12pm – Buffett Center Conference Rm.

“Care Drain” Revisited: Labor Market and Mothering Experiences of Migrant Women from the Former Soviet Union Countries in Turkey
Dilek Cindoglu, Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey
sponsored by the Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Program
Wednesday, February 23 at 4pm - Buffett Center Conference Rm.

The Future of Power
Joseph S. Nye, Jr., Harvard University
Thursday, February 24 at 4pm - Scott Hall, Rm. 212, 601 University Pl., Evanston

Faculty & Fellows Colloquium » The Right to Die: Anatomy of a Moral Conflict
Jason Hannan, Rhetoric and Public Culture
Friday, February 25 at 12pm – Buffett Center Conference Rm.

The Worst Kept Secret: Israel’s Bargain with the Bomb
Avner Cohen, Middlebury College
Wednesday, March 2 at 12pm – Buffett Center Conference Rm.

Human Rights Talks » Politics of Terror, Armed Men and the Abandonment of Ciudad Juarez
Héctor Domínguez Ruvalcaba, The University of Texas at Austin
co-sponsored by the Center for Forced Migration Studies and the Northwestern University Conference on Human Rights (NUCHR).
Thursday, March 3 at 4pm - Buffett Center Conference Rm.

Faculty & Fellows Colloquium » Death on Display: Images from the Ottoman Empire ca. 1900
Ipek Yosmaoglu, History
Friday, March 4 at 12pm – Buffett Center Conference Rm.

The Shifting Sands of Hegemonic Powers in the Middle East
Conference organized by the Northwestern University Middle East Forum and Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Program
Wednesday, March 9, 9am to 5pm - Guild Lounge, Scott Hall, 601 University Pl., Evanston; for schedule see:
www.bcics.northwestern.edu/programs/numef

To receive email reminders of upcoming events, join our email list at: www.bcics.northwestern.edu/join

Visit us on facebook: www.facebook.com/buffettcenter

The Buffett Center is located at 1902 Sheridan Road in Evanston. All events are free and open to the public. For additional information visit www.bcics.northwestern.edu or call 847-467-2770.
NUGO: One Website, a World of Possibilities

The Northwestern University Global Opportunities website (NUGO) is an unprecedented resource for learning about Northwestern’s international programs and locating faculty and administrators with international interests. NUGO’s easily searchable format lists specific programs and people, and offers charts, graphs, and maps to help users see trends in the offerings at Northwestern. The following is a sampling of how some of the 20,000 (and counting) unique visitors to the site are using NUGO:

Faculty and staff: Planners of conferences and events are using NUGO to find collaborators, presenters, and attendees. When planning a conference focused on the Middle East—a region of the world not directly represented by any one department at the University—a staff member was able to find 35 people with teaching and research interests in the region to invite. Searching the entire Northwestern website would have taken hours; searching NUGO took less than one minute.

Students: Whether they are looking for study abroad programs, international internships, fellowships and grants, or student groups with an international focus, students now have a single up-to-date resource where they can find all the information they need.

Prospective students, faculty, or institutional partners: For those outside of Northwestern who have not yet learned how to navigate the University’s many distinct schools and administrative units, NUGO provides a central resource detailing the University’s international programming.

To view the NUGO website, please visit global.northwestern.edu. If you would like to add your Northwestern faculty or administrator profile, or if you know of an ongoing international program at Northwestern that is not currently on the NUGO site, contact NUGO Administrator Meghan Beltmann at global@northwestern.edu.