Faculty Affiliate Research » Trailblazing Women: Political Quotas in India

by Lori Beaman, Economics

While women have the legal right to equal participation in local and national politics in almost every country around the world, they remain vastly underrepresented. In response, more than one hundred countries have introduced affirmative action policies for women in public office.

In such an effort to increase women’s participation in politics in India, a 1993 constitutional amendment mandated that one third of leadership positions at every level of local government be “reserved” for women. The hope is that such a quota system, beyond its immediate impact on gender balance among leaders, will have long-term effects on women’s status in society by changing perceptions of women’s leadership capabilities and shaping beliefs about what women can achieve. This can also influence whether women can win elections in unreserved seats and girls’ aspirations for their education and future careers.

In a series of papers, Esther Duflo, Rohini Pande, Petia Topalova, and I exploit the random variation in exposure to female leaders mandated by the constitutional amendment to continued on page 7

Faculty Affiliate Research » Distant Tyranny: Markets, Power, and Backwardness in Spain, 1650-1800

by Regina Grafe, History and LACS

In the 1960s the tourism agencies of Spain’s fascist government put out an international advertising campaign that became a huge hit. Its simple slogan was “Spain is different.” The main objective of my recent book, Distant Tyranny, Markets, Power and Backwardness in Spain 1650-1800, is to convince historians and social scientists alike that the facile notion of Spanish distinctiveness is not just historically wrong. More important it has distorted our understanding of the long-term processes of state building and economic development in Spain, Europe, and in Spanish America.

My argument is simple: if we drop the excuse that Spain is “different” and therefore does not fit into our models of European state formation and its relation with economic development, first we understand Spain better and second we are able to build better models of the transformation of European polities and economies in the 15th to 18th centuries. The strategy used in this book is to combine a study of the way in which Spain was governed with an in-depth investigation of the development of market integration, consumption, and the financing of the state by zooming in on how a new imported commodity, bacalao, continued on page 8
Scott Reese to Give Roberta Buffett Visiting Professor Lecture in International Studies

Scott Reese will deliver the lecture “‘A Leading Muslim of Aden’: Personal Trajectories, Imperial Networks, and the Construction of Community in Britain’s Indian Ocean Empire” on Monday, May 21, at 5pm in Harris Hall, Room 108, 1881 Sheridan Rd., Evanston, Illinois.

Scott Reese, Northern Arizona University, is a historian of Islam in Africa and the western Indian Ocean, with a particular emphasis on comparative history aimed at breaking down many of the regional and geographic categories currently in use across the academy. His main research interests are comparative Sufism, modern Muslim discourses of reform, and the construction of world systems both in fact and imagination since 1500.

Reese’s first book, Renewers of the Age: Holy Men and Social Discourse in Colonial Benaadir (Brill, 2008), explores the Islamic social history of the Horn of Africa and the role of religious discourse as social discourse in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This book examines how Muslim religious scholars used ideas of religious reform to help their fellow believers cope with the challenges of encroaching European imperial rule. His current research continues this interest in the role of Muslim religious discourse in mediating the social consequences of empire; the scope, however, has broadened greatly. Focusing on the British Settlement of Aden, located in present-day Yemen, this new project explores how Muslims from across Britain’s empire use the commonality of their faith to fashion a new community within the spaces created by imperial rule.

While providing insights into the social impact of empire on the day-to-day lives of Muslims, his latest work also expands and challenges the boundaries of traditional geographic area studies.

continued on page 12
Recent Publications by Buffett Center Affiliates

BOOKS

**Ideographic Modernism: China, Writing, Media.**

Christopher Bush, French & Italian (Oxford University Press, 2010).

Bush offers a reconstructed history of the ideograph and its role during the modernist period. He puts forth a new argument about the meaning and function of the ideograph and reveals that China has been more present in Western modernism than previously thought.

**Organizing Bronze Age Societies: The Mediterranean, Central Europe, and Scandanavia Compared.**


*Organizing Bronze Age Societies* offers a comparative study of household, economy, and settlement in three micro-regions of Europe during the Bronze Age. Earle utilizes new evidence acquired over years of extensive fieldwork to provide a deeper understanding of the social and economic complexity of familial and social organization.

**Reclaiming Justice: The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and Local Courts.**


*Reclaiming Justice* provides a comprehensive view of how people from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, and Serbia view and evaluate the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY). It examines perceptions about the ICTY and the decisions reached by its local courts, raising issues about international justice more broadly.

**International Organizations: Politics, Law, Practice.**

Ian Hurd, Political Science (Cambridge University Press, 2011).

Hurd explains how leading international organizations both shape and are shaped by international politics. He examines three themes: the legal obligations that give international organizations their powers; the mechanisms that elicit compliance by their member states; and the practices of enforcement in the organization.

**The Age of Doubt: Tracing the Roots of our Religious Uncertainty.**

Christopher Lane, English (Yale University Press, 2011).

The Victorian era was the first great ‘Age of Doubt’ and a critical moment in the history of Western ideas. Lane develops in-depth portraits of the scientific, literary, and intellectual icons from the era, demonstrating how they succeeded in turning doubt from a religious sin into an ethical necessity.

**Bewitching Russian Opera: The Tsarina from State to Stage.**

Inna Naroditskaya, Music (Oxford University Press, 2011).

The author investigates the musical lives of four female monarchs who ruled Russia for most of the eighteenth century, Catherine I, Anna, Elizabeth, and Catherine the Great, uncovering the connections between the tsarinas’ personal creative aspirations and contemporary musical-theatrical practices, and the political and state affairs conducted during their reigns.

*continued on page 4*
ARTICLES


Allen explains the exhumation and identification of the Unknown Soldier from the Vietnam War. He shows that the grassroots activists who named the Vietnam Unknown opposed his internment and argues that their effort to open the Tomb succeeded because their claims of ongoing veteran victimization resonated strongly with Americans.


This article introduces original data on the Andean Tribunal of Justice and the European Court of Justice collected via interviews and through rulings. It uses the data to compare Andean and European jurisprudence in three different areas.


The article uses a 1999 Korean law as an exogenous shock to assess how board structure affects firm market value. It finds that the legal shock produced large share price increases for large firms, relative to mid-sized firms; share prices jumped in 1999 when the reforms were announced.


Bledsoe argues that large demographic data sets can be employed for addressing sociocultural questions. She uses non-Spanish citizen demographic data from the Spanish Municipal Register to show that numbers have something to say about the dynamics of identity and belonging.


This study examines four online news sites to compare stories that journalists display most prominently with stories consumers read most frequently. It finds that journalist chosen stories are “soft” with respect to subject matter but not story format, and that these choices diverge from consumers’ choices, resulting in a choice gap.


Cadava explains how two closely situated US-Mexico borderlands, Ambos Nogales and the Tohono O’odham reservation, developed into very different border spaces. He finds these contrasts in the perceived modernity of the international gateways in Ambos Nogales with the perceived anti-modernity of abandonment of the Tohono O’odham reservation.


Carroll examines the Chinese appropriation of Beaux-Arts design principles in the new governmental and civic centers designed and built during the Nanjing decade (1927-1937). He highlights their significance as key components of the ambitious urban-planning agenda of the Guomindang.


This article highlights the sociological work on finance. Research in the discipline reveals the importance of politics for many financial market developments, various implications for corporate governance, the continuing significance of social factors within finance, and the role of theoretical and material devices in shaping financial practices.

Davies considers the dialogue between the local and the transatlantic in Mexico City Cathedral villancicos that include Guadalupan literary tropes. The repertory has yet to be published, recorded, or discussed in print, and so the article also introduces performers and listeners alike to the issues surrounding one aspect of this genre.


Earle describes patterns of consumption, specialized production, and trade of the pre-Hispanic Inka and Aztec empires to understand how their political economies were linked with underlying household economies. He argues that the imperial political economies were products of a dynamic balance among household, community, and political strategies.


The authors offer a reconceptualization of political party systems, taking into account the subnational dimension of party systems into the conceptual mapping of party politics more generally. They then identify and define a new kind of political party system – a federalized party system – and examine the Argentine case to demonstrate the empirical and theoretical utility of the term.


The authors use the Atrocities Documentation Survey to examine the extent to which Sudanese government forces were involved in racially targeted sexual victimization toward ethnically African women in Darfur. They find that, when government forces attack alongside the Janjaweed militias, racial epithets were used more often than when either force attacked separately.


Hauser uses research from Jamaica and Dominica to track economic networks through analysis of ceramic assemblages from house yards of enslaved laborers. He suggests that ceramic assemblages speak to how boundaries were enacted differently depending on the status of the actors engaged in these transactions.


Hein examines how people handle their regret at having believed that a foolish war was not just acceptable but necessary. Using Japan after World War II, she finds that many contrite Japanese revisited the aesthetic realm, looking for ways to interpret culture that did not convey the values of fascism.


Hurd interrogates the relation between the secular and the religious. She politicizes the division of labor between these two categories, called the secular/religious binary, and questions its utility through the use of examples from recent world politics.


This article views public diplomacy as a social practice and states as ‘particles’ of social life that are interconnected and constrained by their sociality. It focuses on the macro effects of the interaction between states around and through international law, including the reproduction of law by means of those interactions.

continued on page 6

The article discusses the disparate treatment of perceptual (“fact”) witnesses and expert witnesses in the legal system. Arguing that the current system provides incentives for biased testimony, the authors support a court-mediated system for compensating fact witnesses.


This article examines the relationship between inequality in social rank and nutritional status. Studying a society of forager-farmers in the Bolivian Amazon, the authors find that village inequality in dominance, but not prestige, is associated with short-term indices of individual nutritional status.


The authors identify five different types of causes that are normally employed in research that makes use of historical explanations. Additionally, they introduce a new method – sequence elaboration – for evaluating the relative importance of different causes.


The authors examine the relationship between weight gain among male children from birth to six months and life history characteristics. They find that rapid weight gain during this period predicts early maturation and sexual activity, elevated hormone production, and costly somatic characteristics among the Filipino men sampled.


Orloff argues that the agenda of gendering comparative welfare state studies is currently unfinished. She assesses the gendered literature on systems of social provision that currently exists in an effort to draw conclusions on what is needed to finish the agenda.


Pfander offers a new account of the immigration Constitution of the United States by focusing on the body of federal immigration and naturalization law that arose during the Republic in the 1790s. He finds that, while Congress had the power to fashion immigration policy, it could do so only by acting in accordance with the norms of prospectivity, uniformity, and transparency.


This article traces the origins of tax systems in France and the United States. It finds that decisions about the tax structure in each country, and differences between the two structures, were shaped by resistance to the concentration of economic power in the United States and the centralization of state power in France.


Weheliye examines contemporary Afro-German musical practices and demonstrates that these sonic formations manifest a limitation of diaspora discourses more generally: the inability to find other ways to imagine collectivity other than through the form of Volk, or peoplehood.
examine the medium and longer-term impacts of reservation on perceptions of women leaders, electoral outcomes, the aspirations of adolescents and their parents, and girls’ schooling attainment. We collected data in the state of West Bengal, which implemented the quota system in 1998. Seats reserved for women in a district were randomly determined every election; seats (GPs) were reserved once, twice, or never. The random assignment of which constituents must have a female leader ensures that comparisons between reserved and unreserved areas reveal the causal impact of having a female leader.

First, is there a medium-run benefit of the policy for women running for election in unreserved seats? The reservation policy significantly improved women’s prospects in elections open to both genders, but only after two rounds of reservation. In both the 2003 and 2008 elections, villages that had one previous round of reservation were not significantly more likely to elect a female leader than never-reserved villages. However, in 2008, villages that had been previously reserved twice were more likely to elect female leaders. Women were elected in around 10 percent of GPs with no prior history of reservation, 13 percent of GPs reserved once, and 17 percent of GPs reserved twice.

To determine if these findings reflected changing voter attitudes and, in particular, a reduction of bias against female leaders, we asked villagers about hypothetical leaders using vignettes. Half of the villagers randomly heard about a female leader while the other half heard about a male leader, undertaking identical choices. We found strong evidence of gender bias against female leaders in India. Villagers who have never been exposed to a female leader under the reservation policy evaluate the hypothetical leader significantly worse when the leader is randomly described as a woman. However, villagers, particularly men, who have observed at least one female leader as a result of the quota system, show no evidence of bias against female leaders. Thus, mandated exposure to female leaders does help villagers understand that women can be competent leaders. We did not, however, see any change in villagers’ unconscious distaste for female leaders, as measured with implicit association tests.

Second, can political quota policies affect women’s labor market outcomes in the long term? Do these policies create role models by shaping beliefs about what women can achieve? We investigated these questions by comparing aspirations of adolescents and their parents in areas reserved for female leaders once, twice, or never.

We found the presence of a female leader significantly increased parents’ aspirations for their daughters and female adolescents’ aspirations for themselves. For example, in villages that had never been reserved for a female leader, parents’ aspirations for girls were significantly lower than those for boys; specifically, parents were 14 percentage points less likely to want their daughter to study beyond the secondary school level. In villages with a female leader for two election cycles, however, the gender gap in parents’ aspirations significantly decreased, as did the gender gap in adolescent aspirations. Adolescent girls in twice-reserved villages were 18.8 percentage points more likely to want to marry after 18 and 8.6 percentage points more likely to want a job that requires an education. The presence of a female leader in the village also increased educational attainment for adolescent girls and decreased the amount of time spent on domestic chores. By the second cycle of female leadership, the gender gap in educational outcomes was completely erased in twice-reserved villages, and the gender gap in time spent on household activities declined by 18 minutes.

Publications


became a staple that was traded, consumed, and taxed across all regions of Spain in this period.

Why was Spain said to be “different”? Historians and historical social scientists tend to think about the European nation-states as emerging in two phases. The first phase saw the consolidation of states like England, France, and Spain, the latter formed in 1479 out of a dynastic marriage between the heirs of Castile and Aragon. In a second phase the European “late” nation-states, such as Germany and Italy, were united in the 19th century. The problem for historians is that by the late 19th century Spain did not look anything like France or England and rather a lot like Germany and Italy in terms of its economic, social, linguistic, cultural, or political integrations—or the lack thereof. Spain neither became a nation-state nor did it develop economically in the predicted way.

As Distant Tyranny shows, Spain was, contrary to the views still predominant in the historical social science literature, neither centralized nor unified until far into the 19th century. It remained a “composite kingdom” of various administratively and fiscally largely independent historic territories, as John Elliott argued decades ago. But in addition its system of governance also continued to be strongly based on power exercised by urban councils. Spain’s state formation took the path of a polycentric system with flat hierarchies between towns, territories, and the Crown.

The empirical analysis of the development of internal markets in Spain demonstrates this vividly. Traditionally historians blamed Spain’s rugged geography and the ensuing transport problems for the slow and regionally diverse progress of integration across Spain. Yet, my quantitative and qualitative analyses show beyond doubt that political obstacles to integration were far more important. The technical issues of transport posed serious challenges in early modern Spain, but these were slowly but surely solved. The political barriers were, by contrast, never removed.

The picture that emerges in Distant Tyranny thus seriously questions some of the central building blocks of current models of the emergence of the European nation-state with an integrated national economy. The historical social sciences base their analysis of European state-building in the early phases largely on the model of the fiscal military state, most strongly associated with the name of Charles Tilly but accepted widely also by economic and political historians. It assumes that in the late Middle Ages and the early modern period the hundreds of small European polities went through a process of what we might call “mergers and acquisitions”. An exogenous change in military technology brought about a so-called “military revolution”, which raised the expenditures for defense and offence. Rulers in turn had to press their subjects harder to finance their armies and navies, lest they wanted to risk having their reign annexed by their neighbors. To simplify: European states were built on the necessity to centralize and control subjects with the help of an expanding bureaucracy needed to collect increasing amounts of taxes with which to hold off bellicose competitors.

In this framework, rulers and subjects, states and their populations, and polity and economy automatically assumed antagonistic positions. Rulers’ need for funds turned them into potential predators who threatened their subjects’ property with excessive taxes, expropriations, forced loans, and the sale of monopolies, privileges, and offices to those who were willing to pay for them. Polities that developed constitutional rules to force the Crown to commit to some form of control of its spending and revenue raising, such as England after the Glorious Revolution of 1688, were therefore thought to foster the development of internal and external markets and with it economic development in general. Others, like France and in particular Spain, failed to resolve the tension between the increasing power of the state and the needs of an expanding market for reliable legal and political institutions.

The problem with the model lies in a teleological misinterpretation of European state formation, which assumed ex ante that the outcome was supposed to be a relatively centralized, hierarchical structure. I argue that we need to pay more attention to where power was located in European polities, how it was actually exercised, and how it was legitimized. Only if we properly historicize we can hope to understand the variety of processes subsumed under the category state-building and its impact on the
economy. If we apply this to the case of Spain it becomes clear that sovereignty remained shared between territories, towns, corporate bodies, and a Crown that mediated rather than mandated. The location of power was thus mostly local and regional, reflecting the jurisdictional fragmentation of a corporate society. However, the persistence of this system of fragmented sovereignty was not a simple question of path dependence or “failure.”

The exercise of local and regional power in Spain relied on a system of taxation that was based on trade and consumption taxes, the rates of which were decided locally. Hence the Crown depended for its finances largely on the towns. Crown revenue from the Americas, which exercised the fantasy of contemporaries, social scientists and historians alike, made up no more than about 20% in the 16th century and as little as 5 to 12% in the 17th and 18th centuries. Indeed, governance in the Spanish Americas was, contrary to received wisdom, just as decentralized, and 95% of revenue collected from the American territories was spent in the Americas. The still dominant idea that peninsular Spain lived off the spoils of empire is simply incorrect. Instead Spain’s Iberian treasuries depended on the commercial and consumptive activities of their urban populace first and foremost, who were footing the bill for the accumulated “sovereign” debt and provided most public services. In return the Crown refrained voluntarily from excessive borrowing and taxing. Not surprisingly urban elites were strongly represented and exercised their power throughout the early modern period.

The polycentric location and exercise of power was further strengthened by deep constitutional roots, which enshrined a contractual basis of kingship. Kingship was never divine in Spain. Instead the monarch continued to observe a rule that effectively gave local and Crown officials the possibility to veto Crown decisions. This turned defiance of a royal decree from an act of rebellion into an act of legitimate resistance. The upside of this system of governance was that it solved the issue of legitimacy quite efficiently. The Spanish Crown was never subject to the any serious attempt at overthrowing the existing order until Napoleon invaded the country in 1808 and removed the Spanish king, thus triggering a constitutional vacuum in the Peninsula and independence in Spanish America. The downside was that local power elites effectively controlled a highly fragmented political and fiscal system, which in turn seriously circumscribed the development of internal markets and therefore economic development in general.

The alternative path I have charted for the political and economic development of Spain in the early modern period demonstrates that the simple model of European state formation with a ruler turned into a predator by the needs of military competition within Europe is too narrow. It also questions a commonly held view in Latin American Studies that the allegedly centralist nature of Spanish governance prejudiced the growth prospect of post-Independence Spanish American Republics. Spanish economic development was not held back by a ruler that was too powerful and wrecked the economy in his quest for taxes and loans. Instead it suffered from a system of governance that was legitimate and non-predatory but failed to solve the coordination problems that stood in the way of more integrated domestic markets. Tyranny always remained a distant threat in Spain.

New Faculty and Visiting Scholars

Several new faculty and visiting scholars joining Northwestern specialize in international and comparative issues. We encourage our affiliates to introduce themselves to these new colleagues.

**Meltem Ahiska**, Keyman Visiting Scholar, is associate professor of sociology at Boğaziçi University, Istanbul. Her current research is on the emergence of Turkey as a nation-state in particular, and the nature of modernity in general. Her earlier research addresses the forms of communication developed by the Turkish governing elite in the first half of the twentieth century to “Westernize” the country and to create a national community where in fact none existed. She has published a book of poems, *Havalandırma*, and co-curated exhibitions. In addition to her many articles, essays, and poems, she is the author most recently of *Occidentalism in Turkey: Questions of Modernity and National Identity in Turkish Radio Broadcasting*.

**Anne Arabome**, PAS visiting scholar, holds a doctor of ministry degree from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. Her dissertation, “Transforming Grace: Gifts and Challenges of the Spirituality of African Nigerian Women in the Diaspora,” is an anthropological approach to understanding who the African woman is in the world and especially in the diaspora. A member of the Sisters of Social Service of Los Angeles, she identifies the need for a paradigm shift in the African church and its relationship with women. Among her projects, she recently analyzed the church’s attitudes and practices regarding women in “Woman, You Are Set Free,” in *Reconciliation Justice and Peace: The Second African Synod*.

**Fantahun Ayele**, PAS visiting scholar, was born in Gondar, Northwestern Ethiopia, near Lake Tana. He attended his primary and junior secondary education at an Adventist Mission School and his secondary education at Tewodros II Senior High School in South Gondar. He did his BA, MA, and PhD degrees at Addis Ababa University. In addition to teaching Ethiopian and modern world history courses for over ten years, he worked as head of the History Department, planning officer, and vice president of Bahir Dar University.

**Marc Crépon**, FIG visiting scholar, is the director of research at the Husserls Archives at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique and a professor of philosophy at the Ecole Normale Supérieure. He is the director of the master in contemporary philosophy (ENS-EHESS). Crépon recently published *La Culture de la Peur: La Guerre des Civilisations* and *Le Consentement Meurtrier*. His larger body of work includes *Les Promesses du Langage, Altérités de l’Europe*, and *Nietzsche: L’art et la Politique de l’Avenir*.

**Holger Niemann** is a pre-dissertation visiting scholar at the Buffett Center, funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Currently he is a research assistant at the University of Duisburg-Essen (Germany) and an Associate Fellow at the Institute for Development and Peace (INEF). He holds an MA in political science, sociology, and history. While at the Buffett Center he will conduct research for his dissertation about “Justification, contested norms and the UN Security Council.” His research interests include international norms, constructivism, and social theory in IR, global governance, the United Nations, humanitarian interventionism, and the responsibility to protect.

**Agnès van Zanten**, FIG visiting scholar, is a sociologist and senior research professor at the Observatoire Sociologique du Changement, a research center at Sciences Po, Paris. Her main research areas are class and education, segregation and positive discrimination in education, elite education, school choice, political and organisational processes in schools, and local communities and educational policies. She is also interested in qualitative research methods and in international comparisons. She is presently preparing a book, entitled *Elite education. Selection and socialization*, to be published at *Presses Universitaires de France* in the spring of 2013, and conducting a new research project on “Transition to higher education. The role of institutions, markets, and networks.”
Delivering Development: Small Farmers, Big Assumptions and Hope for a Just, Sustainable Future
Edward Carr, University of South Carolina
Thursday, April 5 at 6pm | Buffett Center

Betwixt and Between: Transnationalism, Interracialism, and Mexican American Activists in Postwar Chicago
Mike Amezua, Latina and Latino Studies
Friday, April 6 at 12pm | Buffett Center

Turkey after the Cold War
Bulent Gultekin, University of Pennsylvania
Tuesday, April 10 at 6pm | Harris 108

Qatar and the Gulf in the Wake of the Arab Spring
Uzi Rabi, Tel Aviv University
Thursday, April 12 at 4pm | Buffett Center

Republicanism Without Borders: The United States and Spanish America in a Revolutionary Age, 1810-1830
Caitlin Fitz, History
Friday, April 13 at 12pm | Buffett Center

A Radical New Way to Give: Giving Directly to the Poor
Paul Niehaus, UC San Diego / GiveDirectly.org
Monday, April 16 at 6pm | Buffett Center

“The Wandering on the Peripheries”: The Turkish Novelistic Hero as “Beautiful Soul”
Meltem Gurle, Bogazici University
Wednesday, April 18 at 6pm | Buffett Center

Heaven and Earth: A Journey Through Shari’a Law
Sadakat Kadri, lawyer and journalist
Wednesday, April 25 | time & location TBA

Traits, Dreamers, and Statesmen: Military Rebellions and the Shaping of the Post-Revolutionary Mexican State, 1920-1929
Sarah Osten, LACS
Friday, Apr 27 at 12pm | Buffett Center

Comparatism as Radical Philology: Reflections from within Modern Turkish Literature
Nergis Ertürk, Pennsylvania State University
Friday, April 27 at 2pm | Crowe 1-135

The Middle East and North Africa at a Crossroad: Religion, Revolution and Reform
Marwan Muasher, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace / former Foreign Minister of Jordan
Sunday, April 29 at 5pm | McCormick Tribune Forum

Film Screening » Opening Our Eyes: Global Stories About the Power of One
Wednesday, May 2 at 6pm | location TBA

Monumentality, Monstrosity, and Counter-Memory: A Case Study from Turkey
Meltem Ahiska, Keyman Visiting Scholar
Thursday, May 3 at 12pm | Buffett Center

Representation and the Gender Balance of Parliament
Georgia Kernell, Political Science
Friday, May 4 at 12pm | Buffett Center

Careers in International Development
Barrett Prinz, One Acre Fund
Tuesday, May 8 at 6pm | Buffett Center

Two Skirts: Same-Sex Murder and the Law in 1930s China
Peter Carroll, History
Friday, May 11 at 12pm | Buffett Center

Child Soldiers: Sierra Leone’s Revolutionary United Front
Myriam Denov, McGill University
Tuesday, May 15 at 6pm | Buffett Center

GiveWell: Real Change for your Dollar
Elie Hassenfeld, co-founder of GiveWell.org
Thursday, May 17 at 6pm | Buffett Center

Turkish “Young Cinema” of late 1960’s in the context of Third Cinema
Zeynep Cetin Erus, Radio/Television/Film
Friday, May 18 at 12pm | Buffett Center

Buffett Lecture » “A Leading Muslim of Aden”: Personal Trajectories, Imperial Networks, and the Construction of Community in Britain’s Indian Ocean Empire
Scott Reese, Northern Arizona University
Monday, May 21 at 5pm | Harris 108

Formations of Literature in Turkey: From Ottoman Origins to Global Emergence
Firat Oruc, Comparative Literary Studies
Tuesday, May 22 at 12pm | Buffett Center

Terrorism and the Law of Nations
Juliet Sorensen, Law
Friday, May 25 at 12pm | Buffett Center

Events take place at the Buffett Center, 1902 Sheridan Rd., Evanston, unless noted, and are free & open to the public.
Grounded in Arab Aden, this project demonstrates the dynamic nature of interactions across what are often treated by academics as the impermeable boundaries that divide the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia. Connections between Muslims across these regions, of course, pre-date European colonialism. However, the webs and networks created by empire facilitated and intensified the movement of both people and ideas resulting in the modern community of believers. This work explores how the elaborate and rapid networks of empire created in the nineteenth century ultimately led to a more horizontally integrated and intellectually engaged global community of Muslims by the twentieth.

While working on a second monograph tentatively titled *Imperial Muslims: Islam, Community and Authority in the Imperial Indian Ocean 1839-1937*, Reese has also published a number of scholarly articles based on his latest research: the most recent of which is “Salafi Transformations: Aden and the Changing Voices of Religious Reform in the Interwar Indian Ocean,” appearing in the winter 2012 issue of *The International Journal of Middle East Studies*.

While at Northwestern, Reese will be teaching two upper division undergraduate seminars in the Department of Religious Studies, REL 353 (Revolution and Reform in Islam) and REL 359 (Islam in the Indian Ocean).

**Roberta “Bertie” Buffett Elliott** endowed the Buffett Visiting Professorship in International Studies, which brings to campus leading scholars from around the world to build international relationships and provide educational opportunities for Northwestern students.

For more information about the Roberta Buffett Visiting Professorship in International Studies, visit www.bcics.northwestern.edu/programs.
GESI Program Expands to the Dominican Republic

As the Global Engagement Studies Institute (GESI) prepares for its sixth summer in 2012, it is pleased to introduce a new site in the Hato Mayor region of the Dominican Republic.

Approximately 10 students from Northwestern and other universities will be selected to spend their summers working with Social Entrepreneur Corps (SEC), a social enterprise that provides rural communities first-time access to life-changing health technologies, products, and services through locally owned businesses.

This approach, called “microconsignment,” was created and spread throughout Latin America by SEC founder and Ashoka fellow, Greg Van Kirk. The microconsignment model has gained international attention; it has been highlighted twice in the New York Times, and Miami University in Ohio has a center dedicated to its study.

In addition to its new site in the Dominican Republic, GESI will continue to send over 60 students to its other sites in Bolivia, India, Nicaragua, South Africa, and Uganda. GESI, CGE’s flagship program, is a credit-bearing study abroad and service-learning program that prepares undergraduates to work in interdisciplinary teams at community-based organizations.

Students take courses with Northwestern faculty prior to going abroad. The GESI curriculum explores the history and theory of international development, equips students with team building and community consulting tools, introduces them to the political and economic situation of their host countries, and provides basic training in local languages.

Once abroad, students live with homestay families and work directly with community-based organizations. They develop projects alongside community members addressing a range of issues including microfinance, public health, education, women’s empowerment, social entrepreneurship, and environmental preservation.
NUCHR 2012: From Famine to Food Deserts

By Chelsea Glenn (WCAS, 2012) and Christie Thompson (Medill, 2012), NUCHR Co-Directors

Northwestern University Conference on Human Rights (NUCHR) is celebrating the success of its ninth annual conference, which took place this January. The topic of this year’s conference was *From Famine to Food Deserts: Human Rights and the Global Food Crisis*. During the three-day conference, delegates and panelists explored the systemic causes behind hunger and famine worldwide, along with the intersection of domestic food practices with international food issues.

In choosing this year’s topic, the organizers were eager to start a multi-disciplinary conversation on this timely and pressing issue. Planning the conference meant collaborating with departments at Northwestern that NUCHR had never worked with in the past, including both Asian American Studies and Environmental Engineering. The interdisciplinary nature of the conference theme was also reflected in the diverse group of delegates. This year there were 37 delegates, representing 23 universities. NUCHR brought together students who have spent their college careers working on community-based urban farms in the U.S., along with others who have been researching food aid and malnutrition in Africa. For example, environmental engineers met with social anthropologists and biology majors met with journalism students, all to discuss possible sustainable solution to hunger.

NUCHR strives to highlight issues that contain real controversy and conflict in the international community. One panel, entitled *Modern Agriculture: Cause or Cure of the Global Food Crisis?*, exemplified this approach by sparking a passionate debate about what role genetically modified crops should play in addressing famine and hunger in the developing world.

This year was also the first time delegates embarked on an experiential learning trip into the city of Chicago. Instead of learning about food insecurity while sitting in the classroom, delegates and a few brave panelists ventured into the city to meet with community organizers along with food rights activists. The afternoon gave delegates a tangible understanding of often abstract issues.

Perhaps the most encouraging part of NUCHR 2012 has been the conversations and actions that take place beyond the three-day conference. This fall, NUCHR coordinated with several other leading student groups such as SEED, Northwestern Community Development Corps, and the Living Wage Campaign to organize Food Day to advocate for food rights. They worked with NU Sounds the Horn to raise money for the current humanitarian crisis in Somalia and surrounding areas. After the conference, some organizers joined the Real Food Coalition, a new student organization addressing the problems in NU’s own food systems. NUCHR delegates will become a part of the same movement taking place on their own campuses, and continue to engage in these important dialogues.

NUCHR 2012 is proud to be expanding the conference’s outcomes from mere ideas to more concrete steps toward change.
Food For Thought Expands Discussion Topics

By Alexis Tubb (WCAS, 2012), Chair of International Student Association’s Global Engagement Committee

The International Student Association’s Food For Thought (FFT) Series is a monthly event that combines discussion on a current international topic with international cuisine.

This year, FFT has covered a wide range of topics including discussions on learning foreign language (“Foreign Language: what’s the point?”) and whether sports teams and playing sports unites people across boundaries (“Sports: a uniter or divider?”). FFT has also dived into political discussions about such topics as the Arab Spring (“Arab Spring: sprung by the Facebook generation?”) and North Korea’s late Kim Jong-Il (“North Korea: what’s next?”).

Each discussion begins with food from the country being discussed, two to three speakers, and/or a short video clip to introduce the topic. Guests then spend an hour discussing and exchanging opinions and stories. Participants include international and non-international undergraduate students, graduate students, professors, and even occasional research experts or professionals. FFT eagerly welcomes all international and non-international people to come eat, listen, and discuss.

To learn more about FFT events, please contact Alexis Tubb at alexistubb2012@u.northwestern.edu.

The 195.com Captures Voices from Abroad

By Adam Benjamin Sege (Medill, 2012), The 195 Editor-in-Chief

The next time you catch yourself counting down the days until spring, visit The 195 for stories of NU students spending winter quarter in countries ranging from El Salvador to Madagascar.

This season, the site showcases blogging, photos, and videos from NU students in 10 countries on five continents. And, for the first time ever, The 195 now showcases the blogging of students from Emory University. The Emory launch has been an exciting step for The 195. The 195 was originally started in 2009 by three NU students as a platform for powerful storytelling from students abroad. Today, as The 195 moves forward with plans to expand to other schools, interested students are encouraged to contact The 195 to learn how to bring the platform to their college or university.

As The 195 continues to edit and showcase the hard work of its contributors in the field, they are also busy expanding a podcast feature and planning their first-ever print edition, which will hit campus during spring quarter.

As always, The 195 welcomes longer reflections from students and Northwestern alumni who have recently returned from abroad. Please email The 195 at contact@the195.com for more details.
Global Engagement Summit Launches New Partnerships and Prepares for 2012 Summit

By Mavara Agha (WCAS, 2012) and Sarah Freeman (WCAS, 2012), GES Co-Directors

Through its annual Summit, yearlong programming, and staff curriculum, the Global Engagement Summit (GES) builds the capacity of the next generation of global change makers. This year, GES is proud to have established a formal partnership with the Unreasonable Institute, an organization that equips social entrepreneurs with mentorship, networks, and capital. GES also developed a recent partnership with the Design for Social Innovation program at the School for Visual Arts, a program that is at the forefront of applying design for positive social impact.

In addition, GES established a new long-term partnership with International Program Development at Northwestern, which will increase GES’s visibility at some of the best universities around the world while also providing additional financial support for delegates. The Summit organizers also launched their 2012 fundraising campaign, to help make GES 2012 a reality. Donations can be made online at this website: giving.northwestern.edu/nu/cge; please write "GES" in the "My Designation" box.

The GES student staff has already chosen the cohort of GES 2012 delegates, and these delegates are actively participating in pre-Summit activities through the online “Summit Center.” In addition, the Northwestern student staff has been hard at work finalizing Summit content, as well as securing keynote speakers and facilitators. They are happy to announce that GES 2012’s opening keynote will be Andrew Youn, Senior Partner, Executive Director, and Co-founder of One Acre Fund, an agriculture organization that helps East African farmers grow their own way out of hunger. Andrew graduated from Yale magna cum laude, is a former management consultant, and received his MBA from Kellogg School of Management.

This year, GES also launched an Alumni Mentorship Program. Current GES members have been individually matched and put in communication with alumni and past delegates. Whether it be career advice, personal mentorship, or just a chance to meet someone with common interests, this program aims to further build the GES community.

On February 25th, students celebrated “GES Day,” a worldwide celebration of the values that GES embodies. At Northwestern, GES organized a mini-Summit for the Northwestern, Chicago, and Evanston communities. This event included workshops as well as a keynote address, delivered by Brooke Estin of InStedd.

For updates on the Summit that will take place from April 8-15, 2012, please visit the GES website: http://theges.org.

The OpenShutter Project Addresses Stereotypes

By Heba Hasan (Medill, 2013) and Alexa Herzog (SESP, 2013), The OpenShutter Project Co-Chairs

The OpenShutter Project creates an immersive art space devoted to showcasing works that go beyond simplistic narratives of people, problems, and places. OpenShutter’s fall show, One Lens, Infinite Perspectives, challenged viewers to let go of previously-held assumptions and situate photography and media within its contextual framework. The exhibit showcased 15 photographs taken by Northwestern students across the globe. OpenShutter’s spring show, to be held at Norris University Center, will continue to translate global awareness into a visual vocabulary.

During the winter, The OpenShutter Project hosted The Campaign, a campus-wide initiative to combat stereotyping at Northwestern University. The Campaign featured black and white portraits of students on Northwestern’s campus and addressed common labels given to students. These portraits give labels a human face, thus transforming photographs into vehicles for untold stories, inequalities, and common stereotypes. The OpenShutter team hopes these photographs, which are posted in various places around campus, will act as an ongoing reminder and visual stimulus.
GlobeMed Summit Participants to Explore the Role of Partnerships in Global Health

By Bianca Nguyen, GlobeMed Director of Development

More than 300 students from GlobeMed chapters at universities across the nation will flock to Northwestern University on April 12-14 to participate in the annual GlobeMed Global Health Summit. GlobeMed, headquartered in Evanston, is a network of university students who partner with grassroots organizations to improve health around the world. This marks the sixth year the Summit has attracted hundreds of students to explore relevant issues in global health.

Since its founding at Northwestern University in 2007, GlobeMed has grown to 46 college campuses nationwide, mobilizing more than 2,000 students to raise $600,000 for over 150 health projects around the world. Through GlobeMed, students partner with community-based organizations on specific health projects, implement a year-long global health curriculum on campus, and participate in onsite internships with their partner organizations.

The 2012 Summit’s theme, Walking Together, Walking Far: Partnership as a Framework for Meaningful Action, is designed to bring together students, top global health professionals, and social justice leaders to examine the role of partnerships in creating a world without poverty and health inequality. Through a variety of speakers, panels, small group discussions, case studies, and film viewings, student delegates will analyze the philosophical and practical dimensions of different types of practical, effective global health partnerships, with a goal of applying what they learn to their chapters’ individual grassroots partnerships.

On Friday, April 13, the honorary keynote address will take the form of a joint discussion between two influential women’s rights advocates: Pamela Barnes, CEO of EngenderHealth, a leading global reproductive health organization, and Pamela Angwech, a Ugandan human rights activist, survivor of Uganda’s humanitarian crisis and visionary community leader. The discussion, Lives for Health and Hope, will take place at Alice Millar Chapel at 7:15 p.m.

The three-day event will also feature keynote addresses by Melissa Covelli, the senior communications officer of the polio strategy in global health for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Dr. Gary Slutkin, the executive director of Ceasefire, an organization based in Chicago dedicated to preventing violence by treating it as an infectious disease and using disease control methods to prevent its spread.

More information about tickets to public GlobeMed Summit events will be available on www.globemedsummit.org in late March.

GESI South Africa Partner Honored for Social Innovation in Higher Education

GESI’s South Africa program partner, ThinkImpact, was among six awardees of Ashoka U’s “Cordes Innovation Award.” These awards, chosen by an expert panel of social entrepreneurs and educational leaders, are given to individuals and organizations that are transforming college campuses into hubs for social innovation.

During the Ashoka U Exchange, CGE Assistant Director, Nicole Patel, presented an interactive workshop with ThinkImpact CEO, Saul Garlick, Entrepreneurship & Design: Integrated Skills and Strategies for Rethinking Study Abroad.

ThinkImpact provides GESI students an immersive social entrepreneurship educational program in rural South Africa. Students work directly with local entrepreneurs to foster collaborative economic development. We congratulate ThinkImpact on their innovative in-country programming and look forward to our continued partnership.

GESI 2011 South Africa participants (left to right) Ahsin Azim, Josh Keyser, and Paku Park with host-grandmother, Beatrice Matebula.
Ask Anything Hours Provides Opportunity for Undergraduates to Seek Advice from Experts

CGE’s recently launched program, Ask Anything Hours, offers an opportunity for undergraduates to speak with global development experts, receive one-on-one career advice, get feedback on a thesis idea, or just broaden their understanding of a particular global development topic.

Here’s how it works:

- CGE invites a guest to Northwestern each month who is knowledgable and experienced in some facet of global development issues, thought, and/or practice.
- Guests agree to make themselves available to NU students for a three-hour block of time. CGE provides the guest with temporary office space where he/she will be completely available to meet with students.
- Undergrads grab a cup of tea, coffee, or hot chocolate from our kitchen, and then meet the guest to ask questions or get advice on whatever topic they think he/she might be able to help with.

During winter quarter, CGE hosted Milford Bateman, freelance consultant on local economic development policy, Yael Falicov, Executive Director of EcoViva, and Chris Murphy, founder of zoomforth.com. For updates on who will be coming to campus for Ask Anything Hours and to receive reminders about similar forthcoming events, sign up to CGE’s listserv: http://tinyurl.com/cge-listserv.

Grant Opportunity: Helping Students Make Global Impacts Domestically

For the second year, the Center for Global Engagement and the Buffett Center is pleased to offer Go Abroad at Home grants. These grants will provide Northwestern undergraduates up to $3,500 to explore an international issue from a domestic perspective or setting.

In order to be considered for funding, proposals must seek to engage Northwestern students with the world, through a project that involves direct participation with people anywhere in the United States on a topic of international relevance. In keeping with CGE’s mission, projects should move beyond personal edification and toward creating impact or knowledge on Northwestern’s campus and/or within the communities with which candidates plan to work.

For more information about this grant and for updates on previous winners, please visit the Go Abroad at Home page of CGE’s website: www.cge.northwestern.edu. The application deadline is March 30, 2012.

Career Talk: CGE and One Acre Fund Present on International Development Careers

Event Details: May 8, 2012, 6pm
1902 Sheridan Road, Evanston campus

The Center for Global Engagement welcomes Barrett Prinz, Global Human Resources and Legal Manager of One Acre Fund, for a talk on One Acre Fund and careers in international development.

Founded in 2006 by Kellogg alum Andrew Youn, One Acre Fund is a start-up NGO in Kenya, Rwanda, and Burundi that invests in farmers to generate a permanent gain in farm income. One Acre Fund provides farmers with a "market bundle" that includes education, finance, seed and fertilizer, and market access. Every year, One Acre Fund weighs thousands of harvests which measure over 100 percent average gain in farm income per acre.

One Acre Fund’s approach has won widespread validation, winning grants from the highly competitive Echoing Green and Skoll Foundations, and the global Financial Times/IFC award for “basic needs financing” in 2010 and 2011.
I stand in the warm sunlight of a brisk Sunday morning, fuming because my kids are an hour late again. When the boys finally stroll into the park where we hold a school for street children, they are laughing as if they have no clue how late they are.

“Namaste Didi” they say in cheery unison. I greet them and then ask them why they are late. They all point at each other. A flurry of excuses are thrown my way, everything from “Sunny had to do his hair” to “Aakash walks really slowly.”

I then ask them to recite the times and the days of the week that we meet. Something I thought would help them come on time, if they repeated it often enough. They respond with Sunday and Wednesday at noon. Then I ask a simple question that unlocks a whole new level of understanding for me: “What day was yesterday?”

With shifty eyes, they glanced at each other for the answers. Finally, one boy, Deva, speaks up “Didi, we don’t know.” “Well, how many days are in a week?” Again, I am met with the shifty eyes of students who don’t want to be called on. As this series of questions continues, it dawns on me that the students had been late time and time again because they had never learned what a Wednesday or a Sunday was.

Looking back at my own childhood, I cannot remember a time when I did not know the days of the week, as so much of my life was dictated by a weekly cycle. My life has had certain aspects that were unquestionable and static—my name, my birth date, and how time unfolds. My past experiences have led to assumptions that—I am now seeing—have held me back in understanding my host community in Chandigarh, India.

As I finish up my fourth month in Chandigarh, I am realizing there are more new lessons than I ever imagined. My own assumptions have been unintentionally holding me back. Learning to drop these expectations has been the biggest step forward in my own personal and professional development in this field.

Further, I have also learned that development is so much more than the services and programs and buzzwords like sustainability. I have found that the fundamentals that I used to assume were a given for everyone do not necessarily hold here. Therefore when individuals are told to come on Tuesday to avail the services of a government scheme, it is no wonder that certain communities are left behind.

Moving forward, I am even further convinced about the importance of truly understanding and immersing in a community before prescribing solutions to its challenges. Learning to ask the right questions and to recognize our assumptions is a key first step in building relationships and trust in a new community. There is a stark difference between addressing the symptoms of an issue and its root cause. When programs and initiatives are crafted to propel the lives of the needy forward, these programs must not come from the creator’s frame of understanding. But rather, the programs must be designed to meet the lifestyles and understanding of the target populations, free from the assumptions that we outsiders hold.

A series of questions helped me to better understand why my kids were late; now they are regularly on time. I have experienced a world of difference by addressing the cause rather than the symptom, and by addressing the assumptions I unintentionally held. I am still learning how to identify and tackle my own presumptions and beliefs; thus it is surely only the start of a lifelong journey of asking new and better questions.

Interested in learning more about Indicorps? Visit indicorps.org or contact info@indicorps.org.
In the first speaker event of the quarter in CGE's Development Speaker Series, Milford Bateman, author and freelance developmental economics consultant, shines a harsh light on the global ecosystem of microfinance. He makes the bold assessment of how microfinance not only bolsters the rich, but also traps the poor in a cycle of loans that they cannot repay. In attacking microfinance, he goes straight to the source, citing how Muhammad Yunus, the nearly untouchable creator of microfinance, had made some key assumptions in his lending model that contradict evident global realities.

For one, microfinance has been sold to the public as a social enterprise generator, where loans go toward building small businesses; in reality, those loans were instead being utilized for consumption spending rather than business investments, meaning few new jobs or income are being created in the process. This flawed system, Mr. Bateman argues, has flourished and persisted because of western political incentives that keep microfinance in place by lauding individual self-support rather than “dangerous,” leftist group consolidation.

Despite Mr. Bateman presenting a very convincing argument on the shortcomings of microfinance, I am still unable to so easily discard the hopeful message that is ingrained within microfinance: that individuals can dig themselves out of poverty with a little help and assistance. Clearly, microfinance and its practices need to be reformed to address the issues of rampant business failure, increased debt, and corrupt governance, but I do not believe it has to be thrown out the window completely. If microfinance organizations can shift from a purely bank model to a NGO-bank hybrid that focuses on increased accountability, smarter lending practices that target high-potential small enterprises, and the creation of a lender support system to ensure the sustainability of these fledgling businesses then the possibility of substantive and widespread economic development is possible. Maybe this is just my overdeveloped sense of idealism kicking in, but I’m not quite ready to give up on microfinance just yet.

Sign up for CGE’s listserv to receive reminders and announcements of these and other forthcoming events:

Thursday, April 5, 6pm | Edward Carr presents:
Delivering Development: Small Farmers, Big Assumptions and Hope for a Just, Sustainable Future
Over his 13 years of working along what he calls "globalization's shoreline," a world region buffeted by the economic, political, and environmental decisions of those living in wealthier places, Edward Carr has concluded that most experts misunderstand what they are trying to fix, and cannot tell if they are fixing it. Delivering Development is an eye opening, you-are-there book that compels the reader to question conventional wisdom and redefine what assistance to the developing world really means.

Wednesday, May 2, 6pm | Gail Mooney and Erin Kelly (NU alumna) present their film:
Opening Our Eyes
In the summer of 2010, mother/daughter filmmakers Gail Mooney and Erin Kelly embarked on a 99-day journey around the globe. They were seeking ordinary people, who were making a positive difference in the world. This documentary tells the stories of eleven people on six continents who are making our world a better place through the power of ONE.

Thursday, May 17, 6pm | Elie Hassenfeld presents:
GiveWell—Real Change for Your Dollar
GiveWell (www.givewell.org) finds outstanding giving opportunities and publishes the full details of its analysis to help donors decide where to give. The Boston Globe has called GiveWell “The gold standard for giving.” In 2011, GiveWell tracked over 5 million dollars in donations to its recommended charities as a direct result of its research.