

## Our Mission and Philosophy

The world is on the verge of a global reset in which traditionally analog paradigms, political alliances and modes of operation no longer hold. In today's global environment, innovation and change are coming from collaboration across disciplines, sectors and geographies. Addressing pressing issues like inequality, poverty and environmental degradation require breaking out of traditional modes of inquiry and problem solving.

Northwestern University's Roberta Buffett Institute for Global Affairs brings together the brightest minds from across Northwestern University and around the world to address critical global challenges that cannot be solved from a singular disciplinary or geographic perspective. **Our mission is to foster meaningful engagement across borders of all kinds.** We believe that relationships among individuals and institutions—globally and locally—are what generate new knowledge that sparks solutions to global challenges.

**“The new genius is a collaborative genius.”**

—Annelise Riles, Executive Director of Northwestern Buffett

## Our Work

Northwestern Buffett serves as a **hub of connectivity** that fosters collaboration across sectors and traditional silos of expertise, geography and culture through: **transnational research, international education and cultural exchange** and **transnational dialogue**.

## Catalyzing Transnational Research

Northwestern Buffett's research collaboration model empowers researchers and thought leaders from all walks of life to tackle complex problems together in a multicultural context. A creative and iterative approach helps groups produce substantive solutions to shared global challenges as defined by the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals.

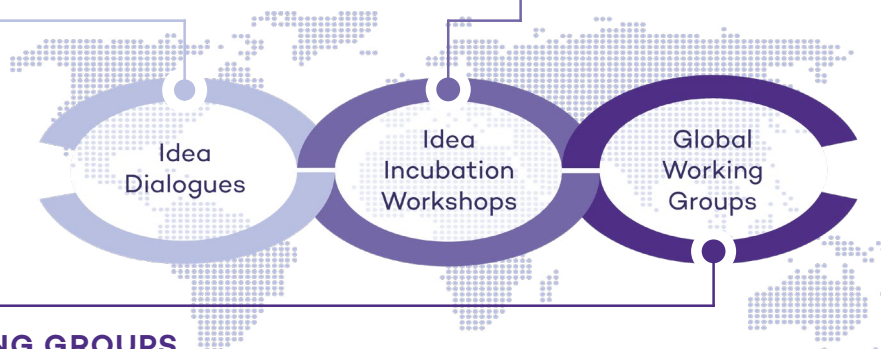
## Our Idea Incubation Process

### IDEA DIALOGUES

**Idea Dialogues** bring together scholars from across disciplines for informal conversations about a research question of global significance. The hope is that these discussions give rise to interdisciplinary global research projects that contribute to progress toward a UN Sustainable Development Goal.

### IDEA INCUBATION WORKSHOPS

Idea Incubation Workshops are a series of iterative work sessions designed to foster the development of research project proposals addressing pressing global challenges. These sessions culminate with presentations to a panel of Northwestern faculty and other experts.



### GLOBAL WORKING GROUPS

Selected by a panel including Northwestern faculty and other experts, **Global Working Groups** receive up to two years of Northwestern Buffett funding and support to conduct research aimed at addressing a global challenge and pursue measures to mitigate its impact on communities worldwide.

## Facilitating International Education & Cultural Exchange

Leaders in the 21st century must be agile thinkers and doers who can navigate ambiguity, embrace diverse viewpoints and rapidly adapt to new technologies. Northwestern Buffett's [Global Learning Office](#) prepares students to collaborate effectively across borders of all kinds. We work with faculty and NGOs to develop international learning experiences that foster cross-cultural communication, collaboration, empathy and humility. Students gain knowledge and experience in a diverse range of areas including global health, energy technology and policy, and political and economic development.

Northwestern Buffett also supports a robust global community. Our [Office of Global Safety and Security](#) supports students, faculty and staff who travel abroad in collaboration with partners in the U.S. and abroad, while our [Office of International Student & Scholar Services](#) advises and advocates on behalf of and develops cultural exchange programming for Northwestern's international populations.

Last year, Northwestern Buffett's Global Learning Office administered:

**150** global experiential learning programs in **50** different countries

The same year, Northwestern Buffett supported more than

**7,600** international students, scholars & families

## Fostering Transnational Dialogue

As part of our mission to create new models of global collaboration, we've developed innovative ways to foster transnational dialogue on critical global challenges.

This includes our [“Breaking Boundaries” podcast](#), which spotlights stories of successful collaborations fueling progress toward reaching the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals; our [Fireside Chat series](#), which provides a forum for leading thinkers; and our multilingual [Meridian 180](#) community, which brings scholars and practitioners together for multilingual dialogue on pressing global challenges.

Northwestern Buffett also leads [U7+ Alliance of World Universities](#) Secretariat activities. The U7+ Alliance is a global coalition of higher education institutions spanning six continents and seeking to find solutions to global challenges in coordination with G7 governments and beyond.

