Latitude focuses on the work of the Institute for the Study of International Development with news about its research, publications and other activities, including contributions from regular and associated faculty, professors of practice, post-doctoral fellows, and current and former members, examining contemporary research in development, in theory and in practice.

IN THIS ISSUE...

2 Message from the Director
2 Executive Education Program
3 Research Profile Kazue Takamura
4 Canada’s Knowledge for Democracy Myanmar Initiative
5 GrOW Research Series
6 Professor of Practice Profile: Rachel Kiddell-Monroe
7 Student News
7 New Policy Paper
8 ISID Field Research Award Reports
11 Research and News
12 2018 Annual Conference

TERI’s Lighting a Billion Lives renewable energy program in India
Photo Credit: TERI, The Energy and Resources Institute
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is with great pleasure and pride that we present you with this newsletter reporting on various spectacular ISID events, initiatives, and activities of the past six months since our last issue. We have made considerable progress on multiple policy-relevant research projects. The IDRC-funded GrOW Research Series has entered its second year in operation, and is gaining momentum with new working papers and promoting dialogue between academics and practitioners. We are also delighted to announce a new project on the Myanmar Initiative, also funded by IDRC. We congratulate our faculty for their continued research excellence, and this issue highlights, through a list of selected publications, how prolific they have been in scholarly publishing. This newsletter also brings you reports from graduate student travel award recipients who have returned from the field. Now, we are looking forward to the conference on Women’s Empowerment in International Development happening in a few days. Looking ahead, we are excited about kick-starting the 2018 executive education programming with a 3-day course on the Sustainable Development Goals. Finally, we will be launching new initiatives at ISID: two research-to-practice labs – one on Women’s Empowerment in Development and one on Global Governance. Please visit us at www.mcgill.ca/isid in the next few weeks and months to learn more! The next few pages will allow you to learn more about these and other initiatives.

Sonia Laszlo, Director

EXECUTIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Institute for the Study of International Development is pleased to announce the inaugural offering of our executive education certificate program, “Toward Meeting the Sustainable Development Goals: From Theory to Practice”. This program will provide an overview of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and the context in which they were negotiated. Furthermore, participants in this program will review the general merits of the SDGs, examine the means for integrating them into organizational plans and programming, and evaluate progress towards achieving results in implementing the SDGs.

The sustainable development goals are a universal set of goals, targets and indicators that UN member states are expected to use to frame their agendas and political policies through to 2030. The SDGs consist of 17 goals that include targets on women’s empowerment, good governance, climate change, peace and security, extreme poverty and hunger, preventing deadly diseases, and expanding primary education to all children, and call upon state governments, the private sector and civil society organizations to work together in achieving inclusive sustainable development.

The program is intended for individuals with a basic knowledge of the SDGs. The program will take a hands on approach, which will consist of group work, advance reading, assignments for each module and a group presentation on the final day. For more information contact Patrick Brennan: patrick.brennan3@mcgill.ca or visit http://mcgill.ca/isid/executive-education

Photo Credit: Sonia Laszlo

2
SPOTLIGHT ON DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH

Kazue Takamura
Faculty Lecturer, ISID

Kazue Takamura’s research is centered on the precarious mobility of migrants from developing countries, with a particular focus on Asia. Her research engages especially with questions of gender and migration, including the reproductive vulnerability of female migrants and the rights of domestic workers, human rights of asylum-seekers, and state policy regarding migrant mobility. Much of Professor Takamura’s research has focused on Filipina migrant women, as well as asylum-seekers in Japan. She is currently working on an edited book project that unpacks the intersection between migrant vulnerabilities, neoliberal promotion of labor flexibility, and punitive immigration laws in Asia.

Recently, in an effort to raise awareness of the plight of detained migrants, Dr. Takamura co-organized a workshop with Japan’s Stateless Network at Waseda University (Tokyo) in July 2017. This workshop was part of a project that looks at immigration detention and human rights of non-status migrants. In April 2017, Prof. Takamura received a research grant from the Toyota Foundation for a project entitled, “Ethnography of Immigration Detention and Migrant Advocacy in Japan and Canada.” The project advances a comparative analysis of immigration detention and the conditions of non-status migrants in Japan and other major labour-receiving countries. It pays attention to the state’s immigration policies, the actual practices of immigration detention and deportation, and the capacity of migrant advocacy groups that challenge the state regarding human rights violations toward non-status migrants. Having conducted extensive interviews with current and former detainees, human rights lawyers, and migrant advocacy groups in Japan, Dr. Takamura found that individuals were detained in a secluded area outside Tokyo on the basis of a policy that allows the government to arrest asylum-seekers upon their arrival in the country. Such a policy runs counter to the Japanese constitution, but is upheld by a strong nationalist ethos.

As a FRQSC Postdoctoral Fellow at McGill’s School of Social Work (2012-14), Dr. Takamura pursued research on Filipina migrant caregivers in Quebec and their distinct vulnerabilities that are inherent in Canada’s Temporary Foreign Worker Program. Through interviews with Filipina migrant caregivers regarding their lived experiences of migration, Dr. Takamura found that immigration policies impose a myriad of structural constraints on migrant caregivers, including slow and inflexible bureaucratic procedures and rejection of overage children and children with health problems or disabilities. Migrant women thus face a costly and emotionally draining permanent residency application process that further exacerbates their vulnerabilities.
Canada’s Knowledge for Democracy Myanmar Initiative

Franque Grimard
Associate Professor, Department of Economics and ISID

Prof. Franque Grimard is leading an ISID team of researchers in two projects under the umbrella of Canada’s Knowledge for Democracy Myanmar initiative. This initiative, an IDRC and Global Affairs Canada partnership, seeks to support democratic transition in Myanmar through policy research. As part of this initiative, ISID members will participate in two projects over the next three years.

The first project, Capacity Building for Professionals and Researchers Working in Quantitative Social Sciences in Myanmar involves providing training workshops and continuous support to the University of Mandalay as well as the Myanmar Development Institute (MDI) in Nay Pyi Taw. Expanding the research and analytical capacity of these stakeholders requires offering a targeted approach to take into account the differences emanating from their mandates, roles and nature.

The Myanmar Development Institute is a government office that targets policy analysis by government officials to guide ministers in their policies, whereas the University of Mandalay has a general mandate of education and broad research. The training needs of the personnel are also quite different, with the University of Mandalay requiring broad analytical skills in social sciences and MDI officials more specific training in econometrics and impact evaluation. In collaboration with Thailand’s Chiang Mai University, McGill researchers will provide on the ground and web-based support.

The second project considers women’s empowerment in Myanmar. Over the next three years, ISID researchers will collaborate with the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok and the Gender Equality Network (GEN) of Myanmar to understand and analyse Barriers and Working Pathways to Women’s Political Participation in Myanmar. This interdisciplinary effort, with economists, political scientists, sociologists and CSO analysts will combine quantitative and qualitative research in the field to assess women’s role in the political process in Myanmar at both the state and federal levels.
ISID’s GrOW Research Series is Helping to Build Canada’s Evidence Base on Women’s Economic Empowerment

By Kate Grantham

Last May, ISID, in partnership with Canada’s International Development Research Centre (IDRC), launched the GrOW Research Series (GRS) to advance scholarly research on women’s economic empowerment and economic growth in developing countries. The GRS is also the official, though not exclusive, research platform for the Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women (GrOW) program, a multi-funder partnership between the UK Government’s Department for International Development, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and IDRC.

Through the dissemination of working papers, policy briefs and other original scholarship, the GRS serves as an online open-access platform for current research in Canada and globally. The goal of the series, and the GrOW program more widely, is to promote evidence-based programming and policy-making on women’s economic empowerment. This is especially valuable and timely work as Canada sets out to achieve the goals outlined in its Feminist International Assistance Policy, released in June 2017.

Research published in the GRS is mobilizing new evidence on what works, and does not work, to economically empower women in developing countries. This includes research produced by two McGill-led GrOW studies, one on subsidizing child care to promote maternal employment outcomes in a Nairobi slum, and another on the influence of affordable daycare on women’s empowerment in India. Other research published in the GRS identifies strategies to improve gender dynamics in Africa’s artisanal and small-scale mining sector, and to promote women’s employment and entrepreneurship in renewable energy, to name a few examples.

Work featured in the GRS is also promoting new models that seek to improve development practice. A recent working paper and policy brief authored by ISID Director, Sonia Laszlo, and colleagues, points to the lack of convention on measuring women’s economic empowerment among development scholars and practitioners, and offers several recommendations for moving forward on this issue. Understanding the conceptual and methodological challenges of measuring of women’s economic empowerment is crucial to design and evaluate development programs effectively.

By disseminating the findings of research taking place around the world, the GRS is helping to build Canada’s evidence base on women’s economic empowerment. In connection with this aim, ISID’s annual conference on March 15-16 looks to “unpack” the agenda of women’s empowerment in global development with an interdisciplinary group of experts, and examine some of the recent evidence on empowerment initiatives in resource-poor settings.

Dr. Kate Grantham is a Research Associate at McGill University’s Institute for the Study of International Development. She is also the Managing Editor of the GrOW Research Series. Her research is focused on gender and development, women’s economic empowerment, international volunteering and the internationalization of Canadian higher education.
Rachel Kiddell-Monroe

The human and social consequences of the global forced migration crisis lie at the heart of Professor of Practice Rachel Kiddell-Monroe’s humanitarian and academic work over the past twenty-five years. Through engagement in humanitarian emergencies worldwide, including the refugee crises in Central and East Africa, Rachel has seen first-hand the suffering caused when people are forcibly displaced from their homes and families because of insecurity, inequity and unhealthy environments. From Italy to Mexico, France to Greece, and Haiti to Quebec, this human-made crisis has exposed people to unconscionable levels of human suffering, deception, and ultimately abandonment.

In November 2017, Rachel spoke at TEDxMontrealWomen, noting the dangerous consequences of dispassionate detachment and indifference to the plight of people fleeing extreme violence and poverty. She called on individuals to see through the politics of fear and make the choice to act in their own way in the face of this global crisis.

A lawyer by training, with a Master’s degree in Law and Bioethics (2013) from McGill, Rachel believes in the power of bridging study, research and academia with action, change and implementation. As a Professor of Practice with decades of “on-the-ground” experience, she brings a distinctive skill set to her research and teaching. Her practical and field-based experience provides her students with unique insights into the world of development and humanitarianism.

This term, Rachel’s INTD497 class on Humanitarian Action in the 21st Century is looking at the challenges and dilemmas in humanitarianism today. The course explores themes such as humanitarian ethics, genocide and ethnic cleansing, conflict and compromise, the erosion of humanitarian norms and principles, access to medicines and the global health security agenda. Students also focus on the phenomenon of forced migration which brings into sharp focus the issues of global inequity and insecurity, and planetary health. Students unpack global crises and learn how action close to home can positively affect the lives of those forced to migrate. As a unique component of the class, students volunteer with three different civil society organisations in Montreal, all working with recently arrived forced migrants. They also create their own collaborative humanitarian project informed by their experiences in the course.

Rachel has spent most of her adult life with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), working in crises from Rwanda to Somalia to Mexico. But she has also started her own organisations: an advocacy group to support indigenous rights in Western Indonesia, and most recently an organisation called See Change Initiative, which aims to stimulate and harness grassroots and citizen-led initiatives for change. See Change Initiative is working with communities in Nunavut to find innovative community-based ways to tackle the tuberculosis crisis. Today she sits on the International Board of MSF, the highest governance platform responsible for steering and safeguarding the organisation’s medical humanitarian goals.
Rachel is a well-known advocate for access to essential medicines. After seeing people dying in Rwanda for lack of access to HIV diagnostics and treatment, Rachel became involved in trying to transform this reality. By applying her legal background to a humanitarian issue, Rachel has seen how the socially responsible application of intellectual property rules combined with the passion and tenacity of activists and scholars has brought substantive change to people’s ability to access medicines. For over a decade, Rachel has applied her passion in this area to help lead Universities Allied for Essential Medicines (UAEM). From a small informal network of a few students in the United States and Canada, UAEM has become a globally recognized access-to-medicines advocacy organisation working both at university and international levels. She is now working with students from McGill to advocate for her Alma Mater to adopt UAEM global access strategies to guarantee that the fruits of publicly funded research are available to those that need them.

STUDENT NEWS

Jonathan Lopez Naranjo in the third cohort of the Schwarzman Scholars

Jonathan Lopez Naranjo will soon graduate with joint honours in International Development and Political Science, with a minor in Social Entrepreneurship. He has been awarded a scholarship to follow a Masters’ program in Global Affairs at Beijing’s Tsinghua University, as part of the third cohort of the Schwarzman Scholars. The curriculum has been developed by academics from Harvard, Oxford, Princeton, Stanford, Tsinghua and Yale. Each Schwarzman Scholar will specialize in one of the following disciplines: public policy, economics and business, or international studies. We congratulate Jonathan for this achievement and wish him plenty of success!

NEW POLICY PAPER

Jamal Saghir [PB-2018-01]

“Water security and Growth: The case of the Middle East and North Africa Countries”

This paper argues that in the Middle East and North Africa countries, instead of water security becoming an impediment to growth and factor in conflicts, water for growth and water security can be a factor of prosperity and peace.


This current issue of Latitude was produced by ISID’s new Research Assistant Avril Rios Torres. The two previous issues of Latitude were produced by Research Assistant Max Honigmann. Catherine Lu, Associate Director of ISID and Latitude coordinator, thanks them both for their professional dedication and great work.
Last summer, ISID gave Field Research Awards to MA and PhD students to support their research or dissertation projects related to international development studies. Here are the last reports from students who have returned from the field.

Anne Gabrielle Ducharme: Punishing journalists under authoritarian regimes, an arbitrary game? The case of Singapore
M.A. Candidate, Department of Political Science, McGill

Since Singapore’s city-state’s independence in 1965, journalists’ mandate is to contribute to the country’s nation-building. Media coverage of local political affairs focuses on explaining policies and governmental decisions. The government has developed an apparatus of varied coercive means to make sure news content is coherent with its interests. Coercion can take the form of a phone call or a lawsuit and Government’s reactions can be quite irregular. No study yet questioned whether patterns existed between governmental repressive interventions and the type of coverage it reacted to. This gap in the literature leads to confusion regarding what the government considers a threat to political stability.

After two months of fieldwork in Singapore and meeting with 20 journalists, one academic working on freedom of speech issues and two NGO representatives, Anne Gabrielle obtained examples of repressive governmental actions conducted towards journalists that haven’t been disclosed in secondary sources or media. The analysis of this primary data will allow a better understanding of what type of media coverage triggers the use of coercion by the authorities, and potentially, to draw patterns between the use of specific means of coercion and specific types of media coverage.

M.A. Candidate, Department of Geography, McGill

Ammal Adenwala spent three months in Vietnam investigating how the interactions between everyday activities of citizens and state urban planning co-create what constitutes public and private space. Ammal started his fieldwork by meeting his host at Hanoi University of Natural Resources and Environment. Then he spent six weeks in Cao Bang, a small city in the northern highlands of Vietnam, where, with the help of an interpreter, he conducted interviews with citizens and government officials involved in urban planning. Hi M.A. project explored historical and contemporary design decisions, and geographic features currently embodied in the physical space. It also interrogated the official visions regarding architecture and urban design, and investigated how different resident groups use, navigate and appropriate urban spaces in their everyday lives to create public and private spaces.

The results of Ammal’s fieldwork will be disseminated in three chapters of his Master’s thesis. The first chapter concerns the current spatial arrangement of Cao Bang, a description of contemporary architecture and urban design in the city, and an outline of how historical processes such as two major military battles and an emergent market economy have changed the city. The second chapter discusses the state’s vision of public space use and the development of the city at large which
follows discourses of modernity, economic development and environmental preservation. Finally, the third chapter explores the struggle for inclusion in urban spaces by marginalized populations, revealing themes of environmental degradation, a re-imagination of Vietnam's national imaginary, and anxiety over the increasingly blurred lines between what constitutes ‘public’ and ‘private’ space.

Madeleine Henderson: sociocultural determinants of sexual behavior amongst religious adolescents in Ghana.
PhD Candidate, Department of Sociology, McGill

Early sexual initiation has been consistently linked to poor development outcomes for youth in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly as they relate to HIV/STI epidemics and teenage pregnancy rates. Understanding socio-cultural predictors of adolescent sexual behaviors is therefore a high priority for policy regarding gender equality, population growth, population health, and economic development. The goal of Madeleine’s research is to explore particular sociocultural determinants of sexual behavior among religious adolescents in a peri-urban community in Ghana. She conducted qualitative fieldwork during the summer of 2017 in a town called Asesewa, located in the Upper Manya Krobo region of Eastern Ghana, a region known for its unusually high HIV/AIDS and teenage pregnancy rates. With the help of three local hired field staff, she conducted interviews with adolescents, religious leaders, local leaders, ministry workers, and parents to understand why some adolescents abstain from sex and others do not.

Preliminary results suggest that sexual culture is shaped by a complex series of motivations and constraints that create a difficult terrain for adolescents to navigate. Adolescents adhere to modern notions of romantic love and expressions of intimacy through sex, but they also desire to live within religious proscriptions of abstinence. Such tensions are further complicated by poverty and gender inequality. Sexual decision-making is particularly difficult for adolescent females, who are caught in the crosshairs of a debate over traditional dipo sexual initiation rites. Preliminary findings point to the complexities around competing ideologies and structural constraints, reminding us that one-dimensional intervention strategies will largely ignore the multiple pressures adolescents are facing as they transition into adulthood.

Nhu Truong: Law and Responsiveness under Authoritarianism: Rural Unrest and Land Expropriation in Vietnam and China
PhD Candidate, Department of Political Science, McGill

Why are some authoritarian regimes more responsive while others are more repressive? To obtain data for her PhD dissertation, Nhu Trung conducted fieldwork in Vietnam and China, to gain a deeper understanding of repressive-responsive politics and lawmaking institutions of authoritarian regimes. Vietnamese and Chinese authorities alike adopt mixed responses through targeted payoffs, short-term concessions, and forceful interventions to effectively put out social unrest. Although there is a general recognition that “responsiveness” exists under authoritarianism, the literature does not trace the causal mechanisms that account for the variation observed between these regimes.
Her fieldwork followed two methodological underpinnings: process-tracing and historical institutional analysis. There are two objectives: (a) assess and collect evidence of institutional responsiveness or lack thereof by the Vietnamese and Chinese states; and (b) to identify the particular forms and channels of engagement, and trace the pathways of their causal influence on law and policy outcomes adopted by the Legislature and state institutions.

Through interviews with experts and key actors, she gained grounded understanding of the context, process and procedures of expropriation, and the perceptions from various stakeholders. In Vietnam, she identified key state and civil society actors involved in the law-making process of the most recent Land Law (2013); participated in engagement processes between state and society; and conducted site visits and interviews with authorities and citizens to examine the effect of large-scale land requisitions for "socio-economic development" projects such as industrial zones, national highways, and eco-cities. In China, she interviewed with scholars, former government policy researchers, and think-tanks. She expects to return to China in the summer of 2018 to conduct follow-up interviews with key state and civil society actors involved in the law-making process of the Land Management Law in China, which is currently under review.

Luci Lu: Credit Access and Its Influence on Herders’ Investment Choices and Resource Management Strategies in Inner Mongolia, China

Managing rangeland resources sustainability and improving pastoral livelihoods are the two major challenges faced by policy makers and pastoralists today. During her summer field research in Inner Mongolia, a major pastoral province in China, Luci witnessed that credit access has improved but there is a lack of research attention on how credit influences pastoral livelihoods, herders’ investment choices and resource management strategies in this region.

Credit has allowed herders to better meet consumption demands, especially paying for education and marriage expenses, and alleviate household cash shortage when the market price for lambs drops. Some of them even made investments seeking to raise productivity. Nevertheless, the use of credit to participate in a breed improvement programme, which potentially leads to more efficient grassland management, is still inaccessible for the poorer households due to the high input requirement. One considerable drawback is the fact that loans need to be repaid on an annual basis when herders need to wait for at least two years for ewe lambs to grow and reproduce. Moreover, when there are recurring weather shocks or low lambs price happening for consecutive years, herders need to borrow from informal moneylenders with a much higher interest rate.

The result of this field research shows future credit policies should consider the full length of a pastoral production cycle and the fluctuating household production and demand in a high-risk environment. In order to draw a more comprehensive picture of herders’ credit access and their resource management strategies, Luci will integrate the qualitative results from her summer field work with an econometric analysis of a 2015 panel data focusing on the debt situation of over 800 households on the Mongolian Plateau.

ISID’s Student Research Travel Award supports McGill graduate students (MA and PhD) whose main research project requires conducting field research that relates to ISID’s research priorities, which are clustered around three domains: Poverty and Inequality; Governance and Society; and Environment and Sustainability. Stay tuned for reports from the next round of winners!
This term, Francesco Amodio is a Visiting Assistant Professor at the Jackson Institute for Global Affairs at Yale. He has also been awarded funding of £ 35,000 from PEDL, a program of CEPR/DFID, UK for his project on “Trade Liberalization, Labor Mobility, and Structural Transformation”. He was also awarded £ 15,000 from IGC, UK for his project “Rainfall, Selection, and Agricultural Productivity”.

Philip Oxhorn has received a grant from Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, for the project “An Inventory and Analysis of Best International and Canadian Practices in Measuring Progress towards Reconciliation”.

Selected Recent Publications
For more on ISID research policy briefs and publications, please visit our website.


ISID's annual conference on March 15-16, 2018 aims to “unpack” the agenda of women’s empowerment in global development, with an interdisciplinary group of experts who will discuss contemporary challenges and opportunities for research, policy and practice, as well as examine some of the recent evidence on empowerment initiatives in resource-poor settings. The conference will focus on various challenges that confront scholars and policy makers seeking to construct policies and assess their impact on increasing women’s autonomy, voice, and/or well-being in the household, civil society, and national politics. Some of these challenges include the difficulties associated with how to measure and benchmark progress toward achieving women’s empowerment in diverse development contexts, as well as concerns that the design and implementation of women’s empowerment policies obscure their politically contested nature. Other challenges have to do with how to incorporate evidence of social and political backlash in assessing the impact and success of various policies.

**Keynotes:**

**The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau**  
Minister of International Development and La Francophonie, Government of Canada

**Professor Naila Kabeer**  
Professor of Gender and Development, London School of Economics

**Speakers:**

| Bipasha Baruah | Siwan Anderson |
| Eleonor Faur | Kathleen Fallon |
| Lisa Baldez | Mona Lena Krok |
| Markus Goldstein | Stéphanie Rousseau |
| Khalil Shariff | Arjan de Haan |
| Laura Doering | Rt Hon. Aminata Touré |
| Agnes Quisumbing | Mayra Buvinic |
| Lotus McDougal | Deirdre Kent |

**Organizing Committee:**

| Kate Grantham | Catherine Lu |
| Sonia Laszlo | Manuel Balán |
|              | Franque Grimard |