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# LATITUDE°

NEWS FROM THE INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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*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 practice.*





# Message from the Director:

## *Professor Sonia Laszlo*



It is with great pleasure that we share ISID's latest newsletter. This academic year we celebrate the Institute's 10-year anniversary, and we have a special issue to mark the occasion. Our newsletter begins with a feature message from ISID's founding director, Prof. Phil Oxhorn, who is leaving McGill to become Dean of International Education at Vancouver Island University. Over the last 10 years, global governance has been a central theme in the Institute's teaching programs, research and outreach, and we have chosen this to be the theme of our 2019 annual conference. This conference, to be held March 18 and 19, 2019, explores themes around

democracy, corruption, migration and refugees, environment and the role of international organizations. This issue also brings forward new programming at ISID on environmental security in developing countries, as highlighted both by ISID Associate Member Prof. Jon Unruh's account of activities around the McGill-UNEP partnership and by our featured Development Practice spotlight on ISID Professor of Practice Michael Brown. Stay tuned for more news coming in the next few months around these activities, and more. We look forward to seeing you at our annual conference and speaker series.



Sunday parade, Cusco. PC: Sonia Laszlo  
Cover PC: Patrick Slack



## Reflections of the Founding Director: *Professor Phil Oxhorn*

In March 2019, Professor Phil Oxhorn left his position at McGill as Associate Provost (International) to become the Dean of International Education at Vancouver Island University. Phil Oxhorn was the Founding Director of ISID from 2008-2016. Prior to that, he was Director of the Centre for Developing-Area Studies, ISID's precursor, from 2005-2008.

Leading the effort to create the Institute for the Study of International Development and lay a strong foundation for its consolidation as one of the premier North American institutions for research and teaching in international development was one of my most rewarding professional experiences. It offered me an unequalled opportunity to work with colleagues from across McGill as we grappled with some of the fundamental challenges in higher education today. Challenges such as trying to break down our internal silos to promote interdisciplinary teaching and research, prepare our students to be successful global citizens in our ever-shrinking world, and reaffirm the relevance of our work to the larger public through the promotion of evidence-based policies and the diffusion of our research to audiences outside the academy.

Our success within McGill was intrinsically linked to the networks we were able to build externally, which was also a source of great personal satisfaction for me. Through ISID, I had the privilege of working with a truly impressive array of leaders from the private, public and non-profit sectors—what I would call “civil society”—in the pursuit of our shared goals. These networks included two former Canadian Prime Ministers and a former Prime Minister of Senegal, the heads

of major international foundations and humanitarian organizations, and senior officials from a range of international and Canadian organizations working in international development. Closer to home, ISID provided me with the opportunity to work with the members of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission and prominent Indigenous leaders, not to mention the dozens of people from around the world who participated in our series of executive education programs. It would be an understatement to say I learned a lot in the job!

As I assume a new set of responsibilities as the Dean of International Education at Vancouver Island University, I will be guided by three key lessons from my experience at ISID. The first is the need to work collaboratively with a range of stakeholders, both within VIU and outside the university, in order to best advance common goals. Second, successful programming must reflect the unique strengths of the institution and the ways they can be leveraged into a range of innovative programs that can help meet the needs of disadvantaged groups through genuine collaboration as equals based on mutual respect. Finally, by thinking outside the box and daring to do new things in novel ways, we can create opportunities that we never would have dreamed possible.



# Spotlight on Development Research: The McGill-UNEP Partnership

*Jon Unruh*

McGill University has established a partnership with UN Environment—the primary United Nations agency coordinating environmental activities and assisting developing countries with environmental policies and practices. Involving McGill's faculties of Science, Arts and Law and housed within the Institute for the Study of International Development, the Partnership focuses on tracking and assessing environment-related risks to societies and states. The Partnership will conduct research-to-policy-to-practice work that is important to environmental security, climate vulnerability, conflict, risk, human security, and state fragility in international policy.

The Partnership operates by pairing UN Environment's research needs with McGill researcher interests in order to pursue specific priorities for

UN Environment and the broader UN community.

The broad range of risks and threats posed by environmental changes and processes to states and societies has long been recognized by the international community. In 1987, the Brundtland Commission identified several types of environmental threats, including pollution, the depletion and scarcity of natural resources and long-term processes of environmental degradation; and has recognized their potential to generate food and energy insecurity, population movements across borders, political tension, and military conflict. The McGill-UN Environment Partnership's purpose is to contribute to the development of evidence-based policy and practice measures able to attend to these important issues.



Agricultural worker on tea estate, Srimangal Bangladesh. PC: Kip Jorgensen

# Spotlight on Development Practice: Developing a Framework for UN Action of Land and Conflict

*Michael Brown*



ISID's Professor of Practice in Global Governance, Michael Brown, has deep experience with the United Nations (UN), and played a central role in establishing the McGill-UNEP Partnership. Recently, he also played a critical role in developing the new UN Framework for Action on Land and Conflict. The Framework will be captured in an upcoming UN Secretary General Guidance Note that will guide UN officials on the conduct of their work, while having significant potential normative impact.

Michael is a regular consulting advisor to the United Nations on natural resource and land conflicts, mediation and peacebuilding. He is also the former Senior UN Mediator on Natural Resource Conflicts worldwide. Michael is also a Senior Mediator at the Consensus Building Institute in Cambridge, Mass.

Since 2015, Michael has played two key roles in developing the groundbreaking UN Framework for Action. First, he has provided key international advice and expertise on issues around land, conflict and peacebuilding. Second, as a UN mediator, he has played a critical role in creating the required consensus within the UN System on the key issues.

As a substantive expert, Michael co-authored the UN report upon which the Guidance Note is heavily grounded (Scoping and Status Study on Land and Conflict: Towards UN System-Wide Engagement at Scale, Working Paper, Nairobi: UN-Habitat, May 2016), and he contributed substantively to various drafts of the Guidance Note itself. As the mediator, Michael led and facilitated key meetings and workshops that built critical agreement across 18 different UN entities on a wide range of challenging and politically sensitive issues. The meetings were held from 2015 to 2017 in UN Headquarters in New York, and in Washington, DC.

The Framework for UN Action on Land and Conflict establishes a series of guiding principles as well as the forward-looking framework. Among key elements, the Framework prioritizes: the use of conflict analysis tools; consistent engagement of Senior UN Leadership; incorporation of land into key UN assessment, planning and financing instruments; integration of land-conflict issues in country-level interventions; enhanced system-wide capacity to address the land-conflict nexus; expanded partnerships with non-UN entities and actors; and the development and use of practical tools that address the land-conflict nexus.



## Professor of Practice Profile:

### *Christian Novak*

Christian Novak joined ISID last November as a Professor of Practice. He possesses combined experience in investment banking and economic and social development, having worked for renowned international banks and for a leading regional development financial institution. As Managing Partner of FMA - Frontier Markets Advisors, Christian's consulting services have included projects in the spaces of financial inclusion, development finance, and impact investing, with focus on microfinance (namely reaching uniquely underserved communities, like women, smallholder farmers, displaced and refugee populations), SME finance, sustainable agriculture, and innovative investment structures. His core clients have included development financial institutions and agencies, NGOs focused on development, and investment funds. FMA is a proud member of CAFIID - The Canada Forum for Impact Investment and Development.



Christian played a fundamental role in the creation of the first leading microfinance institution in Argentina, and he co-founded two foundations respectively aimed at fostering education and basic infrastructure. As an early player in the "impact investing" space, Christian's innovative approach resulted in being involved in transactions that were awarded by recognized organizations, including Ashoka ("Most Creative Ideas of the Year") and the Financial Times ("Sustainable Deal of the Year"). Expanding on Christian's past leadership, Christian co-founded an "impact investing" team within an investment bank, and he was a member of the Senior Management Team of a regional development financial institution during its relaunching/restructuring process.

Christian has a multi-lens view of development financing, gained through his experience as having co-started development organizations on the ground, covering all developing regions both in relation to development and mainstream investments, and having worked with the private sector, public sector, and NGOs. Christian has

proactively shared his knowledge and views through his leadership roles, public papers, training programs, presentations, and webinars, including: "Microfinance - On the Road to Capital Markets" (paper), "Capital Structuring and Equity Valuation of Microfinance Institutions" (training program), "Low Income Entrepreneurs and their Access to Financing in Canada, Especially in the Province of Quebec/City of Montreal" (paper), "Social Impact Bonds - Benefits and Promises" (paper), "Social Impact Bonds: Beyond the Hype" (webinar), "Financial Literacy Toolbox for Sustainable Agricultural Organisations in Sub-Saharan Africa" (training program), "In Preparation to the Process to Finance your Company - a Guidance to SMEs" (training program, MOOC).

He graduated as a Public Accountant and holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the Catholic University of Argentina. Christian is proficient in English, Spanish and French, with basic level of Portuguese.

## Student Feature:

### *Marion Champoux-Pellegrin: Development Work and Corporate Social Responsibility in Bangladesh*

**Marion Champoux-Pellegrin graduated from McGill in December 2015 with a Joint Honours degree in International Development Studies and Political Science. She received the Albert Hirschman Prize awarded by ISID for the Best Paper in International Development Studies. After graduation, Marion worked for Olympic Industries, in Dhaka, Bangladesh for three years. She is now on her way to work in Myanmar, where she will be looking for opportunities to build on experience in corporate sustainability and labour rights.**



After writing my thesis on corporate social responsibility (CSR) and corporate responses to the Rana Plaza factory collapse in Dhaka, I was hired as a Research Assistant in McGill's Southeast Asia Research Programme. This brought me to conduct further research on the ground in Dhaka. There I had the opportunity to meet international NGO workers, ambassadors, and leaders of industry, among others. The small international community and its closeness with the Bangladeshi elite allowed me to develop a network I could never have dreamed of in Canada.

After graduating in Joint Honours, International Development Studies and Political Science, I moved to Bangladesh to find a job. Dhaka is a challenging place, but it is full of opportunities for anyone with a good education and work ethic. After a month of networking, I met with the Executive Director of one of the largest food manufacturers, Olympic Industries, in Bangladesh. He had asked during my last visit if I would be able to write a CSR report for his company. I agreed and suggested I build a holistic CSR vision and implementation plan for his company.

I started as a project manager. I based my idea of CSR on the numerous reports I had read in the context of my thesis and online research. The most important classes I had taken in the context of my IDS degree were the practical, hands-on ones; most of my job was problem-solving. I spent half my time in the first few months on Google. I thought this would put off my employer, but instead it encouraged him to see how autonomous I could be. He had, after all, hired a 23 year-old with little professional experience.

The CSR report and implementation plan took less of my time than expected and I was keen to learn other skills. I offered to manage other projects in parallel, starting off small. As a result, my employer kept me on as Head of Sustainability. My role involved selecting and managing projects to better the lives of factory workers and to reduce the company's impact on the environment. I worked in collaboration with local NGOs to implement projects focused on health and nutrition, education, and gender equity. I also managed business-facing projects such as the digitization of business processes. This allowed me to both have a substantial impact on an underserved population and to develop a broad range of useful and marketable skills.

In retrospect (and as a result of discussion with many NGO workers), this position allowed me to do and learn much more than if I had worked in the non-profit sector. I also encountered many moral dilemmas and impossible situations. To all current and prospective students, I would say this: The IDS degree is what you make of it. Do the best you can, stay open to a range of opportunities, and it will take you places.



New Market, Dhaka. PC: Kip Jorgensen

## Student Feature:

### *Nivatha Balendra: Founding a Company to Address Oil Contamination*

Nivatha Balendra is currently completing her final year at McGill University, with a major in Physiology and minor in International Development Studies.

Oil contamination is one of the most pressing environmental issues plaguing our world today. Worldwide, there are 65,000 oil fields currently extracting 95.3 million barrels of oil on a day-to-day basis. Unfortunately, this does not go without leaving a lasting environmental imprint. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, it is estimated that there are 14,000 oil spills occurring each and every year in the U.S. alone. There are other contributors to oil contamination, such as tailings ponds and contaminated pipelines as well. The current methods of cleaning up oil contamination sites, such as chemical surfactants and burning oil, only exacerbate this problem.

I founded Dispersa, a CleanTech company, just 4 months ago. My focus is to develop a sustainable solution for oil and gas companies that use traditional, toxic, and expensive methods to remediate oil contamination sites. Dispersa's novel technology will harness the power of oil-degrading bacteria to present an efficient, 100% biodegradable, and low-cost alternative to address oil contamination.

I started working on the fundamental research at the heart of our technology at the age of 17 for a local science fair project. I was inspired after the Lac-Mégantic train crash oil spill and was motivated to find a local solution to a global problem: oil contamination. After collecting soil samples from across Montreal, I worked in a lab and isolated novel species of oil-degrading bacteria. These



PC: Nivatha Balendra

bacteria produce biosurfactants, which are naturally-produced lipids capable of dispersing hydrocarbons.

I am currently working with support from the federal government, Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), and the innovative entrepreneurial hub at MaRS Discovery Centre to accelerate this business over the next two and a half years. This was possible due to Canada's Women in CleanTech Challenge in which I am among the Top 6 finalist cohort. The Women in CleanTech Challenge was a national competition organized by NRCan and MaRS Discovery Centre to support the development of Cleantech startups led by female CEO/Founders.

I am always in the process of building up my company but over the course of the next few months, I will be focusing on moving into a company lab space for Dispersa and tying up the research and development phase of our product development.



## Student Feature:

### *An Interview with Brenden McKinney, Co-Founder of Zua - a Microinsurance Initiative in Zambia*

**Brenden McKinney** is a former McGill student who majored in economics and took INTD 200 (Introduction to International Development) in Fall 2016. Brenden is the co-founder of Zua, a microinsurance initiative operating in Zambia since 2017. He has worked as an investment banking analyst at Goldman Sachs and will be working at McKinsey in Washington, D.C. from April 2019. The following is an excerpt of an interview that Professor Kazue Takamura conducted with Brenden in Montreal in February 2019.



*Kazue Takamura: Could you tell us about the background of Zua?*

**Brenden McKinney:** Zua provides index-based crop insurance to subsistence farmers in sub-Saharan Africa. Zua's central goal is to limit agricultural risk for low-income farmers. Zua addresses the cycle of poverty that is experienced by female subsistence farmers who are highly vulnerable to climate change and any other types of shock. For the pilot project we conducted in two villages in Zambia between 2017 and 2018, we insured a total of 35 farmers, of which 31 were females and the main breadwinners supporting their children and grandchildren.

The idea of Zua began during my time at McGill. There are a number of former McGill students who have been involved in Zua. My co-founder, Meagan Prins, also studied economics at McGill and currently works at the IFC Asset Management Company, part of the World Bank Group. Both Meagan and I were interested in the question of risk management in an agrarian society; especially how certain risks and uncertainties impede development.

*Kazue Takamura: Could you tell us about the condition of the subsistence farmers who Zua supports?*

**Brenden McKinney:** The question of risk is particularly relevant to the communities we work with. Our planholders are largely from female-headed low-income households, many of whom are affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. These female farmers often have small gardens where they would plant maize and vegetables for subsistence farming. These female farmers are just living with a level of bare survival. For example, one of

our planholders, Doreen, who is 60-years-old, takes care of her grandchildren. She rents land. You could easily imagine someone like her, for example, where flooding or drought could be a devastating shock. She has to pay for rent. She has to feed grandchildren. If these subsistence farmers have a bad harvest, they would not have enough to purchase necessary inputs for the next harvest including seeds and fertilizer. Obviously, this situation would lead to another unproductive harvest. The outcomes are that these farmers may have to stop sending their children to school or marry off their young daughters. Offering insurance ensures that even if there were a drought, farmers would be able to prepare – at least buy inputs, for the next harvest. This helps to break the perpetual cycle of poverty.

*Kazue Takamura: What are the broader impacts of Zua on these communities?*

**Brenden McKinney:** As a pilot project, we did not charge premiums to our planholders in 2018. Our current idea is to charge a very small amount of premium, just enough for the farmers to understand the mechanism of microinsurance. In November 2018, we went back to the communities to deliver the claim payouts. With the terrible drought last year in Central Zambia, our planholders were able to receive their claims. The claim amounts are in the form of seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides. The idea here is that we want to make sure to invest in the future harvest. We actually debated on whether we should provide cash payouts or input payouts. Our concern was that if we gave cash to the farmers now, the money would not last until the next harvest. So we decided to try input payouts. Our planholders were very happy. They gave us



two chickens! The central message here is that although we had a terrible drought, there are the inputs to invest for the next harvest. We hope that this leads to more sustainable outcomes. Kids are remaining in school, daughters are not married off, and farmers would try new seeds in order to increase their productivity.

**Kazue Takamura:** *Do you have any message to McGill IDS students?*

**Brenden McKinney:** If you are really interested in certain research questions that would have a greater impact on communities, first you should assess and understand the local players. And try to build relationships with those local players. Second, you should try to go there, experience for yourself, and assess the viability of whatever you think about. This is very important in terms of getting your feet on the ground. Lastly, do not waste your time. Being a university student, you have so much support from professors and fellow students who may share a similar passion. Do not wait. Use different fellowships that McGill offers. Take advantage of these opportunities and resources.



Zua planholders in Chibanga, Zambia. PC: [zuamicrofinance.org](http://zuamicrofinance.org)



# Graduate Student Field Work Reports

**Patrick Slack** MA Geography

## *Black Cardamom Livelihood Impacts in Northern Vietnamese Upland Ethnic Minority Communities*

The aim of my research was to investigate how the cultivation of non-timber forest products, specifically black cardamom, factor into livelihood strategies, food security, and local perceptions of forest protection in ethnic minority communities of a district bordering China in Lào Cai province, northern Vietnam. In the uplands, cash is needed more than ever before, and livelihoods are being directly and indirectly impacted by ill-informed government policies and extreme weather events.

Thanks to the ISID Field Research Award, I was able to conduct my MA research in northern upland Vietnam over the course of four months (May 17th, 2018 – September 17th, 2018). Upland ethnic minority households have turned to the cultivation of black cardamom as a popular income source to supplement rising costs for agrochemical inputs and seed. Extreme weather events, beginning in 2008, have led to significantly reduced black cardamom harvests or a complete crop failure for the past three to five years. The provincial and district government have created a



PC: Patrick Slack

natural reserve where many black cardamom plots are located, implementing a restriction on the expansion of plots and an impending ban of black cardamom cultivation altogether. Given the increasing need of cash and limited cardamom harvests, many households are resorting to trading household and agricultural goods. The most common adaptation strategy households have adopted appears to be wage labor, both around Vietnam and illegally in China. It is unclear as to whether or not black cardamom will maintain its popularity amongst households amongst the vicissitudes of climate and policy, but it is certain that households are continuing to become more integrated into the market, for better or for worse.

**Joanna Jordan** MA Geography

## *Borders, Irregular Migrants, and Protracted Transit in Bosnia and Serbia*

Due to increasingly restrictive definitions of “asylum” and “refugee,” highly securitized border regimes, and fewer possibilities for safe and legal passage through transit states, irregular migrants are undertaking longer, more precarious journeys to Europe. My research explores these fragmented journeys and the involuntary immobility of irregular migrants in the Western Balkans. In particular I examine the production and occupation of informal transit camps in Serbia and Bosnia, that are occupied by irregular migrants seeking to cross clandestinely into Europe and reach intended destinations. These informal transit camps are often located at border-zones or outside urban centres, and act as important nodes of mobility and immobility, as

resource and information hubs, and contact points for the multitude of actors present in these spaces (irregular migrants, smugglers, locals, state actors, NGOs, volunteers, activists, researchers and journalists).

With the help of the ISID Graduate Field Research Award, I was able to conduct four months of field research in the Western Balkan states of Serbia and Bosnia this summer. During this period, I employed a multi-sited ethnographic approach in multiple informal transit camps across the region, exploring the nature of blocked journeys, involuntary immobility, and extended displacement along the Balkan Route. Building on previous experiences in these sites as a volunteer in 2017, this summer’s field research involved a daily presence in my field sites, and in-depth exposure to the environment and subjects that are at the core of this research project.



Left: Transitory migrant camp in the Balkans. PC: Joanna Jordan



Right: Overlooking prefab houses at the Fumba Town Development opening ceremony, Fumba, Zanzibar. PC: Joanna Ondrusek-Roy

## PhD Geography

### Laurence Côté-Roy

#### *Morocco's Master-Planned Future: Deconstructing the Kingdom's City-Centric Reform*

In 2004, the Moroccan government launched a new strategy for territorial development outlining the creation of 15 brand new cities across the kingdom to address challenges related to rapid urbanization. My doctoral research critically examines the arguments and rationales deployed to support the new city development model and focuses on the consequences of the model's normalization for urban life in Morocco. Beyond eliminating informal housing by resolving persistent housing shortages, the new planned cities are also intended to bolster Morocco's industrial development, to fuel competitive economic growth, and to empower the growing middle class and the urban poor. With the public endorsement of all these new cities by the king, the ambitious scale and objectives of the new city projects, and the mobilization of extensive expertise and resources for their construction, the new cities model takes on a critical role in Morocco's national

development strategy, where the creation of brand new cities is openly promoted as the optimal solution to overcome Morocco's challenges in the face of rapid urbanization.

After a first period of field research in the summer of 2016 to investigate the official state and planners' discourse on new cities, I returned to the field in September 2018 to investigate the lives of pioneering residents in the new urban developments. With the support of ISID's Graduate Field Research Award, I was able to spend three and a half months in 3 of Morocco's new master-planned cities. During this time, I investigated residents' bottom-up views of the projects and varying perspectives on the meaning and uses of the new spaces, their associated symbolism, and role for Morocco's urban and economic development. By contrasting the top-down discourse on new cities with a bottom-up analysis of residents' views and experiences of the projects, my combined periods of field research in Morocco have provided insights on the challenging process of development of a sense of belonging in a new city, the opaque and unresolved questions of urban governance and service provision, as well as the unachieved ideals of social diversity in the



## MA Geography

## Joanna Ondrusek-Roy:

*Borrowed Skylines: Locating Tanzania's New Master-Planned Cities in Mobile Urban Policies*

The aim of my master's research is to understand the drivers and ideological underpinnings of new city building in Tanzania, where since 2010, at least eight new cities have been planned for construction. These new city projects join the rising tide of urban mega-developments spreading across the Global South, as governments attempt to meet the needs of ever-growing urban populations, as well as make a place for themselves in a global hierarchy of cities. My research attempts to locate Tanzania's experience within this broader global trend, characterized by networks of policy sharing that span the globe. Because they exist within a global network of urban policy sharing, not only do new cities around the world share similar architectural form, but they also share the same rhetoric of "eco" and "smart" urbanism. Thanks to the ISID Field Research Award, I

was able to travel to Tanzania between June 14th and August 21st, 2018, where I carried out 25 in-depth elite interviews with the government officials, planners and developers spearheading these new city projects. I was also able to meet with representatives of community-based organizations, and land rights research institutes that have been advocates for local urban residents at risk of being relocated to make room for construction. Throughout my fieldwork I worked with a local advisor from Ardhi University in Dar es Salaam, who not only helped me navigate the complicated process of acquiring a research permit, but was essential in introducing me to some key participants and helped me gain a better understanding of the local urban development context. Working through the local universities I was able to access archival materials, planning documents and the expertise of local university professors. Through informal conversations with local urban residents, I was able to gain a better understanding of the dichotomy that exists between the needs and realities of local urban Tanzanians, and the urban agenda that is being forwarded by the state.

## MA Economics

## Thomas Kokossou

*Legal Aid, RCTs, and Fieldwork with ELIMU in Kenya*

The judicial system enforces property rights, making them more secure and thus incentivizing farmers to invest more in their production, leading to an increase in agricultural production and in the end economic development. It is not clear however how this increased production manifests itself: Do farmers scale-up their current production or do they start producing different products? Do they go (more) to the market and/or middlemen, or even consume it for themselves?

To do my fieldwork – done for my master's paper, to complete my M.A. Economics –, I have been hosted by ELIMU (EvaLUation Impact Unit), a Kenyan research NGO, based in the town of Kianyaga in the Mount Kenya region and founded in 2006 by McGill Economics Professor Matthieu Chemin. Professor Chemin, through ELIMU, uses randomized control trials (RCTs) to rigorously evaluate the economic impact of various development interventions. During my stay, ELIMU was engaged in measuring the impact of 3 separate

RCTs: (1) Rural Electrification, (2) Online Tutoring to Primary Students, and (3) Legal Aid to the Poor.

I oversaw the ending of the data collection, done with comprehensive electronic surveys. I then cleaned the data and created the dataset, manipulating the raw data to create variable of interest, analyzed these data statistically and subsequently wrote my master's paper. I notably looked at the impact on global agricultural production, finding an increase. In accordance with the professor, I decided to go deeper in this specific result to find what exactly was driving this increase (do farmers scale-up their current production or do they start producing different products) and how it was dealt with for its disposal (do they go (more) to the market and/or middlemen, or even consume it for themselves). As expected, being on the field allowed me to complement the data, by directly asking questions to farmers to better understand some of the primary results. I find that with access to legal aid, these small scale farmers increase their agricultural production through an increase of "low-effort, perennial" products. Moreover, more farmers sell to brokers, overall and for low-effort perennial products, and globally the value sold to the market and to brokers increase



## 2019 McDonald-Currie Lecture: Lucy Quist

*Nii Addy, Assistant Professor (Research), Desautels Faculty of Management*

On Tuesday February 12, 2019, ISID hosted Lucy Quist for the 2019 McDonald-Currie Lectures. Quist's lecture was entitled, "Leading Change from a Global Perspective." The lecture addressed four key areas: global structures and injustices, the need for diversity in perspectives, courage to lead, and change that is needed globally. Ms. Quist highlighted inequities in global pricing structures as an example of injustices. She also spoke about structural biases in the media's representations of issues, which gloss over the complexity and interlinked nature of systemic problems. Citing the example of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Quist argued that unjust global pricing structures contribute to a situation where populations such as those in the DRC do not reap the economic benefits of possessing 80% of the world's Coltan (Columbite-tantalite, which is used in cell phones and laptops). Ironically, the media then portrays such populations and other groups of people, whose poverty stems from structural inequities as in need of charity. Human beings require dignity, and don't want charity, Quist noted.

Quist urged participants to contribute to addressing such structural injustices by seeking diverse evidence-based perspectives that go beyond the dominant "us" versus "them" rhetoric that the media tends to feed. The need for diversity in perspectives requires greater diversity among people holding leadership positions. Quist provided the example of support that she and colleagues in the Executive Women Network (EWN) in Ghana are providing for gender diversity in leadership positions. Having started with six women leaders networking informally, the organization has grown to about 200 people who provide support for women leaders to bring about change. Quist challenged participants to have the courage to lead by tackling issues beyond their comfort zone and engaging with people who differ from them along various dimensions. In her case, while far from being an expert in football/soccer, she agreed to participate in FIFA's Normalization Committee for Ghana Football, and is working with diverse people with backgrounds in law, business, and other domains for improving Ghana's football sector.



after it was rocked by a corruption scandal.

Quist concluded her presentation with a call to arms: be deliberate in leading for good. This means showing respect for each human being, irrespective of differences they might have; viewing all humans as equal and deserving of prosperity; and taking bold action to reverse structural biases for enabling all humans to thrive, not just survive. In a Q&A that followed, ISID Professor of Practice, Eliane Ubalijoro engaged Quist in further elaboration of her call to arms. Discussion included the role of university students and researchers in gathering and using data to develop evidence-based research that provides the diversity of perspectives needed for positive change.

Left: Lucy Quist.  
Photography by  
Lea Grahovac.



# LEADING CHANGE

From a global perspective

**Redefining Diversity.  
Dealing with Societal Bias.  
Connecting for Prosperity.**

Lucy Quist, CEO and founder of Quist Blue Diamond and co-founder of the Executive Women Network in Ghana.

New Residence Hall  
Prince Arthur Ballroom  
3623 avenue du Parc  
Montreal

**FEBRUARY 12, 2019**  
4:30-6:00 pm  
Reception to follow

ISID  
McGill  
DESAUTELS

## ISID's 2019 Annual Conference

*Challenges Facing the Developing World in the 21st Century: Research and Practice in Global Governance*

The 2019 ISID annual conference brings together interdisciplinary academics, experts, and practitioners to discuss and debate today's global challenges and priorities that require innovative governance solutions. The conference will be organized around three core questions reflecting current challenges in global governance:

1. How do we harmonize local and global policy efforts to respond to pressing governance issues?
2. How do actors and institutions evaluate legitimacy, accountability and representation?
3. How do we assess governance success and what mechanisms can we use to evaluate change?

Each question will be addressed in the context of five different themes reflecting the complex environment in which global challenges occur: Corruption, Environment, Democracy, Migration and Refugees and International Organizations.



Challenges Facing the Developing World  
in the 21st Century:  
Research and Practice in Global Governance

Democracy  
Environment  
International Organizations  
Migration & Refugees  
Corruption

ISID's Annual Conference  
2019  
[www.mcgill.ca/isid](http://www.mcgill.ca/isid)

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Prof. Pranab Bardhan, UC Berkeley  
Mr. Jim Brumby, World Bank

# News from ISID

## *Recent Publications:*

**Allan, Diana.** 2018. "This is not a politics": Solidarity and Subterfuge in Palestinian refugee communities in Lebanon. *South Atlantic Quarterly* 117 (1): 91 – 110.

**Allan, Diana.** 2018. "What bodies remember: sensory experience as historical counterpoint in the Nakba Archive." In *An Oral History of the Palestinian Nakba*, edited by Nahla Abdo and Nur Masalha, 66-87. London: Zed Books.

**Amodio, Francesco.** "Input Allocation, Workforce Management and Productivity Spillovers: Evidence from Personnel Data" (with Miguel A. Martinez Carrasco) *The Review of Economic Studies* 85(4), 2018, 1937-1970.

**Amodio, Francesco.** "Ethnicity and Violence During Democratic Transitions: Evidence from South Africa" (with Giorgio Chiovelli) *Journal of the European Economic Association* 16(4), 2018, 1234-1280.

**Amodio, Francesco.** "Making Do with What You Have: Conflict, Input Misallocation and Firm Performance" (with Michele Di Maio) *The Economic Journal* 128(615), 2018, 2559-2612.

**Bradley, Megan.** (2018) "Durable Solutions and the Right of Return for Internally Displaced Persons: Evolving Interpretations," *International Journal of Refugee Law* 30(2): 218-242.

**le Polain de Waroux, Y.**, Baumann, M., Gasparri, N.I., Gavier-Pizarro, G., Godar, J., Kuemmerle, T., Müller, R., Vázquez, F., Volante, J.N. & Meyfroidt, P. (2018). Rents, actors, and the expansion of commodity frontiers in the Gran Chaco. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers* 108(1):204-225.

Iwamura, T., **le Polain de Waroux, Y.**, & Mascia, M.B. (2018)

Considering people in systematic conservation planning: insights from land system science. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* 16(7): 388-396.

Garrett, R. D., I. Koh, E. F. Lambin, **Y. le Polain de Waroux**, J. H. Kastens, and J. C. Brown (2018). Intensification in Agriculture-Forest Frontiers: Land Use Responses to Development and Conservation Policies in Brazil. *Global Environmental Change* 53: 233-43.

Meyfroidt, P., Roy Chowdhury, R., De Bremond, A., Ellis, E.C., Erb, K.-H., Filatova, T., Garrett, R.D., Grove, M., Heinemann, A., Kuemmerle, T., Kull, C., Lambin, E.F., Landon, Y., le Polain de Waroux, Y., Messerli, P., Müller, D., Nielsen, J., Peterson, G., Rodriguez García, V., Schlüter, M., Turner II, B. L., Verburg, P. (2018) Middle-range theories of land system change. *Global Environmental Change* 53:52-56

Coomes, O.T., MacDonald, G. & **le Polain de Waroux, Y.** (2018) Geo-spatial Land Price Data: A Public Good for Global Change Science and Policy. *BioScience* 68(7):481-484.

Nolte, C., Gobbi, B., **le Polain de Waroux, Y.**, Piquer-Rodríguez, M., Butsic, V., & Lambin, E. F. (2018) Challenges in attributing avoided deforestation to policies and actors: lessons from provincial forest zoning in the Argentinian Dry Chaco. *Ecological Economics* 150: 346-352.

Lambin, E.F., Gibbs, H., Carlson, K.L., Fleck, L., Garrett, R.D., Heilmayr, R., **le Polain de Waroux, Y.**, McDermott, C., McLaughlin, D., Newton, P., Nolte, C., Pacheco, P., Rausch, L., Streck, C., Thorlakson, T., & Walker, N. (2018) The role of supply-chain initiatives in reducing deforestation. *Nature Climate Change* 8: 109-116.

## *Grants and New Projects:*

**Professor Sonia Laszlo** received a grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada in support of the Women's Empowerment in Development Lab.

**Professor Yann le Polain de Waroux** received a grant from the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Société et culture for his project, Effets de l'avancée des frontières agricoles au XXI<sup>e</sup> siècle sur les migrations et les moyens de subsistance des ménages dans le Gran Chaco sud-américain and a grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada in support of his project, Uncovering social and economic transformations in deforestation frontiers of the South American Gran Chaco. Professor Yann le Polain de Waroux also received an MSSSI Landscapes Research Award.

**Professors Megan Bradley and Diana Allan** are both participants in a very large SSHRC Partnership Grant, Civil society and the global refugee regime, with Carleton University.

**Professor Manuel Balán** has received two grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada in support of his projects, Corruption under Left Turn governments in Latin America, and Media and Partisan Polarization in the Americas.