



EMERGING NEWS

Ohio University's International Development Studies Program Newsletter

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Welcome Home Fellow Bobcats!

Like most Development Practitioners, we are always seeking new ideas and solutions. This issue presents a fresh look for our ongoing IDS newsletter. We value your feedback, updated contact info, connection with friends, shared inside stories, development trends and professional news, so please stay connected!

Keeping connected:

Email: development.studies@ohio.edu



: IDS at Ohio University



: Ohio University International Development Studies



Catching up with Alumni, Vanhlee Lattana

*"The goal of the **International Development Studies Program** is to produce graduates who will become development practitioners - catalysts and facilitators for change in developing contexts. We approach the study of international development from a multidisciplinary perspective, combining theory, methods, practical application, and technical concentration."* ~OHIO IDS webpage



1st year IDS Cohorts: Ashley Thompson and Liudmila Pestun



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From the Desk of:

Dr. Bob J. Walter

Director, IDS



The fall semester of 2014-15 is now over; there are notable aspects of it that I want to highlight. I believe this year promises to be a very good one for several reasons. First, we have a large and diverse cohort of incoming students, a total of 22. Combined with the second year cohort of 20, there are now 42 students in the International Development Studies Program, representing 24 countries. We are truly global! Another striking aspect is that we have 9 Fulbright scholars in the group. One is completing his program this semester and will be graduating in December, an unusual time for the program. Sidi Mohamed Nagi, a student from Mauritania, has established a very enviable record while at Ohio University. I believe he has a promising career before him and I know he will be an excellent representative of the program. We wish him well!

The IDS program is adding more practice elements to its curriculum this year. We will be offering two workshops in the spring semester to strengthen to skills of students, skills in high demand in development now. The first workshop will be on **monitoring and evaluation**. Thanks to Dan McBrayer, an alumnus of IDS who now works in the D.C. area, we have a M&E specialist coming to do the workshop. This will be a two day, intensive workshop taught over a weekend. Our second workshop will be on **grant writing**, to be taught by another specialist. It will be offered in the same two day, intensive, weekend workshop format. These will be early in the spring semester, and will allow the students who take them to utilize the skills in their coursework and/or capstone project. The ultimate goal is to be able to repeat these in subsequent semesters so they are not just one time events. Another element under consideration is to convert these workshops into online offerings. A final new curriculum element for this year is the proposed **Qualitative Methods for Development**

class. One of the program's distribution requirements is on Methods. This semester long course will allow students, especially first year ones, to gain the requisite skills in qualitative research and be of great help in field research, data gathering, and deciding on their capstone project. Finally, I am hopeful that we will be able to add one more Concentration to the program requirements, expanding the current five of Environment, Gender, Health, Social Science, and Sport. The new addition would be Crisis Mitigation and Development, an area meant to address the gap between a disaster situation and standard development condition. This is a topic of interest to students and one with significant funding.

Another activity for the spring semester is a grant proposal to the Department of State for their Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. It is a program for Sports and Development, intended to encourage cultural exchanges using sports as the mechanism. We applied last year, but were not funded. After discussions with the Officer in State, we were invited to apply again and will do so. Wish us success this time!

One final item to note. This year, Ohio University is planning an International Alumni Reunion, scheduled for April 16 through April 18. It is to be held in conjunction with International Week at OU. I am aware that a number of IDS alumni are planning to return during that time and I invite all who can make it to join us. It would be terrific to see you! Even if you are not able to return for the reunion, I welcome your feedback and suggestions. Please feel free to contact me directly; alternatively, you can reply to our Facebook page, to our Linked group page, or to the Development Studies mailbox.



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Welcome First Year Fulbright Scholars

This year's incoming IDS cohorts provides a diverse array of graduate students coming from unique backgrounds and experiences. This group has doubled the overall graduate program size. Due to this size we are unable to introduce the entire first year class, however, encourage all to visit our IDS webpage to connect with entire current staff and students. This newsletter edition will highlight the first year Fulbright Scholars.

We welcome you IDS class of 2016!



Name: Thuy Ho

Hometown: Vietnam

Areas of IDS interest: Environment, M & E, GIS, Education, Health development, Community & Communication Development

Highlights of OU experiences thus far: Cultural lessons, network connections, and academic support.

What's next? Thuy plans to work in the NGO sector for environment development.

Fun Fact: She enjoys sports, travel, and photography.

Name: Mohamed Keita

Hometown: Segou, Mali

Areas of IDS Interest:
Political Science

Highlight of OU experience thus far:
Cultural lessons.

What's next? Seeking employment in the development sector in my home country and help in its development.

Fun Fact: Mohamed states he has an unique story.





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FULBRIGHT

Ohio University's IDS program has hosted multitudes of Fulbright scholars. Please click below to truly understand the history and policy of what it means to be a Fulbright Scholar:

<http://www.cies.org/about-us/what-fulbright>

Name: Liudmila Pestun

Hometown: Pdatsk, Belarus

Areas of IDS interest: Politics, Human Rights, and Youth

Highlights of OU experiences thus far: Mila has enjoyed getting to know people within the IDS program and learning more about the field of international development.

What's next? She is planning to work in the international development sector in Belarus and other countries.

Fun Fact: Uniquely, Mila is the only international student currently on the Ultimate Frisbee team.



Name: Awa Sall

Hometown: Hanover, Germany

Areas of IDS Interest: Environmental Sustainability, Corporate Social Responsibility, and Communication

Highlights of OU experience thus far:

Getting to know so many amazing people from all over the world within the IDS program, along with, experiencing many different activities at OU. Really an interactive campus which makes my time here unique for me.

What's next? Awa is focusing on the upcoming semester and her concentration in environment. She is very excited to learn more about this field and looking forward to an internship in India this upcoming summer.

Fun facts: Horse riding; dressage competitions. Awa owns horses in Germany.





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Update with 2nd Year Cohorts

Q & A with: Sana Mahmud

Home Country: Pakistan

What part of your background led you to OU/IDS?

My interest for development studies was sparked by the massive Earthquake that hit Pakistan in October 2005. That was the first time I realized how other organizations had to step up as the government had failed to effectively respond to the disaster. I volunteered for a few months at a relief camp and saw all the planning behind the NGO's work, which was really my first

introduction to the non-profit sector. Besides, working with the earthquake survivors just made me feel like I was doing something worthwhile. Hence – the interest in International Development.



Why a concentration in Sport and Development?

Interestingly, I was introduced to the concept of S&D when I visited the States in 2009 on a two-week cultural exchange 'Sports Envoy' program of the U.S State Department. My soccer club back in Pakistan was sponsored by the U.S Embassy and after we won the National Championship, they invited a few members of our team to experience soccer in the United States. On our last day in the States, we had the opportunity to volunteer at a soccer camp for children with autism and other learning disabilities. That's when it hit me – the power of sport. It was more than I had realized. I returned back to Pakistan and started reading up on the subject of sport and development and discovered that people out there were writing about what I had seen, and I what I had started to believe in. I became so passionate about the subject, I decided to write my undergraduate thesis on the "Impact of Sports on the Self-Esteem

of Sports women in Pakistan"; the theoretical foundations of which were grounded in S&D literature, Development theory and feminist theory. I have been obsessed with the field ever since.

Ohio University's program provides students an opportunity to design their own degree, mixing and matching courses from different departments to create a holistic masters curriculum of their choice. In addition, it is one of the few schools in the United States with a specific focus on development studies as opposed to public policy/administration. A bonus for me was also that OHIO is known to have one of the best sports administration programs in the States. So I knew if I came here I would be able to enroll in courses from the sport administration school to complement my work in International Development. Also, as a Fulbrighter, the choice rested with my sponsors who ended up sending me to Ohio University. Luckily, when I arrived here, I learnt of the new 'Sport and Development' concentration in the IDS Program. Everything just seemed to fit. From that day onwards, I have never had a doubt about what I am doing here, and couldn't have asked for anything more.





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Update with 2nd Year Cohorts

Q & A with: Sana Mahmud

Home Country: Pakistan



What does being a Fulbrighter mean to you? What do you believe this experience will do for you?

I cannot even begin to explain how grateful I am to be given this opportunity. I would never have been able to afford an education in the United States without the Fulbright scholarship; the fact that they take care of your tuition and stipend has allowed me to experience academic and social life in the United States to the fullest. This has truly been an amazing experience for me, and I am thankful to God every day for making things work out so well for me. I have been able to travel to different places within and outside the United States during my Masters. Support from Fulbright has been key in helping make some of these things

possible. I was fortunate enough to secure an internship at the UN Women Headquarters in New York this past summer (2014). UN internships are unpaid, but due to my scholarship, I was able to stay in New York City for four

months for the duration of the internship. In between, I was also able to travel to Ecuador for a month with the Healthy Living Initiative started by the Tropical Disease Institute at Ohio University. In Ecuador, my teammate Camila and I were able to design and implement a Sport and Health Education project to create awareness regarding the Chagas disease. The experience in Ecuador gave me chance to finally use all my S&D theoretical knowledge in a practical setting. Both Ecuador and New York were great learning experiences in their own way. I think I walked away with more perspective after each of these experiences, learning about the different aspects of the Development Sector.



Pictures of Sana while serving with OHIO's TDI group in Ecuador. Read more about TDI in our Development Practitioner Lecture Series .



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Update with 2nd Year Cohorts

Q & A with: Papa Ndiaye

Home Country: Senegal

A Brief Look Inside a Summer Internship:

By: Papa Ndiaye, Senegal IDS
2015

As a second year IDS student and from Dakar, Senegal, I have a special focus on environment and food sustainability in Africa. This past summer I volunteered with AYWA International in Senegal on a Balanite Aegyptica derived-oil commercialization project. This abundant resource in northern Senegal produces a fruit called the "desert date" and from its kernels a rich oil is extracted providing multiple uses and a high commercial value.

AYWA was charged with designing innovated solutions for a nutcracker that would be used by local participants in the Fouta region in northern Senegal. The Balanite nutshell is extremely hard and has caused low productivity. I was in charge of testing different designs and

choosing the most effective to be used in this specific project. I was also responsible for traveling to interested villages and sharing the project with people, conducting demonstrations and setting up local cooperatives. This internship provided me with strong development practitioner skills, along with, allowing me to work directly with my passion of entrepreneurialism in Senegal.





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Development Practitioner Lecture Series:



September 2014:

Samuel Tamiwa, Class of 1992

By: Erin West, IDS Class of 2015

Mr. Tumiwa is the Deputy Representative of the Asian Development Bank's North American Representative Office in Washington, D.C. He serves as a liaison between ADB's Manila headquarters and North American policymakers and stakeholders in the private and public sectors. He also serves to strengthen collaboration with think tanks, academia, civil society organizations and bilateral and multilateral institutions based in North America.

Prior to his assignment in Washington, D.C., Mr. Tumiwa's work focused on sustainable infrastructure, green growth and climate change. Amongst other things, he coordinated ADB's clean energy program and spearheaded ADB's efforts to increase annual investment in clean energy to \$2 billion a year 2013. He also established and managed ADB's Clean Energy Financing Partnership Facility, a \$250 million fund to facilitate and catalyze greater investments in clean energy, and Climate Change Fund, a \$40 million fund to address both climate change mitigation and adaptation. Mr. Tumiwa also started ADB's Energy for All Initiative, a collaborative effort to focus on projects to focus on providing cleaner, more efficient and renewable energy to the 1.6 billion people in the region that are still dependent of traditional energy.

Mr. Tamiwa made additional time to speak with several IDS cohorts following his September presentation. As he sipped a coffee with the group on Court Street, we eagerly pressed him with questions of life beyond academia. It was an honor to listen to real-time stories of his travels internationally, along with, his experiences in the field of sustainable projects between the United States and Asia impacting renewable energy, economies, policy making, and rural electrification. However, what made this moment truly remarkable was that Mr. Tamiwa could continue to empathetically get back on a graduate level mentality and encourage us with relatable and tangible experiences.

The coffee Q&A session focused on his past, present and future. Although he stated he doesn't truly have an overall life philosophy, he made mention of "karma" backed by stories of solid ethics and sound moral decisions. He led us through his life's journey following his memorable graduate time spent at OHIO. Mr. Tamiwa encouraged that one may graduate with more "generalist-like" skills, yet he pointedly remarked that one can continue to actively persevere and develop into a more "technical" development practitioner through due diligence and willingness to go beyond expectations; and to become more technical, one should remain close to the engineers, and other hands-on technical specialists on the team in order to "sponge everything" in effort to become as technical as one can from these individuals.

Finally regarding his present status, Mr. Tamiwa shed light on personal life behind the scenes. In effort to globetrot for projects, maintain a healthy marriage, family and lifestyle, Mr. Tamiwa credits his wife, whom respectfully ranks within communication for World Health Organization (WHO), as his strength behind his life's journey. Together, they continue to raise their two, active children whilst pursuing their careers in the field of development. As a blend of an economist, financial analyst, and engineer, it is refreshing to meet and listen to the journey of someone as accomplished, and as grounded as Mr. Tamiwa. His fellow OHIO cohorts appreciated his time spent encouraging and educating fellow IDS Bobcats...clearly karma shall be kind to the future of Mr. Tamiwa and his family.





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Development Practitioner Lecture Series:



October 2014:

**Dr. Mario Grijalva,
Ohio University**

By: Charlie Fulks, IDS Class of 2015

Dr. Mario Grijalva made a visit to the IDS seminar Friday October 31st, to talk to the IDS students about the work he is doing here at OHIO, as well as, in Ecuador. Dr. Grijalva is the director of the Tropical Disease Institute (TDI) here at Ohio University. Dr. Grijalva is focusing his efforts on a neglected infectious disease called "Chagas disease". He works through the Tropical Disease Institute here at OU, whilst collaborating with Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador.

Dr. Grijalva's approach provides an incredible experience for students and faculty alike. He recently worked to develop the Healthy Living Initiative (HLI), housed within the TDI to provide an opportunity to promote the social science components of researching neglected tropical diseases. The HLI is multi-disciplinary and comprehensive approach to address the interrelated biological, social, economic and political factors that drives Chagas disease in communities challenged by persistent poverty. Through this effort, he has had the opportunity to take many undergraduates, graduates and medical students, as well as, faculty to Ecuador from a variety of backgrounds from both universities to the research locations in an

effort to learn more about this specific disease, and how to deter disease transmission.

During his presentation Dr. Grijalva spoke about opportunities for graduate students in the Center for International Studies, having students in the past participate from Latin American Studies, Communication and Development and also International Development Studies programs. The hands-on learning experience students receive from this program adds to the classroom learning experience for the graduate students, making this an invaluable development opportunity for students in these programs. The initiative partners with community members, for community led productive initiative for student's to work on during their trips to Ecuador. These projects have ranged from participatory visual communication projects, health communication initiatives, and community building and income generation to name a few. For more information please contact Dr. Mario Grijalva at Grijalva@ohio.edu or visit Irvine Hall room 333.





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Development Practitioner Lecture Series:



November 2014:

**Dr. Jules Woolf,
Ohio University**

By: Erin West

A few moments spent with Dr. Jules Woolf, one clearly realizes one is engaging with a true “international player”. He was born in Canada, raised in England and formally educated state-side. Jules graduated from the University of Texas at Austin capturing his Master’s degree in physiology and his Doctorate in Sports Administration and Sport Management. Yet, all of his background can most be enjoyed noting his blended dialect and vast knowledge of his focus topics of sport and doping, and sport for development, along with, development of sport.

Upon being asked, “Do you foresee any future trends inside the sporting arena...?” Dr. Woolf replied stating he seeks “more professionalization in sport”. This could be identified as the lack of functional expertise, such as the example of within a non-profit sport business run by a passion-

ate sports fan that lacks true expertise knowledge. Often times, a non-profit could be run by a sport advocate whom has knowledge of the sport but lacks knowledge of how to run the business. Jules suggests futuristically that there might be a greater emphasis on evaluation and accountability.

IDS cohorts soaked in Dr. Woolf’s presentation of his research and expert knowledge of sport as it intersects with development. We look forward to his OHIO future and share encouragement that he reaches his goal of becoming a tenured professor, along with, hopes that his sport research produces significant impact to media and policy making. This emerging sport focus within IDS as presented by Dr. Jules Woolf proves to be noteworthy and truly international.





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Affiliated Faculty Highlight:

Dr. Stephen Scanlan

Associate Professor of Sociology



Q: Where (or how) does your specific focus of study/interest, and specific research fall within the “international development” scope?

A: My research from the early days of my graduate training to the present has been focused on issues of international development and inequality. I have had a particular focus on cross-national analyses of the multiple determinants of food insecurity, focusing particularly on conflict, poverty/inequality, population, and politics

among other concerns. I have extended my work to include examinations of the political economy of the world food system and gender and development interests including work on child hunger, HIV, and most recently gendered contributions to sustainability. At the present moment I continue to examine food security in addition to work on conflict and the post-2015 sustainable development goal agenda.

Q: What can future IDS/ Development Practitioners expect from participating in one of your graduate seminars?

A: I encourage students to utilize valuable seminar time to cultivate their interests and make progress toward completing their degrees. I cater assignments and research projects around skill development to become well-rounded scholars and encourage students to connect their interests to the focus of the course. Coursework is about engaging with faculty and

your peers, while at the same time developing a community of scholars of like interests and/or complementary concerns. Students can be expected to read a lot and take great responsibility for the direction of course, including being a pure seminar where discussion is the foundation. This is the case whether it is a seminar in poverty, globalization, or any of my dual-listed courses (social movements, environmental sociology) for which I also have an individual meeting time with graduate students.

Q: Currently, you are conducting a Sociology seminar on Poverty. What are some of the current international trends &/or emerging topics that you foresee arising in this pressing global topic?

A: Increasingly we are witnessing the way that poverty that we typically understand in the economic sense (how much money one has) is actually much more than that, alluding to ideas such as Sen's capabilities approach and discussions of exclusion in many

forms experienced by those at the bottom rung of the ladder. In this sense there are “many poverties” and these are intricately connected to some of the most pressing world issues including climate change, conflict/war/terrorism, environmental justice and inequality, gender inequality, health, hunger, racial/ethnic unrest, sustainability, and the list goes on. Many of the world's worst problems are symptoms of poverty and underdevelopment and it is understanding this that we must begin to disentangle the complexities.



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Affiliated Faculty Highlight:



Dr. Stephen Scanlan

Q: You recently received a Fulbright Scholar Award to Ireland. Can you explain how you achieved this award and your takeaways since receiving?

A: I applied for the award starting in the summer of 2014 after much investigation of what I would like to study and where I would like to do it. There is much time and planning involved and the more proactive one is the better in terms of shaping one's interests with suitable partners overseas. The focus of the research component of my work was on ecofeminist and gender and development perspectives on sustainability and the contributions the world's women

make toward achieving sustainable societies. I also taught an undergraduate course on international development and global inequality. My time was spent at the National University of Ireland Galway and I can truly say that it was one of the most meaningful of my life. I was fortunate to be in a university where interdisciplinary discussions on gender, sustainability, development, and globalization were a core interest of many of the faculty. The time in Ireland afforded me the ability to focus on this new research while at the same time helped me draw connections and parallels to other interests of mine including hunger and famine, hunger strikes, environmental sociology, and food economies which I continue to explore.

Q: In a 2013 BBC interview, you addressed their discussion topic "Hunger Strikes". Regarding conflict-resolution, you expressed that social-movement scholars are adapting their tactics because of globalization; do you foresee other scholars within conflict-resolution adapting as well, and if so, how?

A: I think conflict-resolution is very much a process of learning what works best and then applying its lessons to new challenges, modifying in a way that best fits the local, cultural, political, or other dynamics of the case of interest. No single problem is identical, but the diffusion of ideas is important in shaping how to approach dialogue and achieve peaceful solutions.

Q: Professionally speaking, how do you prepare for a discussion with the likes of a "BBC"? Along with, could you offer advice for those that will professionally engage with strong, public profiles, like the BBC, or governmental officials?

A: To be honest, I was quite nervous given how some interviews on the BBC have gone—they can be quite contentious. In addition, hunger strikes are a particularly uncomfortable

topic, especially when it comes to the Troubles and relations between Ireland and the UK. I guess the best way to answer this as I think about it is that I really did not have much time to prepare or think about it. They contacted me and for the most part I was on later that day, with me doing little to prepare other than review the article I published on the topic and skim through the news online for some updated or recent cases and comparisons to consider.



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Catching up with Alumni:

Vanhlee Lattana

IDS Class of 2014

June 2014; I work as a manager for Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Alliance (SUN CSA). It is a global movement lead by country to fight against malnutrition. More than 50 countries have joined the movement; and Laos joined the SUN movement in 2011. The SUN CSA was established in early 2014 to promote the sustainable improvement in nutrition in Laos, in particu-

lar women with children in their first 1,000 days of life. It seeks to coordinate and align civil society to skill building, convergent action, and learning from best practices. SUN CSA also supports a government's national nutrition agenda to accelerate the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger. SUN is founded on the principle that all people have a right to food and good nutrition. It unites people from governments, civil society, the United Nations, donors, business and researchers in a collective effort to improve nutrition.



Working for SUN CSA allows me to have the opportunity to travel and I love travelling, as well as, learning new things. I travel within Laos and also to other SUN countries to learn about their good practices to fight against malnutrition. I recently had an opportunity to learn from Peru and met with their First Lady. She is very enthusiastic about nutrition issue and is also the leader of the SUN movement from Peru.



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Catching up with Alumni:

Vanhlee Lattana

IDS Class of 2014



It has been my passion to work in the development field. I am glad I studied IDS and with this degree, you will find the doors of development field open wide for you if you seek for it.



My advice to new IDS students is to take many methodology classes (Project management, Non-profit management, program evaluation for example...oh, and also research

method classes). You will definitely use the things you learn from those classes out in the field of development.

Thank you, Vanhlee for sharing your passion and encouragement. Thank you to all alumni for taking time to update and share your professional stories. Cheers to many more exciting future developments for you all!