More Seats at the GDS Table

David Edmunds, GDS Director

If GDS is, in part, a long conversation about where ideas of global development come from, how they work in the world, and what can and should be understood and done differently, then we have just added some important voices to that conversation. Dr. Sreerekha Mullassery Sathiamma has joined us from India, where she was teaching at Jamia Millia Islamia University, and working in a variety of struggles for the rights of women, workers and slum dwellers. She has written on gender, tribal land rights and development debates. She will be with us for 2 years (or more, we hope), teaching classes related to her interests in gender and labor, as well as some of our core classes. Dr. Tessa Farmer has a joint appointment shared between Global Studies and Middle Eastern and South Asian Languages and Cultures. With a PhD in anthropology, she will take on GDS 3020 (Theory II) this spring, and help with the creation of a new Global Studies methods course. She is already offering classes related to her work on water politics in Cairo, Egypt, as well as courses generally at the intersection of environment, development and anthropology. Dr. Gabrielle Kruks-Wisner has joined us through a joint appointment between Global Studies and Politics. With a PhD in Political Science and Masters in International Development Planning, she will teach classes on the comparative politics of development, local governance, and social welfare. Her current course offerings include a class on grass-roots politics and a seminar on state-society relations in development. Her research focuses on citizen-state relations, with a regional focus on India. She has also worked and conducted research in Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa on issues related to economic and social rights, service delivery, local governance, disaster risk reduction, and environmental sustainability.

Of course, we engage with the non-academic world as well. Chesa Wettasinha came from the international network Prolinnova (Promoting Local Innovation) to discuss the politics of knowledge production, technology and innovation, and farmer organizing in agricultural research and development. Several groups of UVA students have worked with Chesa and her colleagues in the Prolinnova network in Asia and Africa. Chesa will help us reflect on how to improve our shared mentoring of students before, during and after a visit, and how to assure that host localities see value in the emerging relationships. Prolinnova and GDS are now working to establish summer internships in 4 to 5 countries within the Prolinnova network for the summer of 2017. Dusty Gill of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate (a Native American Nation in South Dakota) also visited with 4 other youth workers and 3 youth from the Oyate. They spent a week with us at Global Grounds (with Shared Resources and Engagement Lab as the host) to avail themselves of UVA resources and as they develop youth programs for the coming years. They also identified and prepared GDS students to visit the reservation next summer to support that programming. Priority activities for the summer of 2017 include: the development of an app to support pregnant women, preparing pasture for the introduction of bison on a tribal citizen’s land, and training youth workers in the peer counseling model developed at UVa by the Office of African and African American Affairs. John Bishop of MBJ Law in Portland, Oregon also visited in late November after attending a national conference of labor lawyers in DC. He spoke with a member of our own UVA law school about the state of labor organizing in the US, how the presidential election might change labor organizing, and how students could make connections to labor movements.

We’re happy to have so many new, talented scholars and practitioners join us. It feels a little like a holiday gathering to me, with lots of stories flying about, excitement over shared projects, and the sense that there is something meaningful about all of us being together.
New Global Studies Courses 2017

**State, Society, and Development**  
*GSGS 4559*  
*Professor Gabrielle Kruks-Wisner*  
This seminar examines the relationships between the state, civil society, and citizens. How do states and societies (and the people within them) shape and influence one another? What are the respective roles of the state, civil society organizations, and ordinary citizens in shaping developmental outcomes? And how are states, societies, and citizens, in turn, shaped by political, economic, and social conditions?

**Global Resistance and Student Activism**  
*GSGS 2559*  
*Professor Richard Handler & Victor Luftig*  
An overview of ideas of political resistance and activism on the part of students, moving from historical cases (for example, anti-Vietnam-war protests) to the contemporary moment.

**The Global in Situ**  
*GSGS 3559*  
*Professor Tessa Farmer*  
What does the term “global” mean? Who and what is a part of it? Does the “global” provide a meaningful framework for rethinking how we should understand or live in the world? Are all places “global” in the same way? Does “global” = “universal”? Who gets to speak about the global or the universal, and what do such models have to take into account? We will examine these questions “in situ” or “in place.”

**South Asia Social Movements**  
*GSGS 3559*  
*Professor Sreerekha Sathiamma*  
This seminar focuses on theories of social movements and debates on the history and politics of social movements in South Asia with a focus on organizing and struggles around labor intensive industries including textile industries, tea plantations, special economic zones, fish worker’s communities, sex worker unions, and the mining sector. We will examine efforts to connect local movements to global networks and to build solidarity and support within and between movements in different sectors.

**Women’s Work in South Asia**  
*GSGS 3115*  
*Professor Sreerekha Sathiamma*  
What is ‘work’? Are women seen as ‘workers’? Are there women who do not ‘work’? What is the history of paid, less paid and unpaid work? What is ‘housework’ and who is a ‘housewife’? What changes happened through different times and versions of domestic work? What do different ideologies and theories have to say about the creation of women’s work and its devaluation? How does class, sexuality, caste or race interact with paid work? Can/should sex work, housework or surrogate motherhood be paid work?

**Fictions of Global Development**  
*GDS 3559*  
*Professor Victor Luftig*  
How useful—as documentation or persuasion—can works of fiction (in prose or film) be in relation to problems of global development? Stories considered will span from Conrad’s “Heart of Darkness” to the present. The course is intended for students of Global Development Studies and English.
The Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate (SWO), a Native American Nation in northeast South Dakota, sent eight tribal citizens to UVA in November of 2016. They came to discuss opportunities for collaboration between UVA students and various youth organizations at SWO. The group spent a week based at Global Grounds, but also visited different locations across UVA and Cville.

They arrived on a Saturday, toured Monticello, and acclimated themselves to UVA. On Sunday night, they organized a cultural education session, which included them sharing Dakota hand games, singing and drumming with us. This session reminded us that our conversations during the remainder of the week should be Dakota-centric to the extent possible. This would offer acknowledgement of historical injustice experienced by Dakota peoples at the hands of settler institutions, including universities. It would also open a pathway (at least partially) for Dakota culture to influence any plans we would make for collaboration.

During the week-long visit, five potential areas of collaboration were identified: peer counseling, youth engagement in an SWO garden, a youth-oriented arts program, a mobile health project supporting pregnant women, and a bison ranching program (with youth learning about environmental studies as part of the effort). UVA students have picked up on several of these ideas. Peer counseling support will require the largest UVA effort, and will be the focus here.

While in Cville, the SWO team visited a class led by Dr. Michael Mason that prepares UVA students to participate in ProjectRISE, a peer counseling program for black students. The SWO team members were excited by the potential of ProjectRISE to inform Native American peer counseling on the reservation. The team also visited several youth programs in Charlottesville to learn how other programs deal with counseling needs. In several follow-up discussions at Global Grounds, we all agreed to complete a set of tasks over the winter and spring in preparation for a workshop on peer counseling to be held on the SWO reservation in the summer.

The groundwork for this collaboration was laid in the summer of 2015, when GDS students Alexis Alvarez, Kylie Grow, and Willa Sweeney visited the SWO Lake Traverse Reservation to observe on-going youth work. That summer, peer counseling was first identified as a need. The subsequent summer, a team of faculty, graduate students and community youth workers from Charlottesville traveled to the Reservation to assess if and how we might be able to contribute to such a program. Dr. Mason and a graduate student of his, Lora Mason, came along, as did Dolly Joseph and Jean Ayite of Cville’s Building Experience. After meeting with a wide range of youth workers at SWO, it became clear to all of us that a critical initial step would be to train a group of adults at SWO to support such a peer counseling effort. GDS has supported Dr. Mason and his team in writing grants, arranging meetings and making other preparations for the summer.

We will continue working on the other priorities identified by the SWO team this spring in the hopes of finding more ways for UVA students & faculty, and SWO youth and youth workers to learn from each other in the course of action research.
GDS has been working under the guidance of Chesha Wettasinha and the network of development professionals of the Prolinnova (PROmoting Local INNOVAtion) international network to develop a series of internships for UVA students with a background in Global Studies. The internships are designed to be for 2 people per site, and would generally run for 6 to 8 weeks. A separate site is being organized by Sana Alaya Seghiar, a PhD student at UVA, for Tunisia. Senegal and Tunisia are furthest along, with Cambodia, the Philippines, South Africa and Ethiopia not far behind. The Office of Global Internships is advising students about scholarships and helping with other planning tasks.

**INTERNSHIPS in GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT**

**SENEGAL:**
* Working in French (with Wolf translation) to create a comic book highlighting the value of organic produce from AgrEcol Afrique’s community gardens.

**TUNISIA:**
* Working with a non-profit, I Watch, on public institution transparency and accountability.

**PHILIPPINES:**
* Working out of the International Institute for Rural Reconstruction on an educational program related to sustainable agriculture, food and nutrition security and climate change.

**ETHIOPIA:**
* Working with Best Practices Association, a local NGO, on renewable energy in rural areas of Tigray Province.

**SOUTH AFRICA:**
* Working with the Natural Resources Institute on evaluating participatory agroforestry experiments with farmer innovators.

**CAMBODIA:**
* Working with a local NGO, CEDAC, to evaluate marketing strategies for organic produce, including cooperative shops and rice mills that are co-owned by farming communities.

*** You are not limited to the programs listed above. They are a starting point for GDS majors to research programs. Speaking with an Education Abroad Advisor and your Academic Advisor will help you in determining which study abroad program best meets your goals.

http://www.prolinnova.net/student_intern_lipid

We intend for these to become locations where students can return regularly to learn about the practice of development “on the ground” while contributing in modest ways to the meaningful work our partners are doing.
Prolinnova Network

PROmoting Local INNOVAtion

Prolinnova has worked for more than a decade to support farmers as they solve their problems themselves through their own innovations, farmer-led joint experimentation, community organising, and social and political networking. The farmers they have worked with are now used to sharing and learning with others about their needs and their strategies for addressing those needs. A growing number of government and university researchers, NGO development practitioners and donors, traders and politicians in the countries where Prolinnova is active now have begun to take serious note of farmers’ ideas about how to improve rural life and livelihoods.

http://www.prolinnova.net/student_intern_lipid
Alumni Updates

◊ **Willa Sweeney** (GDS ‘16) is excited to work with the GreenLight Fund after returning from Thailand. GreenLight is a nonprofit that addresses healthcare, education, and income inequalities by supporting and funding sustainable and scalable programs within selected US cities. She encourages any GDSers coming to Boston to reach out to her anytime!

◊ **Grace Muth** (GDS ‘16) was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to serve as English teaching-assistant in Malaysia to secondary-school students, beginning in January, 2017. She hopes to continue in the international development community after the Fulbright program ends.

◊ **Olivia Koscuisko Tritschler** (GDS ‘16) moved to Arlington, VA and is focusing on self-discovery. She is trying to figure out what interests will have the most influence in her life, which is not limited to finding a job she is passionate about, but also the ways she spends free time and the topics she is most drawn to and feels the most pressure to speak about.

◊ **Philippe Griffiths** (GDS ‘16) split time between Rwanda and Kenya working for One Acre Fund. They provide microloans to farmers in the form of fertilizer and help bring crops to market once they are grown. It was a great mix of personal and professional exposure. Being born in Kenya and being half-Rwandan made the experience of returning to the region a powerful one. He hadn’t lived in the region since he was in his mid teens, so it was fun to get to know “home” through a different set of eyes. On a professional note, it was interesting to be exposed to a microfinance system that seemed to work relatively well. Though it was impossible for him not to challenge the organizations concepts with a critical GDS perspective. After spending those 6-7 months with OAF he returned to DC in February to start full-time as a consultant for Deloitte. Philippe is now in their federal practice, working with federal agencies in the DC area. He hopes to one day combine his interests in business development with his love for east Africa!

Continuing Education Programs

-A Note from an Alum

**Ayla Yurtaslan**
GDS Class of 2016

I am currently in Copenhagen, enrolled in the Global Development MSc program at Copenhagen University. I have just finished an internship at the Danish Institute for Human Rights, and am now about to start my thesis on the Danish policy of granting temporary residency to refugees (and how it fits into the political discourse on integration).

The masters program I’m enrolled in is a natural extension GDS, since it is interdisciplinary, and accepts people from a variety of social science backgrounds (most notably anthropology and economics, although there are people with degrees in history, human geography, sociology, business, int’l. relations, politics and global development studies). It is relatively new (I’m actually in the second generation/batch), and was created by a group of professors who felt that the ‘international development’ approach and university programs were somewhat outdated, and wanted to create a program which represented a lot of different perspectives, while also covering a lot of practical tools/knowledge. This means that a lot of the work we do is group work, with groups that bring together as many disciplines & backgrounds as possible (ex. my group of 4 people combined 4 academic disciplines, 4 nationalities, and different work/volunteer experiences), with the goal of bridging the gap between these perspectives or finding common ground.

When I say that it covers both theory and practical tools, what I mean is that an integral part of the program is to learn qualitative and quantitative research methods, as well as programs that facilitate them (such as STATA, QGis, etc.). The first semester also covers a lot of development theory, and historical perspectives on development work, with a semester-long research project (ours was to survey 120 people in different districts of Copenhagen on their voting habits and conduct follow-up interviews). The second semester then incorporates an element of fieldwork, which in my case was a trip to Tanzania with two weeks of field work on a research topic that each group prepares.

The third semester is left open for students to do an internship, study abroad, or enroll in other faculties that offer relevant courses at Copenhagen university. Most people opted to do internships, both abroad and in Denmark.

The program is relatively small, with ca 55 people, and only 7 or so are Danish citizens. This means that it also is very social, since the majority of the students moved to Denmark to join the program, knowing no one else beforehand.

The website for the program may have some more information of interest:

Alumni Updates

- **Bernice Tay** (GDS '16) has been working as an Analyst in the Business Development & Advisory team at Impact Investment Exchange (IXX), an impact investing intermediary based in Singapore.

- **Kira Agilo** (GDS '16) has been living in New Delhi for the past five months, interning at one of the leading environmental NGOs in India and practicing her Hindi language skills. After her internship, she is going to travel around India and some neighboring countries before returning to the US. Kira would be happy to talk to any students who are thinking of working abroad or going to India.

- **Colleen Brady** ~formerly Colleen Farrell (GDS '12) started consulting with Deloitte in 2013 and has since switched out of consulting (still with Deloitte) now runs a social innovation program internally for the company called Wicked Problems (https://deloitte.zoomforth.com/wickedproblems), that has her traveling frequently to their Dallas-based corporate university to lead design thinking-based brainstorming sessions where she engages professionals from across the firm in tackling sticky, persistent social issues.

- **Jewel Crosswell Stone** (GDS '15) is working with Deloitte on a Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services project. She is transitioning onto a pro bono project to work with the Lutheran Social Services organization where she will be creating a geospatial mapping tool to enable the organization to more strategically choose neighborhoods/homes when resettling refugees. This will take into account factors such as transportation, amenities, grocery stores, cost of living, etc. to see where each refugee family would most thrive. She is also volunteering with the Central American Resource Agency (CARECEN), teaching a civics class to primarily Central American immigrants to prepare them for the USCIS naturalization exam to become US citizens. She notes that it has been incredibly difficult given the political climate around immigration, but also empowering to feel like she is engaging in a meaningful, impactful way even if it is for just a few people and not on a wide scale. It has also been a great way to practice her Spanish!

- **Edel Tessema** (GDS '15) is still a USAID contractor doing knowledge management/knowledge sharing, but with Chemonics now working as an associate in their Supply Chains Solutions practice. This position incorporates a lot of technology to manage massive supply chain projects around the globe. There are quite a few UVA people at Chemonics!

- **Anaise Jean-Philippe** (GDS '15) is still working at EMPATH where she works within a growing and ambitious NGO, meets her participant’s needs, and accesses city resources. Recently, she was able to attend a talk given by Bobby Seale about the Panthers, and their community organizing.

- **Atlee Webber** (GDS '15) is in DC working at a refugee/immigrant services nonprofit (U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants) funded primarily by the federal government. She notes that it has been quite the experience switching from working with undocumented migrant farmworkers to refugees formally resettled by the US government and that the construction of "forced" vs. "voluntary" and "refugee" vs. "immigrant" can be quite frustrating. She recently received a promotion to become a Program Officer and is pretty pleased! Of course, everyone is quite nervous about the upcoming months.

Alumni are planning to get together in DC on March 24th, place to be determined.
Richard and David both intend to be there as well!
The GDS major began as an initiative of a UVA student group, the Global Development Organization (GDO). Beginning in 2006, GDO students researched similar programs at other universities, created a curricular plan, and recruited a faculty advisory group. The major was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences in May 2009 and the first group of GDS students began their studies in the fall 2009 semester, graduating in 2011.

In 2014, GDS became part of a larger Global Studies major, which has four tracks or concentrations: global public health, security and justice, environments and sustainability, and global development studies. GDS students now major in Global Studies with a concentration in Global Development Studies. GDS has been generously supported by students and their families and other University donors interested in developing global curricular opportunities for our students.

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http://globalstudies.virginia.edu

*** For questions, suggestions, or submissions of material for future newsletters, please contact Melissa Slogan, Newsletter Coordinator, at mcs3ev@virginia.edu