

RANDALL L. AND DEBORAH F.
TOBIAS CENTER FOR
INNOVATION
IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2023 - 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



HAMILTON LUGAR

SCHOOL OF GLOBAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
Tobias Center for Innovation in International Development

MISSION

Determining how best to assist countries in need while fostering their self-sufficiency engages policymakers, non-governmental organizations, and corporations alike. It's a challenge at the heart of the Randall L. and Deborah F. Tobias Center for Innovation in International Development at Indiana University's Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies.

Founded in 2017, the Tobias Center sponsors multidisciplinary research by scholars who identify innovative approaches to international assistance and evaluate how foreign aid affects the environment and public health. Since its founding, the Tobias Center has supported 66 small research grant proposals and 56 Research Assistantships for a total of over \$330,000 in direct support of these research activities.

A laboratory for international research, the Tobias Center gives university scholars a voice in policy by stimulating dialogue between academics and leaders in government, foundations, and international agencies. Equally important, the Center nurtures the next generation of development scholars and practitioners.

TOBIAS CENTER ORIGINS

Randall Tobias grew up in the farming community of Remington, Indiana where he has remained connected all of his life and where he currently oversees a 320-acre corn and soybean farm. A graduate of IU's Kelley School of Business, Tobias's career, first as a business executive and later as a government official, has taken him from his high school class of forty-one to relationships with world leaders and business executives in the United States and dozens of countries around the world.

After two years of U.S. Army service, Tobias joined AT&T where he worked for 29 years. He ultimately served as vice chair of the parent company and chair and CEO of its primary operating unit AT&T Communications. From 1993-1999, Tobias was chair, president, and CEO of Eli Lilly and Company where he led a major transformation of the company.

He continued to serve on several corporate and philanthropic boards until 2003 when President George W. Bush nominated Tobias to be the founding United States Global AIDS coordinator with the rank of ambassador, and subsequently as director of all United States foreign assistance with the rank of deputy secretary of state and concurrently the administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).



Tobias has been recognized with a long and diverse list of honors including five honorary degrees. He has served in leadership roles with numerous corporate and philanthropic boards. Among them he has served as the chair of the boards of trustees of both Duke University and Indiana University.

With a gift to Indiana University in 2017, Ambassador Tobias and his wife Deborah, a retired technology executive, founded the Tobias Center for Innovation in International Development at the Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies. This center, now bearing their name, is an appropriate legacy as it inspires excellence in development leadership and memorializes Ambassador Tobias's prominence as a leader in international relations.

WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear friends and supporters:

This past year has been one of substantial growth for the Tobias Center, as we implement core strategic objectives that we developed through last year's external review. Foremost, we continue to expand our impact on innovation in international development at Indiana University and beyond. This year, we supported scholarly research and learning projects across 17 countries (see figure 1). Students worked in teams to address development priorities in 11 countries through the Global Development Consultants (GDC) program led by Dr. Elisheva Cohen while research grant recipients conducted impactful research in nine countries (with two countries being the sites of projects for both GDC and research).

Figure 1

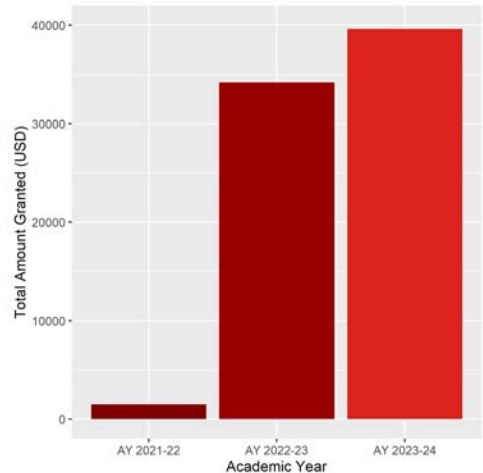
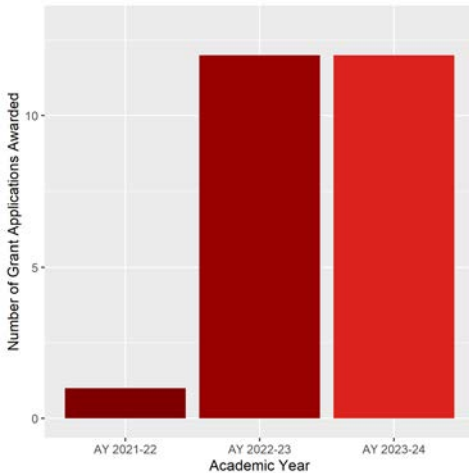


Location of projects

- GDC
- Research
- GDC & Research

During the past year we awarded nearly \$40,000 in research grants to 12 scholars. This reflected a small increase over our average of 11 yearly recipients during the first five years of the Tobias Center and a 15 percent increase from 2022-23 (see figure 2).

Figure 2



This year, we also launched our Faculty Research affiliate program to further engage with excellent scholars of development across Indiana University. Our 33 Research Affiliates' areas of concentration include work in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania—alongside global and multi-national research. Their expertise also touches on nearly every aspect of international development, covering 16 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (see figures 1,3,4).

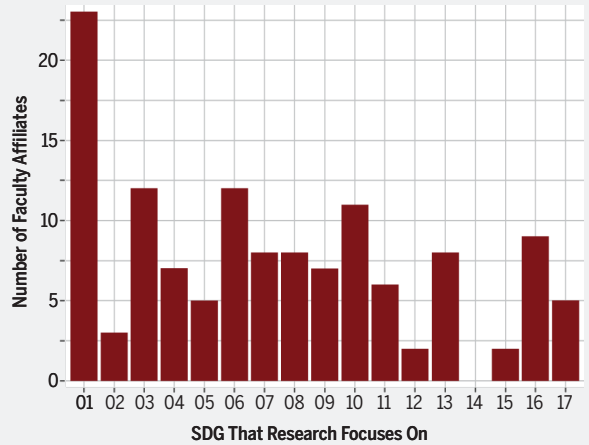
As we move into the next academic year, we look forward to deepening our impact in a variety of concrete ways. In November we will be hosting, for the first time, a workshop in Washington D.C. on measuring, evaluating, and learning from efforts to localize development assistance implementation. We will be welcoming our first cohort of four Tobias Center Graduate Fellows, professional M.A. students who will gain professional and skill development during their studies in preparation for careers in international development. And, we continue to work to improve our own monitoring and evaluation efforts to move from input metrics (such as the size of resources awarded) to outcome metrics (the impact of these awards on scholarly and practical discovery).

We hope to continue to engage with all of you in the year ahead.

SARAH BAUERLE DANZMAN
Center Director

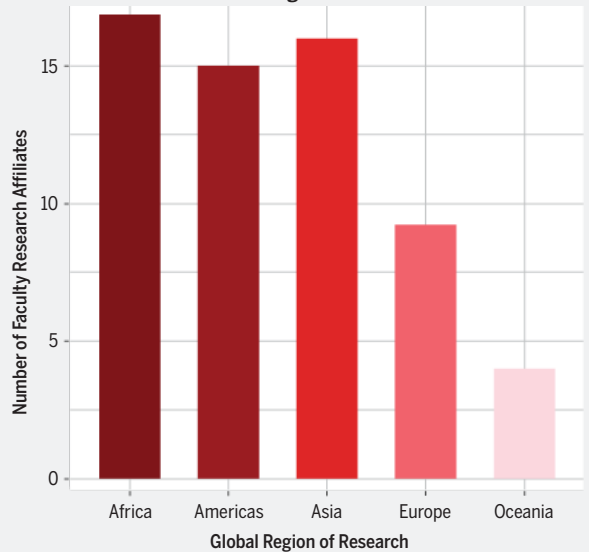
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Figure 3



Notes: 01 = No Poverty, 02 = Zero Hunger, 03 = Good Health, 04 = Education, 05 = Gender Equality, 06 = Clean Water & Sanitation, 07 = Affordable Clean Energy, 08 = Decent Work & Economic Growth, 09 = Industry, Innovation, Infrastructure, 10 = Reduced Inequalities, 11 = Sustainable Cities & Communities, 12 = Responsible Consumption & Production, 13 = Climate Action, 14 = Life Below Water, 15 = Life on Land, 16 = Peace, Justice, & Strong Institutions, 17 = Partnerships for the Goals

Figure 4



TOBIAS SCHOLARS

CENTER DIRECTOR



Sarah Bauerle Danzman

Associate Professor,
International Studies

DIR. OF STUDENT PROGRAMMING



Elisheva Cohen

Academic Specialist,
Hamilton Lugar School

POST-DOCTORAL FELLOW



Daniel Shephard

Postdoctoral Fellow in International
Sustainable Development

FISCAL OFFICER AND ADMIN

Barbara Breitung

Fiscal Officer,
Hamilton Lugar School

STUDENT AMBASSADORS

Annabel Prokopy

Fall 2023 Tobias Center
Ambassador

Mia Freeman

Spring 2024 Tobias Center
Ambassador

STEERING COMMITTEE



Nick Cullather

Professor of History, Professor of International Studies; Interim Dean,
Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies



Wendy Leutert

Assistant Professor,
East Asian Languages and Cultures



Stephen Macekura

Associate Professor,
International Studies



Jessica O'Reilly

Associate Professor,
International Studies



Jessica Steinberg

Associate Professor,
International Studies

STEERING COMMITTEE PUBLICATIONS

Bauerle Danzman, Sarah and Sophie Meunier. 2023. "If You Can't Beat Them, Join Them. The Rise of Investment Screening in Europe in Comparative Perspective." *Revue des Affaires Europeennes [Journal of European Affairs]* (4):649-56.

Bauerle Danzman, Sarah and Sophie Meunier. 2024. "The EU's Geoeconomic Turn: From Policy Laggard to Institutional Innovator." *Journal of Common Market Studies* early view.

Gibilisco, Michael and **Jessica Steinberg**. 2023. "Strategic Reporting: A Formal Model of Biases in Conflict Data." *American Political Science Review* 117(4):1291-307.

Koren, Ore, Amit Hagar and **Jessica Steinberg**. forthcoming 2024. "Meat Production and Zoonotic Disease Outbreaks in Asia." *Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*.

Leutert, Wendy. 2024. "Building the Road Ahead: Chinese State-Owned Enterprises in the Belt and Road Initiative." *East Asian Policy*.

Macekura, Stephen. 2023a. "Making the Contract State: Nathan Associates, Inc. And Foreign Aid Privatization." *Diplomatic History* 47(2):197-223.

Macekura, Stephen. 2023b. "Integrating Conservation and Development: The World Wildlife Fund and the Participatory Vision for Conservation in the 1980s." Pp. 165-83 in *Transplanting Modernity? The Environmental Legacy of International Development*, edited by T. Robertson and J. Smith. Pittsburgh, PA, United States: University of Pittsburgh Press.

Macekura, Stephen. forthcoming 2024. "Managing Global Development: Robert Nathan and the Liberal Roots of the Contract State for U.S. Foreign Policy." in *Liberalism: Critical Modern Histories*, edited by B. Cebul and L. Geismer. Chicago, IL, United States: University of Chicago Press.

O'Reilly, Jessica. 2023. "Negotiating Science and Policy in International Climate Assessments." in *Anthropology and Climate Change: From Transformations to Worldmaking*, edited by S. A. Crate and M. Nuttall. New York, NY, United States: Routledge.

Plantan, Elizabeth, **Wendy Leutert** and Austin Strange. 2024. "Green Collaboration: International Ngos and Chinese Partners Promoting Sustainable Overseas Investments." Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars.

Steinberg, Jessica. 2023. "Structure and Context: A Multi-Level Approach to Supply Chain Governance." *Annual Review of Political Science* 26:411-29.

Strange, Austin, Elizabeth Plantan and **Wendy Leutert**. forthcoming 2024. "Development Project Branding and Attribution: Ingos, Chinese Soes, and Public Opinion in the Democratic Republic of Congo." *The Journal of Politics*.

COURSE SPOTLIGHT

Trip to Mexico

In May 2024, the Tobias Center sponsored a two-week, faculty-led study abroad program to Mexico as part of its course on careers in international development. Led by Dr. Elisheva Cohen and Victor Calderon, a recent MBA graduate, eight undergraduate students explored various sectors and career paths in development.

During the first week in Mexico City, students visited institutions working in the field of development, with a focus on country-level development programs and policy-making. These institutions included USAID, Amexcid, the UN Development Programme, the World Bank, Oxfam, Gentera, and De La Chinampa, where the students learned about the complexities and collaborative nature of policy reform and systemic change.

In the second week, students traveled to San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, to observe ground-level development work. They met with local NGOs and community organizations, including Escalera Foundation, Cantaro Azul, Natic, Mujeres Sembrado las Vidas, Yo'onik, and Amigos de San Cristobal. Students witnessed the impact of direct service and community empowerment on sustainable change.

Throughout the trip, students gained insights into the diverse approaches in international development, emphasizing that multiple pathways and personal experiences are vital in this field. They left inspired to pursue careers in international development.



DR. ELISHEVA COHEN





SELECTED EVENTS

Global Policy and Development Seminar Series

During the 2023 fall semester, the Tobias Center sponsored a hybrid seminar series in which students interested in international development met to share perspectives and listen to expert speakers on topics ranging from the relationship between health and climate change, the rising role of India, and human rights in Latin America. This program was offered in collaboration with the Council on Foreign Relations Academic Seminar Series.

Nirupama Rao, Senior Fellow in International and Public Affairs, Brown University

Liz Willetts, Policy Director, Planetary Health Alliance International

Tamar Gutner, Associate Professor of Politics, Governance, and Economics, American University

Landry Signé, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution

Stephen Biddle, Professor of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University

José Miguel Vivanco, Adjunct Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations

Tobias Center Annual Research Symposium

This December, students and faculty from across campus gathered to present research supported by the Tobias Center. Summer 2023 internship scholarship recipients spoke about their experiences in the field and answered questions from students interested in pursuing development internships in future years. The Hamilton Lugar School Global Consultants showcased their work with non-profit clients from the India, Mexico, Papua New Guinea (Bougainville), and the United States.

America's Role in the World Panel: Economic Fragility, International Lenders, and Negotiating Debt Restructuring for Highly Indebted Countries

The Tobias Center again sponsored an international development panel at the annual Hamilton Lugar School America's Role in the World conference. The topic of this year's panel was the challenges and opportunities for debt restructuring after the COVID-19 pandemic within a global context of multiple donors, including the emergence of China as a major donor. **See page 17.**

Yinka Adegoke, Editor, Semafor Africa

Zongyuan Zoe Liu, Maurice R. Greenberg Fellow for China Studies, Council on Foreign Relations

Samantha Custer, Director of Policy Analysis, AidData

Jeremy Mark, Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council

Sarah Bauerle Danzman, Associate Professor, International Studies, Hamilton Lugar School

Workshop: Histories of Global Development Since the 1970s

Organized by Tobias Center steering committee member, Stephen Macekura, this workshop brought together scholars studying the evolution and consequences of global development from 1970s to the present day. The event included 17 participants from 11 Universities. **See more on page 18.**

Exploring Careers in International Development

Panelists discussed their careers in international development providing current students with the opportunity to ask questions and network. The panelists included Hamilton Lugar School alumni and covered experts at each career stage from early-, mid-, to senior-career levels across different types of development agencies including government, United Nations, NGO, and private sector.

Catherine Heiger, Special Assistant, USAID

Eric Boyle, Senior Vice President, ICF

Jonathan Kwok, Regional Research & Learning Coordinator, International Rescue Committee

Nora Steurer, Programme Management Officer, UN Environment Programme

Book Talk: Faculty Perspectives on Achieving Equitable Education: Missing Education Data

The Tobias Center sponsored a book launch event for *Achieving Equitable Education: Missing Education Data* and the *SDG Data Regime*, an open-source book published by Edward Elgar in 2024 which was co-edited by current Tobias Center post-doctoral fellow Daniel Shephard. The panel brought together faculty experts to provide their reactions and reflections on various chapters from the book.

Stephen Macekura, Associate Professor, International Studies, Indiana University

Patricia Kubow, Professor of Education, Indiana University

David Post, Professor of Education, Penn State University

Kathryn Engebretson, Associate Professor of Education, Indiana University

David Rutkowski, Professor of Education, Indiana University

2023-2024 RESEARCH ASSISTANT FELLOWS

Each year, the Tobias Center holds a competitive call to fund research assistance fellowships where students—usually undergraduates—are paired with a faculty mentor and assist their mentor in performing research tasks for scholarly projects related to international development.

Political and Institutional Constraints on Environmental Policy Instrument Choice: Applying the Theory



RA Jonathan Kim | Jonathan is a Master of Public Affairs-Master of Science in Environmental Science dual degree student at the O’Neill School concentrating in Energy and Climate Policy. Before graduate school, he was an Americorps volunteer in Danville, Virginia, and worked on Capitol Hill. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin, majoring in Economics, Political Science, and Environmental Studies, with a minor in Mathematics. Outside academics and work, Jonathan enjoys sports, reading science fiction, and doing the New York Times crossword.



Faculty Advisor Kenneth Richards | Dr. Kenneth Richards is a Professor at the O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs, an Affiliated Professor at the Mauer School of Law, and an Affiliated Faculty at the Ostrom Workshop, Indiana University. In addition to his research on environmental policy instrument choice and design, he works with Gnarly Tree Sustainability Institute to provide analytical support and training in climate policy, sustainability, and offset strategies.

Violent Entrepreneurs and the Transition to Democracy in Central America



RA Amangul Hydyrova | Amangul is a senior Wells Scholar studying International Studies, Economics/Mathematics, and Neuroscience. Amangul is a Lead Ethical AI Intern at the Center of Excellence for Women and Technology (CEW&T) and the founder and President of Women in Economics. Additionally, she has previously worked as a Director of Student Life at IU Student Government and an Undergraduate Instructor for economics classes.



RA Liz Utley | Liz, a junior at Indiana University Bloomington’s Hamilton Lugar School, hails from the Nashville, Tennessee area. She majors in International Studies and Spanish, with a minor in Global Media. Liz is passionate about sustainable development in Latin America and has been studying Spanish for six years to achieve fluency. In Spring 2024, she will study in Seville, Spain, where she hopes to perfect her Spanish and deepen her understanding of Hispanic cultures. Liz aims to join the Peace Corps after graduation and pursue a career with a development-focused Latin American NGO.



Faculty Advisor Andrés León Araya | Andrés León Araya is an Assistant Professor in the Department of International Studies at Indiana University. Trained as both a political scientist and an anthropologist, his work looks at the intersections between plantation economies, violence and state formation.

Networks of Power, Mekong Edition: An Institutional and Spatial History of Sovereign Debt in Laos's National Electricity Sector



RA Neennara "Belle" Chatpunnarangsee | Belle is a Herman B Wells Scholar double majoring in International Law and Institutions and Spanish and minoring in French and Business from Bangkok, Thailand. Outside of the classroom, Belle is the co-founder and co-president of a student organization called People of Color for Policy Advocacy (POC-PA), the co-president of the Thai Student Association, a member of the student advisory board to the Deans of HLS called Global Student Seven, and an undergraduate assistant at the IU Asian Culture Center where she produces *Hearabouts: Asian American Midwest Radio*, a podcast centered around AAPI identity, culture, and community. Upon graduation, Belle hopes to attend law school and work in international arbitration and development.



Faculty Advisor Mike Dwyer | Mike Dwyer is a political geographer whose research examines the intersection of land governance and international development. He is the author of *Upland Geopolitics: Postwar Laos and the Global Land Rush* and co-editor of *Turning Land into Capital: Development and Dispossession in the Mekong Region*, both published in 2022.

Redefining Refugees: The Conversion of Migrant Status to Refugee Status in Jordan



RA Da'Ja'Nay Askew | Da'Ja'Nay Askew holds a Bachelor's in Psychology and Social Work from Defiance College and a Master's in Higher Education from Purdue University. She is a third-year Ph.D. student in the Higher Education and Student Affairs program at Indiana University. Her dissertation research utilizes critical quantitative methods to explore the relationship between faculty-student interactions and educational outcomes for Black students at private liberal arts institutions. Ms. Askew has abundant experience in program development for future faculty members and higher education professionals looking to implement equitable practices in their work. She has previous experience in consulting where she met with instructors regarding anti-racist pedagogy in the classroom while creating equitable research projects. Ms. Askew has over 10 years of teaching experience at the primary, secondary, and college levels. Ms. Askew values social justice, equality, and equity as she is on her way to becoming a strong change agent and celebrity scholar.

2023-2024 RESEARCH ASSISTANT FELLOWS CONTINUED

Belonging and Diversity Attitudes as Quasi-ties that Limit or Expand Refugee- and Native-born Social Networks of School Help



RA: Eden Zaborowski | Eden Rose Zaborowski is a senior at Indiana University where she studies Middle Eastern Languages & Culture, International Studies, and Political Science. In her free time, she volunteers as an English teacher for Afghan refugee women and is a steering committee member for America's Role in the World.



Faculty Advisor: Daniel Shephard | Daniel Shephard is the Postdoctoral Fellow in International Sustainable Development in the Center for the Study of Global Change and The Randall L. and Deborah F. Tobias Center for Innovation in International Development within in the Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies. His current research focuses on the inclusion of displaced learners in public school systems and makes contributions to comparative and international education, forced migration, analytical sociology, and development studies. His research has involved primary data collection with children, youth, teachers, and educational staff in 30 countries, most recently in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East. Daniel's methodological approach prioritizes longitudinal mixed-methods and social network analysis.

RESEARCH AFFILIATES

Asaad Alsaleh, Associate Professor,
Middle Eastern Languages and Culture

Isak Nti Asare, Co-Director, Cybersecurity and
Global Policy Program

David Bell, Clinical Associate Professor, O'Neill School

Mostafa Beshkar, Associate Professor, Economics

Elizabeth Brannon, Assistant Professor, Political Science

Jennifer Brass, Associate Professor, O'Neill School

Drew Capone, Assistant Professor, Health

Luis Chaves, Associate Professor, Public Health

Elisheva Cohen, Global Learning Specialist, Hamilton Lugar School

Christina Tekie Collins, Assistant Professor, Anthropology

Nick Cullather, Professor, International Studies

Michelle Del Rio, Assistant Professor, Public Health

Sameeksha Desai, Associate Professor, O'Neill School

Elizabeth Dunn, Professor of Geography, Geography

Mike Dwyer, Assistant Professor, Geography

Ahmad Lashkaripour, Associate Professor, Economics

Wendy Leutert, Assistant Professor, International Studies

Caleb Lucas, Assistant Professor (incoming Fall 2024), Political Science

Volodymyr Lugovskyy, Associate Professor, Economics

Stephen Macekura, Associate Professor, International Studies

Jessica O'Reilly, Associate Professor, International Studies

Sarah R. Osterhoudt, Associate Professor, Anthropology

Clémence Pinaud, Assistant Professor, International Studies

Daniel Preston, Clinical Associate Professor, O'Neill School

Molly Rosenberg, Associate Professor, Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Leslie Rutkowski, Professor, Education

David Rutkowski, Professor, Education

Eduardo S Brondizio, Distinguished Professor, Anthropology

Regina Smyth, Professor, Political Science

Jessica Steinberg, Associate Professor, International Studies

RESEARCH AWARD FELLOWS

The Tobias Center also provides an annual funding competition for faculty and graduate students that provides funding for fieldwork and other research expenses beyond hiring research assistants.

Thuy Ho, Ph.D. student, *“Generational Knowledge and Rural Youth Engagement in Agricultural Transition in the Mekong Delta of Vietnam”*

Hayden Kolowrat, Ph.D. student, *“The Fitafita Guard and a History of Indigenous Military Service in the American Empire”*

Jennifer Brass, Associate Professor, *“Climate Change, Green Electricity Access, and Citizens in Kenya”*

Helena Mello, Ph.D. student, *“Policing in a Democracy: Race and Income Around Civilian Police Stations in Belo Horizonte City, Brazil”*

Beatriz Lima Ribeiro, Ph.D. student, *“An ethnographic analysis of UN CBD documents: the inclusion of indigenous views in scaled governance”*

Nikolina Zenovic, Ph.D. student, *“Smart and Sustainable: Language Ideologies in Astypalaia’s Transition into a ‘Sustainable’ Island”*

Regina Smyth, Professor, *“The Political Economy of Modernization in Authoritarian States: Housing as an Engine of Development”*

Janet Jock, Ph.D. candidate, *“Does the service provider type matter? Comparing impacts of NGO and government-run school food programs on school absenteeism”*

Nishant Buragohain, Ph.D. student, *“Is (un)planned development increasing disaster vulnerability for riparian communities in Assam?”*

Daniel Shephard, Postdoctoral Fellow, *“Redefining Refugees: The conversion of migrant status to refugee status in Jordan”*

William Decourt, Ph.D. student, *“Green Authoritarianism: Chinese Overseas Green Investment and State Legitimacy, Resilience, and Democratic Inclusion in Africa”*

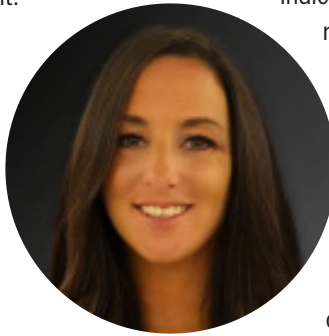
Sharif Wahb, Ph.D. candidate, *“Bordering through Island Development: Rohingya Refugees’ Protracted Carcerality in Bhasan Char, Bangladesh”*

TOBIAS CENTER AWARDEE AND PH.D. CANDIDATE PUBLISHES SUPPORTED RESEARCH

With funding and support from the Tobias Center, Janet Jock published her research on “The impact of old age pension eligibility on alcohol consumption: Evidence from a population-based study in rural South Africa” in the peer-reviewed journal *Innovation In Aging*.

Janet Jock is a major in policy analysis at the O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. She received funding from the Tobias Center during the initial stages of manuscript development. She also presented the work-in-progress at the Tobias Center’s Annual Research Symposium, where she received feedback that strengthened the manuscript.

Jock’s study makes important contributions to our understanding of how pension income affects alcohol consumption in low- and middle-income countries. This is particularly important given the fact that alcohol abuse among older adults has increased in recent years, that alcohol causes more than 3 million deaths per year globally, and that alcohol contributes to over 5% of global disease



and injury. The study uses a population-level dataset for South Africa combined with a regression discontinuity design to compare old-age adults 3 years under and 3 years above the pension eligibility age cut-off of 60 years old.

Jock and colleagues observe increased alcohol use associated with the Old Age Pension Grant eligibility for men who continue to work.

In their discussion of the study implications, Jock and colleagues write: “The analysis in this study indicates that increased income from reaching the pension eligibility age may contribute to an increase in alcohol consumption for employed men. Interventions, such as informational campaigns on the risks of alcohol consumption for older adults or age-appropriate health interventions to help individuals reduce alcohol consumption, targeted around the time of pension eligibility age for employed men may help to reduce alcohol-related harms in low-income, rural sub-Saharan African settings.”

Read the full study at:
<https://doi.org/10.1093/geroni/igad136>

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<https://doi.org/10.1093/geroni/igad136>
Advance access publication 1 February 2024
Special Issue: Aging in Sub-Saharan Africa: Original Research Article



The Impact of Old Age Pension Eligibility on Alcohol Consumption: Evidence From a Population-Based Study in Rural South Africa

Janet Jock, MSc,^{1*} Erika T. Beidelman, MSc,² Lindsay C. Kobayashi, PhD,^{3,4,5} Stephen Tollman, PhD,⁴ Meredith Phillips, MSc,² Chodziwadziwa Whiteson Kabudula, PhD,⁴ and Molly Rosenberg, PhD^{2,4,5}

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²Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Indiana University School of Public Health, Bloomington, Indiana, USA.
³Department of Epidemiology, University of Michigan School of Public Health, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA.
⁴MRC/Wits Rural Public Health and Health Transitions Research Unit (Agincourt), Faculty of Health Sciences, School of Public Health, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.
⁵Address correspondence to: Janet Jock, MSc. E-mail: jock@iu.edu

Decision Editor: John Bosco Chukwuorji, PhD

AWARDEE AND PH.D. CANDIDATE PRESENTS SUPPORTED RESEARCH

The Tobias Center continued its support of the research of Sharif Wahab investigating the human geography of the Bhasan Char island's housing of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. The Tobias Center was proud to support Wahab's presentation of this research at the prestigious Annual Conference of the American Association of Geographers, "Bordering through Island Development: Rohingya Refugees' Protracted Carcerality in Bhasan Char, Bangladesh."

The study investigates the question of how aid organizations implement development projects in 'temporary' refugee accommodations? Answering this question is crucial because although a refugee camp's spatial and administrative arrangements are inherently temporary, the average life span of a refugee camp is approximately seventeen years. Since 2018, the government of Bangladesh has

promoted Bhasan Char Island as an alternative to the camp arrangement and an ideal habitat for Rohingya Muslims. UNHCR has been actively supporting the island's infrastructure development and humanitarian governance, welcoming long-term investments from development partners.

Based on ethnographic fieldwork in 2023, this paper reveals how the nation-state expands territorially by containing a displaced population. Wahab uses discourse analysis to interrogate how an island could offer a long-term residence for the refugees and fieldwork on this newly emerged island and vividly depicts the everyday lives of the refugees and aid workers there. This paper shows the how Rohingya refugees negotiate their political and ecological carcerality against the nation-state's expansive territorial practices in which refugees remain permanently temporary.



Sharif Wahab is a Ph.D. Candidate in Geography at Indiana University. He holds a MA in International Development and MS in Environmental Studies from Ohio University.





TOBIAS CONVENES LEADING EXPERTS ON SOVEREIGN DEBT RESTRUCTURING.

On April 4, 2024, the Tobias Center sponsored a panel discussion on negotiating debt relief during the ninth annual America's Role in the World Conference hosted by Indiana University's Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies.

This highly engaging panel discussed the importance of addressing debt restructuring within the current context of increasingly unsustainable debt burdens due to inflation, high interest rates, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Panelists also addressed the challenges of debt restructuring with the expanding number of sovereign and private lenders, including lenders who have not previously engaged in coordinated debt restructuring. Particular attention was paid to the need for debt restructuring and relief in low- and middle-income countries in sub-Saharan Africa and the increasingly prominent role of sovereign and private lenders from China.

The panel was moderated by the current director of the Tobias Center, Sarah Bauerle Danzman and included four experts. Yinka Adegoke, the current editor of Semafor Africa and a journalist with experience reporting from 20 countries, shared the perspectives of local populations on the questions and ramifications of debt restructuring.

Samantha Custer, the director of AidData's Policy Analysis Unit, shared some of the global trends and how they are influencing lending behavior and the ability of countries to renegotiate their sovereign debts.

Zongyuan Zoe Liu, the Maurice R. Greenberg Fellow for China Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, shared reflections on the rising role of China as a lender and how the multiplicity of Chinese private and state actors involved creates challenges for debt restructuring.

Jeremy Mark, a senior nonresident fellow at the Atlantic Council's GeoEconomics Center with two decades of experience working for the International Monetary Fund, provided a brief history of how the international lending landscape has changed in recent decades and the implications for debt restructuring.

WORKSHOP ON HISTORIES OF GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT SINCE THE 1970S.

On February 23, 2024, the Tobias Center sponsored a workshop organized by Professor Stephen Macekura on historical perspectives of global development since the 1970s. The day-long workshop included three panels on 1) The Rise of “Human-Centered” Development, 2) National and Regional Transformations, and 3) Activities and Reform Movements.

Panel 1 explored the rise of “Human-Centered” development in the 1980s and 1990s. Tehila Sassan of Emory University drew from her book *The Solidary Economy* to discuss the role of British NGOs in promoting a human-centered approach to development via the promotion of fair trade and entrepreneurship. David Engerman of Yale University examined human development through Sen and Nussbaum’s capabilities approach, focusing on NGOs in health and education sectors at the local level. Amanda Waterhouse of Butler University engaged with both papers as a discussant and discussed the importance of gendered analysis and methodological interventions.

Panel 2 focused on national and regional perspectives and transformations during the period. John Yasuda of Johns Hopkins University compared regulatory frameworks in liberal market economies, highlighting the benefits of East Asia’s paternalistic regulatory practices compared to the United States’ emphasis

on the rational investor model. Liz Chatterjee of the University of Chicago presented on the dynamics of international development in Asia during the 1980s, focusing on countries like China and India. Alden Young of the University of California Los Angeles reflected on Sudan’s relationship with the Arab Gulf states and the rise of inequality across the Red Sea from 1975 to 2005. Timothy Nunan of the University of Regensburg examined Iran’s implementation of domesticated structural adjustment policies in the context of neoliberalism. As the discussant, Michael De Groot of Indiana University contextualized the papers within the broader narrative of late 20th and early 21st-century global history and raised questions about monolithic interpretations of neoliberalism.

Panel 3 engaged with the topic of Activists and Reform Movements in the context of international development from the 1970s to the 1990s. Agnieszka Sobocinska of King’s College London discussed grassroots resistance to development projects globally, emphasizing the need to shift the focus from plans to on-the-ground outcomes. Sheyda Jahanbani of the University of Kansas explored Elizabeth Crook’s philanthropic work and the role of liberal Protestant traditions in hunger relief efforts. Sara Lorenzo of the University of Trento examined the concept of sustainable development through the perspectives of influential women leaders, highlighting shifts in thinking from the 1970s to the 1980s. Discussant remarks were provided by Nick Cullather of Indiana University who emphasized the value of returning to discourse analysis in understanding development narratives and the need to critically examine the influence of figures like Barbara Ward.



TOBIAS CENTER SCHOLARSHIP FOR INTERNSHIPS IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Development supports undergraduate and graduate students pursuing internship experiences related to international development. In the summer of 2023, we supported the following students:



Annabel Prokopy,
The Hijabi Mentorship Program, Kwale Kenya



Grace Sarrazin,
Planète Enfants et Développement, Paris, France



Grace Gott,
Asia Center, Bangkok, Thailand



Tim McGowan,
Human Development Forum Foundation, Bangkok, Thailand



Haley Miller,
HealthProm, London, UK



Syuzanna Martirosyan,
UN Women, New York, NY



Leah Heneveld,
Escuela Amor de Dios, Santiago, Chile

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT CONSULTING

Each semester, students at Indiana University work in teams to complete short projects in partnership with development organizations around the world. Each team is led by a student project manager and receives support from a graduate student technical advisor. By conducting these projects, students learn about different development issues in different countries and cultural contexts while building skills for careers in global development.

In the 2023-2024 academic year, students completed the following projects:

Analysis of WASH Policies towards Mexico and Middle Income Countries in Latin

America in partnership with Cantaro Azul (Chiapas, Mexico). *Students analyzed global funding for water, sanitation and hygiene policies and programs across Latin America and made recommendations for Cantaro Azul's work.*

Gaining Independence on the International Stage: A Guidebook for the Autonomous Bougainville Government


in partnership with the US Embassy in Papua New Guinea through the Diplomacy Lab program. *Students researched necessary steps for newly formed countries to gain recognition and independence on the international stage. Students wrote a comprehensive guidebook to support the independence of the Autonomous Bougainville Government, as voted on in a 2019 referendum.*

Green Guardians: Fostering Understanding of Waste Management and Segregation Among Middle Schoolers in India,

in partnership with NEPRA Foundation (Gujarat, India). *Students developed a curriculum that introduces middle school students in India to waste management and recycling processes, raises environmental awareness, and fosters a commitment to sustainability.*

Learning for Global Development: A Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Framework,

in partnership with The Tobias Center for Innovation in International Development (Bloomington, Indiana). *Students drafted a MEAL framework for Global Development Consulting and various tools to monitor and evaluate the program's impact on IU students.*



Assessing the Impact of Sauti ya Dada, in partnership with Creative Action Institute (project in East Africa). Students analyzed two years of data from the Sauti ya Dada program, a girls empowerment program working across multiple countries in East Africa, and provided recommendations for how the organization can improve its program and its data collection processes.

Americans in the Arctic: Understanding Greenlandic Cruise Ship Travel and What to Do When Things Go Wrong, in partnership with US Embassy Copenhagen and the Diplomacy Lab Project. Students conducted a risk analysis of Americans touring Greenland on cruise ships, developed visualizations of tourist demographics, and made recommendations for mitigating and managing risk in the Arctic.

Improving Rural Livelihoods with Honey Sales, in partnership with Pueblo a Pueblo (Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala). Students developed best practices for storing, selling, and distributing honey as well as a target list of local businesses and templates for tracking businesses and expenditures.

Preventing Torture in Egypt, in partnership with Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights (Cairo, Egypt). Students conducted case study research on the development and implementation of torture prevention mechanisms across sub-Saharan Africa with recommendations for how the Egyptian government could move forward on torture prevention.





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