



Spring 2021 Project Menu

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Design the State Department's IT School of the Future

SAIT Innovation Sandbox

Foreign Service Institute

Overview:

SAIT strives to empower our workforce to navigate a rapidly developing IT environment while broadening our reach through innovative and impactful learning.

In order to achieve these goals effectively, SAIT needs to continually innovate how we develop and deliver new curriculum, explore and understand emerging technologies while maintaining expertise for legacy systems, and expand our learning ecosystem beyond formal training via microlearning, social and peer-to-peer learning, and informal learning opportunities.

This project will assist SAIT to modernize our curriculum development processes, training delivery methods, and promote procedural and programmatic innovation in the use of IT in American diplomacy.

Format of Final Project:

I. Research Presentation/Whitepaper/Analysis - Design recommendations for the IT School of the Future for the Department of State. Tabula rasa, blue sky thinking, starting from scratch! We want the ideal theoretical design of what a modern IT school supporting the foreign affairs community should be setting aside all historical contexts, political administrations, bureaucratic limitations, and budgetary constraints.

Through a holistic lens, provide data-driven recommendations on overhauling curriculum design, delivery methods, e-learning ecosystems, classroom technologies, and necessary educational skills and strategies IT instructors should have beyond their specific expertise/domain of knowledge.

II. Data Analysis/Report/Dashboard - Development of a business intelligence/data analytics dashboard for SAIT leadership and management to monitor and make decisions in real-time the school's performance in regards to enrollment rates, student data (e.g. level, job series, years at State), instructor data (e.g. podium hours, course load, and areas of expertise), classroom usage data, etc.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Cyber Security; Information & Communication Technology; Public-Private Partnerships; Training; Communications;

Comments:

As the U.S. government's premier foreign affairs training provider, the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) is dedicated to ensuring career-long learning required for success in today's global arena. FSI is proud to serve the U.S. Department of State and the entire USG foreign affairs community as a strategic enabler of diplomatic excellence by providing training for substantive, regional, and linguistic expertise, leadership

finesse, and personal resilience and innovative problem-solving.

The School of Applied Information Technology (SAIT) prepares all Department employees for their Foreign Affairs mission by developing proficiency in information technology and business applications; including but not limited to the installation, configuration, administration, troubleshooting, repair, and enterprise use of technology, IT Tradecraft, and information security.

How can Gaming Help Prepare Us for the Next COVID-19?

International Health and Biodefense

Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

Overview:

With 2.5 billion gamers globally, there is growing appreciation that gaming, and gamification, are effective means to raise awareness and motivate action on a variety of social and security issues. For example, the developer of Plague Inc. (with 200 million+ games played, over half a million 5-star ratings, and features in newspapers such as The Economist and New York Post) was invited to speak at the CDC - a recognition of the value of gaming in advancing U.S. health security policy. Downloads of Plague Inc. increased dramatically during the early stages of the COVID-19 outbreak and the creator of the board game Pandemic was interviewed in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. Games offer creative and interactive opportunities for people to tackle infectious disease outbreak preparedness in a way that is social and fun.

Using COVID-19 as context, participants in this Diplomacy Lab project are asked to assess and provide recommendations on how gaming can be better utilized to prepare for and respond to future outbreaks.

Areas of interest include:

- Awareness. How can gaming help raise awareness of infectious disease preparedness and response in advance of or during an outbreak?
- Individual and community preparedness. How can gaming help prepare people for infectious disease outbreaks?
- Informing science/policy decision. How can gaming offer insights into human decision-making and/or advance policy during an outbreak?

Format of Final Project:

Teams will draft reports providing analysis/recommendations on how gaming can be better used to prepare for and respond to future outbreaks.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Global Health; Information & Communication Technology; International Relations; Public-Private Partnerships; Science and Technology; Youth Issues; Civil Society; Computer Science;

Comments:

Additional information on the Office of International Health and Biodefense can be found at: <https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-economic-growth-energy-and-the-environment/bureau-of-oceans-and-international-environmental-and-scientific-affairs/office-of-international-health-and-biodefense/>

Participatory Science during Crisis: COVID-19 and the Citizen Scientist

International Health and Biodefense

Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

Overview:

The COVID-19 pandemic is unprecedented in modern history not only in its scope, but in the technology available to enable individuals to remotely assist and inform response efforts. As the pandemic progresses, diverse stakeholders are identifying and leveraging these developments to harness the participation of individuals in real-time research – from efforts to help map how the disease is progressing (<https://covidnearyou.org/>) to donating computing power to run simulations on protein folding (<https://foldingathome.org/covid19/>).

Participants in this Diplomacy Lab project will be asked to inventory participatory science efforts launched or leveraged during the pandemic; characterize which elements of the response effort they seek to address; assess the strengths, weaknesses, and challenges faced by the efforts; and provide analysis to better empower citizen science during future outbreaks.

Format of Final Project:

Teams will draft a report synthesizing the information outlined in the project description.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Education & Cultural Studies; Global Health; International Relations; Public-Private Partnerships; Science and Technology; Sociology; Youth Issues; Civil Society; Computer Science;

Comments:

To learn more about the Office of International Health and Biodefense:

<https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-economic-growth-energy-and-the-environment/bureau-of-oceans-and-international-environmental-and-scientific-affairs/office-of-international-health-and-biodefense/>

What are the dynamics of network creation and sustainability among exchange participants?

Office of Policy and Evaluation

Educational and Cultural Affairs

Overview:

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) works to build friendly, peaceful relations between the people of the United States and the people of other countries through academic, cultural, sports, and professional exchanges, as well as public-private partnerships. ECA leads public diplomacy outreach efforts through our exchange programs. These exchange programs improve foreign relations and strengthen the national security of the United States, support U.S. international leadership, and provide a broad range of domestic benefits by helping break down barriers that often divide us.

While the Bureau can integrate network-building activities into its program designs, the most meaningful and impactful connections last well beyond the end of individual cohorts of programs. It is therefore imperative that the Bureau understand the factors that lead to stronger post-program connections and a more viable and sustainable network between alumni, beneficiaries, and institutions. There are many factors to consider and much has been written on these topics, including the effect that different forms of exchanges can have on post-program network sustainability, whether online or in-person exchanges have different network outcomes, the difference in suitability and dynamics between formalized and informal networks, factors that affect the degree of alumni engagement with their networks, and the impact of programs on existing networks. This research project will provide insight into what the most effective ways to foster the creation and sustainment of networks through the exchange programming lens.

Working with the ECA Evaluation Division, the researcher(s) will gain insight into the way in which public diplomacy exchange programs are designed and measured, and assess the assumptions built into the program design against the existing literature. This project will primarily involve a review of the literature on network formation and sustainability in the context of international exchanges. Depending on timing, there may also be the possibility to also conduct stakeholder interviews and/or develop social network analysis-related surveys alongside Social Science Analysts from the ECA Evaluation Division.

Format of Final Project:

We would love to have a final report (length TBD by the research team) including a bibliography; a virtual presentation would also be useful

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Education & Cultural Studies; International Relations; Sociology; Communications;

Comments:

This project can take more than one semester if deemed necessary by the research team. Good resources for data and information on exchanges include: AAC&U, NAFSA, Ohio Wesleyan, published works by Duke academic Darla Deardorff and Elizabeth Niehaus/Heather Rowan-Kenyon, and the *Frontiers: The Interdisciplinary Journal of Study Abroad*

Designing For Diplomacy: Security Upgrades for Historically Significant Properties

Office of Cultural Heritage

Overseas Buildings Operations

Overview:

The U.S. Department of State's (DOS) Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO) oversees approximately 20,000 properties abroad of which approximately 200 have been identified on the OBO List of Significant Properties as culturally, historically, and architecturally significant properties and archaeological resources. The OBO List of Significant Properties is the official list of the Department of State's historic properties worthy of preservation as symbols of the nation's cultural diplomacy abroad. The OBO List of Significant Properties is part of a program administered by the Office of Cultural Heritage to coordinate and support efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's cultural heritage property overseas in accordance with Section 402 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Eligibility for inclusion on the list follows guidelines established by the National Register of Historic Places for domestic properties, as well as automatically including UNESCO World Heritage Sites and properties designated by host governments.

The Secretary of State's Register of Culturally Significant Property was founded in 2000 as a White House Millennium Project. Inclusion on the Secretary's Register is an honorific listing and elevates properties from the OBO List of Significant Properties to a higher level similar to the National Historic Landmark program domestically. There are currently thirty-seven properties on the Secretary of State's Register of Culturally Significant Property. One property, the Tangier Legation, is the only US National Historic Landmark located outside of the United States.

The Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO) is seeking academic proposals studying ways to improve resistance to the effects of blasts on buildings constructed of traditional methods and materials by studying one or more of the buildings included on the Secretary of State's Register of Culturally Significant Properties. Structures range in age from the late 15th Century to the mid-20th Century and are constructed of wood, unreinforced masonry, and earthen/adobe. Windows are wood and metal, and roofs are clay tile, metal, slate and shingle.

This is an unclassified project and proposals should be based on publicly available information regarding general delivery capabilities in pounds of TNT and the amount of atmospheric overpressure at 30 feet and 100 feet for a panel van and box truck. Proposals should look at how to harden a structure and follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties without completely dismantling a building down and reconstructing it. The scope of the study may also include data collection regarding projected effects of explosive blasts and other impacts to historic structures and traditional building materials.

Format of Final Project:

These studies will be conducted as part of an engineering, architecture, materials science, or historic preservation-related course. Deliverables will be formatted into a single PDF e-book clearly documenting

testing methodology, data outcomes, and recommendations for building reinforcement's based on findings.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Architecture; Science and Technology; Materials Science;

Comments:

It is anticipated that once a bid is accepted for this proposal, that Diplomacy Lab and the sponsoring School will enter into a detailed dialogue modifying and tailoring the content of the semesters work to address the goals and objectives of both the School and Diplomacy Lab within the definition of the project.

Assessing Group of 77 (G77) voting blocks in the UN

Office of UN Political Affairs

International Organization Affairs

Overview:

Project Description: The G77 – now with a membership of 134 countries – makes up a solid voting bloc in contested UN Resolutions, and frequently votes opposite to US positions and with China and/or Russia. While the G77 is geographically and economically diverse with members often on different sides of regional issues, in the UN they tend to vote together. They appear to be less cohesive in regional blocs where diverse interests come more into play. As the United States pursues a range of issues within the United Nations, obtaining a clearer understanding of the dynamics of the G77 bloc and sub-blocs within the G77 will help inform U.S. engagement and policy strategies within the UN. The project will analyze voting patterns and trends to identify key issues on which the G77 agree in multilateral settings, areas where they differ – either regionally or bilaterally, and key issues where they diverge with China and Russia. It will also develop recommendations for statistical and database software and subscriptions for relevant data (e.g. the UN library, etc.) and devise a database solution that would help us expand our data analytics unit to be able to perform new analytic and data management functions. The goal is to identify targets of policy opportunity for USG engagement on a range of issues and improve voting coincidence with the United States. This project will require both quantitative and qualitative analysis of voting behavior and policy preferences among membership.

Format of Final Project:

Data Analysis of G77 voting patterns and behavior and a short memo on policy options for USG engagement to leverage G77 sub-blocs in UN

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Relations; Foreign Policy, International Organizations, International Relations, Data Analytics;

Comments:

Much of the data for analysis for the project can be found on the UN Digital Library website, but will require converting into manipulatable data sets. While this project can be completed in one semester, there are opportunities to use the data sets to research other questions and hypotheses.

Designing for Diplomacy: Net Zero Energy Building Design

PDCS/DE/AD

Overseas Buildings Operations

Overview:

Zero-Energy design has emerged as an attainable goal for United States embassies and consulates around the world. Rapid progress in building systems design, energy capture and water conservation technologies, and passive site and building approaches can address the increasing challenges of global water scarcity and energy resource depletion. The Overseas Building Department Architectural Design Division invites graduate and undergraduate proposals from accredited schools of Architecture and Engineering for a net-zero, resilient embassy design studio.

Proposals should include:

Studio level (I.e. 4th year, advanced graduate).

Interdisciplinary initiatives and formal participation by other academic disciplines

Studio course curriculum description, including studio structure and pedagogy

Proposed design studio schedule

Curriculum vitae of lead studio critic/professor

OBO will work with the successful proposer to select an appropriate project program and site.

Format of Final Project:

Course curriculum and final Student Project Presentation Booklet

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Relations; Architecture;

Comments:

N/A

Embassy at Sea

Planning and Real Estate's Master Planning Division

Overseas Buildings Operations

Overview:

Emb@Sea II. This is a continuation of the fall semester Diplomacy Lab Project. The United States has embassies in Fiji, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, and Samoa, as well as a consulate general in the Solomon Islands. The geographical isolation and size of these countries makes it expensive to build and maintain diplomatic facilities and staff residences. Furthermore, while it is important for the United States to maintain a diplomatic presence in these countries, it may not be necessary for that presence to be continuous. Could these embassies and consulate be consolidated in favor of a seaborne U.S. embassy in the form of a ship with an appropriately diplomatic name (e.g., the USS Friendship)? There are political, legal, and architectural dimensions to the response to this question. The political: Could such a ship serve both the representational (diplomatic) mission of the Department of State and the consular mission (e.g., American Citizen Services, consular services) of the Department of State? The legal: Where would such a ship fit/fall within the boundaries of international law (e.g., is it possible to maintain diplomatic privileges and immunities)? The architectural: What would the U.S.S. Friendship / U.S. Embassy @ Sea look like (e.g., refer to the USNS Mercy and USNS Comfort currently deployed to support the Coronavirus response). Projects may focus on any of these.

Format of Final Project:

Graphic and written presentation containing research finding, ideas, and proposals

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Relations;

Comments:

Emb@Sea or Diplom@Sea II. This is a continuation of the 2020 fall semester Diplomacy Lab Project

Growing Together: Studying the Impact of H-2A Temporary Farm Workers on Jamaica's Rural Economy

Nonimmigrant Visa Unit, Consular Section

U.S. Mission to Jamaica

Overview:

Jamaica's H-2A Temporary Agricultural Worker program remains among the most popular U.S. initiatives on the island, with 5,000 workers participating. Jamaica is second only to Mexico in the volume of temporary agricultural workers engaged legally in the United States. Jamaica's H-2A program is globally unique in the role Jamaica's Ministry of Labour and Social Services plays as the exclusive recruiter and agent of such workers in the country, a practice that goes back to the origins of the program in a bilateral agreement on temporary labor between Jamaica and the United States.

Jamaicans have traveled to the U.S. for over seven decades through a variety of farm worker programs rooted in post-World War II labor shortages in the United States. These workers help U.S. farms and business grow and succeed, and over the years have become integral features of Northeast and Northwest orchard operations. They in turn bring tens of millions in earnings back to Jamaica, which helps to support small businesses, farms and their families. Although workers are sourced throughout Jamaica, many are themselves farmers and highly concentrated in Jamaica's rural regions and the agricultural sector. Their annual earnings play a major role in the economic activity of their home cities and parishes and are literally the 'seed capital' for many of Jamaica's primary food producers.

That said, the program remains a significantly under-studied object of the bilateral relationship and the precise economic and developmental impact of this significant stream of earnings remains unclear. Jamaica's Central American competitors in the H2 market have been very active in recent years in helping their host countries promote the needs, interests and infrastructure of support for their own increasing population of H2 workers. They have done so largely framing the case for expansion of their own participation in the program by citing how the earning from temporary workers accrue more directly to the most disadvantaged areas of their countries and to the least developed sectors of their economies.

Given the scope and bilateral importance of the H-2A program in the country, this project aims to produce a more comprehensive understanding of how the impact of the program is distributed in the United States and Jamaica, and the more precise role these earnings play in the function of Jamaica's own domestic agriculture. Such an understanding would have a range of implications for further partnership with the Government of Jamaica as it seeks to expand participation in the program, as well as synergies for programming in the areas of agriculture, labor rights, and labor mobility as the use of H-2A is likely to continue growing in the United States. U.S. Embassy Kingston can support the program by organizing visits and/or calls with relevant authorities in the United States and Jamaica and reviewing the research plan and early drafts of the study's outcomes. Students of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development might have a particular interest in this project.

Format of Final Project:

Research paper with appropriate data analysis, assessment of policy options or ideas

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Economic & Finance Issues; Food Security; Geography; International Development; International Relations; Public-Private Partnerships; Sociology; Statistics; Western Hemisphere Studies;

Comments:

We have a close working relationship with the Jamaican Ministry of Labour and Social Services that manages farm worker recruitment under this program. It will afford the team that is engaged an opportunity to potential collaborate with that Ministry on data sourcing relevant to the project, as well as to develop ideas that could span programmatic innovations in the arena of rural or agricultural development in Jamaica in areas as diverse as ag finance, labor rights, labor mobility and more.

What is the impact of exchange programs on communities around the world?

Office of Policy and Evaluation

Educational and Cultural Affairs

Overview:

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) works to build friendly, peaceful relations between the people of the United States and the people of other countries through academic, cultural, sports, and professional exchanges, as well as public-private partnerships. ECA leads public diplomacy outreach efforts through our exchange programs. These exchange programs improve foreign relations and strengthen the national security of the United States, support U.S. international leadership, and provide a broad range of domestic benefits by helping break down barriers that often divide us.

ECA has created a robust monitoring and evaluation system that provides the Bureau and the public a framework for understanding exchange program outcomes as they pertain to direct participants. These systems include conducting regular surveys to assess any changes in participants' cross-cultural competence, knowledge, and language skills, as well as longer-term outcomes such as career development and the expansion and sustainment of networks, among others. Outcomes at the community-level – defined as people and institutions, both in the US and abroad, that potentially benefit from an exchange program but are not participants themselves – are less well-documented and studied because of their diffuse nature, but are no less vital to understand. For this research project, ECA would particularly like to improve its understanding of exchange outcomes from the perspective of the economic impact that an influx of people inherently brings, as well as the improved cultural understanding and diffusion of values that have the potential to benefit the host community members and institutions in the long-term.

Working with the ECA Evaluation Division, the researcher(s) will gain insight into the way in which public diplomacy exchange programs are designed and measured, and assess the assumptions built into the program design against the existing literature. This project will primarily involve a review of the literature on the impact of exchange programs on host and home communities, though there may be the possibility to also conduct stakeholder interviews alongside Social Science Analysts from the ECA Evaluation Division (dependent on timing).

Format of Final Project:

We would love to have a final report (length TBD by the research team) including a bibliography; a virtual presentation would also be useful

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Economic & Finance Issues; Education & Cultural Studies; International Relations; Public-Private Partnerships; Sociology;

Comments:

This project can take more than one semester if deemed necessary by the research team. Good resources for data and information on exchanges include: AAC&U, NAFSA, Ohio Wesleyan, published works by Duke academic Darla Deardorff and Elizabeth Niehaus/Heather Rowan-Kenyon, and the *Frontiers: The Interdisciplinary Journal of Study Abroad*

Modeling the Effect of a Nation's Fragility and Vulnerability on its Wealth

Office of Caribbean Affairs

Western Hemisphere Affairs

Overview:

Redefining What a High Income Country Is

The United States restricts the grant of foreign assistance funds to countries that the World Bank classifies as high- or middle-income. These income determinations also limit how countries can access funds from international development institutions. Income determinations are based on Gross National Income (GNI) per capita and the World Bank uses similar methodology in determining its operational lending policy. GNI per capita does not, however, completely reflect a country's level of development or measure welfare, which does not take into account a country's wealth inequality, geographic limitations (e.g., The Bahamas across a 700-island archipelago), or attributes such as quality of life, life expectancy at birth, mortality rates of children, and enrollment rates in school. Consequently, GNI does not reflect inequalities in income distribution, differences in domestic price levels, or risk to severe economic shock due to natural disasters.

Policy-makers and administrators prefer using objective criteria to determine eligibility for access to assistance funds. This proposal invites research to develop objective criteria, reflecting the fragility and vulnerability of states, that can complement World Bank income data to determine whether or not assistance should be made available to a country. Resistance to including these factors has often been based on the inability to objectively measure them, which opens the door to manipulation by countries. The concept originates in the Office of Caribbean Affairs, and the project should develop an objective measure that reflects conditions in the island-states of the Caribbean.

Format of Final Project:

The final product will be a ten-page paper, with an executive summary and appendices, and a slideshow presentation proposing objective criteria that accurately reflect a nation's fragility and vulnerability and can complement World Bank data to give a true reflection of how appropriate for it to be eligible for foreign assistance funding.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Economic & Finance Issues; International Development; International Relations; Sociology; Western Hemisphere Studies;

Comments:

The World Bank holds annual meetings in April, so the project should be finalized in time for discussion and presentation to international organization officials by February 2021.

Changing Landscape of the Satellite Industry

Space and Advanced Technology

Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

Overview:

The first satellite was launched in 1957 and set a milestone for human space exploration. Since then, over 40 countries have launched/operated more than 8,900 satellites that have revolutionized the way we communicate, forecast meteorological events, monitor the climate, enforce sanctions, and a host of other activities that have benefitted humanity.

The United States currently has more registered active satellites in orbit than the next ten nations combined. Decreased costs and enhanced technological capabilities continue to increase access to space, and the U.S. satellite industry has seen significant growth over the past decade. While industry groups like the Satellite Industry Association (SIA) produce economic reports looking at broad indicators of the space economy, we are seeking a more comprehensive report on the evolution of the satellite sector over the past decade. You are encouraged to use available online resources such as the FAA's Annual Compendium of Commercial Space Transportation. We are particularly interested in trends in the following areas:

- Identity and location of satellite launch providers;
- Number of launches and size of payloads;
- Primary function of the individual satellites;
- Years satellite remains active; and
- Number of satellites launched by country.

Research participants are welcome to explore trends outside of those listed above. Additionally, we would like to see a heavy emphasis on data visualizations for the trends and data analyzed.

Format of Final Project:

We would like to receive a written report, which includes statistical analysis, a data set, and data visualizations. Key findings can be summarized in a brief power point presentation.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Cyber Security; Geography; Information & Communication Technology; International Relations; Science and Technology; Statistics; Communications;

Comments:

Were your team to be selected, we'd work with you to identify background readings and other materials. We don't anticipate this project would last longer than a semester.

The Office of Space and Advanced Technology (OES/SAT) formulates, develops, and implements U.S. policy and activities related to bilateral and multilateral international space programs and issues, including relevant advanced/emerging technologies. For more information, our office's website is <https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-economic-growth-energy-and-the-environment/bureau-of-oceans-and-international-environmental-and-scientific-affairs/office-of-space-and-advanced-technology/>

Space Exploration: Space Diplomacy Framework

Space and Advanced Technology

Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

Overview:

The Vice President announced at the March 2019 National Space Council meeting that the United States would return humans to the moon by 2024 for long-term habitation as part of the eventual goal of manned missions to Mars. The State Department leads the efforts to reach agreement with key spacefaring nations to establish a common plan to achieve these ambitious space exploration objectives. This venture will be very expensive and will require broad and sustained investment by partner nations, though we anticipate that it will also open the door to new economic and commercial opportunities for the United States and our international partners. These activities, particularly on the lunar surface, may require new cooperation and governance frameworks.

Format of Final Project:

In the form of a research paper, develop a framework for cooperation between the United States and partner nations that identifies America's vision, goals and values for future space exploration and commercial activities on and around the Moon. This framework should take into consideration our international obligations under the Outer Space Treaty and the potential for increased commercial activity.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Economic & Finance Issues; International Law; International Relations; Science and Technology;

Comments:

Were your team to be selected, we'd work with you to identify background readings and other materials. We don't anticipate this project would last longer than a semester.

The Office of Space and Advanced Technology (OES/SAT) formulates, develops, and implements U.S. policy and activities related to bilateral and multilateral international space programs and issues, including relevant advanced/emerging technologies. For more information, our office's website is <https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-economic-growth-energy-and-the-environment/bureau-of-oceans-and-international-environmental-and-scientific-affairs/office-of-space-and-advanced-technology/>

Global Navigation Satellite Systems as a Tool to Increase Global Preparedness

Space and Advanced Technology

Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

Overview:

Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) provide unique support for critical applications related to disaster management and public safety, including mapping of disaster regions, monitoring of seismic events, meteorological storm tracking and flood prediction, tsunami early warning and more. These applications offer new tools for disaster managers and stakeholders, including government agencies, non-government organizations and scientists to better understand and support decision-making across all phases of the disaster management cycle: predictions, preparedness, response, and reconstruction. Understanding how different stakeholders integrate GNSS data and tools into their infrastructure can provide valuable insight into disaster preparedness and the ability to make informed decisions that mitigate losses and add resilience during natural and technological disasters.

Format of Final Project:

Provide a written report explaining how GNSS applications support disaster management and public safety. Include three case studies where countries were able to integrate GNSS into their infrastructure as a tool to address disaster or humanitarian challenges, and assess the socioeconomic from a qualitative or quantitative perspective. A brief 10 slide- power point presentation on key findings.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Development; International Relations; Science and Technology; Sociology;

Comments:

Were your team to be selected, we'd work with you to identify background readings and other materials. We don't anticipate this project would last longer than a semester.

The Office of Space and Advanced Technology (OES/SAT) formulates, develops, and implements U.S. policy and activities related to bilateral and multilateral international space programs and issues, including relevant advanced/emerging technologies. For more information, our office's website is <https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-economic-growth-energy-and-the-environment/bureau-of-oceans-and-international-environmental-and-scientific-affairs/office-of-space-and-advanced-technology/>

Safe Transportation Options for Women in Pakistan

Afghanistan and Pakistan Programs

International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs

Overview:

Studies show that the more integrated women are into the economy and public life, the more prosperous and politically stable societies are. In Pakistan, there are a number of cultural and other barriers to women's integration. One of them is access to safe modes of transportation. This limits women's employment options significantly, including opportunities for women to pursue careers in law enforcement.

A major goal of the State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) in Pakistan is increased participation of women in the police forces. More women police officers leads to increased police effectiveness, accountability, and societal trust in law enforcement writ large. INL's Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan Programs would like to propose a research project on potential modes of safe transportation for women which have proven successful, particularly in societies plagued by violence against women. Ideas to explore could range from ridesharing applications for women such as Safr, and mobile police women units such as those deployed in India.

Format of Final Project:

INL's Pakistan team requests a 10-20 page research paper with executive summary, plus a presentation.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement; Gender Studies; International Relations; Sociology;

Comments:

INL Pakistan is a small team of four officers residing in the larger Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan Programs. We work closely with the INL team at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad. Overall, the Pakistan team manages an annual budget of approximately \$20-25 million, a significant portion of which is dedicated to increasing the integration of women into Pakistan's law enforcement and criminal justice sectors.

Explore BIM and GIS Integration for US Embassies

Master Planning Division

Overseas Buildings Operations

Overview:

By blending together layers of geospatial context, with Building Information Models, decision makers have the information they need to make decisions about our robust portfolio.

In this projects students will have the opportunity to help develop the Department of State's Digital Campus methodology.

By integrated geographic information system (GIS), and building information modeling (BIM), students will help the department prototype a digital campus, using sample embassy data from BIM.

Format of Final Project:

By integrated geographic information system (GIS), and building information modeling (BIM), students will help the department prototype a digital campus, using sample embassy data from BIM. The product will be a GIS raw data/file/ system by taking BIM data into a GIS system.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Geography; Information & Communication Technology; International Relations; Architecture;

Comments:

Information *

Our Bureau:

<https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/bureau-of-overseas-buildings-operations/>

GIS & BIM Integration:

<https://www.geospatialworld.net/blogs/gis-and-bim-integration/>

<https://www.esri.com/content/dam/esrisites/en-us/newsroom/arcuser-spring-2018.pdf>

<https://www.autodesk.com/autodesk-university/article/BIM-GIS-and-Smart-Cities-Challenges-and-Opportunities-2020>

Opportunities in Off-site Manufacturing for Diplomatic Facilities

Project Development and Coordination, Directorate of Program Development, Coordination, and Support, Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations

Overseas Buildings Operations

Overview:

In a world of rapidly evolving needs, traditional construction may not be able to deliver the facilities needed due to site constraints, scheduling challenges, or security requirements. The ability to control the construction of a facility to be deployed anywhere in the world presents a unique opportunity for diplomatic facilities. This may take a variety of forms from modular construction, to a flat-pack kit-of-parts, or even a 3D printed facility. Each project may focus on a particular goal such as rapid delivery or minimal on-site construction, while still providing the data necessary for comparison. At a minimum this should include: Schedule from concept to construction completion mapped with Level of Development (LOD) at each stage of the schedule to provide standardized language for Building Information Modeling (BIM) requirements.

Format of Final Project:

At a minimum this should include: Schedule from concept to construction completion mapped with Level of Development (LOD) at each stage of the schedule to provide standardized language for Building Information Modeling (BIM) requirements. The format should be a presentation, architectural files (raw files), and written report.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Architecture; Climate Change;

Comments:

For information on Level of Development standards please see G202-2013 Project BIM Protocol (<https://www.aiacontracts.org/contract-documents/19016-project-bim-protocol>) for a description of the five levels of development and BIMForum's Level of Development Specification (<https://bimforum.org/lod/>) for further detail and guidance.

Comparative Study on Smuggling and Trafficking Laws in the Western Hemisphere

Western Hemisphere Programs

International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs

Overview:

The Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) works with partner nations to improve their border security and prosecute complex cases such as human smuggling and human trafficking. This project should examine existing laws in the hemisphere, including where legal agreements exist that facilitate legal cross border travel such as the Central America-4 agreement. The research should be able to answer what are the existing legal authorities in the region, how do they compare among each other, and how it interrelates to human smuggling and human trafficking. This could include a discussion on legislation relating to human smuggling and trafficking crimes.

Format of Final Project:

Comparative analysis paper, possibly including a chart comparing laws. Additional flexibility possible in end product.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Law; International Relations; Narcotics & Law Enforcement; Trafficking in Persons; Western Hemisphere Studies;

Comments:

N/A

One Belt One Ummah: Arabization of Indonesian Foreign Direct Investment

Economic Section (Finance, Investment, and Trade Unit)

U.S. Mission to Indonesia

Overview:

Indonesia has flaunted its status as the world's largest Muslim majority country to attract investment from cash-rich coreligionists in the Middle East, including Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates. President Joko Widodo has sought support from these countries in his second term, signing deals on the Indonesian government's \$33 billion capital city relocation (pre-COVID-19), a planned sovereign wealth fund, and infrastructure projects, primarily in the energy sector. This has supplemented longstanding Middle Eastern investment to strengthen Indonesia's religious education industry, such as building Islamic schools, financing scholarships, and supplying textbooks and other materials. This project would aim to analyze economic and commercial diplomacy by Middle Eastern countries in Indonesia over the past few years, including tracking their levels of total trade and foreign direct investment.

Format of Final Project:

As a result of this project, we would like to have a white paper, supported by data analytics (such as investment and trade data), that could be used by Embassy officials (Including in the Economic and Political Sections) to better understand Indonesia's economic relations with Middle Eastern countries.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

East Asian/Pacific Studies; Economic & Finance Issues; International Development; International Relations; Middle East/North African Studies; Statistics;

Comments:

Embassy Jakarta stands ready to assist students in narrowing down the project and in identifying different resources, including the possibility to supplement the team's analysis with outreach in Jakarta with Indonesian government officials (notably the Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs, the Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs and Investment, and the Indonesia Investment Coordinating Board). For more information about the Economic Section's Finance, Investment, and Trade Unit, students can view our website page at: <https://id.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulates/jakarta/sections-offices/finance-trade-investment-unit/>.

UN Peacekeeping – Why it Matters and Making it Better

Office of Peacekeeping Operations

International Organization Affairs

Overview:

UN peacekeeping is an essential and vital tool to protect civilians and promote stability in some of the world's more fragile contexts including Sudan, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Mali, Lebanon and others. The United States is an active supporter of the UN peacekeeping as tool to promote regional stability and security. As a Permanent Member of the UN Security Council holding veto power, the United States is actively involved in every decision regarding the creation, conduct, and closure of UN peacekeeping missions. There are currently some 95,110 personnel from 121 countries serving in 13 UN peacekeeping operation, which cost the international community roughly \$7.5 billion in 2019, of which the U.S. is the single largest financial contributor. The U.S. contributes roughly 25% of peacekeeping costs. Millions of civilians depend on peacekeeping for humanitarian support and actual physical protection.

This project will advance the Department of State's efforts to measure the effectiveness of UN peacekeeping. Given the significant U.S. political and financial investments, it is absolutely essential to ensure UN peacekeeping reform efforts are driven by evidence and data. Through performing a literature review, including reviewing existing studies and evidence-based research findings, and engaging with leading experts, the project seeks to distill and surface lessons and best practices on how the impact of UN peacekeeping operations can best be measured. The project will contribute to the Department's ongoing efforts to promote peacekeeping reform and lead to improvements to the overall UN peacekeeping system.

Format of Final Project:

The project will produce a short (approximately 5-10 pages) literature review of existing studies examining peacekeeping's effectiveness, including how to measure "effectiveness." The project will also produce a new evaluation tool or framework for the Department to use when assessing the ability of UN peacekeeping missions to achieve impact and results on the ground. The Department plans to immediately use such a framework as a tool in its monitoring and oversight process for UN peacekeeping missions.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Relations;

Comments:

Students can review these sites for additional information on UN peacekeeping:

<https://peacekeeping.un.org/en>

<https://www.stimson.org/program/peace-operations/>

<https://effectivepeaceops.net/>

More GE for less GHG's: Measuring the Effectiveness of Agricultural Biotechnology in Managing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Office of Agricultural Policy

Economic and Business Affairs

Overview:

Agriculture is impacted by our changing world—including drought, flooding, and extreme weather events—all of which diminish food productivity and yields, threatening efforts to sustainably feed a growing world. Many current agricultural practices generate net greenhouse gas emissions, exacerbating changes to the climate that can result in productivity losses. Recent advances in biotechnology can be harnessed to revolutionize agriculture in order to enhance food production while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving resilience to extreme weather events, thereby promoting both global food security and environmental stewardship.

We invite multidisciplinary teams to research, compile, and/or create models for international case studies that examine how agricultural biotechnology can or has been used in the context of reducing emissions and enhancing resilience in a changing climate. This project aims to investigate the role of biotechnology in 1) Reducing greenhouse gas emissions in agricultural systems (e.g., via increased production efficiency, increased soil sequestration, reduced input needs) and/or 2) Adapting to the impacts of climate-linked extreme weather. Each case study should investigate the impact of implementation of new methodologies and technique, while also identifying key stakeholders and challenges (e.g., regulatory, informational, public sentiment) associated with implementation.

Format of Final Project:

10-20-page research paper and associated presentation to be amplified through a DoS venue.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Food Security; Geography; International Relations; Science and Technology; Climate Change;

Comments:

The product of this project will be used to support Section 8 of Executive Order 13874 (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-modernizing-regulatory-framework-agricultural-biotechnology-products/>), clearly communicating the role of biotechnology in addressing agricultural challenges and facilitating engagement abroad with policymakers, consumers, industry, and other stakeholders.

Telling the (Bioengineered) Story

Office of Agricultural Policy

Economic and Business Affairs

Overview:

While biotechnology and associated products offer significant potential benefits, public opinion and acceptance of agricultural biotechnology remain ambiguous and divided. This presents a challenge in communication that often occurs between expert and non-expert audiences. Because much of science is outside of direct experience, people are dependent on others to inform and help them interpret information about science. Although many sources aim to fulfill this role, including formal schooling, institutes of informal science learning, or interpersonal discussions, nothing can surpass the ubiquity or frequency of the mass media in science communication (see background).

Narrative communication (storytelling) is ubiquitous in mass media and has been shown to be effective in changing audience's perceptions of scientific issues. The task of this project is to (1) identify existing narratives regarding the use of agricultural biotechnology; (2) measure the effect of different narratives on an audience's opinion regarding biotechnology; (3) create and, if possible, experimentally test scientifically accurate narratives that incorporate multimedia tools of storytelling. for social media.

Format of Final Project:

A 5-10 page research paper; a methodology framework; recommendations of communication and outreach strategies to counter misinformation.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Food Security; Science and Technology; Communications;

Comments:

The product of this project will be used to support Section 8 of Executive Order 13874 (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-modernizing-regulatory-framework-agricultural-biotechnology-products/>), clearly communicating the role of biotechnology in addressing agricultural challenges and facilitating engagement abroad with policymakers, consumers, industry, and other stakeholders.

Background: Please see Using narratives and storytelling to communicate science with nonexpert audiences by

Michael F. Dahlstrom

PNAS September 16, 2014 111 (Supplement 4) 13614-13620; first published September 15, 2014;
<https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1320645111>

Edited by Dietram A. Scheufele, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, and accepted by the Editorial Board April 7, 2014 (received for review November 1, 2013)

Evaluating the Impact of Public Diplomacy Research & Analytics

Office of Research

Global Public Affairs

Overview:

First, project participants could look at the work GPA's R&A unit have done and used over the past year and evaluate if they have had an impact on US foreign policy messaging. In other words, when your group has presented clear message suggestions that can change public opinion, does the U.S. government change its rhetoric?

Second, following up on this, when the US government uses certain rhetoric (that has come out of your work) in their foreign policy messages, does it have an impact on public opinion in those countries?

And third, how do the first two steps affect public policy in the target countries?

Format of Final Project:

Research paper or presentation with supporting data analysis.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Information & Communication Technology; International Relations; Statistics; Communications;

Comments:

Though not available for selection above, Public Policy and Social Science are relevant academic disciplines.

Gaming our way out of a Crisis: A simulation-based approach towards a peaceful democratic transition in Venezuela

PDA (and The Venezuela Desk)

Western Hemisphere Affairs to Venezuela

Overview:

WHA and CSO are seeking to leverage fresh perspective, problem solving and question-asking skills - skills and perspective that universities can be uniquely liberated and ripe for fostering meanwhile “experts” and bureaucrats can often leave mal-nurtured when they spend so much time in the weeds of their expertise - to apply towards gaming out potential paths out of the current Venezuela crisis.

The concept: A team of students and academics engage the experts (contacts we will be happy to provide, and volunteer to serve as) to map out the players and the levers of power that are responsible for the current hold on corrupt power that Nicolas Maduro wields to commit crimes against humanity on his own people. Some of the dynamics that would need to be included in this exercise include internal actors (Venezuela’s opposition parties, the regime, the military, armed criminal gangs, etc.); external actors (the U.S., Russia, Cuba, Iran, the EU...); resources such as oil, gold; and levers such as humanitarian assistance and sanctions. The group would then design a simulation or series of simulations that represent the various stakeholders and stakes in a way they themselves, but also additional participants, could participate in role playing towards the end of 1) appreciating the complexity of the challenge and 2) discovering opportunities for progress. The simulation exercise could be scored, open-ended, multi-hour or multi-day and would ideally be equally attractive to students and think tank experts to participate in.

The idea is modeled after approaches inherent in conflict resolution, game theory, and negotiation programs such as Harvard University Negotiation Project, the American University Negotiation Project, George Mason University’s conflict resolution program. WHA/PDA’s Nikki Finnemann, the public diplomacy desk officer and strategic communications lead for the Venezuela desk would be the primary lead for this project, but would work hand-in-hand with the Conflict and Stabilization Office.

While opportunities abound, the crisis in Venezuela is already the worst man-made crisis our hemisphere has seen in many decades and is in danger of becoming much worse. By applying fresh perspective and even a gaming attitude, we may be able to unlock further creative solutions and at the very least increase appreciation for the complexity of this global challenge.

Format of Final Project:

A designed simulation, or set of simulations, including background and role descriptions for each actor.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Relations; Political/Military Affairs; Psychology; Western Hemisphere Studies; Conflict, Stabilization, & Reconstruction;

Comments:

WHA/PDA would work closely with the Conflict and Stabilization Office, as well as subject matter expertise within the department across our Venezuela mission, but also the other countries represented as stakeholders.

As the founder of the American University Negotiation Project, I worked with colleagues to design many simulations. Those and some from the Harvard University Negotiation Project can be shared as reference in the initial stages of this project.

Urban/Rural Development in Jamaica and Affordable Housing Solutions

Political-Economic Section, U.S. Embassy Kingston

Western Hemisphere Affairs to Jamaica

Overview:

Since the 1960's, Jamaica's population has increasingly urbanized, concentrating in the island's larger cities and its capital, Kingston. Over time, this mass migration has created untenable pressure on urban areas, where housing options for low-income earners has failed to keep up with job opportunities in the transportation, technology, hotel and other service industries. This severe housing shortage has led to the establishment of informal settlements and communities, which have become breeding grounds for criminal activity and contributed to the incidence of violence and insecurity on the island. This issue has had profound effects on Jamaica's economic development and the well-being of its citizens. This research project would provide a situational analysis with recommendations based on international best practices, for Jamaica to advance its urban development planning, with a specific focus on affordable housing.

Format of Final Project:

Research paper with recommendations.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Economic & Finance Issues; International Development; Urban planning, international development;

Comments:

According to the United World Cities Report, 60 percent of Jamaica's city dwellers live in slums. Various efforts by successive governments have fallen short of meeting the growing demand for affordable housing among low income and marginalized communities. Obstacles include rapid urbanization, lack of options for low-medium income earners in the current market, limited or no disposable income for many households, lack of housing program subsidies, increased cost of housing stocks and damage caused by hurricanes. Nevertheless, sustainable rural and urban planning remains a key objective of Jamaica's National Development Plan Vision 2030. See <http://www.vision2030.gov.jm/National-Development-Plan>

Impact of Youth Club Participation on Jamaican Youth Attitudes and Behavior

Political-Economic Section, U.S. Embassy Kingston

Western Hemisphere Affairs to Jamaica

Overview:

The U.S. Embassy and Peace Corps in Jamaica seek to assess the impact of youth participation in in-school and out-of-school youth clubs on Jamaican youth attitudes and behavior related to community service, gender norms, and violence. The central question is: what impact, if any, has participation in youth clubs in Jamaica and elsewhere affected youth and adult attitudes on these issues? Extreme levels of violence, including one of the highest homicide rates in the world, are endemic to Jamaica. Sexual harassment directed at females by males and high levels of gender-based violence are also serious threats. This research project would help identify sustainable and effective violence prevention measures that would improve the lives of citizens of an important U.S. partner, and help advance U.S. strategic goals in Jamaica and the Caribbean region. Participation in youth clubs is often proposed as one measure to prevent violence. However, violence prevention remains a complex issue and the study of the impact of youth clubs is under-researched. Research findings suggesting an impact on youth attitudes may provide a rationale at various policy-making levels for increasing participation in such groups.

Format of Final Project:

Impact study/research paper.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Relations; Sociology; Education, Cultural Studies, International Development; Sociology; Social Psychology; Youth Issues ;

Comments:

Youth clubs have been around for decades in Jamaica: Scouts, Cadets, Girl Guides, 4-H, Brownies, Key Clubs, Literacy, etc. The Council of Voluntary Social Services is an 80-year old organization whose members represent a range of social welfare activities, including youth service organizations, and adult and youth voluntarism. Rotarct and Interact, youth clubs under the guidance of Rotary International that promote service above self, are both active in Jamaica. A 2004 Education Reform Task Force report encourages participation in youth clubs as a positive step in the development of children and a 2017 UNFPA-funded report recommends youth clubs as part of a solution to youth violence. However, membership and participation in clubs remain voluntary and highly dependent on school principal and staff prioritization

Additional sources of information include:

Search-institute, "40 Development Assets for Adolescents (ages 12-18)." <http://www.Search-institute.org>
Task Force on Educational Reform (2004). "Jamaica A Transformed Education System."
Ward, E., McGaw K., & Marsh C. (2017). "Youth, Peace And Security Case Study, Jamaica."

Robertson, Sue (2000). "A warm, safe place: an argument for youth clubs."

Walker, J., Dunham, T., & Snyder, E. (1998). "Clubs and groups in the social education of young people."

World Health Organization (2002), World Report on Violence and Health,
https://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/world_report/en/.

Can Pay Rates of Elected Officials and Power Consolidation Impact Corruption? - A Jamaican Case Study

Political-Economic Section, U.S. Embassy Kingston

Western Hemisphere Affairs to Jamaica

Overview:

The central question of this research project is: how can the salaries of elected officials and the executive power structure affect the incidence of corruption? Jamaican parliamentarians currently rank among the lowest paid legislators in the Caribbean region. At the same time, according to Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index for 2019, Jamaica is now perceived as the fourth most corrupt of the 11 Caribbean states and ranks 74th among the 180 countries assessed globally. Although the current Member of Parliament salary structure is almost double that of Jamaica's average earner, it still falls well below the highest 10 percent of Jamaican wage earners. Nevertheless, seats in parliament remain highly sought after and some Jamaican elites expend significant personal resources in their election campaigns. Some political observers have theorized that if elected officials were paid more, they would be less likely to engage in corruption. There is also a long-held belief that the Westminster type political organization where the Prime Minister comes out of the MP ranks leads to a less effective cabinet. This research would examine whether a presidential/parliament approach with a true executive (President) with a Cabinet of Members of Parliament might lead to less corruption.

Format of Final Project:

Research paper.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Democracy & Human Rights; Economic & Finance Issues; International Development; International Relations;

Comments:

20-page research paper with presentation.

Access to Credit: Identifying and Overcoming Barriers Facing Women Entrepreneurs in Jamaica

Political-Economic Section, U.S. Embassy Kingston

Western Hemisphere Affairs to Jamaica

Overview:

The Caribbean Policy Research Institute (CAPRI) recently conducted research funded by the European Union entitled “Closed for Business: Barriers to Women’s Entrepreneurship”. Based on these findings, Jamaican women entrepreneurs are just as competent, confident and willing to take risks as their male counterparts. However, they are much less likely to obtain loans from the traditional banking sector, which has been identified as a major barrier for female startups. This research project would take a granular look at the reasons why women are less likely to obtain loans from Jamaica’s traditional banks. Based on these findings, the research project would also include recommendations for specific reforms or alternate funding structures that could be implemented to support women’s economic empowerment and enable female entrepreneurs to fully participate in Jamaica’s post COVID-19 economic recovery.

Format of Final Project:

Research paper with recommendations

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Economic & Finance Issues; Gender Studies;

Comments:

The reasons why women are less likely to obtain loans are unclear, though experts indicate there is no shortage of capital in the local Jamaican market. Instead, stakeholders suggest that this lack of credit may be due to a combination of societal norms that have permeated the traditional banking structure. According to the World Bank’s 2020 indicator scores “Women, Business and the Law”, Jamaican law does not specifically prohibit discrimination in access to credit based on gender, though stakeholders have suggested that the difficulty may be due to a combination of factors.

Language Curriculum Development for Diplomats: Specialized vocabulary, spaced repetition, and automated lexical leveling in over 60 languages

Curriculum and Staff Development

Foreign Service Institute

Overview:

The School of Language Studies at the Foreign Service Institute trains US foreign service personnel in over 60 languages annually, preparing them to advance and promote US interests abroad.

The Foreign Service Institute uses word frequency lists to support the creation of new instructional materials and to judge the probability that a learner can have an authentic reading experience reading a given text.

Based on Zipf's law, the School of Language Studies believes that learning high-frequency words first enhances the proficiency acquisition process and that well-chosen mid- and low-frequency words gain in importance as the student moves up the proficiency ladder. We also believe that students tend to learn words in proficiency order simply because they see high frequency words more frequently than other ones.

Once students are half way through their programs and have attained an ILR 2/2 (ACTFL advanced/CEFR B1), which is supported by approximately 80% of the top 3000 word families in a language, they pivot to collecting their own word lists which will support their own jobs and/or life situations.

In order for the teams that create instructional materials, they need reliable word frequency lists which have been lemmatized, and, for which word families have been created. The corpora underlying the word list should be large enough for words to appear a minimum of 50 times and should comprise texts which reflect that types of genres and topic areas met frequently while performing various types of diplomatic work. The lists will also enable instructors as they guide learners in choosing texts that are interesting, relevant, and at level for the learners. "At level" means that the learner should know about 98% of the words in order to have an authentic reading experience. Currently, the School of Language Studies uses the open-source AntWordProfiler to profile texts, check for spacing of repetition of words, and evaluate the probability that students know enough of the words in the texts to be able to read them.

The Foreign Service Institute's School of Language Studies is seeking partners who would be interested in working on the frequency list challenge. We are open to suggestions of new and innovative ways to identify high frequency (general and domain-specific) words, lemmatize lists, and find and profile texts for our learners.

The School teaches some 60 languages and is looking for help with some of the less researched ones. The school would be willing to share its list of languages with interested programs.

Format of Final Project:

The team will work to help define the final format of the project. Products could include:

Lemmatized frequency lists in X languages

Domain-specific lemmatized frequency lists in X languages

Semantically-tagged corpora

Text Assessment Tool: for assessing learner readability

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

African Studies; East Asian/Pacific Studies; Education & Cultural Studies; European & Eurasian Studies; International Relations; Middle East/North African Studies; South/Central Asian Studies; Statistics; Western Hemisphere Studies; Computer Science;

Comments:

This project would be of interest to those in Second Language Acquisition, Applied Linguistics, Linguistics, Language Departments, Corpus Linguistics.

In any given year, the School of Language Studies has between 1-5 major curriculum development projects, where language curricula are completely redesigned. Additionally, any number of smaller projects take place each year, focusing on more incremental improvements. Creative and innovative proposals that facilitate or improve those processes are welcome.

ID: DipLab2005344

Confucius Institutes in Turkey and Chinese Influence

Public Affairs

European and Eurasian Affairs to Turkey

Overview:

Evaluate the effectiveness of Chinese cultural and educational influence of Confucius Institutes in Turkey. Determine whether Turks on campus are appreciative of the activities or if they view the CIs with any suspicions.

Format of Final Project:

Report and virtual presentation

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Relations;

Comments:

Please contact PAS Turkey for more information. Embassy Ankara and Consulate Istanbul are teaming up with RELO to work on this effort.

Where are the U.S. Citizens? GIS Maps Visualizing the Diaspora in Mexico

Mexico City American Citizen Services

Western Hemisphere Affairs to Mexico

Overview:

More U.S. citizens live in Mexico than any other country outside the United States. The number of U.S. citizens resident in Mexico for at least part of the year has grown steadily, resulting in the largest U.S. diplomatic mission and one of the busiest American Citizen Services (ACS) operations in the world.

Mexico completed its decennial census in early 2020 and plans to release results before the end of the year. This dataset serves as a critical tool for the U.S. Mission to Mexico, as it provides a count of U.S. citizens residing in Mexico and allows the Mission to prioritize resources and outreach.

Utilizing the new census data, and comparing it with data from the 2010 census and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) base data layers created through a prior Diplomacy Lab project, this Diplomacy Lab team will produce GIS layers visualizing the change in U.S. citizen populations between 2010 and 2020. These layers will then serve as a critical input to Mission Mexico's planning for future ACS needs.

Format of Final Project:

GIS layers visualizing updated U.S. citizen density in Mexico, exposure to crime, hazards, and COVID-19 outbreaks.

Presentation to high-level U.S. Embassy staff on results of project, opportunities for future investigation, extension of results

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Geography; International Relations; Statistics; Computer Science;

Comments:

Additional questions the team may wish to explore might include:

Breakdowns of U.S. citizens by age, place of birth, other demographics as interested

Integration of citizen density with crime statistics produced by INEGI and SESNSP to estimate exposure of U.S. citizens to criminal risk

Integration of citizen density with COVID-19 statistics produced by Salud

Integration of U.S. citizen prevalence data with natural hazards layers (produced by a prior Diplomacy Lab project)

Analysis of U.S. citizens resident in Mexico versus U.S. citizens visiting/working in Mexico

Afghanistan Legal Education Assessment

Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan

International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs

Overview:

The Afghanistan Justice Team in the Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL/AP) has worked for over a decade to develop law curricula, programs, and educators in Afghanistan with the long-term goal of strengthening the country's justice institutions. With the intra-Afghan peace negotiations now underway, INL/AP is interested in exploring new and innovative ways to continue advancing legal education in Afghanistan.

We would like for students to conduct an assessment of the undergraduate and post-undergraduate legal education environment in Afghanistan, as well as the legal skill sets needed in the public, nonprofit, and private sectors. Based on these findings, we hope students will be able to identify possible areas where U.S. foreign assistance or other types of partnerships could be especially helpful to address ongoing needs for legal expertise in Afghanistan. Since this is a broad area of study, students are welcome to identify a narrower focus for their research.

Format of Final Project:

Depending on the needs and preferences of the class, we would be interested in receiving a short options memo (approximately 4 pages), a longer research paper (10 to 20 pages), or another type of deliverable. Regardless of the physical deliverable(s), we would like to receive a video or in-person presentation from the participants to explain and contextualize their findings, and answer questions.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement; Education & Cultural Studies; International Development; International Law; International Relations; Public-Private Partnerships; South/Central Asian Studies; Conflict, Stabilization, & Reconstruction;

Comments:

The Afghanistan Justice Team in INL/AP works to strengthen the Afghan justice sector in the following ways:

EDUCATING JUSTICE SECTOR OFFICIALS: INL partners with U.S. law schools to train the next generation of Afghan legal professionals, supporting 121 Afghans to earn LLM or PhD degrees. INL funding also established the first undergraduate law degree program at the American University of Afghanistan, where approximately 60% of law students are women. INL supports the training of judges, prosecutors, and Ministry of Justice officials on the correct application of the new Afghan Penal Code.

COMBATTING CRIME: INL mentors and trains Afghan justice officials to disrupt criminal networks,

focusing on the nexus between crime, narcotics, and terrorism. INL provides technical advice, as well as training and mentoring, to reform Afghan criminal laws, such as those against narcotics and trafficking in persons. Programs also seek to build the capacity of Afghan judges, lawyers, and prosecutors.

COUNTERING CORRUPTION: INL assisted the Afghan government in developing a Case Management System to electronically track cases nationwide from arrest and prosecution of the accused through incarceration and release of prisoners. The system currently holds over 600,000 criminal and civil cases. INL supports justice sector ministries to improve transparency and accountability through organizational reforms in the areas of procurement, human resources, and budgeting. Programs support specialized investigation and prosecution units to bring corrupt officials to justice, helping to dismantle the corrosive networks that undermine the government.

ADVANCING RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS: INL supports shelters for women and children who have survived or are at risk of gender-based violence or trafficking in persons; family guidance centers that provide legal and counseling services to survivors and their families; and transitional houses to help women transition out of prison. INL also provides training and placement of psychosocial counselors to the shelters and family guidance centers. These programs benefit over 10,000 women and children annually. INL assisted the Ministry of Women's Affairs in establishing the Victim Witness Assistance Program in order to link survivors and witnesses of violence with legal and social services. Furthermore, INL supports the training of special units in the Attorney General's Office that prosecute cases under the Elimination of Violence Against Women Act.

INCREASING ACCESS TO JUSTICE: INL funds legal aid offices in 20 Afghan provinces, providing legal representation and educating citizens about their legal rights. This includes increasing community awareness of women's rights through sessions on topics like marriage, education, and child custody.

The Effects of COVID-19 Lockdowns on Gender-Based Violence Incidences in Latin America

Office of Policy Planning and Coordination

Western Hemisphere Affairs

Overview:

Overview

U.S. News and World Report calls gender-based violence (GBV) in Latin America “a pandemic within a pandemic.” The increased number of cases confirms how stay-at-home orders brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic are having a devastating effect on women and girls in the region. Between March 11 and June 30th, 1,200 Peruvian women disappeared. In Brazil, 143 women in 12 states were murdered in March and April, a 22 percent increase over the same period in 2019. In Colombia, calls to a domestic violence helpline have increased by 91% since stay-at-home orders were instituted. In Mexico, domestic violence-related calls jumped by 36%, and in Argentina by 25%. Paraguay and Bolivia have the highest prevalence of murders of women and girls in South America. Historically, GBV has disproportionately impacted indigenous women and women of color in Latin America.

In addition to GBV, women and girls in the region also face economic challenges because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The World Bank points out that women are more likely to be engaged in informal work, and those jobs have been more adversely affected by the lockdowns. Most informal workers do not have access to any social benefits from the loss of employment. The World Bank also points out that girls may lose out to boys at home in the competition for scarce at-home education resources (e.g. laptops, limited broadband, etc.). In addition, women are more likely to experience a greater burden on their time given multiple household and care-taking responsibilities. This combination of lost wages and more time at home increases the likelihood of gender based violence in Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly if the pandemic continues into 2021.

Format of Final Project:

-A 20-30 page report and graphic presentation explaining findings across the region, with appropriate citations.

-Ability to present findings in person or virtually to WHA Bureau policy and programming officers.

-Report should include specific summaries of key barriers to mitigating GBV and highlighting any best practices within the region.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Relations;

Comments:

Justification of Research Proposal

WHA prioritizes the inclusion of historically marginalized groups and communities in its programs. Starting in FY 2021, the Policy, Planning and Coordination Office's Strategy and Resources Unit will implement a series of regional grants that aim to build capacity for GBV survivor support service providers in Latin America and the Caribbean. Therefore, this proposal seeks research that can identify various ways in which Latin American governments, the private sector, and civil society are responding to increased GBV incidences and cases during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly among indigenous and Afro-Latina women.

Both best practices and barriers in responding to and countering GBV are of particular interest and should be highlighted in the report. Research should also include how and from what local or international source GBV survivors receive support after GBV incidents, who provided such assistance, and the type of assistance received. The report should conclude with an analysis of the data and recommended strategies and approaches to address and counter the increased incidence of GBV in Latin America based on identified best practices. Data should be disaggregated by gender, country, and age.

ID: DipLab2001340

Recruitment of California Resident Hispanic/Latinx American Applicants for Foreign Service Specialist positions

GTM/TAC/REC

Human Resources

Overview:

This proposal calls for the creation of a plan to successfully recruit California resident Hispanic/Latinx Americans to apply for Foreign Service Specialist positions. We seek specific recommendations as to the best methods to increase the number of California resident Hispanic/Latinx Americans who apply for Foreign Service Specialist positions as well as suggestions for how to raise awareness of these career opportunities in that community. The final product should be a well-crafted strategy to meet these goals along with a proposal as to how to measure success.

Format of Final Project:

The final product should be a well-crafted strategy to meet the goals outlined in the project description along with a proposal as to how to measure success.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Relations;

Comments:

The list of Foreign Service Specialist positions can be found at <https://careers.state.gov/work/foreign-service/specialist/career-tracks/>.

ID: DipLab2001339

Recruiting Native Hawaiians

GTM/RAC/REC

Human Resources

Overview:

The Department of State would benefit from additional employees of Native Hawaiian descent as part of efforts to reflect the diversity of the United States.

This proposal calls for the creation of a plan to successfully recruit Native Hawaiian applicants for positions at the U.S. Department of State, particularly in the state of Hawaii. We seek specific recommendations as to the best methods to increase the number of Native Hawaiians who apply for both Civil Service and Foreign Service positions as well as suggestions for how to raise awareness of U.S. Department of State career opportunities in that community. The final product should be a well-crafted strategy to meet these goals along with a proposal as to how to measure success.

Format of Final Project:

The final product should be a well-crafted strategy to meet the project description's goals along with a proposal as to how to measure success.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Marketing;

Comments:

N/A

Refugee and Vulnerable Populations' Access to COVID-19 Treatments, Relief, and Recovery

Office of Policy and Resource Planning

Population, Refugees, and Migration

Overview:

The COVID-19 pandemic has had far-reaching impacts on every population, but for the world's refugees, asylum-seekers, conflict victims, and migrants, the impacts will likely be deeper and more long-lasting. These populations are already at a heightened risk for infectious diseases due to frequently overcrowded living conditions and limited access to health services, but current epidemiological patterns for COVID spread with these populations are unknown due to limited testing and lack of access to other health services. These populations are also at an elevated risk for other secondary effects of COVID-19 such as restrictions in accessing basic services, border closures, and economic impacts of the global pandemic response.

The Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) is looking to gain insight into how its populations of concern (refugees, conflict victims, stateless persons, and vulnerable migrants) are included in national response plans to COVID-19. Participants in this Diplomacy Lab project will be asked to compile and review national legislation, budget, or other formal frameworks pertaining to COVID-19 relief, including: access to national healthcare systems for non-COVID-related healthcare needs; COVID-19 prevention (e.g., information, provision of personal protective equipment, other mitigation measures); COVID-19 testing and contact tracing; COVID-19 medical care and vaccine access (when available); economic relief (e.g., money, food, and/or housing assistance during the pandemic); and education continuity, mental health services, and other factors of pandemic response in order to inform humanitarian programming.

Format of Final Project:

It is envisioned that some data will be available online through a variety of international and local government, NGO, academic, private sector, and media sources. Any gaps in data that are identified can also help inform a strategy to fill those gaps in order to ensure that these vulnerable populations are included in national strategies to treat, relieve, and recover from this pandemic. Countries for targeted study will be prioritized based on the size of the population of concern.

Because this project will inform humanitarian programming and identify gaps in national response plans, we would like to receive data sets as they are completed. The composition of the data sets can be negotiated with PRM at the outset of the project but would likely also include links to primary sources and retain country-specific language. Summaries of key findings, observations, or other data analysis and visualization tools are welcome.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Humanitarian Assistance; Refugees and Displaced Populations; Multilateral Organizations; Global Health; Public Health; COVID-19 Response; Emergency and Disaster Relief; Governmental Affairs; International Affairs ;

Comments:

Due to the ongoing and dynamic nature of the pandemic and countries' responses to it, this project may extend beyond one semester if agreed upon by the research team and PRM.

Additional information about PRM can be found at: <https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-civilian-security-democracy-and-human-rights/bureau-of-population-refugees-and-migration/>

A Framework for the Adoption of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning by a Global Security Organization

Diplomatic Security Office of Protective Intelligence Investigations

Diplomatic Security

Overview:

The project relates to a framework to guide the adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) technologies within the Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS), the global law enforcement and security arm of the Department of State. The project will explore how AI and ML can be applied in the realm of operational security - incidents, threats, crime, suspicious activity, protective operations, protective intelligence. For example, given the right data strategy (i.e. a cohesive framework for collecting, categorizing, and storing security data points), as well as the deep learning models and other technology enablers, DS would be able to leverage AI and ML to analyze past security incident patterns that would in turn identify and alert our organization to things we might not be able to see. As a result, the technology could deliver insights and identify trends, make security decisions smarter, identify areas of concern, and predict the likelihood that a certain type of security incident or threat would occur. This would enable the organization to approach a predictive model of security where we can apply resources and design training that helps mitigate those threats in a proactive manner. The benefits this project will deliver to DS are the following: better allocation of resources based on predictive modeling; the ability to identify trends and help us focus resources, staffing and training efforts based on the most likely security challenges; the capability to forecast staffing needs across time periods and geographic regions; the ability to integrate and relate large data sets to derive insights that we may not have been able to see otherwise.

Format of Final Project:

A document that is a framework, playbook and general strategy to guide the Bureau of Diplomatic Security on broad AI adoption. If possible, it should be complemented by a PowerPoint presentation (approximately 10 slides or less) and an executive summary to be presented to senior leadership, who may have little to no knowledge on AI and ML.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Relations; Security, Digital Technology, Artificial Intelligence;

Comments:

<https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-management/bureau-of-diplomatic-security/>

The proposal would seek to produce a framework, playbook and strategy to guide the Bureau of Diplomatic Security on broad AI adoption, with a thorough consideration of the complexities and how to overcome them. The proposal seeks the production a compelling business case, a detailed examination of the technological framework for developing deep learning models, a way to develop a data strategy, and a review of the talent enablers that would advance the AI and ML initiative. It should also be a survey of

the market's current off-the-shelf solutions that can potentially be utilized (if applicable), as well as whether they are currently in use/considered for use by the federal government or military. Ultimately, the proposal would produce an AI agenda specifically tailored for DS that demonstrates the impacts these technologies can have on our suite of products and services, and how to embed and scale AI and ML across the security organization.

Open Source Analysis of Student Wing Violence in Bangladesh 2009 – 2019

EAP-SCA

Conflict and Stabilization Operations

Overview:

Bangladesh returned to democracy after an extended caretaker government with the 2009 parliamentary elections. That election marked the first poll since Bangladesh had truly entered the internet era, with mobile phones proliferating throughout a country the size of Georgia with a population half as large as the United States (160 million people). It was also marred by violence between rival student wings – with each other and amongst themselves. In Bangladesh’s winner-take-all politics, demonstrations are too often measured in the number of casualties. Since 2009, there have been two more elections. The ruling Awami League has won all three. In 2014, most opposition parties boycotted the polls. In 2019, the opposition parties participated yet the Awami League won an even larger share of the vote. In between the national polls there have been municipal elections, political movements, and unrelated skirmishes among the student wings at Bangladeshi universities. Recently, Bangladeshi politicians have suggested that student wings be introduced into private universities where student movements have existed for decades but are not allowed to organize openly to prevent disruption (which their students explicitly pay for).

This purpose of this project is to have a university team analyze open source reporting of violence available on the internet; both in traditional media like newspaper and TV and social media. Using the elections as different chapter markers, we want the winning team to map out where clashes occur, who it involves, what the motivations were, and what if any positive response followed those incidents. This project will enrich our existing data sets with qualitative insights; i.e. the “why” in addition to the “where” and “how many.” The project will further inform our efforts to reduce and eventually end the violence in Bangladeshi politics.

Format of Final Project:

Monthly and Final Reports, Powerpoint Summary/Presentation, and Posterboard Display for Potential DC Showcase

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Relations;

Comments:

N/A

Police Accountability in Africa: Mapping and Analysis of External Police Oversight Mechanisms

POL

African Affairs to South Africa

Overview:

Over the past 10 years, the debate on police oversight in Africa has shifted from one of actors like APCOF justifying its importance, to its formal acknowledgement in regional human rights instruments and policy documents as central to the achievement of democratic governance and human rights. APCOF now seeks to undertake a study to map and analyse the ways in which external police oversight manifests across the continent, at the regional, sub-regional and national levels.

The research will be the first of its kind to demonstrate how police accountability is understood and implemented in Africa, and whether the influence of regional mechanisms and their security sector reform and governance agendas are contributing to national reform. Critically, it will also provide examples of innovations in design and delivery of police oversight that respond to the particular policing challenges experienced in Africa as a result of the colonial legacy inherent in modern policing practices, post-independence policing governance deficits, and chronic resource constraints. The research will provide a much needed stocktake of the police accountability debate 10 years on, against the backdrop of significant investment by APCOF and others in this work, and identify both the good practice from which other states can draw on, as well as critical challenges in the progressive realisation of police accountability as central to democratic governance and the realisation of human rights at the regional and domestic levels.

Format of Final Project:

Ideally, APCOF would like to receive a 20 – 30 page research paper that identifies: (a) police oversight mechanisms, both formal and informal, in each African state, with information on the background to their establishment (in particular, the socio-political context); (b) the mandate and function of the mechanism; (c) any information on how their performance is measured, and how they are performing against that framework; and (d) challenges or innovations observed in the design and functioning of the mechanism. The type of mechanisms to be mapped include, but are not limited to, both formal and informal structures such as statutory bodies dedicated to police oversight, national human rights institutions; national preventive mechanisms; and civil society organisations who perform a range of functions from research, to the provision of medico-legal services. Other actors, such as parliamentary committees the judiciary, may play an important role in police accountability in a national context, and can be included in the mapping exercise where appropriate. APCOF has an extensive network of police oversight practitioners across the continent, and can share this information with the US research institution to aid in the identification of relevant mechanisms. Ideally, the US research institution would have the capacity to draw on information in English, French, Portuguese and Arabic, though the research itself would be presented to APCOF in English.

APCOF will then use this research paper to develop a broader publication that will look broadly at the last

10 years in terms of normative standard development at the regional level, how it has manifested in police accountability at the national level, and draw conclusions on what the police accountability agenda can and should look like for the next 10 years, based on the research findings.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement; International Relations;

Comments:

N/A

Promoting Collaborative Science in Indonesia: Best International Practices for Policymakers

Environment, Science, Technology and Health Unit

U.S. Mission to Indonesia

Overview:

A sprawling archipelago with a young population, an abundance of unexplored maritime and terrestrial biodiversity, and dozens of government research agencies covering areas ranging from public health to space exploration, Indonesia should easily make a list of countries central to modern science. But, despite this immense potential, Indonesia has long lagged behind its regional peers in attracting and training scientists due to systemic issues like limited multi-year research funding, complex regulations, and a lack of job opportunities in STEM fields. According to the most recent OECD statistics, Indonesia invests less than .01 percent of GDP on research per year, with the majority coming from government grants. Moreover, only a small number of Indonesian universities manage to enter global ranking lists, a source of considerable concern for policymakers. To make the matters even more complicated, Indonesia imposes restrictions on foreign scientists through a research permitting system and material transfer agreements that can result in criminal penalties including jail time and large fines.

In 2019, Indonesian President Joko “Jokowi” Widodo announced that boosting Indonesia’s human capacity is one of his administration’s top priorities. As a part of this effort, in August 2019, the Indonesian government passed a new comprehensive science and technology (S&T) management law (UU 11/2019) to tackle systemic challenges and reform its sprawling science bureaucracy. The law proposes new funding mechanisms for government research grants, peer ethics boards to review projects, and directs the national government to reorganize its science agencies under a national research coordinating body. These proposals will be implemented via Ministerial and Presidential regulations over the next two years, meaning policymakers face a significant challenge to figure out how to tailor regulations to create an open academic environment that supports President Jokowi’s vision to boost the capacity of Indonesia’s scientists, students and universities. This multi-disciplinary Diplomacy Lab collaboration will pair teams from U.S. public policy, comparative politics, or STEM-focused programs with the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta, the State Department’s Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, and prominent Indonesian science policymakers to produce reports detailing international and American best practices to promote scientific collaboration that will be presented to the Indonesian government as possible avenues forward for implementation of their new S&T bill. Teams will work closely with policy analysts at the Embassy and Indonesian government, and be expected to engage in comparative research and analysis of how countries, municipalities and universities successfully promote scientific collaboration and innovation.

Format of Final Project:

This Diplomacy Lab collaboration should result in an actionable report to be delivered to Indonesian policymakers on best practices that can be used to develop discrete regulations (such as peer ethics panels or grant funding) as the government seeks to implement the August 2019 S&T bill. This analysis can be presented as a research paper, data analysis, or otherwise, as long as it is in a form that is actionable and

comprehensible to the wider policymaking community. Accompanying presentations summarizing key points would be a plus.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

East Asian/Pacific Studies; Education & Cultural Studies; Global Health; International Law; International Relations; Science and Technology;

Comments:

Text of the new S&T bill can be found as an attachment. We expect to have an English translation in the coming months.

Investment Climate Trends in the Investment Climate Statements for Sub-Saharan African

Economic and Regional Affairs

African Affairs

Overview:

The Department of State has been qualitatively assessing country investment climates for more than 20 years in the form of the Investment Climate Statement – chapter VII of the Country Commercial Guide. Until now, data analytic technology was unavailable to quantify the trends and changes that diplomatic engagement produced. This project seeks to apply qualitative data analytics to quantify the positive or negative effect of sustained diplomatic engagement – economic statecraft – in promoting a more U.S.-friendly investment climate in target countries.

Economic Sections have for years carefully crafted the investment climate statement section – particularly the opening paragraph assessment – to signal areas of significant progress and concern in a country's investment climate.

Apply word and phrase data analytics to track the evolution of and trends within the United States economic statecraft to promote more level playing fields and open investment climates in partner countries. Specifically studying 20 years of past investment climate statements for target countries to quantify trends, identify measurable results, and assess success of economic and commercial diplomacy to ultimately serve as a metric of diplomatic engagement efficacy going forward.

Model Methodology: <https://www.npr.org/2019/05/03/720139562/episode-910-economics-sexism-data>

Format of Final Project:

In addition to a report describing the trends and patterns revealed after quantifying the qualitative descriptions over time - the resulting insights might help inform a new metric to measure economic statecraft and engagement in the trade and investment policy space.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

African Studies; Economic & Finance Issues; International Law; International Relations; Ddition;

Comments:

The inspiration for this project stems from a recent podcast by Planet Money where an economic student was able to quantify and identify animus in the field of economics by studying online conversations in a well-regarded and famous professional exchange forum. The paper is widely regarded because where it is difficult to reach into a person's heart to see what motivates them, the quantifying of certain words and patterns of communication revealed real tendencies. These tendencies could then be measured and assessed giving the researcher excellent insight into the hearts and minds of the collective. (Links to the

press about the study and the actual paper are here:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/18/upshot/evidence-of-a-toxic-environment-for-women-in-economics.html> and additional findings: <https://www.aeaweb.org/about-aea/committees/cswep/survey>).

This project seeks to replicate that same technique for the purpose of assessing the Department of State's success in economic diplomacy. Unlike private economists posting their opinions on a closed forum, the State Department's economic sections are posting for the public very carefully crafted assessments of a country's investment climate encapsulated in the Investment Climate Statements. The ICS assesses the current conditions in a country, progress made on previous areas of concern, and new challenges that have evolved. These snapshots are among the very few public tools that the U.S. Department of State has to communicate the US government's position on the investment climate in a country. Most Embassies carefully craft these assessments using a narrow range of linguistic techniques to describe their concerns without offending the host country. Studying these carefully selected words may reveal a trends, successes, and ultimately help to share a future tool for measuring the efficacy of economic diplomacy. The purpose of economic diplomacy is to level the playing field for U.S. investment and companies, foster greater global economic integration, and promote more shared prosperity.

Implementing Exit Controls on the US Mexico border

Non Immigrant Visas

U.S. Mission to Mexico

Overview:

The idea of implementing exit controls is not new, but has generally focused on air travel. Traveling by air offers a number of alternative methods to confirm travel beyond biometric or immigration checks. However, the US and Mexico share a long land border with many land border crossing points. Currently, there is no clear way to identify when someone leaves the US via land border. Part of the mandate of Consular Affairs is to promote border security while facilitating legitimate travel. Accomplishing that task would be made easier by having an ability to track when someone leaves the US.

We would be interested in working with a team to further identify the scope of this project, primarily to explore how exit controls for land borders could be implemented, and what the mechanics would be for such an implementation. We would like to be able to understand operational feasibility in terms of time, money, and structural changes required.

Format of Final Project:

Report of potential exit control implementation ideas for US-Mexico land border crossing points, and an analysis of the logistical and operational requirements for implementation of any resulting ideas.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement; Cyber Security; Information & Communication Technology; International Law; International Relations; Narcotics & Law Enforcement; Science and Technology; Statistics; Trafficking in Persons; Western Hemisphere Studies;

Comments:

The expected timeframe of this project is 4 months.

How Do Different People Arrive at the Same Conclusion Consistently?

Santo Domingo/Consular Section

U.S. Mission to Dominican Republic

Overview:

Have you ever looked at the same piece of evidence and seen it two different ways? Has a colleague or friend looked at the same fact and seen it in a different light? This project will ask, how can two different officers look at the same applicant for a non-immigrant visa (NIV) at different dates and come to the same conclusion, consistently? In other words, if a visa applicant were to apply on two separate occasions, but be interviewed by different officers, what management techniques can we learn from other research fields investigating decision making in order to arrive at the same conclusion? NIV decisions are based on the Immigration and Nationality Act as well as guidance from the Foreign Affairs Manual. Ultimately all decisions are made by people, and any decision made by humans is open to be different due to a wide range of factors. We want to know what creates consistent decisions from other related fields.

This project would take an interdisciplinary approach to answering this question, drawing on a wide base of research that already exists from behavioral economics, psychology, political science, and business (though we are open to exploring information from other fields of study as well that may have relevance to answering our question). The heart of this question is not about decision making in NIV, but rather what best practices already exist that are relevant to understanding how to ensure consistency between officers in adjudicating NIV cases. The outcome of this project should be a series of recommendations for best practices from these studies to help us manage the work flow of decision making in our NIV unit and possibly around the world. This is a great opportunity for researchers and students to help improve the implementation of the part of our immigration system that brings in the highest volume of individuals into the United States each year.

Format of Final Project:

We'd like to see a concise literature review (5 pages or less) with a complete bibliography to support your suggestions for how to make consistent decisions. Your suggestions for how to make our decisions more consistent can be displayed in whatever format you prefer as long as it is clear and concise - this will be our action item that we will use internally and could be reviewed at higher levels within the Bureau of Consular Affairs.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Economic & Finance Issues; International Law; International Relations; Marketing; Public-Private Partnerships; Science and Technology;

Comments:

The U.S. Department of State processes millions of non-immigrant visas (NIVs) every year, all around the world. Officers who are charged with making these decisions face a multitude of resilience

challenges, including decision fatigue and working often in difficult environments. Consular management encourages ongoing training, especially about the unique cultural factors that exist in each individual country context. This project will allow your team to take a deep dive into the management practices for managing a large volume of customers and help us improve our services to potential visitors to the United States. You will not have access to any actual adjudication information or decisions since the intent of this project is to understand what information and data already exists from similar or even different industries where multiple people may be looking at the same information and arriving at different or similar conclusions.

Marketing & Message Testing for Public Diplomacy

ENR/EGA/PAPD

Energy Resources

Overview:

Marketing and message testing in Central Asia. Design and carry out a market-analytic approach to audiences in Central Asia, in the form of analyzing and interpreting results from focus groups. Extensive data have already been collected in the form of video, audio, and transcripts. On this marketing and message testing team, we will analyze our data to draw conclusions about what is most resonant and then we will propose a messaging strategy on that basis. The final output will be a series of papers with recommendations to public diplomacy professionals who work on messaging in Central Asia. A specialized component of this will be to discern a strategy for appealing to Kazakhstani audiences on energy policy issues and energy partnerships.

Format of Final Project:

The final output will be a series of papers with recommendations to public diplomacy professionals who work on messaging in Central Asia. A specialized component of this will be to discern a strategy for appealing to Kazakhstani audiences on energy policy issues and energy partnerships. Ideally there will be three papers that will emerge in the format of peer-reviewed academic journal articles for possible publication in a journal of political psychology, foreign affairs, or marketing.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Education & Cultural Studies; Energy Security; European & Eurasian Studies; Information & Communication Technology; International Relations; Marketing; Psychology; Sociology; South/Central Asian Studies; Youth Issues; Communications;

Comments:

Ideally there will be three papers that will emerge in the format of peer-reviewed academic journal articles for possible publication in a journal of political psychology, foreign affairs, or marketing.

U.S.-Norwegian Arctic Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Mapping

U.S. Embassy Oslo Public Affairs

European and Eurasian Affairs to Norway

Overview:

U.S. Embassy, Oslo is looking for a Diplomacy Lab partner to carry out research and collect data on the current entrepreneurial ecosystem in the U.S. and Norwegian Arctic regions, including actors, networks, laws, policy, and regulations. The goal of this project is to document and provide a comprehensive analysis of the challenges and barriers faced by Norwegian and American entrepreneurs, investors, and stakeholders, including youth, in a U.S.-Norwegian Arctic Startup Ecosystem Report and slide share presentation.

This work would be done in cooperation with the U.S. Embassy Oslo's Public Affairs Section and build on current efforts in the wider Arctic community to track these issues, including those being carried by Norwegian and American universities and organizations. A special emphasis on youth and education as they pertain to the Arctic entrepreneurial ecosystem would be welcome.

Using an acceptable and widely-recognized approach (such as the GIZ Guide for Mapping the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem) as a guideline, the DipLab partner should prepare a list of the players and stakeholders in the Arctic region's entrepreneurial space. In mapping the "ecosystem," the DipLab partner should use the following tools/metrics:

- o Quantitative survey to gather data from Norwegian and Alaskan entrepreneurs, youth, indigenous peoples and organizations, and other critical stakeholders on the challenges in the current environment.
- o Qualitative research and interviews with key stakeholders in the Arctic business ecosystem, including entrepreneurs, support organizations, investors, and government officials.
- o Review any relevant secondary research on the market.
- o Mapping should cover Alaska, Norway, and other geographical locations critical to the wider success of U.S. and Norwegian Arctic business endeavors.

Further information and for background on internal and external efforts currently underway in this area, please see the following links (not an exhaustive list but provided as a starting point):

- o <https://www.thearticinstitute.org/blue-economy-potential-alaska-north-norway/>
- o <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=318953>
- o https://en.uit.no/forskning/forskningsgrupper/gruppe?p_document_id=455225

Format of Final Project:

Microsoft Word report and PowerPoint presentation. Both of these products should use non-technical English language and incorporate data and statistics when possible.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Arctic Region Studies; Economic & Finance Issues; International Relations; Public-Private Partnerships; Statistics; Youth Issues; Communications;

Comments:

Certain aspects of this project are flexible. U.S. Embassy Oslo is open to discussion, ideas, and suggestions from its DipLab partner.

Do Employee Recognition Awards Work?

Policy and Public Outreach

Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

Overview:

The Frank E. Loy Award for Environmental Diplomacy recognizes achievement in international environmental diplomacy. This covers advancement of U.S. interests, analysis and policy development, integration of environmental topics into broader U.S. diplomacy efforts, and interaction with key public and private actors. By creating the award, Frank Loy hoped to recognize and reward outstanding work on environmental topics, to encourage employees to increase emphasis on environmental topics, and to assist these officers on their career promotion potential.

This award is one of several Department of State employee recognition awards focused on rewarding and supporting various specialized aspects of diplomacy. Receiving such an award is considered a high honor, and most come with a significant financial bonus, so they are generally highly competitive and popular. What we do not know is how effective these awards are at stimulating the behaviors they are aimed at, and what effect winning such an award has on the subsequent career of the recipient. In short, are employee recognition awards effective tools to encourage and reward specialization in targeted diplomatic fields, to recognize outstanding individuals, and to advance their careers?

This award has been granted annually for 17 years, and the creator, Frank Loy, is available for an interview. Further, many of the recipients are still working at the Department of State and could be interviewed about their work and the effect that winning the award has had on their career. This research project envisions researching and documenting the career paths of the recipients and establishing what effect, if any, receiving this award has on promoting environmental diplomacy.

Format of Final Project:

Research paper analyzing career paths of award recipients.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Relations; Science and Technology; Sociology;

Comments:

Frank Loy, creator and sponsor of the award, is available for interviews on the topic.

SHIFT: Initiating Legal and Socio-Cultural Transformation of Attitudes towards Sexual Violence

Public Affairs Office

European and Eurasian Affairs to Lithuania

Overview:

While victims of domestic violence and violence against women are experiencing increased attention from lawmakers, state institutions, and NGOs in Lithuania, little was done to improve the legal protection of victims of sexual violence and modernize the legislation related to the issue. This project aims to seize the opportunity that the discussions on violence against women have created and expand the understanding of the complexity of sexual violence. It also aims to enable key stakeholders to develop legal amendments, effective referral mechanisms, create sensitive identification system, and increase awareness on sexual violence, involving different target groups: law enforcement agencies, health care professionals, NGOs, and the general public.

Complete a comprehensive desk study to present to experts and decision-makers, who will be brought together to discuss the issue and the potential changes in the regulation. Cooperating with the different state institutions as well as NGOs will present a unique opportunity to tackle the issue from various angles and strive for a change in legislation that would be both beneficial to the victims and practically applicable for law enforcement.

With the booming research and awareness-raising campaigns that Lithuania has experienced in the field of violence against women in the last years, little has been done to improve the situation of women who have experienced sexual violence. No national-level research or advocacy campaign has tackled sexual violence in independent Lithuania, which impedes the pursuit of justice; the legal definition of sexual violence in the Lithuanian Penal Code is narrow, and initiation of criminal process sometimes lies on survivor's shoulders. The cases often do not reach courtrooms, the medical professionals do not have clear instructions or rape kits to perform abductions in such cases. Due to the lack of systematic data on sexual violence, the NGOs lack effective advocacy tools and struggle to convince lawmakers, legal practitioners, and society at large that a drastic change in the field sexual violence is necessary.

Format of Final Project:

Research paper, Literature review, data analysis of existing data to pull together a comprehensive plan.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement; Democracy & Human Rights; Education & Cultural Studies; Gender Studies; Human Rights; International Law; Psychology; Sociology; Statistics; Trafficking in Persons; Youth Issues; Civil Society; Communications;

Comments:

Comprehensive research will provide data on the obstacles that are faced by victims as well as legal and other professionals, who are involved in the supporting victims and prosecuting the crimes of sexual violence. The research will also provide data on the prevalence of victim-blaming Lithuania.

1. The research will identify the barriers that victims face in their pursuit of justice. It will consist of desk research, in-depth, semi-structured interviews with 15 – 20 survivors who have experienced sexual violence, will help to identify the practical obstacles that victims face in access to legal procedure and support of victims, ranging from victim-blaming and practical deficiencies of the Lithuanian medical and legal systems.

2. The research will identify the barriers that professionals encounter while providing legal, psychological, medical, and other necessary support for victims of sexual violence. One focus group will be organized with the legal professionals (prosecutors, attorneys, etc.) that will identify the legal flaws that paralyze the effective prosecution of perpetrators of sexual violence. The second focus group will be organized with professionals who provide support for victims (psychologists and counselors at Specialized Assistance Centers, medical professionals, etc.)

3. The research will identify the perceptions of the general public and measure the level of victim-blaming that prevents the victims from sharing their stories and seeking both legal and emotional support.

Utilizing Visa Restrictions to Mitigate Tension and the Risk of Political Instability

Africa Office

Conflict and Stabilization Operations

Overview:

The goal of this research is to create a tool that will assist policy makers in identifying the country conditions and the types of individuals worthy of visa restrictions and the restrictions' likelihood to improve country dynamics. Students will conduct research on cases where the United States has utilized visa restrictions and identify examples that objectively demonstrate positive impact. The students will develop a framework for the United States to identify the conditions and individual profiles susceptible to U.S. visa restrictions that would improve host country dynamics and achieve desired outcomes. This framework, or tool, would be used to determine when each type of profile should be targeted for a specific objective, the requisite international community coordination, and the appropriate nature of the restriction announcement. Profiles should capture the individual's characteristics related to the governing body (i.e. government position, relation to head of state, culpability of human rights violations, level of exposure to the international system, etc.).

This project will help policy makers discern which visa restrictions imposed in the past met specific objectives through objective analysis and evaluation. This work will also assist policy makers and subject matter experts of the Department of State to identify prime dynamics and individuals to impose visa restrictions to improve host country dynamics. This improvement could potentially save lives, strengthen democratic institutions, and enhance regional stability, which all would have a positive effect on U.S. national security.

Format of Final Project:

- 10 page research paper, which includes case studies and data analysis.
- presentation
- 2 page summary that highlights the conditions and individual profiles that would predict potentially effective visa restrictions

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Relations;

Comments:

The mission of the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (CSO) is to anticipate, prevent, and respond to conflict that undermines U.S. national interests. The bureau implements this mission in two complementary ways: through data-driven analysis and forward deploying stabilization advisors to conflict zones. The objective is to inform and execute U.S. strategy, policy, and programs on conflict

prevention and stabilization.

CSO's expertise focuses on three key lines of effort: 1) political instability; 2) security sector stabilization; and 2) countering violent extremism (CVE). CSO collaborates with regional and functional bureaus, DOD, and USAID, and details stabilization advisors to posts and Geographic Combatant Commands (COCOMS) requiring specialized expertise. Deployed CSO staff sometimes broach the subject of visa restrictions when collaborating with Embassies when considering methods to mollify the risk of widespread instability or to punish bad actors for facilitating violence.

We expect this work to be completed within a semester.

Science Rules!: An Investigation into the Rules and Norms of Scientific Integrity

Office of Science and Technology Cooperation

Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

Overview:

Science intrinsically operates on certain principles, which are essential to a healthy and vibrant international research ecosystem. An important activity of our Office is outreach to international partners to discuss scientific cooperation as anchored to the shared values and principles that underpin research: values and principles such as transparency, peer-review publication, consideration of ethical ramifications, etc. Part of this exciting project will be determining just what exactly those principles are for us and for our international partners.

To better inform our efforts in discussing shared principles of science with partners, we'd like to obtain a more comprehensive understanding of how the principles of research integrity (and what those principles are!) are discussed and deliberated in scientific bodies worldwide – such as scientific societies, universities, or research funding institutions. For instance, both the U.S. National Academies and European Academies have deliberated such principles and values (see 2017 Fostering Integrity in Research by NASEM and 2017 The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity by ALLEA (All European Academies)); no doubt, many others exist as well. By researching existing efforts in this space – both domestic and international – your team will enable our office to amplify these principles and more effectively engage new partners on conversations mapped to shared principles. We will rely on your team's public policy and research skills and meaningful analysis of why these case studies matter. Your team taking on this project would advance our efforts to include meaningful and powerful science and technology relationships around the world. This is a great opportunity to think about science from a scientific, philosophical, sociological, and/or ethical lens. We can't wait to work with you.

Format of Final Project:

We would like to receive a PowerPoint presentation of case studies – domestic and/or international - along with a more detailed written report with greater levels of detail, information, and data.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Relations; Science and Technology; Sociology; Statistics;

Comments:

Were your team to be selected, we'd work with you to identify background readings and other materials. We don't anticipate this project would last longer than a semester. For more information, our office's website is:

<https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-economic-growth-energy-and-the->

environment/bureau-of-oceans-and-international-environmental-and-scientific-affairs/office-of-science-and-technology-cooperation/

Follow the Money: A Statistical Investigation into the Relationship between Funding Levels, Cooperation, and Science & Technology Agreements

Office of Science and Technology Cooperation

Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

Overview:

The Office of Science and Technology Cooperation manages the negotiation of nearly 60 international bilateral science and technology agreements. Because the U.S. approach to science funding is diffuse and bottom-up, we often don't have direct insight into the amount of cooperation that takes place under these agreements. It would be extremely useful to our office's work and in bilateral relationships to have a sense of the effect of the presence of an S&T Agreement on bilateral scientific cooperation.

We would love to work with a team that has rigorous statistical analysis skills, as well as the ability to set variables and explore relationships between those variables in a way easily translated into policy documents. This would be a chance to design an original analysis and work with international data sets among a variety of policy and social settings.

Format of Final Project:

We would like to receive a written report, which includes statistical analysis, and a data set.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Relations; Science and Technology; Statistics;

Comments:

Were your team to be selected, we'd work with you to identify background readings and other materials. We don't anticipate this project would last longer than a semester. For more information, our office's website is:

<https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-economic-growth-energy-and-the-environment/bureau-of-oceans-and-international-environmental-and-scientific-affairs/office-of-science-and-technology-cooperation/>

Attack of the Mega-Science!: Design A Survey of International Research and Development Infrastructure Projects

Office of Science and Technology Cooperation

Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

Overview:

International research and development infrastructure (RDI) is in the middle of expansive growth, both domestically and internationally. Your team's work to survey and document current and planned RDI around the world would equip the U.S. government and U.S. scientists to have access to state-of-the-art facilities through scientific cooperation, understand where global gaps exist to invest in RDI smartly, and how to engage specific countries on RDI investments and cooperation. This is a great opportunity to develop your own survey methodology, explore international cutting-edge science, and contribute to the advancement of science diplomacy worldwide.

The U.S. Government is developing a definition of research and development infrastructure (RDI) to better understand the scope of both domestic and international research infrastructure. International infrastructure is of interest to the United States because it may provide American researchers with access to novel capabilities and reduce wait times for access to similar facilities. The Department has an interest in providing the interagency with information relevant to the needs and missions of the science and technology enterprise. An inventory of major international infrastructure could be valuable in developing our own domestic inventory and assist science agencies in assessing the state of American scientific leadership. A research team devoted to surveying the international landscape for present advanced facilities and planned major infrastructure investments could be helpful in maintaining America's science and technology edge while preserving our status as a destination for the world's most coveted science and engineering talent.

Format of Final Project:

We would like to receive a written report of the survey, as well as a matrix for evaluating capabilities of the infrastructure projects.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Development; International Relations; Science and Technology; Statistics;

Comments:

Were your team to be selected, we'd work with you to identify background readings and other materials. We don't anticipate this project would last longer than a semester. For more information, our office's website is:

<https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-economic-growth-energy-and-the->

environment/bureau-of-oceans-and-international-environmental-and-scientific-affairs/office-of-science-and-technology-cooperation/

Open Science Policies and Perceptions in Asia Pacific

Office of Science and Technology Cooperation

Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

Overview:

Open science policies, practices, and attitudes vary greatly around the world. Many countries are beginning to more closely at open science—both the benefits and the risks to domestic equities—and put in new policies. In the Asia-Pacific region, the 21 member economies of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) are beginning to discuss the topic in more detail, with a focus on the potential economic impact. In 2020, one of the primary topics of discussion in the APEC Policy Partnership for Science, Technology, and Innovation will be open science and what best practices or policies can be put in place to increase economic growth in the APEC region.

Your team's work to survey and document current open science-related policies, practices, and perceptions amongst the 21 APEC member economies would equip the U.S. government and other APEC stakeholders throughout the region with information to guide discussions and policy development. This is a great opportunity to develop your own survey methodology, explore the connection between policies and social norms and practices, and contribute to the advancement of science diplomacy worldwide.

Format of Final Project:

We would like to receive a written report on open science-related policies of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) member economies, as well written report on 10 case studies on perceptions on open science in APEC economies.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

East Asian/Pacific Studies; Economic & Finance Issues; International Relations; Science and Technology; Statistics;

Comments:

Were your team to be selected, we'd work with you to identify background readings and other materials. We don't anticipate this project would last longer than a semester. For more information, our office's website is:

<https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-economic-growth-energy-and-the-environment/bureau-of-oceans-and-international-environmental-and-scientific-affairs/office-of-science-and-technology-cooperation/>

Eradicating Bacha Bazi Exploitation in Afghanistan

POL/ECON Section

South and Central Asian Affairs to Afghanistan

Overview:

Bacha bazi is a practice, criminalized under Afghanistan's penal code, in which men exploit boys for social and sexual entertainment. According to the Department of State's 2018 Human Rights Report covering Afghanistan: "Police reportedly beat and sexually abused children. Children who sought police assistance for abuse also reported being further harrassed and abused by law enforcement officials, particularly in bacha bazi cases. ... During the first six months (of 2018), (UN authorities) documented credible reports of five cases of sexual abuse involving six boy, attributed to the Afghan National Police, and the Afghan Local Police."

The true number of cases is believed to be much higher, but because most victims are unable to speak out against police perpetrators, media and other reports on the practice are rare. Successful prosecutions are even rarer. Prosecutors and other experts say many of the bacha bazi cases in Afghanistan involve sexual assault and that many of these crimes – perhaps a majority – occur at police checkpoints, where police commanders customarily have a private room. Physical and psychological damage from bacha bazi is extensive. Warfare, terrorism, dislocation, family separations and poverty all contribute to bacha bazi. While the Afghan peace process moves forward and there is hope that Afghans may soon be better positioned to bring about a more peaceful and prosperous nation, there is no indication that the scourge of bacha bazi will end anytime soon. Harnessing the creative power of an American university or universities could generate a creative approach that could help eradicate one of Afghanistan's most insidious problem.

Format of Final Project:

Presentation

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Relations; Youth Issues and Human Rights;

Comments:

N/A

Political Parties in Elections: Exploring Hybrid Possibilities Between “Individual Merit” and Parliamentary Electoral Models in the Kingdom of Eswatini

US Embassy Mbabane

African Affairs to Swaziland

Overview:

Eswatini is an executive monarchy, governed in a combined parliamentary and traditional structure. Traditional forms of governance and elements of representative government share power and control over policy development, law making, law enforcement and dispute resolution, though the executive has outsized influence. Though the 1968 Independence Constitution provided for the possibility of multi-party parliamentary democracy, King Sobhuza II revoked the constitution in 1973, outlawed political parties, and proclaimed his authority over all branches of government. In 2006, the country enacted a new constitution that enshrined broader political freedoms and expanded the roles of the legislative and judicial branches, yet implementation of the constitution remains slow and imperfect, particularly in the area of political party participation in elections.

The 2006 constitution emphasizes individual merit as a basis for elections, which has been taken by most to mean that political parties may not contest elections. Many in the country still believe that political parties are banned, even though the 2006 constitution and a later court ruling effectively annulled the 1973 decree. Political parties exist, but conditions for their operations, particularly in elections, are undefined, legally unclear, or culturally restricted. We are seeking to help Eswatini open the space for greater participation of political parties within the “individual merit” based system by documenting examples of electoral systems that have successfully melded political party advocacy and engagement with ballot structures that list only candidate names and not party affiliations (for example, the State of Nebraska, where parties recruit and endorse candidates, but legislative election ballots do not include political affiliation with candidate names).

Format of Final Project:

We would like a series of case studies of electoral systems and experiences (including countries and, where relevant, individual states/regions within countries) where legislative candidates can campaign with the full support of political parties, yet are elected as individuals (where no indication of political party affiliation is listed on elections ballots). Each case study should describe:

1. How the electoral process works;
2. What the results have been in terms political party and citizen engagement in both elections and governance;
3. What the results have been in terms of quality and effectiveness of legislative governance;
4. How the electoral system/practice is perceived by international organizations; and,
5. An assessment of how that experience could be adapted to the context of Eswatini.

An accompanying PowerPoint presentation should introduce the current Eswatini context, summarize each case study, and provide recommendations regarding specific aspects of the different cases which

could be adapted for use in Eswatini. We anticipate sharing the findings of the research with Swati civil society organizations, political parties, and government bodies.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

African Studies; Democracy & Human Rights; Human Rights; International Relations; Political/Military Affairs; Civil Society;

Comments:

It would be ideal (though not required) if the class and/or instructor had expertise in electoral politics and/or administration.

Innovative Approaches to Documenting IUU Fishing and Marine Destruction in the Philippines

Public Affairs Section

East Asian and Pacific Affairs to Philippines

Overview:

The Philippines government struggles to effectively police marine resources in its territorial waters, specifically in the South China Sea (SCS), because of insufficient naval/coast guard capacity and the uniquely sensitive geopolitical conditions in the SCS. This leaves its rich marine resources vulnerable to illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing by vessels from other countries, including other SCS claimant countries. Coral reefs are also being destroyed due to dredging related to the buildup of artificial islands and illegal giant clam harvesting.

Embassy Manila Public Affairs Section (PAS) is interested in how to apply technological resources such as satellite imagery, big data analysis, and other sources to better inform the Philippine government and public about the scope, scale, and nature of the environmental damage taking place in their waters. By raising the awareness of Filipinos about the extent and rate of the marine resource loss, there can be a broader national discussion about the appropriate action to prevent it.

This project aligns well with Embassy Manila's ongoing initiatives to highlight the importance of marine sustainability. Partners for our programs include local and international environmental NGOs, Philippine government agencies, local tech and business incubators, leaders of coastal communities, and alumni of U.S. exchange programs.

We envision the U.S. university team engaging in collaboration (which PAS will facilitate) with some of these partners to develop a platform that will be useful to promote sustainability and counter practices such as IUU fishing and destruction of marine habitats, including coral reefs.

Format of Final Project:

Interactive online map, mobile application, or other format to be built in collaboration with Filipino partners to create a platform that could continue to be used beyond the end of the project. We are flexible and open to other creative ideas as well, and look forward to refining the scope of the product through engagement with the university team.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Geography; Information & Communication Technology; Oceans; Science and Technology; Statistics; Water Security; Computer Science;

Comments:

Utilizing Technology to Access Potential Students and Exchange Participants in Remote, Socially Conservative Regions

U.S. Consulate General Jeddah - Public Affairs Section

Near Eastern Affairs to Saudi Arabia

Overview:

U.S. Mission Saudi Arabia employs a range of social media platforms to engage in outreach, but the pool of potential students and exchange participants remains fairly limited to segments of society which the Mission is already engaged with. Interest in these programs is spread generally by word-of-mouth and accessing remote, socially conservative areas of the country remains a challenge to establish a foothold for program expansion. Post is seeking a better understanding of how technology might be employed in new and innovative ways, more than simply advertising the availability of these programs, to gain access to these audiences and establish a wider, more engaged social network to fuel future recruiting efforts.

Format of Final Project:

Written product, 20 page research people, with explanation of the data analysis. Also the raw data used to assess the target audiences.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Relations;

Comments:

Saudi Arabia is a country in a state of rapid social change. This change is felt most greatly in larger metropolitan areas that the Consulate is able to more easily access, but we are more particularly interested in understanding the target audiences and finding ways to recruit students remotely from areas like southern Saudi Arabia, where security restrictions and cultural conservatism limit our ability to regularly access and engage the local population.

Prioritization of Cost Effective Energy Conservation Measures

Design & Engineering, OBO Energy Program

Overseas Buildings Operations

Overview:

Informed decision-making is the foundation for success. The Presidential Management Agenda seeks to modernize the government with the use of data. This project supports this initiative by facilitating prioritization of facility energy conservation measures (ECMs) through data collection and analysis of simple payback to determine the most cost effective measures.

Overseas Building Operations (OBO) maintains facilities in countries all over the world, except in the United States. While many locations employ local staff for maintenance, the requirements of some of the proposed ECMs exceeds their available time or skills and it would be desirable to contract the work locally.

OBO has formed an Energy Program to reduce energy consumption and costs in our locations. This project seeks to obtain worldwide labor rates for skilled trades (mechanical, electrical, building controls, etc.) to implement energy conservation measures. In addition to collecting data, the desired outcome of this project would include a tool to calculate ROM cost estimates for each proposed project, that combined with expected cost savings (provided), will rank projects to implement based on a variety of factors such as cost or simple payback.

Format of Final Project:

The final product will be in three parts:

- 1) Presentation to review project and demonstration on the use of the tool
- 2) Tool, using software capabilities already available to Department of State (excel, Power BI, etc)
- 3) 20 page (max) report describing resources used to obtain data for locations, documentation of gaps in available data, limitations of the tool, how to keep the data current/relevant going forward, and instructions for use of the tool.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Economic & Finance Issues; Energy Security; Information & Communication Technology; Science and Technology; Statistics; Climate Change; Computer Science;

Comments:

The OBO Energy Program is eager to further students' understanding of the financial and operational challenges associated with reducing energy consumption and costs, while providing them with the unique opportunity to impact our future energy conservation efforts throughout the world.

<https://www.sustainability.gov/policy.html>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/The-President%E2%80%99s-Management-Agenda.pdf>

<https://strategy.data.gov/>

ID: DipLab1901239

Indo Pacific Narcotics Trafficking

East Asia

International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs

Overview:

It is a United States Government priority to combat opioids and synthetic drugs emanating from the Indo-Pacific region. Using open source data, we are asking for a visual data set which maps the flow of narcotics throughout the region, with an emphasis on synthetic drugs and any connections to the United States whether those be direct, secondary, or tertiary. We would like the data set to be used to create a mapping tool that will allow the U.S. government to manipulate and add to the data after the project is completed.

Format of Final Project:

Research paper and mapping tool

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement; East Asian/Pacific Studies; International Relations; Narcotics & Law Enforcement;

Comments:

This project will directly help the U.S. Government better understand narcotics networks in order to better prioritize limited resources.

Impact Analysis of the 10-Year Visa for Chinese Nationals

Embassy Beijing Nonimmigrant Visa Section

Consular Affairs to China

Overview:

In November 2014, the Department of State increased visa validity for Chinese visitor visas (B1, B2, and B1/B2 visas) from 1 year to 10 years. Given that Chinese travelers represent the largest international share of the U.S. tourism market, this research project aims to answer the question: What impact, if any, has the change to 10-year validity for Chinese visitor visas had on Chinese traveler behavior and the U.S. economy?

Sub-questions may include:

Have the marketing tactics of visa and travel facilitators and the typical profile and travel style of Chinese tourists changed post-November 2014?

How do Chinese travel patterns correlate with trends in the Chinese economy (for example, province- and city-level GDP changes, or the opening of new flight routes to the U.S.)?

Has online discussion in Chinese social media reflected any notable changes in attitude toward travel to the U.S.?

The study results will be useful to Embassy Beijing as context for Chinese traveler motivations and typical travel patterns as we continue to facilitate legitimate travel while upholding border security.

Format of Final Project:

- Presentation of Research Findings
- Data Analysis and Corresponding Executive Summary and Report of Findings

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

East Asian/Pacific Studies; Economic & Finance Issues; Education & Cultural Studies; Anthropology; Geography; International Relations; Marketing; Statistics; Tourism; Communications;

Comments:

As part of the research project, you will be liaising with the Beijing Nonimmigrant Visa Unit's Metrics Team, who can answer questions, direct research, and serve as a resource on contextual or other information.

Potential sources regarding the economic relationship include news stories, tourism studies, and trackers on U.S.-China investment and travel, for example:

<https://www.cabi.org/leisuretourism/news/25577>

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-01-23/-12-000-trips-abroad-replace-chinese-new-year->

treks-to-grandma-s

<http://ec.europa.eu/DocsRoom/documents/15746/attachments/1/translations/en/renditions/native>

https://www.ustravel.org/system/files/media_root/document/Research_Fact-Sheet_Summary-Country-Profile_China.pdf

<https://rhg.com/impact/china-investment-monitor/>

<http://www.aei.org/china-global-investment-tracker/>

Determine the Value of Kuwaiti Educational and Medical Travel (and Possibly Shrink the U.S. Trade Deficit)

Economic Affairs Section

Near Eastern Affairs to Kuwait

Overview:

Embassy Kuwait seeks Diplomacy Lab assistance to survey, measure, estimate, and report on the total economic value of Kuwaiti spending in the U.S. education and health sectors. Your efforts to track these exports of U.S. services could lead to a material adjustment in the U.S. balance of trade with Kuwait, which is typically reported to be in deficit.

Kuwait relies disproportionately on U.S. institutions to improve the health and education of its citizens, to the benefit of both countries. More than 15,000 Kuwaitis currently study in the United States (one percent of all citizens!) Another 3000 Kuwaitis sought U.S. visas for medical treatment in the past year.

Despite earlier estimates of spending in the billions of dollars annually, we have reason to believe the value of this partnership is materially underreported in official statistics. Embassy Kuwait needs your help to prove (or disprove) this assertion and to create reporting and statistics we can reference in our diplomatic engagement, both in Kuwait and in Washington.

Format of Final Project:

- A short paper (about five pages) summarizing your research efforts and your methodology, including a detailed analysis that explains how you arrived at the dollar values you assigned.
- An estimate of the number of U.S. jobs attributable to Kuwaiti medical and educational travelers, directly or indirectly.
- An estimate of the export value of the U.S. services (and goods) used by Kuwaiti medical and educational travelers while in the United States.
- (if appropriate) a comparison of the U.S. trade flows with Kuwait, in light of growth in trade in services like education and health care. How do your findings compare with existing government statistics?
- (If appropriate) a PowerPoint presentation highlighting your most surprising findings.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Economic & Finance Issues; Education & Cultural Studies; Global Health; International Relations; Middle East/North African Studies; Public-Private Partnerships; Statistics; Youth Issues;

Comments:

The economic section at Embassy Kuwait has sought to quantify the value of Kuwaiti spending on medical treatment and education for some time.

Kuwaitis' unique travel patterns make it difficult to extrapolate from other cost estimates or worldwide averages.

The Overstay Mentality: Understanding Unlawful Immigration of Cabo Verdeans

U.S. Embassy Praia, Consular Section

Consular Affairs to Cabo Verde

Overview:

Cabo Verdeans have strong ties to and a large diaspora in New England. In fact, by some estimates, the community of Cabo Verdean Americans in Massachusetts and Rhode Island is as large as the population of Cabo Verde itself. The consular section at the U.S. Embassy in Praia, Cabo Verde, is responsible for adjudicating tourist visa applications for the steady stream of Cabo Verdeans wishing to visit their family and friends in the United States. In FY2017, U.S. Embassy Praia's consular officers adjudicated nearly 5,000 nonimmigrant visa applications. However, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security estimates that in the same period 13.66% of Cabo Verdean travelers overstayed illegally in the United States, one of the highest overstay rates of travelers from any country.

To accurately make adjudication decisions, the Embassy's consular officers are seeking information about the prevalent overstay mentality amongst Cabo Verdeans. Why are so many Cabo Verdeans overstaying illegally in the United States and how can this trend be discouraged? We envision a project that could be both quantitative and qualitative. Quantitatively, students could examine publicly-available DHS overstay data to see how this trend has changed over time. Qualitatively, students could assess this overstay mentality through discussions with individual immigrants, community organizations, ICE, and CBP, among others. Linked to this would be an evaluation of the education Cabo Verdeans receive about visa regulations and the consequences of overstaying illegally in the United States. Ideally, this project could help U.S. Embassy Praia combat unlawful immigration without dissuading legitimate visitor travel to the United States.

Format of Final Project:

The ideal deliverable is a short analysis memo that includes suggestions on how to combat illegal immigration without dissuading legitimate Cabo Verdean travel to the United States.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Anthropology; International Relations; Sociology; Public Policy/Government Studies/Demography;

Comments:

<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/cape-verde-towards-end-emigration>

Designing For Diplomacy: Appropriate Architectural Representation for a U.S. Embassy of the Future and Façade Explorations with parametric Digital Design

PDCS/DE/AD

Overseas Buildings Operations

Overview:

The Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO) is seeking academic proposals for the study of Embassy design at both the urban scale and at the detailed level of façade exploration utilizing parametric digital design.

Part I: Embassy of the Future

The U.S. Department of State has historically commissioned architectural designs for U.S. Embassies through a variety of methods ranging from competitions to mandated standardized designs. The resulting buildings have also ranged from the iconic embassies in Beijing, London and Lima to a more architecturally understated group in Manama, Berlin, and Islamabad.

The Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO) is seeking academic proposals for the study of appropriate architectural representation through the design of a U.S. Embassy of the Future. Student work should answer these questions:

1. At an urban scale, what is the role of architecture in creating the appropriate representation of the United States diplomatically for its centers for engagement, and define what constitutes that architecture?
2. Further, how does the architecture of an American embassy engage and compliment the culture and context of the host country?
3. How much does the local contemporary or vernacular architectural context, materials, landscaping, climate and infrastructure influence the embassy's design?
4. How can the need for of security and the desire for openness are achieved through design and technological advancements?
5. In times of heightened security how can an American embassy of the future operate as a totally self-sufficient entity?
6. How does the embassy of the future create a better community within for its staff and visitors?

Part II: Façade Exploration

The U.S. Department of State has historically built the new U.S. embassies with poured-in-place concrete due to its inherent strength, versatility, durability, and local availability nearly everywhere in the world. These concrete buildings are often clad in stone, pre-cast concrete, or masonry which is all considered traditional building materials. The biggest challenge in embassy design is how to balance need for security with the desire for openness.

The semesters work shall include the study of advanced building façade concepts and materials using parametric digital design analysis. Proposals could be inspired by ecological design, regenerative design, advanced acoustic design, light weight high strength structural and security products, and technological advances for façade materials that address these two opposing needs

Design proposals shall not compromise the existing levels of security required at U.S. Embassies. Proposals shall assume that façade materials are backed up with poured-in-place concrete structural elements, or another material that will provide the necessary levels of physical security.

The study must embrace the notion that embassy typology requires principles of standardization such as standard bay sizes and certain building materials, however the typology does not need to result standard building design.

Format of Final Project:

These studies will be conducted as part of an architectural design studio that will address a specific embassy program on a specific site. Façade exploration will be conducted as an additional component of the studio. Studio deliverables will be in the form of 2D and 3D graphic architectural presentations and written text. Façade Exploration deliverables will be in the form of 2D and 3D graphic presentation supported by written text and data analysis.

It is anticipated that once a bid is accepted for this proposal, that Diplomacy Lab and the sponsoring School will enter into a detailed dialogue modifying and tailoring the content of the semesters work to address the goals and objectives of both the School and Diplomacy Lab within the definition of the project.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Architecture;

Comments:

Resources:

<https://overseasbuildings.state.gov/>

<https://de.usembassy.gov/our-relationship/policy-history/chancery/building/>

<http://www.dw.com/en/new-us-embassy-in-berlin-triggers-architecture-debate/a-3325836>

<https://biomimicry.org/>

<https://living-future.org/lbc/>

<http://www.case.rpi.edu/>

<https://www.regenerative.com/what-is/regenerative-design>

<https://precast.org/2014/11/uhpc-offers-endless-possibilities/>

<http://www.taktl-llc.com/What-is-TAKTL>

Evaluating the Process and Outcomes of Cabo Verde's Graduation: Contributions and the Price of Graduating from Low-Income to Middle-Income

Political/ Economic Affairs

Economic and Business Affairs to Cabo Verde

Overview:

In 2008 Cabo Verde became the second country in the world to graduate from the list of least developed countries (LDC) to become a lower-middle income country (MIC). As an independent country since 1975 and once considered “unviable” by the IMF and the WB, it soon became clear that economic growth would depend on a strong development strategy and vision to face fundamental challenges. Cabo Verde is a Small Island Developing State (SIDS): natural resources – including water – are scarce, the arid climate limits agriculture and industry, and the small market and population make external interest hard to attract (approximately 550,000). Despite substantial difficulties, the progress made on various fronts – education, infrastructure, health, water and sanitation, political will for ambitious reforms, embracing modernization and technology – has been commendable. The graduation to MIC status represents the international community's recognition of this small archipelago's development strategy, its respect for human rights, and its commitment to democracy and socioeconomic progress. Progress made since 1975 reflects continuous good performance based on two of the three UN established evaluation criteria for graduation: GDP per capita and the Human Development Index. However, Cabo Verde still struggles with a variety of vulnerabilities including addressing poverty, transportation, high public debt and unemployment rates, and other fundamental needs; it is also heavily dependent on external financing such as remittances, official development assistance, and favorable attention from European tourism operators.

Ten years following graduation, it is important to understand and evaluate if and how graduation – as a prize for good performance – is contributing positively and practically towards economic growth and sustainable development. Although graduation is considered a positive development, it can have a complicated impact on the country's relationships with IFIs, IOs, and multi- and bilateral partners. The country's own role in promoting graduation versus remaining at the top end of the LDC list and the role of the international community in the transition period, especially as regards access to finance, are important. Cabo Verde's experience may contribute to smoother transitions for other SIDS.

The proposed project would use a variety of data and analysis (obtained via reports and records as well as direct interviews) including from the United Nations, World Bank, and various entities in Cabo Verde (public, private, academic, and civil society) to evaluate the process, the transition, and the outcomes. The evaluation should address, but not be limited to, the following questions and topics: Who drove the graduation initiative, and why? Was it sufficiently consultative? What has changed in the country, specifically as regards poverty, spending choices, investment, and development? What are Cabo Verde's short- and medium-term future prospects? What lessons learned and recommendations can be made to Cabo Verde and to the IFIs/ IOs who make the decisions? How can Cabo Verde's experience help shape other SIDS' graduation processes?

Format of Final Project:

Strategy paper with actions and actors identified

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

African Studies; Economic & Finance Issues; International Development; International Relations;
International Finance;

Comments:

This question is, clearly, broader than Cabo Verde.

Can You See Me Now? – Identifying Camera Problems Autonomously

DS/STO/QAL

Diplomatic Security

Overview:

Over 300 U.S. diplomatic buildings in almost every nation in the world rely on closed-circuit television systems (CCTV) as part of their physical security apparatus. Many video cameras are installed outdoors in harsh conditions of sand, sun, and salt spray and suffer from a range of maladies.

Dust, dirt, salt, lichen, and atmospheric pollution on the camera bubble degrade the quality of an image. A camera that is out of focus suffers a similar loss in quality. A broken camera may not produce an image at all. Pan, tilt, and zoom (PTZ) functions may not function. Over time, foliage can grow to block key parts of a camera view. Each of these situations degrades our ability to protect the people who work at and visit our diplomatic facilities.

Since dirty camera bubbles are the biggest problems, proposals must address this issue at a minimum. Teams can choose to address problems of focus, foliage, missing images, and PTZ functionality, as desired. Teams can also choose to use analog cameras, digital cameras, or both. If requested in the proposals, ST may loan the actual cameras and control systems that we use. Since we are looking for autonomous problem detection, the outcome must notify a person who is sitting at a computer. This could be done through email, SNMP trap or table, or any other method teams come up with.

Format of Final Project:

Teams can choose how they will communicate the results of their research. Keep in mind that the project's sponsor only has about 15 minutes to dedicate to understanding your efforts, as she has several solutions to review. You can provide an in-person demonstration -- recorded on video -- write a short paper, provide a dissertation with an executive summary, or come up with your own way of presenting your results. You must both communicate your results and document your project well enough that someone else can reproduce it.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Science and Technology;

Comments:

For proposal purposes, teams can plan for Samsung SNP-6320H cameras for IP-based systems and SCP-2373 for analog. Both of these are capable of pan, tilt, and zoom; teams can use these features or not. Proposals can request additional hardware to build a system. When a proposal is accepted, ST will provide current hardware from our stock, which may differ from what is requested.

Evolution of the Foreign Service Family

Una Chapman Cox Fellowship (GTM)

Secretary of State

Overview:

Families are not only the support network for Foreign Service Officers, they are unofficial diplomats themselves. Their stories – of moving to a new country, making new friends, learning a new language, going to a new school, changing jobs – are often the most relatable to their fellow Americans.

The project will focus on increasing understanding of the Foreign Service lifestyle to improve retention while also giving new audiences an appreciation of the work done by Foreign Service Officers and their families.

The project seeks to create a multimedia exhibit document the real-life stories of Foreign Service families who serve as “diplomats behind the scenes” to reveal and record the compelling, but often challenging journeys of Foreign Service families. The exhibit will showcase the personal adventures, reflections, and perspectives on Foreign Service life from within the community aimed at reaching a broad audience, including potential Foreign Service Officers, their partners, children, extended families, as well as the general public.

The Association for Diplomatic Studies was established to enhance the appreciation for our diplomatic history. The Association's Foreign Affairs Oral History Program is housed in the Lauinger Library of Georgetown University. The collection is comprised of oral histories taken from a number of projects, all concerning the experiences of those employed in diplomacy and consular affairs and their families. Georgetown University's Booth Family Center for Special Collections also contains a treasure trove of rare primary source material and artifacts from Foreign Service Officer alumni and their families.

The project will focus on exploring these collections for letters, photos, and historical artifacts that serve to tell the visual tale of the evolution of Foreign Service family life over time focusing on four main themes - transition, community, maintaining traditions, and evolving family structures.

Format of Final Project:

The project will support the creation of a multi-media exhibit to showcase for current and future American diplomats and their families how important their “unofficial” contributions can be. The exhibit should also help demystify the Foreign Service for the American public. The exhibit will showcase 3D artifacts. Artifacts will include invitations, postcards, scrapbooks, paintings, drawings, sculpture, jewelry, textiles, costumes, musical instruments, video, photos, and any other three-dimensional objects that bring to life contributions of Foreign Service families.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Relations; International Relations, Diplomatic History, Museum Studies;