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41. Assessing the structure and impact of the Association of Bi-National Centers of Latin America – a 160 member English and cultural program network in the Western Hemisphere.
42. The OAS Inter-American Democratic Charter: Wanted Dead or Alive?
43. The Risk Assessment Index for Security and Human Rights
44. Organizational Network Analysis of OSAC Country Councils
45. Emerging Security Technology applications for Country Council
46. Hybrid Legal Systems: The Convergence of Common Law and Civil Law Legal Traditions and Implications for Global Justice Reform
47. Police Force Development: Academic Foundation for Good Practices
48. Corrections Systems and Local Community Public Health Implications
49. Developing Maintenance Cultures in UN Police Peacekeeping Missions
50. Vory z Zakone in Georgian Prisons: Development and Adaptation
51. Women's Inclusion in Criminal Justice Programming in the Countering Violent Extremism Context
52. Diversification and Retention of the Police Work Force
53. Examining Gender-Based Violence in the Eastern Caribbean Through Civil Society and Compliance Under Convention of *Belém do Pará*
54. Cuba Ariba! A baseline study of Cuba's economy after normalizing relations with the United States
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57. Energy Options for Vietnam
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62. Immigrant and Refugee Integration: Mobile Solutions For Mobile Populations
63. Opportunities for Reform in Myanmar's Conflict Economy: Researching Options for Natural Resource Governance in Myanmar
64. Energy to Burn: Using Renewable Energy to Help Malaysia Meet Climate Change Commitments
65. Sustainable Palm Oil: Moving Malaysia's Cash Crop to Adopt Stricter Environmental Sustainability Standards

66. Prosecution of Atrocity-Related Crimes in Africa: Hybrid and Domestic Justice System Approaches
67. Police Anti-Corruption Reform In Mexico
68. Comparative Analysis of Pre-Trial Detention and Alternatives
69. Addiction Treatment Worldwide: Data Should Point the Way on US Foreign Assistance Across the Globe
70. The Role of Technology in International Relations
71. Business Case for Climate Change Adaptation: Making The Case for Private Sector Investment in Resilience
72. Powersharing in International Peace Agreements
73. International Best Practices of Peer Review
74. US Public Diplomacy and Cross Cultural Exchanges – Design an Exchange Visitor Program for International Students Aged 18 to 26
75. Energy Development Governance and Social Consultation in the Western Hemisphere
76. Religion and Social Change in Global Affairs
77. The Global Impact of Interfaith Youth Work
78. Avoiding A Gaza War: U.S. Strategies for Dealing With The Conflict
79. The Risk Assessment Index for Security and Human Rights
80. A New Approach to Promoting Human Rights in Security Assistance
81. Climate Partners Brazil: Promoting Sustainable Development Around the Globe
82. HIV Research in Russia: State of Play
83. Case Study on Risk Analysis for Military Assistance Recipients
84. Leveraging the Use of WhatsApp to Spread the U.S. Message
85. Bridging the Digital Gap: From East Timor to the USA
86. Vietnam Quarterly Macro Report
87. Religious Legislation In Europe
88. The Economic Effects of Cross-Border Carbon Markets
89. Mapping the U.S. & UK Special Relationship
90. Youth = Entrepreneurs = Changemakers!
91. Evolving Development Dynamics in the Pacific Islands
92. The Effectiveness of Culinary Diplomacy
93. Knowledge Management to Support African Union Peace Operations
94. Model Legislation to Advance Disability Rights Across the African Union
95. Conflict Mediation in Africa: What is the Missing Link?
96. Analyze Trends in Human Rights, Corruption, and Civil Society Development in Asia
97. Sheep and Drought: Economic and Climatic Roots of Labor Migration and Human Smuggling in Rural Peru
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99. Leveraging Greed for Good: Engaging the Private Sector to Solve Global Problems
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*Project 01*

**A Tropical Gangster and the \$30 Million Problem**

Office of Central African Affairs (AF/C)

Overview:

On October 10, 2014, The United States reached a settlement of a civil forfeiture cases against assets in the United States owned by the Second Vice President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea Teodoro Nguema Obiang Mangue that he purchased with the proceeds of corruption. Nguema Obiang looted his government and shook down businesses in his country to support a lavish lifestyle, while many of his fellow citizens lived in extreme poverty.

The settlement forces Nguema Obiang to relinquish assets worth an estimated \$30 million, including a mansion located in Malibu, California, a Ferrari automobile and various items of Michael Jackson memorabilia purchased with the proceeds of corruption. Of those proceeds, \$20 million will be given to a charitable organization to be used for the benefit of the people of Equatorial Guinea. Another \$10.3 million will be forfeited to the United States and will be used for the benefit of the people of Equatorial Guinea to the extent permitted by law.

This project will focus on how to use the forfeited money to benefit the people of Equatorial Guinea. Significant challenges in the research include a lack of independent non-governmental organizations operating in the country, limited civil society groups, and capacity issues for firms when dealing with large amounts of money and the required levels of monitoring and evaluation.

Format of Final Product:

The deliverable for this project should be in the form of a case study, not to exceed 15 pages and should include an executive summary.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

This project will draw on expertise and skills gained from, but not limited to, research in international affairs, management, human rights, political science, international development, African studies, law. The project will seek to develop student's critical thinking and analysis as applied to a real world problem.

Comments:

On October 14, 2014, The Department of Justice has reached a settlement of its civil forfeiture cases against assets in the United States owned by the Second Vice President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea Teodoro Nguema Obiang Mangue that he purchased with the proceeds of corruption. The Department of Justice will be seeking assistance from the Department of State on who or what

organizations should actually receive this money to benefit the people of Equatorial Guinea. High levels of corruption surround senior officials in Equatorial Guinea who conveniently also own or lead most of the major and legitimate business, charities and limited civil society organizations.

Bilateral Relations Fact Sheet: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/7221.htm>

2014 Human Rights Report: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/236566.pdf>

Department of Justice Settlement Press Release: <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/second-vice-president-equatorial-guinea-agrees-relinquish-more-30-million-assets-purchased>

Foreign Policy article on *Teodorin's World*: <http://foreignpolicy.com/2011/02/21/teodorins-world/>

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

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## *Project 02*

### **Documenting Our Diplomatic Treasures at African Posts**

Bureau of African Affairs, Office of Economic and Regional Affairs (AF/ERA)

#### Overview:

Join the Africa Bureau's efforts to document culturally significant U.S. embassies, chanceries, ambassadorial residences, and missions on the African continent. Sub-Saharan Africa is the only region of the world not yet represented on the Secretary of State's Register of Culturally Significant Property. The Bureau seeks historic preservation, architecture, museum studies, and conservation teams to assist in research and identification of properties eligible for the Secretary's Register.

The Secretary of State's Register of Culturally Significant Property uses criteria analogous to the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. Criteria used to evaluate properties for eligibility for the Secretary of State's Register include acknowledgement by an African government as a significant property, or documentation indicating the property is integral to U.S. overseas heritage. Properties can also be listed based on association with a significant historical person or event, representation of an important architectural style or design by a noted architect, unique objects or visual features, distinctive themes or manufacture, and associated archaeological sites.

Project results will contribute to commemorating U.S. diplomatic heritage on the African continent and to preserving and promoting American history and architecture overseas. The project's evaluation of culturally significant U.S. properties in sub-Saharan Africa will contribute to our knowledge of historic U.S. diplomatic engagements on the African continent and bolster documentation of intersections in our shared past with African partners.

#### Format of Final Product:

A report documenting culturally significant U.S. properties in sub-Saharan Africa suitable for submission to the Department of State's Office of Overseas Buildings Cultural Heritage Office for review.

#### Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Historic preservation, architecture, archaeology, museum studies, conservation majors will gain skills at eligibility review for the Secretary of State's Register of Culturally Significant Property, which uses analogous criteria to the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the Secretary of the Interior for domestic U.S. Properties. Depending on expertise and interests—ranging from architecture to archaeology—students can delve into the unique features of U.S. buildings, embassies, and chanceries overseas.

#### Comments:

Africa is the cradle of humanity with natural and cultural diversity matched only by its long history. Focused on pressing development and security concerns, many African authorities have not yet taken stock of cultural properties or identified mechanisms to protect those properties from loss or

destruction. Without attention and mechanisms to classify and safeguard heritage, African countries are at risk of losing markers of cultural identities, material evidence of rich histories, and unique ties connecting communities to landscapes. Efforts to document the significance of U.S. cultural properties in sub-Saharan Africa, some of which represent properties of importance to African governments, will provide a mechanism to engage authorities on heritage protection mechanisms such as the Register, and initiate a conversation on the connection between protecting heritage and combatting economic development and poverty issues.

The rich diversity of African cultural heritage and the intricate history of U.S. diplomatic relations on the African continent provide a lens to evaluate properties critical to our collective understanding of world history. The identification and protection of cultural heritage is a vector of development and social stability, both for present and future generations. These efforts can also serve as the baseline to initiating a conversation with African local authorities on the management of both tangible and intangible heritages, and fostering cooperation with African institutions dedicated to heritage protection and preservation including the School of African Heritage (EPA), the African School of Urbanism and Architecture (EAMAU) and the Center for Heritage Development in African (CHDA).

Information on the Secretary of State's Register of Culturally Significant Properties:

<http://overseasbuildings.state.gov/register/register/>

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

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*Project 03*

**Explain a Complicated Process- Passport Website Instructional Videos**

Bureau of Consular Affairs, Passport Services, Community Relations (CA/PPT/S/PMO/CR)

Overview:

Travel.State.Gov is the only official resource customers can access to get the most up-to-date information on all things passport. The website tends to be text-heavy due to the amount of information that must be communicated to the customer, and a series of videos would help condense that information. This project seeks to develop a series of visually coherent videos that explain the complicated passport process in a way the public understands. The topics would likely include renewing a passport, applying for the first time, and minor passports, but are up for discussion.

Format of Final Product:

A series of 4-5 short videos explaining how to undertake basic passport tasks, such as renewing a passport, applying for the first time, getting a child's passport, etc. Ideal production would include a mix of animation, graphics, and text. Any sound would need to meet current 508 Compliance for the disabled or hard of hearing (example: closed captioning).

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Marketing, Graphic Design, Photography, Film, Advertising, Tourism Studies

Comments:

We are very open to suggestions for how these videos might look- and we will provide you all of the content you need.

Maximum Number of Projects:

1

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*Project 04*

**To Be or Not to Be – How to Evaluate Decision Making in Visa Adjudications**  
**Office of Criminal Justice**

U.S. Consulate General Sao Paulo, Brazil (SPL)

Overview:

Consular management at the U.S. Consulate in Sao Paulo Brazil seeks best practices on measuring personnel for their decision making.

Consular officers for the U.S. Department of State conduct in-person interviews to make decisions on who is eligible to receive a visa. A typical consular officer conducts 15,000+ interviews per year and receives a yearly written evaluation.

Effectively and appropriately reviewing a consular officer's performance is challenging for a variety reasons, including:

- (1) Variation in the complexity of interviews;
- (2) The sheer volume of data points (number of interviews, foreign language use, unique circumstances)
- (3) Limited management opportunities to observe interviews; and
- (4) Necessary subjectivity of the decisions themselves

The goal of our proposal is to improve the way we measure officers making thousands of decisions in a fairly subjective environment by comparing the methods used by private industry/universities.

Format of Final Product:

2-4 pages describing the advantages and disadvantages of current employee evaluation models. Analyses of positions that perform tasks similar to visa decisions (i.e. subjective decisions, multiple variables, large number of decisions) will be especially useful.

For example: An Ivy League college admissions officer must select the best applicants from a large number of applications. They take many data points into account (SAT, GPA, essay, extracurricular activities) and make thousands of decisions. How is an admissions officer's performance evaluated with an inherently subjective process that has many different variables? What are the challenges?

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Management training, Human Resources expertise

Comments:

We are in the process of implementing a feedback tool but it is still in the early stages of testing. If selected, we are interested in using knowledge gained from these studies to evaluate this tool.

Maximum Number of Projects:

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*Project 05*

**Build the first “Electoral Violence Dataset” for Africa**

Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (CSO), Office of Analysis, Planning, Programming, and Learning (APPL)

Overview:

There has been an increasing policy focus on electoral violence in recent years, yet there are no good datasets which capture the type and magnitude of electoral violence across space and time. This high-resolution dataset would be of similar quality to the Armed Conflict Location Event Dataset (ACLED) and would capture several main types of electoral violence (such as violent riots/protests, assassinations, harassment/intimidation) and for each event would include the date, location (including province and town), event type, perpetrator name, victim name, and total fatalities (if any). The dataset would include events at least 18 months before and six months after an election day (most datasets on electoral violence only include events within a few days of an election). The dataset would focus only on Africa, and could use existing ACLED data as a starting point, adding an additional event type or additional event types to capture those events which could be directly attributed to an electoral cycle. Ideally, the coding would differentiate those events related to national elections from those events related to sub-national elections.

Format of Final Product:

Deliverables would include 1) A complete dataset from 1997 – present 2) A clear, useable codebook that can be used by analysts in the USG to extend the dataset and keep it current.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Knowledge of conflict datasets such as ACLED and MEPV will be helpful; knowledge of IR theory and conflict theory in particular would be helpful; knowledge of and experience using quantitative methods to investigate issues of conflict and crisis will be key, as will familiarity with electoral violence.

Comments:

Extension of the dataset beyond just Africa would be beneficial, but is not likely doable in one semester. Follow-on projects could extend the dataset to additional regions.

Maximum Number of Projects:            1

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*Project 06*

**Build the “Diplomatic Exchange” dataset – the first dataset recording global head of state visits from 1950 – 2015.**

Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (CSO), Office of Analysis, Planning, Programming, and Learning (APPL)

Overview:

The neo-realist concept of IR argues that structure (the distribution of material resources across units) drives outcomes in IR. The network approach, on the other hand, argues that a different kind of structure drives outcomes in IR – the structure of relationships and the property and patterns of those relationships between and amongst actors. In that vein, a global dataset recording all visits of heads of state would have great value. Head of state visits are the highest form of diplomatic exchange. As such, understanding the patterns and networks of head of state visits at the global level helps us to identify diplomatic power brokers and trace the flow of diplomatic influence around the world. There is currently no global dataset on head of state visits. Such a dataset would have immense value, especially for conducting classic Social Network Analysis.

Format of Final Product:

The deliverable would be a complete dataset, in matrix form, showing by year and country all visits, and recording the direction of the visit, the head of state doing the visiting, and the respective country and head of state being visited. A codebook will also be requested so that USG analysts could keep the dataset current.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Experience with quantitative approaches to IR and IR datasets will be critical.

Comments:

Suggest that this definition be used: “A head of state visit is defined as either a formal head of state visit or a meeting specifically between the two heads of state scheduled for that purpose. For example, a visit with a leader that takes place during an international conference or on the sidelines of one is not counted as a head of state visit. A visit by a head of state to an international conference where a head of state then holds separate bilateral talks with the head of state of the host nation is counted. A visit by one leader to a country where the head of state is not met by his or her counterpart is not counted.”

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

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*Project 07*

**Finding More U.S. Host Families and High Schools**

Bureau of Economic and Cultural Affairs, Office of Public Affairs and Strategic Communications  
(ECA/PASC)

Overview:

Every year the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs seeks to find volunteer families and high schools for about 2,000 international high school exchange students studying in the US for an academic year through ECA's academic year inbound programs (Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange, Future Leaders Exchange, and Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study programs). As part of this process PASC organizes regular campaigns to spread the word about this unique program and opportunity, and encourage families to open their homes to these students and schools to enroll the students. Despite these efforts, the Bureau has come up short the last few years. Word of mouth remains the primary vehicle for reaching potential host families. In the absence of a robust marketing division, and plentiful resources, PASC has found it difficult to effectively reach this audience and promote this campaign. Moreover, in the absence of direct contact with host family alumni networks, we have found that our promotional efforts have been unproductive. Through this project we are looking for support in rebranding the hosting campaign to make it more appealing to outside audiences and looking for assistance in identifying alternate ways of promoting this program. We are also looking for ways to tweak and/or incentivize the program to families as they are not paid for hosting and must undergo a thorough vetting process. How can we better promote the value of hosting ECA-funded students over other exchange students and/or other exchange programs that pay its host families and schools, which we are prohibited from doing by J-1 visa regulations? What might make the program more appealing? How can we expand awareness of the programs and extoll the benefits of hosting. What new partners could we work with?

Format of Final Product:

Marketing strategy

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Public affairs, marketing, digital marketing, communications, international affairs, international education

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

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*Project 08*

**Finding the lost generation in the Central African Republic**

Public Affairs Office, U.S. Embassy Bangui

Overview:

The Central African Republic has been buried in decades of violence, turmoil, and political unrest. While the country's instability has impacted its economy and society, the most disturbing impact has been on the next generation of citizens and leaders. With the disruption of government operations and services, schools closed, and in the regular periods of violence, children stayed home instead of going to school. Worst of all, as the security situation declined and young people saw their role models giving up on the country or engaging in violence with militias, they began to follow in their footsteps.

Now, as the Central African Republic faces an important turning point--presidential elections in December 2015 and January 2016--and the country has an opportunity to move forward from the violence and instability of the past, there are few young leaders with the motivation and education to step forward. The Embassy wants to support democratic institutions, accountability, and transparency and believes that encouraging the participation of the next generation is the key to these concepts. Embassy Bangui seeks input on two major questions: how can the Embassy and the United States best invest in a new generation of leaders; and how can the Embassy engage and support the existing youth, who are ready to advance the country?

Format of Final Product:

Post would like to receive a memorandum from the university(-ies), which includes two parts.

1. The first part should be a list of recommendations of specific programs, initiatives, or investments, which would support the development, training, or education of the next generation of leaders. These recommendations could be program proposals that they Embassy would make to the Central African Republic government, or programs, which the Embassy would administer.
2. The second part should be a list of events, trainings, or platforms that the U.S. Embassy could use to identify and develop young leaders.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Students with French language ability will be able to communicate more easily with Central Africans, however, French language ability is not required. Embassy Bangui believes that persons from a range of disciplines from education to social policy to international affairs can each offer extremely useful insights on this project.

Comments:

Embassy Bangui encourages interested schools and universities to review the Embassy's Facebook page, which captures the outreach work currently being done

(<https://www.facebook.com/usembassy.bangui/?ref=hl>).

Embassy Bangui is also prepared to host an in-brief session to provide context on the Central African Republic, and will also coordinate at least one session between the school/university and the English-speaking Young African Leadership Initiative alumni (<https://youngafricanleaders.state.gov/>)

Maximum Number of Projects:        3

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*Project 09*

**Women Soldiers: The Case of Lebanon's Male-Dominated Army**

U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Public Diplomacy Section

Overview:

Women's enrollment in the Lebanese Army remains a highly controversial issue in the country. With women having pre-conceived stereotypes about the manner in which they will be treated within a male-dominated environment, coupled with the manner in which the army stigmatizes women, it is not anticipated that this dynamic will witness a shift anytime soon.

Moreover, their ranking, promotion, and issues related to their competencies and skills in high ranking positions remains a taboo subject within the army itself.

There has not only never been a female army commander in the history of the institution, but women are most often placed within administrative positions, and within positions that do not capitalize on their potential physical capabilities, which they are usually not to possess in the first place.

Taking into account the high levels of corruption and the overwhelming and constant political instability in the country, coupled with the country's social, cultural, religious, and patriarchal values, combatting the notions of gender stereotyping and sexism hardly stands a chance.

The important role of women in the military has yet to be shed light upon in Lebanon, and has yet to be discussed in separate discourse from the study of the army as one homogeneous entity.

The project will focus on accessing as many women in the military as possible, through one on one interviews as well as the collection of testimonies in order to document this reality and come up with potential solutions. It will also focus on accessing: a sociologist, a psychologist, a historian/military expert, and a high-ranking male military official.

The project will strike a comparison between the gender dynamic of the military in Lebanon and that of at least 3 case studies abroad – namely one European Country, the US and one other ME country.

Format of Final Product:

The final format of the project will be a 20 page research paper, complete with both the transcription of the highlights of the interviews as well as with recommendations and prospects.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

The project will contribute to the fields of: Gender Studies, Military Studies, Women's Rights, and will also assist within the realm of Comparative Analysis.

Comments:



The team must consist of the authors of the paper, the interviewers and a supervisor.

I. Initial Readings:

The Changing Role of Women in the Armed Forces by Nancy Goldman:

[http://www.jstor.org/stable/2776610?seq=1#page\\_scan\\_tab\\_contents](http://www.jstor.org/stable/2776610?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents)

Maximum Number of Projects: 1-2

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*Project 10*

**Jamaican Lotto Scamming: Root Causes and Policy Alternatives**

U.S. Embassy Kingston

Overview:

Telemarketing fraud, known in Jamaica as “lotto scamming” because of the prominence of the tactic of the fraudsters’ luring American victims with tales of lottery winning, has grown dramatically in recent years. Anderson Cooper 360 did a segment on this crime in 2015 and CNBC’s “American Greed” will devote an entire show to it in 2016. Some of America’s most vulnerable citizens are losing significant sums of money – estimates range from \$300 million to over \$1 billion per year – and this has led to intense human suffering including a spate of suicides. This scourge is also damaging Jamaica’s international reputation and undermining Jamaica’s social stability and rule of law. Scammers are using their immense illicit gains on lavish lifestyles. This distorts the Jamaican economy writ large and serves as a major factor in driving up violent crime, specifically the homicide rate. The cultural justifications of lotto scamming – “Robin Hood”, informal “reparations for slavery” or victim blaming – are widely accepted, most disturbingly and increasingly among children in the regions of Jamaica with a high concentration of this fraud. Jamaican judges tend to give scammers suspended sentences, allowing them to go back to committing the crime. A professor of criminology in Jamaica projected that another major conflict, similar to the 2010 extradition operation in Tivoli Gardens that left 74 dead, could occur between authorities and criminals with lotto scamming ties in the phenomenon’s epicenter, Montego Bay, in western Jamaica.

What are the sociological factors driving this epidemic? What are the best policy alternatives, including but not limited to social marketing and economic development, to combat this scourge? What law enforcement practices work best to apprehend and prosecute criminals, deter future scamming, and eliminate this menace?

The answers to these questions will help inform the policy that Jamaican and U.S. officials implement to repair the severe damage it has done to Jamaican society and U.S. citizens.

Format of Final Product:

A four-page memo with a presentation and a data analysis describing research findings.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Criminology, Sociology, Criminal Justice, Public Policy, Psychology

Maximum Number of Projects:        3

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*Project 11*

**Kuwaiti Land Use: Understanding a Distorted Market and Improving Efficiency in Land Allocation**

U.S. Embassy Kuwait, Economics Section

Overview:

In Kuwait, 95% of land is owned by the government or controlled by the oil and gas sector. Less than five percent of the country's land is available for other uses. With only a small fraction of the country's land area available for building, competition is fierce and prices are astronomical. A 400 square meter (4500 square foot, 0.1 acre) residential lot can cost more than \$1 million, even in outlying areas. Larger plots can sell for more than \$10 million per acre. At the same time, Kuwait is littered with old and abandoned buildings serving no productive purpose. With no land taxes, property owners can let a valuable plot of prime land sit undeveloped for decades, further restricting the limited supply of usable land. Disinterest in selling land makes it difficult to assemble larger parcels needed for commercial and industrial use. This makes it more difficult for the non-oil parts of the economy to grow and substantially raises costs for large construction projects.

Questions:

What can be done to make the Kuwaiti land market more efficient?

Could property taxes provide the impetus to return unproductive land to the market?

How can the government extract hydrocarbons without limiting access to the land above them?

Would a more efficient land ownership system increase investment and GDP?

Would such a system lead to lower costs for residential land?

Format of Final Product:

The final product would be a package of documents, including an analysis of pricing under various simulations (Excel workbook); a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the findings for an executive-level audience; a policy paper of 10-20 pages; and an executive summary of less than two pages.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Economics, tax policy, petroleum exploration, Bedouin culture, Arabic language, land use, real property law.

Comments:

Government websites are not always kept up to date, so it might be difficult to get information or statistics.

Maximum Number of Projects:            2

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*Project 12*

**Gender Based Violence – Successes and Failures in the Arab World**

U.S. Embassy to Libya, Office of Public Affairs

Overview:

Gender Based Violence is a pervasive problem in the Middle East that is often ignored even by Law Enforcement who regard the issue as an internal family issue. In order to inform our thinking on how best to approach combatting gender based violence, we are interested in knowing what was worked in the Middle East in regard to combatting gender based violence. Some countries have set up Family Protection Units, some countries have focused on incorporating gender based violence modules in Police Training Academies, others have sought assistance from the NGO community.

Thus, in order to understand what programs have worked best in reducing gender based violence and increasing public awareness, we would like to know what was worked best in the Middle East in order to apply the most effective approach to Libya.

Format of Final Product:

Deliverable could be a presentation or paper.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Arabic might be helpful, but not necessary.

Comments:

The embassy to Libya was evacuated July 2014. The embassy has relocated in Tunisia staffed by a group of 8 officers working mostly virtually as they cannot go into Libya at this point in time.

Maximum Number of Projects:        3

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*Project 13*

**Making Democracy More Compelling for at-Risk Youth**

U.S. Embassy Madrid, Public Affairs Office

Overview:

Spanish youth drop out of high school at the highest rate in the EU (just under 22%) Additionally, Spain suffers from soaring unemployment among youth (over 47% and estimated at over 70% for second generation immigrant youth). Disaffected young people can be susceptible to extremist ideologies which provide a sense of purpose, inclusion and idealism. At a recent conference on countering violent extremism, one expert suggested that societies need to make the democratic experiment as compelling and motivational as building the caliphate. What can USG players do to help restore faith in a system, which by many indicators has failed in its promise? What are the narratives (inclusion, tolerance, rule of law) that could successfully counteract the allure of radical extremism? What are the best methods for engaging youth and involving them in democratic initiatives?

Format of Final Product:

Data analysis as to what might lure youth to the side of democracy, as well as options for programs that could effectively present democracy as a worthy project to disaffected youth.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Disciplines such as psychology, education, religious studies or foreign affairs would be helpful.

Comments:

Public Affairs Officers, indeed USG officials, are not well-placed to counter extremist ideologies. Experts have suggested that we instead focus on our real areas of expertise – democracy, and promoting democratic values – when providing alternate narratives to youth audiences. What types of programs/messaging could we use to reach marginalized youth and present democracy as a viable and attractive project in which young people could become involved and through which they could build a better society?

Maximum Number of Projects:            2

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*Project 14*

**Economic Benefits of the Africa Growth and Opportunities Act**

U.S. Embassy in Pretoria, Economic Section

Overview:

The Africa Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA) was first passed in 2000 to foster economic development in Africa by provided free market access to the United States. It was reauthorized in 2015 for an additional 10 years. In South Africa, the issue was advanced that the United States benefits from AGOA more than the African countries it was established to help. We would like to quantify and qualify the direct and indirect benefits accruing to the United States, and to South Africa from this trade concession.

Format of Final Product:

A research paper of sufficient length, supplemented by a presentation.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Economic.

Comments:

The renewal of AGOA has sparked great interest in South Africa as the debate rages over government policy on trade protectionism, support for local industries, and the benefits of free trade. In the world context of the Trans Pacific Partnership, South Africa is also looking at two African free trade agreements, the Tripartite FTA (eastern and southern Africa) and the Continental FTA. The United States is also encouraging all African countries to ratify and implement the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement. Opening trade and development are critical to Embassy Pretoria's core policy goals in South Africa. The project will directly contribute by building local advocacy for our key policy priorities. On the U.S. side, this research will direct the conversation to considering core U.S. economic interests in South Africa by identifying key economic sectors and trends. It will also help develop the mandate in AGOA that we develop a strategy for moving African beneficiaries towards a long-term reciprocal trade and investment partnership.

Maximum Number of Projects:        4

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*Project 15*

**Boosting the Financial Sustainability of Ecuador's Civil Society**

U.S. Embassy Quito, Political Section (POL)

Overview:

International cooperation activities have decreased significantly in Ecuador over the past several years. This reduction stems in part from Ecuador's economic growth, but also is related to the politicization of development assistance by the current administration under President Rafael Correa. Within the last couple of years, several major international donors, including USAID, have closed their offices in Ecuador. In addition, many civil society organizations (CSOs) have found it more difficult to obtain funding from the cash-strapped Ecuadorian government, and some complain that government resources are only available to those organizations that align themselves politically with the government. The combination of a reduction in international and government support has created severe challenges to financial sustainability for many CSOs, which must adapt by seeking new sources of funding from, for example, private companies, philanthropic organizations (both in Ecuador and overseas), and private donations from Ecuador's emerging middle class.

In September 2013, President Obama launched *Stand with Civil Society*, a global call to action to support, defend, and sustain the operations of CSOs amid a rising tide of restrictions globally. The following year, the President issued a Presidential Memorandum that directed U.S. agencies to defend and strengthen civil society abroad. This includes exploring new approaches and partnerships around civil society sustainability. The objective of this project is to compile best practices and innovative strategies that will assist Ecuadorian CSOs in pursuing new sources of funding from crowdsourcing and fundraising on social media; partnerships with private foundations, businesses, and universities; the development of services that create revenue flows; and so on.

Format of Final Product:

The final product format should be a memo of 10-15 pages that highlights different potential fundraising options for CSOs and describes the pros and cons of each option. The memo should also provide specific, real-world examples for the different options (i.e., CSO X used a crowdsourcing platform in Colombia that generated XX in monthly revenue and built the CSO's number of regular donors by XX percent), which would include analysis on why the real-world examples were successful or not.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

This project is open to any academic discipline.

Comments:

Suggested reading:

- Rachel Hayman, “Civil society sustainability: Stepping up to the challenge,” International NGO Training and Research Centre. <http://www.intrac.org/blog.php/69/civil-society-sustainability-stepping-up-to-the-challenge>
- Douglas Rutzen, “Civil Society Under Assault,” *Journal of Democracy* 26.4 (October 2015): 28-39.
- Human Rights Watch, “Ecuador: Clampdown on Civil Society.” <https://www.hrw.org/news/2013/08/12/ecuador-clampdown-civil-society>

Maximum Number of Projects:            2

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*Project 16*

**Trends in Local Volunteerism - The Impact of the 2016 Rio Olympics and Other Mega Events on Brazilians' Involvement in Volunteer Activities**

U.S. Consulate General Rio de Janeiro, Public Affairs Office

Overview:

In August and September 2016, Rio de Janeiro is hosting the largest event in its history: the 2016 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games. Rio organizers are engaging 60,000 volunteers to take part, one of the largest mobilizations of volunteers Brazil has ever undertaken. Brazil does not historically have a strong national culture of volunteerism, but the Olympics will be the third international mega event with volunteers held in Rio over the past three years (after the Catholic Church's World Youth Day in 2013 and the World Cup in 2014). The number of people applying for volunteer positions has outnumbered the available slots for each of these three events.

Notably, the local economic picture during the Olympics and Paralympics will be markedly worse than during the previous two mega events. While the volunteer participation rate has been strong so far, the call for volunteers has not been without criticism. Some have called for these jobs to be remunerated, particularly in a time of economic downturn and high unemployment rates.

This project aims to answer the following questions:

- Does volunteering for a mega event inspire more volunteerism in the city or country as a whole?
- Are individual volunteers more apt to continue volunteering within their communities after the mega event is over?
- Does mega event volunteering increase interest in English-language programs?
- How might the U.S. government engage groups of these volunteers within our own programs?
- What opportunities exist for the U.S. government to provide a platform or expertise to help volunteers build local networks?
- Could the U.S. government use any lessons learned about volunteerism in Rio for other posts in future mega event cities?
- What are benchmarks for sustained local volunteerism from previous Olympic and Paralympic Games?
- Does the local/national economic climate impact the trend of volunteerism?

This list is not exhaustive, and groups are welcome to explore other ideas and perspectives not included here. The project should concentrate on the experience in Rio de Janeiro, but may incorporate other examples in Brazil, if applicable.

Format of Final Product:

This should be a research paper of up to 20 pages with an executive summary and an action plan (if appropriate).

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Volunteerism, social engagement, Portuguese language

Comments:

<http://www.rio2016.com/en/volunteer/programme>

<http://www.rio2016.com/en/news/first-50000-volunteers-for-rio-2016-olympic-and-paralympic-games-selected>

<http://www.ctvnews.ca/sports/unpaid-volunteers-worth-millions-to-organizers-of-2016-olympic-games-1.2070935>

<http://www.si.com/olympics/2015/08/19/rio-de-janeiro-brazil-2016-olympics>

<http://worldyouthday.com/over-84000-volunteers-already-enrolled-for-wyd>

[http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/11/sports/worldcup/world-cup-2014-many-sacrifices-few-perks-for-volunteers.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/11/sports/worldcup/world-cup-2014-many-sacrifices-few-perks-for-volunteers.html?_r=0)

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

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## *Project 17*

### **Reviving the Yugosphere**

U.S. Embassy Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Economic Section

#### Overview:

This project will assess top barriers to greater regional economic integration among the countries of former Yugoslavia – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Serbia, Kosovo, and Slovenia. University teams will identify barriers to trade and economic integration; estimate the economic impact the barriers have on the economies of each individual country and on the region as a whole; and estimate the cost and benefits of removing each barrier. The potential impact of increased trade among these countries is huge. According to the World Bank, if Bosnia and Herzegovina could reach the same volume of trade with its neighbors as it had during the time of Yugoslavia, its exports would triple.

Participants will directly influence U.S. foreign policy in the Balkans by providing Embassy economic teams with the data they need to have effective, convincing internal and external conversations at the highest levels of government about economic reform in the region. Economic sections in the individual countries will work to partner U.S. university students with in-country universities for exchange and additional project support.

#### Background:

Despite politically complicated relations between former Yugoslav countries, increased regional cooperation on trade and commerce makes economic sense and is essential to the long-term development of each country in the region. Geographic proximity makes the countries natural trading partners, especially because foreign investors shy away from small markets that do not have easy access to other local markets. All of the countries except Macedonia use variants of the same language, officially known as Serbo-Croatian but called something different in each, as either an official language or a minority language. Lastly, and most importantly for the future of the region, each country is already either a member of the European Union (Croatia and Slovenia) or aspires to be a member (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, Kosovo, and Serbia).

#### Format of Final Product:

The final product will have three parts for each country:

1. A one to two page paper that identifies top barriers to greater regional economic integration and cooperation on trade. *Example – Difficulties with the visa regime between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo are harming Bosnian businesses and decreasing trade.*
2. Data estimating how each barrier affects the region as a whole, and the specific country to which it is applicable. *Example – Visa problems with Kosovo cost Bosnian businesses at least \$1 million monthly. Econometric analysis indicates a causal connection between the change in the visa regime and decrease in trade. In 2013, before BiH citizens needed visas to travel*

*to Kosovo, exports from BiH to Kosovo were \$95 million. In 2014, when new visa requirements went into effect, exports fell to \$73 million, a 23 percent decrease.*

Projections for the cost to remove each trade barrier and how the removal of each barrier would impact the economy of the region as a whole, and the economy of the specific country to which it is applicable. *Example – If visa requirements which currently restrict travel between Bosnia and Kosovo were removed, this could result in an \$(xx) million increase in trade between the two countries with little to no additional cost.*

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

European Economies, International Trade, Market Analysis, Economic Forecasting

Comments:

Preliminary Reading Materials:

Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) Webpage: <http://www.cefta.int/>

“Entering the Yugosphere,” The Economist 2009: <http://www.economist.com/node/14258861>

“The Former Yugoslavia: Let’s Hear it for the Yugosphere,” The Economist 2011:

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/easternapproaches/2011/06/former-yugoslavia>

Maximum Number of Projects:        7 (one per country)

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*Project 18*

**Mapping political patronage networks in Bosnia & Herzegovina using d3.js force layouts**

U.S. Embassy Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, USAID

Overview:

Political leaders in Bosnia & Herzegovina, most of whom have been in power since the 1995 Dayton Accords, remain entrenched in ethnic-based complex patronage systems of state control. Corruption and political influence over state-owned enterprises are key sources of ongoing dysfunction and instability.

The goal of this project is to visualize the connections between political parties, elites, and state-owned enterprises. Students will produce an octopus-like diagram of Bosnia & Herzegovina's political patronage networks. Students will identify connections by crawling through public records and databases, interviewing key informants, and conducting original research and investigations.

Format of Final Product:

The final product will be a hard-hitting visualization of corruption and political patronage in Bosnia & Herzegovina. Students are encouraged to use an interactive, web-based platform to create their visualization, such as d3.js force-directed graphs or a kumu.io network map.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

The project is suited for a multidisciplinary team of students from the fields of design, computer science, and political economy. Students in the physical or biological sciences are encouraged to participate for their systems thinking. Students with knowledge of Bosnian or Serbo-Croatian will have an easier time conducting original research.

Comments:

Students will work closely with Foreign Service and locally employed staff in Embassy Sarajevo. Embassy staff will guide students' research, assist with translation, and provide technical advice in designing the visualization. Prior research will be shared with students, including an illustrative visualization of the patronage networks (see attached) and a recent political economy assessment conducted by USAID.

Maximum Number of Projects:      1

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*Project 19*

**ICT Investment: Engine of Growth or Boulevard of Broken Dreams?**

U.S. Embassy Tunis, Political Economic Section

Overview:

All governments pursue the mandate of increasing economic growth, and the latest fad is investment in ICT. There is a pervasive belief that if we teach unemployed youth how to code, they will go out and become entrepreneurs, or find jobs in the ICT sector. If the government builds fiber infrastructure and brings high-speed internet to rural areas, people will be resourceful and lift themselves out of poverty. Even the USG runs many programs in the innovation and entrepreneurship space, hoping that training and capacity-building today will create the Mark Zuckerbergs of tomorrow.

Is this actually true? Does investment in the ICT sector, entrepreneurship, and innovation actually bear fruit? How effective are these programs? What are appropriate metric for success? Is there regional variation – is India an anomaly? Is ICT investment more effective in lower income, middle, or upper income countries?

Format of Final Product:

Comparative study of effectiveness of ICT investment across a diverse collection of case studies. This should be a 10-15 page research paper with data analysis, with a one-page summary of policy conclusions.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Computer science background is nice-to-have, though not critical. This could be a good collaborative project between engineering and public policy schools.

Comments:

Some food for thought:

<http://techcrunch.com/2015/10/23/coding-academies-are-nonsense/>

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/2/502ab0ec-e430-11e0-b4e9-00144feabdc0.html#axzz3rlsiys2D>

Maximum Number of Projects:      4

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*Project 20*

**Azerbaijan's Political Past and Democratic Potential (Democracy)**

Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Caucasus and Regional Conflicts (EUR/CARC)

Overview:

A comprehensive political and historical analysis about the factors that helped the New Azerbaijan Party and the Aliyev family stay in power since 1993. Through primary sources, it would examine the economic, social and cultural factors that have enabled the family to remain in control of the country without significant opposition. It would highlight the role charismatic politics and small populations have in such political situations, but also bring a region specific focus to improve the understanding about the drivers of Azerbaijani political influence.

This study would offer ideas about the potential for and limits of democracy in the region. Consequently, the US could more effectively encourage human rights and democracy not only in the country, but beyond.

Format of Final Product:

20-30 page research paper.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

This would involve researchers in history or political science departments and should ideally include a native Azerbaijani speaker.

Comments:

There are books about the Azerbaijan's political history, but not one that assesses potential for democratic reforms or political changes.

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

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*Project 21*

**Azerbaijan's Political Past and Democratic Potential (Economy Project)**

Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Caucasus and Regional Conflicts (EUR/CARC)

Overview:

Azerbaijan's economy is nearly completely dependent on its exportation of oil and natural gas. Since the decline of oil prices, the single-party ruled government has been struggling and has recently moved to diversity its economy.

This study would examine the efforts of Azerbaijan to expand its tourism and transport economic sectors. While the Azerbaijani government has spoken highly of these projects, this research would explore the extent of these changes and how they impact the people in communities where tourism is promoted and transportation hubs are being constructed.

Format of Final Product:

20-30 page research paper.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

This would involve researchers in economic or political science departments and ideally should include a native Azerbaijani speaker.

Comments:

The public materials about the government's projects promote the construction, but neglect to mention the scale and impact of these efforts. The goal of this project is understand the scale of changes and what the local populations think about them.

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

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*Project 22*

**Identifying Islamic Extremism in the South Caucasus**

Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Caucasus and Regional Conflicts (EUR/CARC)

Overview:

A study that examines extremist attitudes and how people become radicalized across the South Caucasus. Recently, there have been numerous verified cases about Muslims from Georgia and Azerbaijan traveling to Syria and joining the Islamic State. There has not been an anthropological study to identify specific issues in at-risk communities that are factors in radicalization. Due to South Caucasus' proximity to both Syria and Chechnya, this problem will only increase if it is not addressed.

This research would be helpful in directing counter-radicalism initiatives and aid. Moreover, it would also be useful given the current wave of extremists in neighboring Syria, Chechnya and Dagestan. Notably, the Caucasus Emirate has made statements about expanding into Azerbaijan and the Islamic State has announced that Georgia is one of its targets. The study would explore susceptibility in specific South Caucasus areas, providing useful data for preventing radicalization or de-radicalization projects (such as in prisons where detainees become radicalized).

The research would identify key communities, religiosity, education level, economic lives, ethnicity and political attitudes in the interview data set. In turn, the project would help counter future terrorist threats by, for example, knowing what counter-terror education programs would work better in a particular region of the country.

Format of Final Product:

20-30 page research paper

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

This research could be conducted by students with anthropology, political science or sociological educations.

Comments:

There are surprisingly few scholarly publications that have used primary sources to examine the lives and communities of at-risk Muslim populations. Thus, this study must look at key communities, including Pankisi Gorge and Adjara in Georgia, where there have been active Islamic State recruiters.

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

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*Project 23*

**Leveraging Bitcoin Technology for Domestic Resource Mobilization**

Office of US Foreign Assistance Resources (F)

Overview:

A component of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) includes the prioritization of Domestic Resource mobilization (DRM), as first alluded to by Secretary Kerry in his remarks from the [2014 Frontiers in Development Forum](#), wherein which less developed countries that are experiencing stable economic growth may now be able to supplement foreign aid inflows with their own domestic tax revenues, to leverage this stable growth for greater gains and improved economic development impact. To do this requires significant technical assistance from donor countries in the discipline of Public Financial Management (PFM). Often, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), State Department/International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL), and State Department/Counter Terrorism (CT) bureaus provide funding for the US Treasury's Office of Technical Assistance to provide PFM technical assistance (TA). However, the scope and scale of PFM TA required for the SDG vision of DRM to be successful is going to drastically exceed current delivery models, and outstrip availability of PFM TA experts. This is not only true with the US Government; it is true of the methodologies and capacities of other donor governments and even multilateral development banks.

This project leverages existing popular technology, with emerging cutting edge technology to achieve an economy of scale in PFM TA whereby which the SDG vision of DRM not only becomes much more realistic and actually implementable, it does so in a revolutionary new way that could qualify as one of the greatest innovations in modern international development, specifically in PFM TA. The goal of this project is to determine the feasibility of adapting Bitcoin's underlying "distributed ledger (a.k.a.: Blockchain)" technology as a smart phone app through which citizens can pay their taxes through their smartphone. While the Bitcoin technology was originally developed to support digital crypto-currency, several private firms are proving that this is also an ideal technology for the secure collection and maintenance of records for various information and knowledge management applications, such as complex and dense medical records that need to be secure, frequently updated, and still able to provide target data immediately on demand, all while reducing the human labor required to do so, and thereby reducing the rates of human error in data management. This then opens up the possibility of leveraging the ubiquity of mobile phones and smartphones in many less developed countries to essentially leapfrog over the anachronistic tax and revenue administration methodologies still used in industrialized countries in favor of technologically superior method, much the same way the massive popularity of mobile phones in many less developed countries obviated the need for hard line phone service to connect communications.

This approach, “Leveraging Bitcoin Technology for Domestic Resource Mobilization”, has the added benefit of being vastly superior to traditional methods of tax and revenue administration in terms of secure and transparent transaction that bypass many layers of typically corrupt civil service corruption. It is estimated that this project could require the intellectual labor of people with knowledge in computer science, mobile computing, government budgeting and tax administration, international finance, and ideally these people will periodically collaborate with others that have “human centered design” knowledge (the two most reputable schools for this being Rhode Island School of Design, which who State has a pre-existing relationship, and the Stanford “d.school”). With these resources, this project will be able to design and possibly test an app that can be used on a smartphone and uses qualities inherent in the distributed ledger technology to not only take tax payments from citizens, but also provide other features and services, such as surveys about the effectiveness of public service delivery, election results, and any number of other government to citizen communications. This can all be done non-SBU.

#### Format of Final Product:

The scope of the final product is scalable to what resources are available. At the upper end of the spectrum, ideally, the final product will be a functioning prototype app that can be used as a demonstration tool in advocating for the full scale up and implementation in pilot countries for further real-world testing. At the lower end of the spectrum the final product could be a feasibility study with recommendations on how to actually implement the pilot described herein – what’s required in terms of programmers, testing, etc.

#### Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

As noted above, skills related to computer science, knowledge management, mobile computing, government budgeting and finance, and Human Centered Design, would be useful.

#### Comments:

This project proposal should be feasible based on considerable work already completed from various sources, all of which is publicly available to draw from, both conceptually and technically. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- A mandate for this type of work has already been approved by UN member States as the [Third Financing for Development Conference](#) in July 2015, where the United States pledged, through the [Addis Tax Initiative](#), to significantly increase foreign assistance that supports countries in mobilizing their own domestic resources.<sup>1</sup> Domestic resource mobilization (DRM).
- Additionally (not for public consumption), Eric Postel, Associate Administrator of USAID shared internally that they got the final green light to undertake a five year, up to \$40m a year, DRM pilot where up to 2.5 % of the funding for participating Missions from all directives (except PEFAR because it has its own DRM program) plus FTF and GCC can be used, if a Mission and host country wish to participate, for a DRM program of work. If the program succeeds, the first increased revenues, up to the cost of the work program, will be spent on programs in the relevant sectors (i.e. basically repaid) but thereafter all other

increased spending goes into general government resources. Programming of these funds has not yet started as of this writing, so conceivably any actionable outputs of this project could be funded.

- There is a solid body of literature indicating there is a need for this type of project, and that this type of project is technically feasible. Here is a sampling:
  - [file:///C:/Users/BurgJE/Downloads/paper\\_29\\_domestic\\_resource\\_mobilization\\_2015\\_0.pdf](file:///C:/Users/BurgJE/Downloads/paper_29_domestic_resource_mobilization_2015_0.pdf)
  - <http://www.pewglobal.org/2014/02/13/emerging-nations-embrace-internet-mobile-technology/>
  - <http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/up-front/posts/2016/01/11-how-blockchain-change-financial-wessel>

Maximum Number of Projects: 2-4

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## *Project 24*

### **Using Data Science to Assess and Plan U.S. Foreign Assistance Activities**

Office of U.S. Foreign Assistance Resources, Policy Analysis (F/PA)

#### Overview:

In his 2016 State of the Union Address, President Obama stated that “American leadership in the 21st century ... means seeing our foreign assistance as part of our national security, not charity.” The U.S. government is one of the largest donors globally for foreign assistance, and its efforts are intended to promote our national interests abroad. Effective and efficient allocation of foreign assistance resources is critical, and requires understanding the effects of specific foreign assistance activities across the broader context rather than in isolation.

This project is intended as a two-semester project to explore the application of data mining and machine learning techniques to publically available data in order to better understand the outcome of past foreign assistance programs and to assist in planning future foreign assistance programs. The first semester should focus on assessing past foreign assistance programs and will involve data collection, data curation and data mining activities. Publically available data will be used, and should include, but need not be limited to, U.S. foreign assistance funding and country performance indicators. Foreign assistance activities should be represented in terms of funding according to the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC5) Sector Classification for Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) and, if possible, further resolved according to the related OECD Creditor Reporting System (CRS) classification. The second semester will build on the first, utilizing machine learning techniques to develop and test models for predicting the outcome of foreign assistance programs. Model input variables should be U.S. foreign assistance funding in terms of OECD DAC5 or CRS categories, and outputs should include country performance indicators.

To learn more about OECD ODA classifications and to view ODA funding data (both U.S. and non-U.S. assistance funding), see <http://www.oecd.org/development/stats/idsonline.htm>. There are many other high-quality public data sets that are available, including data provided by the US Government at <http://data.gov>, <http://foreignassistance.gov>, <https://explorer.usaid.gov>, and by non-governmental entities such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

#### Format of Final Product:

Oral presentation and paper summarizing methodology and results.

#### Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Data Science (a combination of computer science and statistics)

Comments:

This project is intended for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) departments, and involves the hybrid discipline of data science which includes the fields of computer science, statistics and applied mathematics. It is expected to last for two semesters, as described in the above Project Description. Three teams will be selected to participate, and will be ranked at the end of the semester according to the quality of their work. Undergraduate-level participation is desired, but graduate-level participation is also welcome.

Maximum Number of Projects:            3

3 Universities, one team each.

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*Project 25*

**Rebalancing Public Diplomacy in Asia**

Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Office of Opinion Research, Asia (INR/OPN/ASIA)

Overview:

The Office of Opinion Research has historically supported public diplomacy officers with empirically-based research on public views across a broad range of issues that affect U.S. political, economic, and strategic interests. Our research helps public diplomacy officers design messages and programming to engage the public. The proliferation of web-based platforms over the last two decades has fundamentally changed the nature of U.S. outreach, increasing the number of requests our office receives to assess how online engagement shapes public views, and this entails thinking about how to analyze text as data and work with BIG DATA.

Focusing on U.S. Embassy Tokyo (and depending on feasibility, building out to include other missions in Asia), OPN/ASIA requests research teams to scrape two decades worth of the Embassy's public webpages—available freely online through the Internet Archive's Way Back Machine is the name of the software—to identify dominant themes, analyze how they were/are presented for public consumption via messaging and programming, and assess how these themes and associated outreach efforts have changed over time. We are particularly interested in how Embassy Tokyo (and others in the region) has shifted its messaging following the White House announcement of the U.S. rebalance to Asia.

Format of Final Product:

One written report, not to exceed 10 pages, that presents key findings and data visualization in a format that is easily accessible to the layperson with a 1 page executive summary.

Syntax file with code/commands used to generate analyses.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Political Science, computer science, communications, Asian studies, qualitative and quantitative methodology, proficiency with R and Python, data visualization, experience working with big data and conducting web crawls

Comments:

Useful Links:

<https://archive.org/>

<https://blog.archive.org/2013/01/09/updated-wayback/>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/12/sunday-review/big-datas-impact-in-the-world.html? r=0>

<http://scholar.harvard.edu/msen/big-data-trends>

<http://blog.oup.com/2013/11/is-big-data-a-big-deal-in-political-science/>

[http://www.oxfordjournals.org/our\\_journals/polana/bdpsvirtualissueintromonroerev.pdf](http://www.oxfordjournals.org/our_journals/polana/bdpsvirtualissueintromonroerev.pdf)

[http://www.oxfordjournals.org/our\\_journals/polana/virtualissue4.html](http://www.oxfordjournals.org/our_journals/polana/virtualissue4.html)

[http://stanford.edu/~jgrimmer/bd\\_2.pdf](http://stanford.edu/~jgrimmer/bd_2.pdf)

Maximum Number of Projects: 3

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## *Project 26*

### **Predictive modeling of countries' voting behavior in UNGA**

Bureau of International Organization Affairs (IO), Office of Regional Policy & Coordination  
(IO/RPC)

#### Overview:

Research question: Why do countries vote with the United States at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)?

This project aims to identify the key factors driving countries to vote along with the United States at UNGA; these factors can be social, political, economic, and/or geographical. UNGA voting patterns have been researched by scholars for over 20 years but a predictive model is yet to be developed. Having such a model and knowing the key factors are crucial for the United States to advance its policy priorities at the UN.

Students will be given a dataset of voting outcomes of the last five UNGA sessions and a list of relevant research articles. In addition, guidance will be provided to help identify the key factors based on preliminary analyses done within the Department.

#### Format of Final Product:

The expected deliverables are:

1. A research paper outlining the key findings and the predictive model
2. A list of the data sources and the actual dataset used
3. Computer programs or scripts that perform the analysis

#### Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

This project requires students with strong **statistical** training (R preferred) and experience in **research and analysis**. Knowledge in data visualization is a big plus.

We welcome students from any discipline with a solid technical background and strong willingness to learn.

#### Comments:

This project is suitable for graduate students who are interested in researching the UN. The product can be used as a part of a Master's thesis or a chapter in a dissertation. This project is likely to last longer than one semester.

#### About us:

IO/RPC develops strategies and provides guidance on U.S. engagement with key regional and non-traditional actors to support U.S. policy priorities across the multilateral system. The office works

with regional bureaus to promote a coherent approach to bilateral and multilateral U.S. priorities with regional actors. RPC provides data analytics capability to support decision- and policy-making in multilateral negotiations.

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

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*Project 27*

**Combating WMD Proliferation Databases**

Bureau of International Security, Office of Counterproliferation Initiatives (ISN/CPI)

Overview:

UN Security Council 1540 Committee monitors what measures all UN Member States take to implement the more than 200 obligations and recommendations of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). These legally binding obligations require States to prohibit some activities and to control others related to combating the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery, especially to terrorists and other non-State actors. In December 2015, the 1540 Committee posted matrices, each with nearly 400 elements, of these measures for 183 of the 193 UN Member States on its website (see <http://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/national-implementation/1540-matrix/committee-approved-matrices.shtml>). The Committee also publishes information on effective international and national practices and on offers of and requests for assistance. The project seeks development of up to three searchable databases:

**Legal Measures:** A searchable database of measures taken by each State. This database should help the 1540 Committee, UN Member States, civil society and industry identify which States have taken which measures to implement the resolution. By including links to specific national laws, regulations, and guidance, it will help all parties understand the current legal framework of nonproliferation, provide examples to States seeking to develop new measures, and allow more complex analysis of the existing data.

**Effective Practices:** A searchable database of effective international and national “effective” or good practices associated with implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540. It will help States more readily identify well-recognized effective implementation practices.

**Assistance:** A searchable database of requests for and offers of assistance. This database will make it easier to match assistance offers and requests, as well more sophisticated analysis of requests and offers.

Format of Final Product:

1-3 searchable databases, in English (but preferably with compatibility for creating versions for the other five UN languages, i.e., Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, Spanish users), and ready for posting on the 1540 Committee or similar website.

Although each database need not capture all the relevant information held by the UNSCR 1540 Committee on implementation measures, effective practices or assistance, they should allow for easy expansion to incorporate the full scope of information and future expansion.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Information technology skills, particularly searchable databases for web-based applications.  
Knowledge of international relations and nonproliferation helpful.

Comments:

For more information on UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), see <http://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/> (the UN Security Council 1540 Committee's website). For a brief video from UN Messenger of Peace Michael Douglas on UNSCR 1540, see <http://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/transparency-and-outreach/un-multimedia.shtml>. For PDF and Word templates of the new version of the 1540 Committee matrix, see <http://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/national-implementation/1540-matrix/matrix-template.shtml>. To see the completed national matrices, see <http://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/national-implementation/1540-matrix/committee-approved-matrices.shtml>.

Maximum Number of Projects:            3

One for each possible database, i.e., laws/regulations, effective practices, and assistance)

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*Project 28*

**Mapping Efforts to Combat WMD Proliferation**

Bureau of International Security, Office of Counterproliferation Initiatives (ISN/CPI)

Overview:

UN Security Council 1540 Committee monitors what measures all UN Member States take to implement the more than 200 obligations and recommendations of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). These legally binding obligations require States to prohibit some activities and to control others related to combating the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery, especially to terrorists and other non-State actors. In December 2015, the 1540 Committee posted matrices, each with nearly 400 elements, of these measures for 183 of the 193 UN Member States on its website (see <http://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/national-implementation/1540-matrix/committee-approved-matrices.shtml>).

Mapping what these States have done could provide a powerful visual tool for the international community. In particular, it should help the 1540 Committee, UN Member States, civil society and industry visualize the status of implementation of different obligations of the resolution, including providing links to specific national legal frameworks and effective practices. In doing so, it will help States more easily understand how to implement the resolution domestically and how to promote implementation globally.

Format of Final Product:

One to five interactive maps (with compatibility for creating a single global), in English (but preferably with compatibility for creating versions for Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, Spanish users), and ready for posting on the 1540 Committee or similar website. The maps should allow users to choose a country in a region and see:

- Links to the information the Committee has for that State; and
- Whether or not the Committee has identified that the State has a relevant measure or measures in place for some obligations of the resolution (which obligations or an index of such obligations to be determined by project participants in consultation with the primary POC).

As important, the regional map or maps should allow users to see at a glance which States the Committee has identified as taken relevant measures for a set of obligations across the entire region.

Although a map need not capture all the information contained in the UNSCR 1540 Committee matrices, they should allow for easy incorporation of such information in the map in the future.

Although geographic political mapping is preferred, alternative approaches to visualization could be considered.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Information technology skills, particularly data visualization for web-based applications. Knowledge of international relations and nonproliferation helpful.

Comments:

For more information on UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), see <http://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/> (the UN Security Council 1540 Committee's website). For a brief video from UN Messenger of Peace Michael Douglas on UNSCR 1540, see <http://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/transparency-and-outreach/un-multimedia.shtml>. For PDF and Word templates of the new version of the 1540 Committee matrix, see <http://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/national-implementation/1540-matrix/matrix-template.shtml>. To see the completed national matrices, see <http://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/national-implementation/1540-matrix/committee-approved-matrices.shtml>.

Maximum Number of Projects:            5

Up to 5, based on the 5 UN regional groups (i.e., African Group, Asia-Pacific Group, Eastern European Group, Latin America and the Caribbean Group, and the Western European and Others Group)

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*Project 29*

**Fostering Inclusion in the Workplace – Regional Survey**

J/FO – Special Advisor for International Disability Rights (SADR)

Overview:

Despite progress made around the world towards advancing the rights of persons with disabilities, unemployment continues to be a challenge. Governments around the world have tried to address this challenge by promoting more inclusive work environments through a variety of programs including quota systems, incentive programs, public private partnerships, and awareness campaigns. The office of the Special Advisor for Disability Rights is interested in learning which countries have developed programs to support the employment of people with disabilities (and which ones haven't), if they have implemented these programs, and to what degree of success. SADR is interested in collecting information from comparable countries in the same region or economic community (for example, a survey of MERCOSUR members, Sub-Saharan African countries, or Gulf Cooperation Countries, or the MENA region).

The final report analyzing a region's efforts to promote employment and any particularly successful programs, will help SADR in promoting the employment of people with disabilities around the world by highlight gaps and providing best practices that can be scaled up or replicated elsewhere.

Research for the report would seek to understand laws, policies and programs on disability and employment/labor rights and vocational training systems. Sample questions might include:

- What government institutions, if any, are responsible for promoting the employment of persons with disabilities?
- Does the government collaborate with businesses in promoting the employment of persons with disabilities? If so provide further details.
- Does the government collect data on persons with disabilities in the labor market? If so, provide details. (unemployment, type of work, education level or worker, salary compared to non-disabled)
- Is there employment data on students who complete higher education and vocational training programs that show the number of students with disabilities placed in integrated/mainstream employment?
- Does the government address disability in the context of occupational diseases and injury? For example, does the government promote “stay-at-work” and “return-to-work” programs to ensure that workers affected by occupational disease and injury can either stay on the job or return quick to work after illness/injury?

Format of Final Product:

A final report (up to 3 pages per country, not to exceed 40 pages total); a presentation of data; one-page case studies on success stories

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Political Science; International Relations; Regional Studies programs; Disability Rights

Comments:

The Special Advisor for International Disability Rights (SADR) leads the U.S. comprehensive strategy to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities internationally. The United States, as part of our foreign policy, works to remove barriers and create a world in which disabled people enjoy dignity and full inclusion. Discrimination against people with disabilities is not simply unjust; it hinders economic development, limits democracy, and erodes societies.

In pursuing diplomacy that is inclusive and empowering of persons with disabilities, the United States: opposes discrimination against persons with disabilities everywhere and in all its forms; urges foreign governments to combat discrimination, prejudice and abuse against persons with disabilities in their countries, and to protect the rights and ensure the dignity and inclusion of all persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others; encourages and assists governments to learn about the development and effective implementation of laws to protect the rights of persons with disabilities; encourages and assists civil society organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities and their families, to advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities; and encourages U.S. businesses operating overseas as well as domestic host country businesses to take into consideration persons with disabilities in relation to employment practices and local stakeholder engagement, including in their labor and human rights corporate social responsibility policies, programs, and practices.

Maximum Number of Projects: 3

One per region or sub-region

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*Project 30*

**Modeling the Political Economy of the Middle East: Investigating the regional economic and political impact of changing energy prices**

Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, Office of Regional and Multilateral Affairs (NEA/RMA)

Overview:

Two years ago, oil sustained a price over \$105 / barrel. Oil producing countries of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) made critical economic and political commitments with the revenue from high oil prices. Today, oil prices have sunk to nearly \$30 / barrel and many of the region's oil producing countries face tough choices and budget shortfalls. At the same time, the U.S. government pushes this lower energy price environment as an opportunity for MENA region countries to eliminate energy subsidies and conduct other structural economic reforms.

Teams working on this project will be asked to develop a model that shows the impact of oil prices, production, break-even budget assumptions, and other relevant factors on the political and economic choices faced by oil producing states. Using the model, teams can develop and investigate multiple scenarios such as those that produce a price fluctuation, various countries increasing or decreasing production, or changes to break even budget points. Teams can deliver a report on the regional political and economic consequences of these scenarios. The reports could include regional oil supply and infrastructure analysis, insights on significant domestic political factors, and predictions on the likely steps that the countries will take given the political economic landscape.

Format of Final Product:

- 1) An energy price model and a background paper describing the model's basic assumptions, how it works, and what it tells us about the relationship between the key variables.
- 2) 3 – 4 scenarios. Each scenario should be a 4-5 page paper that outlines the assumptions of the scenario, describes the model outputs, and evaluates the regional political and economic impact of the outcomes.
- 3) Oral briefing demonstrating the model and describing the scenarios and findings.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Statistical modeling, International Political Economy, Middle East / North Africa regional politics

Comments:

We are hoping that teams develop a model we can continue to use as we track the impact of changing energy prices on MENA regional political and economic developments.

Maximum Number of Projects:            3

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*Project 31*

**Arctic Healthy Homes: Civil Society Perspectives on Arctic Innovation**

Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Office of International Health & Biodefense (OES/IHB)

Overview:

The dramatic changes in the Arctic region such as warming temperatures, shrinking sea ice and coastal erosion are having a profound impact on the four million people who call the Arctic their home. Innovations in water and sanitation, home design, construction and clean energy are addressing the challenges faced by Arctic residents in this changing landscape. As many of these innovations are designed for implementation by households or small communities, we are considering them under the rubric of a “**Healthy Homes**” approach to Arctic sustainable development. Healthy homes are a core concern in all parts of the Arctic, reflecting the environmental, human health, engineering and resilience facets of sustainable development. Stakeholders and innovators across a slew of disciplines are working on healthy homes, with every project having the potential to improve the quality and sustainability of human life in the Arctic. These issues and innovations also provide an excellent opportunity to engage with the public, both in the United States and abroad, on the importance of the Arctic region and the challenges faced by residents living in extreme environments.

The Department of State is aware of a number of stakeholders and innovators working on healthy home related issues, especially in North America, and is seeking assistance in further identifying research, policy and social science activities and trends in the broader circumpolar region – including Greenland, the Nordic countries and Russia. Additionally, the Department of State is considering ways that the innovations emerging from “Healthy Homes” may create opportunities for civic engagement through public diplomacy, including in-person events across the Arctic and through digital platforms to engage a broader audience. We would greatly value a partnership with a Diplomacy Lab team that could advise on how to facilitate and expand such engagement. This project may be used to inform future initiatives in the Arctic Council, the preeminent intergovernmental forum, currently chaired by the United States, where the eight Arctic nations and the region’s indigenous peoples discuss circumpolar issues with particular emphasis on environmental protection and sustainable development.

Format of Final Product:

A presentation of findings and a paper not to exceed 10 pages that covers:

- a) existing stakeholders, innovators and activities related to healthy homes in the circumpolar region; or
- b) options for engagement with the general public to raise awareness about healthy homes issues and innovations; or
- c) a combination of both (a) and (b).

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Architecture, sustainable development, education, international relations, Arctic studies, engineering, cold climate housing, energy conservation, water and sanitation, public health, public policy, communications, design.

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

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*Project 32*

**Marine Policy at the Bottom of the Planet**

Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Office of Ocean and Polar Affairs (OES/OPA)

Overview:

The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) was established by the Consultative Parties to the Antarctic Treaty System in 1982 (see: <http://www.ccamlr.org>). CCAMLR's main objective is the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources, with conservation being defined to include rational use. The area of CCAMLR's administrative jurisdiction is the Southern Ocean surrounding Antarctica, roughly north to the Antarctic Convergence, which is considered to be the natural boundary of the Antarctic marine ecosystem. This area covers approximately 10 percent of the earth's surface. This consensus-based organization has 25 Commission Members and 36 total parties and normally meets once a year at its headquarters in Hobart, Australia. The Commission is advised on scientific matters by the Scientific Committee also established under the Convention.

With a record of over 30 years of conservation practice, CCAMLR has earned a reputation as a model for regional cooperation in the area of fisheries management. In order to address risks to commercially exploited fish stocks, CCAMLR maintains a commitment to the application of management practices that are ecosystem-based and precautionary in nature. Based on the progression of CCAMLR's marine conservation and management efforts and new initiatives and challenges, there are now a number of key issues – challenges and opportunities – that need further consideration as CCAMLR seeks to continue its precautionary approach to management and achieve its objective of conserving Antarctic marine living resources.

The key issues, and proposed tasks for study are:

- **Marine Protected Areas (MPA)**: CCAMLR has committed to create a circumpolar system of MPAs. In doing so, CCAMLR has adopted a Conservation Measure (CM) to guide these efforts – General Framework for the Establishment of CCAMLR MPAs (CM 91-04). As MPAs are established, a key question will be whether they are effective in achieving their objectives. *Task: Based on the array of existing literature on evaluating MPA effectiveness, design a proposed framework, including alternatives for evaluating the effectiveness of CCAMLR MPAs in the Southern Ocean.*
- **CCAMLR Fisheries Regulatory Framework**: The current CCAMLR regulatory framework for fisheries includes five types of fisheries – new, exploratory, established, lapsed and closed. In addition, research fishing is allowed, pursuant to certain conservation measures, throughout the Convention Area. As fisheries activities and the regulatory framework have evolved over the past several decades, certain inconsistencies may have developed between

the intent of the framework and the progression of fisheries activities. *Task: Analyze the efficacy of the current regulatory framework for CCAMLR fisheries and research fishing and, if appropriate, design alternative frameworks based on CCAMLR objectives, conservation principles included in the Convention, and existing and forecasted fisheries activities, consistent with modern standards for fisheries management.*

- Climate Change: Climate change impacts in the Southern Ocean present both challenges and opportunities in the conservation of marine living resources. While CCAMLR currently considers climate change in its scientific and management practices, there is no formal framework or requirement to take climate change into account in informing or making decisions. *Task: Analyze CCAMLR objectives and current scientific and management practices in the context of climate change, and design a framework and approach to mainstreaming consideration of climate change implications into CCAMLR scientific and management practices.*

Project participants would engage with a small team of experts from the U.S. Department of State, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the National Science Foundation (NSF); and may also wish to consult environmental non-government organizations, academia, and others involved in Antarctic marine science and policy issues.

#### Format of Final Product:

For each key question, we would suggest the following products:

- 3-5 page issue analysis
- 5-10 page description of proposed solutions
- 1 page briefing memo
- Powerpoint presentation

#### Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Environmental science and policy, marine science, ocean governance, foreign affairs

#### Comments:

<http://www.state.gov/e/oes/ocns/opa/ccamlr/>

<http://www.ccamlr.org>

<https://swfsc.noaa.gov/contentblock.aspx?Division=AERD&id=3268>

<https://swfsc.noaa.gov/ge.aspx?ParentMenuID=42&TopPG=15635&BottomPG=15636&Project=AE RD>

<http://pal.lternet.edu/>

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

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*Project 33*

**Measuring the Health of Global Entrepreneurial Ecosystems and Impact of Capacity Building Activities, Using the GIST Initiative as a Test Case**

Bureau of International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Office of Science and Technology,  
Global Engagement Team (OES/STC)

Overview:

Innovators and entrepreneurs in emerging economies globally face unique challenges when starting a venture. The ability to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the entrepreneurial ecosystems that they work in can be a vital tool to direct capacity building efforts. Resource distribution is not uniform and requires the development of techniques to measure, frequently by proxy, the state of information access, education resources, external funding, legal constraints, social factors, etc. that can promote or prevent successful entrepreneurship. These components constitute part of the entrepreneurial ecosystem. Entrepreneurial ecosystems can be evaluated on a city-wide, state, country, regional, or global basis. For their evaluation an understanding of measureable and comparable metrics is required. In order to best inform and direct entrepreneurial economic capacity activities, robust methods to understand their previous and future actions and impacts are needed.

For example, the State Department's Global Innovation through Science and Technology (GIST) initiative is trying to address some of these issues in 135 emerging economies. Through several program activities including: in-country training known as GIST Startup Boot Camps and the annual global pitch competition, GIST Tech-I. GIST provides early stage science and technology entrepreneurs opportunities to gain mentorship, skillset building, and networking with investors. However, while there are numbers of individuals trained and revenue created, understanding the programs' direct impact on the health of the entrepreneurial ecosystem is poorly understood.

This project seeks to find ways, qualitatively and quantitatively, to measure the impact of capacity building activities using GIST as a model program. This project represents an opportunity to create better tools to direct capacity building programs abroad in a more educated and focused fashion.

Teams will have an opportunity to construct a framework to quantitatively describe various model global entrepreneurship ecosystems, determine resource scarcity, measure capacity building program effectiveness, and predict where the application of future resources would generate most impact.

Teams will answer questions such as:

- What metrics are measurable? Which ones are information bearing? What information can you glean from various combinations of metrics to intelligently describe an entrepreneurial ecosystem?
- If entrepreneurs are trained in a GIST Boot Camp, what secondary or tertiary effects does this have on the local community or region?

- GIST Tech-I finalists gain international exposure when they compete in live-pitches to a panel of experts. Do these finalists and winners attract more investors, mentors and other players in the entrepreneurial ecosystem to their host nations after the competition?

Format of Final Product:

Teams will write a 3-4 page summary of findings, including case studies, data, and other indicators developed to measure the impact of past programs and the predicted impact of 2016 and future programs, including the new GIST Villages “train-the-trainer”/meet-ups. Teams will also provide short 15-minute oral presentations on their findings with a Q&A session. Additionally any multi-media or interactive content produced would also be welcome.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Experience with social science research, analytics and quantitative analysis are desired but not required.

Comments:

Teams are requested for one semester (though two are desired).

For more information on the GIST initiative, please visit [www.gistnetwork.org](http://www.gistnetwork.org).

Maximum Number of Projects:            2-3

Project Goal 1: Evaluation of the metrics necessary to determine the health of various global entrepreneurial ecosystems, spatially, temporally, and resource gaps.

Project Goal 2: Apply these metrics to evaluate the impact of specific entrepreneurial capacity building activities, e.g. GIST.

Project Goal 3: Determine the predictive power of this method to select GIST program activities to maximize impact and benefit.

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*Project 34*

**The Impact of Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) on Today's Post-Conflict Societies**

Bureau of Political-Military Affairs' (PM), Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA)

Overview:

Explosive remnants of war (ERW) continue to impact societies long after the fighting stops and land contaminated with ERW has been released back to the local communities. Countries in Europe are still affected by unexploded ordnance (UXO) from World War I and II, and more modern conflicts like those in Syria and Yemen are leaving a similar legacy. This legacy ultimately creates political, economic, and psychological issues for many years post-conflict. We hope to begin to answer the question of how modern-day post-conflict societies are able to recover after the threat of ERW has either significantly diminished or disappeared.

This project hopes to understand through research and analysis how different regions of the world cope with similar issues of ERW post-conflict. For example, a community in Cambodia will not necessarily feel the same effects as one in Afghanistan. By taking a regional approach to the research and analysis performed for this project, the findings will show how post-conflict societies around the world recover in this environment, including the use of released land, mental rehabilitation, and economic development. Proposed projects will perform research on post-conflict societies in one of the following regions: South Central Asia, East Asia and the Pacific, the Western Hemisphere, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East.

PM/WRA has a particular interest in this topic because once a country has declared itself “free from the impact of ERW,” there still needs to be a period of evaluation in determining whether there are additional needs once the ERW removal has been completed. This may address if there are additional areas to provide further assistance during CWD destruction projects that confront issues beyond land contamination, and if there are other areas of assistance post-clearance. This project will help the U.S. Department of State plan the future of its funding to post-conflict societies and determine what the most important issues are that need to be addressed.

Format of Final Product:

- Paper format (max of 20 pages)
- 1 page executive summary of findings
- Use of both secondary and primary (if available) sources
- Bibliography of relevant articles and other research



Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Students should be interested in international relations, post-conflict societies, economic and community development, refugee resettlement, and psychology.

Comments:

PM/WRA works to reduce the harmful worldwide effects of at-risk, illicitly proliferated, and indiscriminately used conventional weapons of war. PM/WRA develops, implements, and monitors policy and programs regarding the threat that conventional weapons such as landmines, unexploded ordnance (UXO), abandoned ordnance, stockpiled conventional munitions, man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS) and other small arms and light weapons (SA/LW) pose to civilians, economic stability, and U.S. national security.

Website: <http://www.state.gov/t/pm/wra/>

Suggested reading for this topic: *Aftermath: The Remnants of War* by Donovan Webster

Maximum Number of Projects:           6

This proposal hopes to receive up to 6 different projects - one for each region of the world in which PM/WRA manages Conventional Weapons Destruction (CWD) assistance programs.

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*Project 35*

**Assessment of International Efforts to Build the Cybersecurity Workforce Through Education, Training, Recruitment and Retention**

Secretary's Bureau (S), Office of the Coordinator for Cyber Issues (S/CCI)

Overview:

The U.S. Department of State's Office of the Coordinator for Cyber Issues (S/CCI) seeks proposals that address the growing international challenge of recruiting and retaining cybersecurity and IT professionals. Importantly, this challenge is one faced by governments around the world, and is slowly becoming a crisis of staffing as the need for experts in cybersecurity grows with the ever-expanding cybersecurity needs.

Education & Training. S/CCI is seeking policy proposals to identify and assess successful education and training programs implemented in selected countries (1) that target high school, technical institute, and community college students, to reach the future workforce at a younger age and spark interest and build basic skills; and (2) support development and/or expansion of curricula at the university level that focus on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) courses and policy, to engage students from other academic disciplines in cybersecurity.

Recruitment & Retention. S/CCI is seeking policy proposals that reach across disciplines, including information technology (IT), STEM, international relations, management and leadership, business and human relations to identify best practices internationally for recruitment and retention of cybersecurity and IT professionals.

Format of Final Product:

Narrative, program models, case studies, and proposed costs

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

The interdisciplinary nature of the problem requires a cross-disciplinary team - technical, policy, human resources, and management skills. Given the international focus of the problem other language skills and cross cultural experience is beneficial.

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

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## *Project 36*

### **Evaluation of Cybersecurity Public Awareness Campaigns**

Secretary's Bureau (S), Office of the Coordinator for Cyber Issues (S/CCI)

#### Overview:

Cybersecurity Awareness raising is a key part of both the U.S. domestic and international strategies for cyberspace. Around the world, we are promoting the use of public advocacy efforts to reach youth, employees, and the citizen user. [STOP.THINK.CONNECT](#), [OnGuardOnline](#), [NetSmartz](#), [FBI](#), [Nova Labs](#), [European Union Agency for Network and Information Security](#), [Organization of American States](#), [Government of Japan](#) are examples of organizations that have versions of public awareness campaigns. In the United States, state and local governments and the private sector all have campaigns promoting the concept of safe and secure behavior online and when using tools connected to the Internet.

The U.S. Department of State's Office of the Coordinator for Cyber Issues (S/CCI) seeks proposals to identify effective cybersecurity public awareness campaigns implemented internationally and to develop outcome measurements for cybersecurity awareness programs. Cybersecurity awareness raising programs increasingly are a key part of building cultures of cybersecurity due diligence in places of employment, places of study, and in the daily lives of citizens and online users. Cybersecurity analysts assess that nearly 80% of cybersecurity breaches are due to the poor security practices of the end user. Hence the use of awareness raising campaigns is vital. With more and more of our lives connected to the Internet, cybersecurity is increasingly in the hands of users, not network administrators.

While, at times public awareness campaigns are splashy and attention-grabbing, the questions that are raised include: how effective are cybersecurity public awareness campaigns, how can we measure their effectiveness, what works and why, what are other mechanisms or approaches that could be used to increase public awareness, and what are the cultural and educational barriers that need to be addressed?

S/CCI is seeking proposals to identify and develop outcome measurement tools to determine what programs work, and why they work, as well as recommendations on program replication around the world.

#### Format of Final Product:

Narrative, outcome matrix, suggested data collection points, case study/modeling using the proposed indicators and measurement tools

#### Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Given the international focus of the program, Russian, German, French, Spanish, Japanese or other language skills is beneficial. Public relations, communications and marketing, cybersecurity, information technology are useful disciplines – we suggest the team be interdisciplinary as the subject matter is.

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

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*Project 37*

**Developing New Case Studies for Public-Private Partnerships**

Secretary's Bureau (S), Secretary's Office of Global Partnerships (S/GP)

Overview:

In 2009, Secretary Hillary Clinton launched the Office of Global Partnerships to create new partnerships with others to achieve our diplomacy and development objectives. As the Secretary noted, the United States would “lead by inducing greater cooperation among a greater number of actors and reducing competition, tilting the balance away from a multi-polar world and toward a multi-partner world.”

This Secretary's Office spearheads partnership development for the Secretary's priorities and provides tools for other offices and embassies to leverage creativity, innovation and core business resources of partners to achieve greater impact. S/GP has toolkit and training program to equip our diplomats with the knowledge and skills that they need to create public-private partnerships. Case studies of existing Department initiated partnerships form the backbone of the toolkit and training. This project is intended to provide the Department with updated case studies that will provide fresh perspectives on partnership development and management.

The student teams will need to interview Department staff and partners to create case studies of existing Department partnerships. Potential partnerships for case study development include: The [Global Innovation through Science and Technology \(GIST\)](#), The [Global \(LGBT\) Equality Fund, Launch, 100,000 Strong, Fishackathon](#), and many others. Each team would need to do 3 case studies.

Format of Final Product:

A 2-3 page descriptive of the partnership, including how it was formed, why the partners wanted to work together, inputs from the partners, outcomes that were derived, an analysis of the partnership governance, key take-aways for training purposes. Example is found here:

<http://www.state.gov/s/partnerships/releases/or/2009/125047.htm>

Discipline/Expertise: Students who study foreign affairs, diplomacy, corporate social responsibility and public-private partnerships will find this to be an excellent opportunity to gain more knowledge about the work of the Department and how we can do more with partners.

Comments:

For more information, please find the Secretary's Office of Global Partnerships online at: [www.state.gov/partnerships](http://www.state.gov/partnerships)

Background document: White House Best Practices Guide to Public-Private Partnerships

Follow us on twitter at: @gpatstate

Maximum Number of Projects: 4

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*Project 38*

**Systems Thinking for Diplomacy: Conceptual Mapping of U.S. Foreign Policy Priorities**

Secretary's Bureau, Office of the Senior Advisor to the Secretary of State (S/SRA)

Overview:

This project is designed to demonstrate the potential for using systems thinking as a tool to systematically expand both conceptual and analytical coherence within the Department of State, from the individual to the organizational level.

**We seek to expand strategic coherence:** can systems thinking explicitly connect the daily work of political and economic analysis conducted by individual diplomats working on specific portfolios (for specific topics, regions and countries) to the most broad strategic goals and objectives, as articulated in official documents, including the National Security Strategy, and the 2015 QDDR?

**We seek to expand structural coherence:** how can systems thinking be applied as a conceptual framework to help individuals understand the relationship between their areas of responsibility with parallel lines of foreign policy engagement, both within the State Department, and with other USG actors operating abroad?

**We seek to preserve coherence regarding differences in analysis and perspective:** how can systems thinking capture differing perspectives and systematically structure analysis of topical issues or regional equities?

**We seek to preserve knowledge continuity and coherence in the context of change:** how can systems thinking create continuity in thinking: 1) in conditions of internal change (at the level of individual professional staff, or entire leadership teams) 2) in response to contextual (external) changes, and 3) related changes in leadership priorities?

Format of Final Product:

Using an agreed-upon software format (e.g. [metamap.me](http://metamap.me)) and a visual grammar provided by systems thinking/DSRP, the final product(s) will include transferable systems mappings of the QDDR's four strategic priorities (globally) linked to any specific topical, or country level mappings. Source materials include official, publicly released documents relevant to each QDDR priority, including investment climate reports, country commercial guides, country reports on terrorism, human rights reports, budget requests, etc (available from <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/rls/dos/221.htm>), public speeches by State Department Officials (available at mission websites as well as <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/speeches/>) and FOIA-released information, available through the virtual reading room. <https://foia.state.gov/search/results.aspx> In addition, at the discretion of the research team, additional topical reports and analysis from other USG agencies (e.g. USAID, Department of

Defense, Commerce, Treasury, Agriculture, USTR); other international organizations (IMF, World Bank, OECD); and civil society organizations can be included to provide additional context and perspectives on issues falling within the QDDR strategic priority taxonomy.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Interdisciplinary approaches and expertise will be required from the following research skills and disciplinary fields:

CORE: Systems thinking, public policy analysis (foreign policy, security affairs, economics, development economics), and organizational theory.

ADDITIVE: computational linguistics, natural language processing, public sector management, international relations, political science, economics, political economy, development studies, security studies, environmental policy, and regional studies.

Comments:

This project will include respondents within the Department of State. Below the level of the QDDR, specific topical and regional prioritization will need to be determined on a mutual basis. This is a long term, cumulative project with potential for ongoing engagement over the course of multiple semesters.

Maximum Number of Projects:            5

Up to five universities (assuming that at any scale beyond one, one of the universities would assist with ensuring methodological coordination and consistency with the other university participants.)

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*Project 39*

**How to Effectively Combat Anti-Semitism in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Europe**

Secretary's Bureau, Office of Religion and Global Affairs (S/RGA)

Overview:

Jewish communities in Europe have faced a significant upsurge of anti-Semitism and, in western Europe, violence over the past few years. The killing of Jews in Paris in January 2015, the death of a volunteer Jewish security guard in Copenhagen in February, a proposed statue to a notorious World War II-era anti-Semite in Hungary, a French-Algerian dual national killing four individuals at the Brussels Jewish Museum in May 2014 and protestors in Brussels shouting "Death to Jews" in response to the conflict in Gaza, are all stark reminders that the fight against anti-Semitism is far from over. Other anti-Semitic incidents in Europe included physical assaults, firebombing of Jewish business and synagogues, verbal harassment, vandalism, and internet and media hate speech.

Two top priorities of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism (SEAS) are 1) to develop and deploy counter-narratives to combat anti-Semitism on the Internet and in social media and 2) to encourage civil society organizations to work together to publically speak out against anti-Semitism along with other forms of ethnic and religious hatred. To do this, the Office of Religion and Global Affairs proposes a project which would research and offer recommendations on one or both of the following:

**1. Countering antisemitism on social media and the Internet**

The remarkable advances in technology and social media have allowed us to grow closer to each other than ever before. But these very same technologies are also used by those who wish to divide us, to sow the seeds of their hatred and spread misinformation and lies, to incite and recruit people to nefarious causes. In the United States, we cherish and safeguard our tradition of the freedom of speech. We therefore don't enact government policies that seek to infringe the rights of individuals to express their views, even those that we consider noxious. This does not mean that we believe that hate speech ought to go simply unopposed. Rather, we believe that the best and most effective counter to hate speech is more speech, speech that counters lies with truth, hatred with understanding, and ignorance with knowledge. Which methods work (and which do not) to best counter anti-Semitic hate speech online? Students will research the work of organizations in this field such Media Diversity Institute, Licra (International League against Racism and Anti-Semitism), and CEJI (Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe) to learn about and evaluate their methodologies. They will also work with Facebook, Twitter, and Google on how tech companies take down hate speech/images and how civil society and the tech industry can better work together in this process.

**2. Civil society coalition building**

When civil society organizations work together to combat anti-Semitism, the message is amplified and their actions have a broader impact. We believe that increased success in monitoring and combating anti-Semitism is, to a large degree, based on robust coalitions. What can we do to help build and maintain coalitions? Why does coalition building work

better in some countries than others? Why are some groups resistant to working within coalitions? And lastly, how can we better promote a culture overall which fosters and encourages civil society pushback against anti-Semitic speech and hate crimes? This project will seek to answer the above questions and potentially build a platform or space to unite civil society organizations in Europe working to combat antisemitism and other forms of intolerance, xenophobia, and discrimination.

#### Format of Final Product:

Products may include, but are not limited to, **a presentation, report, or platform**. The platform, for instance, could be a webpage or Facebook page that would connect civil society organizations combating anti-Semitism in Europe to share stories and best practices while fostering a stronger sense of community.

Individuals may be invited to the State Department to deliver a presentation on their findings. The research-backed data and recommendations of this presentation will be of utmost importance for the Special Envoy, and will provide necessary talking points for meetings with foreign governments, civil society, and religious leaders as European societies grapple with increased anti-Semitism, xenophobia, and violent extremism. By developing ways to counter hate speech on the internet and to bring together organizations, groups, and individuals working on these issues, this project will help the State Department more effectively combat anti-Semitism and take pressure off beleaguered Jewish communities.

#### Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

(Not required): Understanding of Internet and social media tools and outlets—Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, etc.; practice with online counter narrative development; knowledge of current trends in anti-Semitism in Europe; Holocaust education; interest in combating hate speech and xenophobia, including anti-Semitism

#### Comments:

-Monitoring and Combating Anti-Semitism at U.S. Department of State:

<http://www.state.gov/s/rga/seas/index.htm>

-Fact sheet on anti-Semitism:

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/156684.pdf>

-Europe's Jewish population:

<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/02/09/europes-jewish-population/>

For more information on anti-Semitism in Europe, please consult the following:

- ADL Global 100: <http://global100.adl.org/>
- AJC 2014 Poll in France:  
<http://www.ajc.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=7oJILSPwFfJSG&b=8451793&ct=14345111>
- FRA Survey: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2013/discrimination-and-hate-crime-against-jews-eu-member-states-experiences-and>
- Pew Research Center: <http://www.pewglobal.org/subjects/antisemitism/>

Maximum Number of Projects: 2-3

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*Project 40*

**Branding and Marketing Strategies for Women Entrepreneurs in Latin America and the Caribbean**

Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Office of Regional Economic Policy and Summit Coordination (WHA/EPSC)

Overview:

President Obama launched the Women's Entrepreneurship in the Americas Initiative (WEAmericas) in 2012 with the goal of increasing access to markets, finance, training, and leadership opportunities for women entrepreneurs in Latin America and the Caribbean. WEAmericas has worked to achieve this goal by building public-private partnerships that lead to new opportunities and resources for women entrepreneurs that can help them grow their businesses.

Research and experience has shown that the lack of effective branding and marketing strategies often poses a significant barrier to women entrepreneurs' long-term success and ability to enter new markets. In exploring ways to overcome this challenge, one WEAmericas entrepreneur formed a successful partnership with marketing students at American University to help revise her branding and develop a marketing strategy to target the U.S. market. The partnership provided students with a pragmatic opportunity to develop and apply their knowledge and skills, while simultaneously benefitting a rising, high-impact woman entrepreneur.

Under the proposed project, staff supporting the WEAmericas Initiative will connect partnering business and marketing students from U.S. universities with up to four women entrepreneurs from Pacific Alliance countries (Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru). Students will draw on their knowledge and coursework to provide recommendations and deliverables (marketing strategy, branding tools/logo, website design support, etc.) to the women entrepreneurs as they scale their businesses to the U.S. market. We believe this project can be carried out as a class-wide assignment, as a group project exercise, or as an independent study assignment.

As an observer of the Pacific Alliance, the United States has committed to helping support entrepreneurship efforts in Pacific Alliance countries. This Diplomacy Lab proposal, if accepted, would further our commitments as an observer to the Alliance.

Format of Final Product:

A marketing strategy and accompanying branding tools (logo, website, etc.) tailored for four high-growth women entrepreneurs from Pacific Alliance countries.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Business students specializing in marketing and communications requested. Spanish-speakers welcome.

Comments:

WEAmericas Fact Sheet: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/240759.pdf>

WEAmericas IVLP Video: <http://eca.state.gov/video/womens-entrepreneurship-americas-weamericas>

WEAmericas Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WEAmericasInitiative/>

WEAmericas Twitter: [@WE\\_Americas](https://twitter.com/WE_Americas)

Maximum Number of Projects: 1-4

1 to 4 (each university could support one entrepreneur, or one university could support all 4 through up to four business/marketing classes)

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*Project 41*

**Assessing the structure and impact of the Association of Bi-National Centers of Latin America – a 160 member English and cultural program network in the Western Hemisphere.**

Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Office of Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs (WHA/PDA)

Overview:

For over six decades, Binational Centers (BNCs) have been key program partners for U.S. Embassies throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. BNCs are private, non-profit, autonomous organizations. They were in most cases established by local leaders and resident Americans to promote mutual understanding between the two countries. Historically, the State Department provided direct support to BNCs, however, much of that funding is limited today. Many BNCs have flourished thanks to revenue from English teaching, but some have struggled and a number closed their doors entirely. The quality of service now varies from center to center.

As independent institutions, the BNCs established the Association of Binational Center of Latin America (ABLA). The ABLA network serves as an umbrella organization for the exchange of information, educational best-practices, curriculum development, planning and management. A group of 12 BNC directors form ABLA Steering Committee, which oversees the Association's annual conferences.

The project will examine and assess the current ABLA structure to determine its organizational effectiveness, distill best practices to enhance its training capacity, student and community reach and sustainability. The research team should examine the role the Steering Committee plays in ABLA's management, the type of audience and marketing techniques.

Format of Final Product:

A five-page memo evaluating ABLA's capacity to serve as a best practice network of the BNC system in Latin America, and possible measures to strengthen its impact. Describe the current organizational strengths, evaluate if the current structure allow for innovation and provide the flexibility to meet the market demand. The conclusion should recommend ways to enhance the network, in addition to identifying strengths and weaknesses.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Social sciences – data analysis, marketing, consultancy. Familiarity with the region, analytical skills; Spanish and Portuguese preferred but not required.

Comments:

<http://www.ablaonline.org/bnc>

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

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*Project 42*

**The OAS Inter-American Democratic Charter: Wanted Dead or Alive?**

Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, U.S. Permanent Mission to the Organization of American States (WHA/USOAS)

Overview:

The Inter-American Democratic Charter (IADC), adopted in 2001 by unanimous consent of all OAS member states, is perhaps the most explicit expression of political commitment to democracy ever set forth by an international organization. Yet it has been formally invoked only three times. One limiting factor affecting its application is that the country in question must agree.

Recent elections in the Americas suggest the “pink tide” may be ebbing. Cuba and the United States have re-established diplomatic ties as a step toward normalization of relations. Distinct left-right divisions of the past decade are more nuanced. Does this evolving environment make the IADC more or less relevant as a tool to address the challenges faced by member states?

Project participants in Team 1 will consider the provisions of the IADC, its strengths and weaknesses, and the circumstances surrounding its invocation in 2002, 2004 and 2009. This analysis should take into account the evolving political context of the Americas since the Charter’s adoption and examine why it has not been formally invoked more often and how it could be used to greater effect, if at all.

Project participants in Team 2 will examine Cuba’s outsized political influence in the Americas, the 2009 OAS General Assembly resolution on Cuba, and the implications and likelihood of Havana resuming its participation in the OAS, given the OAS’ longstanding (rhetorical, at least) support for democracy and human rights, as exemplified by the IADC.

Finally, Teams 1 and 2 will jointly consider what it means for the future of the IADC, the OAS, and the United States, should Cuba choose to resume participation in the Organization.

Format of Final Product:

WHA/USOAS would appreciate receiving an options paper that examines current political trends in the Americas and includes recommendations to consolidate democratic gains and advance fundamental freedoms. Participants should consider if the IADC remains relevant to these foreign policy goals and, if not, should the IADC be reformed, left alone, or replaced with something else. Cuba will be an important factor, but not the sole element in determining outcomes.



Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Political Science, Foreign Affairs, Latin American History, Spanish.

Comments:

<http://www.usoas.usmission.gov/>

<http://www.oas.org/>

[https://twitter.com/Almagro\\_OEA2015](https://twitter.com/Almagro_OEA2015)

Maximum Number of Projects:            2

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*Project 43*

**The Risk Assessment Index for Security and Human Rights**

Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, Office of Security and Human Rights (DRL/SHR)

Overview:

Military units, justice institutions, and law enforcement bodies that make up the security sector exist to maintain the rule of law, protect the autonomy of States, and prevent individuals or groups from compromising the rights of others. The collective body of evidence available to policy makers suggests that certain institutions of accountability and oversight, both within government and within civil society, are critical to preventing security force misconduct, but to date, there is no diagnostic tool available for making a preliminary determination of the risk of gross violations of human rights based on the presence or absence of any of these indicators. This project aims to collect and review the known indicators of risk in one place where policy makers can assign a relative risk profile to a partner nation's security forces based on an index that includes quantitatively sound data and equally sound qualitative analysis at its foundation. This index rating can help policymakers understand how to shape security force assistance and direct attention to areas of deficiency in preliminary planning processes, and so that later field assessments can benefit from early warning and areas of necessary attention.

The team will research the available body of literature related to security sector reform to inventory the institutional, technical, and societal variables that have been assessed by credible experts and institutions (to include commissions of inquiry and other investigative bodies) as important for the prevention of and accountability for gross human rights violations. Examples may include specific technical interventions, the role of internal investigative units or the importance of policies and regulations governing security force conduct. These criteria may be grouped into sets or scorecards for various themes (such as "internal accountability mechanisms", "regulations", or "public oversight mechanisms"). Teams may wish to consider information available from the World Bank, the Geneva Center for Democratic Control of the Armed Forces, Special Rapporteurs for Torture and Combating Impunity, and the UN and related agencies, and other credible research organizations that specialize in security sector issues. Based on initial findings, students will then assign a relative weighting to the variables to develop a scoring methodology that is easily disaggregated or analyzed for its constituent parts; i.e., a total index score should also provide clues for where the partner country has strengths and weaknesses. The total relative score should provide a basic risk profile of any country and/or its security forces. The team will then demonstrate the applicability of the index by using it to remotely assess the risk quotient of a selection of security forces in countries that represent different regions of the world.

This project will be used by the human rights officers in DRL and elsewhere in the U.S. government in an effort to inform policies related to security force assistance, security sector reform, and other areas of priority for improving and professionalizing security forces and related institutions. Teams may be divided into qualitative/research focus and a statistical/ quantitative tool focus.

Format of Final Product:

The final product should be a document, to be submitted in stages throughout the semester, including:

- a. A literature review with preliminary findings
- b. A qualitative description of a set of criteria to be used in an assessment index
- c. a matrix of indicators, or an indicator assessment tool or “index”, determined by the team to be related to the presence and persistence of civilian abuse by the security sector, with explanation
- d. a section which uses the matrix to analyze case study countries in order to demonstrate relevance and applicability

The complete document does not need to be of any particular page length, but should be sufficient to include the above portions.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

This project is best suited for students participating in Political Science, International Relations, Economics, Statistics and Modeling, Conflict Management, and/or Public Policy programs who are interested in security, human rights, and quantitative and qualitative assessment methodology.

Maximum Number of Projects:            4-6

Maximum of 4 – 6 teams that could share / divide work by research and literature review; primary analysis and variable weighting; quantitative index development; model testing; etc.

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*Project 44*

**Organizational Network Analysis of OSAC Country Councils**

Bureau of Diplomatic Security, Overseas Security Advisory Council (DS/TIA/OSAC)

Overview:

The Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) is the State Department's premier public-private partnership, promoting security cooperation between American private-sector organizations operating overseas and the U.S. Department of State. Through the Country Council program, OSAC provides the private sector with a forum to share security information with U.S. diplomats overseas and OSAC's Research and Information Sharing Center (RISC). RISC staff work directly with U.S. Embassy Regional Security Officers (RSOs) and Country Council leadership to administer more than 140 Country Councils globally, with over 4,000 registered U.S. private-sector organizations.

The objective of the organizational network analysis is to examine the way information is shared in OSAC Country Councils, consider strategies to optimize information flows, and consider other possibilities for sharing security information outside of our existing networks.

Format of Final Product:

Paper format (maximum 30 pages) with 1-2 page executive summary.

Maximum Number of Projects:            2

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*Project 45*

**Emerging Security Technology applications for Country Council**

Bureau of Diplomatic Security, Overseas Security Advisory Council (DS/TIA/OSAC)

Overview:

The Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) is the State Department's premier public-private partnership, promoting security cooperation between American private-sector organizations operating overseas and the U.S. Department of State. Through the Country Council program, OSAC provides the private sector with a forum to share security information and network with industry counterparts and U.S. diplomats overseas. OSAC's Research and Information Sharing Center (RISC) staff work directly with U.S. Embassy Regional Security Officers (RSOs) and Country Council leadership to administer more than 140 Country Councils globally, with over 4,000 registered U.S. private-sector organizations.

By harnessing technology, OSAC continues to introduce digital communication tools that enhance and expand the way that security information is collected and shared within OSAC Country Councils. All of these tools are "out of the box" technology solutions aimed at optimizing communications between RISC staff, RSOs, and U.S. organizations operating overseas.

The objective of this research project is to examine the OSAC Country Council model and recommend five emerging technologies that can enhance information sharing and digital engagement for the program. Also propose strategies for introducing new technologies to OSAC constituents and RSOs.

Format of Final Product:

Paper format (maximum 30 pages) with 1-2 page executive summary.

Maximum Number of Projects:            2

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*Project 46*

**Hybrid Legal Systems: The Convergence of Common Law and Civil Law  
Legal Traditions and Implications for Global Justice Reform**

Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL/CAP), Office of Criminal Justice  
Assistance and Partnership

Overview:

Today most justice systems are best classified as hybrid legal systems. Although many were traditionally strictly civil law or common law systems, as a consequence of development these systems are converging in many areas around the globe. In the United States Louisiana provides a unique example of how a mixture of legal traditions can operate side by side with a state system rooted in the civil law tradition and a federal system based in common law. Louisiana's success in walking the common law civil law divide can serve as a great example to countries dealing with similar issues.

We request that a research team study hybrid legal systems where common law and civil law traditions successfully work in tandem. We request that the research begins by focusing on Louisiana and then chooses two examples of non-U.S. justice systems that have successfully integrated both civil law and common law components. We would like the team to examine these systems with a focus on how they can provide a model to other nations undergoing justice sector reform.

Specifically the research team should provide a brief overview of the examined common law-civil law hybrid systems and what characteristics permitted the two legal traditions to successful mix together. The research should focus on what implications these models have for other justice systems around the world with both common law and civil law influences that are going through reform.

CAP will assist in identifying countries currently seeking assistance in this area to help focus the research team's efforts.

Format of Final Product:

20 page paper- Must include 1-2 page executive summary

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Common-Civil Law hybrid systems, international justice reform, international law, Louisiana state law

Comments:

See references below for initial guidance:

<http://digitalcommons.law.lsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=6210&context=lalrev>  
[http://weblaw.usc.edu/assets/docs/contribute/83\\_3KimforWebsite.pdf](http://weblaw.usc.edu/assets/docs/contribute/83_3KimforWebsite.pdf)

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

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*Project 47*

**Police Force Development: Academic Foundation for Good Practices**

Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL/CAP), Office of Criminal Justice Assistance and Partnership

Overview:

INL is one of the few entities in the United States federal government and one of a select group worldwide that provide support, program development and funding for international police reform. As part of this task INL funds and supports International Law Enforcement Academies (ILEAs) in Bangkok, Budapest, Gaborone, Roswell-New Mexico, and San Salvador that:

- Support regional and local criminal justice institution building and law enforcement.
- Provide high-quality training and technical assistance in formulating strategies and tactics for foreign law enforcement personnel.
- Assist foreign criminal justice officials in the professionalization of their criminal justice systems in line with international standards and ethics.

Various federal, state and local law enforcement agencies provide training courses at ILEAs for regional groups of participants on advanced police skills, prosecutorial and judicial training, and advanced leadership training towards the goal of affecting organizational change within developing criminal justice systems. The ILEA program focuses on training team leaders, mid-level managers and supervisory officers, rather than on large-scale force generation.

This research project would examine and analyze the academic and criminological literature to identify Good Practices across multiple training providers, venues and curricula to provide an academic overview of Good Practices in providing training for organizational reform and development within the criminal justice sector. A critical aspect of the analysis will focus on the prioritization of training areas where institutional change can be affected through the targeted training of the smallest number of officers in a given country.

The team could examine the topic from multiple viewpoints and we are open to innovative ways to interpret the question but the key objective to identify Good Practices and lessons learned in police force development training should be addressed.

Format of Final Product:

20-30 page research paper- Must include 1-2 page executive summary

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:



International law enforcement reform, police training in underdeveloped countries, law enforcement training

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

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*Project 48*

**Corrections Systems and Local Community Public Health Implications**

Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL/CAP), Office of Criminal Justice Assistance and Partnership

Overview:

INL provides corrections support in over 30 different countries around the world. Assistance ranges from full scale development and funding of detention facilities such as jails and prisons through provision of technical assistance to corrections administrations. The tenets of INL's corrections assistance focuses on supporting the development of safe, secure, humane and transparent corrections systems. In most countries where INL operates, prisons and detention facilities are often co-located within communities and anecdotally a facility that is not safe, secure, human and transparent can have negative effects in the local community. However there is almost no research focusing on the public health effect or relationship between systems with endemic disease outbreaks and local communities.

The central question of this research study is: What are the local community implications of prison/detention facility disease outbreaks? The core focus of the study will be to examine disease outbreak reports and attempt to identify whether outbreaks occurred in prisons, spread to local communities, or if there are other vectors for disease movements on the detention facility/prison  $\leftrightarrow$  local community transmission vector. The anecdotal hypothesis is that facilities in poorly managed corrections systems have poor sanitation, inmates have poorer health outcomes and this will have negative consequences in the local community.

The study would first develop a map of disease outbreaks in detention facilities/prisons in a set of INL priority countries, identified with assistance from the INL research coordinators, and identify effects in the local communities. Concurrently the research team would look at disease outbreaks in the same set of INL priority countries and determine whether the corrections facilities were the origination point of the outbreak which spread to local communities or if corrections facilities experiences outbreaks after the local communities.

The team could examine the topic from multiple viewpoints and we are open to innovative ways to interpret the question but the key objective to develop a study that can determine whether prison facilities, detention facilities, or jail are co-located within areas of contagious disease outbreak. For example, the team could focus on case studies of Ebola transmission and whether prison populations were affected by Ebola outbreaks in local communities.

Format of Final Product:

- 1) Map of disease outbreaks in INL priority countries overlaid with detention facilities

- 2) Three-four, five to ten page, case studies of select outbreaks demonstrating disease transmission vector along the detention facility/prison  $\leftrightarrow$  local community transmission vector.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International corrections reform, re-entry issues, public health issues

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

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*Project 49*

**Developing Maintenance Cultures in UN Police Peacekeeping Missions**

Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL/CAP), Office of Criminal Justice Assistance and Partnership

Overview:

INL's International Police Peacekeeping Support Program (IPPOS) and the African Peacekeeping Rapid Response Program (APRRP) provide foundational support to formed police units (FPUs) in countries such as Rwanda, Senegal, Togo, and others partners that deploy to U.N. police peacekeeping missions around the world. Through IPPOS and APRRP, INL supports training and equipment provision to FPUs and, also, in certain cases to individual police officer (IPO) deployments. One of the key components of both programs is the focus on sustainable support which can ensure that FPUs operate as effective units past the provision of U.S. government assistance.

Due to the equipment provision support of these programs, INL is focusing on the development of cultures of maintenance in FPU units, and Police Contributing Countries (PCCs). A maintenance culture in an institution can be defined as the set of sustainable practices that enable the combination of technical, administrative, and managerial actions during the life cycle of a procured item intended for retention, or restoration to a state in which it can perform the required function. There is significant literature on developing maintenance cultures in various institutions, from police agencies to public works administrations, however there is a dearth of research focusing on maintenance culture development among security sector agencies that receive foreign assistance. In the context of U.N. Police Peacekeeping, FPUs operate under complex and dangerous conditions, and maintenance culture development may be difficult. However, keeping equipment working past the provision of foreign assistance funding would enable a greater level of efficient and effective use of U.S foreign assistance funds.

The research group for this project will develop a literature review of developing maintenance cultures in police/law enforcement/security sector institutions. The literature review will inform four to six case studies of U. N. Police Peacekeeping missions, identifying the PCCs, maintenance issues in the organizations that contribute police peacekeepers, and develop recommendations as to how to instill maintenance cultures in those organizations. Additionally, the research group could focus on maintenance culture development in U.N. Police Peacekeeping missions as the set of case studies. The INL research coordination team is open to different interpretations of the requirements.

We are open to innovative ways to tackle this question by focusing on the literature from institutional psychology, engineering, international development, and other fields. This project would benefit from a multi-disciplinary approach that incorporates multiple fields into a unified set of recommendations. The INL research coordination team will work with the research group to identify

priority countries for examination and provide assistance on police peacekeeping issues relevant to the topic.

Format of Final Product:

1. Literature review of relevant studies
2. Four to six, 5 page case studies of police contributing countries receiving U.S. foreign assistance funding for police peacekeeping activities. (Currently, Senegal, Togo, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana, and Rwanda.)

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Institutional psychology, engineering, international development, police peacekeeping, UN peacekeeping

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

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*Project 50*

**Vory z Zakone in Georgian Prisons: Development and Adaptation**

Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement, Office of Criminal Justice Assistance and Partnership (INL/CAP)/ Office of Europe and Asia (INL/EA)

Overview:

Since 2012 INL has worked to assist the Georgian criminal justice system to incorporate sound and effective correctional management in addition to supporting the Georgian criminal justice system more broadly. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Georgian criminal justice system is continually working to reduce the influence of the Soviet era *vory v zakone/Kanonieri Kurdi* (aka “thieves in law”). One major area where the *vory* exert their influence is in prison. From inside correctional facilities, *vory* are able to recruit and influence operations outside of prison walls.

In the past fifteen years a strong body of research has developed which examines Georgian organized crime and the role of the *vory* in the establishment of the Georgian state, post-1991, the historical development of the *vory*, and their role in Georgian prisons. In addition, in the past five years with the rise of ISIL in Syria and Iraq, Georgians have joined the ranks to fight alongside foreign fighters from other former Soviet countries. As an emerging problem, the intersection between organized crime and terrorism is an area in which further research is needed. Georgia’s unique history of organized crime through the *vory* and Georgian recruits in ISIL may pose serious challenges if returnees from the combat zone end up in prison.

The research team for this project would take a multi-disciplinary approach to examine the current state of the *vory v zakone* in Georgian prisons, the level of control they have within institutions, how they exert influence outside of correctional facilities, the scope of *vory* influence within the different prison populations (pre-trial or post-conviction), and whether there any intersections between the *vory* and violent extremism. In addition to an examination of the extensive literature on the *vory z zakone*, the research will need to take a creative approach to identify if there any intersections between the *vory* and Georgian radicals. This may include searching through YouTube videos and other websites, using language skills such as Russian and Georgian to examine literature in other languages or videos on other websites.

Format of Final Product:

20 page research white paper

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Georgian organized crime, transnational crime, corrections development, ISIL

Comments:

GEORGI GLONTI and GIVI LOBJANIDZE (2004), Professional'naya Prestupnost' v Gruzii. Vory-V-Zakone (Thieves-in-law. Professional Criminality in Georgia) Tbilisi: TraCCC 212 pp

Shelley, Louise I & Scott, Erik & Latta, Anthony, Organized crime and corruption in Georgia, Routledge, London

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

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*Project 51*

**Women's Inclusion in Criminal Justice Programming in the Countering  
Violent Extremism Context**

Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement, Office of Criminal Justice Assistance and Partnership (INL/CAP)

Overview:

INL promotes the inclusion of women in international criminal justice reform programs. Promoting the participation of both men and women in the criminal justice system results in a more representative system that is more likely to respond effectively to the needs of the community and increases the community's trust in the system. Building on this experience, INL seeks to better understand the role women play in criminal justice approaches to countering violent extremism (CVE) and how best to incorporate women and women's perspectives into criminal justice programming in the CVE context.

Women are both victims and perpetrators of violent extremism. INL has developed programs to address violent extremism through strengthening of criminal justice systems, with particular attention to stemming recruitment in prisons and how police and the community can partner to counter extremism. The President's Action Agenda on CVE highlighted the role of women in preventing and countering violent extremism. INL is interested in understanding the programmatic benefits of incorporating women's perspective in criminal justice programming in the CVE context and of developing criminal justice programming in the CVE context that specifically integrates women. Key research questions include: What roles do women play in criminal justice programs to counter violent extremism? How do state and non-state actors engage and build the capacity of women to counter violent extremism? What are good practices for incorporating women and women's perspective into the design, implementation, and monitoring of criminal justice programming in the CVE context? Do initiatives that incorporate women enjoy more successful outcomes in CVE?

The research team will be expected to identify CVE programs and may need to search for programs not documented in English. We are open to innovative methods to address the problem set and will work with the research team to refine methodology.

Format of Final Product:

Report of findings or 3-6 comparison case studies

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Terrorism studies, countering violent extremism, women and terrorism



Comments:

[INL Gender Guide](#)

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

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*Project 52*

**Diversification and Retention of the Police Work Force**

Office of Criminal Justice Assistance and Partnership, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL/CAP)

Overview:

Maintaining adequate police staffing and ensuring its diversification is a significant challenge currently facing law enforcement in the United States. Police are confronted by a complicated environment that involves a shrinking pool of applicants and an enlarging, mature workforce progressing towards retirement. Furthermore, law enforcement today struggles to achieve a diverse work force. A study conducted in 2008 women accounted for 11.2% of the total sworn law enforcement in the U.S. With the U.S. population comprised of 50.8% female, the number of women in law enforcement is woefully inadequate. Furthermore, in 2013 a survey showed that the total percentage of minority officers account for 27.3% of sworn law enforcement.

We would like a research team to tackle the issues of recruiting and retaining women and minorities from both a qualitative and quantitative perspective. Research methodology should include samples from federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, as well as, comparing and contrasting data from small and large jurisdictions. Key questions to be addressed:

- 1) What percentage of the force are women and minorities? What are the total numbers of each? What percentage of the applicants are women and minorities? New officers?
- 2) What are retention rates for police departments today?
- 3) What is the quality/size of the applicant pool?
- 4) What is the average tenure of women and minorities in the police departments?
- 5) What are the language capabilities of these police officers? Are their language capabilities utilized by the force in interacting with the community that they serve?

INL research coordination team can assist the research group as necessary in order to identify points of contact in police agencies and provide a letter of support for the project

Format of Final Product:

Comprehensive report utilizing uncovered data as basis (~25-30 pages) including an excel spreadsheet of all raw data collected and a summary of methodology used

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Criminal Justice, Police Studies, Sociology, Statistics, Research Methodologies

Comments:

See below for further information:

- <http://womenandpolicing.com/pdf/NewAdvantagesReport.pdf>

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

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*Project 53*

**Examining Gender-Based Violence in the Eastern Caribbean Through Civil Society and Compliance Under Convention of *Belém do Pará***

Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement, Office of Criminal Justice Assistance and Partnership (INL/CAP)/ Office of Western Hemisphere Programs (INL/WHP); U.S. Embassy  
Bridgetown / International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Section

Overview:

INL supports broad criminal justice reform in the countries of the Eastern Caribbean, including policy and programmatic efforts to reduce sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and violence against women in Eastern Caribbean nations. INL's criminal justice reform programming incorporates civil society and NGOs often as conduits of information to strengthen the development of programming and in some cases as implementers of programs. However, in many countries NGOs and civil society actors develop their own programs, often at little cost and with strong inter-community ties that create significant positive change.

Concurrent to the role of civil society in combatting GBV, in 1994, the Organization of American States ratified the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, known as the Convention of *Belém do Pará* (where it was adopted in 1994), which defined violence against women, established that women have the right to live a life free of violence and that violence against women constitutes a violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The convention called for the first time for the establishment of mechanisms for protecting and defending women's rights as essential to combating the phenomenon of violence against women's physical, sexual, and psychological integrity, whether in the public or the private sphere, and for asserting those rights within society.

This project would address SGBV through the lens of both examining what civil society has done and is currently undertaking to reduce and prevent SGBV in Eastern Caribbean countries, while simultaneously evaluating government efforts to comply with the *Belém do Pará* Convention, as well as relevant crime trends over the past three years. The primary countries of interest include: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, Dominica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Lucia.

Format of Final Product:

Individual case studies of INL priority countries. Written report not to exceed 50 pages including a one to three page case study per country based on a consistent format and an annotated bibliography.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Gender based violence, Eastern Caribbean, International convention compliance

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

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*Project 54*

**Cuba Ariba! A baseline study of Cuba's economy after normalizing relations with the United States**

Office of Policy Planning and Coordination, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA/PPC)

Overview:

The Cuba baseline project will consist of a desk study examining and analyzing existing sources of data (including the UN, ECLAC, RCC, and third countries, etc.) that provide a clear picture of the Cuban economy as it exists following resumption of diplomatic relations with the U.S. The primary focus of this study is to find data and correlations on a range of topics (for example, carbon emissions, commercial flight frequency, weather satellite nighttime imagery (showing electrification/lights), trade and travel data with other countries), and any other indicators that relate to the study. Researchers should provide a validity assessment of data sources, and include recommendations that may be most useful to determine economic effects of changes in both U.S. and Cuban diplomatic ties. This study specifically precludes travel to Cuba or interaction with the U.S. Embassy in Havana.

The goal of the study is to measure the impact of an opening (U.S.-Cuba relations) on economic mobility using systematic data analysis. The near-term benefits of the study are that it: establishes baselines and data sources for future programming, informs Department policy-making processes, and facilitates possible future assessments of the impact of the Administration's new policy. In a broader sense, U.S. activities related to Cuba, and the success or failure of a data-centric approach, can provide guidance for policy-making in other situations in which countries are opening up to greater engagement with the United States.

Format of Final Product:

The final product should be a research paper, no longer than 30 pages, with an executive summary suitable for public review, of two pages in length. A summary table of the available data points and/or statistical information should also be provided in a searchable format, including the sources of the data, the frequency of the availability of the data, and a data quality analysis. The data tables and sources will be used by the U.S. Department of State for further tracking.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

It is probable that much of the information available to satisfy this study is in Spanish. In addition to language capabilities, research teams should be able to analyze economic information that may not be entirely accurate or complete or otherwise distorted by the host government.

Comments:

Several offices within the Department of State's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs are eager to reap the benefits of the restoration of diplomatic relations with Cuba, an event that has taken more than a half century to accomplish. This is a tremendous opportunity to learn about an economy that has been hidden from view, and is at the ground floor of cooperation with the United States.

Maximum Number of Projects: 3

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*Project 55*

**Women's Participation in Peace and Security**

Bureau of Political Military Affairs, Front Office

Overview:

Provide an in-depth analysis on women's involvement in foreign militaries. Which countries provide the best opportunity for U.S. engagement to advance women's inclusion in conflict prevention, peacebuilding, security, and decision-making institutions? Examine what countries have the highest historical female participation rates and the lowest. What are obstacles to their service? What obstacles keep women from participating to a greater extent in defense institutions? What are possible paths to mitigate these obstacles? What lessons can be learned from militaries which have achieved higher participation? Predict effects and consequences of greater participation on these institutions and the larger societies.

Format of Final Product:

10 page research paper

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Government, International Relations, Gender Studies, Military Studies, Sociology

Comments:

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2012/08/196530.htm>

The U.S. Department of State Implementation Plan of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security is the Department's guiding document on advancing efforts for increased women's participation in conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts.

Teams may elect to focus their research to a specific region.

Maximum Number of Projects: 4

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*Project 56*

**Social Media's Butterfly Effect: How to Clip Terrorists' Wings Online**

U.S. Embassy Beirut, Political/Economic Section

Overview:

In one or two paragraphs, please describe the context of your project, its importance, and why the project will be useful.

Social media is used prevalently throughout Lebanon and Syria, and has been effectively used by extremist groups to spread their messaging online. Developing effective counter-messages is a key priority for U.S. Embassy Beirut and the State Department. This project will be useful to U.S. Embassy Beirut to inform our countering violent extremism (CVE) strategy.

For this project, students should identify the following:

- What is the nature and content of violent extremist messaging used online to propagate their message in Lebanon and Syria.
- Which messages in Lebanon go viral? How do these messages go viral? Is there a pattern?
- Which messages elicit the most feedback or discussion?
- Is there any effective counter messaging, particularly within Lebanon? If so, what is the nature and content of the message and what issue is the counter message addressing? If not, is there a reason why? If not, is there any effective counter messaging globally that may be applicable?
- Are there individuals who are more effective at countering the message? Who are they?

Teams should then frame a set of hypotheses as to how to effectively counter violent extremist messaging. The student researchers should then seek out case studies to “test” their hypotheses, looking for countering messages that both support and refute their hypotheses.

Format of Final Product:

A data analysis on recurring themes and patterns with a presentation on effective counter messaging.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Comments:

Language skill helpful: Arabic

Maximum Number of Projects: 3

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*Project 57*

**Energy Options for Vietnam**

U.S. Embassy in Hanoi

Overview:

Vietnam is a low-income, but quickly developing country. Its demand for power generated by the world's dirtiest fossil fuel (coal) is among the fastest growing in Southeast Asia. This project will study affordable alternatives for the USG to advocate in support of a sustainable energy policy. Right now, Vietnam is working to build more **coal** fired power plants. At this pace, by 2020, more than 50% of electricity generation will come from coal to meet its fast rising demand (growth of 11% per year) in the next 10 years. What are the consequences of this option in terms of impact on the environment, health and trade balance? Are there any better options after an analysis of cost-benefits, budget constraints, affordability of energy price? **Does it make economic sense to pursue this policy of seeking cheap electricity from coal to power an economy that's poised to be one of the fastest-growing in the world?**

Format of Final Product:

A 5-page options memo, with a cost benefit analysis of Vietnam's developing reliance on coal (which many Vietnamese feel is the most affordable fuel source in the short term) with other options in the energy field.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Strong research skills, forecasting

Comments:

The World Bank, among others, have publicly released research on Vietnam's energy sector.

Maximum Number of Projects:           4

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*Project 58*

**Benefits and Drawback of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) on Vietnam**

U.S. Embassy Hanoi, Economics Office

Overview:

The USG has been asked to present a more strategic, coherent U.S. economic vision for the ASEAN region. The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) was established in January 2016 and has the potential to be globally significant. Vietnam is one of the lesser developed members of ASEAN, but forward leaning on economic integration. In order for AEC to be a success, we must develop better understanding of its effect on Vietnam and critical changes Vietnam must make in the near term.

**Project:** Write an 8 page paper on the benefits and drawbacks the AEC will have on Vietnam.

**Goal:** 8 page research paper with a one page executive summary examining the benefits and drawbacks to Vietnam.

**Steps:** Discuss the project with the teams, monitor progress, decide a completion date, monitor progress, review final report.

Format of Final Product:

8 page research paper with a one page executive summary

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Research

Maximum Number of Projects: 4

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*Project 59*

**True U.S. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows into Vietnam in 2015**

U.S. Embassy Hanoi, Economics Office

Overview:

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is one of the most-discussed issues in our bilateral relationship, particularly Vietnam's interest in increasing U.S. FDI. Unfortunately, we don't have an accurate picture of how much the United States is investing in this country. Armed with better and more accurate numbers, we will be able to more clearly explain to our Vietnamese counterparts, U.S. businesses and third country diplomats the true size of the current American (economic) footprint in Vietnam.

**1) Project:** Determine as close as we can the true level of U.S. investment in Vietnam for 2015

**Rational:** While the U.S. is not the top FDI investor in Vietnam, TPP will attract more U.S. investment, so we need a better understanding of where the U.S. ranks in FDI

**Goal:** Report on the findings

**Steps:**

1) Pull out the U.S. invested FDI from other countries to figure out the true level of U.S. FDI in Vietnam in 2015

a) Send the student the list of 2015 FDI inflows to Vietnam.

b) Focus on inflows from: (2014 rankings )Hong Kong (#2), Singapore (3), British Virgin Islands (#6), Samoa (#11), and Caymen Islands (#18) to back out U.S. FDI routed through these countries

**Example:** In 2014 Intel invested \$1 billion dollars in Vietnam through Hong Kong. If you took out this investment, Hong Kong would stay at #2, but the U.S. would move up to #5 in the list, and that is one investment.

d) Create an Excel spreadsheet with the official 2015 FDI country ranking next to the project data

e) Spreadsheet with the list of projects and dollar amount invested organized by what country the FDI was routed through

f) Short write-up on the findings – one to two pages maximum

**Example of spreadsheet:**

Rank	Country	Total FDI	Rank	Country	Total FDI
1	South Korea	6,128.03	1	South Korea	6,128.03
2	Hong Kong	2,803.39	2	Hong Kong	1,803.39
3	Singapore	2,310.10	3	Singapore	2,310.10
4	Japan	1,209.84	4	Japan	1,209.84
5	Taiwan	512.42	5	USA	1,071.39
6	<u>British Virgin Islands</u>	398.51	6	Taiwan	512.42
7	China	253.60	7	<u>British Virgin Islands</u>	398.51
8	Malaysia	172.81	8	China	253.60
9	Canada	258.87	9	Malaysia	172.81
10	Belgium	277.16	10	Canada	258.87
11	Samoa	133.60	11	Belgium	277.16
12	USA	71.39	12	Samoa	133.60

Format of Final Product:

- 1) Executive summary of the findings
- 2) Excel spreadsheet comparing original with research numbers
- 3) Table with the U.S. company name, type of investment, and amount

Example for the table:

U.S. Company	Investment location	Investment type	Registered Country	Amount
Intel	Plant in Hai Phong	Producing microchips	Hong Kong	\$1 billion

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Research

General understanding of FDI flows

Comments:

This project should take one semester

Maximum Number of Projects: 3

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*Project 60*

**Vietnam Visa Waiver Value**

U.S. Embassy Hanoi, Economic Section

Overview:

General research suggests that visa requirements reduce trade and tourism. Vietnam allows citizens of a limited number of countries to enter visa free for 15-30 days. However, Vietnam requires U.S. citizens to have visas. This project would quantify the likely economic benefits to Vietnam if it would add the United States to its list of citizens traveling visa free.

Format of Final Product:

A research paper of no more than 20 pages providing an estimate of the likely economic impact, and a description of the method used to produce the estimate.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Economics, statistics

Comments:

The annual report of the 2015 Vietnam Business Forum, available at [vbf.org.vn](http://vbf.org.vn), provides discussion of current visa policy and its impact on tourism in Vietnam.

Maximum Number of Projects:            2

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*Project 61*

**Evaluating India's Role in the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime**

Mission India New Delhi, Economic, Environment, Science and Technology (EEST)

Overview:

The U.S.-India cyber relationship represents one of the high-points of our bilateral diplomatic relationship as the two countries discuss strategic issues relating to digital development, internet governance, information sharing, and norms of state behavior in cyberspace. Despite the positive and wide-ranging cyber interactions, joint cybercrime investigations and access to digital information remains an open issue. While there is goodwill on both sides to improve the situation, the process to request and receive electronic information is complex, cumbersome, and involves multiple stakeholders – many of whom are outside of government. Identifying ways to improve cybercrime information sharing is an important element of the U.S.-Indian cyber relationship.

India Accession to the Budapest Convention could provide India improved access to electronic information in the United States and elsewhere, although many of the benefits may be indirect. The Convention is the first international treaty addressing Internet and computer crime by harmonizing national laws, improving investigative techniques, and increasing cooperation among nations. The Treaty is implemented by Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France, with the active participation of the Council of Europe's observer states Canada, Japan, South Africa and the United States. As of September 2015, 47 states have ratified the convention, while a further seven states had signed the convention but not ratified it. There are also additional countries involved in various ways, but Brazil and India have declined to adopt the Convention on the grounds that they did not participate in its drafting.

This project will provide an independent assessment as to whether or not Indian accession to Budapest would help advance the country's efforts to request and obtain cybercrime information. The study should look at both the direct and indirect benefits of Budapest, as well as "soft power" aspects of the project to guide the world community going forward, e.g., be a party to future amendments. The project should also look at any potential negatives for India, as well as costs, resources. The effort should include perspectives from the Indian government (at both State and Federal levels) but also the pros/cons of other stakeholders, including those involved with other country's ascension experience.

Format of Final Product:

White Paper with One Page Summary of Findings and PowerPoint Presentation.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Law or law enforcement student

Comments:

The Council of Europe has developed a summary of why India should accede, but this is not an independent assessment. That document is attached.

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

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*Project 62*

**Immigrant and Refugee Integration: Mobile Solutions for Mobile Populations**

Tri-Mission Italy - Information Resource Management (IRM)

Overview:

Researching existing online resources available for assisting with immigrant integration and refugee support. There are sporadic online locations popping up around the globe but a coordinated effort has yet to be achieved.

The goal of this project proposal is to develop an all-inclusive catalog of online sites available where immigrants and refugees can visit to understand resources available to them no matter what country they are in (Tri-Mission Italy's focus is mainly Europe but we don't want to limit the possibilities). Most immigrants and refugees access online data through smartphones so online resource discovery should keep this in mind.

If this proposal is selected, we can provide specific areas of interest based on refugee interviews.

Format of Final Product:

The ultimate goal would be a mobile enabled website for crowdsourcing future collaboration on maintaining the space. However, in the interest of time management a well-organized research paper would be sufficient.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Students interested in population migration and web research would be ideal. However, we are open to any students that are interested in tackling one of the planet's biggest challenges right now.

Comments:

I've attached a research paper conducted by Tanya St George for the Joel Nafuma Refugee Center ([www.jnrc.it](http://www.jnrc.it)) in Rome, Italy.

I've also attached the White House's Call to Action for Partnership for Refugees engagement (<http://www.partnershipforrefugees.org>).

Maximum Number of Projects:            3

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*Project 63*

**Opportunities for Reform in Myanmar's Conflict Economy: Researching Options for Natural Resource Governance in Myanmar**

U.S. Embassy Rangoon, Political/Economic Section

Overview:

Myanmar has an abundance of world-renowned natural resources including jade, rubies and other valued gemstones. It is estimated that Myanmar is the source of 90% of the world's best jade and 80% of the world's best rubies. However, years of military rule and an isolated economy has resulted in an opaque sector, a lack of understanding about how the sector works, and an increasing body of evidence regarding the 'real' value of gems to the economy. A number of initiatives are underway to help Myanmar's newly democratic government reform its jade and gemstone sector including the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and research being carried by both Myanmar and international organizations such as the Myanmar Center for Economic and Social Development, Natural Resource Governance Institute and Global Witness.

Current dialogues focus on what efforts the government should pursue to increase transparency in and responsible management of this sector, but questions remain on how Myanmar should approach natural resource management and revenue sharing, whether from a national or federal perspective. Some stakeholders point to examples of resource management and revenue sharing around the world, but there is very little literature on what sort of models Myanmar should consider. The U.S. Embassy in Rangoon would like to work with University researchers to look at the various resource and financial management systems around the world and identify appropriate model(s) for the government of Myanmar to consider. The Embassy also notes that jade and gemstones do not have to be approached as one sector, but could be approached separately if there is a body of evidence showing that a two-prong approach would be more beneficial than approaching it as one sector. Research could also examine opportunities to develop a "mine to market" value chain including opportunities to develop a lapidary, cutting, polishing, treatment and jewelry production industry in Myanmar.

Format of Final Product:

The U.S. Embassy requests a short options memo, potentially with case studies, to be discussed within the U.S. Department of State and to be presented to the government of Myanmar. An options memo would be best accompanied by a power point presentation to help convey the recommended actions.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Any of the following disciplines would prove useful in carrying out this research: natural resource economics, geology, gemology, environmental economics, economic development, peace and conflict studies, etc.

Comments:

The U.S. Embassy suggests that students look at the following reports for more information on jade and gemstone sector in Myanmar:

- Global Witness Report on Jade Sector “Jade: Myanmar’s Big State Secret”  
<https://www.globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/oil-gas-and-mining/myanmarjade/>
- Myanmar Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative January 2016 Report and supplemental report on the Gemstone Sector <http://myanmareiti.org/>
- Research undertaken by the Natural Resource Governance Institute:  
<http://www.resourcegovernance.org/our-work/country/myanmar>
- ASH Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation paper: “A Grand Bargain: What It Is and Why It Is Needed” [http://ash.harvard.edu/files/ash/files/a\\_grand\\_bargain\\_8-15-2016.pdf](http://ash.harvard.edu/files/ash/files/a_grand_bargain_8-15-2016.pdf)

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

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*Project 64*

**Energy to Burn: Using Renewable Energy to Help Malaysia Meet Climate Change Commitments**

US Embassy Kuala Lumpur. ECON

Overview:

*Objective:* This project would explore ways to help Malaysia meet its climate change commitments by increasing its use of renewable energies, such as solar and wind.

*Background:* At the Paris COP-21 conference, Malaysia pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions intensity by 45% by 2030. More significantly, it recognized the need to address climate change as part of its development strategy, and has enacted national plans aimed at sustainable, green development, such as its National Green Technology Policy. Malaysia is at a pivotal moment to pursue its aspiration of high-income status while striving for the greener development the country's leaders have pledged to pursue.

Malaysia is also one of Asia's largest oil and gas producers. Oil and gas contributes around 20 percent to the country's GDP and represent a major source of government revenue. The country has also turned to coal to meet its growing energy needs, with coal currently accounting for 45 percent of mainland Malaysia's energy supply. Renewable energy remains at a nascent stage due to a lack of government incentives and commitment; it is unlikely to take off in the current low oil price environment. Therefore, now is the time to get Malaysia to focus more on renewable energy and reduce its dependence on fossil fuels, especially coal.

Format of Final Product:

Research paper focusing on 1) the state of renewable energy in Malaysia; 2) ways to encourage renewable energy here (government incentives, policy tools, role of private sector); and, 3) recommended avenues of diplomatic engagement for U.S. policymakers to assist and encourage progress on this front.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Some expertise in energy economics required.

Comments:N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

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*Project 65*

**Sustainable Palm Oil: Moving Malaysia's Cash Crop to Adopt Stricter Environmental Sustainability Standards**

US Embassy Kuala Lumpur. ECON

Overview:

*Objective:* This project would explore ways to incentivize Malaysia's lucrative palm oil industry to adopt greater accountability and more stringent standards on environmental sustainability. Some examples of such standards are the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil and the independently assessed reviews that underpin eligibility for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Renewable Fuel Standard Program.

*Background:* Malaysia is the world's second-largest producer of palm oil, a crop often described as "liquid gold" for its increasing demand and multiple uses in food and consumer products. Over the years, the country's industry has come under increasing scrutiny for its effect on the environment. The matter of the open burning of felled palm trees, combined with the air-polluting haze this activity generates, is a perennial irritant for Malaysia and its neighbors. Although Malaysian officials deflect criticism by laying the blame on Indonesia's environmentally harmful practices, many of the palm oil companies generating the smoke are headquartered in Malaysia. Other salient consequences of the expansion of palm plantations have been the deterioration of biodiversity and the concomitant narrowing of animal habitats. Nevertheless, no consistent or reliable data is widely available to shed light on the proportion of palm oil that is produced in an environmentally sustainable way. This is an issue with regional and international implications, as it affects neighboring Indonesia (the world's top producer of palm oil) and nearby Singapore (which is disproportionately affected by the haze).

Format of Final Product:

A credible, academic analysis of the competing palm oil certifications (RSPO, CSPO, MSPO). The analysis should also incorporate climate change ramifications (i.e. Malaysia meeting COP-21 commitments) of not reducing the current rate of burning. The analysis can also highlight the extent that certification labels are relevant to buyers in key export markets, such as the United States, Europe, China and India. Finally, the analysis should evaluate current incentives (and propose new ones as applicable, based on other sustainable agricultural initiatives in the region/world) that foster increased sustainable production and membership in certification regimes, and any barriers that remain to be addressed.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: N/A

Comments: N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

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*Project 66*

**Prosecution of Atrocity-Related Crimes in Africa: Hybrid and Domestic Justice System Approaches**

Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement, Office of Criminal Justice Assistance and Partnership (INL/CAP)

Overview:

INL/CAP requests a research team to examine the hybrid and domestic justice mechanisms used to investigate and prosecute serious crimes in Africa. Hybrid justice systems refer to mixed legal mechanisms which incorporate international legal justice systems in domestic African justice systems.

These crimes include the recognized crimes under the Rome Statute from the International Criminal Court (ICC), namely genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. We are interested in hybrid and domestic mechanisms *excluding* ICC involvement in Africa. Instead, our interest is the focus on hybrid and domestic justice mechanisms –mechanisms established by domestic and international actors jointly (e.g., Special Court for the Central African Republic), or instances where a special tribunal or chamber was added to the existing domestic African country justice system.

The research should address:

- (1) the reason why these mechanisms were established;
- (2) background information on their structure; and
- (3) information on the mechanism's effectiveness or lack thereof.

Format of Final Product:

Case studies of hybrid and domestic justice mechanisms. Number to be determined through joint discussion with INL/CAP and the research team.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: War crimes prosecution, African justice systems, international criminal justice

Comments: N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

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*Project 67*

**Police Anti-Corruption Reform in Mexico**

Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement, Office of Criminal Justice Assistance and Partnership (INL/CAP) / Office of Western Hemisphere Programs (WHP)

Overview:

INL has worked closely with the Government of Mexico on law enforcement oversight and accountability. As the relationship between Mexico and the United States continues to mature, we are interested in exploring varied paths in law enforcement anti-corruption reform efforts to examine reforms initiated and led by Mexican agencies, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and sub-diplomatic engagement by non-state and civil society actors.

The research team would identify a set of Mexican government agencies and through case study analysis identify the corruption issues in the agency, reforms undertaken by the agency or other actors, and the effectiveness of the efforts. The research team should also be prepared to provide recommendations to INL regarding specific agencies to examine through initial review of the literature.

Finally, the research team will develop policy suggestions and proposals to lead to increased effectiveness of law enforcement anti-corruption reforms.

INL will work closely with the team to provide contacts and resources to support the research as available.

Format of Final Product:

Research report with case studies of Government of Mexico agency anti-corruption reforms.  
Executive summary with policy recommendations

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Anti-corruption efforts, law enforcement corruption, government corruption, corruption reform, corruption in Mexico

Comments: N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

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*Project 68*

**Comparative Analysis of Pre-Trial Detention and Alternatives**

Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement, Office of Criminal Justice Assistance and Partnership (INL/CAP)

Overview:

The United States' population of inmates in pre-trial status during 2014 was 480,000, constituting 23% of the total incarcerated population. In a majority of countries studied by the Institute for Criminal Policy Research, the proportion of the total prison population who are in pre-trial/remand status is between 10% and 40%. But pre-trial/remand prisoners constitute more than 40% of the prison population in about half the countries of Africa and the Americas and in South Central and Western Asia.

In many countries, including the United States, monetary bail continues to be the only option for all types of defendants to live in the community during trial proceedings. This system leaves economically disadvantaged pre-trial detainees with little option of release during their case. While certain jurisdictions in the United States have established a non-monetary bail system, such as the District of Columbia, most jurisdictions still require monetary bail.

INL/CAP requests that a comparative study examine different systems (within the United States and internationally) that utilize non-monetary forms of pre-trial release to identify evidence based best practices that would facilitate INL/CAP's work in the field of alternatives to pre-trial detention. This study could focus on, but not be limited to subjects such as:

- Laws governing the legal foundation of alternatives to pre-trial detention
- Agencies responsible implementing alternatives to pre-trial detention
- The utilization of alternatives to pre-trial detention by judges
- Comparison of income of defendants to historical average monetary bail amount for the crime accused
- Rates of defendants returning to court on their own recognizance when placed on an alternatives program
- Use of technology such as electronic monitoring

INL/CAP will assist the research team with identifying countries of particular interest to INL, subjects that are relevant to INL programming, research methodology, and we are open to a discussion regarding the scope and focus of the final product.

Format of Final Product:

Written Report not to exceed 50 pages

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Pre-Trial Detention/Human Rights/Alternatives to Incarceration/Judicial Processes



Comments: Experts within INL/CAP are available for consultations to identify US systems, countries, and other starting points.

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

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*Project 69*

**Addiction Treatment Worldwide: Data Should Point the Way on US Foreign Assistance Across the Globe**

Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) Office of Policy Planning and Coordination (INL/PC) Drug Demand Reduction team and the Office of Resource Management (INL/RM) Program Assistance and Evaluation (INL/RM/PA&E)

Overview:

The mission of the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) is to minimize the impact of international crime and illegal drugs. INL's Office of Policy Planning and Coordination (INL/PC) is responsible for strategic planning, all public affairs work within the bureau, policy formulation, and engagement with international organizations. PC's Drug Demand Reduction team fosters global public health by promoting access to addiction prevention programs and addiction treatment worldwide. The team leads efforts to develop global standards and norms, in addition to coordinating technical assistance.

INL seeks to maximize foreign assistance investments through data-driven strategic planning. The goal of this project is to collect data on the availability of addiction treatment globally. The data will subsequently be augmented with population estimates and where INL already has an intervention underway to identify underserved areas that would most benefit from U.S. foreign assistance.

The project will collect data on all addiction treatment centers around the world. The team will identify the locations that have been tagged in Google Maps as addiction treatment centers and extract the data from a Google API using a method of their choice, such as Python or R. The data for each treatment center should include the country, province, city, name, address, and contact information.

Format of Final Product:

The final product will be a single spreadsheet, preferably in Excel format, of all the treatment center data stacked by country.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: This is an excellent opportunity for students in computer science or similar fields who want to practice collecting digital data from APIs for social science research, coding in a language of your choice, and creating data-driven policy recommendations. Additionally, the team would benefit from someone with a background in statistics.

Comments: We welcome additional data sources other than Google or suggestions for changing the methodology. We recognize that a single (or even multiple) source(s) will not include a

comprehensive picture of all addiction treatment centers globally, but this will at least provide an indicator of availability.

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

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*Project 70*

**The Role of Technology In International Relations**

eDiplomacy IRM/BMP/eDip

Overview:

This project involves looking at technology as it relates to diplomacy and foreign/international relations. The Office of eDiplomacy is tasked with innovative solutions to using technology internally within the Department of State. This project takes a wider view, looking at the way technology has been, is being, or could be used to as an innovative force within the global foreign affairs environment.

This is a relatively new area of inquiry. New, innovative and rapidly changing technology is changing global human interaction. This project asks participants to look at work that has been done in this area, but more importantly, to examine new trends and come up with original thinking on the subject.

Format of Final Product:

The ideal deliverable would be articles or case studies (magazine feature length) or academic papers that advance thinking in this new field.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Foreign affairs, diplomacy, international relations, communications technology.

Comments: This project is geared toward work that could be accomplished in one semester, however there may be scope to collaborate on additional work on this topic on an ongoing basis.

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

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*Project 71*

**Business Case for Climate Change Adaptation: Making The Case for Private Sector Investment in Resilience**

Office of Global Change (OES/EGC)

Overview:

While the business case for climate change mitigation, shifting public and private sector investment away from fossil fuel energy sources and towards cleaner energy sources, has become clearer over the last decade, it has been harder to make the case for investing in more climate-resilient infrastructure and more resilient supply chain management. While governments and companies increase funding for research and development in energy efficiency and improve the enabling environment for greener investments, there is less understanding of the policy reform and targeted investments needed to safeguard development gains in key economic sectors including agriculture, water resources management, industry, energy, etc. We know that public funding alone will not be enough to climate-proof these sectors against the anticipated, adverse impacts of climate change, including droughts, floods, storm surge and sea-level rise. As such, it is critical that the private sector recognizes, or is incentivized to recognize, the value of investing in increased resilience. In other words, we need to make the business case for climate change adaptation.

The main objective of this project is to identify actions the public government can take to incentivize the private sector to bring its strengths in identifying new business opportunities, creating new markets, and recognizing and managing risk, all of which are critical to ensuring resilient businesses and communities in the face of climate change.

Format of Final Product:

A four-page options memo (with policy recommendations) and a presentation

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Economics, public policy, finance, natural resources management

Comments: N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

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*Project 72*

**Powersharing In International Peace Agreements**

Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations, Office of Analysis, Planning, Programming and Learning (CSO/APPL)

Overview:

Forty-two percent of peace agreements fail within the first five years. Even strong agreements, those that are inclusive and have robust ceasefire provisions, can fail during implementation for a number of reasons. CSO is working to ensure that U.S. diplomats have access to best practices and expertise on peace processes to enhance the outcome of negotiations and final agreements. CSO has designed and funded approximately \$10.6 million in peace support programs and has also identified experts in areas such as transitional security, power-sharing, and ceasefire monitoring to support U.S. diplomats and embassies as they navigate complex peace negotiations and implementation.

This project will help build knowledge about best practices and lessons learned around power sharing in peace agreements. It aims to help diplomats understand the various types of power sharing arrangements and the conditions under which they have succeeded and failed. It will examine case studies of countries that have negotiated and implemented power sharing arrangements and will examine the outcomes of such arrangements. It will also focus on understanding what happens to power sharing arrangements over time. How long have they lasted? And how have countries transitioned out of problematic power sharing arrangements?

Format of Final Product:

A research paper, policy paper, data analysis and/or presentation

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: International Relations, Peacebuilding, Conflict Resolution, Negotiation, Mediation, International Law

Comments: N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

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*Project 73*

**International Best Practices of Peer Review**

Office of Science and Technology Cooperation, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

Overview:

The question: What are the best current peer review systems for small/medium/developing countries that can be emulated across borders?

Background: Science and Technology is one of the tools the United States can leverage to promote foreign policy objectives around the world. Science and Technology is a great tool because American science relies on values that we use to form our view of the world. Believing in transparency and merit based systems are two examples among many. Many countries would like to learn from our science system which opens the door for these discussions and issues. However, our science system is neither user friendly for other countries to “plug into” nor is it easily replicable which is an issue we wrestle with constantly. Also, building international collaboration relies on sharing some basic understanding of how our system compares to other systems.

Part of this is understanding how different countries conduct research, and a major part of science research is the mechanism of peer review. Peer review is how scientists check each other’s work to ensure the best science is published. The American system for this is we do all our own peer review within the American science community. The depth and breadth of our science community allows for this without conflict of interests. However, smaller and developing countries do not have this capability. Different countries tackle this problem in different ways. However, there is limited literature on the pros and cons of these different approaches. Yet, this is an important issue to the responsible conduct of research and building these scientific relationships across borders. This knowledge would allow for better science engagement across many countries and improve the effectiveness of science and technology as we use it to pursue foreign policy objectives.

Format of Final Product:

Presentation with informational paper

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: This is a cross discipline project that requires an understanding of the scientific community and public policy.

Comments: N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 3

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*Project 74*

**US Public Diplomacy and Cross Cultural Exchanges – Design an Exchange Visitor Program for International Students Aged 18 to 26**

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs | Office of Private Sector Exchange | Office of Exchange Coordination and Compliance (ECA/EC/ECC)

Overview:

The Office invites a project team to assess the programmatic preferences and attitudes of international university students (i.e., international students who have come to the US to study) for the Department’s private sector Exchange Visitor Program (EVP), and asks that team members design a private sector exchange program utilizing the collected survey data and other sources from research. The Office requests that the project team design an exchange program for adults aged 18 to 26 with the greatest potential to “build-in” participant satisfaction and to grow a multiplier effect on the Department’s public diplomacy mission “to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries through educational and cultural exchanges” (as defined in the Fulbright-Hays Act of 1961 [as amended]).

Project members would gather information on international student program preferences utilizing survey instruments of the team’s design, and administer the survey to international student populations at the host university. Project members would also conduct a comparative analysis to detect emerging trends in the EVP utilizing the results of the student surveys, the Code of Federal Regulations that govern the EVP (22 C.F.R. Part 62), research of the current exchange visitor program marketplace, relevant industry practices, and other materials as appropriate.

Format of Final Product:

Project members will deliver a 30 to 45 minute presentation on their research to decision makers in the Office of Private Sector Exchange and provide for the Office’s review and consideration an eight to 15 page paper discussing the team’s findings, as well as a design for an exchange visitor program tailored to international populations ages 18 to 26.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: The Office encourages university students and faculty specializing in International Affairs and Relations, Public Policy and Administration, Political Science, or related fields, and with experience or interest in program evaluation and survey instrument design and analysis to consider this opportunity.

Comments: The Office highly encourages original, creative, and innovative thinking in the design of an exchange visitor program, as the information and practices generated during this exercise may inform the Office’s internal processes.

Maximum Number of Projects: 3

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*Project 75*

**Energy Development Governance and Social Consultation in the Western Hemisphere**

Energy Resources, Energy Transformation, Office of Electricity and Energy Efficiency (ENR/ETR/EEE) / Energy Resources, Energy Diplomacy, Office of Europe, Western Hemisphere & Africa (ENR/EDP/EWA) / Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Office of Economic Policy and Summit Coordination (WHA/EPSC) / Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Office of Policy Planning and Coordination (WHA/PPC)

Overview:

In Central America, energy (and other) natural resources are often located in socially and environmentally sensitive areas, including indigenous lands. As disparate groups of stakeholders intersect on crucial energy and development issues, the Energy Resources Bureau is exploring ways to improve consultations with affected communities, especially indigenous peoples who are sometimes marginalized in energy decision-making processes. While hydropower projects are particularly sensitive and tend to result in more social conflict, ENR is interested in all energy sector and infrastructure projects.

To improve the consultative process and energy sector governance, the project for university participants would involve researching and identifying the NGO / civil society communities in the Western Hemisphere that are involved in these processes, and finding examples or case studies of governments engaging effectively with civil society and affected communities throughout the project lifecycle. Students could also identify private energy companies that are believed to have shown strong Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and community engagement. The goal is to identify potential partners who would be able to provide “promising practices” within this space.

Format of Final Product:

Identify a list of stakeholders, a short paper (3-4 pages) on examples of engagement on these issues, and a final presentation to be used for subsequent meetings in the region.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Academic and/or professional energy background, knowledge of international labor, environmental, and social engagement laws, Spanish speakers a plus.

Comments: Background reading on ILO: <http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/indigenous-tribal/lang--en/index.htm>

Focus Countries: Central America, Peru, Chile, Canada, United States, Colombia, and Bolivia

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

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*Project 76*

**Religion and Social Change in Global Affairs**

Secretary's Office of Religion and Global Affairs

Overview:

The Secretary's Office of Religion and Global Affairs (S/RGA) at the U.S. Department of State recognizes that religious actors across the globe drive and shape social change. What does this social change look like? Who are the different types of religious actors leading this work?

This Diplomacy Lab project will invite up to two university teams to partner with S/RGA to conduct research on present day and historic examples of social change led by religious actors (including non-clergy, women and youth) on a range of issues including LGBTI rights, women's advocacy, environmental sustainability, peacebuilding, social entrepreneurship and conflict mediation. This research will be drafted into a set of thematic case studies to be used by S/RGA as a training tool for the Department of State.

Format of Final Product:

A set of 7-10 case studies on thematic issues related to religion and global affairs. Length and format of case studies will be discussed with participating university teams.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Religious studies, political science, anthropology, sociology, international relations, or other disciplines.

Comments: Please read the following articles for more information about the Office of Religion and Global Affairs.

- [The Central Role of Religion in Diplomacy](#)
- [What's Religion Have to Do with Climate Change?](#)
- [When Religious Leaders Fight for Social Justice](#)

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

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*Project 77*

**The Global Impact of Interfaith Youth Work**

Secretary's Office of Religion and Global Affairs

Overview:

In 2015, the Secretary's Office of Religion and Global Affairs (S/RGA) at the U.S. Department of State launched a pilot initiative called the Days of Interreligious Youth Action (DIYA) which encouraged U.S. embassies and consulates to recognize the work of diverse youth leaders from religious and non-religious backgrounds to address local and global challenges. DIYA provided one model of engagement, but interfaith partnerships between youth groups and leaders can be found all over the world and include a variety of activities such as community action, dialogue, joint educational ventures, and visits to houses of worship or other interfaith and cultural exploration.

This Diplomacy Lab project invites university teams to help broaden the DIYA initiative by exploring a wider variety of approaches, models, and best practices for interfaith youth initiatives. Teams will develop research and analysis on methodologies for interfaith youth work from across the globe. Students will identify a set of approaches and methodologies in conversation with S/RGA and then conduct research and analysis to identify strengths and weaknesses of these approaches, as well as examples of these approaches from various countries and regions.

Format of Final Product:

A research and analysis paper on 10-15 methodologies and approaches to global interfaith youth work. Length and format of paper will be discussed with participating university teams.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Religious studies, youth development, education, political science, anthropology, sociology, international relations, or other disciplines.

Comments: Please read the following articles for more information about the Office of Religion and Global Affairs.

- [Together, Interreligious Youth Take Actions to Change the World](#)
- [Interfaith Cooperation: Promoting Peace in the Middle East](#)
- [The Central Role of Religion in Diplomacy](#)

Maximum Number of Projects:            2

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*Project 78*

**Avoiding A Gaza War: U.S. Strategies for Dealing With The Conflict**

Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs (IPA) / Bureau of Near East Affairs (NEA)

Overview:

Israel launched combat operations in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip in 2014. Thousands died. And the destruction to housing, power, water, sanitation, and health infrastructure still threatens to make Gaza “unlivable,” according to the United Nations. Many of the factors leading to the conflict – and conflicts in Gaza that preceded 2014 – continue today, and observers are warning of the real threat of renewed conflict that could be even more destructive. **What strategic steps can the United States take to avoid a return to full-scale conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza? And what strategic steps could the United States take if full-scale conflict between Israel and Hamas reignites?** Project participants could be expected to design strategic models to answer both questions, taking into account conditions on the ground: terrorism, human rights, refugees through the lens of diplomacy, development and security.

Format of Final Product:

A 4 page options memo by each team and a presentation by each team.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Political Science, International Relations, Middle East Studies, Negotiations

Comments: There are numerous open source reports about current conditions in Gaza. For details about the Department of State’s efforts, the following links may be helpful:

U.S. Israel Relations: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3581.htm>

Palestinian Territories <http://www.state.gov/p/nea/ci/pt/index.htm>

Maximum Number of Projects: 4

Project1: A U.S. Grand Strategy for Avoiding a Return to War in Gaza (two teams working independently)

Project2: A U.S. Grand Strategy for Deescalating a War in Gaza (two teams working independently)

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## *Project 79*

### **The Risk Assessment Index for Security and Human Rights**

Office of Security and Human Rights, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL/SHR)

#### Overview:

Military units, justice institutions, and law enforcement bodies that make up the security sector exist to maintain the rule of law, protect the autonomy of States, and prevent individuals or groups from compromising the rights of others. The collective body of evidence available to policy makers suggests that certain institutions of accountability and oversight, both within government and within civil society, are critical to preventing security force misconduct, but to date, there is no diagnostic tool available for making a preliminary determination of the risk of gross violations of human rights based on the presence or absence of any of these indicators. This project aims to collect and review the known indicators of risk in one place where policy makers can assign a relative risk profile to a partner nation's security forces based on an index that includes quantitatively sound data and equally sound qualitative analysis at its foundation. This index rating can help policymakers understand how to shape security force assistance and direct attention to areas of deficiency in preliminary planning processes, and so that later field assessments can benefit from early warning and areas of necessary attention.

The team will research the available body of literature related to security sector reform to inventory the institutional, technical, and societal variables that have been assessed by credible experts and institutions (to include commissions of inquiry and other investigative bodies) as important for the prevention of and accountability for gross human rights violations. Examples may include specific technical interventions, the role of internal investigative units or the importance of policies and regulations governing security force conduct. These criteria may be grouped into sets or scorecards for various themes (such as "internal accountability mechanisms", "regulations", or "public oversight mechanisms"). Teams may wish to consider information available from the World Bank, the Geneva Center for Democratic Control of the Armed Forces, Special Rapporteurs for Torture and Combating Impunity, and the UN and related agencies, and other credible research organizations that specialize in security sector issues. Based on initial findings, students will then assign a relative weighting to the variables to develop a scoring methodology that is easily disaggregated or analyzed for its constituent parts; i.e., a total index score should also provide clues for where the partner country has strengths and weaknesses. The total relative score should provide a basic risk profile of any country and/or its security forces. The team will then demonstrate the applicability of the index by using it to remotely assess the risk quotient of a selection of security forces in countries that represent different regions of the world.

This project will be used by the human rights officers in DRL and elsewhere in the U.S. government in an effort to inform policies related to security force assistance, security sector reform, and other areas of priority for improving and professionalizing security forces and related institutions. Teams may be divided into qualitative/research focus and a statistical/ quantitative tool focus.

#### Format of Final Product:

The final product should be a document, to be submitted in stages throughout the semester, including:

- a. A literature review with preliminary findings
- b. A qualitative description of a set of criteria to be used in an assessment index
- c. a matrix of indicators, or an indicator assessment tool or “index”, determined by the team to be related to the presence and persistence of civilian abuse by the security sector, with explanation
- d. a section which uses the matrix to analyze case study countries in order to demonstrate relevance and applicability

The complete document does not need to be of any particular page length, but should be sufficient to include the above portions.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: This project is best suited for students participating in Political Science, International Relations, Economics, Statistics and Modeling, Conflict Management, and/or Public Policy programs who are interested in security, human rights, and quantitative and qualitative assessment methodology.

Comments: N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 4

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*Project 80*

**A New Approach To Promoting Human Rights in Security Assistance**

Office of Security and Human Rights, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL/SHR)

Overview:

The university team will play a leadership role in developing and implementing a new approach to human rights and civilian protection within U.S. security assistance. The responsible behavior of partner nations, including complying with their human rights obligations under international and domestic law, is key to both U.S. national security interests and the success of our foreign partners. The U.S. government currently addresses these concerns in a number of ways. The Leahy law, for example, prohibits U.S. training to units and individuals found to be involved in gross violations of human rights – including extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearance, torture, and rape – in order to promote accountability and leverage political pressure with our security partners. Human rights training, a required component of security assistance, is another way to proactively influence partners to reduce gross violations of human rights. However, some indicators suggest that U.S. human rights training is less effective than it could be, with training efforts often falling short of their goals and with few clear and reliable metrics to measure success.

We therefore challenge the university team to conduct a focused data-driven research project to identify the best practices for influencing partner security force behavior and compile a set of policy and strategic action recommendations for improving the effectiveness of human rights and civilian protection promotion within the vast enterprise of U.S. security assistance. This research will focus on three key U.S. partners where this is a challenge, to be selected in conjunction with the State team. For each country, researchers will survey USG policy priorities for these countries, identify current U.S. initiatives that directly or indirectly influence security force behavior and human rights compliance, and research potential best practices for positively influencing security forces. These practices should include a mix of tactical training, institution building, and diplomacy. The team will also examine trends for each partner, examining the level and types of gross violations of human rights reported for each partner over time. This research will culminate in tailored recommendations for policy and action for each partner country for improving human rights training, as well as proposed measures of effectiveness to be used to evaluate the efficacy of such training. Common elements of the observations and recommendations for the three partners can be used to suggest overarching policy and action recommendations for U.S. security assistance efforts worldwide.

Format of Final Product:

The final product should be a document, to be submitted in stages throughout the semester, including:

- a. For each focus country, a summary of U.S. policy interests, as well as current U.S. initiatives designed to improve security force behavior and reduce human rights violations.
- b. A survey of potential best practices for positively influencing partners that could be included in U.S. security assistance efforts.

- c. Trends for human rights violations for each partner: the overall level and specific types of human rights violations observed by each partner over a period of time (e.g., at least 10 years), both at the national level and by geographic region.
- d. Tailored recommendations for policy and action for each partner country for improving human rights training, as well as proposed measures of effectiveness to be used to evaluate the efficacy of such training.
- e. Policy and action recommendations for improving human rights training within overall U.S. security assistance efforts.

The complete document does not need to be of any particular page length, but should be sufficient to include the above portions.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: This project is best suited for students participating in Political Science, International Relations, Economics, Statistics and Modeling, Conflict Management, and/or Public Policy programs who are interested in security, human rights, and quantitative and qualitative assessment methodology.

Comments: N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: N/A

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*Project 81*

**Climate Partners Brazil: Promoting Sustainable Development Around the Globe**

U.S. Consulate General in Recife, Brazil (Pol/Econ Section)

Overview:

This project would connect U.S. and Brazilian professors and students working on issues of sustainable development. Many campuses around the world are thinking about how to integrate their academic work to address the climate change challenge, but this project would enrich the discussion by facilitating an international exchange of ideas. The selected U.S. partner(s) would work with the University of Pernambuco's (UPE) Sustainable Development Group located in Northeast Brazil to share project ideas, activities, and research in the field of sustainable development. UPE's Sustainable Development Group is headed by the Engineering school, but is interdisciplinary, and works on a range of projects including water conservation, renewable energy, recycling, and green architecture. The final product would be a 5-page paper that outlines joint challenges and potential solutions. This project would help advance our Climate Change Goals in Brazil and serve as a model for cooperative academic projects on sustainable development around the world.

Format of Final Product:

The final product would be a 5-page paper that outlines joint challenges and potential solutions.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: No particular discipline is required, but most of the students and professors from the Brazilian University come from the civil, electrical, energy and computer engineering programs. Portuguese language skills are always welcome, but not required. The head of the group studied at the University of Pittsburg and Colorado State University and speaks perfect English. Most of the students/professors speak basic English.

Comments: N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

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*Project 82*

**HIV Research In Russia: State of Play**

U.S. Embassy Moscow, Office of Environment, Science, Technology and Health

Overview:

HIV/AIDS in Russia has reached epidemic proportions, and the research community has a critical role to play in addressing the crisis. We need to support and encourage scientists who study HIV in its many clinical, epidemiological, and social aspects. Before we can do that, however, we need to identify the gaps in current research -- this is where we need your help. We ask you to build a knowledge map of HIV research in Russia based on scientific publications and dissertations defended. Show us who is studying what, where, and with whom, and help us see the white spaces on the HIV knowledge map.

Format of Final Product:

A data visualization product -- we're envisioning a knowledge web/map, but you will have the freedom to decide how best to present the data.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Public health, HIV, epidemiology, anthropology, medicine, Russian

Comments: Having a team member who can read Russian will be useful, but probably not critical to your success. For context, visit the UNAIDS page

<http://www.unaids.org/en/regionscountries/countries/russianfederation>

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

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*Project 83*

**Case Study on Risk Analysis for Military Assistance Recipients**

Bureau of Political Military Affairs, Office of Security Assistance (PM/SA)

Overview:

Select three mutually agreed upon Foreign Military Financing (FMF) recipients and conduct a case study application of the Framework for Policy Review and Risk Analysis for Proposed Security Sector Assistance, which will be provided by PM/SA. After applying the risk framework to each case study, develop and discuss future policy options the Administration should consider with respect to future military assistance to the country, based on the results of the risk analysis.

Lastly, think critically about the Risk Analysis Framework and provide feedback on its effectiveness and usefulness. What are the strengths/weaknesses of the framework? Are the correct areas being addressed? Should additional analysis areas be included or current areas adjusted?

Format of Final Product:

15-30 page research paper (or longer, as needed), with collection of sources

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Political Science, International Affairs/Relations, Political Geography, Security Sector Assistance

Comments: N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 3

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*Project 84*

**Leveraging the Use of WhatsApp to Spread the U.S. Message**

Public Affairs Section, Cotonou, Benin

Overview:

Forget Facebook, forget Twitter. The social media landscape in many countries is now dominated by WhatsApp, a messaging app with over one billion users worldwide. As the most widely used messaging app in the world, the potential for using WhatsApp as a tool for public diplomacy is significant. But how do we do it? The opt-in, non-broadcast nature of the medium presents challenges, and use of WhatsApp is labor-intensive. Yet we have heard numerous anecdotes of messages "going viral" on WhatsApp networks, and reports of various governments seeking to control the medium or shut it down completely -- a sure sign of the app's potential.

This project is to examine the structure and use of WhatsApp messaging to develop suggestions for Public Diplomacy sections. What is the future for this app? How can WhatsApp be used to inform and influence our audiences, especially youth? Can it be used as a tool for collaboration? For message dissemination? What are the easiest ways to integrate WhatsApp into our existing social media platforms, including Facebook and Twitter? Are other organizations, companies, or groups using WhatsApp successfully, and if so what methods can Public Diplomacy sections steal?

Format of Final Product:

A presentation, in the form of a powerpoint or something similar, and possibly an options paper summarizing findings.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Social media use and analysis, mobile telecommunications, public relations and messaging.

Comments: Here are some recent links from world media on the use of WhatsApp:

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/malcolm-turnbull-and-senior-cabinet-ministers-using-whatsapp-could-pose-security-risk-experts-20161012-gs0cuj.html>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/beef-whatsapp-messages-ban-man-arrest-custodial-death-3077851/>

<http://motherboard.vice.com/read/clandestine-raves-in-buenos-aires-thrive-thanks-to-facebook-whatsapp>

[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/03/world/africa/zimbabwe-robert-mugabe-whatsapp.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/03/world/africa/zimbabwe-robert-mugabe-whatsapp.html?_r=0)

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/09/28/middleeast/whatsapp-syria-aleppo-activists/>

Maximum Number of Projects: 4

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*Project 85*

**Bridging the Digital Gap: From East Timor to the USA**

U.S. Embassy Dili, Public Affairs Section

Overview:

We would like to recruit various U.S. university teams to work with Timor-Leste's 1st American Space/cultural center, Uma Amerika at UNTL (the country's national university) and alumni of U.S. government exchange programs to dramatically increase the amount of information available online in English and Tetum on Timor-Leste/East Timor via the Wikipedia platform.

As one of the world's youngest and most geographically isolated countries, the amount of publicly available information about Timor-Leste (East Timor) is very limited, particularly in English (but also in the country's official languages, Portuguese and Tetum), including on comprehensive online platforms such as Wikipedia (which is free to access in Timor-Leste). At the current time, the largest number of articles in Wikipedia on Timor-Leste are written in German, a language that very few people in Timor-Leste speak or understand. Information about the United States in Tetum is equally minimal. Additionally, there is even less content on U.S.-Timorese relations or U.S. development assistance in Timor in all three languages, despite significant investments in Timor-Leste in the past two decades by USAID, USDA and the Defense Department.

Our aim is to change that equation through this Timorese-U.S. partnership. While the first priority for the teams would be to address the discrepancy of information about the United States and U.S.-Timorese relations, the overall project would have the following goals: Improving the public perception of the United States in Timor-Leste; Increasing connections between Timorese and U.S. universities; Increasing the visibility of the U.S. government assistance in Timor-Leste; Solidify Uma Amerika's reputation in Timor-Leste as an institution devoted to improving U.S.-Timorese ties; and Supporting free access to information in the country.

Format of Final Product:

Deliverable would be new publicly available content and updated content in Wikipedia in the focus areas listed below (in Comments section).

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: This project would allow for teams from a wide variety of academic disciplines, with our key interest being students interested in Timor-Leste, international politics, international development and anthropology. If possible, we would encourage the involvement of Timorese students studying in the United States to work as extra contributors to this project. While not essential, the ideal teams would also include students with Portuguese, German or Bahasa language skills, in order to help fact check and translate content only currently available in those languages.

Comments: The main goal for the U.S. university teams would be to work with the Uma Amerika team to create English-language content on Timor-Leste in key focus areas, as well as assist the Timorese to create Tetum-language content on the United States. Additionally, we envision that both sides of the partnership could eventually work together to correct and update content in Portuguese,

Timor-Leste's second official language, as well as other languages, depending on the linguistic capabilities of the respective teams.

Key areas of the interest for the U.S. mission in Dili: East Timor-United States relations + summary of relationship with U.S. on main Timor-Leste page; Foreign Defense relations; U.S. military assistance to Timor-Leste; Mission of U.S. Mercy in Timor-Leste; Foreign aid to East Timor; U.S. government assistance in Timor-Leste; Peace Corps in Timor-Leste; Seabees in Timor-Leste; U.S. Embassy in Timor-Leste; Economy of East Timor; Cooperativa Cafe Timor. Additional areas of interest: United States (Tetum); Uma Amerika at UNTL, UNTL

We foresee that the main portion of the project could be completed in one semester, but envision that there would be space for additional focus areas to be completed if the project would be extended to additional semesters.

Maximum Number of Projects: N/A

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*Project 86*

## **Vietnam Quarterly Macro Report**

U.S. Embassy Vietnam

### Overview:

Produce a quarterly macro economic update for Vietnam based on open source information from the Government of Vietnam. The distribution is internal to the U.S. government, but the data is not sensitive, and the team working on the project does not have to generate any data. The ideal team or candidate is someone who understands macro economic data at a basic level and has an interest in understanding how macro data relates to overall economic performance. Vietnam is a fascinating case study in how to get the macro side right in order to sustain economic growth. The total time commitment per quarter is around 3-5 hours, depending on how fast the one page report can be updated. The person or team who generates the report should be ready to complete the report the first week after the end of each quarter.

### Format of Final Product:

1 page Word document

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Macro Economic understanding

### Comments:

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

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*Project 87*

**Religious Legislation In Europe**

Political/Economic Section (POLEC), U.S. Embassy Sofia, Bulgaria

Overview:

Approximately ten percent of Bulgaria's population is Muslim. While they are largely secular and those who are practicing pursue a Hanafi form of Islam, they are sensitive to all developments in the Middle East and Turkey and identify as members of the Muslim World. Due to recent domestic, European, and global events, the Bulgarian parliament has considered and adopted legislation viewed as restrictive by Muslims.

The project will make a comparative study of the legislative and other regulatory practices in select European countries (e.g. France, Belgium, Germany, UK) and Bulgaria which affect Muslims (and other religious minorities where applicable), assess their impact on social developments, and evaluate their effectiveness in terms of combating radicalization and extremism. The ultimate goal of the project is to determine whether the current political and legislative course in Bulgaria is effective useful in the prevention of radicalization.

Format of Final Product:

A research paper.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: N/A

Comments:

Maximum Number of Projects: 3

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*Project 88*

**The Economic Effects of Cross-Border Carbon Markets**

Political and Economic Affairs Section at U.S. Consulate in Montreal

Overview:

Many analysts believe that the ratification of the Paris Agreement is a sign of the global momentum in the fight against climate change. Across the world, jurisdictions have begun pricing carbon to generate revenues that are often reinvested in the economy. Some jurisdictions, like the province of Quebec and the state of California, have linked carbon-pricing mechanisms in particular an emissions trading system. The goal of this project would be to analyze the economic effects of linking carbon markets across jurisdictions based on the Quebec-California market, and forecasting what would happen if new jurisdictions joined the CA-QC market. What are the economic effects of creating a single large carbon market instead of many smaller isolated markets? How has the Quebec-California carbon market linkage affected the economies of both jurisdictions compared to what separate emissions trading systems would have accomplished?

Quebec launched a carbon market in 2013, which the province later linked with California's carbon market in 2014. The system requires each greenhouse gas emitter to own enough carbon allowances to cover the amount of emissions that the business reported for that year. In the carbon market, there are generally quarterly carbon auctions with participants from Quebec and California, and each business submits confidential offers for carbon allowances to determine the price that clears the market.

Format of Final Product:

Our office would be interested in receiving a research paper with a two page executive summary.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: The project would have a heavy focus on Economics, but Environmental Science, Business Administration, Finance, Political Science, and International Relations disciplines could be a good fit.

Comments: Our Office: <https://ca.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulates/montreal/sections-offices/>

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

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*Project 89*

**Mapping the U.S. & UK Special Relationship**

U.S. Embassy London Cultural Affairs Office: London/PA/CA

Overview:

Twenty-First Century diplomacy is dependent on - and often shaped by - networks of non-governmental actors and institutions. The Special Relationship between the United Kingdom and the United States is made up of a variety of historical, academic, cultural, economic and other linkages. U.S. Embassy London would be interested in working with a U.S. based university and a UK based university to digitally map those linkages based on a series of themes. Thematically mapped linkages between the U.S. and UK would provide an enlightening portrayal of the networks and interdependencies that form the true Special Relationship. This digital map would serve as powerful tool for both government and non-governmental institutions to analyze and leverage existing relationships to address global challenges such as climate change or large scale human migration.

Format of Final Product:

The final product would consist of two parts:

1. An interactive digital map that would provide valuable information on existing thematic networks. Individuals working on a particular topic could view the mapped linkages between the U.S. and UK that are relevant to a particular topic. For example, individuals working on issues related to human migration could search for academic and non-governmental institutions that are actively engaged on this issue across the Atlantic.
2. A memo that provides recommendations on how this interactive map could be used as a tool to strengthen and leverage existing networks portrayed in the map to address particular challenges.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: International Relations, Politics, Geography, Sociology, Geographic Information Systems, History

Comments: The linkages between the U.S. and UK are extremely diverse and abundant. In order for this project to be realistic and achievable, U.S. Embassy London would work with the participating universities to outline particular themes and/or challenges to focus on. The creation of this type of interactive map would be the first prototype of a potentially powerful tool that can be applied in real-world 21st Century diplomacy.

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

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*Project 90*

**Youth = Entrepreneurs = Changemakers!**

USAID/Pakistan's Provincial Mission to Punjab

Overview:

With 35 million young people in Punjab between the ages of 15 to 34, the province faces a youth bulge with the potential to turn into a “youth bomb.” The national unemployment rate has hit an alarming 8.5%, the highest in the last thirteen years. More worryingly, highly-educated workers with either degree or post-graduate qualifications are 3 times more likely than the national average to be unemployed - representing an enormous waste of productivity and knowledge, unfulfilled potential, and a significant liability for national security. According to the Government of Pakistan, an estimated 3.7 million new jobs are needed per year to bridge the unemployment gap - but, at most, a mere 1 million vacancies are available at any given time. Pakistan’s leading Job Board counts over 4.1 million registered professionals and only 63,861 job posters - or a disheartening 65 candidates per position.

Want to change the game? Let’s create a generation that is productively engaged in the present and has hope for the future - AND has the resources it needs. Let’s tap into the potential of Pakistan’s youth and see what it can do!

Growth capital is available for companies with long-standing track records of revenues, profitability, and, hence, firmer projections for profitability in promising sectors like consumer products, agriculture, and information and communication technology (ICT). That's great - if you can qualify... Unfortunately, seed capital accessible for young people for start-ups is simply not available at fair equity prices. Compounding this, youth have little understanding of how to establish a seed capital fund. Creating new seed capital funds at universities could address both issues and catalyze much needed entrepreneurship among students.

The project will bring in investments to establish at least three seed capital funds in separate universities in Punjab. These investments will ensure that enterprises that are gaining traction have sufficient resources to expand their operations and realize their potential.

Format of Final Product: Strategy, Legal Documents, Capital Structure and Operations Manuals

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Lawyers; financial analysts, marketing and business specialists; agriculturists and engineers will be given preference.

Comments: The project will last more than one semester, as it is aimed at creating a true paradigm shift that which will change lives by adopting American know-how to local conditions through peer collaboration.

Maximum Number of Projects: 4

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*Project 91*

**Evolving Development Dynamics in the Pacific Islands**

Office of Australia, New Zealand, and Pacific Islands (ANP)

Overview:

One of the strategic milestones of President Obama's Administration is the "rebalance" to Asia. With nearly half of the Earth's population and one-third of global GDP, the Asia-Pacific region has growing importance to U.S. national interests. From nations as large as China to smaller states like Kiribati that are on the frontlines of climate change, the region's dynamism creates significant opportunities for cooperation on issues of regional and global significance, including development assistance.

The Bureau of East Asia and Pacific Affairs Office of Australia, New Zealand, and Pacific Islands (ANP) would like research into development assistance in Pacific Island Countries (PICs) by six "traditional" and new players in the region - China, the EU, France, India, Russia, and Taiwan - to help us better understand the extent and direction of each actor's policies. The research should summarize recent activity and current state of each actor's development efforts. ANP would prefer one university per actor or pair of actors, as follows: China+Taiwan, EU+France, India, and Russia.

Format of Final Product:

The result should be both a five- to eight-page narrative covering each actor's Pacific engagement on development from roughly 2008 to the present, as well as a spreadsheet tracking relevant numerical assessments of overall giving and individual categories of aid (e.g. humanitarian, infrastructure, technological assistance). The narrative and data should illustrate a trajectory of engagement between these countries and the PICs.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Some background in relevant area studies preferred but not required. Foreign language ability could be helpful for reading government websites and vernacular press, but is not required.

Comments: ANP will explore opportunities for engagement between the university groups participating in this project so that students can interact with and learn from each other.

Maximum Number of Projects: 4 (ideally one university per actor or pair of actors, as follows: China+Taiwan, EU+France, India, and Russia)

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*Project 92*

**The Effectiveness of Culinary Diplomacy**

US Embassy Rabat Public Affairs

Overview:

Governments in countries as diverse as Peru, South Korea and Turkey have recently realized that they have historically neglected one part of their culture when trying to influence other nations's views of them: food. "Culinary diplomacy" or "gastrodiplomacy" has taken off in many countries because -- according to the first metrics -- food is one very effective way of changing other cultures' opinions of a government's own culture.

How effective have gastrodiplomacy campaigns been around the world -- quantitatively and qualitatively? How could the U.S. better harness its agriculture, restaurant sector, and cuisine writ large to make other cultures view the U.S. more positively? Which types of culinary diplomacy activities are the most effective ways of turning public opinion? What is the future of culinary diplomacy worldwide? If possible, how can U.S. Mission Morocco specifically engage with audiences using food to create more cultural allies of the United States?

Format of Final Product:

Research paper incorporating data analysis.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Anthropology, food studies, public policy

Comments: N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 4

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*Project 93*

**Knowledge Management to Support African Union Peace Operations**

United States Mission to the African Union (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

Overview:

The African Union (AU) is one of the largest multilateral organizations outside of the United Nations system. As a Pan-African forum, the AU bridges regional divides through partnerships across its 54 member states and plays a leading role in the prevention, mediation, and management of conflict. The Peace Support Operations Division (PSOD), alternatively referred to as the African Standby Force Continental Planning Element, plans, sustains, monitors, and manages AU peace operations. For PSOD to be more effective, it must improve information sharing and application of best practices and international standards. This project will assist PSOD to develop frameworks to identify lessons learned, and preserve best practices gained from AU engagement with its member states and partners.

Our university partners would help us in the following areas:

- I. Development of on knowledge management guidelines for PSOD to leverage the multiplicity of its operational and policy documents in ways that are systematic and accessible to all relevant stakeholders.
- II. Creation of a systematic framework for PSOD to consolidate lessons learned and information relevant to the spectrum of peace support operations and policy implementation.
- III. Identifying, consolidating, and classifying documents generated by entities outside of PSOD but with relevance to the peace support, such as early warning and situation reports and threat assessments/analysis not currently part of the PSOD information architecture.
- IV. Development of an online portal to make all documents critical to achieving PSOD objectives available to all key stakeholders, thus facilitating communication and collaboration.

Format of Final Product:

Online Portal consolidating data from multiple sources

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Management, Information Technology, International Relations

Comments: N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

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*Project 94*

**Model Legislation to Advance Disability Rights Across the African Union**

United States Mission to the African Union (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

Overview:

The African Union (AU) is one of the largest multilateral organizations outside of the United Nations system. As a Pan-African forum, the AU is leading continental integration through partnerships across its 54 member states. However, many voices are left out of this dialogue and development process. Disabled citizens remain disenfranchised while the AU is creating frameworks to support the African renaissance. Member states would benefit by adopting legislation, based on the international best practices, to empower disabled individuals and advance human rights. This project would analyze legislation to advance disability rights and design a model law the African Union could offer as a framework for its member states.

Format of Final Product:

Draft legislation with hyperlinked references

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Law, Political Science, International Relations, Human Rights

Comments: N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

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*Project 95*

**Conflict Mediation in Africa: What is the Missing Link?**

United States Mission to the African Union (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

Overview:

The African Union (AU) is one of the largest multilateral organizations outside of the United Nations system. As a Pan-African forum, the AU has great aspirations, solid mandates, and policy frameworks, yet implementation remains the organization's greatest challenge. The AU is increasingly taking responsibility for the prevention, mediation, management, and resolution of conflict, but the region remains rife with seemingly intractable challenges. As the AU seeks to expand its capacity to address conflict, its leadership welcomes new ideas and approaches. What lessons learned should the AU apply to be more effective at preventing and mediating conflict? Are there issues where the AU could focus to increase its success rate? Should the AU look across disciplines for cues in how to more effectively mediate conflict?

Format of Final Product:

Research paper with analysis focused on case studies

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Conflict Management, Political Science, International Relations, Psychology, Anthropology

Comments: N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

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*Project 96*

**Analyze Trends in Human Rights, Corruption, and Civil Society Development  
in Asia**

Office of Regional and Security Policy, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs (EAP/RSP)

Overview:

Analyze third party democracy, human rights, corruption, and civil society indicators over the past several years of countries in the East Asia and Pacific region. Analysis should include key trends over time, comparisons of individual countries to global and regional medians, milestones (such as the passage of key laws and the announcement of major U.S. foreign assistance initiatives and engagements) overlaid on a timeline showing key indicator trends over time, and other analytical insights. Quantitative analysis may be paired with qualitative policy analysis of key democracy movements in the region. The final analysis has the potential to impact actual strategic policy decisions.

Format of Final Product:

1-4 page memo plus applicable data/visualizations

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Besides interest in international development, students would find experience in statistics and software to demonstrate findings very helpful.

Comments: humanrights.gov has a good overview of global human rights issues.

Maximum Number of Projects: 3

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*Project 97*

**Sheep and Drought: Economic and Climatic Roots of Labor Migration and Human Smuggling in Rural Peru**

U.S. Embassy, Lima, Consular Section (CONS)

Overview:

This project will discover and describe the causes and consequences of the economic situation in Huancavelica on migrant labor forces in the Western United States. Huancavelica is the poorest region in Peru, and its economy is based on agriculture. As the local economy declines, an increasing number of men (and few women) from the region are applying to work in the United States as sheepherders. Peru supplies nearly 90 percent of the sheepherder workforce in the United States, and workers from Huancavelica are able to make one hundred times more than if they remained at home. These Peruvian herders enter the United States under the H-2A temporary agricultural worker program, which allows companies to hire foreigners if no Americans apply for their jobs. After working one to three years, the majority of workers typically return to Peru. However, a notable segment of these migrants abscond from their U.S. ranch contracts, overstay their allowed duration, and most often engage in unauthorized employment. In addition, there are those who falsify their visa applications, presenting themselves as experienced sheepherders looking for temporary work. Finally, the “pay to play” phenomenon is common, as we have anecdotally heard reports of prospective applicants being charged thousands of dollars, in violation of U.S. law, for job recommendations.

The motivation behind this visa fraud is mostly economic. Huancavelica was only in the last decade connected to the next closest regional hub by paved road. Its isolation is a limiting factor to economic growth, and creates an environment where vulnerable, poor, and uneducated applicants are prime targets of nefarious agents and human smugglers. The region’s already struggling economy contracted by more than one percent in 2015, compared to national GDP growth of over three percent. Huancavelica’s agricultural sector, highly dependent on seasonal rainfall, contracted by five percent in 2015 due to drought.

The effects of climate change on the motivations of Peru’s rural applicants for U.S. visas haven’t been taken into account. The purpose of this project is to add that information to define the economic motivations behind the abuse of temporary worker visas, which will include an analysis of the economic state of Huancavelica. From there, the effects of global climate change on the agricultural economy of Huancavelica will be explored. This project will ideally uncover a relationship between any adverse effects of climate change that affect the economy of Huancavelica and result in H-2A visa fraud and human smuggling.

Format of Final Product:

Quantitative, inter-disciplinary analysis of Huancavelica’s economy, climate, population and migration factors, including year-by-year comparisons of standard economic measurements; Quantitative/scientific examination of how the changing global climate specifically affects Huancavelica, and how these effects may influence economic performance and drive economic

migration; Qualitative/quantitative analysis of historical migration patterns from Huancavelica to the United States.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Environmental Science, Economics, Sociology, Experience researching the effects of climate change, human migration, trafficking in persons, and economic development

Comments: The dearth of workers available to family-owned ranches in the western United States puts the entire industry in danger. There is a mutually beneficial relationship between western U.S. ranches and Peruvian shepherders; many workers rely on the higher pay available in the United States to support their families, while the ranches rely on the labor provided by the Peruvian shepherders to stay in business. The Department of Labor's 2015 Final Rule for H-2A Herders increased salaries and the quality of life for the migrant workers. One unintended result, however, is the surfeit of opportunities for predators to take advantage of a poor, uneducated, and often desperate applicant pool. The results of this project will advance Mission Peru's efforts to secure U.S. borders by shedding new light on a difficult issue. The project will provide new avenues to explore bilateral cooperation not only on labor migration, but economic development and climate change.

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

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*Project 98*

**Song of the Sirens: Effects of New Media on the Recruitment of Peruvian Shepherders**

U.S. Embassy, Lima, Consular Section (CONS)

Overview:

Some of Peru's poorest citizens supply nearly 90 percent of the shepherding labor force in the United States. The recruitment processes to find these individuals are rapidly evolving. This project aims to shed light on those processes which help U.S. ranches find laborers for hard-to-fill jobs. Peruvian shepherders are vital to the American sheep and wool industry, and many western U.S. ranches are shutting down due to a lack of workers. The majority of Peru's herders come from tremendously impoverished rural areas, with limited to no access to modern amenities, including the internet. However, most of the information on work opportunities and the applications for visas themselves can only be found online. In a country where only 48 percent of the population aged 36-56 uses the internet, these herders are left to rely upon a relatively small number of sources if they want to find temporary work in the United States. This gap leaves them highly vulnerable to those looking to exploit their lack of knowledge of and access to the proper procedures for working legally the United States. Concordantly, predators and human smugglers charge exorbitant fees to fill out visa applications, or give job recommendations to those who are desperate for work. The negative consequences of these actions invariably fall on the intending laborer.

The purpose of this project is to analyze the recruitment process used by U.S. ranches, how much these strategies rely upon new media, and the methods used by predators and human smugglers to solicit the business of prospective herders. The research will begin with the U.S. ranches, mapping the online avenues they use to find quality workers, and seeing in what form these solicitations take in Peru. The most crucial aspect will determine exactly how Peruvian shepherders find these opportunities. An ideal project will completely detail the steps taken in bringing over migrant workers, from the initial communication of an offer to the acceptance by the herder, and that herder's process of obtaining a visa to come the United States.

Format of Final Product:

Qualitative investigation and analysis of ranches' recruitment communications; Qualitative investigation and explication of how word is disseminated throughout the shepherding community; Qualitative investigation and report of avenues.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Communications, Economics, Anthropology, Sociology, Analytics, Modern communication, social justice, human migration, investigative research

Comments: The rapidity of technological development in the modern world has myriad consequences, one being an increased amount of visa fraud as vendors and human smugglers take advantage of populations unfamiliar with digital communication. These criminal activities represent the use of technology to further marginalize an already disadvantaged population. To better understand this recruitment process is not just to better understand methods to prevent fraud and

human smuggling, but potentially to help in the collective benefit of the bilateral relationship. The results of this project will strengthen Mission Peru's efforts by shedding new light on an important pattern of migration and improving our knowledge of social and economic inclusion. It will also inform policies on how to increase economic growth and social development in Peru's poorest region.

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

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*Project 99*

**Leveraging Greed for Good: Engaging the Private Sector to Solve Global Problems**

Office of U.S. Foreign Assistance Resources

Overview:

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent a bold challenge to address the critical problems of ending extreme poverty, fighting inequality and addressing climate change in developing countries. Achieving these goals at this scale will require private sector-led growth and trillions of dollars of investment beyond the levels of traditional foreign assistance provided by the international donor community. Increasingly, private financial flows represent a larger proportion of international financial flows to developing countries. Traditional foreign assistance, however, remains critical as do actions of developing country governments.

This project should examine the current practices by international donors, including the United States as well as other OECD and non-OECD governments, and international financial institutions, to partner with the private sector to address development issues. Explore what are the most promising new models of development that use foreign aid strategically to catalyze domestic and private sector resources and generate broadly based economic growth. What are the critical legal and regulatory reforms needed to promote private investment in developing countries and how can they be encouraged? Identify how donors can encourage democratic engagement by the private sector with developing country governments. How should the USG implement these new approaches? Special emphasis should be given to public-private-partnerships and innovative financing tools. What is the track record for these partnerships and financing tools? Identify developing countries that are successfully attracting private investment and capital. How do the investment climates in these countries encourage private investment?

Format of Final Product:

10-15 page research paper that provides a compendium of best practices and successful models for donors and developing country engagement with the private sector to effectively address development challenges. Include recommendations for how and where private sector engagement should be targeted, and supported. Identify potential comparative advantages for U.S. Government agencies, other donors and international financial institutions in terms of focus areas and mechanisms for engagement.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Expertise in international development and economics

Comments: <https://www.state.gov/f/>

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

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*Project 100*

**Where on Earth Is...**

Secretary's Office of Global Partnerships (S/GP)

Overview:

The International diaspora Engagement Alliance (IdeA) is focused on fostering capacity development for our members as well as the diaspora sector. As part of those efforts, IdeA is building an interactive platform that elevates and supports the work of Diaspora communities around the world. The “Diaspora Map” will collect and visualize member organizations’ presence and influence. We believe the map will increase exposure and networking opportunities for participants; and for some of our member diaspora groups, inclusion in the map will be their only online presence.

The “Diaspora Map” will activate IdeA’s membership database by visually and geographically representing Diaspora organizations working in the U.S. and around the world.

Format of Final Product:

Each member organization will be represented by a marker on the map. Upon hovering or clicking on that marker, additional information about the organization will be presented to the viewer, including organizational contact information. Map users will be able to view organizations by UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), countries they work in, and other characteristics. In future iterations, mapped organizations will be able to submit engagement opportunities to also be published on the map. The map will be hosted on IdeA’s website and will be available for public use. The map will be integral to IdeA’s platform for Diaspora engagement in connecting with, and giving back to, their countries of origin, heritage, or affinity.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Ideally teams will be familiar with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and UX Design. Would be great if team is interested or engaged in the diaspora community.

Comments: <http://diasporaalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/Diaspora-Map-FAQ.pdf>

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

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*Project 101*

**Intersection of American Religious Landscapes with U.S. Foreign Policy  
Priorities**

Secretary's Office of Religion and Global Affairs (S/RGA)

Overview:

For decades, religious actors and institutions have played an active role in public life, engaging in foreign policy conversations, communicating with lawmakers and other influencers, and offering a moral voice on challenging international issues. Religious communities increasingly drive and shape social change; they are often committed to making the world a more just and peaceful place, and seek to address political, economic, and social issues around the world.

The Secretary's Office of Religion and Global Affairs serves as the first point of entry for those seeking to engage the State Department on matters of religion and global affairs. To this end, this project seeks to deepen S/RGA's understanding of the relationship between American religious groups (particularly small and non-Abrahamic religious groups) and their key areas of interest in U.S. foreign policy. It will help elevate key questions and fill knowledge gaps regarding the interplay of American religious groups and their counterparts in countries around the world; deepen awareness of State Department officials on foreign policy priorities of primary interest to various religious groups and traditions; and ultimately help illuminate potential new opportunities for engagement.

Format of Final Product:

The final "deliverable" will be a series of "one-pager" fact sheets identifying key U.S. foreign policy priorities of interest, geographic and diasporic engagement and linkages, ecumenical or interreligious relationships, affiliated institutions, etc.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Religious Studies/Philosophy, International Relations, Political Science, Public Policy, or a cognate field

Comments:

- [The Central Role of Religion in Diplomacy](#)
- [Office of Religion and Global Affairs One-Pager](#)
- [DipNote Blog: Why We #EngageAmerica and the World on Religion and Foreign Policy](#)

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

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