The Georgetown Global Futures Initiative

Global Future of Development
Spring 2015 Report
The Georgetown Global Futures Initiative is an interdisciplinary, university-wide effort designed to advance the model of an engaged global university in service to the wider world.

Over the course of four semesters, Global Futures invites members of the Georgetown community to undertake innovative teaching, research, and dialogue with world leaders around the pressing global issues of development, governance, security, and the environment. The goal is to draw on Georgetown’s distinctive character—its strengths across academic disciplines, its Catholic and Jesuit identity, and its presence in Washington, D.C.—to support inquiry into critical topics, foster collaboration between academics and practitioners, and enrich the educational experience of our students.

In its inaugural spring 2015 semester, Global Futures addressed the topic of “The Global Future of Development.” A centerpiece of the semester was a partnership with the World Bank and a series of major lectures by World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim and Senior Vice President and Chief Economist Kaushik Basu on topics ranging from pandemics and climate change to the shifting frontiers of development economics.

In collaboration with faculty and students from Georgetown’s international development programs in the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service and McCourt School of Public Policy, the Global Futures Initiative supported a range of other events over the course of the semester, including talks by former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, and by Rajiv Shah, former administrator for the U.S. Agency for International Development. A culminating roundtable at the World Bank featured Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz.

As it turns to the global future of governance, security, and the environment in future semesters, the Initiative will build on several programmatic elements developed during the spring of 2015: a Global Future(s) Curriculum Studio for innovative courses around global issues; a Global Futures fellows program, which gives talented students an opportunity to help plan and participate in high-level Initiative activities; a collaborative grants program for faculty designed to deepen research connections with global partners; and a Global Futures blog featuring scholars and students around the world.
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*Universities have an extraordinary opportunity—and a responsibility—to address the challenges shaping the future of our world and global community. Through Global Futures, Georgetown seeks to activate the resources of our university to help advance solutions for the many complex problems facing our world today.*

— DR. JOHN J. DEGIOIA, PRESIDENT, GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
In Georgetown’s inaugural Global Futures lecture, World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim warned that the world is “dangerously unprepared” for future pandemics. Kim proposed the creation of an international pandemic response facility as a collaboration between governments, multilateral organizations, corporations, and philanthropy.

LESSONS FROM EBOLA: A STRATEGY FOR PANDEMIC RESPONSE

In his first Global Futures lecture, World Bank Chief Economist and Senior Vice President Kaushik Basu explored critical ingredients for rapid growth in developing countries, including reliable policy frameworks, the effective use of abundant labor, specialization in high value added sectors, and the harnessing of new technologies.

GLOBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: WHAT THE TRENDS PORTEND
In his second Global Futures lecture, Kim outlined a five-point plan to reduce carbon emissions and combat climate change: a price on carbon; the removal of fossil fuel subsidies; smarter, low-carbon cities; climate-smart agriculture; and a turn to more efficient and renewable energy sources.

A PLAN FOR THE PLANET: CONFRONTING CLIMATE CHANGE

In his second Global Futures lecture, Basu explored how development economists are turning to other disciplines to improve their analytic tools. He argued that a better understanding of mental models, social norms, law, and governance will be necessary to end extreme poverty and promote shared prosperity worldwide.

DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS: THE BIG OPEN QUESTIONS

In his second Global Futures lecture, Basu explored how development economists are turning to other disciplines to improve their analytic tools. He argued that a better understanding of mental models, social norms, law, and governance will be necessary to end extreme poverty and promote shared prosperity worldwide.
WORLD BANK ROUNDTABLE

Georgetown faculty and students joined World Bank staff and members of the Chief Economist’s Advisory Council of Eminent Persons for a roundtable discussion on the global future of development. Panelists included Nobel Laureate Joseph Stiglitz and former World Bank Chief Economists Justin Yifu Lin and François Bourguignon.

WORLD DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2015

Karla Hoff, co-director of the World Development Report 2015, presented the report’s findings at an event hosted by Georgetown’s Global Human Development program. The publication, “Mind, Society, and Behavior,” argues that a deeper understanding of mental models can enable development agencies to design more effective interventions.
Over the course of the spring 2015 semester, other events on campus contributed to a sustained conversation about “The Global Future of Development” and engaged faculty, students, and thought leaders.

A CONVERSATION WITH TONY BLAIR
Tony Blair, former prime minister of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, spoke on the importance of high-quality governance in fostering development in Africa. Blair discussed his work with the African Governance Initiative in partnering with African political leaders to help increase their capacity to implement governance reforms.

HIGHLIGHTS
Former Prime Minister of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Tony Blair on development and governance in Africa.

Former Administrator for the U.S. Agency for International Development Rajiv Shah on America’s role as a leader in international development.

Peace Corps Director Carrie Hessler Radelet on the agency’s changing role in the international development landscape.

A symposium on controversies at the intersection of proselytism and development, featuring Pastor Rick Warren and Ruth Messinger.

A conversation on issues of gender and development in honor of Carol Lancaster, former dean of the School of Foreign Service.

The Carroll Round, an annual international economics forum for the world’s top undergraduates hosted by the School of Foreign Service.
Six Global Futures fellows—selected from among Georgetown’s international development graduate programs—assisted with high-level events, crafted posts for a Global Futures blog, organized a global essay contest, and hosted a networking reception for their peers and Georgetown alumni working at the World Bank.

As part of the Global Futures Initiative, Georgetown’s Beeck Center for Social Impact & Innovation organized a brainstorming session between students and the World Bank team tasked with writing the World Development Report 2016 on the Internet and development.
Georgetown University is home to leading development scholars and practitioners with strong ties to the World Bank. These include Professors Martin Ravallion, former director of the World Bank’s research department, and Erwin Tiongson, who served as senior economist for Latin America and the Caribbean region.

Following Jim Kim’s lecture on climate change, a panel of Georgetown faculty experts discussed the shifting impact of environmental issues on challenges of economic and social development. Participants included Professors Laura Anderko, Vicki Arroyo, and Joanna Lewis and Global Futures Fellow Tasmia Rahman. The panel was moderated by Thomas Banchoff, vice president for global engagement.
GLOBAL FUTURES BLOG

Over the course of 14 weeks, a Global Futures blog brought Georgetown faculty, students, and international colleagues into an extended conversation around contemporary development challenges. Georgetown’s Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs hosted a parallel blog on Catholic Social Thought and the future of development, with participation from 10 Jesuit universities worldwide.

ESSAY CONTEST

Students from 25 countries and five continents submitted essay and video responses to a prompt on how to overcome extreme poverty by 2030. The work of award winners was featured on the Global Futures website.

ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

First Place: “Empowering the Poor to Eliminate Poverty,” Jordan Greene, University of Utah

Second Place: “Closing the Digital Divide,” Haley Lepp, Georgetown University


Honorable Mention: “Agriculture: A Path to Extreme Poverty Reduction,” Ademola Adekunbi, University of Ilorin, Nigeria
GLOBAL FUTURE(S) CURRICULUM STUDIO

Georgetown faculty and administrators gathered in March for the launch of the Global Future(s) Curriculum Studio. The Studio is part of the Designing the Future(s) of the University Initiative, a campus-wide exploration of new ways to imagine and deliver a Georgetown education in a rapidly changing world. It is a collaboration with the Center for New Designs in Learning and Scholarship (CNDLS).

GLOBAL FUTURES RESEARCH GRANTS

Global Futures research grants enable faculty and students to present work in progress on global topics and gather critical feedback from the Georgetown community and outside experts. Three awards were made in spring 2015.

The “Showcase of Global Summer Social Justice Research” will highlight the work of students involved in field-based summer social justice projects.

The “Seminar for Syndemics Lancet Series” will bring together scholars working on a series of four papers for the medical journal.

The “Global Implications” meeting will convene international scientists and other stakeholders to discuss new pathways for pandemic pathogens research.
**GLOBAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

Since its launch in 2012, the Global Human Development Program (GHD) has strongly emphasized opportunities for students to work on real-world development issues and build skills as leading practitioners in development. Students intern with the many development organizations in Washington, D.C., spend their summer field experience working in developing countries, and devote their second-year capstone projects to engaging with clients over several months. Along with coursework and faculty mentoring, these experiences help graduates to develop the skills necessary to help meet the challenges of development and make a difference in the global community.

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**FACULTY LEAD**

Dr. Steve Radelet is the director of the Global Human Development Program, and the Donald F. McHenry Chair in Global Human Development. Professor Radelet previously served as chief economist for USAID and senior adviser for development to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. He currently serves as an economic adviser to the president of Liberia.

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**GHG STUDENT**

Manny Fassihi (G’16) is a Stanford University graduate with a passion for Bhutan and its unique philosophy for development—Gross National Happiness. After working for several years in Bhutan, Manny selected the GHD program because of its holistic approach; its practitioner-oriented focus; and its location in Washington, D.C. This summer, Manny is working at the Asia Impact Investment Exchange.

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I didn’t just want to examine development in the classroom; I wanted to be in a development hub where we could see and hear from practitioners everywhere.

MANNY FASSIH (G’16)
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONCENTRATION, MASTER OF SCIENCE IN FOREIGN SERVICE PROGRAM

Housed within the Master of Science in Foreign Service (MSFS) program in the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, the International Development (IDEV) concentration prepares development professionals by bridging theory and practice. Students master development theories, frameworks, and concepts and then test and apply them in operational situations. Like the other concentrations in MSFS, IDEV requires the completion of an internship, demonstration of foreign language proficiency, and a successful final oral examination. Formal courses are supplemented by periodic intensive clinics, which help students develop specific, highly demanded technical skills in development practice.

FACULTY LEAD

Dr. Erwin Tiongson is the concentration chair for IDEV. Previously, Professor Tiongson was a senior economist at the World Bank. He served in the World Bank’s Europe and Central Asia Region and the Latin America and Caribbean Region. He was a staff member of the International Monetary Fund and an associate professor at the Asian Institute of Management. He teaches courses in public finance, impact analysis, and econometrics for policy makers.

Because MSFS students study international development within the broader context of international affairs, the IDEV concentration brings together multiple disciplines and diverse perspectives to understand complex development challenges in relation to political, economic, security, and social forces shaping the global environment.”

DR. ERWIN TIONGSON
IDEV CONCENTRATION CHAIR

IDEV STUDENT

Jonas Bergmann (G’16) is a Fulbright/DAAD scholar focusing on the nexus of development, human rights, and migration. After working for several refugee networks and civil-society organizations, Jonas chose to enroll in the MSFS program because of the rigorous curriculum and potential to gain broad, interdisciplinary skills and knowledge in international relations. This summer, Jonas is interning with the Global Public Policy Institute in Berlin and continuing to work as a research assistant for Georgetown’s Institute for the Study of International Migration.

The university’s location, networks, and experience in development issues converge to provide a perfect opportunity for transferring rigorous academic knowledge into hands-on practical expertise.

JONAS BERGMANN (G’16)
MASTER IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Designed for young professionals with 2+ years of experience in development or related fields, the Master in International Development Policy (MIDP) program delivers skills in evidence-based policymaking within an economics-centered multi-disciplinary curriculum. The core curriculum equips students with the rigorous quantitative skills needed to generate policy-relevant information and the political and management skills necessary to formulate better policies and programs using such information. In the summer between the first and second year, students complete a six to ten week professional placement with an international development institution that provides an opportunity to apply the analytical skills developed in the classroom to real-world challenges.

MIDP STUDENT

Originally from Sydney, Australia, Claire Cullen (G’16) worked as an economist at the Australian Agency for International Development. With the goal of refining her skills, Claire decided to pursue an MIDP degree because of the program’s quantitative rigor, leading faculty at the cutting-edge of development, and experienced international student cohort. This summer, Claire is interning with Innovations for Poverty Action in Kigali, Rwanda, where she will work on an impact evaluation of a teacher pay-for-performance program.

“I wanted to be close to the latest thinkers and debates in international development, and able to learn from faculty who work with leading development organizations and think tanks.”

CLAIRE CULLEN (G’16)

FACULTY LEAD

Dr. Franck Wiebe serves as the academic director of the Master in International Development Policy program and hosts a biweekly “Development Practitioners” series. Dr. Wiebe has had a long career as a development practitioner that included positions in government, NGOs, and the private sector. He joined the university in 2012 after six years as Chief Economist at the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC).

“MIDP graduates are equipped to meet the growing demand for advanced technical and analytical skills in the development field which can explain what works, what doesn’t, and why.”

FRANCK WIEBE
ACADEMIC DIRECTOR
OF MIDP
**GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY INITIATIVE ON INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION**

The Georgetown University Initiative on Innovation, Development and Evaluation (gui²de) undertakes and supports empirical field-based research that assesses the impact and effectiveness of interventions aimed at empowering individuals in developing countries to improve their lives. The initiative involves undergraduate and graduate students in both the innovation and evaluation stages through academic supervision and summer and semester-long field assignments. gui²de is jointly convened by the Economics Department and the McCourt School of Public Policy, and co-directed by Professors James Habyarimana and William Jack.

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The quantity and quality of development-related initiatives at Georgetown provides a wide array of opportunities for students who are interested in learning about and pursuing development work.

MORGAN SNOW (C’16)

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**FACULTY LEAD**

James Habyarimana is a co-director of gui²de and an associate professor at the McCourt School of Public Policy. His research exploits variation generated by programs and policies in developing countries to illuminate the underlying causes for low and slowly changing human capital levels. He is a non-resident fellow at the Center for Global Development.

**FACULTY LEAD**

Billy Jack is a co-director of gui²de, professor of economics, and director of undergraduate studies in the Department of Economics. His research interests include empirical micro development, health economics, and public finance. He has held positions with the congressional Joint Committee on Taxation and the IMF, among other organizations.

**GUI²DE STUDENT**

Morgan Snow (C’16) is a rising senior majoring in Economics in the College. This summer she will join three other undergraduates from the College and SFS in Tanzania to launch a new road safety study. Morgan took part in gui²de’s inaugural Development Incubator class this spring, which primes students for summer field research.
The Georgetown Global Futures Initiative

Over the course of four semesters, the Global Futures Initiative will explore four issues critical to the future of humanity:

Spring 2015 – The Global Future of Development
Fall 2015 – The Global Future of Governance
Spring 2016 – The Global Future of Security
Fall 2016 – The Global Future of the Environment

Learn more at globalfutures.georgetown.edu