



# International Development Program

## The Brown Bag Lecture Series

1619 Massachusetts Ave., NW - Room 200

2004

Fall

**Friday, September 17**

**"Mi casa, mi vida" - A Housing Development Program in Cordoba, Argentina**  
**Laura Castiñeiras, Social Policy Director of the Province of Cordoba**

What are the social components of a housing program? What is the role that leaders take (or should take) in the planning and implementation of the program? Ms. Castiñeiras will share the lessons learned from her experience in Cordoba, and will speak about the link between a housing project and local/regional development policies.

**This presentation will be in Spanish.**

**Friday, September 24**

**Is Free Trade Preventing Free Access to Medicines?**  
**Jennifer Brant, Oxfam**

Medicines to treat AIDS and other diseases are becoming increasingly more affordable, but not more accessible since many trade agreements include intellectual property provisions that limit access to medicines. Oxfam is running a campaign called "Make Trade Fair", which aims to reshape agreements so that developing countries can benefit more from trade. Jennifer Brant, a SAIS alum, will discuss the intellectual property provisions in WTO, regional, and bilateral free trade agreements that are preventing people in poor countries from obtaining the medicines they need.

**Friday, October 1**

**RUGMARK: A Model for Child Labor Prevention**  
**Nina Smith, Executive Director, RUGMARK Foundation USA**

Critics of child labor prevention efforts often claim that stopping one child from working will simply open a spot for another child to take the job. RUGMARK has created a system within the rug industry in South Asia that creates a disincentive for companies to employ children and a greater incentive for parents to send their children to schools. Can this system that has met with great success in preventing child labor in India, Nepal, and Pakistan work in other industries? Nina Smith will discuss the success and growth of RUGMARK and how their system can transfer to other industries.

**Wednesday, October 6 - Room 806**

**Journalism and Development: Techniques Used in the Field**  
**IRP Fellows - Jointly Sponsored with the International Reporting Project**

What are the journalistic skills one needs to work in different media realms? Techniques and equipment vary from radio, television, newspaper, magazines, to online reports. International Reporting Project fellows will discuss the varying techniques for international reporting, drawing from their own experiences. They will speak about what a journalist does and what it takes to work in journalism.

**Friday, October 8**

**How Modernizing the Rickshaw Impacts Poverty**  
**Dr. Walter Hook, Executive Director, Institute for Transportation and Development Policy**

The growing dependence on the automobile in developing countries could have detrimental environmental, energy, social, and economic consequences. Dr. Walter Hook will discuss the impact alternative transportation strategies can have on poverty in these countries, on both a macro and individual level. To illustrate this point, he will draw from examples from the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy, such as the cycle rickshaw modernization project in Delhi, India and the bus rapid transit project in Jakarta, Indonesia. He will also draw on data from Bogota, Colombia.

**Friday, October 15**

**Trials and Tribulations of Starting an NGO**  
**Jonathan Richter, Founder and Director, BRIDGE**

New and innovative ideas in development are in great demand. Seeing these ideas through to fruition involves energy and resources that few possess. Jonathan Richter, a Johns Hopkins Alum, will discuss how he was able to identify a need for genuine partnership in development projects in Ghana and how he was able to transform that need into the vision of his non-governmental organization, BRIDGE. He will describe his background and how it helped him undertake the formation of this organization and the processes involved in starting an NGO.

# Discuss. Learn. Interact

**Friday, October 22**

**The US Poverty Mandate: Can Microfinance Reach the Poorest?**

**Kate Druschel, The IRIS Center at the University of Maryland**

**Laura Foose, Alternative Credit Technologies**

**Katherine McKee, Microenterprise Division, USAID**

**Rekha Reddy, ACCION International**

**Didier Thys, The Microfinance Information eXchange**

In 2000, the US Congress passed the Microenterprise for Self-Reliance Act, mandating that half of all USAID microenterprise funds benefit the very poor. Congress amended this legislation in 2003 to define who the "very poor" were and tasked USAID with developing poverty assessment tools for practitioners to show what clients they reach. The amended legislation caused a debate about whether this is an appropriate subject to legislate and how organizations should target clients. Experts from the microfinance community will discuss the challenges of implementing this mandate and what tools are necessary to do so.

**Wednesday, October 27**

**Implications for Opening the Muslim World: Turkey's Experience**

**Dr. Imad-ad-Dean Ahmad, President/Director, Minaret of Freedom Institute**

In the debate over the advancement of free markets, human rights, and democracy in the Muslim world, insufficient attention is paid to the Islamist movement in Turkey. Dr. Ahmad discusses his experience in attempting to influence the movement in Turkey towards a more open society. He argues that the evolution of the Islamist political movement shows how it is receptive to ideas about open societies when in the context of the Islamic law and experience. Dr. Ahmad uses the Turkish example as a take-off point for discussing the contrasting experiences elsewhere in the Muslim world.

**Friday, November 5**

**Radio at the Ends of the Earth: How Radio Builds Community in the Developing World**

**Bill Siemering, President and Rachel Thompson, Vice President, Developing Radio Partners**

Radio is the most effective and democratic medium in many countries transitioning to democracy. Local radio gives a voice to the people to solve a multitude of problems - from creating a commons to holding public officials accountable. Radio can be invaluable in rural, post-conflict countries by reducing tension induced by conflict, educating people about health and governance issues, and celebrating local culture. Bill Siemering and Rachel Thompson will talk about their work, discussing how radio has been used to promote peace and foster civil society with specific examples from Africa, Eastern Europe, and Mongolia.

**Friday, November 19**

**Promoting Democracy, Peace, and Stability: Complementarities and Contradictions**

**Patrick Merloe, Senior Associate and Director of Programs on Election and Political Processes, NDI**

Should pursuit of political development necessarily embrace democratic development? What is the relationship between establishing stability and a democratic political process in countries emerging from military rule, a one-party state, and/or conflict that negates the state's ability to exercise its basic functions? Patrick Merloe will discuss how this relationship can be approached in authoritarian and democratic governments, as well as the ethical basis for international activities to promote political development. He will draw upon regional and country examples in addressing these issues.

**Friday, December 10**

**Summer Internship Program: Informational Meeting**

**Aimee Breslow, Senior Administrator, International Development Program**

The International Development Program is sponsoring a number of internships this summer, under the auspices of the Summer Internship Program (SIP). This year the SIP will send students to work in Africa, Asia, and Latin America in such fields as microfinance, education, HIV/AIDS, civil society, and monitoring and evaluation. Aimee Breslow will discuss the organizations and internship positions, and will explain the application process and requirements. This informational meeting is open to all students in the International Development Program.



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