

IDEV News

SAIS International Development Program Newsletter

Letter from the Director



Greetings to our IDEV and SC & D alums. As I start my fourth year as Director of the International Development Program at SAIS, I am very pleased that SAIS continues to attract smart, compassionate, and highly qualified students from around the world – just as it did in your day. We welcomed two new professors to our faculty this year: Assistant Professor Dan Honig, whose research focuses on government performance, foreign aid and organizational structure, and Bloomberg Distinguished Associate Professor Jessica Fanzo,

a food systems expert who has a joint appointment with the Berman Institute of Bioethics in Baltimore. Both Dan and Jessica combine excellent academic credentials with extensive practical experience in development. I am also very happy to note that our Practicum Program, ably managed by Associate Director Dr. Tanvi Nagpal, has become a core part of our program for second year students. This year, one practicum group is advising a private Chinese company that hopes to expand its special economic zone in Nigeria. Projects like this showcase our growing SAIS expertise as a center of research on China in Africa while allowing our students to put their development skills and regional knowledge to work. We welcome suggestions for future practicum projects from alumni. Our October happy hour for alumni and students attracted a large crowd. We look forward to seeing you at one of our future events.

Sincerely,

Prof. Deborah Bräutigam

Director, SAIS IDEV

Inside this issue:

New Faculty	2
New Courses	2
SAIS-CARI Updates	3
Alumni Updates	4
<i>Perspectives</i> News	5
Practicum Updates	6
Upcoming Events	6
Connect with IDEV	6

Q&A with Professor Dan Honig



Professor Dan Honig joined the IDEV department this year as an Assistant Professor, having completed a Ph.D. in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School. Prof. Honig previously held positions as an advisor to successive Ministers of

Finance in Liberia, director of a local nonprofit in East Timor and with a number of local and international NGOs in Thailand and Israel. We asked him a few questions.

What topics in development interest you most?

I'm most interested in the mechanics of delivery, including organizations, incentives and agents. We spend a lot of time thinking about the political limits of what aid agencies can do, but I'm interested in animating the space within those constraints and finding out what can get done conditional on those constraints. I'm interested in organizations and agents and incentives and bureaucratic politics.

What research are you currently, or planning to, work on?

I'm currently working on finishing my dissertation and planning to turn it into a book. It focuses on autonomy and the agency within agencies, and the concept of

"navigation by judgment." This means looking at what happens when you let field-level agents steer the decisions that aid agencies make. In the future, I'm planning to work on a couple of other topics, including governance, the agency of executive directors of the IMF, and the role of soft information in collateralizing loans.

What interests you most in approaching development from an academic lens?

In my former practitioner hat, I was confronted on a regular basis with issues of pressing policy concern, and found that no academic work had been done on these topics. So, I wanted to join the academy to answer systematic questions that I think affect the world of development practice, both within aid agencies and in the public sector in developing countries.

What experiences have most shaped your thinking and interests in development?

I think the most formative experience has been realizing that important decisions in the space of international development are so often made without good data, and without reference to political constraint. It's often the case that problematic results seem to be driven by an organizational, rather than a political, determinant.

I previously co-ran a non-profit in East Timor, and I often saw how novel structures of engaging actors led to solutions that would not have been thought of otherwise. I was struck by how often people close to the action came up with ideas that supposed "experts" never thought of.

Featured New IDEV courses

Innovation and ICT for Development - Professors Patricia Mechael and Wayan Vota

This course provides a theoretical and practical framework for students to apply participatory and principled approaches to using information and communication technologies (ICT) to accelerate development and spur social change, with a focus on low and middle-income countries. The course aims to equip students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the field of ICT for Development (ICT4D).

Managing and Delivering Development Assistance - Professor Dan Honig

This course explores the effectiveness of various kinds of external interventions, with a particular focus on the political economy of aid and 'big development' - development interventions as practiced by the World Bank, IMF and major bilateral donors. This course takes a systems-level perspective, exploring the determinants of aid flows and the effectiveness of aid interventions.



News from the China Africa Research Institute (CARI)

Mission of SAIS-CARI

SAIS-CARI aims to promote research, conduct evidence-based analysis, foster collaboration and train future leaders to better understand the economic and political dimensions of China-Africa relations and their implications for human security and global development.

Recent Updates

SAIS-CARI has recently hired 10 new student researchers to join the team, who will be conducting analysis of data on Chinese loans to Africa. CARI has also received two major grants, one from Carnegie Corporation of New York to facilitate exchanges between the academic and policy worlds in studying Chinese activities in Africa, and the other from the UK Economic and Social Research Council (DFID) to support a series of detailed research projects.

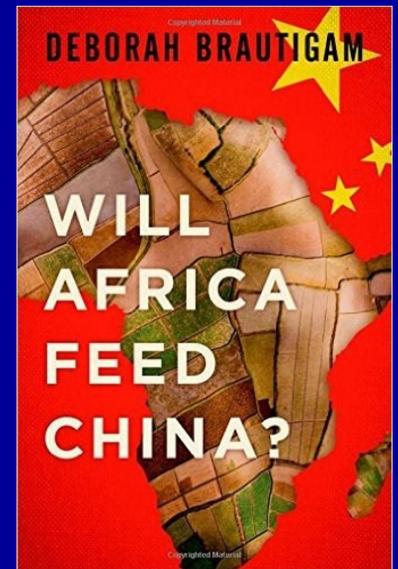
SAIS-CARI Fellowships

With funding from Carnegie Corporation, the SAIS-CARI Fellowship awards researchers, policy-makers, and/or journalists with grants to spend 1-2 months writing or doing field research on an under-explored policy issue related to China's African engagement. CARI is currently in the process of selecting the second round of fellows, having received more than 70 applications.

Research on Chinese Investment in Africa

CARI has received a grant from the UK Economic and Social Research Council to investigate the dynamics of technology transfers, linkages and learning in Chinese manufacturing and agribusiness investment in Africa. This research involves desk studies about Chinese activities in Africa, five in-country scoping studies, and a series of cluster surveys. The first in-country study was conducted this past summer in Madagascar by IDEV PhD students, Yunnan Chen and David Landry.

Will China Feed Africa? Book Launch Event



SAIS-CARI held a book launch event on October 29, 2015 to introduce the latest book written by Professor and Director of CARI, Deborah Brautigam. The book probes the myths and realities behind media headlines that the Chinese government is aggressively buying up huge tracts of prime African land to grow food to ship back to China. Dr. Amadou Sy, Director of the Africa Growth Initiative at the Brookings Institution and Professor Ling Chen, Assistant Professor of International Political Economy joined Dr. Brautigam in discussing the book.



Dr. Brautigam discusses her book with a guest at the launch event.

Alumni Updates



Douglas Emeott (c/o 2015), Disaster Risk Management Analyst, World Bank

After SAIS, Doug began working as a short-term consultant on disaster risk management projects in the Latin America/Caribbean department of the World Bank. He works on diagnosing country preparedness, evaluating country mechanisms for risk financing/insurance, and learning about climate change and natural hazards.

Joe Wilson (c/o 2012), Advisor, USAID Center for Accelerating Innovation and Impact

Joe works out of the Global Health Bureau to design and promote innovative financing mechanisms to address bottlenecks in the development, introduction and scale-up of priority health technologies and interventions. He is also co-Director of the House of Hope Foundation, which owns and operates an orphanage in Nairobi, Kenya.



Carolyn Florey (c/o 2012), Senior Manager, Digital Health Innovation/UN Foundation

After graduation, Carolyn worked at USAID, focusing on public-private partnerships for mobile technology and health. She then worked at the World Bank as an Innovation Officer, supporting social enterprises in Egypt and India to scale and sustain their innovative business models and integrate them into World Bank operations. Currently at the UN Foundation, Carolyn is the Senior Manager in charge of a portfolio of projects related to digital technology and health.

Laura Sennett (Class of 2014), Strategy and Policy Advisor, Strategy and Operational Policy Department, African Development Bank

After SAIS, Laura moved to Cote d'Ivoire to work in the Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Vocational Training. She worked with Ivorian youth on job placement, apprenticeship, internship and entrepreneurship programming. In 2015, she joined the African Development Bank as a Strategy and Policy Advisor in the Strategy and Operational Policy Department (COSPP) at the AfDB headquarters in Abidjan.



Stay connected!

We want to hear what you have been up to since graduation! Send your stories to saisidev@jhu.edu, and we will publish them in an upcoming newsletter. If you want to get in touch with other alumni from your year, below is contact information for the alumni chairs for recent classes:

Class of 2015: Douglas Emeott (dwemeott@gmail.com) and Iva Panchilova (iva.panchilova@gmail.com)

Class of 2014: Laura Sennett (lsennett@gmail.com) and Mark Radin (radinmark@gmail.com)

Class of 2013: Katelyn Bowe (katelyn.bowe@gmail.com) and Priya Punatar (ppunatar@gmail.com)

Class of 2012: Joe Wilson (wils.jt@gmail.com) and Carolyn Florey (carolynflorey@gmail.com)

SAIS Perspectives: the IDEV student-run magazine

Connect with us: www.saisperspectives.com & @SAISdev on Twitter

SAIS Perspectives is the flagship publication of the SAIS IDEV program.

This Year's Theme—"Migration and Displacement": We are interested in your perspective on how migration is shaping our world. With the knock-on effects of brain drains, remittances, protests, and cultural clashes, there are scarcely any people and places that are not impacted by the lottery of geography and the resulting movements of people. We want to hear your ideas on this topic.

How to contribute: Perspectives is now accepting short blog pieces and articles that provide unique perspectives on international development to be published on the SAIS Perspectives website. Blogs or articles may be on any topic but the editorial staff is especially interested in entries providing insight on this year's theme. **Send submissions to sais.perspectives@gmail.com** along with your name, year, program and a short bio.

Recent Articles:

[Even in Singapore, a Tough and Marginalized Life for Migrants](#) (Serena Quiroga, Nov. 2015)

[Global Migration and Human Security: Motivations, Challenges and Opportunities](#) (Soren Jessen-Petersen, Nov. 2015)

[Shortcomings of Turkish Foreign Policy Towards Syrian Refugees](#) (Berkin Safak Sener, Nov. 2015)

[Leadership Change May Bring "Kindness" Back to Canada](#) (Dr. Tamara Woroby, Nov. 2015)

Popular Articles:

[Municipal Finance in Dakar and the Global South](#) (Jeremy Gorelick, March 2015)

[The Leader and the Dissent: Was Singapore's Miracle Worth It?](#) (Roku Fukui, March 2015)

Perspectives photo contest finalists



Photo by: Yael Mizrahi

Syrian refugees painting a mural of Palmyra along the walls of a former Saddam prison, which has been converted into a refugee camp, Akre, Iraq.



Photo by: Mugi Bayarlkhagva

Wedding convoy of Hazara refugees in Isfahan, Iran. (July, 2015)



Photo by: Jason Spizer

Sharia Camp, Duhok, Iraq. Like most Yazidi's living on Mount Sinjar in August 2014, the father and daughter pictured here were forced to walk eight days in the scorching heat to evade capture from ISIS advances.

IDEV 2015-16 Practicum Projects

This year's Practicum projects include:

International Water Management Institute (IWMI) (Sri Lanka) – Supporting the nomination of the Chundikulam Sanctuary as a Wetland of International Importance: Identifying ecosystem services of the Sanctuary in order to designate it as a Ramsar Site.

Zhongfu International Investment Company (Nigeria) —Charting Sustainable Growth Pathways for the Ogun Guangdong Free Trade Zone (Nigeria): Providing client with a road map for sustainable growth for the free trade zone, through review of best practices and field work.

Promundo (Egypt / MENA) - Combatting Gender Based Violence With The International Men and Gender Survey: Contributing to the implementation of the IMAGES survey, as well as per-

forming community mapping and stakeholder analysis on gender equality.

Sino Africa Centre of Excellence Foundation (Kenya) — Engaging Chinese Companies in Skills Training for Kenya's Youth: Identifying, comparing, and discovering the most suitable structural and financial models for Chinese companies to participate in training young Kenyans for entrance into the workforce.

Athena Infonomics (India) — Project Prioritization for City Development: Analyzing and developing tools data-driven citizen engagement as part of the "Smart City Challenge" in India.

Athena Infonomics (India) — Framework for Evaluation of City Sanitation Strategy: Developing a decision support tool to identify sanitation strategies for city governments in India.

Upcoming IDEV Events

Spring 2016 Alumni Happy Hour (DC)

Date & Time: Thursday, April 7th , 6-7:30 PM

Location: Lauriol Plaza, 1835 18th Street NW

Contact IDEV

Email: saisidev@jhu.edu

Address: 1717 Massachusetts Ave. NW, 7th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20036

Twitter: [@sais_idev](https://twitter.com/sais_idev)

Phone: 202-663-5650; 202-663-5943

Website: <http://www.sais-jhu.edu/content/international-development>