Fall 2020 Project Menu

Table of Contents

The U.S. Government and Gender-Inclusive Peace

Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues

Secretary of State

Overview:

A growing body of research demonstrates that when women meaningfully influence peace processes, an agreement is more likely to be reached, implemented, and to last. Recognizing this, the 2017 Women, Peace, and Security Act, the 2019 U.S. Strategy on WPS, and the 2020 State Department's Plan to Implement the Strategy commit the Department to "seek and support the preparation and meaningful participation of women around the world in decision-making processes related to conflict and crises."

Thanks to research like the studies linked below, we know that meaningful inclusion does not happen accidentally; peace processes must be thoughtfully designed to ensure the influence of women's voices. S/GWI therefore seeks a research project that studies the different peace process designs the U.S. Government has employed or advocated for around the world, their comparative impact on the inclusion of women and other marginalized groups, and lessons learned. The project should use open-source information, including but not limited to interviews with current and/or former U.S. officials and women stakeholders engaged in these processes. This research could inform U.S. policy approaches to peace processes in the future, as well as program designs that aim to support women's inclusion in decision-making on peace and security.

Format of Final Project:

Research paper (no longer than 20 pages), including a literature review, plus a succinct policymaker-oriented executive summary.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Democracy & Human Rights; Gender Studies; International Relations; Narcotics & Law Enforcement; Political/Military Affairs; Arms Control/Non-proliferation; Conflict, Stabilization, & Reconstruction;

Comments:

U.S. Laws and Policies:
- 2017 Women, Peace, and Security Act https://www.congress.gov/115/plaws/publ68/PLAW-115publ68.pdf
- 2019 U.S. Strategy on Women, Peace, and Security https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-

content/uploads/2019/06/WPS_Strategy_10_October2019.pdf
- 2020 Department of State Plan to Implement the U.S. Strategy on WPS (release forthcoming)

Research Papers and studies:
- Laurel Stone, Women Transforming Conflict: A Quantitative Analysis of Female Peacemaking, SSRN, 2014 https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2485242.
- UN Women, Global Study on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325, 2015 https://wps.unwomen.org/
- Marie O'Reilly, Andrea Ó Súilleabháin, and Thania Paffenholz, Reimaging Peacemaking: Women's Roles in Peace Processes, International Peace Institute, 2015 https://www.ipinst.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/IPI-E-pub-Reimagining-Peacemaking.pdf
- Marie O'Reilly, Why Women? Inclusive Security and Peaceful Societies, Inclusive Security, 2015 https://www.inclusivesecurity.org/publication/why-women-inclusive-security-and-peaceful-societies/
- Thania Paffenholz, Nick Ross, Steven Dixon, Anna-Lena Schluchter, and Jacqui True, Making Women Count – Not Just Counting Women: Assessing Women's Inclusion and Influence on Peace Negotiations, Inclusive Peace & Transition Initiative, 2016 https://www.inclusivepeace.org/sites/default/files/IPTI-UN-Women-Report-Making-Women-Count-60-Pages.pdf
- Jamille Bigio and Rachel Vogelstein, How Women's Participation in Conflict Prevention and Resolution Advances U.S. Interests, Council on Foreign Relations, 2016 https://www.cfr.org/report/how-womens-participation-conflict-prevention-and-resolution-advances-us-interests
- Jana Krause, Werner Krause, and Piaa Branfors, Women's Participation in Peace Negotiations and the Durability of Peace, International Interactions, 2018 https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/03050629.2018.1492386
- Jacqui True, Yolanda Riveros-Morales, Towards Inclusive Peace: Analyzing gender-sensitive peace agreements 2000-2016, International Political Science Review, 2018 https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0192512118808608
- Oxford Handbook of Women, Peace, and Security, Edited by Sara E. Davies and Jacqui True, 2019 https://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190638276.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780190638276
- Our Secure Future, Just the Facts: A Selected Annotated Bibliography to Support Evidence-Based Policymaking on Women, Peace, and Security, 2019 https://oursecurefuture.org/publications/policymaking-women-peace-security

Books:
- Valerie Hudson, The First Political Order: How Sex Shapes Governance and National Security Worldwide (Columbia University Press, 2020) http://cup.columbia.edu/book/the-first-political-order/9780231194662
- Valerie Hudson, The Hillary Doctrine: Sex and Foreign Policy (Columbia University Press, 2015) http://cup.columbia.edu/book/the-hillary-doctrine/9780231164924
- Valerie Hudson, Sex and World Peace (Columbia University Press, 2012) http://cup.columbia.edu/book/sex-and-world-peace/9780231131827
- Carol Cohn, Women and Wars: Contested Histories, Uncertain Futures (Polity Press, 2013) https://www.amazon.com/Women-Wars-Contested-Histories-Uncertain/dp/0745642454

Women peacebuilder and mediation networks:
- The Women Waging Peace Network at UC San Diego's Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice at UC San Diego https://www.sandiego.edu/peace/institutes/ipj/global-programs/women-peace-security/women-waging-peace.php
- The Women's Alliance for Security Leadership at the International Civil Society Action Network https://icanpeacework.org/our-work/womens-alliance-for-security-leadership/
- The Women's Democracy Network at the International Republican Institute https://www.wdn.org/
- Global Network of Women Peacebuilders https://gnwp.org/

- FemWise Mediation Network (Africa) http://www.peaceau.org/uploads/final-concept-note-femwise-sept-15-short-version-clean-4-flyer.pdf
- Mediterranean Women Mediators Network https://womenmediators.net/
- Nordic Women Mediators https://www.prio.org/Projects/Project/?x=1725
- Women on the Frontline Mediation Network https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/news/latest-news/women-front-line-reflections-burundi
- Women Mediators Across the Commonwealth https://www.c-r.org/where-we-work/global/women-mediators-across-commonwealth

Research consortia:
- Consortium on Gender, Security & Human Rights https://genderandsecurity.org/

Scientific Herstory: An Elevation and Celebration – through Social Media – of American Women's Contributions in STEM Fields

Office of Science and Technology Cooperation

Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

Overview:

A barrier to girls' and women's full participation in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields is the historic under-appreciation and lack of acknowledgement of women's contributions to STEM fields. Without a full understanding of women's achievements, society perpetuates myths about women's competence and contributions in these fields, and girls and women are taught that they don't below in STEM.

By organizing a comprehensive and evidence-based social media strategy, the Department of State's Bureau of Oceans and International Environment and Scientific Affairs hopes to demonstrate to massive audiences the importance of acknowledging and celebrating American women's achievements in STEM fields. We also view this as an opportunity to represent a full spectrum of women's experience and identities, and any proposal and approach should be intersectional in its identification of role models.

Format of Final Project:

We would like to receive a social media strategy and up to 50 sample social media postings to celebrate the contributions of American women in STEM.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Gender Studies; Science and Technology; Communications;

Comments:

Were your team to be selected, we'd work with you to identify background readings and other materials. We don't anticipate this project would last longer than a semester. For more information, our office's website is: https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-economic-growth-energy-and-the-environment/bureau-of-oceans-and-international-environmental-and-scientific-affairs/office-of-science-and-technology-cooperation/

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

Office of Science and Technology Cooperation

Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

Overview:

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

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

Format of Final Project:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Relations; Science and Technology; Sociology; Statistics;

Comments:

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

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

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

Office of Science and Technology Cooperation

Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

Overview:

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

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

Format of Final Project:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Relations; Science and Technology; Statistics;

Comments:

Were your team to be selected, we'd work with you to identify background readings and other materials. We don't anticipate this project would last longer than a semester. For more information, our office's website is:
https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-economic-growth-energy-and-the-environment/bureau-of-oceans-and-international-environmental-and-scientific-affairs/office-of-science-and-technology-cooperation/

Open Science Policies and Perceptions in Asia Pacific

Office of Science and Technology Cooperation

Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

Overview:

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

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

Format of Final Project:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

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

Comments:

Were your team to be selected, we'd work with you to identify background readings and other materials. We don't anticipate this project would last longer than a semester. For more information, our office's website is:
https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-economic-growth-energy-and-the-environment/bureau-of-oceans-and-international-environmental-and-scientific-affairs/office-of-science-and-technology-cooperation/

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

Office of Science and Technology Cooperation

Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

Overview:

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

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

Format of Final Project:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

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

Comments:

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

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

Gender in the Great Power Competition

Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues

Secretary of State

Overview:

The Great Power Competition (GPC) has been a principal consideration in U.S. foreign policy and global affairs over the past decade. The Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues (S/GWI) is interested in learning more about the role gender plays in the GPC. What effect does the inclusion of women and girls have in the GPC? What comparative advantages does the U.S. have in relation to gender in the GPC? How do American values of human rights and the US strategic agenda play into the GPC?

To familiarize yourself with current policy, please review USG strategic documents, including the National Security Strategy (NSS), Joint Strategic Plan (JSP), and National Defense Strategy (NDS). Reviewing current initiatives in Women, Peace, and Security (WPS), as well as the Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) Initiative, and including them in your analysis is also encouraged. Strong research proposals will consider gender's role in both bilateral relationships and in the GPC overall.

Format of Final Project:

Research paper (no longer than 20 pages), including a literature review, plus a succinct policymaker-oriented executive summary

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Democracy & Human Rights; Gender Studies; International Relations; Political/Military Affairs;

Comments:

To learn more about the Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues, visit www.state.gov/s/gwi. Please familiarize yourself also with USG positions on the GPC, including remarks such as https://www.state.gov/re-learning-a-competitive-mindset-in-great-power-competition/, as well as aforementioned strategic documents (NSS, JSP, NDS). For more information on WPS, visit https://www.state.gov/key-topics-office-of-global-womens-issues/#WPS. Further information on W-GDP can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wgdp/.

External Evaluation of Kosovo's American Corners Program

Public Affairs Section

U.S. Mission to Kosovo

Overview:

This is an external evaluation project for our American Corners program in Kosovo. American Corners are small, program-driven, American-style libraries that serve as cultural and educational centers in Kosovo, communicating American values and offering access to educational resources. We want to conduct an external evaluation of American Corners program from the perspective of American students. This evaluation project will enable the U.S. Embassy in Kosovo to assess American Corners' program focus and direction, audience, resource provision, and level of engagement, as well as the skill levels of American Corners staff

We have three American Corners located in different towns in Kosovo. The project should evaluate each American Corner separately as well as the network as a whole, as each Corner has a unique contextual, geographical, political and demographic situation. The general question is whether our American Corners are advancing the U.S. Embassy 's strategic goals. Do they meet the vision of a modern American Space? Are there barriers to their work preventing them from conducting programs or reducing the quality of their programs? A deep look into their activities, staffing, audience, resources, physical and virtual space and services is needed.

About the American Corners: all three American Corners in Kosovo provide free information, resources and program activities to Kosovars about the United States. Their program activities range from English language learning activities, discussion and reading clubs, presentations about U.S. holidays, culture, geography, politics, etc., observation of international days, to makerspace activities, summer camps, information sessions on grants and educational exchange opportunities. They collectively conduct between 650 – 900 programs per year, and up to 100,000 walk-in visitors. In general, they receive funding from the U.S. Embassy Pristina in Kosovo.

Format of Final Project:

A final evaluation report with the following sections: an executive summary; introduction, methodology, findings and analysis, and recommendations and conclusions. A general analysis of the American Corners program as well as specific analyses of each Corner is desired.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Education & Cultural Studies; Information & Communication Technology; International Development; International Relations; Sociology; Youth Issues;

Comments:

This project can be accomplished within one semester. Here are resources to help familiarize you with the work of American Corners:

Information on American Corners Kosovo: http://ackosovo.com/

Information on the overall Department of State's vision of American Spaces: https://americanspaces.state.gov/

Vision of a modern American Space

https://americanspaces.state.gov/managing-your-space/modern-american-space/

Department of State's Goals for Kosovo: https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/285041.pdf

U.S. Embassy Kosovo website: https://xk.usembassy.gov/education-culture/american-spaces/

Virtual Public Programming in Conflict Zones: Propositions, Effectiveness, and Challenges

Cultural Affars at Mission Beirut

Near Eastern Affairs to Lebanon

Overview:

Public Diplomacy in Lebanon faces numerous challenges: from limits on branding given the integration of U.S. designated terrorist organization, Hizballah, into the government to restrictions on mobility given ongoing security challenges. These tensions are heightened by the ongoing political and economic issues facing Lebanon today. As the U.S. Embassy seeks to continue to conduct outreach - promoting U.S. values and positive messaging in hard to reach areas - and program with new audiences, the challenge to develop new methods of engagement to foster mutual understanding and bridge gaps between communities and cultures is more important than ever. Mission Beirut is seeking to understand the landscape regarding virtual programming to engage Lebanese in outreach and public programming related to education, arts and culture, civic engagement, and other opportunities.

By assessing the current virtual programs implemented around the world, Mission Beirut aims to multiply its engagement opportunities with the public by opting for the best suggestions in comparison to the less costly models and by following previous successful initiatives that might fit our efforts in Lebanon.

Post is seeking:
1. A data analysis of the types of virtual programs being conducted in conflict zones: theme, platform, organizational sponsor, effectiveness/reception, and any measurable impact.
2. A summary of the success and challenges/opportunities of programs
3. A recommendation (or series of recommendations) of how to model a virtual program, including recommended tool, to maximize impact.

Format of Final Project:

We would like a data analysis combined with a report detailing an action plan, including the model recommended and alternates.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Education & Cultural Studies; International Relations; Middle East/North African Studies; Statistics; Civil Society;

<u>Comments</u>:

The State Department Travel Advisory for Lebanon cautions U.S. citizens to reconsider travel Lebanon due to crime, terrorism, armed conflict and civil unrest, noting some areas have increased risk. Further, the State Department recommends U.S. citizens not travel to: the border with Syria due to terrorism and armed conflict; the border with Israel due to the potential for armed conflict; and refugee settlements due to the potential for armed conflict. Our particular interest, therefore, is for suggestions of how to engage virtually in spaces where U.S. citizens are typically not encouraged to travel.

Transnational Crime in South Asia - Wildlife Trafficking

Europe and Asia

International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs

Overview:

Wildlife trafficking is a transnational crime that has become an international crisis threatening Earth's biodiversity. As the U.S. government's lead on combatting all forms of transnational crime, the State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs has prioritized combatting wildlife trafficking in order to help our partners stop this insidious crime. This is your opportunity to help policy makers and program officers find solutions to tackle this growing threat. In this project, we are looking for a research team to map the illegal wildlife trade in and through South Asia, with a particular focus on Nepal. Given Nepal's weak border controls, proximity to the largest wildlife market in the world, the People's Republic of China (PRC), and its rich biodiversity, Nepal is a primary hub for wildlife trafficking. We are interested in learning more on how wildlife and animal parts are trafficked from outside South Asia into the region and eventually into Nepal and then the PRC. The trafficking of wildlife through South Asian brokers online is also of interest. Finally, we are interested in new and innovative thinking on how we can help our partners in South Asia address this problem.

Format of Final Project:

2-4 page final report and options memo, oral presentations welcome.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement; International Relations; Narcotics & Law Enforcement; South/Central Asian Studies;

Comments:

We are ready to help facilitate interviews with relevant stakeholders in the United States, Nepal, and South Asia.

Review of Alternatives to Incarceration Efforts Worldwide

Office of Global Policies and Programs

International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs

Overview:

INL's Office of Global Policies and Programs has been working to track what types of Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) exist worldwide to better support our partners in the development of creating ATI systems. To date, we have developed a basic excel spreadsheet, however, it is not nearly as complete as many countries have varying programs and may not refer to their programs as alternatives. The ultimate goal for INL's Drug Demand Reduction work in Alternatives to Incarceration are to divert nonviolent offenders away from the criminal justice system into treatment to reduce drug related crime and violence.

This project would include extensive research in English and Spanish and other languages (if known) to 1) complete the excel spreadsheet, 2) define and group together findings and 3) providing summaries of qualitative and preferred quantitative successes with their corresponding original sources. Project should also include U.S. data successes in creating ATI programs such as deflection, diversion (i.e. mobile response teams), drug courts, and reentry as the U.S. has many types of programs though little research has been conducted other than that of Drug Courts.

Format of Final Project:

1 excel spreadsheet of ATI programs by Country and Type and 1 10-20 page paper grouping similar types of ATI programs with definitions by country together with highlighted brief key qualitative and quantitative data successes.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement; International Relations;

Comments:

Science has confirmed that substance use disorders are reoccurring chronic, often relapsing disease that affects the brain and should be treated within the public health arena similar to other diseases such as diabetes and heart disease. This understanding, however, does not easily find its way into public or social policy. Persons suffering from untreated substance use disorders most often end up in the criminal justice system as a result of criminal activity related to their disease and need to support their addiction. The

criminal justice system becomes the repository of individual with substance use disorder and that system may be the first place people suffering from the disease enter treatment. Therefore, opportunities for treatment interventions occur along the justice continuum from arrest to prosecution to sentencing to incarceration to release. Creating systematic treatment interventions which offer treatment in lieu of incarceration or further prosecution results in reduced criminal activity and increases for opportunities for recovery.

Creating systemic treatment interventions based on best practices requires that offenders are screened at each point of entry along the justice continuum. Such screening processes should determine the possibility of a substance use disorder. If the screening indicates a disorder, individuals should be required to undergo a diagnostic assessment to determine the nature and severity of the substance use disorder and level of care such as outpatient, inpatient, residential and possibly medicated assisted treatment needed to treat that disorder. Many nonviolent offenders with substance use disorders often have co-occurring mental health disorders and/or physical illnesses which should be part of the diagnostic assessment, administered by trained clinicians. Assessing an individual's other social or an economic need is also critical in developing a patient centered treatment plan.

In the most recent United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs (UNGASS) in 2016 the world came together and created a 25-page outcome document on the way forward to focus on drug demand reduction and supply reduction issues. In that document countries agreed that the public health sector and the criminal justice system should work together to find more way to address nonviolent offender suffering from substance use. INL's drug demand reduction team has taken on creating curricula designed to support countries determine what types of alternatives may be possible for this nonviolent offender population.

Pg 7 - (l) Develop and strengthen, as appropriate, the capacity of health, social and
law enforcement and other criminal justice authorities to cooperate, within their
mandates, in the implementation of comprehensive, integrated and balanced responses
to drug abuse and drug use disorders, at all levels of government;

Pg 15 - (e) Promote, in accordance with domestic legislation, effective coordination
among the justice, education and law enforcement sectors and social services to ensure
that the specific needs, including mental and physical needs, of underage drug offenders
and children affected by drug-related crime are appropriately considered, including
in criminal justice proceedings where required, including by providing those in need
with drug treatment and related support services;

Many countries are familiar with Drug Courts which have been proven to be highly successful within the United States as they adhere to the model. Drug Courts are also beneficial for countries that would like to target high risk and high needs users requiring a great deal of services and support. Successful drug courts are based on the best practices outlined above and have strong relationships with non-governmental or other treatment organizations delivering services based on best practices. However, reliance on drug courts along misses other opportunities for treatment interventions at other justice system points. In the United States many States have taken on additional types of alternative to incarceration programs to begin

treatment interventions for offenders with substance use disorders that come into the criminal justice system even at the time of arrest and at in-take. In addition, opportunities to reduce criminality while on community supervised release such as probation or parole are enhanced by developing a system which provides information and referral opportunities to treatment.

INL is developing training for policymakers and agency heads from both the public health sector and criminal justice sector which begins with an initial meeting to discuss critical areas of need within a particular country related to alternatives to incarceration. In addition to receiving information on a number of alternatives to incarceration along the justice continuum, countries will also complete a pre-assessment survey which will help identify: (1) important stakeholders, decision-makers, policymakers, and others who should be involved in the training, (2) key points in the criminal justice system at which policymakers would like to develop alternatives to incarceration or to improve existing services, (3) existing services, structures, and processes related to drug-involved persons who are involved in the criminal justice system, and (4) important gaps in services. The intent of this training development is to assist countries in the development and delivery of systematic treatment interventions as part of a public health model which will result in reduced criminality, increase opportunities for recovery from the disease and results in healthy productive lives and communities.

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

EAP-SCA

Conflict and Stabilization Operations

Overview:

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

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

Format of Final Project:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Relations;

Safety First

POL

African Affairs to South Africa

Overview:

South Africa suffers from high incidents of gender-based violence specifically and violence in general. As schools are an extension of their surrounding communities violence pervades all aspects of schooling. Despite large investments in Basic Education, which has the greatest share of the national budget, returns on education and learning in South Africa are minimal. USAID has invested in promising education interventions that have been touted by the President of South Africa as the way forward to achieve greater learning; however, it is becoming readily apparent that violence in schools is hindering reform efforts on achieving their full potential. One cannot learn under stress, especially stress caused by fear of violence and our hypothesis is that (gender-based) violence is a root cause of lower than expected education outcomes.

As Education is slated to be a main technical focus of USAID/Southern Africa's next five-year strategy we are interested in better understanding violence in South Africa and how it affects the education sector. We would like two main questions answered a) What information exists on the violence in South Africa especially on its prevalence in schools and effects on learning and b) what sort of programming has been successful in creating safe spaces for learning that would work in the South African context.

Format of Final Project:

We are not tied to any format but I would think a research paper, options memo and/or presentation would fit. We would discuss with those performing the work on the format they may think is best.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Gender Studies;

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

POL

African Affairs to South Africa

Overview:

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

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

Format of Final Project:

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

presented to APCOF in English.

APCOF will then use this research paper to develop a broader publication that will look broadly at the last 10 years in terms of normative standard development at the regional level, how it has manifested in police accountability at the national level, and draw conclusions on what the police accountability agenda can and should look like for the next 10 years, based on the research findings.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement; International Relations;

SA's Protests and the Traditions of Non-Violence

POL

African Affairs to South Africa

Overview:

South Africa has a significant tradition of non-violent strategic action being used to effect change. The ANC, for example, only chose the armed route after many decades of peaceful protest action. More recent protest, however, such as the #feesmustfall campaign and community service delivery protests, appear to resort to violence as a matter of course, often with destruction of property and injury to people. It would be useful to examine the reasons for this change from the perspective of the non-violent traditions of Martin Luther King and Mahatma Ghandi.

Format of Final Project:

An overview of any research that has been in this area.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Relations;

Restorative Justice and Meditation

POL

African Affairs to South Africa

Overview:

When restorative justice began to take off internationally during the 1990s and 2000s, the leading thinkers did not equate it with mediation. In fact, some emphasised the differences. As time progressed, there has been convergence between the two fields, while noting differences. One of the ways in which this has been conceptualised is to locate restorative justice processes as part of facilitative mediation, as opposed to settlement-driven mediation. Both fields continue to grow and develop internationally, with restorative justice processes being applied in new areas. It would be helpful to be informed of current trends in this regard.

Format of Final Project:

A summary of most recent research and trends.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement; International Relations;

Explain A Complicated Process - Passport Website Instructional Videos

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

Consular Affairs

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 Project:

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.

Can You See Me Now? – Identifying Camera Problems Autonomously

DS/STO/QAL

Diplomatic Security

Overview:

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

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

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

Format of Final Project:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Science and Technology;

<u>Comments</u>:

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

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

Political/ Economic Affairs

Economic and Business Affairs to Cabo Verde

Overview:

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

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

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

Cabo Verde and to the IFIs/ IOs who make the decisions? How can Cabo Verde's experience help shape other SIDS' graduation processes?

Format of Final Project:

Strategy paper with actions and actors identified

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

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

Comments:

This question is, clearly, broader than Cabo Verde.

Promoting Collaborative Science in Indonesia: Best International Practices for Policymakers

Environment, Science, Technology and Health Unit

U.S. Mission to Indonesia

Overview:

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

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

<u>Format of Final Project</u>:

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

<u>Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest</u>:

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

How to Dismantle the Starving Artist Business Model

Cultural Programs Division

Educational and Cultural Affairs

Overview:

The NEA estimates there to be 2.1 million artists in the U.S. A recent survey revealed 47% of artists spend less than 25% of their time actually generating original art. 86% of female artists earned less than $10,000 a year from their art as compared with 77% of male artists (Artfinder). Becoming a successful artist is both a creative and an entrepreneurial challenge. To develop a sustainable career, an artist must possess skills in networking, marketing, finance, logistics, and sales. New artists are also operating under severely limited resources. Compounding the challenges of working in multidisciplinary roles and finite resources, new and emerging artists are geographically constrained by the cost of framing, packaging, transporting, and insurance the art they wish to exhibit (and sell). The cost of getting art to market narrows the choice of markets (i.e. galleries) where artists can show their work. Artists are also tied to a commission-based revenue model that allocates a significant percentage of the final sales price to partnered art galleries.

This project requests a re-evaluation of existing business practices for new and emerging artists and a business analysis to identify innovative practices to gain greater market access and increase profitability. Key activities include analyzing the current business practices of contemporary artists, exploring innovative supply chain models, identifying ways and means to leverage technology, and designing feasible and sustainable revenue models. The long-term goal of this project is to contribute to our understanding of how the creative economy can sustain entrepreneurship, create jobs, and cultivate relationships with diverse and underserved communities. Exploration of creating new business practices supports artists attaining economic success and the financial freedom to generate expressive works. The Cultural Programs division will incorporate the insight and relationships developed through this project in its programmatic efforts overseas as well as alumni development and engagement activities.

Format of Final Project:

A 15-page research paper and presentation.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Economic & Finance Issues; Education & Cultural Studies; Information & Communication Technology; International Relations; Marketing; Science and Technology; Civil Society;

Comments:

Read: A New Study Shows That Most Artists Make Very Little Money, With Women Faring the Worst
https://news.artnet.com/market/artists-make-less-10k-year-1162295

We Come from the Land of the Ice and Snow: A Network to Connect Arctic Museums

Cultural Programs Division

Educational and Cultural Affairs

Overview:

Museums play an essential role in community development and cultural heritage preservation. In the Arctic, the tangible and intangible heritage of the Arctic peoples is collected, represented, and interpreted by small museums, frequently located in geographically isolated communities. In the 21st century, technology offers unprecedented opportunities for museum professionals, artists, and communities to connect, share, curate and interpret art together. This project is a technology assessment and feasibility study of Arctic museums' needs and possible technological solutions, including, but not limited to, crowdsourcing, crowdfunding, virtual reality, and augmented reality. The project focuses on the Arctic Council member states and permanent participants: https://arctic-council.org/index.php/en/

The goal of the project is to identify practical and available technological solutions that can help advance museums' goals, in keeping with the Arctic Council's agenda. Further, our goal is identify synergies and affinities between different stakeholder groups which can grow into sustainable international relationships, with programmatic support from ECA. Recommendations for what forms such support may take are also welcome.

Format of Final Project:

A white paper; ideally accompanied by case studies. A publication in a discipline-specific journal/journals. A list of actionable recommendations.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Arctic Region Studies; Education & Cultural Studies; Anthropology; Public-Private Partnerships;

Comments:

Background reading:
https://www.arctictoday.com/northern-museums-exhibits-indigenous-art-increasingly-community-efforts/?wallit_nosession=1
Our office:
https://eca.state.gov/programs-and-initiatives/initiatives/cultural-diplomacy

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

PDCS/DE/AD

Overseas Buildings Operations

Overview:

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

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

The Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO) is seeking academic proposals for the study of appropriate architectural representation through the design of a U.S. Embassy of the Future. Student work should answer these questions&:
1. At an urban scale, what is the role of architecture in creating the appropriate representation of the United States diplomatically for its centers for engagement, and define what constitutes that architecture?
2. Further, how does the architecture of an American embassy engage and compliment the culture and context of the host country?
3. How much does the local contemporary or vernacular architectural context, materials, landscaping, climate and infrastructure influence the embassy's design?
4. How can the need for of security and the desire for openness are achieved through design and technological advancements?
5. In times of heightened security how can an American embassy of the future operate as a totally self-sufficient entity?
6. How does the embassy of the future create a better community within for its staff and visitors?

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

The semesters work shall include the study of advanced building façade concepts and materials using

parametric digital design analysis. Proposals could be inspired by ecological design, regenerative design, advanced acoustic design, light weight high strength structural and security products, and technological advances for façade materials that address these two opposing needs

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

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

Format of Final Project:

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

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Architecture;

Comments:

Resources:
https://overseasbuildings.state.gov/
https://de.usembassy.gov/our-relationship/policy-history/chancery/building/
http://www.dw.com/en/new-us-embassy-in-berlin-triggers-architecture-debate/a-3325836
https://biomimicry.org/
https://living-future.org/lbc/
http://www.case.rpi.edu/
https://www.regenerative.com/what-is/regenerative-design
https://precast.org/2014/11/uhpc-offers-endless-possibilities/
http://www.taktl-llc.com/What-is-TAKTL

Strengthening Embassies' Capacity to Advance Internet Freedom and Business and Human Rights in Information and Communication Technology Companies

Multilateral and Global Affairs

Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor

Overview:

Challenges to human rights online – namely privacy and freedom of speech, association, and peaceful assembly – have been on the rise globally. From state sponsored network disruptions to censorship of online content, authoritarian regimes are finding new and innovative ways to stifle Internet freedom. The trend is not abating; "fake news" legislation is increasingly used to target dissidents and human rights defenders while repressive states use data localization laws to restrict citizens' data within their borders, where it is accessible by security agencies. From Yahoo!'s role in China to Vodaphone's role in Egypt, information and communication technology (ICT) companies have also come under increased scrutiny for their role in corporate misconduct allegations. Multinational corporations have experienced damaging media attention for human rights abuses, negatively impacting local communities, the company's brand, and the reputation of the government that is home to these companies.

Recognizing the role of business to respect human rights in challenging environments, the U.S. government endorsed the UN Guiding Principles – global guidance on business and human rights. The State Department's Internet Freedom and Business & Human Rights (IFBHR) Section leads U.S. government policy to promote and protect human rights online as well as with business, globally. To better equip our embassies abroad to help advance Internet freedom and business and human rights, the IFBHR Section is seeking to partner with a dynamic team of students to develop a manual for Foreign Service Officers. This resource will equip Officers, posted worldwide, with core knowledge on the Internet freedom and business and human rights challenges pertaining to ICT companies; risks to look out for in their interactions with businesses, civil society, and other governments in country; recommendations on best practice; and resources for further information.

Format of Final Project:

The final project will be a manual providing a brief overview of Internet freedom and business and human rights pertaining to ICT companies; general and issue-specific risks, including state sponsored network disruptions, online censorship, and surveillance technology; best practices; suggested talking points for Officers interacting with businesses, civil society, and governments on these issues; and a recommended reading list. Please include citations. Further guidance will be provided by the IFBHR Section on content, level of detail, and format of the manual.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Economic & Finance Issues;

Comments:

The IFBHR Section is eager to further students' understanding of Internet freedom and business and human rights pertaining to ICT companies and the role of government in this area while providing them with the unique opportunity to impact the field.

Mapping the Greenland Private Sector

EUR/NB

European and Eurasian Affairs to Denmark

Overview:

Greenland Private Sector Mapping - Greenland is an autonomous region of Denmark comprised of 58,000 people. The land holds tremendous strategic value for the United States, including hosting outmost northern military base, but we know limited information about the private sector and labor market. Embassy Copenhagen is looking for a mapping exercise on the private sector and government owned companies to help guide expected increased engagement with Greenland.

Format of Final Project:

A research paper complemented with graphics and a one page executive summary.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Economic & Finance Issues; Energy Security; International Relations; Oceans;

Comments:

Expect project would take one semester. If chosen, post will provide further reference material.

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

Economic and Regional Affairs

African Affairs

Overview:

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

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

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

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

Format of Final Project:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

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

Comments:

The inspiration for this project stems from a recent podcast by Planet Money where an economic student was able to quantify and identify animus in the field of economics by studying online conversations in a well-regarded and famous professional exchange forum. The paper is widely regarded because where it is difficult to reach into a person's heart to see what motivates them, the quantifying of certain words and patterns of communication revealed real tendencies. These tendencies could then be measured and assessed giving the researcher excellent insight into the hearts and minds of the collective. (Links to the press about the study and the actual paper are here: https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/18/upshot/evidence-of-a-toxic-environment-for-women-in-economics.html and additional findings: https://www.aeaweb.org/about-aea/committees/cswep/survey).

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

Design the State Department's IT School of the Future

SAIT Innovation Sandbox

Foreign Service Institute

Overview:

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

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

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

Format of Final Project:

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

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

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

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

<u>Comments</u>:

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

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

Understanding Perceptions of U.S. Economic Investment in Singapore and Southeast Asia

U.S. Embassy Singapore

East Asian and Pacific Affairs to Singapore

Overview:

There is a widespread perception that China is the dominant economic power in Southeast Asia and that the United States is not engaged economically, and to some extent politically, in the region. This perception does not match reality. U.S. investment in ASEAN is still consistently higher than that of China. American commercial presence in the region has never been stronger and it is continually growing.Recent polling conducted in Singapore, which is home to 4,200 American companies, many of which serve as regional headquarters for the Asia-Pacific, does not reflect knowledge of the strength of American economic engagement. The polling shows that when asked "which country do you think has the best relationship with Singapore on trade and investment at present?" 46% said China and 26% said USA. When asked "which country do you think will have the best relationship with Singapore on trade and investment in five years?" 55% said China and 20% said USA. When asked "which country do you think has the best relationship with Singapore on technology and innovation at present?" 37% said Japan and 27% said USA. When asked "which country do you think will have the best relationship with Singapore on technology and innovation in five years?" 28% said China and 27% said Japan.

We would like to better understand public sentiments about U.S. economic engagement in Singapore and Southeast Asia. How well do Singaporeans understand the level of American economic investment in the region? To what extent do Singaporeans know about trade between America and the region? How do perceptions about American investments and trade with the region compare to how Singaporeans perceive other countries' investments and trade in the region? Why isn't America seen as a leader in technology and innovation in the region? What is the media narrative about these topics? What does survey data show? What messages or approaches would best help the U.S. Embassy to highlight the enduring importance of U.S. trade and investment to Singapore and the region?

Format of Final Project:

Research and analysis of local sentiments toward American trade and investment in Singapore and Southeast Asia, in general and specific to key industries, including a written report of findings and presentation to the U.S. Embassy.

Recommendations for a public messaging campaign to highlight the role of U.S. economic engagement and shift attitudes amongst Singaporeans, including a written report of recommendations and presentation to the U.S. Embassy.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

East Asian/Pacific Studies; Marketing; Business; Communications;

Comments:

The lead office for this project will be the Public Affairs Section of U.S. Embassy Singapore, in cooperation with colleagues from the U.S. Commercial Service and other elements of the Mission community.

More information about the Embassy's work can be found at https://sg.usembassy.gov/

The Overstay Mentality: Understanding Unlawful Immigration of Cabo Verdeans

U.S. Embassy Praia, Consular Section

Consular Affairs to Cabo Verde

Overview:

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

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

Format of Final Project:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

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

Comments:

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

Who is spreading Disinformation in Sub-Saharan Africa?

Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs

African Affairs

Overview:

Disinformation is a not a new means of influencing public opinion, but it is spreading faster than ever online. Those who intentionally spread disinformation seldom have the well-being of their society in mind, and may be trying to fuel distrust, grievances, and divisions in society, between society and government, and between countries. It can be particularly powerful when picked up by normally reputable news sources, and linger even after it is refuted. In order to combat disinformation we need to know who is spreading it, what they are saying, and where they are saying it. We also need to know who is listening and sharing so that we can target those audience, with (for example) educational campaigns aimed at promoting critical thinking. This project will look at various sources of online media and identify the countries and platforms in Sub-Saharan Africa where disinformation is spread. The project should include examples from the Sub-Saharan Africa context.

Format of Final Project:

Please present your findings in a 1-5 page executive summary and a presentation, and share all sources of reference and data used. Presentations may be delivered in person or virtually.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

African Studies; Counter Terrorism; Education & Cultural Studies; Information & Communication Technology; International Relations; Psychology; Sociology; Youth Issues; Communications; Conflict, Stabilization, & Reconstruction;

Comments:

For more information please read: https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-national-security-advisor-ambassador-john-r-bolton-trump-administrations-new-africa-strategy/

The Office of Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs handles all press, social media, and exchange programs within the Bureau of African Affairs, Department of State: https://www.state.gov/p/af/

Research projects for this office should all focus more heavily on society, media, social media, education, and exchange programs. For more information on exchange programs please visit the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs: https://eca.state.gov/

Implementing Exit Controls on the US Mexico Border

Non Immigrant Visas

U.S. Mission to Mexico

Overview:

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

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

Format of Final Project:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

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

Comments:

The expected timeframe of this project is 4 months.

How Do Different People Arrive at the Same Conclusion Consistently?

Santo Domingo/Consular Section

U.S. Mission to Dominican Republic

Overview:

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

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

Format of Final Project:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

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

<u>Comments</u>:

The U.S. Department of State processes millions of non-immigrant visas (NIVs) every year, all around the world. Officers who are charged with making these decisions face a multitude of resilience challenges, including decision fatigue and working often in difficult environments. Consular management encourages ongoing training, especially about the unique cultural factors that exist in each individual country context. This project will allow your team to take a deep dive into the management practices for managing a large volume of customers and help us improve our services to potential visitors to the United States. You will not have access to any actual adjudication information or decisions since the intent of this project is to understand what information and data already exists from similar or even different industries where multiple people may be looking at the same information and arriving at different or similar conclusions.

Impact Analysis of the 10-Year Visa for Chinese Nationals

Embassy Beijing Nonimmigrant Visa Section

Consular Affairs to China

Overview:

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

Sub-questions may include:
Have the marketing tactics of visa and travel facilitators and the typical profile and travel style of Chinese tourists changed post-November 2014?
How do Chinese travel patterns correlate with trends in the Chinese economy (for example, province- and city-level GDP changes, or the opening of new flight routes to the U.S.)?
Has online discussion in Chinese social media reflected any notable changes in attitude toward travel to the U.S.?

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

Format of Final Project:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

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

Comments:

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

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

https://www.cabi.org/leisuretourism/news/25577
https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-01-23/-12-000-trips-abroad-replace-chinese-new-year-treks-to-grandma-s
http://ec.europa.eu/DocsRoom/documents/15746/attachments/1/translations/en/renditions/native
https://www.ustravel.org/system/files/media_root/document/Research_Fact-Sheet_Summary-Country-Profile_China.pdf
https://rhg.com/impact/china-investment-monitor/
http://www.aei.org/china-global-investment-tracker/

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

Economic Affairs Section

Near Eastern Affairs to Kuwait

Overview:

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

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

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

Format of Final Project:

- A short paper (about five pages) summarizing your research efforts and your methodology, including a detailed analysis that explains how you arrived at the dollar values you assigned.

- An estimate of the number of U.S. jobs attributable to Kuwaiti medical and educational travelers, directly or indirectly.

- An estimate of the export value of the U.S. services (and goods) used by Kuwaiti medical and educational travelers while in the United States.

- (if appropriate) a comparison of the U.S. trade flows with Kuwait, in light of growth in trade in services like education and health care. How do your findings compare with existing government statistics?

- (If appropriate) a PowerPoint presentation highlighting your most surprising findings.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

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

Comments:

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

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

Smartphone APP for U.S. History in the Azores

U.S. Consulate Ponta Delgada

European and Eurasian Affairs to Portugal

Overview:

The U.S. Consulate in the Azores, located in the capital city of Ponta Delgada, seeks a creative and tech-proficient team to help research and design a smartphone APP that visitors to Ponta Delgada can use to venture around the city and learn about sites of historical importance to the U.S.-Azores relationship. 2017-2019 marks the centennial anniversary of U.S.-Azores cooperation during World War I, including the U.S. Marines fending off a German U-boat attack on downtown Ponta Delgada, as well as the first flight in the Azores, made by one of the U.S. Marines aviation units in February 1918.

The team will collaborate with a local historian to identify a dozen or so points of historical interest (ex, cemetery where U.S. soldiers are buried), then develop text and graphics to inform the public of the many contributions the United States has made in defense of the Azores, one of Portugal's autonomous regions, and with strong ties to U.S. diaspora communities in MA, RI, and CA.

This project will help the U.S. Consulate meet our strategic objectives of reinforcing the historic U.S.-Portugal relationship and supporting the growth of the local economy, which is based in large part on tourism.

Format of Final Project:

A working, user-friendly smartphone application.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

European & Eurasian Studies; Information & Communication Technology; International Relations; Political/Military Affairs; Science and Technology; Computer Science;

Comments:

Depending on the group's progress, number of sites can be scaled down or increased to include other islands of the Azores. APP should be in English, and local partners can help translate content into Portuguese as an add-on, if there is sufficient time.

Marketing & Message Testing for Public Diplomacy

ENR/EGA/PAPD

Energy Resources

Overview:

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

Format of Final Project:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

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

Comments:

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

U.S.-Norwegian Arctic Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Mapping

U.S. Embassy Oslo Public Affairs

European and Eurasian Affairs to Norway

Overview:

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

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

Using an acceptable and widely-recognized approach (such as the GIZ Guide for Mapping the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem) as a guideline, the DipLab partner should prepare a list of the players and stakeholders in the Arctic region's entrepreneurial space. In mapping the "ecosystem," the DipLab partner should use the following tools/metrics:
o   Quantitative survey to gather data from Norwegian and Alaskan entrepreneurs, youth, indigenous peoples and organizations, and other critical stakeholders on the challenges in the current environment.
o   Qualitative research and interviews with key stakeholders in the Arctic business ecosystem, including entrepreneurs, support organizations, investors, and government officials.
o   Review any relevant secondary research on the market.
o   Mapping should cover Alaska, Norway, and other geographical locations critical to the wider success of U.S. and Norwegian Arctic business endeavors.

Further information and for background on internal and external efforts currently underway in this area, please see the following links (not an exhaustive list but provided as a starting point):
o   https://www.thearcticinstitute.org/blue-economy-potential-alaska-north-norway/
o   https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=318953
o   https://en.uit.no/forskning/forskningsgrupper/gruppe?p_document_id=455225

Format of Final Project:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

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

Comments:

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

Increasing Student Mobility between the U.S. and UK

Cultural Affairs Office

European and Eurasian Affairs to United Kingdom

Overview:

For the third year running, and despite a relatively small population, the UK is the largest sender of students to the U.S. in Europe, and the 14th largest sender in the world. However political uncertainty in the UK continues as the country moves towards the date of withdrawal from the EU in 2019. The impact of Brexit on studying abroad is unclear and key questions still remain. Brexit has impacted the sterling's value against the dollar, causing the cost of U.S. study to change dramatically over the months. It is also unclear if UK students will still be able to take part in the Erasmus+ exchange scheme.

In spite of challenges, there is continued interest in U.S. study and young people in the UK continue to have an international perspective. Much of this success can be attributed to the work of the UK EducationUSA office which offers comprehensive and current information to thousands of British students interested in studying at accredited universities in the U.S. During 2016-17 year, the Open Doors statistics show that 11,489 British students studied in the U.S., which was a drop of about 110 (or 0.9%) from the previous year. However, the number of undergraduate students increased on 2015-16's record-breaking increase by a further 1.8% and the number of graduate students increased by 1.7%.

The fall in the overall numbers may be attributed to the 13.4% decrease in non-degree seeking students in the U.S. when compared to 2015-16. While difficult to be definitive about the reasons for this, anecdotal evidence suggests that more UK students studied abroad than before during this time, and that UK universities had heavily promoted the Erasmus+ European study abroad program before it ends due to UK's exit from the EU.

Format of Final Project:

Students will conduct research to: identify reasons for why fewer British students choose to study in the U.S.; identify demographics (gender, ethnicity, household income) of students choosing and not choosing the U.S.; outline additional ways in which the U.S government may leverage opportunities presented by Brexit to increase the number of British students studying in the U.S.—greater promotion of HBCUs, vocational schools, etc.

Students will provide a brief research paper and a virtual presentation.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Relations; Youth Issues;

Comments:

Resources:
https://www.iie.org/opendoors/
http://www.fulbright.org.uk/going-to-the-usa/undergraduate/educationusa-advice

Malaysia: Meeting Energy Demand through New Sources and Smart Consumption

Economic Section

U.S. Mission to Malaysia

Overview:

This project will examine ways Malaysia can meet growing energy demand through the onboarding of distributed energy sources and the development of sustainable consumption practices. Students groups will meet at regular intervals with Embassy stakeholders to identify areas of interest in the renewable (solar, biofuels, etc.) and green technology (microgrids, storage, etc.) sectors – particularly where we can recommend U.S. products, services, and expertise – and to research challenges and opportunities facing these energy sources and technologies in Malaysia. Throughout the project, students will develop a set of recommendations/action plan for the Embassy team to review and deploy.

The conclusion of the semester will feature an opportunity for the students to brief Embassy leadership on their research and recommendations, and to field questions from U.S. government officials tasked with implementing these solutions.

Format of Final Project:

One-page infographics capturing topline information from each student group; 20-page research paper synthesizing key points and analysis from all groups; and presentation with Embassy/outside stakeholders.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

East Asian/Pacific Studies; Energy Security; International Relations;

Comments:

Greetings! U.S. Embassy Kuala Lumpur is proud to partner with Diplomacy Lab university affiliates once more to strengthen our energy diplomacy. Officials from the Economic Section's energy and environmental portfolios will work with student groups to develop research topics of importance to the U.S.-Malaysia energy relationship. The ten countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), of which Malaysia is a member, represent one of the most dynamic parts of the global energy system and their energy demand has grown by 60 percent over the past 15 years. It is essential the United States work with Malaysia to address the challenges (and explore the opportunities!) created by this growth.

Indo Pacific Narcotics Trafficking

East Asia

International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs

Overview:

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

Format of Final Project:

Research paper and mapping tool

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

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

Comments:

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

Building ASEAN Identity Within Member State Sovereignty

Multilateral Affairs

East Asian and Pacific Affairs

Overview:

ASEAN is a regional body made up of 10 individual member states all with their own national identity. ASEAN has three pillars of work: economic integration, political security, and socio-cultural sharing. However, one of the most important factors within ASEAN is that no country give up any kind of sovereignty to the regional body itself. Vietnam will chair ASEAN for 2020 and one of their priorities is building an "ASEAN Identity."

How can ASEAN build an identity while simultaneously maintaining distinct national sovereignty? A comparison with the EU – who also has difficulty building a European identity while actually giving up some sovereignty – would be useful. If it didn't work for the EU (or why hasn't it?), how could it work for ASEAN? The United States government wants to see ASEAN succeed as a regional body and believe that supporting an ASEAN identity strengthens the effectiveness of the organization as a whole. The project will entail researching methods of building regional multi-national identity, doing a comparison of identity building within similar regional organization, notably the EU, and lessons learned on identity building.

Format of Final Project:

The final product should be a multiple-page, detailed, distinct recommendation memo for the public sector in the U.S. and ASEAN Member States that could build the image of an ASEAN identity, specifically that could be implemented within the next two years.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Relations;

Comments:

http://www.eria.org/ASEAN_at_50_4A.2_Acharya_final.pdf,
http://warwickaseanconference.com/building-asean-identity/

Cross-Cultural Linkages Between Contemporary African American and African Pop Culture

Public Affairs

African Affairs to Botswana

Overview:

Woke is as a political term of African American origin that refers to a perceived awareness of issues concerning social justice and racial justice. It is derived from the expression "stay woke." Recently this term has been adopted into the vernacular of the youth in Botswana. In the U.S., the term is generally associated with youth who are politically engaged and it arose from a specific context of the black struggle against racial injustices. However, in Botswana, youth populations largely remain outside of political and civic engagement sphere. In the most basic of terms, Botswana does not suffer from a legacy of apartheid or racial segregation like in the U.S. or South Africa.

Natural hair has gained popularity in both the African American and African communities in recent years. For decades, many black and African women wore chemically straightened hair, wigs, and/or weaves. However, women in the U.S. and Africa are now choosing to wear their hair naturally. Studies by Mintel, a market research firm, indicate that natural hair is associated with a new found element of beauty, respect, empowerment and pride. In a recent interview, the director of the Miss Botswana beauty pageant revealed that 2019 is the first year in which contestants will be allowed to wear their natural hair during the competition.

This proposal seeks to understand the cross-cultural influences/linkages between contemporary African American and African pop culture. Why have some aspects of African American culture translated to contemporary African pop culture while others have not? Does the U.S. even play a role in influencing contemporary African pop culture? What are the linkages that exist that could allow the USG to better understand its audience and allow Embassies to draw on cultural similarities to create more effective programming and achieve policy goals.

Format of Final Project:

Research Paper and presentation

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

African Studies; Education & Cultural Studies; International Relations; Sociology; Youth Issues;

China's Domestic Drug Problems

East Asia

International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs

Overview:

Little is known about Chinese domestic drug abuse trends, its chemical and pharmaceutical industry and this industry's role in the illegal drug trade (specifically synthetic drugs), and China's efforts to expand their international cooperation to combat crime and narcotics. We are asking for a comprehensive report/s into these three priority areas.

Format of Final Project:

Report

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

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

Comments:

This research will better enable the United States Government engage China in counter narcotics cooperation and better address our own opioid crisis here in the United States.

Southeast Asia Regional Maritime Law Enforcement Cooperation

East Asia

International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs

Overview:

Maritime law enforcement (MLE) cooperation has become a United States Government foreign policy priority in the past several years. We are asking for a comprehensive report/s in the following areas:

1) What is the level and nature of MLE cooperation in the South China Sea via formal and informal channels, such as WhatsApp and Viber;
2) what are the MLE capabilities and orders of battle in the South China Sea claimant states, including future projections and the capacities of any maritime militias; and
3) determining a baseline for maritime related crimes (piracy, IUU fishing, etc.) in Southeast Asia to better enable the U.S. government to understand emerging trends.

We would also ask for a creation of a tool that would allow us to continue updating the data set and to use that data for visual aids.

Format of Final Project:

Report and visualization tool

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement; East Asian/Pacific Studies; International Relations; Oceans; Political/Military Affairs; Conflict, Stabilization, & Reconstruction;

Comments:

This research will have a direct impact on South China Sea policy and regional MLE cooperation priorities.

Climate Change Modelling for Southern Africa

Regional Environmental Office

U.S. Mission to Botswana

Overview:

What does the latest climate change data say about rainfall and other weather for Southern Africa? We have an understanding that the region will be drier, but to water degree, and is it possible to identify climate changes at the sub-regional level, for example, rainfall in the Lesotho highlands or Kalahari desert? If the data is available, then what are the implications for land use?

Format of Final Project:

Written report

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Climate Change;

Comments:

The data likely exists, but I'm not sure whether anyone has run the models or made public the results for Southern Africa.

Prioritization of Cost Effective Energy Conservation Measures

Design & Engineering, OBO Energy Program

Overseas Buildings Operations

Overview:

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

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

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

Format of Final Project:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

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

Comments:

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

https:;//www.sustainability.gov/policy.html
https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/The-President%E2%80%99s-Management-Agenda.pdf
https://strategy.data.gov/

Measuring the Effectiveness of Confucius Institutes

Public Affairs

African Affairs to Botswana

Overview:

The Confucius Institute program was founded in 2004 to promote Chinese culture and increase China's soft power worldwide. The rapid expansion of institutes in Africa within a short period has coincided with the rise of China as an emerging global superpower. This seems to reflect a long-term strategy aimed at securing the country's growing footprint on the international stage. China's growing geopolitical influence in Africa is well-documented throuhg its investments and expansion of its military role in the region. The Chinese government is also seeking to increase Chinese cultural influence by hosting exchanges for political leaders, students, educators, and journalists. Botswana recently established a Confucius Institute in partnership with the University of Botswana to teach Chinese language and culture.

This project seeks to understand the effectiveness of Confucius institutes in comparison with US Binational centers and "America Spaces." What makes them succeed/fail at achieving policy goals? Has the rapid expansion in Africa equated to a change in how China is viewed on the continent compared to the US? Are the Chinese using the institutes promote communist ideology or specific trade polices? Is there evidence China is using these institutes to gain political influence within governments?

Format of Final Project:

Research Paper

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

African Studies; East Asian/Pacific Studies; International Relations;

Comments:

https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-49511231
https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-education/china-aims-to-optimize-spread-of-controversial-confucius-institutes-idUSKCN1QD00Z
http://aeaa.journals.ac.za/pub/article/view/155
https://qz.com/africa/1351749/chinas-confucius-institutes-in-africa-spread-mandarin-culture/

Do Employee Recognition Awards Work?

Policy and Public Outreach

Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

Overview:

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

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

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

Format of Final Project:

Research paper analyzing career paths of award recipients.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Relations; Science and Technology; Sociology;

Comments:

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

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

U.S. Consulate General Jeddah - Public Affairs Section

Near Eastern Affairs to Saudi Arabia

Overview:

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

Format of Final Project:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Relations;

Comments:

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

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

Public Affairs Section

East Asian and Pacific Affairs to Philippines

Overview:

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

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

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

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

Format of Final Project:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

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

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

US Embassy Mbabane

African Affairs to Swaziland

Overview:

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

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

Format of Final Project:

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

1. How the electoral process works;
2. What the results have been in terms political party and citizen engagement in both elections and governance;
3. What the results have been in terms of quality and effectiveness of legislative governance;

4. How the electoral system/practice is perceived by international organizations; and,
5. An assessment of how that experience could be adapted to the context of Eswatini.

An accompanying PowerPoint presentation should introduce the current Eswatini context, summarize each case study, and provide recommendations regarding specific aspects of the different cases which could be adapted for use in Eswatini. We anticipate sharing the findings of the research with Swati civil society organizations, political parties, and government bodies.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

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

Comments:

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

Entrepreneurship Across the Western Hemisphere

Networks Unit, Office of Policy Planning and Resources, Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs

Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs

Overview:

Inform the future of U.S. entrepreneurial diplomacy. The U.S. Department of State's Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs's Office of Policy, Planning, and Resources is commissioning a report of the entrepreneurial landscape of the Western Hemisphere. This work should elucidate on regional entrepreneurship trends, significant actors in the entrepreneurial space, and challenges and opportunities for entrepreneurs in the region. The final report will inform strategic and tactical decisions by public diplomacy practitioners across the Department and around the world, providing critical information about the environments and contexts in which American diplomats conduct their work.

Format of Final Project:

1. Overview of regional trends, excluding the United States (Google Doc)
--Executive summary (500-1,000 words)
--Annotated bibliography

2. Review of entrepreneurial environment for each Western HemisphereHA country (Google Doc)
--Quick summary for each country (150-200 words)
--Executive summary for each country (500-1,000 words)
--Annotated bibliography

Note: countries should be grouped by U.S. Missions overseas.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Economic & Finance Issues; International Development; International Relations; Marketing; Western Hemisphere Studies; Youth Issues;

Comments:

Foreign language skills (Spanish, French, Portuguese) recommended.

The Networks Unit manages the Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLAI) Network, a vibrant community of young entrepreneurs and changemakers from Latin America, the Caribbean, and Canada

who are committed to fostering economic development and prosperity, security, human rights, and good governance in the hemisphere. We empower entrepreneurs, civil society, and young leaders with the training, tools, networks, and resources to transform their societies. The YLAI Network is a signature part of the U.S. government's efforts to increase partnerships with future leaders to help promote economic growth and strengthen civil society.

Supporting Reconciliation in Post-Conflict Afghanistan

POL/ECON Section

South and Central Asian Affairs to Afghanistan

Overview:

Afghanistan has for decades been ravaged by war, from the fight against Soviet occupation and years of civil war to the Taliban's rise, NATO's intervention and the past 18 years of conflict. As the Afghan peace process moves forward, there is hope that Afghans may soon be able to develop a more peaceful and prosperous nation. However, achieving true reconciliation will involve rehabilitating many ex-combatants, not only from the Taliban, but from militias and other armed groups that have carried out bloody attacks, not only on fellow combatants but in many cases civilians. While it should be, and will be, up to the Afghans themselves to decide how best to promote forgiveness and reconciliation in their society, it would be helpful for an informed, outside organization, such as an American university with expertise in societal reconciliation, to offer advice on how other societies have successfully fostered reconciliation following prolonged conflicts. There might, for instance, be lessons for Afghanistan in the way Germany reconciled with Holocaust victims, or the way bad blood gave way to hope in Belfast, or from settlement efforts in Sri Lanka, Nepal, and/or Colombia. The Afghans could benefit from finding out what barriers to reconciliation exist and learning effective strategies for overcoming those barriers. How can fear be replaced by non-violent coexistence? How can trust and confidence be promoted among combatants who were trying to kill one another months earlier? How can Afghans – combatants or non-combatants – overcome the anger and resentment over losing loved ones or their land or property, and start the long, arduous and necessary process of rebuilding their country (whose economy and infrastructure remain in very poor shape)? Harnessing the creative power of an American university or universities could generate a creative approach that could help Afghans come to terms with their painful past and craft a brighter future.

Format of Final Project:

Flexible

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Relations;

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

Africa Office

Conflict and Stabilization Operations

Overview:

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

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

Format of Final Project:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Relations;

Comments:

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

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

We expect this work to be completed within a semester.

Eradicating Bacha Bazi Exploitation in Afghanistan

POL/ECON Section

South and Central Asian Affairs to Afghanistan

Overview:

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

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

Format of Final Project:

Presentation

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Relations; Youth Issues and Human Rights;

Cultural Economy in Times of Financial Crisis

Public Affairs

Near Eastern Affairs to Lebanon

Overview:

Embassy Beirut seeks to survey cultural institutions in Lebanon and better understand their contributions to the economy. As part of this project, the Embassy wants to identify areas for further engagement, namely the most impactful or influential cultural institutions. In addition, the Embassy would like to identify one or two model U.S. institutions, from whom Lebanese counterparts could glean best practices for sustainable cultural contributions. The ultimate goal of this program is to understand which cultural entities impact the Lebanese economy so that the Embassy can more wisely target resources and engagement.

According to a 2015 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) report, these industries collectively generate $2.25 billion in revenue, representing a work force of 29.5 million (or 1 percent of jobs worldwide). Economic growth in Lebanon is stymied by its confessional political system and can be seen in the country's estimated 25 percent unemployment rate and zero percent growth. Given the weak economic situation, the U.S. Embassy is interested in understanding more about potential opportunities for Lebanon's numerous cultural institutions.

Post encourages the review of models and best practices from museums, art galleries, archival centers, pop up concept/design stores, concerts/music/performance/dance venues, residency spaces, cultural funding organizations, theaters, and libraries.

Format of Final Project:

- 20-30 page research paper
- Data analysis
- Action plan with suggestions of improvement for the current cultural sector in Lebanon

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Economic & Finance Issues; Education & Cultural Studies; International Relations; Marketing; Middle East/North African Studies; Statistics; Civil Society;

Engaging the Social Work Discipline in Countering Violent Extremism

CVE

Counterterrorism

Overview:

Social work (SW) as a discipline has been identified by several prominent academics and organizations in CVE as being a discipline well suited to address the prevention and countering of violent extremism (VE). The discipline has a long history of addressing the psychosocial needs of vulnerable children and adolescents along with pioneering a variety of violence prevention programs. However, this expertise has only recently been examined and promoted as a possible avenue for CVE. In the US, among SW academics, there is very little research into CVE programs or discussion of the role of SW in CVE. In the cases where this expertise has been utilized for CVE, there has been push back from some SW academics and practitioners on the potential for securitization of the profession. Others discuss the potential for CVE activities to stereotype groups. These potential issues are considered to be antithetical to ethics of the profession.

Research Question:

How can CVE engage the profession of the social work at four levels?

1. Social Work academics and researchers
2. Social Work organizations
3. Community social workers
4. Direct practice social workers

Please be specific in all four arenas in how you would engage social workers (e.g., communication strategy, trainings, professional conferences, etc.).

Format of Final Project:

20-30 page research report

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Counter Terrorism; Anthropology; Global Health; Information & Communication Technology; International Development; Marketing; Public-Private Partnerships; Psychology; Sociology; Youth Issues; Civil Society; Communications;

<u>Comments</u>:

Engaging major social work organizations such as the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR), and the National Association of Deans and Directors of Schools of Social Work (NADD) domestically will be essential. Abroad, organizations such as the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), the British Association of Social Workers (BASW), Moroccan Association of Social Workers (AMAM) , International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) and the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) should also be considered.

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

Public Affairs Office

European and Eurasian Affairs to Lithuania

Overview:

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

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

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

Format of Final Project:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

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

Comments:

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

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

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

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

Global Attitudes on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights

MLGA

Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor

Overview:

As the capabilities of artificial intelligence (AI) increases, there are increasing concerns from the NGO community that these technologies pose a significant threat to basic human rights such as freedom of expression, privacy, and freedom from discrimination, among others. However, achieving global consensus on which rights should be protected and how to achieve that goal has been difficult.

The Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor's Office of Multilateral and Global Affairs' is looking for a dynamic team of students to compare and contrast how different countries view the nexus of AI and human rights.

Format of Final Project:

We are looking for students to select approximately ten countries (aside from the United States) from a variety of geographic regions that are likely to influence the future of AI. For each country, we would like a short report (3-5 pages) with the following information (if available):

•   A brief summary of the overall human rights – AI policy priorities for the country
•   Short summaries of key ethics/human rights policy statements from government agencies, companies leading AI research based in those countries, or local NGOs monitoring the impact of AI on society.
•   An overview of the main actors in that country influencing AI ethics development, including regulatory agencies, corporations, major organizations and prominent thinkers
•   A short memo suggesting a strategy for DRL and the United States to engage with that country on AI and human rights, including areas of agreement and disagreement.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Democracy & Human Rights; International Relations; Computer Science;

Comments:

White House Executive Order on Artificial Intelligence and American Values: https://www.whitehouse.gov/ai/ai-american-values/

Developing a Collaborative, Technology-driven Border Management Construct between the United States and Mexico

Western Hemisphere Programs

International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs

Overview:

Countries united by a border and not in conflict with one another often attempt to develop collaborative approaches to manage the border and reduce redundancies in personnel, procedures, and technology. Lack of trust, differing legal frameworks, motivations to protect sovereignty and ideological interests, resource constraints (or in some cases resource surpluses), and the elusive operations of transnational criminal organizations are some of the issues that undermine the ability of countries to develop one true border security enterprise with shared resources, policies, and procedures. Programs such as U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) Unified Cargo Processing (UCP) are promising, as Customs organizations from both countries jointly review cargo entering the United States. A more robust United States-Mexico border management construct would embody the joint scanning, reviewing, and analyzing of all northbound and southbound traffic to disrupt the illicit trafficking of drugs and arms and expedite licit trade and travel.

The research would focus on analyzing case studies of where collaborative border constructs have been tested around the globe, and develop recommendations and policy prescriptions for replicating best practices at ports of entry along the U.S.-Mexico border. The project will also identify existing legislative obstacles in Mexico and the United States that are challenges for collaborative border practices.

Format of Final Project:

20 page report with executive summary and policy recommendations up front.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Relations;

Analyzing Existing Laws on Money Laundering in the Western Hemisphere

INL/WHP

International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs

Overview:

The Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) works with partner nations to build effective law enforcement capacity to counter transnational crime—including focusing on disrupting the TCO business model. This requires an ability to detect, investigate, and prosecute cases relating to money laundering and financial crimes. For this project, the research team will work with INL to determine the scope of analysis in the hemisphere (could range from a handful of countries to region-wide.) The research team will use open source data to determine a baseline analysis of existing money laundering legislation, possible gaps, and recommendations on best practices for the most effective type of legislation. Research should focus both on legislation and implementation of investigative and prosecutorial standards.

Format of Final Project:

Analytical paper or chart summarizing current laws, and a paper on best practices and/or recommendations. We are open to other products depending on the proposal.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Economic & Finance Issues; International Law; International Relations; Western Hemisphere Studies;

Comparative Study on Smuggling and Trafficking Laws in the Western Hemisphere

Western Hemisphere Programs

International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs

Overview:

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

Format of Final Project:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

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

Opportunities in Off-site Manufacturing for Diplomatic Facilities

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

Overseas Buildings Operations

Overview:

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

Format of Final Project:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Architecture; Climate Change;

Comments:

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

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

Office of Policy andn Evaluation

Educational and Cultural Affairs

Overview:

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

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

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

Format of Final Project:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

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

Comments:

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

Advancing Global Women's Economic Empowerment: Lessons Learned and Opportunities for Future Engagement

Women's Global Development and Prosperity Unit

Global Women's Issues

Overview:

The Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) Initiative is the United States' first-ever, whole-of-government approach to global women's economic empowerment. Launched in February 2019, W-GDP aims to reach 50 million women across the developing world by 2025, through the work of the United States Government and its partners.

W-GDP focuses on three pillars: (1) Women Prospering in the Workforce, to advance women in the workforce by improving access to quality education and skills training; (2) Women Succeeding as Entrepreneurs, to promote women's entrepreneurship and increase access to capital, markets, technical assistance, and mentorship; and (3) Women Enabled in the Economy, to identify and reduce the legal, regulatory, and cultural barriers that constrain women's full and free participation in the global economy.

W-GDP is led by the White House to bring together and elevate all women's economic empowerment efforts across Federal departments and agencies. Through a new W-GDP Unit, established in February 2020, the State Department serves as the lead coordinating agency for W-GDP, working to integrate this priority across U.S. foreign policy and to support the White House-led effort.

As the W-GDP Initiative enters its second year, the State Department's W-GDP Unit is looking for a dynamic team (or teams) to conduct research and develop recommendations to advance this effort. Potential research topics include:

(1) Case studies of 5-10 countries' successful implementation of legal reforms to advance women's economic empowerment under one or more of W-GDP's focus areas (e.g. ensuring equal access to credit and capital for women to start and grow their businesses; removing restrictions on possessing and managing property; and removing discriminatory laws that prevent women from working in the same jobs and sectors as men), in order to understand the factors that lead to change (e.g. political leadership, civil society, regional trends, etc.);

(2) Analysis of effective workforce training programs by sector (including those sectors not traditionally accessible to women) in at least three geographic regions, to identify and make recommendations on the types of programs (e.g. long-term contracted programs, public-private partnerships) that lead to greater job placement and retention for women, as well as improved wages. For programs that were not successful or sustainable, what lessons can be learned for the future?;

(3) Literature review of women's economic empowerment and entrepreneurship programs, to consider the effectiveness of programs at different levels of the value chain (e.g. Are micro-enterprise programs for women succeeding in lifting them out of poverty? Which interventions have the greatest impact on business growth and broader poverty eradication across the value chain?).

Format of Final Project:

The deliverables for this project would ideally include monthly progress reports, and a final 10-page research paper and PowerPoint presentation outlining findings on one (or more) of the potential research questions, and recommendations for policymakers, which could potentially be shared with broader stakeholders. Depending on how many teams are selected, teams may address one or more questions. Further detail will be provided by the W-GDP Unit on the scope and parameters of the monthly reports, research paper and presentation.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Economic & Finance Issues; International Development; International Law; International Relations; Public-Private Partnerships;

Comments:

Additional information on W-GDP can be found here: www.wgdp.gov.

Additional information on the State Department's Office of Global Women's Issues and W-GDP Unit can be found here: www.state.gov/s/gwi.

Changing Landscape of the Satellite Industry

Space and Advanced Technology

Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

Overview:

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

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

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

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

Format of Final Project:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

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

Comments:

Were your team to be selected, we'd work with you to identify background readings and other materials.

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

Explore BIM and GIS Integration for US Embassies

Master Planning Division

Overseas Buildings Operations

Overview:

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

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

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

Format of Final Project:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

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

Comments:

Our Bureau:
https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/bureau-of-overseas-buildings-operations/

GIS & BIM Integration:
https://www.geospatialworld.net/blogs/gis-and-bim-integration/
https://www.esri.com/content/dam/esrisites/en-us/newsroom/arcuser-spring-2018.pdf
https://www.autodesk.com/autodesk-university/article/BIM-GIS-and-Smart-Cities-Challenges-and-Opportunities-2020

Safe Transportation Options for Women in Pakistan

Afghanistan and Pakistan Programs

International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs

Overview:

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

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

Format of Final Project:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

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

Comments:

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

Global Navigation Satellite Systems as a Tool to Increase Global Preparedness

Space and Advanced Technology

Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

Overview:

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

Format of Final Project:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

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

Comments:

Were your team to be selected, we'd work with you to identify background readings and other materials. The Office of Space and Advanced Technology (OES/SAT) formulates, develops, and implements U.S. policy and activities related to bilateral and multilateral international space programs and issues, including relevant advanced/emerging technologies. For more information, our office's website is https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-economic-growth-energy-and-the-environment/bureau-of-oceans-and-international-environmental-and-scientific-affairs/office-of-space-and-advanced-technology/

Downstream Impact of Upstream Mekong Dams

Office of Multilateral Affairs

East Asian and Pacific Affairs

Overview:

The downstream impact of dam building on the Mekong and tributary rivers has become increasingly apparent in 2019 and 2020. Seasonal shifts in rainfall due to climate change and El Nino weather patterns were severely and detrimentally amplified by upstream dams that reduced the flow of water through the Mekong countries. In addition to less water, upstream dam operations reduce sediment flow, interrupt fish and other wildlife cycles, and contribute to unpredictable and destructive variance when dams release water. These disruptions not only have an environmental cost, but a socio-economic cost for riparian communities.

60 million people depend on the Mekong river basin for food and economic livelihoods. Anecdotal reports indicate that fish stocks are collapsing and river bank erosion is increasing. In the Mekong Delta region in southern Vietnam, reduced water flows lead to high levels of salinity from ocean water seeping inland and the subsidence (sinking) of the land as ground water is not replaced.

This diplomacy lab project would track the environmental and socio-economic impact of dam operations to riparian communities along the Mekong River. Project teams will monitor news reports and investigations of key institutions related to water flows/release of water by upstream dam operators, protein output (fishing), sediment flows, dam construction, dam operations, new infrastructure announcements (including cancelling of plans or launch of prior projects), erosion and the effect on farmers, salinization of the delta, subsidence (sinking) of the delta.   The project will also follow regional politics and the actions of the Mekong River Commission, including the actions of foreign partners such as the United States, Australia, Japan, India, the ROK, and China via the Lancang Mekong Cooperation Framework (LMC. Note: This is also referred to as the MLC in some Mekong countries).

MLA's US-ASEAN Smart Cities Partnership, https://asean.org/asean/asean-smart-cities-network, includes the cities of, Vientaine, Phnom Penh and Siem Reap, in the Mekong area that may be impacted by the dam infrastructure. Chiangmai will also be included. Special attention should be given to the environmental and socio-economic impacts of dam construction on these cities and their quality for life. Project outcomes/deliverables should include case studies on each city in relation to Mekong developments, inclusive of mapping of impacts at city scale.

Format of Final Project:
-           Monthly reports of dam infrastructure impacts and trends on a national and sub-national level, including visual representations of the data, for the countries of Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam, to be provided by the teams to EAP/MLA.

-        Summary document of the greatest impact by country, city, and industry along the Mekong, for purposes of presentation to Congressional staff, policy-makers and experts, inclusive of data analysis/trends, mapping of socio-economic and ecological hotspots (with GIS, if possible), info-graphics, prepared in both Word and Power point formats. The summary report should also summarize policy ideas that would have the greatest impact in addressing the findings of the project's research.

-        Individual case studies for the cities of Vientaine, Phnom Penh and Siem Reap, inclusive of data analysis/trends, mapping of hotspots/impacts at city scale, info-graphics, prepared in both Word and Power point format. (approx.5-10 pages/slides/city)

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Relations;

Comments:

https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2015/05/mekong-river-dams/
https://www.internationalrivers.org/resources/8477

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

Office of Caribbean Affairs

Western Hemisphere Affairs

Overview:

Redefining What a High Income Country Is

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

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

Format of Final Project:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

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

<u>Comments</u>:

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

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

Office of Policy and Evaluation

Educational and Cultural Affairs

Overview:

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

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

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

Format of Final Project:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

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

Comments:

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

Space Exploration: Space Diplomacy Framework

Space and Advanced Technology

Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

Overview:

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

Format of Final Project:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

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

Comments:

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

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

Designing For Diplomacy: Security Upgrades for Historically Significant Properties

Office of Cultural Heritage

Overseas Buildings Operations

Overview:

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

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

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

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

Format of Final Project:

These studies will be conducted as part of an engineering, architecture, materials science, or historic preservation-related course. Deliverables will be formatted into a single PDF e-book clearly documenting testing methodology, data outcomes, and recommendations for building reinforcement's based on findings.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Architecture; Science and Technology; Materials Science;

Comments:

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

Designing for Diplomacy: Net Zero Energy Building Design

PDCS/DE/AD

Overseas Buildings Operations

Overview:

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

Proposals should include:
- Studio level (I.e. 4th year, advanced graduate).
- Interdisciplinary initiatives and formal participation by other academic disciplines
- Studio course curriculum description, including studio structure and pedagogy
- Proposed design studio schedule
- Curriculum vitae of lead studio critic/professor

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

Format of Final Project:

Course curriculum and final Student Project Presentation Booklet

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Relations; Architecture;

Diplomacy At Sea

Office of Design and Engineering

Overseas Buildings Operations

Overview:

The United States has embassies in Fiji, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, and Samoa, as well as a consulate general in the Solomon Islands. The geographical isolation and size of these countries makes it expensive to build and maintain diplomatic facilities and staff residences. Furthermore, while it is important for the United States to maintain a diplomatic presence in these countries, it may not be necessary for that presence to be continuous. Could these embassies and consulate be consolidated in favor of a seaborne U.S. embassy in the form of a ship with an appropriately diplomatic name (e.g., the USS Friendship)?

There are political, legal, and architectural dimensions to the response to this question.

The political: Could such a ship serve both the representational (diplomatic) mission of the Department of State and the consular mission (e.g., American Citizen Services, consular services) of the Department of State?

The legal: Where would such a ship fit/fall within the boundaries of international law (e.g., is it possible to maintain diplomatic privileges and immunities)?

The architectural: What would the U.S.S. Friendship / U.S. Embassy @ Sea look like (e.g., refer to the USNS Mercy and USNS Comfort currently deployed to support the Coronavirus response).

Projects may focus on any of these.

Format of Final Project:

Presentation and Report

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Relations; Architecture;

Sexual Violence in Lithuania: The Power of Research to Change Laws and Lives

Public Affairs

Embassy Vilnius

Overview:

The principal objective of this project is to provide in-depth research that can be used to initiate amendments to Lithuania's sexual violence legislation and legal statutes. Lithuania's current laws are outdated; present a too-narrow definition of sexual violence; and fail to adequately protect and provide assistance for survivors of sexual violence.

There is very little data on the prevalence of sexual violence in Lithuania, and no national-level research or advocacy campaign has tackled the issue. NGOs and other organizations must rely on EU-wide data when seeking funding or attempting to attract attention to this severely underfunded and under-resourced topic. Justice for survivors is often impeded because the legal definition of sexual violence in the penal code is narrow: marital rape is not criminalized, and rape must include additional violence, the threat of violence, or the helplessness of the victim. Furthermore, it is the victim who must push for criminal proceedings, which allows local law enforcement authorities not only to discourage survivors from filing a claim but also allows them to close investigations if the survivor withdraws their claim for any reason or is pressured into reconciliation by the perpetrator. Most cases do not reach courtrooms, as medical professionals do not have clear instructions to follow or rape kits to use to gather evidence. Due to the lack of comprehensive data on sexual violence, NGOs have limited advocacy tools and struggle to convince lawmakers, legal practitioners, and society at large that a drastic change in sexual violence prevention is necessary.

This project will create a broader coalition for prevention work and will provide baseline research for NGOs to initiate legal amendments that will address crimes of sexual violence. We are seeking partners to conduct comprehensive research to provide data on (1) the obstacles survivors face in reporting and prosecuting crimes; (2) the challenges for legal and civil society professionals, who are involved in providing support services to survivors; and (3) the prevalence of victim-blaming Lithuania.

Format of Final Project:

For topic 1: Barriers that survivors face in their pursuit of justice
We propose desk research and in-depth, semi-structured interviews with 15–20 survivors, which the embassy can help facilitate with local partners.

For topic 2: Barriers that professionals encounter while providing legal, psychological, medical, and other necessary support for survivors of sexual violence
We propose establishing one focus group with legal professionals (prosecutors, attorneys, etc.) to help identify the legal flaws that paralyze the effective prosecution of perpetrators of sexual violence and a

second focus group with survivor support professionals, such as psychologists and counselors at Specialized Assistance Centers, medical professionals, etc.

For topic 3: Prevalence of victim-blaming
We propose using traditional and social media, as well as interviews with willing survey participants, to identify general public perceptions, measure the level of victim-blaming, and assess how that might prevent survivors from sharing their stories and seeking both legal and emotional support.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

International Relations;

Comments:

This research will inform future advocacy work and will allow civil society to develop comprehensive legal strategies and advocacy frameworks. These will include the preparation of draft amendments to the existing legislation that defines sexual violence and regulates the processes of investigation, prosecution and support for survivors. Embassy partners will plan to host ten roundtable meetings with professionals in the regions of Lithuania to present the results of the research and consult experts on the prepared draft amendments to the legislation. They will also host five meetings with MPs, ministers/representatives of ministries, and other stakeholders to promote and secure their support for the draft legal amendments.

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

International Health and Biodefense

Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

Overview:

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

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

Format of Final Project:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

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

Comments:

To learn more about the Office of International Health and Biodefense: https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-economic-growth-energy-and-the-environment/bureau-of-oceans-and-international-environmental-and-scientific-affairs/office-of-international-health-and-biodefense/

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

International Health and Biodefense

Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

Overview:

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

Using COVID-19 as context, participants in this Diplomacy Lab project are asked to assess and provide recommendations on how gaming can be better utilized to prepare for and respond to future outbreaks. Areas of interest include:
- Awareness. How can gaming help raise awareness of infectious disease preparedness and response in advance of or during an outbreak?
- Individual and community preparedness. How can gaming help prepare people for infectious disease outbreaks?
- Informing science/policy decision. How can gaming offer insights into human decision-making and/or advance policy during an outbreak?

Format of Final Project:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

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

<u>Comments</u>:

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

Analyzing Risk Communication and Behavioral Change During The COVID-19 Pandemic

International Health and Biodefense

Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

Overview:

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, global leaders have sought to provide updates on the spread of the disease, government response efforts, and actions individuals should take to protect themselves. These communications occur in the context of evolving scientific knowledge, new policy priorities, and rapid access to opinions and other information through media and social media, resulting in often contradictory messages that create cognitive dissonance (confusion) among the audiences they are trying to reach. What social behaviors should policymakers and government leadership take into consideration when engaging in public health messaging? How can messaging better promote facts and counter misinformation? As this global pandemic continues, a cross-sectional and regional analysis of leadership public messaging and whether people did/did not follow social distancing and other guidance can be evaluated to improve how leaders communicate health risks to their populations. What were the most successful behavioral change messages used internationally to reduce risky behaviors and flatten the curve of this pandemic?

Format of Final Project:

Teams will draft a cross-sectional study with visualizations (using internet or video media) of the impact government messaging had in lowering the spread of disease among targeted populations, both nationally and internationally.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

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

Comments:

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