Diplomacy Lab Project Menu: Fall 2017

[Click on project name to go to its description]

1. A Tropical Gangster and The $30 Million Problem
2. Documenting Our Diplomatic Treasures at African Posts
3. Explain a Complicated Process- Passport Website Instructional Videos
4. To Be or Not to Be – How to Evaluate Decision Making in Visa Adjudications
5. Build the first "Electoral Violence Dataset" for Africa
6. Build the "Diplomatic Exchange" dataset – the first dataset recording global head of state visits from 1950 – 2015
7. Finding More U.S. Host Families and High Schools
8. Finding the lost generation in the Central African Republic
9. Women Soldiers: The Case of Lebanon's Male-Dominated Army
10. Jamaican Lotto Scamming: Root Causes and Policy Alternatives
11. Kuwaiti Land Use : Understanding A Distorted Market and Improving Efficiency in Land Allocation
12. Making Democracy More Compelling for at-Risk Youth
13. Boosting the Financial Sustainability of Ecuador's Civil Society
14. Trends in Local Volunteerism - The Impact of the 2016 Rio Olympics and Other Mega Events on Brazilians' Involvement in Volunteer Activities
15. Reviving the Yugosphere
16. Mapping political patronage networks in Bosnia & Herzegovina using d3.js force layouts
17. Azerbaijan's Political Past and Democratic Potential (Democracy Project)
18. Azerbaijan's Political Past and Democratic Potential (Economy Project)
19. Leveraging Bitcoin Technology for Domestic Resource Mobilization
20. Rebalancing Public Diplomacy in Asia
21. Combating WMD Proliferation Databases
22. Mapping Efforts to Combat WMD Proliferation
23. Fostering Inclusion in the Workplace – Regional Survey
24. Evaluation of Cybersecurity Public Awareness Campaigns
25. Systems Thinking for Diplomacy: Conceptual Mapping of U.S. Foreign Policy Priorities
26. Assessing the structure and impact of the Association of Bi-National Centers of Latin America – a 160 member English and cultural program network in the Western Hemisphere.
27. The Risk Assessment Index for Security and Human Rights
28. Organizational Network Analysis of OSAC Country Councils
29. Emerging Security Technology applications for Country Council
30. Hybrid Legal Systems: The Convergence of Common Law and Civil Law Legal Traditions and Implications for Global Justice Reform
31. Police Force Development: Academic Foundation for Good Practices
32. Developing Maintenance Cultures in UN Police Peacekeeping Missions

Project 01

A Tropical Gangster and the $30 Million Problem

Office of Central African Affairs (AF/C)

Overview:

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

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

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

Format of Final Product:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

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

Comments:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 02

Documenting Our Diplomatic Treasures at African Posts

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Information on the Secretary of State's Register of Culturally Significant Properties: http://overseasbuildings.state.gov/register/register/

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 03

Explain a Complicated Process - Passport Website Instructional Videos

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

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

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Marketing, Graphic Design, Photography, Film, Advertising, Tourism Studies

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

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 04

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

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

Overview:

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

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

Effectively and appropriately reviewing a consular officer's performance is challenging for a variety reasons, including:
   (1) Variation in the complexity of interviews;
   (2) The sheer volume of data points (number of interviews, foreign language use, unique circumstances)
   (3) Limited management opportunities to observe interviews; and
   (4) Necessary subjectivity of the decisions themselves

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

Format of Final Product:

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

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Management training, Human Resources expertise

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

Maximum Number of Projects: 4

Project 05

Build the first "Electoral Violence Dataset" for Africa

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

Overview:

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

Format of Final Product:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

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

Comments:

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

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 06

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

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

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

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Experience with quantitative approaches to IR and IR datasets will be critical.

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

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 07

Finding More U.S. Host Families and High Schools

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

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

Format of Final Product:
Marketing strategy

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Public affairs, marketing, digital marketing, communications, international affairs, international education

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 08

Finding the lost generation in the Central African Republic
Public Affairs Office, U.S. Embassy Bangui

Overview:

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

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

Format of Final Product:
Post would like to receive a memorandum from the university(-ies), which includes two parts.
1. The first part should be a list of recommendations of specific programs, initiatives, or investments, which would support the development, training, or education of the next generation of leaders. These recommendations could be program proposals that they Embassy would make to the Central African Republic government, or programs, which the Embassy would administer.
2. The second part should be a list of events, trainings, or platforms that the U.S. Embassy could use to identify and develop young leaders.

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

Comments:

Embassy Bangui encourages interested schools and universities to review the Embassy's Facebook page, which captures the outreach work currently being done (https://www.facebook.com/usembassy.bangui/?ref=hl).

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

Maximum Number of Projects: 3

Project 09

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

U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Public Diplomacy Section

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Comments:

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

    I.   Initial Readings:

The Changing Role of Women in the Armed Forces by Nancy Goldman:
http://www.jstor.org/stable/2776610?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents

<u>Maximum Number of Projects</u>:   1-2

Project 10

Jamaican Lotto Scamming: Root Causes and Policy Alternatives

U.S. Embassy Kingston

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

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

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

Format of Final Product:
A four-page memo with a presentation and a data analysis describing research findings.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Criminology, Sociology, Criminal Justice, Public Policy, Psychology

Maximum Number of Projects: 3

Project 11

Kuwaiti Land Use: Understanding a Distorted Market and Improving Efficiency in Land Allocation
U.S. Embassy Kuwait, Economics Section

Overview:

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

Questions:

What can be done to make the Kuwaiti land market more efficient?
Could property taxes provide the impetus to return unproductive land to the market?
How can the government extract hydrocarbons without limiting access to the land above them?
Would a more efficient land ownership system increase investment and GDP?
Would such a system lead to lower costs for residential land?

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Economics, tax policy, petroleum exploration, Bedouin culture, Arabic language, land use, real property law.

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

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 12

Making Democracy More Compelling for at-Risk Youth

U.S. Embassy Madrid, Public Affairs Office

Overview:

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

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Disciplines such as psychology, education, religious studies or foreign affairs would be helpful.

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

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 13

Boosting the Financial Sustainability of Ecuador's Civil Society

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

Overview:

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

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

Format of Final Product:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

This project is open to any academic discipline.

Comments:

Suggested reading:

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

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

== **Back to Top** ==

Project 14

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

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

Overview:

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

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

This project aims to answer the following questions:

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

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

Format of Final Product:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Volunteerism, social engagement, Portuguese language

Comments:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 15

Reviving the Yugosphere

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

Overview:

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

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

Background:

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

Format of Final Product:

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

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

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

European Economies, International Trade, Market Analysis, Economic Forecasting

Comments:

Preliminary Reading Materials:

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

"Entering the Yugosphere," The Economist 2009: http://www.economist.com/node/14258861

"The Former Yugoslavia: Let's Hear it for the Yugosphere," The Economist 2011: http://www.economist.com/blogs/easternapproaches/2011/06/former-yugoslavia

Maximum Number of Projects: 7 (one per country)

== **Back to Top** ==

Project 16

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

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

Overview:

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

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

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

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

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

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 17

Azerbaijan's Political Past and Democratic Potential (Democracy)

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

Overview:

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

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

Format of Final Product:
20-30 page research paper.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
This would involve researchers in history or political science departments and should ideally include a native Azerbaijani speaker.

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

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 18

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

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

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

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

Format of Final Product:
20-30 page research paper.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
This would involve researchers in economic or political science departments and ideally should include a native Azerbaijani speaker.

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

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 19

Leveraging Bitcoin Technology for Domestic Resource Mobilization
Office of US Foreign Assistance Resources (F)

Overview:

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

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

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

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
As noted above, skills related to computer science, knowledge management, mobile computing, government budgeting and finance, and Human Centered Design, would be useful.

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

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

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

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

Maximum Number of Projects: 2-4

== **Back to Top** ==

Project 20

Rebalancing Public Diplomacy in Asia
Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Office of Opinion Research, Asia (INR/OPN/ASIA)

Overview:

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

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

Format of Final Product:

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

Syntax file with code/commands used to generate analyses.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Political Science, computer science, communications, Asian studies, qualitative and quantitative methodology, proficiency with R and Python, data visualization, experience working with big data and conducting web crawls

Comments:
Useful Links:

https://archive.org/

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

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

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

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

http://www.oxfordjournals.org/our_journals/polana/bdpsvirtualissueintromonroerev.pdf

http://www.oxfordjournals.org/our_journals/polana/virtualissue4.html

http://stanford.edu/~jgrimmer/bd_2.pdf

Maximum Number of Projects: 3

== **Back to Top** ==

Project 21

Combating WMD Proliferation Databases

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

Overview:

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

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

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

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

Format of Final Product:

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

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Information technology skills, particularly searchable databases for web-based applications. Knowledge of international relations and nonproliferation helpful.

Comments:

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

Maximum Number of Projects: 3

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

== **Back to Top** ==

Project 22

Mapping Efforts to Combat WMD Proliferation

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

Overview:

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

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

Format of Final Product:

One to five interactive maps (with compatibility for creating a single global), in English (but preferably with compatibility for creating versions for Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, Spanish users), and ready for posting on the 1540 Committee or similar website. The maps should allow users to choose a country in a region and see:
-   Links to the information the Committee has for that State; and
-   Whether or not the Committee has identified that the State has a relevant measure or measures in place for some obligations of the resolution (which obligations or an index of such obligations to be determined by project participants in consultation with the primary POC).

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

Although a map need not capture all the information contained in the UNSCR 1540 Committee matrices, they should allow for easy incorporation of such information in the map in the future. Although geographic political mapping is preferred, alternative approaches to visualization could be considered.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Information technology skills, particularly data visualization for web-based applications. Knowledge of international relations and nonproliferation helpful.

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

Maximum Number of Projects: 5

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

Project 23

Fostering Inclusion in the Workplace – Regional Survey

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

Overview:

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

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

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

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

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Political Science; International Relations; Regional Studies programs; Disability Rights

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

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

Maximum Number of Projects: 3
One per region or sub-region

Project 24

Evaluation of Cybersecurity Public Awareness Campaigns

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

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

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

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

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

Format of Final Product:
Narrative, outcome matrix, suggested data collection points, case study/modeling using the proposed indicators and measurement tools

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

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

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

== **Back to Top** ==

Project 25

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

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

Overview:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Interdisciplinary approaches and expertise will be required from the following research skills and disciplinary fields:
CORE: Systems thinking, public policy analysis (foreign policy, security affairs, economics, development economics), and organizational theory.
ADDITIVE: computational linguistics, natural language processing, public sector management, international relations, political science, economics, political economy, development studies, security studies, environmental policy, and regional studies.

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

Maximum Number of Projects: 5

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

== **Back to Top** ==

Project 26

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

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

Overview:

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

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

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

Format of Final Product:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

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

Comments:
http://www.ablaonline.org/bnc

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

== **Back to Top** ==

Project 27

The Risk Assessment Index for Security and Human Rights

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

Overview:

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

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

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

Format of Final Product:

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

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

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

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

Maximum Number of Projects: 4-6

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

== **Back to Top** ==

Project 28

Organizational Network Analysis of OSAC Country Councils

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

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

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

Format of Final Product:
Paper format (maximum 30 pages) with 1-2 page executive summary.

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 29

Emerging Security Technology applications for Country Council

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

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

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

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

Format of Final Product:
Paper format (maximum 30 pages) with 1-2 page executive summary.

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

== **Back to Top** ==

Project 30

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

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

Overview:

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

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

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

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

Format of Final Product:
20 page paper- Must include 1-2 page executive summary

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Common-Civil Law hybrid systems, international justice reform, international law, Louisiana state law

Comments:
See references below for initial guidance:

http://digitalcommons.law.lsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=6210&context=lalrev

http://weblaw.usc.edu/assets/docs/contribute/83_3KimforWebsite.pdf

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

== **Back to Top** ==

Project 31

Police Force Development: Academic Foundation for Good Practices

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

Overview:

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

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

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

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

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

Format of Final Product:
20-30 page research paper- Must include 1-2 page executive summary

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

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

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 32

Developing Maintenance Cultures in UN Police Peacekeeping Missions

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

Overview:

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

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

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

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

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

Format of Final Product:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Institutional psychology, engineering, international development, police peacekeeping, UN peacekeeping

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 33

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

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

Overview:

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

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

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

Format of Final Product:
Report of findings or 3-6 comparison case studies

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Terrorism studies, countering violent extremism, women and terrorism

Comments:
[INL Gender Guide](#)

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 34

Diversification and Retention of the Police Work Force

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

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

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

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

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

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Criminal Justice, Police Studies, Sociology, Statistics, Research Methodologies

Comments:
See below for further information:

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

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 35

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

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

Overview:

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

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

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

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

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Gender based violence, Eastern Caribbean, International convention compliance

<u>Maximum Number of Projects</u>:   1

== <u>Back to Top</u> ==

Project 36

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

U.S. Embassy Hanoi, Economics Office

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

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

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

Goal: Report on the findings

Steps:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Example of spreadsheet:

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

Format of Final Product:

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

Example for the table:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Research

General understanding of FDI flows

Comments:

This project should take one semester

Maximum Number of Projects: 3

== **Back to Top** ==

Project 37

Vietnam Visa Waiver Value

U.S. Embassy Hanoi, Economic Section

Overview:

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

Format of Final Product:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Economics, statistics

Comments:

The annual report of the 2015 Vietnam Business Forum, available at vbf.org.vn, provides discussion of current visa policy and its impact on tourism in Vietnam.

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

== **Back to Top** ==

Project 38

Evaluating India's Role in the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime

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

Overview:

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

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

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

Format of Final Product:

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

Law or law enforcement student

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

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 39

Energy to Burn: Using Renewable Energy to Help Malaysia Meet Climate Change Commitments
US Embassy Kuala Lumpur. ECON

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

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

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

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

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Some expertise in energy economics required.

Comments:N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 40

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

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

Overview:

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

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

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

Format of Final Product:

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

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

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

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

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 41

Business Case for Climate Change Adaptation: Making The Case for Private Sector Investment in Resilience
Office of Global Change (OES/EGC)

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

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

Format of Final Product:
A four-page options memo (with policy recommendations) and a presentation

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

Comments: N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 42

International Best Practices of Peer Review

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

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

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

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

Format of Final Product:
Presentation with informational paper

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

Comments: N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 3

Project 43

Energy Development Governance and Social Consultation in the Western Hemisphere

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

Overview:

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

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

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

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

Comments: Background reading on ILO: http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/indigenous-tribal/lang--en/index.htm
Focus Countries: Central America, Peru, Chile, Canada, United States, Colombia, and Bolivia

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 44

Religion and Social Change in Global Affairs

Secretary's Office of Religion and Global Affairs

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

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

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

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

Comments: Please read the following articles for more information about the Office of Religion and Global Affairs.
- [The Central Role of Religion in Diplomacy](#)
- [What's Religion Have to Do with Climate Change?](#)
- [When Religious Leaders Fight for Social Justice](#)

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 45

The Global Impact of Interfaith Youth Work

Secretary's Office of Religion and Global Affairs

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

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

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

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

Comments: Please read the following articles for more information about the Office of Religion and Global Affairs.
- [Together, Interreligious Youth Take Actions to Change the World](#)
- [Interfaith Cooperation: Promoting Peace in the Middle East](#)
- [The Central Role of Religion in Diplomacy](#)

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 46

The Risk Assessment Index for Security and Human Rights
Office of Security and Human Rights, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL/SHR)

Overview:

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

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

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

Format of Final Product:

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

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

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

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

Comments: N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 4

Project 47

Climate Partners Brazil: Promoting Sustainable Development Around the Globe

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

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

Format of Final Product:
The final product would be a 5-page paper that outlines joint challenges and potential solutions.

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

Comments: N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 48

Case Study on Risk Analysis for Military Assistance Recipients
Bureau of Political Military Affairs, Office of Security Assistance (PM/SA)

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

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

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

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

Comments: N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 3

Project 49

Bridging the Digital Gap: From East Timor to the USA

U.S. Embassy Dili, Public Affairs Section

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Maximum Number of Projects: N/A

Project 50

Vietnam Quarterly Macro Report
U.S. Embassy Vietnam

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

Format of Final Product:
1 page Word document

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Macro Economic understanding

Comments:

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 51

The Economic Effects of Cross-Border Carbon Markets
Political and Economic Affairs Section at U.S. Consulate in Montreal

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

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

Format of Final Product:
Our office would be interested in receiving a research paper with a two page executive summary.

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

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

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 52

Mapping the U.S. & UK Special Relationship

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

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

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

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

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

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 53

Youth = Entrepreneurs = Changemakers!
USAID/Pakistan's Provincial Mission to Punjab

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Maximum Number of Projects: 4

Project 54

The Effectiveness of Culinary Diplomacy
US Embassy Rabat Public Affairs

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

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

Format of Final Product:
Research paper incorporating data analysis.

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

Comments: N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 4

Project 55

Knowledge Management to Support African Union Peace Operations

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

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

Our university partners would help us in the following areas:

I.   Development of on knowledge management guidelines for PSOD to leverage the multiplicity of its operational and policy documents in ways that are systematic and accessible to all relevant stakeholders.

II.   Creation of a systematic framework for PSOD to consolidate lessons learned and information relevant to the spectrum of peace support operations and policy implementation.

III.   Identifying, consolidating, and classifying documents generated by entities outside of PSOD but with relevance to the peace support, such as early warning and situation reports and threat assessments/analysis not currently part of the PSOD information architecture.

IV.   Development of an online portal to make all documents critical to achieving PSOD objectives available to all key stakeholders, thus facilitating communication and collaboration.

Format of Final Product:
Online Portal consolidating data from multiple sources

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

Comments: N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 56

Model Legislation to Advance Disability Rights Across the African Union
United States Mission to the African Union (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

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

Format of Final Product:
Draft legislation with hyperlinked references

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

Comments: N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 57

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

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

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

Format of Final Product:
1-4 page memo plus applicable data/visualizations

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

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

Maximum Number of Projects: 3

Project 58

Song of the Sirens: Effects of New Media on the Recruitment of Peruvian Sheepherders

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

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

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

Format of Final Product:
Qualitative investigation and analysis of ranches' recruitment communications; Qualitative investigation and explication of how word is disseminated throughout the sheepherding community; Qualitative investigation and report of avenues.

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

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

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

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

== **[Back to Top](#)** ==

Project 59

Where on Earth Is…
Secretary's Office of Global Partnerships (S/GP)

Overview:

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

The "Diaspora Map" will activate IdEA's membership database by visually and geographically representing Diaspora organizations working in the U.S. and around the world.

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

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

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

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 60

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 61

You(th) can do it: Inspiring Albania's Young People to Take Action
Public Affairs Section (PAS) Tirana

Overview:
One of the U.S. Embassy's top goals in Albania is to encourage youth to become more engaged in their society. Endemic corruption is a barrier to the country's EU accession and a safer, more equitable, and prosperous country. Though young Albanians generally speak excellent English, are internationally-minded, and want a better future, they often do not know where to begin to initiate change. A common refrain is that one person is not powerful enough to make a difference so why bother. Albanians also love Americans - a recent study found that 96% percent have a favorable view of the United States. The Embassy enjoys considerable respect and works to utilize its influence to empower citizens to be active and hold their leaders accountable.   The Public Affairs Section has a variety of tools it can use to accomplish this, including bringing American experts, specialists, speakers, athletes, musicians, artists, organizing conferences, workshops, training, exchanges, awarding grants, social media campaigns, and other outreach. We are seeking creative proposals on how to cultivate the next generation's leaders and activists. Successful strategies will incorporate multiple activities and draw on American students expertise in social media and what motivates young people across an increasingly connected world.

Format of Final Project:
An options memo or presentation with potential initiatives.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Communication, public relations, international relations, journalism, business, etc.

Comments:
We have the resources, we are looking for the innovative and fresh ideas. This is an opportunity to affect real change in Albania, beginning at the grass roots level. How would you inspire the next generation in a country that is a NATO ally, working to join the EU, and a close friend of the United States to believe, "Yes we can"?

Maximum Number of Projects: 4

Project 62

Local Assessment of Economic Impact of Refugees

PRM/MCE/Press; Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, Office of Multilateral Coordination and Extrenal Relations, Press and Public Diplomacy

Overview:
In addition to benefiting tremendously the beneficiaries of refugee resettlement, we believe that refugee resettlement strengthens American communities both socio-culturally and economically. In 2012, a study was conducted evaluating the economic impact of refugee resettlement in Cleveland, OH. This new project should evaluate the economic and social impact of resettled refugees on an American community in recent years. The city in question could be from any part of the country, but should be a community with a history of welcoming resettled refugees for at least ten years. For information on which communities resettle refugees in the United States, see our map of resettlement affiliates.

Format of Final Project:
A full report of results, a brief synopsis outlining key points, and graphic representations of findings.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Could be approached from a variety of disciplines, including economics, socio-cultural anthropology, urban planning, public policy, etc.

Comments:
This study would have the potential for use across a wide variety of policy initiatives. The 2012 Cleveland study has been cited by government and non-government advocates for refugee resettlement for years.

Note: PRM would like to provide input on city/cities to be profiled to avoid overlap with other non-Diplomacy Lab research projects on refugee admissions.

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 63

The 100th Anniversary of the United States and the Czech Republic (aka, Some Relationships Last, or More Than About Beer)

Public Affairs Section (PAS), U.S. Embassy Prague

Overview:
2018 marks the 100 year anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Czech Republic. A digital compilation of our bilateral history would be the perfect means of highlighting this major anniversary. The project would be to gather historic details on the bilateral relationship over the past 100 years, including photos, audio, and videos, and organize it into an visually engaging narrative on a digital platform. The content should be both policy oriented and relational, directed at the general public. It will be used as a public outreach tool and so the intent is to be both educational and engaging. From President Wilson to President Havel, from the Velvet Revolution to NATO Ascension to the present day partnership, there is more to our relationship than most realize!

Format of Final Project:
A website, Facebook page, or other digital platform compilation with engaging content covering 100 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Czech Republic.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: This project would be great for a diverse group of students interested in international relations, history, Czech and Slovak studies, and social media/tech outreach.

Comments:
N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 64

Morocco: Where Have its Grand Sectoral Development Plans Taken It?
Economic Section, U.S. Embassy Rabat

Overview:
In the 2000s, Morocco launched a number of five year sectoral development plans designed to spur growth in agriculture (Green Morocco Plan), industry (Industrial Acceleration Plan), logistical competitiveness (national development strategy for logistics competitiveness), tourism (Tourism Vision 2020), fisheries (Halieutus Plan), solar energy development, handicrafts (2015â€™s Vision for the Handicrafts Sector), mining (National Strategy for the Mining Sector Development), and exports (National Development Plan for Trading). Each of these strategies lays out a roadmap for the development of the sector, setting ambitious targets for their growth as well as their contributions to GDP. While some of these strategies have reached completion and are in their second phases, others are midstream.

The purpose of this project is to map out the goals of each strategy and the Government's progress towards achieving them. To complement this information, the team or teams should assess the appropriateness of the strategies and the progress made thus fair in achieving their goals in terms of their impact on Morocco's economic growth and development, broadly speaking.

Format of Final Project:
A chart mapping each sectoral plan's goals/projects to its accomplishments/achievements as well as an analysis of the efficacy of these plans in advancing development in each sector and Morocco's economic development more broadly.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: It would be helpful for team members to have an interest in economics as well as background in one or more of the sectors in question. French and/or Arabic language skills are critical.

Comments:
Please see marocexport.ma/eng/content/strategies-sectorielles for more information.

Maximum Number of Projects: 1 team per sectoral strategy

Project 65

Social Media Wars: The Battle for Influence in Bulgaria

U.S. Embassy Sofia, Public Affairs Section

Overview:
Diplomacy is no longer carried out behind closed doors. Today, social media platforms are used by embassies around the world to spread influence, harness support, disseminate information and launch debate. In Bulgaria, the American, Russian and Chinese embassies vie for influence and public support via social media. But who is winning the social media war?

At present, insufficient data exists on the topic. We are seeking a comparative analysis of U.S Embassy, Russian Embassy and Chinese Embassy social media outreach in Bulgaria. The study would focus on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube posts by these three embassies to track engagement on various post types and topics to see what works in Bulgaria and where our competitors are besting us. We plan to use this data to better target our outreach and to arm ourselves for the revised diplomacy game of the 21st century.

Format of Final Project:
We are looking for a comparative analysis that will include a high-level overview of the findings as well as the raw, collected data tracking post types by embassy and their effectiveness. We would also like to see proposals on how to attract a wider audience in Bulgaria using social media. This can be in the form of a final paper, presentation or video report.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: A basic understanding of social media, search engine optimization, web navigation and institutional marketing is a plus. While language skills in Russian, Bulgarian and Chinese would be helpful, they are not required as translation software can assist the avid researcher sufficiently for the parameters of this project.

Comments:
N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 3

Project 66

Analysis and Recommendation on Training Satisfaction Surveys to Law Enforcement Personnel

Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, INL Mexico

Overview:
INL Mexico is conducting satisfaction surveys to around 7,000 law enforcement officials per year participating in training events, conferences and study tours. We look for a motivated team of students with experience in psychology, statistics and survey design that could help us review the current survey instrument and propose recommendations to improve it. This survey provides important information to decision makers on security cooperation between the U.S. and Mexico.

Format of Final Project:
20 page research paper, data analysis of 2016 and recommended survey instrument

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Psychology, statistics, survey design, Spanish

Comments:
N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 3

Project 67

How Expensive is Cheap Energy?
U.S. Embassy Nairobi Economic Affairs Section (ECON)

Overview:
From presidential initiatives like Power Africa to Congress's Electrify Africa Act, U.S. international relations increasingly use energy policy as a tool for international development and diplomacy. These policies tie their support to the use of renewable energies; however, at times, this energy is more expensive than more traditional forms of energy generation. A common argument against using renewable technology in developing countries is that these countries contribute so little to global greenhouse gases. Why should they be the ones to pay extra for renewable energy?

This project will move passed short-term comparisons of project costs and initial generation costs to put different forms of energy production into a long-term comparison that accounts for associated costs like environmental, societal, and industry damages within the country. The goal will be to produce an analysis that shows whether energies that appear cheaper in the short-run are still the cheaper option in the long-run. Kenya, as a Power Africa-supported country with thousands of renewable megawatts in its generation pipeline, will present an excellent case study.

Format of Final Project:
Presentation or Research Paper

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Energy, International Relations, International Finance, Environment, Climate Change, Sustainable Development, Renewable Energy

Comments:
N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 68

Digital Literacy and Good Governance
U.S. Embassy Nairobi Economic Affairs Section (ECON)

Overview:
The fight against corruption is a constant battle in many countries with no shortage of divergent views on the most effective strategies for effecting lasting, positive change. This project will look at the correlation between digital literacy and a government's ability to manage good governance. In an increasingly online world, this report will be an insightful look into how digital literacy makes it easier for a government to implement good governance measures or possibly if digitally literate populations place governments in a place of increased accountability. A positive correlation would then require a further look into the most effective forms of digital literacy as well as educational techniques that could help improve good governance.

Format of Final Project:
Research Paper

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: International Relations, Political Science, Democracy, ICT, Digitization, Digital Literacy and Education

Comments:
N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 69

Effective Tools in the Fight against Corruption - Government Digitization
U.S. Embassy Nairobi Economic Affairs Section (ECON)

Overview:
Many believe the best way to tackle corruption is to simply remove opportunities for corrupt behavior.   This analysis and presentation will look at the validity of this line of thought by evaluating if the digitization of government systems, which should effectively limit the amount of cash handled by public employees thus removing opportunities for corrupt practices, is an effective tool in fighting corruption. From online payment of traffic tickets, to online registry of land transactions and public listing of government accounts, government digitization appears to close many of the open doors to corrupt behavior, but is it effective in lowering the corruption profile of a country. Kenya's efforts in digitization present an excellent case study for such research and analysis.

Format of Final Project:
Report with data analysis and presentation

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Corruption, International Relations, Political Science, Good Governance, ICT, Computer Systems

Comments:
N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 70

How Can ASEAN Develop Bankable Projects and Better Access Private Financing?

East Asia and Pacific Bureau Office of Multilateral Affairs EAP/MLA

Overview:
ASEAN countries (Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) have over 640m people and pressing needs for soft and hard infrastructure development. Nevertheless, ASEAN nations sometimes face challenges in developing bankable infrastructure projects, which in turn creates challenges in attracting financing. While the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has filled some of the financing gap, many Southeast Asian countries seek to diversify their partnerships in the economic realm. EAP/MLA seeks concrete advice on 1) ways that ASEAN can more effectively develop bankable projects (independently, or with capacity-building support from ASEAN Dialogue partners), and 2) ways that ASEAN can better access private financing for hard and soft infrastructure projects; and 3) ideas for innovative models or public-private partnerships that the U.S. government could spearhead to increase opportunities for and the competitiveness of U.S. firms.

Format of Final Project:
EAP/MLA would prefer a concise scoping statement followed by a menu of options for both questions 1) and 2) above, ranked in terms of feasibility.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Expertise in international finance, infrastructure development, U.S. government financing (EXIM, OPIC) and public-private partnerships would be useful.

Comments:
N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 71

From Base to Boutique Hotel: Host Nation Repurposing of Returned Infrastructure

U.S. Embassy Lisbon, Political-Economic Section (EUR/Lisbon/PolEcon)

Overview:
We would like the group to review case histories of instances in which the United States transferred responsibility and right of use for infrastructure overseas (e.g. after the closing of a U.S. military base or U.S. government facility abroad, etc.) back to the host nation for its repurposing and use. On average, we understand that it takes between 8-12 years for a host nation to repurpose such infrastructure, and we are interested in patterns and trends from examples in which host nations successfully repurposed the infrastructure in a shorter period of time. For example, did more successful cases involve a particular approach by the host nation, such as carving up the infrastructure into several projects in order to achieve early successes? Additionally, we are interested in exploring whether there has ever been a case in which a host nation refused to accept the transfer of U.S. base or government facility infrastructure? How was the situation resolved?

Additionally, we would like students to analyze the economic potential of the Azores Autonomous Region of Portugal. Are there industries, projects, or initiatives that might capitalize on the region's unique geography, climate, and location? Are there best practices that the Azores might adopt from other geographically-challenges regions/nations (e.g. Hawaii, Okinawa, Iceland, etc.) that have successfully used their unique attributes to promote economic and commercial growth?

Format of Final Project:
Students will present their findings in a research paper and, if appropriate, in an accompanying presentation highlighting relevant case studies, trends, statistics, and facts.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: This is an interdisciplinary project, but has intersections with areas such as Geography, Urban Planning, and Economic Development

Comments:
N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 72

Exporting the American Entrepreneurship Mindset: Developing Entrepreneurship Education in Africa

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

Overview:
In order to expand opportunities for U.S. enterprises in Africa as well as to support the next generation of African leaders and makers, it is imperative that African entrepreneurs learn an American model of entrepreneurship education. This proposal calls for the collection and analysis of data on the state of African small business creation, ownership, and sustainability, as well as the development of an entrepreneurship curriculum to be incorporated into an African secondary school or university. While the United States remains a global leader in entrepreneurship education and the development of entrepreneurship ecosystems, U.S. enterprises lag behind other nations (Europe and China) in business on the continent. One way to increase the competitive advantage of U.S. enterprises in Africa is to encourage African entrepreneurs to embrace American models of entrepreneurship and business development. In fact, the President's Advisory Council on Doing Business in Africa (PAC-DBIA) has made the recommendation that in order to facilitate U.S. business in Africa, the United States has to teach African entrepreneurs how to do U.S. business and increase the supply of entrepreneurship education in Africa - in collaboration with U.S. business schools. Structural problems affecting African education systems continue to be a stumbling block in the region's efforts to stimulate sustainable entrepreneurial activity and improve business productivity.

Additionally, with 200 million people aged between 15 and 24, Africa has the youngest population in the world and by 2040, Africa's young workforce will be the largest in the world, surpassing that of both China and India. The formal sector is unable to meet current and growing employment demands and for many young Africans, entrepreneurship is the only avenue for employment. Generating jobs and harnessing the potential of Africa's youth remains imperative in order to sustain the continent's economic development as well as for the sustainment of our collective global security.

Entrepreneurship education is a low cost, high impact way to support U.S. commercial interests, economic and social development, and national security goals on the continent.

Format of Final Project:
Data Analysis, University-level curriculum

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Entrepreneurship, Business, International Development, Africa, International Trade, Foreign Investment, Economics, Foreign Affairs, Corporate Social Responsibility

Comments:
http://www.trade.gov/pac-dbia/docs/PAC-DBIA-Report_Final.pdf

Maximum Number of Projects: 4

Project 73

The Effects of FTA Membership on FDI in Member and Non-member Countries

Office of the Chief Economist (E/OCE)

Overview:
The most important recent trend in global trade policy has been the proliferation of free trade agreements (FTAs) around the world. Over 450 of these have been notified to the World Trade Organization and many more are under negotiation. They are a key component of US and European Union (EU) trade strategies, including both bilateral and multilateral FTAs. There is suggestive evidence from the economics literature that emerging and developing countries that join FTAs attract more inward FDI, controlling for other factors. However, there is far less evidence about several important related questions. Do the effects depend on the nature of the agreement (i.e., partnership agreement, partial FTA, FTA) and on its "depth" (i.e., the existence of extensive chapters on intellectual property, services liberalization, and so on)? Do impacts in specific countries depend on the economic size of the overall agreement, and how? Are there differential effects across broad industry groups? And if within-FTA investment rises does this imply a reduction or increase in FDI in countries that are not members? Other questions could be posed as well by the research teams.

The project would use available data on the formation and membership of FTAs, information on bilateral and sectoral FDI data from the US, OECD, and the UN, and supporting data from the World Bank and elsewhere to study such questions with econometric models. Teams would be expected to gather and clean the data, develop these models, and estimate them with appropriate techniques. The research should be careful to control for potentially confounding factors that affect FDI decisions. The results could help inform thinking within various policy communities about the potential effects of future FTAs.

Format of Final Project:
Research teams would be expected to deliver a final oral presentation (either online or at the State Department) of results, along with a prepared paper of approximately 20 pages. To the extent possible the paper should address potential international policy implications based on the data and findings.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: The research requires prior training in econometrics, data collection and manipulation, and some familiarity with standard econometric packages, such as STATA. Thus, the project is targeted toward students in advanced undergraduate courses or MA courses in economics, business, and international relations, in which a course objective is hands-on training in data-based policy analysis.

Comments:

The Office of the Chief Economist provides immediate and longer-term analysis and policy advice about key areas of economic diplomacy to the Secretary and top officials of the State

Department. This project offers a unique opportunity to participate in developing the knowledge needed for policy formulation in a critical area of interest.

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 74

The Effects of Natural Hazards on Migration and Remittances
Office of the Chief Economist (E/OCE)

Overview:
Unexpected changes in climate conditions, such as substantial variations in rainfall, degradation of soil conditions, and natural disasters, affect working conditions and poverty in local areas and could raise pressures to migrate abroad. Such pressures are likely to increase as extreme weather patterns rise as a result of climate change. Migration is a means of reducing localized impacts on poverty, while ensuing remittance payments from migrants can mitigate reductions in incomes among those who remain behind.

The project would use available data on bilateral patterns of migration and remittances to investigate the extent to which natural hazards affect decisions to migrate and send money back home. Research teams could use existing databases on the timing and location of natural hazards in recent years and supplement these data with additional research. Teams would be expected to formulate appropriate econometric models that can be used to explain the causal effects of climatological events and hazards on pressures to migrate and the availability of remittances. The research should be careful to control for other factors determining migration and remittances. The results could help fill gaps in knowledge about these fundamental relationships and could inform national and international policies in the future.

Format of Final Project:
Research teams would be expected to deliver a final oral presentation (either online or at the State Department) of results, along with a prepared paper of approximately 20 pages. To the extent possible the paper should address potential international policy implications based on the data and findings.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: The research requires prior training in econometrics, data collection and manipulation, and some familiarity with standard econometric packages, such as STATA. Thus, the project is targeted toward students in advanced undergraduate courses or MA courses in economics, business, and international relations, in which a course objective is hands-on training in data-based policy analysis.

Comments:

The Office of the Chief Economist provides immediate and longer-term analysis and policy advice about key areas of economic diplomacy to the Secretary and top officials of the State Department. This project offers a unique opportunity to participate in developing the knowledge needed for policy formulation in a critical area of interest.

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 75

"An App for That!" - Mobile app design for Antibiotic Lifecycle Mapping
Office of International Health and Biodefense (OES/IHB)

Overview:
This Diplomacy Lab project focuses on designing informatics tools for "citizen science" to facilitate public data gathering regarding the sources and sinks of antibiotics in the environment as a major part of the global antibiotic lifecycle, particularly in low resource, low infrastructure regions. The production, distribution, usage, disposal and environmental fate of antibiotics cut across many different sectors of society. Engaging the public sector through broad participatory methods is essential. Selected project participants are requested to design the features of a user-friendly mobile-phone app for public participation in the fight against antibiotic pollution.

For example, such an app will enable (1) farmers to contribute needed data to identify the types and amounts of antibiotics used in agriculture, how antibiotic-contaminated wastewater is disposed-off, and how residual and expired antibiotics are processed; (2) consumers to contribute needed data on the domestic use of antibiotics, including access to counterfeit antibiotics, off-label usage of legitimate antibiotics, and disposal of antibiotic-contaminated wastewater and expired antibiotics; Scientists to identify and map hotspots of antibiotic pollution, and to develop intervention strategies at the time and place where high levels of antibiotics breed resistance among potential human pathogens.

WHY THIS PROJECT IS NECESSARY AND HOW IT IS RELEVANT TO DIPLOMACY:
"Combatting Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria" - the U.S. Presidential Executive Order issued in September 2014 focused national attention on a new and growing threat to human health and the environment by noting that the "Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that annually at least two million illnesses and 23,000 deaths are caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria in the United States alone." The order noted further that "Detecting, preventing, and controlling antibiotic resistance requires a strategic, coordinated, and sustained effort. It also depends on the engagement of governments, academia, industry, healthcare providers, the general public, and the agricultural community, as well as international partners."

Consequently, at the 2016 United Nations General Assembly meeting, all nations committed to address the emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), which is increasingly responsible for premature deaths worldwide, while also increasing the cost of treating common infections. Environmental pollution by antibiotics is a driver of resistance among pathogens; however few existing interventions address the pathways of antibiotics into the environment. The reason: our inability to satisfactorily answer fundamental questions about the sources, fate, and impact of antibiotics in the environment. This diplomacy lab project will contribute to U.S. leadership on using scientific data to inform policy, and to support knowledge sharing toward the development of action plans to combat antibiotic resistance in other countries.

Format of Final Project:
Specifications for a mobile-phone app that is deployable on all major brands such as i-phone, Samsung, and Google-phone. If time and resources allow, a prototype app that is pilot tested among students or a local community.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Environmental Informatics; Health Informatics; Computer Science; Geographic Information Science.

Comments:

At the U.S. Department of State, the Office of International Health and Biodefense (IHB) is the primary office responsible for a variety of international health issues. IHB takes part in U.S. Government policymaking on infectious disease, environmental health, non-communicable disease issues, global health security, antimicrobial resistance, and counterfeit and substandard medications. Therefore, this Diplomacy Lab project will contribute to the major international effort by the United States government toward global strategy for reducing the antibiotic resistant infections to the global burden of disease. Project participants will be benefit from the expertise of teams of experts who are working on the technical and policy dimensions of antibiotics as environmental pollutants. In September 2016, the team at IHB hosted an international workshop on antibiotic lifecycle mapping in the Lower Mekong Region, with participants from several countries, the Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, and the United States Geological Survey.

The primary contact for this diplomacy lab project is a Jefferson Science Fellow of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, while working as a Foreign Affairs Officer in the Bureau of Oceans, Environmental and Scientific Affairs' Office of International Health and Biodefense (OES/IHB).

For additional information on the State Department of International Health and Biodefense, see: https://www.state.gov/e/oes/intlhealthbiodefense/);

For additional information on the U.S. President's Executive Order on "Combatting Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria", see: https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/09/18/executive-order-combating-antibiotic-resistant-bacteria.

For additional information on the United Nations High Level Meeting on Antimicrobial resistance, please visit: http://www.un.org/pga/71/2016/09/21/press-release-hl-meeting-on-antimicrobial-resistance/.

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

== **Back to Top** ==

Project 76

"Field science on the go!" - Designing Portable Tools for Antibiotics Lifecycle Mapping

Office of International Health and Biodefense (OES/IHB)

Overview:
This Diplomacy Lab project focuses on designing reliable tools to measure the concentration of antibiotics in polluted environments, particularly under field conditions in low resource, and low infrastructure regions. We envision that the project participants will design "lab-on-a-stick" type of miniaturized analytical instrument adaptable for a wide range of antibiotics produced, used, or discarded in high volumes. For example, a microfluidics-based biosensor or other types of field-adaptable technology will be appropriate. The target antibiotics will be specified in consultation with stakeholders to ensure that the instrument is suitable for priority antibiotics based on pollution profile and estimates of regional impact. For example, such equipment will enable (1) scientists in developing countries to identify, measure and map hotspots of antibiotic pollution; (2) modelers to refine input data for conducting lifecycle impact analysis of antibiotic pollution; (3) public health professionals and to develop intervention strategies, including clean-up operations, and follow-up detection of reservoirs of community-acquired antibiotic resistant pathogens. Such portable equipment may also be suitable for rapid identification of counterfeit antibiotics at point of sale or distribution.

WHY THIS PROJECT IS NECESSARY AND HOW IT IS RELEVANT TO DIPLOMACY:
"Combatting Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria" - the U.S. Presidential Executive Order issued in September 2014 focused national attention on a new and growing threat to human health and the environment by noting that the "Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that annually at least two million illnesses and 23,000 deaths are caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria in the United States alone". The order noted further that "Detecting, preventing, and controlling antibiotic resistance requires a strategic, coordinated, and sustained effort. It also depends on the engagement of governments, academia, industry, healthcare providers, the general public, and the agricultural community, as well as international partners." Consequently, at the 2016 United Nations General Assembly meeting, all nations committed to address the emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), which is increasingly responsible for premature deaths worldwide, while also increasing the cost of treating common infections. Environmental pollution by antibiotics is a driver of resistance among pathogens; however few existing interventions address the pathways of antibiotics into the environment. The reason: our inability to satisfactorily answer fundamental questions about the sources, fate, and impact of antibiotics in the environment. This diplomacy lab project will contribute to U.S. leadership on using scientific data to inform policy, and to support knowledge sharing toward the development of action plans to combat antibiotic resistance in other countries.

Format of Final Project:
Specifications for the design of a portable analytical instrument for detecting and measuring antibiotic concentrations in various environmental samples at field sites in low resource, low

infrastructure settings. If time and resources permits, the academic institution may choose to pursue a prototype suitable for demonstrating reliability of the equipment.

<u>Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest</u>: Biomedical Engineering, Chemistry, Environmental Health, Environmental Science.

<u>Comments:</u>

At the U.S. Department of State, the Office of International Health and Biodefense (IHB) is the primary office responsible for a variety of international health issues. IHB takes part in U.S. Government policymaking on infectious disease, environmental health, non-communicable disease issues, global health security, antimicrobial resistance, and counterfeit and substandard medications. Therefore, this Diplomacy Lab project will contribute to the major international effort by the United States government toward global strategy for reducing the antibiotic resistant infections to the global burden of disease. Project participants will be benefit from the expertise of teams of experts who are working on the technical and policy dimensions of antibiotics as environmental pollutants. In September 2016, the team at IHB hosted an international workshop on antibiotic lifecycle mapping in the Lower Mekong Region, with participants from several countries, the Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, and the United States Geological Survey.

The primary contact for this diplomacy lab project is a Jefferson Science Fellow of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, while working as a Foreign Affairs Officer in the Bureau of Oceans, Environmental and Scientific Affairs' Office of International Health and Biodefense (OES/IHB).

For additional information on the State Department of International Health and Biodefense, see: https://www.state.gov/e/oes/intlhealthbiodefense/);

For additional information on the U.S. President's Executive Order on "Combatting Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria", see: https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/09/18/executive-order-combating-antibiotic-resistant-bacteria.

For additional information on the United Nations High Level Meeting on Antimicrobial resistance, please visit: http://www.un.org/pga/71/2016/09/21/press-release-hl-meeting-on-antimicrobial-resistance/.

<u>Maximum Number of Projects:</u>   2

== **Back to Top** ==

Project 77

Messaging Anti-Resistance! - Public Communication Tools to Combat Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria.

Office of International Health and Biodefense (OES/IHB)

Overview:
This Diplomacy Lab project focuses on designing effective culturally-sensitive multimedia messaging tools to raise public awareness of the risks associated with antibiotic pollution and antibiotic-resistant pathogens, particularly in low resource, and low infrastructure regions. We envision that the project participants will design digital (e.g. electronic communication media) and hard-copy (e.g. public posters) presentations that concisely express the need for behavior modification regarding antibiotic stewardship. Such messaging tools may be suitable for display in health care facilities and community clinics, pharmaceutical vendor shops, polluted environments, and publications. For example, such health communication tools have been judged to be effective deterrents against tobacco use and excessive alcohol consumption. In the case of antibiotics, messaging may be used to (1) prevent consumers from disposing expired antibiotics into the environment (e.g. flushing down the drain); (2) prevent consumers from purchasing counterfeit antibiotics; (3) educate patients about the proper use of antibiotics for the right diagnosis and correct dosage; (4) provide instructions about avoiding environments likely to be hotspots for excessive antibiotic levels and antibiotic resistant pathogens.

WHY THIS PROJECT IS NECESSARY AND HOW IT IS RELEVANT TO DIPLOMACY:
Antibiotic resistance is a significant global threat to economic growth, social justice, and the protection of human and ecosystem health. "Combatting Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria" - the U.S. Presidential Executive Order issued in September 2014 focused national attention on a new and growing threat to human health and the environment by noting that the "Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that annually at least two million illnesses and 23,000 deaths are caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria in the United States alone." The order noted further that "Detecting, preventing, and controlling antibiotic resistance requires a strategic, coordinated, and sustained effort. It also depends on the engagement of governments, academia, industry, healthcare providers, the general public, and the agricultural community, as well as international partners." At the 2016 United Nations General Assembly meeting, all nations committed to address the emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), which is increasingly responsible for premature deaths worldwide, while also increasing the cost of treating common infections. A detailed understanding of how bacteria are exposed to antibiotics is needed to effectively address this threat [exposure to antibiotics helps "select" for resistant bacteria]; however currently we have a thorough inability to satisfactorily answer fundamental questions about the sources, fate, and impact of antibiotics - in particular in the environment where environmental pollution by antibiotics is a potential driver of resistance among pathogens. The production, distribution, usage, disposal and environmental fate of antibiotics cut across many different sectors of society; informatics tools for "citizen science" to facilitate public data gathering on the antibiotic lifecycle is essential.   This diplomacy lab project will contribute to U.S. leadership on using scientific data and creative social media strategies to inform policy, and

to support knowledge sharing toward the development of action plans to combat antibiotic resistance in other countries. For example, by mobilizing public health education and participatory avenues for data collection on sources of antibiotic pollution into the environment can help scientists to identify and map hotspots of antibiotic pollution, and to develop intervention strategies at the time and place where high levels of antibiotics breed resistance among potential human pathogens.

Format of Final Project:
Prototype messaging tools including videos, appropriately-sized paper posters, and audio recordings suitable for public radio-broadcast.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Communication Science; Health Education; Informatics.

Comments:

At the U.S. Department of State, the Office of International Health and Biodefense (IHB) is the primary office responsible for a variety of international health issues. IHB takes part in U.S. Government policymaking on infectious disease, environmental health, non-communicable disease issues, global health security, antimicrobial resistance, and counterfeit and substandard medications. Therefore, this Diplomacy Lab project will contribute to the major international effort by the United States government toward global strategy for reducing the antibiotic resistant infections to the global burden of disease. Project participants will be benefit from the expertise of teams of experts who are working on the technical and policy dimensions of antibiotics as environmental pollutants. In September 2016, the team at IHB hosted an international workshop on antibiotic lifecycle mapping in the Lower Mekong Region, with participants from several countries, the Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, and the United States Geological Survey.

The primary contact for this diplomacy lab project is a Jefferson Science Fellow of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, while working as a Foreign Affairs Officer in the Bureau of Oceans, Environmental and Scientific Affairs' Office of International Health and Biodefense (OES/IHB).

For additional information on the State Department of International Health and Biodefense, see: https://www.state.gov/e/oes/intlhealthbiodefense/);

For additional information on the U.S. President's Executive Order on "Combatting Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria", see: https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/09/18/executive-order-combating-antibiotic-resistant-bacteria.

For additional information on the United Nations High Level Meeting on Antimicrobial resistance, please visit: http://www.un.org/pga/71/2016/09/21/press-release-hl-meeting-on-antimicrobial-resistance/.

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 78

The Changing Art of Diplomacy: Social Media as a U.S. Foreign Policy Tool

Nonimmigrant Visa (NIV) Unit, U.S. Consulate General, Guangzhou, China

Overview:
Social media and social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, and Snapchat have become some of the most powerful sources of information and mobilization platforms to date. The impact of social media in promoting and amplifying the political protests and movements in the Middle East and North Africa, known as the Arab Spring, as well as the Occupy Wall Street movement and the 2016 Presidential election, in the U.S. context, cannot be overstated. Now, more than ever, understanding the role that social media play in society, politics, and government is crucial to serve the American people effectively.

Currently, U.S. diplomats and U.S. missions abroad often prefer traditional forms of media for messaging and communication over social media--focused strategies. With that in mind, please explore the role of social media in foreign policy and how best to engage and communicate with foreign audiences. A successful project will discuss what role social media have traditionally played in government and diplomacy and what role they should serve in the coming years. The project should also address the following questions: What are some examples of the effective use of social media that have advanced a U.S. foreign policy objective? What are some instances when its misuse has been detrimental to a policy objective? How can diplomats better harness the power of social media going forward? Finally, what role, if any, should social media posts from senior officials up to and including the President play in the policy-making process? Should they be considered policy pronouncements and followed as such?

Format of Final Project:
A policy memo and a presentation.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: An interest in social media and social media use in government diplomacy. An interest in diplomacy and its changing landscape an added bonus.

Comments:
N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 79

The (Power) Struggle is Real: Can an economic argument convince India to put the environment first?

Consulate Mumbai, India, Political and Economic Office, U.S. State Department

Overview:
Bright green tea fields, brightly colored saris, and snow-capped peaks are all traditional images of India, but more recently impenetrable air pollution, mountains of trash, and rivers like sewers have dulled India's vibrancy. On Diwali, air pollution in Delhi was worse than that of the Great London Smog of 1952 that led to 12,000 premature deaths. We assume the economic and morbidity toll of pollution in India to be huge, but often the analysis stops short of discovering the true cost of pollution. Furthermore, individual states have different management structures, different pollution targets, and different individual threats to the environment. (For example, Gujarat has a long coast line and a vibrant fishing community, while land-locked Chhattisgarh produces a huge amount of India's steel.) We want to know two things: the economic cost of pollution in the five states of Western India (Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra), and the cost to fix it at a state level. Ultimately, can an economic argument be made that India should pursue a low carbon future amidst their development needs? If so, what is the benefit to the United States for pursuing this goal?

This project will put you and your team right at the nexus of science and policy while providing you a great amount of freedom to answer an old question in a unique way. I encourage you to think about "cost" and "benefits" in innovative ways. Additionally, participants will directly influence U.S. foreign policy in India by providing the Mission's economic team with the data they need for effective, convincing internal and external climate change conversations at the highest levels of government.

Format of Final Project:
White Paper and a PowerPoint presentation. We are very interested in the data you collect and how you collect it. The methodology itself will be a deliverable. Creativity is encouraged. We want the final product to be as innovative as the project. Tailor the product to be useful for interactions with development-focused political leaders. We want this to be a useful tool, not a dusty report.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: The more multidisciplinary the team, the better. Your subject matter diversity will be your strength for this project. Knowledge of climate issues, renewable energy, and India is not a necessity, but an interest in these topics is.

Comments: N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 80

Seeking Synergies in the U.S. and Brazilian Defense Industries
Political Section, U.S. Embassy Brasilia

Overview:
      The United States and Brazil both possess vibrant and innovative defense industries, including some of the principal defense firms in the world. The strengthening political and military relationship between the two countries could create opportunities for partnership and technological collaboration between U.S. and Brazilian defense firms, whether for eventual sale to one or both militaries/governments or for export to third countries. This project would seek to analyze the two countries' defense sectors with the goals of:

1)   Conducting a broad market overview and identifying areas of comparative advantage in defense innovation and production for each country;
2)   Examining specific opportunities for commercial partnership, supply-chain integration and co-development that would leverage the comparative advantages of the two defense sectors; and
3)   Identifying legal or regulatory barriers in each country to further defense industry cooperation (export control restrictions, local procurement requirements, etc.)

The results of this analysis could be used in direct support of ongoing bilateral efforts to deepen defense industrial cooperation through the Brazil-U.S. Defense Industry Dialogue and possibly in the identification of opportunities for development of a joint defense product.

Format of Final Project:
The ideal deliverable would take the form of a 10-15 page analysis paper and accompanying presentation that could be used to summarize the findings and recommendations, both products oriented toward industry and government decision makers.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: This project would be most directly aimed at students engaged in studies of business/market research analytics, economics (macro or micro), international relations/security studies, law, or policy analysis. A combination of those fields would most likely be best positioned to address the full scope of the project. Portuguese language skills would be helpful in doing primary research or literature review for the Brazil-focused aspects of the project.

Comments: N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 3

Project 81

Help or Hindrance? Legislation and Support for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in the State of Chihuahua

Consulate General, Ciudad Juarez, Mexico

Overview:
Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) play a critical role in economic growth. In the Mexican state of Chihuahua, the growth of small businesses has not kept pace with the growth of the maquila (factory) industry. Foreign direct investment in maquilas plays a critical role in the state's economy. However, local MSME development has not kept pace despite the presence of federal and state policies intended to encourage the growth of small and medium enterprises.

The purpose of this project is to gain a better understanding of the environment in which micro, small and medium enterprises operate in Chihuahua, the challenges small business owners face, and what support networks are available to them. Students will review legislation established by the Chihuahua state government that relates to the development and support of micro, small and medium enterprises in the state and compare it to legislation from other Mexican states as well as that of the federal government. Students will analyze legislation to highlight what is working well in Chihuahua and identify ways that micro, small, and medium enterprises could be better supported. In addition, students will examine the ease with which entrepreneurs can gain access to capital.

Format of Final Project:
Students should submit a 10-15 page written report with recommendations of ways to encourage micro, small and medium enterprises in the state of Chihuahua.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: This project would benefit from students with an interest in economics, business, or international business. Spanish language skills will be beneficial.

Comments: Article about small and medium enterprises in Ciudad Juarez:
www.eujournal.org/index.php/esj/article/download/2260/2143

Book about support for small and medium enterprises in the border region (Chihuahua, Texas and New Mexico). Chapter 3 is particularly relevant for this project:
https://www.oecd.org/mexico/45820961.pdf

Chihuahua's business incubator:
http://www.chihuahua.com.mx/Incubadora.aspx

Tecnolagico de Monterrey's business incubator, which has a presence in Chihuahua:

http://incubadorasmty.com/home

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

== **Back to Top** ==

Project 82

Civil Rights of Jews and Arabs in America
Cultural Section, Public Diplomacy Section, U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv

Overview:
The Public Diplomacy Section at U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv is interesting in makings its programming about civil rights in America more relevant to local audiences, especially Arab-Israeli and religious Jewish Israelis. The story of the expansion of civil rights in America is usually recounted in Israel by examining the experiences of African-Americans. Telling the story of Jewish and Arab immigrants' absorption in America, this historical acceptance of their houses of worship, and their gradual integration in society and in public life, including in elected offices, chambers of commerce, universities, etc., can perhaps offer a more relatable perspective about the evolution of civil rights in America and the promise of a shared society, especially for Arab and religious Jewish audiences.

Format of Final Project:
The final product could take the form of a report in beginners' English, with dynamic sidebars that bring attention to key milestones and key historic figures. This output could be utilized by Embassy officers and by the Embassy's local partners in programming on civil rights and in discussions of the expansion of civil rights in America.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: History, American social history

Comments: N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 83

Business Growth Strategies for Women Entrepreneurs in the Western Hemisphere

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

Overview:
The Women's Entrepreneurship in the Americas Initiative (WEAmericas) aims to increase access to markets, finance, training, and leadership opportunities for women entrepreneurs in the Western Hemisphere. WEAmericas has worked to achieve this goal by building government-to-government partnerships, public-private partnerships and, by developing programs that lead to new opportunities and resources for women entrepreneurs that can help them grow their businesses.

To reduce barriers women entrepreneurs may face in accessing new markets, past participants in WEAmericas programs have partnered with business and marketing students at the graduate and undergraduate levels to revise their branding , marketing, and e-commerce strategies, for example.   The partnership provided students with a pragmatic opportunity to develop and apply their knowledge and skills, while simultaneously benefitting a rising, high-impact woman entrepreneur.

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

Format of Final Project:
A business or marketing strategy and accompanying branding tools (logo, website, etc.) tailored for at least four high-growth women entrepreneurs from Western Hemisphere countries (non-US).

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Business students specializing in marketing, trade, and or communications requested. Spanish-speakers welcome.

Comments: WEAmericas Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/WEAmericasInitiative/

Maximum Number of Projects: 4

Project 84

When Cruise Control Fails: How to Accelerate Trade After Conflict Brakes It
Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations, Africa Operations

Overview:
Trade forms an intrinsic part of livelihoods and social welfare across Africa's arid Sahel. Armed parties across the region have both capitalized upon and destroyed existing trade networks. As major armed conflict subsides, rural population returns will require the re-establishment and strengthening of trade and trade networks to meet immediate community need and revive economic activity. At the same time, illicit trade must be minimized. This project asks you to explore how to restart legitimate trade during low-level intensity conflicts or in fragile-security environments after conflicts, particularly for application in the Sahel.

Subject to consultation between the university and our office, the final product, taking into consideration the impact of ethnic relationships on commerce, should synthesize the following:

- Identification of key, relevant examples from the past 30 years of how informal, inter-ethnic trade networks were re-established in post-conflict environments;
- Explanation of how modern Information Communication Technologies can strengthen trade networks and accelerate their establishment/re-establishment after conflict over remote, sparsely populated areas;
- Comparison of how local and/or national governments in Africa have either supported or hampered the recovery of trade networks in post-conflict areas;
- Analysis of how illicit trafficking has been curbed while legitimate trade promoted in post-conflict environments;

Identification of any specific creative projects or organizations that have led efforts in any of the above areas.

Format of Final Project:
A final report (please limit to a maximum of 20 pages) containing a 1-2 page executive summary, a detailed bibliography of relevant sources, and appendixes with visualizations demonstrating findings (e.g. process mapping, network mapping, geographic routes, etc)—with the exception of data heavy tables. The bibliography and appendixes do not count against the 20 pages.

The report and conclusions should be presented in person or via video conference to the requesting Bureau.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Trade, Social Networks, Behavioral Economics, Ethnic studies, Sub-national Conflicts, Social Psychology, International Development, Graphic Design, African studies, Anthropology, International Relations, Sociology amongst others. French or Arabic proficiency a plus.

Comments: The Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (CSO) advances the Department of State's understanding of violent conflict through analysis and planning; monitoring, evaluation, and learning; and targeted, in-country efforts that help the U.S. government anticipate, prevent, and respond to conflict and promote long-term stability.

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 85

Project 8: Anticipating The Needs of 8 Billion People and Beyond
Office of Global Food Security (S/GFS)

Overview:

As the world rallies around a new set of Sustainable Development Goals, Project 8 is part of the data revolution necessary to achieve these goals. Project 8 is a professional social network built around data. By cataloging existing human needs data and metadata from many sectors in one place and allowing users to easily visualize and interact with those data and one another, we are helping public-and private-sector organizations prepare to meet the needs of 8 billion people and beyond and promoting greater collaboration around human needs data.

The prototype supports users across global organizations collaborating around hundreds of millions of rows of data. Together, the community is working to increase the visibility and utility of existing data, identify data gaps and discuss new sources of information. It is focused first on supporting Sustainable Development Goal #2, ending hunger, but will eventually span across human needs.

Format of Final Project:
- Find new and relevant data sources and create APIs for new data about SDG#2 Food Security
- Set-up end to end data and analytics protocol for the next thematic area.
- Use existing data sets to create data models and visualizations that answers big questions
- Organize data to allow for meaningful search and use

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Food security, computer science, data analysis, knowledge of Salesforce, experience working with big data, information technology skills, particularly data visualization for web-based applications.

Comments:
Information about Project 8:
- *http://demandinstitute.org/projects/project-8/*
- *http://www.unfoundation.org/assets/pdf/project8.pdf*
- *http://www.salesforce.org/preparing-world-8-billion-non-zero-sum-initiative/*

UN Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger:
- *https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg2*

There is a possibility that the project could be extended to a 2nd semester as we focus on additional thematic areas.

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 86

Security Assistance & Human Rights – Symbolic or Influential?
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Near Eastern Affairs Office (DRL/NEA)

Overview:

The intersection of security assistance and human rights can present a complex foreign policy dilemma: on one hand, the provision of security assistance (in the form of weapons sales, grants, etc) to foreign militaries can further U.S. strategic interests and extend U.S. influence; on the other, security assistance to states with domestic human rights concerns can appear to conflict with values that the U.S. promotes and, at worst, be misused to repressive ends, possibly unintentionally driving instability. A corollary question is whether withholding or altering security assistance in response to human rights concerns is effective to prompt less repressive domestic policies in a partner country.

In this project, the team will explore this issue, identifying and analyzing case studies in which U.S. security assistance was used to achieve (or attempt to achieve) certain human rights-related outcomes, reviewing available scholarly literature and writings from policy think tanks on this topic, and developing policy recommendations on this topic. The team's research will contribute to foreign policy deliberations.

Format of Final Project:

I would like to receive a 5-page literature review/mapping of the relevant theories and information on this topic that includes 2 case studies and key recommendations for policy makers to consider, to be accompanied by a short (less than 10 minutes) presentation of key findings and recommendations.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Background in international relations, security studies, political-military affairs, human rights law, or a related field.

Comments: N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 87

Symbiotic Relationship: Vibrant Civil Society and Strong Economic Growth
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Near Eastern Affairs Office (DRL/NEA)

Overview:

The United States has a strong record of standing up for civil society around the world, and we often make the point to authoritarian governments who restrict civil society that they are pursuing a self-defeating policy, because sustainable economic growth does not often occur without an unfettered civil society that forces the government to be accountable, transparent, and responsive to the people.

This project would be an effort to put some research and some facts behind that assertion. Is there data that confirms this theory?

Format of Final Project:

Ideally we would receive a short literature review or summary of available research on this question, and an analysis of whether the theory holds water even in the face of economic growth in authoritarian countries like China or Singapore.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: International economics, international relations.

Comments: The World Bank and certain UN agencies may be sources of data to begin answering this question.

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 88

The Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps' Economic Influence and its Implications for Business and Human Rights

Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Near Eastern Affairs Office (DRL/NEA)

Overview:

The Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps' (IRGC) reach in Iranian society appears to be expanding, although how far exactly it goes is not clear. An evaluation of how the IRGC is flexing its muscle as President Rouhani tries to implement the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and open Iranian markets to foreign investment will be useful, as it appears foreign companies are reluctant to invest in Iran despite the JCPOA for a variety of reasons, some of them related to the IRGC. For instance, many major European companies attempt to adhere to UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and investing while also adhering to those principles will be a difficult balance. How would businesses address certain human rights practices in Iran during their own human rights due diligence process? Would they be allowed to hire religious minorities and women without discrimination, for example? How would the IRGC's penchant for arresting dual nationals affect a company's calculations for entering or re-entering the Iranian market?

Format of Final Project:
A short options memo with policy recommendations for how to engage the Iranian government and multinational companies on business and human rights in the Iran context – including in multilateral forums.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Interest or expertise in the Near East region, particularly Iran and Persian language skills will be useful in successfully performing in this project.

Comments: DRL/NEA develops and coordinates strategies to improve human rights conditions in Iran in light of the JCPOA, provides critical analysis of human rights conditions, and promotes multilateral action on Iran through the UN Human Rights Council and other international organizations.

[The Rise of the Pasdaran: Assessing the Domestic Roles of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps](#)
[The Revolutionary Guards](#)
[Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)](#)

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 89

Iraq Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration in the Post-Da'esh Era
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Near Eastern Affairs Office (DRL/NEA)

Overview:
This project will examine effective strategies for disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) in the post-Da'esh era in Iraq.

As Da'esh began to overrun huge portions of Iraq in 2014, it laid thousands of mines, and booby-trapped homes and fields. It also recruited child soldiers to man checkpoints, cook, and serve as sex slaves. One important component of a reconciliation plan for Iraq to "win the peace" must address these issues. Members of vulnerable religious and ethnic communities in Iraq regularly tell us they are unable to return to their homes and begin working their farms again because of the number of explosives that remain. At the same time, Iraq, like much of the region, has a large youth population, and in Iraq this population is often unemployed and has known violence for years, including by being radicalized. While work is underway to address some of the problem with mines, additional resources are likely to be needed to address the full scope of the problem.

This project will examine DDR in other contexts around the world and recommend strategies for Iraq, with a focus addressing the large youth population.

Format of Final Project:
Creativity and the use of technology is encouraged. While the final product format is not set in stone, envisioned is a literature review of DDR practices and analysis of what has worked well (and not so well) in other regions, analysis of how these might be effectively deployed in Iraq, estimated resources needs, and how youth might find a more positive future in a post-Da'esh Iraq.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: N/A

Comments:
The following articles may be helpful as a starting point for students to consider this project:
http://ekurd.net/kurds-clear-sinjar-bombs-2015-11-14
http://www.the-monitor.org/en-gb/reports/2016/iraq/mine-action.aspx
http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/obama-leaves-complicated-legacy-iraq-afghanistan-syria/
http://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2016/10/22/498954204/iraqi-forces-met-with-new-isis-tactics-means-a-longer-fatal-fight-for-mosul

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

== **[Back to Top](#)** ==

Project 90

The Community is Central: Developing More Effective Community Security Mechanisms for Central Africa

Africa Bureau Office of Security Affairs (AF/SA)

Overview:

Addressing community concerns will be crucial to creating secure environments in Central African countries that have been destabilized by violence. Getting combatants to renounce violence and give up their weapons is necessary for creating peace, but people who resisted joining armed or violent extremist groups also need to know that they will be protected, and have not missed out on reconstruction resources because they don't have weapons to give up. Likewise, communities must be equipped and empowered to resist the presence of armed groups and spoilers, particularly in areas with little central government presence or provision of services – after all, armed actors can only continue to thrive in communities that tolerate them. The U.S. Government wants to know how to constructively include communities in Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR), as well as longer term Security Sector Reform (SSR), programming in Central Africa, based on data from past DDR and SSR efforts.

Many countries in Central Africa could benefit from SSR and DDR support. For this research project we would like to focus on two separate case studies: Central African Republic (CAR) and the Lake Chad Basin (LCB) countries affected by Boko Haram (Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria). In CAR, we would like to use the research conducted in this study to improve post-conflict DDR (and longer-term SSR) programming so that communities are empowered to understand, implement, and support peacebuilding and reintegration processes for all conflict-affected individuals, and to build resilience against the prevailing economy of violence in CAR to minimize risk of spoilers seeking to undermine peace processes or reforms. In the LCB countries, communities have been traumatized by Boko Haram and are largely unwilling to accept former fighters, even those who were forcibly recruited, back into their communities. We would like this research to focus on how the U.S. Government could support the LCB governments, through a regional approach, to encourage Boko Haram fighters to defect from the group, while being sensitive to the communities that have suffered through years of the Boko Haram's brutality. Research related to Boko Haram should consider the impact and potential restrictions of working with former combatants of a designated Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO).

In both cases, we would like research to identify successful models of Community Violence Reduction (CVR) and DDR, which have ideally supported broader SSR over the long-term. Where have CVR and DDR worked and why? What interventions actually increase community security, increase local ownership of national and/or international CVR/DDR programs, and reduce risk of relapse into conflict?

Format of Final Project:
10-15 page research paper with 1-2 page executive summary. Each paper should include up to 10 concise programmatic and/or policy recommendations based on best practices, suggestions and recommended literature (works cited). Final oral presentation (in person or by video conference) is welcome.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Political or social science, International Studies, Security Studies, Africa, Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding, Research experience

Comments: N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 91

Promoting Responsible Investment and Identifying Economically-Driven Human Rights Abuses in Burma

Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor / Office of East Asian and Pacific Affairs (DRL/EAP)

Overview:

Of Burma's top challenges today, human rights and economic development are among the most complex. These two goals are often presented as a trade off, but initiatives to promote responsible investment may provide an avenue for these priorities as mutually-supporting. Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) has taken steps already in this direction and the international community has a strong interest in promoting the success of those initiatives.

On October 7, 2016, after 20 years of sweeping economic sanctions, the United States lifted all restrictions on investment in Burma. The United States had imposed sanctions to weaken the notoriously repressive military regime that ruled Burma since 1962, and it lifted them following the military's decision to restore partial civilian governance and respect the result of a national election in which the then-opposition – Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) – won 55% of national parliamentary seats. However, military leaders and their confidants, notorious for pursuing off-the-books profits at the expense of civilian rights and environmental integrity, continue to control a large portion the Burmese economy, particularly in the lucrative gems industry, operating largely outside the control of the civilian government. As the United States continues to promote democracy and human rights in Burma, it will be important to empower independent, responsible business activity, while economically marginalizing the military and its cronies.

With this in mind, DRL would welcome your interest in one of two projects:

1. Document state-affiliated, military-affiliated, and independent commercial entities' human rights abuses and weakening of democratic governance in Burma. Past examples include poor labor practices, illegal land appropriation, exacerbating armed conflict, preventing residents from conducting livelihood activities absent appropriate restitution, providing substantial financial or in-kind support to the military, seeking permits from the military rather than the civilian government, intimidating or bringing charges against land activists and journalists, and other supply chain issues. This research will inform the State Department's annual Human Rights Report and help the State Department to identify economic practices that are inhibiting democratic consolidation and the elected government's efforts to adhere to internationally recognized standards of human rights.

2. Produce a series of implementation-oriented case studies on best and worst practices in advancing responsible investment, discouraging military economic activity, promoting inclusive natural resource benefit sharing, and otherwise establishing a well-governed, successful economy amid armed conflict, entrenched corruption, and limited civilian control of government institutions. This research will inform the State Department's efforts to support Burma's civilian-led government as it seeks to improve the investment climate and strengthen democracy.

Format of Final Project:
The final product will address one of the two issues sets described above. Length and format are negotiable, taking the researcher's preference into account.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Familiarity with Burma and/or with languages spoken in Burma (Burmese, Kachin, Shan, etc…) is preferred but not required. Background in business, supply chain management, corporate social responsibility, conservation, or natural resource management would be helpful.

Comments: N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 4

Project 92

Illegal Logging In Papua New Guinea

Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor / Office of East Asian and Pacific Affairs (DRL/EAP)

Overview:

Natural resource exploitation is a global problem, and is tied to corruption in many countries. In East Asia, Papua New Guinea (PNG) and its citizens suffer the most from illegal logging operations. The exploitation of PNG's forests has accelerated in recent years with the issuance of 5.5 million hectares of Special Agriculture and Business Leases (SABLs) since 2003 (10% of PNG's total landmass). SABLs were intended to be used for the development of agricultural projects, but instead were issued to logging companies that clear-cut large swaths of the forest for profit. In 2011, a PNG government sponsored Commission of Inquiry (COI) into the issuance of SABLs concluded that widespread "corruption and mismanagement [was evident] in all stages of the process." In 2014 Prime Minister Peter O'Neill promised to cancel all illegal land deals, but the government has still not taken meaningful action to stop illegal logging or return land to traditional owners despite an increase in international pressure and attention to the issue.

DRL requests a research team to produce a serious of case studies that highlight best and worst practices for:

- Government led land redistribution efforts; and
- Combatting corruption in natural resource/extractive industries (not exclusive to timber).

If time permits, DRL also welcomes a secondary report detailing the logging companies that operate in PNG and elsewhere in the Pacific.

Format of Final Project:
Individual case study reports - length and format of the reports are negotiable

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Backgrounds in natural resource management and/or environmental conservation would be helpful but are not required.

Comments: N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

Project 93

Silencing the Guns: Transitional Security Arrangements in Peace Agreements
Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations, Office of Analysis, Planning, Programs, and Learning

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

One critical issue that faces most peace processes is what to do with the combatants –both those that are part of state security services and non-state armed actors. Ceasefire agreements start to answer this question by laying out parameters for military engagement, and peace agreements often include provisions for long-term disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) and security sector reform (SSR). However, these programs are complex and lengthy, and often do not lead to the desired results. This project will focus on how to shape security provisions during the transitional phase of a process or agreement – what happens before SSR or DDR programs begin? Are there models for transitional security arrangements that can be identified? Where have they worked or failed, and what lessons can be drawn? By looking at case studies, peace accords, and relevant literature, this project will help diplomats forge creative solutions in the volatile time during the negotiation and early implementation of peace accords.

Format of Final Project:
2-page summary analysis memo, literature review, and presentation (if desired)

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Political science, international relations, mediation/negotiation, security sector reform.

Comments: N/A

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

Project 94

<u>Countering Russian Propaganda: America In Its Own Words</u>
U.S. Embassy Moscow, Public Affairs Section (PAS)

<u>Overview</u>:
Kremlin propaganda consistently presents a negative image of the United States as a society in decay, where democracy and civil society are a detriment to social and economic progress, rather than its driving force. To promote a more accurate image of the U.S. and the social benefits of democracy and a strong civil society, U.S. Embassy Moscow endeavors to present positive, affirmative accounts of life in the United States across our social media platforms. Experience and data analysis tell us such accounts are always more persuasive when told directly by everyday Americans themselves.

While presidential and congressional level politics gets a great deal of attention in Russian media, Russians have virtually no exposure local American politics and civic engagement. This project will campus-source the production of social media content that tells the story of Americans' experience with their democracy on a local level. Possible topics might include a profile of volunteers helping to resettle refugees, for instance, or a profile of someone running for school board or city council; an exploration of the culture of student activism in America; American systems of student government; a student-run newspaper on a college campus; business competitions for young entrepreneurs seeking venture capital; the role of government funding in scientific research etc. Narratives could be contemporary or historical in nature. We have a strong preference for video content (a series of short video profiles, for instance), but ultimately the content could take any form, including photo essays, info-graphics, or other new media genres.

<u>Format of Final Project</u>:
A package of social media content forming a coherent treatment of the central theme of the project. Digital stories will ideally be presented in video form, but we are flexible with respect to genre, with the caveat that the final product must be appropriate for presentation on social media. Content can be in English, but will be dubbed/translated/subtitled into Russian as appropriate.

<u>Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest</u>: American studies; digital media; filmmaking; fine arts; journalism; communications; design; marketing; political science; sociology; history; public history; history of science; international affairs; Russian

<u>Comments:</u> This project represents the chance to take an active role in American public diplomacy. Cutting through the noise and simply telling America's story has long been the foundation of our public diplomacy successes around the globe – especially in the Russian speaking world. Be a part of that history! Subject to Embassy approval, completed projects will

be shared across Embassy Moscow social media platforms and other Department of State social media properties, potentially reaching an audience of millions.

Maximum Number of Projects: 3

== **Back to Top** ==

Project 95

Closing the Gap: How to Get the Next Generation Interested in Strategic Stability and Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction

Office of Verification, Planning, and Outreach/Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance (AVC/VPO)

Overview:

Many students and young professionals today grew up after the end of the Cold War. During the Cold War, generations of top scientists, policy experts, and academics dedicated their focus to reducing the risk to humanity posed by weapons of mass destruction (WMD). After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the dangers of weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons and chemical weapons, were generally thought to no longer be a threat to international peace and security. International events in recent years have resulted in a resurgence of the importance of countering weapons of mass destruction in a host of U.S. foreign policy areas, as well as bilateral and multilateral relationships. The re-emergence of these issues calls for a renewed focus on the concepts and principles that drove Cold War WMD policy, as well as an analysis of how current technologies, with the speed of information and connectivity, change the understanding and approach to these concepts, particularly in the realm of public perception. Encouraging research and engagement in the fields of countering weapons of mass destruction may also elicit interest in the field as a career.

The challenge – Identify innovative ways to better engage and message to the next generation the concepts and approaches of strategic stability and countering WMD, both domestically and internationally. Using social media platforms, develop an outreach strategy that educates and builds communities among the next generation on strategic stability and countering WMD concepts. Create demos of the activities described in the outreach strategy.

Format of Final Project:

Outreach Strategy Plan and demos. Outreach plan should be a creative strategy to reach students/young professionals on these issues. Possible demos could include social media campaigns (text and graphics), YouTube videos, and Ted Talks (using an expert).

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Expertise in the following disciplines and skills will be useful: 1) public messaging, marketing, strategic planning; 2) international relations and issues related to weapons of mass destruction; 3) a keen understanding of the evolving social media and online communications landscape.

Comments: Some background reading to get the groups started:

Bill Perry Is Terrified. Why Aren't You? (Politico – John F. Harris and Bryan Bender)

Maximum Number of Projects: 3

Project 96

Multilateral Nuclear Stability: Potential Contributions from Game Theory

Office of Verification, Planning, and Outreach/Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance (AVC/VPO)

Overview:

The primary objective of this project is to assess the potential of game theory to make significant contributions to analyzing multilateral nuclear stability. Drawing from the lessons learned from the large body of analysis that applied game theory techniques to the bilateral arms race and first-strike balance between the United States and the former Soviet Union during the Cold War, identify promising directions for research using game theory in a multilateral context. At this juncture, we are not seeking a thorough analysis of multilateral nuclear stability, but to learn the following: 1) whether insightful multilateral nuclear stability games are possible, 2) to which multilateral strategic stability problems can game theory analysis be applied, and 3) which unique set of issues or challenges would need to be addressed in such multilateral games. On a more technical level, how would such a game be validated and how would the results be presented?

In a similar vein, game theory might also prove useful as an analytical tool for understanding motivations that might drive nuclear competition, and therefore help anticipate certain challenging verification and compliance scenarios, as well as identify mechanisms that could deter cheating.

Format of Final Project: 10 page paper

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Expertise in the following disciplines and skills will be useful: 1) Stability, Deterrence and Reassurance; 2) International Relations and nuclear security policy; 3) Game Theory and Information technology.

Comments: Here is some background reading to get the groups started:

J. Scouras, "Multilateral Nuclear Arms Control: Can Game Theory Contribute?," JHU/APL, October 2012

D. McGarvey and J. Scouras, "Multilateral Nuclear Arms Control and Game Theory," JHU/APL, May 2013

The White House Office of the Press Secretary, *Remarks by President Barack Obama*, Prague,

Czech Republic, 5 April 2009 (http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-By-

President-Barack-Obama-In-Prague-As-Delivered)

K. Leyton-Brown, and Y. Shoham, "Game theory is the mathematical study of interaction among independent, self-interested agents," *Essentials of Game Theory: A Concise, Multidisciplinary Introduction,* Morgan and Claypool Publishers, 2008, p. xv

The Nobel Foundation, *The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel,* 2005 (http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/economic-sciences/laureates/2005/)

S. J. Brams and D. M. Kilgour, *Game Theory and National Security*, New York; Oxford, UK: Basil Blackwell, Inc., 1988

S. Plous, "The Nuclear Arms Race, Prisoner's Dilemma, or Perceptual Dilemma?" *Journal of Peace Research*, Vol. 20, No. 2, May 1993

R. Hardin, "Unilateral Versus Mutual Disarmament," *Philosophy & Public Affairs*, Vol. 12, No. 3, Summer 1983

C. Nemeth, "A Critical Analysis of Research Utilizing the Prisoner's Dilemma Paradigm for the Study of Bargaining," *Advances in Experimental Social Psychology*, Vol. 6, L. Berkowitz (ed.) New York: Academic Press, 1972, pp. 203–234

<u>Maximum Number of Projects</u>:　　　3

Project 97

After A Finding of Noncompliance, What?!

Office of Verification, Planning, and Outreach/Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance (AVC/VPO)

Overview:

The primary objective of this project is to develop concrete recommendations to address findings of noncompliance with bilateral and multilateral agreements and treaties.

A world in which countries can ignore their commitments is a world more dangerous for all of us. The pretense of arms control where Parties do not insist on full compliance is a threat to all, for it not only fails to control proliferation, but also can provide a false sense of security that constrains only honest countries.

Failure by the international community to hold states such as Iran and North Korea accountable for their noncompliance would not be lost upon other would-be violators. While Libya's welcome example in renouncing its former pursuit of weapons of mass destruction points to the benefits of compliance, failing to address Iranian, North Korean, Syrian, and Russian noncompliance today will tempt others to confront the international community by challenging the credibility of the international treaties and commitments.

Format of Final Project: 10 page paper

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Expertise in international relations and nuclear security policy would be useful.

Comments: Here is some background reading to get the groups started:

Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty: A Crisis of Compliance
https://2001-2009.state.gov/r/pa/ei/rls/38058.htm

U.S. Evaluation of Verification Concepts and Assessments of Compliance and Verification
https://2001-2009.state.gov/t/vci/rls/rm/69365.htm

Nations Must Take More Vigorous Role in Enforcing Arms Accords
http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/texttrans/2005/01/20050131161306sjhtrop0.4209101.html#ixzz4VYtr96x9

Maximum Number of Projects: 3

Project 98

Militias and Rebels: Disease, Symptom, or Vaccine?
Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations, Office of Analysis, Planning, Programs, and Learning

Overview:

There are multiple lenses that may be used to understand armed actors – looking at the actors themselves, examining their means and motivations; looking at dynamics, such as how communities engage state and non-state armed actors; or looking at program types, like security cooperation, DDR, and SSR. This project looks at the actors themselves, and more specifically, non-state armed actors that present as militias and rebel groups.

Though militias and rebels are a global phenomenon, the primary concern exists where these actors potentially impact national security by presenting a significant risk or opportunity to critical subnational areas, national-level interests, or regional stability.

Militias and rebel groups may be significant contributors to, and/or a result of, state decline and failure. Conversely, some groups may even provide a relative measure of near term stability – a benefit that may in some circumstances outweigh the effects of undermining the restoration of a state's monopoly on the use of force. Such groups may hold territory and provide security, governance, and justice as an alternative to the state or in the absence of the state, and therefore serve a role that may be necessary in a given environment. Whether a cause, effect, or potential preventative measure against exacerbating destabilization, these groups are enabled by a state's lack of control over territory, coupled with weapons proliferation, interests in and of neighboring states, illicit trade or trafficking, access to revenues from sale of resources they apprehend from the state or residents, popular historical narratives that reject the right of the state to govern, and both national and subnational governments' lack of legitimate support among the residents of these territories. Militias and rebels may challenge the state or local governance structures, seek control of licit or illicit businesses and/or resources, and attack broad or targeted civilian populations. Recognizing opportunities and risks amid such challenges is a capacity that deserves further consideration.

Solutions

Even when they do not act as a means of force for existing political interests, militia and rebel groups often become significant political players in their own right, with a degree of local legitimacy that must be considered. Accordingly, engaging them requires an integrated approach that includes political and security approaches. A broader set of solutions including approaches for coopting and shaping the activities of militias or rebels—rather than only demobilizing them—must be found. However, this more expansive assembly of options must be based on evidence and lessons learned.

Advancing the Research

To better understand the intricacies of how militias and rebel groups have formed, synthesize and update lessons learned about dealing with these groups and how they have transformed, and examine the effectiveness of various response options in a variety of contexts, the research and analysis of armed actors must be advanced.

Format of Final Project: 2-page summary analysis memo per question(s) selected, overall literature review (include lessons learned and best practices in addressing militia and rebel groups), and presentation (if desired)

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Political science; international relations; mediation/negotiation; security sector reform; disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration; non-state armed groups; transforming armed actors

Comments: This qualitative study may also be complemented with quantitative work, examining one or more of the following questions: (1) How do groups differ based on objectives, organizational structures, methods for leader emergence, behaviors, and tactics; and (1a) how do we understand their incentives and shape their behavior?; (1b) are groups organized differently based on objectives, and if so, how are those conclusions relevant?; (2) what are the main factors that lead to the dissolution or neutralization of militias/rebel groups?; (3) which actors most frequently form militias/rebel groups, when do they do so, and why?; (4) what are the core lessons learned for effectively dealing with militias/rebel groups—that is, eliminating or incorporating them into state security institutions, or incorporating their leaders into civilian leadership?; (5) what are the core lessons learned from the transition of groups into political parties?; (6) what are the lessons learned on relying on militias/rebel groups as interim security providers?; (7) what are the applicable lessons learned for engaging militias/rebel groups in peace processes and mediation efforts and/or in dealing with militia related issues during peace processes and mediation efforts?; (8) are cartels sufficiently distinct from other militia/rebel groups, and if so, how?; (9) are gangs sufficiently distinct from other militia/rebel groups, and if so, how?

This cross-case study may be complemented with examinations of particular countries. However, research on single cases should be linked to the broader study. The qualitative research and analysis may be paired with quantitative research to identify particular risks or opportunities associated with militias.

Maximum Number of Projects: 5

Project 99

Designing for Diplomacy: An American Experience

Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations, Office of Design and Engineering (OBO/PDCS/DE)

Overview:
The United States has 275 diplomatic missions worldwide that offer an "American Experience" within another country. Millions of visitors experience these missions each year while seeking visas, attending public diplomacy events, or while engaging in diplomatic meetings. The design of these public spaces offers a unique opportunity to provide a window into American culture and values.

Visitors enter the campus through an entry pavilion, and are either channeled towards a consular waiting room or main lobby. From the main lobby, visitors may enter meeting and special event space or digitally rich public diplomacy space for engaging youth or, enter work areas of the building though an atrium. The Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations is interested in interior design proposals that demonstrate how the design of these public spaces can provide an open, engaging platform for diplomacy while proving an increased emphasis on public access, multimedia information delivery, flexibility in space use, and the required level of security.

Format of Final Project: The final product will be a design studio project and will include renderings, vignettes, and a design narrative.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Interior Design, Interior Architecture, Architectural Design, Design of Public Spaces, Graphic Design, Accessibility, Ergonomics

Comments:

OBO Press Kits Online, U.S. Department of State
Excellence in Diplomatic Facilities, U.S. Department of State
Discovering Diplomacy, U.S. Department of State

Maximum Number of Projects: 3

Project 100

Designing for Diplomacy: Informing U.S. Embassy Design Through The Study of Foreign Embassy Architecture

Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations, Office of Design and Engineering (OBO/PDCS/DE)

Overview:
A U.S. Embassy is the first encounter many people around the world have with the United States. While an embassy is a symbol of civic engagement, it also serves as an inspiring platform to conduct diplomacy. U.S. embassy designs must represent transparency, connection, and the values of our nation while balancing the need for a secure work environment. The Department's recent Excellence initiative has committed the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO) to producing embassy designs that are safe, secure, welcoming, and contextually responsive buildings.

Designs for foreign diplomatic missions face many of the same opportunities and constraints as U.S. embassies. The tension between requirements for an open and a secure campus, and desire to strike a balance between the local cultural and the mission's native culture create exciting design opportunities. OBO seeks architectural studio projects to design a U.S. embassy that incorporates lessons learned from the study of how contemporary embassy architecture of other nations has addressed design constraints in order to create design opportunities.

Format of Final Project: The final product will be a studio project including a physical model, renderings, vignettes, and a design narrative.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Strong Research Skills, Architectural Design, Architectural History, Embassy Design, America's Image Abroad

Comments:

Loeffler, Jane C. (2010). *The Architecture of Diplomacy: Building America's Embassies*, *2nd Revised Edition*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press.

Gill Lui, Elizabeth. (2004). *Building Diplomacy: The Architecture of American Embassies.* Four Stops Press.

Excellence in Diplomatic Facilities, U.S. Department of State

OBO Press Kits Online, U.S. Department of State

Discovering Diplomacy, U.S. Department of State

Designing Diplomacy: 10 Modern Embassy & Consulate Buildings Architizer

Fortress America: How the U.S. Designs its Embassies, City Lab

New design unveiled for Australian embassy in Washington DC, The Sydney Morning Herald

Nordic Embassy Complex, ArcSpace.com

Perkins Eastman reveals renderings for Turkish Consulate building across from the UN, The Architects Newspaper

Denton Corker Marshall completes "expressive yet dignified" Australian Embassy in Jakarta Dezeen

Maximum Number of Projects: 3

== **Back to Top** ==

Project 101

Successful Pre-Trial Detention Models for Counties in Transition - Recommendations for Haiti's Judicial Reform Policies

Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement- Western Hemisphere Program- Haiti

Overview:
INL works with over 100 law enforcement, criminal justice and academic institutions in the United States through both formal and informal partnerships. INL's partners have over the past decade provided significant support to INL programs all over the world, from assisting in the development of law enforcement programs in Haiti (New York Police Department) to training Central American police forces (Miami Dade Police Department) to seaport security support (Port Miami). One of the difficulties of this kind of assistance is translating domestic law enforcement experience and good practices to the international setting, often in societies that have undergone significant conflict and are emerging into fragile states. In Haiti, one of the main judicial system challenges the country faces as it transitions from the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti to a traditional development oriented partnership is to reform its pretrial detention practices. INL's challenge will be to encourage a system that follows international standards while taking into account limits in local capacity to meet those objectives.

This project will try to identify successful models for pretrial detention reform from other countries that have undergone a similar transition that can be applied to Haiti as best practice. The research team can address this question in multiple ways and INL will work with the group to identify a suitable research methodology, set of domestic agencies that work on pretrial detention and country case studies. This project will assist in refining INL's work in Haiti to encourage the government to take a practical approach to pretrial detention reform that has been applied in other countries. It is possible such a model cannot be identified for Haiti, in which case the research team should recommend steps it believes could be successful in Haiti based on elements drawn from the different case studies it finds.

Format of Final Project: The final product should be a paper, no more than 15 pages, with description of case studies reviewed and recommendations for application in Haiti.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest: Criminal justice and prison reform, judicial reform, corruption.

Comments:

Below are several websites featuring pretrial detention. The video on pretrial detention requires registration, but is worth the effort as it gives an excellent overview of the problems that Haiti faces regarding pretrial detention.

- Excellent video on pretrial detention problems at National Pen in Haiti: http://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/on-demand/63201-014
- Case Studies in Pretrial Detention: https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/sites/default/files/Justice_Initiati.pdf
- World Prison Brief: http://www.prisonstudies.org/
- International Centre for Prison Studies: http://www.prisonstudies.org/sites/default/files/resources/downloads/world_pre-trial_imprisonment_list_2nd_edition_1.pdf

American Bar Association: http://www.americanbar.org/advocacy/rule_of_law/thematic_areas/judicial_reform.html

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

== **Back to Top** ==

Project 102

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

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

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

Format of Final Product:
A series of 4-5 short videos **in Spanish** 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, Spanish

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

Maximum Number of Projects: 1

== **Back to Top** ==

Project 103

Keeping Nemo Alive In The Red Sea

Political-Economic Section, U.S. Consulate General Jeddah

Overview:
Known for its world-class coral reef formations and wildlife diversity, the Red Sea enables commerce and provides water, food, and livelihoods for millions of people who live near its shores. Recently there have been reports of mass fish kills. There has been a noted increase in salinity. Working with U.S. diplomats and foreign service nationals from the Political and Economic Section of U.S. Consulate General Jeddah, the selected team may potentially communicate with foreign academic, industry, and government officials within the Jeddah region and seek to identify the causes of these phenomena, and recommend solutions from a variety of angles including public policy and technology. In doing so, the selected team may, on a wider scale, help further U.S.-Saudi relations.

Format of Final Product:
The format will depend on the data received and may include an options memo, power-point presentation, and data analysis.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:
Students and faculty interested in working with U.S. diplomats and possibly interacting with foreign scholars and academics, fisheries, hydrology, desalination, and environmental officials.

Comments:
For an example of a recent article see: http://www.arabnews.com/node/998126/saudi-arabia

Maximum Number of Projects: 2

== **Back to Top** ==

Project 104

Women In Science (WiSci) What Have We Learned: Using P3s to Advance Girls' Participation in the Stem Fields
Secretary's Office of Global Partnerships (S/GP)

Overview:

The Women in Science ("WiSci") Girls STEAM Camp (website: https://girlup.org/wisci/) is a flagship initiative of the Secretary's Office of Global Partnership's (S/GP). WiSci was created in collaboration with the private sector as a means to address the dearth of young women entering STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art & design, and mathematics) fields, and to showcase the effective use of partnerships as a modern approach to diplomacy and addressing critical foreign policy issues. Now entering its third year, the program leverages the resources of the private sector and the convening power and reach of the U.S. government to educate young women in key target countries in ways that increase economic capacity, independence, and market participation.

This project will be a case study of the WiSci initiative that focuses on outcomes from past camps. We would like to know more about where the girls are now (colleges, majors) from past camps, and share camper stories to better measure the long-term impact of the camp. The project would entail surveys and interviews with past campers, facilitated by WiSci partner Girl Up--a UN Foundation Campaign to empower, support, and inspire young women worldwide.

Format of Final Product:

We would like a case study of WiSci that illustrates *where they are now* that includes descriptive analytics of past participants, stories, quotes and interviews. The paper would be split into three sections (one for each year of the camp) and should be as long as needed to adequately show camp outcomes.

Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

This project would be suited for students studying business, marketing, political science, public policy, or sociology.

Comments:

The Secretary's Office of Global Partnerships is the entry point for collaboration between the U.S. Department of State, the public and private sectors, and civil society. Launched in 2008, S/GP aims to strengthen and deepen U.S. diplomacy and development around the world through partnerships that leverage the creativity, innovation, and core business resources of partners for greater impact.

We can share potential course supplemental materials on public-private partnerships such as PowerPoints, case studies, and papers.

<u>Maximum Number of Projects</u>:   3 teams, one per program year. However, if this is a
capstone project, it may work best to have one university look at all three years of the program.

<p align="center">== **<u>Back to Top</u>** ==</p>