



THE GRADUATE PROGRAM IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT
FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

SUMMER VENTURES

Reports from IPED Students' Summer Internships

VOLUME 8

FALL 2015

FORDHAM | IPED

Fordham University's Graduate Program in International Political Economy and Development trains graduate students in the advanced interdisciplinary analysis of global economic relations and international development issues. Graduates frequently pursue professional careers in international finance and banking, international economic policy, and in international relief and development.

Summer Ventures is a student-run newsletter of Fordham IPED program. It shares the experiences of IPED students who had undergone internships with organizations from the private sector, government, and non-profit.

Editorial Board

Armand Aquino
Editor & Designer

Jordan Radovan
Senior Editor

**Richard Koch, Emily Kremser,
Camille Tacastacas, Joshua Voges,
Mary Frances Wines**
Contributors

Dr. Henry Schwalbenberg
IPED Program Director

Tel. +1 718 817 4064

Email: ipedjournal@fordham.edu
iped@fordham.edu



Joshua Voges, ENDA Énergie, Senegal



Joshua Voges (rightmost) meets with local dairy producers in Kolda, Senegal.

Last summer, I was invited to work as a Community Development and Finance Consultant with a non-governmental organization (NGO) called *Enda Tiers Monde* (ENDA) in Dakar, Senegal.

ENDA is composed of a group of programs and teams working throughout 15 countries in Africa and South America to fight poverty by collaborating with community organizations, identifying effective, sustainable development models, and advocating for their replication.

In Senegal, the milk industry is facing a challenge: there are many domestic milk producers, but little supply chain organization or means of preservation in the off-grid villages. The result is a national reliance on imported milk, rather than meeting the demand with local goods.

In response, ENDA, through its unit ENDA Énergie, launched a new project called PROGRES-Lait, a decentralized development program designed to improve access to sustainable energy services for rural populations in Senegal, to encourage entrepreneurship by installing

solar platforms in villages for milk preservation, and to organize local actors into innovative partnerships that promote the establishment of self-sustaining milk production chains.

As a Community Development and Finance Consultant, I was primarily responsible for three main deliverables: [1] to design a business model, including a finance mechanism, that could support the sustainability and scalability of the rural electrification intervention; [2] to program an adaptable and participatory community implementation strategy; and [3] to construct a community baseline assessment tool to support ongoing monitoring and evaluation efforts.

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Emily Kremser, Mercy Corps, Liberia



Emily Kremser (leftmost) with her colleagues from Mercy Corps in Liberia

This summer, I interned with Mercy Corps in Liberia, where I worked on their Prospects program, which aims to provide Liberian youth with the skills needed to secure employment.

The program uses a multifaceted approach to address the problem of high unemployment among young Liberians. For younger and more vulnerable youth, it uses psychosocial tools to equip them with the essential life skills needed prior to entering the job market. For older, more

experienced youth, it provides more direct interventions such as apprenticeships and entrepreneurship trainings.

I served as the Results, Learning, and Research intern on the Prospects team. I helped develop the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system to measure the program's impact on the beneficiaries and target communities. My work involved establishing indicators to assess the effectiveness of the program and designing and testing survey instruments to collect relevant data. Additionally, I oversaw the im-

plementation of a baseline survey, conducted an analysis of the resulting data, and provided programmatic recommendations for addressing gaps revealed by the survey.

The *Project Assessment* in the Philippines and *Community Economic Development* courses were vital to securing my internship offer. The theories and framework I learned in these classes, coupled with the practical experience I gained from the field work in the Philippines, helped me succeed at my job.

A key takeaway from my internship was how to reconcile the disparities between theories learned in the classroom and the constraints that come from working in developing countries with limited resources. It allowed me to find creative ways to adapt theory to the realities of working on the ground, which will be an asset throughout my career.

Working with Mercy Corps enabled me to acquire more field experience and to cultivate my M&E skills which are highly marketable within international development. Moreover, I developed professional contacts that will be valuable during my job search post-graduation.

Mary Frances Wines, Ernst & Young, New York

This summer, I completed an eight-week internship with Ernst & Young (EY) in its Times Square office in New York. I was among the seven interns who worked in the Transfer Pricing Group, a unit in the EY Tax practice.

Transfer pricing is a method used by multinational corporations to determine where and how profits are taxed and allocated to appropriate government authorities. This requires an extensive understanding of business models and functions, economic principles, accounting, and the regulations of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). EY's Transfer Pricing Group is a fast growing unit due to increased interest from OECD and government authorities.

As an intern, I researched transfer pricing regulations, analyzed clients' busi-

ness structures, updated, created, and translated documentation for submission to regulators in Latin American countries.

The experience allowed me to apply skills gained in IPED courses, particularly *Financial Analysis* and *Politics of Global Economic Relations*. Having a background in both allowed me to better understand the motivations and dynamics behind various business structures and models, as well as the global business climate in which clients work.

In the final week of the internship, I attended the annual Intern Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida. Interns traveled from all national and select international offices to participate in leadership and professional workshops, as well as team building activities. My internship concluded with an offer for full-time employment.



Mary Frances Wines in front of the EY Building in New York

Richard Koch, USDA Foreign Agriculture Service, Florida

For 10 weeks during the summer, I had the opportunity to have a paid internship with the Foreign Agricultural Service – Caribbean Basin Agricultural Trade Office (CBATO) in Miami, Florida.

CBATO is a unit under the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) that covers agricultural trade relations with more than 20 territories in the Caribbean. Although the posting is based in Miami, it is considered a Foreign Service post.

As part of my responsibilities, I surveyed 15 Caribbean territories including Anguilla, the Bahamas, and the Cayman Islands, among others. I also tracked relevant current events, drafted country documents which define the geopolitical considerations for public policy and private business decision makers, and developed country profiles which outline information on trade and agricultural production that would be relevant to US business interests in the region.

I also presented on the business climate in the region to trade groups such as the Southern United States Trade Association and the Food Export Association of



Richard Koch (middle) with his IPED colleagues during the IPED trip to Washington DC, where he first learned of the internship opportunity

the Midwest. I organized and joined a fact-finding trip to the Bahamas and also wrote an independent report on the impact of climate change in the Caribbean.

The focus of IPED courses in international economics and development especially on theories and current issues helped me with my work. Specifically, the *International Economic Policy* course helped me understand tariff theories which we extensively analyzed in CBATO, while the *Community Economic Development* course provided me a framework to assess the development of different Caribbean territories.

I learned of this opportunity during the IPED trip to Washington DC last November 2014 and I was reminded of it in one of the mailings of the IPED Career Digest. I learned that the internship program is a recruitment platform used by USDA to find and identify potential employees.

Being an Agricultural International Intern was a great experience and I believe that the professional development I gained from it, along with an IPED degree, will definitely strengthen my application to the State Department.

Camille Tacastacas, Cartwheel Foundation, Philippines

For five weeks during the summer, I travelled around the Philippines to gather data for an impact evaluation research project for Cartwheel Foundation, Inc. (CFI), a non-profit organization that works with communities of indigenous people to bring education to the Philippine peripheries. While specializing in early childhood and development, CFI also sets up adult capacity building programs and awards college scholarships for young indigenous leaders.

I divided my time between Miarayon, Bukidnon and Culion, Palawan where I had the invaluable support of a team of research associates who are young leaders from both communities.

Miarayon is home to the *Tala-andig* indigenous people whom CFI partnered with for eight years. The program with the



Camille Tacastacas (leftmost) with the local datos or community leaders

Tala-andig recently concluded and CFI needed a report of its impact on the community. To this end, I sought out to measure and describe how CFI's education programs have significantly changed the

landscape of literacy in Miarayon through key informant interviews, focused group discussions, and survey tools targeted for various program beneficiaries.

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Joshua Voges, Senegal*(Continued from page 1)*

My IPED classes equipped me with the skills I needed for this fieldwork. Specifically, the *Project Management* course series provided me with a technical foundation on which I could design, propose, and defend an implementation strategy with confidence, while the *Community Economic Development* course helped me understand how to most effectively design questionnaires and conduct interviews in rural villages.

The project was a perfect match for my professional interests, and it was only

made possible through the network that I had developed in the IPED Program.

I am pursuing a career in market-driven economic development interventions and my field placement this summer provided me with experience working with an internationally-based NGO in the design and implementation of the exact kind of program that I would like to be involved with designing in the future.

I believe that the experience and network that I had developed this summer, along with the knowledge from IPED, will greatly strengthen my competitiveness for international development jobs.

Camille Tacastacas, Philippines*(Continued from page 3)*

Culion, on the other hand, is the home to the *Tagbanua*. Our study in Culion intended to measure the short-term effects of Cartwheel's preschool program on the literacy and cognitive skills of its students. Extending our data gathering to non-CFI *Tagbanua* students also provided us an insight into a comparative analysis of the effects of *Tagbanua* family types and school settings on academic achievement.

The IPED courses I took were very helpful for the internship. Specifically, the *Community Economic Development* course equipped me with skills required to develop robust research instruments such as household surveys, literacy tests, and program closure surveys which were critical in my internship assignment. Additionally, the *Applied Econometrics* course also played

into my data analysis and publication of the research studies for CFI.

Aside from the technical knowledge, the internship also afforded me the managerial experience of training research teams and making prudent decisions in difficult environments – skills that I am sure will be valuable as I pursue work in international development after my IPED studies.

IPED Summer Internships

During the three-semester IPED program, all students are encouraged to seek internships or language immersion study programs during the summer between their second and third semesters. To aid with expenses for these trips, several different competitive scholarships are awarded.

**IPED Student Assignments
Summer 2015**

Samantha Andrews, *Council for Foreign Relations (New York)*, *South Africa Study Tour*

Nathan Birhanu, *Nomura Securities (New York)*

Betamia Coronel, *French Study (France)*

Robert Gallic, *Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (New Jersey)*, *South Africa Study Tour*

Nazia Hasan, *South Africa Study Tour*

Catalina Jack, *South Africa Study Tour*

Ryan Jacobson, *Council on Competitiveness (Washington DC)*

Pierrepont Johnson, *French Study (France)*

Veronica Karpoich, *South Africa Study Tour*

Richard Koch, *USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (Florida)*, *Spanish Study (Florida)*

Emily Kremser, *Mercy Corps (Liberia)*

Lodewikus Lombaard, *St. Gallen's Wings of Excellence (Switzerland)*, *Ernst and Young (New York)*, *Spanish Study (Spain)*

Veronica Muoio, *Humanitarian Research Services (Jordan)*

Huyen Nguyen, *National Bank of Canada (New York)*

Alexander Pankov, *South Africa Study Tour*

Dren Pozhegu, *South Africa Study Tour*

Jordan Radovan, *Morgan Stanley (New York)*

Elizabeth Shaw, *French Study (France)*

Brian Strassburger, *Jesuit Refugee Services (South Africa)*, *South Africa Study Tour*

Alexandra Strzempko, *Spanish Study (Peru)*, *South Africa Study Tour*

Camille Tacastacas, *Cartwheel Foundation (Philippines)*, *French Study (France)*

Joshua Voges, *ENDA Énergie (Senegal)*, *South Africa Study Tour*

Mary Frances Wines, *Ernst and Young (New York)*, *South Africa Study Tour*

Pan Yang, *Bank of China (China)*

Alexei Zoubine, *Jordan Edmiston Group (New York)*, *South Africa Study Tour*

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ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT

Fordham University Dealy—E517
441 East Fordham Road
Bronx, NY 10458, USA