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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.

Current Issues in Development is a student-run newsletter of Fordham's IPED Program. It aims to share with prospective students and friends in the academic, non-profit, government, and corporate community IPED analysis and experience in economic and humanitarian development

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Alumni Profile: Elizabeth Pfifer (IPED 2007)



Liz Pfifer (right) leads the groundbreaking ceremony for a health facility in Masaka, Uganda

Elizabeth Pfifer (“Liz”) joined Catholic Relief Services (CRS) after receiving her undergraduate degree in International Economics and Finance. In order to fulfill her dream of working overseas with CRS, Liz applied to the IPED program. She received the Arrupe Fellowship and began her studies in the Fall of 2006.

Liz shared that she took courses in technical areas such as agriculture and microfinance which gave her a good foundation and understanding of these fields. The project management courses also gave her practical skills on planning, budgeting and monitoring. Liz mentioned that the skills she learned were crucial for development work.

According to Liz, she enjoyed building relationships, and forging partnerships with the Catholic Church in each country, local organizations, national government actors, and also large bilateral donors. While she was posted in Niger, there was a terrible famine, and the food insecurity situation reached a thre-

hold that it had not seen in decades. In Niger, she spent a lot of time working on funding opportunities and brought in over \$10 million to respond to the emergency crisis. For her role now in Uganda as a country manager, she has brought in multi-million dollar programs funded by USAID, and UK's Department for International Development, and private sector companies. Liz will be working with fair trade vanilla farmers in western Uganda, to increase their production level and improve their economic livelihood.

Liz advises IPED students to look for opportunities through the internship and fellowship programs of CRS to learn about development and humanitarian work. When visiting developing country, she adds that IPED students should check if there is a CRS office in the vicinity and drop by. CRS usually accommodates visitors, and country representatives are usually very willing to spend time talking about the programs.

Indicators of Rape : Determining the Societal Factors Associated with the Frequency of Global Sexual Violence

by Elizabeth Shaw



A rape victim in Congo. Photograph: Spencer Platt/Getty Images

The World Health Organization, a leading opponent of gender-based violence, explains that “women and girls around the world experience staggering levels of rape and other forms of sexual violence. This violence devastates lives, unhinges communities, and hampers greater social and economic development.

A recent study tested the impacts of gender equality and economic development on sexual violence – not rape specifically – and determined that higher GDP is as-

sociated with more frequent sexual violence. The author states that developing countries must partner their economic growth with systems combating sexual violence or warned that its frequency will increase with their economic progress.

My analysis sought to replicate Chon’s regression while accounting for the author’s call to action. Dummy variables reflecting a state’s legislative and judicial support were included to determine if state action targeted specifically at sexual vio-

lence can effectively curtail the counterintuitive results of economic development. Panel data consisting of 104 countries was utilized to determine macro level trends affecting sexual violence. Categorically, indicators relating to poverty, gender norms, governance and violence are analyzed across the time span of 2007-2009.

The results of the statistical analysis affirm that sexual violence increases as violence at large increases for a state. Chon’s findings of a positive relationship between GDP and sexual violence, was established specific to rape in this regression. This offers an important message that holistic gender equality should not be assumed to follow economic development. The positive long-term relationship between rape and female secondary school enrollment determined in this analysis reinforces this implication. As such, as nations grow economically, attention must be specifically honed in on creating structures to combat sexual violence. The statistically significant negative relationship between governance and rape offers hope that intentional measures can act as an effective deterrent to rape. For purposes of policy formulation, these results suggest that any legislation written must be partnered with the creation of judicial systems which seek to uphold both the law and the woman’s dignity in the process of enforcing the law.

The regression function is as follows:

$$\text{Rape} = 72.86 + 6.92 \text{ GDP}_i - 3.62 \text{ FEDU}_i + 0.02 \text{ FEDU}_i^2 + 1.78 \text{ GEDU}_i + 0.58 \text{ UNEM}_i - 12.49 \text{ JUD}_i + 0.16 \text{ HOM}_i$$

GDP is the log of PPP adjusted GDP per Capita. FEDU is the female to male secondary school enrollment ratio (%). FEDU² is the square of the female to male secondary school enrollment ratio. GEDU is the government expenditure on education (% of GDP). UNEM is the male unemployment ratio (%). JUD is the dummy variable for legislative and judicial procedures for cases of domestic violence. HOM is the homicide count per 100,000 population.

Notes:

1. R2 of the model is 0.59.
2. All variables are significant at the 0.05 level of significance
3. Data from World Bank, US Department of State, and United Nations

Influence and Foreign Aid in Senegal

by Samantha Andrews

The current US Administration is turning towards other elements of power to strengthen its national security posture. The United States recognizes four strategic tools for projecting its power in international affairs – diplomacy, information, military, and economic policy. With less reliance on military power, the United States will increase its use of diplomacy, information, and economic policy to compensate. Foreign aid has a long history in the United States of being used as a tool in our national security strategy. Given that foreign aid is a powerful tool in all three arenas, the United States is likely to continue to give greater emphasis to its strategic use.

Studying the determinants of foreign aid allocation is critical to understanding United States foreign policy strategy. This paper seeks to understand the political and economic variables that determine the allocation of foreign aid. Senegal is the focus of the study since it is representative of foreign aid allocation trends because of its strategic importance to the United States over 1972 to 2012. The United States' national security interests include the promotion of democracy, especially as it relates to the Middle East and Africa. Since Senegal is one of only three Muslim-majority democracies in the world, the United States has a strong interest in securing the state as its ally. Foreign aid has, and continues to be, a critical tool used to promote increased freedom in Senegal.

Findings suggest that United States rewards increasing levels of democracy as it relates to civil liberties and political freedoms. Foreign aid allocations increase as a country becomes more geopolitically important. Specifically, foreign aid increases substantially when resource rents increase as a percentage of GDP. Finally, the United

States provides less aid as a country becomes more economically open and implements good economic policy. Since increased trade and FDI are generally correlated with economic growth, the need for the United States to provide foreign aid decreases over time.



President Obama listens during the joint news conference with Senegal's President Macky Sall. Photograph: Washington Post

The regression function is as follows:

$$\text{Log}(\text{FOREIGN AID}) = 18.56 + 1.82*\text{FREEDOM} - 0.16*\text{FREEDOM}^2 - 0.17*\text{TRADE} + 0.001*\text{TRADE}^2 - 0.10*\text{FDI} + 0.20*\text{RENTS}$$

FREEDOM is equal to the Freedom House (FH) index of political freedom. *FREEDOM*² is the square of the Freedom House (FH) index of political freedom. *TRADE* is the percentage of trade relative to Gross Domestic product (GDP). *FDI* is the percentage of foreign direct investment relative to GDP. *RENTS* is the total natural resource rents as a percentage of GDP.

Notes:

1. *R*² of the model is 0.72
2. All variables are significant at the 0.05 level of significance
3. Data from USAID, Freedom House and World Bank

Faculty Notes from Dr. Jose Aleman

Professor Jose Aleman earned his BA degree from Cornell University, and his MA and PH.D from Princeton University. He teaches courses on Comparative Politics and Political Economy. His work focuses on the comparative study of democratic institutions with a particular focus on social policy, labor market policy, and redistributive policy. Dr. Aleman is also interested in social movements, democratization, and social science methodology. His work has appeared in *Migration and Development*, *Review of European Studies*, *Social Science Quarterly*, *Comparative Political Studies*, the *Industrial Relations Journal*, the *International Political Science Review*, *Political Studies*, and others.

On the subject of interesting trends in economic and humanitarian development, Professor Aleman mentioned that many developing countries have begun to address the challenge of human development. After many decades of countries focusing their energies on how to develop economically, hoping that eco-



nommic development would then take care of human development (education and health), many countries have decided to commit serious resources to education and health (instead of or in addition to economic development). Professor Aleman also finds it encouraging that certain countries with very unequal distributions of wealth, particularly in Latin America, have made serious progress in reducing those inequalities.

When asked about his insights on the IPED program, Professor Ale-

man believes that IPED is a “very-well thought-out” program that provides a unique learning opportunity in the interdisciplinary study of political economy and development. He adds that the program attracts bright students with strong educational backgrounds, which makes teaching for faculty, very rewarding.

Arrupe Fellowships

Designed to attract into the IPED Program highly qualified applicants who have a strong interest in pursuing a career with an international development and relief organization, the Arrupe Fellowship consists of a tuition scholarship, a generous living stipend, and an additional living stipend for an overseas summer field placement either in Latin America, Africa or Asia. The application deadline is first week of January for the following Fall Semester.

For further information, go to iped.fordham.edu and follow the link to “Financial Aid.”

