



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 global 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's analysis and experience in economic and humanitarian development.

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Alumna Rachael Kupka fights for Public Health

Pollution is one of the most under-recognized development issues. IPED alumna Rachael Vinyard Kupka (IPED 2005) shares that “it is the largest environmental cause of death on the planet, yet no one is paying attention to it.”

Ms. Kupka currently serves as the Director for Strategy & Development at Pure Earth, the only non-profit organization working globally to remediate contaminated sites and protect public health. Pure Earth's mission is to identify and clean up toxic pollutants in poor communities around the world. In the last decade they have cleaned up more than 80 sites in 20 countries, improving the lives of over 4 million people.

“When I learned about what Pure Earth stands for and what it does, I was immediately drawn to it” says Ms. Kupka. “This topic touches all of the things that I care about: environment, children's health, environmental justice, human rights, equality, sustainability, and more.”

In her present role as Director for Strategy & Development, Ms. Kupka has two main functions. First, she directs all of Pure Earth's bilateral/multilateral fundraising efforts, both nationally, and internationally. Her other main function is the management of an alliance called the Global Alliance on Health and Pollution (GAHP). GAHP was formed in 2012 in response to the growing crisis posed by toxic pollution, and is a coordinating body of 45+ members including UN agencies, NGO's, country government agencies, as well as bilateral/multilateral organizations.

When asked about why this work is important to her, Ms. Kupka underscores the plight of children: “Unfortunately,



because of their growing bodies and small size, children are disproportionately at risk.” Exposures to toxic contamination at a young age can cause lifelong disability and disease, as well as IQ detriment.

“In my mind, children deserve better” says Kupka. “Pollution is a development issue that can be solved in our lifetimes. To me this helps make the issue that much more compelling. Future generations do not have to suffer.”

After 6 years of raising awareness among governments and donor agencies, Pure Earth and GAHP were able to get pollution included in various UN Sustainable Development Goals, with the most significant inclusion in goal number three on health. “This was a huge success” she said. “With any luck, we will succeed at making pollution as visible (well-known) an issue as climate change.”

When asked about her studies at IPED, Kupka explained that they gave her a critical perspective and helped open her eyes to the complexity of issues within development and political economy.

To learn more about the measurable impacts of Rachael Kupka and many others toward achieving a clean, safe world, visit www.pureearth.org.

The Supply and Demand of Modern Slavery

BY TESS HART

Modern slavery is a hidden crime and a growing phenomenon that troubles the world. The motivation behind its existence across national boundaries, time zones, and cultural differences can be reduced to an economic explanation of supply and demand with an excess supply of desperate laborers and an insatiable demand for cheap goods. The United Nations framework for combating trafficking takes the form of prevention, prosecution, and protection. But frameworks and laws in name only yield inadequate results as the multibillion dollar organized criminal industry continues to grow, stamping out the human dignity of its countless victims. The Global Slavery Index estimates that there were 29.8 million people enslaved in 2013 and 35.8 million in 2014, while the 2014 US Trafficking in Persons Report notes that in 2013 only 44,758 victims were identified, resulting in a mere 9,460 prosecutions with 5,776 convictions.

It was not until 2000 that the United Nations formally defined trafficking of persons as part of the Palermo Protocol. The Protocol called for member states to criminalize the act of trafficking, established guidelines for the treatment of victims, and instituted measures for improving prevention.

However, the UN Global Trafficking in Persons Report 2014 indicates that more than two billion people are still not fully protected by the Protocol (UNODC

2014). Moreover, in 2015, with the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's), the member nations of the UN pledged to "take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour

in all its forms" (ILO 2016). However, the UN and the International Labor Organization are still working to establish measurable indicators for SDG Target 8.7 and, with limited data, may continue to struggle to adequately address the issue.

Building on the work of the Walk Free Foundation, which conducted an extensive analysis of primary sources and literature reviews regarding current trends in trafficking and generated a factor analysis, identifying slavery policy, human rights, level of development, state stability, prevalence of discrimination as key vulnerabilities for modern slavery, this study looks at the predictive validity of vulnerabilities, adding the incidence of refugees, IDPs,



Photo credit: pixabay.com

and refugee-like populations on modern slavery.

The results of the regression indicate that development, slavery policy, and human rights play a statistically significant role in modern slavery incidence rates while state stability, discrimination, and number of refugees, IDPs, and refugee-like populations do not. However, this contradicts previous research which indicate state stability and discrimination are significantly correlated to incidence rates. There were three major outliers in the data set; each of these countries face unique challenges to ending modern slavery, namely Mauritania with a caste based slavery system, Uzbekistan with state-sponsored forced labor, and Haiti with the trafficking of restavek children.

Despite the complexity of studying modern slavery because of the hidden nature of the population with unknown bounds and strong concerns for anonymity, estimates of modern slavery rates continuing to rise and more research is necessary to fully understand the push and pull economic factors that lead to this pernicious crime.

THE MODEL

$$\text{Estimated \% of Population Enslaved} = -0.207 + 0.00336(\text{Slavery Policy})^* + 0.00306(\text{Human Rights})^* + 0.00557(\text{Development})^* - 0.00086(\text{State Stability}) + 0.00236(\text{Discrimination}) + 0.00093(\% \text{ of Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons})$$

Estimated % of Population Enslaved is the results of a random sample survey conducted by the Walk Free Foundation and Gallup Poll. *Slavery Policy, Human Rights, Development, State Stability, and Discrimination* are multi-dimensional indexes compiled by the Walk Free Foundation. *% of Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons* is the percentage of the population from a given country of origin that are defined as refugees, internally displaced persons, and refugee-like persons by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Notes:

1. R^2 is 23.35%
2. * = Statistically significant at 90%, 89%, and 96%, respectively.
3. *Data sources:* Walk Free Foundation, and UN High Commissioner for Refugees.



Tess Hart is an Arrupe Fellow pursuing her master's degree in International Political Economy and Development at Fordham University.

Determinants of Female Participation in Parliament

BY JESSICA WAY



Secretary for the Civil Service Denise Yue stands beside other officials during a news conference in Hong Kong June 23, 2007. (Photo credit: REUTERS/Paul Yeung)

The number of women serving in political leadership positions in some capacity remains strikingly low with a global average of just 22% of female representation in parliament (worldbank.org). It is generally acknowledged that female participation in government is low, but it is not clearly understood why. The extent to which women are represented in government varies largely across countries. Rwanda has the highest participation of female leadership with 64% of seats in the lower house of parliament currently occupied by women. Conversely, women represent less than 10% of the parliamentary chamber membership in 38 countries. Four countries today have no women rep-

resentatives in parliament at all (UN Women).

In my analysis, I explore the economic, cultural, and structural factors in society that influence female participation in government in 149 countries. I find the existence of gender quotas, female labor force participation rates, religion, and GDP to be statistically significant variables for explaining the variance in female participation rates in politics.

Following the literature, I originally included a variable from the World Values Survey on perceptions of female leaders. This should be a strong indicator of attitudes towards females in government. However, this data had an incredibly small sample size and only included 40 relatively wealthy countries. The proxies I found for

this particular data set from UN Women reports and the Pew Research Center suffered from similar problems. My empirical specification has a low R^2 , and this implies that the specification suffers from omitted variable bias. This missing data was my primary obstacle. For further research, I suggest a more complete compilation of data on attitudes towards women. The World's Value Survey, or a similar survey, should be expanded to include more countries and capture more of society's attitudes towards women in leadership.

Governments should represent their constituents. Yet, the gender gap in politics is a blaring example of where this ideal has failed. A government interested in increasing the participation of females in leadership should consider the policy implications of my findings and consider enacting a gender quota in their constitutional or electoral law. Given my findings, reducing the barriers women face to entering the workforce should also encourage female participation in government. Governments might promote female labor force participation by mandating maternal leave policies, or improving early age child-care options.

THE MODEL

$$Y_i = -24.087 + 7.271(\text{GenderQuota})^* - 0.618(\text{Democracy}) + 0.003(\text{flfpsq})^* + 4.329(\text{Christian})^* + 0.775(\text{fpresident}) + 3.037(\text{LogGDP})^* + \epsilon_i$$

Y_i is the % of female participation in parliament; **Gender Quota** is a dummy variable for whether or not a country has a gender quota written into electoral or constitutional legislation; **Democracy** is a dummy variable for electoral democracy or not an electoral democracy; **flfpsq** is the square of female labor force participation rate; **Christian** is a dummy for Christian or not Christian; **fpresident** is a dummy variable for whether or not a country has historically had a female head of state for more than one year; **LogGDP** is the logarithm of GDP.

Notes:

1. R^2 is 29%
2. * = Statistically significant at 99%, 99%, 95%, and 95%, respectively.
3. *Data sources:* World Bank, Freedom House, The Quota Project, The United Nations, and The World Factbook.



Jessica Way is pursuing her MA in IPED with a specialization in International and Development Economics at Fordham University.

Faculty Feature: Dr. Robert J. Brent

Dr. Robert J. Brent is Fordham University's very own Cost-Benefit Analysis "Evangelist", among many other things. As Professor of Economics, Dr. Brent teaches undergraduate and graduate level courses, with a research focus on public economics especially related to health.

Dr. Brent has been at Fordham since 1980, and has lived and worked on a total of four continents, having written 6 books and dozens of publications. Professor Brent taught in the UK for a total of 6 years, Kenya for 3 years, and spent one year away from Fordham in 1998 at the opening of the Asian Development Bank Institute in Tokyo, Japan.

His title of Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) "Evangelist" was given to Brent as all of his books are on CBA, covering every area of government policy (health, education, transportation, agriculture, and the environment, for example), related to both developing and developed countries. In speaking about the importance of CBA, Dr. Brent shared how "mainstream economists think their job is done when they can show that particular public policies have been effective or not." He continued, "but the real test is assessing whether a policy, even if it is effective, is



Dr. Brent (center) with participants of the Youth-Welding and Carpentry Project in Kirebe, Rwanda

also socially worthwhile. This is the CBA test."

When asked about the continued impacts he hopes to make, Brent described that since there is more than one way to estimate the benefits of public policies, the aim is to "provide practitioners who carry out CBAs a methodology that has assumptions that the evaluator understands and is comfortable with." Ultimately, "the more economic policies are subject to CBA, the more likely it is that only public decisions that make society better off will be approved" he explained.

Because of his texts, Professor Brent was asked to write the CBA guidelines for

the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). He was also asked to chair the scientific committee for the EU's Social Cohesion policy; using CBAs to estimate key parameters for their macro model for European development. His hope is that, because of his work and texts, "others will step forward and get fully involved with CBA to make the world a better place."

Considering his extensive career and incredible successes, there is no doubt that Dr. Robert Brent has already left his mark in making the world a better place.

Arrupe Fellowship

Designed to attract highly qualified full-time students 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. Eligibility criteria are: relevant work experience in a developing country; professional proficiency in a language widely used in international development, preferably French; intent to apply for an International Development Fellowship with Catholic Relief Services; and willingness to complete the Project Management course sequence. The application deadline is early January for the following fall semester.

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



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