

FALL 2017

SAIS IDEV Alumni Newsletter

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[Letter from the Acting Director](#)

Dear Alumni and Students,

Another year appears to have flown by. This year, more than others, many of us have been challenged to think about how best to channel our energy and resources in the face of unspeakable tragedies and setbacks. Some days it has felt overwhelming to pick a battle de jour! Yet we have persisted, and the spirit of inquiry, public service and the belief that we can make a difference, continue to move us forward.



Prof Nagpal with Mark Radin (Class of 2014) and Rachel Rose (Class of 2015) at the Water and Health Conference, Water Institute, UNC.

I am happy to report that 2017 brought us a wonderful new cohort of students in both Bologna and DC. Chloe Hauenstein, first year, with help from veteran Hannah Kyle, organized an excellent line-up of Development Roundtable speakers. The talks have been very well attended and we look forward to another set of insightful speakers in the spring. If you are in town, please do consider attending a Roundtable discussion. We promise to feed you, and the cookies are great.

The student-led online magazine of the International Development Program, *SAIS Perspectives*, had a successful launch in October, with a wonderful photo

exhibit. This year's topic is Inclusive Development – and we hope that many of you will consider submitting articles and blog posts to our Editor-in-Chief Ammar Khalid and his very able team: Grace Cramer, Adam Weber, Allison Decker, Deboleena Rakshit, and Maya Gainer.

During the intersession, members of six Practicum teams will be heading to India, Cambodia, Vietnam and the Philippines. They are working with a diverse and highly committed set of clients and we wish them all great success in their field work. Alumni are critical to the success of the Practicum, so if you wish to have a student consulting team work with your organization, please get in touch with me.

Professors Honig and Levy organized a successful Research in Implementation Seminar series again this year and we are proud to report that Prof. Honig's book, *Navigation by Judgment: Why and When Top-Down Control of Foreign Aid Won't Work* is expected to be released in the spring. Stay tuned, we will be hosting a launch party and you will all be invited!

We are also pleased that this spring Professor Brautigam will be returning to co-teach her China in Africa class, with Professor Yoon Jung Park. The China-Africa Research Initiative she leads will be hosting its fourth annual conference on April 19th and 20th on [Matters of State: Politics, Governance, and Agency in China-Africa Engagement](#).

Professor Jessica Fanzo, Bloomberg Distinguished Associate Professor of Global Food & Agricultural Policy and Ethics, traveled the world in support of the launch of the Global Nutrition Report 2017, for which she was the co-chair. For the next couple of years, Professor Fanzo will be relocating to Rome where she will be leading FAO's work on food systems policy.

Just last week, IDEV social chairs Irene Rivera Calderon and Hannah Kyle organized a fundraiser to support the recovery in Puerto Rico. Our generous students, staff and faculty raised over \$500 in cash at one happy hour. We hope that the same generous spirit will take us all through the end of a tumultuous year and into the next. Happy Holidays everyone!

Warmly,
Tanvi

[New IDEV adjunct faculty](#)



Public-Private Partnerships - Soula Proxenos

Soula Proxenos is an adjunct lecturer teaching a class on Public-Private Partnerships. The class helps students understand what public value can be created and what complex public policy problems can be addressed by employing the techniques and structures used in public-private partnerships.

Professor Proxenos was formally Managing Director of International Housing Solutions. She led the effort to found the South African Workforce Housing

Fund. Previous to this she was Managing Director of Fannie Mae's International Housing Financial Services for seven years. Prof. Proxenos has more than 30 years of financial services experience. She opened new markets globally, had responsibility for transforming Old Mutual's business prior and during the South Africa's political transformation.

Professor Proxenos received a BA from the University of Witwatersrand and an MBA from the University of Stellenbosch, in South Africa.



Principles of Evaluation for Development Projects - Laura Hinson

Laura Hinson, along with Jeff Edmeades, is teaching Principles of Evaluation, a course that helps students develop critical skills in applying methodologies and strategies for the evaluation of international development projects.

As a Social and Behavioral Scientist at the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), Dr. Hinson works to identify and reduce social barriers to sexual and reproductive health for men, women, adolescents, and other

marginalized populations. Dr. Hinson's current work includes designing and implementing an impact evaluation of a child marriage intervention in Malawi, and leading ICRW's work on the (re)solve project, which seeks to address nonuse of contraception in three low and middle-income countries (LMICs).

Dr. Hinson has worked with multi-lateral institutions, foundations, and international and local NGOS, including the World Bank, USAID, and the Gates Foundation. Previously, Dr. Hinson worked with the Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health, Advance Family Planning, and FHI360. She has a PhD from the Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and an MPH at the University of North Carolina Gilings School of Global Public Health.



Digital Development: Innovative Use of Technology in Emerging Markets - Anand Varghese

Anand Varghese is joining Krista Baptista to teach Digital Development. The course provides students with a practical, relevant framework to apply participatory and principled approaches to deploying information and communications technologies (ICTs) and digital tools to meet international development goals in low and middle income countries (LMICs).

During his decade-long career as a specialist in international development and conflict management, Professor Varghese has managed complex operations with a commitment to using information and communications technology (ICT) tools to create peaceful social change around the world. He serves as technical manager to the Development Alternative Inc (DAI)'s project with the Kosmos Innovation Center in Accra, Ghana, where he mentors young entrepreneurs on building technology solutions for the local agriculture sector. Prior to joining DAI, he served as Senior Manager at the PeaceTech Lab at the U.S. Institute of Peace.

Professor Varghese has managed a number of technology-related development projects, including the first nationwide mobile phone-based survey in Afghanistan, training workshops for youth activists on crowdsourced mapping tools, and partnerships with universities to help integrate young engineers into conflict management. Professor Varghese holds an MA in Democracy and Governance from Georgetown University.



Impact Investing in Emerging Markets - Tahira Dosani

Tahira Dosani is teaching Impact Investing, which focuses on the intersection of venture capital and impact investing, and its specific application in the service of consciously creating impact. Given many of the early success stories, the class will focus primarily on financial inclusion, as it helps to demonstrate the progression of one impact investment sector that has had both early stage commercial VC support and multiple exits.

Professor Dosani is the Managing Director of Accion Venture Lab, a seed-stage impact investing initiative focused on financial inclusion. Venture Lab provides capital and support to early-stage startups that leverage innovation to increase access to and quality of financial services for underserved consumers globally.

She works with the fund's portfolio companies to provide strategic and operational expertise that accelerates their growth trajectories and enables stronger performance. Additionally, she supports investment decisions, manages portfolio relationships, and drives the strategy and growth of Venture Lab.

Professor Dosani previously led strategic projects at LeapFrog Investments, a specialist emerging market private equity impact fund focused on financial services. Prior to that, she worked as Director of Strategy at the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development. Based in Dubai, she drove strategic initiatives for portfolio companies and led new investments in telecoms, technology and infrastructure in South and Central Asia. She also worked at Roshan, Afghanistan's leading telecommunications operator, where she was Head of Corporate Strategy and helped launch the country's first mobile money platform. Tahira began her career as a management consultant with Bain & Company in Boston.

Professor Dosani holds an MBA from INSEAD and BAs in International Relations, Computer Science, and Education from Brown University.



China In Africa - Yoon Jung Park

Yoon Jung Park is joining Professor Brautigam to teach China in Africa, a course that critically examines China's rapidly growing economic, political and social ties with African countries.

Dr. Yoon Jung Park is an international scholar and a leader in growing field of China/Africa studies. Her work sits at the intersections of migration studies, African and China studies, work on the Global South, and identity studies. Her research focuses on ethnic Chinese in southern Africa and perceptions of Chinese people by local communities, centering on migration, race/ ethnicity/identity, race/class/power, gender, affirmative action, and xenophobia. Dr Park is the author of *A Matter of Honour. Being Chinese in South Africa* (Jacana/Lexington Books) and dozens of articles and book chapters in scholarly publications including, *African Studies Review*, *African Studies*, *African & Asian Studies*, *the Journal of Chinese Overseas*, *Transformation*, and *Les Temps Modernes*. She is currently working on her second book on Chinese migrants in Africa.

She has affiliations at the Sociology Department at Rhodes University (South

Africa), African Studies at Georgetown University (Washington, DC), and the China-Africa Research Institute at the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS-CARI). She is also co-founder and executive director of the Chinese in Africa/Africans in China (CA/AC) Research Network, an international network of scholars, researchers, graduate students, journalists, filmmakers and practitioners.

Dr. Park was born in Seoul; grew up in Los Angeles; lived much of her adult life in Johannesburg and Nairobi; and is currently based in the greater Washington, DC area. She has also lived in Cuernavaca (Mexico), Boston, San Jose (Costa Rica). She speaks fluent English and Spanish, kitchen Korean, and smatterings of Kiswahili and IsiZulu. Her work reflects her long residence in Africa, her multiple (heart)homes, and her layered identities.

[News from the China Africa Research Institute \(CARI\)](#)



Call for Papers for Upcoming Event: CARI Annual Conference

On **Thursday, April 19 and Friday, April 20, 2018**, The China Africa Research Initiative (SAIS-CARI) will be holding its [4th annual conference](#) at Johns Hopkins SAIS in Washington, DC focused on "**Matters of State: Politics, Governance, and Agency in China-Africa Engagement.**"

CARI is pleased to announce a [Call for Papers](#) for researchers interested in presenting at the conference. Papers are welcome on all China-Africa governance topics (examples include corruption, government-firm relationships, security cooperation, civil society, democratization and geopolitics). We particularly encourage papers based on fieldwork, those that compare the Chinese approach/impact with other actors, and those that focus on specific case studies. Applicants are welcome to submit proposals using our CARI Chinese loan database – and funding may be available for successful applicants using the loan database.

To apply, prospective authors should submit a **three-page proposal by email to sais-cari@jhu.edu by 11:59 pm EST on January 21, 2018**. Late applications will not be considered. Proposals should include a 300-word abstract of the paper, a brief description of the research project and methodology, a one-page bibliography, and a short biography of the author. A limited amount of travel support will be available for selected researchers to attend the conference. Authors should indicate whether they need travel support in order to participate.

The CARI annual conference is supported by a grant from Carnegie Corporation of New York.

Professor Dorothy Sobol's Retirement

We would like to extend our best wishes to Professor Dorothy Sobol, an esteemed member of the IDEV faculty who is retiring in June 2018 after twenty years at SAIS. She will be sorely missed and impossible to replace. Professor Sobol came to SAIS in the Fall of 1998 as a Professorial Lecturer, and was the first to teach an emerging markets focused course. In January 2001 she joined SAIS full time and developed a second course, Financial Sector Developments and Reform in Emerging Markets, and also developed the specialization in Emerging Markets. She became a senior adjunct professor, and joined the IDEV department in the Fall of 2006. We wish Professor Sobol well as she starts a new chapter in her life and appreciate her contributions to the IDEV Program very much.

[Alumni Updates](#)

Ingrid Larson (Class of 2013), Amazon

After 6 years in DC, first at SAIS and then on WWF's Private Sector Engagement team, Ingrid moved to Seattle to join Amazon's Social Responsibility group. Her boyfriend Will Edwards, another SAISer from the Strategic Studies Program (Class of 2015), joined her and started a new job at Dataminr, a breaking news company that uses social media and Artificial Intelligence to detect high impact events around the world. They have loved exploring the Pacific Northwest and enjoyed getting know other SAISers in the area.

Jasmin Yu (Class of 2015), World Food Programme

Since she graduated from SAIS, Jasmin has been working as Monitoring & Evaluation Officer with the UN World Food Programme (WFP) in Malawi as an international consultant. Recently, she has accepted a JPO professional staff position as Regional M&E Officer in WFP's Regional Bureau for Southern Africa based in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Ashley Augsburger (Class of 2016), UN Women

Following graduation, Ashley moved to Iraq and worked with Mercy Corps, doing reporting and communications for the country portfolio in the humanitarian response and development programs. After a year, she took an offer to return to UN Women, where she had interned during her two years at SAIS through the IDEV Summer Internship Program. Her supervisor from the UN Women Regional Office in Cairo reached out and asked Ashley to join the Iraq Country Office team. For the past six months she has been based in Erbil as the Program Specialist managing UN Women's Humanitarian Response and Coordination efforts in country.

Berkin Safak Sener (Class of 2017), UNDP

Berkin is currently working as a junior consultant on employment at UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub for Europe and the CIS. His work focuses on promoting inclusive labor market solutions in the Western Balkans. He also continues serving as a Board Member of Youth Deal Cooperative - Turkey's first youth-led non-profit co-op working on advocacy and capacity-development for social and solidarity economy in the region.

The Johns Hopkins SAIS experience is incomparable, made even more rewarding by the remarkable students we attract from around the globe. No one knows better than our alumni what it takes to be successful at Johns Hopkins SAIS, so if you would like to refer a prospective student, please click [here](#).

Stay connected!

We want to hear what you have been up to since graduation! Send your stories to saisidev@jhu.edu, and we will publish them in an upcoming newsletter. If you want to get in touch with other alumni from your year, below is contact information for the alumni chairs for recent classes:

Class of 2017: Angela Madero (madero@jhu.edu) and Lauren Purnell (laurenapurnell@gmail.com)

Class of 2016: Mark Maples (mrmmaples@gmail.com) and Marco Gomez (mgomez239@gmail.com)

Class of 2015: Douglas Emeott (dwemeott@gmail.com) and Iva Panchilova (iva.panchilova@gmail.com)

Class of 2014: Laura Sennet (lsennett@gmail.com) and Mark Radin (radinmark@gmail.com)

Class of 2013: Katryn Bowe (katryn.bowe@gmail.com) and Priya Punatar (ppunatar@gmail.com)

Class of 2012: Joe Wilson (wils.jt@gmail.com) and Carolyn Florey (carolynflorey@gmail.com)

[SAIS Perspectives](#): the IDEV magazine



[SAIS Perspectives](#), the online magazine of the International Development program, is now accepting blog posts or articles on any subject related to development, but particularly those entries that provide perspectives on **inclusive development**.

The present consensus on development entails not just achieving overall

growth, but also ensuring that the gains from growth are then shared more equitably. This, however, demands that we understand the ways in which broad swathes of people are excluded from benefiting from this growth – and how they can subsequently be included in society. A first step is to ask how people are marginalized—socially, politically, and economically. The crucial next step is to determine the corresponding avenues for inclusion. Do these entail more equitable delivery of basic services such as health and education? Can access to technology, financial services, and justice pave the way for broader inclusion? This year's issue of SAIS Perspectives aims to delve deeper into these themes, exploring the complex ways in which issues of inequality and inclusivity have affected development.

How to contribute:

Perspectives is looking for short blog pieces and articles that provide unique perspectives on international development to be published on the *SAIS Perspectives* website. Blogs or articles may be on any topic but the editorial staff is especially interested in entries providing insight on this year's theme. Send submissions to sais.perspectives@gmail.com along with your name, year, program and a short bio. To learn more about submission guidelines, click [here](#).

Follow on Twitter [@SAISdev](https://twitter.com/SAISdev)

Recent Articles

- [The Fertility of 'Chile-Con Valley': What Argentina Could Learn From Its Innovative Neighbor](#) (Chelsea Rodstrom, November 2017)
- [A War for Information: Use of Mobile and OTT Services Among Syrian Refugees](#) (Galen Winey, May 2017)

- [Global Health Innovations: Can We Combat Malaria With a Blood Pressure Drug?](#) (Ana Vasudevan, May 2017)
- [Food Aid vs. Food Assistance in Conflict Areas: The Case of the 2017 Famine in South Sudan](#) (Haley Swartz, May 2017)

Perspectives Photo Contest Finalists



First Prize Winner: Samuel Reynolds

Location: Papua New Guinea

This picture was taken during my time in Papua New Guinea, travelling the island province of New Ireland. I started at the northernmost point on the island, and, without hotel reservations, asked around and found a family willing to let

me stay with them. When it was time to move on, the family told me they had relatives further south I should stay with. This pattern repeated itself for the entire five months I was travelling. This is one from a collection of photos of the same hospitable, extended family all along the beautiful coastline of New Ireland.



Aditya Bhalchandra

Location: Haridwar, India

Happiness Is Hard Work. Teddy Roosevelt's assertion in his Labor Day speech 109 years ago still rings true, "Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing". The photo is very much personal for me as I truly believe that hard work always pays off. After having a small conversation with the seller in the photography, who was 79 years old, I was more inspired to work hard and be self-reliant.



Danni Li

Location: Bangkok, Thailand

The barefoot cobbler is dedicated to his work under the sweltering Bangkok weather. He is turning 70 years old this year but still need to work every day in order to support his family. Nowadays, the Asia Pacific region as a whole is in the process of rapidly population ageing. It has become an imperative task for governments to enhance the well-being for older persons.

[2017-18 Practicum Projects](#)

Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), New Delhi, India - The GAIN

team will investigate the sanitation and nutrition environment of street vendors serving perishable, freshly-cooked food and will identify challenges and opportunities in serving the urban poor in New Delhi and Jaipur. The research will focus on perceptions of an enabling/disabling environment for street vending, the urban food supply chain and demand, and will create an assessment tool on the street vending sanitation and nutrition environment which GAIN can use for determining areas for future programmatic interventions.

International Finance Corporation (IFC), Manila, Philippines - The IFC team will conduct a global stocktaking of successful models for financing young entrepreneurs. They will compile a set of case studies to identify best practices and lessons learned to inform concrete policy recommendations for the G20's Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion.

International Development Enterprises (iDE), Hanoi, Vietnam - iDE is an international non-profit organization dedicated to creating income and livelihood opportunities for the rural poor, in Vietnam. The goal of this team's project is to develop a business case on the replicability of Hydrologic, a viable social enterprise started by iDE in Cambodia, in the Vietnam context. Hydrologic manufactures, distributes, and sells water filters in rural Cambodia and has to date successfully sold over 500,000 filters to households at the base of the pyramid.

LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad, India - This project aims to assess the cost effectiveness of LVPEI's vision centers, a network of ophthalmologic clinics in India serving over 2.5 million mostly-low-income patients in India. Additionally, it will perform an operational analysis of a select sample of primary care centers. Altogether, the results should help the

organization improve its allocation of resources while getting a better understanding of its impact on the communities it serves.

Water.org, Phnom Penh, Cambodia - This team is working with Water.org in Cambodia to design a business model for scaling-up access to Water and Sanitation Services (WSS) for financially excluded people through Digital Financial Services (DFS).

Athena Infonomics, Chennai, India - The Athena team is working to identify a social infrastructure project in India that is a viable candidate for a Social Impact Bond (SIB) funding and partnership structure. They will then propose a primer for such SIB structure for the selected project based on consultations with potential investors, implementing partners, government officials, and other relevant actors.



IDEV alumni, faculty and students at the Fall 2017 Happy Hour (Photo Credit: Shreya Das)

[Upcoming IDEV Events](#)

Spring 2018 IDEV Alumni Happy Hour

Date & Time: Thursday, April 5th, 6-7:30 PM

Location: Lauriol Plaza, 1835 18th Street NW

Final Practicum Client Presentations

Date & Time: Friday, April 27th, 3:30-7:00 PM

Location: Rome Auditorium, 1619 Massachusetts Ave NW



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You are receiving this email because you are faculty or a student in the SAIS International Development department.

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