Women in Indonesia: Interdisciplinary research at Tufts
By: Menghan Liu, A14

“It was a challenge,” recent psychology PhD Laura Babbitt laughed when asked to describe her trip to Indonesia in September as one of the lead researchers for the Tufts Women in Indonesia project.

Women in Indonesia is an interdisciplinary and open-access project uniting the collaborative efforts of the Tufts IR Program, the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), and the International Labor Organization (ILO). The project seeks to examine the unequal employment status of women in Indonesia with a long term view towards policy change.

Laura’s social psychology background landed her with the task of survey design, giving her two opportunities to visit the field this year during the project’s preliminary phase. Her first trip in June aimed to identify the barriers faced by Indonesian women to formal sector employment and equitable treatment and pay. Assisted by the ILO, Laura’s team conducted key informant interviews with workers, employers, and trade unions. The rest of summer was spent designing a survey that targeted workers, employers, and trade unions. The rest of summer was spent designing a survey that targeted questions of demographics, work experience, and attitudes toward women.

In mid-September, Laura spent one week each in East Java and North Sumatra training two teams of ILO recruits to conduct surveys on tablet computers. 15 students from the University of Brawijaya would conduct 750 surveys in East Java and 13 students from the State University of Medan would conduct 250 surveys in North Sumatra, the sample size totaling 1000.

In the meantime, an ongoing seminar discussion by the IR Program invites faculty and students to participate in the research by making the data available for anyone at Tufts to study. Interested in attending a seminar discussion about this research project? Watch for announcements in the IR weekly e-mail and events calendar.

Despite unexpected complications, Laura’s team ultimately achieved their objectives. “I would just work through as best I could,” she said. “I was there to problem solve.” She added that she enjoyed herself overall because of both the time she spent with the students and the experience of implementing a research project in another country. “It was really exciting to see that we could design something and work through as best I could,” she said. “I was the reultimately achieved their objectives . “I would just take it all the way across the world,” Laura said.

Data collection wrapped up in October, and the next step will be to consolidate the information from all eight survey versions into a usable format by mid-December. This data will then be used to inform future ILO pilot programs.

Here the project took a few unexpected turns, including technical setbacks, translation issues, and cultural miscommunication. The first hiccup involved two tablet computers which kept crashing for no apparent reason. Without extra tablets or technical support on the ground, it took Laura almost the full first week to identify and then fix the problem – outdated graphics cards. Enumerators also identified problematic survey questions resulting from mistranslations or cultural gaps. For example, one survey question originally asked participants to distinguish between blue and green shapes on their tablet screens. However, because blue and green are not differentiated as colors within certain Indonesian subcultures, they were later modified to red and purple. Similarly, one potential survey location was dropped because its residents do not speak the national language, and interpreters could not be used. “Plenty of problems had to be solved along the way,” Laura said.

Training the students in research methodology also posed a challenge for Laura. In addition to language barriers, cultural norms occasionally conflicted with ethical norms such as informed consent and confidentiality. For example, it is considered rude not to enter an Indonesian home if invited in, but survey protocol requires that enumerators remain outside. “I think going into another culture will always present problems that are unforeseen,” Laura said. “There are always going to be technical problems as well.”
**IR News & Views**

**New IR Initiatives and Features**

**IR community-building outside the classroom**

IR staff and students have been hard at work this fall to continue creating new opportunities for learning and community-building outside the classroom. To start a process of bringing together IR students in smaller groups, staff convened meetings for students in each concentration at the start of the semester. 75 students attended these meetings, offering many their first opportunity to meet others in their concentration.

To facilitate ongoing conversations between these students, Trunk pages were created for each concentration. These pages give students an accessible way to contact other students in their concentration, and have seen increased use for sharing concentration-specific events. The IR Program hopes to introduce new features to these pages in January, and will look to add more programming in the spring for students to continue these connections on campus.

IR student groups have also been quite active. In addition to the IR honor society (SIR) organizing an event to offer advice to freshmen and sophomore IR students during registration, the Director’s Leadership Council (DLC) organized six events for its popular Crash Course Lecture Series, covering a wide range of topics and regions. They invited Harvard Fellow Yoshikazo Kato to discuss Sino-Japanese relations and the Chinese leadership, Notre Dame Professor David Cortright to discuss the role of women in the Afghanistan conflict, and UN Special Rapporteur Ben Emmerson to discuss human rights in Syria. Other crash course lectures featured Tufts faculty members, including Associate Professor Kelly Greenhill on threat perception and Associate Professor Consuelo Cruz on democracy in Latin America. More than 200 students attended these events collectively.

During the spring semester, the IR Program and student groups will be holding many more events, including an alumni event and the second annual Dining with the Stars faculty-student dinner hosted by the DLC. See page 7 for the Spring 2013 IR events calendar.

**Acquiring skills in research methods and design is essential and highly encouraged as students prepare for upper level courses, seminars, senior honors theses, independent research projects, and future careers. As part of a new initiative this semester, the IR Program seeks to assist students and advisors by identifying courses that focus on or include research methods so that they are aware of the many ways that they can gain these skills. The IR Program will continue to identify various research courses in the future from all the departments and list them in the IR semester course announcements.**

**Human Rights courses in the IR Curriculum**

Over the past year, some IR students have expressed interest in courses that focus on human rights issues. In response to this interest, the IR Curriculum Committee will work on identifying these types of courses from all the departments and incorporate them into the existing thematic concentrations. As new courses are added, the IR Program will list them in the IR semester course announcements where appropriate.
2012 IR Outstanding Faculty Service Award
Associate Professor Oxana Shevel, Political Science

The IR Outstanding Faculty Service Award was instituted several years ago to recognize an IR core faculty member who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in working on various aspects of the IR Program. Former recipients include Richard Eichenberg, Political Science, Jeanne Penvenne, History, and David Gute, Civil and Environmental Engineering. This year’s recipient has been a conscientious and constructive member of the IR Core Faculty, always willing to advise IR majors, supervise research projects, and serve on IR senior theses committees.

We present her with this award as a token of our profound appreciation. Please join us in congratulating this year’s recipient of the IR Outstanding Faculty Service Award, Associate Professor Oxana Shevel.

Prof. Shevel’s area of research and teaching focuses on the post-Communist region surrounding Russia and issues such as nation- and state-building, the politics of citizenship and migration, and the influence of international institutions on democratization. Among her recent publications is, Migration, Refugee Policy, and State Building in Post-communist Europe, which examines how the politics of national identity and strategies of the UNHCR shape refugee admission policies in the post-Communist region. It was published by Cambridge University Press in 2011. Prof. Shevel was awarded tenure in May 2011.

The Lerman-Neubauer Prize
David Art, Associate Professor, Political Science, was recently selected as the winner of the 2012 Lerman-Neubauer Prize. The prize is awarded annually to one full-time faculty member in Arts, Sciences, and Engineering judged by graduating seniors as an individual who has had a profound impact on them intellectually, both in and out of the classroom. Seniors from the Class of 2011 were inspired to nominate Professor Art as most influential in shaping their minds.

Leila Fawaz, Professor of Diplomacy at the Fletcher School and Professor of History at Tufts University, has been named a Chevalier in the French National Order of the Legion of Honor, France’s highest award, given by decree of the president of France in recognition of her “exemplary personal commitment to French-American relations.”

Chevalier in the French National Order of the Legion of Honor
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The Best 300 Professors, a 2012 Princeton Review publication listing top undergraduate professors, profiles teachers in 60 fields based on surveys by Princeton Review and ratings on RateMyProfessors.com. Congratulations to David Denby (Philosophy) and Robert Devigne (Political Science) who are two of the three Tufts faculty on this year’s list and both teach IR courses.

David Denby
Senior Lecturer
Philosophy

Robert Devigne
Professor
Political Science

Nature interviewed Enrico Spolaore about his research on the diffusion of development. In addition, Prof. Spolaore’s research on the roots of economic development was featured in Business Week.

Yannis Ioannides co-authored the article "What’s at Stake in the Greek Vote," featured in the Wall Street Journal. He was also interviewed by Bloomberg News on the bank crises in Greece, and the recent "re-elections."

Welcome NEW IR Core Faculty Members!
Associate Professor Stephen Bailey—Anthropology
Professor Ujjayant Chakravorty—Economics (also NEW to Tufts)
Assistant Professor Karen Kosinski—Public Health and Community Medicine
Lecturer David Proctor—History
Senior Lecturer Mark Woodin—Civil & Environmental Engineering
Assistant Professor Man Xu—History (also NEW to Tufts)

Faculty constitute one of the most valuable resources available to Tufts undergraduates, and the IR Program strongly encourages its students to get to know and work with their professors from the moment they arrive at Tufts. Many students go through Tufts knowing only their advisor's signature, which is a lost opportunity to make use of or take advantage of one of their most valuable resources. Advisors can suggest multiple academic alternatives to accommodate students' needs and potential career paths, and they are often the best resources for letters of recommendation.

Visit http://ase.tufts.edu/ir/faculty.htm for more information, including a list of the 100+ IR Core Faculty members as well as tips on how to find an IR advisor.
Bridging the Gap between Tourism and Microfinance
By: Elly Rohrer, A11

I never thought my hard-earned Tufts International Relations degree would land me a job as a tour guide in Mexico. An ambitious student aiming for a career in the prestigious international nonprofit sector, I never gave work in the tourism sector much consideration. What I hadn’t realized, though, is the potential that tourism has to alleviate many of the global development issues I have been interested in my whole life, such as sustainable poverty reduction and small business creation. Working with Investours, a socially responsible tourism organization, has proven to be one of the most gratifying experiences of my life.

Mexico attracts millions of warmth-deprived North Americans, Europeans, and college “Spring Breakers” a year. In fact, Mexico’s affordable yet exotic appeal makes it the 10th most visited country in the world, according to the World Tourism Organization. The resulting abundance of all-inclusive resorts, flashy nightclubs, and upscale boutiques adorning the Mexican coastlines makes it easy for the visitor to forget that Mexico is, after all, a developing country. Despite the country’s exceptionally lucrative tourism industry, half of its population still lives below the national poverty line, states Mexico’s 2010 Census.

Many travelers to Mexican destinations like Puerto Vallarta are aware of this reality, care about the local people, and are interested in learning more about authentic culture outside of all the tourist traps; unfortunately, there are surprisingly few socially responsible tourism options available. Moreover, the language barrier and the apprehensions about safety complicate the notions of “giving back” or “getting off the beaten path.” That’s where Investours comes in. Investours is a non-profit organization that leverages the resources generated by tourism to promote economic development in the communities surrounding Puerto Vallarta, Mexico and Dar es Salam, Tanzania. At both locations, we bring small groups of travelers into local communities where they meet men and women who need loans to start up small business projects like weaving, fishing, or bread making. By spending an afternoon with these locals, travelers gain an intimate perspective about a culture rich in traditions, cuisine, and history. They also get to savor a locally prepared meal. This is an authentic cultural experience that travelers can feel good about because Investours uses 100% of proceeds from the tour fees to empower the artisans we visit with interest-free micro-loans.

Working at the intersection of tourism and microfinance, Investours has hit upon a truly unique way to channel resources into the underdeveloped communities surrounding major tourist destinations. So far, we have granted nearly $25,000 to Mexican and Tanzanian artisans as interest-free loans and involved over 530 travelers who have enthusiastically remained involved with our organization. Wouldn’t you consider this a success?

As the Director of the Investours Mexico program, I’ve learned so much about all aspects of running a business—from management to marketing to meeting legal and financial requirements—and, yes, running tours. One of my favorite parts of this job, though, has been working with interns. This summer, my co-worker (also a Tufts grad) and I hosted four Tufts interns on-site. Helping them learn about Mexico, microfinance, development, and the potential tourism has to improve all of these areas was an enormously rewarding experience. It reminded me of my Tufts years, and what it felt like to intern abroad for the first time.

We invite you to visit our website (investours.org) and Facebook page (facebook.com/investours) for more information about our organization. If you’d like to learn more about our available intern positions, please feel free to e-mail me directly at mexico@investours.org.

The IR Program wants to hear from YOU!
IR Students (past and present) are encouraged to submit their “news” for future publication in an IR News & Views issue.

Send your submission in an e-mail to Kathleen Devigne (kathleen.devigne@tufts.edu).

Keep us posted—we want to hear about the exciting opportunities you are involved in.
Finding inspiration from my study abroad experience in India
By: Maxine Builder, A13

The first time that I contracted bacterial dysentery during my semester abroad in New Delhi, India was kind of comical. A week of antibiotics and a slew of references to “The Oregon Trail” later, and my dysentery was gone.

But the second time I got sick was less funny, and the third time was the worst. Three months after my arrival in India, I was lying in a private Indian hospital where I was so dehydrated that the nurses spent the better part of an hour trying to find a vein in which to put an IV. I was once again diagnosed with bacterial dysentery.

As an International Relations major with a concentration in Global Health, I had come to Delhi to learn about public health in India. Suddenly the tables had been turned, and I was on the receiving end of the healthcare system. My hospital visit was a direct result of a major public health problem in India’s major cities: endemic levels of waterborne illnesses.

This supremely uncomfortable experience did fuel an interest in the relationship between public health and the built environment. I wanted to know why these waterborne diseases, although easily preventable, were so common in Delhi. What about the sanitation infrastructure had failed, and how could it be fixed?

I conducted a month-long independent study project that looked at the Master Plan for Delhi and its solution to increase access to potable water through the widespread installation of rooftop rainwater harvest systems. But this plan — although efficient for members of the urban elite who have the financial and physical resources to install the effective technology — all but ignored the needs of the city’s most vulnerable populations.

Waterborne illnesses such as dysentery can be fatal if left untreated. Getting sick is not fun, but I am very aware of the fact that I had the resources to treat my illness, while many others who contracted the same disease did not have access to the same treatment options that I did. The best way to treat waterborne diseases is to prevent them from even occurring, and the most effective form of prevention is to ensure a healthy and safe environment. This statement has become a core belief for me, and these experiences have inspired me to pursue a career in urban planning. It just took a few thousand bacteria invading my gastrointestinal tract to figure it out.

Out of Darkness, Into Light
By: Anna Carolina Cardenas, A13

Some of the most daunting humanitarian issues of our time are masked behind the many faces of dictatorship throughout the world. This past May, Sabrina Ghaus, William Luk, Vasundhara Jolly and I had the unique opportunity to attend the Oslo Freedom Forum through the Oslo Scholars Program under the Institute for Global Leadership. The conference, titled Out of Darkness, Into Light, brought the world’s most appalling human rights violations to the forefront of global awareness. We were humbled to be in the presence of a variety of visionaries, social advocates and dissidents, all working together to shed light on and exchange ideas about how to combat civil right issues that are hidden in our society.

The conference, organized by the Human Rights Foundation, brought together activists from every field, including anti-slavery pioneers, activists and victims of oppression from Cambodia, Haiti, Nepal, Equatorial Guinea, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Ecuador and Venezuela. The program featured themes of modern-day slavery, dictatorship, the drug war’s impact on human rights, Russia’s crackdown on uprisings, global censorship and freedom from poverty as an individual right. The voices of activists that were once victims, such as Somaly Mam, echoed around the auditorium. Mam, a former child sex slave, channeled her horrific experience towards helping others. She established, in 1996, the Somaly Mam Foundation, which rehabilitates young girls in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. Speaking to her in the intimate setting of a small reception area, I came to the realization that this conference was about the reverberation of truth, a place for those unafraid to speak it, a haven where human rights are regarded “as equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family.”

During the summer, each of us was given the opportunity to intern with one of the speakers from the conference. I worked in Ecuador with Mauricio Rodas, an up and coming presidential candidate and founder of the Ethos Foundation, an organization working to promote poverty alleviation, economic development, liberty and human rights in Latin America. Throughout my time in Quito, I met with economists, political advisors, human rights advocates and consultants, all working towards educating the people about their basic rights and their responsibility to hold their government accountable. This experience provided me with a greater understanding of the issue of populism and human rights.

As an International Security major, this opportunity touched me, moved me, and pushed me towards incorporating truth and a deeper understanding for humanitarian issues in all my endeavors. As a senior, I encourage all Tufts students to seek out these opportunities in an effort to educate themselves about the most silenced crimes in our world. The Oslo Freedom Forum showed myself, and everyone else that attended, that the words of just a few who have devoted their life to these studies can change the minds of many.
2012 Anne E. Borghesani Memorial Prize winners, IR Research Scholars, and FEIRS Scholars:

**Jessica Wolff, A13**  
Anne E. Borghesani Winner  
Group Challenge Facilitation for Youth from Conflict Regions at Seeds of Peace International Camp  
(Oitsfield, Maine)

**Chiamaka Chima, A14**  
Anne E. Borghesani Winner  
A Study of French Culture  
(Talloires, France)

**Arlene Weiner, A13**  
IR Research Scholar  
International Environmental Security: A Gendered Analysis  
(Medford, MA)

**Avery Becque, A13**  
IR Research Scholar  
Examining How Access to Family Planning Services Impacts Cuban Women  
(Cuba)

**FEIRS Faculty: Jose Mazzotti, Rom Languages**  
View: Carolina Reyes, A14  
Documenting and Revitalizing Iskonawa in Peru: An Interdisciplinary Project  
(Peru)

**Caitlyn Doucette, A13**  
IR Research Scholar  
A Study of Aid and Occupation: The West Bank  
(West Bank, Palestinian Territories)

**David Smythe, A13**  
Anne E. Borghesani Winner  
Of Wars and Resets: Democracy Promotion in Georgia since 2008  
(Tbilisi, Georgia)

**David Meyers, A13**  
Anne E. Borghesani Winner  
Tracking Endemic Cholera in Rural Bangladesh  
(Bangladesh)

**FEIRS Faculty: Ryan Centner, Sociology**  
Student: Ramzi Babouder-Matta, A14  
Post Conflict Landscapes as European/Ottoman/Urban: The Spatial Politics of Transnational Figurations from Beirut to Sarajevo  
(Lebanon)

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The Anne E. Borghesani Memorial Prize is an incentive award that enables the recipients to undertake a research project, an internship, a volunteer activity, or a plan of study in any field involving international issues. Designed to foster the spirit of the award, the prize encourages personal growth and independence, while increasing one's understanding of all peoples and encouraging a commitment to the world community.

Second-semester sophomores and juniors from ANY major with a minimum GPA of 2.8 or above are eligible for the prize. Ultimately, the quality of proposal will determine prize selection.

Over the past decade, students from a variety of Tufts majors have used the prize to venture abroad and study, conduct research, participate in international internships, and become involved in social change movements. Borghesani award recipients have carried out their plans in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, and South Asia.

For more info or to download an application, go to the IR website (http://ase.tufts.edu/ir/) look on the right side under News and Events for the link.

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The International Relations Research Scholars Program supports original, high-quality undergraduate international research.

Aimed at sophomore or junior IR majors who anticipate producing an upper-level research paper in their senior year, whether for a senior honors thesis, directed research, conference submission or external essay competition, the scholarship will support a minimum of eight weeks of IR Core Faculty-mentored summer research for the gathering of materials and data.

Awards will be granted to both students and faculty mentors. The competitive program's goal is to support the development of faculty and student mentoring relationships and the advancement of strong international research skills critical to professional or academic goals.

For more info or to download an application, go to the IR website (http://ase.tufts.edu/ir/) look on the right side under News and Events for the link.
Field Experience for IR Students (FEIRS) is a research collaboration that engages students in current faculty research projects, allowing them the benefits of direct hands-on field experience.

Through FEIRS, faculty include IR majors in international research projects and guide them as they develop their own research skills in the field. FEIRS funding can be used for costs such as the student’s travel expenses and daily subsistence. The application is simple: the lead faculty investigator submits a brief outline of his or her research project, a budget, IRB status (if necessary), the student’s name, travel dates, and description of the student’s tasks and how the student will be provided with intellectual and technical support.

Projects are awarded on a rolling basis pending availability of funds. Please contact the IR Program at internationalrelations@tufts.edu with any questions.

Spring 2013 IR Events and Important Due Dates

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<th>January</th>
<th>April</th>
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<tr>
<td>TBA FEIRS/IR Research Scholars Symposium</td>
<td>19 Thesis Exchange</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>April</td>
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<td>14 Anne E. Borghesani Memorial Prize applications DUE to the IR Office</td>
<td>TBA Dining with the Stars: An IR faculty-student dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>May</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 IR Research Scholars applications DUE to the IR Office</td>
<td>TBA IR Barbecue</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBA IR Program Info Session: A Majors Week Event</td>
<td>TBA IR Senior Reception</td>
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<td>19 Commencement</td>
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Stay tuned! The Spring 2013 schedule for Core Forum meetings (held most Thursday evenings) will be announced after winter break.

The IR Program staff wishes you a restful winter break!

Good luck during exam week!
Warmest wishes for a wonderful and safe holiday season!
Happy Everything!

See you in the New Year!