



PIIRS News

Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies

Princeton University



PIIRS Interdisciplinary Research Initiative Funds Four Multiyear Projects

Working toward its goal of providing opportunities for cross-regional and interdisciplinary scholarship, the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (PIIRS) announced that four projects under its Interdisciplinary Research Initiative are up and running. The projects, Democracy and Development; Water, Savannas, and Society in Sub-Saharan Africa; Power Transitions, Security Cooperation, and International Order; and Technology for the Developing Regions are the first to achieve this status.

The Interdisciplinary Research Initiative was created in 2004–5, a year after PIIRS was established. The projects were selected from a pool of twenty applicants.

According to Director Miguel Centeno, PIIRS has the mandate to promote collaborative scholarship and teaching on issues of global importance and to establish leadership in research on international and regional issues. The Interdisciplinary Research Initiative was developed to realize those goals, he said, and help PIIRS move from funding projects that focus on a single faculty member's research to funding "multiyear projects that link students, Princeton faculty, and faculty from leading universities around the world and that have as their end product a significant piece of scholarship done institutionally—projects that create research above and beyond what an individual faculty member could accomplish."

Atul Kohli, David K.E. Bruce Professor of International Affairs, and Deborah Yashar, associate professor of

politics and international affairs, both of the Woodrow Wilson School, are the principal investigators (PI) for the Democracy and Development project. The PIs of Water, Savannas, and Society in Sub-Saharan Africa are Michael Celia and Ignacio Rodriguez-Iturbe, both professors of civil and environmental engineering; Margaret Martonosi, professor of electrical engineering; Daniel Rubenstein, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology; and Jennifer Widner, professor of politics and international affairs. Celia, Martonosi, and Rubenstein also head the Technology for the Developing Regions project. G. John Ikenberry, professor of politics and international affairs, Woodrow Wilson School, is the PI of Power Transitions, Security Cooperation, and International Order.



Miguel Centeno, PIIRS Director

The trend toward interdisciplinary research has been supported by the University for a long time, said Centeno. "There's no one who says it doesn't make sense, though for lots of reasons, it's very complicated to actually accomplish. We envision the Interdisciplinary Research Initiative to be, in a sense, organic—able to meet the needs of faculty, students, and other constituencies without imposing a top-down structure. The hope is that these projects not only produce significant scholarship, but that they generate courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels."

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Desaix Anderson '58

Opening Minds to Vietnam

What is it about Vietnam and the PIIRS initiative that compelled you to pull this program together?

Desaix Anderson: My Princeton education reinforced a longstanding attraction to public service. After graduation, I spent an exhilarating year hitchhiking around Europe and found the immersion in foreign cultures to be the most exciting experience imaginable. Pursuing these two dynamics led to my career in the U.S. Foreign Service.

Six assignments in or working on Vietnam convinced me of the crucial importance to our nation's future of understanding foreign cultures. Opening the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi in 1995–97 to launch reconciliation between America and Vietnam after fifty years of war and hostility was an extraordinary experience, the most intensely rewarding of my career.

PIIRS' idea of a Princeton global summer seminar initiative offers a remarkable opportunity to merge the vibrancy of a Princeton education with immersion in a foreign environment of great significance to America's history. The Vietnam War created intense anguish for both America and Vietnam and cost America its innocence. It also illustrated to America, in the most difficult way, the challenges of engagement with the newly emerging world: that America's preeminent global position might not yield a world pliable to our vision; that the challenge of leadership might not be resolved principally through powerful military forces;

(Anderson, continued on page 5)

PIIRS Inaugurates Undergrad Summer Seminar with 6-week Program in Southeast Asia

PIIRS will launch the Princeton Global Seminar this summer with a six-week course in Hanoi, Vietnam, making a significant stride toward its goal of increasing study abroad opportunities for Princeton University undergraduates.

The new initiative for undergraduate summer study was created to provide students with the opportunity to explore the international dimensions of their academic interests with an emphasis on subject matter rather than language study. Students will earn credit for one University course. The initiative is supported by PIIRS in conjunction with the Study Abroad Program.

The first seminar of the initiative, "America and Vietnam at War: Origins, Implications, and Consequences," will be held in Hanoi from June 18–July 27, 2007, and was open to fifteen rising sophomores and juniors. The group will be led by Desaix Anderson '58, a member of PIIRS' Advisory Council and the driving force behind the Vietnam seminar. A 35-year veteran of the U.S. Foreign Service with extensive experience in southeast Asia and Vietnam, Anderson was excited by



Vendor in a Hanoi market.

the opportunity the global seminar initiative presents to Princeton students. He proposed a program on Vietnam and developed a unique curriculum.

Classes will be taught in English by the social sciences faculty of the National University of Hanoi and by Anderson. Beginning with an overview of

Vietnamese history and the events leading to what the Vietnamese call the "American War," lectures and readings will examine the war from many perspectives and will be presented by history and literature professors, figures from the National Liberation Front, Buddhist monks, North Vietnamese Bo Doi (foot soldiers), and senior Vietnamese diplomats. Students will be taught Vietnamese on a noncredit basis and will also participate in field trips, meetings with Vietnamese university students, and in a community service project. They will live in a hotel in the downtown Hoan Kiem district.

"Desaix volunteered to pursue this and designed an ideal course," said PIIRS Director Miguel Centeno. "The difficult thing about pulling together a course like this is having

(Summer Seminar, continued on page 5)

Interdisciplinary Approach to Theme Works for Transregional Institute

With fresh memories of last year's record-high fuel prices and continuing instability in the Middle East, the topic of oil, energy, and the Middle East is timely and complicated. It also presents an opportunity for an extended collaboration that is occurring this year thanks to the PIIRS Interdisciplinary Research Initiative.

"Oil, Energy, and the Middle East," is the 2006–7 theme of study at the Institute for the Transregional Study of Contemporary Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia (TRI). It was brought to PIIRS by faculty from the Princeton Environmental Institute (PEI) and the Near Eastern studies (NES) and physics departments. When PIIRS Director Miguel Centeno, who has served as acting director of TRI since 2004–5, read the application, he saw a good fit for TRI. The project grew out of a one-day conference and a desire for extended collaboration revolving around Middle Eastern oil.

The project is being spearheaded by Michael Cook, professor of Near Eastern studies; Stephen Pacala, professor in ecology and evolutionary biology and director of PEI; Robert Socolow, professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering and a member of PEI's associated faculty; and Shivaji Sondhi, professor of physics.

An interdisciplinary approach is essential, says Cook, "because to understand the future role of Middle Eastern oil production in the world's energy budget you have to understand both a lot of science and technology and a lot of Middle Eastern politics—what is called 'political risk'."

With funding from TRI and PEI, the project is sponsoring three fellowships, a lecture series, graduate

and undergraduate course work, and a conference.

Christopher Boucek and Steffen Hertog are post-doctoral research associates. Boucek, funded by TRI, is working on a project entitled "Counter-Terrorism Security and Regime Stability," which looks at these issues in relation to oil production and distribution in the Middle East and Central Asia. He is also teaching "Topics of

Policy Analysis: Energy Terrorism, Security and Regime Stability" (WWS 594s) this spring. Hertog, funded by PEI, is working on the history of oil policy-making in Saudi Arabia and comparative political mobilization on the Arabian Peninsula. He is teaching a graduate course on "Political Change in the Gulf Monarchies" (WWS 594t).

Miriam Lowi, associate professor of political science at The College of New Jersey, is a visiting research scholar (Spring

2007) also funded by TRI. She is completing a book that seeks to explain why some oil-exporting states become unstable and others do not.

The lecture series features thirteen events and covers a wide range of topics including Saudi perspectives on oil wealth and its effect on society; Persian Gulf oil, global security, and American policy; and political violence in Saudi Arabia.

The conference was being planned at press time.

According to Cook, he and his collaborators hope the project will continue after the conclusion of this year and "eventually be on a more permanent footing." If this goal is achieved, the group will work to create a position in the study of Middle Eastern oil issues likely to be shared between NES and another department.



Images of the Middle East, clockwise from top left, Persian Yalamah rug; view of Riyadh from the globe at the top of the Faisaliah Center; oil barrel rusting in the desert; Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem.

Development Issues and Creation of Scholarly Community are Project's Central Goals

For professors Atul Kohli and Deborah Yashar, the Project on Democracy and Development is another successful step in the effort to build a scholarly community around development issues on the Princeton campus. The project, one of the first to receive funding through the PIIRS Interdisciplinary Research Initiative, is about to complete its inaugural year.

Kohli, David K.E. Bruce Professor of International Affairs, and Yashar, associate professor of politics and



Atul Kohli



Deborah Yashar

inherited by a particular society helps one understand where it is going,” he explains. “Sociology is important because you need to understand the society in order to determine what policies might work. Because governments play an important role in trying to decide what the right policies should be, the role of politics is key. Central to the whole idea, of course, is economics: what economic policies will foster development, growth, and distribution?” The project’s

Development is best thought about and best conceptualized in an interdisciplinary group.—Atul Kohli

international affairs and director of the Program in Latin American Studies, direct the project, which is funded by PIIRS through the 2008–9 academic year. This year’s theme, institutions and development, is being explored through a series of eleven seminars presented by leading scholars whose expertise includes economics, anthropology, history, sociology, and politics. The project also supports the work of two visiting fellows who, in addition to their ongoing research, present lectures as part of the seminar series.

“Development is best thought about and best conceptualized in an interdisciplinary group,” says Kohli. “History is important because what is

2006–7 visiting fellows are Barbara Stallings and Eva Bellin. Stallings is the Howard R. Swearer Director of the Watson Institute for International Studies at Brown University. Her work in international studies focuses on the political and institutional dimensions of economic reforms in Latin America and the Caribbean. While at Princeton, she is writing two articles to update her book, *Growth, Employment, and Equity: The Impact of the Economic Reforms in Latin America and the Caribbean*. One of the articles will examine what has happened in the decade since the data were gathered for the book. The other will attempt to provide a

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Interdisciplinary Projects
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Summer Seminar in Vietnam
www.princeton.edu/~piirs/curriculum/hanoi/index.html

Transregional Institute
www.princeton.edu/~transreg/index.html

Democracy and Development
www.princeton.edu/%7Epiirs/projects/Democracy&Development/

In PIIRS News Fall 2007

Katherine S. Newnam Takes the Helm at PIIRS

A look at “Water, Savannas, and Society in Sub-Saharan Africa”

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that diplomacy, understanding, reconciliation, compromise, and realism might be crucial components of dealing successfully with this new world. With these thoughts in mind, to introduce fifteen Princetonians to our former enemy, Vietnam, a beautiful country of energetic, purposeful, and friendly people now embarked on an historic transformation into a contemporary society and nation, is extraordinarily appealing and meaningful to me. This summer seminar easily could be the ultimate educational adventure and potentially a life-changing experience for the students.

What kind of students do you hope are attracted to the program?

DA: I am more interested in the attitudes of the students toward life and education than in the particular field of study they may be pursuing. Obviously, majors in history, politics, economics, security issues, and policy-making may more readily be attracted to such a seminar, but I would hope that engineering, literature, art, philosophy, science, and math majors—any serious student who is excited about the possibilities of understanding the world and interested in contributing to the emergence of a safer, more rational, and prosperous world would be most welcome. Personal attributes such as openness, tolerance, adventurousness, intellectual curiosity, and excitement about the future of this planet would be more important than the field of study.

What do you hope students bring away from it in addition to drawing their own conclusions about the war?

DA: My first hope is that each student will reach his or her own conclusions about the origins, implications, and consequences of the Vietnam War. From that vantage, I would hope that each student would analyze those conclusions in the broader context of his or her own vision of America's future. That analysis judiciously should include a realization that a rapidly changing and different world, perhaps not of America's design, is emerging, and that its evolution is vitally important to America and Americans. Isolation is a luxury that America cannot afford. We cannot shield America from the exciting challenges that are transforming the Earth. We must, I would hope, help shape this new world in ways that are congenial to Americans' interests but also recognize the points of view and the interests of the more than six billion non-Americans who share our planet. We cannot expect that the rest of the world will necessarily follow our dictates. Leadership has become more complicated; to lead in this emerging world we must understand others' points of view and learn to reach mutually acceptable goals and ways of organizing global life.

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political/institutional explanation for the changes. Bellin, an associate professor of political science at Hunter College/CUNY, focuses on comparative politics, politics of the Middle East and North Africa, and the political economy of development. She will be completing her second book, *Arbitrating Identity: High Courts and the Politics of Dual Inspiration in Egypt, Israel, and Pakistan*.

Yashar and Kohli hope the project will build a scholarly community on campus around development issues and expose students, especially graduate students in the development field, to a variety of prominent speakers from around the country. The result of which, says Kohli, could be "to initiate research projects that may lead to collective volumes."

Kohli and Stallings are organizing a conference on inequalities in the developing world that will be held in September of this year.

The theme for the 2007–8 academic year will be the social context of development. In 2008–9 the theme will be civil war and failed states.

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contacts in the location to work through the logistics—housing, classrooms, instructors, meals, just to name a few. Desaix has all those contacts. It is one of those perfect circumstances where what PIIRS wanted and needed came together with someone who was able to provide all those things."

According to Centeno, "PIIRS is committed to providing international opportunities for students. The global seminars are being developed as an alternative summer curriculum so students who don't want to leave campus during the regular academic year can go abroad and do substantive work and explore a theme or course in ways that are just not possible from a classroom."

As *PIIRS News* went to press, two other initiatives under the umbrella of the Princeton Global Seminar were in early planning stages. The six- to eight-week programs will be held in St. Petersburg, Russia in 2008 and in Thessaloniki, Greece.

C a l e n d a r

April 17, Noon, 219 Aaron Burr Hall
Algeria after the Oil Shock: From Regime Crisis to Re-Equilibration

Miriam Lowi, visiting research scholar, TRI,
Luncheon seminar, reservation required.
Contact transreg@princeton.edu

April 17, 4:30, 211 Dickinson Hall
The Fetid Stench of the City: Urban Sanitation and Social (In)Stability in the Russian Imaginary, 1770-1880

Alexander M. Martin, University of Notre Dame

April 20, 219 Aaron Burr Hall
PIIRS Undergraduate Fellows Colloquium: The Politics of Corruption

April 24, 4:30, 219 Aaron Burr Hall
2007 Cyril Black Memorial Lecture: Putin's Russia and Beyond: What is the Model?

Andrei Illarionov, former chief economic adviser to President Vladimir Putin

April 26, Noon, 216 Aaron Burr Hall
Endogenizing Democracy and Development: Some Mechanisms and Some Cases

David Waldner, University of Virginia
Luncheon seminar, reservation required.
Contact pzimmer@princeton.edu

April 27, 1:00, 216 Aaron Burr Hall
Counterterrorism and Energy Infrastructure: Security Strategies in Saudi Arabia

Christopher Boucek, postdoctoral research fellow, TRI

April 30, Noon, 219 Aaron Burr Hall
Sustainable Production of Oil from Canadian Oil Sands?

Murray Gray, University of Alberta
Luncheon seminar, reservation required.
Contact transreg@princeton.edu

May 4, 1:00, 216 Aaron Burr Hall
Oil Fiefdoms: How Oil Rents and Royal Rivalries Shaped the Saudi State

Steffen Hertog, postdoctoral research fellow, PEI

May 9, Noon, 219 Aaron Burr Hall
The Middle East and the Future of the Global Energy Balance

Flynt Leverett, director, Geopolitics of Energy Initiative, New America Foundation
Luncheon seminar, reservation required.
Contact transreg@princeton.edu

May 15, 4:30, 211 Dickinson Hall
From Death to the Eschaton: Tatar Eschatological Manuals and Their Readership in Imperial and Contemporary Russia

Agnes Kefeli-Clay, Arizona State University

May 18-19, 219 Aaron Burr Hall
PIIRS Annual Conference: Global Studies of Discrimination

For more detailed information about the events listed, please go to: princeton.edu/~piirs/calendars/index.html



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