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June 1, 2015

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IIEP's Monthly Newsletter: *May 2015*



Faculty Summer Travels: *Mark Kennedy*



Professor Mark Kennedy and students from the Graduate School

In the News

In the years after Haiti's earthquake, a number of economic developments and political reform have taken place that lawmakers believe will push the country towards prosperity. However, some believe that the new projects across the country may just be a show from the political elite. IIEP affiliate Robert Maguire, an expert in Haitian history in economics, spoke with the Financial Times - calling the progress "[lots of good talk and good public relations](#)."

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During the summer, IIEP affiliate faculty members remain extremely active - travelling across the globe to present academic research, participate in conferences, and teach courses abroad. The Honorable Mark Kennedy, Director of the George Washington University's Graduate School of Political Management and Professor of Political Management, travelled across Asia this May with GSPM students for their Global Perspective Residency Program. After taking one month of relevant coursework, students in the Program participate in a residency to learn more about advocacy and communicating with decision makers and governments globally.

This summer, the program took students to locations like Seoul, South Korea and Beijing, China to meet with government leaders, public relations professionals, and learn about the culture and history of different regions. During the program, Prof. Kennedy and students met with Korean Assembly Members, reporters, and public relations firms, [visited Seoul's Gyeongbokgung Palace](#), numerous international universities, [China's National People's Congress](#), and much more. Professor Kennedy's travels come after a busy spring semester in which he published numerous [articles on trade agreements](#) in Foreign Policy, was elected to the Council on Foreign Relations, and [created a free GSPM online course](#), "Business in a Political Age".

To view more pictures of Mark Kennedy's trip, check out our photo album on Facebook where we will be posting faculty summer highlights throughout the coming months. We are excited to share more faculty updates here - including news from Steve Suranovic's upcoming economics course in China.

IIEP Alumna Jenny Hamilton Receives Honors

promoting the passing of Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) in the U.S. Congress. Writing for Foreign Policy, he [outlined President Obama's challenges](#) to the bill's passing and [likened the Senate's initial rejection of the legislation to Top Gun](#).

Tara Sinclair was featured in a [Mashable article](#) [highlighting her research](#) and goals as Chief Economist for Indeed.com. With Indeed aggregated data, she hopes to create targeted assessments of the labor market - and potentially predict the next recession.

Recent U.S. trade negotiations, and in particular the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, have come under fire for their lack of transparency. Professor Susan Aaronson spoke with the Washington Post on [the "Catch 22" of secrecy in trade deals](#).

The I Am Malala guide, a teaching resource created in part by the GW Global Women's Institute, was recently expanded to reach out to high school aged girls and introduce them to themes of leadership, gender, culture, and education. GWI Director and IIEP affiliate Mary Ellsberg [praised the expansion](#) for reaching "reaching more students at a critical age" and spreading the message of Nobel Prize recipient Malala Yousafzai.

Affiliate Professor Sarah Baird was quoted in an article examining new efforts to use randomized trials in efforts to alleviate poverty in Bangladesh. Giving benefits

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Dean Michael Brown of the Elliott School of International Affairs congratulates Jenny Hamilton for being named the Elliott School Undergraduate Scholar.

Jennifer Hamilton, a former IIEP staff member, became the second Institute alum in three years to be named the Elliott School Distinguished Scholar. The extremely prestigious award is given at commencement to the school's highest achieving undergraduate student, both in academics and research. Working as an intern at the School for International Training in South Africa, Jenny interviewed locals on their perspectives of democracy to compose extraordinary research on democracy in the region.

The Elliott School award comes just after Jenny presented her research on democratic legitimacy in Africa and the United States, joint with IIEP affiliate Professor Eric Kramon, at the Midwest Political Science Association Meetings in the African Politics Posters Session. She and Professor Kramon were able to use [Afrobarometer data](#) to study whether political "inputs" or "outputs" most impact democratic legitimacy. Her research on this topic began as part of an enhanced independent research opportunity for outstanding Elliott School juniors and seniors. After graduation, Jenny will continue her education as a member of the WorldTeach Program in the Marshall Islands.

In addition to Jenny being 2015's recipient of the award, former IIEP Research Fellow Jane Olmstead-Rumsey was named the Elliott School Distinguished Scholar in 2013. As a senior, Jane joined the World Bank as a short-term consultant on a project she began while at IIEP on governance and fragile, conflict-afflicted states. She has worked since graduation at the Federal Reserve Board as a Research Assistant in the International Finance Division. Jane will begin a Ph.D. in Economics at Northwestern University this fall, [supported by a National Science Foundation](#)

hopes to uncover which types of aid work best for impoverished families. Professor Baird [called the method a successful strategy](#), showing governments what works and finding sustainable aid practices.

[Economist Tequila Brooks reviewed](#) Professor Susan Aaronson's paper on TTIP labor rights suggestions in a recent blog post. The paper aggregated the ideas of multiple economists to [find ways that the trade agreement can promote employment and workers' rights](#).

Recent Events



Government Surveillance and the Future of the Internet, part of our Internet Governance Series with the Internet Society-D.C. Chapter, brought security technologist Bruce Schneier and Mozilla's Chris Riley together in a panel discussing government created malware, Internet security, and government surveillance in the wake of the Snowden revelations. [Click here to watch the full event!](#)

reporting their impressive accomplishments in the future!

Research Area Update: *Multidimensional Poverty*



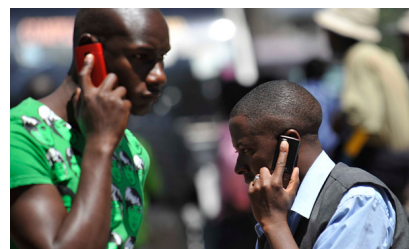
In March's edition of our monthly e-newsletter, we reported on the traction that the multidimensional poverty index had gained in the international economic world. The methodology, created by our affiliates Professor James Foster and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) Director Sabina Alkire, has been adopted by more than 30 countries including Colombia, Mexico, Bhutan, Chile, Vietnam, El Salvador, and Costa Rica. Bhutan's recently adapted Gross National Happiness (GNH) Index relies heavily on the Alkire-Foster Method and will be updated later this year.

Even more countries have gotten on board with the revolutionary measure to better fight poverty, and many countries are actively engaged in discussions to add it to their strategies. In China, the International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC) is seeking to incorporate the Alkire-Foster Method to determine poverty indicators for the Wu Ling Mountain Region. Multilaterally, OPHI and the Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN) have proposed a Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2015+ to the post-2015 development agenda in order to track the success of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The MPI 2015+ would be a crucial element to the global fight to eradicate poverty - creating greater standards for helping the impoverished across the globe and ensuring that aid and development evaluates the reality of poverty - not just the numbers.

The dimensions of poverty are interconnected, and the Alkire-Foster Method allows for an increased understanding of how to pull



Working for All? New Ideas and Innovative Strategies to Enhance Economic and Social Benefits in Trade Agreements. Held jointly with the International Labor Organization, the European Commission, and the Governments of Switzerland, Canada, and Flanders, this conference brought trade experts together to discuss the potential for trade agreements to address workers' rights issues and promote employment and the methodologies for evaluating their efficacy. For more, read [Professor Susan Aaronson's paper](#) suggesting ways in which TTIP can promote employment and labor rights. A [full photo album](#) from the event is also available on our [Facebook](#).



The International Monetary Fund's Africa Regional Economic Outlook Discussion. Early in May, IMF researchers joined IIEP affiliates and other experts to discuss the Africa REO and issues including recent

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understanding of the connection between economic development and environmental sustainability.

In June, James Foster and Sabina Alkire will continue their global engagement on these issues. First, with the MPPN Annual Meeting 2015 in Cartagena, Colombia, followed by the bi-annual launch of the global MPI figures in Oxford, and culminating with a European-based book tour featuring the release of of [Multidimensional Poverty Measurement and Analysis](#). This book will provide a close look at different multidimensional poverty comparison methodologies. The much-anticipated book will be an extraordinary resource for academics, policymakers, and international governments looking to incorporate the Alkire-Foster Method into their poverty fight and understand the different contributors of poverty and the ways in which they interact. In September, we look forward to Alkire and Foster launching the book to the U.S. market and beginning a national tour.

demographic trends, reports of trade openness, and policy recommendations for the future. If you missed it, [the event is available to listen to on our website.](#)

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