# Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Letter from IPD's Directors</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPD Overview</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Teams</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directors</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Resident Scholar</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Affiliates</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Research Fellows</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Research Affiliates</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incoming Student Research Affiliates: Fall 2018</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internship Highlights: Summer 2018</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPD Alumni: Where are they now?</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raymond Weyandt</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deirdre Appel</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External Funding</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Letter from IPD’s Directors

Since January 2013, Innovations for Peace and Development has provided a space for interdisciplinary, policy-relevant research on global conflict and peacebuilding, foreign aid, and poverty alleviation at the University of Texas at Austin. IPD democratizes engagement in academic research and policy work for students at all stages of their university education, with particular emphasis on the recruitment and training of women and underrepresented groups. IPD students learn valuable skills, ranging from geographic information system (GIS) mapping to randomized experimental methods, as they work on collaborative research teams and manage their own projects. We are very proud that over 400 undergraduate and graduate students have participated in IPD’s mentored research opportunities.

IPD has had a significant impact on both academic scholarship and policy. Our aid geo-mapping work has been featured in high profile forums, including the World Bank and IMF Annual Meetings. IPD’s work on climate change and development aid has contributed to the Multilateral Development Banks’ initiative to track and value the impact of climate financing on adaptation and mitigation. Our students have presented at the G8 Food Security Summit, USAID’s TechCon, and international academic conferences. And the list goes on.

We have worked to expand our internship, course, and fellowship opportunities to provide students even more academic support and opportunities for career advancement. IPD student researchers have participated in internships with prominent agencies such as USAID and AidData, and in locations including Washington, DC, Ethiopia, Uganda, Senegal, Haiti, Mexico, Nepal and Timor-Leste. We also enroll thirty students in an innovative year-long Government Department research practicum, and ten students participate in a year-long Next Generation Scholars fellowship program at the Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security and Law.

In its first five years, IPD brought in nearly $4 million in research funds to UT Austin, with key support from the National Science Foundation, the USAID Higher Education Solutions Network, and the US Department of Defense Minerva Initiative. Most recently we have been awarded a grant from the United States Institute of Peace to study Chinese investment in South Sudan. In the next year, we are aggressively pursuing federal and foundation grants to enable IPD to continue and grow.

We are especially grateful for the support provided thus far by the LBJ School of Public Affairs and the UT Austin College of Liberal Arts, especially the Department of Government, Liberal Arts Honors, and Plan II. We look forward to expanding our scope of work, student membership, and faculty participation in the coming year.

Michael G. Findley
Professor, Department of Government

Rachel L. Wellhausen
Associate Professor, Department of Government

Catherine E. Weaver
Associate Dean for Students and Associate Professor,
LBJ School of Public Affairs
IPD Overview

Innovations for Peace and Development (IPD) is a student-focused research lab that provides mentored opportunities for interdisciplinary, policy-relevant research on global conflict and peacebuilding, foreign aid, and poverty alleviation. Since 2013, IPD has brought together over 400 undergraduate and graduate students, and over 100 students are conducting research in Fall 2018. IPD has worked in collaboration with the World Bank, African Development Bank, UN Peacebuilding Fund, US Agency for International Development (USAID), US Department of Defense, and many other non-governmental organizations in the US and abroad. IPD students have won prestigious Presidential Management and Boren Fellowships, and alumni have embarked on impressive careers in academia as well as at the World Bank, UN agencies, the US State Department, USAID, and global non-governmental organizations.

IPD’s goals are to provide on-campus experiential learning, applied training, and international professional opportunities to UT students to empower them to fulfill UT’s motto, “What Starts Here Changes the World.” Much like the traditional lab setting in the natural sciences, Principal Investigators (PIs) work with student teams to produce leading research, and both graduate and undergraduate students author academic papers and present at international conferences. IPD scholarship has appeared in leading outlets in political science, law, and public policy. We are also proud that IPD work has featured in high-level policy forums, including at the US Senate, US State Department, National Intelligence Council, US Institute of Peace, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and several agencies within the United Nations. And, our work has been covered by media outlets including The Economist, New York Times, and NPR.

In twice-weekly meetings and supplementary training sessions, IPD students receive focused training in topics including geographic information systems (GIS), statistical software, grant proposal and analytical writing, presentation skills, project evaluation, and cutting-edge research methods including survey and field experiments. Moreover, IPD provides for-credit opportunities through several novel courses, including a year-long research practicum in the Government Department; an undergraduate mentorship and research training program through the Robert S. Strauss Center; summer joint internships with leading organizations in Washington, DC; and internships in international development in a variety of locations in Africa, East Asia, and Latin America.

IPD has brought in nearly $4 million in research funds to UT Austin since 2013. Our work has been supported by a USAID Higher Education Solutions Network collaborative partnership with AidData, Development Gateway, and ESRI; the National Science Foundation; the Swiss Network for International Studies; multiple US Department of Defense Minerva Initiative awards; the United States Institute for Peace; and other prestigious organizations. We are grateful for generous support from the UT Austin College of Liberal Arts, particularly in providing bridge funding as our first grants expire.

To date, IPD has worked on a 0% administrative budget, channeling all of our funds into student fellowships, internships, and travel stipends. We are aggressively pursuing federal, foundation, and community support to enable IPD to continue and to grow. Our current priorities are to raise funds for 10-15 undergraduate and graduate research fellowships, as well as to support a full-time administrative manager to oversee our group of student researchers, our grant activity, communications, and outreach. Please get in touch for more information on how to support IPD students (www.ipdutexas.org).
Research Teams

Innovations for Peace and Development organizes research teams around its major projects. Each team is led by one or two Graduate Research Fellows, in conjunction with IPD’s faculty directors. IPD Research Affiliates—graduate and undergraduate students from across the UT Austin community—join a team to gain experience applying substantive skills to a specific research topic over the course of a year. The focus on teamwork and mentoring offers students the opportunity to attain valuable professional experience in project management, data analytics, and writing for professional conferences and high-level publications, all while contributing to real projects. In 2017-2018, IPD has hosted a wide variety of teams:

Governance

The Governance team uses statistics, GIS mapping, and in-depth data coding to study states' abilities to make and enforce rules, deliver services to citizens, and maintain the monopoly over the legitimate use of force across their territories. The team’s current projects relate to natural resources, regulatory compliance in the finance industry, the impact of corruption on electoral outcomes, patronage jobs in young democracies, and the prevention of negative externalities in foreign aid projects. Since 2015, the team has completed fieldwork in Honduras, cleaned 1,000+ variable datasets on multiple Latin American countries, compiled the world's most comprehensive georeferenced dataset on natural resources, and drafted three working papers on the above projects. In the process, the team gained valuable skills in geocoding, data visualization using GIS mapping software, and data cleaning and statistical analysis using Excel, Stata, R, and Python.

Data4Peace

The Data4Peace team explores data-driven strategies to implement the 2016 Colombian Peace Accord. In May 2017, the team participated in a "hackathon" in partnership with Universidad de los Andes, Cifras y Conceptos (a Colombian research firm), and USAID in Bogotá where researchers, academics, and government officials joined forces to analyze the roll-out of the Colombian peace deal. The team has created a new panel dataset incorporating news articles and government reports to assess the vulnerability of municipalities that hosted reintegration camps for former FARC rebels. They also produced several maps analyzing vulnerability hot spots. The team worked on a variety of additional projects including a USAID-sponsored midline assessment of Regional Governance Activity in Colombia and a grant application focused on reintegration programs in former conflict settings. Data4Peace remains in communication with our Colombian counterparts to support progress in peace between the Colombian government and the demobilizing FARC groups. The team will also incorporate new research on regional governance programs in Colombia and global trends in the privatization of security.
Global Indices Network (GIN) Project

In recent years, the field of international development has been characterized by a reliance on an ever-increasing number of ratings and rankings, such as the Corruption Perceptions Index, the Good Governance Indicators, and the Failed States Index. These indicators are meant to measure performance across sectors and facilitate comparative analysis that is designed to rank or rate states, and thus “name and shame” bad behavior in global governance. The rankings are often bundled into development indices as a way of aggregating information. The GIN project examines the ecosystem of global development indices, with an aim to map shared dependencies among indices and evaluate how power is created and exercised in the act of scoring. To examine the interconnectedness of these global indices, our team breaks down target indices by data coding each constituent variable. Then the team connects the indices, indicators, and variables to demonstrate the network. The GIN project is working to increase the level of transparency among global indices to further understand the implications of the network perspective of data borrowing. The team has begun developing our own rating system, Measuring and Evaluating the Transparency of Assessments (META index), to highlight the accountability of the data. The META Index will score global indices by the transparency and reproducibility of their methodologies.

Chinese Development Finance (CDF)

The international aid community is more interested than ever in understanding the rising influence of China in international development finance. The formal establishment in 2015 of the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank—a China-led multilateral institution—is one of the key ways in which China is asserting itself onto the global stage and shaping the way the world defines and pursues development. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a multilateral international financial institution that supports infrastructure projects in the Asia-Pacific region. The bank was proposed by the government of China and is supported by 38 regional and 20 non-regional members, with 22 prospective members. President Xi Jinping considers the Bank to be a practical method for achieving his "One Belt One Road" vision, which would recreate the historic Silk Road that connected China to the Mediterranean, the Middle East and Western Europe, through Central Asia. The One Belt One Road is also supported by China’s Export-Import Bank, the China Development Bank, and a variety of economic partnerships with states located on the Belt and Road. The CDF team tracks news related to Chinese development finance from around the world, in seven languages. Our team uses these media sources to produce a weekly news digest, to write analytical blog pieces, and to map Chinese development projects.

War Expansion Project

This project examines when and why domestic conflicts overflow their original borders. Most civil wars are international in one way or another, and existing research has shown how third parties can cause civil wars by preventing local actors from reaching a peaceful settlement. However, less attention has been paid to the domestic actors’ incentives to expand the original conflict; in particular the government’s willingness to retaliate against external supporters of the rebels. To examine patterns of war expansion, we therefore collect data on instances of retaliation by civil war governments against third-party
interveners. Because retaliation can take on many forms, we look at a wide range of actions, from direct military attacks to the use of proxy groups or attacks on the economic interests of the third party.

Tracking Agricultural Research Outputs and Technologies (TAROT) Project

With almost a billion dollars, CGIAR (formerly Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research) researches how agricultural development investments are making a difference. IPD’s TAROT project is examining the adoption and impacts of CGIAR investments by supporting the CGIAR Independent Science and Partnership Council’s analysis of the organization’s successes, challenges, and short- and long-term reach. During the Fall 2017 semester, the Agricultural Development Team provided support to CGIAR’s Strengthening Impact Assessment (SIAC), which has generated studies on the adoption and impact of technologies in countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and Latin America, combining perspectives from agricultural economics with new data collection techniques including DNA fingerprinting of new crop varieties and remote sensing of new natural resource management technologies. This IPD team aggregated and analyzed research information conducted under the SIAC, producing communications materials and a map to display the diversity of research carried out by the CGIAR. During the Spring 2018 semester, the Agricultural Development Team supported SIAC’s preparation for climate-smart agricultural technology adoption surveys that will be undertaken in Ethiopia and Uganda. The team mapped out relevant agriculture project information in the two countries over the past ten years—primarily interventions carried out by donors such as the World Bank, USAID, GIZ, AfDB, and DFID. Our findings were used to inform the sampling strategy and complement information found in upcoming CGIAR surveys.

Global Health, Nutrition, and Evaluations (GHN)

The GHN team has a dual agenda in learning about the methodology and real-world workings of conducting monitoring and evaluation projects, with a focus on global health and nutrition. For the 2017-2018 academic year, the GHN team partnered with the Eleanor Crook Foundation (ECF) to examine their RISE for Nutrition grant portfolio work. ECF wants to understand the existing evidence base for nutrition interventions in East Africa and be able to show how their portfolio fits into that landscape. ECF’s RISE projects include work on nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions such as applying simplified tools for low-literacy community health workers to screen for severe acute malnutrition, reducing maternal depression, testing text messages’ impact on household feeding practices, and engaging fathers in household nutrition programming. The IPD GHN team has produced a comprehensive literature review and report on the RISE portfolio evidence areas and is constructing accompanying visual representations of that report and the nutrition-intervention landscape of East Africa for ECF. As a committed team of both graduate and undergraduate students, the GHN team has been able to provide skill-building, leadership, and mentorship opportunities for its members.

Law4Development

Law4Development is a new IPD team starting in the Fall of 2018, which studies when and how international law can help developing countries to enact effective and sustainable development policies. Developing countries continue to make a variety of international legal commitments with regard to
environment, health, labor rights, human rights, and other issue areas. The long-standing belief has been that international legal commitments can help to improve environmental and social outcomes around the world. But developing countries also push back on international law, arguing that some of the requirements asked of them stymie their ability to promote their own economic development. These push-and-pull dynamics between international law and developing countries’ sovereignty is at the core of the Law4Development team’s work. Team members take several avenues to explore and understand these dynamics. First, team members conduct in-depth data coding of historical and current laws that developing countries have implemented to fight climate change and other air pollutants. The team explores variation in laws over time, testing the kinds of reasons different countries choose to support, enforce, or flout international law. Second, the team explores data on related questions regarding conflicts between the pressures of globalization and developing countries’ ability to set other health and safety policies. Overall, the work in this team allows for in-depth insight into how the international community tries to prioritize global goals—like forestalling climate change—while also respecting and working with governments tasked with prioritizing their domestic goals as well.

Property Rights and Poverty

Property Rights and Poverty is a new team in Fall 2018 that cleans, compiles, and learns from data on individual livelihoods in severely impoverished areas, both in the United States and abroad. Knowing that you own something—for example, that you own your prized possessions—means that your time, money, and effort in caring for those possessions will benefit you and your family. When you take out a mortgage on a house or buy a car with a car loan, you do not own those things outright, but because you are in the process of owning these things, caring for them is again important for you and your family. In contrast, when property rights are insecure, it is hard to justify spending your scarce resources on caring for things that might be taken away from you. Unfortunately, insecure property rights can mean increased poverty and worsening quality of life not just for individuals but for the communities in which they live. Our first project focuses on the problem that, because many countries have legacies of making it difficult for impoverished people to own agricultural or other productive urban land, standard economic development strategies may directly exacerbate inequality. Such legacies are motivating pushes for land redistribution to black South Africans, for example. The team is currently developing a variety of quantitative and qualitative methodologies to understand the debate over “expropriation without compensation” in South Africa, including examining public opinion on and international reactions to the controversial policy.

Training Modules for the President’s Award for Global Learning

The President’s Award for Global Learning (PAGL) is an initiative of the International Board of Advisors (IBA) which engages with undergraduate students and faculty members across seven regions of the world (Latin America, Africa, Middle East & Central Asia, South Asia, East Asia, SouthEast Asia, Europe, etc) to examine real-world challenges and enact workable solutions in a global context. These multidisciplinary teams are made up of diverse, dynamic and driven individuals who are pursuing a host of wide ranging projects relating to expanding international research, social impact and entrepreneurship. The PAGL team will build the research capabilities of these teams and help them develop specific project management, monitoring and evaluation skills which are essential to design and implement successful research projects. Holistically speaking, the topics of these training modules will include proposal writing, international project management, monitoring and evaluation design, and impact assessment. We hope to eventually publish these training modules online so that they are easily accessible to anyone, specifically student researchers, who need guidance on how to conduct research.
Leadership

Directors

Michael (Mike) Findley is a Professor in the Government Department at the University of Texas at Austin. His research and teaching examine political violence, international political economy, and international development. He conducts ongoing fieldwork in numerous countries including Uganda, Sudan, South Sudan, South Africa, Colombia, and Democratic Republic of Congo, among others. Mike also works extensively with international development organizations including the World Bank, USAID, the African Development Bank, and the International Aid Transparency Initiative, along with many developing country governments. His work influences government deliberations and legislation, is covered broadly in the global media, and is incorporated by international development actors.

Catherine (Kate) Weaver is an Associate Professor and Associate Dean of Students at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin. Kate conducts extensive qualitative fieldwork all over the world and publishes widely on the political economy of aid and the reform of international development institutions. Kate is also completing a book project on the diffusion and impact evaluation of global open aid policies and practices, and writes widely on transparency and accountability in global economic governance. Kate works closely with the Eleanor Crook Foundation to design and implement a new grants and capacity building program for local organizations working on nutrition security in northern Uganda. Kate is also a Distinguished Scholar at the Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security & Law.

Rachel Wellhausen is an Associate Professor of Government at the University of Texas at Austin, with courtesy appointments at the McCombs School of Business and the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies. Her research in international relations and international political economy focuses on the impact that multinational corporations, financial markets, international institutions, and political risk have on development. She also works on development issues within the United States, particularly regarding American Indian tribes and US territories. Rachel has published in the American Political Science Review, the Quarterly Journal of Political Science, International Studies Quarterly, the Journal of Conflict Resolution, MIT Press, and other outlets. In her book, The Shield of Nationality (Cambridge University Press 2015), Rachel uses firm nationality to explain conflicts between host governments and multinational corporations.
Senior Resident Scholar

Dr. James Stevenson is an Agricultural Research Officer at the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization in Rome. He works with a team of researchers that assesses the impact of agricultural and natural resource management technologies, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia; focusing on the work of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) global research partnership. He collaborates with economists, agronomists, biophysical scientists, statistical agencies in African countries and with other global institutions (e.g. World Bank LSMS-ISA team; IFAD) to improve the quality and relevance of agriculture-related data in a number of countries around the world. Dr. Stevenson currently co-manages a $12 million USD grant on “Strengthening Impact Assessment in the CGIAR” (SIAC), with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development.

Faculty Affiliates

In 2016, IPD established a Faculty Affiliates program to engage both in-resident UT Austin faculty and non-resident faculty at other universities worldwide in our ongoing research and professional development activities. The IPD faculty affiliates collaborate on research, grant fundraising, and sharing of work through our speaker series.

Dr. Alexander Betts is the Leopold W. Muller Professor of Forced Migration and International Affairs at the University of Oxford, where he is also Director of the Refugee Studies Centre, and a Fellow of Green-Templeton College.

Dr. Joshua Busby is Associate Professor at LBJ School, a fellow with the RGK Center and the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, and Distinguished Scholar at the Strauss Center for International Security & Law.

Dr. Sarah Bush is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Temple University. She was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Belfer Center at the Harvard Kennedy School. She received her PhD in Politics from Princeton University in November 2011.

Dr. Susanna Campbell is Assistant Professor at American University’s School of International Service. She is Principal Investigator of “Aiding Peace? Donor Behavior in Conflict-Affected Countries.”
Dr. Jason Cons is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at UT-Austin. He works on borders in South Asia (with a focus on Bangladesh), climate and agrarian change, and rural development.

Dr. Joshua Eisenman (马佳士) is an Assistant Professor at UT Austin’s LBJ School of Public Affairs and a senior fellow for China studies at the American Foreign Policy Council in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Erin C. Lentz is an Assistant Professor at UT Austin’s LBJ School of Public Affairs. She researches issues of food insecurity, aid, gender and assistance policies in East Africa and South Asia.

Stephen Davenport is Global Lead for Open Government and Citizen Engagement at the World Bank Group. He has more than 18 years of experience in development, including program management, innovation, strategic product planning, and delivery of e-Government services.

Dr. Kim Yi Dionne is Five College Assistant Professor of Government at Smith College. She studies identity, public opinion, political behavior, and policy, with a focus on African countries.

Dr. Caroline Faria is an Assistant Professor of Geography at UT Austin. She is a feminist political and cultural geographer working on gender and nationalism.

Dr. Susan D. Hyde is a Professor of Political Science at University of California, Berkeley. She studies international influences on domestic politics, particularly in the developing world.

Dr. Diane Coffey is Assistant Professor of Sociology and Population Research at UT Austin. Her research examines intergenerational transmission of poor population health resulting from India’s poor maternal nutrition.
Dr. Stephanie Seidel Holmsten is Lecturer of International Relations and Global Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. Her research focuses on the election of ethnic minorities and women to national legislatures around the world.

Dr. Ole Jacob Sending is Director of Research at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI). He researches the role of international and non-governmental organizations in global governance.

Dr. Joseph K. Young is Associate Professor at American University in the School of Public Affairs and the School of International Service. He studies international conflict, violence and global terrorism.

Dr. Lauren Prather is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of California, San Diego, in the School of Global Policy and Strategy.

Dr. Jason Sharman is the Sir Patrick Sheehy Professor of International Relations in the Department of Politics and International Studies at Cambridge. He researches tax havens and money laundering in global finance.

Dr. Raj Patel is a Research Professor at UT Austin’s LBJ School of Public Affairs. He studies the global food system and alternatives to it. Dr. Patel is a frequent TED talk presenter and an award-winning author.

Dr. Dean Spears is Assistant Professor of Economics at UT Austin, where he is an affiliate of Innovations for Peace and Development and of the Population Research Center, and is a visiting economist at the Indian Statistical Institute in Delhi.

Dr. Rebecca Lewis is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at UT Austin. She is the founder and Director of the Ankoatsifaka Research Station in the Kirindy Mité National Park in Madagascar.

Josh Powell is the Deputy CEO at Development Gateway. He also coordinates DG’s Results Data Initiative, which supports evidence-based decision-making within the Governments of Tanzania and Malawi, and DFID.

Dr. Raj Patel is a Research Professor at UT Austin’s LBJ School of Public Affairs. He studies the global food system and alternatives to it. Dr. Patel is a frequent TED talk presenter and an award-winning author.
Graduate Research Fellows

Daniela Hernández Salazar was the 2017-2018 IPD program manager and co-team leader for the Global Health, Nutrition, and Evaluations team. She recently graduated from the LBJ School of Public Affairs and the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies (LLILAS), where she obtained a dual master's degree in Global Policy Studies and Latin American Studies. Her research focuses on international development, monitoring and evaluation, and good governance with a regional focus in Latin America. Before graduate school, Daniela spent the summer in the Philippines as an USAID/AidData fellow leading workshops for local governments, universities, NGOs, and businesses with the purpose of building capacity to use geospatial tools for disaster resilience. Daniela holds a BA in Anthropology from The University of Texas at Austin, is fluent in Spanish, and has extensive experience conducting fieldwork in Venezuela, Honduras, and Mexico.

Michael (Mike) Denly is a PhD student in the Department of Government. Mike's research focuses on the political economy of development and democratization. At IPD, Mike leads the Governance Team, which is currently undertaking projects related to natural resources, patronage, state capacity, and corruption. Prior to joining UT Austin, Mike consulted on matters concerning governance, anti-corruption, climate finance, and education for the World Bank. Mike holds a dual MA in Development Management and Policy from Georgetown University and Universidad Nacional de San Martín in Argentina, an MSc in Public Policy and Human Development from Maastricht University in the Netherlands, and a BA in International Studies from the University of Denver. Mike has studied and worked in various countries in Europe, Latin America, and Africa, and is fluent in French, Spanish, and Italian, and also speaks basic Dutch.

Juan Lozano is a third-year mathematics undergraduate student in the College of Natural Sciences at the University of Texas in Austin. His interests lie in the intersection of data analysis, economics, and policy. He is especially interested in the quantification of various economic and social justice measures, and the limitations of the use of big data. In addition, he is also very interested in theoretical advancements of regression techniques. Juan is the leader of the Data4Peace team at IPD. We are proud to have Juan as an undergraduate serving in a graduate research fellow position.
Anna Koons recently graduated with a Master’s in Global Policy Studies from the LBJ School and a Master’s in Public Health from the UT Health Science Center. Anna is interested in how open data & aid policies, the use of appropriate technology, and evidence-based methods can solve big problems in global development. Prior to graduate school, she worked as a research project coordinator at the Duke University Center for Health Policy and Inequalities Research. There, she managed global health studies and evaluation projects focused on behavioral health and outcomes for youth in low- and middle-income countries. She also spent a summer working on international development policy analysis for the Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network in Washington, DC. Anna holds a BA in History from Wheaton College, and speaks intermediate French and basic Kiswahili.

Paul Kuhne is a recently graduated master’s student in Global Policy Studies at the LBJ School of Public Affairs focusing on international development. In 2009 he received his Bachelor’s degree in Political Science and Spanish from Temple University in Philadelphia, focusing on community development and Latin American studies. After entering the LBJ School, he has studied program monitoring and evaluation, NGO program design and development, and researched post-conflict reintegration in Colombia. Last summer, he completed an internship as an AidData Summer Fellow in Kampala, Uganda where he worked for the Open Sustainability Institute. He taught GIS and data management to staff members, and also helped craft an Open Data Policy Brief. Paul has served as an IPD Graduate Research Fellow, focusing on grant writing and supporting research on the Colombia peace deal. He currently works as an Open Data Inventory Assessor with Open Data Watch and hopes to gain experience overseas in program monitoring and evaluation.

Hans-Inge Lango is a PhD candidate in the Department of Government with International Relations and Methodology as his two subfields. His dissertation focuses on the intersection of intrastate and interstate war. Specifically, his research examines how external actors can cause intrastate war, and also how these conflicts can expand and become interstate wars. Before coming to UT Austin Hans-Inge worked as a junior research fellow at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, with a particular focus on cyber security and power. He also have experience from various think tanks in Washington, DC, including contributing analysis on defense spending and policy for the Sustainable Defense Task force and the Domenici-Rivlin Debt Reduction Task Force. Hans-Inge holds an MA in International Relations from Boston University and a BA in Journalism from Oslo University College.
Melanie Levine is a candidate for the Master of Public Affairs (DC Concentration) at the LBJ School of Public Affairs in Austin. Melanie is currently interning with the World Cocoa Foundation in Washington, DC as she finishes her degree. The World Cocoa Foundation works with its member companies across the cocoa supply chain to improve agricultural practices, enhance sustainability in the sector, and eradicate child labor. Melanie previously worked in fundraising and partnerships for the Aspen Institute, and also in the international development consulting firm, Dexis Consulting Group. As a Senior Project Associate at Dexis, Melanie supported the design and management of multi-million dollar programs focused on agricultural development for donors including the US Agency for International Development and the World Bank. In Austin, Melanie carried out ongoing consultancies for Dexis Consulting Group and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. She earned her undergraduate degree in Government and Sociology at the College of William and Mary, and has completed internships with Amnesty International in New York City, NPR in Washington, DC, and an education non-profit in South Africa.

Josh Meuth Alldredge graduated in May 2018 from the LBJ School of Public Affairs with a Master of Global Policy Studies. He worked as an IPD Graduate Research Fellow in 2017-2018 after serving as a Research Affiliate in 2016-2017. Josh’s interest in international development began during his time at Whitman College, where he studied politics, Spanish, and social movements in Latin America. After researching youth radio stations in Nicaragua, Josh worked in Brazil, carrying out ethnographic research and community development planning with indigenous villages. He later received the Princeton in Latin America Fellowship and spent a year administering external relations for a rural university in Bolivia. Upon his return to the United States, Josh worked for the federal Head Start Program in Colorado, planning and implementing client-facing communications strategies. At the same time, he served on the board of Launch High School, a first-of-its-kind public charter with a curriculum focused on learning through social enterprise and entrepreneurship. During the summer of 2017, Josh worked with Ubongo Learning in Tanzania to evaluate the impact and reach of the company’s animated educational content across Africa. He’s now moving to DC to pursue a career in impact evaluations and international development.

Caleb Ray has a BA in Anthropology from Lawrence University in Appleton, WI. He is currently pursuing an MA in Global Policy Studies at the LBJ School of Public Affairs and a JD from the University of Texas Law School. He learned French as an Agroforestry Peace Corps volunteer in Guinea. He is interested in sustainable management and use of natural resources to facilitate development and in using data to better evaluate aid outcomes and the flow of aid money. His ultimate goal is to work as a foreign service officer or in another role that allows him to be directly involved with implementing policy in a foreign country. Caleb leads the Global Indices Project (GIN) team.
**Katherine Whitton** recently graduated with a Master of Global Policies Studies from the LBJ School of Public Affairs with a specialization in international development and governance. Before attending LBJ, she received bachelors degrees in History and Political Science and served two years as an education volunteer in US Peace Corps Ethiopia. Her work in the Peace Corps led to her interest in international development and global policy. At LBJ, she joined the Graduate Public Affairs Council (GPAC) and served on the executive committee. In addition, she has served as an admitted students ambassador and traveled to Nepal to conduct field research. In Summer 2017, Katherine served as an AidData Summer Fellow at the Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC) and the Resilient African Network (RAN) Lab in Kampala, Uganda. The work focused on GIS and open data principles. Katherine continues to work and complete research for the Global Indices Network as a consultant.

**Ryan Williams** is a third year master’s student in Global Policy Studies and Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies. He is interested in the intersection of emerging technology and public policy. Ryan received his BA in Political Science and Russian from Texas A&M University in 2014. In 2014 he also started a small business that produced media for real estate agents all over Texas. Ryan’s current work at IPD is focused on mapping the connections between global rankings. He also researches the lifecycles of NGOs in Russia since 1991. This summer he worked as an Advanced Research Intern on the Unconventional Weapons Team at the Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism.

**Elizabeth (Liz) Teare** graduated in May 2018 with honors in International Relations and Rhetoric, and minors in French and Middle Eastern Studies. Liz led the Chinese Development Finance team during 2017-2018 and was involved in several research teams throughout her time with IPD. She spent summer 2017 interning with an edu-tainment social enterprise in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, working on multiple marketing and business development projects. After her graduation from UT Austin, Liz started working as the Partnerships Associate with AidData, a think-tank housed at the College of William and Mary. In this role, she will support and expand AidData’s efforts to equip policymakers to make better-informed decisions. She will work on the organization’s business development, coordinating the grant procurement process and growing AidData’s outreach to partners in the public and private sectors.
Carolina Moehlecke is a PhD student in the Department of Government. She has a BA in International Relations from Centro Universitario La Salle, in Brazil, her home country, and a MA in Government from UT Austin. Her research focuses on the intersection of international political economy and international institutions. Specifically, she looks at how corporations use international law to affect domestic regulation in countries where they invest in and trade with, with a special look on the regulatory regimes of environmental protection and public health. Before coming to UT Austin, Carolina worked in the private sector for several years in Brazil and in Argentina, where she had experiences both in industry and in education. She also has fieldwork experience with elite-interviewing in Latin America. Carolina is a native Portuguese speaker, speaks fluent Spanish, and has a basic knowledge of French. She leads the new Law4Development team at IPD and intends to pursue an academic career where she can teach and conduct policy-relevant research.

Amelia Hetherington is the 2018-2019 IPD Program Manager. She is pursuing her Master's in Public Affairs from the LBJ School. Before returning to school, she spent the past five years working as a client advocate and program manager in domestic violence and sexual assault service provision. In these positions, Amelia directly served survivors and became interested in the possibilities social policy presents. She is excited to serve as IPD’s Program Manager and to support the team while learning about its diverse portfolio of research projects. Amelia holds a dual undergraduate degree in Economics and Latin American Studies from Washington University in St. Louis.

Calvin Thrall is a PhD student in the Department of Government. Calvin is interested in studying the effects of economic globalization on domestic political institutions such as labor regulation and public service provision; he is also interested in computational social science. Prior to attending UT Austin, Calvin received his BA from Temple University in Philadelphia. At IPD, Calvin leads the new Property Rights and Poverty team.
Umme Salama is a first-year MA student in Public Affairs. She holds BA degrees in Sociology and Anthropology and has over three years of experience working as a public health researcher and technology implementer. Before coming to grad school, she closely worked with underserved communities in Pakistan and Uganda, involved in national and regional projects that were geared towards enhancing patient-centered care and extending adequate access to quality health services. She is an expert in engaging with applied research and digital platforms to improve the delivery of quality care services and health outcomes within resource-constrained settings. She is interested in using action-oriented, evidence-based research to shape public policies and reduce health disparities in a global context. Umme leads the President's Award for Global Learning (PAGL) Project Management Consultancy Team.

Brandon Podojil is currently a graduate student pursuing an MPAff from the LBJ School. He earned his undergraduate degree in economics from the United States Military Academy and commissioned as an Army Officer in 2011. Brandon has field experience as a military officer in Afghanistan and Kuwait and as a student intern working for the Greater Camden Partnership in Camden, New Jersey, where he worked on poverty relief and economic development policy projects. Brandon is particularly interested in the US military's role in fostering post-conflict economic growth in conjunction with other government, non-government, and nonprofit entities. Following his time at the University of Texas, Brandon will serve as an economics instructor at West Point.

Hillary Corwin is a PhD student in the Department of Government. She holds MS and BS degrees in international political economy from the University of Texas at Dallas. Hillary has worked with the United States Agency for International Development on economic development policies and social inclusion projects for vulnerable populations in the Latin American and Caribbean region. She is broadly interested in the political economy of international development and human rights. Her current research focuses on the distributional impacts of economic development programs and on how the collective action properties of potential recipient groups affect patterns of aid allocation. Hillary leads the new Agriculture, Food, and Innovation team at IPD.
Student Research Affiliates

Abby Marcus, Master of Global Policy Studies
Abigail Kuchek, Philosophy
Akshat S. Gautman, Economics | Mathematics
Alexa Tavarez, International Relations and Global Studies
Alexander Walheim, Government
Alli Paul, Master of Global Policy Studies
Alyssa Santillan, International Relations and Global Studies
Amelia Hsieh, Psychology
Amie Harris, Master of Public Affairs
Andrew Moore, Government
Anita Basavaraju, Public Health
Arijit Paladhi, Master of Global Policy Studies
Arvind Ashok, Business Honors | Plan II | Management Information Systems
Ashley Park, International Relations and Global Studies | Chinese
Ashley Salinas, History
Beomhak Lee, International Relations and Global Studies
Bethany Burtch, Middle Eastern Studies
Brandon Cajeton, Government
Brittany Kellogg, Philosophy
Caleb Ray, Master of Global Policy Studies
Camille Cater, International Relations and Global Studies
Carlos J Chavez, Geography
Carlos Diaz, Government
Carolyn Adkins, Government
Christina Bui, International Relations and Global Studies

Destiny Alvarez, International Relations and Global Studies | Plan II Honors
Devon Hsiao, Humanities | Korean
Diana Ayoub, Economics | Finance
Divya Prakriya, Government
Domingo Salerno, Government
Durant Sellers, Government
Emily Brehob, Master of Global Policy Studies
Erienne Terpak, International Relations and Global Studies
Erik Salinas, International Relations and Global Studies
Erin Eggleston, International Relations and Global Studies
Ethan Masucol, International Relations and Global Studies | Plan II Honors
Eun Young Kim, PhD in Public Policy
Evelin Caro Gutierrez, Government | Philosophy
Fabihia Mobin, International Relations and Global Studies
Fabiola Barreto, Government
Felipe Mendez, International Relations and Global Studies
Felix Clevenger, Government
Hannah Greer, Government
Ishaana Talesara, Economics | Math
J Katherine Corley, Master of Global Policy Studies | Journalism
Jade Tucker, *International Relations and Global Studies*
Janina Staguhn, *Master of Global Policy Studies*
Jeffrey Martin, *Government*
Jennifer Rose McGinty, *Plan II Honors*
Jenny Rodriguez, *International Relations and Global Studies*
Ji Na Gil, *Government*
Jill Baggerman, *Master of Global Policy Studies*
Joelean Hall, *International Relations and Global Studies*
Jonathan Carter, *Government*
Jonathan Velazquez, *International Relations and Global Studies*
Jordan Brown, *International Relations and Global Studies*
Juan Lozano, *Mathematics*
Justin Russell, *Government*
Kanika Varma, *Government*
Karan Kanatala, *Finance | International Relations and Global Studies*
Karla June Howard, *Government*
Kate Hopp, *International Relations and Global Studies*
Katherine Cockerham, *Plan II Honors*
Keeton Schenck, *International Relations and Global Studies | Plan II Honors*
Keirra Ortiz-Cedeno, *International Relations and Global Studies*
Kelsey Ritchie, *Master of Global Policy Studies*
Kimberly Schuster, *Master of Global Policy Studies*
Levi Mulloy, *Government | Middle Eastern Studies*
Priya Mehta, Government | Human Development and Family Sciences
Quinton Darden, Government
Raabia Badat, International Relations and Global Studies
Robert Brehm, Master of Global Policy Studies
Russell Bellande, Master of Global Policy Studies
Ruth Pineda, International Relations and Global Studies
Samiya Javed, International Relations and Global Studies
Samuel Gillette, International Relations and Global Studies
Sandra Schwalen, International Relations and Global Studies | Plan II Honors
Sarah Blumberg, Master of Global Policy Studies
Sebastian De Beurs, Plan II Honors

Shelby Jacob, International Relations and Global Studies
Shuming Chen, Undeclared
Simon Menet
Siyu Luo, Master of Public Affairs
Skyler Thomas, Mathematics
Sophia Molak, International Relations and Global Studies
Taryn Shanes, International Relations and Global Studies | Plan II Honors
Thomas Salyer, Government
Thomas Sipp, Government
Tiffany Wang, Business
Vanessa Lizcano, International Relations and Global Studies
Varun Hukeri, Government
Yanrong Zeng, International Relations and Global Studies
Incoming Student Research Affiliates: Fall 2018

We are very pleased to welcome these new members to the IPD family:

Akash Thakkar, Economics | Plan II Honors
Alex Rigney, Government
Alexis Mulkey, Humanities | Government
Ali Gentry, Government | History
Alondra Ortiz, Political Communications
Alper Orkun, Economics | Mathematics
America Sierra, International Relations and Global Studies
Amina Amdeen, International Relations and Global Studies
Ana Ramirez Leal, International Relations | Government
Andrew Robison, Master of Global Policy Studies
Anthony Douglas, Government | Plan II Honors
Anushree Deb, Master of Public Policy
Ashley Frey, International Relations and Government
Austin Sappington, International Relations
Benita Lee, Business | Plan II Honors
Benjamin Vega, International Relations | Arabic
Blaine Finstein, International Relations and Government | Plan II Honors
Blake Beatty, Government
Brenna Lodge, Master of Global Policy Studies
Caleb Seibert, Master of Public Affairs
Chris Morphis, Economics | History
Christina Cho, International Relations and Global Studies
Christopher Scott Zimmer, Master of Global Policy Studies
David Venish, International Relations and Global Studies | European Studies
Devika Kumar, International Relations and Global Studies | Plan II Honors
Dhara Naik, International Relations and Global Studies | Anthropology
Dorna Adbi, Economics | International Relations and Global Studies
Elena Ivanova, Public Health | Government | Plan II Honors
Elisabeth Foster, Sociology | International Relations
Ella Pettichord, Civil Engineering | Plan II Honors
Emily Acker, Master of Global Policy Studies
Emily Ibarra, Sociology
Erica Colston, History | International Relations and Global Studies
Evan Samsky, Biology
Evan Williams, Economics | Philosophy
Fabiola Ramirez, International Relations and Global Studies | Government
Faridhe Puente, Sociology
Francesca D’Annunzio, Humanities | Middle Eastern Language and Cultures
Harshal Zalke, Master in Global Policy Studies
Hayley Reese, International Relations
Hennessy Herrera, International Relations
Hocul Song, Mathematics
Imani Sebri White, International Relations and Global Studies
Isa Azarcon Arce, English | Humanities
Isabel Salas, Middle Eastern Languages | Humanities
Jake Atlas, International Relations and Global Studies
Jake Reynolds, International Relations and Global Studies
Jean Kureyama, International Relations and Global Studies | Psychology
Jenny Myung, International Relations and Global Studies
Jeremy Doran, Government | Political Communication
Joshua Alexander Evans, International Relations and Global Studies | Economics
Judy Lane, Humanities
Justice Kaigler, Psychology | Humanities
Kailey Hunt, International Relations and Global Studies
Kassandra Barrera, Public Health
Kat Sisler, Master of Public Affairs | Master of Public Health
Krishant Dania, Psychology | Government
Kyler Wesp, International Relations and Global Studies
Lillian Mauldin, International Relations and Global Studies
Lorean Subieta, International Relations and Global Studies | Government
Luisa Venegoni, Master of Public Affairs
Mackenzie Salter, International Business
Magdalena Ibarra, International Relations and Global Studies
Maria Isabel Campos, International Relations and Global Studies
Mariana Tejada, Government | Economics
Mary Margaret Burniston, Humanities | Human Dimensions of Organizations
Maximilian Kalunig, Economics
Meena Pyatt, International Relations and Global Studies
Mobin Piracha, Economics | International Relations
Mohamed Abufalgha, Master of Global Policy Studies
Peony Ho, International Relations and Global Studies | Asian Cultures and Languages
Rachel Boles, History | Government
Rebecca Atwood, Sustainability
Rohan Vaidya, Government | History
Ruben Elizondo Del Bosque, Government | Sociology
Sadikshya Nepal, Master of Global Policy Studies
Samara Spiler, International Relations and Global Studies
Sara Ifteiha, International Relations and Global Studies
Savannah Whitmer, Anthropology
Shania Robinson, Finance | International Relations and Global Studies
Shania Ward, International Relations and Global Studies
Sparkle Denis, International Relations and Global Studies | Government
Tyler Morrow, Master of Global Policy Studies
Internship Highlights: Summer 2018

As part of our commitment to providing meaningful professional development and applied research experience, IPD provides support for students seeking professional internships. Each year, we help to place, and often fund (in collaboration with our grant partners), many students in high-impact positions around the world. Below are some highlights of our 2018 placements.

Melanie Levine, World Cocoa Foundation, Washington D.C.

Melanie Levine is a second year Master of Public Affairs (DC Concentration) student at the LBJ School. In summer and fall 2018, Melanie is interning with the International Programs Division at the World Cocoa Foundation, an NGO that works with the majority of the world's cocoa and chocolate companies to promote sustainability and respect for human rights in the agricultural supply chain. Melanie is developing the organization's Grand Challenge for Data in Development, seeking to leverage disparate, valuable datasets that can be analyzed to better understand the cocoa sector and inform more impactful programming. She is also supporting the strategic refresh of the CocoaAction program, one of the World Cocoa Foundation's most important industry-wide strategies that aligns the world’s leading cocoa and chocolate companies, origin Governments, and key stakeholders on regional priority issues in cocoa sustainability.

Mackenna Shull, US Department of State, Washington DC

Mackenna Shull, an undergraduate student studying International Relations and Global Studies and Economics, spent the summer 2018 in Washington, D.C. where she is interning at the US Department of State. As an intern in the Political Training Division of the Foreign Service Institute, Mackenna helped to develop curriculum for, and participate in, classes for foreign service officers. Some topics Mackenna explored included negotiations, international economics and trade, assistance awards, diplomacy at high threat posts, immigration law, human rights, arms control, and the intersection of defense and diplomacy. Her most recent projects included designing an app to be used as a training tool and compiling a list of mandatory congressional sessions to be addressed by embassy leadership. She also had the opportunity to participate in crisis simulations, attend forums and symposiums hosted by multiple government agencies and think-tanks around DC, learn about future career steps, and discuss foreign policy literature.

"I am extremely grateful for the support and guidance that Innovations for Peace and Development has offered me in pursuing this incredible opportunity. From scholarship to mentoring to research skills, IPD has played an integral part in my academic and career development."
Lila Al-Kassem, Berkeley Research Group, Washington DC

Lila Al-Kassem, a rising senior majoring in International Relations and Global studies, spent summer 2018 in Washington DC. There, she interned at the Berkeley Research Group, an expert services firm that provides economic consulting and strategic advisory services. She worked on matters in several industries including healthcare and government contracting. As a summer associate, Lila had the opportunity to work on litigation support assignments such as document review and summarization of deposition transcripts. Some other work highlights included using SQL and Excel as data analytic tools to evaluate healthcare claims and to develop strategic advice for nonprofits. Lila’s favorite aspect of her internship was the unique opportunity to meet and work alongside experts in their respected fields while learning how data analytics is used to strengthen NGO compliance.

Emily Brehob and Thomas Sipp, Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network, Washington DC

Emily Brehob, a second year Master’s of Global Policy Studies candidate, spent the summer interning at the Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network (MFAN), a hub of activity which coordinates the advocacy efforts of major players in the aid effectiveness community. She worked with MFAN’s partners to track aid effectiveness legislative priorities, including in the Farm Bill reauthorization, the 2019 appropriations bills, the Global Food Security Reauthorization Act, and the Global Fragility and Violence Reduction Act. She then supported MFAN’s efforts to strategically respond to opportunities for aid effectiveness reform, working with congressional offices on the introduction of new amendments, organizing events to emphasize the importance of MFAN’s aid effectiveness principles, and collaborating on blog posts and statements in support of favorable legislation. Additionally, Emily researched the recent history of food aid reform efforts and compiled a one pager of information to be used in promoting further progress.

Thomas Sipp, an undergraduate in Government, spent the summer researching American foreign assistance for MFAN. Thomas compiled research, drafted blog posts, and attended meetings as a policy intern. This summer was an exciting time to work at MFAN with several foreign assistance legislation moving through Congress, and the federal reorganization process in full swing.
Ubongo Learning, Tanzania

Ubongo Learning is a Tanzanian social enterprise and the leading producer and distributor of animated edu-tainment in Africa. Through TV shows, radio programs, apps, SMS technologies, and e-books, Ubongo reaches millions of households weekly in more than 30 countries with content designed and shown to improve literacy, numeracy, character strengths, and caregiver behaviors. Ubongo works on the front lines of long-term development, preparing both parents and children for a new century of growth in Africa.

Nicky Pownall (Undergraduate, International Relations & Global Studies) | At Ubongo, Nicky contributed to multiple grants to fund production as well as conducted research, assisted writing scripts, and tested episodes prototypes. She collaborated with the exceptional group of creators to produce content that was relatable, accessible, and most importantly, fun!

Maretta Dewitt (Undergraduate, Plan II and Philosophy) | Maretta spent her summer as a product manager for Ubongo. Her primary project was launching Ubongo University, Ubongo's internal knowledge-sharing website. She expanded the website by assigning and creating lessons to help answer FAQs in the office, speed on-boarding, and promote learning and teaching within the company. Additionally, Maretta had the opportunity to write a script for an Ubongo Kids episode about consent, help launch the official Ubongo Kids website, research daycare centers in Tanzania to help launch Ubongo's learning Toolkits for caregivers, and wear the Mama Ndege mascot costume to and plan games for a charity football tournament Ubongo attended.

Maureen Nicol (PhD, Early Childhood Education) | Maureen spent her summer as a Research Fellow at Ubongo. Maureen helped create early childhood curriculum resources for script writing and created a survey to get feedback from viewers from the United States. The highlight of her time at Ubongo was holding focus groups on gender equity with young children in the local schools. These focus groups further spoke the need for the representation Ubongo provides and how their programming is important in order to disrupt oppressive narratives in regards to the possibilities of girls and women.

Juan Lozano (Undergraduate, Math) | Juan’s internship focused on building out the organizational capacity for data analysis at Ubongo. He worked on building visualization tools for all aspects of the organization, as well as working with the different departments to facilitate analysis of data from the plethora of sources found there, helping answer (and ask!) questions about everything from business development to grant writing. He also worked on the measurement and evaluation of the effectiveness of the Ubongo program, working closely on the analysis of an ongoing four-year long longitudinal study.

Amanda Long, a rising senior pursuing a BA in International Relations and Liberal Arts Honors with a minor in European Studies and International Security, interned this summer with the Independent Task Force Program at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) in Washington, DC. As one of the Council’s trademark initiatives, the Independent Task Force Program produces comprehensive policy proposals designed to address a particularly pertinent foreign policy question. Under the supervision of resident scholars, Amanda is currently conducting research on CFR's upcoming Task Force on American leadership in technology and innovation. To support this research, she composed weekly internal forecast memorandum on Congressional hearings related to technology, Chinese competition, and the gig economy, and drafts news briefs pertaining to the research probe. Amanda hopes that this internship will lead to a future career in policy research and analysis.

### Amy Jeans, *Chicago Council on Global Affairs Washington DC*

Amy Jeans, an undergraduate studying Geography and Government, spent the summer in Washington, DC where she completed an internship with The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, a nonpartisan think tank focused on foreign policy. She worked in the Council’s government relations office as a member of the global food and agriculture team, where she contributed to work on domestic and international food and water security policy recommendations. Throughout her internship, Amy researched and wrote about topics such as US agricultural trade policy, trends in agricultural research and development, the global water trade, US government involvement in global water security, and the link between water scarcity and conflict around the world. She frequently attended and reported on Congressional hearings on relevant food and water security legislation, such as the farm bill, and attended consultations with experts from USAID, Department of State, and various civil society organizations involved in global food and water security. Amy was able to use the research tools she acquired from her work with IPD to contribute material to the Council’s annual report, including several policy recommendations directed at the US Congress.
IPD Alumni: Where are they now?

IPD is proud that we now have over 100 alumni from our research team. We take this moment to interview two of graduates to find out what they are doing now and how IPD has helped them in their post-graduate career.

Raymond Weyandt

BA in Government, May 2016
IPD Graduate Research Fellow (Communications Team), Spring 2013-Spring 2016

Q: When did you become interested in international development?

I have been interested in global politics since my childhood, but my specific interest in international development first began while I was taking Dr. Findley’s courses on conflict and development as an undergraduate at UT Austin.

Q: When and why did you become involved in IPD?

When IPD formed in 2013, Dr. Findley encouraged me to get involved. I fell in love with empirical research and was excited by the opportunity to study real world conflicts through emerging data. After working on my first project as a research assistant, coding and mapping conflict outcomes, I was hooked. IPD was overflowing with uncommon opportunities to grow as a student, researcher, and member of society.

Q: What was your most valuable experience working with IPD?

IPD provided countless opportunities and trainings that made me a stronger candidate for many future roles. I traveled and worked on research in Uganda and Rwanda. I presented findings at Midwest Political Science Association and USAID conferences. From data analysis to GIS mapping to writing workshops, IPD’s leadership made me the writer and researcher that I am today. More than anything else, my most valuable experience was the year that I spent co-managing IPD’s communications alongside my good friend Jackie Homann. Thanks to Jackie’s coaching, I learned first-hand how to develop and implement a communications strategy for a growing organization. While everything I learned at IPD enriched my world, this single experience has already created more opportunities for me than anything else in my lifetime.

Q: What did you do after graduating from UT?

I am currently a researcher studying open government on the local level. I work for the Open Government Partnership, an international anti-corruption organization that secures commitments from governments to
increase transparency, civic engagement, and public accountability. I am responsible for evaluating open government initiatives at the City of Austin. I can say with absolute confidence that I found this role because of the skills and the network I developed through IPD. Aside from my research work, I am also a freelance photojournalist and communications consultant in Austin.

**Q: What kinds of skills did you acquire in your time at UT Austin that you have found most useful for your post-graduate career?**

Here’s the shortlist: data analysis, GIS mapping, survey design, writing (for many audiences), editing, web design, marketing and communications, public speaking, critical thinking, project management… the list goes on. I also learned how to make friends in new places without speaking their language and how to engage folks in low-income countries without a patriarchal, white-savior mentality. In short, IPD and UT Austin made me a stronger writer and researcher, but more importantly, they made me a better person and a more engaged, empathetic global citizen.

**Q: What would you tell a student about why they should join IPD?**

Without a doubt, IPD provides unparalleled opportunities for students to get involved in real-world research and find their footing in the murky world of public policy. If you show up to meetings, dive deep into the work, bond with your team, speak up, ask questions, and commit to making something amazing, this organization will provide the support and resources that you need to be successful. Undergraduates who want to be treated like graduates will find a special place here. As an undergrad, I was pushed out in front of lifelong academics and policy professionals, encouraged to speak up, placed in leadership positions, and given responsibilities that most undergraduates aren’t typically offered. IPD is a very special place. If you want to start something that changes the world, show up to an IPD meeting and get to work!

Raymond at the 2017 OGP Americas Regional Meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Also pictured are researchers, government leaders, and civil society leaders from Brazil, Canada, and Austin.
Q: When did you become interested in international development?

I became interested in international development after a trip to Bagamoyo, Tanzania my junior year of college. After the trip, I added an International Development major, with a specialization in African Studies, to my current Public Policy major. My aim was to better understand what works and doesn’t work within the development space. It was an eye-opening trip for me to see first-hand the issues of poverty in communities that policy in the capital was trying to tackle. After a year in Southeast Asia after college, I returned to attend graduate school to pursue studies in monitoring and evaluation of international development policies.

Q: When and why did you become involved in IPD?

I became involved my first year at the LBJ School of Public Affairs. I learned about IPD from Kate Weaver during a visit to the LBJ School in March 2014, prior to enrolling. After listening to aims and objectives of the research lab - whether you were interested in education, health, security or environment - I knew I wanted to be involved as it was a space outside the classroom to learn and pursue my driving interest for attending graduate school.

Q: What was your most valuable experience working with IPD?

The most valuable experience was the opportunity to step into leadership roles and learn how to manage a small group of students as well the activities of the lab itself. It offered a space to present research, give presentations, and learn from a group of very talented, intelligent students and professors. Additionally, it was through IPD that I was connected to the AidData fellowship. Through the placement, I worked at UNICEF in Kampala, Uganda for 10 weeks during the summer of 2015.

Q: What did you do after graduating from UT?

After graduating from UT Austin, I moved to Washington, DC to start a job as a research associate with Open Data Watch – an organization that aims to improve the availability, quality and use of development data for the measuring, monitoring and achieving of the Sustainable Development Goals. Two and a half years later, I am now the Program Manager of the organization. I work closely on our communications, partnerships, and business development. One of my favorite work streams, working closely with our partners Data2X and the International Development Research Centre, focuses on identifying and filling gender data gaps with the SDGs. Our projects aim to identify what information on women and girls is
missing, research what surveys or other data collection methods can be utilized to fill those gaps, collect stories that demonstrate the positive impact high-quality gender data has on lives and policy, among others.

**Q: What kinds of skills did you acquire in your time at UT Austin that you have found most useful for your post-graduate career?**

The most useful skills include research, writing and public speaking. Learning how to communicate effectively and concisely - whether it is writing a policy brief, giving a presentation, sending an email, or compiling a Tweet - will serve your career very well.

**Q: What would you tell a student about why they should join IPD?**

It is so important to supplement your courses with extra-curricular activities. IPD is a unique community at UT Austin that brings together people from diverse backgrounds with a similar interest in international development. Whether you are an undergraduate or graduate student, there is a space for you. Aside from the mentorship and even friendships you may find, IPD is a terrific source for internships, job placements, and applicable research experience.

Deirdre in front of the United Nations Headquarters for the 2018 High-Level Political Forum, where development data was a key topic in the opening session (9 July 2018).
External Funding

USAID High Education Solutions Network: $25 million consortium award (IPD sub-award of $920,000), 2013-2018

AidData Center for Development Policy

In November 2012, USAID announced the creation of the Higher Education Solutions Network (HESN), a multidisciplinary research and development effort that encourages cooperation between development professionals and academia. A $25 million USAID HESN grant enabled the creation of the AidData Center for Development Policy, a joint venture between IPD at The University of Texas at Austin, the College of William & Mary, Development Gateway, Brigham Young University, and ESRI. The Center is one of eight Development Labs that are working on the creation, testing, and scaling of innovating solutions to the most pressing development challenges. IPD currently has a sub-award of $920,000 under the HESN initiative.

The AidData Center for Development Policy provides geospatial data and tools that enable the global development community to more effectively target, coordinate, and evaluate aid. Working in partnership with USAID country missions, host governments, and civil society groups, the Center pinpoints the precise geographic locations of development projects and creates subnational maps and dashboards that overlay geocoded project data with spatial data on poverty, disease, violence, environmental degradation, and governance. These data and tools make it possible to visualize and analyze where funds are going at the subnational level compared to the areas of greatest need and opportunity, which in turn facilitates analysis of aid effectiveness.

US Department of Defense Minerva Initiative: $800,000 (IPD sub-award of $210,000), 2013-2018

Natural Resources and Armed Conflict

The University of North Carolina - Charlotte, in cooperation with IPD at The University of Texas at Austin, the University of Albany, and Pennsylvania State University, has been awarded a grant from the US Department of Defense’s Minerva Initiative, a research initiative launched by the Secretary of Defense in 2008 focusing on areas of strategic importance to US national security policy. As part of this work, members of the IPD Conflict and Development Team explore how natural resources such as oil reserves, mineral deposits, and alluvial gemstones influence the likelihood, type, and duration of armed conflict in the developing world.

The project addresses an existing deficit in knowledge by developing (1) a comprehensive, global, geocoded dataset of natural resource locations, and (2) measuring if and precisely how rebel groups control or exploit such resources. These data will enable an understanding of how variation in the degree and type of control that rebel groups exercise over resources will influence their strategies of violence.

Complex Emergencies and Political Stability in Asia (CEPSA)

The Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security & Law holds a $1.9 million grant from the U.S. Department of Defense’s Minerva Initiative. IPD co-directors Kate Weaver and Mike Findley are key investigators on the Strauss Center research team, led by Principal Investigator and IPD Faculty Affiliate Dr. Joshua Busby of the LBJ School of Public Affairs. As part of the CEPSA program, IPD’s research team explores the causes and dynamics of complex emergencies in South and Southeast Asia and options for building government capacity to prevent and respond to such situations. The Strauss Center’s proposal was one of only twelve selected for funding out of 261 applicants to the Minerva program.

Ubongo International: $100,000, 2017-2021

Summer Internships in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

IPD, in collaboration with the University of Texas College of Liberal Arts, partnered with Ubongo International, a leading edu-tainment non-profit organization based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Ubongo produces and distributes animated content through broadcast television, apps, and ebooks, to help millions of children across Africa learn and love learning. With an embedded research-based curriculum that promotes literacy, numeracy, and character strengths, Ubongo cartoons are broadening the opportunities of Africa’s next generation. This funding supports IPD students each summer as they contribute their skills in research design, data analysis, product development, and marketing at Ubongo.

Chinese Investment in South Sudan

IPD is working on mapping Chinese investments in South Sudan to patterns of violent conflict. Chinese investments in South Sudan have been on the rise in recent years and have come at a time when violent conflict has been particularly acute. At the same time, China has also stepped up its involvement in peace efforts. This project will investigate possible relationships among all of these various trends, and consider whether Chinese mediation efforts have been a net positive, or otherwise serve to facilitate economic interests.

Research Partnerships with the Cloudburst Group, 2017-2021

Together with The Cloudburst Group, IPD was recently selected to assist the United States Agency for International Development’s (USAID) Learning Evaluation and Research (LER) unit on Democracy Rights and Governance (DRG) activities. This project will bring a variety of partnerships, funding, and student opportunities to IPD over the coming years.