

ENCINA COLUMNS

NEW GRANTS FROM
Global Action Fund

NAIROBI KIBERA SLUMS (REUTERS: NOOR KHAMIS)

THE FREEMAN SPOGLI INSTITUTE has awarded second-round grants of \$195,500 from the Global Underdevelopment Action Fund. The fund supports early-stage, innovative, policy-relevant and interdisciplinary projects that address persistent problems of global underdevelopment and train graduate students. These projects received funding:

CAN MOBILE PHONES IMPROVE CLEAN WATER ACCESS IN SLUMS? Joshua Cohen, professor, political science, philosophy, law; Sangick Sunny Jeon, PhD student; Katherine Hoffman, MA student; Eran Bendavid, assistant professor, medicine; Terry Winograd, professor, computer science

WATER, FOOD, AND DISEASE AT THE INTERSECTION OF POVERTY AND DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL AFRICA,

Jenna Davis, assistant professor, civil and environmental engineering; Eran Bendavid, assistant professor, medicine; Rosamond Naylor, professor, environmental earth system science, William Wrigley senior fellow

STUDYING THE RELATIONSHIP AMONG FORMS OF GOVERNANCE, WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION, AND PROVISION OF PUBLIC GOODS AND SERVICES IN CHIAPAS, MEXICO, Beatriz Magaloni, associate professor, political science; Ewen Wang, associate professor, surgery/emergency medicine

TEAMING UP TO LEARN HOW TO OVERCOME ANEMIA: NUTRITIONAL EDUCATION AND MOBILE MESSAGING DESIGN FOR HOUSEHOLD ENGAGEMENT, Scott Rozelle, Helen Farnsworth senior fellow, FSI; Dan Schwartz, School of Education

EXAMINING BARRIERS TO THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY IN INDIA, Paul Yock, professor, bioengineering and medicine; Stefanos Zenios, professor, Stanford Graduate School of Business; Anand Nandkumar, assistant professor, Indian School of Business

The Global Action Fund is supported by expendable funds from FSI donors, matching funds from the Office of the President, and FSI. "Stanford is uniquely placed among American universities to bring cutting-edge research to bear on practical problems of development," said Stephen Krasner, the Graham H. Stuart Professor of International Relations, senior associate dean for the social sciences in the School of Humanities & Sciences, and FSI deputy director. "No other institution has lower barriers to multidisciplinary work. The Global Action Fund award recipients are drawn from many different parts of the university but united in their concern for promoting development." ■

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Russia's Mortality Crisis

BY ADAM GORLICK



GRANT MILLER, CENTER FOR HEALTH POLICY FACULTY MEMBER AND ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE, AND JAY BHATTACHARYA, CENTER FOR HEALTH POLICY FACULTY MEMBER AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE (L.A. CICERO)

WITH THE COLLAPSE OF THE SOVIET UNION, Russians were faced with more than the demise of a political system. Working-age men began dying in droves, and the country saw a 40 percent surge in deaths between 1990 and 1994.

The killer was often alcohol—that much was clear. And for years, many economists and political scientists have blamed Russia's lurch toward democracy and capitalism for driving those men to drink. They reasoned that privatization left many people unskilled and unemployable, ushering in a sense of listlessness and depression that mixed too easily with cheap vodka.

Stanford researchers have dug up evidence that helps get democracy and capitalism off the hook and points to a new culprit: the end of an anti-alcohol campaign that contributed to a plunge in mortality rates during its short life in the Gorbachev era.

"Most things that kill people disproportionately kill babies and the elderly," said Grant Miller, an assistant professor of medicine and faculty member of FSI's Center for Health Policy. "But working-age men accounted for the largest spike in deaths in the early 1990s."

Most of the deaths during Russia's mortality crisis were from alcohol poisoning, drunken violence, or slower killers like heart attacks and strokes, he said.

Miller outlined the findings in a working paper, "The Gorbachev Anti-Alcohol Campaign and Russia's Mortality Crisis," written in collaboration with associate professor of medicine Jay Bhattacharya and Christina Gathmann, assistant professor of economics at the University of Mannheim in Germany.

Their study shows a steady rise in the number of deaths between the early 1960s and 1984 in one of the world's heaviest drinking countries. Recognizing that alcoholism was a major cause of death and low productivity, Mikhail Gorbachev instituted an aggressive anti-alcohol campaign in 1985.

New regulations slashed official alcohol sales by two-thirds, drove up prices by as much as 50 percent, and prohibited stores from selling booze before 2 p.m. on business days. Showing up drunk at work or on the streets could cost Russians a hefty fine or land them in prison.

"It was common practice for workers to take their breaks, go to a liquor store, and come back to work drunk," said Bhattacharya,

who is also an FSI Center for Health Policy faculty member. "So the people behind the campaign thought closing the stores during the day could lead to more productivity and fewer work-related deaths and injuries."

The campaign worked. The number of deaths plummeted in 1985 and remained below the pre-campaign trend throughout the late 1980s. That translated to a 12 percent decline in mortality rates or 665,000 fewer deaths.

The temperance campaign officially folded in 1988. It was wildly unpopular and the government realized it was losing too much money from low alcohol sales. By 1991, consumption was back to pre-campaign levels.

And Russia's heaviest drinkers—working-age men—got back to dying at alarming rates. The end of the campaign accounts for as much as half of Russia's four-year mortality crisis, Miller and Bhattacharya said.

"Welfare and health are not exactly the same thing," Miller said. "You can restrict people's choices in a way that improves health, but that doesn't unambiguously mean that people are better off."

EXCERPTED FROM ADAM GORLICK'S ARTICLE IN *STANFORD REPORT*, APRIL 13, 2011. ■

The Arab Spring Brings Regional Experts to Stanford

BY SARINA BEGES



PHOTOS (LEFT TO RIGHT): CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS HEAR FROM MUSTAFA BARGHOUTHI BY VIDEO CONFERENCE FROM RAMALLAH; HICHAM BEN ABDALLAH, A CDDRL CONSULTING PROFESSOR FROM MOROCCO, MAKES A POINT DURING THE *POLITICAL ACTIVISM TO DEMOCRATIC CHANGE* CONFERENCE; AHMED SALEH, CENTER FOR LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES, EGYPT, AND DANIEL BRUMBERG, GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY. (SARINA BEGES)

AS A NEW ERA OF DEMOCRATIC CHANGE swept across the Arab world this year, the Program on Arab Reform and Democracy (ARD) at the Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law hosted two conferences to examine the Arab Spring. On April 29, 12 internationally renowned Egypt scholars convened at Stanford to probe the root causes of the Egyptian revolution and debate the challenges facing the transition period. The second annual ARD conference, held May 12-13, brought Arab activists and academics from the region together to provide a comparative perspective on political activism.

Participants in the *Democratic Transition in Egypt* conference were hesitant to label the popular uprising in Egypt a revolution in light of the fragile transition period. According to Professor Jason Brownlee of the University of Texas at Austin, “Repressive agencies of the old order still exist in Egypt: the military intelligence, state security, and the general intelligence service.”

Scholars unanimously agreed that nascent opposition parties face the enormous challenge of organizing during a hurried transition period and within a competitive party and campaign structure. Significant discussion was dedicated to the role of the Muslim Brotherhood, which many argued is the only well-organized opposition party in Egypt capable of commanding a majority in the upcoming parliamentary elections. Scholars were left wondering how to translate the success of this popular movement into a constitutionally based political system representative of all societal interests.

The *From Political Activism to Democratic Change in the Arab World* conference featured eight activists from Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Morocco, Bahrain, and Yemen—in addition to a live presentation from Ramallah by Mustafa Barghouthi; they were joined by leading scholars to provide a grassroots perspective and original voice to the uprisings. Panels presented

country-based case studies highlighting the key challenges activists face in diverse Arab states and societies to evaluate the potential of democratic transition to take root.

Participants emphasized the contagion that spread protests across the region, beginning in Tunisia. Illustrating this point, Stéphane Lacoix of Sciences Po said, “A new generation of young political activists connected through social networks learned through the revolutionary experiences of their Facebook friends.”

Looking forward, participants agreed that these revolutions are far from complete and challenging work lies ahead. According to CDDRL Director Larry Diamond, “Democratic change is not produced by grassroots protest and activism alone but requires organization, strategy, and hierarchical structure.”

In each Arab country, tribal, sectarian, political, and religious division threaten the stability of the fragile transition period. In the near term, participants stressed the importance of delaying elections to give time for political parties, institutions, and leadership to develop so the status quo does not reassert itself.

The role of external actors was cited as exerting influence on the internal politics in each country. Activists collectively commented on the inconsistency of U.S. foreign policy in the region, which has placed strategic interests above ideological ones, not actively pressing for change in Bahrain, Jordan, and Syria in the same way as in Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya.

A tone of cautious optimism imbued both conferences as scholars and activists alike were hesitant to declare the Arab Spring a success, stressing that time will determine the ultimate outcome. Both conferences allowed the ARD program to make a substantial contribution to the body of scholarly research on this topic as conference papers will be published in an edited volume. ■

OVER A FOUR-DECADE PERIOD, the U.S. government exploded nearly 1,000 nuclear bombs at the Nevada Test Site, a 1,400-square-mile expanse of desert scrub, dry lakebeds, and the occasional Joshua tree, 65 miles north of Las Vegas. Those kinds of tests were banned in 1992, but one day this spring, a group of CISAC researchers visited to see what remained.

Among the items: a warped, rusted old train trestle installed for the purposes of seeing if it could withstand a 15-kiloton blast; a series of

concave domes that sprout up from the dirt—fallout shelters made of different materials to see which would survive; and the Sedan crater, the result of a 104-kiloton blast in 1962 that “lifted a huge dome of earth 290 feet in the air, moved 6.5 million cubic yards of earth and rock,” according to an official history of the site, and “sent a cloud of radioactivity off in the direction of Salt Lake City.” What’s left is a crater measuring 1,200 feet across and 320 feet deep, and a small metal platform installed for tourists to see the astonishing damage.

Researchers also traveled more than 1,000 feet underground, to a warren of alcoves, where scientists test the properties of plutonium, the most complex of all the elements, to ensure the reliability of the U.S. nuclear stockpile.

The trip was organized so that several CISAC pre- and post-doctoral fellows could get a firsthand look at the power of nuclear weapons. It was funded in part by the Stanton Foundation, which this year funded three CISAC researchers examining nuclear issues from a variety of academic disciplines. It has committed to doing so again next year. Lynn Eden, CISAC’s associate director for research, says the foundation emphasizes the value of policy-relevant research, so it was important to help the fellows get out of the library for a few days so they could “get a more perceptible sense” of the weapons’ power.

Revisiting the Bomb

BY MICHAEL FREEDMAN

Several researchers said the visit helped put flesh on some of their more theoretical notions about nuclear weapons and international security. John Downer, a CISAC post-doctoral fellow studying concepts in epistemology as they relate to nuclear weapons, said the trip offered him new insights into the challenges weapons designers

face in transferring their knowledge about these extraordinarily complex devices from one generation to the next. For post-doctoral fellow Edward Blandford, who is studying nuclear

reactor safety, the Sedan crater was particularly striking: “You can see it on Google maps. You can see it elsewhere. But physically standing there, looking down at the abyss, you get a visual sense of how powerful these things are. It really gives you a feel of what the weapons are like.”

The visit to the test site was followed by a trip to the Atomic Testing Museum in Las Vegas, where the exhibit details the history

of the nuclear weapons program in the United States and how it relates to both the Cold War and more modern security issues. Post-doctoral fellow Anne Harrington de Santana, a political scientist, noted that one of the interesting things about the site is how large it is—roughly the size of



NATO OBSERVERS WATCH THE DETONATION OF OPERATION PLUMBBOB BOLTZMANN ON MAY 28, 1957. (NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION/NEVADA SITE OFFICE)

Rhode Island—and the visit, she said, underscored how tightly woven nuclear weapons are into the fabric of American history and geography.

For all of the researchers, the visit also raised many questions. Why was the train trestle warped in just that way? How were the craters formed? What are the lingering effects of radiation from the bombs detonated at the site? Indeed, as Harrington de Santana put it, the trip provided many answers about America’s nuclear weapons program—but also much more to explore. ■

Responding to Japan's Recent Challenges, Reaffirming Ties

BY SARAH LIN BHATIA

“WE ARE STILL TRYING TO ABSORB the magnitude and meaning of an earthquake that dwarfed anything seen in Japan—a country that is known for seismic activity—for probably more than a millennium,” said Daniel C. Sneider, associate director for research at the Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center (Shorenstein APARC), while moderating an April 26 seminar co-sponsored by the School of Earth Sciences and FSI.

It is too soon to know the full domestic and global impact of the March 11 Great Tohoku Earthquake and its ensuing tsunami and nuclear accident. Japan is grappling to aid victims, to resolve the danger at the Fukushima nuclear complex, and to move forward with rebuilding amid political debates and disrupted systems. The global supply chain suffered setbacks of unknown scale, and the disaster-readiness of the world's other earthquake-prone coastal areas has come under scrutiny. Since news of the earthquake broke, Shorenstein APARC, which has deep, long-standing ties to Japan, has closely followed and responded to this ongoing situation.

During a March 21 CISAC event about the nuclear crisis, Shorenstein APARC director emeritus Daniel I. Okimoto predicted that Japan would weather the blow to its economy and emerge with a “new sense of national mission.” The next week, Michio Harada, deputy consul general at San Francisco's Consulate General of Japan, joined a Shorenstein APARC discussion before an overflowing audience of concerned students and interested public on the future of Japan's energy, economy, and politics. Participants agreed that the disaster could have long-term government and policy impacts and that resolving the nuclear situation was the most immediate concern. Despite the challenges, they predicted that Japan would ultimately recover.

During an April 22–23 conference organized by the center's Stanford Project on Japanese Entrepreneurship (STAJE), a panel of Japan scholars discussed the implications of the disaster for business and research trends. Takeo Hoshi of the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) suggested that the post-disaster redistribution of human capital could potentially accelerate Japan's long-term growth. UCSD scholar and STAJE Academic Advisory Group member Ulrike Schaede offered a detailed analysis of the sometimes hidden but vital place of Japanese firms in the global supply chain and the impact of the earthquake on that role.

Masahiko Aoki, an FSI senior fellow affiliated with Shorenstein APARC, presented at the April 26 seminar moderated by Sneider, the second in a two-day series about the domestic and global impacts of the earthquake. He offered insights into social, economic, and institutional aspects of the March events, noting the element of human error involved in the Fukushima accident. Aoki suggested that the situation presented an opportunity for significant institutional reform in Japan, including a reorganization of the country's nuclear energy system.

Above all, Shorenstein APARC believes that Japan will recover and its connection to its friends, colleagues, and affiliates there remains an important center priority. In addition to frequent telephone and e-mail communication, the center will reconnect in person with a large number of its Japan affiliates in September during the annual Stanford Kyoto Trans-Asian Dialogue. ■



PHILLIP LIPSCY, FSI CENTER FELLOW, DISCUSSES ON MARCH 30, 2011, POTENTIAL POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF THE EARTHQUAKE. (DEBBIE WARREN)



KENJI KUSHIDA (FOURTH FROM LEFT), 2010–2011 SHORENSTEIN FELLOW, SPEAKS AT A CONFERENCE ABOUT THE FUTURE OF BUSINESS IN JAPAN, APRIL 23, 2011. (TOMI BROOKS)

NEW PUBLICATIONS



Shorenstein APARC recently published the groundbreaking political economy volume *Going Private in China: The Politics of Corporate Restructuring and System Reform in the PRC*, edited by Jean C. Oi.

Now available through Routledge, *South Korean Social Movements: From Democracy to Civil Society*, co-edited by Gi-Wook Shin and Paul Chang, provides an examination of South Korea's vibrant social movement sector.

A FULL SUMMARY OF SHORENSTEIN APARC'S RESPONSE TO THE GREAT TOHOKU EARTHQUAKE IS AVAILABLE AT [HTTP://APARC.STANFORD.EDU/NEWS/GREAT_TOHOKU_EARTHQUAKE](http://aparc.stanford.edu/news/great_tohoku_earthquake).

Improving Global Food Security in the 21st Century: Perspectives From the Top

BY ASHLEY DEAN



PHOTOS:

(LEFT) SYMPOSIUM PANEL—FSE DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALTER FALCON (LEFT) MODERATES A Q&A SESSION WITH PANELISTS JEFF RAIKES (CENTER) AND GREG PAGE (RIGHT).

(ABOVE) ACCORDING TO RAIKES, WOMEN COMPRISE 70 PERCENT OR MORE OF THE FARM LABOR POPULATION AND NEED TO BE INCLUDED IN THE EQUATION TO ADVANCE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. (MARSHALL BURKE)

FEBRUARY 10 MARKED THE LAUNCH OF FSE'S two-year Global Food Policy and Food Security Symposium series. Kicking off the event were Jeff Raikes, CEO of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Greg Page, CEO and chairman of Cargill. As representatives of the world's largest foundation and largest agricultural firm, they provided high-level perspectives on the challenges, opportunities, and respective roles in improving food security in the 21st century.

"The Gates Foundation is driven by an approach we call 'catalytic philanthropy,'" opened Raikes. "We seek out investments that can leverage performance, address market failures, and really raise the quality of lives for the one billion people who live in extreme poverty today."

The foundation is a leader in the global development field and has committed more than \$300 million in grants that span the agricultural value chain in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

Citing solutions that are both high-tech (drought/flood tolerant seeds) and low-tech

(\$2 triple-layer bags), Raikes emphasized the importance of providing farmers in developing countries with the option of using modern tools to improve productivity and management.

Supporting good policy is another part of the foundation's strategy and was a strong motivation behind its funding of this symposium series. "We see this series as an opportunity to gather policy leaders who will bring new ideas of what will be effective food policy approaches and effective economic environments in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia," said Raikes.

Page followed Raikes with Cargill's perspective on several elements that are critically important to increasing food security in the 21st century. First is the ability to understand the trade-offs between a fast path to caloric sufficiency and the needs of rural sociology. What is the price needed to keep smallholders on the farm in order to avoid an unsustainable rural population migration and who is going to pay this rural sociology premium? asked Page.

Second, crops must be grown in the right soil, with the right technology, and supported by free-trade policies to fully harvest competitive advantage. Third, added Page, if you want a farmer to reinvest in his or her farm, the farmer must have the ability to own the land, have access to it, and transfer it to future generations.

"Some degree of revenue certainty and access to a reliable market is also needed if we expect farmers in developing countries to raise productivity," explained Page. "Today they are often forced to sell at harvest, often below the cost of production, and lack the storage capabilities and capital to provide crops sufficiently and continuously."

Open, trust-based markets also play a key role in ensuring food security. When Russia, Ukraine, and Argentina turned to embargos as a way to protect domestic food prices, open markets were jeopardized and price volatility increased. Page concluded with the important role the world's governments must play in creating the vital infrastructure needed to improve market access. ■

THIS TALK WAS THE FIRST OF THE TWELVE-LECTURE SERIES. A COMPLETE SUMMARY AND VIDEO OF THE EVENT, AS WELL AS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SERIES, CAN BE FOUND ON THE FSE WEBSITE, [HTTP://FOODSECURITY.STANFORD.EDU](http://foodsecurity.stanford.edu).

“The chance to tackle complex, real-world policy problems and propose solutions to clients is invaluable for our students as they prepare for their careers. It’s one more way that our program bridges theory and practice.” Kathryn Stoner-Weiss, director of IPS and FSI senior fellow

IPS Students: Tackling Real-World Policy Problems

THE FORD DORSEY PROGRAM IN INTERNATIONAL POLICY STUDIES (IPS), a joint undertaking of FSI and the School of Humanities & Sciences, is training the next generation of policy experts and leaders. In their second year of the two-year master’s program, students take a two-quarter practicum course, working in teams to conduct policy analyses for real-world client organizations. Here are their projects and findings this year:



JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE (CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE) This report analyzed judicial discipline cases in California between 1990 and 2009 using data collected by the California Commission on Judicial Performance. The purpose of the report was to inform the public about the incidence of misconduct and help the public understand the disciplinary process. The report concluded that the number of disciplinary actions per judge has fallen in the last decade, as compared with the previous 10 years.

POLICIES TO IMPROVE INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS (WORLD BANK) This report researched how countries can select Policies to Increase Industrial Competitiveness (PIIC) using case studies and the development of an analytic process for government use in selecting specific industries to support. The analytic process showed that cooperation between the public and private sectors is crucial in policymakers’ ability to select the most beneficial competitiveness policy measures.

SUNNI MILITANCY IN INDIA (U.S. DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY) This report analyzed Sunni militancy in India by identifying major Sunni groups, their ideologies, root causes, and recent trends. Utilizing a quantitative overview of Sunni terrorism incidents and deaths, profiles of militant groups, and social network analysis of connections between groups, the report found that the most

active and violent Sunni militant groups are related to Pakistan or to the long-running conflict between Pakistan and India in Kashmir.

RARE EARTH ELEMENTS (BREAKTHROUGH INSTITUTE AND BAY AREA COUNCIL)

This report examined concerns about domestic shortages of rare earth elements, critical in the production of many clean-tech products. The report confirmed that China controls

a large share of rare earth deposits and production but found that market forces should increase U.S. production levels in the long run. The report recommends that the United States accelerate permitting for domestic production and pursue agreements with other rare earth suppliers to mitigate the impact of China’s current dominance.

GOING FORWARD: GAS TAX AND VMT (CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE) This report considered the underfunding of the U.S. transportation system, focusing on two ways to generate revenue—the federal gas tax and a prospective vehicle-miles-traveled (VMT) fee. In the long term, introducing fees per mile would generate more revenue than increasing fees per gallon. Under both proposals, lower income consumers would pay proportionately more, although the difference in distributional impact is minimal for most policy options under consideration.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY INDEX (COMEBACK AMERICA INITIATIVE/PETERSON FOUNDATION) This project developed a simple, comprehensive analytic tool and framework, called the Fiscal Responsibility Index, to assess sovereign fiscal responsibility and sustainability. The index was designed to illustrate where the United States is, where it is headed, and how it compares with other nations in the area of fiscal responsibility and sustainability. The U.S. ranks near the bottom when compared with 33 OECD and BRIC nations. ■

PHOTO: IPS STUDENTS GATHER IN ISTANBUL IN FRONT OF THE DOLMABAĞÇE PALACE.



Understanding China's Development Through the Lens of Education

BY HYOJUNG JULIA JANG AND RYLAN SEKIGUCHI

CHINA TODAY IS IN THE MIDST OF SWEEPING

CHANGES. The economy is roaring ahead. Millions of rural families are uprooting themselves in search of better lives in the city. Traditional ways of living, working, and playing are transforming. This image of China often gives an impression of instability, confusion, extreme inequality, and despair, but in fact every country that has developed—including the United States—has undergone a similar process.

China in Transition, the latest curriculum in development from the Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education (SPICE), introduces high school students to modern China as a case study of economic development. What are the characteristics of the development process and why does it occur? How is development experienced by the people who live through it and how are their lives impacted? How do traditional cultural values—such as China's emphasis on education—contribute to and/or evolve as a result of modernization? Students examine these questions and others as they investigate the roles that urbanization, migration, wealth, poverty, and education play in a country in transition.

This curriculum project represents a new and unique joint venture between SPICE and the Rural Education Action Project (REAP) to bring modern China alive in U.S. high school classrooms. It is the first project of its kind for SPICE and an exciting new intramural collaboration for FSI. "When I first heard about the work of REAP from Professor Scott Rozelle and his staff, I was immediately struck by the significance of REAP's efforts to help students from poor rural households in China overcome obstacles and harvest their educational dreams," says SPICE Director Gary Mukai. "This grew into a REAP-SPICE collaborative, which has the goal of making REAP's efforts and its many important lessons accessible to U.S. high school students through interactive, interdisciplinary activities."

The partnership capitalizes on the strengths of both organizations, pairing REAP's rigorous scholarship and field research in China

with SPICE's expertise in curriculum development. The resulting synergies are helping to refine *China in Transition* into a rich and dynamic resource for high school classrooms.

Much of the research for *China in Transition* was gathered in fall 2010 by an international team of students who participated in REAP's Across the Pacific (ATP) program. The Across the Pacific team—which comprised students from Stanford University and Chinese universities such as Peking University, Tsinghua University, and Renmin University—conducted academic and field research to investigate key topics in modern China (e.g., its shifting economy, urbanization, migration trends, and education system) and produced a collection of original multimedia content that will be incorporated into the final publication. These teaching resources, created by U.S. and Chinese college students, will soon be used to build cross-cultural understanding among high school students.

REAP and SPICE have worked in close consultation with each other throughout the curriculum development process, and they continue to work together to produce the final curriculum unit, due to be published in fall 2011. ■



PHOTO: (TOP) ATP STUDENTS INTERVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN IN RURAL CHINA; (ABOVE) REAP, SPICE, AND ATP STUDENTS GATHERED IN MAY TO DISCUSS THE PROJECT AND SHARE THEIR WORK WITH ONE ANOTHER.

Democracy and Reconciliation: Jerusalem Conference and Launch of The Europe Center

BY ROLAND HSU

IN THE MIDST OF THE ARAB SPRING, and President Obama's push for Palestinian-Israeli peace, The Europe Center (TEC) and the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute hosted a May 18-19 conference on *Democracy in Adversity and Diversity* in Jerusalem, the first of a sequence of conferences in TEC's collaborative project on reconciliation.

The conference gathered leading analysts of democratization and civil conflict, including FSI's Francis Fukuyama, Stephen Krasner, and Kathryn Stoner-Weiss. During two days of conference sessions, scholars and analysts from Europe, the United States, and the Middle East compared historical and contemporary cross-border and civil society cleavages with the goal to promote informed policy.

Co-organizers Kathryn Stoner-Weiss and Michael Karayanni (The Hebrew University) convened colleagues to address policy challenges including the following:

- What has been and what should be democracy?
- How do we translate democratic theory into practical governance?
- How do we manage diversity in contemporary democracies?
- What is the relationship between democracy and development?
- How do we anticipate and respond to transitions and movements toward democracy?

Experts in liberal, secular, and fundamentalist political thought in Arab, Palestinian, Christian, Jewish, and Muslim polities proposed answers and areas for further study. Insights included the following:

- European and Israeli voters are increasingly electing far-right nationalists, while Arab populations are calling for democracy.

- The deepest rifts are not between but within societies. In Europe, Israel, and in the Hamas-Fatah Palestinian National Authority, far-right populist, ultra-orthodox, and fundamentalist parties appeal to anti-democratic worldviews. The result is hardening rhetoric that damages civil society and overwhelms the capacity for reasoned debate and resolution. Leaders compete with the minority far-right and in so doing compete for the narrow populist constituency rather than focusing on the greater interest of society.

Next steps include publications, scholar exchange, and a second international conference, *Debating History and Memory: Global and Local Dimensions* (Stanford 2012), which aims to examine the interplay between history and memory and how to overcome foundational narratives without requiring amnesia.

THE EUROPE CENTER LAUNCH WITH JOHN MICKLETHWAIT, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, THE ECONOMIST.



The Europe Center celebrated its first year with a Payne Distinguished Lecture, co-sponsored by FSI, on "The World Ahead" by John Micklethwait, editor-in-chief, *The Economist*. The lecture, introduced by President Emeritus Gerhard Casper, considered global and historical trends, befitting TEC's

mission. Micklethwait alerted the audience to points of caution and optimism.

China and India are positioned to capitalize on their internal assets (natural resources, low labor costs) and external trade surpluses. Micklethwait expressed confidence that India's democratic institutions—despite civil and ethno-religious violence—will absorb economic recessions and middle-class aspirations. On China, Micklethwait cited evidence of civil discontent—illegal church membership, rural population dislocation, income inequality—that may bring shocks and declining growth rates.

On Russia, Micklethwait mirrored TEC researchers' concern that Russia under Putin has eviscerated civil society and democratic institutions. In the foreseeable future Russians have little choice but to look to Putin and the central government for resources.

Micklethwait noted that California and its leading universities were formerly models of innovation. Now, Micklethwait traced a decline of "broad state-interest thinking." In the post-World War II rise of state universities through the emergence of Silicon Valley, political and business leaders promoted policy that enhanced the greater welfare of the state.

Today's pattern of ill-advised voter initiatives, ideology of minimal government, and corporate lobbying yields special interest exemptions and a diminished public sector. If we are to rescue the state, and return to growth, California's legislative and corporate leadership must act in concert for society's broad interests. ■

PHOTO: THE ECONOMIST EDITOR-IN-CHIEF JOHN MICKLETHWAIT ADDRESSES A CAPACITY CROWD IN THE BECHTEL CONFERENCE CENTER FOR THE EUROPE CENTER'S INAUGURAL LECTURE "THE WORLD AHEAD" ON MAY 3. (STEVE CASTILLO)

AN ESTIMATED 2.5 BILLION PEOPLE around the world lack access to modern fuels and rely on traditional biomass such as wood, charcoal, and agricultural waste for cooking and heating. Health and development literature has documented the detrimental health effects, including cancer and respiratory infections, of indoor air pollution (IAP) from traditional biomass stoves. Time taken to collect biomass can add to the constraints that prevent women from engaging in formal employment outside the household. More recently, researchers have focused on the significant impacts on climate change of black carbon emissions from traditional stoves.

PESD Field Study: Can Clean Commercial Stoves Ease the Health Burden From Traditional Cooking in India?

BY HIMANI PHADKE



HOUSEWIFE WITH TRADITIONAL STOVE IN TAKALI VILLAGE, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA (HIMANI PHADKE)

Despite more than 25 years of government, charitable, and, most recently, commercial efforts to distribute “improved biomass cookstoves,” which burn biomass more cleanly and efficiently than traditional stoves, only about a third of the population using traditional biomass has adopted them. Even among this group, it is unclear how many continue to use these stoves and whether they use them as the primary method of cooking.

With funding from FSI’s Global Underdevelopment Action Fund, the Program on Energy and Sustainable Development (PESD)

has embarked on a project to understand the challenges to the adoption and ongoing use of improved biomass stoves in India. Accompanied by PESD associate director Mark Thurber, I visited India in spring of this year as a PESD graduate research assistant to help set up and observe a survey of 1,000 households in rural and semi-urban areas of Maharashtra and Karnataka states.

Our field visits yielded a number of valuable qualitative insights. First, while most users of traditional stoves (“chulhas”) conceded that indoor smoke was somewhat bothersome, this factor alone was rarely enough to prompt a switch. And there were early suggestions from our field data that the heaviest chulha users may become desensitized to smoke relative to those who use them only occasionally.

Second, when the price was right—for the stove and especially for the fuel—households showed willingness to rapidly adopt new technologies such as FirstEnergy’s “Oorja” stove, on which we focused in particular. But this exquisite sensitivity to household economics was a double-edged sword: Households would drop new stoves just as rapidly when fuel prices lost competitiveness with alternatives.

Third, clean-burning liquified petroleum gas (LPG) fuel seems to have significantly increased its market penetration in recent years in the areas we visited. Some new adopters of LPG had moved their chulhas to yards outside the house and now use them mainly for boiling water. At the same time, given the unreliable supply of LPG, kerosene, and biomass, it was clear that rural households remain on the lookout for other options. Most households we visited used at least two or three modes of cooking, where one was the primary method and the others served as backups.

By combining qualitative insights from such field visits with detailed statistical analysis of the survey data, we will develop a fuller picture of who is most likely to buy and use improved stoves in India, how commercial stove distributors can more effectively meet the demand of these customers, and what government policy can do to help the process along. ■

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WELCOME TO **ENCINACOLUMNS**

What an engaging time this has been at the Freeman Spogli Institute. Francis Fukuyama, Olivier Nomellini senior fellow, published a new book to great acclaim, *The Origins of Political Order*. CISAC's yearlong series *Ethics*

and *War* has been riveting, offering reflections on war from some of America's best-known writers and thinkers.

Stanford broke ground on the new Stanford Center at Peking University, which will serve as a university resource for research, teaching, training, conferences, and outreach in Asia.

We announced that Alan Garber, the founding director of FSI's Center for Health Policy/Center for Primary Care and Outcomes Research, has been named provost of Harvard University. We will miss Alan's intellect, his commitment to interdisciplinary research and teaching, and his policy acumen.

FSI joined with Dean Pamela Matson of the School of Earth Sciences and faculty for a two-part series on the earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear accident in Japan. We welcomed John Micklethwait, editor-in-chief of *The Economist*, for a Payne Lecture on "The World Ahead" to celebrate the launch of The Europe Center. We engaged European, U.S., and Middle East scholars in a conference on *Democracy in Adversity and Diversity* with the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute.

The Walter Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center held its annual Oksenberg conference, addressing *Constraints on China's Foreign Policy: Inside and Out*. The Program on Arab Reform and Democracy held a two-day conference, *From Political Activism to Democratic Change in the Arab World*, with scholars and activists from countries dominating today's news cycle.

I am deeply grateful to our FSI Advisory Board, all of our supporters, and our faculty and staff for your many and profound contributions. We are discovering how to make the world safer and more prosperous and with your continuing counsel and support, we will.

Sincerely,



COIT D. BLACKER, DIRECTOR