Report for Academic Year 2015-2016

Among the year’s highlights was a briefing to United Nations staffers in New York City, given by our students and professors in May.
The 2015-2016 academic year was a time of change at the Ford Institute for Human Security. Dr. Lou Picard stepped down from the directorship, after four years at the helm, to become the Director of the International Development Division at GSPIA. Dean John Keeler appointed me as the Director of the Ford Institute and I was happy to take up the reins for the second time, having served a previous stint after the Institute’s founding director, Dr. Simon Reich, left Pittsburgh. I am grateful to Lou for developing an active and multi-faceted agenda at the Institute that offers our students opportunities to engage in human security work from Pittsburgh to Uganda and places in between. A second significant change during the past year was the relocation of the Governance Group, funded by USAID to conduct research on participatory governance practices and institution building in Africa. The Ford Institute served as an incubator for the Governance Group, which is now supported in part by the University Center for International Studies.

Our priority during 2015-2016 was to build up the research component of the Ford Institute, and that will continue to be our focus in the years ahead. We initiated two new programs to encourage and support human security research: a prize for the best human security paper by a student, to be awarded each year at the GSPIA graduation ceremony, and a small grant competition to support junior and non-tenure track faculty who are doing human security related research. We also succeeded in boosting the level of engagement and productivity of the Institute’s working groups. Five groups, comprised of over 60 students and faculty advisors, delivered analytical reports to a UN agency and non-governmental development organizations, presented conference papers, and submitted article manuscripts for publication. Each of these efforts is described in more detail in the following pages.

Our human security research continued during the summer of 2016. The Ford Institute and the Ridgeway Center, in collaboration with the University’s Urban Studies Program, are planning a pair of international faculty research workshops on human security and violence in 21st century cities with funding from a Global Academic Partnership grant.

The Ford Institute speaker series brought 11 speakers to campus last year and we expect to bring a wide range of people and ideas to Pittsburgh annually. I look forward to working with students and faculty to build on these accomplishments in the year to come.

Taylor B. Seybolt
Director, Ford Institute for Human Security

From the Director

ON THE COVER: Twelve students represented the Gender Equality working group at the United Nations on May 3, 2016. From row L-R: Kathleen Euler, Brittany Duncan, Jiayi Stephen, Hilary Heath, Chelsea Pavlians, Diane Roth Cohen (Ford Institute Assistant Director), Prof. Melanie Hughes, Prof. Muge Finkel, Jaime Mikusah, Candi Willis, Shirani Rampersad, and Victoria Spira. Back row L-R: J. Clay Rogers, Dongfe Li and Neal Walker.

The 2015-2016 academic year was a time of change at the Ford Institute for Human Security. Dr. Lou Picard stepped down from the directorship, after four years at the helm, to become the Director of the International Development Division at GSPIA. Dean John Keeler appointed me as the Director of the Ford Institute and I was happy to take up the reins for the second time, having served a previous stint after the Institute’s founding director, Dr. Simon Reich, left Pittsburgh. I am grateful to Lou for developing an active and multi-faceted agenda at the Institute that offers our students opportunities to engage in human security work from Pittsburgh to Uganda and places in between. A second significant change during the past year was the relocation of the Governance Group, funded by USAID to conduct research on participatory governance practices and institution building in Africa. The Ford Institute served as an incubator for the Governance Group, which is now supported in part by the University Center for International Studies.

Our priority during 2015-2016 was to build up the research component of the Ford Institute, and that will continue to be our focus in the years ahead. We initiated two new programs to encourage and support human security research: a prize for the best human security paper by a student, to be awarded each year at the GSPIA graduation ceremony, and a small grant competition to support junior and non-tenure track faculty who are doing human security related research. We also succeeded in boosting the level of engagement and productivity of the Institute’s working groups. Five groups, comprised of over 60 students and faculty advisors, delivered analytical reports to a UN agency and non-governmental development organizations, presented conference papers, and submitted article manuscripts for publication. Each of these efforts is described in more detail in the following pages.

Our human security research continued during the summer of 2016. The Ford Institute and the Ridgeway Center, in collaboration with the University’s Urban Studies Program, are planning a pair of international faculty research workshops on human security and violence in 21st century cities with funding from a Global Academic Partnership grant.

The Ford Institute speaker series brought 11 speakers to campus last year and we expect to bring a wide range of people and ideas to Pittsburgh annually. I look forward to working with students and faculty to build on these accomplishments in the year to come.

Taylor B. Seybolt
Director, Ford Institute for Human Security

FROM THE COVER: Twelve students represented the Gender Equality working group at the United Nations on May 3, 2016. From row L-R: Kathleen Euler, Brittany Duncan, Jiayi Stephen, Hilary Heath, Chelsea Pavlians, Diane Roth Cohen (Ford Institute Assistant Director), Prof. Melanie Hughes, Prof. Muge Finkel, Jaime Mikusah, Candi Willis, Shirani Rampersad, and Victoria Spira. Back row L-R: J. Clay Rogers, Dongfe Li and Neal Walker.
Ford Institute People

The Ford Institute for Human Security is fortunate to be able to draw on the talents of faculty and student affiliates who contribute valuable ideas and energy to the Institute.

Ford Institute Staff

- Dr. Taylor B. Seybolt, Director
- Dr. Chris A. Belasco, Research and Analysis Coordinator
- Diane Roth Cohen, Assistant Director

Research Associates

- Jennifer M. Bert
- Cynthia Caul
- Caitlin Corrigan
- Kathleen Euler
- Uniri Edabo
- Camila Polinori
- Briana Walker

GSPIA Faculty

- Lisa S. Alfredson, Assistant Professor
- Luke Condra, Assistant Professor
- Nige Kokken Finkel, Assistant Professor
- Shami Gamper-Rabindran, Associate Professor
- Marcela Gonzalez Rivas, Assistant Professor
- Ilia Murtazashvili, Assistant Professor
- Jennifer Murtazashvili, Assistant Professor
- Lisa Nelson, Associate Professor
- Paul J. Nelson, Associate Professor
- and Associate Dean

Associated Faculty

- Louis A. Picard, Professor and Division Director for International Development
- Taylor B. Seybolt, Associate Professor

Advisory Group

- Dr. Jay Aronson, Associate Professor, Political Science, University of Pittsburgh
- Melanie H. Hughes, Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Pittsburgh
- Barry M. Mitnick, Professor of Business Administration and Professor of Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh
- Nageeb Shaikh, Associate Professor, School of Education, University of Pittsburgh

Affiliated Students

During the academic year, 59 students were associated with the Institute doing in-depth analysis of cutting-edge issues, authoring news stories about our programs, and working on administrative support for the Institute. The names of our students appear on page 12.

Advisory Group

The Advisory Group helps establish the priorities and guide the activities of the Ford Institute. Serving on the Advisory Group during 2015-16 are:

- Jay Aronson, Associate Professor, History Department, Carnegie Mellon University
- Nicholas Chakes, Executive Director, FOCUS North America
- Dawn Close, Founder and Executive Director, Economic Empowerment Advisor (FREE)
- Kathryn Collins, President, Anzar Exchange
- Dr. Joshua Forrest, Associate Professor and Department Chair, History Department, La Roche College
- Daniel Giovanelli, Executive Director, Global Solutions Pittsburgh
- Charles Gochman, Associate Professor, Political Science Department, University of Pittsburgh
- Terry Jeggal, Consultant in humanitarian aid and development
- Dr. Paul Nelson, Associate Professor and Associate Dean, GSPIA, University of Pittsburgh
- Jennifer Novelli, Executive Director, Building New Hope
- Dr. Louis Picard, Professor and Division Director for International Development, GSPIA, University of Pittsburgh
- Greg Smith, Board Member, FREE
- Dr. Martin Staniland, Professor, GSPIA, University of Pittsburgh

Research

Research

The Ford Institute supports human security research by faculty and students through programs designed for each cohort separately and for collaborative work. In 2015-2016, we introduced two new initiatives: the Simon Reich Prize competition for students and the Ford Institute Research Grant competition for faculty.

Simon Reich Prize for Student Research

The Simon Reich Human Security Writing Award is named in honor of the Institute’s founding director, who served from 2003-2008. It is designed to encourage GSPIA’s Master’s students to think in human security terms when they are given writing assignments in their classes. The Ford Institute accepts both student submissions and faculty nominations. This year’s winner was Tara Devezin (MID’16). Her paper focused on improving women’s health in East Africa. She proposed two interventions by an international NGO: the expanding cervical cancer screening services for women in Malawi, and increasing access to family planning through mobile phones in Uganda. She was subsequently hired by the NGO after graduating in April.

Research Grant for Faculty

The Ford Institute Faculty Research Grant competition is designed to support non-tenured faculty who are engaged in human security research and writing. The competition was restricted in its first year to GSPIA faculty, and was expanded to the broader university community in subsequent years. The 2015-2016 grant recipients are Dr. Lisa Alfredson and Dr. Sera Linardi.

Ford Institute Research and Programs in 2015-16

Ford Institute programs are designed to provide educational resources, build interest, and promote research for a broad audience of students, practitioners, and intellectuals. Our programming is structured around three priorities that reflect the distinctive interdisciplinary nature of the field of human security, namely, freedom from fear, freedom from want and adherence to human rights and the rule of law. We continued our record of bringing a wide range of people, resources, and ideas to GSPIA and the broader Pittsburgh community, while expanding the opportunities for GSPIA students to be directly involved in building the field.
Student-Faculty Working Groups

During the 2015-16 academic year, five faculty led working groups provided students with valuable research and learning experiences. Many of the groups structured their work around clear deliverables, and some developed partnerships with NGOs. Faculty members were able to advance their own research agenda, as well, through their group work. This year’s working groups addressed a variety of topics and brought in students from diverse backgrounds. The working groups were comprised of students from all of the International Development disciplines along with five other GSPIA majors. Twelve of the 57 participants were doctoral students. The 2015-2016 working groups included Climate Change, Corporate Social Responsibility, Countering Violent Extremism, Food Security, and Gender Equality in Public Administration.

Climate Change: 9 student researchers

Climate change has led to increased competition over scarce resources and an increase in the frequency and severity of natural disasters. These environmental changes have caused displacement and migration in vulnerable communities. This working group, led by Dr. Taylor Seybolt and Ph.D. student Jennifer Bert, reviewed case studies examining the outcomes of migration due to climate change. The group produced a paper titled “Climate Change Social Stress and Migration: Implications for Conflict and Cooperation,” that Jennifer Bert presented at the Dupont Summit in Washington, DC. The paper was published by Westphalia Press in a volume of the conference proceedings. The Climate Change group continues to look at the interaction effects of climate change and social and political conflict.

Working Group Participants

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR): 3 student researchers

In developing countries, corporate social responsibility (CSR) efforts often resemble company attempts to fill in governance gaps in the communities where they are working. However, in the process of trying to solve one set of governance issues, new and often unintended problems emerge which companies and communities have to react to. With this in mind, the working group, headed by Dr. Barry Mitnick of the Katz School of Business and Caitlin Corrigan, GSPIA Ph.D. candidate, explored CSR efforts from the perspective of a “wicked-wicked problem” using case studies of companies in three different industries, working in three different developing countries. In May 2016, the group submitted an article manuscript to a business ethics journal for peer review.

Countering Violent Extremism in the Sahel: 8 student researchers

The U.S. Department of State, the Department of Defense, and the Agency for International Development have developed programming to counter support for violent extremism in Africa. Yet in the Sahel, a prominent USAID countering violent extremism (CVE) program has shown that many activities are not targeted effectively, and poor implementation has affected the ability of the program to fight the influence of Boko Haram and Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb among citizens. The group led by Dr. Chris Belasco aimed to learn how donors like USAID define their goals and how they recognize the conditions that lead to success or failure in CVE interventions. Students compiled a database of CVE programs in Africa to more fully understand the goals of these interventions in the Sahel region.

Working Group Participants

Food Security: 12 student researchers

Briana Walker, MID’16, Human Security

Working Groups: Countering Violent Extremism and Food Security

“Doing this kind of research is particularly useful for me because I am interested in food security. Additionally, I’m interning with an organization that works with Berber communities in central Morocco and the High Atlas region, and they often engage with customary institutions. So, it’s practical in that sense. I am helping develop a manual that I could take lessons from, put into my internship, and use in my professional work.”
Gender Equality in Public Administration: 29 student researchers

This working group was led by Dr. Müge Finkel of GSPIA and Dr. Melanie Hughes of Sociology. The group coordinated with an NGO, The Global Initiative for Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (GI-ESCR), to produce a practical guide for development practitioners on this topic. GI-ESCR plans to publish and use the practitioners’ guide in its ongoing discussions with development agencies about the value of human rights approaches for international development work.

Food Security: 12 student researchers

This working group was a multidisciplinary group led by Dr. Paul Nelson. The group considered the limitations on women’s rights to own, control, inherit, buy and sell land and how they restrict women’s economic opportunities in many societies. The group coordinated with an NGO, The Global Initiative for Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (GI-ESCR), to produce a practical guide for development practitioners on this topic. GI-ESCR plans to publish and use the practitioners’ guide in its ongoing discussions with development agencies about the value of human rights approaches for international development work.

Working Group Participants by Degree

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of International Develop</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Public Administration</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Public &amp; Int’l Affairs</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctorate</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


“My time with [Gender Equality in Public Administration] GEPA was a defining period of my GSPIA experience. As a graduate researcher, I was able to review the application of gender empowering laws and policies that I had studied in my GSPIA course load. Furthermore, the experience sets me apart from other candidates on resumes and interviews, with many employers curious to hear more about my time with the project. The opportunity to travel to the UN headquarters in New York with the GEPA team and present our findings to UN officials will always be remembered as one of my proudest professional moments.”
The Ford Institute Speaker Series remains a signature promotional component for the Institute, advancing the Institute’s objectives through engaging presentations and lectures from a variety of different speakers. The Speaker Series attracts a diverse audience. While it is most popular with GSPIA students, the Series draws a considerable presence from students in other areas of the university, faculty members, and the public. The 11 speakers, their topics, and attendance numbers are in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/7/2015</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>“Children, Human Security, and Sustainability - A View from Uganda” Victoria Nakongo Namusisi, Founder &amp; Director of Bright Kids Uganda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/7/2015</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>“Council on Foreign Relations Academic Conference Call Series: Improving Humanitarian Aid” with GSPIA roundtable discussion David Milbrand, President and CEO, International Rescue Committee Andy Pugh, Interim Director, Center for Disaster Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/21/2015</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>“Women’s Leadership Roles in Afghanistan” Kangs Nijat, Governance, Gender &amp; Leadership Policy Analyst and Founding Partner, Duran Research &amp; Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/19/15</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>“Humanitarian aid for Syrian refugees by the International Rescue Committee (IRC)” Bob Kitchen, Humanitarian Director, International Rescue Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/9/15</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>“Careers in International Development” Pelle Lutken, Policy Specialist, UNDP Ciara Lee, International Consultant, UNDP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2/18/16    | 28         | “The Preventive Imperative: How America Can Avoid War, Stay Strong, and Keep the Peace in the 21st Century” Paul Stares, General John W. Vessey Senior Fellow for Conflict Prevention & Director of the Center for Preven-
tive Action at the Council on Foreign Relations |
| 3/2/16     | 28         | “Integrating User Generated Content in Human Rights Investigations” Jay Aronson, Founder and Director of the Center for Human Rights Science at Carnegie Mellon University |
Faculty Publications

The Ford Institute is dedicated to continuing research efforts on a range of human security topics. During the 2015-2016 academic year, Ford Institute affiliated faculty published two books, 19 articles, eight book chapters, and one report.

Books


Articles


Book Chapters


Alderson, Paige
Alnıacık, Ayşe
An, Tim
Annis-Christy, Tahirih
Bert, Jennifer
Carbone, Erin
Caul, Cynthia
Corrigan, Caitlin
Cunningham, Raymond
Duncan, Brittany
Elboraei, Arwa
Euler, Kathleen
Fosnight, Mariah
Frances, Adame
Francis, Emily
Gemici, Ba¸kak
Gwash, Emily
Hackett, Joe
Heath, Hilary
Jakazi, Munya
Jones, Nancy
Kaplan, Claire
Karapandi, Erica
Keding, Luke
Kim, Sekwan
Krauser, Grace
Ku, Daniel
Langston, Nick
Li, Donghe
Lies, Michaela
Liu, Ying*
McShane, Gilliane
Mikush, Jaime
Moodle, Liz
Morgan, Brett
Nahapetyan, Hovannes
Nakiryowa, Hanifa
O’Daniel, Tyler
O’Malley, Teagen
Pallatino, Chelsea
Plummer, Samantha
Polinori, Camila
Rampersad, Shavani
Redman, Shane
Rogers, J. Clay*
Scruton, Brett
Sives, Kate
Spera, Victoria*
Stephens, AJ
Vargas, Alexis
Walker, Briana*
Walker, Neil
Wallis, Emma
Wills, Candı
Xu, Lailuyun Tracy
Yang, Jia
Yoon, Katherine
*participated in more than one group