Global Learning Awards: 2010-2011

Dr. Tavishi Bhasin – Project Title: Democracy and Dissent: An Institutional Explanation of Political Protest and State Response

Abstract:
I request funding to support my book project that studies the strategic interaction between governments and domestic protest groups in democracies. The choice of violent protest by protest groups and that of repression by state actors while unseemly in democracies remains a viable option in many countries. I argue that institutional incentives for groups to form political parties and participate through institutional means influence the choice of strategy by protest groups. Groups that have access to representation and influence on policy making are less likely to jeopardize their influence through the use of violence.

To test these propositions, I use three cases of political protest movements from India, Uttarakhand, Telangana and Bodoland, all centered on demands for greater autonomy. There have been several key developments, in Telangana, since my fieldwork in 2005-2006. In December 2009, the national government announced that they would grant Telangana statehood within India’s federal system which led to violent clashes between the Andhra (the larger state from which Telangana would be carved) and the Telangana people for several months and en masse resignations by state legislators in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly. I propose two trips for follow-up interviews, one with political party leaders representing Telangana movement and the Congress-led regional government representing the Andhra people in December 2010. In May 2011, I plan to undertake the second trip to New Delhi during the May session of the national parliament in India for interviews with the ruling Congress coalition and its partners.
Abstract

The proposed project examines the role of the European Commission in administering European Union state aid law and policy during times of economic crisis. The analytical point of departure for the study is the proposition that commonly-cited measures of state aid, such as gross financial outlays, under-specify the dimensionality of the dependent variable and in so doing lead analysts to underestimate both the scale and scope of Commission influence. The working hypothesis of this project is that one is much more likely to see evidence of Commission influence in the composition of aid programs rather than in aggregate aid levels. Anecdotal evidence suggests that, indeed, there the Commission ability to influence state behavior differs depending on the type of aid and the conditions under which they are granted. The core analytical task of this project is to determine whether such differences are systematic and, if so, what contextual factors condition the level of Commission influence. To do so, I aim to identify the policy mechanisms through which Commission authorities have acted to (re)shape the behavior of member governments during past crises, chronicle the lessons learned from those efforts, and examine whether/how Commission authorities have applied those lessons to the current economic downturn.

Abstract

Since 2005, when a number of Palestinian civil society organizations issued a call for boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) aimed at ending Israeli occupation and oppression, the
movement has drawn severe criticism as well as significant support from civil society organizations around the world. This project examines the two sets of narratives surrounding the movement, and explores how activists and opponents frame the goals, objectives, strategies and tactics of the movement. The study will also explore how various parts of the BDS movement intersect with each other and the extent to which it is a coordinated movement vs. a series of independent parts, and will assess the extent to which it has had an impact on influencing Israeli policy.

Dr. Linda M. Johnston – Project Title: Exploring Internships the Field of Conflict Management

Abstract
In 2005, Dr. Craig Zelizer and I received funding from the Alliance for International Conflict Prevention and Resolution and worked in collaboration with the Alliance for Conflict Transformation to produce a report entitled Skills, Networks, and Knowledge: Developing a Career in International Peace and Conflict Resolution (hereinafter referred to as the ACT Report). In the second phase of this research, we interviewed international employers to get their feedback on how to best prepare graduate students for the work they would be doing upon graduation. This work included an overview of internship possibilities, publications, and networking skills. That research is now almost six years old, and in light of much advancement in the field of Conflict studies, it needs to be redone. The current proposed project would focus entirely on preparation and selection of international internships for two reasons: 1) with the advent of the new Ph.D. program in International Conflict Management at KSU, we will need current information on the availability and accessibility of quality internships for our students, and 2) while the prior research focused on internships’ ability to prepare students for future
employment, very little information was collected on preparing students to apply for and be granted in-depth and semester-long internships.

Dr. Terry G. Powis - Project Title:
The Investigation and Protection of Cave Sites in the Periphery of Pacbitun, Belize

Abstract:
I propose to conduct original archaeological field work at a number of cave sites in the periphery of the ancient Maya site of Pacbitun, located in Belize, Central America. In addition to fostering faculty research, my field work will contribute to the university’s “Global Learning for Engaged Citizenship” initiative by having two student researchers working with me on the project. This international research opportunity will contribute to our knowledge of ancient Maya ritual life. It will also provide for an intensive learning experience for several Kennesaw State University anthropology students. This project will serve as a pilot for what I hope will become a formal field school in archaeology in Belize in the future.


Abstract
In view of the increasing outsourcing of governmental functions to nonprofits, stable patterns of relationships have evolved across the government-nonprofit interface. While numerous studies have been conducted on the government-nonprofit relations in the developed world, very few have been done in the developing countries.

The purpose of this research proposal is to investigate the government-nonprofit relations within the context of the developing world, and to test whether the theories and models on
government-nonprofit relationships formulated in the developed world can be applied in developing countries. This research will be a pilot case study in the Republic of Mauritius.

Results of this research will strengthen theory-building within the field of government-nonprofit relations and will enlighten the knowledge-base pertaining to nonprofit operations in the developing world. Findings of this research will also be useful in informing a better understanding of global nonprofit governance and of the influence of different socio-economic and political cultures on the relations that exist between governments and nonprofits.

Drs. Vanessa Slinger-Friedman, Harold Trendell, Nancy Hoalst-Pullen  
Project Title: New Frontiers of Ethnic Economy Landscapes: Understanding the Motivations for Latinos and Latin Cuisine Restaurants Distribution in Cobb County, Georgia  

Abstract  
This proposal requests funds under the Global-Learning Award Competition to support research to explore and understand the spatial pattern of ethnic Latino restaurant entrepreneurship in Cobb County, GA. Studies regarding Latino immigration and ethnic economies in the U.S. have been limited; they have focused on the traditional Latino immigrant states with few studies highlighting the impact of dramatic Latino demographic changes in non-traditional areas in the Southern U.S., and they have also tended to focus on larger urban areas. However, metropolitan areas are not the only places experiencing dramatic transformations. Suburban and rural areas have also been impacted by the influx of immigrant populations, their businesses, and culture. In traditional enclaves Latinos have had the propensity to concentrate in metropolitan areas, however more contemporary studies suggest that Latino settlement patterns are evolving, and that this population is emerging in new areas outside of core metro areas. This study will specifically seek to identify the motivations and reasons of Latino restaurant entrepreneurs to open a business in Atlanta and within their specific business location, and to determine how local policies and the local political climate have shaped opportunities for ethnic entrepreneurship and are likely to affect future expansion.
Dr. Susan Smith – Project Title: Human Skeletal Analysis in a Field Schooling Setting: An Analysis of Human Skeletal from East Crete, Greece

Abstract
I propose to conduct original research on human skeletal collections from an Roman archaeological sites in Crete, Greece. In order to foster undergraduate research and support KSUs Global Initiative, I will have 2-4 student assistants working with me on the project. This international research opportunity will contribute to our knowledge of Roman life in a peripheral colony. It will also provide for an intensive learning experience for Kennesaw State University anthropology students. This project will be a continuation of a field school that I have been offering to anthropology students for three summers (2007, 2008 and 2010).

Dr. Ginny Q. Zhan – Project Title: A Survey of Chinese Parents: Parental Expectations and Parenting Styles.

Abstract:
This project examines Chinese parents’ parenting practices and styles. This award will allow me to travel to China to collect data. The findings from this study will be a cross-cultural addition to my previous research on Chinese-American immigrant parents’ child-rearing attitudes, expectations and parenting styles. From comparing the responses from these two samples, I will be able to examine similarities and differences between Chinese parents living in China and those living in the United States, thus investigating any possible acculturation effect that may have influenced the responses from the Chinese-American immigrant parents. A survey questionnaire will be administered to a sample that is comparable to the earlier sample of Chinese-American immigrant parents.