

Summer 2008: Educational Equity and Discrimination



Research interns conducted comprehensive literature reviews on their research topics and produced exemplary reviews on life outcomes of child workers, the successful interventions around the world to decrease harmful child labour, the impact of educational inequalities on health and life chances, and international treaties and conventions upholding equal rights. IHSP policy interns examined policies designed to reduce the worst forms of child labour around the world and helped build a

global policy database designed to improve global action on child labour.

Will Affleck is currently completing his MA in Biomedical Ethics at McGill University and works as a researcher for the pediatric palliative care unit of the Montreal Children's Hospital. His research interests include parental bereavement, qualitative research methodology, medical ethics, and vulnerable population health. Upon completion of his MA Will plans on pursuing a PhD in Transcultural Psychiatry at McGill.

Aditya Badami is an Honors student in Political Science with Minors in Economics and Philosophy. He is interested in the connection between political theory, moral philosophy, and economics on the one hand, and the situation of the developing world on the other. More specifically, his research interests include the moral and legal obligations (if any) the North has with regard to facilitating the development of the South, and the way in which state structures and global economic institutions affect that development process. His work experiences include an internship with The Belaku Trust in India, as well as editing student journals at McGill including End Poverty Now's *A Means to an End* as well as the *McGill Undergraduate Journal of Political Studies*. He has also been a summer camp counselor at the South Asian Women's Community Centre in Montreal and has done R.A. work on municipal solid waste management for Prof. Jeanne Wolfe at McGill. After his B.A. Aditya hopes to study law with the ultimate aim of playing a role in the formulation and subsequent implementation of development-related economic and social policy.

Tamera Burnett is currently entering her final year as an Honours student in Political Science with a minor in World Religions. Her specific concentrations are in Canadian politics as well as social justice issues concerning primarily gender and socio-economic equity and discrimination challenges. With this background, her goal is to study human rights law and to advocate for marginalized groups within Canada.

Joan Christiansen is an undergraduate student at McGill University enrolled in an International Development and Women's Studies honours program. She founded the student group, Women

Without Borders, and is interested in bridging the gaps between academia and activism. Her research focuses on discrimination issues nationally and internationally and the links between them. Along with a team, her work at the Institute surrounds child labour policies as a way of building a resource and informing policy strategies to promote positive global change.

Chris Connolly is currently completing his BSc with a double major in Microbiology & Immunology and International Development Studies at McGill University. He has been involved with various domestic and international NGOs, including capacity building and HIV/AIDS counseling projects in Gaborone, Botswana and wage policy research through the social planning council for the Saint John, New Brunswick region. He is interested in the social and political dimensions of infectious diseases, and hopes to pursue graduate studies or professional opportunities in epidemiology and/or public health.

Alexandra Lesnikowski is currently an Honours BA student in Political Science, focusing on developed areas. She is also minoring in Anthropology. Her interests include institutional convergence and immigration in the European Union, and the importance of education in improving health and economic options in the developing world. She hopes to pursue a degree in International Public Law following her graduation from McGill.

Elizabeth Punnett is from Victoria, BC, and at the University of Victoria she completed undergraduate degrees in French literature and political science with a minor in Hispanic studies. She is now beginning her second year of a Masters program in the politics of developing countries at McGill. Her Masters paper is on the politics around sex education programming in Latin America. Elizabeth's academic interests include health and education policy, indigenous politics, post-colonialism and gender studies. Non-academic interests include art, music and salsa dancing, especially rueda de casino. She is the proud mother of a 3 year old daughter, Amara.

Kezia Speirs is currently completing joint degrees in law and social work at McGill. She is interested in helping to improve labour conditions for women and their children.

Elizabeth Sully is graduating this summer with a Joint Honours in International Development Studies and Political Science from McGill University. Her interest in health policy stems from her long-standing involvement in social justice and human rights issues, with a particular focus on HIV/AIDS. She has worked within Canada conducting a needs assessment on anti-discrimination and human rights within Vancouver day camps, and internationally in Kenya and Uganda doing research and working with grass-roots NGOs on HIV/AIDS. At McGill, Elizabeth is the out-going Director of the McGill Global AIDS Coalition, an organization she has worked for 3 years on HIV/AIDS education and political advocacy campaigns. Her research interests include HIV/AIDS, access to essential medicines, gender-based violence, trafficking, and sexual and reproductive health rights. Elizabeth plans to pursue a Master's in Public Health, focusing on sexual and reproductive health.