

Summer 2009: Global Equity for Children, Environmental Health and Poverty Reduction Policies



Internship projects over the summer of 2009 covered a range of research topics linked to the IHSP's central focus on social determinants of health. Seven research interns conducted expansive literature reviews, with five students focusing on children's chances (touching on health, education, discrimination, and social class) and two students examining issues related to the economic impact and feasibility of programs and policies designed to promote environmental health. Six policy interns were involved in a group project that consisted of researching, designing and constructing a comprehensive global database on poverty reduction policies for 192 countries around the world. Their twelve week internship was divided into two parts. In the first stage, a team of two interns were assigned to each of the three topics of poverty reduction policies: family, elderly or disability. Modeling on the work already completed by Institute staff on minimum wage and unemployment policies, the interns were responsible for: identifying sources and indicators, developing a coding manual and designing a database structure for policies they were researching. In the second stage of the internship the students began to code all five categories of poverty reduction policies for 192 countries around the world.

Samantha Berger has recently completed her BA with a double major in Sociology and Anthropology. She is interested in the interaction between macro and micro social structures and

the process of identity formation. She hopes to continue her studies in social research or public policy.

Erica Campbell is currently completing an MA degree in Curriculum Studies within the Department of Integrated Studies in Education (DISE) at McGill. She recently completed her double honours BA in April 2008 in Psychology and Sociology at Wilfrid Laurier University. Some of her general interests include civic participation, using media/technology to empower and create change, environmental justice, food localism, issues in education and gender studies. In her spare time, Erica enjoys practicing guitar, exploring Montreal and learning French.

Renée Carter has completed her BSW at McGill's School of Social Work and will begin her Master's degree in social policy at the London School of Economics in the fall. She has worked with the homeless and spent the last two years working in local community organizations with refugee claimants in Montreal. Last summer, Renée was an intern at the International Center for Migration, Health and Development in Geneva, where she researched access to medical care for internally displaced women in post-conflict settings. Her experiences have contributed to her interest in globalization's impacts on states' health and social policies. After her Master's degree, she intends to continue her studies at the doctoral level in public health.

Lucile Danglas is graduating this May with a BA in Political Science and International Development Studies. Among her areas of interest are the social and political dimensions of development issues, including health, education and environmental concerns. As an intern at the Ministry of Justice in France in the Department of Public Health, Labour Law and Environment, she has had experience with policy making and is extremely excited to have the opportunity to be working alongside leading policy makers in the field at the IHSP. She is passionate about travelling, learning new cultures and languages, experiencing wildlife and playing tennis. In the future, she hopes to pursue her study and career in the field of policymaking and development.

Jessica Drohan will be entering her second year at McGill's Faculty of Law in September. She previously earned a BA with Honours in Sociology and a Major in Human Rights from St. Thomas University as well as an MA in the Theory and Practice of Human Rights from the University of Essex. Jessica has a strong interest in economic and social issues, such as education and the underlying determinants of health, and their intersection with one another. Her postgraduate dissertation examined industrial pollution from a human rights-based approach. In 2006-2007, Jessica worked at UNESCO's Paris Headquarters as a member of their Human Rights Education team. As a McGill student, Jessica has also been involved with the McGill Journal of Law & Health. She looks forward to working with IHSP this summer.

May Ling Joa Ricart is completing her MA in Educational Leadership. She is interested in advocating for vulnerable communities, especially young children. She hopes to continue her career in the area of educational development.

Molly Krishtalka is entering her fourth year of her Bachelor of Arts degree at McGill, with an honours major in International Development Studies and a minor in Hispanic Languages. Her main academic interests include ethnic politics and conflict, peacebuilding, and the underground and criminal economies. She is conversationally fluent in English, French, and Spanish, is learning Russian, and plans to learn Portuguese and Arabic after graduation. Next year she hopes to write

an honours thesis on the role of international arms embargoes in peacebuilding. Following graduation from McGill, she plans to pursue a degree in international law.

Nicoletta Lakatos recently completed her Bachelor of Arts with an Honours degree in International Development and a Women's Studies minor. In addition to logging hours at the library she is an active member of the McGill Global AIDS Coalition, where she helps organize HIV/AIDS advocacy related events for McGill as well as the greater Montreal community. Nicoletta's interests in women's and gender issues led her to her first official encounter with policymaking at the National Association of Women and the Law; an experience which has inspired her to pursue a legal degree. In her spare time she enjoys being active and has been a part of both the McGill Varsity swim team and the McGill Triathlon Club.

Stephanie Law is currently completing her Master's of Science in Epidemiology. She completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Toronto and did her fourth year thesis project on Health and Human Rights to develop a decision aid for people living with HIV/AIDS. She is interested in using epidemiological tools and methods to frame global health issues and to bridge political economy and public health studies together. After completing her MSc, she hopes to continue towards a PhD in Health Policy and Economics.

Andrew Ling is working toward a Bachelor of Arts and Science degree in cognitive science and political science. He is especially interested in the psychology of expertise and motivation, and passionate about promoting civic engagement. In 2005, he founded a program across 22 public high schools to promote and raise funds for the United Way. Andrew has also been involved extensively in improving the education system for the past five years. Presently, he is working as a McGill Senator to increase interaction between professors and students through a professor-student mentorship program.

Sophie MacIntyre is completing a Bachelor of Arts and Science in Economics and Biology. She is interested in the influence of economic incentives on household choices. She hopes to continue her studies in economics or public health.

Adele Meyer recently completed her BA at McGill with a major in Sociology and a minor in Social Studies of Medicine. She is interested in public health, specifically community-level health efforts, health education, and healthy public policies that aim to decrease disparities. She has previous experience interning at Planned Parenthood/Chicago Area, volunteering as a high school health educator with Peer Health Exchange in Boston, and currently volunteers as a sex ed animator with The Sense Project, which is run through Head & Hands, an organization in NDG. She hopes to eventually pursue a Masters of Public Health, and possibly a nursing degree.

Morgan Teeple Hopkins is a fourth year student at McGill with a double major in English Literature and Philosophy. Her main area of study is contemporary political philosophy and philosophy of law. In particular, her work on feminist legal theory and its application to case studies in the Canadian context has shaped her interest in law reform and public policy. After completing her BA at McGill, Morgan intends to pursue law school or an MA in urban planning, both of which she believes will provide opportunities to work on the intersection of environmental issues and public policy.