

Summer 2011: Children's Chances, Environmental Equity, HIV/AIDS and Disability



Jake Bleiberg is enrolled at McGill University in a Bachelor of Arts program with a Joint Honours degree in Political Science and History. His academic interest is the intersection of domestic politics and international conflict and how social policy contributes to conflict resolution. Jake is specifically focused on Middle Eastern politics and history with an emphasis on the Arab Israeli Conflict. He is excited about the opportunities to expand his research proficiency and understanding of comparative policy analysis by working with the IHSP. Jake's future academic goal is graduate studies in Political Science, with the professional goal of becoming a professor. In addition to his academic pursuits, Jake was certified as an Emergency Medical Technician in the United States and spent two years as a volunteer on a community ambulance squad.

Ka Yan Hui is completing her final year at McGill University with a BA in Sociology and a Minor in Advanced East Asian Languages. In academics, she is most interested in political sociology and social stratification, with a focus on the institutionalization of gender inequities in both advanced and developing nations. In the past, she had the opportunity to explore the subject of young women's rights in Canada while volunteering at Justice for Girls International, and has been an

active volunteer for the Sexual Assault Centre at McGill Student's Society. Being passionate about journalism, she also contributes to the McGill Daily and the McGill Tribune as a news and culture writer. In October, she intends to pursue a Master's degree in Management and Human Resources at the London School of Economics.

Rachel La Selva is currently pursuing a BSc in Anatomy and Cell Biology with a minor concentration in International Development Studies. Her interest in health and social policy began with her involvement in Universities Allied for Essential Medicines. UAEM is a student group that focuses on the role of universities in issues surrounding the Access to Medicines Gap and the impact of Research and Development, Intellectual Property Law and International Trade Agreements. Her involvement in the McGill Global Health Network has acquainted her with the dynamic nature of health initiatives at the university level, which is representative of the importance of coordination through comprehensive policy on a national and international level. Her future plans are to obtain an MPH and to attend Medical School.

Henna Shaikh is currently completing her B.Sc. with an honours major in Biochemistry and minors in Political Science and Hispanic Literature. She is interested in examining how social and environmental factors interact with molecular determinants of health to shape well-being. She has worked with the Department of Epidemiology at McGill and has also worked with a non-profit organization in Peru, providing assistance in a rural clinic. She is particularly interested in improving maternal health in developing countries and hopes to eventually integrate her knowledge of health at the molecular level with an understanding of social, environmental, and cultural contexts to improve health care policy.

Phoebe Spencer completed her undergraduate studies at McGill this spring with Joint Honours in Anthropology and Geography and a minor in Hispanic Languages. Her Honours thesis used spatial and statistical analysis to identify a threshold of built density that caused urban fire spread in historic Montreal. Her interests include geographic information systems (GIS), archaeology, and global public health initiatives. In the fall, she will begin a Master of Science program in Community Development and Applied Economics at the University of Vermont, where she plans to work with healthcare and transportation policy in marginalized communities.

Vicky Tobianah has recently completed a Bachelor of Arts at McGill University in Honours Political Science and a minor in English Literature. Her passions are journalism and political activism and she's happiest when these interests meet. She was a columnist for the McGill Tribune, a regular news reporter for the McGill Daily, and a freelance journalist for various Canadian publications. Her academic and journalistic interests include human rights advocacy, international relations and the social determinants of health. She is interested in discovering new ways of bridging the gap between the media, policy-makers and research analysts in Canadian health care decision-making processes. She is very excited to begin an internship with the IHSP this summer.