

## Winter 2009: Civic Participation and Equity



Over the winter and spring of 2008-2009, one group of research interns conducted comprehensive reviews of the literature on topics related to civic participation and equity, including social class, gender, health, economic development, effective policies and programs that increase civic participation and equity, and developing a defined theoretical understanding of civic participation. A second team of interns worked together to help create a global database to identify contextual factors affecting world constitutions. Modern and historical data were gathered on 192 countries and entered into a single database on constitutional contexts, which will be invaluable in providing background information for our policy research teams.

**Samantha Berger** is currently completing her BA with a double major in Sociology and Anthropology. She is interested in the process of identity formation and political sociology. She hopes to continue her studies in social research or public policy.

**Patrick Beukema** is completing his final year of a Bachelor of Arts & Science degree in Philosophy and Mathematics at McGill University. He is especially interested in the intersection of logic, ethics, and social responsibility. Exposure to clinical practice in Haiti, New Zealand, and the United States has left him with a desire to study how poverty limits access to treatment. After studying this effect at the Mailman School of Public Health next fall, he intends to enroll in medical school. His ultimate goal is to work towards realizing a Public Healthcare system in the United States.

**Gabrielle Constantin** will graduate this summer with a BSc in Nursing and a minor in Psychology. Currently, she is completing a practicum in a local community health centre where she does health promotion, education, and other nursing work with young families. Her interests include policy's impact on the health of disadvantaged communities around the world, as well as the influence of community action on social determinants of health. This spring, she hopes to travel to Northern Quebec as a nursing intern to work with the Cree or Inuit communities. She intends to work as a public health nurse and to pursue graduate studies in the public health field.

**Laurence Deschamps-Léger** is completing her third and final year in International Development Studies with a minor in Hispanic Languages. Her fields of interest include the culture, politics, and civil society of Latin America and more specifically, the advancement of indigenous peoples' rights. Last summer, she interned with Equitas in Montreal, an NGO dedicated to the protection and promotion of human rights through education, in Canada and around the world. Following her internship at the Institute, she hopes to pursue her study and career in the field of International Development.

**Yalin Lin** is a first year medical school student at McGill. She completed her bachelor of science in Honours Physiology with a minor in Economics at the University of British Columbia. Her interests include endocrinology, cardiology as well as the role of public health and access to medicine in economic development. In the future, she hopes to pursue clinical practice along with advocacy for vulnerable populations.

**Sarah Pinnington** recently completed an Honours degree in Political Science with a minor in English literature. She is interested in civic participation, social capital, media (especially new media) and politics, and women's and gender studies. She was one of the coordinators of the Women in House program in November 2007, and has been involved with a variety of on-campus groups, including Oxfam, the Rez Project, and Jr. Peacemakers. After taking part in the IHSP internship, she hopes to continue her studies with a Masters in Political Science. Eventually, she would like to teach civics, history, and literature at the high school level.

This year, **Lindsay Renaud** will complete her Honours degree in Political Science with focuses on political economy and Canadian politics. She will also have Minors in Economics and German. Her primary fields of interest include international trade policy, economic globalization and new forms of civic participation and she is very interested in the policy making process in general. As the Director of the Centre for Foreign Affairs at Pearson House, a student run Canadian public policy group at McGill, she has already had some 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. When she isn't spending long hours in the library, her favourite pastimes include travelling, eating sushi and playing tennis. Next year, she hopes to pursue a MA in public and international policy.

**Scott Scambler** is currently a second year student at McGill's Faculty of Law. He is currently a co-coordinator of the HIV/AIDS Public Health portfolio of the Human Rights Working Group as well as a member on the McGill subcommittee on Queer Equity. He is interested in issues of Health law and policy, particularly the influence of public decision making on private decision making.

He is originally from the University of Alberta in Edmonton and looks forward to completing his degree sometime in 2011.

**Rebecca Shadwick** is finishing her Joint-Honours in Poli Sci and IDS, with a minor in African Studies. Her interest lies at the intersection of health, gender, and development, and the way these interact in the developing world. She is also interested in the plight of refugees and displaced persons, and the ways that inequalities and economic growth interact with conflict. She hopes to return to East Africa, where she recently did a field study semester, for some work experience after graduation. She will then return to school, either to pursue a Masters in Public Health or in politics/development.

**Lindsay Wright** is currently in her third year of her Bachelor of Arts degree at McGill, with a double major in Industrial Relations and International Development Studies. She is interested in comparative international human resources and employment law as well as the promotion of equality for disadvantaged groups in the workplace. After completing her BA, she is interested in pursuing a Masters degree in International HR in the UK.