

## Winter 2010: Urban Environmental Health and Equity



During the 2009 – 2010 academic school year, a group of research interns conducted comprehensive reviews of the literature on topics related to children's chances, including early marriage, parental leave, breastfeeding breaks at work, leave to care for children's health needs, and cost-benefit analyses of early childhood education. A second team of interns worked together to help create a global database to evaluate countries and cities according to environmental indicators. Outreach interns helped staff identify local, regional and national organizations doing important work on health and social policy, and plan our 2010 conference on "Making Equal Rights Real." One research intern assisted with the input and analysis of legislation and policy in the Child Labour and Education databases. Another reviewed existing statistical literature predicting probabilities of child labour force participation, the expected level of educational attainment, and rates of school attendance. A website development intern created the code for an easy-to-use, customizable framework as a backbone for the 'Adult Labor' and other upcoming WoRLD databases. Finally, a translation intern helped the IHSP reach out to French-speaking audiences by translating its official documents from English to French

**Morgon Banks** is double-majoring in Microbiology and Immunology and International Development Studies. She is an active member of McGill Global AIDS Coalition, where she serves as the coordinator for World AIDS Week, a series of events designed to educate the community about issues relating to HIV, global health, and human rights. Morgon became interested in health and social policy while interning at Prevention and Access to Care and Treatment (PACT), a non-profit that helps disenfranchised HIV-positive and high-risk individuals

in inner-city Boston attain better health and quality of life. In the future, Morgon hopes to go on to a MD/MPH program to develop practices and policies that improve health outcomes and general living conditions for under-served populations both locally and globally.

**Hope Bigda-Peyton** is currently completing her BA with an honours major in International Development and a minor in English Literature. Her areas of interest include the impacts of education and sustainable agriculture on rural development, with a focus on Latin America. Last summer, she worked as a supervisor of a community nutrition project in Oaxaca, Mexico, with the aim of promoting amaranth consumption to combat child malnutrition. This work sparked her interest in cultural and environmental determinants of health. She aims to tie together her interests through pursuing an education in public policy, with the ultimate goal of getting back to Mexico to enjoy the sun.

**Talia Bronstein** is working towards a Bachelors degree in Honors Anthropology with a minor in Environmental Studies. She is focusing her degree on Medical Anthropology in particular. Her areas of interest include the intricate interactions between the evolving environment, adaptive cultural traits and health outcomes. Next year, Talia will be completing her undergraduate thesis and hopes to go on in the field of Medical Anthropology in the future.

**Catarina Heeckt** is currently completing her Bachelor of Arts degree at McGill, with a joint honours in Political Science and International Development Studies and a minor in Hispanic Languages. Her academic interests include developmental implications of protracted conflicts, environmental security and cooperation, and the impact of environmental degradation on the health of indigenous communities. Through her work with the eco-social youth think-tank Common Future she has already gained some valuable experience with policymaking and hopes to build on this knowledge through her work at the IHSP. Currently she is writing her honours thesis on policy approaches to tropical rainforest degradation and hopes to pursue a Masters in Public Policy and Environment at LSE in the fall.

**Michael Kirk** is currently finishing his bachelor of Software Engineering degree at McGill. He has spent three summers as an intern at the Public Health Agency of Canada developing applications for use across Canada. He is interested in developing light weight web applications to manage databases for research groups performing similar research around the globe. He will be working with the IHSP to assist in the development of the WoRLD online database application.

**Stas Moroz** is currently in the third year of his B.A. at McGill, pursuing a Joint Honours degree in Political Science and Economics. He is interested in comparative politics and different models of health and education provisions across states. His other academic interests include applications of economic theory to conflict resolution, as well as the dynamics of far-right political movements, which he studied while working for Political Research Associates in Somerville, MA this past summer. He is also currently volunteering with the Outreach branch of the Sexual Assault Center of the McGill Student Society.

**Katie O'Sullivan** is in the third year of her B.A honours degree in Geography (Urban Systems) with a minor in International Development Studies. She is most interested in strengthening local food systems to sustain urban ecology and public health. She has worked as a research assistant in

several ecology labs at McGill, and interned at a transportation planning organization in Vermont. She is currently coordinator of Rabbit Hole Cafe at the Yellow Door, an initiative addressing food security and student poverty in Montreal. As an urban planner, she'd like to spend her days fighting sprawl and lobbying for integrated urban agriculture programs across North America.

**Robert Pastore** is currently completing a BA degree in Political Science with a double minor in French Language and East Asian Language and Literature. This past summer he worked as a research intern at the Centre for Democratic Development, a think-tank in Accra, Ghana. He speaks five languages conversationally, and is interested in development in the Global South, linguistics, and minority political rights. He hopes one day to pursue a career in diplomacy.

**Joël Thibeault** recently started the last semester of his Bachelor of Arts, pursuing a Joint Honours degree in French language and literature as well as in Italian studies. His interests range from the translation of English, French and Italian sociolects to scientific translation. His other academic interests include contemporary Italian literature and Italian dialectology. He also just finished his Bachelor's thesis and was the first student at McGill to suggest an Italian-French translation. In his work, called *Gli arancini francofoni: un approccio traduttologico decentrato al testo camilleriano*, he proposed a translation of a short story by Andrea Camilleri, a Sicilian writer famous for the use of dialect in his literature; to properly translate this diatopic variation, he utilized the French language as it is used in the province of Québec.

**Tyler Wilson** is in completing his second year of a Bachelor of Science with a Major in Environment and a concentration in The Ecological Determinants of Health. He is particularly interested in combining bio-medical concepts of health with holistic, sociological perspectives. Upon completing his degree, he hopes to pursue graduate studies in medicine and public health policy.

**Lindsay Wright** is currently in the fourth and final year of her BA, with a double major in Industrial Relations and International Development Studies. She will be attending law school in BC this coming fall, and her interests include international law, employment law, responsible development, the promotion of equality for disadvantaged groups in the workplace, and international comparative research. In her spare time, she enjoys travelling, drawing, and spending time on the Sunshine Coast in BC.

**Andy Yu** is pursuing a bachelor of arts at McGill with an honors major in philosophy and minors in mathematics and economics. His interests range from logic and the philosophy of mathematics to behavioral economics, the economics of health and education, and law. He is currently editor-in-chief of *Pensées*, the Canadian undergraduate journal of philosophy. Previously, Andy participated in the International Criminal Court at the Model United Nations as a defense lawyer. He has also worked with mentally challenged adults. As an intern for two law firms, he researched company, contract, and property law. He also has experience working for an advertising agency, in which he researched industries for clients including LVMH and PepsiCo. After graduation, Andy intends to pursue a master of science in logic as well as a law degree.