



VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1- FEBRUARY 2014

IN THIS ISSUE

.....

Message from the Director..... 1

Spotlight on Development Research - Oliver Coomes: Forest livelihoods & traditional peoples in the neotropics ..... 2

Spotlight on Development Research - Becky Lentz: Internet freedom and advocacy in the Global South ..... 3

Spotlight on Development Practice - Jim Cooney ..... 4

Notes from the Field - New brown-bag at ISID ..... 5

Professors of Practice ..... 5

Launch: Global Development Think Tank Watch ..... 6

CIDA Cooperation ..... 6

Executive Education Program..... 7

2013 Conference ..... 8

Upcoming March 2014 Conference ..... 8

News & Miscellanea ..... 9

.....

latitude.isid@mcgill.ca



It is with great pleasure that I present to you the second issue of *Latitude*. We have been very busy since the launch of this publication. Among other things, we have successfully completed 17 new policy briefs in 2013 funded generously by what was formerly the Canadian International Development Agency, as well as four policy briefs for Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. Our International Advisory Board continues to grow with the addition of Wanda Bedard, Chief Wilton Littlechild and Stephan Wallace. We are pleased to have appointed four new Professors of Practice: Jim Cooney, Michael Brown, Rachel Kiddell-Monroe, Joanne Liu and Riccardo Pelizzo.

As ISID continues to grow over time, personnel change is inevitable. In that regard, I would like to thank Prof. Franque Grimard, our first Associate Director, for all his work in helping to create and then develop ISID. I would also like to welcome Prof. Sonia Laszlo, our current Associate Director. Sonia has already launched several exciting new initiatives, and graciously took the lead in producing this issue of *Latitudes*.

*Latitudes* was created to highlight the rich and diverse nature of development activities at ISID. In addition to news about important achievements and events, each issue will profile the ongoing research of several of ISID’s members. In this way, ISID’s growing community of supporters will be aware of what we are up to, and our members will get the recognition they deserve. **E-mail** us your feedback including announcements and suggestions for future issues. E-mail us. You can also find more about ISID by going to our **website** and **Facebook Page**.

Philip Oxhorn

Professor of Political Science and Founding Director

## SPOTLIGHT ON DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH

### OLIVER COOMES:

#### Forest livelihoods & traditional peoples in the neotropics



How do traditional peoples make their living from neotropical rain forests and what are the implications for economic development and environmental conservation? Oliver Coomes, Professor of Geography at McGill, has been pursuing answers to these questions with his colleagues and students for just over twenty years. Working at the intersection of

peasant economy and environment, he seeks to understand the micro-foundations of natural resource use – from swidden-fallow agroforestry and floodplain agriculture to non-timber forest product extraction – and how such practices influence the welfare of rural people and biodiversity in the rain forest. His findings are reported in journals ranging from geography, history and Latin American studies to agriculture, forestry, fisheries and development economics. Until last year, he served as the Editor-in-Chief of the international development studies journal, *World Development*, a position he held for ten years.

In a joint-collaboration with colleagues at McGill, University of Toronto and University of Tsukuba in Japan, Prof. Coomes is co-directing the Peruvian Amazon Rural Livelihoods and Poverty (PARLAP), one of the largest community and household surveys undertaken to date in Amazonia, with the goal of identifying factors that influence the choice of community location, livelihood decisions and the formation of poverty traps. In other projects he is monitoring long-term peasant adaptation to abrupt environmental change, examining the function of informal seed networks and their impact on agrobiodiversity, and identifying landscape-household linkages in land use/cover change in neotropical forests. His graduate students are working on related themes, including reforestation in the montane forests of Ecuador, land use on the post-coca frontier of Peru, household migration and fisheries near the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve, and farmer risk coping in Amazon floodplain agriculture. These studies promise to offer new insights into forest livelihoods and how traditional peoples adapt to and transform their lived environments.

### LINKS

His website at McGill:

<http://www.geog.mcgill.ca/faculty/coomes/>



*Fisherman with morning's catch of arowana*

### PUBLICATIONS

Coomes, O.T., Y. Takasaki, J. Rhemtulla. 2011. "Land-use poverty traps identified in shifting cultivation systems shape long-term tropical forest cover". *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 108(34): 13925-13930.

McSweeney, K., O. T. Coomes. 2011. "Climate-related disaster opens a window of opportunity for rural poor in north-eastern Honduras". *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 108 (13): 5203-5208.

Coomes, O.T., Y. Takasaki, C. Abizaid, B.L. Barham 2010. "Flood plain fisheries as natural insurance for the rural poor in tropical forest environments: evidence from Amazonia". *Fisheries Management and Ecology* 17(6): 513-521

**BECKY LENTZ:****Internet freedom and advocacy in the global south**

Becky Lentz is an Assistant Professor of Communication in the Department of Art History and Communication Studies at McGill. She completed her PhD at the University of Texas at Austin's Department of Radio, TV, and Film in 2008, specializing in communication technology and policy. Her research and teaching focus on social change expertise: the nature and types of 'necessary knowledge' that activists and public interest advocates acquire, mobilize, and pass on in order to influence policy-making about communication and information technology and infrastructure.

In the wake of a breakthrough decision by the UNHRC in 2012 declaring that people have a right to freedom of expression on the Internet, current debates about Internet governance, ITU regulation, and multi-stakeholder processes create the opportunity for advocacy groups to coordinate efforts in policy discussions about Internet freedom at the global level. However, limited resources, differing priorities, cultural differences, and divergent perspectives between human rights and Internet policy advocates make it difficult to unify strategically around global opportunities.

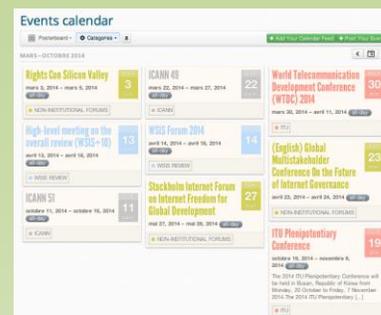
Given that each actor is competing for scarce resources for their own work, few have the resources or interest in addressing capacity issues for the sector. Issues include building pipelines of necessary talent into the sector; convening actors to build trust and collaborative opportunities; and providing training, education, and mentorship, among other types of institutional support—all essential building blocks to achieving lasting and substantial change in any policy advocacy sector.

Prof. Lentz's research explores the tensions involved in capacity building efforts, especially the role of donor institutions in these processes. She examines how transnational civil society capacity for Internet freedom is being built, particularly in the global south; how advocates define capacity building for 'effective' policy advocacy; what diminishes their efforts and effectiveness at national and global governance levels; and the benefits and drawbacks of donor-driven support designed to address capacity building challenges.

**LINKS**

Her website at McGill:

<http://www.mcgill.ca/ahcs/people/faculty/lentz>

**PUBLICATIONS**

Her work has been featured in

*Telecommunications Policy, Info, The Oxford Handbook of Civil Society, the Blackwell Handbook of Global Media and Communication Policy, the Sage Encyclopedia of Social Movement Media, Communication, Culture & Critique, and FlowTV.*

She has also co-edited special

issues of *The Information Society Journal* and the *Canadian Journal of Communication* as well as the book, *Inequity in the Technopolis: Race, Class, Gender, and the Digital Divide in Austin.*

## SPOTLIGHT ON DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE

### JIM COONEY: Professor of Practice in Global Governance

Jim Cooney describes himself as a visionary, who has spent many years working on the challenge of converting mineral resource endowments in the less developed parts of the world into sustainable economic advancement and social progress for the people who live there. This challenge is immense, because mining cannot occur without some degree of social disruption and environmental impact. During the Fall of 2013, he was in residence at ISID teaching the seminar “Gold, Guns and Governance”. The theme of the seminar was that mining can contribute to sustainable development, but only if all institutional actors (governments, companies, communities and civil society organizations) properly define and implement their respective roles and responsibilities to achieve that outcome, and act in a mutually reinforcing manner. He believes that the starting point of a collective effort in that direction is for each of the concerned parties to understand and comply with the instruments of “soft law” that have been developed by international institutions related to human rights, environmental protection, labour standards, indigenous peoples, and corruption. Jim was personally involved as an advisor in the development of some of those soft law instruments. In August 2013, Jim convened an ISID Forum on “**Mining, Economic Development and Indigenous Peoples: Getting the Governance Equation Right**”, which assembled a stimulating mixture of academics and practitioners, both native and non-native Canadian voices, as well as first-hand perspectives on indigenous governance and mining issues in Latin America.

Jim is also Adjunct Professor, Responsible Minerals Sector Initiative, Beedie School of Business, Simon Fraser University; and Adjunct Professor, Norman B. Keevil Institute of Mining Engineering, University of British Columbia, where he has been involved in the founding of the Canadian International Institute on Extractive Industries and Development. Previously, Jim worked for thirty years in the mining industry. In 2006, he retired as Vice President, International Government Affairs for Placer Dome. During his time there, he was involved in managing the social and political risks of exploration and mining projects in many countries in Africa, Latin America, Southeast and Central Asia. In 1995 he was the first mining industry spokesman to advocate and articulate the integration of mining into sustainable development. In 1997, Placer Dome became the first mining company to adopt a corporate sustainable development policy, program and business orientation. As Chair of Public Policy Committee of the International Council on Metals and the Environment, he led the member companies in preparing the path towards the Global Mining Initiative and the Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development Project.

Representing Placer Dome as a founding member of the United Nations Global Compact with Business in 2000, he worked with U.N. agencies and civil society organizations in a project on conflict-sensitive business practices. He was actively engaged in the World Bank's Extractive Industries Review (2002-2004), serving in his personal capacity on the External Advisory Panel for the internal evaluation of the Bank's oil, gas and mining projects. He was advisor on the development of the International Finance Corporation's Performance Standards on Social and Environmental Sustainability (2004-2006). He has been an interlocutor with the Special Representative of the U.N. Secretary General on business and human rights. He was a member of Canada's National Roundtables on Corporate Social Responsibility and the Extractive Sector in Developing Countries (2006-2007). He is a past Director of the North South Institute, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and the Pacific Basin Economic Council.



*"I am in a constant quest to find ways to eliminate the seemingly inevitable conflicts and to maximize the potential benefits from mining."*

# INSIDE ISID – WHAT’S NEW?

## A NEW BROWN-BAG SERIES AT ISID

In January 2014, we have started a new, internal and informal Brown-Bag series “Notes from the Field”. This series aims to highlight the exciting work our research community is doing in the field. Three types of talks are represented: (a) returnees from the field to discuss their latest fieldwork, (b) fieldwork methods and (c) fieldwork preparation (especially for graduate students about to head out to the field for their own masters or doctoral field work). The exciting line-up for Winter 2014 is as follows (PETH310, 1:00-2:00):

Date	Speaker	Topic
Jan 16	Manuel Balán (Political Science and ISID)	<i>“The benefits and roadblocks of elite interviews”</i>
Jan 30	Michael Brown (ISID and UN)	<i>“Land dispute mediation in the conflict-affected provinces of Sri Lanka”</i>
Feb 13	Kaywana Raeburn (Economics)	<i>“Running Economics Lab Experiments in the Caribbean”</i>
Feb 27	Theresa Thompson Colon (Centre for Population Dynamics)	<i>“Conducting Surveys in Far-off Countries: Challenges and Best Practices”</i>
Mar 20	Matthieu Chemin (Economics)	<i>“Randomized experiments in practice”</i>
Apr 3	Myriam Denov (School of Social Work)	<i>“Fieldwork with Former Child Soldiers”</i>

For more information about this brownbag series, please contact [Sonia Laszlo](#)

## PROFESSORS OF PRACTICE

ISID has recently named 5 new Professors of Practice. This formal title is granted to a select number of practitioners who work with us (The Right Honorable Joe Clark was our first Professor of Practice):

- ☼ **Michael Brown**, Professor of Practice in Conflict Mediation and the United Nation’s Senior Mediation Expert on Natural resource and Land-Related conflicts
- ☼ **Jim Cooney**, Professor of Practice in Global Governance ,and former Vice President, International Government Affairs for Placer Dome Inc
- ☼ **Rachel Kiddell-Monroe**, a lawyer and an activist, specializes in humanitarian assistance, global health, governance and bioethics.
- ☼ **Joanne Liu**, International President of Médecins sans Frontières
- ☼ **Riccardo Pelizzo**, Senior Consultant/Research Advisor for the World Bank Institute

## ISID LAUNCHES THE GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT THINK TANK WATCH

---

McGill University's Institute for the Study of international development recently launched its latest flagship initiative, The **Global Development Think Tank Watch**. The web-based platform reflects ISID's renewed commitment to building bridges between McGill and the international development community through its unique focus on multidisciplinary research that is intended to contribute directly to better evidence based development policies and practices.

The **Global Development Think Tank Watch** is an online tool intended to draw on current, high profile policy research contributions from think tanks, universities, policy institutes and international development organizations. It is a thought leadership initiative designed to support knowledge sharing and evidence based decision making by offering new and contrasting insights drawn from cutting edge academic research from all around the globe on today's most important policy issues.

Each issue will be dedicated to a single thematic issue area to be defined through a dialogue between academic researchers and the policy-making community. It will consist of two articles presenting opposing positions on the theme in order to allow readers to make their own decision in an informed way. The articles will synthesize current research from the perspective of what we need to think about today in order to achieve our goals in the future. In this way, we hope to create a new nexus between research, policy and practice by disseminating the latest development research in a practical way that is in tune with the priorities of the development community.

Lastly, on behalf of ISID, we would like to thank Joey Adler for her generous donation, support and vision. With her support, the **Think Tank Watch** developed from an idea into a flagship initiative of the Institute. Her contribution makes it possible for ISID to position itself as a leader in helping bridge the worlds of policy, research and practice. For more information, contact **Justin Miletti**

## CIDA COOPERATION: RESEARCH TO PRACTICE

---

We are very pleased to announce that the Institute for the Study of International Development has completed its major grant from the former Canadian International Development Agency (now Department of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Development). The multi-year "Research to Practice: Strengthening the Contributions of Universities to Evidence-Based Policymaking" generated 32 Research to Practice policy briefs from faculty and graduate students in, among others, Political Science, Economics, Anthropology, Sociology, Geography, Faculty of Management, Natural Resource Science, Art History and Communications Studies. For a full listing of the research to practice briefs and the papers themselves, check our **website**.

# PROGRAMS & CONFERENCES

## EXECUTIVE PROGRAM ON INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



It is a pleasure to report the overwhelming success of the latest offering of ISID's Executive Education Program on International Development that was held at McGill from October 21 to October 25, 2013. The five-day course brought together a diverse group of people, ranging from mid-career professionals to leading policy makers, which represented the private sector, non-governmental organizations, the public sector, philanthropic foundations and community representatives. The program also attracted a balanced mix of women and men from around the globe, including Norway, Zimbabwe, Pakistan, Latin America and the Caribbean.

The diversity of the program's participants was more than matched by the teaching team's breadth. With extensive expertise from worlds of business, non-profits, government and multi-lateral institutions, the quality of the teaching team was reflected in the multiple experiences and perspectives they were able to offer and was another key to the program's success. The program also included the addition of new modules on humanitarian assistance and leadership in development.



*Participants attentive during presentations*



*ISID Professor of Practice Michael Brown engaging the crowd on peace-building and conflict prevention*

The program's world class teaching team provided relevant insights into thematic and sectoral issues, including important trends, emerging questions and challenges in international development taught by experienced international development professionals. Based on the wide appeal of the program, a new offering is already planned to take place in Dakar, Senegal. To find out more information and register for the next offering please [visit the ISID Executive Programs Website](#).

## ISID 2013 CONFERENCE: THE CHALLENGE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FROM THE BOTTOM-UP, MARCH 21-23

---

ISID's 2013 International Conference explored the interface between development policies at the community level and the achievement of sustainable national development based on innovative public-private sector partnerships that improve the quality of life for national populations as a whole. It addressed one of the biggest shifts in development policy and practice: the commitment to promoting community participation in the design and implementation of national development programs. The conference brought together experts from the non-profit, private and public sectors, local and transnational civil society actors, and the international development community, to generate a rich but critical discussion of more effective strategies for translating community participation into sustainable national development. The Conference assessed the lessons from recent experiences of community-based activism in South Africa and during the Arab Spring. It also considered the ongoing challenges of employment and vulnerable groups. Against this backdrop, the discussion included the more practical questions of the need to balance the state and the market, and highlighted the importance of effective regional governance arrangements to support community-based sustainable development.

## ISID INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2014

---

### Whose Truth? What Kind of Reconciliation? The Importance of Truth and Reconciliation Commissions for Promoting Democratic Good Governance

**March 13-14, 2014, McGill University Faculty Club, Montreal**

Through the participation of experts from the non-profit, private and public sectors, local and transnational civil society actors, and the international development community, the conference will bring together a myriad of experiences intended to generate a rich but critical discussion of the principal challenges faced by Truth and Reconciliation Commissions (TRCs) and the lessons they may provide. The conference will explore the factors that condition the success of TRCs in contributing to the creation of social cohesion as a foundation for democratic good governance by examining diverse national experiences. Conference participants will address these questions from the perspective of their own particular expertise and experiences.

---

## NEWS & MISCELLANEA

---

### FORMER IDS OR DSO STUDENT? WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Are you a former IDS or DSO Student? Are you in contact with any former IDS or DSO student? Then we want to hear from you! Please send us any information about where your IDS or DSO degree has taken you. Current IDS or DSO students, please keep in touch. You can reach us anytime at [latitude.isid@mcgill.ca](mailto:latitude.isid@mcgill.ca)

### UPCOMING WORKING PAPER SERIES

If you are an ISID affiliated researcher (professor or graduate student) and would like a little extra publicity and visibility for your research, please consider ISID's new working paper series as an outlet. We will post your working paper, assign it a working paper number and put a nice cover page to it. For more information, contact [Sonia Laszlo](#).

### OUR PROFESSORS OF PRACTICE HAVE BEEN BUSY!

#### Jaykumar Menon:

- Organized a project - "Toward a New, Open Source Pharmaceutical System for the Global Poor" with support from Rockefeller and Soros Foundations (conference at Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Italy center July 2014)
- Created research fellowship with Open Source Drug Discovery Initiative, India and the Tata Trusts - funding over 150 researchers per year.
- Pioneered projects on Food Security innovation (Ag Results, funded by Finance Canada, DFID and AusAid), Innovation prizes for the environment and development (IP4ED program by DFID), and innovation prize for low cost remittances (funding from AusAid and CIDA), with an eye for launching a \$10M prize at the g-20.

#### Rick Stapenhurst & ISID's Parliamentary Program:

- Rick Stapenhurst published *Legislatures and Corruption* (Routledge, 2013) coauthored with Riccardo Pelizzo and *Follow the Money* (Pluto Press, 2013) coauthored with Riccardo Pelizzo and Kerry Jacobs.
- The next residency for the ISID-World Bank international executive program for parliamentary staff will be held at McGill, April 29-May 2, 2014. For more information, contact [Rick Stapenhurst](#)
- Rick Stapenhurst and Riccardo Pelizzo are organizing two panels at the **forthcoming International Political Science Association Conference**, to be held in Montreal July 19-22. The first panel, in French, will look at recent research and new developments in legislative development in La Francophonie and the second panel will present recent and ongoing research on Legislative Oversight. Panelists include leading scholars and practitioners from around the world. The World Bank will publish the proceedings, as part of its publication program Contemporary Issues in Parliamentary Development. For more information, [Rick Stapenhurst](#).