GRADUATE EDUCATION AND GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT:
A Conversation Between University Distinguished Professor Jimmy Carter and Graduate Students

With an introduction from Dean Lisa Tedesco, James T. Laney School of Graduate Studies and Vice Provost for Academic Affairs-Graduate Studies

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Welcome
Dean Lisa Tedesco
James T. Laney School of Graduate Studies
and Vice Provost for Academic Affairs-Graduate Studies

Conversation
Emory University Distinguished Professor
Jimmy Carter and Graduate Students

GRADUATE STUDENTS
Oumer Abdurahman,
Foege Fellow and Ethiopian Ministry of Health

Grant Buckles,
Laney Graduate School,
Political Science doctoral student

Amelia Conrad,
Laney Graduate School,
Master’s in Development Practice student

Nicole Devereaux,
Rollins School of Public Health,
Master in Public Health student

Abidemi Fasanmi,
Laney Graduate School, Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies doctoral student

Daniel Thompson,
Laney Graduate School,
Anthropology doctoral student
Biographies and Research Descriptions

Oumer Abdurahman,
Foege Fellow and Ethiopian Ministry of Health

BIOGRAPHY
Oumer Abdurahman is a Foege Fellow in the Rollins School of Public Health. Prior to receiving a Foege Fellowship, he was the Program Manager for Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) in the Ethiopian Ministry of Health (MOH). As Program Manager, he established a national NTD program, and led prevalence surveys of NTDs such as schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminthiasis, onchocerciasis, trachoma, lymphatic filariasis and podoconiosis. Additionally, he led the national scale up of NTD treatment, including scaling up trachoma treatment from 15 million treated individuals to 26 million individuals and onchocerciasis treatment from 6 million treated individuals to 9.4 million treated individuals. Prior to his role as Program Manager for NTDs in the MOH, he worked in the Disease Prevention and Control Department of the Ethiopian MOH, where he was assigned as focal point for Multi-Drug Resistance Tuberculosis (TB) in the TB control team. Additionally, he worked in a district malaria control department in western Ethiopia. Oumer holds a Master of Science in Tropical and Infectious Diseases and a Bachelor of Science in Applied Biology from Addis Ababa University.

RESEARCH DESCRIPTION
As a Program Manager of Neglected Tropical Diseases for Ethiopia, Oumar’s work was focused on the programmatic aspect and particularly filling the evidence gap in the program. The launch of the strategic document needed evidence based action plans, guidelines, and manuals. His team conducted a survey of trachoma in Ethiopia and found out that more than 70 million people were at risk of blinding trachoma. They did integrated mapping of lymphatic filariasis and podoconiosis (elephantiasis due to clay soil) and found that 6.2 million people were at risk. They also conducted schistosomiasis and soil transmitted helminthiasis prevalence surveys. These results showed that 80% of school age children need mass drug administration for both SCH/STH together.
Grant Buckles,  
Laney Graduate School,  
Political Science doctoral student

BIOGRAPHY
Grant Buckles is a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science, specializing in comparative political institutions and political behavior. He is this year’s ELMO Initiative Graduate Fellow sponsored by The Carter Center’s Democracy Program, Institute for Developing Nations, and the Laney Graduate School. He conducted field work in South Africa during the 2014 election. At Emory, he has been an instructor and teaching assistant for classes on political mobilization in hybrid regimes, comparative politics, and research methods. He received his B.A. in Political Science and French Language and Literature from Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky in 2011, where he was a William T. Young Scholar. He has previously worked as an intern in the Parliament of Canada.

RESEARCH DESCRIPTION
Grant Buckles studies political parties, elections, and democratization. Specifically, his dissertation, entitled Competing for Activists: The Logic and Limitations of Opposition Cooptation, focuses on opposition cooptation and mobilization in non-democracies. The dissertation uses formal theory, statistical methods, and case studies to show that opposition parties serve a democratic role when facing moderate accountability to party activists. He shows that accountability occurs when opposition leaders face competition from other opposition groups, without which parties are more likely to be co-opted and contribute to authoritarianism. His research underlines the importance of studying opposition dynamics for understanding both democratization and authoritarian persistence. In addition to his dissertation, Buckles is working on projects studying opposition unity and patterns of opposition protest.
Amelia Conrad,  
Laney Graduate School,  
Master’s in Development Practice student 

BIOGRAPHY 
Amelia Conrad is a Graduate Assistant with the Global Access to Information Program at The Carter Center and a second year Master of Development Practice (MDP) student at Emory University. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from Tulane University, where she majored in Political Science and International Development, conducted independent research in Peru, and graduated summa cum laude. Amelia aspires to work in the development sphere on issues of gender equity and gender-based violence. She spent summer 2015 evaluating two of the first sexual assault clinics in Ethiopia and currently interns with CARE’s Pathways Program, focused on empowering female smallholder farmers. 

RESEARCH DESCRIPTION 
Over the last 16 years, The Carter Center’s Global Access to Information (ATI) Program has worked to advance the right of ATI and operated for extended periods in six countries: Jamaica, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Mali, China, and Liberia. An evaluation of these projects will allow The Carter Center to explore the question: was The Carter Center’s ATI core country programming carried out successfully and did that programming advance the right to ATI? Document review, existing literature, key informant interviews, surveys, and other methods will be used to derive key lessons learned from these experiences. This evaluation will not only help improve existing and future The Carter Center projects, but will contribute to a limited pool of knowledge about what works in development policy and programming.
Nicole Devereaux
Rollins School of Public Health,
Master in Public Health student

BIOGRAPHY

Nicole Devereaux is a graduate student in the Global Health Department of the Rollins School of Public Health. Devereaux has worked with the Trachoma Control Program as a work-study student for the past year in data management. She spent the summer working with The Carter Center Ethiopia office as a Technical Advisor on data collection and analysis for sanitation and hygiene education. Devereaux graduated from the University of New Mexico with a B.A. in sociology and biology. Devereaux started working in global development in 2011 with Nourish International. Through Nourish, her team partnered with communities to implement various initiatives around access to education, water, and healthcare.

RESEARCH DESCRIPTION

In February 2015, the Trachoma Control Program piloted a study in the Amhara Regional National State of Ethiopia to evaluate opportunities for the program to better address facial cleanliness and environmental improvement. The goal of the study is to provide insights and understanding about the barriers and challenges people in the region face in regards to latrine use and facial cleanliness. The study surveyed households in all 10 zones of the region and conducted focus group discussions with teachers, students, community leaders, women’s health group leaders, and health workers. The study’s findings are contributing to the revision of education materials for primary schools.
Abidemi Fasanmi, 
Laney Graduate School, Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies doctoral student

BIOGRAPHY

Abidemi Fasanmi is a MD with a Masters in Global Genders from the University of Leeds. She is an alumna of the Fulbright-Hubert Humphrey fellowship, and currently doing a PhD in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Emory University. One of her achievements was starting a pioneer Youth Blood donor program (Club 25) at Safe Blood for Africa Foundation, Nigeria. The National Blood Transfusion Service subsequently adopted the club and replicated it nationally. She has over 13 years of experience in public health, health promotion, HIV prevention and policy, sexual reproductive health, gender, and community systems strengthening. She worked in technical and managerial capacities in Nigeria and the UK. Her interest areas include gender, health, violence, bio-politics, and religion particularly in Africa.

RESEARCH DESCRIPTION

Abidemi Fasanmi’s research is a comparative study of two African communities: non-conflict and a post-conflict (refugee). It focuses on rape, and aims to address gaps in rape intervention due to differences in the meaning of rape. She explores the socio-cultural, religious or economic context of survivors in the selected communities and how they influence the meaning of rape and ultimately the choice (s) of redress (such as medical, legal, communal, or religious). Her research addresses the following questions: 1) How do men and women living in these two African communities in Nigeria and Atlanta respectively conceptualize rape? 2) How does this influence their choice(s) of redress? 3) What would be helpful interventions for addressing rape in these communities? Findings will inform policy and the development of effective interventions.
Daniel Thompson,  
Laney Graduate School, Anthropology doctoral student

BIOGRAPHY
Daniel began his work in Eastern Africa with field research on religion, conflict and reconciliation in southern Sudan in 2009. Between 2010 and 2013, he traveled repeatedly between the US, South Africa, and southern/South Sudan while conducting research for his MA in Geography (University of Miami, 2012) and working as a graduate assistant and subsequently a consultant for The Carter Center Conflict Resolution Program in Sudan and South Sudan. His work in Sudan and South Sudan centered on assessing spatial patterns of armed conflict and providing maps and analysis for conflict resolution practitioners. He moved to Atlanta in 2013, married his wife, Julie, spent a year teaching math and geography at the secondary level, and subsequently started Ph.D. work at Emory.

RESEARCH DESCRIPTION
Daniel’s dissertation project investigates how social and economic networks that cross different types of political boundaries intersect within patterns of business and social segregation in a borderlands city. Building upon previous research on migrant business in Johannesburg (2010-2012), and foreign aid and urbanization in Juba, South Sudan (2011-2012), this project focuses on Jijiga, Ethiopia. Jijiga is the capital of Somali Regional State, an emerging site for Somali diaspora investment, and a hub of trade between the Ethiopian highlands and Somaliland’s “free markets.” The study examines trade in the stimulant qat and fresh produce from neighboring Oromia Region, and consumer goods and currency imported from Somaliland, both of which involve attempts at regulation and taxation—and entrenched patterns of illicit trade.

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