



NEWSLETTER FALL 2019

***Integrating knowledge and skills to prepare
a new generation of development practitioners***

TABLE OF CONTENTS: Issue 16



Director's Note	2
In Memoriam: Sheila Onzere	4
Welcome Cohort 10!	5
Fall Graduates	6
Conferences	7
Fall Awards: Dr. Andrew Noss	8
Practitioner Forums	9
Field Practicum Experiences	11
Practitioner Seminars	10
Alumni Updates	13
Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Joel Correia	15
Publications	19
Students Outside the Classroom	20
Socials	21

Edited by: Daniela Lizano and Yeyetsi Maldonado

Director's Note: Glenn Galloway

It is with great pleasure that I introduce our Fall 2019 newsletter that presents a selection of notable developments for the University of Florida Master of Sustainable Development Practice (MDP) Program. As can be seen in the following pages, our students have taken on significant challenges, both here in Florida and abroad with the generous support of faculty, scholarship programs and other funding sources, MDP alumni and partner organizations.

Over the summer (2019), 13 MDP students carried out their field practicums in 10 countries, contributing to an array of innovative initiatives. Here, in broad terms, are the topics our students undertook over the summer:

- Two students explored the functioning of live-stock value chains (Nepal and Senegal) and opportunities to expand the participation of women to increase the effectiveness of associated vaccination programs.
- Two students evaluated the dissemination and adoption of innovations (Nepal and Rwanda) to improve the livestock health and the quality of production, in order to identify measures to increase uptake of these innovations.
- Two students focused on human-wildlife conflicts (Ecuador and Kenya), to contribute to efforts to make farming and livestock production more compatible with the presence of protected wildlife.
- Two students worked with agricultural cooperatives (Brazil and Honduras) supporting strategic planning, financial planning and management, and governance to enhance their success.
- One student realized her field practicum in Northern Florida, studying the impact of agriculture (water withdrawals and nitrogen applications) on the unique system of aquifers found in this region.
- One student worked on the highly relevant and complex relationship between violence, climate change and migration, focusing on the reintegration of persons who returned to Honduras after a failed attempt to migrate to the USA.

Details on these and other topics can be found in the table on page 11 of the Newsletter.

Since its inception, the Secretariat of the MDP Global Association (GA)--now made up of 36 universities from



around the world including the University of Florida--resided at Columbia University in New York City. Recently, the MDP GA changed institutional homes and now forms part of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), also based in New York City. The SDSN has as its Mission the following (from its website): "We promote integrated approaches to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, through education, research, policy analysis, and global cooperation." Also from the website: "*The UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) was set up in 2012 under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General. SDSN mobilizes global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical solutions for sustainable development, including the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement. SDSN works closely with United Nations agencies, multilateral financing institutions, the private sector, and civil society.*" By being situated within SDSN, the MDP GA will now have the opportunity to share our growing body of educational and development practice experiences with over 1000 members of SDSN, including hundreds of academic institutions, and in a parallel fashion, learn from their experiences in the sustainable development space. It is worth noting that the SDSN is in the process of establishing national networks, and SDSN-USA was launched in December 2018. As UF is a member of this network, efforts will be made in 2020 to inform the broader UF community about opportunities associated with institutional membership in SDSN.

Director's Note: Glenn Galloway (cont.)

In previous newsletters, I have stressed how the success of our program is rooted in the generous support provided by core and affiliate faculty across many departments of the university, who teach an exciting array of courses, offer informative seminars on their work (see below) and provide essential guidance to our students. One such faculty member is Dr. Joel Correia, who kindly agreed to be interviewed for our Faculty Spotlight section of this newsletter. Joel joined the Center for Latin American Studies in 2018 as an Assistant Professor in the area of Human Rights, Peace and Justice in Latin America. Joel has enriched the Center and the UF MDP program with his considerable experience in land titling, multi-cultural rights, fair trade and human rights, extractivism and indigenous land rights. As you will see in his interview, his life experiences have led to a personal commitment to these important topics that have strong implications for countless people, their communities and ways of life. We are very fortunate that Joel is now a core faculty member of the MDP Program and is already participating on an advisory committee of one of our students. We greatly look forward to working closely with Joel in the coming years.

Last month, Dr. Andrew Noss (Andy) was deservedly recognized as the University of Florida, Staff International Educator of the Year. We are very pleased that Andy received this important award that was supported by 34 students and alumni who sent short testimonials relating their personal experiences with Andy before, during and after their participation in the program. Here, I would like to convey my deep appreciation to Andy for all he does for our program.

We are proud of our latest three graduates (see page 6), and look forward to their next steps. We are also pleased to share updates from two of our alumni who are involved in exciting work. Camila Pazos formed part of MDP Cohort 1 and is working with Echoing Green in New York City, while Breton Homewood (Cohort 7) found his professional opportunity in a beautiful region of Western Montana. We appreciate their contributions to this newsletter.

Before closing, I would like to express once more my appreciation to faculty members who have contributed to the MDP program in the past year and also to the Center

for Latin American Studies, the Center for African Studies, the International Center, the Graduate School, the Office of the Provost and the Tropical Conservation and Development Program. This broad support is the key to success of the program. I would also like to thank Daniela Lizano, our Graduate Assistant, who just graduated from the program. It has been a great pleasure to have shared this time with Daniela, who supported our office as the MDP Graduate Assistant. In this newsletter, she worked with first-year MDP student, Yeyetsi Maldonado, who began assuming the role of MDP Graduate Assistant in the Fall semester. Here, we want to wish Daniela much happiness and success as she returns to her home country of Costa Rica and thank Yeyetsi for her contributions to this newsletter and formally welcome her as MDP Graduate Assistant.

Finally, a happy and successful 2020 to all our readers. We look forward to engaging with many of you in the coming year. We hope you will join us in our upcoming 10 year celebration of the UF MDP program. More details will be forthcoming soon on this celebratory event.

Sheila Onzere – A few words on how she is remembered

Sheila Onzere, the first MDP Program Coordinator, sadly passed away in an unexpected fashion on August 31st, 2019 while visiting her family in Kenya. I prepared the following words for a memorial service in her honor in Clark University where she was working as a Research Scientist.

“When I assumed the position of Director of the University of Florida, Master of Sustainable Development Practice (MDP) program, Sheila was the MDP Program Coordinator. She quickly made me feel at home and lit up the office with her unforgettable smile. It was such a pleasure to work with Sheila, who played such an indispensable role in the MDP program’s initiation, including the important task of ushering in the first two cohorts of students. A number of these students have written to express their sorrow for her passing and to convey the lasting impression she made on them. Here, the characterizations most used when remembering Sheila:

“A bright star and very kind”

“Young and bright”

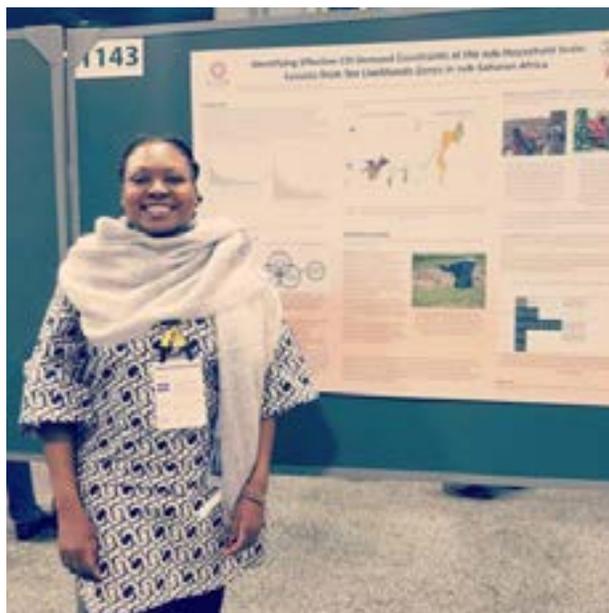
“Bright warm smile”

“She was a kind spirit and was the first welcoming face I encountered when I arrived in Gainesville”

Yes, we all agree that Sheila was an incredibly kind person and bright in every way. We will miss her, but will always be grateful that our lives were touched by such a special person. Our thoughts go out to her family and loved ones, who we hope will find strength and peace during this difficult time.”

With much sympathy,

Glenn Galloway



Welcome Cohort 10!



This fall the MDP program welcomed 13 new students from Egypt (Fulbright), Kenya (2 students), South Africa / Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Mexico, and the United States. As usual, their backgrounds and interests and experiences are also extremely diverse—engineering (water and sanitation), urban planning, waste management, family nutrition, food security, indigenous rights, community enterprises, microfinance, and community-based management of natural resources among others. They have worked for the private sector, international and local NGOs, Peace Corps, Food Corps, the UF Office of Sustainability, and as activists and organizers.

You can review their profiles [HERE](#)

MDP Graduates Fall 2019: CONGRATULATIONS!

Jesse Cosme (Cohort 8)

Specializations: Latin American Studies, TCD

Committee: Nicholas Vargas (Latin American Studies / Sociology, Criminology, & Law), Carlos Suárez (Latin American Studies / Political Science), Susan Paulson (Latin American Studies)

Capstone Field Practicum: *Foreign in a Domestic Sense: Puerto Rican Transnational Community Social Movement Collaboration After Disaster*



Daniela Lizano (Cohort 8)

Specializations: Latin American Studies, TCD

Committee: Susan Paulson (Latin American Studies), Paul Monaghan (Agricultural Education and Communication)

Capstone Field Practicum: *How are Indigenous Quality of Life Plans Influencing Conservation and Rural Development in the Ampiyacu-Apayacu River Basin of Peruvian Amazon?*

Dylan Rigsby (Cohort 8)

Specializations: Latin American Studies, TCD

Committee: Catherine Tucker (Anthropology / Latin American Studies), Glenn Galloway (MDP)

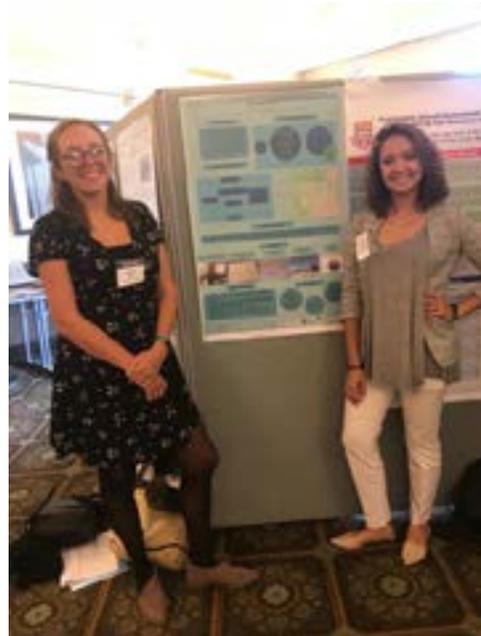
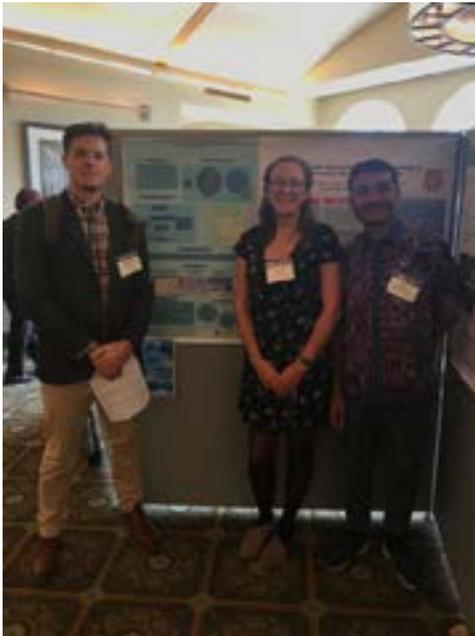
Capstone Field Practicum: *Coffee Talks: Climate Change, Communication and Local Coping Strategies*



Conferences – Fall 2019

Adi Gangga, Haaris Saqib, Paula Bak, Stephanie Muench and Weston Stitt (Cohort 9) participated in the Seventh International Conference on Sustainable Development at Columbia University in New York, in September 2019. For more information about the conference please click [HERE](#)

Adi Gangga (Cohort 9) and our Program Director, Dr. Glenn Galloway attended the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) World Congress in Curitiba, Brazil in October, 2019. For more information about the conference please click [HERE](#)



Fall Awards

Dr. Andrew Noss: International Educator of the Year!

The International Educator of the Year Awards, sponsored by the University of Florida International Center, honor the outstanding contributions of faculty and staff to the internationalization of the University of Florida and the impact of those contributions on students, international partners, and university stakeholders.

This year, our MDP Program Coordinator, Dr. Andrew Noss, was awarded as **University of Florida 2019 Staff International Educator of the Year**.

Please join us to celebrate Andy's contribution, kindness and constant support to our students and our Program!

Thank you so much Andy!

Andy would like to thank all of the MDP students and faculty and the staff of the two Centers for all their collaboration and support which make his work such a pleasure. And he would like to specially thank the many students and alumni who wrote kind words in support of his nomination, as well as Jessica Mostacedo, Joel Correia and Glenn Galloway for their gracious letters.

For more information about the UFIC International Educator Awards, please visit [UFIC's website](#)



Dr. Bahar Armaghani, International Educator of the Year - College Awards: Junior Faculty

Dr. Armaghani is MDP affiliate faculty in the College of Design, Construction and Planning She is also a LEED Fellow, Director of the Sustainability and the Built Environment Program; and Director of the UF Green Building Learning Collaborative.

MDP Practitioner Forums

MDP and the Tropical Conservation and Development Program (TCD) organized a Forum by Dr. Becky Williams entitled: ***"Documenting Socio-Economic-Ecological Collapse in Rural Honduras: Preliminary results from research into the linkages between climate change, violence, and migration."***

Dr. Williams is currently based with the UF Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems Researcher) and her work in Honduras is supported by USAID-Honduras. Colleen Abel (Cohort 9) carried out her capstone Field Practicum under Becky's larger project in Honduras during summer 2019.



This Fall, the Center for Latin American Studies, supported by Jessica Mostacedo (Cohort 9), organized the "Conversatorio:" ***"What is going on in Bolivia? Old debates, current violence, and future perspectives."***

MDP Practitioner Forums (Cont.)

We would like to extend our appreciation to the faculty members who graciously offered to present and share a sampling of their experiences with our students in our Fall Practitioner Series:

Faculty Member	Presentation Title
Christine Overdevest	Toward a next generation of sustainability standard.
Andrew Noss	Hunting for sustainability in a Central African Forest.
David Diehl	Evaluation: Friend or Foe?
Christopher Silver	Jakarta Under Water: The Challenges of a Sinking Megacity.
Joel Correia	Between the forest and the field: Indigenous land rights, environmental justice, and agrarian change in South America.
Glenn Galloway	Forest as complex systems: Implications from the perspective of sustainable development.
Taylor Stein	Integrating Ecotourism Concepts into Florida's Urban Environments.
Angelica Almeyda	Interdisciplinary research on coupled human-natural systems, the case of ecotourism.
Marit Ostebo	Village Gone Viral. On Travelling Models and Policies.

Field Practicum Experiences - Summer 2019

Thirteen of our Cohort 9 carried out their Field Practicums during summer 2019 in Africa, Central and South America, South Asia, and the United States.

Name	Theme	Region/Country	FP Placement	Committee
Colleen Abel	Honduras rural livelihood change, violence, and migration: a needs assessment for deported migrant reintegration.	Honduras	USAID Rural Livelihoods Project / Red Cross / UF	Becky Williams, Joel Correia
Haaris Saqib	Strategic Planning for Southeastern Coastal Center for Agricultural Health and Safety.	Florida and Georgia, US	UF Southeastern Coastal Center for Agricultural Health and Safety (SCCAHS)	Sebastian Galindo, Tracy Irani
William Blanc	Gender integration and mapping of livestock vaccine value chains in Kafrine, Senegal.	Sénégal	Gender Integration into Livestock Vaccine / UF / IDRC	Renata Serra, Sarah McKune, John Kraft
Manuel Morales	Human-wildlife interactions in the Podocarpus-Sangay Connectivity Corridor, Andes of southern Ecuador: a socio-ecological and geographic characterization.	Cuenca, Ecuador	Naturaleza y Cultura Internacional	Vanessa Hull, Brian Child, Bette Loiselle
Stephanie Muench	Evaluation in the dissemination of livestock innovations in Rwanda.	Rwanda	UF Livestock Systems Innovation Lab / University of Rwanda	Sebastian Galindo, Sarah McKune, David Diehl
Christina Joy	Community sustained pre-primary education in rural Tanzania.	Arusha, Tanzania	Tanzania School Foundation	Sarah McKune, Kristin Joys, John Kraft
Mackenzie Goode	Patterns and perceptions of crop raiding by baboons in Laikipia County, Kenya - what it means for conservation and rural livelihoods.	Laikipia, Kenya	Mpala Research Centre	Cheryl Palm, Vanessa Hull, Brian Child

Field Practicum Experiences - Summer 2019 (Cont.)

Name	Theme	Region/Country	FP Placement	Committee
Weston Stitt	Green Value Tool and needs assessment for Cooperativa Cafetalera Capucas Ltda.	Las Capucas, Honduras	Fundación ETEA / Umami Area Honduras / Cooperativa Cafetalera Capucas Ltda. (COCAFAL)	Catherine Tucker, Becky Williams, Claudia Romero, Shoana Humphries
Rio Trimono	Dissemination of innovations to improve milk production and quality in Nepal's dairy sector.	Hill Regions and Kathmandu, Nepal	UF Livestock Systems Innovation Lab / Heifer International	Renata Serra, Sebastian Galindo
Adi Gangga	Livestock vaccines value chains in Nepal: a gendered perspective.	Nepal	Gender Integration into Livestock Vaccine / UF / IDRC	Claudia Romero, Becky Williams
Gustavo Prieto	Climate-relevant and low cadmium innovations to promote sustainable cacao production in Colombia.	Cali, Colombia	CIAT Clima-LoCa Project	Pilar Useche, Glenn Galloway
Paula Bak Cely	Entrelaçando comunidades: Cooperative process to strengthen smallholder farmers through value chains and policy analysis.	Mato Grosso, Brazil	Instituto Centro de Vida (ICV)	Claudia Romero, Wendy-Lin Bartels
Jessica Mostacedo	Agricultural Production and the Florida Springs Region.	High Springs, Florida	Florida Springs Institute	Stephen Morgan, Ignacio Porzecanski, Robert Knight, Angeline Meeks

MDP Alumni Updates

Camila Pazos (Cohort 1)

Director, Search & Selection Programs Echoing Green

"Since graduating in 2012 and my time at the University of Florida (MDP Cohort 1), I moved to New York City and have been working for the global non-profit organization called [Echoing Green](#). For more than 30 years, Echoing Green has been on the front lines of solving the world's biggest problems raising up the transformational leaders willing to speak truth to power and challenge the status quo. We find these leaders with the best ideas for social innovation as early as possible, and set them on a path to lifelong impact.

My current role at Echoing Green is to oversee the organization's search and selection programs. Initially, I was tasked to design a selection process that selected leaders without a proven track record in order to provide them with seed funding and support to grow and test their ideas. These early-stage leaders can be working anywhere in the world and on any issue area. Now, I oversee the team that runs this year-long [Fellowship selection process](#) and drive the strategy for a new set of entrepreneurship training programs with the potential to build a diverse pipeline of social entrepreneurs.

Because MDP is an interdisciplinary degree, one of the most helpful things for me was that I was able to work on various subject areas, which helps me understand and speak with a wide array of people given that my role is more on the institutional side rather than in the field. Because I had to take classes in areas such as natural resource management, entrepreneurship, and global health, I am able to effectively evaluate and vet proposals from entrepreneurs all over the world who are doing work across program areas and regions.

In January 2018, I was interviewed by the Center for Latin American Studies to share more about why I chose a degree in sustainable development and how my MDP degree helped me prepare for my career and supports me in my work every day. I encourage you to read about it [here!](#)"



MDP Alumni Updates (cont.)

Breton Homewood (Cohort 7)

Tenure-track Faculty at Montana State University

"Hello from Ronan, Montana UF MDP! I was in Cohort 7 from 2016-2019 and have been working in my job here in Western Montana for two months already.

My job is technically a tenure-track professor/faculty position for Montana State University. You read that right! I'm accruing tenure as a full-fledged college professor because of my MDP master's degree. I am an extension professor focusing on youth development, family consumer sciences, and our [4-H youth program](#). I also work with local Native American tribes to teach and learn from them in order to better the state of Montana as a whole. Currently I'm teaching technical and life skills to over 300 4-H youth, providing them with access to University and entrepreneurial programs. The latest class I taught was baking, and upcoming projects include teaching and certifying future beekeepers, as well as teaching a mental health first aid class to aid Montanans in awareness and prevention of suicide. I work as the middleman between NGOs, County, State, Federal, and Tribal governments. I also work with Montanan families, to help them live happier, healthier lives with better opportunities for them and their children. My position also has multiple opportunities to take 4H youth abroad to places like New Zealand, Africa, and Western Europe.



MDP prepared me for this job arguably in more ways than any other graduate-level program could possibly have done. My job requires at times many different things we learned and picked up throughout MDP. I've had to manage conflict, write grants for funding, develop facilitation courses, and conduct community needs assessments to list a few items. MDP coursework gave me the experience and confidence to engage in the activities successfully for my new position. My practicum prepared me to work with the people in the area of sustainable and positive development. As it turns out, rural Montanans have a lot in common with rural Hondurans. Development, while different in some forms everywhere we go, has a lot of the same types of goals and people involved in it.

On a final note for everyone reading this, graduate school is hard, but it will pay off. Always remember that while you are among competitive peers, you yourself are competitive and have a lot to offer the MDP program and future positions you will assume. I promise that MDP will lead to success in your future endeavors too. Everyone in my Cohort is now incredibly successful, working worldwide on ground-breaking projects with exciting opportunities to make the world a better place. My final piece of advice is one Dr. Galloway gave me--aim a little higher than you think you are capable of, and you just might get your dream job!"

MDP Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Joel Correia

"Justice and human rights have to be the basis of Sustainable Development for anything to be sustainable."

Hello Dr. Correia and welcome to the MDP Family! We are very excited to talk to you today. You have been professor to many of us and we have really enjoyed your classes. Thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to have you as our Faculty Spotlight this semester!

And I'm happy to be part of the MDP Family, too. Thank you for this invitation to talk with you.

Tell us a bit about your story. We want to know more about how you became involved in what you are doing now and what you are passionate about... What brought you here?

It has been a long path that brought me to UF.

I grew up in Northern California, not far from Oregon in the heart of "redwood country", the home of *Sequoia sempervirens*—redwood trees. At that time, the region's economy was based on extractive industries, primarily fishing and logging. Both economies collapsed when I was a kid. With the collapse of the logging industry and increased pressures to protect remaining stands of old growth trees, conflicts abounded. For the sake of simplicity, I'll say there were two main groups involved in the conflicts.

On one side there was a group of people who had made a living from extractive industries for a long time—small logging communities whose livelihoods were based on the timber economy. Yet logging was primarily done by clearcutting stands and eventually resulted in around 97% of old growth redwood trees being felled, leaving few to sustain a once thriving industry. On the other side of the conflict were a group of people largely concerned with environmental conservation who were strongly opposed to logging. As timber stocks dwindled and environmental concerns grew, conflicts between these two sectors of the local society grew in number and intensity. Of course, all of this was playing out on the ancestral territories of numerous indigenous tribes across the region, many who had been dispossessed of their lands yet were greatly impacted by the effects of the extractive industries.



I mention all this because, in retrospect, it greatly informed my interest in social and environmental justice, political ecology, human-environment geography, and indigenous human rights—the issues that lie at the core of my current research and teaching. Given that interest, I pursued a BA in Geography at Humboldt State University with a focus on understanding human-environment relations through physical geography and GIS. Throughout my studies, I was involved in volunteering for and working with local organizations focused on social and environmental justice, broadly construed. That work took me from the redwoods to Kenya, where I worked for a number of years on projects related to children's rights. After working in Kenya, I decided to join Peace Corps, which was the start of my relationship with Paraguay.

As a Peace Corps Volunteer, I lived with small-scale farm families for two years, focusing on collaborative projects with the goals of supporting community organic agriculture, soil conservation, and bee-keeping. By living with campesino families who were struggling to make a living amidst shifting agrarian economies, the question of land rights, land access, and inequality was always present. Though we did not live in the area of soybean production, the scale and reach of that industry in Paraguay is so great that it shaped national conversations about land rights. Given those dynamics and the work I was doing with campesinos, I spent a lot of time talking with people about the struggles that shape their lives and thinking about environmental injustice with regard to land.

MDP Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Joel Correia (cont.)

Following the Peace Corps I decided to get a Master's degree at the University of Arizona Center for Latin American Studies. With an interest in land rights, inequality and development, my MA research focused on assessing the effects of a promising alternative development initiative taking place in the heart of Paraguay's soybean producing region. The Aché indigenous community Kue Tuvy had forged a relationship with a U.S.-based company to produce and sell fair trade, organic, shade-grown yerba mate. I was curious to know how purportedly "sustainable" certification practices marketed toward consumers in the "Global North" actually worked in the communities where such products are produced in the "Global South". Admittedly, I also love to drink yerba mate, so the research also meant that I'd get to spend a lot of time doing just that! But in all seriousness, the research turned my attention from campesino issues to indigenous land rights and agrarian frontiers.

At the University of Colorado-Boulder, I focused my PhD research in geography on the intersection of indigenous territorial struggles, human rights, and environmental justice. Over the course of almost four years, I collaborated with three Enxet and Sanapana indigenous communities who had cases before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights regarding communal land rights. Working with community members and their legal counsel, I conducted ethnographic research to analyze the cases and the politics of implementing the Court's decisions—trying to understand why the Paraguayan state strongly resists supporting indigenous rights in general and indigenous land rights in particular, but also what community members do alongside their allies to push forward and advocate for their rights that actually make these processes work through resistance. I am interested in understanding the tensions between state resistance, indigenous resistance and the politics that happen in the space between those two dynamics.

Following the PhD, I returned to the University of Arizona for a Postdoctoral position in the Center for Latin American Studies. There I developed and taught courses on Human Rights in Latin America; Power, Politics and Deforestation; and Drug Wars and Oil Fortunes in Latin America while also laying the groundwork for new research projects that I am developing at UF.

I was very excited to apply to the UF Center for Latin American Studies when I saw the job come open. The interdisciplinary history of the Center and its location at the crossroads of two very interesting programs, MDP and TCD, really drew my attention. Given that, the Center is a great home to work from and investigate questions about human rights and justice from an emphasis on sustainable development and concern for conservation. Moreover, MDP, TCD, and MALAS attract students from across Latin America who are doing some amazing work. It has been a lot of fun to work with them. The students are wonderful and my faculty peers are great.

We think everything is about the path. We as MDP students are always interested in knowing about the paths our professors have taken. We all have a world of opportunities and choices in front of us; and knowing about your experiences and the events that brought you here help us to identify, relate with them and make decisions. Thank you so much for sharing this with us.

This year you became part of our family. What is your perception about MDP? How do you envision your experience and collaboration with us?

Given that I just became a core faculty member in MDP, I look forward to getting more involved over time. So far, it has been nice to work with Colleen on her field practicum. I have also had the opportunity to work with MDP students in many of my seminars, which has been a lot fun.

One aspect of MDP that is particularly exciting is that people are interested in doing applied work and making positive changes. The way I perceive it is that there are many people interested in developing tools to address pressing social and environmental concerns that we are facing. We need to have people who not only are going to follow academic tracks but also do applied work as practitioners. To me it is an honor and privilege to help support people in that path. My experience in Peace Corps and conducting applied research allows me to identify with the aspiration of many MDP students to contribute to direct change and try to understand how to work with communities by developing tools or strategies with community partners to address their interests. I see MDP as a program that is focused on those kinds of ends, and I am excited to be a part.

MDP Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Joel Correia (cont.)

We think the same. It is a very diverse Program where many experiences, stories, aspirations and issues come together and we put them into practice.

Another thing I like about the MDP Program is that it draws students from across the world. We have students from South Florida, South America, Indonesia, Central America, and more. I am interested in working with students from Latin America and beyond. The MDP Program brings that kind of diversity to UF. If I can support students who work outside of Latin America by helping them develop skills they find useful, I am more than happy to work with them too.

Talking about the core of our Program... What is your perception about Sustainable Development?

While Sustainable Development is a wonderful aspiration, it can also be an oxymoron. Nevertheless, I suggest that justice and human rights have to be the basis for anything to be sustainable.

Let's think about the issue of development, often as a growth-oriented process. Without obscuring concerns for education, health, broader well-being and dignity of people—which also constitute development—I think it depends on how we frame the notion of development itself. In that sense we can ask: Is development a question of economic growth for the ends of economic growth and profit-seeking? Or is development about ensuring people's well-being? If so, what does that well-being look like and mean? Moreover, how does "development" change based on cultural, historical, political and economic contexts? That is why I think it is necessary to think critically about the concept of development.

Then there is the question of sustainability. Given the extent of social, ecological, and political economic crises, what is sustainable? Many argue that development as growth is not sustainable. That is what brings the contradiction to light: How can endless growth and sustainability be coupled? It seems like a wonderful ideal but nevertheless raises the questions of limits to growth or prioritizing things like degrowth, for example. What is development without economic growth? How can we rethink the idea of development as ensuring human dignity without focusing on economic growth? That will take us again to the question about what is sustainable.

Ultimately it seems the underlying goal is to enable pathways that ensure people can live a dignified life that they determine for themselves. In my view, that is a key aspect of what sustainable development has to be, and it will always bring us to concerns for justice and human rights.

What do you think are the main challenges today to achieve sustainable development?

Inequality is a challenge for development and sustainability, and we can think about inequality in different ways. We can think of inequality as economic inequality by measuring poverty. We can think of inequality as who bears the burdens of environmental harms such as deforestation, air pollution and chemical pollution, for example. We can think about relationships between identity and how different forms of discrimination produces uneven opportunities or life chances.

Questioning inequality invites a conversation about justice and the distribution of the impacts of development, and its processes and structures. And that is one of the fundamental challenges: ultimately how do we deal with inequality in ways that enable people to live a life that they view as dignified from their own perspective. There is no one model of a dignified life, it is something that is self-determined.

One of the key challenges about development in general is that it is context-dependent. Many approaches to development suggest creating models or plans that can be widely implemented with impacts on people living in widely different cultural, economic, ecological, and political contexts. Yet universal models often run afoul when faced by challenges of context and the spatially uneven aspects of human geographies.

What would you say are the most important attributes of a practitioner?

Adaptability, willingness to understand context, listening to community interests, and building local collaborations that involve affected peoples are fundamental. Adaptability comes with the challenge of being willing to learn and to learn from errors. It also requires working with partners to co-design strategies that meet their interests.

MDP Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Joel Correia (cont.)

Empathy cannot be overstated. If we go back to the idea of thinking about inequality I think that empathy is necessary to try and understand what the people you are working with are going through and why they are making certain decisions.

Changing the topic a bit. Tell us what are your hobbies?

I love cycling. A number of years ago I rode a bicycle for 7000 km through South America with my partner and ever since then I really enjoy riding bicycles. I also like running, being outside, and gardening. Drinking tereré with friends is also a favorite pastime!

What research are you doing right now?

I am doing a number of things (laughs). I am working on a book which draws from and expands on my dissertation research. Set within the context of three Inter-American Court of Human Rights cases, the book focuses on land politics, indigenous rights, settler colonialism, and the structures of dispossession that impact indigenous peoples across the Americas but particularly in Paraguay.

Recently, with support from the UF Global Fellows program, I began a new research project about frontiers of environmental justice in South America's Gran Chaco. The Chaco is the second largest forest ecosystem in Latin America after the Amazon and is a global deforestation hotspot. This past summer I traveled through Paraguay, Argentina and Bolivia to conduct preliminary research and meet with potential collaborators. All told, the trip involved driving around 7000 km, meeting with indigenous community representatives and local NGOs to learn what they identify as their core concerns related to the expansion of the agrarian frontier across the region.

One goal is to understand how those issues impact indigenous land rights across the Gran Chaco and to think how they are pushing the extractive frontiers into new spaces. I am also interested in understanding how indigenous peoples across the region are mobilizing for land rights within the context of these radical environmental changes. During the trip, I met with Andy Noss (MDP Program Coordinator) in Santa Cruz, Bolivia and he helped introduce me to key conservation organizations and indigenous leaders in the area.

Aside from the book and the Gran Chaco research, I have been publishing works on indigenous human rights, territorial struggles and development.

I look forward to working with MDP students who are interested in Field Practicum opportunities in Paraguay, Bolivia or Argentina. There is a lot of interest in Paraguay and it would be great to get people connected with issues there.

Dr. Correia, one last question to wrap up this wonderful conversation. What would be your best advice for your students?

You know, I think it is all about trying to have humility and empathy, and again, be willing to make mistakes and learn from them. Also community is key. There is a lot of pressure and stress in Graduate School but it is really important to come together in a community and to support each other.

Thank you so much for sharing your experiences and thoughts with us!

Thanks to you, too. Enjoy the Holidays!

MDP Students and Alumni Publications Fall 2019

Daniel Acosta, Saskia Hendrickx & Sarah McKune. 2019. The livestock vaccine supply chain: Why it matters and how it can help eradicate Peste des Petits Ruminants, based on findings in Karamoja, Uganda. *Vaccine* 37(43):6285-6290. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0264410X19311995>

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Dave Wilsey, **Glenn Galloway**, George Scharffenberger, Claire Reid, Karen Brown, Nina Miller, Katherine Snyder & Larry Swatuk. 2019. The Masters of Development Practice (MDP): Reflections on an Adaptive and Collaborative Program Strategy to Develop Integrative Leaders in Sustainable Development. Chapter 5 in Kristi L. Kremers, Alexander S. Liepins & Abigail M. York (eds.), *Developing Change Agents: Innovative Practices for Sustainability Leadership*. University of Minnesota Libraries Publishing, Minneapolis, Minnesota. <https://open.lib.umn.edu/changeagents/chapter/masters-of-development-practice/>

Pia Katila, Carol J. Pierce Colfer, Wil de Jong, **Glenn Galloway, Pablo Pacheco & Georg Winkel** (eds.). 2019. *Sustainable Development Goals: Their Impacts on Forests and People*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, England. <https://www.cambridge.org/9781108486996>

Pia Katila, Wil de Jong, Carol J. Pierce Colfer & **Glenn Galloway**. 2019. Harnessing forests for the Sustainable Development Goals: Building synergies and mitigating trade-offs. IUFRO Policy Brief. <https://www.iufro.org/fileadmin/material/science/spps/wfse/wfse-pol-brief-building-synergies-mitigating-tradeoffs.pdf>



Students Outside the Classroom

Cohort 8

Daniela Lizano: MDP Graduate Assistant; Jacaré Brasil

Dylan Rigsby: Division of Enrollment Management – Communications Graduate Assistant

Jesse Cosme: Graduate Assistants United – Graduate Assistant; Alachua County Labor Coalition

Cohort 9

Adi Gangga: Gender and Development Working Group Coordinator

Christina Joy: Project Youth Build Alachua County

Colleen Abel: Graduate Assistants United – Graduate Assistant; Coalition of Immokalee Workers

Haaris Saqib: Agricultural Education and Communication Graduate Assistant

Mackenzie Goode: Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park

Manuel Morales: Latin American Studies Graduate Assistant

Paola Bak: REPOAMA (Rede de Produção Orgânica da Amazônia Mato-grossense = Network for Organic Production in the Mato Grosso Amazon)

Pierre Will Blanc: Teaching Assistant – Haitian Creole

Stephanie Muench: Field and Fork Food Pantry

Cohort 10

Ange Asanzi: Gender and Development Working Group Coordinator

Andia Akiufuma: Teaching Assistant – Swahili; Africa Choir

Catherine Hart: UF IFAS Family Nutrition Program – Public Health Specialist for Northeast Florida

Madison Smith: Office of Sustainability Intern

Yeyetsi Maldonado: MDP Graduate Assistant

Sarah Strominger: Program Assistant Director - Office for Global Research Engagement in UFIC

MDP Socials!





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https://www.uff.ufl.edu/give-now/?fund_id=020485

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***Wishing you peace and success
in the New Year 2020
from our MDP family to yours.***