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MDP Newsletter

Fall 2021

Issue: 18

UF | Center for
Latin American Studies

 Center for
AFRICAN STUDIES
at the University of Florida

Director's Note

Let me welcome you to the **Fall 2021 newsletter** of the **Master of Sustainable Development Practice (MDP) Program**. As we embark on the third year of the COVID-19 pandemic, I would like to express once more my admiration and gratitude to our students, faculty, administrators and partners who made it possible for our program to continue functioning in an effective way during these challenging times. As you will see below, our students succeeded in carrying out their field practicums, finding creative ways to contribute to the on-going programs of host organizations in Africa, central and south America, India and the US, and thankfully without adverse health impacts to themselves or their hosts. Three of our students had deferred their field practicums from the previous summer, and we are happy that they were able to travel and carry out their practicums abroad, even in the midst of the pandemic. We also honor our students for their engagement with organizations in Gainesville and on campus to take part in initiatives seeking more equitable and sustainable development locally.

The MDP program, by its very nature, approaches “sustainable development” from a very broad perspective, reflected in the array of challenges addressed by the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As examples, MDP students have worked in areas of health, climate change, waste management, gender equality, forests and marine environments, education and inequality, among others. From this broad perspective, 2021 was a tumultuous year for global efforts to progress towards a more sustainable world.

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to unfold, taking and disrupting lives around the world. Extreme climatic events impacted all continents of the world, manifested in unprecedented droughts, massive wildfires, high temperatures and powerful storms. Waste from our consumption patterns can now be found in every corner of our world, no matter how remote, with increasing and only partially understood impacts on all organisms, including humans. It is now widely recognized that we are firmly in the 6th mass extinction of species with the publicized accelerating loss of invertebrates, birds, coral reefs and mammals. Meanwhile, the gap between the wealthy and poor has become even more pronounced during the pandemic.

While evidence abounds on the depth of these and other global challenges, the importance of addressing them has become even more deeply politicized and contested, perhaps, at least in part, reflecting a misunderstanding of the very nature of the world in which we live. Equally misunderstood, it would seem, is the role of science to address complex challenges like the ones mentioned above. One key to better understanding our world is to recognize that it is characterized by complex systems operating at different spatial and temporal scales. While complex systems are known to possess a number of attributes, here I want to refer to two that have particular relevance to this discussion: 1) complex systems have memory (history is important) and 2) complex systems are characterized by uncertainty.

Memory: Much of what we observe today unfolding in our world is the product of humanity's collective action in the past (including the recent past); runaway climate change, biodiversity loss, environmental contamination, soil loss etc., impacting people across the globe in an unequal fashion. These unfolding processes have tremendous momentum, and for a time, would continue to become more serious, even if humanity were to take strong measures now to address them. Why? Because the carbon we have emitted, the waste we have produced, the policies we have put into place, and our production and consumption patterns will continue to add fuel to these undesirable processes for many years to come, precisely because what humanity has done and does now will exercise a strong influence on what unfolds in the future. A failure to make this critical connection leads to complacency, rather than a sense of urgency to act, and as a result, present and future generations will suffer the consequences of our collective failure to take decisive action.

Uncertainty: As we have seen during the pandemic and the unfolding climate crisis, politicians, the press and large swaths of the public are quick to criticize any indication that "science didn't get it right", as if science should be some sort of reservoir of infallible truths. A patch of particularly cold weather unleashes questions about the reality of climate change and global warming. The emergence of a new COVID-19 variant or changes in recommended health practices to stem the spread of disease gives rise to an outpouring of criticisms and worse against researchers and even healthcare providers. From the perspective of global challenges, the role of science, of course, is to increase knowledge over time in order to make more informed and effective decisions.

With so much at stake, it is vitally important to raise awareness about the nature of scientific inquiry and foster understanding about the expected evolution of knowledge and understanding over time.

Twenty-five years ago, Donella Meadows, world-renowned leader in systems thinking, wrote a classic piece entitled "*Places to Intervene in a System*". She began with the "place" that she considered has the least leverage when intervening in a system, and progressed to the "place" that has the most leverage and power to transform systems, specifically, the mindset or paradigm out of which the system arises. This assertion has great significance in the present discussion, since unscrupulous persons in positions of power and influence have effectively exploited misunderstandings about the world and science to cultivate mindsets that hold science in deep suspicion and create distrust in the very institutions needed to address the daunting challenges facing humanity. The incessant flow of false and misleading information on social and mainstream media platforms have further entrenched these mindsets, creating a formidable obstacle to societal efforts to nurture a more sustainable world. As a country and world, we (humanity) urgently need to come together in order to address the great challenges we face.

I would be remiss to end these reflections without commenting briefly on developments that instill hope in our future. If given half a chance, the natural world has proven to be quite resilient and can recover many of the ecosystem services on which we depend

Traditional systems and new technologies abound to address many challenges, and investment in renewable energy, for example, has increased dramatically. In the corporate sector, social and environmental performance is given greater scrutiny now more than ever and this trend is expected to continue. While COP26 was clearly a disappointment – “a global north greenwash festival” according to activist Greta Thunberg – it did reflect a greater global recognition of the urgent need to mitigate climate change by shifting away from fossil fuels. Without doubt, however, the greatest reasons for hope are our young people who fully understand what's at stake. We who are involved in the global MDP program in nearly 40 universities have the privilege to engage daily with students from around the world and are witnesses to their passion, commitment and conviction to contribute to a better future.

In each newsletter, I take the opportunity to express my deep appreciation to core and affiliate faculty from many departments across UF who support our program through their teaching and the guidance they provide to our students. In the Faculty Spotlight section of this newsletter, Dr. Renata Serra, MDP Graduate Coordinator, was interviewed by Alejandro Sanchez, Graduate Assistant of the MDP Program. Renata has played an incredibly important role in the MDP Program since its inception, teaching an array of core courses, including the foundational Development Theory and Practice course during the first years of the program (together with Dr. Marianne Schmink) and also the Foundations of Economic Analysis for Sustainable Development course.

As MDP Graduate Coordinator, Renata engages with each student from early on in their programs to explore their interests and needs in order to recommend faculty members who may serve on their committees and to help them develop their study plans. She has also served on numerous MDP student advisory committees over the years and has linked students with her ongoing research work, primarily in countries of sub-saharan Africa. Renata also serves on the Admissions, Curriculum and Steering Committees of the program and strives to identify measures that might be taken to improve program quality over time. I would like to personally thank Renata here for all her immeasurable contributions to the program and for being a great friend and colleague.

Other highlights in the Newsletter include links to bios of our students providing a brief overview of their diverse backgrounds and interests and their future professional aspirations. Congratulations to our four students who graduated during the Fall semester; see below the topics they pursued in their field practicums, where they were conducted, and the major advisors who supported their efforts. Both core and affiliate faculty members were recipients of important awards and these are indicated below. Congratulations to them as well.

Before closing, I would like to thank the Center for Latin American Studies, the Center for African Studies, the International Center, the Graduate School and the Tropical Conservation and Development Program for their essential support to every facet of the UF MDP program.



Director's Note

Thanks also to second-year student and MDP Graduate Assistant, Alejandro Sanchez, who took leadership in the preparation of this newsletter, adding his personal touch to its content and design.

Although belated, we wish all our readers a happy, healthy and successful 2022, hoping we will begin soon to truly emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope to hear from you in the coming year, or better yet, that our paths will cross in the not too-distant future.

Glenn Galloway PhD
MDP Program Director



Welcome MDP Cohort 12!



You can review their profiles at:

<https://mdp.africa.ufl.edu/people/current-students/>

Welcome MDP Cohort 12!

This fall the MDP program welcomed fourteen new students from Botswana, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Haiti, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria and the United States. As usual, their backgrounds and interests and experiences are also extremely diverse: women's empowerment, youth empowerment, community development, sports for development, philosophy, animal production systems, sustainable food systems, composting, waste management, business, social entrepreneurship, communications, wildlife conservation, environmental engineering, environmental education, and environmental justice, among others. They have worked for the private sector, international agencies, local NGOs, Peace Corps, and as extensionists and organizers.

We are very grateful to these students for the extraordinary efforts they have made to begin the MDP program with the return to in-person classes but still under the uncertain cloud of the COVID-19 pandemic.



MDP Graduates

Summer – Fall 2021

Raine Donohue Cohort 10

Specializations: **Latin American Studies, TCD**

Advisor: **Claudia Romero (Biology)**

Capstone Field Practicum:

Identifying pathways to prosperity for rural communities in the Peruvian Amazon through the PRIME framework and the Green Value Tool®

Location: **Perú**



Yeyetsi Maldonado Cohort 10

Specializations: **Latin American Studies, TCD**

Advisor: **Karen Kainer (Forest Resources & Conservation)**

Capstone Field Practicum:

Traditional charcoal production in agroforestry systems: what can we learn from global experiences?

Location: **México**



MDP Graduates

Summer – Fall 2021

Nikki Picón Cohort 10

Specializations: **Global Health, African Studies, TCD**

Advisor: **Renata Serra (African Studies)**

Capstone Field Practicum:

Research uptake for livestock systems in Ethiopia

Location: **Ethiopia**



Madison Smith Cohort 10



Specializations: **Sustainable Business, TCD**

Advisor: **Martha Monroe (Forest Resources & Conservation)**

Capstone Field Practicum:

Understanding the human dimensions of conservation burials

Location: **USA**

Congratulations!

Fall Awards – Faculty

UF Names 2021-2024 Term Professors

Congratulations to MDP Affiliate Faculty **Dr. Catherine Tucker** and **Dr. Marit Østebø** who were named 2021-2024 Term Professors. These three-year professorships were created by UF to recognize faculty who have established a distinguished record of research and scholarship that is expected to lead to continuing distinction in their field.

2021 International Educator of the Year Awards

The International Educator of the Year Awards honors 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.

International Educators Awardees by College – Senior Faculty

MDP Affiliate Faculty **Dr. Chris Silver**, College of Design, Construction, and Planning

2021 Global Learning Institute Awardees

The Global Learning Institute is a semester-long program where faculty learn about internationalization models, campus resources, and teaching methods to support global learning. The program reinforces professional development at UF by creating interdisciplinary learning communities and by expanding the teaching toolkit of our faculty.

MDP Core Faculty **Dr. Joel Correia**, Assistant Professor, Center for Latin American Studies



Field Practicum Experiences

Summer - Fall 2021



Field Practicum Experiences

Summer – Fall 2021

We are very proud of our **ten Cohort 10** and **Cohort 11** students who overcame the tremendous disruption of **COVID-19** to their own plans and to their host organizations' development initiatives, successfully conducting fieldwork and data analysis using appropriate remote and physically-distanced methods, and making very important contributions to their host organizations' ongoing programs as detailed in the following table. We especially honor the resilience and commitment of Nikki, Raine, and Sarah who postponed their field practicums from summer 2020 in order to be able to travel to field sites in summer 2021; and of Alejo, Ana, and Jenn who were obliged to set aside initial plans and develop alternative practicums. We are deeply grateful to Cohort 12 student Omar Hernández for connecting Alejo and Ana with UNDP projects in Yucatán.

We are very grateful to our faculty who worked tirelessly to help our students identify new field practicum topics and host organizations and accompanied them throughout this very challenging period.

Field Practicum Experiences

Summer – Fall 2021

Name	Theme	Region / country	FP Placement	Awards	Committee
Raine Donohue	Identifying pathways to prosperity for rural communities in the Peruvian Amazon through the PRIME framework and the Green Value Tool.®	Iquitos, Peru	Earth Innovation Institute	MDP Travel Grant LAS Field Research Grant Graduate Student Council Travel Grant TCD Practitioner Experience Grant	Claudia Romero, Christine Overdevest
Katie Fiorillo	Measuring women's empowerment in agroforestry activities in northern Uganda.	Gulu, Uganda	Kijani Forestry	MDP Travel Grant TCD Field Research Grant Ruth McQuown Scholarship CAS Graduate Travel Award Kijani Logistic Support	Renata Serra, Sarah McKune
A.J. Hart	Volunteer tourism and community conservation efforts in Costa Rica.	Puerto Jiménez, Costa Rica	Latin America Sea Turtles (LAST)	MDP Travel Grant LAST Logistic Support	Angélica Almeyda, Taylor Stein
Jennifer Johnson	Learning from the international diversity of health worker protests.	Washington, DC	Accountability Research Center	Remote project	Sarah McKune, Ricky Telg

Field Practicum Experiences

Summer – Fall 2021

Name	Theme	Region / country	FP Placement	Awards	Committee
Nicole Picón	Research uptake for livestock systems in Ethiopia.	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Livestock Innovation Lab / ILRI	MDP Travel Grant Livestock Lab Travel Grant CAS Graduate Travel Award	Renata Serra, Erica Odera
Alejandro Sanchez	Facilitating smallholder farmer engagement with data-driven agriculture: a case of study in the Yucatán Peninsula, México	Yucatán, México	UNDP Pequeñas Donaciones Mexico (PPD), Guardianes de las Semillas, Misioneros A.C.	MDP Travel Grant TCD Practitioner Experience Grant UNDP Mexico Financial & Logistic Support	Cheryl Palm, Renata Serra, Glenn Galloway
Sarah Strohming	Alternative water access and eco-social justice: analyzing the value of water harvested from fog in southwest Morocco.	Agadir, Morocco	Dar Si Hmad	MDP Travel Grant TCD Field Research Grant AAUW St Augustine Diane Boyce Scholarship CAS Graduate Travel Award	Renata Serra, Esther Mullens
Ana Ugalde-Brenes	The business case for women's participation in beekeeping cooperatives: a case study of the Kuxtalil honey producers' cooperative in Yucatán, México.	Yucatán, México	UNDP Pequeñas Donaciones Mexico (PPD) and Kuxtalil Women's Cooperative	MDP Travel Grant	Renata Serra, Becky Williams

Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Renata Serra

Alejo: Hello, Dr. Serra, thank you for taking the time to meet. And let me just jump to it, so please tell us a little about yourself. What did you study? What attracted you to development work?

Dr. Serra: Thank you so much, it's nice to be part of this issue. I studied economics at the University of Rome, as an undergraduate, and then went to do my graduate studies at the University of Cambridge in England. At the beginning, I was more interested in economic theory, but I soon became fascinated with the intricate and complex family systems in West Africa, and with gender relations and child fostering. I developed such interests by reading lots of anthropological and sociological work on these topics. My PhD thesis applied an economic framework and language to make sense of the economic aspects affecting family relations and child fostering in West Africa. At that point, I was not interested in development work, but rather in research about West African societies. Interest in more applied research came only after my Ph.D. when I was looking for jobs and I had the luck of applying to, and being accepted at, the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex (a very important interdisciplinary development study center in Europe). I was part of a large three-year antipoverty program that was funded by DFID and SIDA, which are respectively, the counterparts of USAID in Britain and in Sweden. I was a research officer as part of a wider team, and I was exposed to policy questions like the following: How do you implement anti-poverty programs? What is the coalition that could support that? What are the policies that would be feasible? I really liked the application of research knowledge to ask specific policy questions. That was the moment when I became more interested in doing research for development, so I did research on social capital, and started to understand how social capital could represent (or not) the levers for change within nations and communities.

Alejo: Very interesting! You did your Ph.D. at Cambridge University, right? You jumped from undergrad directly to a Ph.D.?

Dr. Serra: I had a one year gap while I was applying for grants and worked as research assistant for the Treccani encyclopedia. Then I applied for a Master's degree program at Cambridge. After my Master's I decided to stay and to build on it, because in Europe, you can incorporate it into a Ph.D. if you stay in the same university. I never thought I would do a Ph.D. I always thought, OK, I'll do a Master's, and then I'll see. Then I finished the Master's. I said, OK, I've got one year more of scholarship...what do I do? Yes, I decided to start the PhD...and then I would see.

Alejo: So, two birds, one stone?

Dr. Serra: Yes, but also incremental decisions.

Alejo: Thank you, and what projects are you working on right now?

Dr. Serra: Right now I have one project which you've heard probably a lot about because I work with my colleagues here, Sarah McKune, Sandra Russo and Nargiza Ludgate on gender integration into livestock vaccine value chains in three countries. We work in Nepal, Senegal and Uganda. This is part of a larger research agenda of integrating gender into spaces where it has not been considered important. And when it comes to livestock, especially the veterinary services, there are a lot of women acting in those areas, but very little gender sensitization. Most services focus on the technical aspects like providing veterinary care, providing vaccines, etc. Most actors think that the problems are logistical, or technical, but they never think that they are embedded in social norms or in cultural norms, so there's very little work done on gender in these spaces. We are trying to bring gender in. And we just yesterday got the news that one of our articles was published.

Alejo: Yes, I saw that, with Katie!

Dr. Serra: Exactly. Katie Fiorillo also helped us a lot and is one of the coauthors, and I am very pleased. I led the effort as the main author working with a great team. We decided to address the article to experts in the veterinary fields and published in the journal *Animals*. I would never have thought of publishing in this journal, because the audience is totally different from social scientists. I hope this article will be read widely and make readers understand how important it is to integrate gender into veterinary services.

Alejo: A Gender lens into that intersectionality.

Dr. Serra: Yes, gender and intersectionality. We argue that you have to go beyond the dichotomy of gender. In that article, we emphasize that you have to look at gender and other aspects like caste, ethnicity, and social status in order to understand who is better able to access services and who is more marginalized, in the three studied contexts.

Alejo: Very interesting. Definitely I will read it. Because for me, learning about gender has been extremely eye opening...and obviously you've been a champion of gender here!

Dr. Serra: Yes, following other people, current as well as now-retired, at UF who have promoted a strong gender focus for at least 40 years. UF is renowned for its longstanding gender expertise, and that's why we enter into a lot of consortia and consultancies on gender. Not only research! Action as well.

Alejo: I love that there is not just research, but action putting that research into practice. Now, What is your role in the MDP program?

Dr. Serra: I've been here ever since the MDP started, from day one. I was, for instance, member of the committee that hired Glenn Galloway!

In the first year, we had an interim director, an interim committee, but then we decided we needed a director. We also had to propose brand new courses, and I proposed with Marianne Schmink the course that you all know, the famous Development theory and practice (aka Global Classroom). I put the syllabus together with Marianne Schmink, and I taught with her for five years from 2010 to 2015. I also teach another core course, the economics course. So I'm core faculty, still very devoted and committed. I think I've been on the student admissions committee since cohort one (laughs), so I've seen all your applications throughout the years. Formally I am also graduate advisor for the program. I think that Glenn and Andy do a great job in advising you all, but I support them in that role. And I have worked as chair or committee member with many, many MDP students.

...(People at) UF have promoted a strong gender focus for at least 40 years. UF is renowned for its longstanding gender expertise....Dr. Renata Serra



Alejo: And we appreciate that! Because (as students) a lot of times, the meetings that we have with you before choosing a practicum and advisors are very important.

Dr. Serra: I'm glad to hear it! Yes, it's nice to get to know the MDP students as soon as they come, not only through the orientation, the famous orientation that we had to do recently online, but that hopefully we will do in-person again. Also, we used to do outings at the very beginning. It's so nice to meet the new cohort, not only on paper when they apply, but also when they arrive.

Alejo: The actual persons! And turning to more current events and taking into account recent shocks like the pandemic, how do you see your work in development evolving in the future...given that you have all this experience?

Dr. Serra: I think the change is not only in my development work, but also in my life, and in my teaching, where I have emphasized the concept of resilience to shocks. Even yesterday, I was teaching an undergraduate class and we were talking about resilience, and I always inquire about their own experience and their coping mechanisms during the COVID pandemic, so people can relate to these topics. I think practitioners will be more sensitive about resilience and more understanding of how shocks affect people differently, because I think they do. Even how we perceive COVID here in Florida is totally different from other countries. But also the concept of resilience is more prominent in my research.

From a more process point of view, I think COVID has changed the way we work, even development work. And I think we will never go back to how...maybe the way we were doing it before. Another important point is that shocks and any experience become lasting. They affect the way we work, and we don't revert exactly to status quo, but we develop in other directions. The mix between in-person and distance collaboration, I think, will stay. After two years, I'm now finally going back to the field shortly, in a few weeks, back to Senegal. But I think we will continue to also mix the in-person with the long distance Zoom collaboration, data collections and meetings. I think COVID has taught us how to collaborate through these obstacles.

Alejo: Making globalization even more global!

Dr. Serra: I think so, yes.

Alejo: And any advice for someone considering entering the field of development work?

Dr. Serra: Of course, be flexible is the advice of the day. I would also say, just go for it. I mean, given the uncertainty, you plan a trip, then they lock down that country. You cannot do it, you know, if you postpone it. So, if you feel you want to do something now, do it. Because you never know the future! (laughs).

Just go for it, be open and flexible, but also follow your interests and instinct. Don't rationalize too much. I think now with the uncertainty of COVID, there's a tendency for young people to overthink and overplan, but embracing uncertainty is something that we have to learn how to do. And maybe: just be more trusting. Of course, this doesn't mean to be totally irresponsible and crazy. Just following your instincts can be a good way of understanding what is good for you. How to go about things in practice depends on your interests. People are different, and want to work locally or internationally, private sector or public sector, etc. I cannot give suggestions without knowing the specifics, but there are a lot of opportunities, and there are a lot of skills needed, good sense needed. Trust in yourself and ask for suggestions, but just go for it.

Alejo: I have twenty thousand more questions, but I don't want to take more of your time! Well, just a final question, something more informal! Italy is famous because of their amazing food. You are really good at that. What's your favorite restaurant in Gainesville?

Dr. Serra: Not the Italian restaurants, for sure! (laughs). Maybe I can give two suggestions, I love Asian food, and so of course, if you want to spend money, Dragonfly for a big occasion is a great place, but also through the pandemic, we found a lot of comfort in take-out from Sohao Street Fair Cafe. Sohao is by Archer Road: Asian Chinese restaurant, big portions, comforting. But if you want to go back to a restaurant indoors, The Top for me is one of the nicest atmospheres. I love the vegetarian and vegan recipes there.

Alejo: I'll trust you on that!

Dr. Serra: You can have a beer then little snacks, or even if you have a full meal, I think is a reasonable, it was reasonable before the pandemic. I think a lot of students go there for that reason.

Alejo: Thank you so much.

MDP Students, Alumni, and Faculty Publications

Fall 2021

MDP Alumna Grace Palacios

Palacios, G. (2021). Participación comunitaria en el mecanismo Transferencias Directas Condicionadas del Programa Bosques. *Anthropologica*, 39(46), 171-193. <https://doi.org/10.18800/anthropologica.202101.006>
<https://revistas.pucp.edu.pe/index.php/anthropologica/article/view/24078>



MDP Affiliate Dr. Marit Østebø:



Østebø, Marit Tolo, Terje Østebø, and Kjetil Tronvoll. 2021. "Health and politics in pandemic times: COVID-19 responses in Ethiopia." *Health Policy and Planning*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/heapol/czab091>

Østebø, Terje, Kjetil Tronvoll, and Marit Tolo Østebø. 2021. "Religion and the 'Secular shadow': responses to covid-19 in Ethiopia." *Religion*:1-20. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0048721X.2021.1943769>

MDP Affiliate Dr. Rebecca Hanson:

Blair, G.,...R. Hanson,... & A. Wilke. 2021. Community policing does not build citizen trust in police or reduce crime in the Global South. *Science* 374(6571):1046-1047.
<https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abd3446>



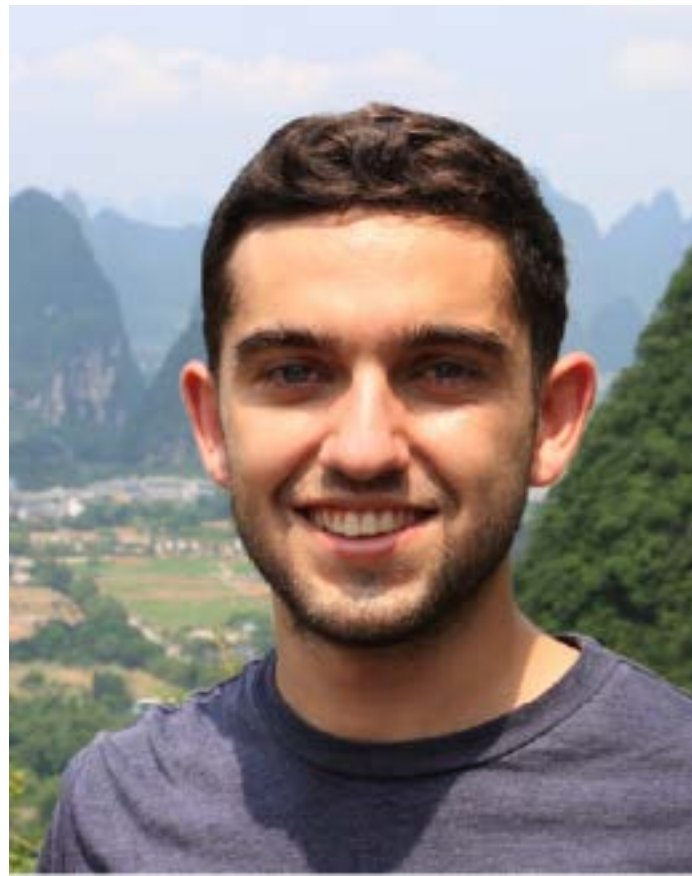
MDP Students, Alumni, and Faculty Publications

Fall 2021

MDP Alumni Daniel Acosta and Nick Diaz, and MDP core faculty Dr. Sarah McKune:

Acosta, D., Y. Fujii, D. Joyce-Beaulieu, K.D. Jacobs, A.T. Maurelli, E.J. Nelson & S.L. McKune. 2021. Psychosocial Health of K-12 Students Engaged in Emergency Remote Education and In-Person Schooling: A Cross-Sectional Study. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* 18, 8564. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18168564>

McKune, S.L., D. Acosta, N. Diaz *et al.* 2021. Psychosocial health of school-aged children during the initial COVID-19 safer-at-home school mandates in Florida: a cross-sectional study. *BMC Public Health* 21, 603. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-021-10540-2>



Student Activities: Outside the Classroom

Cohort 10

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

Nikki Picón: Gender and Development Working Group

Sarah Strohming: Programs Assistant Director, Office of Global Research Engagement, UFIC; Gender and Development Working Group

Cohort 11

A.J. Hart: TCD Student Group, Tropilunch Co-Coordinator

Alejandro Sánchez: MDP Graduate Assistant; MDP Global Association Student and Alumni Council UF Representative; TCD Student Group Officer; Team Florida Cycling Officer

Ana Ugalde Brenes: Graduate Assistants United Graduate Assistant, Gender and Development Working Group Officer

Jennifer Johnson: Accountability Research Center, Volunteer; TCD Student Group

Katie Fiorillo: Kijani Forestry, Development Officer; IDRC research project on livestock vaccinations in Nepal, Uganda, and Senegal

Medha Prakash: TCD Student Group, Tropilunch Co-Coordinator

Priya Pershadsingh: IDRC research project on livestock vaccinations in Nepal, Uganda, and Senegal; MDP Global Association Student and Alumni Council Representative

Cohort 12

Antony Gitei: ki-Swahili Teaching Assistant

Chioma Iyamu: Center for African Studies, Staff

Fallon Riaño Jiménez: Graduate Assistants United Graduate Assistant

Fraleigh Krause: Created Gainesville, Marketing Coordinator

Hannah Jo Maier: UF International Center, Peace Corps Recruiter

Jeantel Cheramy: Haitian Creole Teaching Assistant

Nicole Senuku: Dept. Languages, Literatures and Cultures, Graduate Assistant

Sarina Kawall: Center for Latin American Studies Graduate Assistant

Omar Hernández: UF-BCLS Path to Purpose Advanced Leadership Cohort Fellow; UF-Warrington College of Business- Social Impact & Sustainability Initiative Scholar; UF-TCD Student Group and TCD Steering Committee member Latin America Representative; International Alliance for Localization, Volunteer; City of Gainesville – Citizens Advisory Committee for Community Development, Student Member

Get together



Get together



DONATIONS

We have all been witness to the invaluable work being carried out by MDP students with broad, cross-departmental faculty support and by our growing body of alumni.

Now is an opportunity to contribute to our exciting program! The MDP UF Foundation Account will support MDP students, for example, in the realization of their capstone field practicums and to attend relevant conferences where they can present their work and engage with other practitioners.

Donations can be made online at:

<https://www.uff.ufl.edu/OnlineGiving/FundDetail.asp?FundCode=020485>