



NEWSLETTER FALL 2022

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



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Edited by Yadira Molina de Cruz
MDP Graduate Assistant

Director's Note: Glenn Galloway

Welcome to our "Fall" 2022 newsletter that provides an overview of noteworthy developments of the University of Florida Master of Sustainable Development Practice (MDP) program, including the enrolment of an exciting new cohort of students, and the capstone field practicum projects that our second-year students conducted last summer both abroad and here in the Gainesville community. We are grateful for the generous support of faculty members, scholarship programs and other funding sources, MDP alumni and partner organizations that make this program possible.

As in past years, the new cohort of students is best characterized by the word diversity, both with respect to their countries of origin and their disciplinary backgrounds. If you look over their profiles ([link on page 4](#)), you will gain a sense of the work they have already undertaken prior to coming to UF to contribute to a healthier, more just, and equitable world.

On page 9, you will find information on the field practicum (FP) projects our second-year students carried out last summer, including their location, the organizations that hosted them, and faculty and external professionals who advised them. Many attributes of the field practicum experience make it an enriching and challenging experience, including immersion in unfamiliar cultures and the opportunity to apply knowledge and skills nurtured in the MDP program, while contributing to the ongoing efforts of a host organization devoted in some way to sustainable development.

Multi-directional student mobility has also been an innovative characteristic of the MDP program, resulting, for example, in students from the global "South" contributing to the work of organizations in the global "North". Last summer, for example, MDP students from Mexico, Nigeria and Botswana carried out their field practicums in the Gainesville community with local organizations and an elementary school. Other students from the global "South" traveled to other continents/countries in the global "South" in what might be termed "South to South" collaboration. Since its inception, this type of multi-directional mobility has played out across the MDP Global Association, resulting in an exciting web of global partnerships and cooperation.



In each newsletter, I take the opportunity to acknowledge the vital support that core, affiliate and other faculty provide to our students, both in graduate courses and by serving on student supervisory committees. In this edition of the newsletter, MDP Graduate Assistant Yadira Molina interviewed Dr. Sebastian Galindo, who, for many years, has been a strong supporter of the MDP program. The interview provides a fascinating glimpse into the unique trajectory of Dr. Galindo's career in which he discovered his vocation for extension work, resulting in a career shift from veterinary medicine to one focusing on international extension and development. Over time, he increased his involvement in processes of monitoring and evaluation (M&E), applying mixed methods approaches to evaluate development projects around the world. Since a significant proportion of MDP students carry out M&E in their field practicums and aspire to continue this type of work in their professional careers, many reach out to Dr. Galindo for guidance and support, which he has kindly provided over the years. I want to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to Dr. Galindo for all his contributions to the MDP program.



Director's Note: Glenn Galloway (cont.)

Here, I would also like to extend my thanks to Dr. Levy Odera, Assistant Professor of Social Sciences at Minerva University, who on short notice agreed to be contracted by the Center for African Studies to teach the foundational course of the MDP, *Development Theory and Practice*, in the Fall semester. In addition, the organization SAYDS (Systems Acumen for Youth-led Development), founded by Dr. Odera, hosted MDP student Katherine McCall in Kenya for her field practicum, and Dr. Odera agreed to serve as a member of her supervisory committee. I am also pleased that Dr. Erica Odera, alumna of the first cohort of UF MDP students (2010-12), is also a member of Katherine's supervisory committee. Erica is an Associate Scientist in the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems working as program evaluator for the Lab. Many thanks to Erica for this support.

Jennifer Carr, another alumna of Cohort 1 of the UF MDP program, kindly agreed to contribute to this newsletter, describing her positions in UF and her work as President of the non-profit Florida Defenders of the Environment (FDE). We are proud of Jennifer for her dedication and passion and wish her the greatest success in her important efforts.

A more recent graduate, Amira Hussein from Cohort 10, is beginning an exciting new role coordinating the UK-Egypt Climate partnership, involved in the implementation of local and regional climate projects. We are proud of her and wish her the greatest success too.

Here, I want to convey our deep appreciation to Michael Friel, Emeritus Professor of Law at the University of Florida Fredric G. Levin College of Law, who generously established The Jacqueline Friel and Jonathan Friel International Travel Fund in the UF Foundation to help support MDP students who embark on international travel for their capstone field practicums. The creation of this fund is a tremendously important contribution to the UF MDP program.

Before closing, I would like to express once more my appreciation to the Center for Latin American Studies, the Center for African Studies, the International Center, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Graduate School, the Office of the Provost and the Tropical Conservation and Development Program for the broad support to the MDP program, without doubt a key to its ongoing success. Many thanks also to Yadira, our Graduate Assistant, for taking leadership in the preparation of this newsletter.

Finally, best wishes to all our readers. We look forward to engaging with many of you during 2023 and beyond.

Welcome Cohort 13!



This fall the MDP program welcomed thirteen new students from Argentina / Bolivia, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, South Africa, Trinidad & Tobago and the United States. As usual, their backgrounds and interests and experiences are also extremely diverse—artificial intelligence, business, marketing, corporate social responsibility, environmental and social governance, communication, gender and development, philosophy, medicine, public health, human rights, social justice, migration, climate change, renewable energy, forestry, fisheries, restoration, youth empowerment, and community development, among others. They have worked for international agencies, local NGOs, and the private sector.

You can review their profiles at: <https://mdp.africa.ufl.edu/people/current-students/>

New MDP Graduate Fall 2022: CONGRATULATIONS!

Priya Pershadsingh (Cohort 11)

Specializations: Organizational Leadership for Nonprofits, Gender & Development, Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD)

Committee: Kim Wiley (Family, Youth and Community Sciences), Dale Pracht (FYCS)

Capstone Field Practicum: *"Financial Sustainability: Lessons Learned on Developing and Piloting a Fundraising Strategy for an Environmental Education Nonprofit in Miami, Florida."*



Student Participation in Conferences – Fall 2022

Priya Pershadsingh and **Hannah Jo Maier**, Society for International Development (SID) Annual Dinner for Professionals in Development, November 17, 2022, Washington, DC [Thanks to College of Liberal Arts and Sciences conference travel awards]



Khumo Nicole Senuku, Re-Entry Summit, October 5-7, 2022, West Palm Beach, FL [Thanks to College of Liberal Arts and Sciences conference travel award]



Student Participation in Conferences – Fall 2022

Hannah Jo Maier, World Travel & Tourism Council Global Summit, November 28 - December 1, 2022, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Many thanks to the Global Secretariat of the MDP Global Association for their support in coordinating this opportunity.



Raymond Hopkins, 8th International Agroecology Encounter, November 14-18, 2022, Artemisa, Cuba



Fall Awards

2022 International Student Achievement Awards (ISAA)

These awards highlight the exemplary academic achievements, community service, and civic engagement of international students at the University of Florida.

ISAA's single University-wide **Outstanding Masters and Professional International Student Award** went to MDP student **Antony Gitei Gathiru** (Kenya).

Certificates of Outstanding Merit from the Center for African Studies (CAS) went to Antony Gitei Gathiru, Chioma Iyamu (Nigeria), and Khumo Nicole Senuku (Botswana).

Certificates of Outstanding Merit from the Center for Latin American Studies went to Fallon Riaño Jiménez (Colombia), Jeantel Cheramy (Haiti), and Sarina Kawall (Guyana).

Congratulations to all for their academic performance and contributions to the UF community and beyond.



Left to Right: Alioune Sow (CAS Interim Director). Khumo Nicole Senuku, Fallon Riaño Jiménez, Sarina Kawall, Glenn Galloway (Director and Master Lecturer, MDP), Antony Gitei Gathiru, Andrew Noss (MDP Program Coordinator), and Chioma Iyamu

Field Practicum Experiences - Summer 2022

We are very proud of our thirteen Cohort 12 students who identified international and local host organizations, planned their activities, conducted fieldwork and data analysis, and made very important contributions to their host organizations' ongoing programs as detailed in the table below.

We are very grateful to our faculty who worked tirelessly to help our students identify these field practicum topics and host organizations and accompanied them throughout the experience.

Name	Theme	Region/ Country	FP Placement Host Organization	Committee Members
Jeantel Cheramy	Analyzing heavy metal removal in point-of-use water filter systems.	Gainesville, FL, USA	UF Environmental and Public Health / Gift of Water (GOW)	Samuel Smidt, Joseph Bisesi, Jr.
Antony Gitei Gathiru	(In)equality and female participation in sports: A case study of Moving the Goalposts Kilifi, Kenya.	Kilifi, Kenya	Moving the Goalposts	Marit Østebø, Kyriaki Kaplanidou
Trent Gautney	Evaluating and improving community engagement for electoral reform in the Cooperative Republic of Guyana.	Georgetown, Guyana	Electoral Reform Group (ERG)	Sarah McKune, Matt Hallett
Omar Hernández Carmona	Facilitating the co-design process of Partnership for Reimagining Gainesville's (PRG) monitoring and evaluation system.	Gainesville, FL, USA	Partnership for Reimagining Gainesville (UF and City of Gainesville)	Glenn Galloway, Manda Wittebort, Muthusami Kumaran, John Kraft, Karissa Raskin
Chioma Fidelia Iyamu	Pilot study of elementary school food waste diversion and composting.	Gainesville, FL, USA	St. Patrick's Interparish School	Ann Wilkie, Amanda Waddle
Sarina Kwall	An examination of human-wildlife conflict as it relates to small carnivores and small livestock.	Rupununi, Guyana	Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) Sustainable Wildlife Management programme	Matt Hallett, Becky Williams
Fraleigh Krause	Build the person, change the world: the role of psychological empowerment on the orphan experience and readiness for society.	Santiago Texacuangos, San Salvador, El Salvador	Harvesting in Spanish	Sarah McKune, David Diehl
Hannah Jo Maier	Social factors influencing community management of decentralized tree nurseries in Gulu, Uganda.	Gulu, Uganda	Kijani Forestry	Sarah McKune, Renata Serra

Field Practicum Experiences - Summer 2022

Name	Theme	Region/ Country	FP Placement	Committee
Katherine McCall	A qualitative evaluation of a Systems Thinking education program for youth in Kenya.	Nairobi, Kenya	Systems Acumen for Youth-Led Development (SAYDS)	Sebastian Galindo, Erica Odera, Levy Odera
Priya Pershadsingh	Developing and piloting a fundraising strategy for Citizens For A Better South Florida.	Miami, FL, USA	Citizens For A Better South Florida	Kim Wiley, Dale Pracht
Sebastian Ponce	Eco-tourism and mindfulness in Sapana Village, Nepal.	Sapana, Nepal	Sapana Lodge	Sarah McKune, Becky Williams, Mary Rockwood Lane
Fallon Riaño Jiménez	Dairy farm assessment and advisory tool: a Rwanda reasibility study.	Kigali, Rwanda	Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems (UF)	Sarah McKune, Geoffrey Dahl, Erica Odera
Khumo Nicole Senuku	Systems thinking in addressing structural poverty among formerly incarcerated people—creating equitable and inclusive prosperity for all.	Gainesville, FL, USA	Community Spring	Renata Serra, John Kraft



MDP Alumni Experiences

Jennifer Carr (Cohort 1)

**Information Specialist, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
President, Florida Defenders of the Environment**



I was in Cohort 1 and I'm excited to announce that after 8 years working as a lab manager at the University of Florida Entomology and Nematology Department in Gainesville where I reared stink bugs in the Biosecurity Research and Extension lab, I finally made it over the fence to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Plant Industry. As an Information Specialist, I answer the DPI Helpline and direct calls to different programs such as the Giant African Land Snail, Industrial Hemp, and Nursery registrations in both English and Spanish.

Since 2019, I have been president of the non-profit 501(c)(3) Florida Defenders of the Environment (FDE) whose mission is to restore the historic Ocklawaha River's aquatic connection to the St. Johns River by breaching a portion of the Rodman/Kirkpatrick dam. This would give manatees and fish access to upstream habitat including Silver Springs State Park known for its glass-bottom boat rides. Restoring the river would also increase connectivity for terrestrial wildlife due to its location within the Florida Wildlife Corridor. Draining the reservoir would allow over nine thousand acres of forest to grow back, providing a critical linkage for the movement of flora and fauna between the Ocala National Forest and Osceola National Forest.

The MDP program taught me communication and strategic planning skills that are invaluable to navigating this over half-century-long environmental conflict regarding the Ocklawaha River that started with the destructive Cross Florida Barge Canal project. The empathic listening skills that the MDP program taught have helped me lead my organization, build public awareness about river restoration, and collaborate with over 50 other nonprofits as a coalition working towards the same goal in a revival to #FreeTheOcklawaha.

Visit www.ocklawahariver.com for an informative map.

MDP Alumni Experiences (cont.)

Amira Mousa (Cohort 10)

Climate Change Advisor, UK-Egypt Climate partnership



I got accepted into a UK embassy job! The post is "Climate Change Advisor" (equivalent to "High Executive Officer" position) where I will be taking care of the UK-Egypt Climate partnership, running and coordinating local and regional climate projects with high-level government officials in the UK and Egypt. I am so excited to bring in all my learnings from the MDP program and other experiences in my career to excel in this new role.

MDP Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Sebastian Galindo (Ag Educ & Comm)

Yadira: Hello Dr. Galindo, first, we want to thank you for taking time to contribute to our Newsletter. Please tell us about yourself and your professional trajectory. What led to the transition from your early studies in animal science to the research work and other development fields you are involved in today?

Dr. Galindo: I was born in Mexico City, therefore, I really had no connections with agriculture at all, and so I moved to Veracruz, Mexico, to study veterinary medicine there. It was a steep learning curve for me since the school there focuses more on large animals because the state depends heavily on agriculture. After earning my veterinary degree, I started working as a veterinarian for a pharmaceutical company in Mexico. I was visiting farmers as a representative of this pharmaceutical company and providing help. I did some consulting, mostly about managing the farm and vaccinations and all the health aspects related to animal production. Nevertheless, something that I enjoyed a lot during that time was meeting the people and learning about the farmers--their lives, their problems, their needs--and I always tried to provide them with solutions, which many times were not things my company offered, but I would recommend other options because I really wanted to help them. The role of extension is to provide the tools people need to solve their everyday problems. I really enjoyed the social part of the work I conducted during this time.

At some point, I got tired of working for the pharmaceutical company because it was not building anything or having an impact in the world, rather it was focused on sales and profits for the company. I realized that I was more interested in helping the farmers than in just selling products to them. So, I returned to work




at the University of Veracruz. They had a plan to increase the international involvement of the veterinary school by connecting with universities in other countries. At that time, Roger Natzke was a faculty member from UF's Department of Animal Sciences doing a sabbatical at the University of Veracruz. The director of the veterinary school asked me to be the contact person to work with Roger. It was through Roger that I learned about extension; he offered me an assistantship to come and work with him at UF.

Yadira: How exciting! You came directly for your PhD!

Dr. Galindo: Yes, I had earned my degree of Médico Veterinario Zootecnista at the University of Veracruz, and this is equivalent to a DVM (Doctor of Veterinary Medicine). I came to earn my PhD with a minor in extension. As I was working on my PhD, I realized that extension was really what I enjoyed the most.

Yadira: I understand. Working as an extensionist was my first job after graduating as a Forester in Honduras.



MDP Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Sebastian Galindo (cont.)

Dr. Galindo: Then one of the members of my committee from the Department of Agricultural Education and Communication (AEC) asked me “why don’t you change to my department instead of Animal Science?” So I wrote a thesis with the research that I had already conducted and earned an MS degree in Animal Sciences. Then, to work on my PhD, I moved to AEC where I originally engaged in international extension and development. My interests included learning about how extension is organized around the world, different extension systems and models, and funding for extension. I also started working more in evaluation, which is what I do now. That is how I ended up in the social sciences.

Yadira: A very interesting trajectory. I know several MDP students have taken M&E courses with you.

Dr. Galindo: Yes. I am teaching one course now with two MDP students, while others have taken my courses on qualitative methods or mixed methods. I have also advised several MDP students on their field practicums and other projects.

Yadira: Thank you. This leads to another question: from your perspective, how does the application of mixed methodologies enhance the quality of research, teaching and extension?

Dr. Galindo: I think that everything we do can be improved, even if we are doing things that are succeeding. There is always room for improvement, and the only way that we can improve is if we have evidence of what is going on. In research, teaching and extension, we need to look at the impacts and processes at different levels.

Mixed methods allow us to look at all those different things, individually and collectively. If we only use one approach, only qualitative or only quantitative methods, we are getting just part of the picture. I think when we use mixed methods, we get a more comprehensive picture of what is going on, and then we can make better recommendations to improve, to enhance the quality and the effectiveness of any type of initiative or research.

Yadira: When you mentioned effectiveness, it has to do with the way we communicate results? Sometimes as technicians or researchers, we struggle with how to put results in words that people can understand.

Dr. Galindo: Yes, in part, because if you are translating science, first you have research that generates innovations that can be software or hardware (e.g., ideas, practices, technologies, etc.). Therefore, the way in which you communicate the results of research will affect the impact that you can have. In addition, effectiveness has to do with the quality of the implementation, related for example with the satisfaction of the participants in a project. Are the different processes happening in the best possible way? Furthermore, this quality can have multiple dimensions; we can talk about the quality of the experience, products or processes while you have the project at its different stages. Therefore, effectiveness deals with the degree to which a program or project accomplishes the changes it is set out to achieve, and overall quality is very important to achieve those goals.

Yadira: Important, because most projects, like the ones developed for small NGOs, will not have a budget designated for monitoring and evaluation activities.



MDP Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Sebastian Galindo (cont.)

Dr. Galindo: Yes, there are many different types of NGOs. Some are huge with their own M&E departments, but the average NGO does not have them. Yet they can access many resources available to develop good evaluations. It is key not just to evaluate what the program is doing now to improve it, but also for accountability and to identify evidence of the impact of the work.

Yadira: Exactly, you need good evaluation data, especially when change might not occur for years, and we are not in a controlled environment.

Dr. Galindo: You are right. There are so many factors that could affect outcomes, and the evaluation can look both at indirect outcomes and direct outcomes. In my dissertation I evaluated an extension program. There were many types of outcomes that were not anticipated, for example, farmers were becoming leaders in their communities. I looked at how the participants' social capital translated into different benefits, both for them and for the extended network.

Yadira: I have learned a great deal from you already. I see that you serve as MDP faculty affiliate with an extensive array of initiatives across several different departments at UF; what is your role with them?

Dr. Galindo: I think that it is very important for all faculty to be connected and involved with the different Centers and Institutes available here at UF because collaboration is the key.

I work in many projects and I bring evaluation expertise, but I think my most valuable skill is not evaluation but my collaboration skills. When you meet colleagues, you identify their expertise, and your expertise will be identified by others, and that is how you start collaboration on specific projects. It is through the Centers and Institutes that you can learn about funding opportunities and get support from them to write proposals. It is very important to be connected. Obviously, I cannot participate in all the meetings, and I cannot do many things, but whenever I can, I like to be involved.

Yadira: How do you handle all this? What is a typical workday for you?

Dr. Galindo: I normally work on externally funded projects, so I have meetings and work on different things related to the evaluation of existing funded projects. I also meet with researchers to learn about new projects, both with research teams that I have already collaborated with in the past and with new teams. I meet with them to provide the evaluation perspective and design the evaluation component for new proposals. I also collaborate with extension staff to help them with evaluation tools and procedures for extension programs. Therefore, a regular day has a little of everything, including having fun with my family.

Yadira: Thank you. And to conclude, what piece of advice could you give us as future practitioners or researchers?



MDP Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Sebastian Galindo (cont.)

Dr. Galindo: There are so many things that you could work on in development after you graduate. Definitely, to work in development requires believing that a better tomorrow is possible. Because that is the driver, believing that we can make things better for people. I want to go back to collaboration as I mentioned before, because we all have different skills, but development requires a mix of skills and perspectives. Therefore, it is learning to work in teams and be an effective team member, combining our expertise with the expertise of others, that will help you tackle some of the very complex problems that communities are dealing with.

Yadira: Exactly, because one cannot think of saving the world alone, when there are so many sad things happening. But I think there is really something that I can do.

Dr. Galindo: Yes, I think we just have to understand that we researchers do not have all the solutions. There is a lot of valuable indigenous knowledge, and many times, we ignore that. Therefore, I think it is important to collaborate with practitioners and other experts. Also, collaborate with the communities, and value what they have, and try to understand and not impose our ideas. Rather create a new idea that is shared. Value what they have, because we are learning too.

Yadira: Thanks so much for sharing your thoughts with us. Thank you, thank you for your time.

MDP Student, Alumni, Faculty Publications Fall 2022

MDP alumna and MDP affiliate faculty

Brinton, A., Diehl, D.C., Townsend, T.G., Deliz Quiñones, K. & Lichtenstein, M.M. 2022. Trees, trash, and hurricanes: The case study of Puerto Rico and vegetative disaster debris management after Hurricanes Irma and Maria. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction* 82:103298.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdr.2022.103298>



MDP core faculty

Serra, R., Kendall, M., Towns, A., & Hummer, J. 2022. Promoting Gender Equity in Livelihoods Projects: Practitioners' Perspectives Through the Lens of a Socio-ecological Model. *Progress in Development Studies*.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/14649934221129427>

MDP core and affiliate faculty and MDP alumna

Serra, R., Ludgate, N., Fiorillo Dowhaniuk, K., McKune, S.L., & Russo, S. 2022. Beyond the Gender of the Livestock Holder: Learnings from Intersectional Analyses of PPR Vaccine Value Chains in Nepal, Senegal, and Uganda. *Animals* 12: 241. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani12030241>





Student Activities Outside the Classroom

Cohort 10

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

Cohort 11

Priya Pershadsingh: MDP Global Association Student and Alumni Council Representative

Cohort 12

Antony Gitei: ki-Swahili Teaching Assistant

Chioma Iyamu: Center for African Studies, Graduate Assistant

Fallon Riaño Jiménez: Graduate Assistants United, Graduate Assistant

Fraleigh Krause: Created Gainesville, Marketing Coordinator; Gender & Development Working Group, Facilitator

Hannah Jo Maier: UF International Center, Peace Corps Recruiter

Jeantel Cheramy: Haitian Creole Teaching Assistant

Nicole Senuku: Dept. Languages, Literatures and Cultures, 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

Sarina Kwall: Tropical Conservation and Development Program, Graduate Assistant

Cohort 13

Mirian Yadira Molina de Cruz: MDP Program, Graduate Assistant

Carla Lissa Nelson: UF Department of Assessment and Research, Graduate Assistant

Lia Nelson: US National Team, Skeet Shooter; 4H Skeet Shooting Mentor

Damian Oakes: Center for African Studies, Teaching Assistant

MDP Socials!



MDP UF Foundation 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 this is an opportunity to contribute to our exciting program! The MDP UF Foundation Account supports 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/give-now/?fund_id=020485

Thanks for your support.

