

# THE GATES SCHOLAR

VOL 7 ISSUE 1 SUMMER 2010



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The Gates Scholars' Society includes all current and past holders of a Gates Cambridge Scholarship. Its membership is represented by two bodies: the Gates Scholars' Council and the Gates Scholars' Alumni Association.

The Gates Scholars' Council is the governing body of scholars elected by their peers. A conduit among the community of scholars, the alumni and the Gates Cambridge Trust, the Council represents the interests and needs of Gates Scholars in Cambridge.

The Gates Scholars' Alumni Association (GSAA) was created in 2005 to represent the needs of over 500 Gates Scholars who have left Cambridge. Through regional events and social gatherings, it strives to maintain communication between former scholars and the Trust while creating a worldwide network of former Gates Scholars.



**Introducing the new council mission statement:**

**“The Gates Scholars Council supports the aims of the Gates Scholarship to create a network of responsible global leaders. Drawing on the experiences and aspirations of the entire Gates community, the Council strives to enrich the academic, social, and professional lives of all scholars.”**

**W**riting a mission statement gave the 2010 council a surprising challenge when we sat down in a small college flat this January. Initially we thought it would make an easy task, a warm-up for the new council to complete together. Besides, we all agreed that picking the right words matters less than doing our part to keep the Gates community vibrant.

When we tried condensing all the wonderful experiences that have come together as a result of work put in by past councils into less than 50 words, we realised how difficult being concise can be. We thought back ten years to the generous donation in 2000 by the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation that started this journey, to try to put our pens on exactly why we’ve all come together in Cambridge and how the council is an integral part of the community.

Our community in Cambridge has come at the expense of direct funding for health-care and global development initiatives that the Foundation has pursued elsewhere. This can seem a heavy burden as we plan formal swaps or gather in the Gates room to share our research. Yet even the most trivial bits of what we do tie into the original vision.

We’re here, above all else, to learn from each other, to obtain a broader picture of the world, and to inspire each other when we leave Cambridge to do the best we can with the great opportunity we’ve received. It took much longer than we expected, but our mission statement came together and forced us to think through some healthy questions.

The achievements by our peers and predecessors provide evidence that the aims of the mission statement we wrote are already being fulfilled. This issue of The Gates Scholar offers a glimpse into some of our experiences and aspirations. The changes to the magazine attempt to better match the original goals of publication—to be a platform to remain connected and develop a community identity, giving all of us a chance to reflect on the ongoing journey of the Gates community.

The Gates Scholars’ Council 2010



in the summer issue



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The Gates Scholar is the publication of the Gates Cambridge Scholars' Society. Articles that offer a window into the lives and work of current or past Gates Scholars or articles that tackle large interpretive questions relevant to the Gates mission are particularly encouraged. Highly focused contributions are welcome, but preference will be given to submissions that are of interest to a diverse cross-section of readership in more than one discipline of study. Contributions are subject to editorial approval and/or truncation.

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# FORUM

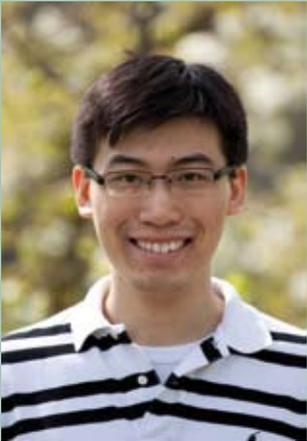
*Do you have any deeply held religious or spiritual beliefs? If so, how do they come to bear on your research and what you hope to achieve as a Gates Scholar?*



I am a Catholic - though I am not uncritical of organized religion. In fact, at the centre of my beliefs is the importance of questioning. The Spanish philosopher Miguel de Unamuno said that a "Faith which does not doubt is dead faith". He meant that it is in our nature to challenge the limits of our understanding of the world and that those attempts to satisfy our curiosity are where true faith resides. My research in Latin America is a way to serve others by providing insight into the cultural fabric of our societies. When performing cultural studies we must develop an awareness of our beliefs and how they affect our perception of reality. In this way, I know that my faith shapes my interpretations and also acts as an ethical guideline.

Elsa M. Treviño

*Class of 2009, MPhil Candidate Latin American Studies*



I try my best to be an atheist in the fullest possible sense. Religious narratives are derived from our instinct for causation and our desire to see meaningful patterns in the world around us - even where there are clearly none. Our desire to see symmetry, order, and deterministic progression often leads to the construction of dubious teleologies when we cast our cause-seeking gaze on history and social affairs. Our refusal to accept history as it is - a string of accidents and contingencies - is a recipe for ideological extremism and political arrogance. As a historian, I see it as my responsibility to discourage blind positivistic thinking by aggressively falsifying the deterministic models of history and politics that I encounter.

Benjamin Choo

*Class of 2009, MPhil Candidate Politics*



Born and brought up a Buddhist country that celebrates ancient rituals and mystical figures, it seemed at first that my work as an archaeologist, one who relies heavily on scientific and material evidence, could not have been more at odds with my religion. My own upbringing in Bhutan instilled in me a strong sense and love for our culture and traditions. And along with that came a heap of superstitions that are deeply planted into my system. However, the two worlds of science and cultural/religious beliefs are reconcilable as I have seen during my fieldwork. Often it takes a little sensibility and sensitivity and a whole lot of discipline on our part for us to get a scientific and successful outcome.

Kuenga Wangmo

*Class of 2005, PhD Candidate Archaeology*

## Distinguished Lecture Series



Prof. Joshua Silver and Lindsay Chura '08

The Gates community has seen a dynamic range of speakers come in recent months as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series. Lectures have been followed by dinners with the speakers where scholars have had the opportunity to engage in informal conversation.

### **Cloning, Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine: The World After Dolly**

Sir Ian Wilmut

*Director of the Centre for Regenerative Medicine, University of Edinburgh; the famed Scottish biologist who created Dolly the cloned sheep*

### **Science -Facts and Frictions**

Dr. Philip Campbell

*Editor-in-Chief, Nature and Nature Publications*

### **The Plundered Planet: Why We Must-and How We Can-Manage Nature for Global Prosperity**

Paul Collier

*Professor of Economics and Director of the Centre for the Study of African Economies at Oxford and former director of Development Research at the World Bank.*

### **Lessons from the Obama Campaign: Making the Obama Digital Model Work in Politics and Beyond**

Joseph Rospars

*New Media Director for Barack Obama's Presidential Campaign*

### **How do we really bring vision correction to those that need it in the Developing World?**

Joshua Silver

*Director, Centre for Vision in the Developing World and Professor of Physics at Oxford*

# GATES ACADEMIC FORUM

How can we apply our theoretical work to affect real-world change? This was the topic of January's launch of the Academic Affairs Program. Scholars with experience of bridging this gap discussed "Theory and Practice." The discussion ended with food for thought from Bill Gates Jr., "Don't let complexity stop you. Be activists. Take on the big inequities. It will be one of the great experiences of your lives."

We continued in small groups, and it became clear that tackling big questions in an interdisciplinary way between scholars could reap rewards. This is what drove me to create the Academic Affairs Program—that scholars wished to go beyond their own work to tackle complex problems with like-minded thinkers. In this spirit, we launched a series of forums alongside 10 interdisciplinary research clusters. We now have a 100 scholars enrolled in clusters such as "Biology, Society, and Explanation," "Environmental Sustainability and Science Policy," and "Ethics, Politics, and Society." Interesting projects and conversations have resulted: from articles, to art exhibitions, to political action.

Other scholars always make me see things differently after such engagement. I learn from Siza Mtimbiri how to "bring the theory to the house," from Bee Yin Yeo how to integrate international relations with engineering, and from Elsa Treviño how art can frame scientific understanding. It shows that a little structure can go a long way for a community already eager to collaborate.

However, this structure will evolve. We are the perfect community to experiment with the meaning of "interdisciplinary." Already, discussions have shifted goalposts: Interdisciplinary or Post-Disciplinary? Questions or Topics? Cultures or Worldviews? In this way, we reflect academia's, sometimes messy, 21st century challenge of rethinking boundaries. But by linking arms, we won't let complexity stop us.

Amber North  
*Class of 2008, PhD Candidate Philosophy*



## The Lent Term Trip: Gates Scholars Visit Stonehenge and Bath



Photo Credits: Ricardo Guraieb '09 (L) and Melissa Wong '09 (R)

Marathon with a time of 2: 56 : 08.....Talia Gershon '08 was captain of the Varsity-winning Cambridge Women's Rugby Team.....

# scholar profiles

## Scholar in the news

Niraj Lal '08 was recently interviewed on the Naked Scientist, a popular radio show on the BBC.



## THABO MSIBI

*Class of 2009, MPhil Candidate Education*

Born in Ntabamhlophe, a small rural village in the KwaZulu-Natal province of South Africa, Thabo, until he was 10, was educated at a township school by poorly-trained teachers—a legacy of the apartheid system under which black children were given a “Bantu education” which prepared them for the unskilled labour market.

Thabo’s mother, having dropped out of school when he was born, worked far away from home and would be gone for long periods. His father, meanwhile, was studying to become a teacher, so it fell to Thabo to take control of the household budget, clean the house and do the cooking. “I was more like a dad to my sisters than a brother,” he says.

He is studying changing attitudes to masculinity in South Africa and aims to produce a DVD about gender, homophobia and HIV/AIDS for use in schools next year. He also lectures in HIV/AIDS education at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He is interested in looking at how male teachers construct their sexual and professional identities in post-apartheid South Africa. “Social justice is my passion,” he says, adding: “Every project I get involved in has to be about empowering people and challenging assumptions about race and gender.”

## SYTSKE BESEMER

*Class of 2008, PhD Candidate Criminology*

Growing up in a small Dutch village close to Leiden, Sytske had always thought she wanted to be an architect, but changed her mind while studying architecture because she wanted to work more closely with people. Fascinated by why some people commit crime, she switched to psychology and criminology. For her masters degrees in psychology, she examined whether children of aggressive parents are more likely to become aggressive themselves. After finishing her degrees, she turned her attention to studying the children of mothers who were in prison. Currently she volunteers with Romsey Mill, a charity which works with marginalised people and their families, and she helps out with a youth club for autistic children. She also organises summer camps (through the Heppie foundation: [www.heppie.nl](http://www.heppie.nl)) for disadvantaged children. She says, “I don’t want to spend my PhD living in a bubble...I think these camps are good for children as they provide them with positive experiences. Two girls sent me a letter saying one camp was the best week of their lives. If we can give children these positive experiences when they have so many negative ones it can only be good.”



## Scholar in the news

Evgenia Ilyinskaya '06, a volcanologist, was interviewed by a dozen international news outlets in response to the Icelandic volcano fallout.



**TARA JANE WESTOVER**

*Class of 2008, PhD Candidate History*

Tara Jane had never attended school until she went to university. She grew up on a farm in rural Idaho, in a town boasting about 200 people. For a number of reasons, particularly the practical demands of farm life, her family opted out of the education system, and she began working full-time at eleven years old. At fifteen, she bought an ACT study guide and, surprising herself, did well enough on the exam to gain admittance to a university. Having never attended a class or written a paper, she found university work difficult. Her instructors frequently referred to common places or events that, having grown up on an isolated farm and without formal schooling, she knew nothing about. Eventually, though, her studies became less perplexing and she learned to take advantage of the opportunities available to her. She applied for a Gates Scholarship and, after spending a short time with the Committee on Foreign Affairs in Washington, DC, came to Trinity College, Cambridge in October 2008. She emphasises the implausibility surrounding her story, particularly her unlikely admission to a university without a high school diploma. A high school diploma is, she admits, one certificate she lacks to this day.

**Scholar in the news**

Rachel Pike '06, an atmospheric chemist, gave a climate talk at TED.

**A Winter Wonder**



Gates scholars are fortunate to devote the majority of their time to their research interests. However, this past winter, I had the opportunity to live a small adventure outside the dark wintery months of Cambridge and volunteer at the XXI Winter Olympiad held in my hometown city of Vancouver, Canada.

I was a volunteer in Press Operations helping over 2600 sports journalists and photographers at the Main Press Centre in downtown Vancouver. I had applied to be a volunteer in 2008, well before my decision to enter graduate school and I came away from the Games with a sense of united purpose. Sure, the Olympic Games exemplify a feat in project management and high achievement in logistics, but what I learned as a one of 20,000 blue-jacketed volunteers is the leadership of a movement encompassing the human spirit of the world.

Day one of the Games was marked with the tragic accident of Georgian luger Nodar Kumaritashvili and the Olympic flame will always honour his name. Week one marked the warmest temperature records set in Vancouver for 115 years as crews battled on the mountains to ensure snow conditions were up to competitive standard. But whatever setbacks appeared, the spirit of the Games emerged stronger as hundreds of thousands of locals and tourists alike took to the party streets of Vancouver and the media nicknamed these "the People's Games". With the London 2012 Games upcoming, there will be plenty of opportunities for Gates Scholars to get involved whether you are avid sports fans or just pure fans of courage and heart. From experiences in Beijing 2008 and Vancouver 2010, I eagerly await the arrival of London 2012, marking the beginning, middle and end of my graduate student life.

**I was one of twenty-thousand in blue.**

**Thanks Canada, for making dreams come true.**

*Extract from a poem  
by Julia Fan Li*

**Julia Fan Li**

*Class of 2008, PhD Candidate Engineering*

# An Interview with Dr. Gordon Johnson

Historian, President of Wolfson College,  
and Provost of the Gates Cambridge Trust

## Could you describe your experience as the provost of the Gates Cambridge Trust during the past ten years?

I've been extraordinarily fortunate in having been asked to help with setting up the Gates Cambridge Trust and to guide it through the first ten years. Cambridge had no precedent for a scholarship programme for graduates of the sort envisaged by the Gates Foundation. There were hugely interesting and complex problems implementing a simple and very generous concept. The simple concept was to choose graduate students from anywhere outside the UK to study in Cambridge on the basis of merit alone and a capacity for leadership and social responsibility. I took the job because the Vice-Chancellor at the time (Sir Alec Broers) asked me to; he thought I had wide experience of Cambridge and was an acceptable face outside Cambridge, and that I was a pretty diplomatic character. The goals were to make a success of implementation, and I think with the support of senior colleagues here and in Seattle, excellent staff members, and increasingly through the involvement of the Scholars themselves in determining what we wanted, we've not made a bad show of it.

## What do you consider one of your most significant accomplishments as provost over the last couple of years?

Perhaps the most exciting initiative in the past few years is the ongoing development of an alumni network. I'm pleased that the scholarship programme has been outward looking, socially inclusive, and has fitted in well with the colleges and the departments and with all the other social, cultural and intellectual identities in Cambridge.

## How do you think that the scholarship will change over the next ten years?

It's hard to answer this question: the scholarship has kept very much in tune with its founders' philosophy and with the changing intellectual landscape in Cambridge, and I expect that to continue. It would be good, if we can, to continue the geographical spread of Scholars, and it would be nice to have more from, say, Africa and Latin America, which are under-represented in Cambridge as a whole anyway.

## What do you see as the biggest challenges for Cambridge, as a university, moving forward?

Cambridge has met superbly the challenges of the last half century - more than doubling in size by any measure and successfully staking a claim to be a major research-intensive university of international standing. It will be hard to remain at the top. The increase in the size of the university - whether in terms of student numbers (doubled since the 1960s and now about a third as opposed to a tenth in graduate studies), or the increase in resources for research activity (now getting on for 70% of the university's annual budget), or the physical dispersal of the university (in the 1960s nearly everything was contained in the tiny area bounded by Peterhouse in the south, Magdalene in the north, Jesus, Christ's and Regent Street on the east, and the University Library on the west) - has imposed tremendous strains on the community. I think the reason



Cambridge has done so well in our time is that it is a very pleasant place to live and work, and it remains, as a species of decentralised federal system, relatively unmanaged. This fosters creativity. Cambridge depends essentially on attracting excellent faculty and students - they are at the centre of the whole operation. So a main challenge is to make sure that the local environment remains such as to draw people here who are highly intelligent and very committed to the importance of scholarly enterprise.

## What should be expected of Gates Scholars in terms of their post-Cambridge careers?

Very simply: Gates Scholars, like others who have had the benefit of an elite higher education, should use their knowledge and skills for the wider good. And this can be done in a thousand and one ways. It's inevitable, I think, that many Gates Scholars will go on to be teachers and researchers (which is also true traditionally of those coming out of other scholarship programmes, not least Rhodes), but the rest will be found everywhere - in boardrooms and industry, in politics, in social work and journalism, in finance and management, in all the professions and creative activities.

## Do you have any advice for Scholars in this regard?

They should remember that they will spend a lot of their time at 'work'. Therefore, they should find occupations that they enjoy and which give them satisfaction beyond a narrow 'sense of duty', raw ambition, or a pay cheque.

## What's next for you?

I've recently become President of the Royal Asiatic Society and this will occupy some of my time for the next two years. I'll be completing a book on contemporary Cambridge and writing up some of my other research. One thing about being an academic is that reading and writing give enormous pleasure, and one can go on doing that without a break. In a sense, I've been in training for retirement ever since I was elected a fellow of Trinity back in 1966.



# Sunny Experiences in Africa

## Helping develop local renewable energy resources in Guinea Bissau through education and collaboration

Antonio Alberola Catalan *Class of 2001, PhD Chemistry*

Supplying modern energy services to the 2 billion people who still cook with traditional solid fuels and lack access to electricity is probably one of the most pressing problems facing humanity today. Living standards in rural areas can be significantly improved by promoting a shift from direct combustion of biomass fuels to clean, efficient electricity generation. Because local populations will ultimately maintain and pay for energy services, they should be involved in the decision making process.

Prosolia, a Spanish SME dedicated to the renewable Energy sector, started its work in Africa in 2007. Prosolia's first experiences in Africa were developed through its own social responsibility actuations, in close collaboration with

Spanish NGOs working in a variety of programmes in the African continent. In January 2007, Prosolia and the Major of Elche (Alicante, Spain) together with the NGO "Acçao o Desenvolvimento" (Guinea Bissau), started its first actuation. This actuation was based in the country's capital, Bissau, and included a series of informative talks about the benefits of photovoltaic energy, which ended with some young members of the community getting a full qualification and PV installators. The experience was satisfactory for everyone concerned, and it was repeated the following year in Sao Domingo, also in Guinea Bissau. This action was concurrent with the opening by Prosolia of its first office in Africa. It had already contributed to the education of some young and

very motivated locals in the field of the photovoltaic energy, and there was a myriad of necessities that could be covered through the use of solar energy. It wasn't an easy task, but it definitely was worth the effort. The first projects arrived very soon, with the activity mainly focused in providing electric energy to hospitals, public schools, a project for united nations etc. All the actuations were carried out with local employees that were formed by Prosolia in situ.

“From Prosolia we believe offering in situ educational resources has been key to the success of the program.”



This educational labour is currently being finalized in Spain. Since September 2009 the technicians from Guinea Bissau are spending a month in Spain, working at Prosolia in order to get a closer look to our practices. In a not so distant future, all the Guinean technicians will spend a total of 9 months working in Spain, to complete the educational cycle.

From Prosolia we believe offering in situ educational resources has been key to the success of the program. Before 2007 photovoltaic energy wasn't an option in Guinea Bissau, and there were no installations, or companies wanting to develop such projects. Thanks to what started as a collaboration with a NGO, now there is a more promising future for a number of Guinean youngsters.



# Changing Our Vision for

Kavita Ramakrishnan *Class of 2009, MPhil Candidate Development Studies*  
Victor Roy *Class of 2009, MPhil Candidate Modern Society & Global Transformations*

In the past decade, global health has emerged as a significant priority for governments, multi-lateral agencies and private foundations. These stakeholders have not only provided financing, but have shaped the global health “agenda,” with far-reaching implications for the health of billions of people living in poverty.

While this momentum is much welcome and needed, it has not necessarily yielded a coherent approach to global health. Richard Horton, The Lancet’s editor-in-chief, recently elucidated the new momentum’s negative aspects: “Efforts to create an integrated global community concerned with health have too often led to self-serving factionalism, a disregard for evidence, quasi-Stalinist political manoeuvring, and a view that global health is merely another vehicle to strengthen personal and institutional goals.”

Horton highlights how existing strategies, premised primarily on self-interested philanthropy, have potentially hindered collective action.

With this context, the challenges of advancing global health may provide useful lessons for Gates scholars seeking to affect social change in diverse fields.

Here we highlight three “shifts” that may improve global health efforts in the future and address Horton’s concerns.

## **Solidarity-based strategy driven by countries and communities**

Governments and communities in developing countries have long called for more ownership in determining health priorities and allocating external assistance. These demands have yet to influence actual practices of many global health funders. Instead, practices often ignore issues of critical local importance, such as water and sanitation, and direct funds in a fashion that diminishes the public sector’s role. Haiti serves as an unfortunate example of an uncoordinated donor-driven strategy: despite the presence of over 10,000 humanitarian organisations, health and development outcomes have remained poor.

The transition to a solidarity-based approach requires more than money or talk of “partnership”. Donors can do more to understand developing countries’ future health strategies and help local leadership - particularly the public sector - to build a health system that reflects local needs and priorities.

## **Towards long-term engagement versus “sustainability”**

Donors frequently conflate “sustainability” with “exit strategy”. Defined in donor terms, “sustainability” emphasises short-term projects and immediate outcomes at the expense of building long-lasting health systems and infrastructure.

“ The transition to a solidarity-based approach requires more than money or talk of ‘partnership.’ ”



# Global Health: Three Ideas

Mobilizing an alternative concept of “long-term engagement” can create lasting change and empower local actors and institutions. Partners in Health (PIH), a leading NGO, has applied the idea in Haiti and Rwanda. Rwandan President Paul Kagame has applauded the model, in which PIH partners with indigenous leadership to build community models of public health with the long-term goal of public sector ownership.

By combining a solidarity-based approach, in which local and national leadership drive programmes and develop their own capacities, with long-term engagement, future initiatives can avoid the pitfalls of dependency and provide resources to redress the profound inequities present in settings of poverty.

## **Beyond aid: addressing political determinants of health**

While global health aid is critical in addressing disease, underlying political and economic forces - such as trade and global financial policy - are root

“ While global health aid is critical in addressing disease, underlying political and economic forces are root causes of health inequities. ”

causes of health inequities. Little action has been taken to address these acknowledged forces. For example, developing countries face challenges in importing or producing generic drugs, which are cheaper than brand-name medicines. By exerting influence on industrialised governments and the World Trade Organization, western pharmaceutical companies have been able to delay importation of generic medicines into developing countries, with significant implications for the health of millions.

Opportunities to address political and economic determinants of health abound, from reforming international financial institutions, which force health spending caps on governments, to implementing fair trade policies that create jobs in developing countries. Paired with stronger health aid, such action can lead to major progress.

## **Final thoughts**

An approach rooted in solidarity, long-term engagement and social justice can lend coherence to an often confusing set of global health initiatives. A new global health paradigm should be encouraged in which diverse sectors partner to build robust health systems and collectively address political and economic forces.

We must continually re-evaluate how terms such as “philanthropy”, “sustainability” and “aid” are used and what they mean for lasting and effective social change. In doing so, we can address Horton’s criticisms and mobilise a global community around the shared goal of improving health.

# The Quest for the Blue Ocean

## The challenges of innovation in Latin America

By fostering an innovative culture and leveraging its resources sustainably, Latin America can find its way towards a brighter future: a quest for a blue ocean full of opportunities for growth.

Ricardo Guraieb *Class of 2009, MPhil Candidate Chemical Engineering*

The global economic environment gets tougher every year. Firms struggle to keep their customer base, suppliers are constantly increasing prices, and new competitors emerge by the day. In such an environment, only one factor can keep a company alive: cost efficiency. Lower your costs or die. Recently, however, most of the big success stories in industry have followed a very different strategy. In a world dominated by globally competitive free markets, increasingly subject to the pull of customers' demands, companies need to reinvent themselves in order to stay in the game. Today, innovation is necessary for economic success. Innovate or die. Chan Kim and Renée Mauborgne described this strategy of reinvention and innovation as a quest for undeveloped markets waiting to be found; a "blue ocean" full of opportunities for companies that dared to leave well-known waters in search of adventure.

### The governments' role

Almost all developed countries acknowledge that a "Blue Ocean Strategy" (Kim & Mauborgne, 2004) is paramount for keeping a solid industrial base. They have strong government policies that encourage innovation activities amongst companies, universities and entrepreneurs. Countries with fast rates of development, like China and some oil-based Middle Eastern nations (Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman), base their strategy on the older low-cost formula. Yet, revenues from this strategy are reinvested into the diversification of the economy. China now boasts

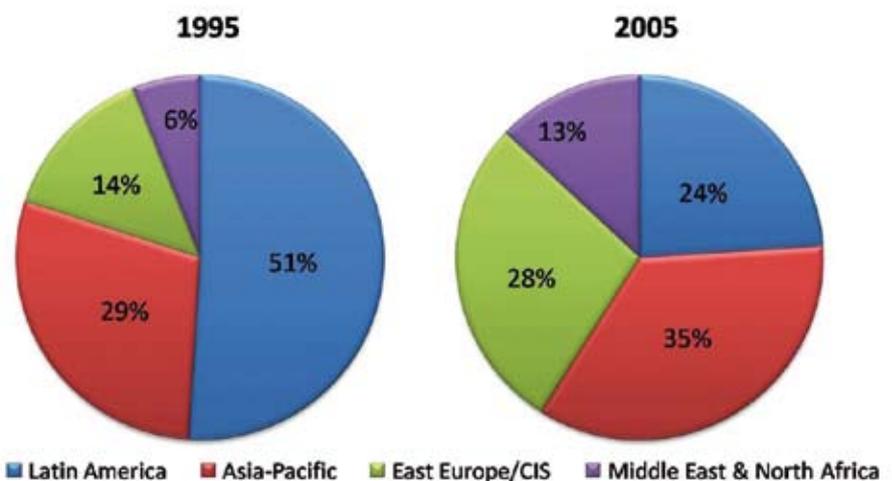


Figure 1- FDI inflows to the developing world by region (Source: USAID)

one of the largest research budgets for biotechnology in the world. Latin America is still relying purely on a cost-efficiency strategy, and is losing the battle against other regions that now attract the foreign direct investment (FDI) that was once source of growth.

With so many other priorities on the agenda (corruption, education, healthcare, drugs, political instability...) governments often neglect research and development (R&D) budgets, dooming industrial development to stagnation. But a poor government strategy is not the only problem. Latin American corporations are afraid of the risks involved in innovation.

### The necessity of innovation

The growth in Asia meant higher demand for commodities (15% more each year only in China), which helped the industrial sector in Latin America boost exports of these low-value-added products. As a result, many

“ A poor government strategy is not the only problem. Latin American corporations are afraid of the risks involved in innovation. ”

industrial groups in the steel, concrete, plastics, and the oil sector have grown dramatically in the past decade. This might appear as good news. However, commodities are not recession-proof, as last year confirmed, and other emerging economies are learning to export them more efficiently. FDI in the Middle Eastern petrochemical industry in the past 5 years reached 35 billion USD. In Latin America, it barely reached 6 billion USD.

The old businessmen of Latin America are sceptical. They lived an era of industrial protectionism, saw huge corporations rise, pulled by giant markets like the US (now old and

ill). They would rather “wait and see” than change their strategy towards innovation-oriented corporate cultures that, in their view, offer nothing but short-term risks.

### All on board- challenges to address

New generations of Latin Americans now have two great challenges to overcome: raising the profile of R&D on the governments’ agendas, and promoting a culture of innovation, both within civil society and inside companies relying on outdated cost-efficiency strategies.

The quest for the blue ocean has become a key factor in a country’s competitiveness. Comfort is innovation’s worst enemy: we like to swim near the beach, in calm, well-known waters. Latin America is a great blue ocean, full of innovative minds, but sedated by the comfort of its civil society, short-term commodity profits and the government’s unwillingness to act. Latin America is waiting to be awakened. Innovation is necessary to generate change.

“ Latin America is waiting to be awakened. Innovation is necessary to generate change.

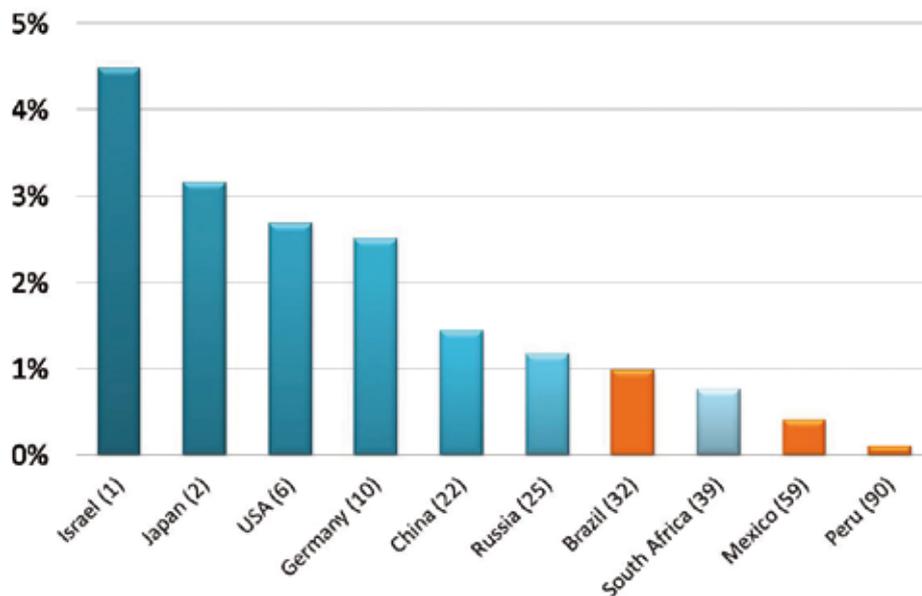


Figure 2-R&D expenditure (public and private) as % of GDP. Country rank is shown in parentheses (Source: World Bank, 2002-2004).

## The Politics of Free Will

In 2010, Alfred Mele, professor of philosophy at Florida State University, received \$4.4 million from the ‘Templeton Foundation’ to spearhead an “empirical and philosophical exploration” into whether humans have free will. The award comes at the heels of considerable cross-disciplinary interest in the question.

In their recent paper, titled “For the Law Neuroscience Changes Nothing and Everything”, psychologists Joshua Greene and Jonathan Cohen argue that “neuroscience will undermine people’s common-sense, libertarian conception of free will” by providing a “new appreciation of old arguments.”

One of these arguments suggests that if every decision we make is a thoroughly mechanical process,

determined by a chain of cause and effect and extending far back, prior to the person, then we do not choose freely. Indeed, models of reality, put forth by biologists, neuroscientists and economists, leave no room for the presence of an immaterial force that would make human agents exceptions to causal laws. These models are antagonistic towards a particular kind of human egoism. Consequently, we can no longer pretend that it is only in light of what we might discover about ourselves that we will need to update our ethical world view.

The philosophy of agency and responsibility carefully evaluates how the question of free-will should affect our lives and our ethical ideals. There is evidence to suggest that many ordinary attitudes toward,

say, economic inequality and the punishment of wrongdoers, presuppose a debunked conception of freedom. At the extreme, if we are fully the result of factors we did not choose then life is bereft of dignity and significance. There is good reason to think that this pessimism is unfounded. Despite a thoroughgoing naturalism, we may have powers that suffice for the moral attitudes and practices that matter, powers that amount to a kind of freedom (see for example Daniel Dennett’s “Elbow Room”).

One thing is clear: policy-makers and responsible citizens can no longer afford not to engage both with the science and ethics of the self.

Emad Atiq  
Class of 2009, MPhil Candidate Philosophy

# The Enigmatic Equation

*Algebra applied to international development: could it yield the unknown variable to solve the problem of foreign aid dependency and the elusiveness of sustainable development?*

Ria Collingwood-Boafo *Class of 2007, MPhil International Relations*



**H**ow do you encourage sustainable development? The African Union defines it as development which emphasizes home-grown and autonomous self-reliance. This is key, but how can it be built? If only we could algebraically solve this quandary of developmental aid.

## **Finding for x: Poised for Success**

I became interested in the role of foreign aid in promoting sustainable development while at Stanford University where I was the recipient of the Haas Summer Fellowship in Public Service and the Tom Ford Fellowship in Philanthropy.

Both awards allowed me to explore, first-hand, opportunities for solving the enigmatic equation of sustainable development. The Haas Summer Fellowship in Public Service provided me with the seed money to develop an academic scholarship program in Duakor, Ghana. Poised for Success (P4S) is a series of activities that provide additional academic support and financial assistance to final year junior secondary students in preparation for the Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE). These activities entail an academic enrichment summer camp, computer literacy classes, Youth Entrepreneurship competition,

after-school Program, and two-week intensive academic residential camp preceding and during the BECE. The program is the product of consultative processes which included Madame Charity Foli, headmistress of Okyeso Catholic School, Assistant Project Coordinator Philip Ofosu Boafo, Parent Teachers' Association, and representatives of the Ministry of Education and international donors. It was initially supported through the funding of Stanford University Haas Centre for Public Service. For the past three years, the camp has relied primarily on funding from Stanford Alum Jim Sobieski and his wife Kathryn.

However, the Okyeso Catholic Church, parents, and school administrators have made significant and sacrificial, monetary and in-kind contributions to ensure the success of the project.

### The Mysterious x-Factor

Last year, the project was tested for scalability and forty students from six schools throughout Cape-Coast, Duakor, and Elmina participated in a summer program and nine-month after-school program in preparation for the BECE in April 2010. Since its inception, the program has helped 130 students and improved the completion and pass rates of participating students. Before it was set up, less than forty percent of students from Okyeso Catholic School passed the BECE and were admitted into secondary school. In 2009, seventy percent of students gained entry into secondary school. However, we have not discovered an effective solution to create a sustainable and autonomous program.

The project would collapse without external funding as parents and local stakeholders are unable to take on the primary responsibility for generating funds. There is a concerted effort to encourage greater ownership of the program by the community. Parents and school administrators provide partial sponsorship for the residential academic camp in April and pay a nominal registration fee to participate in the summer program. Ownership and partnership are sometimes empty buzzwords unless backed up by due diligence in identifying local partners and evaluating their capacity to achieve the objectives of the project.

### Defining the Formula

Easier said than done! How does one identify local partners? Five years of pursuing research and developmental work in Ghana has taught me that capability is not an adequate criterion to identify local partners. I have encountered capable individuals but

they lack legitimacy as representatives of the interests and welfare of the target-community. Partnership and ownership may not be the x variable required to solve the equation of home-grown and autonomous development but when added to both sides of the equation these two principles help to isolate and potentially identify the other pieces to the puzzle of sustainable development which we have yet to fully grasp and apply to international development. As Sebastian Kresge, founder of Kresge Foundation, rightly stated, "Giving away money is not an easy job, money alone cannot build character or transform evil into good; it cannot restore the influence and vitality of the home; neither can it maintain the valleys and plains of peace. ...It cries for full partnership with leaders of character and good will." Yet even he is unable to define or find a way of achieving that full partnership.

## Tragic or evil? When children kill a child

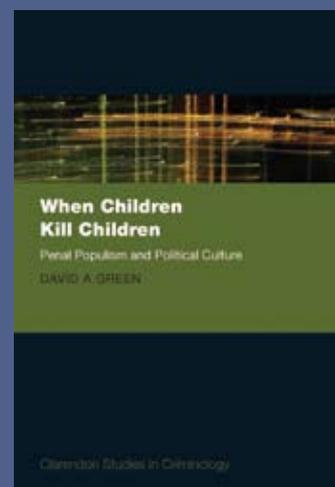
In 1993, two ten-year-old boys abducted two-year-old James Bulger from a Merseyside shopping center and brutally murdered him with bricks and an iron bar. Few Britons can forget. In 1994, outside Trondheim, Norway, three six-year-old boys kicked and beat five-year-old Silje Redergård until she died in the mud. Few Norwegians can remember.

After 8 years spent in custody in England, the boys were released with new identities. The English press carried hundreds of stories about the case and its moral significance, and politicians employed the case both to disparage the government on whose watch the crime occurred, and to showcase a new, tough-on-crime approach to law and order. In sharp contrast, the Norwegian boys were never punished. Instead a concerted effort was launched to reintegrate them as swiftly as possible into Norwegian society and to minimize the damage done to themselves and their families.

### Democracy, politics and penal policy

The responses to Bulger's murder were conditioned by the structural factors associated with two-party election systems that generate a zero-sum style of politics and incentives to politicize crimes. When crime is frequently invoked in political debates, particularly in a press market as competitive as Britain's, the media are more likely to raise the profile of these conflicts, increasing pressure on lawmakers to "do something" to assuage mass-mediated public concerns.

In contrast, Norwegian responses to Redergård's death were conditioned by the country's consensus model of democracy, characterized by a multi-party system in which parties often form coalitions with one another, and proportional representation, which enfranchises more voters. Incentives to politicize crimes are minimized in such a political climate, and this means reasoned, deliberate responses to crime are a bit more likely to result.



### In depth...

This topic formed the backbone of my Ph.D. research and is covered in my first book, *When Children Kill Children: Penal Populism and Political Culture*, which won the 2009 British Society of Criminology Book Prize. The book offers suggestions for how majoritarian countries like the US and UK might move beyond partisan, tough-on-crime postures and policies, facilitate public judgment about crime as opposed to mere public opinion, and foster greater public deliberation to increase government legitimacy.

David Green

*Class of 2001, PhD Criminology*



# Between Fiction and Reality

## *Women's Violence in Japan*

Gitte Marianne Hansen *Class of 2009, PhD Candidate Asian and Middle Eastern Studies*

Following its defeat, Japan's post-Second World War economic recovery was remarkably fast. Unimaginable in the immediate post-war years, the booming decades of the 1960s and 1970s resulted in ever increasing pay checks, and from around 1980, luxury brands such as Louis Vuitton became standard items to own by anyone wanting to be someone. TV-game shows, which only aimed to make people laugh, appeared one after another capturing the general public mood of the times.

### **Eating Disorders and Self-harm**

Ironically, the 1980s is also the period when a growing number of women began to throw up, starve and cut themselves, suggesting that the transition to the consumer-based society had a dark side relative to the glossy magazine front-covers. One consequence of Japan's quick socio-economic transition was that the traditional role for women never vanished but rather became extended. Since the 1980s, women have been expected to be traditional wives and mothers while participating as active individual consumers and workers in the public sphere. Balancing this 'contradictive femininity' often elicits feelings of fragmentation related to identity and gender, and the rising incidence of eating disorders and self-harm can be understood as an expression of women's fragmentation and frustration with this contradictive norm.

Accordingly, 'contradictive femininity' and women's self-directed violence have been explored by producers of fiction throughout this period, and are now frequently thematized in Japanese fiction, either explicitly or via embedded storylines. shima Yumiko's manga *Daietto* [Not Translated] (1989), depicting a high school girl's repeated bingeing and regurgitation, and Kanehara Hitomi's novel *Snakes and Earrings* (2003), where the 19-year-old Rui forces a 2g ring into her own tongue, are just two examples of works from this period that thematize women's self-directed violence.

Certainly, female suicides are a recurring theme for both male and female authors of Japanese fiction, and we are frequently given the impression that suicide is used as an expression of power and rejection of the socially fragmenting demands women are subjected to. For example, Sono Shion's film *Suicide Club* begins with the very disturbing scene where 54 school-uniform-dressed girls jump in front of Tokyo's busiest train line (2002).

### **Female Killers**

During the last few years, female murderers and serial killers have become shocking reoccurring headline news in Japan, most recently in October and November of 2009. It then seems suggestive, yet provocative, to ask if these extreme cases express a grotesque attempt by Japanese women to 'repair'

their fragmentation and redirect violence away from their own bodies, not least because their victims are the very subjects – men and children – that their contradictive female role requires them to care for. Recent works of fiction play with this idea.

In Kirino Natsuo's novel *OUT* (1997), a woman kills her husband and her female co-workers chop up and discard the corpse with the garbage. And in the novel *1Q84* [Not translated] (2009), Murkami Haruki's female protagonist takes orders from the head of a women's shelter and executes abusive men with an ice pick.

“Balancing this 'contradictive femininity' often elicits feelings of fragmentation related to identity and gender.”

Domestic violence, trafficking and rape are probably the most obvious themes that spring to mind in relation to women and violence – problems that regrettably continue to define many women's reality. However, issues such as eating disorders, self-harm, suicide and externally directed violence are equally important to explore in order to create a multi-dimensional understanding of women and violence. In this sense, fiction serves as a source to gain insight into these often silenced realities.

# In the Trenches

## Waging a war against human trafficking in the United States

Y.S. Lee *Class of 2002, PhD Chinese Studies*

Life after Cambridge is often daunting, given the many opportunities that the Trust opens up. In 2006, on the final leg of my PhD, my grandmother passed away. Despite the prospect of rewarding careers in academia and government looming ahead, I put aside my thesis to consider what I found most meaningful in life. The answer was simple—other people. People like my grandmother who was an illiterate homemaker that supplemented her pension by cleaning garbage off the streets in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. I took on a series of jobs in the US, but the two I found most meaningful were teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) to illegal immigrants and fighting the problem of sex slavery in Atlanta, specifically the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC).

### Encountering the Underbelly

I got into teaching ESL by accident through a friend who volunteers as an ESL teacher for his local church in Atlanta. In 2008/9, the church faced a serious shortage of instructors and he asked me if I could help out. Once I started it became obvious that most of my students were illegal immigrants, the vast majority seeking economic opportunities not available to them in their home countries. It also quickly became apparent that those who had found gainful employment were being exploited by their employers. They faced low wages, unsanitary work conditions and the threat of deportation if they openly challenged their exploitation or reported the situation to outside authorities.

I contacted an undergraduate mentor, Rev. Chris Hannum, for advice and told him of my concerns about labour

trafficking; in turn he educated me about the related problem of international sex trafficking. He arranged for me to meet Rachel Lloyd, founder of the non-profit GEMS—Girls Educational and Mentoring Services—which reaches out to girls who have been trafficked as sex slaves in the northeastern United States. Rachel herself is survivor who was brought over as a teenager from Eastern Europe and forced to become a prostitute in New York City before she became an anti-CSEC activist.

The State Department estimates some 15,000 foreigners are either labour or sex trafficked in the United States each year; the Justice Department, however, estimates some 300,000 American girls between the ages of 8 and 17 are trafficked as sex slaves, generating some \$12 billion a year in revenue. Globally, the sale of human beings for either work or sex is second only to the international drug trade and slightly more profitable than the global trade in illegal arms.

“The Justice Department estimates some 300,000 American girls between the ages of 8 and 17 are trafficked as sex slaves, generating some \$12 billion a year in revenue.”

### Living Water Girls

During my encounter with Rachel, I met Lisa Williams, founder and director of the non-profit Living Water for Girls (LWG), who runs a rescue and recovery

operation in Georgia. She and her team work with local law enforcement, the FBI, the Justice Department, the State Department's Polaris Project in addition to a wide assortment of NPOs to rehabilitate young survivors picked up in various sting operations against cartels that buy and sell human beings for profit. The girls can spend up to several years at LWG's special campus, which prepares them for normal life and college if they choose to take up further education.

“One can be both a policy maker for a cause and a participant in grassroots struggle.”

I'm now a writer and editor for LWG's newsletter and I also help to connect faith-based groups with area non-profits to partner with LWG. We're forging strong links with partner organisations and building a coalition to spread public awareness of the issue of CSEC, but also to secure rights, legal services, and charitable assistance for anyone that has been trafficked in the United States and beyond.

Although I certainly find my academic work stimulating, working in the grassroots effort of a larger moral “war” feels immeasurably more satisfying and rewarding. This, however, is not a simple either/or proposition. One can be both a policy maker for a cause and a participant in grassroots struggle. When I go back to China to continue my academic work, my NPO partners and mentors have agreed to work with me to help plant indigenous non-governmental organizations to do similar work in the People's Republic.

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# 'all lives have equal value'

DOING GOOD BEYOND CAMBRIDGE:

ALUMNI LIVING THE CREDO OF THE BILL AND MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION



## ROCHANA WICKRAMASINGHE

*Class of 2002, PhD Oncology*

After his mother died of breast cancer whilst he was in his second year at university, Rochana felt driven and focused to pursue cancer research. He finished his PhD in 2007 and spent a year as a post-doc and a year working as a business consultant. Growing up he always thought he would become a career scientist, but he now works as a policy advisor for the Royal Society, the UK's national academy of science. He has been involved in writing a major report on the future of science in the UK, drawing attention to the impact of funding cuts and some of the reasons young scientists are leaving academia. He believes that encouraging public engagement with science is vital for its future, and is currently working on a project to better promote advances in neuroscience research amongst school teachers and policy makers. He wants to return to Australia in the long term, but he is aware that his need for challenge and personal development make it hard to have any clear plan of where he will end up.

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## CHARLES AMO YARTEY

*Class of 2002, PhD Economics*

Six months ago, Charles was appointed the International Monetary Fund economist for Malawi, a country that is heavily reliant on donor assistance. He had worked in South Africa, Lesotho and Burkina Faso and is now helping Malawi to set up a macro-economic programme to address the country's economic challenges, to restore donor confidence and to enhance the country's economic growth. He says one of the problems is the conflict between political and fiscal considerations. In addition to his role at the IMF, he also finds time to do research and publish in international journals on issues relating to financial market development in emerging markets, an area where he is regarded as a global expert. Much of his thesis was published in a 2008 book, *Stock Market Development in Africa*. He says that his experience as a Gates scholar has made him "aim high". "It made me realise I can do whatever I want to do," he says. "The focus on leadership and using your knowledge to influence decision-making has made me look beyond Economics at influencing budgetary policies."





Karin Duffile



**ROBYN SCOTT**

*Class of 2004, MPhil Bioscience Enterprise*

**HAMISH FORSYTH**

*Class of 2007, MBA Management Studies*

Not only are the two New Zealanders independently doing amazing things – Forsyth working in the UK Prime Minister’s Strategy Unit and Scott with a portfolio career having written a highly acclaimed debut memoir about her childhood in Botswana – but they have come together to form a series of networks to help young graduates with lots of ideas gain access to those who can do something to put them into action. They have just launched Stirr London, a forum bringing together investment bankers, politicians, non-governmental organisations, think tanks and scholars to address the major challenging issues of our time in a way that breaks down the silos between different groups. Their main project is oneleap.com, which aims to give students who may not enjoy the benefits of being part of the old boys’ network the ability to feed their ideas directly to those who can make them happen.

In addition to her Mothers for All work ([mothersforall.org](http://mothersforall.org)), Scott is writing two books and working as an ambassador for the Access to Medicine Index ([atmindex.org](http://atmindex.org)), which highlights efforts by pharmaceutical companies to help close the gap in access to medicine between developing and developed countries.

**notes**

Antonio Alberola ‘03 completed the Valencia Marathon in 2 hours 50 minutes.

Pradipta Biswas ‘06 published 20 papers during her Ph.D.

Kate Franko ‘02 traveled and worked in 18 cities in 10 countries last year.

Nathan George ‘03 has done 32,045 push-ups toward his goal of 100,000 this year, and is expecting a baby in November with wife Angela, who is doing 30,000 push-ups of her own.

Joel Jennings ‘03 accepted a tenure-track position in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at Saint Louis University in Saint Louis, Missouri, USA.

Kelly Karns ‘07 and Greg Jordan ‘07 traveled to Antarctica.

Scott Barry Kaufman ‘03 was rejected twice from American Idol.

Sarah van Mastrigt ‘04 and Asbjørn Steglich-Petersen ‘03 were married last year and have successfully ‘collaborated’ to make a Gates baby due in August 2010!

Shrinivas Rao Mukku ‘06, a tabla player, performed a duet with piano at Konserthusat, Gothenburg, Sweden in November, 2009.

Rob Perrons ‘01 has his third child on the way, joining older brothers Carson (2.5) and Aiden (1.5). Rob has recently accepted a new position at Queensland University of Technology and will be moving from New Orleans, USA to Brisbane, Australia next year.

Mahnaz Rezaeian ‘03 watched a December 2009 meteor shower in Maranjab Kavir in Isfahan Province, Iran.



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