

SIS PRACTICUM

WATER COOPERATION & PEACE

SUMMER 2013

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This practicum focuses on evaluating cooperative Palestinian-Israeli water projects as peacebuilding practice. The principal research task is to assess the peacebuilding significance of these cooperative efforts through desk-study and research design work in Washington, D.C., then data collection in the field through participant observation, interviews, focus groups, and archival work at project sites within Israel and the Palestinian West Bank.

THE PARTNERS

American University School of International Service Global Environmental Politics (GEP) Program



The GEP program, which includes the Global Environmental Policy MA and the Dual Degree in Natural Resources and Sustainable Development, welcomes students from a wide range of backgrounds. Providing students with the practical tools and academic framework to become participants and leaders in the international environmental field, the GEP program concentrates on sustainable development, environmental ethics, international political economy, international diplomacy, and environmental justice.

Arava Institute for Environmental Studies (AIES)



The Arava Institute for Environmental Studies is the premier environmental education and research program in the Middle East, preparing future Arab and Jewish leaders to cooperatively solve the region's environmental challenges. Affiliated with Ben-Gurion University, AIES houses academic programs, research, and international cooperation initiatives on a range of environmental concerns and challenges.

Palestinian Wastewater Engineering Group (PWEG)



Since its creation in 2004, PWEG is highly dedicated to enhancing the water and solid waste sectors through professional development and capacity building. PWEG's primary goals include environmental pollution abatement and water resource protection. PWEG assists local authorities in the planning and design of water and sanitation programs while also helping to raise funds for water and environmental project implementation.

Water Resources Action Project (WRAP)



Water Resources Action Project, Inc. (WRAP) is a volunteer non-profit organization that seeks to improve the public health of underserved communities in the Middle East through greater water stewardship. WRAP actively sponsors, designs and implements the installation of rainwater harvesting systems in the Middle East, complemented by a strong educational component.

Center for Israel Studies, American University (CIS)



AU's Center for Israel Studies is a nationally known pioneer and leader in the growing academic field of Israel Studies. The Center's approach is multi-disciplinary, going beyond the Arab-Israeli conflict to study modern Israel's history, vibrant society, culture, multiethnic democracy, and complex geopolitical challenges. The goal is to enhance scholarship and knowledge in the university and the wider community about a multi-faceted Israel.

THE AU TEAM

Charles Christian



Charles is an International Peace and Conflict Resolution Master's candidate at American University. His research is focused on intra-state asymmetries between ethnic and religious identity groups and political movements within the Middle East, particularly southern Arabia. He received a B.A. in Middle Eastern history from Trinity University in San Antonio, TX.

Joanna Fisher



Joanna is a first year student in the international development program at SIS. Her focus is environment and development and she is particularly interested in environmental justice issues in the Middle East. Joanna received her BA from Colby College in anthropology and previously studied at the University of Cape Town. Before beginning at SIS she taught high school world history in northern New Hampshire.

Moses Jackson

Moses is a second year dual M.A. candidate in Natural Resources and Sustainable Development and International Affairs. He became interested in participatory water management while serving as a Water and Sanitation Engineer in the Peace Corps in Honduras. He has also worked in social science research and policy at the National Research Council and as an editor at a multidisciplinary science journal. He holds a B.A. in Philosophy from the University of Maryland.



Christy Kehoe



Christy is a first year dual MA candidate in International Affairs and Natural Resources and Sustainable Development. Her academic interests include environmental economics and the sustainable use of groundwater resources and transboundary aquifers in Latin America. Christy holds a BS in Marketing with minor concentrations in

Sustainability Studies and International Development, Humanitarian Assistance from the University of Florida.

Eric Abitbol, PhD, Instructor

Eric has 18 years of experience as a conflict transformation, sustainability and dialogue expert. Currently teaching at American University (Washington, DC), Dr. Abitbol's work specializes on identifying and amplifying the peacebuilding potential and significance of water governance and development in conflict and post-conflict environments.



Valerie Puleo

Valerie Puleo is a first year dual M.A. candidate in Natural Resources and Sustainable Development and International Affairs. She holds a B.A. in International Affairs with a minor in Middle East Studies from Northeastern University in Boston. She is

interested in initiatives that encourage peacebuilding through shared resource management, as well as the social dynamics of development with a specific focus on gender.

Erin Rosner

After completion of this practicum, Erin will graduate with a MA in Ethics, Peace and Global Affairs with a concentration in Peace and Conflict Resolution in the Middle East. Erin has experience both living and working in the region, as well as facilitation skills in cross-cultural dialog. These aspects coupled with her interest in understanding Israeli and Palestinian motivations for working on the Arava Institute's initiative will drive her research.



Heather Speight



Heather is pursuing a MA in International Peace and Conflict Resolution at American University with a focus on environmental peacebuilding. Heather serves as a community dialogue facilitator on American's campus and is completing a mediator certification program, which will enable her to work with juvenile offenders within the District of Columbia. Heather is a licensed Civil Engineer with experience in transboundary watershed management and credentialed mathematics teacher in the state of California.

Courtney Owen

Courtney is currently a dual M.A. graduate student in International Affairs at American University and Natural Resources and Sustainable Development at the United Nations University for Peace. She graduated from Salisbury University with a dual degree in International Relations and Conflict Analysis and Dispute Resolution with a concentration in Middle Eastern affairs. She is interested in environmental justice issues and how to successfully utilize peacebuilding mechanisms through natural resources.



Ken Conca, PhD, Instructor



Ken's research and teaching focus on global environmental governance, environmental peacebuilding in war-torn societies, environmental politics and policy in the United Nations system, water governance, and environmental policy analysis. He is the author/editor of several books on international environmental politics. He is a member of the United Nations Environment Programme's Expert Advisory Group on Conflict and Peacebuilding.