BIARI

Brown International Advanced Research Institutes

THE PROGRAM

Brown University’s International Advanced Research Institutes initiative (BIARI) brings together young faculty and professionals from around the world to address pressing global issues through innovative research and pedagogy.

Since June 2009, with the generous support of Santander Universities, over 500 scholars and practitioners from more than 75 countries have participated in two-week intensive institutes on Brown University’s campus in Providence, Rhode Island. They are now members of a dynamic alumni community whose members continue to collaborate and share knowledge.

In June 2012, members of Brown University’s internationally-acclaimed faculty will again convene a diverse group of future intellectual leaders from the global South, together with prominent thinkers and practitioners, to participate in four two-week residential institutes.

OBJECTIVES

CUTTING EDGE RESEARCH

Through this participatory, rigorous, and interdisciplinary program, participants have the opportunity to share their own work and develop new collaborations with peers and leading figures in their fields of interest.

GLOBAL EXCHANGE

BIARI convenes scholars and practitioners from all parts of the world, and challenges conventional hierarchies of knowledge. A key program goal is to foster south-south exchange, and to provide support for rising scholars’ voices in the global academic conversation.

SUSTAINABLE NETWORK-BUILDING

BIARI is a highly selective, residential program. Institute participants have ample opportunity to interact with colleagues and explore Brown University’s world-class campus and facilities. BIARI alumni continue to build on and expand these relationships in long-term research, teaching and outreach collaborations. Alumni are invited to apply for seed funding for collaborative projects that are outgrowths of Institute initiatives.

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR BIARI 2012


We especially welcome applicants early in their professional careers. Participant practitioners normally have four to ten years experience in their professional field. Participants from an academic background are usually within seven years of having finished their PhD or professional terminal degree.

Thanks to generous support from Santander Universities, BIARI will cover the costs of tuition, food and accommodation (in university housing) during BIARI, and also the costs of air travel and U.S. airport transfers to Providence.

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Young faculty from institutions that are members of the Santander Universities network are especially encouraged to apply.
THE INSTITUTES

GLOBAL HEALTH AND HIV/AIDS: CUTTING EDGE ISSUES FOR UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS
This Institute will focus on current knowledge regarding global HIV/AIDS epidemiology, pathogenesis, prevention and treatment, and social context, with a special emphasis on the current debate about treatment for prevention, and a focus on underserved populations. Areas of examination will be women, adolescents, prison populations, men who have sex with men and alcohol/substance use, as well as human rights and health disparities. The Institute will convene a faculty of leading scholars and practitioners, and use a multidisciplinary team approach to these complex issues in both resource-rich and poor contexts.

THEATER AND CIVIL SOCIETY: POLITICS, PUBLIC SPACE, AND PERFORMANCE
Convened by faculty from Brown University’s Department of Theater, Speech and Dance, this Institute will explore the role of theater and new media in political and social movements, with a focus on the potential of diverse art forms to advance principles of non-violence and civic debate. The Institute responds to the political and social movements of the past year. What is new in these movements? What do they owe to different theories, traditions and practices of expressive freedom and participatory politics? The Institute will address these questions through lectures, readings, performances and discussions around four interconnected themes: transgression, translation, transformation and transcendence. We invite scholars from the humanities and beyond, and artists and performers working in different genres, to contribute to an interdisciplinary exploration of the ways in which creative production expands the civic imagination and conjures new understandings of public space.

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POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT: NEW APPROACHES TO ENDURING GLOBAL PROBLEMS
In the year when the world’s population passed seven billion, this Institute will address the crucial and interlinked issues of population and development, particularly as they affect people in the global South. Participants will engage with cutting-edge theory, tested and innovative research methods, and examples of first-rate scholarship upon which to build their own research programs.

What are the most significant population issues in the 21st century? How do population dynamics and the policies designed to address them contribute to—or detract from—equitable development? How can theories and methods in the social sciences contribute to understanding the relationship between population and development, and how can this scholarship contribute to better policies and programs? This Institute will establish a dynamic network of scholars, creating prospects for collaborative and comparative research and opportunities for rich intellectual exchange and joint publications.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS: REGIONAL APPROACHES
To understand and predict the interacting effects of increased greenhouse gas concentrations, climate and economic teleconnections, and regional scale changes in economic development and land use, interdisciplinary approaches are vital. This Institute will bring together scholars from social, physical and life sciences to focus on the study of coupled human-natural systems at the regional level; and how such study generates templates for adaptation at local, national and regional levels, and key inputs for decision-makers.

Themes will include predicted changes in regional hydrologic cycles; resilience of existing social, economic, civil, ecological and agricultural systems to likely changes; the potential of local, national or multinational institutions to increase the resilience of these systems; and what can be learned from one region to inform science and governance in other regions. Participants will develop interdisciplinary approaches through project-based collaboration and proposal writing. Applications are especially welcome from scholars interested in evidence-based policymaking.

“The quality and experience of the guest speakers was amazing.”
– Global Health participant, 2011

“The syllabus design, teamwork approach, and the support of coordinators are wonderful.”
– Climate Change participant, 2011