The Journal SCID Evolves at Watson

Studies in Comparative International Development (SCID), a journal published at the Watson Institute, has put out its first special themed issue, on “Greening Development: The Role of the Developing-Country Private Sector.”

Case studies in the “Greening Development” issue refute the widely held view that local businesses in developing countries have little or nothing positive to contribute in the global fight against greenhouse gas emissions. Instead, authors provide evidence that businesses in developing countries are not locked into a single, polluting pattern of growth; that some are exceeding the environmental performance of their counterparts in industrialized countries; and that they are crucial players in the global effort to mitigate climate change (see p. 2).

Now entering its third year of publication at the Institute, SCID is an interdisciplinary journal whose major areas of emphasis include political and state institutions, the effects of a changing international economy, political-economic models of growth and distribution, and the transformation of social structure and culture.

Institute Director Barbara Stallings serves as the journal’s editor. “SCID is one of the top journals dealing with the issues of development,” Stallings said, adding that, “We have tried to broaden its focus to include more articles on economics and anthropology rather than concentrating just on political science and sociology as in the past.”

With input from an increasingly international group of scholars, “we have been broadening the geographical coverage, as well, to include work on Asia and Eastern Europe as well as the traditional stress on Latin America and Africa,” she said.

“We have also innovated in terms of how the journal is produced,” she said. “Rather than a single editor, we formed an editorial collective of Brown faculty and a few colleagues from neighboring universities.”

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The Issue on ‘Greening’

The first themed issue of SCID, on “Greening Development: The Role of the Developing-Country Private Sector,” is a collection of case studies including:

- The rise of two companies, in China and India, into the world’s top 10 manufacturers of wind turbine technology;
- The role of Mexico’s national oil company in leading its government to adopt a progressive climate change policy; and
- The improved environmental performance of both eco-certified banana producers in Ecuador and of large steel, power, and automotive companies in India.

The cases cited in the issue are still exceptions to the norm, she noted, but “understanding why and how they came to adopt innovative environmental technologies and practices will be central to any search for global sustainability. Recognizing the environmental agency of developing country firms is a starting point—not the final destination.”

Special issues:
- Greening Development
- State Infrastructural Power
- Globalization and Inequality

Simone Pulver, who is an assistant professor with the Watson Institute’s Global Environment Program, added that, “It is often assumed that the greatest potential for improving business environmental practice in developing countries lies with foreign multinationals and not with the countries’ own businesses. These case studies reject this common assumption and point to the crucial role of developing-country firms as they serve the world’s most populous and fastest growing markets.”

Looking forward, Stallings and the collective have planned two additional themed issues: on “Revisiting State Infrastructural Power” in fall 2008 and on globalization and international inequality, especially in Latin America, in spring 2009.

The concept of state infrastructural power refers to states’ institutional capability to exercise control throughout society and implement policy choices. The issue dedicated to this concept will feature concluding remarks by Michael Mann, the professor of sociology at the University of California, Los Angeles, whose work is the foundation for the study of the infrastructural power of the modern state. Articles will cover topics including democratization, civic violence, race relations, nationalism, and the provision of public goods—across world regions.

The subsequent themed issue will be based in part on an upcoming conference at the Institute on “International Inequality Then and Now: Revisiting Cardoso and Faletto’s Dependency and Development in Latin America.” Among other contributors, the issue will feature former Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, a Brown professor at large based at Watson.

Meanwhile, the April issue of SCID is now online. The issue offers diverse articles on the use of culture in new institutional economics, policy experimentation in China’s economic rise, and ethnic dynamics in post-Soviet Estonia and Latvia. Other regular issues are in planning as well.
Screenings Held in Tehran

Watson Institute Professor James Blight and Adjunct Professor Janet Lang last month screened *The Fog of War: Lessons from the Life of Robert S. McNamara* at the 26th International Fajr Film Festival in Tehran. The screening was part of the traveling series of “critical oral history film festivals” recently launched by Blight and Lang.

The two researchers also screened *The Fog of War* for the Iranian news media and participated in a press conference that followed, along with the principal architect of their visit, Abbas Maleki, who is a former deputy foreign minister, director of the Caspian Institute, and professor of political science at Sharif University in Tehran.

Additional screenings were held for a group of specialists on the oral history of the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq War and for the film Society of Sharif University. The Fajr film festival screenings, press conference, and follow-up interviews were widely reported by Iranian TV, radio, and print media.

The critical oral history method requires the interaction, in a conference setting, of:

- key officials who participated in the past events
- declassified documents on the events, and
- scholars familiar with the documents and events.

The first of the critical oral history film festivals was held in September at the Gelendzhik Summer School, on the Black Sea in Russia. The upcoming itinerary includes various venues in Europe and the United States.

*The Fog of War*, the Academy Award-winning 2004 film by Errol Morris that is based in part on Blight and Lang’s research, depicts the life of McNamara, who was United States Secretary of Defense during the Vietnam War. The two researchers published a book by the same title.

Blogging Bloggers

The Ethical Blogger has been launched, blogging such current developments and trends as anonymous sources online, citizen journalism in China, media blackouts by martial law, and perceptions of civility on the web.

The web has presented an enormous leap beyond older forms of media, putting instantaneous, ubiquitous local and global communications in the hands of individuals.

For government, civil society, and other groups, “what should be the social and political norms for best practice on the web? We hope they can be determined—not as laws and codes from the top down but as best practice determined from the bottom up,” said Global Security Program Director James Der Derian.

The Ethical Blogger is a joint initiative of the Global Media Project, which is led by Der Derian; the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs; Demos—The Think Tank for Everyday Democracy; and Oxford University’s Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism.

Lydon Heads to Class

Christopher Lydon, the national media figure and visiting fellow at Watson, is bringing his distinctive style and view of broadcasting, podcasting, blogging, and more into Brown classrooms.

Earlier this semester, he joined in leading a session of the “Global Media: History, Theory, Production” course, taping an interview with a leading foreign policy analyst in its midst. He is also leading a study group for students on “The Transformation of Media.”

Lydon, who is producing the Open Source at Brown podcast series, said his study group is exploring “the radical implications and opportunities in a completely new internet architecture of social communication.” Radio producers, writers, teachers, bloggers, theorists, and others are featured at study group sessions.
...There is little reason to assume that terrorists would be restrained by a nuclear taboo. Indeed, they might relish violating it. Experts on terrorism suggest that religious extremists, “who tend to regard their own actions as being divinely sanctioned are more likely to violate long-standing moral taboos against WMD use.”

It is precisely the possibility of transgressing a taboo for dramatic political effect that would make the use of radiological weapons, for example, attractive to terrorists. Radiological weapons are not necessarily more destructive than conventional weapons and are not useful for killing large numbers of people. The transgressive nature of their use, however, would have a much more dramatic psychological and political effect than if terrorists simply set off a large conventional explosion. The public impact of the attack would be based largely on the fact that it occurred at all.

A terrorist use of nuclear weapons would certainly violate the taboo, but how states responded (e.g., whether with nuclear or conventional means) would determine whether the taboo was fatally disrupted....

...Long before 9/11, nearly every aspect of the American way of life began to depend on, entwine with, or suffer from a massive investment in arms and armies. The evolution from a nation that enshrined its suspicion of the militarist states of 18th century Europe in its Constitution to a nation in which war readiness is a way of life was mainly a twentieth century phenomenon and even more one that emerged during and beyond World War II.

How massive has this investment been? Looking back into history and across the world today, no military has come close to rivaling the global scale of the US military’s reach and the lethality of its weapons. Not the Roman, not the British, not the Ottoman, not the Soviet, and not the Chinese militaries.

As of 2005, the US military budget is as large as that of every other major and middling military in the world combined, and six times larger than any other rival or ally. The Department of Defense has millions of employees, thousands of bases established in every state and each corner of the globe, recruiters trawling for young people in every school and mall in America and its territories, and people writing reams each day on nuances of strategic thought, planning interventions for virtually every nation on earth, and creating new weapons.

For decades, US civilian and military planners have dreamed of and executed a plan to establish an unconquerable empire of bases overseas and a national industrial and educational policy centered on the production of advanced weaponry. The evidence is that the massive and long term mobilization for war in the United States has misshapen cultural values, increased various forms of inequality, most importantly those of race, class, gender and sexuality, served as a massively anti-democratic force by accelerating the corporatization of government and legitimating secrecy and violation of the rule of law, and exported violence, toxins, and authoritarianism abroad.

Each day in 2006, for example, hundreds of Iraqis and several Americans died in the battles set off by the US invasion, PCBs and greenhouse gases from military and military industrial operations poured into the world’s air and water supply, and scientific talent was massively detoured from the task of producing medical cures or teaching. And while affluence may be both cause and effect of the large US military, many thinkers from across the political spectrum note that the decline of American power is ongoing and the result of overinvestment in military matters...
...It was phenomenal how quickly key Democrats crumbled. They went down to meetings at the White House and the Pentagon and came back to the chamber ready to salute. With wrinkled brows they gravely intoned that Saddam Hussein must be stopped. Stopped from what? They had no conviction or evidence of their own. They were just parroting the administration’s nonsense. They knew it could go terribly wrong; they also knew it could go terribly right. Which did they fear more? One Democratic senator, an opponent of the war, told me in confidence, "They’re afraid the war will be over as fast as Gulf One. Few will die, the oil will flow, and gasoline will cost ninety cents a gallon."

Inexplicably, they had forgotten that in the Gulf War we had the international community with us, we were not out to occupy a large, hostile Muslim nation, and we were not already fighting a war in Afghanistan.

Many Democrats had opposed President George H. W. Bush’s Gulf War. Now they were reluctant to oppose war again. They not only fell in line—they fought to get to the head of the line. They got it wrong on both Bush wars in Iraq.

On the Republican side, we had an extraordinary glimpse into the mentality of the man who was taking us to war. It happened one day, in May 2002, just six months before the Iraq war vote, in the middle of the president’s relentless campaign to turn public opinion in favor of a preemptive “defensive” strike against Saddam. The president met privately with Republican senators in the Mansfield Room in the Capitol.

Howard Fineman of Newsweek magazine had two sources in the caucus that day and reported the president’s bizarre behavior and comments on May 27. Fineman described “a jut-jawed, disjointed discourse with a tinge of diatribe and a crescendo of podium pounding… Stunned senators didn’t know quite what to make of the performance."

It was as if Mr. Fineman was in the room with us that day… And someone in the room had been alarmed enough to describe it virtually word for word to a prominent member of the media… I thought, maybe this will slow the rush to war… It was not to be….

“...The Special Rapporteur found that security forces, including the army and riot police, used excessive force against civilians from 26 to 29 September 2007, in spite of several international appeals calling upon the Government of Myanmar to show restraint in policing the demonstrations. This included the use of live ammunition, rubber bullets, tear gas and smoke grenades, bamboo and wooden sticks, rubber batons and catapults (slingshots).

This largely explains the killings and severe injuries that have been reported. Victims included monks, as well as men, women, and children who were either directly participating in the protests or were onlookers in the vicinity. In some cases these beatings were administered indiscriminately, while in other cases the authorities deliberately targeted individuals, chasing them down to beat them...

The Government has acknowledged the death of 15 people during the demonstrations and provided full details as to the causes of death. However several reports of killings indicate that the figure provided by the authorities may greatly underestimate the reality…. 
Warning Issued on Biofuels

The move to biofuels could actually increase global warming, according to Global Environment Program Director Steven Hamburg and fellow members of an adhoc group of eminent scientists.

Hamburg recently submitted a letter to President Bush and congressional leaders on behalf of the group, saying that “Emerging calculations now indicate that over a reasonable time frame and within a broad, reasonable set of assumptions, the increased emissions of greenhouse gases from direct and indirect land use changes are likely to exceed the greenhouse gas savings of most biofuels.” The findings were also reported in the New York Times, NPR, and Science magazine.

The issues arise from the clearing of land to make way for the crops needed to produce biofuels, the scientists said. Causes for concern include the quick release of carbon from removing vegetation and tilling the soil, as well as the loss of trees and other vegetation that would normally take carbon out of the atmosphere.

“Virtually all strategies for addressing climate change require that the world not only find alternatives to fossil fuels but also do a better job of protecting (and hopefully restoring) our forests and grasslands even in the face of the food demands of billions more people,” the scientists told policymakers. “Unsound biofuel policies could sacrifice tens to hundreds of millions of acres of such lands.”

Developing World Climate Explored

Simone Pulver and Leiwen Jiang, both assistant professors with the Institute’s Global Environment Program, presented research on climate change trends in the developing world this semester, as part of the Rapid Fire Symposium on Energy: Creation, Conservation, Conversion hosted by Brown’s Environmental Change Initiative.

Pulver described growth in the market for climate-friendly innovations in developing countries, while Jiang focused on demographic trends and their implications for climate change.

The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), a part of the international Kyoto Protocol on climate change, is working mostly as intended to catalyze innovation that will generate reductions in greenhouse gases, Pulver said. Since the CDM became operational in December 2003, close to 3,000 related projects using “green” techniques have been proposed in developing countries. The projects could amount to a total reduction of 2.5 billion tons of carbon dioxide emissions by 2012.

Brazil, China, India, Mexico, and South Korea are the big national players in this context, Pulver said, with Brazil as a pioneer and China a relatively late starter. In most cases, private companies are initiating the projects.

The greatest number of CDM projects is in the category of renewable energy, such as biogas, biomass energy, geothermal, hydro, solar, tidal, and wind, she said. Each country’s approach varies, however, and Pulver is researching why.

Meanwhile, Jiang presented research on how demographic trends in aging, urbanization, and household size affect energy consumption and carbon emission.

According to Jiang, national case studies of China and India have shown that urbanization, aging, and the shrinking size of households will significantly affect energy use. Urbanization in China will drive energy consumption up by 45 percent by the end of the century, for example, while aging will drive down consumption by 20 percent. The trend is similar in India, but to a lesser extent.

In the US, by comparison, population aging will drive carbon emissions down by 30 percent by the end of this century—under certain conditions, in fact, the impact of population aging is more significant than that of technological changes up to year 2085, he said.

The next step in Jiang’s research is to produce a global model, to improve projections of future energy use and climate change, as well as the estimates of the costs of meeting various policy goals.
Partnership Details  
Brazil’s New Slums  

Megacities and medium-sized cities in Brazil are undergoing a decline in central urban areas at the expense of “wild” growth in distant suburbs, often characterized by shantytowns and irregular settlements of low income families in environmentally fragile areas.

The Spatial Inequalities in the Global South Working Group, a new partnership between Brown University and the Centro Brasileiro de Análise e Pesquisa, Brazil’s premier social science research facility, will apply innovative tools including geographic information systems (GIS), remote sensing, and participatory mapping to explore such resulting issues as increased racial segregation, shortfalls in social services, and environmental impact.

The working group, in line with the Watson Institute’s Globalization and Inequality Initiative, is being launched with seed funding from the university’s Internationalization Committee, the Institute, and the Center for Latin American Studies. It will build on Brown’s strength as a leading center for Brazilian and Lusophone studies, and also involve Brown’s Spatial Structures in the Social Sciences initiative, the Sociology Department, and Economics Department, among others.

Over three years, the group will focus on the spatial dynamics of urban inequalities. In Brazil and other developing countries, the current dynamics involve rapidly growing “belts of poverty” around cities. These elusive “Giffen good.” This counter-intuitive phenomenon occurs when demand for a good rises as its price rises, and vice versa.

Jensen and Nolan H. Miller, an economist at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government, have produced what they say is the first rigorous, empirical evidence of the existence of Giffen behavior in poor households in China. Subsidizing these families’ dietary staple—rice in Hunan Province and wheat flour in Gansu Province—the researchers found that their consumption did not increase as the price fell. Rather, the lower price of rice in Hunan freed families to supplement their diet with other foods that were costlier per calorie. When the subsidies were removed—and given that the families’ calorie requirements remained fairly constant—they could only afford rice and so increased consumption to prior levels.

“Leading the Hunt for ‘Giffen Goods’”  

A working paper by Watson economist Robert T. Jensen and a colleague has spread widely across websites and into the Wall Street Journal in recent months. Why the excitement? The work could signal the end of the hunt for the elusive “Giffen good.” This counter-intuitive phenomenon occurs when demand for a good rises as its price rises, and vice versa.

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“The fact that there has to date been no convincing evidence of Giffen behavior stands as a minor embarrassment.”  

Robert T. Jensen
Grad Students Exchange Field Experiences

A group of graduate students in anthropology, economics, political science, and sociology gathered last semester to share results of their field work in developing countries, learn from each others’ practical experience, and provide insights across disciplines.

The workshop—uncommon by its cross-disciplinary nature—is emblematic of the approach of the Graduate Program in Development (GPD). This Watson-based program enhances existing training in participating departments at Brown by providing courses in the field of development, as well as interdepartmental colloquia, graduate student fellowships, new collaborative research initiatives, and funding for summer field work. Such funding helps students explore the feasibility of their dissertation projects at an early stage in their training, giving them a head start toward formulating competitive proposals for external grants.

During the past two years, 12 Brown doctoral students received funding for summer field work. Many of them presented at the workshop—on research subjects ranging from industrialization in India to the rise of pro-Kurdish local governments in Turkey.

Students underscored the value of both the field work and information exchange to their research.

“I traveled to each country and interviewed a diverse array of political and societal actors, conducted archival research, attended academic conferences, and simply but no less important, acquired a firsthand feeling for why and how my topic would be a good one to pursue for my doctoral dissertation,” said Eduardo Moncada, a third year political science PhD student who is studying public security and access to justice in Latin America.

“I had the chance to ‘try out’ some of my ideas and initial hypotheses, and uncover alternative research questions and new angles on my original question,” said Jennifer N. Costanza, a third year sociology PhD student who is studying indigenous social movements in Guatemala and Bolivia.

“As a result, my dissertation proposal is rooted in India, and not imagined from afar,” said Harris Solomon, a third year anthropology PhD student who is studying the connection between obesity and the economy in India.

At the workshop, “hearing about different parts of the world, different research questions, and different methods and theories across the social science disciplines is intellectually invigorating,” said Kelly Bay, a third year political science PhD student who is studying decentralization and education policy reform in Nicaragua.

“The opportunity for graduate students to share their projects with one another beyond their departments is very rare,” said Myunji Yang, a fourth-year sociology PhD student who is studying the politics of economic reform in China and South Korea.

The GPD is a key component of Watson’s Political Economy of Development Program (PED), co-led by Watson Institute Director Barbara Stallings and PED Director Richard Snyder.

Studying In Cuba

Brown has announced a new semester-length study abroad program in Cuba for this fall. Based in Havana, the program will encourage participating students to immerse themselves in the host country, taking in lectures from local experts and interacting with peers to learn about Cuba’s past, present, and future.

Cuba marks the 50th anniversary of its revolution in 2009, and “the Center for Latin American Studies, the Cuban Task Force, and the Office of International Programs believe that now is an opportune moment for Brown to be one of a very small handful of US universities operating in Cuba,” according to program administrators. “With one of the longest running socialist experiments in history, Cuba’s political and economic spheres have long been subjects of interest and debate in academic circles and beyond, but never more so than now.”

Brown’s principle institutional partner is Casa de Las Américas, the Cuban government’s premier research institution. Casa is formally affiliated with the University of Havana.
**Studying Environments Abroad**

The Luce Undergraduate and Graduate Environmental Fellows Programs provide opportunities for Brown students to work on environmental research projects in developing countries. Students work alongside alumni from the Watson International Scholars of the Environment Program, which provides advanced training to mid-level professionals at the University.

Last summer’s undergraduate fellows worked on issues ranging from food security for rural farmers in China to resource recovery in Nigeria; graduate fellows' research topics ranged from marine protected areas in Senegal to ethanol policies in Brazil. For example, graduate student Jessica Hunter worked with Watson Scholar Gracie Abad Maximiano at the Paraná Biodiversity Project in Brazil, as well as with other local professionals and scholars, on the ability of green areas to moderate storm water flows and reduce pollutant loads to urban rivers.

Christina Tang ’09 studied the pattern of drinking water availability in the North Kuttanad region of Kerala, India, with Watson Scholar Nadesa Panicker Anil Kumar of the M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation in India.

Erica Moen ’08 researched air quality and environmental health with Watson Scholar Jokotola Akoni of the Abuja Environmental Protection Board in Nigeria.

In all, four undergraduate and four graduate students participated last summer, and the March 17 deadline is fast approaching for applications to participate this summer.

The fellowships are supported by a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation.

**Keeping the Peace in Lebanon**

The United Nations’ peacekeeping force in Lebanon has a challenging job, as it navigates complex Middle East politics. “There is only so much a peacekeeping force can do without a political or diplomatic solution,” said Visiting Fellow Susan S. Allee, while leading a Watson study group session focused on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

Allee is in residence at the Institute on sabbatical from the UN, where she ran the Middle East desk in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for six of the past seven years, and she was joined in the session by Lisa Buttenheim, director of the department's Asia and Middle East Division in the Office of Operations.

Since arriving in Lebanon in 1978, UNIFIL has operated where there is no comprehensive “peace” for it to keep. Internally, conflict and instability have plagued Lebanon since its 1975–1990 civil war. Unresolved issues between Israel and Lebanon have also kept tensions high. Meantime, the peacekeeping force has had little diplomatic support for its mandate.

At various times, UNIFIL has acted as a buffer between Israel and Lebanon, as a provider of humanitarian assistance, and as both.

Since the July 2006 war between Israel and Lebanon the UNIFIL commander speaks regularly with the heads of both armies. Still, the peacekeeping force has some difficulty negotiating this political landscape.

For instance, Israel asks that the UN have no contact with Hezbollah, a Lebanese militia and political party that Israel and the US consider a terrorist group. Yet in some ways UNIFIL cannot avoid contact with Hezbollah, which is one of the strongest social as well as military groups in southern Lebanon. Navigating the conflict between Hezbollah and Israel sometimes threatens UNIFIL’s reputation as neutral.

The study group was one in a series led by Allee this fall. Study groups offer students informal interactive sessions with policymakers and practitioners, providing behind-the-scenes looks at international relations in action.
Understanding Castro

In the wake of Fidel Castro’s retirement announcement in February, the Choices Program has developed an online lesson for secondary schools. *Castro’s Legacy and the Future of Cuba*, one of Choices’ *Teaching with the News* offerings, is a one-day lesson that helps students explore international reactions to Castro’s decision and categorize competing perspectives on the future of Cuba.

Choices will publish a full curriculum unit—including print and multimedia—exploring the complex history of Cuba and engaging students in the controversies over Cuba’s future this spring. This unit is funded in part by the United States Institute of Peace.

Professional development for teachers is another key facet of Choices’ Cuba initiative. A four-day summer institute will give participating teachers selected from school districts across the country an opportunity to deepen their understanding of Cuban culture and politics and explore critical issues in Cuban-US relations today. “The US and Cuba” is a one-day teaching institute that will take place at the Institute in April, involving Watson Adjunct Associate Professor Jo-Anne Hart and Institute Associate Professor Nina Tannenwald. Choices is also offering workshops on this topic around the country.

Various components of Choices’ Cuba initiative have been funded, in part, by Brown’s STG, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Cranalleigh Foundation, and Ploughshares Fund.

Choices Program Focuses on Iran

The Choices Program has published new secondary school educational materials that lend historical context to modern Iran, as part of a multifaceted initiative to bring this topic to American classrooms nationwide.

*Iran through the Looking Glass: History, Reform, and Revolution* helps students consider the issues facing Iranians in 1978, when millions of citizens risked their lives to protest against the shah then in power.

The new curriculum unit—including print and multimedia components—traces the history of Iran and then engages students in the choices considered during this period of debate and uncertainty in Iran. Students explore Iran’s cultural history, its efforts to establish a representative democracy in the 20th century, and the role the great powers played in shaping events in Iran.

*Iran through the Looking Glass* brings to 33 the number of curriculum units now published by the Choices Program, which is bringing university-level research and innovative learning tools into secondary school classrooms across the country. Multimedia components to supplement the printed unit will include Scholars Online videos of leading academics, among others.

“The history of Iran is fascinating in its own right, but it is also particularly relevant to understanding current policy challenges,” says Andrew Blackadar, the researcher leading the Iran curriculum development. “Curriculum resources on Iran are hard to come by for secondary school classrooms; this work addresses an important need.”

Publication of *Iran through the Looking Glass* follows the launch late last year of *The US and Iran: Confronting Policy Alternatives*, a collection of online resources on modern Iran. The digital *US and Iran* is part of Choices’ *Teaching with the News* program, which offers web-based curriculum materials and ideas to connect the content of the classroom to current headlines.

Brown University’s Scholarly Technology Group (STG) is working with the Choices Program to develop additional interactive activities including newspaper-building, ranking policy issues on a dynamic matrix, and using Google Maps with pop-ups of relevant photos, video, text, and links. This work is the result of a faculty grant that Choices has received from STG for the 2007-08 academic year.

Choices is also developing a range of online resources focused on Iran’s nuclear program and international reactions to it.

Educational materials and teacher institutes cover Iran’s history and current events.
Author Declares New Cold War

In the runup to Russia’s presidential election, author Edward Lucas spoke at Watson of the new dynamics that could emerge between current President Vladimir Putin, who was expected to assume the role of prime minister, and Dmitry Medvedev, Putin’s hand-picked successor as president. Lucas, who recently released The New Cold War: Putin’s Russia and the Threat to the West (Palgrave Macmillan, 2008), also described what he sees as “sinister echoes of the Stalinist past” in Putin and his administration, and he prescribed ways to forestall the spread of this behavior into Eastern Europe and beyond.

Lucas, who is also a senior editor at the Economist, characterized the election as “both predictable and mystifying,” in that the winner was known but not the meaning of his victory. He questioned what role would be played by Medvedev. Would he be a seat-warmer for Putin to return in the future? Part of a “good cop, bad cop” team? Putin’s boss or his deputy? Medvedev is almost certainly not a reformer, he said, although he has offered accurate criticism of the Putin administration’s failures.

Addressing Russia’s current condition more broadly, Lucas said Russia and the world must address the ghosts of Stalinism in a system that has not moved on, as exemplified by Putin. The Putin administration is incorporating behavior consistent with Stalinist rule, such as the psychological incarceration of dissidents, he said. At the same time, and with the flood of money due to the rising price of Russian-produced oil, Putin is orchestrating a new cold war, Lucas argued.

His thesis of a new cold war is not the same as a second coming of the “old” Cold War, which was based on global military and ideological struggles. Instead, it is a struggle involving energy, propaganda, and “subtle subversion, mainly financial,” he said.

One result of this new cold war is that “we’re being rolled back out of Eastern Europe,” Lucas said, due to Putin’s use of “soft power” in the form of money and oil. He called upon the West to push back, acknowledging that it will be difficult because the “new fifth column wears pin stripes.” During the “old” Cold War, subverting the West was a hard sell because it was based on a failing ideology, he said, whereas the new subversion is based on money.

Lucas called for a cleanup of the Western financial system so that looted Russian assets cannot easily be incorporated into them. To regain lost influence in the region, “most of all, we need to recover the West’s moral authority,” he said.

The talk was part of the Directors Lectures Series on Contemporary International Affairs.

African King Faces Modernity

Fon Angwafior III, king of the Mankon people of Cameroon, gave a talk at Watson last semester, challenging any claims of traditional monarchies fading with Africa’s pre-colonial past. Today Fon Angwafior’s historical Mankon dynasty is recognized as an influential region in Cameroon.

Having reigned for nearly a half-century, Fon Angwafior has experienced Cameroon’s colonial and postcolonial struggles. Through collective efforts with the Cameroon government, Fon Angwafior has helped facilitate Cameroon’s transition into an independent nation.

Traditional African models of governance and Western models of governance can coexist through understanding and cooperation, according to Fon Angwafior. “Our problem is not to magnify the differences, but to narrow them,” he said.

In fact, he believes that a successful future for Cameroon will only come with cooperation between modern rulers and traditional rulers. He is now also national vice president of Cameroon’s ruling party.

His talk was part of the Africa Group Colloquium Series.

Edward Lucas

Fon Angwafior III

“Our problem is not to magnify the differences, but to narrow them.”

Fon Angwafior III
Andean Diplomats Critique US Policy

Diplomats from Bolivia, Ecuador, and Venezuela last month engaged in a frank discussion of their relationships with the United States during a roundtable at Brown. US foreign policy toward Latin America has failed in several ways, they said. Among them: the inability to come to grips with the sweeping political changes in the region, continued promotion of neo-liberal policies there, and a broad brush approach to what are very diverse nations with complex issues.

The roundtable was part of a two-day conference on Changes in the Andes: Realities, Challenges, and Opportunities for Inter-American Relations. Bernardo Álvarez Herrera, Venezuelan ambassador to the US, summed up the political changes described in the first day’s sessions by declaring that “Nobody can deny, after listening to the lectures today, that something really important is going on down there.”

Introducing the roundtable, former US Sen. Lincoln Chafee ’75, a distinguished visiting fellow at the Watson Institute, referred to the “revolution of participation” occurring in the region. “That’s a phenomenon we need to be aware of,” he said.

addressing her country’s relationship with the United States, Virginia Aillón, the first minister in the Bolivian Embassy to the United States, criticized the US for its “bloc mentality” and emphasized the need for better understanding and more direct dialogue to address Bolivia’s unique concerns.

US-UK Ties in Britain’s Eyes

The United Kingdom and United States have several foreign policy concerns in common—if not always a common approach to them. Alan Charlton, Britain’s deputy ambassador to the United States, recently touched on several issues in a talk at Watson: nuclear proliferation, terrorism, conflict resolution, trade, climate change, and development. But while noting that the two allies also share a great deal more, he rejected the label “special relationship” so often applied to them.

The strong transatlantic relationship is based on such ties as business, defense and intelligence, and human contact, he said. UK investments support over a million jobs in the US, he explained, while the US is the single largest investor in the UK. Describing security relations, he said that the British military plans for the fact that it is “going to be working alongside the US.” Some 700 members of the British Air Force are currently stationed in the US, he added. Other commonalities mentioned included shared language and culture.

That said, “I don’t want to put the UK into a special category of special relationship [with the US],” he said in reaction to a question about the close ties between the two countries.

On Iraq, while acknowledging dissent over the decision to go to war, he argued that, at this point, it is most important to help Iraqis develop their new state. Charlton classified Afghanistan as a “long-term project,” adding that the military side of that campaign
Continued from preceding page

is effective but costly in terms of lives. Issues between the West and Russia such as ballistic missile defense and Kosovo will be unsuccessful unless the US and Europe work together.

In terms of trade, there are growing fears that the United States will “draw in on itself” economically, Charlton said, promoting the importance of the current trade round in the World Trade Organization.

Climate change is a “moral and economic issue,” he said, praising the actions taken by individual American states in combating the issue. Europe and the US should lead in the drafting of a replacement for the Kyoto Treaty, which expires in 2012, he said.

Advancing Radical Reform

The economic and social achievements of the former Soviet Bloc countries have differed greatly since the fall of communism. Why? Watson Institute Visiting Fellow Leszek Balcerowicz answered this question last semester from his perspective as Poland’s former deputy prime minister.

In a talk at the Institute, he said the greatest successes were achieved through radical and comprehensive reform, implemented as fast as possible—a lesson that could also be applied to other countries worldwide.

Although all of the post-Soviet states now experience income inequality, he said, those states with fewer economic and political reforms see greater disparities between rich and poor.

Clearly, the degree of success or failure of national economic reform also depends on the initial conditions, which vary in each country, said Balcerowicz, the architect of Polish economic reforms initiated in 1989.

Another key factor is the “period of extraordinary politics” occurring in such moments as the fall of communism, he said. That is, people are more willing to tolerate hardship in the aftermath of liberation. Small changes made at such a time can be reversed, he said, but radical change is more likely to stick.

“When your country is liberated from an oppressive regime, there is a lot of euphoria… the lesson is to use it to the maximum,” he said. “How do you use it? By moving very fast.”

He acknowledged that some types of reform take longer than others; reforming institutions requires more time than reforming policy.

Yet holding off liberalization and market stabilization until financial institutions are developed would actually worsen a country’s economy, he said. “It would tolerate inflation. It really would tolerate inefficiency, and you would lose political momentum.”

When is War Just?

As a senior program officer at the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), Taylor Seybolt has taken on the difficult problem of determining when it should be permissible to use force to protect civilians. Last semester at the Watson Institute he described his deliberations, as published in a book titled Humanitarian Military Intervention: The Conditions for Success and Failure (Oxford University Press, 2007).

It is Seybolt’s belief that countries may use force, in terms of humanitarian military intervention, and that it can be justified, but only when there is a large degree of violence aimed at civilians (such as a mass genocide) and when intervention would do more good than harm.

While his talk was titled “Protecting Civilians during Wartime” much of Seybolt’s research has shown that military interventions have been far more successful when the goal is defeating the perpetrators rather than protecting civilians. He cited actions in East Timor, Kosovo, and Bosnia as examples.

In listing six criteria of a “just war,” Seybolt noted that a “just cause” and a “reasonable prospect of success” were the primary grounds on which a humanitarian intervention must be based.

“Intervention should be the exception, not the rule,” Seybolt said. “Humanitarian intervention is dangerous and should not be undertaken lightly… it may cause more problems.”

Leszek Balcerowicz

Taylor Seybolt
Visitors Bring New Dimensions

The Watson Institute hosts a changing cohort of visiting faculty and fellows from around the world, bringing a diversity of views and expertise to bear on the Institute’s exploration of global issues. Visitors include scholars and practitioners such as government and nongovernmental officials, writers, and filmmakers who participate in the Institute’s research and teaching. This semester, the Institute has 17 new visitors in residence, from 15 countries.

This semester’s new visitors are:

- **Sven Arntzen** is associate professor of philosophy at Telemark University College in Norway. Rhode Island School of Design is hosting him, and he will collaborate with Watson’s Global Environment Program.

- **Cornel Ban** is a PhD candidate in international relations and comparative politics at the University of Maryland. He will collaborate with the Political Economy of Development Program at Watson.

- **Behnam Abu al-Soof**, visiting professor of archeology and international relations, is supervisor of MSC and PhD students at Baghdad University. During his lengthy career he has held numerous academic and administrative roles in Iraq.

- **Charles C. Chester** holds a PhD and MALD from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. In addition, he received a BA in environmental studies from Brown University.

Jorge Luis Esquirol is professor of law and director of International and Comparative Programs at Florida International University.

Aharon Klieman is the Dr. Nahum Goldmann Chair in Diplomacy and a lecturer on international relations in the Department of Political Science at Tel Aviv University.

Luís Nuno Rodrigues, the Luso-American Development Foundation (FLAD) Visiting Assistant Professor (research) in Portuguese and Brazilian Studies, is assistant professor at the Department of History at the Higher Institute for Business and Labor Studies (ISCTE) in Lisbon, where he coordinates the graduate history of international relations program.

Juan Santos Vara is professor of public law at the University of Salamanca in Spain. While at the Institute, he will work with the Global Security Program in researching issues related to targeted sanctions and human rights in the fight against terrorism.

Marcelo K. Silva is a professor of sociology at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul in Porto Alegre, Brazil. He will work with the Political Economy of Development Program.

Emilio Urbinati, an Office of International Programs fellow through the Brown/Bologna Exchange Program, is a researcher and press officer with Figli del Mondo, an association to promote corporate social responsibility. He will collaborate on the Muabet Project at the Institute.

Environmentalists Train at Watson

This year’s seven Watson International Scholars of the Environment have arrived—from Brazil, India, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Trinidad and Tobago, and Zimbabwe—to do advanced training in land-change sciences and policies.

The program, supported by a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation and endorsed by the United Nations Environment Programme, gathers environmental leaders from universities, governments, and nongovernmental organizations in developing countries for a full semester of courses, workshops, field trips, symposia, mentorship, professional networking, and research projects. The aim is to provide them with tools to enhance the sustainable development capacity in their countries.

The 2008 scholars are:

- **Michael Forova Avosa**, World Wildlife Fund, Papua New Guinea
- **Edene Se Garcia**, Jacques Whitford Axys Ltd., Canada
- **Rahanna Juman**, Institute of Marine Affairs, Trinidad and Tobago
- **Bala Ram Kandel**, Department of Forests, Nepal
- **Lizzie Mujuru**, Department of Environmental Science, Bindura University, Zimbabwe
- **Abha Shende**, Environment and Energy Department, Mitarth Environmental Institute, India
- **Jasjit Singh Walia**, Himachal Pradesh Forest Department, India
Der Derian Views Military Videogaming

Global Security Program Director James Der Derian appeared in December in the Discovery Channel’s five-part series on the “Rise of the Videogame,” addressing the US military’s use of videogames for training and recruitment.

“There are great benefits in simulating war; obviously if you prepare for worst case scenarios beforehand, you’re better prepared,” Der Derian said. “The danger however, is if the simulations get too good—if you begin to mistake the representation for the real thing.”


According to the book summary, Virtuous War is “a road trip through the future of war, where cyborg combat technologies, videogames, TV news stories, army training exercises, and Hollywood movies all blur in a new military-industrial-media-entertainment network.”

Drug War Failures Cited

Associate Professor Peter Andreas recently told Rolling Stone magazine, “What we’re seeing is the Colombianization of Mexico.” His description of the doubling of drug-related murders in Mexico’s border states over the past year was among the litany of failures cited in the magazine feature titled “How America Lost the War on Drugs.”

“After 35 years and $500 billion, drugs are as cheap and plentiful as ever,” the article said.

In Mexico, some of the problem is due to what Andreas called “unintended consequences” of reforms begun in 2000 by former Mexican President Vicente Fox. As Fox began throwing thousands of corrupt police officers off the force, “many of the corrupt cops went to work in the drug trade,” said Andreas, who is also director of Brown’s International Relations Program. This had the effect of professionalizing the trade.

Andreas has authored or co-authored such related books as Policing the Globe: Criminalization and Crime Control in International Relations (Oxford University Press, 2006); Border Games: Policing the U.S.-Mexico Divide (Cornell University Press, 2000); and Drug War Politics: The Price of Denial (University of California Press, 1996).

Flaws Exposed in Terrorist Sanctions

Sanctions on travel, access to bank accounts, and other financial activities have been important tools for counterterrorism, according to Senior Fellow Sue E. Eckert. “But there’s no denying that there have been problems in terms of a lack of fairness and transparency,” she said recently on NPR’s Day to Day program. She was interviewed after businessman Ahmed Idris Nasreddin was quietly removed in November from a list of people and organizations subject to such sanctions for terrorist-related activities.

“There was a rush in the period after 9/11,” Eckert explained. “President Bush launched a strike on the financial foundation of the global terror network, as he characterized it, and it became the first front in the administration’s ‘war on terror.’ There was a Rose Garden strategy of regular announcements about freezing assets. To a large extent, the problem cases that we see are really those cases in the immediate aftermath of 9/11. Since then, there have been improvements in the process.”

Eckert is co-author, with Professor Thomas J. Biersteker, of the recently released Countering the Financing of Terrorism (Routledge, 2007).
Institute Supports University’s Global Goals

The Watson Institute is playing a key role in advancing Brown’s leadership in international research and education. The Brown Corporation, as the University’s governing body, last month endorsed the second phase of Brown’s Plan for Academic Enrichment, including ambitious international goals and objectives. Detailed plans are now being designed.

“Brown’s ability to rank among the world’s great global universities, given its size and history, will be a function of its ability to extend its unique vision of research and teaching,” according to the Phase II document.

Addressing the Institute’s role directly, the document says that, “through the programs and people of the Watson Institute, Brown can be a world resource for understanding such critical issues as how the world is governed, how it might be improved, how so much poverty is sustained in a world of such plenty, and how security can be achieved between and within the world’s different cultures and nations.”

The Plan for Academic Enrichment now calls for the Institute’s programs to be redirected and expanded. “In addition to being a center for undergraduate teaching in these areas, the Watson Institute can support Brown’s core departments and help them to teach undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate students, while serving as a central node in a global network of policy professionals and leading intellectual voices on a worldwide stage.”