



# Perspectives:

## Research Notes & News

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<http://ips.illinois.edu/wggp/>



## Director's Notes Gale Summerfield

### Celebrating 30 years of the WGGP program and 10 years of the Goodman Fellowship

2010 is a year to celebrate our history and identify the cutting-edge issues that are central to the work of the next decade. By setting WGGP program (originally called the WID Office) in 1980, UI became home for one of the first programs in the country to acknowledge the importance of understanding issues facing women in developing countries. The processes of globalization have revealed the growing links among all countries, and WGGP is currently stressing the human security problems related to livelihood, housing, healthcare, and the environment. We want to highlight the work of our affiliates and associates as well as those who have completed the Gender Relations in International Development (GRID) concentration/graduate minor. Contact us if you are on campus or will be visiting, and let us know about your accomplishments to share with our newsletter, webpage, and new Facebook page. We will be having symposia, panels, and speakers throughout academic year 2010-11. Join us in celebrating our accomplishments, identifying our challenges, and planning our next steps.

### Tenth Anniversary of the Goodman Fellowship

In 2000, the first Rita and Arnold Goodman Fellowship was awarded! This unique fellowship supports graduate study and research focused on real-world issues. Recipients of the fellowship are striving to improve the lives of the poor, especially poor women, in developing countries. The Goodman family set up the fellowship to honor their parents, particularly their mother who energetically worked for these goals. WGGP annually hosts a presentation by the current Goodman Fellow. Learn more about the fellowship and the outstanding work of the fellows on the WGGP webpage. In the next academic year, we hope to have many of the fellows return to campus to discuss their work and experiences as well as address opportunities in the field. •

## Research Notes

### Can an Integrated Nutrition Intervention and Peer Networks Reduce Persistently High Child Malnutrition in India?

**Eeshani Kandpal,**  
**2009-10 Goodman Fellow**



Indian per-capita income has more than doubled since the mid-nineties. Agricultural production is at an all-time high, and large buffer stocks of food grains lie in government granaries. Such economic and agricultural success notwithstanding, over forty percent of all Indian children under the age of five continue to be malnourished. The fruits of India's economic growth do not appear to be reaching many of its young. To sustain and equitably distribute the benefits of growth, Indian policy-makers must address the high rates of malnutrition amongst the Indian young.

My research examines two approaches of improving child nutrition in India. First, I study a government intervention called the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). ICDS aims to improve child nutrition by providing nutritional supplements and pre- and post-natal services to targeted villages. The ICDS has been in place since 1977 and although it

*Kandpal, continued on p. 2*

cost approximately \$1.5 billion in 2008, previous evaluations failed to show its effectiveness. Recently, the World Bank recommended that the Indian government redesign the ICDS for a total price tag of \$9.5 billion. The hefty price tag of redesign and the potential impact on poor households motivated my re-evaluation of the ICDS. I use new data to re-evaluate ICDS on several dimensions; in contrast to previous studies, I find significant treatment effects particularly for the worst-off children. Results show ICDS decreases long-run child malnutrition by about six percent. However, while ICDS effectively targets poor areas, it fails to target areas with low levels of average education or those with unbalanced sex ratios. Evidence



*Girls at a residential educational facility in Kotdwar run by the Mahila Samakhya program. These girls would not have been able to continue their education without Mahila Samakhya, either because their parents opposed their education or because their villages have no schools, or both.*

also suggests voting patterns influence national-level budget allocation, which might hamper the effectiveness of ICDS.



*Women of Nainital, meeting to discuss the benefits of the Mahila Samakhya program.*

While ICDS has a significant effect, it alone will not be enough to eliminate child malnutrition in India. What else might improve child health? Evidence shows that more empowered women invest more in their children and as a result have healthier children. How does one empower a woman? While conventional wisdom suggests education and asset-ownership increase

female autonomy, influencing these factors can be difficult in remote and impoverished regions. In such regions, stronger ties to peer networks may work through social learning and social influence to increase female autonomy. In my dissertation, I examine whether stronger ties to peers or a larger or more diverse peer network empowers women in their household decision-making and thus improves child welfare. Existing datasets do not report information on peer networks, so I am currently collecting data on self-reported networks, female empowerment, and child nutrition in rural north India.

The data I collect are from the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand. Villages tend to be remote and lack access to many basic infrastructural facilities like government schools and hospitals. Uttarakhandi women are generally not well-educated and have very low mobility. The remoteness of the region and lack of good roads combined with stringent social norms mean that once married, women are unable to visit friends or even parents regularly.



*Women of Pauri, at an informational meeting led by the Mahila Samakhya program.*

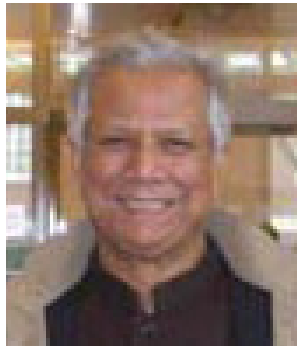


*Mother and child in their one-room dwelling. Uttarakhand is a poor state.*

This state of isolation and ignorance and the constricting social norm restricts women to the narrow sphere of family and housework. However, a government program called *Mahila Samakhya* organizes women into networks that are more diverse, stronger, and larger than they would be otherwise. My preliminary findings show that improved access to peers and the changed composition of these networks significantly increase female empowerment.

Bearing out my hypothesis, my early results indicate that participants in the program have healthier children. Indeed, *Mahila Samakhya* participants were better able to utilize ICDS because they had greater say in household decision-making. While neither ICDS nor an intervention like *Mahila Samakhya* alone will be able to eliminate child malnutrition in India, a combination of the two might succeed.

*Eeshani Kandpal is the 2009-10 Goodman Fellow and a doctoral candidate in Agricultural and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois. She can be contacted at kandpal2@illinois.edu.*



# Muhammad Yunus visits Illinois campus: GRID Students present Posters on Gender Equity, Microfinance, Health, and Green Training



**Leeswann Bolden**, Master's Student in Architecture, presents her poster on "Green Training: Bridging Economy, Gender and Racial Equity."

While on campus Muhammad Yunus was interviewed on the topic of *Empowering Women and Alleviating Poverty Through Self-Employment*. To view the podcast, visit [http://ilint.illinois.edu/Community/tv/ilint\\_tv.html](http://ilint.illinois.edu/Community/tv/ilint_tv.html).

To view a video of his campus talk on *Social Entrepreneurship in the 21st Century*, go to: [http://illinois.edu/here\\_now/videos.html?webSiteID=mbPAkSfY5U6szjNeqq6ZFw&videoID=xiX-CXwNzEWPcZadKEbBPQ](http://illinois.edu/here_now/videos.html?webSiteID=mbPAkSfY5U6szjNeqq6ZFw&videoID=xiX-CXwNzEWPcZadKEbBPQ).

**Muhammad Yunus**, Founder of Grameen Bank and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, visited the UI campus on March 1 and spoke on *Social Entrepreneurship in the 21st Century* to a full crowd at Foellinger Auditorium.

Posters and Panels were presented by graduate students and faculty profiling research and fieldwork connected to the themes of Gender Equity, Microfinance, Health, and Green Training. This special event was co-sponsored by WGGP, Gender Equity Council, Academy for Entrepreneurial Leadership, Center for Global Studies, Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, and others.



*Muhammad Yunus with Gender Equity Council Co-Chairs, Gale Summerfield and Kathryn Anthony.*



*Dr. Irfan Ahmad, UI faculty and Associate Director, Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology, and Roveiza Irfan, senior in LAS discuss with Dr. Muhammad Yunus matters of interest regarding the poster on Avicenna Community Health Center, an interfaith, academia-community partnership providing preventive and curative healthcare services to the uninsured residents of Champaign County.*



*Posters presented by **Eeshani Kandpal**, PhD GRID Student (Agricultural and Consumer Economics) on “An Evaluation of the Indian Child Nutrition and Development Program: Targeting and Distributional Effects” and **Paola Leon**, PhD GRID Student (Social Work and CLACS) on “Weaving in public spaces: A case study of Peruvian Indigenous women’s experiences in handicraft-related social entrepreneurship ventures.”*

*Send-off for Muhammad Yunus after a successful and inspiring visit.*



*Posters presented by **Isabel Scarborough**, PhD GRID Student (Anthropology) on “Deployment of microcredit funds and identity negotiations of indigenous market women in Cochabamba, Bolivia” and **Batamaka Some**, PhD GRID Student (Anthropology) on “Recapturing Empowerment: A Rural Women’s Survival Strategy in a West African Commercial Farming.”*



# WGGP 2010-11 Award Winners CONGRATULATIONS!

*We thank our donors who have generously set up a fellowship and grants to support UI graduate students' research on issues facing poor women in developing countries.*

## Rita and Arnold Goodman Fellowship



**Fay Hodza** (Human and Community Development)  
*for research on Gendered Effects of State Power on Homeless Urban Youth in Africa*

## Due and Ferber International Research Award



**Eeshani Kandpal** (Agricultural and Consumer Economics)  
*for research on Child Welfare and Female Bargaining Power in India*

## Barbara A. Yates International Research Awards



**Tutin Aryanti** (Architecture and Landscape Architecture)  
*for research on Gender, Space and Power in Mosques in Indonesia*



**Jackline Madegwa** (Music)  
*for research on Music as a Tool for Women's Empowerment in Kenya*

## Evelyne Accad International Research Award



**Tahreer Araj** (Human and Community Development)  
*for research on NGOs and Progressive Community Change in Palestine*

# NEWS FROM WGGP ASSOCIATES

**Evelyne Accad**, French/Comparative Literature, presented the following papers/lectures: “Writing, Language, Exile and Dialogue in Lebanese Women Writers: Lebanese Literature in the Country of Immigration,” The Lebanese National Commission for UNESCO, Beirut: Bristol Hotel, April 2010; “Je Veux vivre et d’autres chants,” Femmes comme Falestine: Generation Palestine, la CCIPPP, FTCT, L’ATMF, ZEMBRA, La librairie Envie de Lire, Arts et Cultures des Deux Rives, RISOM, l’UTAC. Paris: Association rue des Boulets, March 2010.

**Maimouna Barro**, GRID Alum, African Studies, received one of this year’s six Chancellor’s Academic Professional Excellence (CAPE) Awards. Her award is a most deserving acknowledgement of her outstanding contributions to the Center for African Studies at the University of Illinois.

**Lynne Dearborn**, Architecture/Urban and Regional Planning, traveled in January with Professors Laura Lawson and Rebecca Ginsburg and seven students from Architecture and Landscape Architecture to the Island of São Tomé to engage in four studio design projects with NGO and government partners on the Island. In addition, her book, *Inconvenient Heritage, Erasure and Global Tourism in Luang Prabang*, co-authored with Prof. John C. Stallmeyer, is available from Left Coast Press as of April 2010. This book highlights the multiple influences major international recognition of World Heritage Site designation can bring to developing areas of the world.



**Marianne Ferber**, Economics, presented this year’s Theodore Marburg Lecture, sponsored by the economics department at Marquette University in Milwaukee on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of first admitting women students at that institution. The paper she presented, co-authored by Michael Brun, was “Searching for Determinants of Women’s Status in Society.” You may obtain a copy by requesting it from [m-ferber@illinois.edu](mailto:m-ferber@illinois.edu).

**Cindy Ingold**, Women and Gender Library, received the 2010 Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Women’s Studies Section Career Achievement Award which honors significant long-standing contributions to women’s studies in the field of librarianship over the course of a career. Cindy will receive a cash prize and plaque at the June ALA Annual Conference in Washington, DC.

**Emilia Poppe**, PhD GRID Student, Human and Community Development, presented her paper on “Depression Shows Differential Associations with Health Behaviors by Gender among College Applicants in Central Mexico” at the AAAS Conference in San Diego, CA, February 18-22, 2010. She has also received a tuition-free offer in the Illinois MBA program to develop skills to be a successful social entrepreneur.

**Gale Summerfield**, WGGP/Human and Community Development/Agricultural and Consumer Economics, received a Best Paper Prize of 2009 from the *China Agricultural Economic Review* at its International Annual Conference, Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 2009 for her paper titled “A gendered view of reforming health care access for farmers in China” (Vol.1, Issue 2) co-authored by Huixia Liu, Linxiu Zhang, Gale Summerfield and Yaojiang Shi..

# WGGP's Spring 2010 Events and Co-Sponsored Activities

**Feb. 23**, 4:00 pm, *“Lessons in Leadership for Africa: Listening to, Learning from Feminist PanAfrican Discussions, Activism, and Scholarship,”* Prof. Elaine Salo, Director, Institute for Women's and Gender Studies, University of Pretoria, South Africa, hosted by Center for African Studies, co-sponsored by WGGP and others.

**Feb. 27**, 7:00 pm, *“The Glass House”*, an Iranian film, skillfully examines the mostly hidden lives of young women on the fringes of modern Tehra; at Knight Auditorium, hosted by CSAMES, co-sponsored by WGGP and others.

**Mar. 1**, 7:00 pm, *“Social Entrepreneurship in the 21st Century,”* Muhammad Yunus, Founder of Grameen Bank, Foellinger Auditorium, co-sponsored by WGGP and others (See report and photos on page 4-5).

**Mar. 3**, 12 noon, *WGGP Affiliate Spotlight: “Trials of Academe: The New Era of Campus Litigation,”* Amy Gajda, J.D., Assistant Professor, Journalism and Law, UI, Room 217 Illini Union, 1401 W. Green, Urbana, sponsored by WGGP.

**Mar. 31**, 4:00 pm, *“From Subsistence Marketplaces to Sustainable Marketplaces: Understanding the Challenges of Global Sustainability,”* Madhu Viswanathan, Professor, Business Administration, Coordinated Science Laboratory, and Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program, UI, Co-sponsored by Illinois-CIBER and Center for Global Studies.

**Mar. 31**, 7 pm, *Film Screening - Courting Justice: Women Justices in South Africa with Q & A session following screening with film creator Ruth Cowan*, Latzer Hall, sponsored by LER, CGS, African Studies, WGGP, Law, and others.

**Apr. 1**, 7:30 pm, *CAS MillerComm: “Human Rights Trials and Truth Commissions: What the US Can Learn from Latin America,”* Juan Mendez, Visiting Professor of Law, Washington College of Law, American University; hosted by Latin American and Caribbean Studies, co-sponsored by WGGP and others.

**Apr. 4-11**, *Celebrating African Women Writers, Writers from Africa and the Diaspora Festival*, For details: <http://www.afirst.illinois.edu/events/theme/2009-women.html>; co-sponsored by Center for African Studies, Theater, WGGP and others.

**Apr. 7**, 8:00 pm, *“How an Adequate Notion of Human Flourishing Challenges Economics,”* Dr. Sabina Alkire, Director, Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative, Univ. of Oxford, Knight Auditorium, sponsored by Religion.

**Apr. 14**, Wednesday, 12 noon, *“Investments in Child Welfare in India,”* Eeshani Kandpal, 2009-10 Goodman Fellow, Agricultural and Consumer Economics, UI, Room 215 Illini Union, 1401 W. Green, Urbana, *Lunch will be provided with RSVP to [kcmartin@illinois.edu](mailto:kcmartin@illinois.edu) or call 333-1994 by Friday, April 9. Space is limited so register early.* Sponsored by WGGP.

**Apr. 22**, Thursday, 12 noon, *“Labor Migration and Time-Use Patterns of the Left-Behind Married Women, Elderly People and Children in China,”* Xiao-yuan Dong, Professor of Economics, University of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, Room 407 Illini Union, 1401 W. Green, Urbana, *Lunch will be provided with RSVP to [kcmartin@illinois.edu](mailto:kcmartin@illinois.edu) or call 333-1994 by Friday, April 16. Space is limited so register early.* Sponsored by WGGP and CEAPS China Workshop.

**Apr. 26**, Monday, 5:00 pm, *“Social Entrepreneurship for Inclusion in a Growth Economy: Opportunities and Challenges,”* Vanita Viswanath, CEO, Udyogini, [www.udyogini.org](http://www.udyogini.org), Deloitte Auditorium, Business Instructional Facility, sponsored by Subsistence Marketplaces Initiatives, Social Entrepreneurship Institute, AEL, and WGGP.

**Apr. 28**, Wednesday, 7:30 pm, **Daniel S. Sanders Peace and Social Justice Lecture: “Trafficking in Women: Legal Debates and Social Realities,”** Carole J. Peterson, JD Director, Matsunaga Institute for Peace, Associate Professor, William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawaii at Mano, Alice Campbell Alumni Center, Lincoln Ave., Urbana, sponsored by School of Social Work.

**Apr. 29**, Thursday, 4:00 - 6:00 pm, *WGGP Spring Reception*, honoring GRID graduates and WGGP Award Recipients, Room 101, International Studies Building, 910 South Fifth St., Champaign.



**You are cordially invited to attend  
a Luncheon Talk by**

**Xiao-yuan Dong**



**Professor  
Department of Economics  
University of Winnipeg  
Manitoba, Canada**

on

**Labor Migration and Time-Use Patterns  
of the Left-Behind Women, Elderly People and Children in China**

**Thursday, April 22  
12 noon**

**Room 407, Illini Union  
1401 W. Green, Urbana**

*Lunch will be provided with RSVP to [kcmartin@illinois.edu](mailto:kcmartin@illinois.edu) or call 333-1994  
by Friday, April 16.  
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Sponsored by  
Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program  
and  
the Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies China Workshop

