



## Center for Governance and Sustainability

at the University of Massachusetts Boston

Dear Friends of the Center,

The fall semester is now in full swing and we are feeling the energy of an engaged global constituency. Just a few weeks ago, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Sustainable Development Goals. A good deal of work at our Center involves the SDGs and the future of the UN system, including our latest Issue Brief on gender featured below. Additionally, over the summer we made great strides in our Environmental Conventions Index. Our research team is growing, as we are welcoming a new cohort of IGERT Fellows to UMass and three new Research Associates to the Center! Finally, look forward to our second biannual Progress Report, due to be released later this fall.

Maria Ivanova and Craig Murphy, Co-Directors

### The Environmental Conventions Initiative Continues Its Work Towards Assessing and Monitoring Implementation



*Meeting of the MEA Information and Knowledge Management Initiative Steering Committee in Montreux, Switzerland. Maria Ivanova participated as observer.*

During the summer, a team of five researchers from UMass Boston, Clark University, Boston University, and Tufts University was hard at work on the [Environmental Conventions Initiative](#). The project moved along in the analysis of the implementation of the six agreements currently included in the project: The Basel and Stockholm Conventions, CITES, the Ramsar Convention, the Convention on Migratory Species, and the World Heritage Convention. Furthermore, the project has been evaluating the relationship between the conventions and the new agenda being defined by the United Nations around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

From September 15th to 17th, at the 6th Meeting of the MEA Information and Knowledge

Management Initiative Steering Committee, Maria Ivanova discussed the different ECI initiatives to generate knowledge about the role of environmental conventions and to promote awareness about the problems they address. This was an opportunity to consolidate the relationships established with the conventions, get feedback on the project's methodology and preliminary results, and confirm the relevance of the analysis that is being generated by the Center for the process of implementing these agreements. In the following months, and with the support of the Government of Switzerland, the Initiative will continue working on finalizing the first iteration of the Environmental Conventions Index (ECI) and determining the steps to include more conventions in the analysis.

## UN Scientific Advisory Board Presents at the United Nations



*From left to right: Prof. Maria Ivanova, Prof. Abdul Hamid Zakri, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova, Prof. Wole Soboyejo.*

In July 2015, UNESCO convened a Ministerial Roundtable as part of the 2015 meeting of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development. Bringing together government representatives and the members of the Scientific Advisory Board, participants discussed the role of science, technology and innovation in the SDGs agenda and the science-policy-society interface. The topic of the roundtable, led by UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova, was "Successful Transition from MDGs to SDGs: The Critical Role of STI & the Science-Policy

Interface." Also at the meeting, the Advisory Board presented its policy brief on strengthening the science-policy interface and the High-Level Political Forum, "[Strengthening the High-Level Political Forum and the UN Global Sustainable Development Report](#)." Later, UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova and three of the Board members - Prof. Abdul Hamid Zakri (Malaysia), Prof. Wole Soboyejo (Nigeria) and Prof. Maria Ivanova met with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to discuss the issues presented by the policy brief and the next steps in the efforts to incorporate science into the policy process of the Post-2015 development agenda. To learn more, click [here](#).

## Stanley Johnson Awarded RSPB Medal



The Center is proud to announce that Senior Fellow Stanley Johnson was awarded the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Medal, the conservation institution's highest honor. The RSPB chose Mr. Johnson for his pro-environmental legislative work during his time as an elected member of the European Parliament and in the European Commission as Head of the Prevention of Pollution Division, Senior Adviser to the DG Environment, and Director of Energy Policy. Specifically, the RSPB points to two pieces of legislation that cement Johnson's legacy: the Habitats Directive (1992) and the Birds Directive (1979). Both have proven to be strong legal tools for the

protection of nature in Europe.

UMass Boston Delegation Participates in the Academic Council of the United Nations System's (ACUNS) Celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the UN



The Academic Council of the United Nations System celebrated 70 years of UN work with practitioners and academics discussing the achievements and challenges of the United Nations system in developing and promoting ideas and practices of security and justice in global governance. Maria Ivanova and PhD students Gabriela Bueno, Natalia Escobar-Pemberthy and Wondwossen Wondemagegnehu presented their own workshop panel entitled "Global

Environmental Governance and the UN System: Rethinking Institutions."

In this panel, Prof. Ivanova presented the work of the Center and the connections between the PhD program in Global Governance and Human Security to the work of ACUNS, while students presented three papers related to the Center's projects on Institutional Complexity, the Science-Policy interface, and the Environmental Conventions Initiative. The Chair and Discussant of the panel were Prof. Lorraine Elliott and Prof. Margaret Karns, both affiliated faculty to the PhD program. Prof. Elliott is also the new chair of ACUNS and the interviewee of the latest Global Leadership Dialogues published by the Center (see below). Prof. Ivanova was also chair and participant on the roundtable "High-Level Panels as a Tool of United Nations Secretary-General Leadership," which discussed the role of these bodies in the UN agenda, particularly in relation to sustainable development and how they are connected to the office of the Secretary-General. To learn more, click [here](#).

## Michael Denney Wins Prize During Summer Fellowship



Over the summer, Research Associate and PhD Student J. Michael Denney was accepted into the prestigious Borlaug Summer Institute on Global Food Security at Purdue University in Indiana. As a summer fellow, Michael spent June at Purdue with 40 other aspiring leaders in food security. At the institute, they learned from global leaders in agriculture, social science, crop transgenics, and agricultural economics.

As part of the institute, Michael also competed in a mock USAID grant funding competition overseen by top professors and USAID employees. We are proud to announce that Michael and his team were awarded Best Presentation by their peers for their program on modernizing agricultural extension services in Cambodia. As their prize, Michael and his colleagues won a trip to this year's World Food Prize award ceremony in Des Moines, Iowa in October.

## Global Resilience Partnership Solution Statement Reaches Final Round



*Photo credit: EcoAgriculture Partners*

Through our work on the Global Resilience Partnership, we are strengthening our relationships with Horn of Africa institutions and creating the bases for new research projects. Two PhD students, Paul Case and Alexander Metzger, traveled to the Horn in June in order to hold consultative workshops designed to kickstart the landscape management process. Additionally, Paul Case, Michael Denney, Maria Ivanova, and Alex Metzger have been invited to present a paper on resilience and development at the international conference on Resilience, Research, and Innovation in Djibouti in October. These trips, combined with our earlier work in Djibouti, have set the stage for new projects to be developed jointly with the HoA-REC/N, the University of Djibouti, EcoAgriculture Partners, and other partners.

The research team from UMass Boston has been hard at work all summer on securing the next round of funding for our [Global Resilience Partnership proposal](#). Our proposal, Integrated Landscape Management for Resilience in the Horn of Africa, addressed key issues of resilience in three of the world's most vulnerable landscapes: Djibouti, Laikipia in Kenya, and the Central Rift Valley in Ethiopia. Unfortunately, while the GRP awarded us finalist status, we were not chosen to receive the next round of funding for implementing our project. However, we are planning to use all of the preliminary work we engaged in for the grant as the basis of our next major research project.

## Dean Sir Peter Crane of Yale Visits UMass Boston



As part of the effort to strengthen ties between the two universities, the Dean of the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies (FES), Sir Peter Crane, visited UMass Boston in September. Fifteen students had the opportunity to attend an Undergraduate Student Recruitment Session with Dean Crane and Diversity and Sustainability Fellow Maclovía Quintana, where they presented about master's degrees at Yale FES, research centers, and application process and requirements. Dean Crane encouraged students to apply and consider FES for their graduate studies.

Dean Crane also met with Dean David Cash of the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies, Dean Robyn Hannigan of the School for the Environment, Dean Rajini Srikanth of the Honors College, and Dean David Terkla of the College of Liberal Arts. He learned more about common areas of interest and research efforts between the two universities. Finally, Dean Crane met with Provost Winston Langley, who expressed interest in engaging further with Yale. They identified possible joint projects that various centers and faculty members at UMass Boston could engage in partnership with faculty at Yale FES.



UMass Boston welcomed a delegation from Addis Ababa University (AAU) who traveled to further the ongoing collaboration between the two universities. The six-member delegation included Dr. Jeilu Oumer, Academic Vice President, Dr. Zenebe Beyene, Director, Office of External Relations, Partnership and Communications, Dr. Demis Zergaw, Director, Continuing and Distance Education Programs, Dr. Hussien Kedir, Chair, Department of Educational Planning and Management, Dr. Abdurezak Mohammed, Associate Dean, College of Business and Economics, and Yosef Shiferaw, Director, ICT Directorate.

The objectives of the visit were to:

- Identify specific action points and commitments to expand the existing collaboration between AAU and UMass Boston
- Investigate how e-learning platforms are established and operated at UMass Boston and discuss instructional material delivery and quality assurance of courses offered through e-platforms in order to improve AAU's growing e-learning program.
- Discuss possibilities for staff training, sharing of experiences, joint course offerings, etc. between the two universities

During the two days, the delegation met with Provost Winston Langley, Vice Provost and Director of the Office of Global Programs, Schuyler Korban, Dean David Cash of the McCormack Graduate School for Policy and Global Studies; Dean Philip DiSalvio of the College of Advancing and Professional Studies, faculty and staff, and doctoral students.

## Issue Brief 11: Gender and the Sustainable Development Goals: Moving Beyond Women as a "Quick Fix" for Development



Author J. Michael Denney is a Research Associate at the Center for Governance and Sustainability, PhD candidate in the Global Governance and Human Security program, and a National Science Foundation IGERT Fellow in the Coasts and Communities program. This brief discusses Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5, *Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls*, and the corresponding Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 3, *Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women*.

In the first part, the author presents an analytical framework for evaluating whether the goals for female empowerment and gender equality attain the desired result. Next, the framework is applied to the targets for the proposed SDG 5. Finally, the author argues that the international community should embrace goals, targets, and indicators that advance gender equality for the sake of equality itself, rather than as a quick fix for economic underdevelopment. To read the brief, click [here](#).

## Two New Issues of the Global Leadership Dialogues Feature John Scanlon and Lorraine Elliott



Two new engaging interviews are available in our *Global Leadership Dialogues* series. John Scanlon is the Secretary-General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES). In his interview, he explores the path that led him to become an advocate for wildlife, discusses CITES as an international institution, and offers advice on pursuing a career in environmental policy and



effective leadership. Professor Lorraine Elliott is a leading UN system and environmental governance scholar. In her interview, Elliott explores the challenges of the science-policy interface, the United Nations at 70, the upcoming selection of a new Secretary-General of the UN, and provides advice for students gearing up to start their careers in the dynamic field of global governance and human security. Click the photos of the Dialogues to link to the PDFs.

## Center Welcomes Visiting Scholars, 2015 IGERT Cohort, and new Research Associates

Two visiting scholars have come from abroad to join us at the Center. Marta Skorek is a PhD candidate at the University of Warsaw in Poland at the Institute of Applied Linguistics. She will be at the University from September-November 2015, and will conduct research on the implications of the science-policy interface for the legitimization of the integrated approach to Global Ocean governance. Martka received a grant from the Kosciuszko Foundation to fund her tenure at the Center.

Yuan Zhou is a PhD candidate in International Relations at Beijing Foreign Studies University in China, and will be at the University from September 2015-March 2016. She will conduct qualitative research on US foreign environmental policy (with a focus on climate change). Her research will assess the influence these policies have had, their effectiveness, and impact on local and global communities. Her work is supported through a scholarship from the Chinese government.

Eight new doctoral students have joined the IGERT program on *Coasts and Communities*, an NSF-funded transdisciplinary PhD training program that brings together young scholars from various disciplines in order to address pressing problems in human-natural coastal systems. Representing the College of Management are Jamila Gilliam and Nichole Weber. From the Marine Science and Technology Program are Christine San Antonio and Connor Capizzano. Miranda Chase and Linda Holcombe are new additions from the Global Governance and Human Security program. Finally, from Environmental Science comes Greg Davies, and Michael Roy represents Environmental Biology. All of the Fellows' bios can be found [here](#). Both cohorts will travel to the Horn of Africa in January 2016 to develop joint research activities with students and professors from Addis Ababa University.

Additionally, both Miranda Chase and Linda Holcombe have joined the Center as Research Associates. They are joined by Eike Schmedt, another PhD student in Global Governance and Human Security.

## Publications

- Barkin, Samuel. 2015. "Racing All Over the Place: A Dispersion Model of International

Regulatory Competition." *European Journal of International Relations* no. 21(1).

- Gleckman, Harris. 2015. "New Goals, New Outcomes and Getting Out of Old Boxes." *Sustainable Development Policy and Practice*. International Institute for Sustainable Development.
- Ivanova, Maria and Gabriela Bueno. 2015. "UN at 70 and the Environment: Challenges and Opportunities Towards Sustainable Development." *In UN at 70: Contributions, Challenges and Perspectives*. Eds. Jubilit, Liliana L., Larissa Ramina, João Carlos Jarochinski Silva. Roraima: Universidade Federal de Roraima.
- Ivanova, Maria. 2015. "Teaching Global Environmental Governance." *Edward Elgar Encyclopedia of Global Environmental Politics and Governance*. Eds. Pattberg, Philipp and Fariborz Zelli, Edward Elgar Publishers.
- Ivanova, Maria and Natalia Escobar-Pemberthy. 2015. "The Quest for Sustainable Development Goals: A Critical Look Forward." *Poverty and the Millennium Development Goals: A Critical Look Forward*. Eds. Cimadamore, Alberto D., Gabriele Koehler and Thomas Pogge. London, Zed Books Ltd.
- Ivanova, Maria. 2014. "Assessing the outcomes of Rio+20." *State of the World 2014: Governing for Sustainability*. Washington DC, Worldwatch Institute: 138-151
- Ivanova, Maria and Natalia Escobar-Pemberthy. 2014. "Millennium Development Goals." *Encyclopedia of Public Administration and Public Policy*. Eds. Dubnick, Melvin and Domonic Bearfield, Taylor & Francis.
- Meuleman, Louis and Ingeborg Niestroy. 2015. "Common But Differentiated Governance: Making the SDGs Work." *Sustainable Development Policy and Practice*. International Institute for Sustainable Development.
- Murphy, Craig N. 2015. "Imperial Legacies in the United Nations Development Programme." *Legacies of Empire: Imperial Roots of the Contemporary Global Order*. Sandra Halpern and Ronen Palan, eds. Cambridge University Press. 149-269.
- Murphy, Craig N. 2015. "Dignity, Human Security, and Global Governance." *Journal of Human Security Studies* no. 4(1): 1-12.
- Murphy, Craig and JoAnne Yates. 2015. "The Globalizing Governance of International Communications: Market Creation and Voluntary Consensus Standard Setting." *Journal of Policy History* no. 27(3): 550-58.
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