Our Mission
The Center for New Institutional Social Sciences originated with the work of Douglass C. North, Nobel Prize Laureate in Economics in 1993. Central to Professor North’s work is applying economics more effectively to enhance growth and development of individual nations. The Center is focusing its efforts on two main goals: 1. Promoting new institutional designs to help foster the political stability and economic growth of developing and transition economies 2. Drawing on the various social sciences in an interdisciplinary effort to make practical progress towards that first goal.

Our Programs
The Center runs four parallel programs:
1. A certificate program for Ph.D. students interested in the law, macroeconomics, culture, and political economy of transition societies
2. The Hirsch Family Undergraduate Program provides special incentives to the brightest students at Washington University to help them embark on careers in analysis and policy making in developing countries and transition societies.
3. A series of conferences and lectures directed at the development of better scientific understanding of the challenges facing third world countries.
4. An original, primary research program, supported at the Center and elsewhere, dedicated to improving the institutional design and the rule of law in countries with special needs, and addressing the challenges facing them.
The Center is very proud of all of its efforts over the past year. Overall, we have been successful at expanding the scope and reach of our educational programs and conducting new and innovative research. Neither of these could have been done without the continued support of our CNISS community, as well as the generous outside grant support we received. We sustained our record of placing all of our students in high caliber positions in academic institutions, government, and private industry, and continue to watch the mark they make on our world.

Our larger research endeavors on both the welfare of the middle class and the evaluation of alternative energy strategies and technologies have received attention both nationally and internationally. On the energy front, we continued our already established partnerships with the University of Minnesota, Tel Aviv University, and the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland. Thanks to generous support from the University of Minnesota and several Washington University entities — including MAGEEP and I-CARES — we were able to continue our important research on capacity growth in alternative energy production. We are particularly excited about the forthcoming edited volume “Cross-Sector Leadership for the Green Economy: Integrating Research and Practice on Sustainable Enterprise,” to be found on the shelves by January 2012 by Palgrave-MacMillan Publishers. The book can already be purchased through websites. We encourage you all to look it up and, in particular, the key contributions made to this volume by the impressive cohort of both our former and current CNISS undergraduate researchers working in this area. On the middle class front, we continue our efforts in collecting and disseminating data from a cross-section, time-series database of 30+ countries which will help scholars and policymakers tackle one of the most urgent tasks of our times: saving the middle class and the prosperity it is believed to enhance. This work could not be done without the generous support of the Center for Social Development at the GWB School of Social Work and the Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy.

CNISS also continued to provide our own Washington University faculty and students support, thanks to the recently established North Research Fund, among other sources. These funds enabled them to carry on their important individual research projects, such as “The Emotional Logic of Participation in Ethnic Violence,” and “Decentralization Reform in Albania.”

CNISS continued to serve as a clearinghouse for intellectual and research activity on campus through its seminar series and events. We were particularly excited about the huge success of the conference we hosted on “The Legacy and Work of Douglass North” which brought in individuals from all around the globe to pay homage to our fearless leader in conjunction with his 90th birthday. We want to welcome those who, as a result of the conference, have since joined our CNISS community both as new researchers and supporters. We also want to inform our community that the proceeds of this landmark conference will be published next year in a special edited volume.

All of the above would not be possible without the generous support of our contributors. More than ever, we want to thank all of you who provided critical support this past year. In particular we thank our Academic Board and Advisory Council members for their invaluable support, guidance and ideas; Mike Worley, Executive Director of Development for Regional Projects, to whom we are deeply indebted for his tireless work on our behalf; Corey Pashea, Associate Director, Foundation Relations, for her help to pursue grants for our important and groundbreaking research efforts; David Levinson for providing support for our seminar series; Scott and Joanne Simowitz for their generous support of CNISS projects and research efforts; and last but certainly not least, Gary and Diane Hirsch for their long term support to both initiate and continue the remarkable success of our Hirsch Family Undergraduate Program.

Sincerely,

Itai Sened
Professor of Political Science and
Director of the Center for New Institutional Social Sciences
Washington University in St. Louis
RESEARCH & EDUCATION

Educational Programs

Ph.D. Certificate Program
The CNISS Certificate program helps students build strong foundations in the social sciences, based upon their own fields of expertise and acquiring knowledge in related fields. The program hosts 5-10 resident doctoral candidates in the social sciences and related fields including Anthropology, Economics, Engineering, Education, History, Philosophy, Political Science, and Social Work. Over two years, the fellows take two graduate classes each summer and a research seminar class during each academic year of their tenure with the program. Summer courses introduce students to research topics including Development Economics, theories of political institutions and institutional change, sociocultural Anthropology and political theory. Through this program, graduate students gain the analytical and research skills necessary to study the institutional social sciences as well as a fuller awareness of the interconnected economic, social, political, legal and cultural institutions that encompass their research.

Minor in Institutional Social Analysis:
The Hirsch Family Undergraduate Program
The minor in Institutional Social Analysis is an interdisciplinary program where participants gain a detailed understanding of the field of new institutional social sciences, learning about fundamental institutions such as property rights, markets, social norms, and constitutional democracy. Started at the initiative of Gary and Diane Hirsch, the goal of the minor is to teach undergraduates the value of interdisciplinary studies as they relate to the new institutional social sciences, and to encourage and mentor them in independent and original research. The Hirsch family’s support has been invaluable to both the initiation and success of this program.

Research
Our multidisciplinary research projects span the globe. Institutions and individuals involved in CNISS research include those from: Argentina, Azerbaijan, Belize, Brazil, China, France, Germany, India, Israel, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Mexico, Republic of Georgia, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United Kingdom. The Center has become an international focal point for research related to a wide range of topics, such as legislative and electoral rules and processes, crime prevention, rule of law, implementation of renewable energy sources and rural development and judicial ideology. Below we give a synopsis of two of our major research endeavors concerning the determinants of the welfare of the middle class and the capacity growth in renewable energy sources.

The Middle Class in Sustainable Economic Growth
While much is said about the middle class, little academic work exists to substantiate claims like those made regarding the ‘diminishing middle class’ or the way in which the strength of the...
middle class may affect other spheres of our lives. To this day, there is no common definition designating what it means to be a member of the middle class, let alone the institutional determinants of its strength and weaknesses. CNISS continued its efforts this past year to correct this lacuna and for the first time, successfully measure the strength and subsequent impact of the middle class on social, political, and economic environments. Our research team of students and scholars from the fields of Economics, Political Science, and Social Work, continued vital research, data collection and analysis. Graduate Ph.D. student Gyanesh Lama, traveled to his native country of Nepal to collect data on the dire state of the middle class in that country in the hope of comparing conditions there with our own region of St. Louis. Our research team continued to expand the collection of data needed to further the research. We examined the association between the middle class and the set of property rights and induced incentives that explain its strength, and studied the positive effects it may have on sustainability, economic growth, and social prosperity.

We gratefully acknowledge the funding from a number of Washington University entities for this project including the Livable Lives Initiative at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work’s Center for Social Development, the Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy, and the Center for Programs.

**Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Technologies**

Our research examines how social, economic, and political factors affect capacity growth in alternative energy around the globe. Professors of engineering, economics, energy, environment, political science, and earth and planetary sciences are all involved in this collaborative effort. We also work with many academic research institutions, including the University of Minnesota, Israel Institute of Technology, Technion, and the Institute for the Economy and the Environment at the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland. Our research covers four main topics:

- To what extent do different institutions affect the deployment of different energy power plants?
- What is the role of legislative, regulatory and policy uncertainty in the long-term development of alternative energy sources?
- How do different legal environments influence the probabilities of implementing alternative energy technologies and how do they affect the growth of this sector over time?
- How do market and political forces affect the renewable energy sector?

To this end, CNISS Director Itai Sened traveled to Haifa, Israel late in December 2010 to present his paper “Path Creation and Path Dependence in Clean Tech” at the 2010 Israel Strategy Conference. He also acted as a faculty member in the special workshop for young scholars at the OIKOS Young Scholars Entrepreneurship Academy in Switzerland in June 2011.

Our research will soon be published in a special edited volume entitled “Cross-Sector Leadership for the Green Economy,” a compilation of papers about the green economy which were presented at two conferences held in 2010 — one in Minnesota and one in Italy.

This research provides and updates a picture of the advantages and disadvantages of the different policy strategies in implementing alternative energy technologies, and will accelerate the process of building viable and sustainable strategies for the green economy. Revised data
will add to the understanding of market and political forces that affect the renewable energy sector, and pave the way for a transition to greener energy in the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

We acknowledge support for this project from Washington University’s MAGEEP (McDonnell Academy Global Energy and Environment Partnership) and I-CARES (The International Center for Advanced Renewable Energy and Sustainability) organizations, as well as IREE (the Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment) at the University of Minnesota.

Research Synopses

Below we provide a sample of our graduate and undergraduate students, as well as information on what some of our graduates are currently doing. CNISS is very proud of its record at placing all of our students in both high caliber academic institutions and private corporate organizations.

Highlighted Undergraduate Students

Alex Christensen
USA, Hirsch Family Fellow and 2011 Graduate in Economics and Political Science

Alex’s research on comparative energy policy, examined different types of alternative energy technologies and the policies associated with the use of these technologies in the U.S. and abroad. This past December, he contributed to the online article “The Importance of Extending the 1603 Treasury Grant Program” sponsored by the Americans for Energy Leadership. The article focused on how the 1603 Treasury Grant Program has encouraged interest from renewable energy investors, and also created jobs for Americans. Alex was a co-creator of the first comprehensive database of renewable energy policies and political indicators. He plans to work at the intersection of business and government in the renewable energy world and will pursue his graduate studies in law or economics.

Michael Craig
USA, Hirsch Family Fellow and 2010 Graduate in Political Science

Michael’s research focused on institutional designs that affect capacity growth in wind energy. He was instrumental in starting our efforts to put together a major national energy database. Michael won a 2009 Undergraduate Research Award to travel to Montreal, with CNISS Director Itai Sened, and present his research efforts on institutional policy and implementation of new renewable energy technologies at a major conference there. He is a co-author of the forthcoming chapter “Institutions Matter: The Role of Institutions in Wind Energy,” part of a larger book on “Cross-Sector Leadership for the Green Economy: Integrating Research and Practice on Sustainable Enterprise” to be published by Palgrave-MacMillan Publishers. Michael is currently working as an Energy Analyst at Oceana.

Chike Croslin
USA, Hirsch Family Fellow and 2011 Graduate in Political Science

Chike’s research focused on racial bias in the U.S. incarcerated population. He has done research in multiple countries throughout South America including a project at a Costa Rican orphanage that earned him a Bronze Presidential
Award for Volunteer Service. Chike has been accepted to the Master’s of Science in Anthropology and Development Program at the London School of Economics and has received the Alumni and Friends of the London School of Economics Scholarship for 2011-12. This program will provide Chike with a more solid foundation that will help him discover his role in critiquing and reforming development policies and practices in the future.

Daniel Guenther
USA, Hirsch Family Fellow in Political Science

Daniel is a rising junior whose research project examines the difference between states that elect their judges versus those that appoint them. By using legal databases to record judges decisions of the highest court for all 50 states and converting scores into Hudak-Lukasik scores, Daniel will test his hypothesis that elected judges are more ideologically consistent with the citizens of their state than their appointed counterparts. For this research, he received a 2011 Summer Undergraduate Research Award through Washington University. This past summer, Daniel compiled and analyzed data with faculty mentors Professors John Udak of Vanderbilt University and Jenna Lukasik of Wheaton College.

Renee Kramer
USA, Hirsch Family Fellow and 2011 Graduate in Political Science

Renee conducted research about the economy in Israel and the unique institutional factors that have allowed the small country to attract large amounts of foreign investment and encouraged its economic vigor. Renee won a 2010 Undergraduate Research Award to travel to Tel Aviv where she interviewed Israeli entrepreneurs, investors, and government officials to gain insight about the unique institutional behavior that has contributed to the success of the nation’s economy. Renee also received the Rabbi Ferdinand M. Isserman Prize which recognizes a student at Washington University who has made a significant contribution in leadership and service to ecumenical or interfaith activities on campus. Renee will attend the University of Miami School of Law this fall with the intention of engaging in globalization and international business affairs.

Amy Plovnick
USA, Hirsch Family Fellow in Political Science

Amy, a rising senior, has been working on the CNISS Renewable Energy Project research team as a CNISS Undergraduate Researcher. She has been gathering data about wind power capacity and renewable energy policies in all 50 states. She will attempt to determine which policies best promote wind power generation. After gathering the quantitative data, Amy will do case studies of several states, including Missouri, by researching policies of these states in depth and interviewing people familiar with the wind power industry.

Renee Kramer, center, and her family at Political Science Award Recognition Ceremony during 2011 Washington University Graduation

Chike Croslin, Itai Sened, Sarah Rothman, Alana Bame, Renee Kramer, and Alex Christensen at 2011 Hirsch Family Fellows Graduation dinner

2010-11 Annual Report
Highlighted Graduate Students

Gyanesh Lama  
Nepal, School of Social Work
Gyanesh’s work has been researching geographic data in connection with our project on Redefining the Middle Class. He was instrumental in collecting and archiving data for over 20 countries which included those in Asia, the Middle East, and Eastern Europe. To further enrich the data, he traveled to Nepal in the summer of 2010 to collect field data for a sample of villages for which Geographic Information System data were available. He additionally put the dimensions of the project to empirical tests under various institutional conditions. Gyanesh worked this summer for the East-West Gateway Council of Governments in St. Louis, where he was a senior researcher charged with developing the Council’s research agenda.

Jessica Black  
USA, School of Social Work
Jessica just finished her second year of doctoral studies in social work and is a Ph.D. Research Associate with the Center for Social Development at the Brown School of Social Work. She is examining how American Indian/Alaska Native communities define sustainability and whether or not a more sustainable community increases American Indian/Alaska Native wellbeing. Most recently, Jessica examined how three communities in the Yukon Flats can remain sustainable amidst changing economic, social, cultural and environmental conditions.

Donna-Mae Knights  
Trinidad and Tobago, School of Social Work
Donna recently returned from her native Trinidad and Tobago where she investigated four communities on how collective efficacy can evolve in disadvantaged communities, if it can be increased, and if so, by what mechanisms. She commenced data collection in October 2010, interviewing staff and officers of the Citizen Security Program and has now completed data gathering in all four communities, including one with the highest per capita murder rate in Trinidad and Tobago in 2009. Using observation, interviews and focus groups, Donna found evidence to suggest that (i) there may be need to re-define social cohesion in the context of current ways of interacting in these communities and (ii) cohesion and informal social control in these communities are influenced by the quality and functioning of local leaders and local organizations. Donna completed her research in Trinidad and Tobago and will be sharing her findings with us later this Fall as a speaker for our CNISS seminar series. We thank Mr. Kirk Ogrosky for his support of this project.

Jing Xu  
China, Anthropology
Jing has a broad interest in the interplay of culture and the human mind, especially through examining child development. Her ongoing research explores young children’s social and moral development in China and the...
US, combining ethnographic and experimental methods. Jing’s dissertation project examined how preschool children develop interpersonal trust, particularly within China’s social and economic climate. She is investigating the one-child policy, the atmosphere of “trust crisis,” China’s shift from a planned economy to a market economy, and especially important factors influencing children’s interpersonal development.

Moritz Marbach
Germany, CNISS Visiting Graduate Fellow for 2010-11
Moritz is a graduate student of Political Science at the University of Mannheim, Germany and was a visiting student with the Center from Fall 2010 — Summer 2011. His research focuses on decision-making in the United Nations. Using new approaches to statistical text modeling, Moritz is attempting to test theories about institutional decision making and to forecast the UN’s responses to international crisis and conflicts. Moritz assisted CNISS in compiling information for our research on alternative energy technologies in Europe.

Nora Wikoff
USA, Social Work
Nora’s current research focuses on the disproportionate representation of minorities and people with low income in prison populations, hoping to explain the reasons for the disparity. She is a Ph.D. Research Associate with the Center for Social Development at the Brown School of Social Work and co-authored a paper that examined the association between asset ownership and Food Stamp Program participation.

Graduate and Undergraduate Student Updates
Directly below are updates on our first four Hirsch Family Undergraduate Fellows, as well as our first ever transfer student from Belize

Ari Blaut
USA, Hirsch Family Fellow and 2004 Graduate in Political Science
The first graduate of the Hirsch Family Undergraduate program, Ari went on to receive his JD from the George Washington School of Law in 2007. He currently practices law at the internationally recognized firm, Sullivan and Cromwell, and serves on our CNISS Advisory Council.

Barry Cynamon
USA, Hirsch Family Fellow and 2004 Graduate in Political Science and Economics
Barry received his MBA from the Booth School of Business at the University of Chicago. In 2008, Barry and Steve Fazzari, a Washington University professor of Economics who also serves on the CNISS Academic Board, published “Household Debt in the Consumer Age.” This work is often cited as one of the best on the fundamental flaws that led to the financial crisis of 2008.

Robert Holahan
USA, Hirsch Family Fellow and 2004 Graduate in Political Science
Robert went on to complete a Master’s degree in Political Economy and Public Policy at Washington University and recently completed his Ph.D. in political science at Indiana University. The Chair of his dissertation committee was Elinor Ostrom, co-recipient of the 2009 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences and the first woman to win this prize. Robert recently accepted a Post Doc Professorship position here at our Political Science department.

Priya Mathew
USA, Hirsch Family Fellow and 2006 Graduate in Political Science
After serving as a researcher in several research institutes in D.C., Priya has recently landed herself a coveted position at Google as a legal and strategy consultant.

Adrian Torres
Belize, Hirsch Family Fellow and 2009 Graduate in Political Science
Adrian won the CNISS Prize for Best Honors Thesis in 2009
and is currently working at the distinguished law firm of Covington & Burling in Washington DC as a paralegal, assisting attorneys with research and case preparation. Adrian plans on enrolling in law school in the fall of 2012.

Graduate Student Updates

Carlos Costa
Brazil, Political Science

Carlos’ research is the first systematic attempt to understand strategic resource allocation patterns in multi-member legislative districts. He tracked allocated resources for 11 poverty alleviation and development programs in Latin America and Europe. Having mapped over 300 individual districts, Carlos’ results shed light on how institutional frameworks create incentives for the use of scarce resources for electoral gain. He recently published his “Marginal Vote Seeking in Multi-Member Districts” in *The Journal of Electoral Studies*. After successfully defending his dissertation, Carlos recently accepted a position at Rhodes College.

William Elliot
USA, School of Social Work

William is an Assistant Professor of Social Work at the University of Pittsburgh and Associate at the Center for Social Development at Washington University’s Brown School of Social Work. He studies the effects of Individualized Savings Accounts and financial education on college success. In a study forthcoming in the *Journal of Children and Poverty*, William found that youth with savings accounts in their names were approximately seven times more likely to attend college than those with no accounts. His research is often cited by the Department of Education to improve savings and college access for low and moderate income students.

Dolly Daftary
India, School of Social Work

Dolly studied the effect of techno-scientific advances on distributional outcomes in remote communities in Western India and the creation of panchayats (elected local bodies) in tribal and semi-arid regions as an outlet for political dissenion. In November 2010, her article “Elected Leaders, Community and Development: Evidence of Distribution and Agency from the Case in India” was published in the *Journal of Development Studies*. Dolly recently accepted a tenure-track Assistant Professor position at the School of Social Work at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, a school with great interest in international and community development.

Arsalan Iftikhar
USA, 1999 Graduate in Political Science and Near Eastern Studies

Arsalan is an international human rights lawyer, a contributing editor of Islamica magazine and a founding managing editor of the Crescent Post. He is also a regular political commentator and legal analyst on National Public Radio’s “Tell Me More,” along with having commentaries, interviews and articles featured in top print and media news sources including CNN, MSNBC, *The New York Times* and *Time*. Through his work and his website, TheMuslimGuy.com, Arsalan has been an advocate for human rights and Islamic Pacifism. Arsalan graduated from Washington University in 1999 and received his JD from CNISS.
Washington University School of Law in 2003.

**Ben Lough**  
*USA, School of Social Work*

Ben received his Ph.D. from the Brown School of Social Work. Ben conducted research in Africa and worked in Germany as a resident consultant at the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme with the Office of the Executive Coordination on their *State of the World’s Volunteerism Report*. He returned to the US in 2011 to continue his work for the UNV and the Center for Social Development in the Brown School. In August, he accepted a tenure-track position in the School of Social Work at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign to help develop their international social work curriculum and to direct their specialization in Advocacy, Leadership, and Social Change.

**Kristen Wagner**  
*USA, School of Social Work*

Kristen received her Ph.D. from the Brown School of Social Work and accepted a tenure-track, assistant professor position at the University of Missouri-St. Louis in the School of Social Work. She was a research associate with the Center for Social Development and the Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies at the School of Social Work. Her research interests are in social and economic development in indigenous communities.

**North Research Fund**

In November 2010, in connection with the 90th birthday of Nobel Laureate Douglass North, CNISS launched the North Research Fund which supports pilot and small research grants to junior faculty and students to study the new institutional social sciences. The mission of the North Research Fund is to enable a paradigmatic shift in how we teach, define, and conduct research in the social sciences. The goal is to improve the reach and quality of the social sciences research to promote growth and social development around the globe through effective dissemination of groundbreaking and independent research the Fund will support. So far, contributions to the fund total in excess of $50,000.

*We thank the individuals listed below for their generous contributions to the Fund:*

- Lee and Alexandra Benham
- Steven and Jasmine Fazzari
- Edward Greenberg
- Ezra E. Jaffe
- Robert Kaplan & Margaret Anne Levi
- Vahe Lskavyan
- Carl Hampus Lyttkens
- Edward and Tedi Macias
- James and Chris MacInnes
- Wilhelm and Ingrid Neufeld
- Kirk Ogrosky
- Bruce and Dorothy Petersen
- Michael and Margaret Sherraden

For more information on how to support the North Research Fund and continue the North research legacy, please visit http://cniss.wustl.edu/news/476

**Sponsored Research**

CNISS provides research funding to Washington University students and faculty for projects that make important contributions towards the economic growth and political stability of developing and transition economies. The proposals listed below are just a few of those that received funding in the 2010-11 year:

**Fall 2010**

**Members of Kappa Delta Pi, submitted by Chapter Counselor Brenda Pierce:**  
*“Expanding Minds Through Art and Reading.”*

**Brenda Pierce**, a Professor of Education, organized a literacy and arts service project at Jefferson Elementary School in St. Louis through Kappa Delta Pi, the international honors society in education. The mission of the service sorority is to sustain an
honored community of diverse educators by promoting excellence and advancing scholarship, leadership, and service. This ongoing project helps students create community flags which incorporate values and ideals that the students believe are important in their school and community, and incorporates art as well as reading into the lives of students, helping to increase reading skills. The flags are displayed at the schools and public institutions where both the students and community can view and talk about their importance. We wish to take this opportunity to thank Joanne Simowitz for her interest and support of this important educational research program.

Marsela, Ph.D. candidate at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work and CNISS Certificate Program Fellow, received funding to travel to Albania to investigate how changes in formal institutions affect communities’ access to services such as water and sanitation. Her research will support her doctoral dissertation in which she collects and examines data from her fieldwork at several research sites in the country in order to better analyse public investments targeting Albanian communities and municipalities during 2000-2010.

Mona Lena Krook: Workshop on “Electoral Reform and Political Representation.”
Mona, Assistant Professor of Political Science and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, organized a workshop which analyzed how concerns about representation inform demands for electoral reforms and how the passage of these reforms alter or reinforce dynamics of representation. Mona brought in expert scholars from around the globe who work on different aspects of the relationship between electoral reform and political representation to share their research methods with one another.

Spring 2011
Christopher Claussen: “The Emotional Logic of Participation in Ethnic Violence.”
Christopher, Ph.D. Candidate in Political Science, traveled to South Africa to investigate the reasons why people participate in ethnic violence, and in particular, why they participate in ethnic riots. This research was conducted in support of his doctoral dissertation which examines how intergroup anger increases the likelihood of joining a riot, and how leaders convince people to participate by shaping their emotional reactions to the target group.

Jing Xu, Ph.D. Candidate in Anthropology and CNISS Certificate Program Fellow, will travel to China in the Fall 2011 to investigate and collect data on children’s acquisition of interpersonal trust in both rural and urban China under the “one-child policy” - China’s family planning policy initiated in 1979 that dictates that every married couple can only have one child. A goal of this research is to share findings with people of interest to develop pilot programs on assessing and improving children’s cognitive and social development in China.
SPEAKERS & EVENTS

As the heart of much intellectual and research activity, CNISS is now an established clearinghouse for speakers and events. Below we provide just a sampling of some of the events and speakers we hosted this past year.

For more comprehensive information on all of our past and future lecturers and events, please visit our website at http://cniss.wustl.edu.

Selected CNISS Fall Seminar Speakers

“Ingredients that Make for a Successful Revolutionary Group”

Micah Levinson
Junior Fellow at the American Foreign Policy Council

Micah is one of only a handful of individuals to have ever received his M.A. degree (in Political Economy and Public Policy from Washington University in St. Louis) two years before completing his B.A. at Harvard University. He is currently a Junior Fellow at the American Foreign Policy Council, a DC based non-profit organization dedicated to bringing information to those who make or influence the foreign policy of the United States and to assist world leaders with building democracies and market economies. For his CNISS seminar lecture, Micah discussed a model for predicting the likelihood of a revolutionary group overthrowing a regime.

“Law, Culture, and Ethics: How Moral Vision Informs Social Meaning”

Rabbi Tsvi Blanchard
Clinical and organizational psychologist, Director for Organizational Development at the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership, and Meyer-Strukman Professor of Jewish Law at Humboldt University

Psychologist, teacher and rabbi, he has been in the forefront of promoting inclusive, vital Jewish communities in the 21st century. He is an expert in community and leadership development and a recognized leader in the Jewish healing movement. Using clothing and dress as the primary example, Rabbi Blanchard’s presentation focused on how moral vision sometimes plays a significant role in shaping law and cultural meaning in different societies. His lecture discussed cases and texts from American, European, Jewish and Asian law, which displayed how law and ethics fit into shaping existing social institutions within different cultures and regions around the globe.

“Aiding the Poor Through Research”

Sebastian Galiani
Professor of Economics, Washington University in St. Louis

Professor Galiani is a world authority in the field of development economics, particularly dedicated to the evaluation of public policies adapted by developing countries. His lecture focused on an improvement program in Mexico that replaced dirt floors with cement floors and the many differences in health and wellness among families that this change made.

“The Threat from Within: A Big Picture Perspective of Israel’s Society and Economy”

Dan Ben-David
Executive Director of the Taub Center for Social Policy Studies in Israel and Senior faculty member of the Department of Public Policy at Tel-Aviv University

His research specializes in macroeconomics, economic growth, and international trade. His CNISS lecture focused on Israel’s unprecedented rate of academic emigration and its extremely low employment rate compared to other developed countries.
Selected CNISS Spring Seminar Speakers

“Presidential Fundraising”

Jack Oliver
Founder and Senior Policy Advisor of Bryan Cave Strategies and National Finance Director of George W. Bush’s presidential campaign

During the 2004 presidential campaign, he served as an advisor and strategist for the Bush-Cheney presidential campaign and was described by TIME magazine as “the man largely responsible for what is being heralded as the most formidable money machine in modern political history.” His CNISS presentation focused on fundraising from an insider’s perspective, including a discussion of the ways that new technology is aiding in raising funds for candidates through the use of social media networks and other outlets in campaign fundraising.

“Medicaid Policy and Mental Health Services for Children in Child Welfare”

Ramesh Raghavan
Assistant Professor at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work and Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at the School of Medicine at Washington University in St. Louis

Dr. Raghavan’s research focuses on mental health services and policies for vulnerable children, especially those in the child welfare system. His lecture focused on the economics of the implementation of evidence-based mental health interventions and on the costs of child maltreatment.

“Innovation and Urban Renewal”

Jasmin Aber
Member of the “Shrinking Cities” research group at UC Berkeley’s Center for Global Metropolitan Studies and Executive Director and co-founder of Creative Exchange Lab

A licensed architect from Germany, Jasmin’s research and design projects analyze the role human capital, creativity, culture, local assets, and technology play as catalysts in urban (re)development in shrinking cities. Her lecture focused on the degree to which the items listed above are intrinsic to successful strategies for sustainable community development economic development and (re)generation of cities under emerging strategies of revitalization. Much of her presentation dealt with a new revitalization project that is being proposed for the city of St. Louis riverfront area.

“Concentrated Solar Power”

Amos Danielli
Postdoctoral Research Associate in the group of Prof. Lihong Wang at the Department of Biomedical Engineering, Washington University in St. Louis

His research interests in recent years are in the areas of Photonic Biosensing, Photoacoustic Imaging, and Solar Energy. In addition to his academic experience, Dr. Danielli has a very successful record as an R&D engineer and entrepreneur in leading High-Tech companies, such as Gilat, Lucent/Chromatis, ZettaLight and Helioris. His CNISS lecture focused on how renewable energy is utilized and his innovative research which examines how to harness concentrated solar power.

“America in Mid 19th Century: Abolition, Civil War, Emancipation, Reconstruction, and Expansion West” — co-sponsored by the Program in African and African-American Studies
James Schiele
Former President of the St. Louis Screw & Bolt Company and AB ’52, MLA ’85, MA ’11, Washington University in St. Louis

James Schiele's lecture featured his outstanding collection at the Washington University Libraries' Special Collections of over 300 prints that includes donated 19th-century lithographs, engravings, etchings, chromolithographs, and sketches. His lively talk covered a variety of related topics in mid-19th century American history.

CNISS Events
“Unemployment, Underemployment, and Policy Responses” — A Panel Discussion with Christina Romer

Christina D. Romer
Former chair of President Barack Obama’s Council of Economic Advisers, holds the Class of 1957 Garff B. Wilson Professorship of Economics at the University of California, Berkeley, and is co-director of the Program in Monetary Economics at the National Bureau of Economic Research. An expert in economic history and macroeconomics, Dr. Romer studies the effects of fiscal policy, the determinants of American macroeconomic policy, and the causes of the Great Depression. In her lecture “The Continuing Unemployment Crisis: Causes, Cures, and Questions for Further Study,” she discussed the causes of current high unemployment rate and also the actions policymakers should pursue in order to get more Americans back to work. Romer’s lecture was followed by a riveting panel discussion with the following:

- **Steven Fazzari**, Professor of Economics and Associate Director of the Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government and Public Policy, Washington University in St. Louis
- **Michael Sherraden**, Benjamin E. Youngdahl Professor of Social Development and Director of the Center for Social Development at the GWB School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis
- **Marion Crane**, Wiley B. Rutledge Professor of Law and Director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Study of Work & Social Capital, Washington University School of Law
- **William Emmons**, Research Economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis and Adjunct Professor of Finance at Olin Business School, Washington University in St. Louis

CNISS proudly co-sponsored this event along with the Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Work & Social Capital at the Anheuser Busch Law School, The Center for Social Development at the GWB School of Social Work, and the Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy, all at Washington University in St. Louis.

The Legacy of Douglass C. North: Understanding Institutions and Development Economics

The conference, held in November 2010 in conjunction with Professor North’s 90th birthday, brought together many of the most prominent social scientists in the country to honor his legacy and work on institutions and development economics. Conferees shared their applied research and discussed the findings and policy impacts with academics, business, and governmental leaders, in order to carry out North’s mission: to foster the political stability and economic growth of developing and transition economies. More than 300 people comprised of faculty, scholars, students, business executives and the general public attended the conference. The academic disciplines represented included Economics, Political Science, Social Work, Anthropology, Law, Engineering, History, Philosophy, and Education. Local, state and national members of the business community, the public sector and a diverse range of other occupations were in attendance, as well as visitors from around the US and from countries including Sweden, France, Mexico, and Croatia. Attendees were treated to a special keynote lecture by Elinor Ostrom, co-recipient of the 2009 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences and the first woman ever to win the prize.
We would like to thank our conference co-sponsors listed below:

The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation
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A special note of thanks should go to The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation who so generously provided grant support for the conference, to Daniel Schmidt who attended the conference on their behalf, and to Scott and Joanne Simowitz for their amazing generosity.

Washington University sponsors:

The Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Work and Social Capital at the Washington University School of Law
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The Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy
The Olin School of Business

Additionally, we would like to thank Sebastian Galiani for acting as chief conference organizer, Corey Pashea for acting as our liaison with the Bradley Foundation, Elisabeth Case for helping us with all organizational aspects of the conference and surrounding celebratory dinner, Cary Simowitz and the Ghostlights for their vocal stylings, and our army of student helpers.

Following the conference, organizers Itai Sened and Sebastian Galiani have been devoting much time and attention to compiling, reviewing and editing an edited volume to be published by Cambridge University Press. This volume will feature the work of the conference’s presenting scholars and all contributors have been hard at work completing the final versions of their respective entries to the volume. The volume should be completed and published by Fall 2012.

More information on those who presented, as well as video highlights from the conference, can be found at http://cniss.wustl.edu/events/2010/11/event-434

Scott Simowitz at North conference dinner
We thank the CNISS Academic Board for their counsel, advice, and suggestions on all academic issues related to the work of the Center. Current members are listed below:

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Itai Sened and Murray Weidenbaum for acting as co-instructors for the CNISS weekly seminar course held during the academic year.

Nicholas Argyres, Steve Fazzari, Carolyn Lesorogol and Murray Weidenbaum for their work on the CNISS budgetary committee, and their assistance in evaluating our CNISS funding proposals.
The CNISS Advisory Council works to integrate non-academic viewpoints into the activities of CNISS and to build our CNISS community. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Council members for their invaluable suggestions and support. Additionally, we would like to give special thanks to Scott Simowitz for hosting our January 2011 CNISS Council meeting at his law firm in Florida.

On a separate note, congratulations to:

- Brian Hirsch and Eric Nelson as new fathers to Alexa Blake Hirsch and Ayla Madison Nelson respectively. We wish our new dads all the best!
- Matt Fleischman on his promotion to Associate at the law firm of Debevoise and Plimpton.
- Eric Nelson on his new company, ABE Capital Management, an investment advisory firm.
- Steven Shalowitz on his photography exhibit “Life Goes On,” which chronicles his travels to far-flung destinations to understand countries behind their headlines.

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We are so fortunate to have the support of a variety of contributors. Without the continued support of those listed below, the Center would be unable to continue to run our important educational programs, research endeavors, speaker series, and events. We would like to thank all of those listed below who have so generously made contributions to the Center:

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