



Institute for Regional and International Studies  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

## 2018 Scott Kloeck-Jenson Fellows Biographical Statements

**Juliana Brandão** is a 10-year experienced Brazilian lawyer and a first-year Ph.D. student in the Environment and Resources program at The Nelson Institute. Her primary areas of expertise are in labor and public law in Brazil. She has a master's in International Commercial Law from the University of Nottingham, United Kingdom. Currently, Juliana is a Project Assistant at the Gibbs Lab (GLUE). Her studies focus on assessing the connections between deforestation and forced labor practices in Brazil's cattle supply chain. The emphasis is an agreement made between Greenpeace and the four leading Brazilian meat packers, in which the companies promised not to trade in cattle from properties tainted with deforestation and forced labor practices. Using the SKJ fellowship, she will travel to Brazil to better understand the impact of the partnership between international NGOs and corporations toward the Brazilian society.

**Olayinka Olagbegi-Adegbite** is a PhD candidate in the Department of Educational Policy Studies with a concentration in Comparative and International Education, and a minor in Curriculum and Instruction. She is a Nigerian whose academic sojourn in the United States started in 2007 when she was selected as one of the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants (FLTA), to teach her native language-Yoruba. During her one year FLTA program, Olayinka, in addition to teaching her native language was also enthusiastically engaged in a lot of elementary and high school visits where she talked about her continent and country, and shared her cultural experiences with students. She was later admitted for a masters program in the Department of African Languages and Literature where she examined inter-language among Yoruba learners. Her passion for elementary education landed her another masters degree in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis (ELPA) where she reviewed Nigeria's Universal Basic Education policy (UBE). Currently, Olayinka's doctoral research examines the implications of language policy and teachers' linguistic ideologies on early grade reading instructions in the first three years of elementary school. This summer, with a generous support from Scott Kloeck-Jenson International Fellowship, Olayinka will intern with the Lagos State Ministry of Education and the State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) to understand the extent of appropriation, implementation and practices of language policies within primary schools in Lagos state. This internship will enable Olayinka to become better informed on decision-making processes that govern on a broader level, language use in early grade literacy.

**Kurt Kuehne** is a Sociology PhD student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He holds an M.A. in Southeast Asian Studies (UW-Madison) and an A.B. in Politics (Princeton). Before starting his graduate studies, Kurt was a Princeton in Asia Fellow at the Singapore Ministry of Education. He later worked for MetaMetrics, an education research and technology firm, developing and implementing literacy

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University of Wisconsin-Madison Madison, Wisconsin 53706  
contact@iris.wisc.edu | 301 Ingraham Hall | <http://iris.wisc.edu>

initiatives in several U.S. states. His present research focuses on state-building, migration, and citizenship in the transnational labor economy. Kurt's primary project examines the tensions around state-building and foreign labor importation: how states attempt to balance economic development against public resistance to demographic change.

**Tyler A. Lehrer** is a Ph.D. student in the Department of History with a minor emphasis in gender and women's studies. He holds an M.A. in religious studies from the University of Colorado Boulder. Tyler's research engages the history of religious and diplomatic exchange in the early modern Indian ocean, specifically intersections between Buddhist kingdoms in Sri Lanka and mainland Southeast Asia in the context of European colonization. Pursuant to a period of research in Sri Lanka, with his SKJ Fellowship, Tyler will conduct preliminary pre-dissertation research in Bangkok and Ayutthaya, Thailand on Buddhist history writing about the patronage of monastic and royal lineages. In the mid-eighteenth-century, an unlikely and short-lived diplomatic relationship between two Buddhist kingdoms and the Dutch East India Company led to the re-establishment of a politically-legitimizing ordination tradition for Buddhist monks that has been narrated in a panoply of Lankan and Thai sources in subsequent centuries. He hopes to discover how these led to the galvanization of key ideas of difference—ethnic, gendered, and religious—across maritime Southern Asia and their role in contemporary nationalist and xenophobic mobilizations.

**Hugh Roland** is a PhD student in the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies. He is a sociology minor and an affiliate of the Center for Demography and Ecology and the Center for Culture, History, and the Environment. His research interests focus on climate change related human migration, health disparities, and issues of power and structural inequality. Before attending UW Madison, he worked in public health policy and economic justice advocacy in the Bay Area and received an MA in international history from the London School of Economics, where he studied anticolonial movements. His research in Kiribati explores theories of environmental migration and possible poverty traps that may restrict adaptation options.

**Angela Serrano** is a Ph.D. student in Sociology at UW-Madison. Her research draws on agrarian studies and political ecology to understand how consumption and finance shape the livelihood possibilities of farmers and farmworkers. She currently studies oil palm crops, looking at how the involvement of financial investors in these crops is changing crop management practices, employment opportunities, and access to water and other resources for farmers in Magdalena Medio, Colombia. Before coming to UW-Madison, Angela did a Master's in Geography at King's College London, where she explored how the increased consumption of avocado is changing livelihood opportunities for farmers in Santander, Colombia, her home region. In her free time, she enjoys yoga, cooking, and walking around in new places.

**Adalbert Gerald Soosai Raj** is a Ph.D. candidate in Computer Sciences and Education at University of Wisconsin-Madison. He holds a Master's degree in Computer Sciences from UW-Madison and a Bachelor's degree in Information Technology from College of Engineering Guindy (CEG) in Chennai, India. Gerald's research primarily focuses on teaching Computer Science (CS) to students whose native language is not English. He uses bilingual teaching techniques like code-switching and translanguaging for teaching CS using English and the students' native language. This summer, Gerald will use his Scott

Kloeck-Jenson (SKJ) fellowship to teach computer programming to students in Tamil Nadu (a southern state in India) using both English and Tamil (native language of people in Tamil Nadu). Apart from being a graduate student, Gerald also teaches Computer Science courses as a graduate student instructor at UW-Madison. He received the Graduate Student Instructor Award for his excellence in teaching during Spring 2018.

**Irène Tombo** is a first year Ph.D. student in Comparative Politics. She was born and raised in Goma, DRC. She recently graduated from Johns Hopkins University-SAIS with an MA (2017) in International Economics with concentrations in African Studies and International Political Economy. Prior to attending SAIS, she attended the University of the Incarnate Word where she received a BA (2015) in International Relations with a minor in Political Economy. As a PhD student, she is interested in understanding how public goods and services, especially education, are provided in weak states given the nature of a country's political settlement, institutions, and the political economy framework at play. This summer Irène will use her SKJ fellowship for exploratory research in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). She will investigate citizen-state relations to better understand the role of state and non-state actors in the provision of public goods and services.

**Pearly Wong** is a first-year PhD student in the joint program of Cultural Anthropology and Environmental and Resources with the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies. She has six years of working experience in the field of International Development in Nepal, Cameroon, Sri Lanka and Indonesia prior to Madison. Her research project focuses on understanding the plurality and heterogeneity of the meanings of 'environmental justice' and 'development', experienced through gender and castes, in a rural community in Pharping, Nepal, and how they correspond with the broader societal discourse and network of development actors. Her research forms part of a larger effort in advocating for the recognition of diverse communities in the world with their values and identities rooted in their cultural and historical contexts.