



Institute for Regional and International Studies
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

2019 Scott Kloeck-Jenson Fellows Biographical Statements

Aida Arosoaie is currently a PhD student in Cultural Anthropology at UW-Madison, pursuing a PhD Minor in Culture, History and the Environment within the Nelson Institute for the Environment. Aida's key research interests are the interdependencies between religion, the economy and the environment in Indonesia. She seeks to understand the impact of the religious conversion of animist indigenous communities in Papua, Indonesia, on social relations of productions and the surrounding landscape. Aida holds a BA in Politics and Hindi from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) and a MSc in Strategic Studies from Nanyang Technological University Singapore (NTU). Prior to joining UW-Madison, Aida spent four years as a research at NTU Singapore, working on religion and politics in Southeast Asia and conducting extensive fieldwork in Malaysia and Indonesia. The generous funding from the Scott Kloeck-Jenson Fellowship will enable Aida to spend the summer of 2019 doing pre-dissertation fieldwork in Indonesia, focusing on building relationships with proselytizing groups, as well as with governmental and non-governmental actors.

Lisa de Sousa Dias is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Political Science. Her primary interests focus on how power, social movements, and violence intersect in sub-Saharan Africa. Prior to commencing study at UW, she worked as a researcher for a National Geographic photojournalist on a project investigating how environmental change is impacting communities around the world. She also interviewed women leaders in Kenya and Tanzania for a project on political leadership in East Africa. Originally from Portugal, Lisa received her B.A. in International Relations from Mount Holyoke College in 2017. With generous support from the SJK fellowship, Lisa will spend this summer in Mozambique and Kenya conducting preliminary dissertation fieldwork on the ways political mobilization impacts the lives of ordinary citizens and the public order.

Sooji Kim grew up in Brunei, studying in an Anglican mission school, and becoming part of Bruneian and Muslim cultures, whilst being a Korean. Studying African communities and civil society organizations in Tanzania brought back interesting memories of such integrations of various cultures – of local and national identities, colonial histories, and the dynamics of today's globalization and migration issues. Kim wanted to learn better how communities in these environments form political associations for communicating and interacting with institutionalized structures at the local, national and international levels, and the issues that impact such interactions. In particular, Kim plans to spend the coming nine weeks in Tanzania

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listening to women's organizations in rural villages and understanding their village development priorities, and what they perceive as barriers to progress. In addition, she will interview a wide range of stakeholders on how they vision the role of community-based organizations, especially women's organizations, in Tanzania's village politics.

Ana Paula Melo is a Ph.D. student in Agriculture and Applied Economics at UW-Madison. Her research focuses on education policies and social inequality. Ana obtained her Masters in Economics at the University of Sao Paulo. Before joining UW-Madison, she worked at an organization focused on using scientific evidence to inform public education policy. In her Ph.D. thesis, Ana studies how affirmative action policy in college promotes equality of opportunity. With the Scott Kloeck-Jenson fellowship, she will obtain detailed data to explore the policy's targeting and the student's trajectory within a particular university in Brazil. In another project, she analyzes how the Brazilian quotas impact pre-college investments in human capital, using national public data. These two pieces of research will provide country-wide and detailed local evidence on the private and social returns of a large-scale AA program, which is relevant not only to Brazil but to the many other countries with such initiatives.

Ngonidzashe Mpfu is pursuing a Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Counselor Education, with a minor in Educational Psychology, Human Development emphasis. She has a M.Ed. in Counselor Education with a dual emphasis in Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health, and Clinical Mental Health in Schools and Communities from Penn State, and is a National Certified Counselor (NCC) and a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC). Considering herself as a child of the world, Ngonidzashe likes to say Zimbabwe gave her identity, the United States raised her, and Australia taught her how to be an adult. This summer, with the generous support of the Scott Kloeck Jenson program, Ngonidzashe will be sojourning to both Australia *and* New Zealand to carry out exploratory research on rehabilitation support service provision, administration, and utilization among the Māori people and service providers of New Zealand, as well as assessing Australia's leading disability service providers considering the emigration of Māori people. This research will contribute to the creation of a predictor model for disability service organizations that forecasts customer goal attainment based on staff performance indicators. Service trends found will contribute towards more targeted employee training and development that serves the needs of the populations interacting with these organizations, such as the Māori people.

Kaden Paulson-Smith is a third-year Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Political Science with an African Studies Minor and specializing in comparative politics and political theory. Before coming to UW—Madison, Kaden worked for Teaching, Research, & International Policy and AidData at the College of William & Mary's Global Research Institute. Kaden graduated from Smith College with a BA in Government and Certificate in African Studies. Kaden's dissertation project seeks to understand why there is political repression of nonnormative gender and sexuality in post-colonial contexts and how individuals have resisted this institutionalized violence in the case of Tanzania. This summer, Kaden will use their Scott Kloeck-Jenson International Fellowship in the United Kingdom to intern at an international refugee and asylum-seeker organization that provides services for gender and sexual minorities. While in

the UK, Kaden will conduct archival research on the development of British colonial institutions that policed gender and sexuality norms in East Africa.

Stepha Velednitsky is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Geography affiliated with the Center for Culture, History, and Environment and the Holtz Center for Science and Technology Studies. Her master's thesis explores the history of Israel's agricultural settlement from 1948 to 1967. In particular, this project focuses on the role of modernization theory, as adapted by Israeli institutions, in shaping settlement practices with Mizrahi (Middle Eastern Jewish) immigrants. The SKJ fellowship will allow her to continue her research on Israeli regimes of migration. During her summer fieldwork in Israel, she will research the state's contemporary governance of citizenship and asylum claims from Eastern European and African migrants.

Jiangjiang Wu is a PhD student in Cultural Anthropology. Originally from China, she finished her MA in Modern Chinese Literature and worked as a culture reporter in Shanghai before coming to UW-Madison. Her research interests lie in gender, care, family, and population aging in contemporary China. Focusing on urban China, her primary project will investigate middle-aged and elderly women's domestic care role when the traditional filial care is declining. More specifically, she plans to examine how the increasingly commodified eldercare helps to shape stratified gender subjects when socio-economic status largely determines if a woman would become a care-receiver or a caregiver in her old age. Apart from the doctoral project, she is interested in the topic of feminism and gender inequality both in China and across the world. In her free time, she enjoys painting, movies, and boxing.

Ei Thin Zar is a student in the department of Curriculum and Instruction studying her Ph.D., bridging world language and curriculum studies areas. Her research focuses on Burma's language education policy. Ei is from Karen State in Burma and graduated with her B.A degree in English from Mawlamyine University, Mon State. She ran a boarding school from 2007 to 2013, right up until she obtained a scholarship for her Master's degree. She has got her M.A in the English Language Teaching program at Assumption University, Bangkok, Thailand. Following graduation, she returned to Burma and resume teaching at her school, working with International Organization of Migrations (IOM), and Thabyay Education Foundation in Burma. In 2016, Ei was fortunate to receive a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant award and taught Burmese at UW-Madison. After completion of FLTA, she was lucky to attain admission to the Curriculum and Instruction department. The educational experiences that Ei Thin Zar had as a student, teacher and curriculum developer convinced her of the need for mother-tongue based language education policy in Burma, a multilingual country. With the generous support of a Scott Kloeck-Jenson fellowship, Ei Thin Zar will explore historical documents to better understand language education policies in Burma over time and will travel with non-government educational organizations to their field sites in ethnic areas of Burma to network with locals.