2021 Scott Kloeck-Jenson Fellows
Biographical Statements

Yaa Oparebea Ampofo (she/her) is a PhD student in the Department of Educational Policy Studies and a Planetary Health Scholar through the Global Health Institute and the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies. She also holds an BA in Environmental Studies from Yale University. With a concentration in Comparative and International Education (CIE), her interests lie at the intersection of education decolonization, environmental studies, and sustainable development discourses. She is particularly interested in engaging with diverse and heterogenous frameworks of human-earth relations, well-being, and socio-ecological change. Her doctoral research explores representations of environmental and sustainability education across various discursive spaces in Ghana. Specifically, she examines how Ghanaian youth construct meanings about human-earth relations and well-being in the context of their routines and responsibilities, though different communal, ecological, and institutional nodes (eg the extended family, schools, labor and social spaces, and religious settings). Yaa’s pre-dissertation fieldwork in Ghana will focus on the work of faith-based environmental movements and how youth are participating in and navigating these spaces. Her hope is that through such work, we might imagine radically different and decolonizing pedagogies and policies for supporting youth across the continent in managing their needs and the needs of the planet, to be able to respond to the very rapid socio-ecological changes that are reshaping life across the world.

Corinne Hale is a PhD student in the Department of Anthropology focusing on medical anthropology. She is also pursuing a PhD minor in gender and women studies, doula training, and a Master of Public Health. Her primary research interests include reproductive health care, intergenerational maternal knowledge and practices, gender relations, and the interplay of international non-profit organizations, religion, and politics on maternal and reproductive health. With the generous support of the Scott Kloeck-Jenson Fellowship, Corinne’s pre-dissertation fieldwork will focus on documenting the roles Haitian midwives play in ensuring the health and well-being of patients in their care. Her study is designed to engage with nurse-midwives to better understand the inter-workings of Haiti’s maternal health system beginning in Port-au-Prince, the country’s capital, as well as document midwives’ perceptions of maternal health care and their role in the Haitian health system.

Wongeun Ji is a PhD candidate in the Department of Educational Psychology, with a concentration in human development. After completing undergraduate degree at Korea University, he worked in criminal justice and youth justice in South Korea for ten years as field
staff in correctional facilities and a deputy director of the Juvenile Protection Division of the Ministry of Justice Korea. Based on his work experiences and passion for young offenders, Wongeun embarked on his doctoral study with a Fulbright Foreign Scholarship at UW-Madison, hoping to make a contribution to the healthy development of detained youth who have been maltreated prior to their delinquency. His interests center on the role of forgiveness in the relationship between adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and later delinquency. This summer, he will travel to South Korea and conduct an 8-week alternative education program for serious youth offenders who have committed criminal activities for years.

Dorothy Lsoto is a PhD student in Environment and Resources at the Nelson Institute of Environmental Studies at UW-Madison. She holds a Masters in Environment and Resources with a certificate in Energy Analysis and Policy from UW-Madison. Her current research focuses on integrating air pollution in respiratory disease management in children under 5 years in Kampala, Uganda, where she is originally from. Prior to graduate school, she worked with off-grid rural communities in Sub-Saharan Africa introducing them to renewable energy technologies. Dorothy enjoys working with people. Her best moments have been seeing a simple technology like biogas completely change a whole community by replacing their carbon intensive wood stoves to a biogas stove and diesel run chillers to biogas chillers, in the process improving their health through improvement in the air quality of the individual homes and communities. The funding from the Scott Kloeck-Jenson Fellowship will enable Dorothy to spend the summer of 2021 doing fieldwork in Uganda, focusing on building relationships with health providers in both government and private institutions, explore collaboration with the air quality groups working in the space while strengthening the existing ones.