
ANNUAL REPORT

2023



CENTER FOR PEACE
AND DEVELOPMENT
The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA

OBJECTIVES

- Assist in advancing understanding of and capacity for grassroots peace building and development in collaboration with the partners in northern Uganda.
- Facilitate and increase visibility and interaction opportunities for grassroots organizations and local community to develop a participatory peace building and development process in connection to CPD goals.
- Provide access to more traditional research in the region connected to the center's goal.
- Develop tools and resources useful to the post conflict and post covid communities. Collaborate with partners to use developed tools and resources to transform the local communities.
- Offer opportunities to graduate and undergraduate students to engage in community-based research and service.
- Establish OU as the leader in training students interested in international development through providing unique educational experiences.
- Develop center as a source of resource to the larger OU community to facilitate critical discussion on global citizenship and international development.

OVERVIEW

Articles published: 6

Fellows enrolled: 4

Conferences: 1

ARTICLES PUBLISHED

- Harris, J. C., Komakech, D., Monk, D., & del Guadalupe Davidson, M. (2023). The gendered postconflict city: Possibilities for more livable urban transformations in Gulu, northern Uganda. *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 45(3), 647–664.
- Ding, Y., Sabatini, D. A., & Butler, E. C. (2023). Effects of pH and Soil Minerals on Phosphorus Release from Agricultural Waste–Based Sorbents: A Continuous–Flow Column Study. *Journal of Environmental Engineering*, 149(4), 04023010.
- Kim, M., Demir, F., El Fatmaoui, A., Ge, Q., Ghosh, P., & Zhao, J. (2023). Vaccine Production and Innovation: Insights from Tort Reform and Medicare Expansion <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4612555>
- Chih, Y. Y., Demir, F., Hu, C., Liu, J., & Shen, H. (2023). A spatial analysis of local corruption on foreign direct investment: Evidence from Chinese cities. *European Journal of Political Economy*, 79, 102443. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejpoleco.2023.102443>
- Demir, F., Ghosh, P., & Xu, Z. (2023). The Effects of Political Participation on Missing Women: Evidence from the Egyptian Protests of 2011–2014.
- Ghosh, P., Demir, F., Kim, M., Chaudhry, A., & Zhao, J. (2023). Does Flu Vaccination Affect Wages? State–Level Evidence from the Us. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4439483>
- Letsa, N. W., & Morse, Y. L. (2023). Autocratic Legalism, Partisanship, and Popular Legitimation in Authoritarian Cameroon. *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 87(4), 935–955.

ENROLLMENTS/FELLOWS

The center is committed to diverse experience in education and research. It provides opportunities to graduate students through fellowships to expand the horizon of research in connection to CPD goals. Here are some Student affiliates (fellows) whose research work and interests expand the unique experiences of the center's research and education in peace building.

ISMAEL CARMONA CASADO (SPRING 2023)

Ismael Carmona Casado is an international student, currently working on a Master of Arts in Global studies in College of International Studies at OU, who is recognized as distinguished scholar receiving Admiral William J Crowe Jr. Award and the Regents Award of Outstanding Junior. Ismael's research interests are in the areas of European Union Politics, great power politics, great power competition, migration, European Security (particularly with NATO) and international governance.

CHINEDU C. NSUDE (FALL 2023 AND SPRING 2024)

Chinedu C. Nsude is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Geography and Environmental Sustainability at OU focusing on institutional barriers to renewable energy development in Nigeria. He was awarded climate change training at University of Oxford by the Scottish government, where he developed an interest in developing renewable energies technologies to combat climate change and create energy independence and security.

SALMA AKTER SURMA (FALL 2023 AND SPRING 2024)

Salma Akter Surma is a Ph.D. student in Planning, Design and Construction concentrating on community-based approach to community well-being and resilience building in the constructed environment. Salma's research interests include community activism, healthy built environment, refugee wellbeing, sustainable cities and communities building.

TRISTAN W. WINKLE (SPRING 2023)

Tristan W. Winkle is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Political Science at OU focusing on public policy, research methods, and international relations. Tristan research interests are on confluence of energy, climate, national security policy, geopolitical risks, and great power competition.

STUDY ABROAD

The Center for Peace and Development has been coordinating the Northern Uganda Collaborative Learning Partnership since 2016. The program operates in Gulu, Uganda. Students and faculty at the University of Oklahoma partner with local grassroots organizations to learn from each other in unique and meaningful ways. The way it works is that local partners suggest projects that are important to them. Each course (we refer them as “tracks”) adopts a syllabus that has general shared objectives related to cultural learning and humility, general objectives related to the collaborative project done with the local partner, and objectives related to the coursework in each discipline.

AFRICA IN CONTEXT (IAS)

GENDER AND WAR (HR)

UGANDA SERVICE LEARNING (EDUC)

TECHINICAL PRACTICUM IN UGANDA (CEES)

PROGRAM AND EVENTS

CONFERENCES

In June 2023, the fourth annual Grassroots Women's Peace Conference (GWPC) was convened in Gulu, Uganda. Eleven grassroots women's organizations gathered with the goal of deliberating on and formulating solution-based initiatives addressing cultural aspects contributing Gender-based violence in Northern Uganda. Previously, the GWPC had been a forum for sharing experiences of war in Uganda, but the third conference expanded the focus to include current gender-based concerns. As a result, the last conference explored initiatives to address the cultural underpinnings of GBV in Northern Uganda, more specifically during/after the Covid-19 pandemic. The conference explored aspects like gender roles and societal values, the underpinnings of cultural norms, accepting the importance of female children, and acknowledging roles of men in fighting against GBV. Aspects of Ugandan societal structures such as, female submissiveness, the objectification of females, the unequal distribution of power and resources, sexist cultural beliefs, religious beliefs, harmful marital systems, biased legal and cultural systems, male insecurity were discussed. After examination of these discriminatory societal structures, the conference also focused on individual and social impacts of GBV, which include divorce/separation, death/murder (including suicide), economic instability, separation from the community, and the neglect of children. After analyzing these aspects, participants developed action plans. These fell into two categories. First, the need for engagement with the various levels of society like parents and family, community leaders, religious leaders, and grassroots organizations is necessary to encourage collaboration and to raise awareness. This would lead to the development, encouragement, and promotion of positive values such as respect and equity, equitable distribution of resources, and broader participation in decision making. Second, the conference emphasized policy-level e

engagement with the government to support education on GBV, the creation of laws addressing GBV, the discouragement of alcoholism, polygamy, and disrespectful behaviors and the promotion of scholarships for girls in education, establishing shelters for survivors, and the promotion of gendered equity and respect.

WEBSITE

We have worked with a web designer and have continued our efforts to update the website for OU CPD. <https://www.ou.edu/cpd>