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## International and Israeli Students Train to Help World's Marginalized Populations at 'Glocal' Studies Program

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*Thinking globally, acting locally*

Jerusalem — What is the common thread between agriculture in Burundi, women's empowerment in India, public health in Nepal, and food security in Ethiopia? These are among the many projects that students in the [Glocal Community-Development Studies program](#) specialize in. The innovative two-year MA program at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem's faculty of Social Sciences trains qualified professionals to work with underdeveloped communities throughout the world, augmenting theories of international development with grounded experience through a semester-long [internship](#) with an international NGO in Asia, Africa, Latin America or a marginalized community in Israel.

On April 11, Glocal students and alumni will showcase the work they undertook during their internships abroad, talking about their experiences and examining the cross-cutting challenges they view as facing diverse communities worldwide. The event, which is entitled "In our Eyes: Visualizing Community Development," will be held between 2-5 pm in Block 7 of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Mount Scopus Campus.

The event, which is being undertaken in conjunction with the Dean of Students, will consist of a photo exhibit of students' pictures taken during their internships, an academic poster fair and a mini-conference on themes related to community-development. The parallel panels will be on the subjects "Between Environmental Conservation and Economic Development," "Human rights and migration: A question of access," and "Challenges confronting women's empowerment and health: A multi-country perspective."



'Portrait of Salamatu Ibrahim in her home in an internally Displaced Persons camp', Benitunga-Karimama, North of Benin near Niger border, October 2012. This photo by Glocal student Anne-Sophie Cardinal will appear in a photo exhibition presented by students of the Glocal Community-Development MA program, which follows their internships with development organizations in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. (Credit: Anne-Sophie Cardinal)

The media are invited to attend the event or to request interviews with program staff, students and alumni. The public is welcome to register to attend the event via RSVP to the program coordinator at [Glocal@savion.huji.ac.il](mailto:Glocal@savion.huji.ac.il).

According to Aya Navon, Glocal's internship coordinator and one of the program's lecturers, "The pictures in the exhibition represent the students' own definition of community development and the way they understand the concept after two years of study. The exhibition focuses on four principles of community development —dignity, learning, sharing and voice — that were chosen by the students as central. Through these images the students tried to bring the unique voices of the communities they met to the campus, capturing different facets of the power, ability and beauty that exist in communities in the face of poverty, war and disaster.

Professor Steven Kaplan, academic head of the Glocal program, said, "This is a truly international program, in terms of its academic vision, the diversity of its students and practical experience it provides. Now more than ever, universities play an important role in the public arena, and the leading ones have been reaching out to the world not only to teach but also to learn and build true partnerships. We are proud to be part of the growing trend of "tikkun olam" (repairing the world) in the 21st Century."

"The university is supporting the photo exhibition and providing a platform to expose the creativity of students and professors," said Michal Mor, The Hebrew University's curator. "In this exhibition, we were able to visually express the essence of the students' work in different countries throughout the Third World. The academic content is also presented in this exhibition by providing special attention to each country and its specific problems."

Among the presenters in the conference are Anne-Sophie Cardinal and Adar Zahavi. Anne-Sophie Cardinal, a student from Canada, established a volunteer organization called "Become" before beginning her studies at Glocal. "One of the main projects of the organization is a scholarship fund for youth in disadvantaged areas in Kenya and Haiti, where only 22% of children reach high school," said Cardinal, who sought to study in a program that would provide academic background to the field she was already involved in. "I wanted to engage in an internship on the topic of children and orphans in the international organization CARE, but it didn't work out. Instead during my internship in Benin I assisted in providing relief efforts to the population affected by the many floods from the area's river. Approximately 30,000 people have been displaced from their homes. At the conference I will talk about displacement but also steadfastness, recovery and resilience. These words are all appropriate to the people with whom I worked."

Adar Zahavi volunteered in Uganda several years ago and realized it was what she wanted to do in life. "I wanted to learn how to do it professionally, to deal with the many ethical dilemmas related to the field, and especially to acquire tools and more knowledge on the subject." Zahavi will discuss the migration of young people as a sign of economic distress. "As part of the internship I built programs to promote the youth of a tribe from north-east India. Many of them drop out of school and migrate to the big cities to try to earn a living. They encounter cultural barriers and a considerable number of them return to their village disappointed. The field of migration and its relation to community development is more relevant today than ever before, and I intend to continue in it upon concluding my studies."

Itay Ziv, a third student in the program, traveled to Uganda to volunteer after obtaining his bachelor's degree. Following his stay there he realized that he wanted to engage in

community development in Africa in a more formal capacity. "I'm a teacher by profession and that's what I did in Uganda, but I realized that education alone is not enough and I wanted to learn more. The community development program at Glocal focuses on the Third World but it is very broad: we learned sociology, medicine, gender, economics, demography, all with an emphasis on helping."

For his internship Ziv worked in the Kenyan Cooperative Alliance, helping cooperatives build business plans and acquire skills. "In Israel I also succeeded in highlighting the issue's importance of community development: the civics curriculum for junior high teachers has no option for teaching about globalization, and I found that lacking. My students expressed a lot of interest in the subject when I discussed it in class; they were exposed to content that they had not seen elsewhere, and that expanded their knowledge. Therefore, I initiated a project to create an additional in-depth study unit on globalization, which is now awaiting approval from the Ministry of Education."

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