

NEWS AND EVENTS

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SPRING 2011

JAPAN'S NEW WORLD IS OUR NEW WORLD, TOO BY NANCY GLEASON

The impacts of Japan's 9.0 Tōhoku Earthquake and following tsunami are still unfolding. What we do know is, as of March 28, 2011, 10,901 people have been confirmed dead and 17,649 people are listed as missing. Some 2,272 people are reported as injured. Countless personal items, memories, and community histories have been buried amongst the rubble of toxic sludge, boats, homes, and infrastructure pieces. To add to the unimaginable scale of destruction the

country is also grappling with severe damage sustained to the Fukushima Nuclear Power Facility and the subsequent radiation contamination in water supplies and now the food chain. The Japanese are traditionally a resilient and stoic society of hard working people. Their society will recover with time, perseverance, and the world's help. But what of the environmental impacts of this three-part catastrophe? What do these impacts say about our vulnerabilities to

disaster in a time when more frequent and intense weather events are anticipated due to climate change?

The environmental impacts of large-scale disasters are not often covered in front-page news because the toll of human lives lost is so devastating and the economic costs of recovery are daunting. Another reason these impacts are underreported is because environmental impacts are not part of the economic balance
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POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR & ELIOT AWARD WINNER ANDY O'LAUGHLIN RESEARCHES "LAS JUSTICIAS DE PAZ IN PERU"

Political Science major and senior, Andy O'Laughlin is this year's Elliot Award Winner. In addition, his senior thesis, "Finding Justice: Latin American Judicial Reform Through the Eyes of the People's Courts for Peace, *Las Justicias de Paz in Peru*" will become the second *Student Research Briefing* for the Department

of Political Science. "*Las Justicias de Paz in Peru*" examines a "1994 survey conducted by the World Bank that concluded 96% of the population in Peru lacks confidence in Judges and 86% has either little or no confidence in the overall administration of justice (1)."

"Clearly something has gone wrong in the Peruvian judiciary," writes O'Laughlin. O'Laughlin's intention is to ask the simple question: *Can we do better?* He doesn't claim to have found the answer, nor "claim to have succeeded where countless think tanks, NGOs, commissions, reports, advisors,
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“AS TSUNAMI WAVES RETREAT THEY TAKE WITH THEM THE POLLUTANTS AND NATURAL ENDOWMENTS WE HAVE ON LAND. IN SOME CASES THIS CAN CAUSE NITROGEN FROM FARMS TO COLLECT AT HIGH LEVELS IN THE OCEAN WHICH ALLOWS FOR RED TIDE AND ALGAE TO BLOOM.”

sheet and they are very difficult to quantify. But they are nonetheless important, as environmental impacts are the aspects of earthquakes and tsunamis that can be felt for generations.

Environmental Impacts of the Earthquake

The Tōhoku Earthquake of March 11th released a massive burst of energy. Immediate geophysical changes caused by the earthquake include shifting the Earth's axis by several inches, the northern section of Japan jumped nearly 8 feet closer to north America, and according to some sources the quake actually increased the earth's rotation and shortened our days by several microseconds.

Environmentally, earthquakes destroy the ecosystems and habitats of many different species. Furthermore, earthquakes can cause landslides and aftershocks that cover homes and effect agricultural land, water sources and sewage systems. The most imposing environmental impact of an earthquake is the toxic piles of rubble and debris it leaves behind. Cleaning up the discarded building rubble can be a major hazard. There are ethical and logistical challenges to relocating millions of tons of destroyed infrastructure. For example, after hurricane Katrina, there were thousands of refrigerators filled with rotten food and no where to dispense them. Japan will be

facing these same issues in the coming weeks and months.

Environmental Impacts of a Tsunami

Tsunamis are remarkable forces of nature. They move everything in their path and their environmental impact is profound. Ocean salt seeps into fresh water supplies. Salination of water supplies can affect fresh water ecosystems in the rivers and lakes and harm food production. Many fresh water species are negatively impacted by the invasion of saltwater into their habitat. Finally, great damage is done to the marine environment as well. As the Tsunami waves retreat they take with them the pollutants and natural endowments we have on land. In some cases this can cause nitrogen from farms to collect at high levels in the ocean which allows for red tide and algae to bloom. Yet, in terms of fish stocks, we can usually see an improvement after tsunamis because local fishing fleets, and sometimes the people who have operated them, have all been washed away. Of course, the marine pollution in Japan is now facing the daunting realization of radioactive contamination.

Environmental Impacts of the Fallout of the Fukushima Power Plant

The well-known impacts of a nuclear accident include the negative effects of radiation. Unfortunately, Japan knows

these all too well given the nuclear bomb explosions at the end of World War II in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We know that since March 11th, hundreds of people have been exposed to radiation, fortunately at tolerable levels thus far. At intolerable levels initial impacts of the radiation on humans include nausea, fatigue, and vomiting. More serious exposures involve hair loss, diarrhea and the disintegration of the intestinal lining. For those who survive and go on to have children, there is a high likelihood that they will spawn deformed and sick children as a result of the radiation. Similarly, wildlife is made sick from radiation and often die on land, in the ocean, and in the air. These impacts are long-term, lasting many hundreds of years.

The most powerful impact of the Fukushima fallout may be political. Prior to March 11th nuclear energy was facing a resurgence as developed nations scramble to lower their carbon footprint. Nuclear power does not emit any carbon dioxide and is viewed as a valuable alternative to fossil fuel energy. However, security concerns over nuclear power are racing to the forefront of the debate once again. Those who prefer pursuing other types of energy argue that nuclear power plants are simply not stable and therefore are a major

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“LAS JUSTICIAS DE PAZ IN PERU”

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articles, and books have failed. Yet, at the same time, the analysis would hardly be worth the paper on which it is printed if I did not believe that there was something unique—I hope even refreshing—about my particular set of answers to this question,” says O’Laughlin.

“The reason I chose to focus on Peruvian judicial reform is that it offers us the glimpse of an alternative. Two out of every three judges in Peru lack formal legal educations. These figures generally come from rural areas and are popularly elected from among their communities. Their ability to negotiate a difficult gray area between the formal institutions of the state and the realities of providing legal remedies in rural communities make them an integral part of expanding the

reach of justice. In a society that is increasingly torn between past and future they are the natural interlocutors. They are the architects of the new sort of jurisprudence—a new approach to dispute resolution that reconciles the customs and traditions of the past with the demands of the present. They are the Jueces de paz, the Peruvian “Justices of the peace.” By exploring their story I hope to locate some of the false turnings in the judicial reform movement that has come to assume such prominence in Peruvian politics and to point a way forward for those who seek to build an honest and effective judiciary that is worthy of the confidence of those who look to it for justice.”

Andy O’Laughlin is this year’s recipient of the James Vance Elliot Award, given in the senior year to students majoring in Political Science whose achievements best combine

academic excellence with active participation and effective leadership on campus and civic affairs.

Andy is a senior from Carlisle, MA with a double major in Political Science and International Relations. He spent his junior year abroad at Pembroke College, Oxford where he studied, among other things, Jurisprudence and Latin American politics. His tutorials confirmed his interest in law, politics, and international relations.

In 2010 O’Laughlin received the International Relations Research Scholarship Award, which enabled him to travel to Peru to conduct research on alternative methods of dispute resolution within the Peruvian judiciary. Upon returning to Tufts, Andy continued to take classes toward his two majors. In addition to the James Vance Elliot

Award, he was invited to join the Phi Beta kappa honors society.

When asked what his plans are for the summer, O’Laughlin replied, “spending my summer on the beach doing absolutely nothing.” O’Laughlin will attend Harvard Law School in the fall.

1)World bank, No. 13718-PE, Peu: Judicial Sector Assessment 31 (1994). (2) Friday Dialogue, Presencia (La Paz), July 22, 1994, at 2, translated in Justice Minister Discusses Need for Reform, F.B.I.S. Daily Rep.: Latin America, Aug. 29, 1994, at 49, 51.

“Finding Justice: Latin American Judicial Reform Through the Eyes of the People’s Courts for Peace, Las Justicias de Paz in Peru” will be available on line this summer, in its entirety, at <http://ase.tufts.edu/polsci/studentresearch/>

A RESEARCH DAY ON SUSTAINABILITY

On Tuesday, May 3rd the Office of the Vice Provost will sponsor *A Research Day on Sustainability*. Welcome and opening remarks will be presented in the Aidekman Arts Center at 9:00 am with a panel discussions immediately following.

Panel discussions will focus on:

Sustainable Development
(Jeffrey Griffiths, William

Masters, Elena Naumova, and Peter Walker)

Sustainable Cities
(Douglas Brugge, Justin Hollander, Colin Orians, and Kent Portney)

Sustainable Policy
(Timothy Griffin, Gilbert Metcalf, George Saperstein, and Richard Vogel)

Sustainable Technology
(Maria Flytzani-

Stephanopoulos, Kelly Sims Gallagher, Albert Robbat, Jr., and Aleksandar Stankovic).

Barbara Batashalom, the Executive Director for the Sustainable Performance Institute, will deliver the keynote address.

There will be a poster presentation and reception between 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm.

RSVP to ovp-rsvp@tufts.edu

or call 617-636-6550.

For additional information please visit www.tufts.edu/central/research/researchdays.

A Research Day on Sustainability will take place in the Aidekman Arts Center, 40 Talbot Avenue, Tufts University, Medford Campus between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm.

JAPAN'S NEW WORLD IS OUR NEW WORLD, TOO
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security risk. Fukushima demonstrates a lack of foresight and long-term planning that other nations will, hopefully, adopt in order to decrease risk and vulnerability within their own countries. An example of Fukushima's influence on other nation's nuclear policy can be seen in Germany, where a significant reversal of policy has taken place since the March 11th earthquake in Japan. Reuters is reporting that Germany plans to increase security requirements at its 17 nuclear power plants to ensure that they can withstand plane crashes and earthquakes.

Vulnerability to Extreme Weather Events

We must learn from Japan's vulnerabilities, adapt our behavior and social systems accordingly in order to better prepare for such large-scale disasters. They can and do happen. And, if climate change experts are correct, they will be happening more frequently and with more intensity in the years to come.

The earthquake and tsunami of March 11th in Japan were not caused by human activity, however, Japan's preparedness and rapid response can teach us much about adapting to and preparing for extreme weather events. Japan did do many things correctly in preparation for this earthquake. Haiti's January 2010 earthquake rated 7.0 on the Richter scale, two points

lower than that of Japan's March 11th earthquake, and yet, in Haiti, some 212,000 people died. In Japan the number is currently estimated at approximately 10,000 people. Japan has managed to develop an infrastructure/monitoring enforcement of building code laws that clearly saves lives. We know from past experience the importance of early warning systems and effective building structure for saving lives and reducing impacts of the earthquake itself. [Japan's meteorological agency sent out a warning 1 minute before the earthquake struck.] For example California's 1989 earthquake was 6.9 on the Richter scale and the result was 63 deaths. We can protect lives in the event of an earthquake. Protecting the environment from a tsunami is far more challenging as the impacts are very specific (landslides) and difficult to predict. What we need now is a detailed assessment of the loss of biodiversity and habitats in northeastern Japan so that we can determine how to better prepare for such disasters in the future. Furthermore, we need to increase the capacities of environmental agencies within governments at the national and local levels to address disasters and their environmental consequences effectively.

In terms of nuclear power facilities, there is much we can do to decrease environmental impacts. The obvious answer is stop building nuclear power

plants on major tectonic fault lines and next to the ocean where they are vulnerable to a tsunami. The breakdown at the Fukushima nuclear facility is a man-made disaster. Humans created that vulnerability, and put in place a system they could not protect from the forces of nature. The good news is that this is a problem we can fix. The question is whether or not we will learn from this mistake and make the expensive and politically challenging decisions necessary to protect the environment and keep the people safe from nuclear fallout.

Nancy W. Gleason teaches on international environmental issues at Tufts University. She is a doctoral candidate on international relations at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy with a focus on sustainable development. Ms. Gleason's academic focus is on the cultural and political challenges behind environmental issues with a particular focus on Suriname in South America. She has also worked for a USAID contractor in preparing development proposals in the areas of natural resources management, conflict resolution, and relief and reconstruction. She regularly attends international negotiations relating to forest and climate change. Updates on these negotiations can be found on her twitter page @NWGleason. To read Nancy W. Gleason's complete biography, visit <http://ase.tufts.edu/polsci/faculty/gleason/>.

DAVID LIBARDONI (T '08) RETURNS TO BOSTON AFTER TWO YEARS IN SOUTH KOREA

Former Political Science major David Libardoni (T '08) is completing a two year study in South Korea as a Fulbright grantee. Last spring Libardoni decided to extend his grant another year to continue teaching and traveling and apply to law school and considers it one of the "best decisions" he has ever made.

One of the programs that convinced him to extend his stay was the Youth Diplomacy Program. "Sponsored by the U.S. Embassy, the program invites Korean middle school students to

meet embassy officials, Korean diplomats, and participate in a three-hour diplomacy simulation," Libardoni said. "I was in charge of designing the simulation, an international conference discussing Iranian nuclear proliferation and sanctions. I also had the privilege to prepare and coach three of my own students in the simulation each of whom faithfully represented the interests of Russia at the mock nuclear summit. The event made me realize how much fun I was having as a teacher and how many more memorable experiences I could have if I stayed one more year."

Libardoni reflects on his extended grant as "an incredible second year."

"I moved to a mid-sized city about an hour from Seoul and have been teaching at an all-boys private boarding school. It has a reputation as one of South Korea's best high schools, annually sending about half of its seniors to the top three universities in the country. I have had the opportunity to work with some very advanced students, both in English language and critical thinking. In addition, I have managed to travel to eleven Asian countries since starting my grant and have seen some of the most amaz-

ing places in the world., from the Forbidden City and Angkor Wat to the beaches of Thailand and the Himalayas. I am so thankful for the time I have had to live abroad and to get a different perspective on the United States and global affairs, which will surely help me with the rest of my career.

I could not be more excited to return home in the summer and start a new challenge with law school."

Libardoni will attend Boston College Law School. Congratulations and all best wishes from the Department of Political Science!

Second Annual Political Science Alumni-Student Outreach Event May 23rd—June 10th

- The Department of Political Science will host their second annual Alumni-Student Outreach Event. The Event is geared towards current political science juniors and seniors with the hope of generating dialogue between these students and our PS alumni who will help to answer many of the questions students have regarding resume and career building strategies. In short, it is a wonderful forum to develop mentors in areas that our political science majors aspire towards and we thank our Political Science Alumni for their overwhelming support!
- Jeannine Lenehan, Communications Coordinator for The Department, developed this Event with both students and alumni in mind.
- The event is divided into three weeks.
- The dialogue between students and alumni will take place via email and phone
- Ms Lenehan will forward each junior and senior a spreadsheet of the participating Political Science Alumni. On that spreadsheet will be the names of the alumni participants, the year they graduated, their current position, when they can be contacted, their preferred method of contact (either email or phone), and some additional notes.
- We ask all of our participating junior and seniors:
 - To be prepared. Have a list of questions ready.
 - Be a good listener.
 - Remember to call only during the times listed
- For that alum.
- Remember, this is not a job interview; this is strictly a mentoring session.
- Remember to follow-up with a "thank you" to your mentor(s).
- Most importantly, enjoy! This is a great opportunity to build your understanding of the field you're interested in and, possibly, develop life-long connections.
- Questions? Contact Jeannine Lenehan, x72024

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JEANNINE.LENEHAN@TUFTS.EDU.
FACULTY AND STUDENTS ARE
ENCOURAGED TO SHARE THEIR
STORIES AND THEIR IDEAS.

STUDENT RESEARCH BRIEFING SERIES

The Department of Political Science recently introduced the *Student Research Briefing Series*. The Series is designed to cover a broad range of topics in American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Political Theory & Philosophy. The briefings are also intended to enhance student appreciation of student research completed in the Department of Political Science. In addition, the publication hopes to serve as outreach to interested undergraduates and prospective students considering a major in Political Science.

If you are a student interested in contributing to the Student Research Briefing Series or a professor, within the Department of Political Science, and have a student paper you would like to highlight, please contact jeannine.lenehan@tufts.edu or visit <http://ase.tufts.edu/polsci/studentresearch/> to learn more.

SUMMER HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM

The Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University is offering their 2011 Human Rights Summer Program. The Program will offer six courses in human rights, which can be taken independently or as part of a four-course certificate program. Courses are designed for graduate students, advanced undergraduate students, and professionals. For more information about the program visit <http://hrcolumbia.org/summer/>. New and visiting students must apply by May 12th for Session I and June 23rd for Session II.

MA MIREES PROGRAMME, UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA

The MA MIREES program is a two-year Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Research and Studies on Eastern Europe. The program jointly offered by the University of Bologna, Italy, together with the Vytautas Magnus University at Kaunas, Corvinus University of Budapest and St. Petersburg State University. The University of Ljubljana is an associate partner that offers additional mobility for students.

The program is taught entirely in English and MIREES students will spend the first year in Forli, Italy, and the second year with partner universities. A mobility grant is offered to all enrolled students.

Two evaluation sessions are scheduled: The deadline for the first session is May 16th and is open to all candidates. The deadline for the second session is September 19th and is only for EU students and non-EU students with equivalent status.

For more information visit: <http://www.mirees.unibo.it/>.

IN THE NEWS

New York Times op-ed contributor and professor for the Department of Political Science at Tufts University, Kelly Greenhill, discusses *Using Refugees as Weapons*; New York Times, April 20, 2011. "In the early days of what grew into the Libyan uprising," Greenhill writes, "Muammar el-Qaddafi summoned European Union ministers to Tripoli and issued an ultimatum: Stop supporting the protesters, or I'll suspend the cooperation on migration and Europe will be facing a human flood from North Africa."

"Given Libya's history as a transit point for North Africans seeking entry to Europe, it was a credible threat," Greenhill explains.

To read *Using Refugees as Weapons* in its entirety visit http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/21/opinion/21iht-edgreenhill21.html?_r=2&ref=global.