

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES THESIS CAPSTONE PLANNING FORM

(Fill in to the best of your knowledge. The goal of these questions is to get a sense of your ideas and to promote serious consideration on your part. It is understood that this information may change.)

Due Nov. 1 or April 1

Name: .

Date: *October 31, 2014*

Cell phone:

Email: :

Date of expected graduation: *May 2015*

Why are you interested in writing a thesis? What would you like to learn?

Writing a multidisciplinary thesis will help me combine and consolidate the distinct areas of study in which I have completed research. For me, writing a thesis very well might be the start of a career in research, as I hope to pursue a Master's Degree in Public Administration and Public Health after graduation. During the process of writing my thesis, I hope to learn some of the specificities of conducting original research, and I also hope to learn how to incorporate various means of scholarly resources, perhaps those that cannot be found in journals or books. Ideally, I would also like to integrate aspects of what I've learned while studying abroad in Senegal into my thesis. I want to find a topic that integrates public policy, public health, women's rights, and development studies into one cohesive focus.

What disciplinary courses have you taken and with which professors that relate to these interests?

I've taken National Model United Nations and International Relations Through Film, both with Professor Laatikainen. I have also taken a plethora of Gender Studies classes with Professor Levy and Professor Zaccarini, but they all have focused exclusively on gender relations within the United States.

Describe a specific topic that you are interested in studying.

Specifically, I want to focus my thesis on the relationship between women's education and the utilization of family planning and maternal healthcare services. This paper would be an expansion of one I wrote on education and gender equality for Global Issues II. My hypothesis would seek to explain whether or not access to formal education makes women more likely to seek prenatal care, use methods of family planning (including contraceptives) and generally have safer pregnancies than women who have had little or no formal education.

How is your proposed topic related to international or global relations?

Pre-natal and maternal health programs can be found worldwide, but disparities exist when it comes to a woman's ability to access these programs. If poverty, place of residence, and/or cultural practices/values keep women from seeking maternal healthcare, then we must examine the role that formal education can play in making women more or less likely to seek medical assistance during and after pregnancy. Quite simply, women struggle to

access proper maternal medical care on every continent, and it is imperative that steps begin or continue to be taken to allow women easier access to this care. Also, education and maternal health are both part of the Millennium Development Goals, and remain imperative aspects of development that international organizations have pledged to bolster. Most of the studies in this area have focused on one specific country as a case study, but I hope to make my research more comprehensive and integrate data from a variety of countries.

Do you have faculty mentors in your language concentration and disciplinary track in mind? Who are they and why would you like to work with them?

I would like to work with Professor Katie Laatikainen, Professor Nicole Rudolph, and Professor Traci Levy. Professor Laatikainen has worked with me on past research projects, and I feel that she and Professor Rudolph know my learning style and can help me streamline my research. Professor Levy has a strong background in gender studies and may be able to help me find avenues in which to begin conducting research.

Provide an initial list of 3 scholarly sources, that you have read, which relate to your topic.

1. *Adult education and child mortality in India: the influence of caste, household wealth, and urbanization* by Archana Singh-Manoux et al.
2. *Factors associated with non-utilisation of postnatal care services in Indonesia* by Titaley CR, Dibley MJ, Roberts CL.
3. *Family planning: the unfinished agenda* by John Cleland, Stan Bernstein, Alex Ezeh, Anibal Faundes, Anna Glasier, Jolene Innis

What are your post-baccalaureate plans?

I am currently applying to the University of Washington Peace Corps Master's International Program, where I would earn a Master's Degree in Public Health (Global Health focus) and serve two years in the Peace Corps working on a public health-related project. If that does not pan out, I still hope to volunteer with the Peace Corps, preferably in the public health or education sectors.