

# CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

## 2020 NEWSLETTER



### DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Ian Barron, Director

The past year has been challenging for many with COVID-19 impacting health, social connectedness and wellbeing, education, the economy, and travel. Despite these challenges, the faculty, students, and alum of CIE have ensured continued delivery of service and contributed to a rich applied research environment. Numerous students have been mentored to publish in high-impact peer-review journals; they have participated in the CER editorial team, led core international project activities; and participated in wellbeing in education seminars throughout the year. In direct response to COVID-19, CIE has been involved in the training of therapists to deliver online services of medics experiencing stress and trauma on the front line with patients.

### RECENT PROJECT SUCCESS

CIE has capitalized on its historical legacy over the past year. **David Evans** and **Ash Hartwells'** Learning for Life project has led to the USAID-funded Management Sciences for Health (MSH) Assistance for Families and Indigent Afghans to Thrive (AFIAT). The project aims to build women's health literacy to support family health, utilize local health services, and fulfill the criteria for Community Health Worker or Midwifery training. CIE alumni, **Lisa Deyo** and **Malini Ghose** are training and curriculum consultants.

**Attal Nangyalaia** and **Lukas Winfield**, have joined **Javid Mussawy** as students on the project. Lukas Winfield earlier in the year concluded UNESCO's International Mapping of Youth and Adult Literacy initiatives on a CIE project led by **Cris Smith**.

UMass Boston and CIE have been successful in providing technical assistance under FHI360's USAID-funded **Advancing Higher Education for Afghanistan's Development (AHEAD)**. The project aims to build on the achievements of the University Support Workforce Development Program (USWDP) with an emphasis on cross-discipline and cross-university collaboration.

**Hassan Aslami**, a CIE afghan doctorate student, is leading UMass activities.

Previous involvement in the Education and Crisis Conflict Network (ECCN) has led to involvement in the USAID-funded **Leading through Learning Global Platform (LTLGP)** with the Education Development Center (EDC). The project focuses on USAID's regional mission teams' utilization of best evidence practice. CIE alum, **Karla Sarr** and **Jennifer Fleming** continue to apply and extend their ECCN learnings to the new project.



Attal Nangyalai

## COMPARATIVE EDUCATION REVIEW

**Bjorn Nordtveit** was again successful in securing another 5 years as the editorial team for the **Comparative Education Review**, one of the key journals in the field. Together with a team of co-editors and managing directors they are part of shaping the global conversation on the future of education for sustainability.



## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

In Response to COVID-19, CIE faculty (**Ian Barron**) and undergraduate student, **Liat Shapiro** have been at the forefront of responding to the wellbeing and resilience of school-age children. CIE, in partnership with the **Trauma Response Network (TRN)**, accessed 300 free Microsoft Teams licenses for therapists working with children, front-line medical staff, and victims of Black Lives Matter protests. A series of training helped shift practice from 'in person' to online delivery.



Liat Shapiro

## ENDOWMENT SCHOLARS

CIE's endowment fellow is Larissa Chekmareva, a graduate of CIE (M.Ed, 2005) from Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation. After 20 years of working in education, she is now on the Ph.D. program in International Education. Larissa is studying the building of institutional autonomy in higher education in Kazakhstan including accessing, inclusion, diversity, and management.



Larissa Chekmareva

## STUDENT AWARDS



Lina Heaster-Ekholm

**Lina Heaster-Ekholm**, a doctoral student in International Education, has been awarded a competitive and prestigious **Graduate School Dissertation Grant** for her research into the intersection of culture and learning with the goal of developing effective instructional design practices to meet the needs of global online learners.

**Mishka Murad** and **Mariam Sheikh**, both received the **Ambassador Cynthia Shepard Perry Award**, established to help IE and students associated with CIE pursue international fieldwork. Mishka explores the academic experiences of international doctoral student mothers at one U.S. university and how these varying identities intersect. Mariam's research focuses on the role of rising student activism in Pakistan, particularly how it challenges neoliberal reforms in education, exposes inequities in relation to gender, class, and ethnicity, and strives for a socially just education system.



Ambassador Cynthia Shepard Perry



Hassan Aslami

**Sayed Javid Mussawy** received the ***Jerome and Florence McCormick Doctoral Award*** for students in their dissertation-writing year. Javid's dissertation investigates the implementation of a new national accreditation process for public teaching and research universities in Afghanistan. Javid is actively involved in multiple CIE projects.

**Hassan Aslami** was awarded the ***Joseph W. Keilty Memorial Scholarship*** for doctoral students with exceptional promise. Hassan's research examines the current sources of funding for public higher education in Afghanistan and explores potential alternative resources and policy options to increase and sustain funding for the public higher education system. Hassan is currently providing leadership to the AHEAD project.



Mariam Rashid

**Mariam Rashid** received the ***Helen Eaton Timson Scholarship*** for students enrolled in degree programs in the College of Education. Mariam's research attempts to unsettle and re-imagine resettlement practices and pedagogies embedded within coloniality and radical capitalism, through the lenses of racial, postcolonial theories, and critical research methodologies. Mariam is currently based within Montague House.



Pempho Chinkondenji

**Pempho Chinkondenji**, has been selected as a ***Research Associate, Five College Women's Studies Research Center***. The Research Associate program brings together scholars dedicated to encourage engaged, critical feminist scholarship from diverse perspectives. Pempho's research focuses on in-school pregnancy, school re-integration for student Mothers, and the impact of pregnancy policies on girls' schooling experiences in Malawi. Pempho is also a Founding Trustee of Loving Arms, a Malawi project supporting girls rights to education



## VISITING SCHOLAR

Our visiting scholar, Associate Professor **Dr. Zebun Khan** (Aligarh University, India), is researching Sexual Harassment in STEM and student help-seeking behavior at UMass. Early data indicates that students can provide higher education institutions with advice to enable students to better seek help when at risk. Dr. Khan aims to replicate the study, once back in India.



Zebun Khan

## BARBARA'S RETIREMENT

**Barbara** is a cornerstone of CIE. Her contribution has been tireless and beyond the confines of what is expected. Barbara is loved and respected by students, faculty, and staff alike. A beautiful book of memories is now on the CIE Website.



Barbara Gavin-Wilbur

## STUDENT LED ACTIVITIES

Sponsored by National Geographic, students **Mariam Rashid** and **Ben Scherrer** raised awareness of the brutal ethnic cleansing, by the Myanmar military, of the Rohingya, by a showing of 'Lost and Found,' directed by Academy Award winner Orlando von Einsiede. The film follows Kamal Hossain, a Rohingya refugee who dedicated his life to reuniting children with their parents.

The second 'Movie Night', chaired by Christopher Buck, was built on the work of UNWDP. Midnight Traveler, filmed on a phone, casts a light on the challenges faced by Afghanistan refugees fleeing the Taliban and the resilience needed to escape to safety. Afghanistan students Javid Mussawy, Mujtaba Hedayet, and Hassan Aslami, all provided breathtaking insights into the reality on the ground.

Finally, with the African Graduates & Scholars Association (AGASA), **Osheho Toweh**, a previous endowment scholar, returned to present a seminar on Cultural Humility as the cornerstone of effective cross-cultural engagement.



## ACTIVITIES ACROSS UMASS

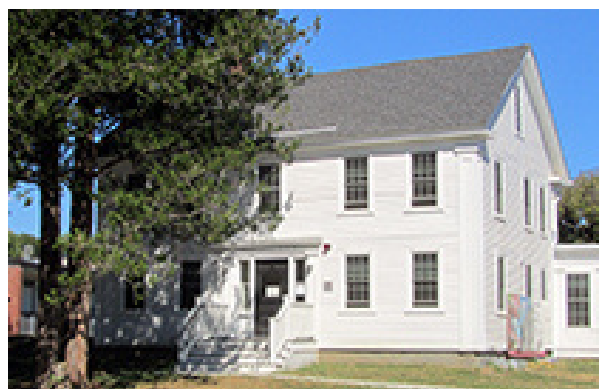
**Dr. Bjorn Nordtveit** (Associate Professor, International Education/College of Education) and Kelin Loe (Writing Coordinator, Office of Professional Development) delivered an abstract writing workshop for students aiming to present at CIES 2021. During International Education Week and in partnership with the International Programs Office, Ian Barron (CIE Director) presented on '**Self-Care in Times of COVID: An International Education Perspective**'. Similarly, CIE co-sponsored with the Institute of Global Health '**Mental Health in Times of COVID-19: A Latin American Perspective**', presented by **Mr. Hugo Farias** (Regional HIV Advisor, World Food Program).

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

## SCHOLARWORKS @UMassAmherst

Students high impact peer-review publications have included the prevention of child sexual abuse in Pakistan's schools (Shumaira Rahim & Caitlin Bourgaize); children's recovery from adversity in Brazilian favelas (Fernandes Freitas & Christina Bosch); identifying the coping strategies of asylum-seeking family caseworkers in Greece (Emelia Munteanu); exposing the impact of dispossession for children in occupied Palestine (Erika Tai & Brahim Oulbeid) and the prevention of child abuse in the Catholic church in England and Wales (Faisal Rashid & Jungsun Hyan).

## CHANGES IN MONTAGUE HOUSE



Professor **Michael Krezmien's** project '**Tibetan children in Indian schools**' is now located at MH as are Ben Scherrer & Mariam Rashid, who are exploring the needs of child refugees, Pempho Chinkondenji, previous CIE endowment scholars and director of Loving Arms, is studying girls' rights and education in Malawi and Hassan Aslami, is supporting the USAID funded AHEAD project.

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