International Development

Established at Macalester in 2011, the International Development concentration examines long-run transitions in social, economic, political, and cultural institutions that have accompanied industrialization in modern states, particularly focusing on states in the Global South. The field seeks to understand how these historical and contemporary shifts affect people’s welfare and opportunities, and how change has affected patterns of wealth and resource distribution within and between countries. Debates over perspectives and practices in development cross disciplinary boundaries and are hotly contested. Macalester’s faculty has the depth and breadth to bring these contemporary debates and perspectives to students from a wide range of disciplines. Providing students interested in development with a multi-dimensional perspective on these issues enhances the quality of their education and helps our graduates be more effective and responsible participants in the field of international development.

Core Faculty

**Amy Damon**, director of the program and associate professor of economics and Latin American studies, researches household poverty reduction strategies and food security issues. Specific research projects include investigating the impact of international migration on families living in Central America, evaluating the effectiveness of education programs in Latin America, examining food consumption patterns in the United States, and assessing the impact of land degradation and conservation practices on the productivity of Central American farmers. She is currently working on a project examining links between conservation, food security, and hunting practices in Tanzania. Her doctorate is in agriculture and natural resource economics. She teaches Principles of Economics, the Economics of International Migration, Economics of Global Food Problems, and International Economic Development.

**David Blaney**, James Wallace Professor of Political Science, works on the social and political theory of international relations/global political economy. He explores the constructions of identity, time, and space central to the disciplines of international relations and global political economy. His first book, co-authored with Naem Inayatullah, *International Relations and the Problem of Difference* (Routledge, 2004), examines the way early modern social and political thought structures a spatial and temporal imagination—revolving around notions of sovereignty and development—that makes international relations as a discipline possible. He worked (with Arlene Tickner) on two edited books that explore the state of international relations as a global discipline: *Thinking International Relations Differently* (Routledge, 2012) and *Claiming the International* (Routledge, 2013). He teaches courses on international relations, global political economy, development, and political economic thought.


**Erik Larson**, professor of sociology, is interested in sociology of law, political sociology, economic sociology, and comparative-historical sociology. His courses at Macalester include Law and Society, Criminal Behavior/Social Control, Political Sociology, Economic Sociology, Indigenous Peoples’ Movements in Global Context, Senior Seminar, and Science and Social Inquiry. The department’s quantitatively oriented research methods course. His research focuses on the emergence and transformation of legal, economic, and political institutions in relation to global and national developments. He has also collaborated with Macalester students to study the Ainu rights movement in Japan in relation to the global indigenous rights movement and to examine factors associated with school-wide performance on standardized tests in Minnesota.

**Bill Moseley**, professor of geography, is an environmental and development geographer with a particular interest in African environmental and agricultural issues. He teaches courses on environment and development, introductory human geography, and the geography of Africa. His research has focused on the political-economy of human-environment interactions in Africa, as well as conceptual and applied studies related to rural livelihood security and development studies. He has worked and conducted fieldwork in Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Niger, South Africa, and Zimbabwe.

**Roopali Phadke**, professor of environmental studies, focuses her research and teaching at the nexus of environmental studies, international development, and science and technology studies. Her interests lie in the democratization of science and technology decision-making and the hybridization of technical expertise and local knowledge. Her current research focuses on private and public development of water and energy resources.
Concentration Requirements

A concentration in international development requires six courses. These six courses must come from at least three different departments. No more than three courses may come from any single department and no more than two courses may come from a department in which a student is majoring. In addition, a student completing a concentration, minor, or major in an area studies department or program may include no more than two courses from that area studies plan on an international development concentration plan.

Courses

ANTH 294 Gender and Development in Africa
ANTH 363 Anthropology of Development
ANTH 365 Environmental Anthropology
ECON 221 Introduction to International Economics
ECON 265/LATI 265 Economics of International Migration
ECON 333/ENVI 333/INTL 333 Economics of Global Food Problems
EDUC 370/ENVI 370 Education and the Challenge of Globalization
EDUC 460 Education and Social Change
ENVI 232/GEOG 232 People, Agriculture, and the Environment
ENVI 343/HIST 343 Imperial Nature: The United States and the Global Environment
GEOG 249 Regional Geography of Latin America
GEOG 254 Population 7 Billion: Global Population Issues and Trends
GEOG 488/ENVI 477 Comparative Environment and Development Studies
INTL 394 Poverty/Health/Development
POLI 221 Global Governance
POLI 242 Political Economy of Development
POLI 320 Global Political Economy
SOCI 250 Nonprofit Organizations
SOCI 294 Economic Sociology

Honors Projects

Maxine Freedman ’18 (Chicago) “Restoring a Mapuche World: Resistance to Settler Colonialism in Chile’s Child Protection System”
Dilreet Dhaliwal ’16 (Bakersfield, Calif.) “From British Colonialization to the Green Revolution: Legacies of Imperialism on the Development of a Sikh Consciousness of Nationhood in the 1980s”
Jacob Waxman ’14 (Weston, Mass.) “No More 9/11s: Reconceptualizing National Security and the Creation of an American Garrison State”
Mina Bakhtiar ’13 (Milwaukee) “Algeria’s Socialist Oil Economy: The Structural Liabilities of Colonial Manicheanism”
Brianna Besch ’13 (Bethesda, Md.) “From Local Action to Global Solutions: Community-Based Adaptation in Bangladesh”
Hunter Bradley ’13 (Sturgeon Bay, Wis.) “The New ‘Rice Bowl’: Exploring the Narrative of the Chinese Agricultural Colony in Sub-Saharan Africa”

Opportunities

The Macalester Development Group is a student-led organization that engages students in the discourse surrounding global development and also funds some student development projects.

After Macalester

Maxine Freedman ’18 (Chicago) joined the Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic.
Laura Abril ’17 (Scottsdale, Ariz.) is working at Optum (UnitedHealth Group) in Minneapolis.
Jhader Aguad ’17 (Arequipa, Peru) is a research assistant at the Inter-American Development Bank.
Noah Nieting ’17 (Bloomington, Minn.) joined the Peace Corps in Benin.
Charlene Etti ’15 (Cottage Grove, Minn.) received a Princeton in Africa Fellowship and is now project management associate at Chemonics International in Washington, D.C.
Luiza Barbato Montesanti ’15 (São Paulo) is technical advisor at Prefeitura Municipal de São Paulo.
Anandi Somasundaram ’15 (Cupertino, Calif.) works with the Neighborhood Development Center.
Amita Ramachandra ’15 (Mumbai, India) works with the Neighborhood Development Center.
Alexandra Villalon ’15 (Fulshear, Texas) is teaching with Breakthrough in Houston.
Kelly Hardin ’14 (Derwood, Md.) is a program associate at Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light in Washington, D.C.
Brianna Besch ’13 (Bethesda, Md.) is an international environmental protection specialist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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