Security and Development at MIIS

Overview

The main focus of the field of security and development is addressing the insecurities that affect the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. A growing level of insecurity and armed violence is preventing desperately needed economic, social and political development (good governance), especially in fragile states emerging from conflict. The following link takes you to a thorough treatment of the field of security and development, complete with sources for each of the security challenges addressed by practitioners in this field.

http://www.miis.edu/media/view/21315/original/the_field_of_security_and_development_fall_2010.pdf

Specific Security Challenges to Development

- **Human security**
  - Lack of freedom from fear, injustice and want
- **Landmines**
  - Presence of anti-personnel landmines that deny the use of land for development and exact a humanitarian toll
- **Small arms and light weapons**
  - Negative effects of excessive proliferation, accumulation, availability and misuse of small arms and light weapons on development
- **Security sector reform and transformation**
  - Presence of corrupt and poorly trained and equipped security organizations which requires security sector reform
- **Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants (DDR)**
  - Presence in society of ex-combatants trained in violence
- **Conflict prevention, resolution and mitigation**
  - Ethnic, religious, needs, and identity conflicts escalating into armed conflict
- **Preventing the recruitment of child soldiers and reintegrating them into society**
- **Armed violence reduction (AVR)- Four critical factors**
  - People (Victims), perpetrators and their motives (gangs, criminal, armed groups), Instruments (SALW), Institutional/cultural environment
- **Gender violence and inequality in programming**
- **Rule of law and justice**

The Field of Security and Development

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The MPA Security and Development Specialization

- The MPA Core is critical for this track and your career in S and D
- Every plan for the specialization in S and is custom made. There is no set list. Professor Laurance is the faculty member guiding this specialization and approves each student's S and D program.
- It really should be named Development and Security as the focus is on developing programs and policies that enhance development. We use S and D as that has been adopted by the S and D epistemic community.
- Since this field is about development, you need a course on development. Development Theory and Practice is an example.
- You should take a conflict resolution course (See examples below).
    - Intro to Conflict Resolution
    - International Migration, Security and Human Rights
    - Non-State Armed Groups and Conflict Resolution
    - Paradigm Shift: Security, Development and Human Rights
    - Conflict and Peacebuilding in Divided Societies
- You must take a course which can bring together your S and D knowledge in a major paper. This can be the Seminar in Security, Justice and Development. Or it can be any other seminar in which you do in-depth research on some aspect of S and D. (e.g., Seminar in Gender and Development, Seminar in US-Mexico Relations)

Focus on S and D in courses related to other issues

In addition to the courses mentioned above, you can also develop your specialization by focusing on S and D in courses related to other issues.

- Asia's Development Challenges (Focus on one of the S and D challenges in an Asian context)
- Comparative Migration Analysis (Migration and refugee flows create significant security problems impacting on development)
- Social Sector Needs Assessment (Apply the methodology to and S and D issue, e.g., why is assessment in S and D more challenging than say literacy).
- Evaluation Methods (Select a local project related to S and D, e.g., the Operation Ceasefire Program in Salinas).
- Comparative Public Administration (Compare the approach of two States on a similar S and D issue, e.g., security sector reform).

- Grassroots Leadership Development (Investigate the leadership of a grassroots S and D NGO).
- International Organizations (Select a group project related to an IGO addressing S and D problems).
- Global Governance (Research the GG of the small arms problem)
- Data Analysis (use S and D data)
- Individual Capstone (e.g., in addition to IPSS, DPMI)

Research S and D issue in professional experiences

Although your IPSS/DPMI project cannot count as part of your 16 units, it is highly desirable that you conduct your research when on assignment in S and D if you wish to enter this career field..

- IPSS
- DPMI +
- Summer internship (Take a Directed Study on field research in S and D. There are a host of organizations who are eager for students to do this).
- J-term Practicum (A team of S and D students could deploy to conduct an evaluation of an S and D program).

Preparing for Careers in Security and Development

- The basic goal is to develop S and D knowledge and the professional skills that allow you to apply this knowledge.
- You should constantly update your resume and put it on the internet if possible. Then make business cards which refer to this site in addition to your other contact information. You never know when you will meet someone who you can help you get a job!
- Go to conferences   (Networking)
- Link the S and D challenges (e.g., DDR) with the organizations (UNDP, UNPKO, NGOs) who do this work when searching for job
- Search for jobs in fragile (conflict or post-conflict) states.
- There is now a Security and Development student club with a web site. Join it. We are planning things like J-Term and summer field work.
- Program Evaluation is a critical skill in great demand.
- Field research or experience is a prerequisite for a job in S and D. Start planning on how you will get this at MIIS, now!
- At end of your MIIS career you should have a portfolio of work and research that establishes you as a bonafide S and D qualified professional. Consider developing a formal portfolio that is online and available to those who might be interested in hiring you.

Skills for S and D Careers
(Courtesy of Bill Godnick)

A few years back I asked my colleague Bill Godnick, the most successful S and D grad from MIIS (1998) to write down what he thought were the most important skills to succeed in this field. Here they are!

- Concise writing skills with analytical added-value
- Ability to develop and implement quantitative and/or qualitative research designs
- Oral and written fluency in Spanish, French, Russian and Arabic especially, but any second or third language generally;
- Comfort with public speaking, in more than one language
- Fundraising, grant writing and budget management;
- Ability to coordinate campaigns of all sorts and networks of organizations;
- Willingness to travel extensively;
- Ability to work with diverse range of individuals from military officials to activists
- Don't adopt the dog or cat, don't propose marriage or don't move in with him or her unless you are absolutely positively sure he/she or it is the one!