

Summer Interns 2010-11

Reports

Hannah Enenbach

This summer, I started work on a research project that had been knocking around as an abstraction in my head throughout my first year. The funding and support from the Center for Ethics and Morality gave me the time, resources, and framework to set it into motion, and I thank you for that.

For this project, I aim to find a link between subjective well-being (SWB) and certain types of social policy. I also will attempt to explore possible mechanisms by which this type of policy increases SWB.

The happiest countries, according to the majority of existing polls from the last five to ten years, are the Scandinavian countries, which share relatively high weighted tax rates, progressive social policies, and ethnically/racially homogenous populations. I am in the process of analyzing the specific policies the happiest countries have in common, and outlining a theory that, drawing on existing research on correlates of happiness, explains why these policies might have led to increased well-being. In doing so, I will take into account the environment in which these policies are enacted, the level of compliance and enforcement that they have, and the level of popular support for them, as well as other relevant factors.

Leo has been helpful in gathering various polls on subjective well-being, researching demographic information for the nations on the very top and the very bottom of the list. Once we found our probable top two and bottom two, he began investigating the specifics of these countries' education and health care provisions. He also has helped me refine the various theories that have cropped up along the way and has been brainstorming ways that we may be able to test them.

While he was doing this, I catalogued as many correlates of happiness from economic and psychological studies as I could. I found data on income (wealth, changes in wealth, income relative to others); security and protection from disaster; friendship, family, and companionship; community involvement and political participation; efficacy; trust in others; trust in one's government, materialism; increased choice; and more. I familiarized myself with the arguments for and against using SWB as a measure for national progress and for policy effectiveness. I also read policy recommendations from scholars who would like to see policy oriented towards raising SWB.

When I received the nations' information from Leo, I analyzed it further. For example, knowing how much various nations spend on health care as a percentage of GDP is a good start, but it tells us little without further knowledge of the efficiency of the system, which people benefit the most from the system, and whether the system works as reported. Since this is not only a policy-oriented paper, but one that depends on the actual effects on the populace, I have to know not only how the policies are imagined and written, but how they are utilized.

As of now, I have a huge, disorganized document full of data and rough outline for the paper. I plan to have a fairly clean draft of this paper ready for comments by the time fall quarter begins.

Kelly Rivera

This academic summer, 2011, I had the good fortune to mentor Shana Hu, a high school intern for the UCI Interdisciplinary Center for the Scientific Study of Ethics and Morality. Shana worked closely with me on an ongoing project with Professor Beckmann examining the Presidential Daily Diary logs for presidents Carter and Reagan

Prior to the summer we had looked at the overall patterns of presidential interactions with congress by collecting online copies of the Daily Diaries for presidents Kennedy through Bush 41. However, several of the online records omit the appendices, which compilers would use for meetings with more than a handful of attendees (e.g., those with a congressional delegation). Such is the case for presidents Carter and Reagan. In order to obtain these records we needed to once again comb through every day in our random sample across both presidencies to determine which days for incomplete.

Shana was tasked with searching all of the dates across those 12 years that were included in our sample. In addition she cross checked that the original dates previously sampled were consistent with the dates indicated in our random sample. Shana was thorough, consistent, and timely in both efforts. In all, she read through more than 500 Daily Diary logs, no small feat, while creating an index of every date that had an appendix associated with it. We met or communicated every week to discuss her progress and the subject being under examination.

While reading each of these dates Shana began to look up names of individuals meeting with each President and subsequently we would discuss their role in the administration and government in general. Unexpectedly, the research project served as an excellent education tool which without a doubt has given Shana a jump start on her upcoming AP Government class in her senior year, but has also introduced her to presidential politics at an in depth level.

Mentoring Shana was exceedingly rewarding for me. Aside from her index streamlining my own research trip to gather the missing appendices, witnessing Shana's interest and dedication reinvigorated my own. I have high expectation for her future and I thank her for her hard work and appreciate her enthusiastic interest.

This summer program is a real gem. It not only draws high school and undergraduate students in the world and rigor or research but it also allows us researchers an opportunity to mentor and see our own work through new eyes.

Chloe Lampros-Monroe

My name is Chloe Lampros-Monroe and I'll be a senior at University High School in Irvine, California for the 2011-2012 school year. Academically, I'm interested in history, the natural sciences, and the visual and performing arts, specifically dance and studio art. Following graduation from high school, I hope to pursue my interests in a college or university setting. This

summer I worked on two projects as part of an internship at the UCI Interdisciplinary Center for the Scientific Study of Ethics and Morality. The first project consisted of analyzing a survey that was designed to assess whether a variety of social, economic, political, and personal factors, such as ethnicity, occupation, and religion just to name a few, have any impact on a person's perspective on altruism and generosity. Working on this project has taught me the basics of analyzing data using the computer program SPSS. I learned how to standardize data, make and use cross-tabs, and finally how to draw conclusions from survey data. This summer I also worked on a second project which involved helping to write a book about how people cope with genocide and war. This book is based on personal interviews with people who had lived through those traumatic experiences. I first edited the interviews and then looked for how the people in the interviews coped with the horrors of their situation. After reading the interviews, I found a general idea of how people cope with war that is supported by specific evidence from personal stories. Both projects that I was involved in this summer are continuations from the survey and interview projects that I was working on last summer. Lastly, people involved with the UCI Ethics Center were able to give me feedback on practice college admissions essays.

Stella Sakhon

This summer I helped finish the Altruism project, which the findings will be included in the book "Morality and Christianity - Strange or Compatible Bedfellows". I did some literature review for altruism and religion. We coded and standardized responses in excel. We also used SPSS to run crosstabs to and consolidated the results into two tables to make conclusions about altruistic actions and if a person considers themselves religious or not and what religion they consider themselves. I was able to apply to practice using excel. I also was able to better understand SPSS. I enjoyed being able to manipulate all the data into a way that allowed us to make conclusions about it. I hope I can gain more research experience in the future and in doing so I hope that what I had learned this summer and last summer will help me.

Julianna Santillan Goode

My name is Julianna Santillan Goode and I will be a senior this fall at University High School. During the summer between my junior and senior years, I was part of an internship with the UCI Interdisciplinary Center for the Scientific Study of Ethics and Morality. I helped to standardize data from a survey that was conducted the previous summer so that the varied responses could be properly analyzed. I also attended meetings with a larger group where I received valuable advice for writing college admissions essays. In the future I hope to attend a four-year university, possibly UCLA, and study history, anthropology, archaeology, or dance.

Tanya Schwarz

In June 2011 I received a generous grant from the UCI Interdisciplinary Center for the Scientific Study of Ethics and Morality. This grant made it possible for me to conduct research abroad for a project titled "Proselytism and Peace: Faith-Based NGOs, Humanitarian Action, and the UNHCR" in which I explore differences in conceptions of evangelism and proselytism in humanitarian work between various Christian faith-based organizations (FBOs).

To that end, between June 27 and July 4, 2011, I conducted observational research and interviews in Geneva, Switzerland. First, I attended the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' (UNHCR) "Annual Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations." I observed the interactions between the UNHCR and faith-based non-governmental organizations (with a specific focus on Christian groups), and took notes on particular ways in which both UN panel members and FBO representatives addressed issues pertaining to evangelism or proselytism. Second, I conducted six interviews with representatives from various FBOs. These interviews lasted between 45 minutes and an hour, and in that time, I questioned the participants extensively about the work their organization took part in, whether or not evangelism was a part of this work, and, in particular, how they defined "evangelism." The preliminary findings were very unexpected and interesting, and I am currently in the process of compiling all the data and transcribing the interviews. The next steps will include the completion of the literature review for this project, the analyzing of the interviews and UN meetings, and the final write-up. I hope to have this completed by late fall quarter.

I am very grateful to the UCI Ethics Center for offering this grant to me, as this research trip not only produced new insights about the role of evangelism in humanitarian work, but it also provided me with invaluable experience in both observation and interviewing.

Johanna Solomon

This summer I have had the pleasure of working with Liu Jiang, a high school intern for the UCI Interdisciplinary Center for the Scientific Study of Ethics and Morality. Liu worked with me on an ongoing project aimed to better understand inter-group tensions and capabilities within the CA college and university systems.

Liu's main project was to tackle the creation of two main contact databases for the UC and Cal State systems. These lists included administrative personnel, newspapers and local media, and relevant government agencies within and surrounding each of these academic institutions. Liu also worked on editing and reviewing a survey for one case study within this project. To complete this work, Liu and I met once a week in person and were in regular email contact as well.

I hope this project has elevated Liu's interest in ethical and psychological concepts and relates to her rigorous work in International Affairs and Speech and Debate. Liu was a pleasure to work with, extremely competent, and lent great insight to the academic work. The opportunity to mentor, now and hopefully in the future, such an outstanding student is one I hope more graduate students will experience.

Shana Hu

Through my internship this summer at the Center, I had the pleasure of assisting Kelly Rivera by delving into the Presidential Daily Diaries of Reagan and Carter to record appendices and any unusual documentation or incorrect date-listings. Kelly and others working on the project then used information I curated to pull documents from the respective Presidential libraries in order to obtain more information regarding how often the President meets with important members of

various agencies or opposing political parties. This information is then used on a larger scale to develop a theory regarding inter-party relations. By working on this project, I was granted the chance to experience the process of conducting research by going through historical documents. I also was able to learn more about inter-party political relations as well as the field of political science in general. Interning at the Center this summer has broadened my horizons regarding the nature of undergraduate as well as graduate research, and I am grateful to have been given this opportunity.

Andrada Costoiu

This summer I was very fortunate to be among the students that have participated in a seminar organized by Professor Kirsten Monroe at UCI Interdisciplinary Center for the Scientific Study of Ethics and Morality.

We were a diverse group, in terms of our interests and also in terms of our academic development. Some of us were graduate students, some were sophomores; some students were researching politics of happiness, some others work on a project on altruism; my personal interest is immigration and immigration policy making. I felt that every meeting that I was attending has contributed to my personal and professional growth, as I did not only talk about my interests but I also had the opportunity to hear about different research projects, which I personally found to be fascinating and very promising. Diversity was such a great thing, very inspiring and intellectually stimulating.

During this seminar I have started a new project, which researches immigration discourse narratives in Germany and United States. I went through a process of learning about the history of immigration of these two countries (their immigration policy making and changes throughout the time; the formation and evolution of their main immigrant groups e.g.) and also about their current situation and the current struggles that vividly animate the political arena of both United States and Germany in the past couple of years.

Along these lines, with the help and encouragement of Professor Monroe, I have written few versions of my dissertation proposal and I am currently trying to have a final version of it. My dissertation will be centered in examining one policy issue, "to take or not to take immigrants?". This question will be posed in relation with three different areas of immigration management: immigration control and admission of new immigrants, illegal immigration (how is illegal immigration framed; what kind of social categories are used to frame illegal immigrants; amnesty or deportation for illegal immigrants?) and policy orientations towards existent immigrant stock (what is the image of principal immigrant groups within each country, as is constructed by political elites through immigration debates; are these images oriented towards the exclusion or inclusion of these groups?). The choice of two federal states (United States and Germany) will give us the possibility to shed light into several important issues: 1) current policy orientations, changes and differences between the policy orientations of these two states in regards with their illegal immigration, admission and control of new immigrants and integration of existing immigrant groups; 2) differences in the way political elites frame their immigration problems within these three areas and try to build consensus on these problems through immigration debates, depending on their level of authority(in US authority over immigration

control lies at the federal level, while in Germany we have almost an opposite situation); 3) differences in the way the principal immigrant groups are framed and viewed in the two countries (this part of research will mainly be centered on two principal immigrant groups within the two countries, the Turks in Germany and the Mexicans in United States) .

In parallel with writing my proposal I also started to familiarize with a methodological approach that I have never utilized in my previous academic research (content and discourse analysis) and new research tools (Atlas ti and Yoshikoder, two computer programs that perform content analysis).

I want to thank Professor Kirsten Monroe, for all her support and dedication. She is a great mentor and a truly dedicated faculty; I consider myself very fortunate to have the privilege of working with her.

I wish everybody good luck with their projects and a wonderful academic year ahead!

Andrea Vandom

With the assistance from the Ethics Center, I was able to participate in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) internship program in Vienna, Austria from June 30 – August 30, 2011. This experience was invaluable and enhanced my academic work.

I worked in the Justice Section of the UNODC, which focuses on making the criminal justice systems in developing countries more humane and bringing them closer to the international standards. For example, the Justice Section assists governments address prisoner overcrowding and malnutrition where there are high rates of death and disease, develop record-keeping systems where the prisoners are admitted to prison but never recorded, abolish the death penalty, train police officers to respond to cases of violence against women, create processes that are sensitive to the particular needs of children, among many others.

During the three months, I was directly involved and learned first-hand the methods persons within intergovernmental agencies use to persuade government to adopt more humane practices and procedures. I had the opportunity to see several steps of the project implementation process: evaluating state practices against international standards, project development, funding requests, project implementation and evaluations. Given my research interests, this was the perfect place for me.

The experience will improve the quality of my future research. Witnessing the daily functions of the UNODC staff gave me a practical picture of methods used to influence governments and the limitations of its influence. As I was listening and watching the staff interact with governments, I reflected on my research interests: How and why do states incorporate international human rights standards domestically? What are state preferences in regards to human rights, and what mechanisms cause them to change? And finally, what role do inter-governmental organizations play in these processes?

I now have a practical picture of the workings of the United Nations, the political issues at hand and government-institution relationships, and will be better prepared to methodically answer these questions in the future. Also, I will be more effective as I approach future research in this area, as I know what types of internal documentation exists and have access to them through the contacts I made.

I would like to share one particular example of how the information I learned has helped me improve my research approach already. Prior to arriving at my internship, I had a design for a quantitative research project. One of the variables I intended on using was “countries’ annual financial contribution to the United Nations” to see if that had an effect on supranational judicial outcomes. I had discussed this variable with a few colleagues and professors, and it seemed straightforward. What I did not know was that the figure I was looking at was countries’ *required* financial contributions, which are only about 20% of the United Nations annual budget. The other 80% is made up of countries’ and NGOs *voluntary* contributions. I see now how the original variable I was going to use is inappropriate for the outcome I was looking to measure. This is just one small example of lessons learned, there are many, many more.

I am very, very thankful for the support of the Ethics Center. It was an amazing learning experience.

Intern June 2010



June 2010

To whom it may concern,

During the spring of 2010, I was invited by Professor Kristen Renwick Monroe to spend some months as a visiting scholar at UCI, Center for the Scientific Study of Ethics and Morality. The

stay was financed by a scholarship for the internationalizing of Swedish academia rewarded to only a few Swedish PhD candidates every year.

During my stay, I had the opportunity to undertake interviews with UCI students for my PhD thesis, as well as to present several aspects of my PhD thesis on various seminars, one conference, and also in more informal talks with individual Professors.

I began by presenting the over-all argument in the three articles that form my PhD thesis in the Ethics workshop, directed by Professor Monroe. Later on, in the same workshop, I also presented ideas on how to structure the interviews I would undertake.

I also met individually with Shawn Rosenberg and Russell Dalton, the latter of who kindly read a paper of mine that is currently under review at British Journal of Political Science, offering some very helpful advice and comments. I also participated in a seminar on political theory and Plato with Keith Topper.

In May, I presented a draft of one of my more theoretical articles, regarding how to interpret Isaiah Berlin's critique of positive freedom, on a colloquium in political theory (arranged by Kevin Olson and attended by approximately 12 people). The discussion and comments were invigorating and helpful.

I also presented one of the papers that forms my PhD thesis at a panel on the annual graduate student conference hosted by the Center for the Study of Democracy, organized by Bernard Grofman. My discussant, Evan Schofer, gave me interesting feedback and good advice.

Finally, I undertook 38 face-to-face semi-structured interviews with UCI students from the Human Subjects Research Pool, which I will use in my third article in my PhD thesis, as well as later, and compare with similar Swedish interviews that will take place in the fall of 2010.

I am very grateful to Professor Kristen Monroe, as well as her colleagues, and of course also Sandy Cushman, for making my stay possible and rewarding.

Gina Gustavsson

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