

Groven Charlotte (GOVERNANCE)

From: Groven Charlotte (GOVERNANCE)

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Maastricht Graduate School of Governance



E-Gazette

November 2008 - In this E-Gazette:

- | Your job or a PhD: You don't have to choose!
Dual Career PhD programme in Governance and Policy Analysis (GPAC²)
- | Our Mexican research fellows in Tajikistan:
Conducting a cost-benefit analysis of child protection policies
- | Governance Indicators and Assessments: Impact and Future Trends: Advanced Academic Update January 21 and 22
- | Nice to meet you ... Esther Schüring
- | Alumni Day October 3rd
Back to School
Our Trip to Maastricht for MGSOG Alumni Day, by Neil Tagoe
- | Upcoming events

Your job or a PhD: You don't have to choose!

Dual Career PhD programme in Governance and Policy Analysis (GPAC²)

November 17-21, 2008. The Maastricht Graduate School of Governance hosted the second cohort of GPAC² PhD fellows, for their final week of the basic training programme of their first year. During this visit, the fellows followed basic courses in Analysis of Policy Processes, Interview Techniques and participated in the workshops to discuss their research proposals for the PhD. In January the fellows will complete their first year, by submitting their research proposals.

The Dual Career PhD programme in Governance and Policy Analysis (GPAC²), the only global dual career PhD programme worldwide, offers policy analysts and consultants from the public and private sector the

opportunity to participate in courses, seminars and workshops that support their ambitions and intensify their research and analytical skills. The programme is designed to fit the needs and possibilities of researchers with a daily job and optimises the conditions allowing the participants to combine their careers with finishing a PhD. The key lecturers of the programme are leading scholars in the field of policy analysis and the supporting areas like governance, risk management, sustainable development and social protection.

In March, the third cohort of GPAC2 fellows will start their PhD careers, and the fellows from cohort one and two that continued their research career are proceeding successfully with their research and analysis and participate in our specific GPAC2 events twice a year.

Are you interested in this programme? [Click here for information](#) or contact us by e-mail at: info-gov@governance.unimaas.nl
Deadline for applications: 10 January, 2009

Our Mexican research fellows in Tajikistan:

Conducting a cost-benefit analysis of child protection policies

Earlier this year, UNICEF asked our school to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of child protection policies that have been implemented as pilot programs in Tajikistan. Our main tasks are to generate financial information to facilitate the transfer of ownership of these policies from UNICEF and other actors to the government of Tajikistan, as well as to issue recommendations for their implementation in the whole country. Very recently, in August of this year, the Tajik government published a decree according to which child rights departments should be created at the sub-national levels, in every *oblast* and *rayon*. This action is seen by many stakeholders as a first good step to move from the Soviet-style child protection system that is based on closed care institutions to a modern system that enhances the permanence of children in families. In this respect, the programs that we are evaluating are seen as complementary actions, as they include components like a guardianship system, day care centers, alternative juvenile justice programs and centers for the integral rehabilitation and treatment of children with disabilities.



To gain insight into the Tajik context, during our first three missions we held appointments with people with different affiliations, including local authorities, representatives of international organizations, people from international and

national non-governmental organizations, and staff from development agencies of several countries. We have interviewed some of the main

actors, as well: children and their families; care-givers at the current closed institutions; institutionalized children and teenagers who spent their childhood in closed institutions.

During our second mission, we visited Isfara, a district that is located in the northern part of the country, in the Sughd oblast. It was a very productive trip in terms of gathering information, but also in terms of understanding the diversity of the Tajik society. We learned that in some parts of the country, for instance, people don't speak Russian, whereas in the capital, Dushanbe, Russian is the main language. Although working with two translators became at some points really challenging, it was a great experience to visit many places and interacting with many local people.

While traveling around the country collecting primary and secondary data for the cost-benefit analysis, we had the chance to enjoy nature and the Tajik cultural heritage. As part of the weekend's program, we enjoyed hiking in the Tajik country-



side and visiting the last castle built by Alexander the Great. We must admit that it was also a nice experience trying the different versions of *plov*, a rice-based dish, that are served in Tajikistan. In every place, of course, local people claimed that their plov was the very best.

Meeting Tajik people and, especially, spending time listening to children and learning from them, while sharing a piece of bread and tea, has been a wonderful experience. Furthermore, being part of the efforts to improve children's conditions in Tajikistan has been not only exciting and demanding, but also highly motivating.

U.S. Elections 2008: Food for thought

US Election Debate: Obama or McCain: Who's best for Europe?

With the enormous interest for the U.S. Elections the School of Governance organized two events around the two leading actors of these historical elections. Less than a month before the first black president



was elected the two foreign policy advisors of the Republicans and the Democrats debated on which candidate would be best for Europe. More than six hundred people witnessed a rather friendly discussion between Ivo Daalder (Democrats) and Tod Linberg (Republicans) about hot issues as the financial crisis, Georgia, Afghanistan, nuclear weapons, free trade and climate change.

Former British Home Secretary Charles Clarke represented the European Voice and spiced up the evening by sharing his views on the ideal future for both Europe and the U.S.



Obama or McCain for Breakfast?
Around 150 students and staff of Maastricht University attended the U.S. Election Breakfast on November 5th, 2008, organized by the Montesquieu Institute (Faculty of Law) and the Maastricht

Graduate School of Governance. The first students arrived at 7 am. While participants enjoyed a real American breakfast, the latest results and the many repeats of Barack Obama's already legendary acceptance speech via CNN and BBC were watched on large tv screens. The spectacular results of these historic presidential elections and the high expectations of the 44th president of the United States were discussed during a lively panel debate lead by Jan Tromp, journalist and former U.S. correspondent for de Volkskrant, with dr. Philipp Kiiver (Faculty of Law), dr. Roberta Haar (UCM), dr. Jaap Hoogenboezem (Faculty of Arts) and Denny Merideth (U.S. Embassy, The Hague). The debate focused on issues such as the new power balance in Washington, U.S. foreign policy, the electoral process, and the crucial importance of the transition period.

Governance Indicators and Assessments: Impact and Future Trends: Advanced Academic Update January 21 and 22

In cooperation with the European Centre for Development Policy Management we offer this Advanced Academic Update state-of-the-art knowledge for academics and professionals working in the area of governance research.

The supply and use of governance assessments and indicators are booming. The aim of this Advanced Academic Update (AAU) is to discuss (1) purpose, assumptions and impact of the proliferation of governance assessments and indicators on developing countries, (2) the "benchmark model" behind the mainstream governance assessments as well as missing elements, and (3) the new trend towards "actionable indicators". Participants will learn about the latest developments in governance research and their applicability for work in

the field and constructive suggestions for future work will be provided.

The sessions on the first day give an overview of governance indicators and assessments; discuss the underlying assumptions, the purposes they serve and their impact on developing countries. The second day discusses experiences from developed countries with managing indicators and assessments and analyses the trend towards "actionable" indicators for developing countries. The AAU concludes with a stocktaking of emerging experiences, lessons learned and suggestions for future research and standards to improve the quality and relevance of governance indicators and assessments.

Please [click here](#) for more information about the programme, speakers and registration procedure >>

Nice to meet you ...

Research Fellow Esther Schüring

Hello, my name is Esther, I am originally from Germany and I am one of the new PhD fellows at the school. Starting the PhD programme has been special to me in many regards: 1) *it has been an stimulating change* after having worked in the area of social protection for GTZ for the past 4 years, mainly as a technical advisor to social ministries, 2) *it has been an interesting geographic shift* back to Europe after 4 years in mostly Sub-Saharan Africa where I spent the longest time in Zambia and 3) to some extent *it has been a positive surprise* for someone who thought that after finishing her last exams for the Master programmes in the US (international development studies) and in Germany (languages, economics and cultural studies) she would leave the academic world for good. Inspired by my work on social protection in Sub-Saharan Africa, I would like to focus in my dissertation on the area of social assistance in developing countries. In particular, I plan to analyze the impact of conditionalities on the effectiveness of social cash transfer programmes and the potential trade-offs that conditionalities bring along. I hope to contribute with my research to not only closing a knowledge gap but also to better informed policy making in the area of social protection. I equally look forward to taking some of the inspiration I get through the PhD programme and the community back to the working world in the end.



Alumni Day October 3rd

Back to School

On October 3rd the School of Governance hosted its first Alumni Day since its foundation in October 2004. The School was pleased to welcome 50 alumni, even all the way from Africa and the Middle East, who experienced what has become of the School since their graduation. Apart from a lot of catching up to do, the alumni were invited to debate about Europe and the New World Order with Guy Verhofstadt, former prime-minister of Belgium. Afterwards the alumni exchanged their points of view concerning the challenges they face in their current positions, the communication with stakeholders in the policy making process and their endless ambitions.

During the evening, the alumni, PhD fellows and staff put their know-how of Governance issues, the School and its' programmes to the test. The winning team, went home with the Alumni Quiz Cup and a medal. To show that they got wiser but certainly not older the crowd danced until far after midnight to the global beats. The ambiance of the whole day was so special, it's hard to put down in words. Next time, make sure you're part of it!

Our Trip to Maastricht for MGSOG Alumni Day, by Neil Tagoe

When the train arrived at Maastricht in the morning of 1st October 2008 from Amsterdam Schiphol, it quickly brought back good memories of my days at Maastricht University five years ago. It was nothing more than the euphoria of a home coming. My colleague Theophilus Afenya just whispered to my hearing 'we are home'. The bus took us through town to Endepolsdomein to meet Robert Bauchumuller our host and you can imagine the 'feeling' of meeting an old school mate whom you haven't seen for those long years. Maastricht is really been transformed over five years with structures popped up all around.



After settling down and eating Robert's welcome dish, we were taken to the new site of MGSOG and that was an amazing edifice for an academia. We were so happy to meet Professor Chris de Neubourg again. Other members of his crew who were still around at the time of the day

were introduced to us as we were shown round the building. In fact I must say kudos to the Prof. and his crew for a job well done. I enjoyed every aspect of the alumni day starting from the opening ceremony through the workshops to the party with the DJ. Even though I had some reservations with the DJ's performance, I believe it was a night to be remembered. Mieke's disco light did the trick! Meeting some of my mates Lina, Olesya, Agnieszka and her son was just an overflow of joy.

The second day was quite refreshing when we came together for the football match. It brought back some of my old time skills and we really had fun even though my team lost by 2 goals to 3. I'm looking forward to the return match during the next alumni



conference to win. Look out for the pictures on the icool to ascertain what really took place at the pitch. We had Gooooo fun!! Sorry if you missed the fun! If you are alumni who attended this conference, I don't know who hosted you, but I must say Robert was the best for us and thumbs up for him. We were really home! And looking forward to the next one whichever place it will be held we hope to attend.

Upcoming events:

- [Research Conference Solutions for a complex world Governance, Conflict and Crisis, and Aid Effectiveness \(24 and 25 November\)](#)
 - [Charity Ball \(29 November\)](#)
 - [MGSoG Seminar Series: Measuring Multiple Deprivation at the small area in South Africa & Using a democratic approach to measure poverty in South Africa using socially perceived necessities approach](#)
 - [MGSoG Movie Series: The Devil Came on Horseback \(December 8th\)](#)
- For more upcoming events, please [click here](#)

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Maastricht Graduate School of Governance Universiteit Maastricht
P.O. Box 616, 6200 MD Maastricht, The Netherlands Phone: +31 43 3884650, Fax: +31 43 3884864 E-mail info-gov@governance.unimaas.nl Website www.governance.unimaas.nl