

INTEGRATED LAND MANAGEMENT

Workshop and Internship Program for Graduate Students

Call for Applications

- A. Intensive Week-long Workshop: Land Management in Theory and Practice**
(May 11-17, 2017, Cornell campus) (p. 1)
- B. Summer 2017 Research Internships with Partner Organizations** (p. 2-9)
- C. Application information for both opportunities** (p. 10)

Eligibility:

These opportunities are open to Cornell M.S. students and early Ph.D. students (1st-3rd year) from any related Cornell program (including but not limited to natural resources, development sociology, earth sciences, engineering, applied economics, law, history, atmospheric and earth sciences, hydrology, soil and crop sciences, ecology, etc.).

- The May workshop is open to both continuing and graduating students of any nationality.
- The internship program (which includes the May workshop, summer research experience, and a Fall 2017 1-credit seminar) is open to continuing Cornell graduate students who are U.S. citizens/nationals/permanent residents who will enroll at Cornell in Fall 2017.

A. Graduate Student Research Skills Workshop (May 11-17, 2017)

Cornell's new initiative in Integrated Land Management is excited to invite graduate students to participate in a week-long workshop that will provide an integrated, interdisciplinary set of skills, capacity-building, and experiences around the multi-faceted topic of land management. The workshop will include theoretical, empirical, and research training sessions on themes related to the question of how to approach land use from a perspective that integrates history, law, engineering, ecology, atmospheric science, genetics, anthropology and more. Specific research skills discussed will include historical and archival research methods, cost-benefit analysis, program evaluation, systems level analysis, interview methods, integrated watershed management, and land use and climate interactions. Speakers at the workshop include Cornell faculty and invited off-campus guests.

The workshop will run May 11-17, 2017 between 9-5:00, plus dinner and evening activities on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Lunches will be provided. We will take field trips to local farms on Friday afternoon. No activities will be scheduled for Sunday 5/14. Some workshop sessions will be at Cornell and others downtown. Participants are excused from any sessions that conflict with their final exams.

The workshop will engage students in a concurrent [Farm-to-Plate Conference](#) bringing together multiple sectors of our food system (practitioners, scholars, and community members) to celebrate the vibrant food and farming culture of the Finger Lakes region and link theory with practice on the themes of agroecology, food justice, and general wellbeing through panel keynote dinners, discussions, workshops, field trips, and more. Confirmed conference Keynote speakers and panelists include Malik Yakini, Executive Director of the Detroit Black Food Security Coalition; Karen Washington, Rise and Root Farm; Ernesto Mendez, Associate Professor of Agroecology & Environmental Studies, UVM; Hannah Wittman, Academic Director, Center for Sustainable Food Systems, UBC; Jamila Simon, NYS 4-H Citizenship & Civic Engagement Specialist & Project G.I.V.E.; and Rafael Aponte, Rocky Acres Community Farm.

Several students who participate in the workshop will also be awarded summer research internships with partner organizations around the world under guidance from Cornell faculty mentors. The applications for both the research skills workshop and summer research internships are on the last page of this document.

B. Summer 2017 Research Internships with Partner Organizations

Internship Program Overview:

- Participate in an interdisciplinary workshop in Ithaca May 11-17, 2017 on integrative land management research methods;
- Conduct research with a partner organization on a co-designed topic related to land management for 7-10 weeks of full-time work this summer;
- Write a research report and present results for your host organization; and
- In Fall 2017, attend a 1-credit seminar and present results to the Cornell community.

Summary of Internship Opportunities (see later pages for more details): In all cases, the objective for the internship is to produce research of relevance both to the partner organization and to the student using, to the extent possible and practical, the tools developed during the weeklong workshop.

1. **Soils, Food and Healthy Communities (Malawi and/or Ithaca):** Jointly conduct research with smallholder farmers who use agroecological methods and participatory community education on nutrition and social equity in Malawi through interviews, participatory mapping of communities, photo-voice work, crop yield and soil measurements, interview coding, data analysis, and/or website article writing.
2. **Keystone Foundation (Southern India):** Engage with indigenous communities in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve on land governance issues to understand and realize the social, economic, and ecological implications of the Forest Rights Act, a program of formal recognition of land rights of indigenous people. Design and execute a piece of research (village fieldwork, household surveys, data analysis) that contributes to larger ongoing efforts to support forest-based livelihoods, health, and conservation.
3. **Bahir Dar University's Integrated Water Management Program (Ethiopia):** Collaborate with Ethiopian researchers and smallholder farmers to study gully and upland erosion, irrigation of garden crops, or water availability of the hillslope aquifers by taking field measurements, writing up the results, analyzing previously collected data, and producing web pages.
4. **The Nature Conservancy (Ithaca):** Contribute to a multi-state collaborative research project between Cornell and The Nature Conservancy examining the barriers and opportunities for agroecological practices for farmers while based in Ithaca for the summer by interviewing vegetable farmers around New York State about agroecological methods, assisting with transcription and/or coding, analyzing data, and writing up results. This position requires driving a vehicle (provided).
5. **Oxfam South Africa (Johannesburg):** Work as a part of a research team with Oxfam South Africa to document the alternative livelihood strategies of communities resisting mining, including agriculture and tourism.
6. **Oxfam in Tajikistan (remote work from Ithaca or elsewhere):** Collaborate with Oxfam's Gendered Enterprise and Markets (GEM) program in Tajikistan to help Oxfam critically reflect on its approach and strategies, aiming to use the learning to improve future work. Also, help

Oxfam amplify findings to various audiences who could feasibly apply the learning, for example, to other Oxfam country offices and practitioners working on land or women's empowerment.

7. CARE Peru (Ithaca with an optional/encouraged 1-2+ week visit to CARE Peru in Lima):
Collaborate with CARE Peru and Cornell researchers to write and submit a Spanish language journal article about recent joint research on nutrition, agriculture, and climate change.

8. CARE USA (3 in Tanzania through a separate application process that has now closed)

Internship Program Division of Responsibilities

Intern (Cornell Graduate Student)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Before beginning your research internship, finalize a project plan including expected deliverables and deadlines agreed upon by you, your host organization supervisor, and your Cornell faculty mentor. And then be flexible. Rarely does everything go as planned while doing fieldwork, so be prepared to adapt your plan as necessary and still deliver high-quality deliverables. 2. If conducting research on human subjects, as far in advance as possible, apply for Cornell IRB approval/exemption: https://www.irb.cornell.edu/ 3. Conduct internship research in partnership with your host organization, respecting and addressing their needs while consulting your Cornell faculty mentor as needed. 4. Respect the confidentiality of information from and about host organization programs and participants. 5. Analyze and write up results with feedback from your host supervisor and faculty mentor. Develop & submit high-quality final versions of deliverables by 8/18/17. 6. If you receive any publicity (whether abroad, at Cornell, or elsewhere), please let us know. We keep a list for use with future grant applications, fundraising, etc.
Intern Supervisor (Host Organization Staff)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finalize internship scope of work (and internship dates) together with intern by 5/10/17. 2. Coordinate logistics arrangements for interns working internationally. 3. Mentor the internship research and provide feedback on work throughout the summer, including on drafts of the research report. 4. Inform intern of how to properly credit your organization (including logos use if desired) in final reports and other potential internship products. 5. Arrange an opportunity for the intern to present results to others in your organization.
Intern Mentor (Cornell Faculty)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide support and advice as needed on intern research plans and methods, IRB applications / research ethics, etc. 2. Provide feedback on research reports.

Internship Deliverables – final drafts due by 8/18/17:

1. Write an analytical research report for your host organization of your research, analysis, and findings. Include a 1-paragraph executive summary and a detailed description of your methodology. Send final draft copies to your host supervisor, faculty mentor, and program manager by 8/18 for feedback. [You will peer review other interns' reports, finalize your own report, and present results to the Cornell campus through the fall 1-credit seminar.]
2. Provide your full original dataset (if appropriate) to your host.
3. Provide at least 3-5 high-quality photos from your fieldwork for promoting the program, fundraising, and reporting results, etc.
4. Develop a presentation of your results to give at your host organization.

Funding:

All interns will receive a summer research fellowship of \$5,300 to support internship-related expenses including transportation, passport/visa/travel vaccine expenses, living expenses, stipend, etc.

Internship Program Conditions: If I am offered and accept an internship, the following terms apply.

- a) **Status:** I am a U.S. citizen/national/permanent resident and will be a continuing Cornell graduate student. I am eligible to—and plan to—enroll at Cornell in the term following the internship (Fall 2017).
- b) **Confidentiality:** As a research intern, I will respect the confidentiality of any information that I collect from and about my host organization's programs and participants.
- c) **Insurance Coverage:** I agree to carry adequate regular medical insurance during the internship. Neither Cornell nor my host organization will pay for medical insurance costs or medical expenses. Cornell will provide emergency medical evacuation and repatriation insurance for interns who are continuing Cornell students doing university research abroad.
- d) **Passports and Visas:** I am responsible for obtaining a passport and a visa if required.
- e) **Additional Agreements:** I agree to complete and sign additional paperwork from Cornell and host organization partners as requested. For international internships: a Standards of Conduct for Cornell Students Abroad form, a Cornell medical self-disclosure form, and a Cornell hold-harmless form.

The following pages contain information about specific internships.

1) Soils, Food and Healthy Communities Organization: <http://soilandfood.org/>

Internship location: Malawi and/or Ithaca

Project title: Building Sustainable and Equitable Food Systems using Participatory Communication and Agroecology in Malawi

Supervisor: Esther Lupafya

Cornell faculty mentor: Rachel Bezner Kerr (Development Sociology)

Internship description:

These internships are linked to ongoing participatory research, based in Malawi, led by the Soils, Food and Healthy Communities organization. The overall farmer-led approach aims to identify viable ways that agroecology, participatory communication and local food enterprises can foster sustainable diets and livelihoods for rural communities in Malawi. The methodology is participatory and transdisciplinary, using a longitudinal mixed methods research design with 600 new households, and tracking 6000 households with ongoing involvement in the project. Interviews, surveys, agricultural data and participatory monitoring will be used to assess changes in production, diets, income and social dynamics over time.

Key responsibilities:

The intern/s will spend time getting to understand the SFHC organization and the research project and will help to design and carry out research activities in Malawi with smallholder farmers who are utilizing agroecological methods. The research activities will utilize a range of methods, as determined by the broader research team, such as: interviews, participatory mapping of communities; photo-voice; yield and soil measurements. The student intern/s will code and begin preliminary analysis of the research, and write a report based on their findings. The students may also be involved in writing for the SFHC website.

Desired student qualifications:

- Flexibility and willingness to learn
- Ability to work in a team with a diverse range of perspectives
- Knowledge of sustainable agriculture methods such as agroecology
- International experience in rural settings in the Global South
- Knowledge of participatory research methodologies
- Familiarity with Excel, Word or similar programs
- Familiarity with some of the following research methods: interviews, focus groups, yield measurement, participatory mapping, use of GIS
- Website management, social media skills desirable but not required

2) Keystone Foundation, India: <http://keystone-foundation.org/>

Internship location: Kotagiri, Tamil Nadu, India

Project title: The Forest Rights Act and sustainable livelihoods in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve of India

Supervisor: Pratim Roy

Cornell faculty mentor: Steven Wolf (Natural Resources)

Internship description:

This internship is linked to ongoing community-engaged research based in Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve in Southern India conducted within the Nilgiris Field Learning Center (NFLC), a partnership between Cornell and the Keystone Foundation. The NFLC works with indigenous communities to support forest-based livelihoods, health, and conservation. The intern will work on land governance. Specifically, the internship is part of an effort to engage with local people to understand and realize the social, economic, and ecological implications of the Forest Rights Act, a program of formal recognition of land rights of indigenous people.

Key responsibilities:

The intern will come to understand the philosophy and approach of NFLC and will work with the Forest Rights Act research team to design and execute a piece of research that contributes to the larger effort. Research will involve fieldwork in villages and work on the Keystone campus in Kotagiri. Methods will include household surveys and interviews as determined by the broader research team. The student intern will also analyze survey data collected by members of the research team and write a report based on their findings.

Desired student qualifications:

- Flexibility and willingness to learn
- Ability to work in a team with a diverse range of perspectives
- Cross-cultural competence
- International experience in rural settings
- Familiarity with some of the following research methods: household surveying and interviewing, use of GIS, basic statistics

3) Integrated Water Management Program, Faculty of Civil and Water Resources Engineering and Blue Nile Water Institute, University of Bahir Dar, Bahir Dar, Ethiopia

Internship location: Bahir Dar, Ethiopia

Project Title: Integrated Watershed Management in the sub-humid Ethiopian highlands

Supervisors: Seifu Tilahun, Mamaru Moges

Cornell faculty mentor: Tammo Steenhuis (Biological and Environmental Engineering)

Internship description:

The rapidly growing population in Ethiopia together with foreign investment in land (land grabs) are putting pressure on the natural resource base. Upland and gully erosion is rampant, threatening the livelihood of smallholder farmers, and sediments are filling up the hydroelectric power and irrigation reservoirs. Groundwater irrigation is being introduced, but water availability during the dry monsoon phase is limited. To combat erosion and to increase productivity, the students and faculty of the Integrated Water Management Program at the University of Bahir Dar, with Cornell's participation, have been engaged over the last 10 years in research on integrated watershed management that has resulted in better practices that are being incorporated in the new governmental guidelines. The internship involves working together with PhD and MSc students in this program in close cooperation with smallholder farmers with the main aim of either evaluating and improving soil and water conservation practices, finding ways to rehabilitate gullies, estimating the extent of gully expansion using remote sensing, or improving irrigation techniques for mostly woman smallholder farmers.

Key responsibilities: The intern/s will work closely with the faculty, students, and smallholder farmers in one or two watersheds. The first week will consist of becoming familiar the surroundings including the beautiful Lake Tana and choosing a research project of interest dealing with gully and upland erosion, irrigation of garden crops, or water availability of the hillslope aquifers. Research in the remaining weeks will involve taking field measurements, analyzing previously collected data, writing up the results, and producing web pages.

Desired student qualifications:

- Experience in developing countries or a strong desire to obtain this experience
- Willingness to live in an environment where internet accessibility is intermittent
- Ability to work with a team of students, researchers, and smallholder farmers
- Basic knowledge of water management, soil conservation or irrigation
- Familiarity with natural resource management and techniques
- Knowledge of GIS, remote sensing, and website management is helpful but not required

Notes: Prof. Steenhuis has experience collaborating with Bahir Dar University and USAID over multiple years. Approval Cornell's International Travel Advisory and Response Team (ITART), which reviews the security situation in all travel warning countries in place by the US Department of State and additional countries designated by Cornell's emergency insurance provider (Frontier Medex) of high risk, has approved preliminary plans for this internship.

4) The Nature Conservancy: <http://www.nature.org>

Project title: Adoption of Agroecological Farming Practices in Specialty Crops: Incentives, Barriers, and Outcomes

Internship location: Ithaca, New York, with regular daylong travel within 2-3 hours of Ithaca (multiple times per week for part of the internship)

Supervisors:

- Jeff Liebert, PhD student, Cornell, project manager and collaborator (primary)
- Sasha Gennet, Senior Scientist, California, project PI
- Rebecca Benner, Science Director, New York, project co-PI

Cornell faculty mentors: Rachel Bezner Kerr (primary) and Matt Ryan

Internship description: Produce growers are increasingly expected to not only provide safe, healthy, and affordable food to consumers, but to do so in ways that reduce or reverse the effects of intensive agricultural practices on the environment. Many on-farm practices that have a positive impact on the environment, such as cover cropping, diverse crop rotations, and non-crop vegetation management, have also been shown to be beneficial for farm productivity. Although some of these practices are supported through incentive programs, relatively few farmers have adopted or consistently used these management practices. Our project goal is to more fully understand the complex decision-making that leads to, or does not lead to, adoption and continued use of diversified, ecological farming practices.

In the summer of 2017, we will conduct a series of interviews with farmers in New York and California who manage small- to large-scale, conventional or organic farming operations. The information growers provide will allow us to understand what drives or hinders adoption of these practices at multiple scales and across a range of operation types. This information will be useful for the development of programs and incentives that reflect the needs of growers.

As the graduate student intern on this project, you will conduct on-farm interviews multiple times per week in the summer with vegetable farmers throughout New York State, as well as transcribe and code the interview recordings. We will provide training for these tasks. As a member of this highly interdisciplinary team, you will be provided opportunities to work both collaboratively and independently.

Key Responsibilities: The intern will interview vegetable farmers in New York State; drive a university vehicle; and assist with transcription and/or coding, data analysis, and write-up as part of a multi-state collaborative research project between Cornell and The Nature Conservancy.

Desired student qualifications: Experience in farming, social scientific research (e.g., interviewing, transcribing, and coding), and/or natural resources management/conservation biology.

The intern will be expected to maintain a valid driver's license and drive a Cornell lab vehicle (provided). To gain approval to drive this vehicle, the intern will need to submit their driver's license and driving record through a simple process to obtain Cornell risk management approval to be covered under Cornell's vehicle liability insurance program.

Timing: This internship position is for summer 2017 with a preferred start date of May 22, 2017. Given the need to get the interviews done as soon as possible, it would be best for vacation time to be taken later in the summer. If the intern can continue in the fall, that is something we are interested in exploring.

5) Oxfam South Africa: <https://www.oxfam.org/en/countries/south-africa>

Internship location: Johannesburg, South Africa

Project title: Alternative rural livelihoods

Oxfam supervisor: Ronald Wesso, Oxfam South Africa Research and policy lead

Cornell faculty mentor: Student applicants for this position are expected to ask a Cornell professor to be their summer research mentor for this project, including advising you on your research methodology development and IRB application (if needed) and providing feedback on deliverables like your research report. In your application, please note which Cornell professor has agreed to advise you if you are granted this internship if you have determined this already.

Internship description:

Land and natural resources rights feature strongly in Oxfam's efforts to end the injustice of poverty. Oxfam implements land related projects in conjunction with local partners across over 40 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Our work includes supporting civil society platforms on land policy, leading global campaigns to address land grabbing, and assisting marginalized groups to gain recognition of land rights. This includes working with farmers and fishers to defend their right to life-sustaining resources, and campaigning so that they will receive free, prior and informed consent to get their fair share of the planning and revenues in oil, gas and mining projects. Intertwined with these issues, Oxfam promotes policies and practices that challenge and redress unequal power relations between women and men in all our work.

Oxfam South Africa has been working with communities resisting mining for about a year. The resistance is understood by community members as a defense of their existing and future livelihood strategies, which are threatened by the effects of mining on their land. OZA is launching a research project to document the alternative livelihood strategies of the communities resisting mining. These include agriculture and tourism. The intern will work as part of the OZA research team.

Key responsibilities:

- Assisting with formulating research plan including interview schedules;
- Desktop research into land-based livelihood strategies among poor communities in South Africa and beyond;
- Conducting interviews;
- Taking part in data analysis;
- Co-writing research report.

6) Desk research internship with Oxfam in Tajikistan (based in Ithaca or elsewhere)

<https://www.oxfam.org/en/countries/tajikistan>

Project title: Addressing barriers to women's economic empowerment in Tajikistan

Oxfam supervisor: Masuda Saidova

Internship description: Since 2013, Oxfam's Gendered Enterprise and Markets (GEM) programme in Tajikistan has worked to identify and address the multiple barriers to empowering rural women. There have been a number of strategies employed, including establishing and strengthening producer groups, training and supporting market linkages. There has also been a particular focus on addressing the barriers to women's land ownership by working with a partner, League of Women Lawyers of Tajikistan, to establish legal clinics, do legal training, support court cases, and advocate to change national policies. The latter has achieved success, with the government since changing land policies to be more favourable for women.

The internship provides an opportunity for Oxfam staff, partners and relevant stakeholders in-country to critically reflect on their approach and strategies with a view to use the learning to improve future work. It also aims to amplify the findings to various audiences who could feasibly apply the learning, for example, to other Oxfam staff and country offices and other practitioners working on land or women's empowerment.

This internship position is full-time over the summer, and you may work from a location you choose (Cornell or elsewhere with reliable high-speed internet and phone connections and access to Cornell's online library resources).

Key responsibilities: The intern will work closely with the Oxfam team, the League of Women Lawyers of Tajikistan, and other relevant stakeholders to better understand the ways in which the programme has attempted to address land as a key barrier to women's economic empowerment and how these strategies may have contributed to change. The intern should strive to enable learning both in the way they conduct the work (for example, by making the process participatory and in a way that encourages stakeholder reflection) and in how they socialize and communicate the findings and with whom.

Desired student qualifications:

- Flexibility and willingness to learn and adapt
- Good listening and documenting skills
- Cross-cultural sensitivity
- Commitment to research into use (including research processes that enable learning)
- Communications experience desirable

7) CARE Peru (based at Cornell with an encouraged 1-2+ week visit to CARE Peru)

http://www.care-cornell.com/uploads/9/3/9/5/93950490/peru_food_and_climate_brief.final.pdf

Project title: Publishing food security, nutrition, and climate change research with CARE Peru

Project locations: Ithaca, NY with an optional encouraged 1-2+ week visit to CARE Peru in Lima

Cornell mentors: Prof. David Lee

CARE Peru supervisor: Walter Vilchez

Internship description: Prepare a journal article for submission based on recently completed Cornell fieldwork with CARE Peru and submit it for publication in a Spanish language journal. This work can mostly be done from Cornell with a 1-2+ week trip to Lima, Peru. This intern will be a co-author on the paper written.

Key responsibilities: Read the recently-completed English-language [Cornell M.S. thesis](#). Work with supervisors to outline and write a Spanish-language article. This project will involve mostly writing but possibly also some new data analyses and may use description results not published yet in English language journals.

There are two articles that CARE Peru would like to publish, and the intern can discuss with co-authors at Cornell and CARE whether to spend the summer writing an article on dietary diversity and links to agriculture (to publish in a Peru national nutrition journal) or writing an article more related to agriculture, nutrition, and climate change (to publish in a Peru cultural journal).

Desired student qualifications:

- Advanced or fluent written and spoken Spanish.
- Experience writing research reports and articles.
- Experience making figures and tables from data.
- Experience using Stata might be helpful but is not required.
- Interest and motivation to continue with the project beyond the summer as needed to work with other article co-authors to complete the journal article submission and revision process.
- Ability to work independently, consulting with others as needed, to complete this project.

More related links:

- In March 2017, [the ACSF blog mentioned grad student Mary Kate Wheeler](#) as an early-career researcher getting results.
- In January 2017, CARE Peru [highlighted the project's](#) concluding [presentation](#) to a variety of stakeholders ([the article](#) is in Spanish, and [here's a Google translation into English](#)).
- In May 2016, the Groundswell Center for Local Food and Farming did a [Q&A with Groundswell Board Member Mary Kate Wheeler: Climate Change, Water Access and Farming in Peru](#).
- In April 2016, Cornell grad student Mary Kate Wheeler explained [the importance of their Peru research](#) in the blog "Economics that Really Matters."



Application Instructions:

To apply for the workshop or internship program, please complete these two steps:

1. Fill out this online application form: <https://goo.gl/forms/r0RGjbCOGoXwdeDt2>
2. Submit the following documents in one email to program manager Nina Chaopricha at ntc24@cornell.edu:
 - a. A 1-2 page application letter (M.S. Word or PDF document) with the following information: an explanation of your reasons for applying, relevant prior experience, and career goals
 - b. A graduate transcript or list of graduate courses taken
 - c. Your CV or resume
 - d. For students applying for the full program with summer internships, please also include:
 - i. 1-2 writing samples of any length
 - ii. Contact information (phone number and email, and their relationship to you) for a Cornell professor who knows you and can speak to your ability to successfully complete this research internship program. Please let this person know that you are using them as a reference and that they may be hearing from the Cornell land management internship program.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until Fri 4/21/17 or until positions are filled.

Check for any updates here: <http://www.care-cornell.com/collaboration-opportunities.html>

Questions may be addressed to Nina Chaopricha at ntc24@cornell.edu.

Participants will be selected by a team of Cornell faculty and partners.

We are committed to diversity and encourage applications from American students from ethnic backgrounds that are underrepresented in agricultural majors in the U.S. (African American, Alaskan Native, American Indian, Asian American, Hispanic American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, etc.)



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