



Global Research Lightning Talks

Food Security

By David Ader & Tom Gill

Research data on food security managed by the Smith Center in UTIA.

Carbon Connections Between Forests, Forest Products & Climate Change

By Adam Taylor

Overview of forest and products carbon research, including Fulbright experience in Finland.

Tackling the effects of climate change on smallholder farmers in the Caribbean

By Dimitris Herrera

Climate models project significant drying in the Caribbean during climate change. However, the impacts of the projected drying at local scales, especially on smallholder farmers, are not well-constrained. Here, we present the use of a high-resolution drought forecasting system as a tool to inform smallholder farmers and stakeholders in the Caribbean. Results from this forecasting system could be used as a benchmark to improve drought resilience to the benefit of ~45 million people in this region.

Opportunities for Digital Craft and Global Academic Exchanges

By Hojung Kim

Global Catalyst Grant, From Covid Virtual collaboration to in-person research method in South Korea, Busan National University.



Global Research Lightning Talks

Partnership with the University of Poitiers/ Aftermath of Crisis in the Middle Ages By Gregor Kalas & Anne-Helene Miller

We held a conference, a joint venture of scholars at the Université de Poitiers and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, exploring the repercussions of wars and other crises by analyzing cultural, social, and institutional developments that emerged after such afflictions. We presented our research discoveries after each scholar had examined the aftermath of crises, wars, plagues, and other natural disasters that appear prominently in narratives about medieval culture. Accounts about crises open up questions about the aftermath and responses. Participants provided explanations of how historical actors adapted to new situations brought about by these crisis and conflicts. How did authorities demonstrate resilience following military conflicts? How was post-war or post-crisis trauma addressed by some authors or artists? What religious or social changes occurred in the wake of health crises? Did natural calamities or civil unrest produce cultural responses that promoted positive developments despite the tragedies?

Validation of Blood-based Pregnancy Test in South American Camelids

By Andrea Lear

Current methods of pregnancy diagnosis in South American camelids, i.e. llamas and alpacas, are limited and may be unreliable depending on stage of gestation. Measurement of circulating pregnancy associated glycoproteins (PAGs) in maternal blood is a reliable method of pregnancy diagnosis in cattle but has not yet been evaluated in South American camelids. Our research group has designed a blood-based pregnancy test to detect circulating PAGs and optimized its ability to determine pregnancy in alpacas and llamas. Further research is needed to validate the accuracy of this innovative diagnostic test in a large population of pregnant South American camelids. The objective of this study is to validate a blood-based sandwich enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) to detect circulating PAGs



Global Research Lightning Talks

in llamas, allowing the use of this blood-based test to accurately diagnose pregnancy status in llamas. Through this global research initiative, investigators leveraged the established collaboration with the National Agricultural Technology Institute in Argentina to further validate this diagnostic tool and propel future research with both Argentinian and United States camelid herds.

Structures and Networks of Climate Delay in Indonesia

By Paul Gellert

Climate change policy is urgently needed in the world and specifically in Indonesia where coal and palm oil, two contributors to climate change, are leading exports. Coal is also important to domestic coal-fired power plants while palm oil and palm-based biodiesel emanates from production on millions of hectares of oil palm plantations on former forest lands. Despite recognition of the importance of climate change, changes in policies and practice are proving elusive. This lightning talk address ongoing research into the structures and social networks of power, including overlapping interests among businesses, politicians, and other societal groups, that are delaying or diverting progress on the climate policy front.

Gender & IT: Mental Health of Women in Computing, a Global Perspective

By Vandana Singh

This talk will outline the objectives and plans for this Global Catalyst Grant and report on the outcomes of this grant in terms of research collaborations, networking opportunities, and grant proposals submitted as a direct result of this grant.



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Russian Propaganda/Disinformation & Digital Activism Among Young Adults in the Czech Republic By Catherine Luther

This talk focuses on research conducted in the Czech Republic in Spring of 2023 as part of a Fulbright Scholar grant. The spread of propaganda and disinformation via digital and social media tends to increase during times of major political and social events. Patterns of such disruptions can be found across Central and European countries and indicators exist regarding the role of Russia in these disruptions. The types of disinformation encountered in the Czech Republic during the country's recent presidential elections will be provided. Political and social activism among young adults and their usage of digital media for their activism will also be explored.