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# GLOBAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

WILLIAM & MARY

As we kick off an academic year in pandemic conditions, I've spent time reflecting on GRI's core values:

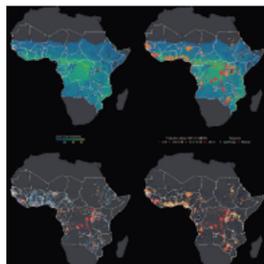
- Ideas are powerful
- Don't underestimate an undergrad
- We look beyond the ivory tower
- Diversity drives innovation
- Our whole is greater than the sum of our parts

These values drove GRI's work toward a new strategic plan this summer (I promise to share the final draft soon), and I believe they are particularly salient at this time. We may not be able to gather for in-person events at GRI this fall, but our research and teaching enterprise is alive and well (former Secretaries of State and Defense even [dropped in on our students](#) via Zoom this summer). We will continue investing in promising new ideas from students and faculty alike to ensure we don't lose momentum post-pandemic. To name just two examples, we are awarding innovation funding to students who will create an undergraduate lab studying disinformation and we are thrilled to welcome our first post-doctoral fellow for academic diversity who is supporting ongoing efforts to use mobile data to predict and mitigate COVID-19 outbreaks.

In this newsletter, you'll find our traditional mix of community and research stories, including a prize-winning student white paper, research about COVID's impact on protest movements, and a new white paper on the origins of spatial inequality in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Hope you are well and that we see each other soon, whether in the Burg or on Zoom.

Best,  
Mike



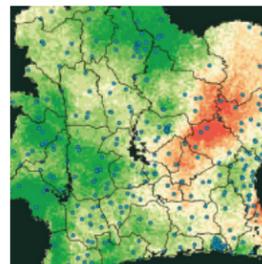
What are the long-run effects of colonialism on development? Center for African Development Co-Director Dr. Phil Roessler tackles this question using the world's most comprehensive dataset on subnational colonial extraction in 38 African countries. Roessler's findings have important implications in the debate about the effects of colonialism.

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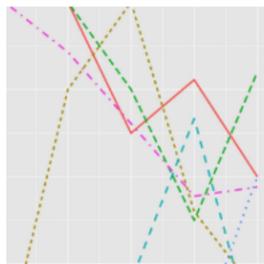
Ignite Lab Director, Dr. Carrie Dolan, partnered with Dr. Justice Nonvignon from the University of Ghana to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of pediatric surgical missions conducted by the World Pediatric Project (WPP), closing an important evidence gap and finding that the interventions are highly cost effective.

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Even before COVID-19 imposed severe travel constraints and imploded budgets, collecting household survey data was costly and challenging. As part of a USAID-funded project in Côte d'Ivoire, AidData is exploring techniques that will enable program evaluators to analyze impact, even as access to field data tightens.

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International Justice Lab Director Kelly Zvobgo published an article in her field's flagship journal, *International Studies Quarterly*, explaining why truth commissions are adopted in some contexts but not others and why some possess strong investigative powers while others do not.

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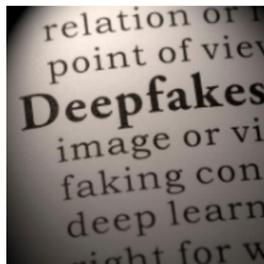
Teaching, Research, and International Policy (TRIP) Project RA Maggie Manson '22 used TRIP's survey data to analyze the impact of COVID-19 on protest. In a blog post, she examines what the snap poll findings mean in the context of four different countries.

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Staffers from the offices of Senators Blumenthal, Duckworth, and Gillibrand invited International Justice Lab Director Kelly Zvobgo and Dr. Meredith Loken to brief them on the policy implications of their recent *Foreign Policy* magazine article, "Why Race Matters in International Relations."

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Project on International Peace and Security (PIPS) Fellow Megan Hogan '22 was the undergraduate semifinalist for the "Bobby R. Inman Award," in recognition of outstanding student research and writing on topics related to intelligence and national security. Hogan's paper on the weaponization of deepfakes was selected out of more than 100 submissions.

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Despite its founding just before the onset of COVID-19 in the United States, GRI's Blockchain Lab is off to the races. Its successful call for proposals at W&M engaged more than 20 faculty from seven departments and these compelling proposals have since attracted external funding from new partners including Factom Protocol.

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A new AidData report examines the benefits of the U.S.-Kenya partnership to Kenya's growth and prosperity from a whole-of-society perspective. The United States is an important ally in Kenya's bid to realize its Vision 2030 development blueprint, but little information is readily available for Kenyans to assess the value of this partnership in their daily lives.

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