

Thursday, April 27th at 4:45PM
Blow Hall - Board of Visitors Room

An International Focus on Socioeconomic and Environmental Development

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As a whole we focused on various peoples, nations, and continents of the globe, analyzing how quality of life is affected by the regional differences in economic, environmental, and political landscapes. We will consider how issues in international policy, and resource scarcity affect vulnerable or marginalized groups across the globe. As indigenous peoples are increasingly brought into the fold of an ever more globalized community, we must strive to preserve their inherent cultural and societal structure. From the effects of oil exploration and exploitation on those fighting for survival within the Arctic Circle to the impact of isolationism on the people of North Korea, each developing area of the world faces their own set of challenges. Preserving these cultures' ways of life while simultaneously bringing them the benefits of a modernized society in an undistruptive way must be something that is carefully balanced. The international community must maintain a system of checks and balances when the governments of powerful nations interact and make policy with less developed people. Philanthropic investment in the lesser developed areas of the world is something that should be a basic human value, and the developed world should take care not to fall into its extensive past of exploiting smaller communities. We will explore the nature of those working in the rapidly developing Sierra of Peru; and those whose day to day lives are influenced by the resource curse in Central Asia. Each particular region faces their own set of barriers on the path to developing economically and societally, and we will work towards advancing a better understand of those difficulties by investigating several different cultures.