

Charles Phelps Taft Research Center
at the University of Cincinnati
Faculty Release Fellowship Application

Each section (I-V) should be placed at the start of a new page. All required materials must be included in a single document, uploaded to the electronic submissions system, no later than 5PM on the published day of the deadline. This program requires a letter of support from the department head and an evaluator external to UC. Applicants should submit their application with enough time for the letters to be uploaded to the submissions system prior to the close of the deadline. Taft does not accept an obligation to review applications that have not received the required documents by the close of the deadline.

I. General Information

- a. Name: XXXXX
- b. M#: XXXXXXX
- c. Department: XXXXXXX
- d. Position: XXXXXXX
- e. Project title: Band Aid: Corporate Remedies and Sustainable Development
- f. Brief Summary of Requested Support: release semester and research supplement
- g. Probable Results of a Grant (such as external funding, publications, and presentations): Book with NYU or other university press
- h. Other Funding Applied For or Received for This Project (list source and amounts requested and awarded): none

II. Project Proposal (below)

III. Budget (detailed below)

- a. Requested Research Supplement: \$1500

IV. Taft Grant History:

Please list your grant history with Taft for the last 5 years, in reverse chronological order. Please list project title, the name, date, and amount of award, as well as development of the project subsequent to the grant, e.g. publication.

Taft Grants Received in the Last Five Years (\$1200 each year):

Domestic conference travel 2019

“Band Aid: Women ‘Empowered’ by Walmart in Bangladesh,” Western Political Science Association, San Diego, April 18, 2019.

Publication plan: will be a chapter in book, Band Aid

Domestic conference travel 2018

“What’s App?! Online Paranoia and Violence in India and Sri Lanka.” Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison, October 12, 2018.

Publication: Forthcoming: “Anti-Muslim Political Communication in India and the United States: A Comparative and Interpretive Analysis,” book chapter coauthored with Rina Williams, for *The Public Effects of Religious Communication on Politics*, edited by Brian Calfano, under contract with University of Michigan Press.

Domestic conference travel 2017

“Love Jihad and Romeo Squads: Fake News and Islamophobic Patriarchy.” Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, October 27, 2017.

“Which Converts Qualify for Religious Freedom: Agency, Sincerity, and Legitimacy” and (with Rina Verma Williams) “Real and Imagined Muslims in India and America, Different Demographics, Similar Challenges.” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, August 31 and Sept 1, 2017.

Publications: Chapter 6 of *Religious Freedom and Mass Conversion in India*. Philadelphia: Pennsylvania University Press, 2019. <http://www.upenn.edu/pennpress/book/15957.html>

Forthcoming: “Anti-Muslim Political Communication in India and the United States: A Comparative and Interpretive Analysis,” book chapter coauthored with Rina Williams, for *The Public Effects of Religious Communication on Politics*, edited by Brian Calfano, under contract with University of Michigan Press.

Domestic conference travel 2016

“Conversion Narratives and the Religious and Spatial Mobility of the Mizo Jews.” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Seattle, March 31-April 3, 2016.

Publication: Chapter 3 of *Religious Freedom and Mass Conversion in India*. Philadelphia: Pennsylvania University Press, 2019. <http://www.upenn.edu/pennpress/book/15957.html>

Domestic conference travel 2015

“Anti ‘Forced’ or ‘Induced’ Conversion Laws and Minority Rights in India.” Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, October 23, 2015.

Band Aid: Corporate Remedies and Sustainable Development

Relevance to applicant's professional development & proposed final publication

How can we improve international development initiatives? My next book, *Band Aid*, assesses corporate development remedies in light of local activists' alternative approaches to the same problems. Case studies of nutritional peanut butter in Haiti, water ATMS in Kenya, handguns for women in India, and a leadership program for textile workers in Bangladesh each detail a corporate band aid, or quick but superficial fix, for development challenges. Rather than the sustainable food, water, safety, and empowerment they promise, these companies' programs conceal—and even contribute to—the structural problems they purport to solve.

Some local civil society activists offer promising counterpoints, approaches that are both more attuned to the micro level and aware of the macro level. In other words, they are knowledgeable about local problems and needs, and they are willing to challenge the structural and global inequalities contributing to these problems. Case studies of such local initiatives highlight promising ways to achieve food sovereignty, water justice, feminist anti-Gender-Based Violence (GBV) education, and labor solidarity.

This project brings together several of my longstanding research and teaching areas (social justice, public policy, women's rights, sustainable development, and South Asia), while expanding the sites of my research to three additional countries (Bangladesh, Kenya, and Haiti). Researching and writing *Band Aid* will enrich all my classes from undergraduate to PhD level, including Politics of Developing Countries, Politics of South Asia, Women and Sustainable Development, Democracy and Development, Interpretive Research Methods, and more.

I plan to submit the book proposal to NYU Press, which makes scholarly work accessible to students, activists, international audiences, and policy makers in addition to scholars in my field. I already met with an editor from this press at a political science conference.

Justification as a long-term project that will result in significant contributions to the applicant's field

Major challenges facing the Global South include hunger, thirst, violence, and inequality. Businesses are increasingly offering global development initiatives, often aligning with social responsibility or “corporate purpose” commitments and provoking debates over corporate virtue or virtue signaling (Giridharadas 2018, Wu 2018, 2019). Whatever their motives, if corporations offer only a band aid approach, they are unlikely to achieve sustainable development.

Each comparative chapter demonstrates how a band aid approach prioritizes speed over sustainability, fosters fragmentation rather than solidarity, and depends on the surveillance of— rather than the agency and judgement of—those targeted by the aid.

Contrasting Development Priorities

Band Aid	Sustainable Development
speed	sustainability
fragmentation	solidarity
surveillance	agency

In contrast, the featured local alternatives, emerging from the communities impacted by the development challenge, value and promote solidarity and agency, key *political* and *social* aspects of sustainable development that will enrich the sustainability literature’s primary focus on environmental and economic outcomes (Sen 2015, Dye and Jenkins 2016).

Comparative Case Studies of Responses to Major Development Problems:

Hunger, Thirst, Violence, and Inequality

Band Aid	Sustainable Alternatives	Research Site
nutritional peanut butter	food sovereignty program	Port-au-Prince, Haiti
water ATMs	water justice initiative	Nairobi, Kenya
Nirbheek gun for women	feminist anti-GBV education	Delhi, India
“Women in Factories” training	textile factory labor union	Dhaka, Bangladesh

This project calls for wider use of sustainability, solidarity, and agency as key indicators of successful aid initiatives. Development programs are increasingly global-local and public-private collaborations, with private-sphere participants drawn from both the corporate and nonprofit sectors. It is imperative to create a shared framework to both meet immediate needs to save lives in the short term *and* tackle underlying causes in the longer term.

Urgent problems may need a speedy band aid followed by comprehensive treatment. How can the band aid first do no harm and even help solve some underlying problems? For example, in Haiti and other food insecure countries of the Global South, nutritional peanut butter helps keep kids alive and nourished today. One Haiti-based organization sources peanuts locally and uses profits from peanut butter to provide free nutritional peanut butter to malnourished children in Haitian schools. An international competitor with factories in Haiti uses imported peanuts for its nutritional peanut butter, undermining longstanding Haitian peanut farmers and further impoverishing their children. The history and politics of peanuts and aid in Haiti will shed light on ways aid can advance rather than undermine sustainable development.

Building on Obert, Poe and Sarat's *The lives of guns* (2019) and Bloomsbury's book series "Object lessons," each chapter will focus on a specific object—a jar of peanut butter, water ATM, a gun, and a training manual—and the people it impacts. *Band Aid* will deepen the rich scholarship on sustainability, solidarity, and agency in development, particularly the work of Amartya Sen on women's agency and development (2015), Raj Patel on food sovereignty (2019), and F. Tormos on intersectional solidarity (2017).

Detailed project schedule, timeliness of grant, and ability to complete project

I will be alternating periods of field research with analysis and writing in Cincinnati:

July 2020 Research (interviews, observations, and document collection) in Nairobi, Kenya for chapter on water ATMs and civil society associations working on water justice.

October 2020 Research (interviews, observations, and document collection) in Delhi, India for chapter on handguns marketed to women and civil society associations working on education to prevent gender-based violence.

January 2021 Research (interviews, observations, and document collection) in Port au Prince, Haiti for chapter on nutritional peanut butter's history and production and civil society associations working towards food sovereignty.

March 2021 Research (interviews, observations, and document collection) in Dhaka, Bangladesh for chapter on empowerment training for women in the readymade garment industry and civil society-based labor organizing.

I worked with a University Honors Scholar (Summer 2018) and a graduate RA (fall 2019) gathering textual materials. I presented a draft of the Bangladesh chapter at the Western Political Science Association in March 2019 and shared my draft book proposal and Bangladesh chapter with my writing group. After completing two chapters, I will submit the proposal to NYU Press (and other presses if necessary) during the sabbatical year and complete the manuscript in 2022. While many scholars use sabbaticals to complete writing, I need time for fieldwork and writing. Thus, the timing of a sabbatical in 2020-2021 is ideal, and the full year is particularly vital.

Each of my prior two sabbaticals resulted in a book and several other publications followed by promotion, and I have experience doing interviews and textual research in India, Indonesia, South Africa, and Greece. I speak conversational Hindi, Urdu, and French and have contacts in each of the proposed research sites to facilitate hiring translators.

In addition to Taft travel for research and the faculty release research supplement, I will apply for the Fulbright Specialist Roster, which funds shorter-term visits by US faculty members to collaborating institutions of higher education in other countries, ideal for this multi-site study. The project resonates with the Rockefeller Foundation's international development foci, especially its "protective foods" initiative. With or without external funding, the project can go forward, as living expenses in each site are relatively low, and the biggest expense is airfare.

A brief budget outline with explanation of costs for research supplement request

The \$1500 research supplement will be used for a plane ticket to Delhi, India in October 2020, or if alternative funding is found for that trip, a plane ticket to Dhaka, Bangladesh in March 2021. These tickets cost between \$1700-\$2000.

Works cited

Dye, Jennifer and Laura Dudley Jenkins. 2016. "Recognizing the Role of Women in Development." In Michael T. Snarr and D. Neil Snarr, eds. *Introducing Global Issues*, 6th edition. Boulder: Lynn Rienner Publishers.

Giridharadas, Anand. 2018. *Winners Take All: The Elite Charade of Changing the World*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

Obert, Jonathan, Andrew Poe and Austin Sarat. 2019. *The Lives of Guns*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Patel, Raj and Jason W. Moore. 2017. *A History of the World in Seven Cheap Things*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Sen, Amartya. 2015. *The Country of First Boys*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Tormos, F. 2017. "Intersectional Solidarity." *Politics, Groups, and Identities* 5(4): 707-720.

Wu, Tim. 2019. "The Virtuous Corporation is not an Oxymoron." *New York Times* September 23, 2019.

Wu, Tim. 2018. *The Curse of Bigness: Antitrust in the New Gilded Age*. New York: Columbia University Press.

