

918 High Street, Apt. A
Madison, WI 53715

July 17, 2000

Dr. Leigh A. Payne, Director
Dr. Louis Bickford, Associate Director
Global Studies Program
301 Ingraham Hall
1155 Observatory Drive
Madison, WI 53706

Subject: Narrative report - Pre-dissertation travel abroad funded in part by a 2000 Scott Kloeck-Jenson International Pre-dissertation Travel Grant

Dear Drs. Payne and Bickford:

I would like to thank you very much for awarding me a 2000 Scott Kloeck-Jenson International Pre-dissertation Travel Grant. While I did not know Scott, I am honored to have received funding in the name of someone so devoted to advancing international understanding and social justice. This \$1500.00 grant was a great help to me in defraying the costs associated with pre-dissertation research that will be invaluable to me as I write my dissertation research proposal this fall.

I had three main objectives for this research trip, all of which were achieved to a greater or lesser degree. The first objective was to participate in an eight week Dual Intellectual Citizenship Summer School (DICSS) program in Dakar, Senegal, the proposed site of my dissertation research, to learn from and engage with African scholars working in Africa. The main theme of this program was reproductive health in Africa, with a secondary theme of gender. These themes fit perfectly with my proposed dissertation research on the spread of HIV in Senegal, especially among migrant women.

The reproductive health seminars held during the program provided me with an excellent and up-to-date base of information on reproductive health in Africa. They also provided a dynamic forum for me to work with some of the foremost African scholars working in this field who will no doubt be extremely helpful contacts in the future. The gender seminars allowed me to better understand how the concept of gender is understood in an African context, and particularly highlighted for me areas of resistance that exist to work in this area. Some of the most articulate West African authorities in this area worked with us, and through this process I gained a much better understanding of gender in the African context, which will no doubt serve me well as I begin my research.

The second objective of this trip was to interact with and begin developing collaborative relationships with African graduate students and African academics. I was fortunate to participate in the DICSS seminars with some of the top doctoral students in Senegal from whom I learned an enormous amount and with whom I will look forward to collaborating in the future. Through this network, I was also tied to a much more extensive network of graduate students and

scholars with whom my colleagues work. These contacts have already proven to be quite valuable. Through this network I met Professor Chiekh Niang at Chiekh Anta Diop University in Dakar and Charles Becker, a French researcher who has worked in Senegal for decades. Both of these researchers have published extensively in areas highly relevant to my research, but throughout the years I have worked in this area, I have never been able to meet them. My new network of Senegalese academic colleagues has already opened doors I could not open on my own. Through being introduced to these and other scholars who have similar interests to my own I have begun establishing a professional network. I will look forward to the potential of years of fruitful collaborations among these fellow researchers.

My third objective was to begin to learn more about migrant Serere and Diola women in Dakar and to begin to lay the groundwork for my research. Therefore, during non-seminar hours, I conducted exploratory research on my proposed dissertation topic. Through the many contacts I made I was able to conduct several very helpful key informant interviews. Of particular use were several meetings with a Diola researcher who is interested in the migration of Diola people to Dakar. I was also able to meet with several Diola and Serere migrant women to begin learning more about the realities of their lives in Dakar and in the villages from which they come. These interviews will help me plan a more realistic and well-targeted research proposal. I was also able to attend a class on research methods offered by Professor Niang. Through this class I met several graduate students with similar interests to mine who might be able to serve as interviewers for me during my dissertation research. Finally, through Dr. Niang I also obtained information on several current and recently completed studies conducted on migration and HIV in other areas of Senegal. These data and articles will be very beneficial in guiding my research plan and as I write my proposal.

Unfortunately, the second four weeks of the eight week DICSS were reduced from daily seminars to meetings only one morning per week. In addition, two planned trips to meet scholars in The Gambia and St. Louis, Senegal were canceled. Fortunately, I was able to travel on my own to The Gambia to meet with one gender scholar, and profited from the less rigorous schedule to conduct more independent research. However, due to the reduced schedule, my trip was shortened by three weeks from the original two month plan.

This research trip was far more useful than I even could have hoped, and I learned a great deal that will help me as I prepare my dissertation proposal in the months ahead. It also laid the preliminary foundation for my research in Senegal and helped me create collegial networks that will be beneficial for years to come.

Thank you so very much for your very generous award. The research it allowed me to conduct will enrich my planning and ultimately the conduct of my dissertation research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kristen Velyvis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kristen" and last name "Velyvis" clearly distinguishable.

Kristen Velyvis

Enclosure