Research Fund Sets Proposal Deadline
Wed., February 6, 2013

The Research Fund has 2013-2014 course releases and 2013 summer stipends available to support faculty research projects.

For application information, forms, and funding guidelines, please visit the Research Fund web site.

If you have any questions, contact Susan Chern (x5339) or any of the BFRF members: Joel Shulman, Chair, John Edmunds, Dhruv Grewal, Kandice Hauf, and Brian Seitz.

Faculty News

Omega, The International Journal of Management Science, recently published the online version of “The Compatibility of Durable Goods with Contingent Generic Consumables” by S. Sinan Erzurumlu, TOIM.

“Teaching a cross-disciplinary environmental science, policy, and culture course on Costa Rica’s ecotourism to business students” by Toni Lester, Management and Vikki L. Rodgers, Mathematics and Science, was published in the September issue of Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences.

Virginia Rademacher, Arts and Humanities, wrote the chapter on Spain (“Playing for Real: Simulated Games of Identity in Spain’s Gen X Narrative”) for the edited volume, Generation X Goes Global: Mapping a Youth Culture in Motion, published by Routledge. She was one of 20 scholars from varying fields and disciplines in 8 different countries who examined manifestations of Generation X culture globally.

“Joining the WTO: Why Does It Take So Long?” by Yunwei Gai and Kent Jones, Economics, was published in the Open Economies Review, Online First Articles. Open Economies Review is a top ranking journal in international economics. The focus of the paper is to investigate factors that affect the probability of a country becoming a WTO member. The WTO aspires to universal membership, but the process of joining has become very lengthy and many countries have faced particularly difficult and prolonged negotiations. The WTO applies a detailed and legalistic approach to accession. In view of the difficult cases remaining in order to complete universal WTO membership, we propose a broader approach to WTO membership and more flexibility in accession requirements.

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Final Products Accepted

The BFRF committee has reviewed and accepted these papers from faculty members who have completed their BFRF sponsored research projects.

Elizabeth Goldberg, Arts and Humanities, ““Let Us Begin With a Smaller Gesture”: Human Rights and Literary Form in Chris Abani’s Song for Night and Becoming Abigail”
In ““Let Us Begin with a Smaller Gesture,” we read Chris Abani’s novellas Song for Night and Becoming Abigail (2006) to illuminate the literary and juridical challenge presented by the lives of those for whom the legal and narrative conventions of human rights have not been realized. We examine the ways in which Abani’s short form and lyrical yet embodied voice diverges from the assumptions and expectations of the bildungsroman and those human rights conventions that would insist on the rehabilitation of the sovereign subject, offering instead a meditation on an alternative subject of rights whose losses shadow our own.

Gang Hu, Finance, “Underestimation of Damages and Inter-Fund Trades”
We offer a new explanation for the underestimation of damages in securities fraud class action litigations: inter-fund trades. Inter-fund trades are internal crossing trades between funds within the same fund family. Our findings have direct implications for legal practitioners and call for policy reform in the reporting of inter-fund trades.

Vikki Rodgers, Mathematics and Science, “Shifts in leaf area, density and chemistry of tree seedlings in response to experimental climate change treatments”
In New England climate change is predicted to bring about large shifts in future forest regeneration patterns, which will have consequences for both the health and functioning of our natural ecosystems and profits for forestry-related industries. I will experimentally measure the impact of warming and altered precipitation on the leaf characteristics of six dominant tree species. I collected initial field data at the Boston Area Climate Experiment (BACE) in the summer of 2011, but samples must now be processed in the lab and analyzed. This work will provide important insights into the feedback processes between plants, soil and climate change.

Elizabeth Goldberg, Arts and Humanities, ““It prey and the predators” toward justice: Interrogating the Baltimore architecture of imprisonment”
In Baltimore, the architecture of imprisonment reflects and is intricately connected with the city’s racial and economic inequalities. This paper explores the roles of architecture, urban planning, and economics in perpetuating social and political injustices.

Elizabeth Goldberg, Arts and Humanities, “Passing the Torch: A Reading of Hines’ The Black Madonna”
This paper examines the works of John Hines, a significant African American author of the post-Civil War era, highlighting the themes of identity, race, and societal expectations.

External Funding Opportunities

Marion and Jasper Whiting Foundation
“ Fellowships for Higher Education”
If you are planning a sabbatical and wish to travel abroad, you might want to consider this fellowship opportunity.
The primary purpose of the Foundation is to award fellowships to teachers, with an emphasis on teachers at the college or university level, to enable them to study abroad. The aim is to stimulate and broaden the minds of teachers so as to improve and enhance the quality of their instruction. Grants are primarily for travel and related expenses. Click here for application information.
Submission Deadline: January 25, 2013

Anne Roggeveen, Marketing, “Deal or No Deal? How Number of Buyers, Purchase Limit, and Time-to-Expiration Impact Purchase Decisions on Group Buying Websites”

Online group buying sites such as “Groupon” are one of the latest trends in internet retailing. Typically these sites offer local items at a discount, provided a minimum number of people agree to participate in the deal. In addition to highlighting the financial rewards of accepting the web offer, these group purchase sites also include information on: 1) the number of people who have already bought the deal, 2) whether a limit has been set on the number of purchasers, and 3) the amount of time before the deal expires.
Each of the aforementioned factors has been shown to have a positive impact on customer purchase intentions in an off-line environment. However in such an off-line setting, customers do not have immediate or concurrent access to information regarding all three factors. This research demonstrates that access to such information can create interaction effects, which affect how internet group buying deals are perceived. These perceptions, in turn, will impact purchase likelihood. Importantly, in some instances the positive effects associated with a factor may be eliminated. Our findings have important implications for marketers in terms of how to best position product offerings to take advantage of group buying behavior.

Rosa Slegers, Arts and Humanities, “Sympathy, Impartiality, and Vanity: Adam Smith’s Theory of Moral Sentiments in Business Education”
This paper proposes to use Adam Smith’s account of virtue in The Theory of Moral Sentiments as a framework for business ethics education. Specifically, the paper engages Smith’s account of sympathy and the impartial spectator to formulate a response to the call for a more rigorous and realistic integration of moral values in business schools. Smith himself not only expressed an awareness of the ills of commercial society but also proposed practical, virtue-based remedies for both economic and moral corruption. Because Smith is both convinced of the potential of commercial society to improve the fate of humankind and at the same deeply concerned with its potential to corrupt the individual, his ethical system (though incomplete and open to many criticisms) provides a promising framework for the education of business students. The “father of capitalism” saw sympathy as essential to moral individual behavior, even though his legacy has been dominated by his remarks on selfishness.

Chapter contributions are now invited from leading international scholars and experienced researchers in the field of women’s entrepreneurship for an exciting new book – Women’s Entrepreneurship in the 21st Century: An International Multi-level Research Analysis (working title), to be published by Edward Elgar Publishing Inc in 2014.
Submission Details: If you are considering submitting a chapter, please e-mail the lead editors: Dr. Kate Lewis (K.V.Lewis@massey.ac.nz) and Professor Colette Henry (c henry@rvc.ac.uk) by end November 2012 to express your interest, providing details of your proposed chapter topic.