

With the support of the Scott Kloeck-Jensen International Pre-dissertation Travel Grant, I fulfilled the advanced language study requirements at the Vietnamese Advanced Summer Institute, and concluded preliminary ethnographic and primary source research. These activities allowed me to narrow my dissertation topic and establish the necessary contacts for future dissertation research.

My anthropological research concerns the effects of global socioeconomic development on Vietnamese women's social roles. I am particularly interested in how transnational development discourse collides with women's local social practices. From an anthropological perspective, the process of international development must be understood through the large-scale flows of people and capital, as well as in the everyday activities Vietnamese people. Through interviews, library research, media analysis, and participant observation, I explored how Vietnamese women see their lives changing as a result of the development process.

Using my developing language skills, I began my pre-dissertation project with primary-source library research on Vietnam's market-oriented economic development. Under the direction of two senior economists at the National Economics University in Ha Noi and Sai Gon, I collected and read scholarly articles on Vietnam's economic development process and prospects. This activity gave me a stronger sense of the quantitative changes in women's lives as a result of global market-orientation and economic development in Vietnam. I also spent time working with a local anthropologist who studies women's changing employment structure in an industrializing village. Through interviewing her and gathering major Vietnamese anthropological works, I got a sense of how anthropology is practiced in Vietnam. Further, and more specific to my project, our collaboration elaborated how women's roles are qualitatively transforming as a result of transnational economic development.

I also spoke formally and informally to a range of women in Ha Noi and Sai Gon, including educators, museum curators, housekeepers, market vendors, and students. Though their experiences and ideas ranged according to their particular socioeconomic background and interests, I discovered a common theme in their dialogue: Contrary to popular representations, Vietnamese women in contemporary society do not draw stark distinctions between tradition and modernity when it comes to their daily lives and activities. Rather they see many consistencies between their social roles and those of their ancestors and historical precedents. Moreover, in a globalizing Vietnam, women are redefining their social roles by selectively using their local cultural resources. These personal accounts provided an important counterweight to my text-based findings, showing that social change is experienced differently according to a range of social, political, and economic circumstances. These discussions also highlighted the continuities in women's everyday experiences in light of significant global transformations.

With the idea of exploring how globalization, development, and modernity are performed, I analyzed locally produced popular media (magazines, pop albums, movies). Moreover, using the anthropological method of participant observation, I participated "hip, modern" (sành điệu, hiện đại) activities such as karaoke, pop concerts, café going, and shopping. It was through these activities that I narrowed my research topic to exploring how transnational development effects women's sexual health. In the time between when I left Vietnam in 2004 to today, sexuality has entered public debate in full force. Magazines, television, and films are depicting previously silenced sexual activity: prostitution, multiple sex partners, premarital sex, STDs. Further, there is a growing number of cafes and bars that unofficially, but explicitly, cater to the arranging sexual rendezvous. Under the influence of global flows of goods and people, sexual practices are transforming along with economic activities in Vietnam.

Significantly, I found that as the public sphere centered on sexuality grows in Vietnam, international and governmental bodies are anxiously working to dictate the terms of sexual dialogue. International development organizations such as UNPF and UNAIDS are joining forces with the Vietnamese Ministry of Health to create and manage new public spaces for women to discuss their sexual experiences, obtain information on sexual health, and get counseling if they are ill. Through my discussions with representatives from UNAIDS and the Vietnam Women's Union, I found that these new spaces are interesting loci for the collaboration of governmental bodies and international development organizations. However, these representatives also described how new public spaces are sites for contestations between transnational development discourse and local cultural contexts. In this case, "Western" ideas of democratic access to information and open discussion on health issues collide with a local morality that discourages public talk about sex. Both symbolically and practically, these transnational struggles are played out on women's bodies.

My experiences this summer has narrowed my dissertation topic from women's changing roles in the context of globalization and socioeconomic development, to transformations of women's sexuality in a public sphere influenced by international health development programs and the Vietnamese state. Expanding on my pre-dissertation work, I will continue talking to international health development workers, scholars, government agents, and most importantly, young women engaged in debates about sexual health. Informed by my interactions with these actors over the summer, I have begun to ask more specific research questions: How is international health influencing women's ideas about sex and sexuality? How do the collaborative activities of international health organizations and the government illustrate new forms of governance in Vietnam; and what effects is this governance having on women's

ideas, discussions, and bodily performances? How are women negotiating their culturally situated ideas about sex within the context of transnational sexual health discourse?

Using the Scott Kloeck-Jensen International Pre-dissertation Travel Grant for language study, library research, interviews, media analysis, and participant observation has reinvigorated my dissertation project and provided me the necessary skills to achieve my research goals.