Approximately 20 students from the cohort traveled to Toronto, Canada to spend spring break at the 2014 conference of the Comparative and International Educational Society.

Throughout the week, IEDP students attended sessions, met members of the International Educational Development field and some presented their research at poster and panel sessions.

Students enjoyed learning about the work of different organizations, including some of our partners such as Room to Read, RTI, The Aga Khan Foundation, Molteno, World Vision, Save the Children, and many others.

IEDP represented the largest university contingent at the conference, with approximately 2 dozen (Masters and Ph.D) in attendance and 16 student presenters.
IEDP students were engaged in a wide array of research prior to the conference including ICT4D, education access for immigrants, indigenous language education, early childhood development, and gender equality.

IEDP Presentations

The second day of CIES in Toronto was packed full of events, including a panel presentation on the use of technology in international development. IEDP alumnus Josh, current IEDP students Maha and Desmond, and PhD students Fatima and Nathan, spoke on "Opportunity at the Bottom of the Pyramid" with Dr. Daniel Wagner as discussant. This project anticipated the Penn MOOCs for Developing Countries conference a week later.

Congratulations to the student presenters:

Allison Born & Jiayue Fan:
“What happened to gender equality?”

Desmond Diggs:
“Massive, Online and Open Courses for Development: Opportunity at the Bottom of the Pyramid”

“Opportunities for mobile learning: Approaches for reaching the most marginalized”

Kara Doriani:
“Indian Diaspora in the United States: Exploring Attitudes towards Migratory Return”

Ruchira Goswami:
“From knowledge to transformational change: Reducing resistance to educational reforms advocated in teacher trainings”

Rachel Jordan:
“A stitch in time: Why culturally relevant mental health treatment should be the first step in post conflict education agendas”

Katelyn Knapp:
“Comparative Issues of Equity & Access for ECE in the South Caucasus”

Fabiola Lara:
“Unlearning to be College Literate: A Study of the Experiences of Somali Young Women”

Maha Laziri:
“QEFA (Quality education for all) Beyond access: an interdisciplinary approach to quality language education for minority students across international contexts”

“Massive, Online and Open Courses for Development: Opportunity at the Bottom of the Pyramid”

“Opportunities for mobile learning: Approaches for reaching the most marginalized”

Amy Lee:
“English-medium education & mother tongue-based education in Ghana: Which legitimizes and which marginalizes?”

Amy Saul
“Exploring an alternative definition of literacy to include oral traditions”

Norma Ureña Moreno
“The Voice of Indigenous Peoples Seeking an Education for all”

Yue Yang
The Trip:

Allison and Jiayue share their comparative research of gender equality in Ethiopia and China.

Post-conference, students reported the benefits of networking practice, learning about fieldwork happening in development organizations, presentation practice, delving into current research, meeting professionals in the field, and hearing discussions surrounding the post-2015 education agenda.

Our Dr. Ameena Ghaffar-Kucher and her co-editor Lesley Bartlett were awarded the Jackie Kirk Outstanding Book award for their book, Refugees, Immigrants and Education in the Global South: Lives in Motion.

Below: Yue presenting on the Chinese language learning of international children in China, and Amy on an alternative definition of literacy in indigenous societies.

Kara sharing her research on the “brain drain” and attitudes of Indian diaspora towards migrating home.

Fabiola presenting on Somali refugee women pursuing higher education in the US.

Rachel showing moral support!
The Trip: Highlights

University of Pennsylvania hosted a packed reception Wednesday night with University of Maryland, George Washington University, and Florida State University.

The cohort enjoyed a Moroccan dinner, thanks to Maha’s cooking! (Left: Allison, Amy, Jiayue, William. Right: William, Nathan, Rachel, Maha)

The cohort celebrated Adam’s birthday Thursday night at the Friar!

IEDP students found ways to enjoy spring break in Toronto! Some highlights of the week included: dim sum in Chinatown, exploring downtown Toronto, and homemade couscous at the hostel. The cohort ended the trip with a stop at Niagara Falls on the drive back to Philadelphia.

NIAGARA FALLS

“Excellent opportunity to see research and theory in action. Regardless of your regional or content interest, there was plenty of space to learn from practitioners and academicians, most of whom were happy to thought-partner over a coffee or dinner.” –Desmond Diggs