



**Meet Jon Moyer, a PhD candidate who is writing his dissertation on future pressures for international conflict.**

ON HIS BACKGROUND: I went to Bluffton University, a small school in Ohio with a large Mennonite population, for a degree in International Business. While there, I studied with [Professor Dan Wessner](#) [now head of the Josef Korbel School's [Master's in Development Practice](#) (MDP) program] and he's one of the reasons I came here for my Master's degree. He told me about the Josef Korbel School and introduced me to one of my future advisors, Professor Jack Donnelly. In my experience, the best choice I ever made was aligning myself with faculty members in a center. The centers are where you foster a professional network, and this is where my interests are, on the nexus between academics and policy; I like the theory with the real world application.

ON WHAT HE EXPECTED FROM THE JOSEF KORBEL SCHOOL: When I came here for my Master's in International Studies, I wanted to find a way to do a PhD. Actually, I spent my M.A. trying to figure out what I was going to expect here.

I studied in Northern Ireland in high school and in Spain in college, and then I spent three years in Vietnam, teaching Western and American literature in a cultural-exchange program. I had plenty of international experience, but I didn't quite know what international relations meant. The three years in Vietnam was a really intense time of studying development, but the theory behind development was kind of a new piece. I tried to read some books before I started, but I had no idea what to expect. Then I came here and I saw exactly what you can do with the theory.

ON WORKING AT THE [FREDERICK S. PARDEE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL FUTURES](#): I started out as a research assistant for [Professor Barry Hughes](#) when I first came here, and since then I've been working on the Center's various consulting projects, including those for the European Commission and the United States Institute of Peace.

The most exciting thing we're doing now is this African project. We did a training in South Africa over the summer, and it's just crazy exciting. We're working on partnering with the [Institute for Security Studies](#) (they're the wedge between African policy and us as academics), the African Development Bank, and the New Partnership for Africa's Development. The whole goal is to create an African Futures center that leverages our work here and creates sustainable development in Africa. This thing could actually make a difference in people's lives.

I also did some training in Slovenia with the head of their climate change office, and while there, we came up with this interesting project to develop a small state network for long-term planning. As members of the EU, they have all these monitors and things they are expected to produce, but they

simply don't have the human capital to do so. So what if the Baltic and Balkan states could pool their resources? We'll be having a planning session on that next year. It's a whole new project, consulting around climate change, and it's so interesting.

Everything we do builds upon the [Patterns of Potential Human Progress series](#), which are these huge volumes that deal with issues such as health and governance and are the cornerstone of all that we do here. It's all policy-oriented: we really have the potential to impact people's lives. It's scary—we're not insane, we've learnt from past mistakes—but also an opportunity. It's too much work and not enough dissertation though...

ON THE MOST INTERESTING FORECASTING SCENARIO HE'S SEEN: The hopeful one is that with broadband communication technology and renewable energy, we really can impact the amount of carbon in the atmosphere. In the exact same vein, it is so hard to change the energy-climate level in a sustainable way. There is a lot of uncertainty in the long-term; it's not just energy efficiency, but promoting renewable energy.

ON BALANCING SCHOOL AND FAMILY: I've had to learn not to work on the weekends. My wife was incredibly patient as I learnt to separate work and family. The hardest thing is that it's difficult for me to stop thinking about this stuff at the end of the day. It's hard to transition to being at home, and it really helps to have a supportive wife. She does an incredible job.

The best part about being here is biking to work in the crisp fall air and the view of the mountains, and then getting here and working with people that, at some level, are really impacting other people. The combination of all of that is pretty cool.

Check out Jon's web site [here](#).