

The Case of Afghanistan

This Learning Cluster will examine how organizations in societies influenced by international interaction and interdependence respond to pressures for cultural change, create new social values that allow individuals and groups to function effectively in a globalizing society, and protect valued cultural traditions that give meaning to people's lives. The project will explore the sources of cultural tensions arising from internationalization and "modernization" of societies in the Pacific Basin, how groups and organizations value cultural traditions in a changing world, the processes of cultural transition, and the means of conserving and reshaping cultural and social institutions. Students will select a problem-oriented case to research in which a culture and/or community is under intense pressure from the forces of globalization and the demands of the world community. This Learning Cluster is divided into three parts. In Part I we will collectively appraise cultural change and continuity in the case of Afghanistan. In Part II we will learn Policy Sciences methodology which students may apply, as appropriate, to their research. Part III is reserved for student presentations and collegial, constructive critique.