Teaching in Universities Abroad: Bringing Lessons Home

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Issues Addressed:

- Where, How, Why I went to teach Abroad?
- What I did abroad to help teaching and scholarship?
- What lessons did I learned for teaching at ISU?
Where, How and Why?

- Johannesburg, South Africa to work on a Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship (CADF)
- Program designed to facilitate engagement between scholars born in Africa who are now based in the United States and scholars in African Universities.
- Needed the program to redefine my teaching and research agenda, going forward
What I did do abroad to help teaching and scholarship?

- Mentored 14 doctoral students and actively work with two PhD students on their dissertations as an external examiner
  - Foster the joy of inquiry (active learning) and construction of knowledge (finding ways to make their research relevant needed)
- Organize workshops on scientific writing, Mixed methods approaches in Demography and how to use focus groups in demographic research
  - Foster significant learning experiences: get students to be self-directed learners and create opportunities for self-awareness as learners
- Publish at least one paper with a graduate student as part of the fellowship
  - Provide caring mentorship needed to scientific publication by exciting students about a topic and get them to care enough about that topic enough that they can succeed in writing
What lessons did I learn for teaching at ISU?

- To overcome student apathy, get them to care about their learning in innovative ways
- Develop a framework for analyzing structural racial inequality in an international comparative perspective
- Think through a more “provocative” study aboard immersion for students