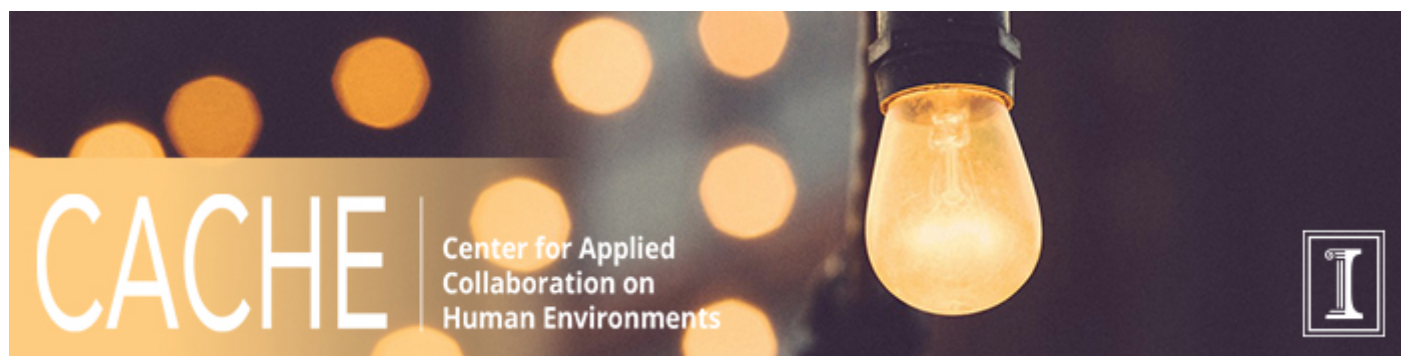


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From the Director's Desk:

In the summer of 2005, my research group conducted one of our first field campaigns near Tegucigalpa, Honduras. I was pretty excited. Household emissions had rarely been measured in field settings. I had a great graduate student, Chris Roden, who stepped into the role of the first Bond Lab equipment builder, and we were learning a lot. At one home we experienced a long delay in setting up the midday measurement trial. My frustration was building. "What's the problem?" I snapped. Our colleague and friend, Benjamin Osorto, explained gently, "We had to go get some beans. They had nothing to cook." What a blow to the gut. I sank down and put my head in my hands, with a feeling of — "What the *Sam Hill* are we doing measuring emissions?" (I later discovered that I was sitting in latrine runoff.)

So comes the moral dilemma that I, and CACHE, and so many others struggle with. We know one "challenge" very well, and by "we" I mean researchers, domain specialists, and sector experts keen to smooth the energy, water, shelter, and sanitation pains of billions. We are trained and equipped and funded to tackle one challenge. We compete with other challenges and do it with swagger. But those challenges are tightly wound within the system of everyday living. We bring water to homes that don't have food, shelter to families hungry for lost communities, cookstoves to women who are discouraged and belittled. Many intelligent people are working on this knotty confluence; even more people keep crashing through the jungle with the machete of a single discipline. We're puzzling through notions of how to harness needed expertise in service of the whole. Keep talking.

Best, *Tami*

"BrainstormThis" Offers Online Forum for Development Strategy

We've all heard the stories of wells dug abroad by well-meaning Westerners that were abandoned a year later. In September 2016, CACHE hosted a multi-day workshop to start chipping away at the question: Why do development goals come up short, and why do we continue to let them come up short despite evidence that our methods are ineffective?

After 2.5 days of storytelling, brainstorming, and discussion, the group of participants agreed that there are no absolute best practices for effective development — because every situation is different — but that there could be some best processes.

"BrainstormThis" is our effort to keep those thought-provoking discussions going to isolate best processes, and to get more voices and perspectives into that discussion. **Our next brainstorming week will be May 17-24.** Stay tuned for an invitation and discussion prompt. So, invite your colleagues (and your adversaries) to join us in talking about how to fix a Development system that is full of hope, yet full of mismatches.

Read more:

[Discussion Schedule >>>](#)

[The March and February Discussions >>>](#)

Research News: CACHE Team Explores emPOWERing Community

CACHE-affiliated researchers in the U.S. and implementers from the Center for Rural Technology in Nepal (CRT-N) have joined forces to pilot a research project to challenge the presumptive and prescriptive mindsets often employed in international development work.

It's called The emPOWER Collective — and its goal is to be extremely purposeful about taking a new approach to build a grassroots effort within the eastern Nepali village of Sano Gaun to discuss energy concerns. The researchers will place outside expertise at the service of village residents.

“We’ve chosen a theme of energy because that’s my expertise area,” Bond said. “But then we haven’t any idea what energy challenge we are going to try to solve. What we’d like to do is have a conversation with the village about energy, and energy solutions, use our expertise to communicate to them what their options might be, and together choose what might be the most appropriate solutions for them.”

[Read more about this project >>>](#)

Listen to “Connections” Lecture Series

The CACHE Connections seminar series puts a spotlight on excellent lectures and seminars in departments across the University of Illinois campus in the areas of indoor environments, emissions modeling, energy and fuel decision making, and international development. Our goal is to weave a thread of common interest through many disciplines and build wider interest in the study of environmental and health consequences from human activities in the home.

Two recorded lectures are archived on the CACHE website. You can listen (or re-listen) to:

- [Nigel Isaacs — “Traveling Codes: Exploring American National Building Code from Past to Present.”](#) and
- [Brent Stephens — “Indoor Exposures to Outdoor Air Pollution”](#)

CACHE is supported in its mission by the College of Engineering, the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering (CEE) at Illinois, and the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment (iSEE) at Illinois.

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