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ENVIRONMENT

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MINI GRANT PROJECT SUMMARY

Please complete the project summary and return the completed form to April Snyder, Associate Administrator for the Institute on the Environment at aprilsnyder@umn.edu. Paper copies will not be accepted. Please also attach any photos, publications, brochures, event agendas or other materials that were a result of the mini grant summary.

Date of Report Submission:	10/11/2015
Project PI & Dept/School	Michael Goldman, Associate Professor, Sociology
Project Title:	Bangalore's Great Transformation
Grant Amount \$:	\$3000

Project Context & Purpose

Please include the original project purpose statement and revise for any changes that occurred in the project after the start date with a short explanation of the changes.

Original goal:

The original purpose of the project was to forge meaningful connections between scholars at the University of Minnesota and local networks of scholars, non-governmental organizations, and activists in Bangalore, our primary field site. We intended to use this grant to organize and participate in a series of workshops, forums, and public events in Bangalore and Minneapolis. As our Mini Grant proposal states, "The primary goal is to strengthen the partnerships among scholars at the U of M and those based in Bangalore, and develop a longer term research agenda." There has been no change in this broad goal and the project supported by this grant reflects the commitment to this stated aim.

Changes:

As far as the specific outcome goes, there have been some changes. We intended to organize an independent workshop in Bangalore that would bring together a diverse group of actors who would help us synthesize the findings of an ongoing research project. Due to a range of logistical reasons, this workshop is pending. Given our ambitious aim of drawing together four prominent institutions and a large group of affiliated individuals, we have faced barriers in terms of scheduling and finances. Nonetheless, through alternative means, we have been successful in meeting our original goal of strengthening and

solidifying an energetic collaborative network that spans across these two cities. In the face of this logistical difficulty, we have found ways of making these intercontinental connections through means (elaborated in the following section) that are smaller in scale.

Work Completed

Please provide a summary of the work that was completed for the mini grant project.

The Mini Grant allowed for the participation of University of Minnesota scholars in forums and networks in Bangalore. The ability to make these connections and contribute to scholarly and public debates in Bangalore, our field site, is crucial to the long-term research agenda. We have been able to access a diverse mix of individuals and organizations through formal participation in events and also semi-formal meetings. As this publically engaged research project is based on collaboration, the main work carried out was aimed at accessing new scholars and public actors, and strengthen existing connections.

The findings of our research on urban transformation have been presented at two important forums:

- International Workshop on Comparative Urban and Regional Research at the Indian Institute of Human Settlements, Bangalore, June 2015
- International Waters Inaugural Meeting, Minneapolis, April 2015

Other events attended to further project goals:

- A workshop on Land Governance Assessment Framework, at Azim Premji University, Bangalore
- A series of workshops during summer 2015 organized by Bangalore Research Network
- The Tenth Annual International Conference on Public Policy and Management, July 2015
- VCCircle Entrepreneurs Summit (Bangalore), June 2015
- Field visits organized by Environment Support Group, summer 2015
- Public events organized by the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, summer 2015
- Development in India, a workshop at Azim Premji University, July 2015

Partnerships & Collaborations

Please provide a summary of the project personnel, partnerships and collaborations that worked directly on the project or were started as a direct result of the mini grant project.

The activities in Bangalore were undertaken by Devika Narayan, a Ph.D student (department of sociology, ICGC) at the University of Minnesota. She took on the task of attending events, networking with individuals and setting up follow-up meetings. Prof. Michael Goldman engaged with the WaTERS Network in Minneapolis and presented at the Inaugural meeting. Our participation in this network will intensify as we conduct a research study on urban water in Bangalore in the summer of 2016 as part of a large comparative study with researchers in Lima, Peru and Cape Town, South Africa. We will share the findings in our international WaTERS network of urban researchers and activists, as part of the Canadian-led and funded global initiative on urban water justice and research.

The collaboration with Environmental Support Group and faculty of the National Institute of Advanced Studies, both key Bangalore-based partners, have been strengthened during the project period. During this mini-grant funded period, we began engaging with the Bangalore Research Network. Further, new connections have been made with relevant researchers at Azim Premji University, Bangalore.

Project Outcomes & Impacts

Please provide a summary of the outcomes and /or impacts of the mini grant project including future plans for the project.

The Mini Grant has paved the way for the large event we plan on organizing in the following year. The delays we have faced have allowed us to forge new connections with networks of graduate students, researchers, public officials and activists in Bangalore. For instance, the Bangalore Research Network is made up of a range of scholars, urban planners, film makers, doctoral students and activists who, like us, regard Bangalore as their object of inquiry. Non-scholarly forums such as the Entrepreneurs Summit, gave us access to elite economic and policy networks in Bangalore. These proved to be invaluable research contacts and aided processes of data collection.