



Field Research Methods for Politics & Development in Africa: Education Abroad in Malawi.

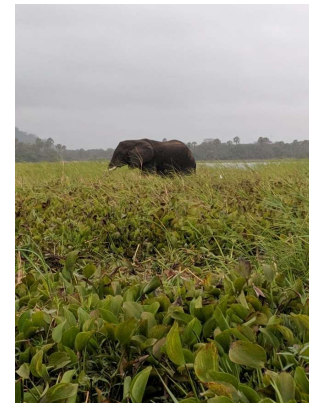
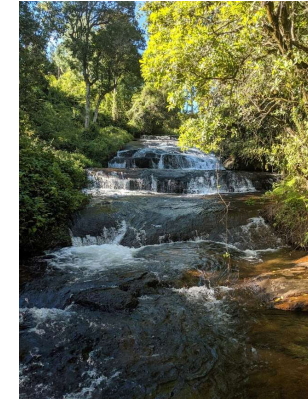
Name: Joshua Scheid
STEP Project Category: Education Abroad
Step Faculty Mentor: Esther Gottlieb
Major: Political Science & Public Leadership, Management, & Policy

Motivation to select this project:

- Project fulfilled my desire to study abroad at least once during my College Academic career.
- Wanted to embark on a study abroad trip that differed from the typical “Instagram post worthy trip” to Europe U.S student typically go on
- Contained a class that I could take for my major
- Would help me determine if I wanted to pursue research during my Undergraduate Academic career
- Gave me an opportunity to travel to Africa

Project Description:

- A month-long trip (May 27th- June 24th, 2019) to and around the country of Malawi on the African continent
- Enrolled in a course during trip that taught me how to conduct high quality academic research in the context of a developing country like Malawi
- The research methodologies we engaged with in the course revolved around literature and institutions concerning political events and development trends of Malawi
- The course enabled us to develop a research project proposal we could use to pursue an Undergraduate Research Thesis after our return if we so chose to do so



What was transformational about my project:

- The trip corrected many misconceptions I had about the people and landscape of the continent of Africa.
- Allowed me to gain a greater understanding and perspective about the developmental aid projects occurring in Malawi and the developmental aid process in Africa
- Spurred a desire in me to travel abroad again in the future

Favorite Part of the trip:

- Hiking to the top of Zomba Mountain and taking the obligatory O-H-I-O education abroad photo - >

