

# BRINGING STUDY ABROAD INTO THE POLITICAL SCIENCE CLASSROOM

Rachel L. Ellett, Pablo Toral and Daniel Zipse

Department of Political Science

Beloit College,

700 College St.,

Beloit, WI53511

[ellettr@beloit.edu](mailto:ellettr@beloit.edu)

# Individual Student Benefits

- Allows for personal and academic reflection on their experiences
- Integrating experiences into an intellectual framework better prepares them for 'reentry'
- Allows them to 'share'
- Gives them specific tasks or goals to accomplish relative to their Beloit curriculum
- Student ownership of topic

# Classroom Benefits

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- Goal is to integrate theory and real life. Students provide up to date real world examples with personal experiences
- Peer teaching: Pedagogically important to encourage student-to-student interaction and learning
- Fun – one more way to break up class time

# Institutional Benefits

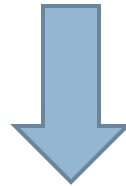
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- Recruitment: Serves as a formidable advertisement for study abroad
- No start up costs, but seemingly high benefits
- Building imagined communities
- Bringing international to campus
- Placing Liberal Arts in Practice

# Stages of Integration

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Pre-departure advising



Study abroad/fieldwork



Return post-arrival

# Blogging

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<http://lilyrubenstein.wordpress.com/2009/10/20/womens-organization-in-the-river-valley/#comments>

<http://elsurglobal.blogspot.com/>

<http://turtleview.wordpress.com/>

# Skyping from Argentina



# Challenges

- Student participation in and outside classroom
- Scheduling
- Faculty time
- Advising: Thoroughly prepping students at home and in the field
- Faculty flexibility on classroom topics/assignment
- Faculty time
- Faculty control
- Technology is good but not perfect