

## Berkeley Institute for the Global Generation – Summer 2009

**“The looming crisis: food scarcity, environmental degradation and poverty  
in the century of human security”**

### **Francesca Giovannini, Instructor**

The Berkeley Summer Institute for the Global Generation is a unique opportunity for small group students and scholars representing all regions of the world to explore a specific issue and/or world region in greater depth. It is intended as a “practical training” for students to develop effective communication, leadership and team building skills, pivotal for both the academic and policy environment.

This year’s topic is “The looming crisis: food scarcity, environmental degradation and poverty in the century of human security”.

The program is designed to provide a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary analysis of the structural and direct causes of food and environmental crisis that developing countries are currently battling and confronting. It seeks to examine the main discourse around hunger and famine in the context of poverty and human rights and it critically assess the impact of key policy solutions adopted thus far in an attempt to manage (without solving) the ongoing global food crisis.

In particular, the program will analyze how the intricate and complex interdependence among countries has compromised and, very often, permanently altered the ability of developing economies to prevent and respond to food crisis, famine and hunger, emerging as the major challenges to peace and stability in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The summer institute will offer three main levels of analysis:

1. Academic: by exploring the main academic literature on the root causes of food scarcity and environmental degradation in the world today;
2. Policy: by analyzing the main tools and strategies developed thus far by decision and policy makers within key international organizations and multilateral institutions to confront and manage the current global food crisis;
3. Grass-root perspective: by examining the role (and approach) of major advocacy groups such as civil society, social movements and grass root organizations in raising awareness about individual and collective responsibility of developed countries consumers in the perpetuation of dependency and food scarcity in developing countries.