

# RESEARCH IN MONGOLIA

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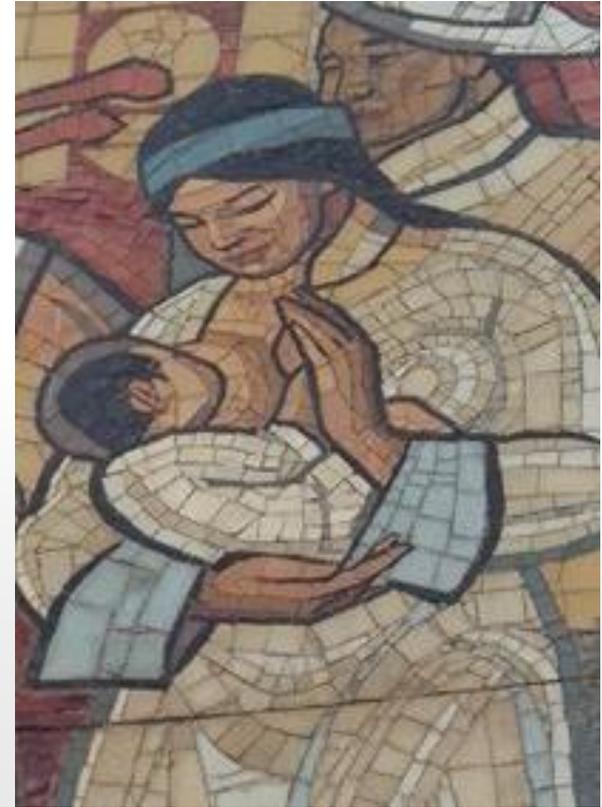
HOLLY DIAZ



# WOMEN LEADERS IN MONGOLIA

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Summer 2015, Dr. Karen Stout travelled to Mongolia with a group of faculty, staff and students to explore collaborative opportunities. It was during this trip when Karen had an informal conversation with a female faculty member from a Mongolian University, who shared that Mongolian women are more prevalent in the workforce and often hold at least one if not more graduate degrees. Karen became curious about this phenomenon and decided to develop a class to further explore women leaders in Mongolia.





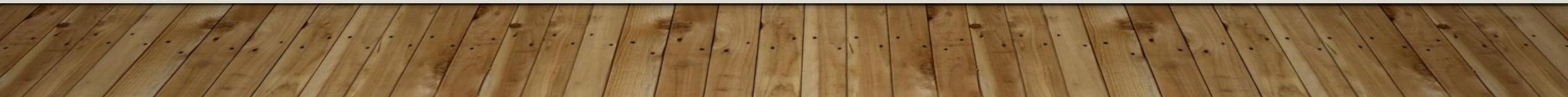
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Summer 2016, I joined Karen on her return to Mongolia. We co-taught a 24 day study abroad course that explored the experiences of 16 women leaders through a series of semi-structured interviews.



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In addition to the formal research process, we visited several museums, met with influential people, learned about work of many NGO's and spent five days exploring the countryside, or the “steppe”.





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Karen and I have presented our initial findings at two conferences, the International Leadership Association conference and the Women and Leadership Conference. In addition, we shared our research at Back to Bellingham this past May.

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We attempted to return to Mongolia during the Summer of 2017 as a global learning program to continue the research. Unfortunately, we were unable to get enough students to sign up for the class and had to cancel the program.





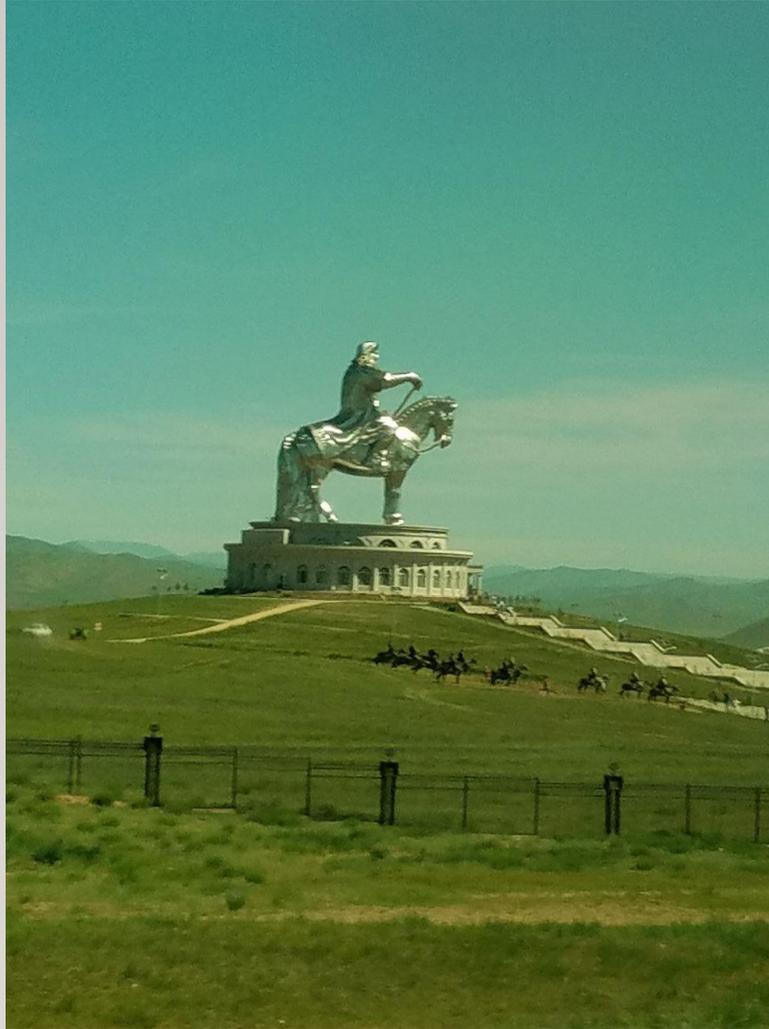
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Following the cancellation of the class, I was offered a research trip by the Institute of Global Engagement. In July 2017, I travelled with one student research assistant back to Mongolia where I conducted 10 additional interviews and verified data with six of our original participants.

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During this trip, I was able to expand the research to include four rural women leaders as participants which provided breadth and validation of emerging themes.





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I have been so inspired by the research, that I decided to expand the topic for my dissertation. My personal research is exploring what promotes resilience and thriving in Mongolian women leaders

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I never in a million years thought I would be researching Mongolia so in depth. It is a unique country, with an ancient history and 27 year-old democracy. Research opportunities here are rich and plentiful.

I found Mongolians to be kind, inviting and appreciative of the research. If you have the opportunity, I highly encourage research in Mongolia.

