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Subject: Beyond Intractability Project Update

Evelin --

We wanted to give you an update on the Beyond Intractability project. As most of you know, we finally got V2 released a couple of months ago and are continuing to add material. The new and continually expanding system is a vast improvement over the first version of the Beyond Intractability. It now incorporates virtually all of the features envisioned in our initial ambitious project design. If you haven't seen it recently, it's worth a look:

<http://www.beyondintractability.org/>

More recently, we built an online training program based on Beyond Intractability to replace the one we developed years ago under very small USIP grant. We are also beginning to get considerable correspondence from users abroad, especially from people in Africa, who are interested in contributing to the system.

Another exciting development has been our student contributor program. This program gives graduate students the chance to do work that makes a lasting contribution. They find this is much more rewarding than the typical, turn-it-in-and-forget-it class project. Under this program, for example, John Paul Lederach asked all of his graduate students to contribute something to the system last spring, which resulted in a number of new items (essays, case studies, personal profiles, and user guides) written by third-world authors. If you're interested (or know of someone else who might be) you can find a detailed explanation of the program on our student contributor page:

<http://www.beyondintractability.org/student-contributors.jsp>

We have also developed a sophisticated e-mail, contact management database that is allowing us to send large numbers of focused e-mail announcements highlighting, for particular user groups, things that they can do with Beyond Intractability. You'll soon be receiving, as an example, an e-mail that we're sending to educators teaching in intractable conflict-related fields.

Still, the bulk of our work has focused on the development of funding options for continuing the Beyond Intractability program. We have been writing a number of succinct, preliminary proposals outlining a series of "next generation" projects. Instead of providing a one-size-fits-all, general reference system, we are proposing to develop much more focused systems tailored to this needs of specific clients (and funders) including, for example, people engaged in building the capacity of local communities to deal with civil rights conflicts or peacebuilders engaged in post-conflict stability operations. We are also developing partnership models through which Beyond Intractability would provide online support for conventional education and training programs. We expect to have more information about these initiatives available early next year.

Since our Hewlett funds are running out, we sadly couldn't do another conference last year, so we feel pretty out of touch with some of you. But we hope you will look at all the improvements to the new system, give us feedback, and tell your students and associates about it. There is a wealth of great information in there and it is growing all the time.

Also, if you know of people who might have something valuable to contribute, send them our way, or have them to go our call for contributors: <http://www.beyondintractability.org/general-contributors.jsp>.

And do write back and tell us what you are up to. We don't want to lose touch with all of you even though we're now going through a lean, funding period!

Have a great holiday season.

-- Heidi and Guy