

## **Dr. Deirdre LaPin, Ph.D, MPH**

African Studies Center  
University of Pennsylvania  
January 2010

Deirdre LaPin holds a Ph.D. in African Studies (anthropology) from the University of Wisconsin and an MPH and post-doctoral certificate in international health from The Johns Hopkins University. She now works as a scholar and international development specialist across industry, government, multilateral agencies, and academia. She has lived and worked in Nigeria over nearly 40 years, 15 years as a resident in various portions of the country and for 5 years at Port Harcourt in the Niger Delta. Currently she is a Research Associate in the African Studies Center at the University of Pennsylvania.

Consulting and Scholarship. From September 2008 until the end of May 2009 Dr. LaPin pursued research on the Niger Delta as a Resident Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. (See [http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=news.item&news\\_id=478897](http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=news.item&news_id=478897).) In 2007 she completed a study for the US Institute of Peace on corporate strategies for peace and development in the Delta region. From time to time she serves as consultant staff for the International Finance Corporation, Department Environment and Social Development. Recently, she evaluated IFC's stakeholder engagement projects worldwide; she also designed the first website on community development in extractive industry (See [www.commddev.org](http://www.commddev.org)). She also advises the World Bank on its program strategy for the Niger Delta.

Industry Experience. Dr. LaPin joined Shell in 1998 as its first social science staff member, development expert and community advocate. During her tenure she shaped innovation and best practice for corporate social performance. As resident in the Niger Delta for five years, she led Shell Nigeria (SPDC) in the design, staffing, implementation, and evaluation of a \$60 million/year corporate sustainable community development program serving the oil producing region. In 2002-2003 Dr. LaPin was named Social Investment Manager in Oman for Petroleum Development Oman under Shell management.

International Development. From 1984 to 1997, Dr. LaPin designed and managed programs in social and health development. She was resident manager for UNICEF country programs in Somalia and Benin and Nigeria specialist in the USAID Office of Population and Health, where she was also CTO for a worldwide health and population communications project.

Academic Appointments and Tenure. Beginning in 1975 Dr. LaPin pursued an academic career at the Universities of Ife, Nigeria; University of Pennsylvania; Emory University; and as tenured Associate Professor at the University of Arkansas.

Dr. LaPin has published a number of articles and books on anthropology, folklore, and corporate social practice.