

The International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life at Brandeis University

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Brandeis 1998 Ethics and Coexistence Student Projects Fellows

[Manuel Costescu](#) ('99)
Sibiu, Romania

Plague Control in Tanzania Internship with Gesellschaft fur technisch Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) Lushoto, Tanzania

Project Goals:

To test the willingness of farmers to contribute financially to the procurement of insecticides and rodenticides to prevent plague.

To discover how traditional healers treat the plague and whether they cooperate with the hospital in administering tetracycline, in addition to herbs and fetishes.



Personal Goals:

To understand the dynamics of a society fundamentally different from mine, to integrate into it, and to see how many cultural barriers I could break by openly revealing my personality.

Activities:

- Organizing logistics
 - Preparing data.
 - Producing a report for the Plague Control Commission
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**Key Dilemmas:**

To rid itself of the plague, does this area need only insecticides, or does the society have other problems that are deeper and more cumbersome to combat?

The hardest thing was not driving on the dusty roads of the villages under plague quarantine, but rather it is now, walking with my girlfriend at 10 p.m. on flashy Newbury Street, knowing that at the same time, as the morning breaks in Tanzania, women are lighting up a feeble fire and cooking chapati in front of their dilapidated day-houses.

Important Learnings:

I learned:

- how to communicate using my body more than my tongue.
- how to survive in circumstances I never before encountered.
- a lot about myself