



The Center for Global Studies, The Pennsylvania State University
427 Burrowes Building, University Park, PA 16802

Our Mission

The Center for Global Studies (CGS) has been designated a Title VI National Resource Center by the Department of Education. Working in collaboration with Penn State's many excellent international initiatives, faculty and students from multiple disciplines, and K-12 schools in the region, the CGS is dedicated to the growth and support of global studies.

Our Staff

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Our Fellows

Sophia G. Khadraoui, Department of French
and Francophone Studies
Kevin Lowe, Department of History

Touch of Culture: Eastern Europe

By: Daniela Borlea

On Friday, March 23, the CGS partnered with the Young Scholars of Central Pennsylvania (YSCP) to host the charter school's annual Touch of Culture event. This year, the celebration focused on Eastern Europe and countries including Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, and Ukraine were represented through traditional song, dance, garb, and food. The program consisted of a presentation on Eastern Europe, a Russian poetry recital, Russian song and dance performances, and a Romanian poetry reading among others. Authentic dishes such as *deruny* (potato pancakes), Moscovite beet salad, *salat iz kapusty* (cabbage salad), *vinegret*, and *bliny* (Russian pancakes) were served as part of the evening's festivities. The event drew approximately 200 people from the Centre Region community.

Photo: Anna Nistar(L) sang two Russian songs while Margo Novikov (R) performed the Russian dance Polyanka.



Under-Documented Migrations: Narrating Against Border Enforcement

By: Sara Marzioli

On Thursday, March 22, the Center for Global Studies and the Latin American Studies program hosted two early career scholars whose research addresses the cultural representation of undocumented immigrants in the U.S. in Latino and Latin American literature and cinema. The first talk was titled "Irrational Journeys: Racialized Aging and Melancholia in Border-Crossing Narratives" by Guillermo Arriaga, Tommy Lee Jones, and Oscar Casares" by Julie Minich, Assistant Professor of English and Affiliate with Latin American, Latina/o and Caribbean Studies, Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. The second presentation, "Entering through el Hueco and Living in las Entrañas: The Colombian Undocumented Migrant Imaginary in Jorge Franco's *Paraíso Travel*," was given by Jennifer Harford Vargas, Assistant Professor of English at Bryn Mawr University.

Minich's presentation offered an analysis of the novel *Amigoland* by Oscar Casares and of the film *Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada* directed by Tommy Lee Jones and written by Guillermo Arriaga. The two works foreground the complex affective relationships between U.S. citizens and undocumented immigrants from Mexico. The novel narrates the fraught presence of the U.S.-Mexico border, both real and metaphorical, in the lives of people. Mexico is depicted as the idealized land, the "repository of hopes and dreams," in Minich's words, thus questioning the validity of the "American dream" in the migrant's imagination.

Harford Vargas offered an analysis of *Paraíso Travel*, a novel by Colombian writer Jorge Franco. The text narrates the story of a couple who decide to migrate to the U.S. using illegal migratory paths. After undergoing all sorts of mistreatment, violence, and abuse, they arrive in New York, where, only after making connections with the local Colombian community, are they able to recover a sense of humanity and wholeness.

Spotlight On: The Brown Bag Graduate Lecture Series

By: Ashley Meeder

Earlier this month, Leisa Rothlisberger, PhD candidate in the Department of Comparative Literature and Graduate Fellow in the Rock Ethics Institute, took us behind the scenes of the movie industry during the CGS Brown Bag Lecture Series. Her dissertation, titled “NAFTA Culture: Trade Policy and Cultural Exchange in the Global Era,” focuses on the interconnections between NAFTA and cultural products in the US and Mexico.

Rothlisberger spoke about the filming of movies including *Titanic* and the significance of choosing a location: many Hollywood productions are filmed outside the U.S. in Baja California, Mexico. Rothlisberger, who visited this location in May 2011, learned how the relationship between culture and territory has been changing along with the policies that accelerate globalization. She shared some of the insights she gained from meeting with both film workers who have worked on Hollywood productions in Mexico and government officials who shape policies and practices that directly affect foreign productions choosing to film in Baja California.

Our second speaker, Sophia Khadraoui, from the Department of French and Francophone Studies will give a presentation titled: “Commemorations, Commemorators and Commemorated: Unveiling the Politics of France’s Remembrance of Slavery” on Wednesday, March 28. She has been researching issues of race and identity and their repercussions in history and memory.

Khadraoui’s upcoming lecture will address the process of the “memorialization” of slavery and its abolition in French metropolitan cityscapes circa 1998. She will address the future as she explores how slavery of the past ties in with current questions about race, identity, and immigration.

Teaching World Culture Through The Visual Arts K-12 Teachers Workshop

On Saturday, April 14, 2012, the Center for Global Studies will be offering an Act 48 professional development workshop for practicing K-12 classroom teachers. This year’s theme will focus on the teaching of world culture through the visual arts. Topics include “Using the Wild Wild Web to Learn about Art,” “Blue and White: A Case Study in Ten Centuries of Global Exchange,” “Myths and Constructions of Paris in Chicago, Casablanca, and Buenos Aires,” and “Using the Arts in the Classroom to Enhance Cultural Awareness and Learning.” For more details, visit our Outreach page at <http://cgs.psu.edu/outreach.shtml>.

Registration is open at http://cgs.psu.edu/arts_register.shtml. Seating will be limited to 30 participants.

Upcoming Events

3/28 **Sophia Khadraoui**,
French and Francophone Studies
“Commemorations, Commemorators, and Commemorated: Unveiling the Politics of France’s Remembrance of Slavery”

4/2 **Aldon Nelson**, Penn State
“Nobel Panel: On Tranströmer”

4/5 **Carlos Carillo** and **Rene Castillo**,
“Film-making in Baja California”

4/7 Korean World Stories Alive!
(@ Schlow)

4/9 **Scott Smith**, Penn State
“Desire, Disease, and the Grotesque
Charles Burns Black Hole”

4/11 **Kevin Lowe**, Dept. of History
“Building the Kingdom in the
Countryside: Christian Missionaries,
Agriculture, and Globalization”

4/13 Film screening by the Chiapas
Media Project, an Americas Media
Initiative

4/14 Teaching World Culture Through
The Visual Arts K-12 Teachers Workshop

4/14 Persian World Stories Alive!
(@ Schlow)

4/16 **Jose Rabasa**, Harvard
“Genocide, Science, and Ethnocide,
The Extirpation of Idoltries in the
Colonial Andes and a Contemporary
Variant”

4/21 Japanese World Stories Alive!
(@ Schlow)

4/23 **Michael Denning and the Yale
University Research group**, Yale
“Culture in the Age of One World”

4/23 **Jonathan H. Marks**, Penn State
“The Future of Food Ethics”

4/25 **Sara Marzioli**
Department of Comparative Literature
“Invisible Diasporas: Afro-Modernism
in Italy”