



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

Our Mission

The Center for Global Studies 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

Dr. Sophia McClennen, Director
Sarah Lyall-Combs, Assistant Director
and Outreach Coordinator
Amy Tegeder, Administrative
Support Assistant
Sara Marzioli, Graduate Assistant
Daniela Borlea, Intern
Ashley Meeder, Intern
Christina Rohe, Intern

Our Fellows

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

World Stories Alive! Tales in Many Tongues

By: Christina Rohe

Throughout the spring semester, the Center for Global Studies, in collaboration with the Young Scholars of Central Pennsylvania Charter School, Global Connections, and Schlow Centre Region Library, is co-sponsoring the **World Stories Alive! Tales in Many Tongues** series. Each Saturday, children ages 3-8 and their families experience story time and songs conducted in a select foreign language and participate in hands-on activities. Over the course of the series, attendees will experience twelve different languages, including Chinese, Spanish, Turkish, Arabic, French, Hindi, Russian, Bengali, Yiddish, Korean, Persian, and Japanese.



*Above: Monirah Al-Mansour presents story time in Arabic
Right: Gathering materials for the hands-on activity*

Center for Global Studies Research Project Earns Support From Worldwide University Network (WUN)

Dr. Sophia McClennen, director of The Center for Global Studies, professor of Comparative Literature, Spanish and Women's Studies, and affiliate faculty of the School of International Affairs at Penn State, will lead a joint research project titled "Geographies of Power: Justice, Revolution, and the Cultural Imagination," focused on social transformation and cultural conflict with the Worldwide University Network (WUN). The WUN, a consortium of 18 research universities from five continents, has funded the project.

Over \$32,000 in research funds will be used to hold a series of meetings throughout the year, support research mobility for scholars involved in the project, and host a conference on the topic in the spring of 2013.

Using historical analysis and cross-cultural awareness, the project will emphasize shifting geographies of power in the period between the terrorist attacks of 9/11/2001 and the 2011 Arab Spring. The project is premised on the idea that "the frontiers of cultural understanding" are undergoing a transformation that can only be appreciated through a cross-cultural perspective and a multi-disciplinary methodology that is alert to the historical precedents behind current geopolitical and cultural conflicts.

In addition to Dr. McClennen, the collaboration also includes Penn State faculty members Dr. Eric Hayot, director of the Asian Studies Program; Dr. Shuang Shen, assistant professor of Comparative Literature and Chinese; Dr. Jonathan Abel, assistant professor of Comparative Literature and Japanese; and Gabeba Baderoon, assistant professor of Women's Studies and African and African American Studies. International partners include Shamil Jeppie from the University of Cape Town, Ziad Elmarsafy and Anna Bernard from York University, George Pavlich from the University of Alberta, and Ang Zhihui from Nanjing University.

Any Penn State faculty or student interested in joining the initiative should send an email to L-WUN-GEO@LISTS.PSU.EDU. The team plans to publish proceedings and engage in future projects with policy makers.

Graduate Research in Global Studies: A Series of Brown Bag Talks

By: Daniela Borlea

The Center for Global Studies, in collaboration with PSU Libraries, is hosting a series of five presentations featuring research by Penn State graduate students as part of the Center's "Brown Bag Talks." The presentations focus on topics from various fields and relay graduate research to a public audience. Katie Dietrich (PhD candidate, Geography) will open the series on February 29 with her talk "Envisioning a Future World: Climate Change, Knowledge Exchange, and Opportunities Abroad." The program is scheduled to take place from 12:15 - 1:15 pm in 402 Burrowes on the University Park campus.

Ms. Dietrich's work studies the collaborations, knowledge exchange, and learning between rural communities, researchers, and local non-governmental organization (NGO) workers while engaging in a scenario building activity that envisions a future under climate uncertainty. Ms. Dietrich has previously researched water resource management and responses to climate uncertainty in rural communities. She has worked in Ghana for the past five years and has traveled abroad extensively through her education and climate change conferences.

Outreach with CGS Intern Ashley Meeder

"I like this club because we learn about monsters and gods. I like when I get to be in plays." - Rivu, 5th grade



"My internship at the Center for Global Studies has enabled me to get involved with the Young Scholars of Central PA Charter School (YSCP). On Thursdays, I spend an afternoon with students at YSCP and together we explore world mythology and folklore.

The first group of the afternoon includes middle school students (grades 5-8) while the second group includes elementary students (grades 1 and 2). This month, the middle school students and I explored Ancient Egyptian mythology, while the 1st and 2nd graders heard tales and folk stories of American Indians. Each week we learn about another culture through their stories and then reinforce our newfound knowledge by way of crafts, projects, and activities. For example, while learning about Ancient Egypt, the students worked together to present a "crash course" on Egyptian deities and then performed a skit on the legend of Osiris, both as it occurred in Ancient Egypt and then how it might have looked if it were adapted for contemporary society.

In the weeks ahead, the older group will make a stop in both Greece and Norway to learn about their mythologies before taking a giant trip to the East. The younger group is gearing up to learn about many of the stories shared by African cultures followed by classic Greek mythology. I am happy to be working with such enthusiastic and knowledgeable students and look forward to traveling the world with them through mythology."

Upcoming Events

2/29 **Katie Dietrich**, Dept. of Geography
"Envisioning a Future World: Climate Change, Knowledge Exchange, and Opportunities Abroad"

3/1 "Foreign Language Education in Early Childhood: A Panel Discussion" (@ YSCP)

3/12 **Christopher Hill**, Berkeley
"The Teleologies of Modernism: Toward a Transitional Theory"

3/14 **Leisa Rothlisberger**, Department of Comparative Literature
"Behind the Scenes in Baja California: Movies Are More Than What We See"

3/15 **Eduardo Coutinho**, "Rethinking Comparativisms from the Latin American Point of View"

3/17 Russian World Stories Alive! (@ Schlow)

3/23 Touch of Culture: Eastern Europe (@ YSCP)

3/24 Bengali World Stories Alive! (@ Schlow)

3/26 **Susan Andrade**, Pittsburgh
"After Midnight Realism and the Indian Emergency"

3/28 **Sophia Khadraoui**, Dept. of French and Francophone Studies
"Commemorations, Commemorators and Commemorated: Unveiling the Politics of France's Remembrance of Slavery"

3/31 Yiddish World Stories Alive! (@ Schlow)

For a complete list of events, visit <http://cgs.psu.edu/events.shtml>