

The Center for Global Studies can be found on Twitter and Instagram @CGSPennState on Facebook and Flickr @The Center for Global Studies at Penn State

## UNIVERSITY PARK EVENTS

### *“Unnatural Narratives in Contemporary Chinese Time Travel Fiction”*

**Biwu Shang, Shanghai Jiaotong University**

Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
102 Kern Building, 12:15pm-1:30pm

### *“Identity in Central Asia”*

**Mark Reese, US Naval Academy**

Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
012 Katz Building, 11:15am-12:30pm

### *“World Stories Alive: Arabic”*

**Reham Aly, Penn State**

Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Schlow Library, 11:00am-12:00pm

### *“So Say We All: The Fiction of World Science Fiction”*

**Areielle Saiber, Bowdoin College**

Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016  
102 Kern Building, 12:15pm-1:30pm

### *“What can US Companies do to get the most out of their expats in Hardship Locations?”*

**Loredana Abreu, Penn State**

Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016  
157 Burrowes Building, 12:15pm-1:15pm

### *“Redefining Poverty”*

**Lakshman Yapa, Penn State**

Thursday March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
012 Katz Building, 11:15am-12:30pm

## Teaching Climate Change in the School System

By Loredana Abreu

*“Climate change is making the world’s atmosphere reach above normal temperatures,”* said Dr. Richard Alley from Penn State’s Department of Geosciences, and little is being done to educate the leaders of the future generation on this topic. Current research by Penn State alumni, Eric Plutzer and A. Lee Hannah, along with members of the National Center for Science Education, found through a survey distributed to 1,500 middle and high school science teachers from all over the country, that the average teacher devotes two hours maximum in their formal lesson plans to this topic. This is less than what is recommended by the National Research Council on their report on a framework for K-12 science education.

On Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016 the Center for Global Studies and Penn State’s Sustainability Institute hosted: *“Lesson Planet: Teaching Sustainability”* educator’s workshop. The workshop targeted K-12 educators from different disciplines. Among the audience were English, Science and Social Studies teachers. The event’s goal was to educate attendees on climate change and also to help them develop potential strategies to incorporate this topic across their various disciplines.



*Dr. Richard Alley, Penn State, talks to pre-service educators on the importance of teaching children about climate change.*

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Plutzer's study showed that even though teachers were covering the basics of global warming, the amount of time and depth dedicated to this subject was limited. In many cases, the lack of formal training on climate change for teachers was to blame. For this reason, researchers suggested that future teachers should attend educational courses on the topic. The *"Lesson Planet: Teaching Sustainability"* educator's workshop was given by a series of speakers who are experts in climate change, education, and sustainability to provide this experience for the educators.

The director of the Center for Global Studies, Dr. Sophia McClennen, opened the workshop explaining how climate change is linked to poverty and political unrest, and how this topic is more complicated than temperatures just getting higher. Dr. Richard Alley, Penn State's Evan Pugh professor of geoscience and renowned expert on climate change and glaciology, explained the science behind this man-driven climate phenomenon and how it affects societies and ecosystems.

The workshop ended with Dr. Peter Buckland, Academic Programs Fellow at Penn State's Sustainability Institute. Buckland explained how climate change can be incorporated into the educational curriculum. *"There are ways to craft an assignment that can be rich, and civic development as well as scientific literacy,"* said Buckland. He also explained some of the challenges he confronted when trying to teach sustainability in an all-boys boarding school. Buckland remembered many parents didn't believe the topic was worth teaching. However, he cleverly tackled this problem with the implementation of debates among students on global warming. By doing this, he found that the vast majority of the younger generation is interested in learning more on the topic and are not always influenced by what their parents think.

For more information on how to teach sustainability, visit [Penn State's Sustainability Institute's website](#) and take a look at ["The Field Guide to Teaching Sustainability"](#). The Center for Global Studies also has K-12 resources available at [its website](#).

## **Penn State Professor Speaks on Religious Freedom**

By Bridget Adduce

On Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Roger Finke, Penn State professor of sociology and religious studies in the Department of Sociology and Criminology, presented on "Religious Freedom: A Global Historical Exploration." The event, which was cosponsored by the Center for Global Studies, is a part of the Penn State School of International Affairs' spring colloquium: Current Policy Challenges.

Finke is the founding director of the Association of Religion Data Archives and is the President of the Association for the Sociology of Religion. He co-authored two award winning books and wrote many influential articles that have been published in journals such as the *American Sociological Review*.



*Dr. Roger Finke, Penn State, speaks to students and faculty on religious freedom*

During his presentation, Dr. Finke actively engaged his audience and challenged everyone to think on the influence of religious freedom both in a global context and in our daily lives. His research focused heavily on how the regulation of religion relates to social violence and conflicts around the world. Through this research he sought to further investigate three common assumptions: With the exception of Muslim-majority nations, religious freedoms are largely protected, with the exception of Muslim-majority nations, religious persecution seldom occurs, and the activity of religious groups (particularly minority groups) must be restricted in order to prevent religiously motivated violence.

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What he found shattered these three assumptions. Finke discussed how social and government restrictions are actually associated with higher levels of religious persecution and violence. Religious persecution is, in fact, very common, and the majority of countries still place restrictions on the practice or profession of religion. The discussion ended with an open question and answer forum, during which many graduate students from the School of International Affairs presented their own questions on the issue.

The SIA series will continue throughout the semester with topics such as *"Identity in Central Asia"* and *"Guns or Butter: How Defense Budgets are Made."*

For more information on these events, or any other Center for Global Studies events please visit <http://cgs.la.psu.edu/events>

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## **Penn State Student Wins Sweepstakes to Study Abroad**

By Kayla De Stefano

Recently a student from Penn State, Phelim Giblin Jr., was awarded a \$5,000 sweepstakes scholarship to study abroad in a country of his choice during this upcoming summer session. The Center for International Education and Exchange (CIEE) is a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization that has helped thousands of students study abroad. Penn State facilitates various study abroad opportunities through CIEE in countries all over the world.

The CIEE's mission is to help students gain understanding, acquire knowledge, and develop skills for living in a globally interdependent and culturally diverse world.

Their programs include language, business, and cultural exchange. Giblin is a sophomore majoring in History and International Politics. He is using his award to travel to Amman, Jordan to study Arabic for the summer. If you are interested in studying abroad, CIEE's *"Best Summer Ever 2016"* sweepstakes will be selecting a different winner every month for the \$5,000 prize.

You can apply through their Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/CIEEStudyAbroad/app/143103275748075/>.



*Phelim Giblin Jr., winner of CIEE's "Best Summer Ever 2016" sweepstakes*

When asked why he was interested in studying abroad, Giblin responded, *"I think the Middle East has a really rich culture and I wanted a firsthand experience of that and because I wanted to be able to talk to people there about their opinions on America in the Middle East and some of the stuff going on there right now."*

Penn State's Center for Global Studies also offers funding for learning less commonly taught languages and studying abroad. Awards include the Foreign Language and Area Studies fellowship which is available to students studying Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese and Russian and the Career Development award, available to Liberal Arts doctoral students conducting travel research. For more information, see <http://www.cgs.psu.edu/cgs/funding>.

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## **Center for Global Studies Hosts "World Stories Alive: Turkish"**

By Lauren Kokoskie

On February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016, the Center for Global Studies hosted another *"World Stories Alive"* session featuring Turkish language and culture.

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“World Stories Alive” is sponsored by the CGS and Schlow Library. It runs most Saturdays throughout the spring. The CGS connects to the community with this series by reaching out to native speakers of a different language and inviting them to come to Schlow to share their culture with children and their families. This is done through the reading of a story in their language, sharing a favorite childhood song, and crafting something from their home country. It engages the speaker with their roots, as well as teaches the children something about a different culture.

Turkish day was led by PhD student Merve Tabur. Tabur read the children’s book “The Lady Stork” in her native tongue as the children connected her language with the pictures in the book (along with some translations for clarification).



*Merve Tabur reading to participants during “World Stories Alive: Turkish”*

After the story, Tabur shared a childhood song, “The Small Bird was Freezing,” with the participants. The kids enjoyed singing and dancing to a song while learning new words. Lastly, the children were able to participate in the craft of making an evil eye, a symbol to keep bad spirits away in Turkey. The kids enjoyed making the craft and are looking forward to the next “World Stories Alive.” The schedule for the rest of the spring semester series can be found below.

For more information or to be a future reader please send an email to [cgsinfo@psu.edu](mailto:cgsinfo@psu.edu).

**Story times begin at 11:00am at  
Schlow Centre Region Library  
211 S. Allen St – State College,  
PA 16801**

March 19	Arabic
March 26	Romanian
April 2	Chinese
April 9	Japanese
April 23	Italian
April 30	Kazakh

**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**

Dr. Sophia McClennen, Director  
 Sarah Lyall-Combs, Associate Director  
 Mary Price, Administrative Support Assistant  
 Loredana Abreu, Graduate Research Assistant  
 Bridget Adduce, Intern  
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