

The Center for Global Studies
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@CGSPennState



We will be using Twitter in an effort to reach a wider audience when publicizing upcoming CGS events and to share photos and updates as they happen.

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UNIVERSITY PARK EVENTS

1/16

Castling the King: Institutional Sequencing and Regime Change

Matthew Wilson, Penn State
124 Sparks, 1:30 – 2:30 pm

1/22

Global Rhetorics and Global Intersections: The Old and the New

Joseph L. Jeyaraj, Penn State
101 Old Botany Building, 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

1/29

Cultivating Dismodernity: The Meanings of Maize and Agricultural Development in Mexico's Central Highlands

Emma Gaalaas Mullaney, Penn State
124 Sparks, 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

OUTREACH EVENTS

World Stories Alive! Tales in Many Tongues

Saturdays starting January 11, 2014
Schlow Library, State College
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Full event listing can be found on the CGS website: <http://cgs.psu.edu>

Girl Rising

By Annie Goodrich

On November 11th the Center for Global Studies hosted a screening of the film *Girl Rising*. The goal of the film is to raise awareness about the importance of education for young females around the globe. The film follows nine girls in developing countries who have faced a number of barriers to their education such as bond labor, sexual assault, and early marriage. *Girl Rising* captures each girl's dreams, their voices, and their remarkable lives despite being born into unforgivable circumstances.



Organizing the screening was one of the tasks I consistently worked on throughout the semester. It turned out that a few other groups on campus were interested in co-sponsoring, including the International Agriculture Club, United Nations Association of Centre County, and the University Libraries. Throughout the planning process, I was the “middle man” between the various groups and was responsible for keeping the other co-sponsors updated on developments.

One of the biggest challenges I encountered was communicating via email. In hindsight, if I were to plan another event, I would try to limit email communication and meet in person to discuss the important issues of the event.

The actual screening proved to be very successful with about 85 people in attendance. After the film ended, the panelists led an “organic” discussion based on their experience and expertise as it related to what they had just seen on screen. Throughout the 45-minute panel, audience members shared their opinions, which were mostly positive.

Overall, organizing the screening of *Girl Rising* was an enriching experience because I learned how to work with other organizations on campus and within the community. Moving forward, I will be able to use these contacts if I am asked to organize another event next semester. The planning of this event helped me develop the ability to create and maintain relationships across different departments, which will be very beneficial when I enter the professional world.



Careers in Geopolitical Analysis

By Matthew Bloss

The most undeniable fact I learned about the field of Political Science/International Relations after four years is this: at some point in the past, at the current moment, or in the very near future every Political Science student has considered (or will consider) joining the CIA. We are all convinced that this is the logical progression for our professional ambitions. The highly competitive nature of the available positions means little to us, as we are all utterly convinced, for a time at least, that this is our obvious destiny. It's with this admirable confidence that we blindly charge forth, submitting a flurry of internship applications every fall, safe in the knowledge that we will be the lucky one who gets in. It is with this sentiment in mind that CGS, in partnership with The Strategic and Global Security Program and Penn State's Applied Research Laboratory hosted a career talk for those interested in jobs involving geopolitical analysis.

The talk featured Penn State's own John Hodgson, Prof. Don Shemanski, and Prof. Scott Gartner, three individuals with extensive firsthand knowledge about the field of geopolitics. Each speaker has had years of experience working for the government doing many of the things we dream about as students of Political Science or International Relations. They were able to impart to a receptive crowd a great deal of advice from things like constructing one's resume, to highlighting the great number of other agencies (besides the CIA) that employ geopolitical analysts. After the talk, students were able to meet with the speakers as well as current interns of several relevant programs to get more first-hand accounts of what is required to make it in the intelligence field.

This event demonstrates CGS' continued commitment to serving the Penn State community, not just by offering enlightening global commentary, but by facilitating our students in their professional ambitions. We want to help forge a community that does not just study globe issues, but cultivates active participants in world affairs.

World on Trial: Headscarf Law

By Kelly Diaz

On Saturday November 9th, the Center for Global Studies at Penn State and the Pittsburgh Global Studies Center hosted a Teacher's Workshop called "World on Trial: Headscarf Law." This event was geared towards K-12 teachers in the State College, PA community who may struggle with bringing complicated, international problems into class discussion. This seminar ran from 8:30 am to 4:30 p.m. and included a complimentary breakfast and lunch. Throughout the entire conference, participants on the Penn State University Park campus were connected via online video to the participants in Pittsburgh. Speakers and power points from both locations were made available to the other.

First, all participants watched a video which explained the "Headscarf Law," which officially bans religious symbols in public schools. We listened to arguments in opposition to the law and in support of it. The first featured speaker was Sandra Rousseau who is a third year Doctoral student in the Department of French and Francophone Studies at Penn State. Her presentation was titled "What the Veil Veils—Historical Considerations" and was filled with insightful facts about France's history and the role it plays in the debate around the Headscarf Law. Her presentation was very informative and covered a lot of material that the video missed.



L-R: *World on Trial* Workshop Presenters Sandra Rousseau, Dustin Yenser, and Courtney Restemayer

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Next, we heard from the University of Pittsburgh’s Melek Yazici, who shared her personal experience wearing a headscarf in public school. She made necessary clarifications about what the Hijab means and its implications to Muslim men and women alike. She defied the common misconception that the headscarf oppresses women. On the contrary, she feels that it empowers her. If people are not focused on her physical appearance, they will focus on her intellect and personality. She explained that the reasoning that this ban was making school a safe haven for girls was inaccurate.

Penn State’s next speaker was Courtney J. Restemayer, who lectured strictly on the legal side of the debate in her presentation “French Headscarf Law—Policy and Law.” She refrained from incorporating personal opinions, and merely presented the facts, the legal precedents, and how this law is fair according to French law, and under which loopholes. One interesting question she raised was where France, as a signatory to the ICCPR (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights), was bound to that agreement. Other interesting debate topics she raised revolved around gender biases, Islamophobic feelings, and secularism.

Lastly, Middle School Teacher Dustin Lee Yenser gave practical advice in his presentation “Bringing the Debate to the Classroom,” where he provided a recommended curriculum, time table, and suggested discussion questions, and included variations based on grade-level. One of the most important pieces of advice he gave was that making students feel comfortable asking questions and sharing their opinions was key. They will likely be confused about the law and its implications, and it is a teacher’s responsibility to make sure that the students are comfortable sharing their opinions on such a complicated and unfamiliar issue.

Creating the Self and Artistic Production in Immigration

By Sheryl Edmondson

In a talk led by Anna Navrotskaya of the French and Francophone Studies Department at Penn State creativity, the self and immigration were all discussed in a philosophical manner. Identity was one of the more prevailing topics. Identity was said to be created by situations and is continuously changing and modified; the self is not one identity but a multiplicity of identities. Each identity is created by the presence of some other and each is unique to the situation present, that is to say there is no one, real identity that we “go back” to, but we are always only reacting to situations. In terms of creativity, it is an innate human characteristic and the ability to create such identities is what makes us unique animals.

Immigration, like art, is a stage of encounter. As actors, different roles are taken on in different spaces and times. Human beings are artists, we are constantly coloring and creating our worlds to fit us, we can adapt to almost any situation. It is this creativity that is neither taught nor acquired but a natural reaction when we come into contact with others. Consistent with social psychological definitions of self-conception it is developed only by communication with others. Whether or not this theory holds actual weight is debatable upon whom you ask, but nevertheless it was an insightful talk that brought wondering eyes and questioning hands.

Did you know that...?

There are 33 million fewer girls than boys in primary school.

Source: Education First: An Initiative of the United Nations Secretary General, 2012.

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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