



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

### ***World Stories Alive: Arabic***

Saturday February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Schlow Library 11:00 am to 12:00 pm

### ***Journeying Back to the Body: The Decolonizing Potential of Indigenous Masculinities***

**Dr. Sam McKegney, Queens University**

Monday February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017

102 Kern, 12:15 pm to 1:30pm

### ***Climate Change: Current Policy Challenges***

**Dr. Richard Alley, Penn State**

Thursday February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

012 Katz 2:30 pm to 3:45 pm

### ***Revolutionary Coffee: Cairo's Coffeehouses, 1890-1919***

**Alon Tam, University of Pennsylvania**

Thursday February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

102 Weaver, 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm

### ***Arabic Film Screening: Amreeka (2009)***

Thursday February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

Foster Auditorium 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

### ***World Stories Alive! Igbo***

Saturday February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Schlow Library 11:00 am to 12:00 pm

### ***Terrorism, Identity, and Rebellion***

**Dr. James Piazza, Penn State**

Thursday March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

012 Katz 2:30 pm to 3:45 pm

## Meet the Spring Semester Interns



Hello everybody! My name is Renee Arnold, and I'm very excited to be a part of the Center for Global Studies as an intern this semester. I'm a sophomore at Penn State studying International Politics

with a concentration in International Relations. I knew that I wanted to study International Politics after I visited an orphanage in Haiti in high school. Hearing the people of Haiti talk about how much they love their country but how deep the corruption runs in their government both saddened and intrigued me. I would love to have a career one day where I can travel and have a positive impact on our foreign policy. I am especially interested in topics that concern health, education and women's issues.

Hello everyone, my name is Toluwanimi Segun. I'm from Nigeria. I'm a junior majoring in International Political Economy. I'm grateful for the opportunity to intern at the CGS this semester. While my major is generic, my interests are very specific- I enjoy studying issues related to Sub-Saharan African development. With both of my



parents working in the international development community, a future in a related field was sort of a no brainer for me. As they also both enjoy traveling with their kids, I was additionally given the opportunity to ponder the inequalities within both developing and developed societies from an early age. I am especially excited for the visit of Kenyan author Ngugi Wa Thiong'o in April, and some of the School of International series themes also piqued my interest. An unforeseen but definitely pleasant surprise is the

*Continued on Page 2*



possibility of obtaining CGS funding for the biggest African Student Association event this semester...watch this space for updates!



Hello everyone, my name is Rana Mohamed and I am a sophomore double majoring in International Politics and Global and International Studies. I am very excited to be returning as an intern for the center this semester.

Last semester, a few of my highlights included interviewing Kim Barker, author of *The Taliban Shuffle*, meeting Vijay Prashad and working with the Associate Director Sarah Lyall-Combs and the Administrative Support Assistant Mary Price. This semester I am looking forward to the *World Stories Alive!* series because I love interacting with children, the Peter Van Buren lecture on his book *We Meant Well*, the Michael Moore film screening, and having the opportunity to work with two new interns.

### ***World Stories Alive!* Continues With Increased Partnership**

by Renee Arnold

This spring, The Center for Global Studies, in conjunction with Schlow Centre Regional Library, Bilingualism Matters at Penn State and Global Connections, is proud to present *World Stories Alive!* a story time series designed for children ages 3-8 and their families. The program uses storytelling, art and music to teach children about different languages. Some of the languages like Spanish may be somewhat familiar to the children while others like Igbo and Turkish may be completely new. In a world that is becoming increasingly globalized, awareness of different languages and cultures is a valuable skill, and it is never too early to start.



*Pictured right is the lotus flower craft from the Korean World Stories session.*

A typical session starts with the story in the featured language. The presenter, either a Penn State or community member, will often highlight important vocabulary words from the story that the children can focus on. Next, the speaker will sing a song in that week's language, teaching the children as they go along. After the song, the speaker will teach the kids some common greetings and phrases. *World Stories Alive!* ends with a craft that relates either to the story or culture. That way the children can take home a souvenir of their morning and have a reminder of all the new words and phrases they have learned. Studying foreign languages has always been a big part of my educational experience and I'm proud to be part of an organization that values it so much. *World Stories Alive!* is giving young kids a chance to learn about new languages in a fun and casual environment. I can only hope that they will

### **Arabic Film Screening Preview:**

#### ***Amreeka***

by Rana Mohamed

Do you know what it feels like to be a prisoner in your own country? This question may seem unheard of for most of us living in America, but this is a common issue that Palestinians face living in the Jewish homeland. *Amreeka*, follows the story of a woman, Muna, and her son, Fadi, as they leave their home in the West Bank and move to her sister's home in Illinois. They move to the United States under the assumption that Muna will automatically receive a job in a bank because of her ten years' experience, and that Fadi will fit right into the culture of public schools because of his stellar academic achievements at the West Bank's private schools. However, once they reach airport

*Continued on Page 3*



security in the United States they quickly realize that the situation in America may not be as “free” as they thought. Throughout the movie, Muna and Fadi face obstacles including discrimination, racism, and high school drama. The “American Dream” is not going to be as easily acquired as they thought, but Muna and Fadi are not going to give up. Be sure to check out the full movie on February 23<sup>rd</sup> in Foster Auditorium at 7:00 pm.



## Why those Arabic Movies?

by Rana Mohamed

After viewing both movies for the Arabic film screening I wondered, why those two were chosen?

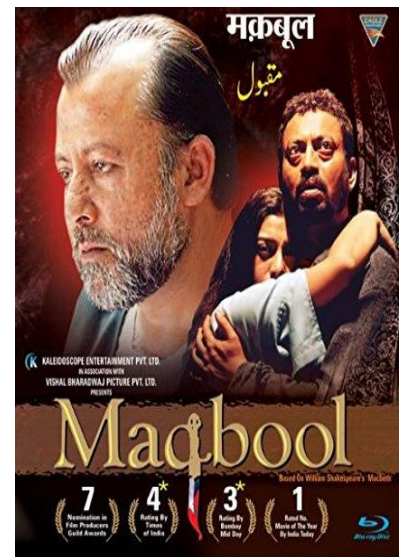
I decided to go straight to the source, in this case, Reham Aly, Coordinator of the Arabic program and Lecturer in Arabic who selects and facilitates the film screening. For starters, one major criteria for the films are that they have to include English subtitles. Watching a movie that you cannot understand would be a nightmare and attendance would be low. This element drastically narrows down the choices. Additionally, Penn State Arabic classes teach Modern Standard Arabic and these films are an opportunity to showcase the various dialects represented around the Middle East.

Besides the language, these films represent the culture of different regions. This semester, the films will showcase the Palestinian culture. Be sure to check out the film screenings this semester on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and April 6<sup>th</sup> in Foster Auditorium!

## South Asian Film Screening Preview: *Maqbool* (2003)

by Emily Hicks

Shakespeare. That name often makes me think of many things: elaborate Elizabethan costumes, thick British accents, and having to write essays for English class. One thing the name Shakespeare does not make me think of, however, is the crazy, colorful world of Mumbai, India. Yet, one of Shakespeare's plays, *Macbeth*, successfully enters that world in Vishal Bhardwaj's *Maqbool*. Mian Maqbool is the protege of the don Abbaji, the head of a mafia gang in Mumbai's criminal underworld. One day, it is prophesied to him that the don will fall from power and Maqbool will take his place. The idea that he would ever betray Abbaji is anathema to him at first, until he begins to fall in love with Abbaji's mistress, Nimmi. Nimmi pushes Maqbool to take action against the don so that they can be together and Maqbool can be in power. Maqbool quickly finds himself in an impossible situation where he must choose between



his loyalty to the don and his love for Nimmi. As Maqbool begins to plot and plan, circumstances rapidly spin out of control. This unique take on *Macbeth* deals with issues of loyalty, manipulation, greed, and love. Whether you are familiar with the work of the Bard or not, for a thought-provoking, and intriguing movie experience, I highly recommend *Maqbool*. The CGS will be screening *Maqbool* on Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in Foster Auditorium.

## Waking Visions

by Rana Mohamed

“Resist with Truth” was the opening remark of the Comparative Literature Luncheon lecture “Visionaries: Second Sight and Social Change in Islamic West Africa since 1400” presented by Dr. Rudolph (Butch) Ware on January 31<sup>st</sup>. This comment was made in light of the recent executive order on immigration. From there, Ware, a scholar of Islam and Africa jumped into an explanation of his new book, which is still a work in progress, about dreams and waking stage visions in Islamic West Africa. This book and the one he wrote previously, *The Walking Quran*, are about Ahmadu Bamba Mbacké, a Sufi religious leader in Senegal and the founder of the large Mouride Brotherhood.

Ware started his lecture with the story of Bamba’s exile that was passed down orally by Bamba’s children. Bamba began having visions of the Prophet Muhammad years prior to his exile; the visions consisted of a white robed figure with light instead of limbs, however, after writing the poem “Huqqal-Buka-U” (translated as “Should we Mourn the Lordly Dead”), the light was replaced with a human figure, Prophet Muhammad. In one vision, Bamba witnessed a semi-circular group of men standing behind the Prophet. The Prophet explained that these were men who sacrificed their lives for Islam. When Bamba insisted that he loved the Prophet so much that he wanted to join these men, the Prophet offered him a way.



If Bamba was willing to leave the town he loved, Touba, and fight the enemies of his time without spilling a drop of blood, then he would be allowed to join the Prophet. Bamba quickly accepted and headed to a village where he started a Quran school, however, the French deemed him a jihadist and exiled him from Senegal. The seven year and nine-month exile was thought to be the price Bamba had to pay to join the Prophet. Additionally, Bamba was the first and only person to ever return to Senegal after exile. Upon his return he started the Mouride Brotherhood which is committed to nonviolence and is currently the largest Sufi ordered brotherhood in Senegal and Gambia.

This story sparked Ware’s interest and is the reason why he is working on his new book about the disembodiment that is visions. The book will be composed of four sections: revolutions and revelations; dreams and visions; Witnessing the Witness: seeing the Prophet; and Real Vision: the Vision of the Real. Be sure to check out the book once it is published!

## Quote of the Month

“Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.”

-Albert Einstein

### 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  
 Emily Hicks, Graduate Research Assistant  
 Renee Arnold, Intern  
 Rana Mohamed, Intern  
 Toluwanimi Segun, Intern