

The Center for Global Studies can now be found on Twitter @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.

Also be sure to "Like" The Center for Global Studies at Penn State on Facebook!

University Park Events

3/3 and every Monday (with the exception of the 10th), 12:30 p.m., 102 Kern Comparative Literature Luncheon Series

3/4

Joe Sestak, Former Vice Admiral, Former U.S. congressman and current Bradley chair Executive Education Building, 11:15 am-12:30 pm.

3/5

Iran: What has Washington been thinking? And can it change 35 years of lousy policy to avert another disastrous war?

Flynt Leverett, Hillary Mann Leverett
22 Dieke Building, 4:30- 6pm
View the Press Release, adjacent

3/6

Steve Mufson, Washington Post reporter covering energy, former Wall Street Journal foreign correspondent
Executive Education Building, 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

3/20

Paul Pillar, Former senior intelligence officer and author, speaking on intelligence and Integrity
Executive Education Building, 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

3/26

Memory Balloons: Algerian Comic Strips and Franco-Algerian Memory
Sandra Rousseau, Penn State
124 Sparks, 1:30-2:30 pm

Flynt Leverett and Hillary Mann Leverett to discuss: "Iran: What has Washington been thinking?"

Press Release by Annie Goodrich

UNIVERSITY PARK, PA, MARCH 5, 2014: In partnership with the Penn State School of International Affairs, the Center for Global Studies will sponsor a discussion with Flynt and Hillary Mann Leverett, authors of *Going to Tehran: Why the United States Must Come to Terms with the Islamic Republic of Iran*, on Wednesday, March 5th from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. in 22 Deike Building. *Going to Tehran* offers a new approach to understanding the relationship between the United States and Iran. "Americans need to understand that another U.S.-initiated war in the Middle East, to disarm yet another Muslim country of weapons of mass destruction it doesn't have, would be a disaster for America's strategic position," says author Flynt Leverett. "It would make the damage done by America's strategically failed invasion and occupation of Iraq look mild by comparison. Americans also need to understand that, for its own interest, the United States needs to come to terms with the Islamic Republic of Iran--to accept it as an enduring political order representing legitimate national interests--much like President Nixon revolutionized American foreign policy in the early 1970s by realigning relations with China. Those are themes that Hillary and I will emphasize in our talk at Penn State."

(Continued on page 2)

IRAN:
What has Washington been thinking?
And can it change 35 years of **lousy policy** to avert **another disastrous war?**

Join Flynt Leverett and Hillary Mann Leverett
as they discuss their new book, *Going to Tehran*
with an introduction by Professor Sam Richards

Wednesday, March 5th
4:30 to 6:00 p.m.
22 Dieke Building

COLLEGE OF THE LIBERAL ARTS | GPSU | PENNSTATE SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

GOING TO TEHRAN
WHY AMERICA MUST ACCEPT THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN



The Center for Global Studies

The Pennsylvania state University - 102 Old Botany Building - University Park, PA 16802

(Continued from Page 1, "Iran: What has Washington been thinking?")

In their controversial new book, the authors challenge stereotypes of contemporary Iran by suggesting that the Iranian regime is not on the verge of collapse and faces no significant democratic opposition. This common perception in Washington is driven by a belief that Iran must become a secular state if it wants to become a legitimate player on the world stage. However, the Leveretts argue that the Islamic Republic of Iran is a powerful, rational actor in the Middle East and has used its nuclear weapons program as a way to force Washington to treat it as an equal player. The Leveretts also found that most Iranians support the current regime, including the government crackdown on protestors after the 2009 election, and overwhelmingly believe in the divine right of the clerics to rule. In the final pages, the Leveretts suggest that if American policy makers wish to resolve the long outstanding issues between the two nations, they cannot both isolate Iran and render it an unlikely threat. Professor of Sociology Sam Richards, who will introduce the Leveretts and moderate the discussion at event, says, "I am immensely unsettled by the unwillingness of U.S. leaders to dialogue with Iranian leaders with both an open mind and a desire to pursue a mutually constructive path forward. If I had not spent so many years thinking that we would never go to war with Iraq a second time, my unease about Iran would diminish. But we know the history and I know why this book by the Leveretts is timely."

The Center for Global Studies encourages globally-minded education beginning with children and extending across the community. Check out our schedule for upcoming outreach events!

Both Flynt Leverett and Hillary Mann Leverett have extensive knowledge and experience in United States Foreign Policy. Flynt Leverett is an expert on the Middle East, international political economy and Chinese foreign policy. He is part of the founding faculty for Penn State's School of International Affairs, faculty affiliate at the Dickinson School of Law, and a visiting scholar at Peking University's School of International Affairs. From 1992-2003 Professor Leverett worked in the United States Government, serving nine years as senior analyst at the Central Intelligence Agency, focusing on the Middle East. His wife and co-author, Hillary Mann Leverett, is a senior Adjunct Professional Lecturer in the School of International Service at American University in Washington, DC. Previously, she served in U.S. Embassies across the Middle East, on the State Department's Policy Planning Staff, and on the National Security Council Staff. From 2001-2003, she was one of a handful of U.S. diplomats authorized to negotiate with Iranian officials over Afghanistan and al-Qa'ida.



Flynt Leverett, Professor at Pennsylvania State University's School of International Affairs, and Hillary Mann Leverett, Senior Professional Lecturer, American University



An interview with Brown Bag Lecturer, Sandra Rousseau, Department of French and Francophone Studies

By Ali Gatlin

Sandra Rousseau, two-time CGS Fellow and graduate student in the Department of French and Francophone Studies, allowed us to interview her as a preview to her presentation in the Brown Bag Lecture Series: "Memory Balloons: Algerian Comic Strips and Franco-Algerian Memory." The origin of her exploration of the relations between humor and trauma in Algerian culture stemmed from a meeting with an Algerian woman who generously shared her family's history. Even in the face of adversity, the woman was able to maintain a good-humored disposition, all of which inspired Rousseau's dissertation.

The Center for Global Studies commends Rousseau for her work. As a Fellow she has given a talk to K-12 teachers on the French laws regarding the wearing of the veil in French schools, as well as a lecture on one of her dissertation chapters. Rousseau explains that her participation with the center is rooted in its dedication to intrinsically multidisciplinary topics, and its commitment to funding students that require traveling for research.

Rousseau's nationality has also influenced her interest in her studies. She is particularly drawn to classes and discourse that delineate French as a culture rather than a language, particularly those that connect all French speaking countries. She focuses on how France elucidates and deals with its history as a colonial power as well as how it manages its more current issues, such as immigration, traced through literature, art or artifacts.

An example of a current issue that Rousseau has presented on is the contentious topic of the headscarf in France. Her presentation explained the concept of French Secularism, known as *laïcité*. The relationship between Church and State in France differs starkly from that of the US. In French history, the separation of Church and State became representative of French culture after the Third Republic.

Sandra explains: "The issue with the French law forbidding the wearing of conspicuous religious symbols is that while it claimed to apply to all religions it mostly concerned young Muslim girls and could in that sense be deemed a discriminating law".

For students interested in the French studies, Rousseau encourages the pursuit of knowledge in such a huge field, that encompasses the cultural, sociological, political, cultural studies of all French speaking, or former French-speaking countries (from Haiti, to Senegal, to Vietnam or French Polynesia). No matter your interests, Rousseau insists you can find something that captivates you in French studies.

Rousseau's presentation: "Memory Balloons: Algerian Comic Strips and Franco-Algerian Memory" will be held on March 26th, from 1:30 pm- 2:30 pm in 124 as part of the Center for Global Studies Brown Bag Lecture Series

From Survive to Thrive: Roger Thurow's Talk on Hunger
By Kelly Diaz

On Thursday February 19, 2014 the School of International Affairs and the Center for Global Studies hosted Roger Thurow, who worked for the WSJ for 30 years before retiring and traveling around the world to do conduct research and write about his findings. His talk was titled "The Last Hunger Season: From Survive to Thrive," and was based on his book *The Last Hunger Season: A Year in an African Farm Community on the Brink of Change*.

He starts by addressing the oxymoron of the "hungry farmer." It seems counter-intuitive that someone who grows food for a living would be without food, but it is a sad reality in Western Kenya, where he conducted his research.

(continued on p 4, under Roger Thurow's Talk)

(Roger Thurow's Talk, continued from page 3)

He labels this phenomenon as "Africa's cruelest irony," explaining that these small share-holder farmers wake up early in the morning, work hard in the fields all day long, and still go to bed hungry. These farmers and their children suffer from severe malnutrition. He shared the story of the Sephora family, which was by far the poorest of the ones he studied. They lived in a small mud brick hut with a thatched roof with many holes. These farmers need rain so that their crops will grow, but when it does rain their house floods. When the children came home from school, they were disappointed day after day to find that there was no lunch for them to eat.

Thurow emphasized that he was not interested in telling the story of farmers in complete misery with no prospects, but instead wanted to study a family with new impulses coming into their lives that could turn their situations around. Thankfully, the Sephora family did have their luck changed for the better. Instead of simply receiving food aid, which would run out quickly, they were given the essential materials for agricultural development, for example, fertilizer, seeds, and lessons on how to best plant them. After receiving these goods and services, they went from a yield of two bags of maize to twenty bags. This tenfold increase significantly changed their position. They were able to sell the maize for money, keep some maize to feed them throughout the year, and pull the children out of starvation. By December of that year, 2011, the family already had blueprints ready for a new home.

He pointed out that 2014 is the UN's "Year of the International Farmer," which aligns closely with the topic of his book and his speeches. He gave a pitch for his new project, which will focus on the 1000 days from when a woman gets pregnant to the child's second birthday, which is the critical period for nutrition.

Handling Conflicts with Dr. Faten Ghosn

By Katie Black

As part of the School of International Affairs Spring Colloquium Series Dr. Faten Ghosn spoke to graduate students on February 13th. She gave a presentation on conflict management, conflict resolution, and conflict transformation. Dr. Ghosn graduated from Penn State's School of International Affairs and now teaches at the University of Arizona. She spoke about the methods in which conflicts are resolved or managed and that there is in fact a difference between the two. There is a spectrum that gauges which of many tactics should be used to handle conflicts based on how high or low a level of mutual participation there is. She explained how each approach is different and will bring about different results. To illustrate her point, she told her students, "You can't use a hammer when you need a chainsaw." For low levels of cooperation between conflicting actors the approach will be forcing them to cooperate where with a high level of cooperation the actors can work towards reconciliation.

Dr. Ghosn made the point that most people know negotiation is used in conflict but they do not know that negotiation is really the fourth step in a five step process. Before reaching the negotiation stage of the peace process there are three important steps that must be taken by whomever is handling the conflict: defining the problem and deciding to engage, mapping issues and relationships, and generating will for a joint solution. Ghosn argues that the first three phases are the most important of the entire process. If these three are not done then any agreement that is reached through negotiation will not be durable. She ended her presentation giving advice to the students and speaking about possible career paths for graduates with a conflict management degree.

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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World Stories Alive!



Photos taken at the Russian and German World Stories Alive! sessions.

