



PennState
College of the Liberal Arts

Center for Global Studies

May 2018



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UNIVERSITY PARK EVENTS

May 11-13

Toward Decolonial Feminisms

8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

The Nittany Lion Inn

Have a nice summer.
See you in the fall!
Keep up-to-date
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www.cgs.la.psu.edu.

“International cooperation is vital to keeping our globe safe, commerce flowing, and our planet habitable.”

-Angus Deaton,
Economist, Author, and 2015
Nobel Prize recipient in
Economic Sciences

Penn State - Pittsburgh Symposium Highlights Undergraduate Research in Global Studies

By: Stacy Brehman

On April 6th, 2018, in the Assembly Room at the Nittany Lion Inn, eleven undergraduate scholars presented their research at the 3rd Annual Penn State-Pittsburgh Undergraduate Symposium in global studies. The symposium was designed first and foremost to explore student research on the complex array of social forces that characterize an increasingly interconnected world and second, to provide networking opportunities for students and faculty. The symposium included opening remarks by Dr. Joseph Wright, associate professor of Political Science and co-director of the Global and International Studies program at Penn State.

Topics examined during this year's symposium included the impact of Chinese aid on African economic development, the impact of coltan mining in the Congo, the migration of the Arakanese and Muslims in the Northern Rakhine State of Myanmar, and tropical medicine in Costa Rica among others.

The top Penn State presenter, Marta Millar (History, German, and International Relations, pictured right), discussed how the ideological struggle of the Cold War between 1945 and 1961 motivated the development of rival city centers, building styles, and housing projects in East and West Berlin, and how joint efforts at reconstruction were quickly waylaid even before the city government was divided. Millar's research demonstrated that the physical manifestation of the contending architectural styles of East and West Berlin promoted the city's split identity in the years before the Berlin Wall divided the city.



Pittsburgh's top presenter, John Boyer (Psychology, Sociology, and Philosophy), discussed the effect of rebel fighting in the Congo on the mining of coltan, a dull black mineral that can be found in practically every computer, phone, game system, and television on the market. Many rebel groups have resorted to exploiting the local Congolese population via the forced mining and smuggling of coltan to support the ongoing conflict. As a result, approximately seventy different active rebel groups have taken over the mines as a source of power.

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Boyer (pictured left) argued that while there have been some attempts at regulating the flow of conflict minerals out of the war zone, the rebel groups have consistently been successful in maintaining their control over the region and its mining.

Next year, the event will be hosted by the University of Pittsburgh's Global Studies Center. We encourage all interested students to check our web site in the fall for the call for applications.



Czyżewski's Talk on the Borderland Foundation

By: Stacy Brehman

"The Art of Bridging in a Disenchanted World: The Case of the Borderland Foundation," was the title of the talk given by Krzysztof Czyżewski, founder of the Borderland Foundation located in the remote city of Sejny, Poland.

The Borderland Foundation is a theatre group that has expeditions to local communities where heritage culture is still alive. Czyżewski calls it an "anthropological theatre," because they study culture and the implications of culture of various lands through artistic means. The foundation strives to eliminate that empty space by trying to understand and appreciate those seemingly small, but very vibrant areas.

Czyżewski spoke about language and how it is a defense mechanism for many of these communities. Living on the border or by the border prompts a multitude of people speaking different languages in close proximity to one another. Thus, there arises a space for disagreements and language becomes a mechanism for people to defend themselves from those who they believe to be a danger to them. This results in borders arising inside broader communities. Czyżewski also talked about action through theatre and music. The foundation started to build theatre performances on their memories. He beautifully emphasized how the performers have a role to express and give life to their stories and memories. He stated that, "theatre is about reincarnation of new bodies and new people through old stories."

Czyżewski spoke about the goals of the foundation, and I could see the passion within his words and his presentation. The foundation gives honor and pride to various areas that are unique and have a lot to offer within anthropological studies. It is organic, authentic, and meaningful work. The concept of borders exists everywhere — they do not necessarily have to be defined by history or be drawn on a map.

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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.

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