



**PennState**

**November 2018**

**CGS**

Center for Global Studies

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

## **UNIVERSITY PARK EVENTS SPRING LINEUP**

### **Feb 6**

"Rural Youth at the Crossroad: Contemporary Challenges within Transition Societies in Central Europe"

Kai Schafft

157 Burrowes, 12:15 p.m.

### **Feb 20**

"Postsocialist Locales and Global Dreams: The Minimalist Approach in Romanian and Chinese Cinema"

Victoria Lupascu

157 Burrowes, 12:15 p.m.

### **March 20**

"Behind the Decorations at Vicennes: Indochinese Activists against the 1931 French Colonial Experience"

Elizabeth Tuttle

157 Burrowes, 12:15 p.m.

### **April 10**

"Scapegoats: Livestock and Indigenous Peoples in Sixteenth-Century New Spain"

Chris Vaseley

157 Burrowes, 12:15 p.m.

### **April 17**

"How Labor NGOs Organize Workers Collectively under an Authoritarian Regime: The Case of China"

Elaine Sio-ieng Hui

157 Burrowes, 12:15 p.m.

### **Date TBA**

"Laughtivism – the Power of Humor in Nonviolent Struggle"

Srdja Popovic

Katz Auditorium, TBA

## **Media as a Weapon in Conflict**

By Sarah Hodes

On November 30th, Alexander Fattal, assistant professor of Film-Video and Media Studies at Penn State, launched his new book, *Guerrilla Marketing*, at Webster's Bookstore Café. It commenced with an upbeat, Latin musical performance from Adianez Martínez. Fattal took the stage to read and discuss his book. He read an excerpt regarding a FARC



(Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) six-day extravaganza. He described the people and joyous event, noting the presence of outside marketing, especially by beer companies. Fattal then discussed the changing tactics and political landscape of Colombia. After four years of negotiations, the government and FARC had agreed upon a peace accord in 2016. He discussed the change in marketing that this created. The FARC were no longer trying to bring the urban middle class into a revolutionary military but, instead, spark a political movement. The federal government, despite its gross human rights violations, tried reclaiming its legitimacy by airing ads on both domestic and international television coverage, primarily during fútbol games.

Guest speaker, Alex Dent, associate professor of Anthropology at George Washington University, spoke about the book and its relevance and importance. According to Dent, the book showcases the relationship and interconnectedness between media and violence. He noted that the book also does away with Colombian overgeneralizations and hyperviolence from popular culture, such as the Netflix hit, *Narcos*. At the end, Dent acknowledged the role that the media and marketing play in Colombian conflict, both by the state and guerilla.

The event ended with another performance by Martínez, in which her singing and dancing filled the room with joy in contrast to the rather sobering discussion and topic.

**THE CENTER FOR GLOBAL STUDIES**

The Pennsylvania State University • 347 Burrowes Building • University Park, PA 16802



## You Say Variation, I Say Linguistics

By Becca DeOrio



Upon indulging in cookies and coffee, attendees settled in for another Center for Global Studies Brown Bag lecture. Alexander McAllister, a dissertation fellow studying Hispanic Linguistics and Language Science in the department of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese, playfully engaged the audience in an exploration

of linguistic environments. Starting the lecture with a rather risky request of audience involvement, attendees turned to greet one another, resulting in the perfect example of speech variation. The overall finding: we all speak differently. Whether we greet one another with a "Good morning" or, my personal favorite, "Yo," our speech is highly variable, not just in the words we select, but the way in which we produce consonants and vowels. This prompts the question: how do we deal with all of this variation?

McAllister finds speech variation is best understood by integrating two speech perception theories called abstractionist and episodic. In this combined, or, as McAllister slated it, "sexy" framework, speech perception is understood by recognizing familiar speech cues, generalizing similar speech to the unknown, and adapting to the novel speech.

Setting up two experimental testing sites at Penn State and the University of California at Riverside, McAllister gained access to a large bilingual Spanish-English population.

Participants at both sites completed a variety of listening and written tasks, testing adaptation to the novel /s/ sound. McAllister is currently in the preliminary phase of analysis, but is comparing the findings of Penn State participants to those of the University of California at Riverside.

McAllister plans to continue thoroughly analyzing the results of his experiment and enhance his data collection. His dedicated research will play in an integral role in the linguistics community, uncovering the most intricate layers of speech variation.

## The Back-to-Africa Movement

By Becca DeOrio

Ebony Coletu's Center for Global Studies Brown Bag lecture explored a back-to-Africa movement launched by her ancestor, Chief Alfred Charles Sam. Coletu, assistant professor of English and African American Studies, outlined her research contributions on the logistics of diasporic return, which



follows an early 20<sup>th</sup> century migration project led by an African who invited African Americans to start life anew in Ghana. Supporters of the project purchased stock in Sam's company and 64 set sail on a ship purchased for trade and emigration. Their interest in migration and Sam's logistical efforts on their behalf influenced Marcus Garvey's similar scheme a decade later. As the desire to escape racial violence in the United States mounted, pan-African business and development coalesced as a counter-narrative to transatlantic slavery.

The life of Chief Sam acted as the focal point of Coletu's lecture. As a transnational merchant who traded in local West African commodities, he boldly led the "African Movement" from 1912 to 1917. Over time, Chief Sam's contributions to pan-Africanism became fragmented, leaving a gap in oral history displaced by the transnational appeal of Garveyism. This prompted Coletu's quest to explore his life and the inspiration that sparked a movement on both sides of the Atlantic. Coletu will continue her research in Ghana next spring on a Fulbright Fellowship.





## Film Screening and Discussion Explore Sri Lankan Political Conflict

By Emma Rohan



*Dr. Canagarajah speaking next to Dr. Dumas and Barisha Towhid*

The Center for Global Studies and Mohona, the Bangladesh Culture Club, hosted a screening of *MAYA / MATANGI / M.I.A.* on November 13th during Penn State's International Education Week. The film is drawn from a never-before-seen cache of personal footage that spans decades and paints an intimate portrait of the Sri Lankan artist and musician Maya Arulpragasam, known as M.I.A. The documentary explores her role as an artist and celebrity through the lens of Tamil politics and migration to the West.

The screening was followed by a brief facilitated discussion. Three faculty members: Professor Pearl Gluck and Dr. Jo Dumas (both from the College of Communications) and Dr. Suresh Canagarajah (College of the Liberal Arts) were joined by three students: Adam Dawood, Dhruv Shejpaul, and Barisha Towhid. Each participant discussed their overall impressions of the film, addressing the complicated realities of immigrant identities, vacuous nature of the entertainment industry, and political activism through art.

As a filmmaker whose own work includes autobiographical film, Professor Gluck critically examined some of the artistic choices made by the director that illustrated these themes throughout the film.

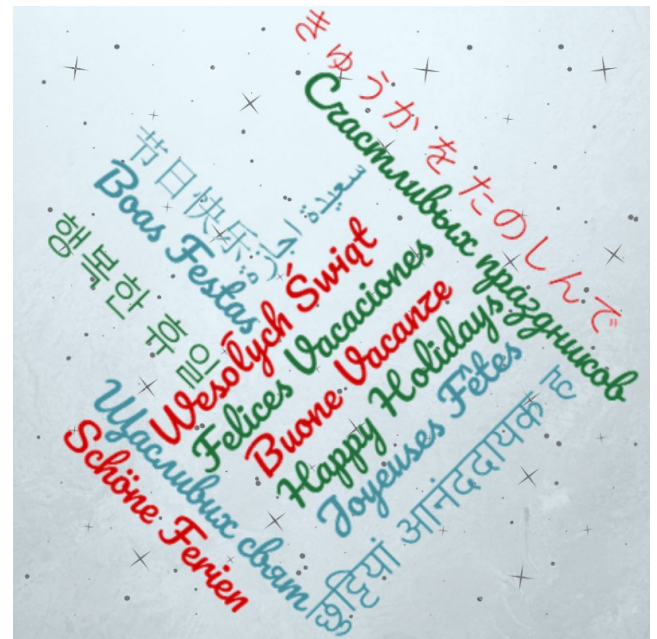
Dr. Canagarajah and Towhid both expressed being moved by her return to Sri Lanka to identify with her roots.

The screening and the discussion invited unexpected connections between attendees and initiated a conversation that was both rich and salient to the current political climate.

Penn State's annual International Education Week showcases events to promote international study, lectures, study abroad opportunities, films, and other interactive opportunities to be more globally engaged.

### Thank You

The Center for Global Studies would like to thank everyone for their support this semester. We wish you a happy and peaceful holiday season!



This publication is available in alternative media on request. Penn State is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer, and is committed to providing employment opportunities to all qualified applicants without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or protected veteran status. Penn State encourages qualified persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please consult Sarah Lyall-Combs at (814) 867-4697 in advance of your participation or visit. U.Ed. LBS 19-262.

### 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  
Shannon Brace, Program Coordinator  
Becca DeOrio, Graduate Assistant  
Anastasiya Brehman, Intern  
Sarah Hodes, Intern