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## UNIVERSITY PARK EVENTS

### *Carmen in Harlem*

**Dr. Jennifer M. Wilks, University of Texas**

Monday, November 7, 2016

102 Kern, 12:15-1:30 p.m.

### *Poetry without Borders: Politics of Freedom*

Tuesday November 8, 2016

Foster Auditorium, Pattee Library, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

### *South Asian Film Screening: English Vinglish (2012)*

Wednesday, November 9, 2016

Foster Auditorium, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

### *The Taliban Shuffle: Lessons from Afghanistan for foreign policy*

**Kim Barker, Journalist and Author**

Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Katz Building Auditorium, 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Reception and book signing following lecture in the Katz Building Atrium

### *Pakistan and its Troublesome Neighbors*

**Robin Raphel, former Ambassador**

Friday, November 11, 2016, 3:00-4:00 p.m.

112 Lewis Katz Building (University Park)

### *CGS Brown Bag: The New "World Order": A Global Case Study of Nuyorican Literary Pedagogy*

**Molly Appel, Penn State**

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

463 Burrowes 12:15-1:15 p.m.

### *FLAS Information Session*

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

463 Burrowes, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

### *FLAS Information Session*

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

463 Burrowes, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

## CGS Fellow presents research on Phonetic Alignment in English as a lingua Franca

by Emily Bickle

On September 28th, CGS heard from Grant Berry, a Ph.D. candidate in Spanish and Language Science in the Department of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese and an active member of the Center for Language Science. He presented as a part of the Center for Global Studies Brown Bag Series. His presentation was titled: "Phonetic Alignment in English as a Lingua Franca: Effects of Style, Proficiency, and Native Language Influence." When two people speak to each other in a common second language, that language is a lingua franca. Using English as the lingua franca for his research, Grant Berry travelled with Dr. Mirjam Ernestus to the Netherlands on a PIRE grant in order to conduct his research.

During his presentation, he was able to share with us his conclusions from the results of the research. Starting with a theoretical background, Berry discussed the aptitude humans have to language and stated that, "human beings are exquisitely tuned to adapt to linguistic variation." Humans can not only adapt to another's accent but can adapt to other environmental elements such as background noise when talking to someone, as well as the ability to concentrate when on the telephone with another person. From these ideas, the research questions developed such as "how does speech style affect the degree of alignment?" and "do interlocutors align to an idealized language norm or the variation present in their environment?" Alignment is the adaptation to the language spoken along with the other person in the conversation. These questions and others laid the groundwork for the outcomes he discovered.

He continued by outlining in his presentation three factors that affect alignment of speech: speech style, proficiency, and time. With these in mind, Berry presented the interaction between Spanish and Dutch citizens along with their Pillai Score (degree of separation) through a series of graphs. The separation indicating the inability to adapt to the other's linguistic variation. At the end of his presentation, he summarized his data through statements explaining how gradual or rapid alignment can affect speech. If the speech is aligning via a merger, it is rapid whereas if the speech is aligning via split, it is a more gradual process. To bring his presentation full circle, Grant Berry ended his presentation with the words of "even if you come from different backgrounds, you can still align your speech."

## Dr. Vijay Prashad Highlights Issues with the United Nation's Mandate of Responsibility to Protect

by Parker Anderson

On October 5th, The Center for Global Studies hosted renowned scholar and journalist Dr. Vijay Prashad of Trinity College. Prashad's lecture, titled "Western Bombs, Eastern Societies: The Destruction of Nations and Responsibility to Protect" was designed to inform the public of how Western intervention can dramatically harm countries in the Middle East, rather than help. Such was the effect of the United Nations mandate of Responsibility to Protect (R2P). With over 150 people in attendance, Prashad held the attention of each one while delving into the issues with R2P.

Prashad began by reminding the audience that October 7 marked the 15th anniversary of the war with Afghanistan. He noted that during the height of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan's rule, half of the civil servants were women. These ranged from teachers to doctors. Once the US intervention began however, during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the social dynamic between men and women changed. The politician supported by the US, Saudi, and Pakistani government, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar had a different view of humanity. During the 1970s, Hekmatyar was a youth organizer for Jamaat-e-Islami and a radicalized Islamist who disagreed with the equal treatment of women. He was first made known for the terrible act of throwing acid onto women's faces at Kabul University. As Prashad put it, "The United States has supported some of the creepiest figures in politics." Fifteen years since the war in Afghanistan began, the Taliban is largely back in control of much of the country. "Afghanistan has been produced—it is not their fate to bear," Prashad stated.

In 1974, five years into Gaddafis's rule, Libya's main exports were scrap metal left over from World War II and esparto grass used to make paper. The surge in oil exports had not yet occurred. Those who conducted the coup against Libya's king in order to establish Gaddafi's regime were lower ranking military officials who had the support of the common people and were more in touch with society. The coup took place without a shot being fired, and the people of Libya adored the new leadership. The future looked bright for Libya.

According to Prashad, today, Libya is a much different place. ISIS brigands guard the entry points into the country and while the NATO charge to enter Libya was performed in order to help civilians, the outcome has been exactly the opposite.

Prashad then reminded the audience that people live in conflict zones, people with families – children, mothers, and fathers. He asserts that too often, people not experiencing the conflict firsthand forget that people just like us are there and that too often we only discuss the wars and governments without giving thought to the innocents.



Much like the lack of remembrance of innocent lives, in the 1990s, an idea went around that human rights were becoming militarized. It was necessary to create guidelines as to what constitutes a human rights violation. Another idea that had to be considered was how when Western allies commit outrageous human rights violations, they are not classified as a rogue state. The name of human rights and anti-terrorism has become synonymous with going in to a country to destroy an enemy of the West, rather than forging a peace agreement, while allies of the West can commit outrageous crimes with no repercussions. George W. Bush's regime took the militarization of human rights a step further when they decided to overthrow the government in control in Iraq. The United Nation's Security Council refused to authorize this war and thousands of people across the world protested it. This war proved to many that the United States cared little about the lives of those in other countries, especially in the East.

Prashad highlighted four main issues with Responsibility to Protect:

- Who decides when civilians are in threat?
- What evidence is there that civilians are in threat?
- What is the proportionate response? Regime change?
- There needs to be a post-intervention investigation that holds states accountable.

Using these issues with R2P, Prashad then connected them to the case of intervention in Libya. Libya has been left in ashes after the United States and other countries followed the UN's Responsibility to Protect. Prashad summarized his argument by stating, quite simply, that R2P has become a synonym with violent and often hasty regime change.

## Information Exchange Between Organizations with Different Rhythms

by Rana Mohamed

On October 19th, Carla Lage, a ABD PhD student holding the rank of Commander in the Brazilian Navy in Brazil gave a talk about her current research. She began her talk by describing the purpose of her research, to aid the information exchange between organizations with different rhythms, specifically in the military. Witnessing the military's reactions to disasters including devastating floods, she knew that the lack of proper communication needed adjusting. With this inspiration she decided to begin researching the problem to determine more effective solutions.

This research is crucial because it could serve as a powerful asset for decision making. People in the situation rooms deal with a lack of information or an overload of useless information, so this could increase information availability and reduce the burden for each branch of the military. An analogy that can help the audience understand this is the annual Brazilian military parade. The Navy leads the parade marching, following the rhythm of the drum line, with their left foot first. Following the Navy is the Army that marches, following their own drum line, with their right foot first. To execute this effectively, both the Navy and the Army go through extensive training. Is there time for this training when a disaster strikes? Since there is little to no time to prepare for a disaster, effective communication is crucial.

The communication between different branches of the military is a current problem because each branch has a different understanding of space, time, objective and tactical action. The five problems that Lage addresses are the lack of synchronization, differences in durations and overlapping. Lage is currently working on a model to achieve information exchange in organizations with different rhythms. Rhythms are seen in military doctrines and influence the sharing of information.

Her research will use a modeling and simulation approach with three phases. The first phase is to define the problem, the second is to create the algebra for the model of exchange and the third is to verify the model. She is currently in-between step two and three. Lage concluded the brown bag with a summative quote by Claude Shannon, a mathematician also known as the father of information theory: "Information is the resolution of uncertainty."

## NY Times Journalist Kim Barker to visit Penn State

by Rana Mohamed

The Center for Global Studies will be hosting Kim Barker, a metro reporter at The New York Times, specializing in investigative reporting and narrative writing, on Thursday, November 10th, at the Penn State Lewis Katz Auditorium from 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Barker was formerly the South Asia Bureau Chief for the Chicago Tribune from 2004 to 2009 in New Delhi and Islamabad. As Bureau Chief she directed coverage of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Her book *The Taliban Shuffle: Strange Days in Afghanistan and Pakistan*, published in 2011, recounts her experiences as a war reporter. A major part of her time abroad was her relationship with Farouq, her fixer, as he teaches her about the Islamic culture and brings her face-to-face with war lords and politicians. The book was the inspiration behind the movie *Whiskey Tango Foxtrot*, which was released in March 2016, starring Tina Fey. This lecture will discuss lessons that Kim Barker learned from her experiences in South Asia and Hollywood. Following the presentation there will be a book sale for *The Taliban Shuffle* and a book signing.

PennState  
College of the Liberal Arts

**The Center for  
Global Studies**  
presents

**Kim Barker**  
Author of the best-selling book  
*The Taliban Shuffle* now a major  
motion picture titled *Whiskey  
Foxtrot*, starring Tina Fey

**November 10, 2016  
4:00-5:30 p.m.  
Lewis Katz Auditorium**

**The Taliban Shuffle: Lessons from  
Afghanistan for Foreign Policy**

Kim Barker was the South Asia bureau chief for The Chicago Tribune from 2004 to 2009, directing coverage of Pakistan and Afghanistan. She wrote a darkly comic book about her time there, *The Taliban Shuffle: Strange Days in Afghanistan and Pakistan*, released in 2011 and adapted this year into the movie *Whiskey Tango Foxtrot*. Barker, now an investigative reporter at The New York Times, will discuss her experiences in South Asia and Hollywood, and what lessons can be learned from both.

**Book Signing and Reception to Follow**

Co-Sponsored by the Department of Political Science, the Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, and the School of International Affairs

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## Priorities for the next UN Secretary-General

by Rana Mohamed

On October 20th, Professor Ian Johnstone gave a lecture on what he believes should be the priorities of the next Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres. While the Secretary-General may not have the power to change all the world's problems, he has substantial influence in the way the UN can help the world.

The first part of the lecture focused on the crisis of relevance and legitimacy. When you task five countries with being the UN Security Council, they are bound to disagree on most global issues. However, once in awhile when they do agree on the severity of problems, such as terrorism, then the problem is usually too complex to fix. Some of the transnational challenges that the UN is currently attempting to work on are infectious diseases and refugee status, however, sovereign equality makes these difficult to handle. For the legitimacy argument, Johnstone claims that the security council usually makes the decision on issues that they mostly likely did not contribute to. Most importantly, the next Secretary-General should be able to take responsibility for their lack of prevention of problems like the cholera spread in Haiti.

The second part of the lecture focused on the role of the Secretary-General, which as Johnstone explained, does not have a true definition. Previous Secretary-Generals' have shaped the job and made it what it is today. There are three aspects to this job that Trygve Lie called "the world's most impossible job". The first is known as the "Chief Administrative Officer" which tasks the Secretary-General with overseeing over 76,000 staff members. The second role is the "Good Officer" which is the responsibility to converge with other diplomats to prevent conflict. Finally, the third role is to be the "Norm Entrepreneur" meaning that the Secretary-General speaks on behalf of the world's people and pushes new initiatives. Johnstone feels optimistic about Antonio Guterres as the newest Secretary-General, even though he would have predicted that the role would have been filled by a women.

The final part of this lecture discussed the four priorities that Johnstone thinks are the next Secretary-General should focus on. Johnstone understands that some issues will become a priority because of their nature, such as the current Syrian situation, however, the Secretary-General needs to be selective on where he can add value.

The first priority should be to fix peace operations, which can be done by improving the capacity to protect civilians, looking at long-term political effects instead of short-term security, and ending abuse by peacekeepers. The second priority is to operationalize prevention by finding experienced mediators who can analyze a problem and find root causes, in hope of preventing future problems. The third priority is to implement seventeen sustainable development goals including decreasing poverty, hunger, infectious diseases and gender inequalities. The final priority is to assert normative leadership on cutting edge global issues including refugees and terrorism.

To conclude his lecture Johnstone quoted Swedish diplomat and former secretary-general Dag Hammarskjold, "It has been said that the United Nations was not created in order to bring us to heaven, but in order to save us from hell."



### 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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