



PennState

October 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

Nov 7

CGS Brown Bag: "Does Linguistic Environment Matter? Exploring the Effects of Speech Community Diffuseness in Perceptual Learning" Alexander McAllister
025 Burrowes, 12:15 p.m.

International Education Week

Nov 13

Film Screening of *MATANGI / MAYA / M.I.A.*
113 Carnegie, 6:00 p.m.

Nov 14

CGS Brown Bag: "Thinking through the Counter-Colony: Chief Sam and the Logistics of African American Migration to Ghana, 1912-1917"
Ebony Coletu
025 Burrowes, 12:00 p.m.

Nov 15

Film Screening of *Honor Diaries*
113 Carnegie, 5:30 p.m.

Nov 17

PBS Kids: *Let's Go Luna!* Advance Screening Event
WPSU Studios, Outreach Building
2:00 p.m.

Nov 5, 12, & 26

Comparative Literature Luncheon Series Lectures
102 Kern, 12:15 p.m.

Berdan Brings Global Mindset to Penn State

By Sarah Hodes and Stacy Brehman

"Do something every day that enhances your global persona; any small thing can make a big difference in the long run." These words spoken by Stacie Berdan, an international careers expert, left a remarkable impact on audiences during her visit to Penn State from October 17-18th. Berdan is a seasoned global executive who has worked in the international business industry for 20 years. Her visit included a lecture for parents and educators on raising children with a global mindset at Schlow Centre Region Library, visits to two classes, ARAB 497 and GLIS 102, a student networking lunch and dinner, and a lecture given to the Penn State community.



So why does a global mindset matter? Having a more diverse thought process helps you think more critically and understand other perspectives. Global is everywhere and cross-cultural competency is an important "soft skill" that many employers are looking for. If you have tolerance for ambiguity, passion for diversity, and cultural curiosity, then you are on the way to obtaining a global mindset.

During Berdan's talk at Schlow, she encouraged parents to begin instilling traits of curiosity, empathy, flexibility, self-reliance, open-mindedness, and resilience early in their children to develop cross-cultural competencies. Berdan also stressed the importance of guiding children to learn a second language and to take advantage of library resources, exchange programs, travel, and study abroad. The main focus was that "globalization affects all of us" and so children must be prepared to compete in the global economy. It is important to teach children "to live and work successfully across multiple cultures."

Berdan structured her Penn State lecture in two ways: describing a "global mindset" and providing examples and useful tips on how to apply that mindset when seeking an international career. Berdan encouraged students to integrate a global focus with their academic career by learning a new language, studying abroad, or researching other countries and how to best present that information on a resume. With today's competitive job market, Berdan stressed the importance of having a global mindset for career success in the U.S. or abroad.

THE CENTER FOR GLOBAL STUDIES

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



Getting Your Foot in the Global Door: Tips by Stacie Berdan

By Stacy Brehman

Here are some tips for interview answers, resumes, and general advice about international careers:

- Catch the employer's attention in the top 1/3 of your resume, such as highlighting language competency.
- Include soft skills (qualitative information such as cross-cultural competency, communication, interpersonal skills) and hard skills (technical, quantitative information).
- Enhance your global persona by acquiring knowledge about world events, gaining a cross-cultural perspective and a higher tolerance for diversity in everyday situations, and obtaining cultural listening skills.
- Ask yourself before an interview: "Why do I want a global career?" and, if you studied abroad, "What did I gain from study abroad?"
- Think in economic terms. According to Berdan, "The world is run by money and profit." Explain what you can contribute to an organization while describing why you want a global career.
- Include details about your study abroad experience. Where did you go? How long? What did you do?
- Direct the reader to your LinkedIn page where you can expand and showcase your global competency.
- Infuse your brand with a global mindset in any material you produce: sections of your resume, cover letters, interviews, LinkedIn profile, etc.

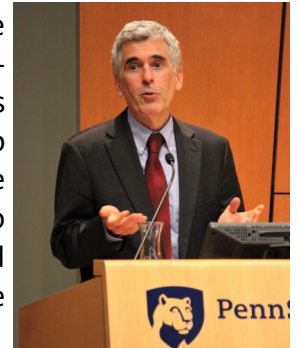
Journalist Norman Solomon Discusses Bias in U.S. Media

By Sarah Hodes

"What a thing it is to have a country that can't be wrong, but if it is, is right, anyway!" –William Dean Howells, *Between the Dark and the Daylight*

On October 15th, American journalist, media critic, author, and activist, Norman Solomon, spoke at Katz Auditorium delivering his lecture titled, "U.S. Media Coverage of Global Conflict: How Our Windows on the World Get Tinted Red-White-and-Blue." Solomon not only provided a historical analysis and his perspective on the media, but also the global impact of U.S. media coverage.

He discussed the synthesis of the U.S. media and its "red-white-and-blue" pro-America bias. This lens encourages Americans "to celebrate...that we are the world's only superpower." To allow ourselves to view the world through this "window" is passive and accepting.



Solomon gave examples of media fabrication, such as the heroic portrayal of the United States in instances of aggression or malice and cited the tinted coverage of the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, current affairs with Russia, and many U.S. invasions and airstrikes. In regards to terrorists or enemies, their tactics are regarded as "barbaric," but our bombing of civilian entities is "brilliant and strategic." He ended the talk begging the question, "Do we intend to adjust ourselves to the madness of militarism?"

Solomon is a longtime associate of Fairness & Accuracy In Reporting (FAIR), co-founder of RootsAction.org, and founder and executive director of the Institute for Public Accuracy. His weekly column titled "Media Beat" was nationally syndicated from 1992 to 2009. Solomon has authored a dozen books, including *War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death*.

What Can We Learn from Danish School Systems? Exploring Leadership Structures

By Stacy Brehman

Researching the best practices of education policies while globally comparing different cultural systems across the globe is a crucial marker for the future of our students. Dr. Marsha Modeste, assistant professor of Education at Penn State, was the first CGS Brown Bag presenter of the school year. Modeste spoke about her research with the Comprehensive Assessment of Leadership for Learning (CALL) based on the question, "What is the nature of socially distributed leadership in schools in the U.S. and Denmark?"

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She described distributed leadership practices as the ability of those in a leadership role to provide the necessary tools and skills for teachers to be effective and accommodating. Modeste's research specifically compares school-level leadership practice. Her purpose is to examine "which school practice can expand beyond the traditional constructs of teaching and its impact."

Modeste found that Denmark's unique school leadership structure, which consists of a principal, vice principal, and pedagogue (an instructional coach who attends to the social and emotional needs of students), yields consistent leadership throughout the country. With this additional leadership role, teachers may better focus on the development of their academic learning plans.



Modeste concluded her lecture by outlining future steps within her research, which could launch in the coming semester. She plans to qualitatively analyze socially distributed leadership by asking questions about democratic leadership in New York and Denmark.

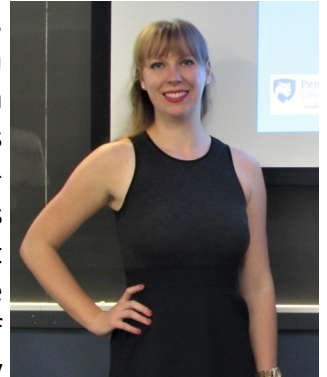
Media Lengua: A Quichua-Spanish Hybrid

By Becca DeOrio

"'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves did gyre and gimble in the wabe; All mimsy were the borogoves, and the mome raths outgrabe." —Lewis Carroll

On October 10th, Isabel Deibel, a PhD student in Hispanic Linguistics and Language Science, began her Brown Bag Lecture by illustrating the importance of hybrid languages through Lewis Carroll's timeless Jabberwocky poem. A hybrid language takes the vocabulary of one language while integrating the grammar of another. Deibel, fascinated by the intricacies of hybrid languages, has extensively studied the Ecuadorian hybrid language, Media Lengua, and shared her fascinating findings with the audience.

Found in Northern Ecuador, Media Lengua retains Quichua grammar while Quichua words are replaced by its Spanish counterparts. Interestingly, Media Lengua is often subject to varying object placement, prompting the question: what is the cause of this variance? Deibel's study sought the answer to this provoking question.



Collecting data in three Ecuadorian communities, Deibel distributed video description tasks to various participants. The videos depicted locally known practices and traditions, which participants were asked to describe in Media Lengua. Deibel hypothesized the source of these variations originated from either pragmatic conditioning, influence from language contact, or spontaneous factors and errors.

Ultimately, Deibel found word-order structures generally followed a "Quichua-like" structure. She discovered evidence supporting pragmatic conditioning as a cause for word-order variation. No concrete evidence materialized supporting language contact or spontaneous speech errors as conditioning factors of word-order variation. Deibel closed her lecture by detailing future plans to better understand the origins and nuances of Media Lengua. The factors that drive this word-order variation require further research and remain unconfirmed, leaving Deibel an intricate mystery to unravel.

Welcoming Fall in State College with *Mehndi*

By Stacy Brehman

The CGS hosted a *mehndi* booth at this year's Downtown Fall Festival on October 6th. Volunteers from Penn State's Association for India's Development (AID), diligently worked to beautifully decorate the hands of State College residents. Even with the rain in the morning, the festival and our booth was a huge hit, attracting 150 kids and adults!

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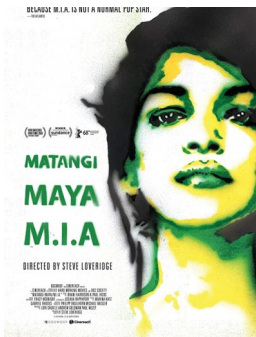
A student drawing mehndi art at the Downtown Fall Fest

CGS Events During International Education Week

By Sarah Hodes

International Education Week (IEW) at Penn State will take place from November 12-16th. There will be internationally and globally-focused events run throughout the week hosted by campuses, colleges, units, and centers at Penn State and local community organizations.

In conjunction with Mohona, the Bangladesh Culture Club, the CGS will present a film screening of *MATANGI / MAYA / M.I.A.*, which follows the Sri Lankan artist and musician known as M.I.A., and her negotiation of her role as an artist and celebrity through the lens of Tamil politics and migration to the West. The film will take place on November 13th from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. in 113 Carnegie. Following the screening, a brief facilitated discussion will be held with Suresh Canagarajah, professor of Applied Linguistics, English, and Asian Studies; Jo Dumas, associate teaching professor in the Department of Media Studies; and Pearl Gluck, film-



maker and assistant professor in the Department of Media Studies.

On November 14th, as part of the CGS Brown Bag Series, Ebony Coletu will present, "Thinking through the Counter-Colony: Chief Sam and the Logistics of African American Migration to Ghana, 1912-1917," from 12 – 1 p.m. in 025 Burrowes. The talk will cover a little-known back-to-Africa movement launched by Chief Alfred Sam, who was an Akyem merchant from the Gold Coast who advertised land for African Americans to cultivate and develop factories in today's Ghana. Coletu is an assistant professor of English and African American Studies, Affiliate Faculty of the Center for Democratic Deliberation, and Affiliate Faculty of the Social Thought Program at Penn State.

Also during IEW, CGS interns, Sarah Hodes and Stacy Brehman, will be hosting a film screening on Thursday, November 15th from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. in 113 Carnegie. The film presented, *Honor Diaries*, is a documentary which follows nine female activists in the Muslim and non-Muslim world, working to better the health and well-being of women. Issues addressed include female genital mutilation, violence against women, honor killings, forced marriage, and lack of access to education. A paneled discussion will follow the screening. The film originally premiered at the 2013 Chicago International Film Festival and won the Interfaith Award for Best Documentary at the St. Louis International Film Festival.



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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.

Our Staff

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