

# GESI Newsletter

Global and European Studies Institute

02/2010



## EDITORIAL

I hope very much that this latest newsletter edition finds all of you well at the various places where you are either starting or continuing your academic education with the Global and European Studies Institutes and its partners. It is not the newsletter of only one institute but of a couple of networks formed around the MA programs in Global Studies and in European Studies, therefore the newsletter aims to inform both the current cohorts of students and the alumni about recent developments of both disciplines. The inner circle of these networks is of course the consortium of universities offering the Masters degrees. Here, following the successful application for a second round of funding from the EU for our Global Studies programme (2010-2015) we have the chance to enlarge the consortium from the existing eight univer-

sities with the partner institutions in Denmark, India and China. However there are a lot of (partly overlapping) simultaneous networks; the number of partners with which we have Erasmus exchange agreements is increasing. This network, for example, has now been strengthened by new agreements with universities in France which allows students to apply for a semester or a year abroad at the well-known Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris and to have these credits acknowledged. A new programme of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) called "New Passages to India" offers the opportunity to spend a three to five month study-period at Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi. The recent foundation of a Centre for Area Studies at the University of Leipzig offers the opportunity to strengthen

the role of area studies both in the study programme and with regard to research projects. Within this framework a large research initiative on Africa's capability to adapt to challenges of a globalizing world was started by the German Research Council with Leipzig and its neighbouring University of Halle coordinating activities by African and German scholars for the next six years. GESI is also proud to be able to help our African colleagues in Yaoundé (Cameroon) to set up an interdisciplinary research centre and we hope very much that this initiative will be supported

by other European and African universities as well as by donors from various countries. We are working hard on the establishment of a new PhD-programme in Global and European Studies and have received financial support from the DAAD and the Saxon Academy of Sciences to get the adventure started. Again, networking with universities from all around the world, is a key feature in realising these projects.

A meeting with Alumni coinciding with this year's graduation ceremony in Vienna will hopefully serve as the point of departure for even more communication among, and with, the previous cohorts where such as questions as how to find a good job on the basis of these study programmes and how to make use of the acquired knowledge to contribute to an ongoing globalization in the one way or the other will be asked and explored.

All these networks at various scales and with various sizes contribute to make the university of today a transnational one, one which provides an atmosphere of international openness and permeability which will hopefully help students, past and present, orientate themselves in a world of ever-increasing connectivity.

We wish you all a good start into the autumn semester and hope that you can make use of some of the above mentioned networks for your own career development.

Yours

Matthias Middell  
Director of the Global and European  
Studies Institute

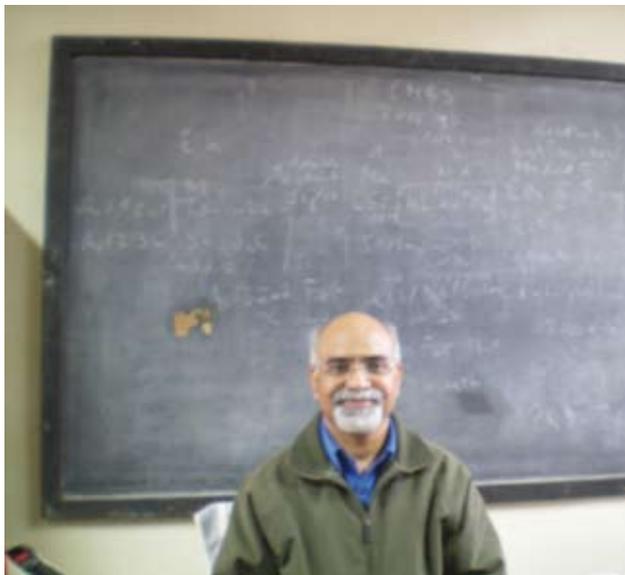


VISITING SCHOLAR

Interview with Prof. Chaudhury

Since the beginning of this summer semester you have been teaching a course entitled "The Indian Economy and Society under Globalisation in a Historical Perspective". For the benefit of the students that did not select this lecture series and for the EMGS-alumni, could you briefly summarise the main premises of the course you held?

This course discusses the impact of colonisation and globalisation on the Indian economy and society from mid-nineteenth century to mid-twentieth century. It is worth remembering that India was the second most important producer and exporter of manufactures in the world at the time of its conquest by the British. India was the most important colony for Britain, which was the first country to successfully complete the process of industrial revolution. Modern industry in India started in mid-nineteenth century and India was (and is) well endowed with natural resources. Yet, India industrialised or modernised very, very slowly. To understand this eco-



Prof. Pradipta Chaudhury

omic process and the concomitant social processes, the interconnections between local and global factors are analysed in this course. Development and backwardness are seen as two closely interconnected sides of the same processes.

Were you pleased with the results that the lecture series produced? What is your impression of the EMGS-students and the EMGS program itself?

I am extremely pleased with my experience. We, the instructor and the students, were able to discuss the most important questions within the limited scope of twelve meetings inside one month. The discussions were lively, insightful and intensive. I have a positive impression of the students and the programme. The students are inquisitive, sharp, sensitive and well read. The credit must go to the programme for inculcating a questioning attitude, an open mind and rigorous analysis. In fact, I love my class and will look forward to interactions in future.

What brought you/ attracted to this position as a visiting Professor at the Universität Leipzig in the first place?

I have the good fortune of knowing Prof Matthias Middell for a couple of years now. I have also interacted with Dr Victoria Reinhart for sometime. I knew of Leipzig as an intellectual capital of Germany and I also knew that Leipzig is a beautiful place with a very interesting history. When Matthias proposed this visiting position, I immediately accepted with delight.

Staying in Leipzig is not only about teaching and research. How did you spend your leisure time, and what can you recommend to those that are not familiar with the city? Have you been able to see much of Germany and/or Europe during your stay?

Staying in Leipzig (for one month) is one of my most enjoyable and memorable experiences. I was delighted to stay in Ritterstrasse. My study table has an excellent view of the square next to Nikolaikirche. It was simply great fortune. Once I stayed here, in the centre of the city, everything else was either good or very good. People are nice and polite. Walking around, seeing places, the parks, the weekly farmers' markets, shopping, eating out and listening to music are a lot of fun. In fact, I regret that I have to leave

before the Bach music festival, due to my ignorance of the dates. We spent a lot of social time with Matthias and his family and Konstanze. I was also lucky to make some new friends and socialise with them. I am immensely grateful to Konstanze. In February, she kindly gave me a good book on Leipzig. Later she gave a welcome guide with all relevant information. So, I was in Leipzig long before I arrived! The teaching assistant, Sangeetha Parthasarathy, is always helpful. The care taken by the

EMGS programme to make our life very easy is really remarkable.

To those who are not familiar with the city, I would recommend that they join the EMGS programme!

In spite of the short and tight schedule, we visited Dresden, Berlin and Prague. In different ways we enjoyed these visits.

What is it that you will take back with you to your home university in New Dehli after your stay here in Leipzig and at the university? Has your interaction and cooperation with the students and professors here in Leipzig changed your perspectives of your research in any way or given you "food for thought"? Finally, what are your prospects for further cooperation with the EMGS program of study?

I will always carry fond memories of Leipzig and Germany. My course is intellectually satisfying. I have met, for the first time, Professors Ulf Engel and Michael Mann. Interacting with professors and students, who have diverse cultural backgrounds and trainings, is a huge learning experience at any stage in life. As a consequence, there is a lot of „food for thought“. I have also identified possible extensions and collaborations in research.

On the issue of further collaboration with EMGS, we have already initiated an Agreement between Leipzig University representing the EMGS programme and my university in Delhi, the Jawaharlal Nehru University. The proposed Agreement envisages exchange of students and scholars and the other usual activities. Thus, I look forward to more cooperation in future.

Interview by Ian Mills

Research award for Prof. Dr. David Simo, Director of the Department of Cultural and German Studies at the University of Yaoundé (Cameroon)

In recognition of his entire achievements to date, Prof. Dr. David Simo has been awarded a research prize by the renowned Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Barely two years ago, David Simo won the Reimar Lüst Prize rewarding non-German scholars who have distinguished themselves in the field of Humanities in a strong relationship with the German academic world. The prize gave him the chance to stay at the GESI during the summer term 2009, where he undertook his research and taught the course "Africa in Global History. African Narratives" in the Global Studies Masters programme.

With the current award, the foundation, which maintains a network of more than 24,000 Humboldtians - including 43 Nobel

Prize winners - from all disciplines in over 130 countries worldwide, aims to enable David Simo to do more research in Germany.

The award-winner and the GESI are happy to be acknowledged once more for their academic efforts. However, it is not only the academic environment, but also Leipzig as a city that impresses David Simo. As he has now visited Leipzig several times, he too has experienced the transformation and restructuring of the city and its university. Therefore, it is the town's cultural life that he discovers anew each time he visits. In order to also help



Prof. David Simo

African students experience the lively city of Leipzig, David Simo has contributed in the organisation of a student exchange program between Leipzig University and the University of Yaoundé. With the award, the success story of inter-cultural enrichment continues.

By Christoph Gollasch

## NEW PROGRAMME

### **Agents of Post-Soviet Territorial Conflict in the Crimea and the Dniester Valley: A New Research Project at the University of Leipzig**

The project aims to explore the social background and the functionality of collective actors in territorial conflicts during the decay of the Soviet Union and its aftermath. It compares pro-Russian movements in the Ukrainian Crimean peninsula and in the Dniester region in Eastern Moldova. The aim of the project is to understand and conceptualise territorial conflict at the end of Soviet state-socialism beyond images of culturally determined - ethnic - conflict. The socio-historical project is financed by the German Research Council (DFG).

The project's working hypothesis is that conflict in the decay of the Soviet Union was neither 'ethnic' nor culturally determined and that the conflict actors must be conceived rather as political movements. These movements brought together protagonists from various social groups, milieus and networks which were capable of collective action. Thus, the project will ask how these coalitions came together, how different interests were melted into a single separatist project, in short, how the movement 'functioned'. Which social groups and networks of collective behaviour did leaders, activists, and followers come from? Which social spaces were the

places of recruitment? What was the relation between the social background and the individual protagonist's position of power inside the movement? What were the main discourse figures for mobilisation legitimising collective action? Against which background of social change did the movements develop? And finally, what was the role of gender relations in these movements since an unusually high number of female protagonists is evident? The project will em-

ploy the study of a range of sources: publications by the actors, interviews with activists, print media and, as far as possible, minutes of the movements' bodies. The analysis of the regional spreading of mobilisations, election support and conflict will lead us to a 'geography of separatist movements', which will allow conclusions on their social base.

The results of the project will contribute to the debate on causes and character of territorial conflicts in the break-up of the USSR, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia after 1989. The findings will be presented in a monograph and articles published in peer-reviewed journals. An international conference on 'Agents and Economy of Territorial Conflict around 1989' will form a platform for an international discussion of the issue with scholars work on regions other than post-socialist Europe.

Project leader is the historian Stefan Troebst, professor of East European Cultural Studies at the University of Leipzig. Project coordinator is the historian Jan Zofka, M. A., research assistant at the university's Global and European Studies Institute.

For more information please see:

<http://www.uni-leipzig.de/gesi/index.php/en/research-projects>

By Stefan Troebst & Jan Zofka

## CAREER CENTRE

### **Career Centre Universität Leipzig**

The Universität Leipzig offers both current and alumni students the services of its career centre. Services include individual advice on topics such as German and worldwide internships, applications and orientation within the professional fields of International Development projects and Science. Furthermore a number of workshops and excursions are regularly offered designed to aid participants in entering the job market, self management, social competences and further qualification possibilities. We encourage all EMGS students and alumni to take a look at the current workshops, information and a job portal which can all be found online at the Career Centre website (accessible under: [www.uni-leipzig.de/careercenter](http://www.uni-leipzig.de/careercenter)) and hope that you find the offers useful and beneficial.

By Ian Mills



Career Centre, Burgstraße 21, 04109

**ALUMNI****Goals for Peace – The Erasmus Mundus Way**

One bright sunny day in Clara Zetkin Park, a group of Global Studies students were exchanging legendary accounts of football while simultaneously sharing personal stories of the current challenges in their home countries. This was a fascinating mix of debate and conversation which affected us so much that on the way home we put our heads together and came up with a project that would use the power of



Goals for Peace - future football stars

football to bring people together in order to address societal problems. Brimming with ideas and unbridled enthusiasm, we sketched out a plan to create the program, raise the funds and find local partners on the ground. Goals for Peace or Goles por la Paz (in Spanish) was born.

Goals for Peace is a sports and development project aimed at empowering young people to initiate change, promote proactive reform and develop a culture of peace in their communities. Simply put, through the genius of football and other capability-building activities, we wanted to encourage young people in vulnerable communities to be, as Gandhi stated, 'the change they wanted to see in the world.'

The first Goals for Peace Project took place in Colombia on Saturday, February 28 – March 7 2009 in the neighborhood of Sierra Morena, locality of Ciudad Bolivar. The area has the largest population living under poverty levels in the city and by most indicators it has one of worst social conditions in the country. The most

relevant social problems are associated with migration by internally displaced people, the lack of spaces for recreational activities, the improper management of solid waste and violence. Our plan was to provide a recreational space where the youth could show their creativity, express themselves, develop life skills and play the sport they love. It was not hard to do this and we were greeted with eager young people wanting not only to kick and score but also to interact and learn. We were pleased to see that, compared to years ago, girls do play soccer now and some of them are actually very good at it. Yuberly, a girl age 13 was the best player of the tournament and scored more goals than any of the boys. In fact, she was such a

skillful player that constantly Yuberly was asked by the boys to play in their respective teams. It was nice to see too that they learned from the other activities. Karen, a 11 year old girl enthused: "I had a lot of fun painting and participating with my friends as a team. My family and I were very proud to see our painting at the community center.

That made me feel important", said Karen.

The second project was held during the last week of August of the same year at the other side of the globe, in the proud city of Bais located at the very heart of the Philippine archipelago. Jenny's childhood classmate is the current Mayor there and shared the same enthusiasm for football as a transformative tool. So, with her help, together with a number of friends, Goals for Peace Philippines was conducted. It is interesting to note that soccer/football is not common in the Philippines and is usually played by the elite. It was our goal to change this perception as well as to inculcate the spirit of camaraderie which we hoped will spill out not only in the youth's sport activities but also in their daily lives. We were incredibly surprised to uncover a hidden gem in the little city: an abundance of football potential. The young people were naturally gifted at the sport and we can only hope that they continue to play.

Sports and activities such as those presented in the program (Leadership and Life Skills, Mandala, Forum Theater) help reduce youth vulnerability to drugs and gang activity by offering a sense of belong-

ing and purpose. Participants, some of which had migrated to the city with their families as they were victims of rural violence, find in these types of games and activities a venue to build their confidence and gain access to a larger community. Social skills were enhanced during the seminars in a way that effective forms of communication and cooperation were developed. Leadership roles were adopted by the young people in several scenarios which helped build their self-confidence and self-esteem.

For us, this was a step, to share a vision that a better world is possible. And that soccer could be used as our common language. As someone once wrote, 'play with heart, that's the real answer, of how to play the true game of soccer.'

With excerpts taken from the emancipatory Masters Theses of the writers.

By Alexander Cardenas & Jenny Lind  
Elmaco

### **EU Commission Report An internship at the European Commission**

During the orientation conference for European Commission trainees of October 2009 there is an air of earnest nervousness in the air. For the six-hundred odd young people (I don't know about you, but my head still turns when I hear that!) it is the start of a traineeship that they applied for almost a year earlier. The mood is upbeat and everyone is all bright eyed and bushy tailed.

The traineeship website says it is for EU nationals, but in small print adds "non-EU students may also apply but intake must not exceed ten percent of the total." Having got into the habit of reading the small print, and to my delight, I found myself at the Flagey Conference Centre in Brussels listening to the Commissioner for Multilingualism explain Europe's challenge in catering to 23 languages and possibly hundreds of dialects. No sooner had he finished, during the question and answer session, a young man from Cyprus confronted him on why Turkish was not recognised among the 23 official languages of the EU. Just as the Cypriot finished registering his protest, a girl from Moldova went on to appeal to the EU to pressure Moldova into calling the Moldovan language Romanian-because that's what it is! Another debate on translating EU legislation- which accounts for 900 million Euros of the EU's annual budget- led a guy from the UK to ask "can't we end the waste and accept that English is now the internatio-

nal working language?" Needless to say the building reverberated with thunderous boos. This was starting to be fun. A journey into understanding the European project and we were all aboard the mother-ship!

Possibly one of the most comforting aspects of the traineeship is that it offers a stipend with which you can lead a decent existence in the bustling city of Brussels.

This is in contrast to the unpaid internship labour market spawned from the recession. As a stagiare you are expected to assist your supervisor, who is an official in a specific unit, and carry out tasks as described in your job profile. The work atmosphere in the commission is rather informal- notwithstanding the heavy airport style security- and most officials and policy-makers are willing to delegate responsibility and hear from fresh graduates. Stagiares are often invited to key meetings and conferences and encouraged to air their opinions. For European graduates, the traineeship offers the best opportunity to decide if they would like a career in the 'Institutions'. In the beginning, there is a general restlessness among some because the Commission is essentially a slow moving public institution. Brilliant ideas may get stuck in a rut of paperwork and practical suggestions may be dismissed on politically sensitive grounds. However, it is a priceless opportunity to engage in professional and social networkings, which are respectable hobbies in Brussels. Needling your way into conferences you have no business attending is highly appreciated.

The good news too is also that it's not all work, no play. The play bit is put together by a team of elected stagiarees whose task it is to prepare the social calendar- this includes weekend theme parties and excursions. This is a duty taken quite seriously and so if the beer is overpriced, you know who exactly to speak to!

By Dharini Parthasarathy

### Alumni Project: Youth Bank

After finishing the EMGS master, I applied for a job at Youth Bank, an NGO that supports youth involvement in Germany. Youth Bank helps young people to realize their social projects. We assist in project

management, fundraising, team work etc. and we can give them 50 to 400 Euro - which is a great investment in the future



Global Music

of our civil society.

I am really happy that I have been able to find a job that quickly after the master's program. Global Studies mainly prepares us for a Ph.D. or for work within international organisations. However, as you can see, there are lots of opportunities. While studying on the Global Studies, I was also a volunteer for the Youth Bank; that is mainly the reason why I managed to get my current job.

My suggestion and advice to students of the program is this: use the wide spectrum of possibilities the master offers you and I am sure you will find an interesting career afterwards!

Johannes Raffel

### Global Music – CD Release

Globalistan.org, a website founded by EMGS Alumni to discuss issues of 'global living' has recently co-operated with Berlin based DJ Johannes Heretsch and the record label Lola's World in order to bring out a music CD. The CD release event was held on 12th June at Berlin's Admiralpalast Theater, and had several EMGS alumni in attendance.

The CD release also marked the one year anniversary of the website. The event had live acts by internationally renowned worldmusic artists. These included Nomad Soundsystem, Mil Santos, Cherif Ham-miche and Mariem Hassan group.

All this added up to an excellent night of entertainment in Berlin for all those attending. The live acts were vibrant and brought together various musical traditions, in a way re-affirming the 'global' outlook of the website.

Johannes Heretsch contacted Globalistan.org, with the proposal to co-operate to launch a world-music CD. We were only too happy to co-operate, since this pro-

posed to be an excellent opportunity to spread the word about both the Globalistan project and EMGS. The CD album carries a description of the website as well as its associations with EMGS as part of its cover, and would be shared with distributors as well.

The CD can be bought on Amazon.com, as well as from Lola's World Records website. Part of the proceeds of the CD sales go directly to Medico international, a medical charity operating in the Western Sahara.

By Fahad Mustafa

### GRADUATION POEM

In conjunction with the last EMGS graduation ceremony two students found the time between essay deadlines and farewell events to pen the following poem which was read at the ceremony. Here is a small taster of the creative talent, the full version can be found online at the EMGS Alumni page accessible via <http://www.uni-leipzig.de/gesi/emgs/>.

*The Tale from Leipzig – Scholars  
in the Making*

*This is a story of a group of students  
from across the world,*

*Whose lives were transformed  
through globalisation unfurled.*

*With spirits high, they set out on  
theirs quests,*

*Often interrupted with merrymaking  
and fests.*

*With Autumn's arrival, turning leaves  
red, gold and brown,*

*No signs of academic anxiety could  
bring this group down.*

*With Wednesday night movies at the  
Centre for Advanced Studies,*

*The first and seconds years became  
fast buddies*

*With parties from Spizz to 4 Rooms,*

*They did not foresee the coming days  
of gloom.*

*As Master's thesis workshops began  
to brew,*

*Brainstorming research topics started  
anew.*

*From global governance to policies in  
immigration,*

*Only later having new revelations. [...]*

By Forrest Kilimnik and Sahiba Minhas

**ERASMUS MUNDUS GS****A (NEW) PASSAGE TO INDIA**

"A new passage to India" that is the name of a funding programme financed by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and managed by the German Academic Exchange Service.

Since the Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi, one of the most notable universities in India, became an official member of the EMGS Consortium in 2010, the Master's course has taken the opportunity to apply for scholarships for students within this funding programme. Luckily this application has been approved by the DAAD. Thus starting next year, German students will have the opportunity to apply for a scholarship in order to study for a period of one term at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning at the prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru University and with this to embark on their own "passage to India". Such an opportunity will surely be of great help in better understanding the globalisation processes at work in India as well as to become personally and directly accustomed with Indian culture.

By Konstanze Loeke



Jawaharlal Nehru University,  
New Delhi

**THE DAIMLER SEMINAR**

Over the past semester, my fellow Leipzig classmates and I were involved in a research seminar with Daimler (yes, the car manufacturer). It all began at the end of the winter semester. In January we were introduced to the seminar during an afternoon-long meeting with the Daimler research department representatives, with whom we'd be working during the summer semester, at the Uni Leipzig. The meeting covered the types of cars that Daimler produces, where their largest markets are, and, critical to our participation, where they were looking to expand in the near future. We learned during this meeting what Daimler wanted from us and what we'd be helping them with for the next half-year – to determine the likelihood of success in selling light-armoured vehicles in South Africa (what they wanted), and to predict what South Africa would

look like in the year 2020 (what we'd be helping them with).

After a long paper- and travel-intensive break, we all met up again in mid-April; this time, though, in Berlin, where a daylong conference was held. Here we learned how to develop a future scenario based around a specific topic, and which indicators to use in this process. Through the PETSEC analyzing technique for different indicators (political, economical, technological, social, ecological, cultural), each group came up with what it felt would be the most pressing indicators that would shape the near-future of South Africa.

Our next meeting was in the middle of May in Leipzig, where each group presented their top indicators, looking at the most likely, least likely, and "wild card" options these presented in our analysis. After a day of presentations and comments, we broke-up to prepare ourselves for the next meeting, which would take place at the beginning of June. During the time in-between, each group built its Cross-Impact Matrix, a table looking at the impact each indicator would have on each factor. When finished, the Matrix was returned to Daimler, who put it through their "super secret" copyrighted equation (which, resulting in much hullabaloo, was not allowed to be seen or used by us), the results being sent back to us in the form of "future scenarios" – our indicators grouped into most likely, alternative, and other wild card scenarios.

The most likely and the alternative scenario our groups then worked out into creative projects – skits, short stories, mock news articles and interviews – which were presented (might I add incredibly well by all involved) at the summer school. Although there were often moments of

confusion, as well as the occasional questioning of the seminar's purpose, most problems were cleared up either as the seminar went on or after the completion and presentation of our projects at summer school. All in all, the seminar was a great experiment for us; we learned what it is like doing research for a large corporation, how to manage conflicting group dynamics and implement a large project on a limited time-scale, and, most importantly I think, how to "predict" the future.

By Erik Schau

**SUMMER SCHOOL 2010 OR A BITTERSWEET THING CALLED "GOODBYE"**

The schedule of the Summer School on July 2010 did not bare any particular surprise. The usual balance between workshops and recreation seemed to be reasonable and the location out in the idyllic countryside of Brandenburg offered both enough seclusion and beautiful sceneries to pave work and relaxation with success. Having paddled the nights away on a lake, sung around imaginary campfires on nice summer nights, and shared the curious emotions the soccer World Cup could offer to our group composed of 25 different nationalities, it was not hard to keep these days in good memory.

Still what marked me the most during these days was the experience of the first farewell the groups of Leipzig, London, Wrocław or Vienna undertook. It was sad and wonderful all at once; moments that had shown a great side of this program that simply needs a pinch of pathos to be described.

It was obvious in these moments that in a few months each group had grown close; probably due to the fact that we all arrived as aliens in cities that we barely knew. We had to discover and conquer them jointly, sharing a similar life in the different cities, enjoying nice moments but also facing all sorts of difficulties. We had built close friendship with some and felt sympathy for others. Above all, we experienced solidarity and all the small ingredients needed for the group to become welded together. Some had already realised this before our departure, while others would only notice afterwards. But when the time of good-byes came, something ended and everybody felt it. Some of us will still be united by the program but our groups will never be the same. When I returned to Vienna knowing that most friends had already left, I knew the city had changed too. This sort of peculiar melancholy is always composed by lucky and sad feelings. What remains is gratitude.

By Hafid Derbal



Food for Thought at the Daimler Seminar

**CONFERENCE REPORT****INTERNATIONAL FORUM 2010  
IN VILNIUS**

This year's 3<sup>rd</sup> International Forum of the Geschichtswerkstatt Europa (European History Workshop) took place in Vilnius, Lithuania, working under the title "Vilnius between the wars. Jewish culture, Lithuanian society, Polish state and Byelorussian minority". During the five days (14th – 19th September 2010) the International Forum was dedicated to the diverse history of the city and included city tours, seminars and museum excursions. Fifty students and doctoral candidates were invited to take part in the Forum and originated from many of the



Participants of the International Forum in Vilnius 2010

East- Central European countries such as Poland, Belarus, Hungary, Germany, Italy, Russia and the Czech Republic. During the program the participants were given the chance and time to not only become acquainted with the history of the city, but also to converse, share and compare their own backgrounds and native countries. A focus of these discussions was often the political and cultural association of their own country with its history as well as its contemporary relations with other countries. The program was primarily conceived by young German and Lithuanian scholars, which, in turn, led to a positive atmosphere for discussion.

Notable personalities were invited to take part in the public lectures. David Fishman of the Jewish Theological Seminary, New York, spoke about the Jewish culture and politics in Vilnius during the interwar period, Alfred E. Senn (former professor of

the University of Wisconsin-Madison) lectured on Vilnius in 1940, whilst the Lithuanian author, Tomas Venclova of Yale University attempted to find a literary approach to Vilnius and its history during his lecture. These three lectures were opened to the Lithuanian public and provoked lively and interesting debates.

Numerous partners can be named in the organisation and implementation of the International Forum. The Lithuanian Institute for History and the Historical faculty of the University of Leipzig served as its main partners. In addition the German Embassy of Vilnius and the Goethe-Institute in Vilnius were also involved in the Forum.

Even if only little free time was possible on account of the very full program, the evenings following the lectures and seminars were spent discovering the wonderful historic centre of Vilnius with its many bars and restaurants. The participants' feedback to the Forum was consistently positive and encourages hope that following the successful Forums in Leipzig, Wrocław and Vilnius an International Forum can be organised to take place next year in such a historically meaningful European city.

The Geschichtswerkstatt Europa (European History Workshop) is a program set up by the Foundation „Remembrance, Responsibility, Future“ (EVZ) and the International Forum is organised in cooperation with the Global and European Studies Institute at the University of Leipzig. For more information see: [www.geschichtswerkstatt-europa.org](http://www.geschichtswerkstatt-europa.org)

By Ulrike Breitsprecher

**Annual Conference of Centre of Area Studies at the Universität Leipzig  
27 - 29/10/2010**

The first annual conference of the Centre of Area Studies (CAS) was entitled „Cultural Encounters, Commodity Chains, Labour Migration: World Regions, Transnationalities, Transidentities, Hybridities,

**CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS  
COMMODITY CHAINS  
LABOR MIGRATION:  
WORLD REGIONS**

**TRANSNATIONALITIES  
TRANSIDENTITIES  
HYBRIDITIES  
DIASPORISATION**

1st Annual Conference of the Centre for Area Studies  
in Cooperation with the Ibero-American and Francophone Research Centers  
LEIPZIG, 27 – 29 OCTOBER 2010

Wvenues: Alte Nikolaisschule (Conference Opening 27/10/2010)  
Lecture Hall of the University of Leipzig,  
Universitätsstraße 3, HS 16 and 17 (Parade)  
More Information at [www.uni-leipzig.de/cas](http://www.uni-leipzig.de/cas)

Wveranstalter: Centre for Area Studies (CAS) der Universität Leipzig  
DFG-Gesellschaftsbereich „Archivieren der Globalisierung“  
Ibero-amerikanisches Forschungszentrum der Universität Leipzig (IBZ)  
Francophonie Forschungszentrum der Universität Leipzig (FFZ)

DFG

Diasporisation". It was held in cooperation with the Ibero-American and Francophone Research Centres at the University Leipzig between 27 - 29 October 2010, Lecture Hall Building, HS 16 and 17

**Programme**

27/10/2010 6pm Reception

28 - 29/10/2010 Panels Section CAS:

Panel 1 (Convener: Markus-Michael Müller, Leipzig) „A Global culture of urban social control? Latin America, Africa and Europe in comparative perspective“

Panel 2 (Convener: Elisabetta Porcu, Leipzig) „Commodification of religions in Japan and Africa“

Panel 3 (Convener: Matthias Middell, Leipzig) „Migration and Portals of Globalisation“

Panel 4 (Convener: Nadine Sieveking, Leipzig) „Whose culture? Migrations and mutations of performance“

Panel 5 (Conveners: Martin Heckel, Leipzig/Md. Noor Un Nabi, Leipzig) „Transnationality and law in global commodity chains“

Panel 6 (Convener: Geert Castryck, Leipzig) „Cultural encounters and the generative force of misunderstanding“

For details of the programme see [www.uni-leipzig.de/cas/conference](http://www.uni-leipzig.de/cas/conference)

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES/EVENTS

### Colloquium of the Centre for Area Studies

held Wednesdays 5-7pm

Venue: Centre for Area Studies, Thomas-kirchhof 20, 04109 Leipzig

Forthcoming Programme:

Tue, 26/10/2010 (7 pm) Galen Amstutz (Boston/Berkeley): *'Orthodox Doctrine' in Later Shin Buddhism*

Wed, 03/11/2010 (5 pm) Veit Bachmann (University of Frankfurt/Main)

*EuroGaps: Differences between the EU's Foreign Policy Mission and its External Perceptions in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Black Sea Region*

Thur, 04/11/2010 (9-11 am) Stefan Guth (Bern) *Deutsch-polnische Historikerbeziehungen in Zeiten der Teilung Deutschlands*

Fri, 05/11/2010 (11 am) Philip Nel (Otago) *Recognition and Redistribution: What Regional Powers of the South Want*

For the complete programme see

[www.uni-leipzig.de/cas](http://www.uni-leipzig.de/cas)

### GWZO Conference

#### Transnational History of East Central Europe: Territorialisation in the second half of the 19th Century.

23.11.2010

Venue: GWZO, Speck's Hof, Entrance A, 4th Floor, Reichsstraße 4, Leipzig

For more information and programme details see: <http://geschichte-transnational.clio-online.net/termine/id=14910>

### Research Project:

#### The transnational dimension of a German-French history of Humanities from the end of the 18th century towards the beginning of the 20th century.

26 - 27/11/2010, Leipzig

Organised by Prof. Matthias Middell and Kerstin Lange from the Global and European Studies Institute of the University of Leipzig; UMR of the CNRS Paris in cooperation with the Centre for Area Studies and the Frankreichzentrum of the University of Leipzig

For more information see:

[http://db.uni-leipzig.de/~ifabdez5/\\_forsch/index.php?modus=projekte&submodus=detail&projekt\\_id=6758&PHPSESSID=4e96cff2099b724b3678e6f9dfcea772](http://db.uni-leipzig.de/~ifabdez5/_forsch/index.php?modus=projekte&submodus=detail&projekt_id=6758&PHPSESSID=4e96cff2099b724b3678e6f9dfcea772)

## PUBLICATIONS

### Comparativ: A Journal of Global History and Comparative Studies

The journal is devoted to innovative approaches in world history and analyses past and present occurrences of globalisation. Differences and similarities as well as processes of interaction, cooperation and transfer are addressed from the perspectives of both change over time and variation over space. Emphasis is put on their significance and function regarding processes of territorialisation and spatiality by which social, cultural, political, economic and legal orders are shaped.

**Issue 1-2 (2010)** *Comparativ*. Zeitschrift für Globalgeschichte und Vergleichende Gesellschaftsforschung 20 (2010) 1-2

**Verflochtene Geschichten: Ostmitteleuropa, Edited by: Frank Hadler and Matthias Middell**

**Issue 3 (2010)** *Comparativ*: Zeitschrift für Globalgeschichte und Vergleichende Gesellschaftsforschung 20 (2010) 3

**Non-State Actors in European Integration in the 1970s: Towards a Polity of Transnational Contestation, edited by Wolfram Kaiser and Jan-Henrik Meyer**

Tables of contents and a full list of articles can be found at [www.comparative.net](http://www.comparative.net)

## CONGRATULATIONS

Warm congratulations are extended to Alumni Derek Elliot who won Britain's prestigious 2009 Julian Corbett Prize in Modern Naval History for his LSE thesis entitled „Pirates, Politics, and Companies: Global Politics Along the Konkan Littoral, c. 1690-1756.“ Previous winners of this prize have included noted academic and scholar Paul M. Kennedy. Derek has also been selected to present a lecture based partly his London/Leipzig thesis research as part of the British Maritime History Series Seminars at the British Institute of Historical Research, University of London on January 11, 2011 at 7 pm. The title of the paper to be presented is „Guerrillas at Sea: Bombay's Long Half Century Fight for Regional Supremacy, c. 1690-1756.“ We wish Derek the best of

luck with this undertaking.

Congratulations also go to Martijn Mos who has been awarded a Huygens Scholarship by the Dutch government, which will fully cover fees and maintenance for a two-year MPhil in European Politics and Society at the University of Oxford, where he will be starting in October. Again, we wish Martijn the best of luck for his further research in Oxford.

Congratulations also to Prof. Dr. Engel who has been appointed the position of extraordinary professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Stellenbosch as of June 2010. Prof. Engel has had a close working relationship with the University of Stellenbosch and has already visited Stellenbosch several times. During his stays he has worked on an edited volume and a peer reviewed article on the new African peace and security architecture among others. Furthermore, he has prepared the review process on an application for a joint doctoral academy between Leipzig and Stellenbosch (on „Germany and South Africa in the new global order“) with colleagues from different departments. The review took place in September 2009 in Leipzig, Germany. Prof. Engel has also co-taught in Stellenbosch's Bachelors programme „Africa in International Relations“ and gave a public lecture on the new African peace and security architecture.

Our best wishes are also conveyed to two other members of the GESI staff. First, to Klass Dykmann for having received a professorship at Roskilde University for the Global Studies programme. Second to Victoria Reinhardt who is due to very soon to give birth to a baby boy. Claudia Baumann will take over Victoria's position whilst she is away on maternity leave. Claudia completed her master's degree in European Studies at the GESI and spent a semester at the University of Wrocław where she volunteered in the Willy Brandt Centre for German and European Studies. During her studies she worked as assistant for the GESI and supported the coordinator of the European Studies programme. Being experienced in theoretical and practical terms regarding European matters she is offering a seminar entitled 'Approaches to the History of Europeanisation' to students from both the Global and European Studies courses this semester. Moreover she will also be coordinating the GS-Programme supporting the students with all organisational and study-program issues.

## IMPRINT

„GESI-Newsletter“ is published three times a year by the Global and European Studies Institute at the University of Leipzig and the Consortium of the European Master „Global Studies“. | Editorial staff: Konstanze Loeke; Matthias Middell; Ian Mills; Antje Zettler | © 2010 GESI. Picture credits: Ulrike Breitsprecher, Alexander Cardenas, Jenny Lind Elmaco, Konstanze Loeke, Ian Mills | Layout: Antje Zettler