

GESI Newsletter

Global and European Studies Institute

02/2011



EDITORIAL

The summer break is approaching and that means for many of the current students in Global Studies as well as in European Studies either full concentration on the last pages of the Master Thesis or preparation to move to their second place of study maybe even including some exploratory travels in the region.

At the same time, however, the new semester is already knocking at the door. New study documents (concerning module structure and examination rules) have successfully been passed at the level of the Faculty's Council in Leipzig and will hopefully be decided upon before we restart the term. This gives us the opportunity to reduce the number of area studies based modules in the second and third semester to four instead of five (combining sub-Saharan Africa and the Near East whilst Asia and Middle East will be the topic of another inclusive module). Advantages include the increased flexibility and more possibility for students when deciding which seminars to take whilst also offering more space for comparative seminars not focusing solely on one world region. Another new feature is that we have generalized the opportunity for all GS-students to take an internship, most of them to be characterized as research internships with running research projects to learn more about integration into the collective process of knowledge production. At the same time we expect better coordination with partner university's study programmes which will hopefully become visible with the new website GESI is

ready to publish by October after months of preparation. At the same time GESI has produced its first two year institute report and it is my pleasure to invite you all to have a look at what, on balance, has been very successful.

Again, we received hundreds of applications for our two Master programmes and the selection process was a tough one since there were so many excellent candidates from all over the world. Unfortunately, resources are scarce and we had to make some hard decisions. In the end we have sent admission letters to 90 applicants and once more expect more than 75 students to enroll in the first year of their Global Studies Masters at one of the five European institutions while another 20 students will enroll in the European Studies programme at GESI. Welcome to all of them, we hope that you will have an exciting time with a truly global community of classmates and plenty of opportunities to meet with professors from every continent.

The Alumni Convention in conjunction with this year's graduation ceremony in autumn 2011 will permit the opportunity for the definitive creation of an alumni organisation and we would be happy to see as many of you as possible there both from the current cohorts or from previous years of study.

Matthias Middell. Director of the Global and European Studies Institute



Christian Denzin, Ulrike Lorenz, Hafid Derbal, Mickaël Daudin, and Miriam Wolfsteiner for the EMGS Alumni Network in co-operation with the EMGS Consortium

EMGS CONVENTION

Experience is only true when shared **- EMGS Convention 2011 in Leipzig**

The newly established EMGS Alumni Network and the EMGS Consortium are pleased to announce the EMGS Convention 2011 that will take place from the **24th to 27th November 2011 in Leipzig**. After positive responses following the first successful Alumni Meeting last November in Vienna some Alumni and current students have come together and discussed the possibility of creating a framework for further meetings.

Different academic years have successfully gone through the same experiences of a master's program we appreciate for its content and the personal exchange it has enabled. However, the experiences encountered after the program needs better coordination and a platform from which they can be shared; a common ground where past and current students can get to know each other, present different trajectories and experiences, and fortify established links between the old and new EMGS members. In short, to contribute to our growing EMGS global family.

In order that this functions we are counting on the contribution of many of you and warmly invite you to send proposals for presentations on topics in the context of Global Studies as well as individual experiences gained in the professional world. The EMGS Convention is also envisaged as a platform for Alumni and Graduate Students to gain experience in presenting their work. Presentations could thus address topics such as the ongoing academic research of EMGS Alumni, current master theses of graduating students, scholarship experiences, as well as professional undertakings in the private and public sector, NGO or IOs, etc. The outcome and success of this convention depends very much on your contributions, so take a hold of your pencils and submit your proposal at: <http://www.easychair.org/conferences/?conf=emgs2011>

Should you have any questions regarding the convention or questions concerning submitting a proposal please feel free to contact us at emgs.alumni.network@gmail.com.

By the EMGS Convention

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A big thank you to all that contributed to this edition of the GESI newsletter. To contribute to future editions please send articles, reports and pictures to: **emgs.alumni@uni-leipzig.de**

WALTER-MARKOV PRIZE

Since 1966 the European Network in Universal and Global History has been awarding the Walter Markov Prize to the best PhD-thesis or Master-thesis in the field of transnational and global history with a special emphasis on those works dealing with the role of France or Africa in global contexts.

Walter Markov was professor of modern history from 1949 until 1974 at the University of Leipzig and he took over the prestigious chair from his predecessors Karl Lamprecht (who founded the Institut für Kultur- und Universalgeschichte in 1909), Water Goetz (1915-1933) and Hans Freyer (1934-1948). His PhD dealt with international politics in the Balkans in the early 20th century. Prior to the outbreak of world war two he was arrested by the Nazi's for open resistance to the regime and spent 10 years in prison until the end of the war. His habilitation which had already been submitted to the Faculty of Philosophy in Leipzig again focused on Balkan-conflicts, but later he was forced to move to other subjects as his exclusion from the Communist Party in 1951 made it impossible to remain active in the heavily politicized field of Eastern European history close to the regime's need for historical legitimation. Markov turned towards the history of de-colonization and with a group of young scholars established a centre for research in the area studies, analyzing the lasting colonial legacy in Latin America, Africa and Asia from the 15th century onwards. While his disciples were among the

first in German historiography to deal with the historical origins of current decolonization aside these activities Markov wrote a four volume biography of a young radical clergyman during the French revolution in the field of contemporary history and became an internationally accepted authority in the field of revolutionary history from below. In the early 1960s he spent a year in Nigeria as the first German professor helping young African nation-states to establish an independent academic basis for further development. Having supervised more than 100 PhDs he was counted among the most academically influential people in GDR-historiography, while, at the same time, he lived more like an outsider to the GDR's politicized structures. After retirement in 1974 he became the source of inspiration for a new approach towards world and global history by focusing on the worldwide comparison of social upheaval, revolutions and reform movements in modern times. His experience with the combination of research on the non-European world (with its anti-colonial resistance to Western hegemony) and one of the most central topics of European history (the revolution of 1789) helped him to overcome some of the most wide-spread biases in world history writing of the time, and his books set ground for a new generation of world historians in Leipzig, a tradition to which he contributed intellectually much more than just playing the intermediary between predecessors and successors. The Walter-Markov-Prize is seen as an award for academic efforts by young scholars who take up the direction that Markov's historical writing was targeted. The 2011 Prize was awarded during the General Assembly of ENIUGH to **Christoph Kalter** for his thesis on „Die Entdeckung der Dritten Welt und die neue radikale Linke in Frankreich“ (The Discovery of the Third World and the New Left in France) submitted to the Free University of Berlin (supervisor: **Prof. Sebastian Conrad**). The manuscript which will be published as a book with Campus-Verlag Frankfurt in 2011 is a substantial contribution to the intellectual history of the 1960s when discussion among leftist authors in France formed a historical subject called the Third World, while at the same time this debate helped to constitute the so-called New Left in Western Europe and the US. The laureat will present his main ideas during this year's PhD-Summer School on September, 22, at 7 p.m. when the prize is officially presented. Everyone is invited to attend the award ceremony as well to enjoy what is set to be a moment for intellectual debate.

By Matthias Middell

WELCOME

Welcome Dr. Dietmar Müller!

Since the summer semester 2011 **Prof. Dr. Stefan Troebst**, head of the study program "European Studies", has been appointed as fellow to the newly established "Imre-Kertész Kolleg Jena: Eastern Europe in the 20th Century, Historical Experience in European Perspective" at the University of Jena.

As his representative we would like to take this opportunity to welcome his replacement, **Dr. Dietmar Müller**, to the Global and European Studies Institute.



Dr. Dietmar Müller

Dr. Dietmar Müller, born 1969 in Hermannstadt (Sibiu)/Romania, studied History and East European Studies in Berlin and London. He received his PhD in 2004 from the Free University of Berlin. From 2005 to 2009 he was Research associate and lecturer at the Institute for the Study of Culture at the University of Leipzig, where he coordinated the research project "Bodenrecht, Kataster und Grundbuchwesen im östlichen Europa 1918-1945-1989. Polen, Rumänien und Jugoslawien im Vergleich". He is currently the executive coordinator of the research project "Rechtskulturelle Prägnungen Ostmitteleuropas in der Moderne: Produktionseigentum, Geistiges Eigentum, Bodeneigentum" at the Leipzig Centre for the History and Culture of East Central Europe (GWZO).

His main research interests are the nationstate and minority issues, legal history, economic history of rural areas, culture of remembrance and constitutional history. In the current summer term he is offering two seminars focusing on "Transitional justice. Legal and administrative procedures of coping with dictatorial injustice in 20th Century Eastern Europe" and "Managing Diversity. Citizenship and Nationality in multiethnic East Central Europe in the 19th and 20th Centuries". All at GESI wish him well in this position.

By Stephan Kaschner

MENTORING PROGRAM

Female Spirit in Academia

In the summer semester the European Network in Universal and Global History (ENIUGH), together with the Graduiertenzentrum Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften organised a series of 'Roundtable' events in which academics from a number of disciplines could report on their experiences, strategies and main areas to address illustrated on their way through the institutions.

Topics such as publication strategies, securing external funding, project work, the use of gender balance programs, mobility and the implied challenge of creating social networks were discussed. Guests included historians **Professor Winkler** (Chair of East European history at the Universität Münster), **Dr. Ute Warden-ga** (Leibniz-Institut for regional geography), **Professor Jane Burbank** (New York University) as well as **Professor Claudine Delphis** (Leibniz-Professor at the Universität Leipzig).

By Martina Keilbach

THINKTANK GENERATOR

Making a small contribution to science

A little NGO in Wroclaw promotes EMGS students and their theses.

Back in 2008, after the EMGS program in Wroclaw had started for good, a group of academics and PHD students from a number of Polish universities founded a small non-governmental organization, the "Foundation for European Studies", FEPS. Their idea was, vaguely, to create a vehicle, which would help them promote the best students from different disciplines (the social sciences and the humanities), include them in small research projects, financed by external sources, circumventing the huge university bureaucracy. FEPS started with a simple website, where abbreviated versions of some of the best MA theses of Polish and foreign students were published, together with short biographical information and the e-mail addresses of the authors. The idea was to put the best works on the internet and make them available for others instead of putting them into a university drawer, where they would just collect dust, forgotten. Why not help bright students with good ideas to make a small contribution to science?

After some time, FEPS managed to es-

tablish a web of contacts all over the world, members of the Foundation have organized panels at international conferences, as well as an annual conference about contemporary Germany, coaching sessions for young scientists about research design and methods and started to carry out their own research projects. What is more interesting for the EMGS program is that FEPS has successfully published some of the work done by EMGS students. In 2010, a special issue of the "Review of International Affairs" in Belgrade printed an article, which had been elaborated on by a group of EMGS students in the framework of **Prof. Klaus Bachmann's** seminar on Transitional Justice. Already before this, several other abbreviated versions of EMGS theses had been published as FEPS working papers. The FEPS website, with its comprehensive list of internet-links to the most important Transitional Justice institutions constitutes a useful tool for students who are searching for resources about Transitional Justice, ethnic conflicts, conflict prevention and international criminal law. In the meantime, EMGS students from other universities have started to contribute to FEPS and more and more students are discovering a field, which in countries like the US, Canada, Britain and South Africa is already very popular and quickly developing into distinct curriculums, but in Poland is still quite unknown.

In 2011, FEPS launched a new initiative: Funded by the German-Polish Foundation for Cooperation (www.fvnpn.pl) and in cooperation with the Weiterdenken Stiftung in Dresden and Brandenburg and the Heinrich Boell Foundation in Warsaw, FEPS created a "think tank generator" for Polish and foreign students (among them several EMGS students). In the framework of the generator, participants undergo training sessions and discussions with Polish and German think tank researchers and managers, who explain the specific needs of think tanks and describe the skills and knowledge, which is necessary in order to write papers, do research and



work with think tanks. During the final stage of the project, participants will prepare their own papers and submit them to an anonymous peer review, carried out by the think tankers, who took part in the "generator" program.

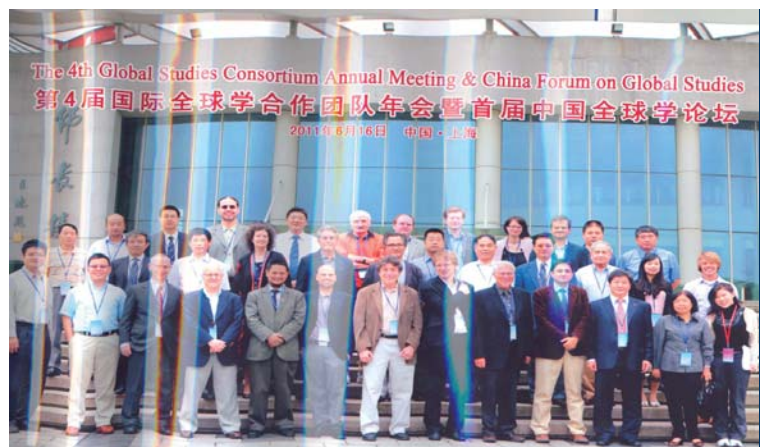
Here again, the best papers will have the chance to be published. In 2011, FEPS will do its best to launch another edition of the "think tank generator", which then will be also open to the new wave of EMGS students arriving in Wroclaw. FEPS is currently planning a huge conference in Warsaw in November 2011 (together with our partners from the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, Poland, the Center of International Relations and The Heinrich Boell Foundation) about the political and social impact of the Afganistan war on Poland, Germany and the US. At the moment, FEPS is carrying out a research project about these issues. For more information, see www.feps.pl (there is a Polish and an English version of the website) or contact feps@feps.pl.

By Klaus Bachmann

CONFERENCE REPORTS

A global studies meeting in China

In order to enhance the cooperation between different study programmes in the field of global studies a „Global Studies Consortium“ was established in 2007. Currently some 15 universities are part of this consortium that meets annually in a different city. So far more than 40 universities have attended these meetings. In June 2011 the annual meeting was hosted by the Shanghai University. Thanks to **Professor Guo Changgang**, Director of the Centre for Global Studies at the Shanghai University, almost 50 scho-



4th Global Studies Conference, China

lars from all over the world met in June in Shanghai. During the first two days the China Forum on Global Studies gave some insights into Global Studies research in and on Asia. The presentations given were followed by active discussions sometimes criticizing the too harmonious views of some scholars towards Chinese historical and contemporary developments. The Forum was followed by presentations of different Global Studies programmes and discussions on what could be done in order to facilitate collaboration in teaching and research as well as student and faculty exchange.

More information on the Consortium can be found under: <http://globalstudies-consortium.org/>

By Konstanze Loeke

International Forum – Kiev

Once again the Global and European Studies Institute organised the International Forum of the Geschichtswerkstatt Europa which was held in Kiev between 20th and 25th June 2011. Coinciding with the 70th anniversary of the attack on the Soviet Union by Nazi-Germany the Forum, held in one of the main arenas of World War II, was entitled "1941: German war of extermination in Ukraine and its actors".

June 22nd 1941 saw the invasion of the Soviet Union by the German Wehrmacht in "Operation Barbarossa". Occupation, terror, internment, forced labour, ethnic cleansing and mass murder culminated in a German war of extermination in the East taking place primarily on the territory of the then Ukrainian Socialist Soviet Republic. This date also stands for the medium and long-term planning for an expansion of Nazi Germany reaching to the Ural Mountains, including the forced relocation of more than thirty million people. At the same time, the concept of a "New Europe" dominated by Hitler reached its aim as the extent of German power and reach extended from Taganrog on the Sea of Azov to Brest on the Atlantic and from the northern Cape to the island of Crete. A central component was the destruction of the Jews of Europe which started in 1941 with mass shootings in the Ukraine, Belarus and Serbia, and culminated in industrial annihilation in the years 1942 to 1944. 30 students and PhD candidates from 13 Central and East European countries took part in the conference which was bolstered by the attendance of 10 scholars, all of whom gave input to the Forum. Of particular note was the number of Ukrainian

scholars also in attendance. The Forum offered a diverse program not only dealing with the topic of discussion but also giving the participants chance to meet and interact with one another. Alongside the three events open to the wider public and the seminars there were also a number of visits to museums such as the National Museum of the History of The Great Patriotic War and excursions to Babyn Jar.

The aim of the Forum was not only to find out about the events between 1941 and 1943 but also to shed light on the consequences of the war on the contemporary Ukrainian society. This included a look at the ways in which topics such as the war itself and the Holocaust are remembered. To this point Frank Golczewski's presentation and the following podium discussion in one of the public lectures served for a heated debate on the assessment of the war and the Holocaust. What became evident in the course of this debate is the fact that clashing memories of World War II are still evident today. The discussion was also reported on and received in the press.

Although free time during the Forum was in short supply the opportunity to explore and get to know the city of Kiev better was taken up by many of the tired participants. The whole week was well received and feedback from all the participants has been positive.

The International Forum is part of the programme GESCHICHTSWERKSTATT EUROPA initiated by the German Federal Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future" (EVZ) and was in cooperation with the Foundation Heinrich Böll Foundation Kyiv. More information can be found at: <http://www.geschichtswerkstatt-europa.org/international-forum.html>

By Ulrike Breitsprecher

Global Euro London Summit

From June 19th to 24th in London, Global Zero, an organisation campaigning for multilateral nuclear disarmament, invited two Global Studies students to participate in its Student Institute and Summit. **Neil Wilcock** and **Matthew John Przybylek** worked with other students from around the world to develop and promote Global



Matthew John Przybylek & Neil Wilcock at the Global Euro Summit, London

Zero's public awareness campaign for the upcoming year. During the Global Zero Summit, which premiered the documentary film Countdown to Zero, the two met with prominent current and retired heads-of-state, military elites, diplomats, community and faith leaders to discuss the goals of the Global Zero movement. Ambitious and controversial, the Global Zero action plan presents a multilateral movement towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons by 2030. The argument underpinning the movement is that nuclear weapons present an unreasonable danger as relics of the Cold War and their continued existence means we all live in peril of their possible use. Nuclear proliferation will further destabilize relations in volatile regions and increase the potential of enriched uranium falling into the hands of terrorists.

Currently Global Zero is emphasising the cost of nukes as jobs and services are being squeezed by governments over austerity measures. The "Cut Nukes" campaign is highlighting the real cost of nuclear weapons and the worthwhile alternatives they could fund.

Neil said, "I decided to get involved because I believe there is a real policy window at present to push towards a nuclear-free world. President Medvedev and President Obama both sign up to the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons, Global Zero exists to make sure their actions mirror their rhetoric." Matt said, "This is something our generation can work towards to make sure the security liabilities presented by nuclear weapons is not a part of the next generation's inheritance. Global Zero is the only organisation to have brought this issue to the attention of political leaders and media world-wide."

Neil and Matt will be running awareness campaigns in their second year universities

and are aiming to gain as many signatures for the Global Zero petition. They encourage any interested EMGS colleagues to contact them if they have any questions or would like more information about Global Zero at neil.wilcock.07@aberdeen.ac.uk or mprzybylek@gmail.com.

By Matthew John Przybylek & Neil Wilcock

EXTENDING LINKS

Fudan Experiences

During the Summer School at Fudan University "*Global Studies: The Perspectives from the East and West*" in Shanghai, I held a workshop with the title "*Early modern communication problems in a global context: Diplomacy between China and the Europeans c. 16 - c. 18.*" Together with 40 students from different Chinese universities, we set about analysing the phenomenon of intercultural diplomacy both from a macro- and a micro-level perspective. The fundamental premise of the course aimed at discussing what lessons from early modern diplomacy in rather complicated settings can teach us about intercultural communication between states.

Starting with a survey of the diverging diplomatic practices, sets of behaviour and ideologies that determined 'bi-lateral' relations in the early modern period, we looked at how actors, agents and groups interacted in cross-cultural contact zones. Based on a survey of different practices of apprenticeship, including information gathering and language learning, we asked whether communication problems were the pretext of unequal negotiations and exchange. The 3-day workshop was delivered through a combination of lectures, group discussion, case studies, a source

criticism exercise and a constructive simulation at the end of the course.

Teaching at the summer school at Fudan was in several ways a very fruitful experience. First of all it was beneficial for my didactic teaching skills, since university education seems to differ largely between China and Austria, as it made me reflect on my own communication skills with students. Furthermore it was a welcome opportunity to disseminate my work to students and researchers from other backgrounds. The work with Chinese students made me address presumably familiar topics from totally new angles and I am grateful for their inputs. Last but not least, I appreciated the chance to use the university library where I could work with rare Chinese material.

By Birgit Tremml

ALUMNI IN FOCUS

After having successfully completed her EMGS course in 2008 after studying in Leipzig, Stellenbosch and Vienna Aurora López Fogués shares her experiences of continuing along the academic route and the trials and tribulations of undertaking a PhD program in the United Kingdom.

After graduating from the EMGS program I felt like doing everything but studying again. The people I met, the mix of subjects and the continuous change of location (Leipzig, Vienna and Stellenbosch) woke my interest in visiting every hidden



Aurora López Fogués in Wollaton park (Nottingham)

corner of this planet. That sounded great, but also too naive due to this individualistic way of thinking. The best I could do was to get a job as a consultant as part of a team dealing with European Funds. The biggest struggle for me was to move from a stimulating academic environment where challenge and critical thinking was embraced, to a company environment where the lema was "do" not "ask", do not think, just do it (familiar, isn't it?). I lasted 9 months, time enough to have a baby, time enough to learn what I did not want to do. I packed and returned to the learning field, joined a discussion group at my home University and became a teacher in a Vocational Education college. The best moment of my week was going to the University so I decided to open my eyes and ears for a possible PhD scholarship. Through contacts I got to know about the FP7 ITN - Marie Curie Scholarships, and specifically about the opening of a program called Eduwel "Education as duction as Welfare - Enhancing opportunities for socially vulnerable youth in Europe".

In March 2010 I applied and in August I was packing to move to Nottingham, UK, my home until August 2013, when the funding stops. This program is similar to our EMGS program, and I am sure that each of us could fit perfectly into it. There are 15 partners institutions from 9 different countries and the consortium organize a once monthly workshop, conference or seminar at some of those institutions. The selection process of the 15 students was similar to other PhD scholarships. I sent a tentative proposal of around 10 pages that included my personal interest in the education field, the questions that I would like to address, the methodological frame, a timeline and some references. Additionally I also sent a motivation letter and my CV. A possible difference is that the Eduwel scholarships required that all pro-



The Perspectives from the East and West workshop series at Fudan University, China



Jubilee Campus, University of Nottingham

posals were developed around the Capability Approach theoretical framework. It could be seen as a constraint and I think that maybe it stopped many people applying; personally however I found it comforting to have such a starting point. Thanks to that I completed my proposal in just one month. If I had to give some advice it would be that if you want to pursue a PhD tell everyone about your intentions so they can let you know if they see an opportunity and also they will be ready to write the recommendation letters. Furthermore, enrol in some scholarship newsletters, have a motivation letter and the Europass CV already prepared, continuously read around the field of interest to be familiar with the current discussions, and be confident about the fact of putting together a proposal in a short time.

After receiving the email that I had been preselected the university and I arranged a skype conference. I remember that they told me that they thought I was a good candidate because I was used to being away from home and that I also an interdisciplinary background. I do not know how many people applied in total but one other Erasmus Mundus student is also studying in the Eduwel program made up of 15 students with backgrounds in social sciences, humanities and economics.

Now I am back in academia, I live in another country, and I am surrounded by international people. I would like to say that is a second EMGS, but that would not be true. First of all, the pressure is greater because is a pressure that I generate on myself. My funding will come to an end in three years, therefore my own deadline has been set for me. Also, even though the whole group meets quite often we are not physically together, and so far skype does not substitute conversations at the Clara Zetkin Park. The University of Nottingham has provided me with an office, material, access to a wide database, and also attendance to whatever class and seminar interests me. I am an student but the fact of not having a determined group, and not having a class but an office makes the whole status and relation with

others change. You have probably already heard that the topic of your PhD changes your identity. So far, I cannot say that this is the case. I would rather say that the EMGS program changed my identity and the PhD is a self development process. So far my feelings of the PhD compare to hiking with a backpack on. Sometimes, I

feel it is a great, I exercise my mind, explore other territories and meet people on the way. However sometimes, I feel like just sitting on the path, opening my backpack and drinking all the water because it is getting heavy... Despite that however, I encourage everyone to pursue a PhD if they feel that they need to keep walking.

By Aurora López Fogués

ALUMNI EXPERIENCES

Leuven Lectures: A Visiting Fellowship at KU

January is the month when people used to cooler climes find it a good time to come to the Indian capital on business and networking tours. This year too New Delhi kicked-off the new year flush with frantic socialising and at one such event, a Polish colleague of recent acquaintance introduced me to **Prof. Goddeeris** who would go on to offer me a visiting fellowship at the Katholieke University of Leuven and become my sponsor. This establishes one thing beyond all doubt: Networking is to your growth prospects what wine is to networking – a great facilitator!

In Leuven I was offered accommodation (with my sponsor's family), office space (in one of those quaint continental buildings), expenses (including all travel-costs) and insurance. This is not counting the unofficial scholarship which included day-trips to Antwerp and Bruges, bottles of delicious Belgian dark beer to bring home and packs of corn bugles for the journey back. My work was cut out – a book chapter in an edited volume to be published by the aforementioned colleague from the University of Warsaw and some teaching assignments. But because it is always the "little extra" that is appreciated and remembered, I also thought I'd mobilise my meagre culinary skills to dish out some Indian cuisine while I was at it. The topic for my research was the Free Trade Agreement currently under negotiation between India and the EU. As I was making progress on the chapter, the idea

came to reach a wider audience by sending an adapted version to a newspaper. Good thing I didn't get too excited about getting published in Flemish – the article was turned down by both, a mainstream and a left-leaning newspaper citing "relevance". Incidentally activists working on trade issues I'd interviewed for my paper all had their own stories about how gaining visibility for the alternative view was an uphill struggle. "Umm", I rushed to conclude, "glaring absence of democratic debate in the domestic realm of a self-proclaimed global democracy promoter!" To be fair, media everywhere are sensitive to what interests the public. But as an avowed Europhile and having done some studying and writing on the EU, I couldn't help feeling the need for global player Europe to be more aware of itself and its relationships with other parts of the world. In India too, not all aspects of the negotiations have been made public but since a lot more is at stake in terms of livelihoods, access to medicines and sheer numbers of people who stand to be affected, more had been said on the subject. In addition to research, I had the opportunity to give a seminar on Youth in Contemporary India and was thrown some hard balls by an informed audience. Not a few of the questions were based on a dated image of India, rooted more in long-standing stereotypes than a more shifting reality – once again a gap that the media are unable or unwilling to fill and a cause people-to-people contact can do a great deal for. It was a precious opportunity to tell it like it is and critically assess the country I grew up in. All this without overdoing the subjectivity of course – the end of term exams were not to be lost sight of amid the baffling contradictoriness that marks any discussion on India. It is a gross understatement to say that I have missed being a student since my EMGS days. The opportunity to revisit that world was very welcome, but being not quite one amongst the students added an inexplicable relish to the experience. There is something quite delicious about coming out on the other side and looking back.

By Kalyani Unkule

Drug and Harm Reduction in Iran

Between October 2010 and January 2011, I worked for an NGO in Iran, which was focussed on providing services to drug users. Drug use is a huge problem in Iran, and while the official estimate is of 1.2 million drug users, the true figure is undoubtedly far higher. Opium use, for medi-

cial and recreational purposes has a long history in Iran, with intravenous drug use being a fairly recent development. It is estimated that there are around 300,000 injecting drug users in Iran, most of these being heroin users. The last decade has seen an increase in injecting drug use in comparison with non-injecting drug use. (S. Jafari, A. R. Movaghar, S. Baharlou, P. Spittal & K. J. Craib : Trends of Substance Use in Southern Iran: A qualitative study . The Internet Journal of Epidemiology. 2008 Volume 6 Number 1)

Following the revolution of 1979, drug use in Iran was criminalized and many drug users were imprisoned and forced to detox. This began to change in the mid 1990s, in response to an HIV/AIDS epidemic primarily driven by syringe sharing amongst injecting drug users. Advocates were able to push for harm reduction practices on a platform of public health, as it was argued that such practices would prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS to the general population. In 2005, an executive order was issued by head of the judiciary, Seyed Mahmood Hashemi Sharoudi, giving explicit support to needle and syringe exchange programs and to methadone maintenance treatment (B. Nissarmanesh, M. Trace, M. Robersts, 'The Rise of Harm Reduction in the Islamic Republic of Iran', The Beckely Foundation Drug Policy Programme, Briefing Paper Eight, July 2005, p. 6). Indicative of its commitment to reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C, is the fact that Iran is one of the few countries in the world to offer NSP in some of its prisons. Methadone is widely available in prisons in Iran.

There are a number of non-government organisations working in Iran offering services to drug users and their families, and these work alongside the Drug Control Headquarters of Iran. I had the opportunity to work for one of the largest organisations of this kind, based in Tehran, with branches throughout the country. This organisation has a number of outreach teams, rehabilitation camps, training programs for recovered drug addicts and also runs

education programs for drug users, their families as well as the general population. Outreach teams get in touch with drug users in the area and tell

them of the location of the nearest drop-in-centre where they can access sterile needles and syringes as well as condoms. They can also go there to have a hot meal, a shower or just to sit and drink tea. If people register one day ahead, they are able stay the night. There are also opportunities to speak to counsellors about staying at one of the rehab camps (one of these is specifically for crystal meth users). Naloxone (a cheap, effective drug that reverses the effect of an opiate overdose) is available in Iran and many DICs have it on hand. Although methadone is available in Iran, the organisation I worked for did not offer it. The director argues that using methadone is merely replacing one addiction for another, and he advocates instead for a 12-step faith-based model (this is a very loosely defined 'faith' – it is not linked with Islam). However, he refers people to centres that do offer methadone if they wish. One of the places I visited while living in Tehran was described as a women's drop-in-centre, but I realised at the end of the visit that one of its main functions is as a methadone clinic. I am still not sure if this was a problem of communication or a hesitation to discuss methadone. There is far more stigma attached to women who inject drugs than to male injecting drug users. It is my understanding that an effective way for NSPs and methadone clinics to offer services for women, is to do so on a platform of protecting 'vulnerable' women, rather than drawing attention to the fact that there are women in Iran who inject, or have injected, heroin. As far as I am aware, it is one of just two DICs for women in Tehran, and it is only open for a few hours during the day.

Although harm reduction practices have been officially endorsed, and there has been a shift in official discourse and practice regarding drug use, this does not mean that drug use is no longer stigmatised. I worked in an of-



Drug Demand Reduction Conference, Iran

fice where at least half of the people were former drug users. Several of the men working in the office were very open about their history of injecting heroin. However, what was very clear is that while people were up front about having had an addiction, there is no way that they could have been so open if they were still injecting, as they would most likely lose their jobs. Getting a drivers license or getting married requires a blood test, primarily to test for recent drug use. Furthermore, people I worked with told me that virtually every drug user in Iran will, at some point, have spent time in prison – not for drug use itself but for crimes that are related to their use. Thus it appears that the link between drug use and imprisonment is far from severed. A report in 2009 found that the number one reason people gave for sharing needles was a lack of access to sterile ones. Being unaware of the risk of sharing needles was given as a reason for sharing needles by 4.7% of 749 people who had a history of sharing syringes, in a study of 2091 injecting drug users (H. Rafiey, H. Narenjiha, P. Shirinbayan, R. Noori, M. Javadipour, M. Roshanpajouh, M. Samiei, S. Assari, 'Needle and syringe sharing among Iranian drug injectors', Harm Reduction Journal, July 2009). Thus, there is still a need to reach injecting drug users and raise awareness of the locations of needle and syringe exchange services. In 2007, 95% of injecting drug users surveyed reported having used sterile equipment when they last injected (UNAIDS figures, as mentioned by Tina Rosenberg in; 'An Enlightened Exchange in Iran', New York Times, 29/11/2010). While there is still a need to expand harm reduction programs in Iran, and to address the stigma associated with injecting drug use, it is refreshing to have had a glimpse of a different and much more progressive side of Iran to the one generally portrayed by western media.

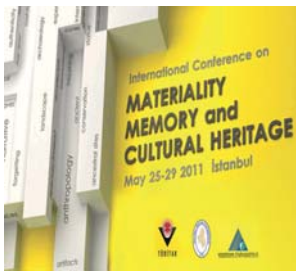


Julia Kensy at the Drug Demand Reduction Conference

By Julia Kensy

The investigation of Heritage – A topic of concern for various scientific disciplines

Following pressure applied by one of our Global Studies colleagues, I answered the call for papers for the “International Conference on Memory, Materiality and Cultural Heritage”, and sent the organizers the abstract of my master thesis. My abstract was accepted which saw me travel to Istanbul at the end of May in order to present the field research of my master thesis. The conference was organised by the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Istanbul Technical University and the Department of Anthropology, Yeditepe



University in Istanbul. The event was aimed to emphasise the interrelated themes of memory, materiality and cultural

heritage, appealing to scholars from the fields of archaeology, anthropology and history. The organisers were specifically interested in papers that addressed the uses and management of sites, monuments and objects on local and global scales from different social spaces and sectors of societies. Thereby, they demanded papers that addressed methodological and theoretical questions. Taking place at the two campuses, I had the possibility to discover two very different sides of the modern Turkey. On the one hand, the historic and beautiful old campus of the Technical University, right in the centre of the town, near Taksim Square. And on the other hand, Yeditepe University, at the outskirts of Istanbul. This private University was massive, modern and monumental. The place was covered in depictions of Atatürk, which although a little disconcerting was still impressive. Missing the first day of the conference because of work, I was eager to listen to the two remaining days of presentations. The topic of my paper, concerning the impact of tourism to genocide related heritage sites on the reconciliation process in Cambodia, was a little exotic compared to other themes. It was not easy to find a supervisor at the University of Vienna, as you can imagine. However, at this conference in Istanbul, everybody was convinced that all of our topics were relevant and needed to be discussed. All of the participating scholars were interested in the same themes as I, leading to a reward-

ing exchange of ideas and experience. The scope of presentations reached from ancient heritage sites in Turkey to forensic exhumations in Zimbabwe, theorizing the politics of heritage, transformations of places, related nationalism and many more. Over 90 scholars, mainly professors and doctoral students (I assume I was the only one not working in the higher education sector) presented parts of their research or papers related to them. A presentation about the impact of the Katyn Massacre on the national identity of the Poles, presented by an Australian scholar, fascinated me at most. Whilst most of the presented topics were related to Turkey specifically, I was happy to find another presentation about heritage sites in Indonesia. My case study, for which I conducted semi-structured qualitative interviews with experts in Phnom Penh and Anlong Veng, investigated the possible impact of dark tourism on the reconciliation process of the country, as well as how far this touristic demand and offering can be defined as amoral. I spoke about ethics, global commons, responsibilities and the political capabilities of the sites, which are dependent on cultural encounter of the global with the local. Emphasizing that Western style concepts are misguided in this place, I developed insights from other perspectives. During the following discussions, the audience made clear that these interrelations had not been familiar to them. Anlong Veng is neither ancient nor managed in the European-style, as such some scholars seemed incapable of perceiving the “other” as valuable. Participation in the conference was a rewarding experience. It showed me, once more, that the intercultural experience of Global Studies widens one’s perceptions of the “other”, as well as highlighting how very important an interdisciplinary approach is. Furthermore, I had the possibility to meet people from all over the world engaging in a similar field of research as I, and, of course, I explored Istanbul and Turkey from a different perspective than I had previously. With this in mind, thank you, Judith, for your pressure and encouragement!

Gisela Wohlfahrt graduated at the University of Vienna in 2010. Currently, she is working at the “Global Marshall Plan Foundation”, situated in Hamburg, Germany. This is a non-profit organisation engaged in raising awareness about topics related to globalisation and development policy. See also <http://www.globalmarshallplan.org>

By Gisela Wohlfahrt

STUDENT’S THOUGHTS

The Arab spring and the beautiful but quiet sound of forests

When the Tunisian dictator Ben Ali fled to Saudi Arabia in January 2011, a breeze of freedom fell not only on North Africa but the whole Arab world. For the first time in many decades people throughout the Arab world had the feeling of having the power to change things. Tunisians, Egyptians and other people throughout the different countries let an “Arab Spring” begin.

What happened during the last months has awakened a will for change and participation of a whole generation that had been excluded on many levels during their entire lives. One can not underline enough how symbolic, how powerful these popular mobilizations have been. And one can not honour enough the meaning of surmounting the fear of death for freedom, the risk young women and men exposed themselves to because they finally felt that they could change the destiny of their futures.

However not all of the demonstrations and resistances led to such hopeful developments as in Tunisia and Egypt. Soon the negative and violent images of Libya, Yemen or Syria came to replace the initial euphoria and discard much illusion – inside and outside the Arab world. Tunisia and Egypt have virtually disappeared from our minds, our TV-programmes and perhaps more sadly, from our hopes.

And yet, the real and more difficult change has to come, has to be prepared. An African proverb says that the “noise of a tree falling is much stronger than the sound of a growing forest”. So are the violent



Picking Dates in Tunisia

images of Libya, Syria and Yemen much more present than the slow and difficult building of plural and inclusive societies that does not create spectacular news. It is one of the biggest challenges for Tunisians and Egyptians alike to keep their countries in the headlines and in the consciousness of the global public. This is by no means a guarantee for a positive outcome of the political transitions, but a necessary form of solidarity that could reduce the risk that these movements will be confiscated by the old regimes.

Now, perhaps more than ever, is the time to be attentive to the supposedly silence part of the revolutions and articulate our solidarity through the means we have. Now, as some trees are falling here and there, it is important to listen closely and draw the attention to the forests that are growing. This is the least we can do for these respectable people.

By Hafid Derbal

Youth meeting in Tunisian date oases

After becoming famous for the Jasmine Revolution some months ago, Tunisia has long disappeared from the focus of international news. Yet, the country is still traversing a period of political change, struggling on many sites to build a new society.

This struggle can be experienced in the little town of Kebili in the Tunisian desert. The political changes have deeply affected the daily life of its citizens as date production and tourism, the two main sources of income, have decreased dramatically.

Thanks to my work for gebana AG, a Swiss company operating in the organic and fair trade sector, I had the opportunity to get an insight in some of the new challenges Tunisian farmers have to face. To overcome this difficult period of transition before and after the elections in October 2011, the Kebilians have come together to think about projects that could contribute to this new Tunisia.

As it was the young Tunisians who overthrew the old regime, the idea was born to invite young people from Europe to Tunisia for a youth meeting. This meeting is planned to take place during the "date festival" in November. One of the objectives is to create a common ground for personal and cultural exchange between

two worlds that still have a lot to learn from and about each other. Apart from spending some days of work in the date oases, workshops will be organised for discussions about the democratic transition, the living conditions and the hopes for the future of young Tunisians and Europeans. Yet the meeting is not restricted to young people. Any person interested, is warmly invited to contact me for more details.

By Hafid Derbal

A SONG FOR EMGS

The EMGS/Wroclaw Song

"It's been a great year, but soon it's time to go/ So fast, I can't believe it's true/ Soon it's over, oh I wish it wasn't so/ Wroclaw, I'll be missing you!"

That sums up the feeling of many EMGS students after a truly amazing year in Wroclaw. We survived rides on Polish night trains, negotiated with Polish authorities at the Województwo and even made the receptionists at the Olówek smile occasionally. Most importantly, however, we met extraordinary people, built lasting friendships and truly established a feeling of an EMGS family. The only logical consequence was to turn this experience into a song, as a souvenir for everybody in Wroclaw, but also for all the other EMGS students. We are very happy to present to you the EMGS/Wroclaw Song: "We've Got the Love".

An mp3-file of the song can be found here: <http://uploaded.to/file/x5ljgt5h>

Corina Scholz had entertained the group with her beautiful voice at several parties before, and it is her vocal performance that makes the song what it is. The lyrics were written by **Ingo Nordmann** and the song was recorded semi-professionally in his small Olówek dormitory room. It is a cover version of the Florence and the Machine song "You've got the Love". A more professional version will hopefully be made available soon, so stay tuned!

Summer School was a great opportunity to present the song to the students. Unfortunately, the weather partially ruined some of the events planned. The main party was cancelled, but we still had an informal, un-

plugged performance with a guitar at the beach. The next day, we went on a boat cruise through Berlin. We performed the song on the boat, as well as a second song, called "Student Life", as an encore. We will distribute that song soon, too! Currently, we are in different countries for our third semester, but we will see each other again in Leipzig. So who knows, there might be a Leipzig song soon...

A million thanks to everybody who supported us with words of encouragement or criticism, to everybody who sang along during our performances, and to every EMGS student for making this programme what it is. This song is for you.

"Thanks to all the people who made this year so great!/ Good luck whatever you're gonna do./ The time has come now to move to another place/ But we'll never forget you!"

By Ingo Nordmann

CONGRATULATIONS

Our warmest congratulations are extended to **Jenny Lind Elmaco** who was awarded a fellowship from the Marie Curie Initial Training Network program SPBUILD or Sustainable Peace Building. SPBUILD, funded by the Seventh Framework Programme: People of the European Commission, aims to provide high quality training and research on sustainable peace building, implying a good understanding of the cross-impacts of the necessary and interdependent peace building activities, especially the promotion of good governance, inclusive development and comprehensive security. The fellowship allows a one year contract at one of the host institutions within the network, in this case the University of Bradford Peace Studies Program - the largest center of its kind in the world. It also gives opportunities for field research and other activities to bridge the gap between European Research and Policy and Practice in the field of Peace and Conflict Studies.

Furthermore we would also like to congratulate **Sophie Edington-Cheater** on the birth of her son Rafael and wish them both a fantastic future.

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