

# GESI Newsletter

## Global and European Studies Institute

03/2011 - *Special Edition* including EMGS Alumni Convention Report



### EDITORIAL

Dear all,

It was the evening before we opened the EMGS Alumni Conference which brought so many former students from around the world back to Leipzig, at least for a weekend, that I learned about the premature death of **Johannes Raffel**. Johannes served as a students' representative during his time in Leipzig in the Global Studies programme and became known for his constructive contributions to the further improvement of the course. I appreciated Johannes' capacity to combine a high intellectual profile showing solidarity at all levels of his action whilst contributing to the internationalism of the course. It was therefore not easy for me the next morning to open a conference which was about chances for the future and possible cooperation in the upcoming years. However, there were so many of the EMGS-family who shared in this feeling of deep loss and we were given the chance to remember Johannes as a group at exactly the moment of the funeral service. Let's include Johannes' dreams for the future into our own activities. Please read more on page 2 of this newsletter about how to help his initiative with the Youth Bank, an NGO that collects money for projects run by young people who have not the means to base their activities on their own resources alone.

At the same time this voluminous edition provides both those present at the proceedings as well as those that were unable to attend the conference with an overview of the various panels of the alumni meeting, all of which were rich in

personal experiences from work and further study. In meeting not only students but also representatives from all the European partner universities, the unanimous option was that the EMGS-programme is establishing itself ever more as a successful brand. This, due mainly, to the successful careers pursued by so many from the first five cohorts to have completed the programme. A 'round table' session at the alumni meeting made us aware of further improvements that can be made in the communication of skills which make EMGS-alumni unique for the labour market in all its facets. One remarkable result of the meeting was the creation of the EMGS Alumni Network (which is currently looking for a logo, see p. 9) thanks to the hard work and effort invested by **Mickaël Daudin, Christian Denzin, Hafid Derbal, Ulrike Lorenz, and Miriam Wolfsteiner**. The network will serve the purposes of further networking and strengthening the ties and identity of those now active around the globe in a bewildering variety of undertakings, as the regular rubric, "Alumni in Focus", has proven. We hope very much that the association will become a successful platform for circulating information. I am already looking forward to the 'world-regional meetings' being planned for the future.

The evening following the EMGS-convention was marked with the chance to say "good-bye" to a new generation of EMGS-students. 69 graduates received their degrees and certificates at the Festsaal of Leipzig's Town Hall. Many parents and friends of the graduates made the effort to come to Leipzig for this momentous occasion making the moment an important

caesura in their lives. We wish all of them the success they dream of and merit. Moreover, we hope to see them soon at the next alumni meeting.

This year GESI published its first report on its activities since its foundation in 2009 and relaunched its website in conjunction with this occasion, making it even easier for those interested in the institute to access more information. Should there however be the need for more direct contact please do not hesitate to send your requests and queries to: [gesi@uni-leipzig.de](mailto:gesi@uni-leipzig.de)

I would like to take the opportunity in this, the last newsletter of 2011, to thank students, staff, colleagues and friends of GESI for their continued support of the institute's goals and to wish you all a good start in 2012 in which, I am sure, we will have many more opportunities to work together.

**Matthias Middell**, Director of the Global and European Studies Institute

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Graduation ceremony of the 2009-2011 cohort in Leipzig. Saturday 26th November 2011

A big thank you to all that contributed to this edition of the GESI newsletter. If you would like to contribute to future editions please send articles, reports and/ or pictures to: [emgs.alumni@uni-leipzig.de](mailto:emgs.alumni@uni-leipzig.de)



FOR JOHANNES

It is with great sadness that we announce the tragic and untimely death of 26 year old, 2010 EMGS graduate, **Johannes Raffel**, following a fatal car crash whilst on holiday in Turkey on 14th November 2011. Johannes graduated from the EMGS program after studying in Leipzig, Sydney and Wroclaw following which he fully immersed himself in the YouthBank e.V. program he founded whilst at university in Oldenburg.

The program he created aims at strengthening youth engagement through the supervision of a number of micro projects with the aim of bringing youth-led initiatives to fruition. In 2010 he became the first director of the Youth Bank Deutschland e.V., a role in which he worked tirelessly to ensure the future of the program as well as to support the ideas of the program's participants.

Both at work as well as within the EMGS program Johannes was open and supportive, relaxed, hardworking, full of life and ever motivated. He was one to follow his dreams and will be sorely missed.

Johannes leaves behind his parents and two brothers as well as the many people he came into contact with and who loved him dearly. Johannes' family have urged that Johannes be remembered through his wholehearted commitment and work he carried out for Youth Bank Deutschland e.V.

Donations can be made to this association in Johannes' memory via the Youth Bank Website (<http://www.youthbank.de/spenden-fuer-youth-bank/>) or by bank transfer so that the work he started from a dream can be continued to bear fruits long into the future in his memory.

Youth Bank Deutschland e.V.  
Account #: 6 603 168 047  
BLZ: 100 500 00 (Berliner Sparkasse)



Johannes Raffel 1985-2011

In memory of one who brightened the lives of many

**Son of the Brighter Sun**

*This emptiness, this hole in my heart  
This depth of pain, immensity of hurt  
Grows only deeper for death has had to hunt*

*Even in this death abrupt  
In my heart you remain abundant*

*Awake; awake my friend from your sleep  
Awake; awake that in this life's dance I may not slip*

*Awake; awake that out of pain we may not bite our under lip*

*Awake, awake my brother and reign in your kingship*

*Awake; awake and let us laugh again as wine we sip*

*For tomorrow only your smile I will enjoy  
For the joy we shared has been whisked to the sky*

*And our laughter, harshly, washed away in a mystery*

*Our dance, incomplete, lives now only in a fairy*

*With the memories we hold dear, in our minds' colony*

*Energise me brother, energise me with your laughter*

*Energise my weak, saddened heart that it may not falter*

*Energise all, oh Joe that in your loss we may not wither*

*Energise your bones, son of the brighter sun and come back to mother*

*Energise, oh your highness that your kingdom's sun may shine brighter*

By Faith Miyandazi

REPORTS

**Teaching experience at Fudan University Global History Summer School, Shanghai 2011**

This report tells of my experience during the Fudan University Summer School, in which I participated within the framework of the exchange programme of *Erasmus Mundus Global Studies - A European Perspective*. 30 history students from different Chinese universities shared 12 days of intensive workshops, given by professors from both China and abroad. The working languages were Chinese and English. My part was dedicated to "Problems of Periodizing in Global History and Methods of Overcoming Eurocentric Patterns". It consisted of three workshops, each based on an introductory lecture:

1. Space and Time: Approaches, Traditions and Concepts of Global History.

2. Thinking of the World as a Unity: "Annales" and World-Systems Analysis.

3. The Synchronicity of the Non-Synchronous: How to relate different local times on a global scale.

Lecture 1 gave an introduction into methods of placing a question into an appropriate framework of space and time. Special attention was attributed to how to overcome eurocentric patterns. A main conclusion pointed at the necessity of confronting "local times", based on events and chronologies within a certain region, with "global times", derived from the interrelations between regions involved in processes of trans-regional interaction. In the process of interrelating different historical narratives and their respective chronologies, synchronisation plays a crucial role, not only in lingual but also in intercultural terms.

Lecture 2 discussed historiographical approaches of world history, introducing the work of Fernand Braudel, Immanuel Wallerstein and Andre Gunder Frank. After a presentation of the main analytical tools of World-Systems Analysis the focus was on comparing the Europe-centred approach of Wallerstein's "Modern World-System" (1974-2011) with Andre Gunder Frank, who in his attempt to "ReOrient" (1998) shifted the perspective of from Western Europe to East Asia in the 15th-19th centuries. Only then the hegemony passed to the West, until it started shifting back to East Asia in recent days. Does this approach replace Eurocentrism with Asianism or Sinocentrism, as critical voices argue, or is it a way to a true globalism, as Frank claims?

Lecture 3 introduced the "general" (= eurocentric) pattern of a periodizing global history, starting from (Greek and Roman) Antiquity, the "Barbarian Migrations", "medieval", "early modern", "modern" times until the World War, interwar, and post war periods of the 20th century. In a second step the students were asked to relate these periods of European history with the periods used in their region, i.e. China to set moments, periods and turning points of history, which kicked off a very fruitful comparison.

The lectures were based on theory and methods courses, held for MA students of the Global Studies Programme in Vienna.\* Speaking to a Chinese auditorium reminded me of the European perspective of my approach. If you like it or not, many concepts and terms are Europe centred. It starts with the geographic denomination of the regions e.g. Middle East and Far



Professors in Shanghai during the Fudan University Summer School,

East. European perspectives are embedded in such concepts as "Orientalism", a European way of conceiving European superiority by devaluating other cultures as being "backward". They are embedded in the notion of "Development", which is seen as following the European pattern of growth, as well as in "Enlightenment", which is reclaimed as a European virtue. But also when you use everyday terms like "Paradise" or "Human Rights", you become aware of the fact, that they have a different meaning in European and Chinese contexts. You also notice that you often simplify by taking parts, especially the Northwest of Europe, for the whole of Europe.

Conversely, starting from a European perspective does not necessarily imply Eurocentrism: each region, culture or civilization has a specific way of perceiving itself and relating itself to the world. This opens a broad field for comparison. What is specific about Europe is not so much the eurocentric approach, but its universalization. Eurocentric position entered into the historical disciplines in an apparently "neutral" way, claiming the European position to be the "general" one, while other perspectives are reduced to be "particular". This is why European perspectives have to be dealt with everywhere in the world. Following Deepesh Chakarabarty's idea, overcoming European universalism will not only lead to the acknowledgement of cultural diversity, but to the "Provincialization of Europe", i.e. to conceive Europe as one of the provinces of the world. With all the reservations made above, in my Shanghai lectures I chose a general approach. It allowed us to discuss concepts without referring to regional and empirical date, which we did not share. But the discussions showed that in a next step empirically based comparisons would have to be set on the agenda.

For me, teaching Chinese students was a new experience. The difference to teaching in Europe was obvious: The students were very attentive, very polite, they were socializing much more than I ever experienced in Europe. They were establishing personal contacts in after class conversation, photo sessions and exchange of addresses. At the same time it was difficult to motivate them to engage in an interactive process in class, but finally we even found ways to arrive at a discussion.

However, there were several barriers. The level of knowledge was not the same, most of them did not read the texts, which I had recommended and distributed for preparation. So some were not familiar with approaches and authors I referred to in my lectures. Compulsory reading or longer periods of introduction would be helpful. Language is another barrier, for some of the students it maybe was a first time experience to test their passive and active capacities of communicating in "global" English.

I am grateful to the organizers and hope that they find ways to continue the Global History Summer School.

\* Publication forthcoming in German language: Komlosy Andrea, *Methoden und Theorien der Globalgeschichte* (utb Böhlau, Wien 2011).

By Andrea Komlosy

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**STIAS Workshop on global and transnational history**

There are world regions and countries which at first sight seem to be "more transnational" and a more obvious part of a global history narrative than others. East Central Europe and Southern Africa

are probably prominent members of the group of these "others" not being the first to come to the researcher's mind when they intend to design a study on transnational and global history. East Central Europe appears as too marginal within "Europe" to have played a significant role in global transfers and entanglements beyond the region, and at the same time as too "European" to be seen as part of extra-European trajectories. For Southern Africa among other things the legacies of the Cold War era still shape the perception of its history, when apartheid policy isolated South Africa from exchanges with large parts of the world, and the region was in many cases framed as a hot but marginal battleground for the proxy wars of the superpowers. Therefore, it might seem even more counter-intuitive to look for entanglements and circulations between them.

On the contrary however, it is exactly these two dimensions, the "transnational" in the respective historiographies of East Central Europe and Southern Africa as well as the "global" as regards to the entanglements between these two world regions, formed the pillars of the workshop "Africa-Europe – Historical Perspectives" at the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study, organised by **Frank Hadler** (GWZO), **Matthias Middell** and **Ulf Engel** (both GESI, Leipzig University) in close cooperation with **Albert Grundlingh** from the History Department of Stellenbosch University on 6-7 September 2011 at the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study, which simultaneously aimed at further intensifying the cooperation between the University of Stellenbosch and Leipzig University, both part of the Global Studies Consortium.

Scholars from different South African, African and European Universities presented current methodological and research problems in their respective scientific communities as well as they discussed first results of ongoing research projects on the guiding questions of the workshop. **Frank Hadler** (GWZO Leipzig), **Matthias Middell** (GESI, Leipzig University), **Chris Saunders** (University of Cape Town) and **Steffi Marung** (Centre for Area Studies Leipzig) discussed the prerequisites, ramifications and limitations of the integration of transnational and global perspectives into European and South African historiographies. **Anna Gorska** (GWZO Leipzig) presented first results of her research on African student migrants in Socialist Poland. **Irina Filatova** (University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban/National Research University – Higher School of Economics, Moscow) introdu-



ced South-African-Soviet entanglements during the Cold War. Her contribution was complemented by **Albert Grundlingh** (University of Stellenbosch) who demonstrated how intensely South-African society was shaped by the fear of the Soviet "red peril", a transnationalization ex negativo one may conclude. **Isabel Hofmeyr** (University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg) underlined the consequences of global history approaches for the position of area studies, and reported on the current re-design of Indian and African Studies through the lens of the Indian Ocean as a paradigmatic region of transfers and entanglements with a long historical tradition. With his study on the South-African Wine industry and its counterpart, the international anti-alcohol movement, **Paul Nugent** (Centre for African Studies, University of Edinburgh) presented an impressive case of European-South African circulations and competition. **Ibrahima Thioub** (Cheikh Ante Diop University, Dakar) addressed the pan-African dimension of the relationship with Europe and thus argued for the wider discussion of the postcolonial condition of these transnational encounters and of the place Europe may have in the emerging new African historical consciousness.

"Doing" global and transnational history does not only entail posing research questions that transcend national and regional boundaries and to focus on circulations and entanglements between people and regions. It necessarily includes transnationalizing research practices: getting familiar with historiographies and agendas in different countries, muddling through archives in different languages and, last but not least, discussing and further developing ongoing research projects with colleagues in the international scientific community. In this respect the workshop has continued and promoted an important exchange between scholars from different world regions. It has demonstrated that what at first sight seem to be most disparate historical experiences turns out to be highly entangled: through the mobility of political activists, students and academics as well as through the reactions to the same global political trends and competitions.

By Steffi Marung

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**Cluster on Employability Report**

During the recent EMGS Alumni Convention held in Leipzig between 24th and 26th November 2011 it became clear that

one of the key issues and talking points of both the Round Table plenary meeting, a number of panel meetings and informal talks between current students and alumni revolved around the topic of prospects after the degree. With this in mind you may be interested to learn of the recent results of the *Cluster in Employability Report* carried out by MKW Wirtschaftsforschungs GmbH in cooperation with Céreq – Centre d'études et de recherches sur les qualifications.

The report addresses the career opportunities offered by the Erasmus Mundus Joint Programmes to Erasmus Mundus graduate students worldwide as "the employability of students graduating from Erasmus Mundus Joint Programmes is key to the success of the Erasmus Mundus Programme. [Whilst] the Joint Programmes should ensure their academic content meets professional needs, contributing to the transfer of knowledge and skills, and offering complementary skills courses and/or placement possibilities. They also should provide incentives for candidates from developing countries to exploit their experience for the benefit of their home country."

Whilst a full of evaluation of the results extends beyond the scope of this short article the general results show that Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses (EMMCs) are appraised higher than "regular" Master programmes of a similar discipline, especially in their impact on personal development. The high practical integration of the EMMCs is said to play a key role in this appraisal, despite the acknowledgement that some deficits in the preparation for a job and career advice do exist. Within the qualitative interviews conducted in the research the direct relation between contacts established during Masters Courses and later employment were shown as an important feature of the programmes. The full report can be viewed in .pdf format at: [http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus\\_mundus/clusters/employability\\_en.php](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/clusters/employability_en.php)

By Ian Mills

**EMGS ON THE AIR**

**ERASMUS MUNDUS hits the radio waves – a radio broadcast by "Welt im Ohr"**

"Welt im Ohr" are radio and podcasts which transport intercultural experiences in the field of education, science and research. They are an open forum for trans-border discourse, discussions and reflections – a perfect starting point in

order to present the ERASMUS MUNDUS Programme and the Global Studies Master. The fact that we were dealing with a web radio broadcast, a new media feature, which enables content to be received world wide, appealed to us very much and we decided to give our voices a chance to be heard to globally.

Through the very engaged **Maiada G. Hadaia**, who works within the KEF Team and therefore represents the OeAD on OE 1 orf Campusradio, we were given the chance to feel like real radio stars and to prove ourselves in a live interview as we spoke about ERASMUS MUNDUS and what it is like to be part of the EMGS Family. Under the German title „*Erasmus Mundus*



Welt im Ohr podcast cover

*als Sprungbrett in die Welt: Ein interkulturelles Stipendienprogramm*" two main topics were presented in two different formats.

The cast started with an interview with the Indian filmmaker and ERASMUS MUNDUS Global Studies Alumni **Fahad Mustafa**. The interview had already been recorded in July this year, when Fahad was in Vienna for a visit. Fahad speaks about his social engagement, his new movie "Powerless" and his study period and experiences in Vienna. "You get to know many people and that was really fascinating. People from all over the world, on different walks of life, people from Azerbaijan, Zimbabwe, Peru und China. And I think that the programme facilitates these interactions between the students. That is what I take away most from the programme; that is the most important and best thing for me," reports Fahad when asked about the major impact of the programme to his life. This part was then followed by a live interview where we introduced the ERASMUS MUNDUS Programme in general and talked about the Masters Course Global Studies in particular. Additional information about scholarships, application deadlines, possible master courses and PhD programmes to study within the ERASMUS MUNDUS programme were also given with added focus on issues such as double/

joint degrees and mobility within higher education, too, since studying abroad is obligatory for all ERASMUS MUNDUS students.

Furthermore it was stressed that ERASMUS MUNDUS enhances contact with inter-cultural aspects and that it fosters awareness of globally interrelated contexts while offering highly endowed scholarships to its students. Fahad underlined this fact in his interview: "Of course the really good scholarship that was offered at this time was a reason to apply. This is what someone who would like to study abroad is looking for."

If you would like to hear this report download it at: [www.oead.at/erasmus-mundus-students](http://www.oead.at/erasmus-mundus-students) where you can find more details on ERASMUS MUNDUS as well and stay tuned for future shows!

By Martina Friedrich (OeAD, ERASMUS MUNDUS National Structure)

Leopold Kögler (Programme Assistant Global Studies at the University of Vienna)

Daniela Schier (ERASMUS MUNDUS Global Studies Alumni / OeAD)

**REVIEW**

**Prasannan Parthasarathi, *Why Europe Grew Rich and Asia Did Not: Global Economic Divergence 1600-1850* (Cambridge University Press, 2011) ISBN 9780521168243 pages 384.**

Around the start of the 16th Century the economic, political and cultural centre of the world started to move from the East to the West, from Asia to Europe. Even within Europe, there was a change, from the southern states of Italy, Portugal and Spain to the northern states of The Netherlands and England.

For the past two Centuries, from the time that Adam Smith published *Wealth of Nations* in 1776, and indeed even earlier, historians have continuously endeavoured to locate the reasons as to why some countries are rich and others poor. Many intellectuals, such as Montesquieu, David Hume, Voltaire and Hegel, to name but a few, have deliberated on the differences in culture and people between an area comprising the Islamic world, the Indian sub-continent, China and Japan to those of the Greco-Roman civilization of Europe. An interminable series of variables have been put forward as the cause for the rise of the West. Religion, politics, ecology, urbanization, demographics, marriage patterns, family structures, military organization, and

even rationality and intellectual curiosity have been researched and written about. While some historians view Europe's sta-

tecraft, legal frameworks, property rights, commercial and educational institutions as conducive to promotion of economic growth in Asia, others give less importance to human agency. They prefer quantifying natural resources and ecology as a cause of lack of growth. In 2000 a landmark book by Kenneth Pomeroy, titled *Great Divergence*, re-visited the debate and conveyed China's specificity within the grand narrative on economic divergence. Since then other scholars have contributed to the field, most notably David Landes, Andre Gunder Frank, Joel Mokyr, Peer Vries, Patrick O'Brien, and more recently Toby Huff, Ian Morris and Niall Ferguson.

Prasannan Parthasarathi's monograph, *Why Europe Grew Rich and Asia Did Not*, is a welcome addition to this fascinating subject that brings forth the case of South Asia. With his in-depth knowledge of the region in the early modern period Parthasarathi comprehensively discusses Europe (Britain and France), the Ottoman Empire, China and South Asia between 1600 and 1800. He highlights the particularities of South Asia and explains the trajectory of science, technology and economic growth that it took. Through bilateral and multilateral comparisons, the author brings out the similarities among the regions' political and economic institutions.

Of the numerous reasons explored as factors for divergence between the East and the West, study of growth and usage of technology had been steadily gaining attention. There is no doubt that technology greatly altered agriculture and industrial production.

In this seminal work, the author clearly addresses the problems of the Great Divergence debate. The book is organised in three sections: Europe and Asia before divergence; the divergence of Britain; and the Indian path. It is carefully written, well documented and very focussed on offering new information and perspective on Indian economic history. It demonstrates that the way India has been interpreted, in the debate up to now, needs a revision. Parthasarathi argues that from 1600 and till British colonial government intervened, advanced regions of South Asia experienced great economic and political dynamism. Vibrant production of cotton textiles for export led to sizeable inflows

of silver, gold, copper and cowries which fuelled a commercial revolution. Political competition led to State centralization.

With the support of the State there were major advances in science and technology, especially in areas such as arma-

ment production. This is a very well researched book, with the author offering fresh insight that will question some of the assumptions on why Europe grew rich. Perhaps, of even more interest are ideas that natural endowments, institutions, science and technology, the role of the State, as put forward by some historians, may not

be the only reason why the economies of Western Europe moved ahead while those of Asia lagged behind. As he makes clear, both China and India shared many features with Europe in these areas; and these interesting similarities, rather than differences, between Europe and Asia are explored.

To conclude, therefore, the book offers an intriguing connexions approach to global history, as well as an authoritative comparative one. This book is a valuable contribution to the Great Divergence debate and a must-read on every course on Global History. It is bound to stimulate future research and writing on Europe's and Asia's economic histories.

By Anjana Singh (London School of Economics)

**ALUMNI IN FOCUS**

This issue's "Alumni in Focus" follows **Xiaochen Zhang's** progress since graduating from the EMGS program in 2008 after studying in Wrocław and Leipzig. Xiaochen is actively involved in the implementation of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) under the Kyoto Protocol. He co-directed a CDM video which won first place in the UNFCCC „2009 CDM Changing Lives" video contest (<http://cdm.unfccc.int/contest/09/winvc09.html>) and writes here about his experiences as a global citizen whilst combining work and PhD commitments.

**"Youxue" (learning by travelling) is a lifestyle**

What I have learnt from the EMGS experience is that learning should go beyond the department, the college, the university, the city and even the country where learners are hosted. During the two years





in Europe, I travelled to most EU countries and had amazing conversations with wonderful people on many different occasions. Learning and travelling were all what my life was about. "Youxue" became one of my big weaknesses which has shaped my life since then.

In 2008, I accepted an offer to continue my PhD in an innovative interdisciplinary PhD program Alliance for Social, Political, Ethical and Cultural Thoughts (ASPECT) at Virginia Tech (VT). Blacksburg is a small university town in Virginia. If one is not a big fan of American football, there will be only two things left in one's life here: reading and teaching.



Xiaochen Zhang receiving the award from the Former UNFCCC Executive Secretary, Mr. Yvo de Boer for his co-directed CDM video which won first place in the UNFCCC

A word of warning if you are planning to continue your PhD study in a small university town in the United States. Be sure to ask yourself many questions. Entering into a program without having positive answers to all the questions may put yourself in a awkward situation for the next few years. Here is a list of such questions you should consider:

"Do I love my research topic?" "Do I enjoy reading academic books?" "Who are my people in the same topic?" "What are their opinions?" "What are they saying now?" "Can I add more to their conversations?" "Is this input going to be valued by them and by a larger community?" "Will I get joy and fulfillment from this process?" Though I had very clear positive answers to all these questions, it still took me a while to adjust to my new life. When the new students come to VT, they are always amazed by the fact that the town is so green and the air is amazingly fresh and clean. But after a while you may ask yourself "What else is there!?" Luckily, "Youxue" has made my life busy enough.

I have continued my research interest in climate change governance started in the EMGS program. It is one of the most suitable topics for people who choose "Youxue" as a lifestyle. The topic is so crucial that the whole world is waiting for real in-

novative ideas and solutions. It is so new that most researchers can be regarded like others as rookies in the field. It is so practical that one could develop a sense that one is contributing, at least something, to humanity. It is so dynamic that a climate change practitioner has to travel around to dig out who and which ideas are in the debates now. Climate change led me to move from Leipzig to Blacksburg, to New York, to Beijing, and to Washington DC. The major missions of climate change practitioners include, but are not limited to, the following 4 areas: to raise awareness, to design mechanisms, to facilitate implementations and to build capacity. Luckily, within the last 3 years, I have left footprints in all these fields.

1. To raise awareness

In 2009, I developed and taught "Global Climate Change" at Interdisciplinary Studies department, the first course of its kind at Virginia Tech. The course was also offered to students at Peking University (China) via an e-learning platform. I intend to offer it to the EMGS students in Leipzig but the time differences made it impossible to manage. Though teaching can only reach a very limited number of audiences, it is one of the most effective ways to raise awareness. I am going to teach "International Climate Change Policy" at Johns Hopkins University as an adjunct professor in 2012.

2. To design mechanisms

The year 2009 will always be remembered by climate change people around the globe. Climate change events were organized all over the world. Climate change practitioners worked extremely hard to make the topic reach the top of the political agenda. High expectations were given to the Copenhagen climate talk for a post-2012 global climate agreement. The Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, tirelessly engaged himself in supporting all these initiatives and facilitating the process. Luckily, I joined his climate change support team at the right time in New York as an intern. We organized the 2009 Climate Summit. More than 110 Heads of State participated in the summit. In December, I flew to Copenhagen to support the Secretary General's mission in COP15. I redefined my own personal limits and worked non-stop for 14 days. When I left the conference centre the last day, my eyes were full of tears. Was it because of the fresh air, the strong sunlight or the sad result of the conference? I still have not figured it out yet. It has become one of the most valuable learning experiences of my life. In those nights, whilst all the negotiators were waiting for the resume of

the conference I made many new friends and learned much about the details of the different positions and approaches of different countries in the negotiations.

3. To facilitate implementations

Aside from teaching, I was always fascinated by the idea of making real changes. Though the preparation work started from 2004, my own carbon trading and climate change policy consulting firm was established much later in 2009 in Beijing. In the beginning, I worried whether I could manage my PhD study, teaching and business at the same time. But it turned out that all three worked well in supporting each other.

4. To build capacity

Currently, I am working with the Climate Change Practice team at the World Bank in Washington DC. We integrate and package the best available knowledge on climate change from within and outside the World Bank. The knowledge is delivered to the area where such knowledge is the most needed. I am facilitating the capacity building activities in Low Carbon Development, Clean Development Mechanism and Joint Implementation, and other climate change related fields in developing countries. It has been a very rewarding experience.

How far one can fly depends, in the first place, on how far one wants to fly. As a committed climate change practitioner, I am sure that this enjoyable adventure will continue well into the future.

By Xiaochen Zhang

ALUMNI EXPERIENCES

Dissertation Workshop in World History at the University of Pittsburgh

I had the great privilege of attending a dissertation workshop for PhD-students of World and Global History at the World History Center of the University of Pittsburgh. For two weeks, six PhD-students came together with four faculty members to discuss our PhD-projects. Pittsburgh's university campus consists of a variety of historic 19th and early 20th century buildings. Most notably a 42 story Cathedral of Learning, a Neo-Gothic structure at the heart of the campus. An interesting feature of which are its national rooms, which portray a variety of traditional classrooms from all over the world. The atmosphere and working ambience at the dissertation workshop were both exceptional from the outset. This can be attributed to Katie Jones and Professor

Patrick Manning from the World History Center who provided us with first class accommodation and provisions. Prof. Heather Street-Salter (Washington State University), Prof. Adam McKeown (Columbia University) and Prof. Peer Vries (University of Vienna) devoted two weeks of their time and professional knowledge to help us with our topics, an extraordinary privilege for all of us that we cannot be thankful enough for.

The attending students were Violetta Ravagnoli (New York State University at Buffalo), Shawna Herzog (Washington State University at Pullman), Emily Gioielli (The Central European University at Budapest), Paromita Das Gupta (ETH Zürich), Sönke Bauck (ETH Zürich) and myself. On the first day we presented our topics, which covered a large variety of themes in global history from migration to empire and colonial studies, trade and commodity exchange to terror and transnational movements, followed by group discussions and one-on-one meetings with the professors. We had one week to incorporate the suggestions into revised proposals that we then presented again at the end of the workshop. Additionally we met as a group every day to discuss general topics such as methods and theories of global history, work in archives and interdisciplinary approaches. We also imagined new research ideas, future collaborative projects and created reading lists for global history.

Meeting people from so many different backgrounds all working in global history was a good experience that helped me shape my own approach for my PhD. I noticed how important it is to define the theoretical ideas I am currently applying as understandings of global history are often diverse and vary with the topic and time period under investigation. In addition to the discussions in class, we had many interesting conversations every night over dinner where we learned about professional life in academia and shared some humorous anecdotes and experiences.

These two weeks were a great time for me that helped in many ways for my PhD. Besides the numerous comments and suggestions for my dissertation, the workshop gave me many new ideas and stimuli for global history, more reading material and many new friends. But above all, it reminded me of the creative energy that can emerge when working together, an aspect I sometimes forget while studying alone in the archives.

By Lisa Sturm



YCDN Opening Ceremony, Budapest

United in Diversity. Along the Danube. In Europe

On December 9, 2010, the European Commission submitted the proposal for the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR). It followed the model of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region as a macro-regional development strategy and action plan for the countries of the Danube area. The main goal of the Strategy is to deepen cooperation between these countries and other stakeholders and initiate sustainable development and competitiveness within the above-mentioned territories.

In July 2010 a group of university students in Budapest founded the Young Citizens Danube Network (YCDN) with the aim to promote diversity among young people from the Danube region and create a platform through which they could shape their own, as well as the region's, future. The idea to create such a network appeared because of the clear lack of the youth component in preparation of the EUSDR and was based on a strong belief that through active participation young people are empowered to play a vital role in both their own development and that of their countries, helping them gain vital life experience, develop knowledge on human rights and citizenship and promote positive civic action.

The YCDN Conference under the title The Young Generation of the Danube Area as a Key to European Integration took place between June 17-19, 2011, in Budapest, Hungary. Its aim was to inspire dialogue between young people originating from the countries of the Danube area. It was supported and funded by the Andrassy University Budapest (which also hosted the event), the Konrad Adenauer Foun-

datation, the Edmund Siemers Foundation, the German Academic Exchange Service, the Austrian Cultural Forum Budapest, the EPP Group, Tina Vienna and TV Vojvodina. The conference attracted over 60 young 'Danubians' from 14 countries (Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine), over 20 YCDN Team members and over 10 guest speakers. During the four workshops the participants, guided by facilitators and guest speakers, had the opportunity to discuss such burning issues as identity and nationalism, consequences of the financial crisis, environmental and human trafficking problems in the region. At the end of the conference all the workshops presented their policy recommendations to the other participants, guests and speakers. On the basis of these recommendations and project proposals, the YCDN will formulate its vision of the better involvement of the young generation in the development of the Danube area. The next Strategy development meeting was due to be held on September 16, 2011, in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Presently the YCDN calls for more support from the political side and emphasizes the need for institutionalization of the Network on regional, national and international levels. This will help to develop the platform for the successful youth involvement, strengthen the civil society, and implement the Danube Strategy in an efficient and effective way.

For more information on the Conference, its outcomes and the YCDN please visit the website www.ycdn.eu.

By Ekaterina Gorlenko



**Doing public diplomacy for WHO**

*Prologue:* There she was, the “Twitter bird” – blue wig, feathered scarf, yellow beak made from a post-it note. Fluttering around telling people why they shouldn’t be afraid of social media. At least they weren’t afraid of her. Or at least they made a good job of pretending not to be. This wouldn’t be so unusual if it had been at, say, a shopping mall during a Twitter promotional campaign. However, this happened at the World Health Organization in Copenhagen, while employees were trying to eat their lunch, probably quickly so they could get back to their ever-increasing workload; and it wasn’t even a prank from some TV show. Can you imagine? As the blue “bird lady” flapped her scarf around, with social media posters behind her, some people from the very proper WHO even stopped by to ask what was going on... a few even showed interest in learning about this post-modern media.

The scene underlines the remarkable sense of humor and innovation of a small group working on the lower floors of the WHO/Europe Denmark complex. It’s the Web Team – the people the public doesn’t see but who are behind the Website, the Web stories, the Twitter and Facebook updates, the online projects for the entire house. They were the people who took me and the girl dressed as the “Twitter bird” on as interns, in the period between the onset of mass employee firings and the flood that would destroy all their offices in July 2011.

But the Web Team still found time to try to promote the importance of social media and let us interns take over the cafeteria for the love of Twitter. They entrusted me, especially, with regularly posting on Twitter and Facebook and building the WHO audience on these mediums. And build it we did, increasing the some 300 or so followers into more than 2000 within a few months. We ended up doing public diplomacy for WHO/Euro, being their social media voice. This is a sort of freedom and

responsibility we wouldn’t have had in a place with a more developed social media presence.

My boss, the Web manager, is a social media crusader in a time that the WHO is just getting its feet wet in public diplomacy. Many within the WHO still fear the immediacy and lack of control that social media implies, others claim they find this kind of communication simply inane. This United Nations agency seems slower to change its technology than others; moreover, it previously expressed a mandate to focus on communicating with high-level officials in its member states and letting them pass the messages down to the masses. But with the H1N1 flu scare, the normative authority saw itself having to counter rumors on the spot and to send out messages to panicked people immediately, to ensure against some unreliable source informing the public. To reach as many people as possible, the Web Team turned to Twitter. And while this may have helped to further spread the panic over an overblown “epidemic,” it taught WHO that it couldn’t ignore the need for, and power, of public democracy combined with people’s chosen communication channels. During my four months interning at the WHO/Europe, I also produced three podcasts and wrote a podcast guide; helped plan and launch an anti-tobacco video contest and campaign and Website; helped conduct a thorough survey for the Website redesign; co-hosted a social media seminar for fellow interns; interviewed a health expert and wrote for online platforms; collaborated with other departments; and provided support to the Web Team with whatever they asked.

Although an impressive list, I do wish that I would have had more structure in my internship assignments and that the WHO/Europe had let me put my writing skills to use more often. I also wish that I would have had time during my internship to learn more about the countries the WHO/Europe works with and about the organisation itself. Having said that however, us Web Team interns had a freedom with our work and a lack of bureaucracy that most other interns did not. We felt that our work, skills and even our unconventional personalities were appreciated, and that our co-workers enjoyed having us there.

We were the first interns with the WHO/Europe Web Team, and perhaps the internship in that department will change over time – but I hope the freedom and good relationships formed are retained. I also hope to keep in touch with the team that welcomed me so warmly and gave me so many opportunities despite all the



Ana Ribeiro in the UN assembly hall

difficulties it has had.

*Epilogue:* Following this internship at the WHO/Europe regional office, I moved on to another WHO internship – at the headquarters in Geneva. The latter is an infinitely bigger, somewhat more tech-savvy and, unsurprisingly, more politicized office. As I expected, I did not have as much freedom there. I worked with a number of other interns in the Portuguese-language section, and every single little thing that we did – from posting on Facebook to blogging about birds on a former Portuguese colony – had to be approved by our boss. But on the upside, I assembled mobile libraries to send to developing countries, produced a podcast, and learned a lot more about Portuguese-language countries (besides my native Brazil) than I ever had before. I may even have picked up enough inspiration there to pursue a thesis idea in the future.

Another amazing opportunity I was fortunate to have whilst there was to visit CERN and various other international organisations and agencies, including the UN itself (which I had free access to with my WHO badge). I also had drinks with people who had big jobs in big agencies, and asked myself if I could see myself where they are... at the moment the answer is still being formulated.

By Ana Ribeiro

**GRADUATION CEREMONY**

Now that we’ve all had a few days to recover from full-on conference action (see special conference review section), we can reflect back on our graduation ceremony with fond memories. The evening of Saturday the 26th of November proved to be a truly special occasion for all 2011 EMGS graduates, our families, professors, and friends. The memorable nature of the occasion was clear from the outset. The venue – Leipzig’s “Neues Rathaus”, with its beautiful chandeliers, red carpets and grand staircases, provided the perfect backdrop for all our smartly clad atten-

dees. We certainly scrubbed up well as a group. The high-heels, the shiny, frilly and lacy dresses, the well cut suits and intricate hairstyles, all contributed to a very different ostensible impression to that given by us graduates at 9am lectures!

The ceremony kicked off with speeches from Professors **Middell, Brieler** and **Altmayer** followed by a heartening message for us students from **Simeon Underwood** of the London School of Economics.

After listening to the professors’ words of wisdom it was the students’ turn to take the stage and report back on their second year EMGS experiences in Leipzig, London, Vienna and Wrocław. **Julia Dócolas, Tayse Pallaoro** and **Teresa Bergman** brought the highs and lows of the student EMGS experience to light – juxtaposing “care free beginnings” in Leipzig with the “sugar-eating, slobby, messy, thesis writing marathon” at the end of the programme. As a survivor of LSE and of the “suicidal” cycling experience in London, **Craig Willmott** summarized life in the giant cosmopolitan centre for us and urged next year’s London EMGS students to stick together for the LSE workload. We were all impressed by the multi-lingual English/Chinese greeting offered by **Dana Greuter** and **Chia-Ching Kang** – as well as the latter’s stunning dress! Finally the boys from Wrocław – **Stefan Max Bolz** and **Maximilian Letze**, declared their love for the wonderful Polish city, yet thankfully spared us all the details of EMGS party antics taking place there.

At this point in the evening, the moment we had all been waiting for – the handing over of the degrees, was upon us. **Professor Kaller-Dietrich** from Vienna proceeded to announce the new Global

Studies graduates. A sea of cameras and the proud faces of family, teachers and friends greeted us from the audience, as we stood triumphantly together, diplomas held high in the air.

To bring the ceremony to a close **Dr. Sebastian Plociennik** of Wrocław University did us the honour of announcing this year’s prize winners.

A huge congratulations to:

**Ingrid Smith** for the 3rd Best Master thesis – “*English as a Lingua Franca within Academic Communities: The Erasmus Mundus Masters in Global Studies as a Case Study Perpetuating Inequalities or Fostering and Expanding Intellectual Growth? Impact on Linguistic Diversity*”,

**Denise Misleh** for the 2nd Best Master thesis – “*Agricultura sostenible – resistencia y autonomía campesina en tiempos de globalización*”

And to **Andrew Bell** for his outstanding Best Master Thesis of 2011 – “*One law on the books, another on the ground: Land tenure and land markets in late- and post-colonial Kenya and Rwanda*”.

The prize for “Best EMGS Graduate student 2011” was a tie between 4 students for their 1,0 grade average this year – an indicator of the overall extremely high grade average in our cohort of 1.45!!!

A warm congratulations to our biggest geeks .... **Meg Campbell, Paula Falci, Bettina Heller** and **Teresa Bergman**.

The formal part of the evening was followed by a delightful buffet and drinks at the Neues Rathaus and Palermo Bar, where we simultaneously celebrated the end of an era and new, exciting beginnings.

So to all of the EMGS class of 2011, we thank you for a wonderful time on the

weekend and of course for these past two years together! As we all enter a rather less than optimal job market at present, perhaps we should keep **Professor Underwood**’s very fitting “little bit of poetry” from our graduation ceremony in mind ...as “one always needs a little bit of poetry”.

*“You are not the only one in the world like this now, with your searching, planning and struggle. Don’t worry my son, that you haven’t answered the question that was given to you. Hang on, watch closely, listen carefully and explore, explore. Travel the whole world over.”* (Zima Junction: A Poem Yevgeny Yevtushenko)  
Goodbyes are outdated in this “globalized” world so for now....

*Bis zum naechsten mal, Do zobaczenia, till next time global compatriots!*

By Ling-Tzu Yang and Teresa Bergman

**COMPETITION**

**Give us a logo!**

After the foundation of the EMGS Alumni Network aimed at serving the students and Alumni of the Global Studies Masters course and the completion and our first successful project, the EMGS Convention 2011 in Leipzig, we are now well into the of running our association. To aid us further in this step and to make our mark in our future undertakings we are looking for an eye-catching, easily recognisable logo to represent us. Here is your chance to let your creative design juices flow by sending us your proposals for a logo.

Please send us your proposals via email to: [emgs.alumni.network@googlemail.com](mailto:emgs.alumni.network@googlemail.com) by 31st January 2012, at the latest, in .pdf format. You are free to be inspired by anything you choose in this undertaking but ideally we are looking for some sort of connection to the EMGS Alumni Network wording whilst the logo should present a global meaning. Following the closing date, you will all be given the chance to vote for your favourite logo. The winner will, besides the privilege of having their artwork printed on all EMGS Alumni Network publications, have the logo printed in this GESI newsletter and also win a gift voucher to the value of 30€ for Amazon. We are looking forward to receiving your designs and your ideas.

By The EMGS Alumni Network Team



„Best Graduate“ winners, (left to right). Paula Falci, Meg Campbell, Teresa Bergman, Bettina Heller



Outside the UN Complex





**The EMGS Convention 2011: What's next?!**

A few weeks have passed by since the EMGS Convention 2011, it is now time for us to draw some conclusions. After two intensive days of presentations, discussions, and exchanges, we were very glad to hear that the Convention has been warmly received by everybody. As organisers, we would also like to express our satisfaction and to thank all of you again for your attendance and participation.

A success, then?! The generous funding scheme from the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs certainly contributed to it. While this occasion might not come up so soon again, the creation of our - and this includes all of you - association "EMGS Alumni Network e.V." will open new doors for us. The magic German "e.V." - eingetragener Verein, or registered association in English - will allow us in the future, among other things, to apply more easily for funding. This is the part where YOU come into play.

The EMGS Convention should not remain a single event, but be the beginning of an active and lively association. It is not the time to rest on our laurels, but to think about future events and projects! At this point, we would like to emphasize that the EMGS Alumni Network e.V. is no longer only the five of us. As registered members, and here we invite all of you who have not registered yet to do so, you have the possibility to actively contribute to the association. That is why we need your inputs and your ideas! Two specific projects are currently running:

- We are looking for a **logo**: you have until 31st January to send us your logo. The best logo will be awarded with a 30 EUR Amazon voucher! (See article above for more details)

- We are currently working on the creation of a **website**. Note to HTML-experts: we need your help! If you have experience in website-creation and design, contact us at: emgs.alumni.network@googlemail.com

We are looking forward to hearing from all of you and wish you, in the meantime, a wonderful end of 2011 and a smooth start in 2012!

**Your EMGS Alumni Network, Christian Denzin, Miriam Wolfsteiner, Ulrike Lorenz, Hafid Derbal and Mickaël Daudin**



**Panel 1: International Development**

**Panelists: Jing Zheng, Divina Popov, Alexander DuBois, Annegret Buchholz, Remberto Latorre-Artus**

A discussion about International Development was rightly considered a necessary contribution to the Erasmus Mundus Global Studies (EMGS) Alumni Convention 2011 and it shed light on one pressing issue for many EMGS graduates: the search for jobs in the International Organizations (IOs). The panel consisted of two parts: in the first section two Master's theses were presented; the second part of the panel dealt with the different experiences of three alumni in the world of the IOs. **Annegret Buchholz**, 2011 graduate, opened the panel discussion with her presentation on European Union's Development Policy and the Position of the New Members. Her final dissertation, submitted to the University of Wrocław, focused on the development policies of Central and Eastern Eu-

ropean states, with a special insight into Poland's policy and its relation with the European Union's pressure to change such a policy. **Annegret** underlined the need for a more uniform legislation and stronger civil society support in the EU in order to improve its development assistance capacity. **Remberto Latorre-Artus**, University of Vienna and University of Wrocław 2011 graduate, also gave a presentation of his Master's thesis, in which he compared the pension system and reform in Chile during the 1980's with the reforms in today's Hungary, Poland and other Central and Eastern European countries. His contribution to the panel came with the theory that pension funds can be invested in order to create growth for a country, through liberalization and good management of the funds.

The following speaker, **Alexander DuBois**, EMGS alumnus 2010, introduced the topic of traineeships in the International Organizations. Alex presented his internship at the International Trade Centre in Geneva, where he worked to measure the contribution of the ITC to the Millennium Development Goals, as well as carrying out other tasks. He also underlined the importance and difference that a supervisor can make in your interning experience: a good supervisor will follow you in every step of your work, inspiring you, trusting you with tasks that go beyond simple and menial office duties, turning your internship into a positive and worthwhile period of your life.

Finally, **Jing Zheng** and **Divna Popov**, both EMGS Alumni 2011, discussed their successful attempts at gaining professional experience in the IOs. Having already collected several experiences within the IOs, Jing introduced a comparison of his experiences at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). His presentation, mainly focused on his work in the Technical Cooperation Department of IAEA, brought to the attention of the panel attendees an internship opportunity of which not all were aware. Divna's contribution to the panel dealt with the central dilemma of how to get a job without having the required prior experience. Internships were indeed considered the solution, with about 400 annual opportunities in the United Nations Offices in Vienna alone. By talking about her two experiences at UNIDO, the 2011 graduate also stressed the role that a good supervisor can play for an intern in an IO.

**By Noemi de Luca**



The opening of the Alumni Convention 2011 by Miriam Wolfsteiner, Mickaël Daudin and Hafid Derbal



**Panel 2: Global Moments & Global Trends**

**Panelists: Danlin Wang, Annie Wang, Pei-Hsuan Rommeswinkel, Chia-Ching Kang, Juan Ignacio Staricco**

Panelists presented on their own individual research processes. However, as the morning session progressed, a number of common themes arose concerning the global dimension of communication and contact, representation and interpretation, knowledge and information transfer, cultural hegemony, and collective action based upon identity politics. At the very core of each presentation was the relational concept of positioning and location, and the assertion that human beings often formulate their identities, beliefs, ideals and cultures in relation to one another, as opposed to in isolation.

**Danlin Wang** presented her dissertation findings which focused upon the British Embassy to China in 1793. She argued that the overwhelming tendency to emphasize difference on behalf of both the British and the Chinese, with regards to superior governmental systems and the idea of 'development', actually fostered a distinct sense of separation between the two countries resulting in obstacles to harmonious co-existence.

**Annie Wang** analyzed the role of the National Museum as a governmental institution within the frame of globalization, and argued that national museums are an integral form of communicative media utilized by nations in order to brand themselves. Perhaps the most salient point in this discussion was the idea that nations have the power to represent themselves and the 'other' which brings about questions of authenticity, agency and the ability of human beings to interpret what they experience in the national museum through a variety of different lenses.

**Pei-Hsuan Rommeswinkel** explored the democratization process of Taiwan between 1949 and 1989 in order to ascertain whether Taiwan could be considered part of the 'global moment' of 1989. Through the investigation of Taiwan's transformation through the lens of national image theory, Pei-Hsuan concluded that Taiwan was part of the global moment because its democratization process was used by both inner and outer forces to form the liberal democratic world order.

**Chia-Ching Kang** fused the concepts of

cultural hegemony and exoticism with the fashion industry to examine how models of color are represented on major fashion runways in the West. She traced the history of fashion as a Western phenomenon, and found that fashion can be considered a practice of cultural hegemony on the international stage, since models of color are often exoticized to fit particular, less 'modern' themes imposed upon them by the fashion nucleus of the West.

**Juan Ignacio Staricco** questioned whether the French May could be considered the turning point whereby traditional social movements largely based upon economic structures were replaced by new social movements fuelled largely by identity. Contrasting the elements of traditional versus new social movements, he concluded that the French May can be understood as the last traditional movement, or as the final failure of Marxist inspired movements, as people began to embrace new struggles.

This panel was provocative and highlighted central themes inherent to the EMGS study period, namely global memory, the construction and interpretation of the 'other', and the power relations that facilitate these processes. These are issues that will continue to burn for many years to come in the hearts and minds of many and thus discussions surrounding these topics must not cease.

**By Karen Lockyer**



**Panel 3: Post EMGS Experiences I**

**Panelists: Elisa Walton, Subramanya Sirish Tamvada, Andrea Urbanikova, Aurora Lopez Fogues, Barzin Pakandam**

A recurring question at the 2011 EMGS Alumni meeting - "what are you doing now?"- formed the theme of three panels titled 'post EMGS experiences', in which alumni were invited to talk about their paths in the years or months since completing the global studies program. In the first of these three panels, the five presenters were a mix of those pursuing further study, work and internships. They all spoke about the ways that the global studies program supplemented their previous education, skills and interests and left them better equipped to pursue the courses they have chosen.

The first speaker, **Elisa Walton** of the

2010 class, presented on her experience of the practical application of the global studies degree in the field. Elisa worked with USAID in Ghana on a project aimed at comprehensively improving the agricultural sector in a country heavily dependent on primary exports. In her role, liaising with various actors in the agricultural industry, she was able to experience in practice the issues that she had engaged with academically during the program.

**Sirish Subramanya Tamvada**, who graduated in 2009, then delivered a passionate presentation about the impact that the global studies program had on his social and academic life. After finishing and publishing his thesis (which the audience was encouraged to buy), Sirish undertook further study, completing a Master of Laws in the US. Now a practising lawyer in India, Sirish implored the audience to make the most of their experiences in the EMGS program and to be positive about its possibilities.

**Andrea Urbanikova** of the most recent class set out in her presentation her path from completing her thesis to obtaining her job as coordinator of European funds in Slovakia. She talked about the challenges that came from finishing the program and returning to a less international environment, and her desire to bring the EMGS program to Slovakia. She stressed the significance of the opportunity to study at multiple institutions (herself having studied at Vienna, Leipzig and Santa Barbara) and her belief that this opportunity should be extended to as many students as possible.

**Aurora Lopez Fogues**, a graduate of the 2008 class, opened her presentation with a discussion of the utility of a generalised degree in an increasingly specialised employment market, and challenged the assumption that a specialised degree is preferable. She went on to talk about a number of her experiences after the program, in the public sector, in teaching and finally in undertaking a PhD in the UK, and how she had used qualities and skills gained from the program - language skills, mobility, adaptability, reasoning and research skills to access those opportunities.

The final presentation was that of **Barzin Pakandam**, also of the 2008 class, who graduated and sought work in the US before starting his own business, Editors Corner. Having assisted fellow students by proofreading their work while in the program, Barzin took the skills and contacts he gained while studying to help establish his business.





Panel 3: Elisa Walton, Subramanya Sirish Tamvada, Andrea Urbanikova, Aurora Lopez Fogues, Barzin Pakandam

One issue that emerged in the panel, and in the roundtable discussion that evening, was how to 'sell' the global studies qualification in the professional world. Although it is a growing discipline, global studies is still often not widely known and graduates often face the problem of explaining what it involves in applications and interviews. When questioned about how they explained and promoted the program in interviews, several of the panelists noted that the generality of the degree is both a blessing and a curse, a blessing because it can be tailored to apply to many different positions, and a curse because it does not point towards a specific competency or skill in an applicant. The panelists encouraged recent graduates and continuing students to couch their applications in employer-familiar terms, and to select subjects that match their interests and anticipated future career paths. The presentations formed a positive but realistic view of the possibilities that can flow from the global studies program and the need for students to be clear in their goals and expectations when using and promoting their qualification.

By Lindsay Ash



Panel 4: China

Panelists: Noel Hui, Wenfeng Wei, Hui-Jen Lin

Saturday's fourth panel discussed China, with presentations from three EMGS alumni focussing on three different issues: China's Outward Foreign Direct Investment, Professional Experiences in a Chi-

nese Think Tank and Social Governance in the context of China's rapid urbanisation.

In his presentation, Noel Hui asked - "What does China's Outward FDI mean to the global economy?", and addressed several issues faced by Chinese firms when trying to balance the interests of the government with those of their investors. In particular, he stressed that the fact that government has such a large say in the activities of China's OFDI often leads to claims of unfair competition by other foreign firms active the global market. Elaborating on the present position of many of these firms however, Noel cited various examples demonstrating a steady shift towards more autonomy from the government as they prioritise profits over internal politics and government support. Exemplifying this, as these companies get listed on forex markets they become answerable to their stock holders in foreign countries.

Wenfeng Wei's presentation gave insights into working for a Professional Think Tank, the China Institute for Reform and Development (CIRD), a public, non-profit research institution looking into China's economic and administrative reform. From the outset, his responsibilities were mostly administrative, organising seminars and workshops, however he noticed that as the organisation's mandate transformed to have more of a focus on developing countries, his responsibilities also expanded to involve research. He has had the opportunity to write a background report on the twelfth of China's five year plans, as well as be involved in CIRD's more recent projects, such as the Tripartite Policy Dialogue with China, Germany and Brazil, which it undertakes in conjunction with the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). He emphasised that Global Studies helped him greatly in un-

derstanding the various issues he confronted during this experience, and rates his EMGS time as a significant turning point in his career.

The panel's final presentation was by Hui-Jen Lin who gave an insight into the work of NGOs in China. She provided a micro-perspective of China's development process by looking at the social issues surrounding the rapid urbanisation process, and how NGOs deal with the government's method of top-down social governance when undertaking various projects within the 'villages' in the centre of urban environments. Through her internship with the Organisation for Rural Education and Development (ORED), she surveyed the education programmes of migrant children in Beijing while working on other projects and thus gained hands on experience observing how these organisations participate in civil society. Hui-Jen stressed the difficulties various NGOs have in operating within such milieux, in particular how NGOs are still confined by the government's double-management focus; the steady shift from a planned to market economy. She stressed that bottom-up methods of social governance are an affective way to address the needs of the poorest parts of society.

The discussion following the presentation raised several points, but none more pertinent than the burning question as to the extent of government influence or involvement in the activities of all the aforementioned organisations. Indeed, whatever the origins or identity of an organisation, the activities of firms undertaking FDI, NGOs working on social governance structures and Think Tanks pushing for policy influence are all intricately linked to the political processes within the central government.

Hui-Jen emphasised that through the chairman of her organisation, the gap between the provincial and central governments is effectively bridged, resulting in an increase in public awareness of local issues of education and health. On the other hand, addressing the question of similar Think Tanks and their influence in China, Wenfeng Wei stated that others do exist which have much closer ties to the central government, and have special channels for their research and statistics to reach top leadership, leading to the issues of a conflict of interest or a bias in report data.

Finally, Noel Hui pointed out that the central government encourages Chinese firms to invest overseas in general, yet many criteria exist as to who may be

given loans for such activities, the final decision regarding which comes down to either the National Development Reform Commission or the Ministry of Commerce. One may postulate from this panel that the government's double-management of China's economy is a double-edged sword, with both benefits and detriments for the Chinese variant of capitalism.

By Craig Willmot

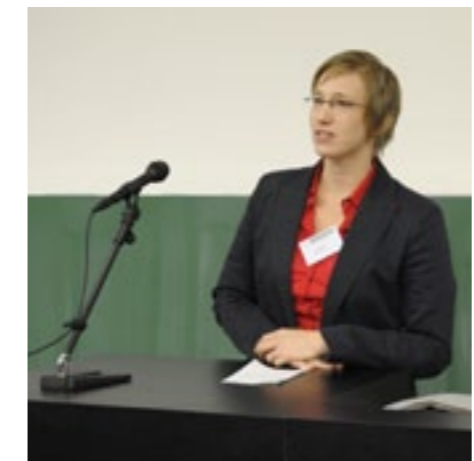


Panel 5: Development in Africa

Panelists: Ou Phichong, Franziska Dormann, Ole Engel, Marieke Hounjet, Astrid Bauer

The fifth panel of the EMGS Alumni Convention dealt with issues related to development in Africa. Most of the contributions were inspired by the working experiences of presenters in non-governmental and bilateral development organizations. In addition to that, the audience had an opportunity to hear from one of the presenters who elaborated on a research problem. Franziska Dormann, EMGS Alumni 2010, presented us with an analysis on three informal settlements in Africa, focusing on Cape Town, Nairobi and Cairo, and a concept of settlement upgrading. Concepts of both upgrading and informal settlements are closely inter-related and they do not have a clear and concise definition. Both concepts require various actors (NGOs, governments etc.) to be involved in promoting them. Recently, there has been a clear need for a shift from the top-down to the bottom-up approach.

Following that, Ole Engel, EMGS 2011,



Astrid Bauer discussing Rwandan development: Panel 5

referred to his experience with NGO and voluntary service and elaborated on it in his Master's thesis. With the Weltwärts programme he worked on projects on capacity development for the local population in Peru. By his own account, voluntary service projects must be primarily in line with developing countries' priorities and not what developed countries think is necessary to carry out in their developing counterparts. He also pointed out the fact that the picture about the situation in developing countries is sometimes distorted by the Western media.

Ou Phichong, EMGS 2010, told us about her experience of working with NGOs before and after studying in the Global Studies programme. According to her, first expertise and skills had to be acquired with an NGO before the Global Studies programme proved to be a very important stepping stone for furthering careers in the "third sector" after finishing Global Studies. The topic of a Master's thesis related to the world of NGOs can, from her point of view, be an important entry point for a future employment in this field.

A very interesting presentation was delivered by Marieke Hounjet, EMGS 2009, who explained goals and activities of the Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies (CBHA) to us. This platform has been established to improve efficiency in delivering interventions, coordination (information sharing) and leadership. Funded by the UK Government, the platform tries to champion two programs aimed at accelerating emergency responses of various NGOs and strengthening capacities of various countries.

Finally, Astrid Bauer, EMGS 2008, told us about her work with "Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit" in capacity building projects in Rwanda. Rwanda is an exceptional case of a country, where the government itself comes up with development projects and selects partners for their implementation. In doing so, the government takes into account financial power and expertise of development organizations and NGOs. Drawing inspiration from East Asia and Singapore, Rwanda sets its goal to become a middle income country by 2020. However, the question of sustainability of its activities presents a great challenge to Rwanda.

By Lukáš Guttek



Panel 6: Theories of Globalisation

Panelists: Julia Dócolas, Seth Emerson, Justin Brown, Sayalee Karkare, Erik Schau

Although the panel was entitled "Theories of Globalization" it was not however purely about theory as presenters discussed issues ranging from global identity and mobility, to current projects and experiences following their studies on the EMGS program. Most of the themes were connected to the panelist's master theses, however some chose to present new ideas and developments. As the first panelist, Julia Dócolas, took the stage to talk about her research on Conceptualizing Global Identity - The Global Studies Students Case. She reviewed how globalization is contributing to the mixing of peoples, languages and cultures, thus creating a new "global identity." Julia also shared her findings from a survey she launched among Global Studies students and alumni.

Second up was Seth Emerson who talked about African Priests in the US: A Process of Reverse Missions. He discussed some interesting patterns of reverse missions and mechanisms of the global Christianity shifts and movements. Justin Brown presented the online project he is currently working on: Unexus - A Community of Changemakers. His web-based platform for idea exchange is designed to help people, like EMGS alumni, in establishing connections and sharing their innovative projects, all accompanied by slick and aesthetically original, interactive user interface.

Next was Erik Schau with his take on The Mobility of the Global Middle Class and its Relationship to the Uniformity of Cities: A Case Study of Vienna. His presentation explicated the intricacies of the relationship between the "homogenization of cities' infrastructure" and the cities' "socio-cultural makeup".

And last, but not least, Sayalee Karkare offered her contribution describing her life as a Flea. Sayalee used Charles Handy's terminology to describe her internship experience and simultaneously offer an advice to the new generation of EMGS students.

After Sayalee's presentation it was time for the interactive part of the panel and the audience's questions to the panelists. Initially the last presenter aroused the most interest and questions from the attendants allowed her to complete the part of presentation she had to omit due to time constraints. Sayalee was asked to explain in what way she operates as a "flea"





and she is currently engaging in. **Ulrike Lorenz**, our moderator, then tried to conclude the panel with some questions and comments of her own; she asked Justin about the specifics of his website: how it is different from what is already available, how he plans to prevent "information overload" and when exactly can we expect the project going viral. Conclusions of the panel included statements that we should continue researching the theoretical part of globalization but also actively participate in developments that are carried out by our peers and colleagues. Whilst time constraints brought an early end to the discussion it was noted that the issues highlighted were of utmost importance and would be revisited in future EMGS conventions.

By **Jakub Góralski**



**Panel 7: Post EMGS Experiences II**

**Panelists: Frank Mattheis, Derek Elliott, Ashley Hurst, Maximillian Letze, Robyn Duncan**

The panel on Post-EMGS experiences II presented various insights when deciding to continue with a PhD after completing the Masters course and revelations about working in the NGO sector.

**Frank Mattheis**, currently a PhD candidate, described his experiences in applying for a doctoral degree and offered many suggestions to those considering staying in academia. His advice included to think outside of the box: by attending lectures and events outside of the normal curriculum and participating in semesters abroad, allowing one to interact with people of different regions and perspectives. Afterwards, it is possible to mould everything into a clear topic/question/particular phenomenon that is unexplained. Frank explained the options of starting a PhD directly after completing a Masters or taking time off in between. He himself completed his Masters degree and afterwards did development work. Afterwards, he went to Cairo for a couple of months and decide if he wanted to write the doctoral thesis. Frank concluded that it is useful to do something not academic/professional-related to decide if a PhD should be the next step for you.

**Derek Elliott** found choosing a supervisor to be the most important element in deciding on a PhD program. One should recognize what the supervisor has done,



Derek Elliott discussing the importance of choosing the right supervisor: Panel 7.

where the paradigms lie, which networks and funding bodies the supervisor is part of, how established he is, and so on. If there is no supervisor for a proposed project, you will not be admitted, thus, Derek stressed to contact a supervisor prior to applying. The research institution and focus of the university, as well as access to conferences and research funds should be a priority in deciding where to apply. Retrospectively, Derek shared that his proposal could have been tighter with more details, citations, and background research, to show clearly that the topic to be researched was well understood.

Yet another doctoral candidate, **Ashley Hurst**, illuminated that while a PhD is highly flexible, it does take a lot of juggling. Ashley is involved in many different projects outside of his busy doctoral work such as being in a band, and while it seems daunting to have so much on an overflowing plate, it is a balancing act and not impossible. It is up to each person to take charge and go after what he/she wants: if you don't ask, you don't get, so, it takes a lot of self-promotion to get others on board to fund you and support your research. Ashley closed his remarks by urging others to find out what they can do. See where opportunities lie and go after them.

**Maximilian Letze** shared his findings from his Masters thesis and raised the issue of funding for research work. Because the world is more connected, the role of independent research is limited. Researchers are competing for less available funding, and the argument is that you need to think very well about how to promote yourself and understand which interconnected network you are in. Funding is available where there is a powerful stakeholder and can be in various arenas such

as in economics or government. Most importantly, if your research is for the good of the public, you will be more successful in attracting funds from stakeholders.

Working in the NGO sector is without a doubt challenging, but as **Robyn Duncan** presented, it can be also very rewarding. Her work with an environmental non-governmental organization (ENGO) necessitates a global landscape of coalitions of Canadian/US NGOs, local and federal government levels, and the UN. Robyn illuminated the professional development one gains from working for an NGO: you have to learn and use a number of skills to complete a variety of tasks, attend numerous meetings, writings, publications, you have to deal with opponents, and importantly, you have to get sponsors to help. In order to get donors, foundations, and governments to give money to the organization, you have to budget well and have campaigns to strategize goals. The negatives of being overworked, underpaid, and understaffed can be frustrating, but you should try different things to find a niche where you can happily work well. Robyn concluded that NGO work can be rewarding when you realize goals towards social change.

By **Magdalena Nora**



**Panel 8: Climate Change**

**Panelists: Katia Vladimirova, Xiaochen Zhang, Stefan Max Bolz, Denise Misleh, Shadi Mohebinejad**

The first of the five participants in this panel, PhD student **Katia Vladimirova**, presented her current research with deals with ethical issues related to climate change. More specifically, she focused on the problem of responsibility and the idea of "fairness", not only between developing and developed states but also between the present and future generations. Central here is the role states could and should have in light of the failures of the Kyoto ideas and the more recent United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNCCC) negotiations, which took place in Copenhagen in 2009. The second PhD student in the panel, **Xiaochen Zhang**, offered an overview of the present state of the climate change research, stressing its importance. According to Zhang an uneven level of awareness on the global scale and a lack of accountability are however



slowing down the research process.

The 2011 EMGS graduate **Stefan Max Bolz** then provided an overview of his thesis that deals with the global problem of water scarcity and water shortage. In July 2010 the United Nation declared water and sanitation as a human right, and Bolz showed how access to water influences the relationship between states, especially those linked together by rivers and lakes. The case of Egypt and the river Nile was used as an example of the geopolitical importance of water in the Middle East. Next **Denise Misleh**, another recent graduate, presented her thesis on how globalization has affected the agriculture practices in the Mexican state of Oaxaca. According to Misleh, sustainable agriculture practices developed by the peasants in Oaxaca could be viewed as a resistance strategy against threats posed by neoliberal globalization, especially following Mexico's 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) signature.

The last presenter, **Shadi Mohebinejad** (EMGS 2011), shifted the focus to India and the role of biofuel production in development countries, which was the topic for her EMGS thesis. Mohebinejad discussed what role biofuel could have in securing sustainable development and its ecological, social and environmental implications.

The summary discussion, which due to time restraints had to be kept relatively short, dealt further with issues related to responsibility (e.g. corporate and social), risks and accountability – on the local, regional and/or global levels. The participants agreed that the climate change discourse and climate change research also in the future will largely depend on how these issues are framed and who gets to do the actual framing.

By **Kurt Seim**



**Panel 9: Governance & Democracy**

**Panelists: Sabil Francis, Rishabh Dhir, Deepti Kakkar & Fahad Mustafa**

Initially five presentations were supposed to be given within the Panel 9; however two of the presenters **Bidisha Chaudhuri** and **Nayana Jayarajan** were absent. The first presentation was given by, EMGS 2008 Alumni, **Sabil Francis** who is a PhD student at University of Leipzig. The title of his presentation was "looking back at technology transfer". Francis talked about

technology transfer, in general, between the "third world" and the "west". His PhD dissertation, with the Indian Institute of Technology as a case study, looks at how technical aid was given to India by both the West and the Soviet bloc as a result of its non-aligned status in the world order. Additionally, it still affects the mode of teaching and the curricula in the various IITs. In his research, he analyses technology transfer as a process of translation, negotiation and adaptation. Based on this process he showed different aspects of technology transfer. Additionally, he showed interesting examples of how legacies of different actors, such as Soviet Union, USA, and Germany played a role in knowledge transfer into India. The Indian Institutes of Technology is examined as a case, where Francis visited UNESCO archives in Paris to look at early experiences of people who were sent to India to transfer their knowledge to a different country with different culture. In addition, he also mentioned the challenges and problems that early knowledge "transferors" encountered.

The second presentation was given by **Rishabh Dhir**, EMGS Alumni 2010, who is undertaking a PhD at Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva. He gave a comprehensive presentation titled "Chasing Modernity?-The Nomadic Tribals and the 'Development' Discourse in India". In his speech Dhir compared development discourse with the classical "civilized-backward" dichotomy which was extensively used for the purpose of colonization; and which is still dictated by the 'west'. Dhir talked about the nomadic people who are still denied to take their fair representation in society. Though his research question or findings can easily travel for different cases, he told that, he is looking at a particular case which is 'Pardhi Baheliya' in Central

India. According to Dhir nomadic people, in this part of the world, are seen as criminals, or name at least easily associated with 'criminals'. His presentation elaborated on the status of Denotified Tribes (DNTs) and their rights; related to that he also mentioned important legislative acts such as Criminal Tribes Act and Habitual Offenders Act. Presentation highlighted different aspects of the use of development discourse, ranging from economic to environmental issues.

The last presentation was given by **Deepti Kakkar** and **Fahad Mustafa**, EMGS Alumni 2009. The presentation was about the activities of Globalistan, a Global Studies blog initiated in 2009. Mustafa talked about the creation, development, achievements and future goals of the Globalistan. He mentioned their experience in film production; the first successful (award winning) product of Globalistan was documentary called 'Chechnya and Football' that was shot in Vienna where other EMGS students contributed greatly. Mustafa stated that they chose this subject as Austria has the biggest Chechnyan refugees in Europe. He also talked about the current project of the Globalistan, namely a documentary named 'Powerless' which is dedicated to illuminate one of the key problems of India, electricity shortage. Mustafa stated that, fortunately, this project attracted far-reaching interest from different countries like South Korea, Canada USA; and not surprisingly EMGS Alumni Association is one of the supporters of the project. This documentary will be shown in 50 different university campuses all over the world. **Deepti Kakkar** made few additions to Mustafa's talk and they together answered comments and questions from the audience. This was followed by a brief discussion where audience took an active part.

By **Agsin Umudov**



Deepti Kakkar, Fahad Mustafa and Leopold Kogler talking about „Powerless“ during Panel 9





**Panel: Round Table**

**Panelists: Prof. Dr. Matthais Middell** (University of Leipzig), **Ambassador Bernd Borchardt** (German Foreign Ministry), **Uwe Brandenburg** (CHE Consult GmbH), **Hanne Leth Andersen** (University of Roskilde) and **Simeon Underwood** (London School of Economics)

A fast glance at the schedule of the EMGS Alumni Convention has probably been enough for participants to realize that one question would guide most of the discussions taking place in Leipzig, namely: what might one do with an advanced degree in Global Studies? In this context (filled with hope and apprehension, as many of us were about to become Masters of Art in this mysterious field of study), the inquiry addressed on Friday's round table, "Does a globalized world need Global Studies?", was certainly called for. In order to approach this somewhat provocative question from different viewpoints, a group of experts with diverse professional backgrounds was put together and asked a set of questions that surely pops up in the heads of most EMGS graduates at some point – especially if they are attempting to find a place in the job market. Alongside the head of the Global Studies Consortium, **Matthais Middell**, and two representatives of partner universities, **Hanne Leth Andersen** (Roskilde University) and **Simeon Underwood** (London School of Economics), **Ambassador Bernd Borchardt** and **Uwe Brandenburg** (CHE Consult GmbH) examined a number of matters related to the bundle of skills, competences and experiences an internationalized and multidisciplinary

Masters program like Global Studies may provide to those who are yet to adventure themselves in the "real world". Although none of the participants seemed to be in disagreement with Professor Middell's early assertion that the contemporary world needs Global Studies, each of them had a different view of why and how the study program prepares students to become successful researchers, employees of corporations, staff members of international organizations and even innovative entrepreneurs. In exposing their views, the participants focused on three main points: the advantages of holding a Global Studies degree in a globalized world, the disadvantages and deficiencies of the program in light of labor market demands, and what students may do in order to make the best out of these two years of study. A point of accord was that one of the main pluses of being a EMGS alumni is the international experience that comes along with the official transcripts. Mr. Underwood supported this contention with some data from the Global Survey Report, which indicate that employers around the world consider internationalization ever more important. Needless to say, this means that individual attributes such as intercultural communication skills and language skills are valuable assets in today's labor market. But that is not all. They also highlighted that the lack of a precise area of expertise should not be seen in a negative light from the outset. Even though the expectations of the labor market aren't unique or easy to decipher, there seems to be shift in what employers want from potential employees: whereas it is true that particular, specialized skills have always been and will continue to be valued, personal characteristics of job candidates are gaining more and more space in companies' selection processes. Here lies another

advantage of EMGS students: people with broader qualifications who can connect, network and see the overall picture are very much needed in the market. If this demand exists, we must learn how to sell our experiences and abilities when applying for positions. In respect to deficiencies, complaints and advices, round table participants also agreed on one point: the standardization of education coupled with an exaggerated concern with personal outcomes have resulted in students, interns and professionals endowed with overly mechanistic mindsets; that is to say, individuals who, despite being educated and hard-working, do not look for innovation and improvement in their work places. It is probably a commonplace nowadays to state that entrepreneurship and the pursuit of innovation are keys to success in the contemporary world, but given the concerns expressed by the round table participants it does not seem superfluous to insist upon this issue here: originality, criticism, innovative spirit, in sum, "being able to think outside of the box" is extremely important nowadays if one wants to be successful in finding a job, in changing the world, in conducting research, amongst other dreams and aspirations. Many other arguments, questions and concerns came up during that vibrant discussion in lecture hall 8, and even though it is beyond the scope of this report to transcribe them here, readers can be sure of one thing: the world does seem to need us, "Global Scientists" – as one of our fellow alumni put it on that occasion.

By Paula Guzzo Falci



**Panel 10: Migration**

**Panelists: Dana Grueter, Judith Corcoran, Jianan Bi, Hannah Dunham, Anna Hoang**

The panel on Migration highlighted alumni who have or are currently working in the field of migration as well as those who focused on the topic for their Master's thesis, bringing together theoretical and practical experiences. **Dana Grueter** gave practical advice gathered from her past internship at IOM in Vienna, which included work on country profiles of migration as well as the role of microfinance loans and the economic relationship between home and host societies, encouraging current students to look for internships in

the second semester of their second year. **Judith Corcoran** built upon Dana's presentation, highlighting her growth at the organization from intern to staff member. Her work as an intern focused on victims of trafficking, refugees and asylum seekers in Austria and linked with the OSCE office. At her current position she continues to focus on human trafficking, working on the topic along IOM's comprehensive approach of prevention, prosecution (of traffickers), protection (of current and potential victims of trafficking) and partnership and linking work within the Austrian national office with international programs.

The latter half of the panel focused on alumni whose theses focused on the topic of migration, although some also worked at IOM and integrated their experiences into their presentations. **Jianan Bi's** thesis dealt with the entrepreneurship and the transnational network of Chinese migrants in Europe. She emphasized the importance of social networks for this group of migrants, which manifested itself in food production and other market opportunities. **Anna Hoang** examined the relationship between migration and trauma in her work with Vietnamese migrants in the US, comparing it with the experiences of Bosnian war refugees. Her work showed the various parallels and interconnections between specific migration trauma and the trauma of war. Finally, **Hannah Dunham's** presentation dealt with the Refugee Resettlement Program in the US, assessing its success. While the US resettles twice as many refugees as any other country, and civil society is active in assisting refugees, she showed that this only presents one part of the picture. She suggested that the high numbers of resettled refugees reflect a preference on the part of the US for quantity rather than quality, as the government only provides assistance to those resettled for the first three months. This then puts pressure on voluntary agencies within civil society to become more active in providing assistance. However, most voluntary agencies are religiously affiliated and may perhaps prevent those who are not religious (volunteers in particular) from getting involved. As many members of the audience also have had experiences as migrants or in the field, the questions posed continued to highlight personal experiences. Justin Brown elaborated his thoughts on the Australian refugee resettlement program, and how it may compare with its American counterpart. Maegan Hendow was also an intern with IOM and questioned how IOM deals with smuggling as compared to

trafficking. Considering that all presenters (and many attendees) were in fact migrants at least during their time as EMGS students, in addition to having migration backgrounds and professional experience in the field, each brought a unique perspective to the issue and highlighted the multi-dimensionality of the issue.

By Maegan Hendow



**Panel 11: Panel 11: Rights & Duties**

**Panelists: Erol Firtin, Shamkhal Abilov, Linger Liu, Tito Popovici, Tayse Pallaoro**

What do questions of militaristic identity, border sovereignty, rights activism, OPEC, and hands-on learning in NGO field work have in common? If EMGS students and graduates have learned anything from ongoing studies and research, it is that encountering global processes allows for multiple and overlapping interpretations of scenarios whose linkages are often merely under the surface. At first, those gathered in Panel 11's second-floor seminar room scratched their heads pondering commonalities between the pending presentations, but this did not last long. Each of the five panelists did a fine job articulating rights and duties research or discussing practical encounters of such in the working world.

**Erol Firtin** (2009 EMGS alumnus) presented the "fragile and malleable discourse" surrounding Turkish identity as conceptualized through the beloved slogan, "Every Turk is born a soldier." Erol underscores the real need for a new political vocab within Turkey and calls for the abandonment of current militaristic-charged rhetoric and political logic. Contemporary links between the modern state and violence must be critically examined, he says, especially to make room for increased cooperation with neighbors and the possibility for a peaceful resolution to troubling Turkish-Kurdish relations. The question of militarized national borders was continued in the second presentation by **Shamkhal Abilov** (2011 EMGS alumnus). Since the time of the Silk Road to the pipeline projects of today, the Caspian basin has been the stage for questions of sovereignty and regional power struggles. The perceived legitimacy of international legal processes in solving (or burdening) seabed boundary disputes was addressed historically and geo-politically.

Shamkhal addressed audience questions of regional rivalries, militarism, and international pressure for regional negotiation linked to resource security. **Tito Popovici** (2011 EMGS alumnus) furthered the discussion of energy and national rights in his analysis of OPEC as a catalyst for enabling development in the Global South. Tito's analysis of the oil industry's cartelization over a 20-year timeframe suggests that OPEC states, although peripheral to Wallerstein's core, challenged the system and promoted South-South cooperation. OPEC, as a topic for global history, can be characterized by its unorthodox triggering of the globalization process.

Both **Linger Liu** (2010 EMGS alumna) and **Tayse Pallaoro** (2011 EMGS alumna) provided personal reflections on their experiences in the NGO working world. Linger shared her story of searching for an internship and turning one into a career. She is certainly passionate about her ongoing work at the Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organization (IKWRO) in London, giving the audience an overview of the organization's work and her own role wearing many hats (outreach, logistics, and activism) on a day-to-day basis in supporting and advocating for the rights of minority women in the United Kingdom. As an intern with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in Mozambique, Tayse presented a well-constructed overview of socio-political concerns in Mozambique, her research and projects (including the translation of the foundation's country website from German into Portuguese and English), and a critique on the role of NGOs in impacting or "delivering results" in supporting democracy and development. In her final remarks, she challenged the audience to think twice about the role of NGOs and IOs as humanitarian aid or service providers as opposed to their identity being that of contemporary "civilizers of the world."

Panel 11's discussion of national rights, quests for legitimacy in resource sovereignty, and the role or duty of NGOs in articulating and safeguarding individual rights and life chances all let EMGSers get down and dirty exploring and challenging rights and duties in a familiar, interdisciplinary, and critical light. We realize that it is our right and duty as EMGSers to further such discussions, and the panelists invite you to contact them to learn more!

By Krista Marie Cupich



Round table: (left to right) Ulrike Lorenz (EMGS Alumni 2007), Simeon Underwood, Uwe Brandenburg, Ambassador Bernd Borchardt, Hanne Leth Andersen, Matthais Middell (University of Leipzig) and Christian Denzin (EMGS Alumni 2009)





**Panel 12: Peace & Security**

**Panelists: Alexander Cardenas, Gina Escobar Cuero, Ismayil Isayev, Bashir Alhaj-shehu**

The panel entitled "Peace and Security" consisted of four different presentations. The first presentation, given by **Alexander Cardenas**, introduced the project called "Sport for Development and Peace". It is based on an argument that sport has a tendency to bring people together and encourage them to work as a team, it is apolitical and has a potential to inspire and motivate. In particular, football seems to be an ideal type of sport because people from across different social and economic backgrounds like to play football and/or like to watch the game. The project aims to combine football with seminars where the participants can gain new skills and come across new ideas. The seminar speakers include local celebrities, community leaders and former gang members.

The second presentation by **Gina Paola Escobar Cuero**, called "Dance 4 Peace as an example of how youth can become agents of change in their societies", introduced a project that is in many ways similar to Sport for Development and Peace. Dance 4 Peace is a young NGO that uses a movement-based education as a vehicle to promote peace building and conflict resolution. The programme argues that via dancing and other kinds of exercises its participants can learn things like anger management, civic engagement and mediation skills. The project runs across different South and North American countries.

The third presentation was delivered by **Ismayil Isayev**. "The International Training Course: The Role of Young People in Peace Building and Conflict Resolution", was about a project financed by the European Youth Foundation and the Ministry of Youth and Sport of Azerbaijan. It attempts to get young people involved in international training courses where they can learn about human rights and develop a better understanding of different cultures. The target audience for this project is young people living in the Caucasus region and the Balkans experiencing all kinds of military or civil conflicts. Since it can be difficult for some participants to meet in certain locations (e.g. the Georgians meeting the Russians in Russia and vice versa), the events can also take elsewhere to make the cross-cultural meeting possible.

The last presentation by **Bashir Alhaj-shehu** was called "Nonviolence: A Means to Global Peace And Security". The

presentation was very philosophical. The presenter stressed the importance of global peace and security for development. He argued that violence hinders economic development and so it must be avoided, and peace as well as security must be encouraged. Non-violence can be promoted by different societies such as the political society (e.g. political leaders, political parties), the economic society (e.g. businesses, entrepreneurs), and the civil society (e.g. environmental groups etc.).

After the presentations, two points were discussed in length. Firstly, it claimed that all presentations lacked any theory and methodology, whilst the panellists agreed with this comment they added that for the remit of the convention they simply wanted to explain what these projects/ approaches are about. Secondly, it was argued that there will always be someone excluded from these kinds of projects. For example, some individuals might be so poor or isolated from the general society that they might not be able to take part in these projects. The answer was that the organisations running these events have trained staff who should always be able to provide help and assistance to those who need it.

**By Marek Fiala**



**Panel 13: Post-EMGS Experiences III**

**Panelists: Simon Watmough, Ian Tay, Dharini Parthasarathy, Julia Kensy**

As Erasmus Mundus Global Studies students hail from all over the world, and even amass diverse experiences prior to the start of the program, it comes as no surprise that students find their employment niche in a variety of sectors. Due to the interdisciplinary nature of the program, students are able to cultivate a broad spectrum of interests, which in turn provide them with a solid grounding for entry into the global workforce.

As a part of the Post-EMGS Experiences panel series, **Kalyani Unkule '09**, **Simon Watmough '08**, **Ian Tay '10**, **Dharini Parthasarathy '09**, and **Julia Kensy '10** presented during the third session of the series. Unfortunately, Kalyani Unkule was unable to attend the convention but submitted a written statement that was read in lieu of her presentation.

**Simon Watmough** shared his experience conducting social policy research assessing postcode discrimination in employment in the UK. Even though Simon Watmough and his colleagues' research actually refuted their hypothesis, he gained valuable research experience enabling him to pursue a PhD in Florence. **Ian Tay** spoke about the joys and sorrows of being an educator in a pre-university institution in the UK. Attention 2011 grads: Ian Tay advertised a job opening for an economics tutor at his school- feel free to contact him for details! **Dharini Parthasarathy** provided valuable insight into working and interning within Europe for non-Europeans. Many non-European EMGS students are not aware of the opportunities available to them and incorrectly assume that most positions are reserved for European students. Dharini Parthasarathy procured a prestigious European Commission traineeship and then moved on to Bruegel, a European based international think tank. After gaining practical work experience in Europe, she has since returned to India to work on food security, a long held interest of hers.

**Julia Kensy** acknowledged the common concern shared by second year students: the fear of and uncertainty regarding their post-EMGS futures. She shed light on how her United Nations internship, which involved preparing for an HIV/AIDS conference, sparked a new field of interest. This internship ultimately led to a position in Iran organizing a conference and promoting harm reduction initiatives. Julia Kensy mentioned the challenges she faced working in a society she had no previous experience with, and in doing so, learned how to navigate unfamiliar unspoken and spoken societal mores in a professional setting.

Panel participants fielded questions regarding internship placements and how to unearth new opportunities. A variety of themes surfaced throughout the presentations and the subsequent panel discussion. Specifically, it is quite apparent that the Erasmus Mundus Global Studies Program provides the training and ability for students to enter into a variety of sectors. Oftentimes, students find themselves in fields in which they had previously not envisioned themselves allowing them to discover and explore new areas of interests.

**By Ingrid Smith**



**Panel 14: Eastern Europe**

**Panelists: Milorad Kapetanovic, Goran Music, Iridia Vorpsi, Thomas Sparrow**

After Benedict Anderson published the "imagined communities", it became widely recognised that nation states are imagined communities; which are constructed and based on different considerations. Modern nation states are imagined, most of them are the transcribed reality of a political idea. Like many modern nation states, the former Yugoslavia was also constructed and imagined more by a political community based on ideology than a cherished common history and cultural identity.

The research of **Milorad Kapetanovic**, titled "Can Bosnia Be Postmodern? Consumerism and Vernacular Architecture of the Roadside" explores the specific phenomenon of building culture along the major trade routes in Bosnia and Herzegovina at the end of 20th century. The focus is on the areas surrounding the borders of Bosnia's two ethnically defined entities and trade routes between these entities as arenas for the study on clusters of the roadside buildings, focusing on the post-war production of private-public facilities and analysing them as material manifestations of the present ideologies. In the preliminary observation and research, Milorad finds the continuity of 'functional' style of architecture in the post war period and categorises the buildings in to two types which symbolises something and those are not representing anything specific. Connecting the prevailing architecture with people of Bosnia, Milorad tries to find the projection of ideology and meaning generated by these structures and exploring how this works for the people of Bosnia to surpass modernity. It will be interesting to know that how the post-soviet, post war Bosnia defines itself through Architecture.

Labour movements and their organisational strength redefined the political landscape of Europe and Asia during the 20th century. In the Yugoslavian context, **Goran Music**, explores the methodological challenges of the Global history of labour in late socialism. The aim of the research is to renew discussion on the development of Yugoslav labour under "self-management" from today's perspective and place it in a global historical framework. Goran's premise is that historical process cannot be understood without focus on the role of ordinary people as agents of change, in particular the industrial working class, which held a key position in the Yugos-

lav system of self management. Thus the research focuses on ordinary people with a broader framework which includes the crises of socialism and the rise of labour movement during the 70s and 80s. In the preliminary research, it is understood that, it is necessary to reach beyond the official narratives which influenced most of the published works. In order to surpass this challenge, Goran aims to connect with the past through oral history.

The oppressed have the right to be emancipated. Through her research, **Iridia Vorpsi** analyzing the so called process of women emancipation during the communist regime in Albania (1945-1990) by unfolding the difference between emancipation and equalization and finds that emancipation was a means to end and resulted women burdened with double work. Since the cultural and historical narratives are heavily influenced by communist ideology and the objective of propaganda, Iridia follows a research methodology which is cultural and historical narrative discourse analysis in which oral history gets due importance. The posters and literature with the image of emancipated women, the women leading, fighting, reaping, working was considered as classic and powerful which enthralled the women of contemporary societies. Such images promoted the idea of a socialist state based on egalitarianism desirable for all people of the world. It seems the research of Iridia is deconstructing such romantic images of past.

While Bosnia and Albania still far away from the prize of EU membership, Serbia and Croatia striving towards integrating with European Union. In this critical juncture, the ICTY acted as a principle, triggered change and acted as an agent. In order to delineate this unique process in the history of post-war justice and may be retribution, Thomas Sparrow through his thesis titled "The Role of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugosla-

via in the accession of Serbia and Croatia to the EU" analysed and explained the Tribunal's decision-making dynamics by examining a series of specific EU policy shifts towards Belgrade's and Zagreb's obligation to cooperate with the ICTY. Systemic changes that led to the eventual wane of communist establishment in Soviet Union also unleashed a gale of revolution which shook the satellite societies in its periphery upside down including the Yugoslavian Republic. Even after two decades of independent existence, the polity and society of former Yugoslavian states of Bosnia, Albania, Serbia, and Croatia still negotiates with their recent past in their efforts to become modern democratic republics, embracing globalisation and respecting the citizen's right to choose. The Academic research of Milorad, Goran, Iridia and Thomas is a graceful exploration on these different but connected challenges, experiences and expectation of the South- Eastern European (former Yugoslavian) states.

**By Kadher Mohien Tayyib Sahini**



**Panel 15: Private Sector**

**Panelists: Franka Herrmann, Andrew Bell, Philip Alexander Arejola, Richard Klein, Georg Oftedal**

This report aims to very briefly sum up Panel 15 on 'Private sectors' which comprise of an Alumnus, **Franka Herrmann** presenting her master thesis entitled Corporate Diplomacy: Multinational Corporations as Actors in International Relations along with 4 other alumni sharing their unparallel experiences in private sector after the EMGS programme. Despite their widely diverse academic and career paths they all hold, it could certainly be cap-



Panel 15: Franka Herrmann, Andrew Bell, Philip Alexander Arejola, Richard Klein, Georg Oftedal



tured that 2 years within the EMGS programme has strengthened their capacities in learning to adapt and fit quickly into their ever-changing roles effectively and efficiently despite their unfamiliarity to the work. Their ability in developing necessary skills to create valuable meanings for their own and for their companies alike stand as the real proof that the programme has prepared graduates to be well-trained to win over the multi-aspect challenges professionally through the global perspectives, through the mindsets of never stop not learn, as well as through the opportunities to have been placed amongst different educational systems and country-specific norms.

To elaborate, each and every one of the speakers have taken separate paths as they explore what private sector has to offer with style. It was impressive how my fellow LSE classmate, **Georg Oftedal** has obtained his will and power to try out different industries in order to 'continue to learn', narrow down and thus shape his own path with his future end-goal of working in the international organisation within a short period. Equally impressive was how a recent graduate such as **Andrew Bell** talked about how he could make his first real job a successful first step through simply referring to what he has experienced first-hand during his 2 years of accumulating knowledge inside and outside of universities. Additionally, **Richard Klein** made sure to give us tips on, for instance, interpersonal skills and time management strategies for one to flourish through his experiences of an American obtained the education within the European system in the start-ups in Germany and the United States as the transition from international academics. In short, Richard emphasised that success in large part fits into the saying 'practice makes perfect' no matter at which stage one is at before taking off. The secret lies in the fact that one only has to say that they acquire the skills wanted and then learn them quickly. Through a job within the Philippines Bangus industry, **Philip Alexander Arejola** warned us that a success of a value chain analyst having to work closely with the locals inevitably lies on the ability to be fully aware of the nuance of what was communicated where excellent language skills are not always sufficient. What was seen by Philip as highly important is definitely what every EMGS student has been trained to 'fit in', with or without consciousness.

To sum up, what each of them have achieved reconfirms that a degree earned from EMGS programme is one truly rewarding opportunity both in terms of academia as well as in terms of life fulfilling skills that has allowed one to widen his or her vision and mind to be enthusiastic, contemporary while simultaneously not neglecting histories. It also prepares us to be fearless to unknown future challenges ahead. The fact that one learns to be adaptive and flexible means that this degree is designed to be crafted individually depending on what one make out of it. Ultimately, due to all of the above stated, I am confident that many of us could not agree more with our LSE representative to the graduation ceremony, **Simeon Underwood's** statement that this degree is indeed 'awesome'.

By **Kawisara Sukumolchan**

### CONGRATULATIONS

Finally the warmest congratulations this edition are extended to **Astrid Bauer** who got married in October this year. We wish you all the best for married life!

Again congratulations to all the **graduates of the 2011 cohort** and especially to the best thesis winner: **Ingrid Smith** (3rd place for "English as a Lingua Franca within Academic Communities: The Erasmus Mundus Masters in Global Studies as a Case Study Perpetuating Inequalities or Fostering and Expanding Intellectual Growth? Impact on Linguistic Diversity"), **Denise Misleh** (2nd place for "Agricultura sostenible – resistencia y autonomía campesina en tiempos de globalización") and to **Andrew Bell** for his outstanding 1st place Master Thesis of 2011 – "One law on the books, another on the ground: Land tenure and land markets in late- and post-colonial Kenya and Rwanda". And finally congratulations got to **Meg Campbell, Paula Falci, Bettina Heller** and **Teresa Bergman** as well all of whom secured top average marks of 1.0 over the 2 year course!

### CONTRIBUTE

Inspired by what you have read this edition? The GESI Newsletter is always on the lookout for articles, reports and/ or pictures to include in this newsletter. To that end, starting with the first issue of 2012, we will be showcasing your work, reports, interviews and the like that get published in a section entitled "EMGS & the GESI in Print".

So if you are published in some form in other publications send us a short explanation referring to the background to the article or the main thesis of what you have written, along with the link and we will make sure that we spread the word.

To kick us off why not have a look at **Nayana Jayarajan's** interview with the Universität Leipzig's *Alumni Magazin* in which she talks about her experiences studying in Leipzig and Vienna as well as her work at the International Press Institute. The article can be found (in German) at :

[http://www.zv.uni-leipzig.de/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Studium/alumni/pdf/Alumni-Magazin\\_2012\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.zv.uni-leipzig.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Studium/alumni/pdf/Alumni-Magazin_2012_FINAL.pdf).

And whilst you are at it, also check out **Adamantios Skordos'** (Universität Vienna) interview in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung from 8th December 2011 entitled: „Mazedonien gehört wem?“

<http://www.faz.net/aktuell/feuilleton/namensstreit-auf-dem-balkan-mazedonien-gehört-wem-11554296.html>

Please send any contributions to **emgs.alumni@uni-leipzig.de**



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