Food Security, SOMALIA | The Day the Earth Shook, JAPAN
Foreign Language Scholarships | My [Im] Perfect Path to Employment
CIEE Scholarship | Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellow
New America Foundation | Denman
SADO, Food Security & Livelihood Program

Abdullahi Isse Abdulle

All kinds of crops have failed due to the lack of soil moisture. They even die at the germination stage. According to the United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), almost 90% of pastoralists have lost more than 95% of their livestock. Southern regions of Somalia, where many poor people live, are in a humanitarian crisis. Around 2.8 million people have lost all livelihood assets, especially livestock. Helping the people in need is both my profession and passion.

I am a strong advocate for assistance to the drought-affected people inside Somalia in order to keep them in their homes and villages. People have lost all livelihood assets, and they do not have anything to eat. If not assisted, they will remain in refugee camps forever like other Somalis who entered Kenya and Ethiopia during the 1991-1995 collapse of the Somali state and civil conflict. They are still refugees.

In our attempt to save lives and mitigate the impact of the droughts, SADO has launched a massive humanitarian emergency intervention targeting the most vulnerable and affected communities. The SADO Food Security and Livelihood Program, which I have the privilege to manage, is currently implementing livelihood support projects in the south-central regions of the country. This program assists around 10,000 households (60,000 people) with unconditional food and cash transfers. These families receive food or cash which is equal to a "minimum food basket" (MFB). MFB means the "amount of food one household of six members can survive upon for one month." In our program there are also economic recovery initiatives that are intended to support people to feed themselves without external assistance. Around 200 irrigation water pumps, 20,000 tons of variety seeds, and farming tools are distributed for the next rainy season to riverine and rain-fed farmers. SADO also creates jobs that are based on Cash-for-Work and Food-for-Work. We have employed thousands of people who earn money for food or have dry rations distributed to them after work is completed.

As part of its coverage of the crisis, the BBC interviewed me. "I know and like what I am doing," I told them. "With tremendous support from my organization, I am working hard to save many human lives and their livelihood assets, especially livestock. Helping the people in need is both my profession and passion." I am a strong advocate for assistance to the drought-affected people inside Somalia in order to keep them in their homes and villages. People have lost all livelihood assets, and they do not have anything to eat. If not assisted, they will remain in refugee camps forever like other Somalis who entered Kenya and Ethiopia during the 1991-1995 collapse of the Somali state and civil conflict. They are still refugees.

High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), more than 200,000 Somalis have crossed the Kenyan and Ethiopian borders seeking food and water, while more than 430,000 are now internally displaced persons (IDPs).

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“Alarmedly flipping through the pages of my test, I heard the first phone vibrate just a few seats behind me. Just minutes before our professor had reminded us to either turn our phones off or put them on silent mode. I lifted my head to see the distorted look on the professor’s face that I was expecting. However, as the rest of our phones began to vigorously vibrate and ring, all within seconds of each other, his look slowly turned into one of fear. By now it had been over a month since March 11, and there was not a soul in the classroom that wasn’t aware of what was about to happen. At once, we all clinched on to our desks as we timorously awaited the shock.

The earthquake that hit Japan on March 11 was one that nobody could have foreseen. Researchers suggest that an earthquake and tsunami of that magnitude hits the region once every 1000 years. This just happened to be the year I decided to study abroad at the International Christian University in Tokyo, Japan. At the time it hit, I was 500km west of Tokyo battling my own dilemmas as I was pedaling my way up and down snowy mountain roads. Just weeks before this, my roommates and I had sat down to plan a bicycle trip up Kyoto as our new destination. We would be traveling west, not north, later proving to be a decision that may have saved our lives.”

The streets were noticeably quieter than before. There were fewer people going out, eating out, shopping and visiting friends. Even most businesses took a short leave. The word jishyuku, meaning self-restraint, was often thrown around to explain this behavior. Most thought it was better to lock themselves in their homes at a time like this as a way to pay respect to those directly affected. This in turn led to people spending less which ended up hurting the economy, only adding more problems to the already disheartened country.

Aftershocks similar to the one that struck during my exam became a regular occurrence for people living in the eastern part of Japan. I was often woken up to either the eerie earthquake alert produced by my phone or an actual aftershock itself. I would often sit up and watch the books on my shelf rattle as my bed made slight left to right movements. Despite growing quite accustomed to the daily shocks, I would be lying if I told you that I never thought “this time may be my last.”

“Although I did not physically feel the impact of the earthquake that day, it is not to say I did not feel the effects. Just days after the quake, the incident at the Fukushima power plants occurred. All television channels were filled with coverage of the earthquake, tsunami and radiation. There was not a channel that would dare show anything unrelated to the matter for the week to follow, as people were glued to their television sets seeking the latest updates. The only commercials that ever aired were from Advertising Council Japan, an organization that aims to improve communication and environmental issues within Japan by sending out messages to bolster public morale and ethics. By the end of the week, there was not a person in Japan with television access that could not quote the AC commercials.”

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It’s hard to say if I was more terrified of the siren-like alert my phone made or the aftershock itself. There were countless times where an alert would sound but no shock would be felt. The numbers were staggering, some sources estimate over 1000 aftershocks had occurred within a month after 3.11. Similar to how many Americans will never forget the exact time, location and what they were doing when 9-11 occurred, I will never forget my experiences in Japan on the 11th of March. Even as the circumstances surrounding Japan seemingly worsened in the days following 3.11, it was amazing to see the country come together as one, relentlessly fighting to overcome the disaster. With help and aid from countries around the world, Japan has battled and continues to battle in hopes of making a full recovery.”

**Sources:**


**Image:**

ABOVE: While on his study abroad program George lived in Global House, which had a tradition of wearing these Power Ranger suits at random places, and made all freshmen wear them. “I had the brilliant idea a few days before our departure to wear these out on our trip, however, it was either too cold or too hot for just the spandex suits. So I made them promise at the very least that we would wear them once we got to Kyoto. We hesitated when the day came, since it was just two days after the earthquake hit, but we thought it important to give some people a good laugh. It worked.” George is on the right in the Green Suit!
My reason for applying for this FLAS is to advance my language skills in Russian as well as to develop a better understanding of the Russian culture. I anticipate that at the end of this school year series here at Ohio State and should enter the study abroad program at the intermediate level. The program that I am applying for will present me with the opportunity to progress from the intermediate towards the advanced level of Russian and prepare me to potentially make a career with my language skills. This coming summer I intend to study Russian language and culture through Ohio State's intensive language program at the Russian State University for the Humanities. After reviewing my options I chose to apply for this program for a number of reasons. To begin with, I feel strongly in the importance of critical languages. I hope to work at an intelligence agency someday, perhaps the NSA or CIA. Part of working in the intelligence community revolves around analyzing countries and events and their impact on world affairs, as well as estimating future actions based on present knowledge. In order to accurately analyze any country or group, it is essential to understand their mindset, worldview, and culture, as well as speak the languages native to a given country. In Russian, I have completed the intermediate level and I am now at the advanced level. Due to its rising influence, speakers of Central Asian languages such as Uzbek are becoming increasingly sought after by government and intelligence agencies.

I hope to someday use my knowledge of Uzbek that I will acquire under the FLAS program to our country’s benefit, and to encourage others to study an increasingly critical language.”

To learn more about the Critical Needs Languages sought by the United States government go to: http://clscholarship.org/

Sarah Keyes (senior) was awarded an academic scholarship for 2011-12 from the Center for Slavic & East European Studies at The Ohio State University to study intermediate Uzbek.

"I am double-majoring in security and intelligence and Arabic, but I have also completed a minor in Russian and have recently started taking Uzbek classes. Although there is no minor available in Uzbek, I plan on taking all the offered classes. I am currently in 102, and I will be taking 103 in spring, 104 next autumn, and 201 and 202 the next two quarters. As of now my proficiency is elementary, but by the end of next year when the program ends I estimate I will be at the intermediate level, with a strong enough command of the language to engage in casual conversations with native speakers, write essays on a given topic, and to easily navigate through a city (i.e. order at restaurants, use taxi or taxi service, read signs, rent apartments, etc.).

I believe strongly in the importance of critical languages. I hope to work at an intelligence agency someday, perhaps the NSA or CIA. Part of working in the intelligence community revolves around analyzing countries and events and their impact on world affairs, as well as estimating future actions based on present knowledge. In order to accurately analyze any country or group, it is essential to understand their mindset, worldview, and culture, and most importantly their language. Before you can begin to delve into any of these other aspects, you have to be able to understand what your target is actually saying, making language the most important element in such a field. The government has long sought speakers of Russian, Chinese, Arabic, etc. as these areas have constantly been of high importance to the United States. But Uzbek is a much less commonly taught language, and as such is in high demand. Central Asia is becoming an increasingly important region in the world today. Promits strategic location, to oil and natural gas reserves, to competing influence and interest in the region by Russia, China, and the United States, to the emergence of terrorist groups such as Hizb al-Tahrir, the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan which often send recruits to fight in Pakistan and Afghanistan, the region is now often in the news. Due to its rising influence, speakers of Central Asian languages such as Uzbek are becoming increasingly sought after by government and intelligence agencies.

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Lesson One: To get the maximum benefit from all that OSU has to offer – internships, student organizations, study-abroad programs – declare your major early. Freshman year involved taking three Spanish language courses before failing to pass the SLRPE. During the start of my sophomore year, I attended one of the most obscure courses offered by OSU, Serbo-Croatian 101, which became a vital part of my Slavic minor. I have also looked into options at the United Nations. I have attended many of the government career fairs on campus and been in e-mail contact with various people associated with some of these agencies.

The most enticing prospect that I have contemplated, however, is a career in the Department of State, possibly as a Foreign Service Officer. I have applied for an internship with the State Department at the Moscow Embassy for summer 2011, for which I was not chosen as a primary selectee, but I still plan to apply for the internship again in the fall or the spring. Working for the government is my ultimate career goal and I am completely dedicated to its pursuit. In academics, I have always strived to challenge myself to achieve at the highest possible level and still improve every quarter. My future work in the government will be no different. My motivation to gain knowledge in my areas of specialization and succeed in the future is only matched by my desire to leave behind a stronger United States and a better world than I inherited. I can promise that any investment into my future will not be squandered.

If provided with the financial means to do so, I plan to study Russian language and culture this summer at the Russian State University for the Humanities (RSHU) in Moscow. The program will provide an ideal linguistic and cultural immersion setting, which I believe will catalyze learning and improve my fluency in speech, as well as my ability to read, write, and understand Russian to levels that would be otherwise unattainable while studying in the United States. As a Russian and International Studies (Slavic, Eastern European, and Eurasian) major, achieving a high level of competency in Russian is especially important to me.

From personal experience, I can say this study abroad program will substantially help in enhancing my Russian proficiency. Last summer, after completing my first year of Russian, I took part in this program at RSHU. After spending eight weeks studying in Moscow, I felt my language skills had improved tremendously. I did not merely improve this improvement, my score on the oral proficiency test administered prior to departure and upon return rose from "Novice-High" to "Intermediate-Low" in two months. I now feel that, with an even more solidified grasp on the basics of Russian, this summer in Moscow will allow me to advance my skills to the next level, making study abroad even more important and useful, in my opinion.

Whether you are an incoming freshman or starting your "Victory lap" as a fifth-year senior, you have probably gained at least a fleeting thought to the desired path your life will take after the completion of your undergraduate degree at The Ohio State University.

While telling my [im]perfect path to postgraduate employment, I hope you will be able to learn something about the oft-vague and difficult process of getting a job. At the beginning of Winter quarter of my junior year, I took the initiative to expand my international experience outside of academia by taking an internship at the Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS), a non-profit organization in Washington, the Parkinson’s Action Network. From March until June, I engaged in the impersonal, tedious, and arduous process of finding a job. After fifty-plus job applications, I interviewed for, received, and took a Government Relations Program Assistant position with a non-profit organization in Washington, the Parkinson’s Action Network.Lesson Seven: During the job searching process, it can be extremely difficult to maintain optimism in a process that you have very little control over and that takes you away from the responsibilities of college life and the receiving of your college diploma. Whether you are an incoming freshman or starting your "Victory lap" as a fifth-year senior, you have probably gained at least a fleeting thought to the desired path your life will take after the completion of your undergraduate degree at The Ohio State University.

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My aspirations, however, are not limited to excelling academically and graduating with a Bachelor’s degree in Russian. I also plan to attend graduate school and earn a Master’s degree in Russian area studies. More importantly, however, I fully intend to use the knowledge and skills I acquire as an undergraduate and graduate to serve the government of the United States.

Since high school, I have considered a career in government service. In my opinion, my skill set, attitude, work ethic, and motivations would be best employed in this kind of setting. I have a strong desire to work for something greater than myself that contributes to the well being of the world. I have already considered many different outlets to accomplish this. Thus far, I have researched linguist careers in the Army and the Air Force, various positions in the CIA, NSA, and other such institutions. I have also looked into options at the United Nations. I have attended many study abroad trips, regardless of length or location, will always allow you to mature personally, academically, and professionally.

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Lesson Five: Get internship experience to enhance your academic experience.

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Joseph Sadek participated in the Washington Academic Internship Program through the John Glenn School of Public Affairs. He worked at the New America Foundation, which is a nonprofit, nonpartisan public policy institute focusing on new ideas to address the next generation of challenges facing the United States. His project paper focuses on Lebanon.

Paper Abstract: The United States and the United Nations know what is at stake in Lebanon. The growth of armed militias like Hezbollah will negatively affect the region. In a recent memo to Sec. General of the UN, Ban Ki-moon, UN official Terje Roed-Larsen said Lebanon was the most important geopolitical point in the region (illoubnan.info). The US understands the need to act. There are a few policy options the United States can implement... collectively one could get the best outcome. Doing any one of these would increase stability in Lebanon and the region.

One might argue that if the majority of Arab states wanted to solve the issues in Lebanon they would have negotiated Hezbollah’s disarmament on their own. However, Hezbollah’s armament is directly linked to Israel. As of right now only the United States can productively negotiate and engage with Israel and Lebanon at the same time.

Another approach is to engage Syria, and help promote a productive Lebanese-Syrian relationship. Iran projects its power in Lebanon primarily through Hezbollah, mainly in the form of weapons. Many of the weapons that Hezbollah fighters obtain cross Syria’s border (Department of State). The increase in Hezbollah’s weapons stockpiles obviously makes Hezbollah more threatening domestically. The weapons build up also threatens the southern border with Israel. The US does “have some cards to play” in the Syria game. Engaging the Syrian regime would be a productive way to end Hezbollah’s arms acquisitions.

Engagement shouldn’t be too hard for the Obama Administration. Since its beginning there has been active engagement with nations the US had traditionally snubbed because of their regime type. This administration, on the other hand, has sought diplomatic ties with Syria recently. An example of the renewed relationship was the reopening of the US embassy in Syria this year (Heilbrun). The US can create conditions and increase incentives for Syria to forbid weapons from travelling across its borders. This would do three things. First, it would greatly disrupt Hezbollah’s ability to acquire weapons. Secondly, as a result, Hezbollah would feel isolated because domestic pressure, along with no Syrian ally, would leave the organization without any foreign support. Finally, a reduction in its ability to acquire arms would ease tensions on the Israeli-Lebanese border. If Israel knew that Hezbollah wasn’t getting stronger, their policy of military build-up on the border would end.

After having exhausted its ability to mediate domestic political disputes and cutting off the flow of arms the US has a last option. As I said earlier, it’s best to implement all of these policies in a holistic approach, however this last one is the strongest, but hardest to execute. The US can effectively change its policy towards Israel to make realistic progress on the Palestinian issue. The Palestinian-Israeli conflict directly or indirectly affects many conflicts in the region. In fact, the cause of many Islamic extremisms is to destroy Israel due to the “Palestine issue.” Hezbollah is partly in that category. They see Israel as a detriment to Arab well-being. Their own followers were products of occupation and feel a sense of unity with the Palestinians. The US can take a more aggressive posture with Israel on settle-ments to bring the Palestinians back to the negotiating table. If a viable peace deal can be brokered, that would greatly hinder Hezbollah’s legitimacy. Hezbollah could no longer call Israel an aggressor when it has made peace with the Palestinians. Also, Iran could no longer justify resistance against Israel. In fact, if Hezbollah and Iran did continue to maintain an aggressive posture, they would be seen as the aggressors. As I said, this final policy suggestion is the hardest to grasp and is likely impossible in the short-run. However, the US posture towards Israel must change. A broad range of policymakers believe that. It’s best for long-term US security in the region. For the purpose of this paper it is also the best policy to weaken Iranian influence over Lebanon.

The Council on International Educational Exchange, a world-leader in international education and student exchange programs, awarded Logan West with a prestigious Scholarship to South Korea. Logan spent March 18-26, 2011 in South Korea. Logan is one of 75 university students selected to participate in the second annual South Korea Scholarship Program for university students, which is referred to in Korea as the Koreas – US Youth Network.

Students were hosted by Yeouin University, South Korea’s oldest and most acclaimed university located in Seoul, South Korea. Students attended academic lectures, and participated in tours and cultural excursions throughout the program with the intention of fostering understanding and diplomacy between the U.S. and South Korea. CIEE has partnered with the Korea Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting awareness and understanding of Korea throughout the international community, to enhance goodwill and friendship through the implementation of various international exchange programs.

On March 17 Logan set off to represent the United States and The Ohio State University. The program began in one of four U.S. gateway cities, where students were met by CIEE representatives who provided them with a pre-departure orientation to prepare them for their experience abroad. Qualified students are encouraged to apply for future programs. Students interested in applying for the scholarship should visit: http://www.ciee.org/southkorea.
Portuguese by my studies, which taught me about the growing importance of Brazil in the world’s economic and political arenas. This was a choice that would change my college career. After studying Portuguese for only two quarters, I received a Foreign Language and Area Studies Grant for the study of advanced Portuguese and Brazilian culture. This grant allowed me to focus my studies and provided me with exceptional opportunities to delve further into international affairs.

Upon graduating, I plan to get a Master’s Degree in a field related to International Studies. I believe my academic experiences will be beneficial, considering Brazil’s rapidly growing economy and the development of Latin America. I am confident that my talents, skills, and compassion will allow me to make cultural exchanges to connect the world and promote democracy and freedom.

Ultimately, I plan to work for the State Department. My dream is to be Secretary of State, but my goal is to join the Foreign Service and focus my career on Latin America. Although this is a profound goal, I believe that with the proper condition, motivation, and discipline, I can make it a reality.”
The advantages associated with the successful execution of a research project can be considerable. For those students considering graduate school, an undergraduate research experience in your background indicates to admissions committees you have started to make the transition from undergraduate level study to the more rigorous, theoretical and research based study at the graduate level. A research paper can provide very high level excerpts for graduate school application writing samples.

The close working relationship with a professor or graduate student that can arise during a research project can lead to an excellent letter of recommendation, one that is based upon your actual research performance.

For students not pursuing graduate school, the successful completion of a research project can indicate to future employers your high level of personal initiative and ability to execute a complex plan of action.

For those of you interested in pursuing a research project, the Undergraduate Research Office is a great place to start. Undergraduate research is one of the higher level opportunities available to you at The Ohio State University! Undergraduate research topics can arise in many different ways. You might want to delve deeper into a topic from a class. You may have participated in a study abroad trip where a phenomenon or cultural practice intrigued or perplexed you. Current affairs provide a constant stream of puzzles and problems that bear closer scrutiny. As an institution dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and understanding of our world, The Ohio State University is an excellent venue for you to pursue your research interests. Research is not easy. It requires dedication and perseverance. Professors, graduate students, and even other undergraduates are available to provide support, guidance and fresh insights to help you move forward in your research project. The advantages associated with the successful execution of a research project can be considerable. For those students considering graduate school, an undergraduate research experience in your background indicates to admissions committees you have started to make the transition from undergraduate level study to the more rigorous, theoretical and research based study at the graduate level. A research paper can provide very high level excerpts for graduate school application writing samples. The close working relationship with a professor or graduate student that can arise during a research project can lead to an excellent letter of recommendation, one that is based upon your actual research performance. For students not pursuing graduate school, the successful completion of a research project can indicate to future employers your high level of personal initiative and ability to execute a complex plan of action.

The World Bank: A Bank or a Think Tank, or Both?

Presenter: Alicia Anzivine
International Relations & Diplomacy

Advisor: Prof. Edward Malecki, Geography

James McGann, Director of the Think Tanks and Foreign Policy Program at the Foreign Policy Research Institute, defines think tanks as “public policy research, analysis, and engagement institutions.” Until recently, McGann did not consider the World Bank a think tank because of its relationship with rich governments. In 2009, McGann ranked the World Bank Institute, a division within the Bank, among the top think tanks worldwide. The research methodology is historical and archival, drawing on documentation on the World Bank’s website as well as published sources. It synthesizes reviews and critiques from inside and outside the Bank about the purposes, methods, and impact of World Bank research including the World Development Reports and thousands of other World Bank publications. Finally, interviews of former and current World Bank employees provide additional evidence. Overall, after analyzing the different departments within the Bank and their research, it is evident that the World Bank goes beyond McGann’s definition of a think tank. Last year the Bank spent $750 million on “knowledge,” or research, and in 2009 it was top-ranked among research institutions on development. The World Bank’s budget for research has declined significantly since a 2006 evaluation report, which ironically recommended just the opposite. Nations and donors should recognize the need for the World Bank to sustain the research budget in order to support the work and knowledge produced by DEC and the other research-intensive departments. This will continue the Bank’s role as a super think tank on global development and public policy advocacy.
Ohio State Witch Hunt: Rooting Out Occult Texts and Historical Witchcraft Materials in OSU's Rare Books and Manuscripts Library

Isabelle Bateson-Brown

Throughout history, the topic of witchcraft has interested theologians, medical doctors, and laymen. The Rare Books and Manuscripts Library at The Ohio State University contains materials from the fifteenth to eighteenth centuries that touch upon these witchcraft and occult subjects, but so far these materials have never been fully analyzed or codified as a coherent research and teaching collection.

To redress this deficiency, in this project I will perform a research-based collection assessment and formal descriptive bibliography of the diverse witchcraft, magic, and occult-related materials in OSU's collection. To achieve this goal, I will complete a collection overview and produce an annotated descriptive bibliography based on a detailed codicological analysis of each artifact that will account for their provenance and publication history, generic content and context, and reader reception. My project will combine a number of research approaches including linguistic, historical, and literary analyses as well as the scientific evaluation and description of books as physical objects. The types of research required for this project will give me invaluable knowledge and experience that will help to further my specific career goals in the areas of library science and special collections.

Effects of Poland's Entry into the European Union on Peoples' Life

Andrea Blinkhorn

The end of communism allowed many Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries to change their political and economic structures and join organizations that they were previously unable to – including the European Union. The European Union is an organization that is meant to unify and strengthen Europe as a whole, while also benefiting each member state. For many CEE countries who have applied for membership, the EU is another step toward solidifying economic and political transitions. In this study, I evaluated whether an individual's social status and level of interest in politics influenced their opinion on how Poland’s entry into the EU has affected their life. In order to do this, I utilized POLPAN survey data from 2003 and 2008 to evaluate whether people felt that the EU has had a positive impact on their life. Logistic regression analysis was applied to test the hypotheses about the effects of several independent variables pertaining to the location of individuals in the social structure. I recoded the dependent variable, Impact on Respondent’s Life of Poland’s Entry into the EU, into a dummy variable. I found that the same determinants that affected the European Union integration remain important when considering the perceived benefits of the impact of the EU on individual lives. This finding is congruent with previous research wherein social status (or an economic determinant) and political interest were important indicators in how people viewed the EU. It is therefore important to understand economic and political situations in various countries to gain knowledge of how the EU is perceived. Furthermore, enhancing positive evaluations of the EU may be facilitated through greater availability of information, making it more accessible to individuals while also providing them with a better understanding of how it can impact their lives.
An inherent clash between liberal and communitarian values is deeply ingrained in Israeli society. Although Israel’s Declaration of Independence upholds the state’s commitment to protecting all of its citizens’ social and political freedoms, decades of war, religious and nationalistic ideologies, socialist influences, and a collective identity rooted, in part, in the traumatic memories of the Holocaust have buried these liberal values under an anti-liberal ethos of collectivism. This study addresses the ways in which the Ghetto Fighters’ House Museum, Israel’s first Holocaust museum, strives to promote liberal-democratic values in Israel’s highly communitarian society.

After touring the museum and collecting brochures and pamphlets, I spoke with four educational guides and administrators at the museum’s children’s museum (Yad La’Leved), and its Center for Humanistic Education regarding the museum’s educational programs and teaching philosophy. I then researched the theoretical underpinnings of liberalism, individualism, and democratic thought. In doing so, I discovered that the museum’s leitmotif of resistance is not only essential to its mission of educating a global audience about Jewish partisan movements and uprisings in ghettos and concentration camps during World War II, but is also a medium through which the museum promotes a liberal culture of individualism that empowers the individual to stand apart from the crowd, to make independent judgments, and, if necessary, to resist coercive state powers. The findings add to a growing body of scholarship that suggests that ecotourism can positively impact local groups such as the Maasai; however, this is not always the case. The impact of tourism on the Maasai has attracted the attention of non-governmental organizations, international organizations, journalists and bloggers from all over the world. The purpose of this study is to examine how ecotourism manifests itself in Tanzania and the implications it will have for the Maasai. There is a myriad of definitions for ecotourism. Various organizations and scholars have put forth definitions for ecotourism and this study will analyze them in order to determine an applicable framework for ecotourism. This framework will then be used to evaluate the tourism companies that operate in Tanzania and affect the Maasai. These evaluations will allow us to discern between companies that truly practice ecotourism from those that do not. My methodology integrates various sources. My research is a synthesis of printed sources, online sources, historical documents, reports from non-governmental organizations, accounts of various journalists and bloggers, and reflections from my personal experience in Tanzania. Current research shows that spurious ecotourism companies do exist in Tanzania, and as a result, the Maasai are negatively affected. Current research also shows that genuine ecotourism companies operate in Tanzania and can empower the Maasai. This study suggests that ecotourism can positively impact local groups such as the Maasai; however, companies must truly emulate ecotourism principles in order to make these positive impacts.
Symbolic Associations of Violence in Northern Ireland and South Africa

Presenter: Elaine Householder
African Studies
Advisor: Prof. Franco Barchiesi, African American & African Studies

The period of sectarian violence in Northern Ireland from 1969 to 1998 known as ‘the Troubles’ and the era of apartheid from 1948 to 1994 in South Africa were both characterized by violent sociopolitical conflict involving youth as active participants in paramilitary organizations and violent sociopolitical protest. While youth violence of the past was signified politically, persistent youth violence in these two nations is often regarded by scholars as purposeless, being attached to no direct political goals. So, what is the place of violence in the symbolic universe of post-conflict youth? How do youth in South Africa and Northern Ireland experience and understand violence in their everyday lives? How do their approaches to violence determine their abilities to function in society? To answer these questions, I have conducted semi-structured interviews using a relation-based strategy. In interpreting the results, I employed a conceptual framework of youth agency which argues that violence is part of the discursive processes through which youth position themselves in their communities as purposeful actors. The comparative findings indicate that South African youth have a much more personal and nuanced understanding of both youth agency and violence than do Northern Irish youth who regard violence in spatially and emotionally remote terms. By acknowledging that young people are purposeful agents engaged in a process of interpreting and attaching significance to violence, my research aims to provide an innovative perspective to aid conflict resolution by empowering the subjects of violence with the capacity to become protagonists in its overcoming.

A Moroccan Generational Shift: The Impact of Mobile Phones on Women’s Social Networks

Presenter: Liosliath Manner
Middle East Studies
Advisor: Prof. John Castelina, Sociology

This research will explore the impact of mobile phones on the social networks of women in a rural area of Southeast Morocco. The project’s fieldwork will yield a description of the women’s networks and more importantly an assessment of how mobile phones are transforming these networks. I examine the impact of mobile phones via a systematic study of female social networks, using a relation-based strategy. In order to collect the required data, I will conduct semi-structured interviews and make use of simple observation techniques. These one-on-one interviews will be recorded, but I will also be entering data into a spreadsheet and taking notes on each session. My objectives are to describe the variation in mobile phone ownership and use among women in the selected locality in Morocco, to describe the social networks of these Moroccan women, and to assess the impact of mobile phones on the women’s social networks on the basis of the women’s own direct assessment and my inference from interpretive analysis of qualitative interviews. The anticipated conclusion is that the networks have been expanded and strengthened, but in what ways and to what degree remains to be seen. My hypothesis is based on prior research done on Moroccan social networks (Ennaji) and the effect of cell phones on cultural behavior (Fischer). I have been overseas conducting my field research and returned on April 16th. I began collecting data on April 7, after obtaining permissions from the local authorities.
Bilingual Education and Human Rights in Two Urban Indigenous Communities

Justin Schulze

In the past twenty years great strides have been made in the effort to bring intercultural bilingual (Spanish and an indigenous language) education (IBE) to all indigenous peoples of Ecuador and Bolivia. Nearly all rural indigenous villages in the two countries have access to IBE. Yet, despite recent surges in indigenous urban migration, very few bilingual schools exist in Ecuadorian and Bolivian cities. This study seeks to determine whether urban indigenous peoples have the right to bilingual education, whether they desire it for their children, and how urban IBE differs in the two countries.

Referencing international human rights declarations and national constitutions, this study finds the lack of urban IBE in both countries represents a violation of human and civil rights and denies indigenous people the right to self-determine their future. An analysis of seventy interviews conducted in Quito, Ecuador, and Santa Cruz, Bolivia, reveals that nearly all urban indigenous people would prefer that their children attend bilingual schools. Finally, the manner of implementation of bilingual schools in each city demonstrates a difference in the roles played by the Ecuadorian and Bolivian governments in promoting urban IBE. This study shows that while IBE schools in Quito were created as a result of “bottom-up” campaigns led by parents and communities, IBE schools in Santa Cruz are currently being opened by municipal governments utilizing a “top-down” approach.

By exploring the controversial issue of urban indigenous bilingual education, this study highlights the need for governments to reconsider or reaffirm their dedication to minorities’ rights in the face of an increasingly fluid society less defined by traditional boundaries.

Evaluation of Local Climate Variability in the Cordillera Blanca

Shawn Stone

Rapid environmental change in the tropical Andes may have significant impacts on glacial melt rates, and thus the people in the Peruvian Highland regions that rely on the glaciers as a means to regulate the water supply. We analyzed a high-resolution (6-hourly) archive of spatially distributed climate observations from the Cordillera Blanca (8-10ºS) between July 2006 and July 2010. These observations were collected by using a network of Lascar Data Loggers. The network consists of nine lascars arranged throughout the Llanganuco valley. The lascars range from 3458 to 4775 meters above sea level. Analyses of the four-year data set were conducted on three temporal scales: diurnal, seasonal, and inter-annual. Altitudinal variability was also considered. Data processing was comprised of five levels of analysis: (1) steps taken to consolidate and give confidence to the collected data; (2) a review of diurnal variability and trends; (3) a review of seasonal variability; (4) a review of inter-annual variability and trends; and (5) an evaluation of trends across elevation gradients. The evaluation of diurnal and elevational patterns between seasons was conducted in a similar fashion. This data can be used as an input to our glacier mass balance and flow model where the finer spatial resolution on important hydroclimatic inputs will allow better evaluation of how local topographic influence can modify regional climatic signals.

Providing a model to predict glacial mass balance changes can be a valuable tool for scientists and policymakers alike in determining management practices for water resources in the Cordillera Blanca.