



GLOBAL & INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
THE COLLEGE OF WOOSTER

CHALLENGING BORDERS

3RD GLCA UNDERGRADUATE
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES CONFERENCE
SATURDAY 22 APRIL 2017

2nd Floor Kauke Hall
College of Wooster



CHALLENGING BORDERS

WELCOME!

The College of Wooster's Global and International Studies (GIS) program is honored to host the 3rd Annual GLCA Undergraduate International Studies Research Conference. The goal of this gathering has been to share and celebrate our collective inquiry in global and international studies.

This year, GIS organized a series of events around the theme of "Challenging Borders". We collaborated with Denison to bring multiple speakers to our respective campuses who spoke to the idea of mobility and movement. In the Fall, Sayed Kashua reflected on his work and his self imposed exile from his homeland. His novels and tv shows appeal to multiple audiences and illustrate a common humanity as a vehicle for political change. Similarly, filmmaker Sonia Kennebeck educated us on the human cost of drone warfare. Even though the nature of war had changed with drones - objects that moved silently across borders - the collateral damage on the victims and the soldiers were much the same. This year's conference and the Challenging Borders project seeks to strengthen collaborative research and teaching pathways between GLCA schools.

We look forward to your active participation and thanks for sharing your weekend with us.





PROGRAM

9:00 AM

Welcome and
Breakfast

9:30 AM

Session 1: International Organizations

Moderator: Kent Kille

Cara Peterson, "Culture for Culture's Sake" (Wooster)

Roman Broszkowski, "The EU as a Stabilizing Force"
(Oberlin)

Rachel Wilson, "Politics of the Apolitical" (Wooster)

10:15 AM

Break

10:30 AM

Session 2: National and Regional Issues in Context

Moderator: Midori Yoshii

Michaela McNaughton, "To Protect and Serve" (Wooster)

Grant Marthinsen, "De-Ba'athification, Sectionarianism,
and the rise of Daesh" (Allegheny)

11:00 AM

Break

11:15 AM

Session 2 Cont: National and Regional Issues in Context

Moderator: Seiko Matsuzawa

Sydney Roeder, "Wasta and Water in Jordan" (Albion)

Sam Waters, "Economics Under Fire" (Wooster)





PROGRAM

12:00 PM

Lunch
Remarks by President Sarah Bolton

1:00 PM

Faculty Panel: Contemporary Issues in Migration Studies
Moderator: Amyaz Moledina (Wooster)
Isis Nusair (Denison)
Brian Miller (Allegheny)

2:00 PM

Session 3: Identity, Social Justice and Gender Issues
Moderator: Beth Muellner
Megan Koeneman, "Germany and the Syrian Refugee Crisis" (Wooster)
Erin Worden, "The Borders of Refugee Women's Bodies" (Denison)
Sarah Strum, "Where do you come from and why are you here?" (Wooster)

2:45 PM

Break

3:00 PM

Session 3 Cont.: Identity, Social Justice and Gender Issues
Moderator: Katie Holt
Haley Davis, "The Femme Fatal" (Wooster)
Lisa Taapken, "The Future of the Moroccan Women's Rights Movement" (Allegheny)
Sarah Kirchner, "Overlooking Gender" (Albion)

4:00 PM

Closing Statements and
Tea





RESEARCH ABSTRACTS

Albion College

Sydney Roeder, "Wasta and Water in Jordan: A Study of the Political Ecology of the Red Sea-Dead Sea Project "

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has been deemed time and time again to be "water scarce" with an annual per capita availability well below the UN standards. The drying up of the Jordan River has not only caused problems for those that depend on it, but also the Dead Sea which has been receding at an alarming rate. In response to this, the international community has implemented the Red Sea-Dead Sea Pipeline Project which will pump water from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea. In addition to "refilling" the Dead Sea, this project will provide desalinated water to citizens in Israel, Jordan and the occupied territories of Palestine. However, this water will be privatized which has been proven by anthropologists to be both successful and unsuccessful in the past. This thesis attempts to bring into conversation the political ecology of water scarcity, conflict, and water privatization with the most significant societal factor in Jordan—the tribal system. It is critical in laying the groundwork for further study on what the Red Sea-Dead Sea Pipeline will mean for the citizens of Jordan.

Allegheny College

Grant Marthinsen, "De-Ba'athification, Sectarianism, and the Rise of Daesh."

This paper examines how the policies of the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) in post-invasion Iraq alienated Sunni Iraqis – in particular, de-Ba'athification, the disbanding of the Iraqi armed forces, and the institutionalization of sectarianism – and led to their further persecution at the hands of the Shi'a-dominated government which was made possible by the aforementioned institutionalization of sectarianism. The Iraqi Sunni community, due to its fear of the Shi'a government and the visible military success of Daesh, became generally willing in the last few years to be governed by the vicious organization in exchange for protection from Baghdad and the various Shi'a militias which have terrorized them for years. Much of Daesh's recent success, however, has only been possible because of the infusion of new blood into its upper echelon of leadership, drawn almost entirely from former members of Saddam Hussein's military and intelligence apparatuses; these men bring with them extensive experience in both military matters and coercive operations. This prowess has allowed Daesh to conquer and control territory with largely Sunni populations in recent years. Because of Coalition policies after the invasion, the sectarianism which was institutionalized in Iraq took hold of the hearts of much of the country's population, which led to abuses that primed the Sunni community to accept the militarily effective iteration of the group as its protector.





RESEARCH ABSTRACTS

Lisa Taapken, "The Future of the Moroccan Women's Rights Movement Following the 2004 Personal Status Code Reforms."

Morocco has gained international attention on the women's rights front since the 2004 pro-women reforms of the Moroccan Personal Status Code, which governs issues of marriage, divorce, inheritance and child custody. Moroccan secular feminists were instrumental in advocating for the reforms and the Personal Status Code is considered their biggest achievement of the Moroccan women's rights movement. Using the Personal Status Code as a case study, this paper analyzes the real-life effects of the reforms in order to gain a better understanding of what the success of the reforms can tell us about the future of the women's rights movement in Morocco. This analysis will show that despite the fact that secular feminist groups in Morocco are often favored by international organizations, Islamic feminism is the key to the future of the women's rights movement.

Denison University

Erin Worden, "The Borders of Refugee Women's Bodies Making Feminist Sense of Sexual Violence & the Meanings of Refugee Women's Bodies in Greek Migratory Routes"

Women's bodies are on the frontlines on war, assuming a particularly vulnerable and gender-insecure nature in armed conflict. Previous research explicates the meanings – both physical and metaphorical – of women's experiences with sexual violence in conflict. This study examines women's experiences with sexual violence as they are uprooted, displaced, and forced into international migration as refugees. My research – which is grounded in theoretical conversations addressing the social positionings and significations of the female body, forced migration, and rape – foregrounds the voices of refugee women from the Greater Middle East who experienced sexual violence in Greece from 2015 to 2016. My findings suggest that sexual violence targeting refugee women in the Eastern Mediterranean-Balkan route attempts to establish hegemonic masculinity, though these women actively contest this power by exercising agency. Ultimately, this study of the meanings of sexual violence as experienced and told by refugee women calls for a gender-sensitive approach to understanding the power of women's bodies in forced migration.





RESEARCH ABSTRACTS

Oberlin College

Roman Broszkowski, "The EU as a Stabilizing Force for Eastern Europe, the Balkans, and the Caucasuses"

The E.U. and the rest of Europe have increasingly been racked by uncertainty and instability. To many the very reasoning behind the E.U. is no longer valid and the union faces an existential crisis. Additionally, just outside EU borders, European countries in Eastern Europe, the Balkans, and the Caucasuses are sliding back into chaos and despotism. Europe, long seen as the model for governmental and regional liberalism, faces a laundry list of problems that reach far into the core of the European project. This paper aims to seem what role the EU has, the influence it could exert, and whether continued EU expansion would stabilize the region. Research is conducted using historical case studies as a baseline of what works and then comparing potential applicant countries against them. This paper relies on stability indexes, journalistic freedom indexes, and economic indicators to draw comparisons between previously stabilized countries and those with the potential to be stabilized. The paper concludes that although increased expansion helps both the EU and admitted countries economically, most of the democratic benefits happen to the later. Additionally, this paper finds that these results are only applicable to nations that meet specific economic and governmental indicators.





RESEARCH ABSTRACTS

The College of Wooster

Haley Davis, "The Femme Fatal: How do Different Gendered Messaging Techniques Impact Public's Attitudes Towards Perceived Threat of a Female Terrorist?"

For the last few decades, women have played a greater role in terrorism. Yet Western news and popular media outlets constantly frame terrorism as a male-controlled domain and that women simply do not fit the "terrorist profile". When a woman does commit an act of terror, the media manipulates gender images and stereotypes in order to explain her violent behavior. While scholars acknowledge that such gendered narratives distort reality, none have systematically analyzed the effects such messaging techniques have on public perception. For that reason, this study aims to understand how gendered messaging strategies affect individuals' attitudes towards perceived threat of female terrorists. As such, I tested the efficacy of gendered media messaging by using an experimental research design in which respondents were randomly assigned to one of six treatment groups and shown a short news article with a basic, feminized, or "beautified" frame that recounted an event of a fictitious terrorist attack. After completing the survey, respondents were asked questions regarding their perceptions of threat and willingness to punish the perpetrator. The results of this study illustrate that amplified narratives, containing gendered language with details of the female terrorist's physical characteristics, are the most effective at provoking higher levels of threat as opposed to a male terrorist committing an identical crime.





RESEARCH ABSTRACTS

Megan Koeneman, "Germany and the Syrian Refugee Crisis: The Complexities of National Identity and the Handling of the Syrian Refugee Crisis"

Despite the vast research done and prominent media representation of post-World War II Germany, the surface has just been scratched in regards to the discussion of Germany's shifting political, economic, and social climates as a result of the Syrian refugee crisis. The relationship between Germany and the Syrian refugee crisis is internationally known, however it is often portrayed as an unsolvable humanitarian crisis that needs attention. Correspondingly, Germany and Germany's chancellor, Angela Merkel, are depicted as brave, philanthropic actors of aid as they welcomed millions of Syrians into their country. Through literature and news sources discussing chancellor Angela Merkel, Germany's stance on multiculturalism, the causes and consequences of the Syrian refugee crisis, and the definitions of German Heimat and home, the social, political, and humanitarian histories of these topics led to ideas and explanations of the current state of Germany and the people living there. As a result of the influx of Syrians into Germany, there has been a sense of soul searching and a pursuit for home, as the face of Germany has proven to be fluid. Researching this relationship led ideas about how the Syrian refugees living in Germany, have ultimately created a national confusion of identity and sense of home. All the while Syrians are acclimating, integrating, and finding their own sense of home. It is clear that there are gaps in literature researching and discussing these findings and it is essential, as the world moves forward, to create the discussion and academic representation of Germany's relationship with the Syrian refugee crisis and the effects of this relationship on Germany and Syrians, predominately focusing on German society and national identity today.





RESEARCH ABSTRACTS

Michaela McNaughton, "To Protect and Serve: Homicide Rates and Policing Policies in Central America"

This study relates to the high level of violence experienced today in Latin America and in particular in Central America. It aims to answer the question: What is the cause of the dramatic rise in homicide rates in Central America over the past ten years? This study proposes that an increase in the implementation of policing policies considered to be "Mano Dura" will increase the homicide rate. This is because repression by the government often results in an increase in societal violence. This is especially true in the case of Central America, where acts of reprisal by criminal gangs against the government are common. The study is a cross-national and temporal comparative case study of El Salvador and Honduras in 2012 and 2015. The method of difference is employed to conduct the analysis. El Salvador is the positive case, as the homicide rate rises dramatically between 2012 and 2015 while Honduras is the negative case as the homicide rate declines between 2012 and 2015. There was not sufficient evidence in the analysis to support the hypothesis.

Cara Peterson, "Culture for Culture's Sake: The Politics and Economics of the UNESCO World Heritage Brand on Tourism"

Are World Heritage Sites being created for the protection of their cultural heritage or are they being created to meet short term political and economic goals? This study explores the politics behind World Heritage Site inscription and the subsequent increase in personal tourism arrivals by utilizing political theory, economic theory, and regression analysis. The political theory discusses the political economy of World Heritage Site nomination through the theories of International Political Economy, balance of power, and multilateralism. The economic theory explores the economic effects of a World Heritage Site through externalities and supply demand shifts. Lastly, the regression analysis evaluates the impact of World Heritage Sites on personal tourism arrivals and personal tourism expenditure using panel data with a sample of 58 states from 2011-2015. My findings suggest UNESCO World Heritage Sites do not significantly affect personal tourism expenditure, but do significantly increase personal tourism arrivals.





RESEARCH ABSTRACTS

Sarah Strum, "Where are you from and why are you here?: A Study of Negative Racial and Ethnic Stereotypes' on Public Support for Syrian Refugees"

This study seeks to identify if internalized negative racial and ethnic stereotypes impact U.S. public support for Syrian refugee relocation. Related literature was reviewed to develop the two hypotheses for this study: the more one has internalized negative racial and ethnic stereotypes of refugees, the less supportive they will be towards refugee relocation, and that internalized stereotypes will be more influential than other economic or ideological factors. These hypotheses were tested through a survey using Amazon's Mechanical Turk platform, and then analyzed with ordered logit regression. The results of this study indicated that positive traits associated with Syrian refugees led to higher support for relocation, while negative traits resulted in decreased support. These results prove the first hypothesis of this study to be true; however, the second hypothesis was not proven due to limited statistical analysis. Influenced by the findings of this study, policy recommendations and potential implications to reduce the use of stereotypes in public discourse on refugees were made.

Sam Waters, "Economics under Fire: Understanding GDP and HDI through Social Capital and its Relationship with Noteworthy Intra-State Conflicts"

In this research study, I evaluate social capital's impacts on GDP and HDI and the influence of noteworthy intra-state conflicts on social capital's impacts on the two. I use Fehr and Schmidt's (1999) utility model based on social preferences to theoretically demonstrate that without intra-state conflicts social capital positively impacts GDP and HDI and that noteworthy intra-state conflicts diminish these positive impacts of social capital on GDP and HDI that state governments, markets, and civil society organizations as social capital mechanisms can facilitate in at least two cases: public goods contributions and investment. I then empirically evaluate four variable hypotheses by using macro-economic data on 144 countries in 2010 to conduct cross-sectional empirical analysis. The findings of the analysis unfortunately fail to confirm the validity of these four variable hypotheses. However, they do suggest that future research on political and economic policies involving noteworthy intra-state conflicts, unemployment rates, intellectual property laws and norms, and internet infrastructure in terms of their own impacts on GDP and HDI is greatly warranted.





RESEARCH ABSTRACTS

Rachel Wilson, "Politics of the APolitical: A Study of Operational Autonomy and International Nongovernmental Organizations (INGOs)"

This study seeks to further dialogue on international nongovernmental organizations (INGOs) by posing the following question, "how do political actors in the international system influence service-based humanitarian INGO operational autonomy?" By conducting a comparative case analysis, through the lens of Principal-Agent relationships. The cases studied are Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF's) involvement in Afghanistan (2001-2004) and Somalia (2006-2013). As both are complex political emergencies with several political actors present, each case demonstrates multiple principal structure with an assigned terms of access explaining principal constraints on the ground. A collective principal model (CPM) with an assumed strict terms of access is applied to Afghanistan, and a multiple principal model (MPM) with an assumed we can terms of access is applied to Somalia. The study hypothesizes that strict terms of access results in a limited degree of operational autonomy. This study finds, however, that not only cases fail to exhibit to assume terms of access, but that the multiple principal models chosen did not predict MSF's maintenance of operational autonomy. Factors that pose potential explanatory power for operational autonomy are complicity of the principles and level of insecurity tied to the number of actors present. This study concludes that further research should address the potential influences of these presented factors and that the continuation of academic discourse on INGOs is imperative.

