

INTERRUPTED SILENCE

Vol. 2, Issue 3

Spring 2013

Actively Engaged Intellectuals ~ Intellectually Engaged Activists

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FROM YOUR EDITORS

Time has done it again. For our graduates, the end of the school year approaches like a speeding train with no brakes, and summer's gray haze looms threateningly nearer. For others, this year has exceeded its welcome, and begrudgingly lingers in our living rooms long after the other guests have gone. We at *INTerrupted Silence* want to encourage you to enjoy the last few weeks of the quarter as we all trudge through the year's last batch of papers. The end of the year for some, and the end of a successful college career for others, we should take pause in our frantic last minute research, our late night finals scrambles, to breathe and enjoy the experience that we have been given as INT students (and to make another coffee run, too). We pour ourselves into our projects, and our projects instill themselves in us in the process, leaving us stronger, more aware, and better equipped to deal with the world and its disputes. With that, we wish the best of luck to our INT students, our graduates, faculty, and staff, and we encourage everyone to engage the world critically in the years to come. Cheers!



Why is this cloth wrapped around your head?

By: Subuk Hasnain

11 years ago on a warm summer night, I was reading Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets for the 10th time. I was almost done reading the final chapters. Harry was fighting to save Ginny's life and there was a Basilisk snake involved, a diary that wrote back to you and basically Harry Potter saves the day once again and Ginny probably realized she has a thing for him. That's not the point though. The point is that I was 11 years old and it was that same night that I decided how cool my older sisters were. I wanted to be just like them. What was the best way to do that? Wear a hijab or a scarf. I decided to cover my hair because that's what Muslim girls do and my sisters did too (hang on, I'll get to this later). My family asked me if I was sure and I said "Duh. Why not."

This piece of cloth around my head meant very little 11 years ago. It didn't change me. I would roll up my sleeves to play basketball for my high school in Pakistan or kick around a soccer ball. I set a new High Jump record at my school, was the senior editor of the school magazine, the athlete of the year, and a prefect in the Student Council. I was the epitome of awesome. If the piece of cloth got in my face, I tucked it into my shirt and continued to do whatever I wanted to do. My parents didn't care; my sisters continued to teach me why I was wearing it, but I didn't get it. It wasn't bothering me, so why should I or anybody else care?

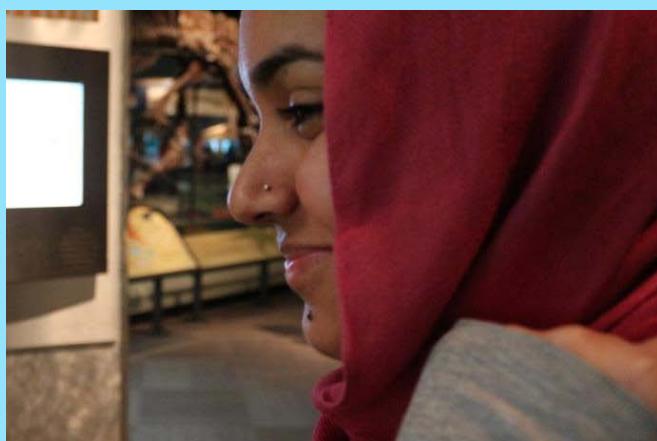
In Islam, covering your hair represents modesty. It represents modesty not just for the female body, but also for the male. The gaze is a two-way experience. Thanks to everything wrong in this world, most people don't know that in Islam a man isn't supposed to look at a woman more than two times. A third time would be counted as a deliberate look towards her. A woman must focus less on revealing the curves of her body and a man must respect what is hers. Having said this, it cannot be ignored that some women are coerced into covering. Some women choose to cover because it liberates them. Some women feel trapped and some feel more protected.

I'm Muslim and I wear a hijab. But a lot of Muslim girls don't wear it. I started wearing my hijab in

Pakistan, but I was an outcast because an average Pakistani girl doesn't wear a hijab. I visited Saudi Arabia and I was an outcast again because Saudi girls don't wear their hijab like I did. I came to the United States and I was some version of exotic, so "mysterious"- an outsider once again because of how I dress. Some girls wear it loose around their heads; some wear it like a turban. Some cover their whole bodies, head to toe like I used to. Now I just wear a traditional kurta because I'm comfortable in it and that's how I dress back home.

Mohsin Hamid, a Pakistani author (*Moth Smoke*, *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*), wrote an article for *The Guardian* recently, in which he stated that Islam, like every other religion, is not a monolith. Try to contain it in one giant box and you'll have serious problems. That's my position with the hijab. It is not a monolith. There is no one way or right way of covering, just like there isn't one way of being Muslim or being Christian. It is not black and white. In the past 11 years, I've learned that my hijab varies just like beauty varies, just like culture varies, just like people and languages vary region to region. It is open and it is beautiful.

This piece of cloth is my norm. It is political, it is resistance. It is faith and fashion. It is a culture and a statement. It is like the black mole on my chin. Color it silver and it'll look like a piercing. It is a part of me. It's a language that you grow up speaking and when you sit down to deconstruct it you realize that the grammar doesn't make any sense. Somehow, though, it always sounds right when it is right.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Karen Kilberg

By: Yuliya Ralko

Karen Kilberg is an International Studies major that will be graduating in June 2013. Her concentration is “Africa: Peoples, Politics, Conflict and Humanitarian Aid” and she is a double minor in Peace, Justice and Conflict Studies and Political Science. While Karen was quite unsure what the INT program entailed before she entered, INT 201 gave her a crash course, and from that point on she knew that INT offered her insights into the world that are unparalleled by any other major at DePaul. The two biggest assets that INT has given her are the abilities to write (a lot and well) and to critically examine the world around her. As a tour guide for DePaul, she is constantly promoting the INT program to incoming students because she firmly believes that the knowledge she has gained from the program will continually influence the way she thinks and perceives the world.

Over her three years of study at DePaul, Karen has had the opportunity to do two study abroad trips to Sierra Leone, West Africa. The first was a 6 week trip where she had an internship at a small medical clinic and consequentially completed two independent studies with DePaul professors: one on medical care in post-conflict countries and another on Sierra Leonean politics. Her second study abroad was last summer where she did another internship, but this time through a hospital run by a German-Sierra Leonean NGO. While Karen has always had an interest in all African things, these two study abroad experiences along with spectacular African courses taught by professors such as Dr. Otunnu, Dr. DeLancey, Dr. Adibe, and Dr. Kohli cemented her concentration in INT.

Faced with her impending graduation and the need to decide the direction she wanted for herself, Karen has recently accepted an offer from the US Peace Corps to work for two and a half years in Cameroon, West Africa. She will be a community health officer and will work in a community hospital in the sector of maternal and child health and HIV/AIDS. What excites Karen most about the Peace Corps experience is that it will be an opportunity for her to use her French skills, travel, and work in the health sector. Karen is going into the Peace Corps hoping to gain a better understanding of herself, others, and the injustices which create global inequality. Karen knows that her two and a half years in Cameroon will not solve her host community’s problems, nor will it end injustice, but she firmly believes that knowledge is power, so she is confident that the knowledge she will gain will impact her and her future in ways that she cannot yet anticipate.

Karen plans to spend the summer at her home in Batavia, IL to have a few months of quality time with family and friends before she flies to Cameroon on September 12th. Anticipating her life after the Peace Corps seems impossible to her right now because she has no idea what the next two and a half years will hold for her. However, for now she envisions herself either going to graduate school or finding a job located somewhere in Africa.





A new approach to climate change mitigation

By: Gabriela Polo

For decades, the world has faced the challenge of dealing with the environmental consequences of human activity and development. From Kyoto and Copenhagen to Cancún and Rio+20, the international community has come together to seek out solutions and sign agreements to mitigate climate change. Despite these efforts, global carbon emissions continue to rise and we are experiencing increasing instances of extreme weather. In 2007 the Ecuadorian government launched the innovative Yasuní-ITT initiative, which invited the world to expand the ways it thinks about climate change mitigation and preservation. The initiative proposes to protect one of the most biodiverse areas on the planet, home to indigenous communities living in voluntary isolation, by not extracting oil reserves in this region. In return, the international community would contribute to a trust fund (of at least \$350 million) that the Ecuadorian state and the United Nations Development Program would manage. The raised funds would be dedicated to projects that include the protection and administration of other protected areas, reforestation, adoption of clean energy systems, improvement of energy efficiency, environmental education for rural communities, and investment in scientific and technological research, all in order to take advantage of and protect biodiversity.

The Yasuní-ITT (Ishpingo, Tiputini, Tambococha) area is comprised of 982,000 hectares that contain 2,274 different species of trees and bushes. The Yasuní National Park holds the highest density of amphibians, mammals, birds and plants in the Amazon and is home to two indigenous groups, the Tagaeri and Taromenani, which have chosen to live in voluntary isolation from western society. These characteristics make Yasuní one of the most mega-diverse areas in the planet. The ITT oil fields,

however, also represent the largest oil reserve in Ecuador, holding an estimated 846 million barrels of petroleum underground (Rafael Correa lecture).

The proposal seeks not only to preserve biodiversity but also to expand the ways in which the international community thinks about climate change. The current conservation and mitigation frameworks, found in the Kyoto Protocol, involve issuing carbon permits in development projects in order to cut greenhouse gas emissions. In the permit system, states receive carbon permits that allow the emission of one ton of CO₂. States are able to trade these permits within a market. This mechanism seeks to decrease the overall cost of reducing emissions by transferring permits from facilities that can cut emissions at a lower cost to those who cannot. Given that global carbon emissions continue to increase, this model, based on consumption and remediation, clearly falls short in being an efficient, effective and sufficient model to address global warming and climate change. For instance, it compensates countries that engage in reforestation, but the arrangement does not account for or compensate those countries that have refrained from exploiting their environments in the first place. By asking the international community to contribute funds to discourage the exploitation of the ITT fields, the initiative demands co-responsibility in the fight against global warming, compensates those who do not pollute the environment, and preserves biodiversity and indigenous culture. The Yasuní would prevent the emission of 407 million tons of CO₂ into the atmosphere from the future burning of the extracted oil. The initiative is based on the concept of 'net prevented emissions,' which are 1) emissions that are allowed under the Kyoto Protocol but are not emitted, and 2) existing emissions that are reduced through implementation of the Kyoto methods.

See **Yasuní**, next page...

2013 Autumn Quarter Class List

INT 150 Global Connections

— Antonio Morales-Pita — MoWe 11:20 - 12:50

INT 340 European Area Studies I: Spain and Portugal

— Kara Dempsey — TuTh 11:20 - 12:50

INT 360 Topics in Development & Anti-Development: International Development and Regional Inequality

— Maureen Sioh — MoWe 11:20 - 12:50

INT 364 Topics in International Political Economy: Capitalism and Globalization

— Martha Martinez-Fireston — MoWe 1:00-2:30

INT 365 Topics in War and Peace: Geopolitics

— Alex Papadopoulos — Online

INT 368 Topics in Global Culture: Comparative Literature, Colonial Legacies

— James Fairhall — Tu 6:00-9:15

INT 388 (Section 101) Special Topics in International Studies: Writing in the Social Sciences

— Michael McIntyre — TuTh 9:40-11:10

INT 388 (Section 102) Special Topics in International Studies: Comparative Urbanism

— Alex Papadopoulos — TuTh 2:40-4:10

INT 388 (Section 103) Special Topics in International Studies: Reading Marx's Capital

— Kaveh Ehsani — TuTh 6:00 - 7:30

Yasuní

continued from previous page

The initiative is also built on new frameworks of value. It deems the environment a public, global good with intrinsic value rather than exchange value, and which is therefore non-exclusive and requires collective action to be preserved. Yasuní-ITT also seeks to provide sustainable alternatives for developing countries with high biodiversity levels by encouraging them to move from exporting extracted natural resources to exporting 'environmental services'. The initiative invites the world to change its system of value and to include indigenous ideas of 'sumak kawsay', the Quechua word for 'good living', which implies human beings living in harmony with nature and in community with one another. Yasuní-ITT further requires a change in global power dynamics since it pushes former industrial states to assume greater responsibility in mitigating the effects of a phenomenon of which they were the main contributors. The Yasuní-ITT idea is certainly novel and perhaps slightly radical, so the next question is, what happens if the initiative fails? In theory, plan B, which entails extracting the oil from one of the three protected oil fields.

If you want to know more about Plan B, the Yasuní-ITT initiative or make a donation to the trust fund, please visit <http://yasuni-itt.gob.ec/inicio.aspx> or feel free to ask me.

Source: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mA-Hdlu8Kus>

The Semi-Authoritarian Regime imposed by Hugo Chávez

By: Nisan Kassam

Hugo Chávez Frías, the Revolutionary former president of Venezuela, managed to turn a frail democracy into a semi-authoritarian regime. Certain elements that constitute a democracy are still existent in the nation. Although elections are held regularly, the fairness and transparency of such elections are highly questionable. Thousands of Venezuelans residing abroad were denied the right to vote in the two most recent elections (October 7, 2012 and April 14, 2013, held after Chávez passed away). This was in part due to the removal of the Venezuelan Consulate in the city of Miami, where approximately 20 thousand Venezuelans are registered to vote. A significant number of those voters were able to travel to New Orleans in order to vote, but first-time voters were not permitted to register. Additionally, voters in Venezuela reported the use of fake identifications, assisted voting, and the persistence of violent acts during the election processes. Furthermore, the government refuses to negotiate with the opposition and invokes the law to penalize opponents. A peculiar aspect of Chavismo, which has not been observed in other authoritarian regimes, is the prevalence of disorder. Laws are almost nonexistent in Venezuela, and crime surrounds the daily life of Venezuelans. According to a report issued by the United Nations, 3 percent of the total homicides in the world occurred in Venezuela which comprises only 0.4 percent of the global population.

The policies instituted during the “Bolivarian Revolution” were anti-Capitalist and formed a Latin American alliance that would become independent from the influence that the United States holds in the region. Yet in 2011, 40 percent of Venezuelan crude oil exports went to the United States. Oil generates approximately 80 percent of the total export revenue in the country, constitutes half of the central government’s income, and accounts for one-third of the nation’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Despite the fact that the country holds the largest reserves of oil in the world and is the third largest producer of crude, the failed policies of Hugo Chávez have led the country to import oil. Prices of gasoline were kept artificially low in the nation by orders of Chávez, making it the least expensive petroleum in the world.

Inflation and scarcity of basic goods are rampant in Venezuela. Most recently, the country experienced a shortage of toilet paper which, according to president Nicolás Maduro, is the result of a conspiracy campaign by the opposition and rich

sectors of the country. However, economists consider that the shortage of basic goods, including sugar, coffee, milk, butter, and other products, can be attributed to the price control policies instituted by the reformist government. The price of the basic food basket is currently Bs. 4,284.84 (Roughly \$682) while the minimum wage stands at Bs. 2,457.02 (Roughly \$391). With the recent devaluation of the Bolívar Fuerte in relation to the U.S. dollar, from Bs. 4,30 to Bs. 6,30, the purchasing power parities (PPP) declined 32 percent in the nation.

Chávez intended to replicate the Cuban Regime in Venezuela. Holding close ties with Fidel Castro, Chávez made governmental institutions in Venezuela mimic those in Cuba, including the economic system, which emphasized public over private property. Moreover, there are several accusations of Cuban infiltration into the military in Venezuela.

“For my friends, everything. For my enemies, the law” is a phrase that describes the levels of corruption existing during this regime. According to a report published by Freedom House, the Venezuelan government applied draconian legislation—on corruption, tax evasion, media content, foreign-exchange access, productivity standards, sources of funding, and other matters—in order to eliminate independent or opposition forces in the private media, the business sector, the landowning class, civil society, and rival political parties. These efforts to eliminate opposition forces have not been successful. With the alleged victory of Nicolás Maduro with 50.61 percent of the votes against the opposition leader, Henrique Capriles Radonski with 49.12 percent of the votes on the past elections, Venezuelan opposition is reluctant to accept the victory of Maduro. In addition to reports of fraud, a recent tape—in which a well-known sympathizer of the regime and state-media presenter, Mario Silva and Colonel Aramis Palacios, a Cuban intelligence agent, discuss the levels of corruption within the inner circles of the government—has been issued.

Along all the factors already mentioned, overcoming the political disparities that exceedingly divide Venezuelan citizens will be a major challenge for the nation. But, the Chavista movement will not be able to withstand for much longer with the permanent absence of Chávez.

The Legacy Carries On: Hugo Chávez's Bolivarian Revolution

By: Vierelina Fernández

President Hugo Chávez was respected and loved not only throughout Latin America, but over the entire world. This appreciation roots from symbolic and admirable political reasons: Chávez was the only Latin American leader in decades to call things by their right names. For example, he rightfully denounced “democratic interventions” by the U.S. as murder and exploitation and he did not apologize for it. But beyond that, the popularity of President Chávez stems from the fact that he was one of the few political leaders to have actually done much in terms of radically improving the living conditions of his constituents, measurably and concretely.

Both the United Nations and the World Bank continue to rehash the massive improvements in healthcare, education and social programs that Chávez achieved during his fourteen years in office. Hugo Chávez entered the Venezuelan presidency with 80 percent of the population living under the poverty line, and in 2002 that number was still at 60 percent. The wealth of this petroleum rich country was concentrated entirely within a small economic elite. Today, Venezuela has a GINI coefficient (a measure for wealth distribution) of 0.039: the lowest in Latin America, and one of the lowest in the world.

Venezuela under Chávez has also seen some of the highest and most consistent levels of economic growth, with an impressive 5.5 percent rate of growth in the economy in the past several years. Chávez reduced infant mortality by almost half (from 5.3 percent to 3.2 percent), created 3,300,000 new job positions, reduced unemployment by almost two thirds of what it was before his presidency (from 16.6 percent to 5.9 percent) and took Venezuela from a nation over 50 percent illiterate to a nation 95 percent literate. Education in Venezuela is also free through the university level, and Venezuelans have the fifth highest rate of college enrollment in the world. Chávez also ended the foreign pillaging of Venezuelan oil, raising prices from \$10 per barrel to over \$80 per barrel.

Evidently, Chávez could not have achieved re-election with voter turnouts nearing 85 percent and winning margins over his opponents of almost 10 percent by being a “dictator.” (Comparatively, Obama “won” the 2012 elections with only slightly over 1% of the vote, a voter turnout of less than 60%, and amidst controversy of Mexican-American communities having been prevented from voting based on trivialities such as “lack of valid identification.”) The automated electoral system of Venezuela under Chávez has been credited as being one of the most transparent systems in the world by respected international election monitoring organizations such as the Canadian Foundation for Democratic Advancement (FDA). Even former U.S. president Jimmy Carter himself credited Venezuela as having “the best election process in the world.”

Attacks by the Western media on Venezuela’s “lack of democracy” smell very much of the same claims that justified the 2002 coup against President Chávez: the underlying assumption that we Latin Americans cannot reason properly and must be told what is best for us. The coup, backed by the regime of George W. Bush, saw democratically elected president Hugo Chávez taken hostage for two days, leading Venezuelans to fear for their president’s life. And yet, Chávez was restored to power only two days later by mass popular protests and chants of “We want our president back” filling the streets of Caracas.

It is true that Venezuela today suffers from economic woes like levels of inflation that reach 20 percent and some of Latin America’s highest crime rates. But the gravity of these problems is a far cry from the Venezuela of 80 percent poverty and 50 percent illiteracy that Chávez faced upon taking presidency. Furthermore, Chávez did much to unify Latin America and to promote better regional ties. The creation of ALBA (the Bolivarian Alternative of the Americas) in 2004 and of the virtual currency through the ALBA Bank – the Sucre – has been an incredible step forward for Latin American self-determination, economically and politically, and has fostered better trade relations among the ALBA states. These ties have helped Venezuela to diversify its oil export markets, reducing the dependence of the Venezuelan people and economy on the United States.

Fervently anti-Chavista Latin Americans usually constitute either of two things: either part of the socio-economic elite of Venezuela, or simply those ignorant to the long history of Latin American exploitation by the United States government and complicit Latin American elites. These colonized minds are often the hardest to reach, but despite the loss of President Hugo Chávez, the legacy of his life’s accomplishments and of the Bolivarian Revolution carries on.



Meet INT Faculty Extraordinaire: Dr. Alex G. Papadopoulos

By: Yuliya Ralko

Dr. Papadopoulos is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography. He was born in Greece and came to the United States to get a BA at Franklin and Marshall College. After finishing his studies, he moved to Chicago to get his MA in International Relations at the University of Chicago. After working for some time in Brussels, he returned to Chicago to get a PhD in Geography from the University of Chicago. It was interesting to me that Dr. Papadopoulos switched from IR to Geography, because they are not often seen as having any connection. When I asked him about this, he told me an interesting story. He studied geography in high school in Greece, but never at the college level; when he was later finishing his MA, his university required him to take different kinds of courses from other disciplines like we do at DePaul. He took a political geography course with Professor Norton Ginsburg and discovered that a geographical spatial way of thinking fit well in his own perspective. Professor Ginsburg ultimately helped Dr. Papadopoulos decide to get a PhD in Geography, and especially influenced his eventual focus in political geography.

In 1993, Dr. Papadopoulos arrived to DePaul and has since won numerous awards, two of the most recent being the Reverend William T. Cortelyou-Martin J. Lowery Award for Excellence (2011) and the Spirit of DePaul Award (2011-12). When speaking about his role not only as an educator but also an advisor, he stresses that his own experience shows how the student-advisor relationship is not only beneficial for students but also for faculty members. Students should turn to advisors with questions along with other faculty with similar academic interests in order to foster stronger relationships and get the most out of their undergraduate careers.

Dr. Papadopoulos has three main research interests that according to him seem very different at first sight. The first one is spatial political geography, and this research in part focuses on Europe during state formation and the early modern era. He is currently looking at 17th century France and the role of St. Vincent de Paul in the formation of the French state; he also looks at Balkan identity during late 19th century and between World Wars I and II, a topic that is academic as well as personal because of his Greek identity. The second research interest is the spatial organization of urban space, which incorporates the concept of urban morphology

and can be further explored in his Comparative Urbanism class. The third research interest is historical cartography, and his previous research on this topic has included Byzantine cartographies as influenced by ancient science, Christian cosmology and geopolitics.

These three research interests can be seen as not having any connections, but if you look closer you can see how interrelated they are. While researching 17th century France and the role of St. Vincent de Paul in French state formation, it is important to look at urban space in France, especially in Paris. To do that, historical cartography is an important method of studying urban and rural historical landscapes. As this example demonstrates, researching one topic caters to all of his broader research interests.

Dr. Papadopoulos' current research project is The Geopolitics of the Balkan Wars: The Case of Thessaloniki. This project was recently presented at a meeting of the Map Society of Wisconsin, and examines the period when the Greeks captured the city of Thessaloniki back from Ottomans by the early twentieth century, and the ensuing process of Hellenizing and de-Ottomanizing the city. An example of this process is when, after the Great Fire of 1917 which destroyed the Jewish-populated center of city, the Greeks reconstructed it in the French-influenced Haussmann style which included a straight, organized street plan.

Dr. Papadopoulos has a lot of good advice for students and offers three specific tips for INT students. First, he stresses the importance "making every class relevant to your life." In any course, even if it is a liberal studies domain not connected to your major, it is important to find how the class is significant to your academic and professional interests. Take full advantage of all courses that you take at DePaul to maximize your time spent here. The second tip from Dr. Papadopoulos is to study abroad because it is often a life-transforming experience that will not only help you see the world and experience another country, but it will also help bolster your future career. Finally, he suggests that students share their work and the discoveries they've made during their education. For example, do not hesitate to publish work in undergraduate journals at DePaul and elsewhere or participate in conferences. Contributing to the INT Newsletter is also a great way to engage in your academic community and get involved!

Land Rights Issues and Forced Evictions in Cambodia

By: Monse Wisdom

This Spring quarter, Professor McIntyre gave everyone in my "Language and the Politics of Terror" class a large task: develop an action plan on behalf of an obscure person or group under extreme threat and carry it out. This project required students to compile a dossier of information available on our person or group and, if possible, work together with people or groups who were already speaking out for them. The people I chose were Cambodians, primarily rural, who were being evicted from their land and whose land was being given by the Cambodian government to private investors to develop industrial agriculture. I discovered that the Cambodian government is working with a private property rights system that was created in 1989 with no pre-existing records of land, and is trying to lure private investors to develop Cambodia's land to bring in revenue for the state.

In 1975, the Khmer Rouge, a communist party, had gained enough support and power to overthrow the previous government. It issued massive agricultural reforms in which the Khmer Rouge collectivized Cambodia's land and destroyed all records of land, land titles, and cadastral maps (which show property boundaries). When the Vietnamese forces pushed out the Khmer Rouge and gained control in 1979, they declared all land as public and collectivized. It was not until 1989 that property rights were re-established and land was redistributed. The Cambodian state created four categories of property: state public or private property, individual private property, and collective indigenous private property.

The 2001 Land Law was passed to provide the framework for establishing property rights and for granting economic land concessions (ELCs). As all pre-existing land documents were destroyed, Cambodians who had not received a land dispute claim for over five years and had begun the process to obtain the property as private before the passage of the law were able to apply for a title of land ownership. Cambodia's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) is in charge of leasing state private property as an ELCs of up to 10,000 hectares to people or companies that promise to develop industrial agriculture. The MAFF is responsible for updating a public logbook of all ELCs with details of who they belong to and how much land is granted. However, flaws in the redistribution program resulted in bribes for both rural and urban land titles.

While the 2001 Land Law recognized the lack of documents on property and property borders, and allowed applications for a land title after the land had been uncontested for over five years, it only allowed Cambodians the right to *request* a land title, not the right to *receive* a title after meeting conditions. While this is to

allow the government to look into claims for fraudulence, it has been used against those with legal rights to the land.

A second flaw in the redistribution of land is the lack of legislation and guidelines to back up the Land Law of 2001. There is no legislation to overview distribution of land or evictions to ensure that it is done fairly. The Cambodian state has converted state public land into state private land which means natural resources are being contaminated or destroyed which in turn affects nearby Cambodian landowners. Also, there is a lack of organization and documentation on property boundaries. There is no central database of cadastral maps that differentiate between the types of property to protect those who legally have private property.

The Cambodian state claims that it needs to bring in investors to increase agriculture production and bring in revenue, while essentially having to redistribute the whole country's land and provide land title documents. It is clearly no easy task despite receiving large amounts of foreign aid for state development. About 80 percent of Cambodians are employed as farmers, and 0.5 hectares is the minimum amount of land needed for Cambodians to meet their basic needs. However, widespread forced evictions are taking place and peaceful protests have been met with violence.

Yorm Bopha, a land rights activist from Boeung Kak, appears to be the face of the land eviction protests. She, like many other land rights protestors, was arrested and currently awaits a court trial. Many Cambodians do not possess a deed for their land, although land is legally entitled to them under possession rights. Cambodians are entitled to compensation when they are evicted, but they rarely receive any.

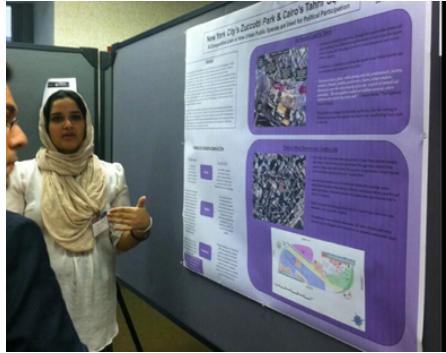
While I cannot claim to have complete knowledge about Cambodia's land rights issue, I believe there needs to be judicial reform to prevent Cambodians from being marginalized and losing their homes and livelihood. Foreign donors' push for the Cambodian state to develop infrastructure and their economy is affecting the Cambodian government's marginalization of its people in order to receive this funding. Foreign benefactors, such as the US, should withhold their funding to pressure the Cambodian government into protecting private property-holding Cambodians, into consulting with communities about land concessions, and into assessing their environmental impact. As INT students, we have often seen the power of money move nations and organizations to marginalizing and silencing, through force or violence, a group of people who appear to stand in their way.



The Midwest Political Science Association was founded in 1939 and is dedicated to the advancement of scholarship in all areas of political science.

The MPSA is a great space for intellectuals to meet, engage in discussions, learn from one another, and share knowledge. The INT Newsletter Committee encourages you to present your work. This year four of our peers presented their papers at the 2013 conference. Congratulations Kit, Ali, Mishal and Gabi!

New York City's Zuccotti Park and Cairo's Tahrir Square: A Comparative Look at How Public Spaces Are Used for Political Participation by Mishal Qureshi

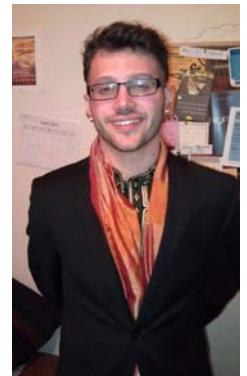


Urban public spaces in the modern era play pivotal roles in political participation. Public spaces have the potential to be sites of mingling amongst people of a variety of different classes, religions, and races. These spaces thus become prime places for democratic demonstrations of protest in complex societies. I will discuss the Arab Spring demonstrations in Cairo, Egypt's Tahrir Square, and compare them to the Occupy Wall Street movement in New York City's Zuccotti Park. I will be looking at the social, political, economic and historical roots of both of these movements, the importance of the public spaces occupied by the actors of these respective movements, and their attempts at redefining public space with their presence. I will use secondary sources that consist of analyses of public space and the role of public space in political movements and in assertions of citizenship, as well as secondary source commentary on both movements. This paper attempts to make sense of these two popular movements that emerged around the same time in different areas of the world. This paper will attempt to do so while discussing their similarities in regards to the use of public space and their roots in global economic shifts. Furthermore this paper will debunk the notion of Middle Eastern exceptionalism and argue that the uprisings during the Arab Spring were not unprecedented and spontaneous, but were part of a historical trajectory of different types of political resistance.

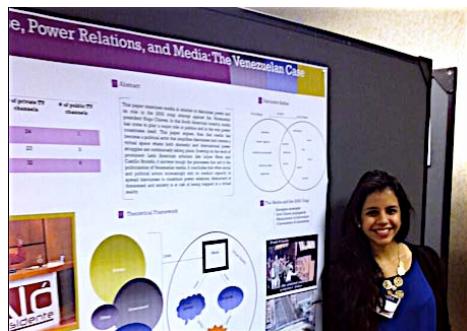
paper will debunk the notion of Middle Eastern exceptionalism and argue that the uprisings during the Arab Spring were not unprecedented and spontaneous, but were part of a historical trajectory of different types of political resistance.

Uncovering Lumumba: Analyzing African Nationalism's Challenge to U.S. Intervention in Post-Independence Congo by Kit Main

This paper examines the African Nationalist political movement through the case study of post-independence Congo and the assassination of Congolese Premier Patrice Lumumba. Many traditional historical accounts, scholarly conversations, and policy documents in the twentieth century argue that American foreign policy in post-independence Congo advocated against Belgian colonialism and Soviet Communism. I argue, however, that American foreign policy instead retaliated against a Lumumba-led African Nationalistic political legitimacy. By denying African Nationalism legitimacy and excluding it from the geopolitical power dynamic, many scholars, policymakers, and political leaders have thus failed to critically understand how the US mediated Africa's challenges to the US' perceptions of political order and stability. The conversation has further failed to critically assess the relationship between Lumumba's assassination and United States neo-colonial intervention. By giving the movements of African nationalism historical legitimacy in post-independence Congo, I argue that Lumumba's assassination functioned less as a deterrent against Soviet expansion, and more as a deterrent against African political agency and autonomy.



Discourse, Power Relations and Media: The Venezuelan Case by Gabriela Polo



This paper examines media in relation to discourse, power and its role in the 2002 coup attempt against the Venezuelan president Hugo Chávez. In this South American country, media has come to play a major role in politics and in the way power constitutes itself. This paper argues, thus, that media has become a political actor that amplifies discourses and creates a virtual space where both domestic and international power struggles are continuously taking place. Drawing on the work of prominent Latin American scholars like López Maya and Castillo Briceño, it surveys through the processes that led to the politicization of Venezuelan media. In addition, it looks at the US media's depictions of Chávez to suggest that the US intervention in Venezuela has operated through media. It concludes that when social and political actors increasingly rely on media's capacity to spread discourses to constitute power relations, democracy is threatened and society is at risk of being trapped in a virtual reality.

Gender Disparity in Post-Soviet Russia: Implications for Employment, Fertility, and Pronatalist by Alessandra DeChancie

Russia's total fertility rate (TFR) has been below replacement level in the twenty years following the collapse of the Soviet Union, a trend that I examine in relation to the economic transition from Soviet communism to open market capitalism that took place across much of the 1990s. This decline is related to the fact that women experienced especially high levels of gender discrimination, particularly in the workplace. Gender discrimination existed in the Soviet state but was perpetuated and intensified in the process of economic transition. One response of the state has been initiating pronatalist policies. Yet, such policies have thus far been unable to reverse population decline. This paper analyzes why pronatalist policies have failed to increase Russia's TFR.



INT Summer Reading List

By: Keavy McFadden

1 The Democracy Project - David Graeber

David Graeber's latest book critically explores the concept of democracy and argues that radical democracy would provide transformative solution to most of our economic and political problems today. With its heavy focus on history and change making, this book is certainly reminiscent of 203! Also check out Graeber's *Debt* and *Direct Action*.

2 The Book Thief - Markus Zusak

This book is about a German girl navigating her way through Nazi Germany during WWII. Although Death narrates the story, *Book Thief* is surprisingly witty and kind. Enjoy this easy read before it is adapted as a movie next winter!

3 Censored (13) - Mickey Huff and Andy Lee Roth

This book produced by Project Censored offers informed critiques of corporate media censorship. It covers the biggest news stories from 2012. Chapters have individual sections that are short and perfect for small spurts of reading time. Bring this book when on the go!

4 The Jungle - Upton Sinclair

Sinclair's famous novel is a great read for anyone living in Chicago! Get intimate with our city's complex history through themes of immigration, poverty, and organized labor. Check out the exhibits at the Chicago History Museum for more context on the time period.

5 Borderlands/La Frontera - Gloria Anzaldúa

Through a set of essays and poems, Anzaldúa discusses the violence that the US-Mexico border brings to mestizos through both separation and containment. This beautiful book is an easy read, but faces deep questions of identity, culture, and history.

6 The House of Spirits - Isabel Allende

An interesting book with elements of magical realism about a wealthy Chilean family. Follows multiple generations and their demise from Chilean aristocracy (true story!). Provides a glimpse of post-colonial Chile. Read it in Spanish to brush up your Spanish skills over the summer.

GOOD-BYE KEVIN!

The newsletter committee wants to take some time to thank the graduating senior Kevin Doherty for all the amazing things he has done for the INT department over the past years. Kevin, you have been a supportive, resourceful friend and a wonderful and insightful person to work with. You will be sincerely missed. The INT department and community wishes you the best in your future endeavors.



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~ *The Newsletter Committee* ~

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Get involved with *Interrupted Silence* next quarter! Look for an announcement via *intstuds* in the *Fall*