

INTERRUPTED SILENCE

Actively Engaged Intellectuals, Intellectually Engaged Activists



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AUTUMN QUARTER 2023

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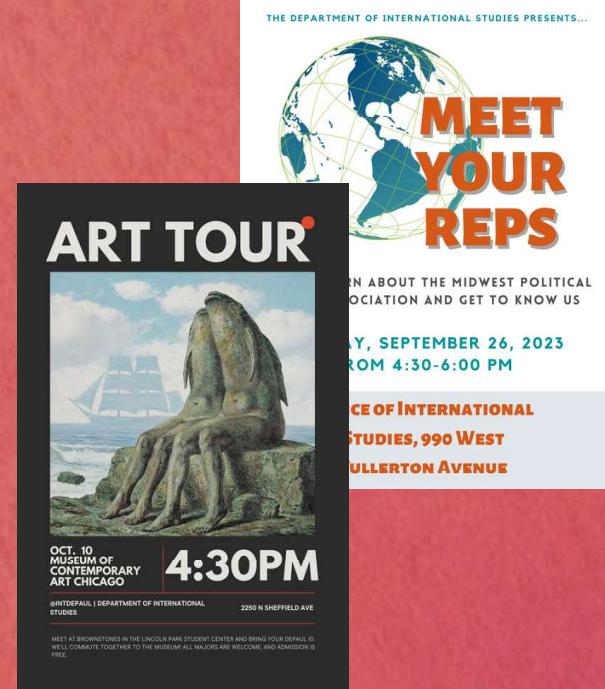
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GET INVOLVED!

INTUESDAYS

As a way to encourage students to get involved with the International Studies Department, faculty, and students, INTuesdays are recurring events where INT student reps organize fun and insightful activities. These can range from group study sessions, movie nights, museum visits, resume workshops, social events, and so much more. Every quarter, student reps release a calendar of planned INTuesday events so that you can put them in your calendar and get to know your peers and professors!



Another way to get involved and elevate not only your experiences here at DePaul but also your professional portfolio is by submitting work to this newsletter which is released every Autumn and Spring quarter. We accept essays, artwork, photography, poetry, recipes, and almost anything you would like to publish that you believe portrays quality effort. If interested, reach out to your INT professors or submit your work to the forum found at this link: <https://forms.gle/eiRjaF33spUSKFzNA>.

NEWSLETTER

MEET YOUR STUDENT REPS

GRADUATE REP



Hello! My name is Rosbel Garza. I am the Graduate Representative for the International Studies Department. As representative, I act as a liaison between graduate students and faculty, providing resources and information. I am a first-year graduate student whose research focuses on issues relating to immigration. Previous work I have done centered around the determinants of U.S. asylum acceptance at a country level.

I recently moved to Chicago in August of 2023 to attend DePaul and continue my research. I'm originally from Kansas City (both the Kansas and Missouri side) and received my undergraduate degrees from the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas. Since moving to Chicago, I've absolutely loved the city. Chicago provides numerous opportunities to conduct research within my field, as the city itself is one of the major immigration hubs of the United States. DePaul's institutional presence, such as through the DePaul Migration Collaborative also provided me with the opportunity to receive professional experience and compensation for my work.

Outside of academia living in Chicago has given me the opportunity to become more in-tune with myself through newfound community. Whether I am volunteering, vacationing, or potluckning, the people I have met since moving have absolutely made moving worth it. A few of my favorite things to do in the city include going to book/thrift stores, skateboarding/biking around, and relaxing in Chicago's numerous parks.

With introductions out of the way, please feel free to reach out to me about anything!

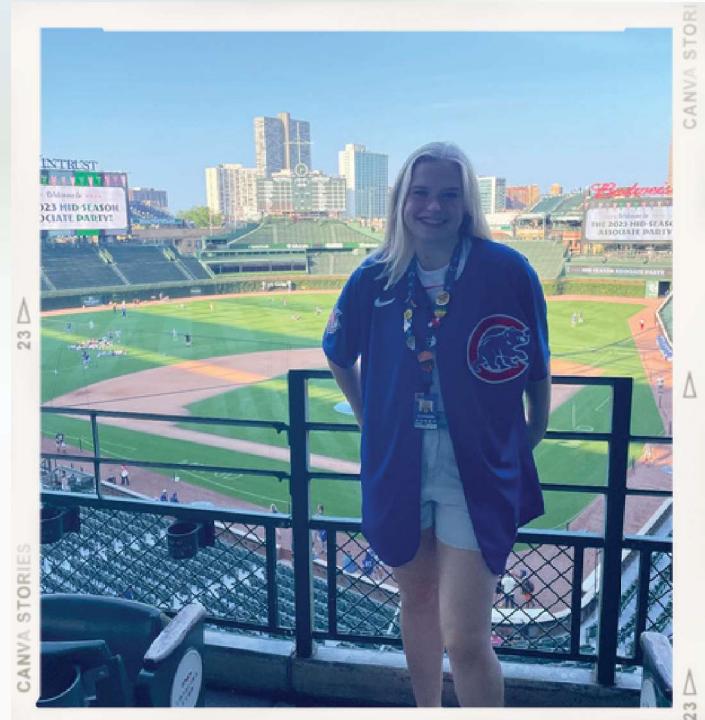
MEET YOUR STUDENT REPS

SENIOR REP

Hi everyone! I am Katherine Mooney, this year's senior class representative alongside Sara. I am a fourth-year senior majoring in International Studies with a minor in public health. Next year I plan to live in Chicago and work before applying to law school. On campus, I am involved with the club rugby team and the service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega. Off-campus I enjoy photography, cross stitch, and painting.

I am from a suburb of Detroit, Michigan, I moved to Chicago two years ago at the beginning of my sophomore year. I chose DePaul because of its International Studies program, the professors and the classes offered make our program unique and personal. Over my time at DePaul, my appreciation for our staff and their dedication to our program has only grown.

In my role as a student rep, my goals are to increase student activity within the department, make the office more accessible to the students, and help the department better address student burnout. If there is anything you would like to see from the department or me please don't hesitate to reach out! You can reach me at kmooney7@depaul.edu, I hope you hear from you soon!



MEET YOUR STUDENT REPS

JUNIOR REP & NEWSLETTER EDITOR



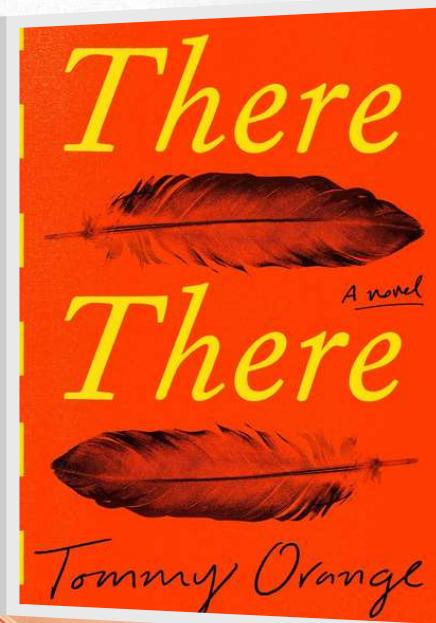
Hi everyone! My name is Sara Aqariden and I'm this year's Junior Student Representative. I am a third-year undergrad majoring in International Studies and this is my second year working in the INT Department! I'm so excited to work with Rosbel and Katherine to plan events for faculty and students this year and to also serve as a point of connection between my peers and professors. Some of our planned events include museum trips, craft nights, and resume workshops. If you don't already, make sure to follow @intdepaul on Instagram!

I was born in Dallas but moved to the Chicago suburbs where I grew up. I feel super lucky to have found DePaul where I could stay close to my family while having such an amazing college experience in the city. The volunteering opportunities in Chicago serve as great ways to get involved in such a big community and learn from others. I volunteered at Inspired Youth last year by tutoring kids which was so much fun and although I was the tutor, I also learned a lot from the students. DePaul offers many volunteering opportunities through the Division of Mission and Ministry, so check that out if you're interested!

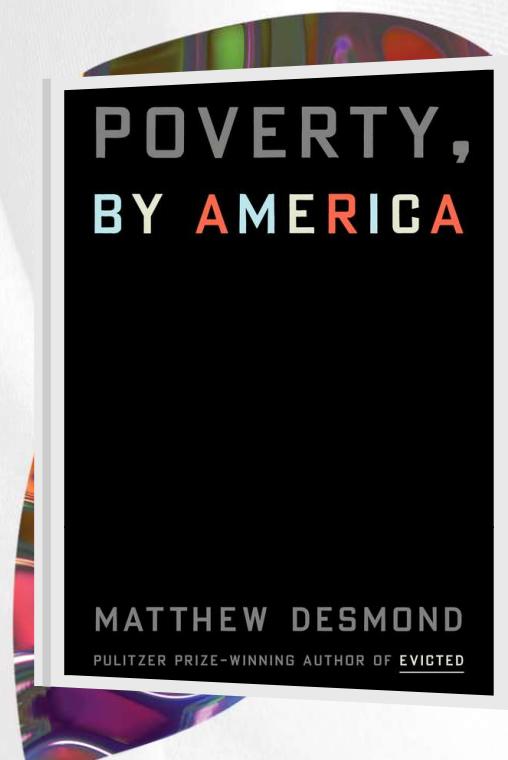
As for outside the INT Department, I work as a Supplemental Instruction Leader for Business Stats which is a different environment from most of my Liberal Arts classes and allows me to meet even more students and professors at the school! In my free time, I love to read, find new music (on Spotify, of course), and spend time with friends and family.

I'm so excited for this year and can't wait to see the work that students submit this quarter. Please feel free to reach out to me and if you're reading this, it's never too late to submit a piece to the newsletter. I hope you love this edition!

BOOKCLUB RECS



"A Stranger in Your Own City is award-winning writer Ghaith Abdul-Ahad's vivid, shattering response. This is not a book about Iraq's history or an inventory of the many Middle Eastern wars that have consumed the nation over the past several decades. This is the tale of a people who once lived under the rule of a megalomaniacal leader who shaped the state in his own image; a people who watched a foreign army invade, topple that leader, demolish the state, and then invent a new country; who experienced the horror of having their home fragmented into a hundred different cities." --Goodreads



"Tommy Orange's wondrous and shattering novel follows twelve characters from Native communities: all traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow, all connected to one another in ways they may not yet realize. Together, this chorus of voices tells of the plight of the urban Native American--grappling with a complex and painful history, with an inheritance of beauty and spirituality, with communion and sacrifice and heroism." --Goodreads

A Stranger in Your Own City

Travels in the Middle East's Long War

Ghaith Abdul-Ahad



"In this landmark book, acclaimed sociologist Matthew Desmond draws on history, research, and original reporting to show how affluent Americans knowingly and unknowingly keep poor people poor. Those of us who are financially secure exploit the poor, driving down their wages while forcing them to overpay for housing and access to cash and credit. We prioritize the subsidization of our wealth over the alleviation of poverty, designing a welfare state that gives the most to those who need the least. Some lives are made small so that others may grow." --Goodreads

Post-Apartheid South Africa: What went wrong?

Apartheid, the system of segregation that was placed upon the non-whites of South Africa through the mid-to-late 1900s, was immensely evil and put the entire nation through incredibly traumatic experiences. The beginning of true democracy in South Africa in the early 1990s was the climax of multiple political and social movements headed by prominent black South Africans that set the end of apartheid in motion. It was a time of great hope. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission was in full swing, Nelson Mandela had become the first President of the now truly democratic nation, and the ANC, which had fought so valiantly to free the non-white peoples of South Africa from their oppressors, now found themselves at the head of the South African Government. The Afrikaner National Party had dissolved, and its resources and supporters were scattered. The nation seemed like it was destined to be a force for good in the world. Now, in 2023, that has unfortunately not turned out to be the case. It is not a role model nation with a flourishing economy, promoting racial equality on the world stage. Instead, South African cities such as Cape Town and Durban, have some of the highest homicide rates per capita in the world (Statista), South Africa's unemployment rate has long been one of the highest in the world, with 33.56% in 2021 (O'Neil), Corruption is rampant within the ruling ANC party, and the once great leaders of the anti-apartheid movement have since moved on. They might not be anywhere near the most destitute nations on their continent, but for a nation that had so much potential, it is disappointing to see the situation South Africa is in now. Ending Apartheid may have made South Africa a true democracy and freed its people from oppression, but many of the core issues within the country that kept non-whites poor, like the remnants of the Apartheid system, were not tackled properly.

To understand why South Africa is in the poor situation it's in today, it's important to know how much damage Apartheid did to the non-white population from an economic perspective. Apartheid was incredibly beneficial to the White capitalist class. Much of the economy was powered by the mining and manufacturing sectors, which require a lot of hard, uneducated labor to produce the incredibly valuable products. In *Capitalism and Cheap Labour Power in South Africa*, Harold Wolpe says, "Apartheid is the attempt of the capitalist class to meet the expanding demand for cheap African labour in the era of industrial manufacturing capital," (Wolpe 62). He also says, "the African workforce is housed

in carefully segregated and police-controlled areas that resemble mining compounds on a large scale,” (Wolpe 63). The economy of South Africa was becoming increasingly industrialized, and because the white population only made up a small fraction of the population of the nation, a larger base of primarily black workers was needed to keep the system functioning. Because of their deeply ingrained racism, there was no chance these African workers were going to be treated well or paid fairly, so when Apartheid was created it was ensured that African workers would be segregated in all facets of life from the white capitalists. Laws like the Native Labour Act of 1953, which banned Africans from forming Unions and/or striking, prevented non-whites from being able to form unions or any other form of organizing to protect what little workers’ rights they had. There was also the Group Areas Act of 1950. As Wilmot G James describes the act in Group Areas and the Nature of Apartheid, “the Group Areas Act passed in 1950 by the recently Nationalist Government made it a criminal offense for people of colour to own or occupy in areas set aside for exclusive ‘European’ residency,” (James 41). This onset of new segregation laws passed throughout the early 19th century carefully controlled where non-white South Africans could eat, sleep, work, play, go to school, etc., all under the watchful eye of the state police forces. This combination of suffocating discrimination became a repeating cycle of fighting, dying, and suffering. All of this was hopefully going to end after the elections of 1994. Unfortunately, in the process of transitioning away from the Apartheid system, not enough was done to solve these issues.

When the Apartheid system came down and was replaced by a fully representative democracy in 1994, Nelson Mandela was elected as the first President of the new South Africa. He was the leader of the African National Congress (ANC), the political party that spearheaded the fight for black freedom in South Africa. During his presidency, he oversaw a massive transitional process including an overhaul of government structures and the writing of a new constitution. His main shortcoming was failing to fully rectify the economic damage done to the black community during Apartheid. Mandela’s government set up the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in 1996, to conduct a sort of national cathartic process. Perpetrators of Apartheid would go before the Commission and admit to all their wrongdoings in exchange for legal amnesty. After a perpetrator was given Amnesty, they could not be sued or jailed for their crimes. This process was successful in calming racial tensions throughout the nation, as well as

uncovering unknown mysteries and atrocities that would've never come to light otherwise. A major criticism of the policy is that it did not do enough to help black South Africans economically. Practically nothing was done on that front. In Desmond Tutu's *No Future Without Forgiveness*, he writes that the TRC requested R2000 per victim (U.S. \$300) in urgent relief reparations (Tutu 61). When it came to more long-term reparation programs, Tutu said that the TRC had recommended that individual reparations should be paid to the amount of R23000 (U.S. \$3,830) per year for up to six years. Unfortunately for those black citizens who were in desperate need of those funds, Tutu said that the government had only set aside roughly one fifth of the amount necessary for their requested reparations program (Tutu 61). While there may have been at least minimal effort to get individuals their deserved reparations, as Mahmood Mamdani points out in *Amnesty or Impunity*, "The core victims of crime against humanity...could not have been individuals; they had to be entire communities marked out on ground of race and ethnicity," (Mamdani 54). He says, "From this point of view, one can see the extreme inadequacy of the Commission's main recommendation [Individual Reparations]," (Mamdani 54). Virtually nothing was given in community funds to the poor black communities. The slums would stay slums. Even when it had been recommended by experts that more funds needed to be given to the poor black population that had suffered the most under Apartheid, the government turned a blind eye.

Under Mandela's successor, Thabo Mbeki, the government did much the same, but took an even larger turn in the wrong direction. Mbeki wanted to give the Presidential role more de facto power in the Government. In *Transitional Politics and Machinery of Government Change in South Africa*, Vinothan Naidoo writes, "The Mbeki period's centralization was spearheaded by expanding the Office of the President (which departmentalized as the 'Presidency' from 1999), and strengthening cabinet coordinating and policy oversight functions. Mbeki's attempt to 'modernize' the ANC in government suggests that it was based firmly on his predilection for reasserting policy control over the party and government machinery. Mbeki was described as tightly controlling policy decision-making in cabinet not only to improve the implementation process but also to create the engine room of a nascent 'developmental state,'" (Naidoo, 587). Mbeki became a deeply unpopular President in the later year of his Presidency mainly due to these internal political issues within the ANC, but he too failed to provide significant reparations to black South Africans. He promised \$3,900 to thousands of Families

who testified for the TRC, but only after a scathing TRC report and criticism from the public that his government hadn't done enough to support them (Thompson). The Presidency of Jacob Zuma also failed to deliver significant reform to the poor black population. Under his rule was when the living standards for poor black South Africans reached their lowest. As the TRC's relevance began to wane, the average poor South African was beginning to fully realize how little had changed for them. In 2011, a slum of Cape Town called Khayelitsha experienced an event termed 'The Toilet Wars'. Basic services, such as toilets, electricity, and water, were becoming scarce due to government negligence in the slums. As Steven Robins writes in *The 2011 Toilet Wars in South Africa*, "prior to 2011, toilets and sanitation were not considered to be proper party political concerns. Instead, they were submerged and subsumed under the vague and technicist concept of 'service delivery,'" (Robins). Local governments and the ANC as a whole attempted to ignore these 'service delivery' issues until 2011, when protests in the slums against the lack of basic services triggered mass protests in poorer areas all across the Nation. Economic inequality also increased drastically under Zuma. In *Jacob Zuma: Assessing His First Three Years*, Keshava Guha says, "The policy of 'Black Economic Empowerment' has created a tiny black elite without delivering anything for the majority of South Africans," (Guha, 7). All three of these Presidents have one key failure in common: lack of economic empowerment for poor black South Africans. Apartheid may have ended, but due to government negligence, nothing has changed for them economically. On top of that, the ANC, the ruling party since the end of Apartheid, has seen a drastic change in their identity as freedom fighters. Their name is now more synonymous with something else, corruption.

Corruption is rampant throughout the South African government, so much so that South Africa is touted as one of the most corrupt nations on earth. The debate around corruption in South Africa is highly polarized. As Johnathan Hyslop writes in *Political Corruption: Before and After Apartheid*, "Liberal and Conservative critics of the government generally contend that there is a qualitative decline in the functioning of the bureaucracy and a disregard for the public institutions and procedures by the ANC. The government accused such critics of nostalgia for the Apartheid past. The ANC portrays corruption problems as arising out of the legacy of Apartheid," (Hyslop 773-774). The ANC would rather ignore their issues of chronic corruption, and instead, play the Apartheid card and claim their critics to be racists. While it does just look like a blame game from the outside, it isn't entirely wrong.

Corruption issues in modern South Africa do partly stem from the remnants of Apartheid. For example, Hyslop writes, “The most extreme corruption has occurred in the three provinces where the regional civil service was most extensively and exclusively from the old Bantustan prefectures,” (Hyslop 785). As much as the ANC would like to paint these issues as a mere remnant of Apartheid policy, the truth is that they only have themselves to blame. The ANC hasn’t done anything to fix the problem. As Hyslop writes, “The ANC provincial leadership spectacularly failed to tackle the rampant corruption in the Eastern Cape, and eventually President Mbeki sent in an interim external management team to attempt to rectify matters in the province,” (Hyslop 786). These issues are not reserved for regional governments either. The corruption goes all the way to the top brass of ANC officials. Jacob Zuma himself is currently in a decades-long legal battle and has dozens of charges of fraud, racketeering, and corruption dating back to the 1999 South African Arms Deal (Imray). In *After the Party*, former ANC MP Andrew Feinstein discusses how the ANC dealt with the matter of corruption from within. After the Yengeni Allegations, where a new Mercedes 4x4 was allegedly bought by an ANC official with government money, Feinstein said that the ANC essentially sat back and did nothing. On this, Feinstein says, “By preventing Parliament from investigating whether one of its most senior officials had breached its Code of Conduct, the ANC was in effect stating that the interests of the powerful in the party came before the integrity of the legislative arm of the government,” (Feinstein, 186). These issues of corruption have permeated through all levels of the government, both regionally and federally. Potentially billions of dollars of government money have been funneled from the public, directly into the hands of ANC officials. They sit at the top, raking in money and buying themselves expensive cars and houses. At the same time, the ANC’s voter base, which is primarily poor and black, find themselves stuck in the slums and unable to find work, continuously seeing even their most basic services fail them.

Since 1994, South Africa has embarked on a journey of social reforms that is unlike any other nation on earth. In Africa, there was no system of segregation quite like Apartheid. It was the most evil, and the most economically suffocating system of governance on the continent, and quite possibly the world. This system of social and economic oppression left the new, democratically elected ANC government with little to work with. There was an air of hope, a desire to make drastic, society-altering changes for the most marginalized people. What has been done exactly?

Close to nothing. The TRC, while revolutionary in its methods of non-punitive justice, did practically nothing of significance to economically assist those who needed it most. They made countless recommendations to the ANC government, urging them to create a robust reparations regime. But, their calls fell on deaf ears. A few hundred dollars was given to victims of Apartheid every few years when there was enough public outcry, but the TRC's reparations recommendations were largely ignored. The slums that millions of South Africans live in today, remnants of Apartheid segregation, have largely been left untouched by local governments. The social services within these areas were likely more well function during Apartheid compared to now. The 2011 toilet wars exemplify this. What exactly has the government been doing while its citizens are suffering? Enriching themselves through corruption, fraud, and the embezzlement of state funds, from the top down, all while attempting to silence their critics. This leaves us with the South Africa of the modern day. The economy is in disarray, crime and murder runs rampant throughout the urban areas, and poor South Africans cannot find jobs. You'll see modern, American-style suburbs equipped with state-of-the-art security systems, electric fences, and concrete walls. Five minutes down the road, you'll encounter slums with no running water, electricity, or even toilets. It's a real-life dystopian universe unfolding right before our eyes. What's even worse is that South Africa truly could've been a much better place. If the right steps had been taken, more reparations, better schools, crackdowns on corruption, and improvements to the slums, South Africa could find themselves in a completely different position. Unfortunately, no significant change is coming on the horizon. Even the current president, Cyril Ramaphosa, has had charges of corruption brought against him (Imray). The children of South Africa have had their bright futures so cruelly stripped away from them. Their government has failed them. For the millions of poor black South Africans left wondering what went wrong, Post-Apartheid South Africa has been no kinder to them than the old regime was.

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PALESTINE

BY CHRIS SIFRI

Don't worry habibti,
we will survive.

For another day of light is another day of life.
chop the parsley but please don't cry
for if you shed one tear
my heart starts to die

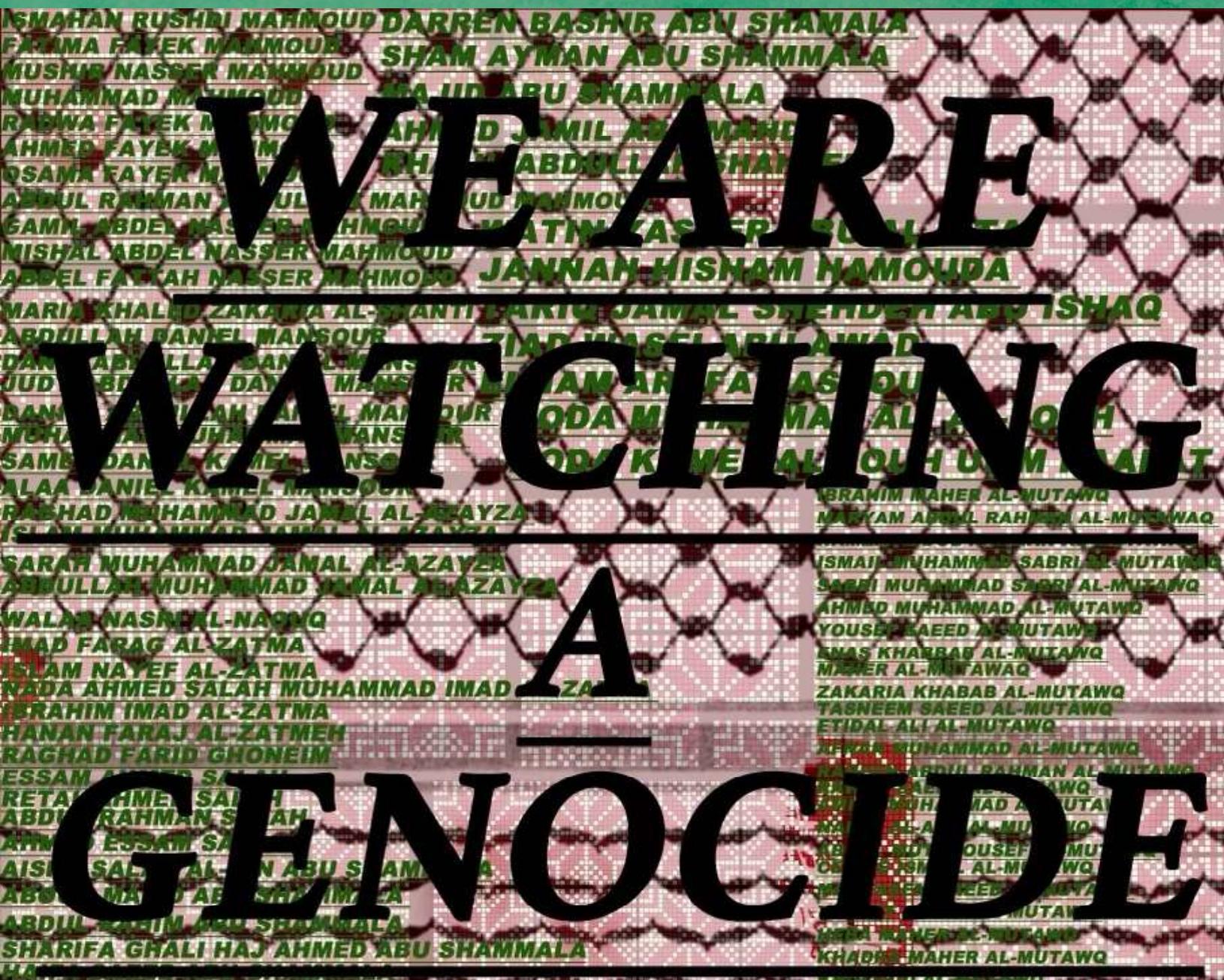
A taste of freedom, of liberation
now the bombs drop from the occupation
Liberation has become terrorism,
but what will the history books say?
We hold humanity in the palms of our hands
now watch blood fall on the stolen land

They say we are "human animals"
They have herded us into our cage,
now set fire to our restraints
Where do we go if you have locked us in a cage?

Some type of genocide
a genocide being televised.

Somehow they've turned a blind eye,
to the humanity of my people.
They have locked us in a cage,
now flatten the land we've saved,
human animals they say.

So we cry at the kitchen table
as we watch gray bodies ascend from the rubble.
Pray and pray that they will be okay,
but I have a feeling every building will fall,
and every heart will stop beating.
Because we had our try at freedom,
just a glimpse beyond the wall,
But trying is better than complying.
When will we be free from our cage?
let our birds fly.
we must open the cage ourselves.



ON THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM

INTERVIEW WITH ANI KASPARIAN

Ani Kasparian is a Georgetown University journalism Master's graduate, a Fulbright scholar (Amman, Jordan), multimedia journalist and linguist who is open to new opportunities to use her multilingual and multicultural knowledge to uplift voices and aid in a more empathetic and understanding world through storytelling across multiple platforms. She speaks English, Spanish, Arabic, French, Italian, and a bit of Modern Greek, Russian, and Portuguese. Other than her native USA, she has lived in France, Spain, Mexico, and Jordan. She stayed in Jordan the longest, a total of 1.5 years where she worked at a variety of radio and TV stations where she produced live shows and published a variety of articles in English and Arabic.

Describe your Fulbright application process.

I applied twice-- the first time I applied was during senior year of my undergrad. I made my application based on what I thought they wanted and I sent it off and boom. I was rejected. I thought to myself, "Wow, really? I have everything that they want, that's so weird." A couple of years later after I taught French and Arabic for a bit, I decided to apply again. Since my first application, I had received my TEFL Certificate (learning how to teach English to foreigners) and I wrote my essay in a more *real* way. I didn't just give them what they wanted. For example, academia focuses on reading and research and I had initially written about my interest in refugee work, but one of my biggest passions was music. I didn't know if they'd like that but in this application I figured, "What else can go wrong? I already applied with my focus on refugees and they didn't find it appealing for some reason." So I told them I wanted to join a choir and I was immediately accepted. I realized two things: you have to be *ready* for the job and you have to show honesty and specificity in what you want to do. I offered a unique interest in the Arab world which was Arabic music.

What tips can you offer to students applying to the Fulbright?

Don't write an essay that another person could write. Try your best not to overlap information from your resume onto your personal statement. I encourage students to use proper nouns, so instead of writing "I love Arabic music," write about a specific singer or song in the Arab world and then follow the claim by how it inspires you. You demonstrate that you're culturally aware and you're using a specific passion/interest to achieve something. Try to consolidate as much as you can in those two to three sentences.

What was the most valuable piece of advice or resource at DePaul that set you up for success?

Our own student body. It's the most important thing we have here. We have every religion, every language, every country. Don't just talk about homework, talk about where you're from, where your mom was born, and the languages you know. I feel like I got a worldly education here and I reference the experiences I had with people here to this day. The first thing that came to mind was faculty, and they're great but they have their own lives and they're busy and they give so much to us which is great. We have teachers who did the research and are standing right in front of us offering so much time to students. The classes and professors were fabulous, but it was *me* who took this knowledge outside of school and practiced my languages on my own for hours. They were my inspiration to keep going and they were a great reference for my questions, but it's really up to *you* to learn.

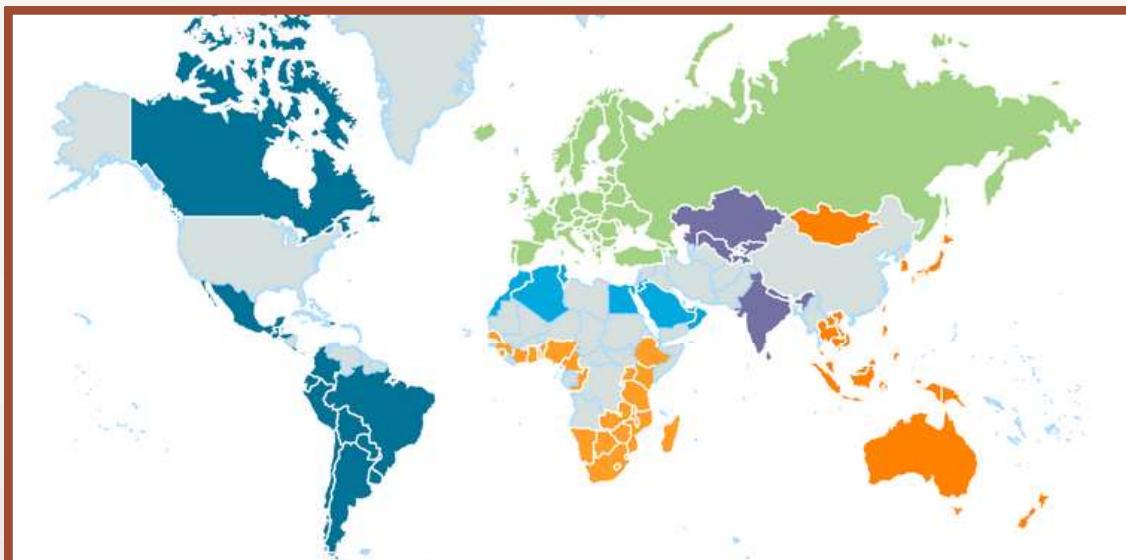
ON THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM

Describe your Fulbright experience in Jordan. What, exactly, did you do there?

I was in Jordan for about ten months with Fulbright. I'm not sure if it's still set up this way, but you teach part-time. I only taught three days a week which left me two days of the work week to do whatever I wanted and that time is usually meant for students to engage with the community-- or do absolutely nothing. I think these days they may be a little bit more strict, but in my time I took the initiative to squeeze every drop out of my experience there and I encourage others to do the same. It's about one year where they pay for your food, your living, your language classes, your everything. Although you can't get a paid position during this time, that almost gives you even more power to do whatever you want because your needs are paid for. I really wanted to improve my Modern Standard Arabic so I told myself I was going to be the first non-native Arabic-speaking news reporter on TV. I knocked on doors of radio and television news stations, told them what I wanted, and they were like, "Who in the world is this girl? Okay!" They let me in and I had three internships by the time I left Jordan. I met celebrities, learned about radio and TV, and they trained my voice acting skills for reporting. It was so fun and actually inspired me to pursue journalism in grad school.

How did your time in Jordan through the Fulbright Program differ from your DePaul study abroad experience in Merida, Mexico?

Fulbright versus Merida, wow. Well first, Merida was three months while Jordan was a full nine months. Merida was very scheduled, we didn't even have to think. I'm pretty sure the activities are mandatory, not in a bad way, but it was determined that during the week you do classes and during the weekend you go on trips. There was also a service learning component. We lived with a host family. With Fulbright, you find your own housing. You have complete freedom: other than going to your language and teaching classes, you are totally on your own. The weekends are totally up to your disposal. However, with Fulbright being a government program, there are certain rules. You're not allowed to travel to certain places, and when you do you have to tell your program director. The program encouraged community involvement but not service. They want you to have some sort of cultural exchange in some way. Merida was a very structured, "hold your hand" sort of thing. Fulbright is whatever you make of it.



*Countries with active Fulbright Scholar programs.

Title Occupied

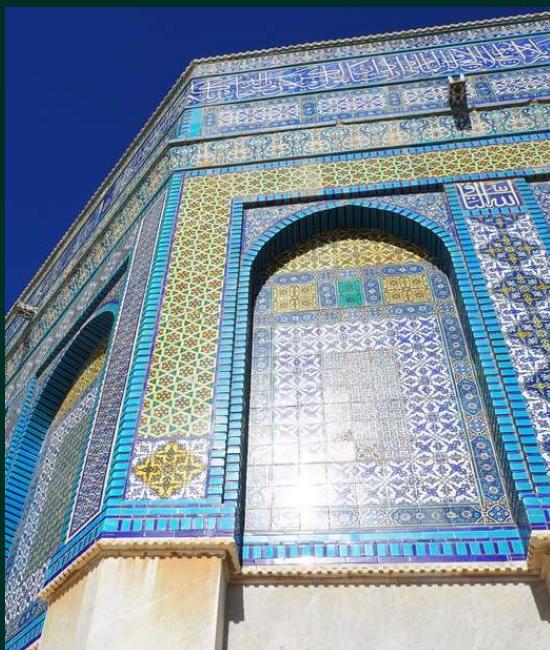
By Clara Cox

Title Occupied was created in November 2023 featuring a painting of a deconstructed watermelon, a photo of the Mediterranean Sea taken in Jerusalem, and a keffiyeh. The abstract painting of a watermelon symbolizes Palestinian resistance and persistence, emphasizing the seeds of new growth and abundance. When watermelons are cut open, they display the colors of the Palestinian flag which has faced censorship on media platforms across the Internet which further elevates the fruit's relevance in Palestinian liberation.



Study Abroad: Jerusalem

Photos taken by Clara Cox



ONSITE REPORT: THE THOMPSON CENTER - ON THE TOPIC "JUSTICE FOR THE CITY"

By Favour Ifurueze

Alright, so I just paid a visit to the James R. Thompson Center in the heart of downtown Chicago, and let me tell you, it's quite the place. I've got a lot to say about it.

First off, this place makes a big spatial claim. You can't miss it – this massive glassy building in the middle of the city. It's like a giant spotlight saying, "Hey, government's here, and it's right in your face." That's got to be good for justice, right? Transparency and all that. I even got lost and went to the city hall just close to it and met a police man who redirected me to the right place, I had a little conversation with him and he told me that the building was previously known as the state of Illinois building but it is now sold and Google owns it.



Still walking down and taking the direction of the police officer I observed that there are spatial links about this place i was headed to. This place is like a transportation nexus. Trains, buses, and people from all over the city pass around here. It's like a meeting point for people from different walks of life, and that's got to be a good thing when you're talking about justice. It brings people together.

Now, let's talk about power dynamics. This building practically screams, "This is where the decisions happen." It's right in the center, and that centralization of power is a big deal. But, it also means we've got to keep an eye on how that power is used, making sure justice is served fairly from this epicenter.

The Thompson Center also has some historical power vibes. It's named after former Governor James R. Thompson, which is like a nod to the city's political history. It's important to remember where you came from when you're striving for justice in the present.

And the authenticity of this place is legit. It might look all futuristic, but it's on land with deep historical roots. It's like a fusion of past and future, and that connection to the land is crucial when you're talking about justice.

Plus, it's not just a government building; it's a social hub. They host meetings, events, and forums here, all aimed at getting people engaged. Social infrastructure is a big deal for justice. It's where ideas are shared, and communities come together.

But, here's the kicker – I saw some stuff that really bothered me. The Thompson Center is falling apart. It's like no one cares about its future. That's a problem because neglecting a symbol this big could chip away at the city's commitment to justice. Now that it has been sold to Google, I wonder what it is going to be used for and also I was not allowed to enter and take pictures because it was past five pm and I did not have any business with the building and there was security in front of it which I did not have the code to access.



In the end, the Thompson Center was and still is for me Chicago's justice headquarters. It's got the claims, the links, and the power dynamics. It honors the past and stays true to the land. It's a social hotspot. But, we can't ignore the fact that it needs some TLC to keep serving as a beacon of justice. Chicago needs to step up and show that it's serious about justice, and that starts with taking care of this place.

INT CLASSES

SPRING QUARTER 2024



INT 200: Introduction to Political Economy

Instructor: Jacob Stump | Mon & Wed 11:20 AM - 12:50 PM LPC

INT 203: International Movements and Social Change

Instructor: Gil Gott | Mon & Wed 1:00 - 2:30 PM LPC

INT 205: International Political Economy

Instructor: Jacob Stump | Mon & Wed 2:40 - 4:10 PM LPC

INT 206/GEO 206: Identities and Boundaries

Instructor: Gil Gott | Tue & Thu 1:00 - 2:30 PM LPC

Instructor: Jacqueline Lazu | Mon & Wed 11:20 AM - 12:50 PM LPC

INT 301: Senior Seminar (Narrative Politics)

Instructor: Michael McIntyre | Mon & Wed 9:40 - 11:10 AM Online-Sync

INT 307/407: Race, Sex, Difference

Instructor: Michael McIntyre | Thu 6:00 - 9:15 PM Online-Sync

INT 308/408: Nature, Society, and Power

Instructor: Alec Brownlow | Wed 1:00 - 4:15 PM LPC

INT 317/417: Reading Marx's Capital

Instructor: Kaveh Ehsani | Tue & Thu 4:20 - 5:50 PM LPC

INT 321: International Environmental Politics

Instructor: Xorla Ocloo | Mon & Wed 9:40 - 11:10 AM LPC

INT 392: Comparative Urbanism

Instructor: Alex Papadopoulos | Mon 5:45 - 9:00 PM LPC

LSP 200: Terrorism & American Pluralism

Instructor: Daniel Kamin | Tue & Thu 11:20 AM - 12:50 PM LPC

Department of International Studies