

# INTERRUPTED SILENCE

Vol. 3, Issue 3

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## FROM YOUR EDITORS

As we come towards the end of what seems to be a revolutionary academic year, it is important to recognize and honor the leadership and dedication students took to get their voices heard and demands met. Let us recall that we began this year with a letter writing campaign asking the university administration to recognize the importance of Professor Kaveh Ehsani's faculty line, and ended the year with a weekly Tuesday INTerventions programming series led by the International Studies Honors Society, Sigma Iota Rho. We at *INTerrupted Silence* ask you to join us in saluting these efforts as the energy that has ignited the flames of empowerment and activism for this community. Let us not forget that, as our mantra states, we are actively engaged intellectuals and intellectually engaged activists and that our discipline gives us the space to create knowledge, challenge knowledge, and reconstruct it in many different ways. Many of us have engaged with local and global issues throughout the year. From the marching efforts of the historical May Day, to the canvassing energy of the DePaul Divest campaign and the actions DPUnite initiated in response to DePaul's handling of sexual assault cases. All these efforts speak to one thing: students speak and will not be silenced.

This issue features stories from the backyards of the southeast neighborhoods of Chicago to Ukraine, Mexico and back to DePaul. These articles ask questions about environmental, political, social, and economic concerns, respond to the injustice taking place, and speak on the actions communities are taking to fight these injustice. In this way, we are forced to ask ourselves, what are we contributing to society? How are we each making a difference? At times we may feel conquered and discouraged to take a stance on an issue because it may seem larger than us. However, as INT students we shall remember the heroes before us, Angela Davis, Stokley Carmichael, Assata Shakur etc., who fought the very same battles we are fighting today. We must remember that every effort is change in the making, and that there is an emerging art within activism. As the warm rays of summer approach, take the time to reflect on all that you have learned and acted upon during this quarter, and brainstorm ways in which you can apply your skills, knowledge, and expertise to your communities and your work.

With that, we wish the best of luck to our INT students, our graduates, faculty, and staff, and we encourage everyone to actively engage in the world in the years to come.

Cheers!

**fineart  
america**

# Mexico's Informal Economy: What it is and Why it Matters

By: Connor Kreger

If you have been to any Mexican city, then it is likely that you have seen it, if not experienced it first-hand. It comes in many forms. There are street-food carts that dot the streets and market stalls that are assembled and disassembled daily. Some vendors roam the plazas and parks and target tourists, peddling souvenirs and Cuban cigars. Others sell individual cigarettes and packs of gum to local customers. This is what is known as the informal sector of the economy, and it plays an important and often misunderstood role in Mexican society.

The informal economy is defined by the World Bank as economic activity that occurs outside of government regulatory frameworks and thus is not subjected to taxes. In the U.S., the informal economy is sometimes referred to as the “shadow economy,” but in Mexico it overshadows the formal sector in size, employing more than two-thirds of the national working population and generating nearly one-third of the yearly GDP. The result of such a huge informal sector is that a large portion of the working population does not pay income taxes. This is a huge problem in the eyes of the government as well as those in the formal sector who feel that the tax-burden falls unfairly upon their shoulders.

President Peña Nieto recently opened fire upon the informal sector with claims that its persistence hinders the success of the national economy, leaves workers vulnerable to human-rights abuses, and prevents the realization of government funded programs and services like social security, healthcare, and welfare. There is undeniably some credence to these claims. Last year the president successfully pushed through legislation aimed at enticing informal workers to enter the formal economy. The plan includes a one year tax exemption for newly registered workers followed by a gradual increase in tax payments. While the government projected that two-million informal and semi-formal workers would enter the new tax regime in 2014, critics have scrutinized the legislation for being overly-flexible and lacking sufficient incentives for informal workers. Many workers are hesitant to put their livelihoods at risk, especially on the terms of a government for which they have little to no trust.

This brings about an important point that is hard to overlook in Mexico: the relationship between the public and the government. Although there is plenty of distrust and skepticism between the public and the government in the U.S., this distrust is amplified exponentially in Mexico. There is an almost universal understanding in Mexico that politicians are *de facto ladrones*, or thieves, and that corruption and government go hand-in-hand. The government welfare and healthcare programs that

do exist are under-funded and held in very low esteem. Certain parts of the country, like the southern states of Oaxaca and Chiapas, are still in need of basic infrastructure and educational support. Meanwhile, the government spends billions on a failed drug war that the public pays for in taxes and blood. From this perspective, it seems unlikely that the government will be able to convince Mexico's thirty-million informal workers to participate in what they see as a broken system.

The U.S. government implements programs that provide the public with a social safety net and, as meager and imperfect as this net may be, it is there. In Mexico, it is the informal economy that functions as the primary social safety net. The ability to work independently provides shelter and sustenance for the majority of Mexico's working population and provides them with a level of autonomy and flexibility that is often lacking in the formal economy. Additionally, creating a legitimate business is a long and costly process cluttered with bureaucratic red tape. This is part of what has always made informal employment so attractive. While it seems that the government is trying to expedite this road to legitimacy with new legislation, those who do choose to enter the formal economy still face the struggle of transition. One street vendor who decided to legitimize had to hire an accountant to help him keep records of sales. This is something he never had to do before. This sacrifice of autonomy has its consequences, and it is not necessarily clear if the costs will be outweighed by immediate or long-term benefits.

Since NAFTA was implemented in 1994, the increasingly urban working population has quickly outgrown the formal job market despite the promise that neoliberal initiatives would ensure healthy economic growth and job creation. Twenty years later, Peña Nieto now claims that the ballooning informal economy must be lassoed into the realm of formality in order to expand the tax base and create a universal social security system. Simultaneously, he is pushing for an extremely controversial energy reform that aims to invite foreign oil companies to help modernize the extraction of fossil-fuels from the nationalized petroleum reserves. These are moves that clearly resemble NAFTA's neoliberal agenda. In light of this, Peña Nieto's attack on the informal economy makes sense. In the hopes of weaning the government off of its dependence on oil revenue, the president is willing to jeopardize the legal status of informality. While the threat remains unrealized as of yet, the direction in which the government is moving poses itself as a serious threat to the millions of workers that depend on their ability to work autonomously in Mexico's greatest public asset: the informal economy.



## The Sunflower Movement: So What?

By: Zander Shaindlin

In March of this year, Taiwanese students stormed the Legislative Yuan, Taiwan's Parliament building and lawmaking body in Taipei. The students demanded that the recently passed Cross-Strait Services Trade Agreement (CSSTA) be given its due clause-by-clause review. After a series of clashes with the police, it became clear that these protesters had come to stay. The occupation led to the birth of the Sunflower Movement. The CSSTA was signed between Mainland China and Taiwan in June 2013. However, the agreement remains ungratified by Taiwan's legislative body. This agreement is aimed at liberalizing cross-strait trade in services like banking, healthcare, tourism, and film. Proponents of the agreement claim it to be a necessary boost to Taiwan's economy. Opponents claim that, while this agreement benefits larger companies, it devastates small and medium-size businesses. Another concern of opponents is that the agreement will increase dependence on and integration with Mainland China's economy.

On March 17, a Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) Legislator decided that the review process for the agreement was over and that it would be voted on within the next few days. This precipitated the eventual occupation of the Legislative Yuan and subsequent protests that would move hundreds of thousands of Taiwanese to take to the streets. The fear of China eventually "buying Taiwan" is very real to the students and workers who took part in the initial protests and sit-ins. On April 10, the students agreed to leave the Legislative Yuan with the promise that there would be a mechanism for citizen oversight of any future trade deliberations concerning Mainland China. If the government does not hold true to this promise, the students have vowed to

return in 60 days, the number of days it takes for a Sunflower seed to reach full bloom.

When I first read about this occupation, I was very excited. I relayed this news to my friend, who responded with a blunt, "so what?" At first I disregarded my friend's question. However, as the Sunflower Movement developed and transformed, I returned to pondering the question of "so what?" The movement was aided by live streaming websites to shape its own message. All over the world, pro-Sunflower protests broke out in support of the movement. However, the focus and goals of the Sunflower movement have broadened as time has gone by. At first, the Legislative Yuan provided the movement with a centralized base of command for the rest of the protesters. Now, with the occupation over, the movement is decentralized and unfocused. For everyone observing, it is hard to tell what will happen in Taipei if President Ma refuses to capitulate to the students' demands. Time will only tell if the government of Taiwan follows through on its promise.

Can this situation tell us something about our own experiences? What do the experiences of the Sunflower Revolution tell us about a student body's efficacy when a referendum passes, and is almost completely disregarded by our 'Vincentian' President? Is occupying administrative buildings the only way for a student body to truly be heard these days? What does this mean for DePaul, and all other student bodies that attempt to voice their concerns and stand up to larger interests? Much like in Taiwan, this question remains unanswered for student activists at DePaul. We will have to wait and see.

# Mexico's Vigilante Movement

By: Elena Becerril

There has been a growing discontent amid the people of Mexico and the government. Ever since the Calderon administration started the war on drugs in 2006, drug cartels have taken control of various towns, villages, and states. People have grown weary of whom to trust due to the extreme infiltration of cartel members in high government positions. In the beginning, the war against drugs did not affect civilians who found relief in knowing that, as long as they were not part of a drug organization, they would be okay. Unfortunately, drug cartels have begun forming other operations that have directly impacted the safety of civilians, especially women and children. Conflicts over drugs have killed more than 90,000 people since 2006 and have tripled homicide cases since 2007. In addition, civilians are forced to pay taxes to drug cartels for “protection” and young girls are unable to go out without the fear of being taken away and sold into prostitution.

The growing problems outlined above have resulted in the rise of Mexico's vigilante movement. The vigilante movement began in the state of Michoacán when local farmers and cattle ranchers took up arms against the drug cartels. It was started by Jose Manuel Mireles, a local doctor who lost several family members to the war on drugs, in order to protect civilians from assaults, rapes and other crimes committed by The Knights Templar. The Knights Templar is a gang organization that controls the majority of western Mexico.. A vigilante member in the Michoacán village of Ruana, for instance, explains, “We have armed ourselves to defend our rights; officials no longer carry out justice here.” Since 2013, the vigilante movement has spread to 13 different states including Veracruz, Jalisco, Michoacán and Monterrey and operates in over 68 municipalities. While the majority of vigilante groups focus on civilian crimes, other groups such as the Mata-Zetas in Monterrey, specialize in capturing drug cartel members. The vigilante groups have been able to successfully rid drug cartels from towns such as La Ruana, Tultapac, and Apatzingan. But as Adam Raney, a local correspondent of Al Jazeera, observed, even though violence has diminished since the formation of these vigilante groups, people remain unsure if cartels have officially left or are just hiding.

With the increase of vigilante groups across Mexico, other civilians have become weary of the movement. Many are concerned that these groups might undermine the law and violate people's rights. Others are afraid they will turn into criminal groups similar to Colombia's FARC, a corrupt paramilitary group that was initially founded to protect rural communities. Initially, President Peña Nieto approved of the vigilante groups and called them to join his new rural police force *Los Auto-Defensas*. Many groups have joined the *Auto-Defensa* force, registering their guns and putting on the uniform. However, Peña Nieto's discourse shifted and he has since withdrawn support, giving all registered vigilante groups until May 10th to demobilize. These new set of orders have caused many vigilantes to oppose the government and continue to fight against the drug cartels. Some groups have even stated that until the government is capable of successfully winning the war on drugs, they will refuse to stand down.



# 2014 Autumn Quarter Class List

**INT 150 Global Connections** — TBA — TuTh  
11:20am - 12:50pm

**INT 360 Development/Anti-Development:  
International Development & Regional  
Inequities** — Maureen Sioh — MW 9:40am -  
11:10am

**INT 360 Development/Anti-Development:  
Revolutions and Peasant Rebellions** — Jose  
Soltero — MW 2:40pm - 4:10pm

**INT 201 The Evolution of the Modern Nation  
State**  
— Gil Gott — TuTh 1:00pm - 2:30pm  
— Kaveh Ehsani — MW 11:20am - 12:50pm  
— Stephen Haymes — TuTh 4:20pm - 5:50pm

**INT 204 Cultural Analysis** — Heidi Nast — TuTh  
2:40pm - 4:10pm

**INT 205 International Political Economy** —  
Antonio Morales-Pita — TuTh 9:40am - 11:10am

**INT 206 Identities and Boundaries** — Heidi Nast  
— TuTh 4:20pm - 5:50pm

**INT 301 Senior Seminar**  
— Shiera Malik — MW 2:40pm - 4:10pm  
— Gil Gott — MW 1:00pm - 2:30pm

**INT 382 Internship Residency** — Michael  
McIntyre — TBA

## Alumni Spotlight: Amanda Lawrence

By: Keavy McFadden

**What year did you graduate?** 2011

**Were you involved in any other departments,  
organizations, or activities while at DePaul?**

I double majored in Economics through the Business School, and participated in the Honors Program and the Delta Sigma Pi Business Fraternity.

**What do you currently do?** I am an analyst for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) in Washington, D.C.

**What did you do after graduating from  
DePaul?** I became an economic assistant for FDIC in Dallas.

**Why did you choose INT as your major, and  
what was your favorite aspect of the major?**

I chose INT after I spent a semester abroad. I enjoyed the diverse topics covered in the core curriculum, some of which challenged and expanded my worldview.

**How has being a former INT major helped  
you in your professional life?** As much as I cursed them at the time, analytical summaries have been immeasurably beneficial in my current position. Critical reading and synthesizing complex ideas are key functions of what I do.

**What advice do you have to offer to students  
as they work through their studies?** Give every assignment 100%. You never know what knowledge and skills you may learn that can greatly benefit you in the future.

**What advice do you have for INT seniors  
who are getting ready to enter the job  
market or pursue graduate degrees?** Apply to a variety of positions. I knew I wanted to work in public service but would not have guessed it would be for a banking regulator. Be open to different opportunities.

# Who Can We Trust if We Cannot Trust Developers and Banks?

By: Estelle de Vendegies

In 1995, the Day family purchased a building in Chicago's Old Town neighborhood. In 2002, Mrs. Day, mother of four, was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Eventually confined to a wheelchair, Mrs. Day was no longer able to climb stairs, so Mr. Day and his son would have to carry her thirty-two steps from the second floor every day. The family soon realized that changes had to be made. In the summer of 2007, therefore, they sold their building to IT2K Development LLC with an agreement to purchase a handicapped accessible condo in the building.

The family paid for the condo in full, and IT2K Development LLC used the money to help finance the new construction of the building, along with a construction loan from American Chartered Bank. Two years after construction, the building was left with six of the eight residential units and the commercial space unsold. Because of this and the real estate crisis, IT2K Development LLC defaulted on their loan agreement and derailed the project. American Chartered Bank seized ownership of the building, and demanded extra money from the Day family in order for them to keep their home. After the family refused to pay more, they received a judgment of foreclosure and are now being forced from their home. Is the bank's purpose solely to make profit?

I have personally known the Day family since 1996 and have spent much of my childhood

with the family. Their house was across the street from my grade school, Franklin Fine Arts Center, and many of the kids in my class spent afternoons and weekends there. Mr. Day was always involved in school activities and is a known figure in the community. For many, the idea that the Day family will no longer be living across from Franklin is inconceivable.

How is it that American Chartered Bank is able to remove a family from a house that was paid in full? If they claim to assist people in "every unique situation," why can they not do so here? After all, families already occupy two of the eight units and it is the developer that is at fault, not either of the families living in the building. When researching for this article, I had trouble finding anything available about IT2K, as apparently they have now been driven out of business and the developer has left the country.

The Day family has tried creating petitions on various websites including Change.org and OccupyOurHomes.org. Why is this such a typical story? Above all, profit led to our recession. Greed has taken over our society. We the students at DePaul must be ever vigilant when it comes to business dealings and those who have suffered from economic circumstances. Likewise, we must always hold banks accountable for their decision-making, as it is often not in the interest of the average U.S. American. A bank that claims to be "responsive, accountable and flexible" has defaulted. People over profit!



# Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Larisa Kurtović

By: Nicole Osborne

*This year the DePaul International studies program says goodbye to Professor Larisa Kurtović, who will be leaving the university after this academic year to pursue a post-doctorate. Professor Kurtović received her doctorate in Anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley and specializes in political anthropology and the contemporary Balkans region. While it is never easy to say goodbye, especially for those of us INTers who have been fortunate enough to have her as a professor, we wish her well in all her future endeavors and ask Professor Kurtović to share some final memories and advice from her time here working with INT.*



**Q. With a doctorate in Anthropology, what attracted you to teach in DePaul University's International Studies program?**

**A.** As a former DePaul INT student with a bachelor's in International Studies, I am very interested in the intellectual and pedagogical processes involved in the INT program. I enjoyed the INT experience as a student, and becoming a professor in the INT department gave me the fascinating opportunity to relive the experience from a different perspective.

**Q. What has been one of your most memorable experiences here at DePaul?**

**A.** I have had many wonderful and amazing experiences here at DePaul, so it is difficult to choose just one. Teaching INT 201 has been one of my favorite and most rewarding experiences, shepherding students through INT boot camp and watching them come out transformed on the other side. It was an experience which I remember to be extremely transformative, and I truly enjoy watching students change, grow, and learn through their struggle. As an INT 201 student, I remember feeling very lost and unsure of what I was supposed to be doing, and it is great to watch that "Aha!" moment for students when everything comes together.

**Q. What will you miss most about working with the DePaul International Studies Program?**

**A.** I will miss the INT students. Their commitment, watching their transformation, and

especially the close-knit community which has formed in the department, it is inspiring and something I will miss. Current INT students are extremely lucky to be a part of this strong community and to have fellow students active in maintaining it. When I was an INT student we had nothing like this current sense of community; we did not have a newsletter, we did not have student representatives, and we did not hang out outside of class like the INT students do now. Seeing students now, I am envious of that support and community learning experience which is so important in this type of program.

**Q. Any final words of advice to give to your students as well as to new students to the program?**

**A.** Have patience. Don't forget to be kind to each other and to yourselves. This program is a marathon and students need to find ways to enjoy life and enjoy the college experience outside of INT. Build off the experiences and accomplishments of past students, learn from their struggles and use them to your advantage. Again, I cannot stress enough the importance of the INT community and how lucky students are to be a part of it. Students have worked hard to build this community and it is of a great benefit to INT students to take part and make use of these students and former students and what they have built. Be involved in the program and keep the community going, it's here for your own advantage.

## Embracing the Seasons of Change: Sexual Violence at DePaul

By: Christina Campbell

Spring is always a busy time for most students as we all count the days until the quarter ends and summer begins. It seems like campus comes alive after the long and cold Chicago winter, and students suddenly become more visibly active, fighting around the issues that most affect them. This spring has been no different. As most of us know, DePaul has been in an uproar the past couple of weeks surrounding various contentious issues, ranging from the DePaul Divest campaign to the several incidents of sexual violence on campus.

The month of April is known as Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) in the United States. There were planned weekly events that DePaul students could attend, including panels, talks from guest speakers, and an event called Take Back the Night, which involves a rally and group discussion about sexual violence that are centered around acceptance and healing. The week of April 21st was particularly important in the month's events because of an SGA scheduled panel discussion regarding DePaul's policies and procedures in instances of sexual assault on campus. The director of Public Safety, Robert Wachowski, the Sexual Health and Violence Prevention Coordinator, Rima Shah, and the Athletics Department Director, Jean Lenti-Ponsetto headed the panel.

On April 23rd, the day before this panel took place, two banners were dropped over a balcony in the Arts and Letters Hall by an anonymous student group, DePaul Exposed. Students gathered in the Arts and Letters lobby, took pictures, clapped, and witnessed the argument between a woman who was trying to keep the banners in place, and a man who attempted to take them down, citing them as offensive. In hindsight, the banners themselves are not important, rather it is the fury and the conversation that it managed to spark all around DePaul's campus. DePaul Exposed released a statement explaining their actions, and their belief that DePaul values certain students over others. They ended their letter stating, "All we want is to get at the root of sexual assault, and for the institution to be held accountable in order to promote awareness, and to stop enabling rape culture."

Seemingly as a result of the banner drop and the rumors of numerous sexual assaults on campus that students felt were inappropriately handled by the administration, an unexpectedly large group of people showed up to the SGA panel. Jean Lenti-Ponsetto did not attend the meeting, instead the Assistant Dean of Students, Ellen Herion Fingado, took her seat. Tensions were high at this discussion, with many students approaching the board to ask them questions about DePaul's policies in accusatory tones. It is only right



that students express their concerns and questions to the administration, but it is important to not get caught up in the heat of the moment and let the underlying issues be swept under the rug.

The Department of Women and Gender Studies (WGS) has been proactive in keeping up with this issue. One WGS class was able to meet with Rima Shah and discuss with her some changes that her office, as well as DePaul as a whole, can make to improve how sexual assault is viewed and handled on campus. It is important to emphasize that this task cannot be left up to Rima Shah alone. She effectively handles this heavy responsibility as the only staff member who deals with sexual health and violence. For a change in DePaul's culture to be effective and pervasive, efforts need to be taken at the campus-wide level.

Sexual violence is a difficult topic to broach, even with the people we are close to. But one of the most important things to remember is that this conversation must continue. The WGS class mentioned earlier surveyed close to 200 DePaul students and found shocking results. The survey reveals that most students are unaware of the services that DePaul offers for survivors of sexual violence. Further, many students do not know what rape culture is, and others do not think that sexual assault is a problem on DePaul's campus. But it is a reality for many at DePaul, whether their stories go told or untold. Therefore, it should continue to be a topic of concern for the student body and administration. Spring is a time for change and new beginnings, but that does not mean letting go of the events that brought us to this present time. We must allow these events to carry us forward into each season of change, and to eventually achieve the goal of a sexual violence-free campus.

# Congratulations MLK Essay Winners!

We would like to extend our sincerest congratulations to Kit, Kat, and Mark, the three winners of the MLK Essay Contest. This contest asks students to respond to Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech, "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break the Silence" (1967), using some of his questions or ethical frames for considering issues we face in the 21st century.

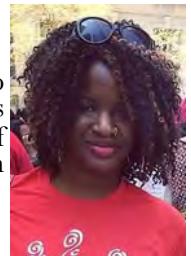


## Kit Main, *From Vietnam to Iraq: Enacting Dr. King Within Hip-Hop Critiques of US Foreign Policy*

“Apart from their individual recollections of Dr. King, anti-war hip-hop lyrics of the 21st century graph a larger message into the subway cars and abandoned tunnels of American dreams of freedom: a time comes when silence is betrayal. Lyrics such as those written and performed by Immortal Technique, Mr. Lif, Damien Marley, and Eminem, may not have been able to survive during the 1960s. Dr. King laid the pathway and spoke the vision, and today, his willingness to speak, even behind bars, created the conditions of possibility for these artists to also speak, especially through their bars, sixteen and longer, a creative psalm of peace.”

## Kathleen Anaza, *Reimagining the Millennial*

“King’s call to action was delivered in 1967 but it has not been fully received. It is our generation’s duty to receive his call and respond with action. We can challenge one another to become a generation that is characterized by unprecedented accountability and activism. We could be remembered by our high levels of human dignity and agency. In spite of society’s preconceived notions of our generation, let us define our own narratives through our resistance to oppression.”



## Mark Moran, *The Threat of Complacency*

“The concept of Gay Marriage simply fosters a sense of complacency among the hetero American public. These hetero progressive supporters of gay marriage are similar to the white liberals that MLK faced and warned us against during his time. The human dignity and rights of LGBTQQA people in the U.S. are in fact hindered through this complacency. People begin to think that through supporting gay marriage they are doing their share in fighting discrimination rather than actually taking action. MLK describes this silence as

## Meet Your New INT Student Reps!

### Madeleine Burdzy

Madi is currently a sophomore, double-majoring in International Studies and Arabic Studies. She is an intern at The Indian Institute for Geographical Studies (TIIGS), which provides critical geography education to both adults and children in India. She also co-hosts a music/talk variety show entitled Morning Marvel at Radio DePaul. She loves being an INT major because it challenges her to rethink her preconceived notions surrounding society, politics, culture, and dominant historical narratives in general. As an INT representative, she hopes to create a stronger sense of community between INT students and establish a time and place on campus where INTers can do communal research and ask for advice from upperclassmen on certain courses. Madi is very passionate about international studies and hopes to work for SERAC (Social and Economic Rights Action Center) in Lagos, Nigeria after she graduates and to eventually enroll in a dual Ph.D/JD program.



### Eeman Ouyoun

Eeman is a junior pursuing a double major in Honors Economics and International Studies with a focus on development as well as a minor in Global Asian Studies. On campus, she volunteers with United Muslim Moving Ahead to organize programs and events to build community for Muslim students and generate awareness about Islam. Around her community, she volunteers by teaching Arabic language and Islamic classes. Eeman loves to travel and believes in the power of travel and cross-cultural connections to empower people. Last year she traveled to several different countries in Southeast Asia participating in a variety of social service activities including volunteering at an orphanage and organizing a team to provide food supplies to a shelter for street children. As an INT student representative, Eeman wants to build a greater sense of community among INT students by organizing events that showcase the different passions and skills within the INT department.



# SIR's Tuesday INTervention Series: A Recap

The INT Honors Society Sigma Iota Rho (SIR) began hosting a weekly program series: *Tuesday INTerventions*. We hope that SIR will be the platform through which INT students become more engaged and involved with the department and, most importantly, with the INT community. The Newsletter Committee also hopes that this space will become a place where ideas, knowledge, and professionalism are cultivated. We would like to thank the SIR Coordinating Committee: Gabriela Polo, Keavy McFadden, Amelia Hussein, Dana Jabri, Vierelina Fernández and their advisor Dr. Shiera Malik for putting their relentless effort into organizing the *Tuesday INTerventions* series and paving the path for an active community.



## FILM SCREENING & DISCUSSION: THE BLACK POWER MIXTAPE 1967-1975

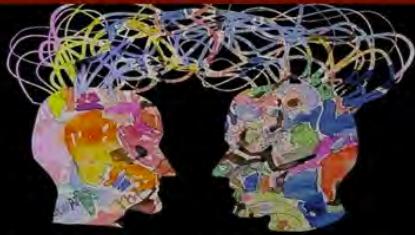
TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2014  
4PM – 6PM  
O'Connell Hall Room 230



SIGMA IOTA RHO  
The Honor Society for International Studies

LOOK OUT FOR MORE EVENTS FROM SIR'S TUESDAY INTERVENTIONS SERIES  
EVERY TUESDAY FROM 4PM – 6PM IN O'CONNELL HALL ROOM 230  
CONTACT INT.SIR.DEPUL@GMAIL.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION

## Sigma Iota Rho's Tuesday INTerventions Series Presents a Panel Session:



### Discourse, Representation & Construction

TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2014  
4PM – 6PM  
O'Connell Hall Room 230

Discussant: Dr. Jacob Stump,  
Shepherd University  
Moderator: Dana Jabri

Amelia Hussein: The Naturalization and Critique of Neoliberalism in *Slumdog Millionaire* and *Sammy and Rosie Get Laid*

William Barab: Gender-Driven Foreign Policy: An Analysis of The Role of Masculinity in the 1953 Coup D'état in Iran

Kathleen Anaza: Deconstructing the Do: Understanding the Politicization and Commodification of the Natural Hair Culture

Alex Dominguez: From Bandit to Terrorist: The Russian Discourse on Chechnya During the First and Second Chechen Wars

Look out for more events from SIR's Tuesday INTerventions Series  
Every Tuesday from 4PM – 6PM in O'Connell Hall Room 230  
Contact int.sir.depul@gmail.com for more information

## Join Sigma Iota Rho's Tuesday INTerventions Series:

# —END OF YEAR— Celebration!

## International Studies Potluck

TUESDAY, June 3, 2014  
4PM – 6PM  
O'Connell Hall Room 230

Join us for an evening of performance and reflection on community building and engagement in INT and beyond.

Performances from 'WE the Collective'  
featuring Kit Main, Frankiem Mitchell, and Ben Williams.

'WE the Collective' is comprised of seven writers, who branch into a variety of artistic skills and avenues. Between the seven is an extension of creative endeavors such as: directing, singing, acting, dancing, educating, and rapping. They are musicians and poets that strive to change the face of performance art. WE challenges its audiences to ponder on what the evolution of the stage will look like.

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SIR Applications due Friday, May 30th  
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## Sigma Iota Rho's Tuesday INTerventions Series Presents: The Next Steps Roundtable



A roundtable discussion  
on moving forward after graduation.

TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2014  
4PM – 6PM  
O'Connell Hall Room 230

Monika Włodarczyk: Language Assistant with Meddeas  
Miriam Keep: Fulbright Scholarship to Morocco - "Local Experiences of Participatory Planning in Slum Reduction"  
Gabriela Polo: Master's in Sustainable Development Practice at University of Florida  
Richard Reinhardt: PhD Doctoral Program in Anthropology and History at the University of Michigan

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EVERY TUESDAY FROM 4PM – 6PM IN O'CONNELL HALL ROOM 230  
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## Sigma Iota Rho's Tuesday INTerventions Series Presents: Looking for Justice in the Streets: Rethinking Protest Politics & Popular Sovereignty in Bosnia-Herzegovina

TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2014  
4PM – 6PM  
O'Connell Hall Room 230

What can the recent uprisings in Bosnia-Herzegovina tell us about the popular conceptions of mass political action in the aftermath of postwar intervention and postcolonial transformation? What kind of challenge do these mobilizations pose to the dominant framing of Bosnian citizens as politically apathetic and indifferent about the future? And how can analyzing these protests help us better understand, on the one hand, the institutional constraints to change, and on the other, enduring commitment to developing alternative ways of imagining political community? To learn more, join Dr. Larisa Kurtović and Sigma Iota Rho at the next Tuesday INTervention.

SIR's Tuesday INTerventions happen every Tuesday from 4PM – 6PM in O'Connell Hall Room 230  
Contact int.sir.depul@gmail.com for more information.



## Understanding China: A Review of a Panel Discussion

By: Kyle Wagner

A very important panel, held only a few weeks ago, explored contemporary issues regarding the rise of China. This panel was headed by five well-respected professors specializing in China: Owais Succari, Li Jin, Jennifer Kwong, Angelika Cedzich, and Curtis Hansman. (On a side note, I have previously had four of these five professors at DePaul; I highly recommend them to anyone with an interest in China or East Asia). This panel was organized to bring together professors from various backgrounds, disciplines, and cultures who can contribute multiple perspectives and insights on contemporary issues or misconceptions regarding China. The format was a typical panel discussion, but it was more casual and open for audience participation. The topic of the discussion was drawn from a recent article published in *Asia Society* titled, “Don’t believe these five myths about China”. The five myths the article referred to were taken from Kevin Rudd, a senior fellow at Harvard University, during his speech at the National Chinese Language Conference in California:

- Myth #1: China is a single monolithic state.
- Myth #2: China intends to rule the world.
- Myth #3: China is motivated by wealth, power and, above all, saving face.
- Myth #4: There are fundamentally conflicting values between the West and China.
- Myth #5: Chinese is too hard to learn.

According to Rudd, China is vast and diverse, rather than monolithic; concerned with domestic issues and trade, rather than ruling the world; motivated through shared similarities with the West, rather than conflictive; has values that are actually more similar, rather than fundamentally different; has a language that has far easier with grammar than many European ones, rather than being extremely difficult. Of course much of these viewpoints are debatable, opening up a perfect opportunity for the Chinese panelists to weigh in with their own personal insight. However, most of the discussion revolved around the debate of the first myth.

Professor Jennifer Kwong gave a very personal example of why China does not speak with ‘one voice,’ as Rudd had stated in the first myth. She

explained that both her and her husband’s parents came from regions with dialects so different that communication was rendered impossible. One way to remedy this would be to write down what you are trying to say, since the written language is the same all over. However, having grown up only knowing simplified Chinese, a writing system implemented in 1956, she could not read or understand her in-laws that wrote in complex, traditional Chinese!

Professor Li Jin argued against the monolithic view due to China having such a rich culture and diversity throughout its country. While the East coast of China may seem very unitary, places like Tibet, Xinjiang, or parts of Inner Mongolia complicate the view of a singular China. However, Professor Jin’s talk focused on important differences between the United States and China. The deep values that we hold, how we dream, and even how we walk can indicate difference depending on if we were born in China or the United States. For example, although Professor Jin was born in China, she was easily picked out of the crowd by the distinct way she walked when she went back to China to visit. Through her talk, she argued that cultural differences can be subconsciously acquired.

Professor Owais Succari, a professor from the Business school, gave a talk on the long history of China’s superpower status. China was a world power for thousands of years until the downfall of the dynastic cycle in the early twentieth century. In addition, he described the importance of China in creating many groundbreaking inventions far before the West, from the invention of paper to sailing the sea with sophisticated ships. His talk focused on the historical inaccuracy of portraying China as an “up and coming nation” when, in reality, they have always held global influence.

Interestingly enough, as the discussion was about to begin wrapping up all of the panelists and students in attendance were still discussing the first myth. Whether through different traditions, religions, philosophies, or values, there is one thing we can all do: learn more about the rich history of China. While there may be never one straightforward answer, the way to alleviate much of the common misconceptions and myths is to acquire a deeper knowledge and a mutual understanding of China.

## DePaul Divest: Grassroots Organizing on Campus

By: Areej Hamdan

Since the start of spring quarter, a campaign led by a group of students called DePaul Divest has taken DePaul by storm. DePaul Divest is a coalition of staff, students, and faculty who placed a referendum on the SGA ballots to give students the opportunity to vote on whether or not the university should invest in twelve multinational corporations that profit off of human rights abuses in Palestine. Spearheaded by Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and endorsed by several other student organizations, the organizers successfully gathered over 1,100 signatures to get this question placed on the ballot. This divestment campaign is a response to the global call for BDS campaigns (Boycott, Divestments, and Sanctions) until Israel complies with the three goals of the campaign: an end to the Israeli occupation and a dismantling of the wall, full equality for Arabs living in Israel, and the promotion and protection of the right of return to Palestinian refugees as stipulated under UN resolution 194.

Elements of effective grassroots organizing, such as personally engaging with students on the issue and remaining visible and accessible on campus, were evident in this campaign. This is what ultimately encouraged students to vote yes to divestment on Friday May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Organizers of the DePaul Divest campaign have been tabling and canvassing around campus for seven weeks in an effort to get students to sign a petition. The petition required at least 1,000 valid signatures in order to get the divestment question placed on the SGA ballot. Organizers also canvassed consistently for the eight weeks before and during the elections to educate students about the atrocities committed against Palestinians and students' complicity in these violations of human rights through the investment of their tuition money. Some of the corporations targeted in the referendum include four weapons manufacturers (Boeing Co., Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, and Northrop Grumman), and companies such as Hewlett-Packard (HP) and L-3 Communications, who provide invasive forms of biometric scanning at checkpoints. Other corporations were targeted because they manufacture their goods on illegal Israeli settlements.

Organizers of the campaign worked hard to be visible on campus. In addition to tabling and canvassing, a mock apartheid wall was erected in order to help students visualize the adverse effects of the wall on Palestinians. The apartheid wall runs through and along the West Bank and limits Palestinian's rights to freedom of movement and access to healthcare. Moreover, the construction of the wall contributes majorly to the loss of Palestinian land. Additionally, on Tuesday



of elections week, DePaul Divest occupied the Schmitt Academic Center Pit for 17 hours to create a space where students could come in and learn more about the campaign. The entire day was full of teach-ins that centered on issues in Palestine, such as the treatment of Christians living in Palestine, students' personal experiences in the region, and the conditions of Palestinian refugee camps, all of which helped provide better context for what the campaign was attempting to accomplish and why students should consider divestment to be an important issue. The students involved also displayed a 70-foot Palestinian flag on one of the grassy slopes in the quad.

On Wednesday, the same 70-foot flag was dropped in the Arts and Letters building during passing period. Organizers and supporters of the campaign then walked out carrying the flag from Arts and Letters to Clifton-Fullerton Hall chanting, "Vote yes to divest!" On Thursday, the final day before voting ended, a few flash mobs were held throughout the day in which the students did *dabke*, a traditional Arab folk dance, in order to celebrate the resilience of Palestinian culture and remind students to vote.

DePaul University does not have any screens on the way our tuition dollars are invested, and this victory paves the way for more socially responsible investments. Traditionally, divestment passes at other universities through a resolution passed in their student governments, which is a top-down effort. DePaul is one of the few schools to take advantage of a referendum to pass divestment, which has a larger impact on a campus climate because it requires the campaign organizers to work more personally with the student body. These are the mechanisms that make grassroots movements successful. A group of students took the initiative to learn where their tuition money was going and exercised their rights as tuition paying students to raise awareness amongst the general student body and enact change. In working closely with the students, the issue of Palestine was brought to DePaul in a widespread way.

# What is Going on in Ukraine?

By: Yuliya Ralko

It now seems that everyone finally knows where Ukraine is located. Unfortunately, this is not due to Ukraine's rising position in the world or their success at the Olympic Games. The events that led to this phenomenon are much more tragic and have hurt the hearts of Ukrainians everywhere. I will provide a short overview of the situation in Ukraine, covering some of the most pressing questions in the news today.

The first event in Ukraine that grabbed international interest was Russia taking over Crimea and claiming it as their own territory. After Crimea, Russian interest seemed to turn toward the east of Ukraine, however it still remains unclear exactly what is going on there. Everyday while reading news I wonder, "What is going on? Is someone trying to create conflict inside of the country? Or is Ukraine the new field for the war between the Western world and Russia?" These questions remain unanswered as the situation in the country gets worse. People are dying every day in the conflicts between separatists and Ukrainian soldiers and civilians.

Before going into detail about what is going on now in the east of Ukraine, it is important to explain the historical ethnic conflicts between Russians, Russian speaking Ukrainians and Ukrainian speaking Ukrainians in Ukraine. The conflict can be summed up in one phrase: it does not exist. Yes, there have been some minor disagreements, but they can hardly be labeled as conflicts. The tensions that have arisen have just been normal disagreements, albeit disagreements very particular to Ukraine.

Almost everyone in Ukraine, including in west Ukraine, has friends and family from Russian speaking and even Russian populations, and they do not have any problems with them. In west Ukraine, I only had someone point out that I was using Russian a couple of times, but it was nothing too serious and it did not bother me. In the southeast region of

Ukraine the situation was calmer, and speaking Ukrainian never elicited a bad response. Further, I only received an unexpected comment once in Crimea for speaking Ukrainian. A middle-aged Russian man asked why I was using Ukrainian in Crimea, and that Crimea was Russian territory and that it was a mistake to give it to Ukraine. At that time I was very confused because I considered Crimea as Ukrainian territory. Despite my own experiences and what I heard from different people around Ukraine, Ukrainians recently discovered that Russians in Crimea and eastern regions of Ukraine are treated badly by ethnic Ukrainians. But can this be true?

It is important to think about the possibility of differentiating between Russians and Ukrainians. There is no visual difference between an Ukrainian and a Russian. Throughout history, both nations often mixed and did not develop any particular features that could distinguish them from each other, or even from other Slavs. As for language, there is a large population of Ukrainians who learned Russian as their first language. Those people are Ukrainians, admire Ukrainian culture, and think of Ukraine as their own country. They also typically understand and often can speak Ukrainian easily, but Russian is just the language they have used all their lives. While it is true that they have different accents than people living in Russia, the same is true for Russians that live in Ukraine.

So how can Ukrainians treat Russians badly if they cannot even recognize them? Yes, people sometimes complain about people who speak Russian in Ukraine, but these complaints are not targeted at Russians, but at Russian speaking Ukrainians. At the same time, there is a huge number of Ukrainians living in Russia that have difficult relations with Russians.

**See Ukraine, next page...**



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## Ukraine

continued from previous page

There is more discrimination of Ukrainians in Russia than of Russians in Ukraine. However, Russia used these ethnic claims to take Crimea from Ukraine. The terrorist-separatist group said that they were the ones shooting Ukrainian “fascists”, yet these “fascists” were just the Ukrainian soldiers that were doing their routine military service in Volnovaha. The terrorist leader was proud of the shooting and advised western Ukrainian people to be aware of the group. However, it is unclear who exactly the terrorists are. People are saying that they were paid by the previous president of Ukraine, while others say that they were paid by Russia. In the beginning of the tensions, there

were more obvious reasons for the conflict like Russia not wanting Ukraine to join NATO, but as the situation progresses the facts seem increasingly less concrete. It is possible that someone, perhaps Russian leaders or the previous Ukrainian president Yanokovich, is trying to create a division inside of the country. Ukraine was relatively stable for the last 23 years, but now western and eastern Ukraine are going in different directions, and it is not clear if people really want this or if it is being orchestrated by an outsider.

The Ukrainian elections that happened on May 25th gave hope for a change in the

situation. Most voters expect some actions from the new president, but at the same time they do not have much faith in the government overall. Ukraine has now gone through two revolutions, but in a lot of ways the situation in the country is getting worse. There are no new jobs, and people continue to leave Ukraine. Everyone is focusing on international politics, but no one is paying much attention to the people. The government needs to focus on the people, not on their own wills and wants. Only then will the conflict end, and Ukraine will be on the path to a better future.

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