

Global Studies

Fall 2011 Newsletter



Greetings to our Global Studies Community of Students, Alumni, Faculty, and Friends

Global Studies has grown significantly at UTK since we began enrolling students in our interdisciplinary classes in 2004. In fact, we are now one of the largest undergraduate majors in the College of Arts and Sciences with close to 100 majors. Under the stewardship of our founding director, Jon Shefner, Global Studies immediately distinguished itself as a vibrant community of learners dedicated to understanding the complexities of a broad array of global/local issues related directly or indirectly to community service and social justice. In Fall of 2010, I was invited to assume the directorship of Global Studies when Jon became department head of Sociology. During my short time as director, I have come to appreciate more than I had previously imagined the level of social and community engagement that characterizes Global Studies at UTK. In an effort to stay connected and to share our collective story with one another and with others, we launch this initial Global Studies electronic newsletter. Many thanks to those of you who sent us material to share, and special kudos to our student assistant, Rachel Canon, who put together this inaugural issue. Un fuerte abrazo de Michael Handelsman, Director

Faculty News

Paul Gellert (Sociology) Dr. Gellert spent 10 months in 2010-11 on a Fulbright Senior Scholar grant in Jakarta, Indonesia. He taught economic development to undergraduates and research methods to master's students, as well as offering guest lectures about American society, at Paramadina University, a "small but giant" Muslim university in the center of the metropolis. He also continued to research about developments in the governance of timber and forests in Indonesia and to prepare the groundwork for further research on natural resource governance. One prospect for future research is a comparison of the booming coal export sector with coal mining in the US southeast.

Rosalind I.J. Hackett (Professor and Head, Department of Religious Studies, adjunct in Anthropology, and faculty associate at the Baker Center.) Her latest (co-edited) book is *Displacing the State: Religion and Conflict in Neoliberal Africa* (2011). She serves as President of the International Association for the History of Religions and is founder/coordinator of the Jazz for Justice Project and the Gulu Study and Service Abroad Program in Uganda.

Faculty News Continued

Michael Handelsman (Spanish; Director of Global Studies) was named Faculty Director of the Office of National Scholarships and Fellowships at UT. He received a Chancellor's Excellence in Teaching Award and the TN Foreign Languages Teacher Association's Jacqueline Elliott Award for outstanding service to the profession at the post-secondary level. Handelsman was a panel member for "Panorámica actual de la cultura ecuatoriana" held in London, Paris, and Madrid in March 2011. His co-edited volume of essays, *De Atahuallpa a Cuahtémoc: Los nacionalismos culturales de Benjamín Carrión and José Vasconcelos*, will be published jointly by the Museo de la Ciudad de Quito and the University of Pittsburgh.

Jana Morgan (Political Science) recently published articles examining party system stability in the Dominican Republic (*Latin American Politics and Society*) and Latin American attitudes about inequality (*Poverty and Public Policy*). Her forthcoming book, *Bankrupt Representation and Party System Collapse*, analyzes the causes and consequences of party system collapse (Penn State University Press). She spent the summer in Chile collecting data for a new project exploring how structures of economic inequality shape political representation across Latin America.

Dr. Brandon Prins is an associate professor in the Department of Political Science at UT Knoxville. In 2007, Prins joined the faculty at UT Knoxville, where he is responsible for teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in international politics, foreign policy, and political methodology and , as well as directing the graduate studies for the Department of Political Science. Prins' research focuses on the relationship between domestic politics, international relations, and militarized conflict. Currently, Prins is working on a manuscript entitled, "United States Uses of Force in Comparative Perspective " to be included in *The Handbook of American Foreign Policy* for 2011.

Dr. David Reidy (Head of Philosophy Department at UTK) has recently published "Philosophical Foundations of Human Rights" (with Jim Nickel) in *International Human Rights Law*, Daniel Moeckli et al., eds., in Oxford University Press. Also, "Human Rights and Liberal Toleration," in the *Canadian Journal of Law and Jurisprudence*, and "Philosophy and Human Rights: Contemporary Perspectives" in *Contemporary Perspectives on Human Rights*. He will be speaking as part of an invited panel (with Pablo Gilabert, McGill University, and Carol Gould, CUNY-Hunter College) in December of 2011 in Washington DC at the annual meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Public Affairs on the idea of a human right to democracy.

Dr. Jon Shefer (Head of Sociology Department; Previous Head of Global Studies) has recently co-edited a book entitled "Globalization and Beyond: New Examinations of Global Power and its Alternatives". Edited by Jon Shefner and Patricia Fernández-Kelly, 2011, Penn State University Press. Authors include Giovanni Arrighi, Walden Bello, Fred Block, James Cypher, Raúl Delgado Wise, Cristina Escobar, Patricia Fernández-Kelly, Gary Gereffi, Frances Fox Piven, Alejandro Portes, Alexandra Walton Radford, William I. Robinson, Jon Shefner, Catherine Walsh, and Lu Zhang.

Professor Yang Zhong is on sabbatical leave this year, conducting a study of religious, social and political values of Chinese Christians in China".

Alumni News

Phillip Gilman—Since graduating in May, Phillip has gotten married and taken a job with Habitat for Humanity through AmeriCorps here in Knoxville. He and his wife are also both working in Market Square as well as working through the process of applying for the Peace Corps. He hopes to enter the Master's International program with PC through a university in Washington D.C.

Jaclyn Barnhart— Jaclyn currently works for Teach for America as a middle school math teacher in Tulsa, OK. If any Global Studies students are interested in Teach for America, Jaclyn has expressed that she would love to be an outreach contact! Her email is : Jaclyn.barnhart@gmail.com—feel free to get in touch with her.

Travis Tillman, GS Alum Class of 2011—“Global Studies has most prepared me for living and working in China by

teaching objectivity and patience, I believe. It is difficult to pin down, but I feel that those characteristics have helped me analyze this environment more than anything else - being able to compare and contrast beyond a US and non-US perspective, accepting ambiguity in culture/ governance, but most of all the ability to recognize what I don't understand and the limits of empathy. Back in classes I thought I could understand any conflict given proper observation and research, but I'm beginning to discover the limits of such engagement. It is not that isn't fascinating, but when I look into the faces of the elderly I see their look of confusion, their hesitation as they walk in a new world becoming newer. I think of what questions they have: What has my home become? Where is this going? But the changes here go beyond just buildings as the youngest generation bares little resemblance to their parents and hardly any with their grandparents. I see the face on the street asking "who are my grandchildren?" I know the historical implications, I know the socio-economic developments that have come from them too, but I, like neighbors, feel disoriented. I'm not discouraged by this but rather I try to share their concern, and that is what Global Studies has prepared me to do. “

Upcoming Events

November 9, 2011— Rosalyn Pelles, Director of the Civil, Human and Women's Rights Department at the national AFL-CIO, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Highlander Center has been invited to speak at UT. Her presentation will be at 7:00 pm in the Hermitage room of the University Center. This event will be co-sponsored by Global Studies and the Sociology Department.

February 16, 2012 - Matthew Restall, Professor of History at Penn State University, will be giving a presentation entitled “The End of the World As We Know It” , at 7:00 pm. Please bear in mind that this is not occurring until next semester, so be on the lookout for an email from Dr. Handelsman with an update on the location. This event will be co-sponsored by Global Studies and Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

Any questions or concerns? Please feel free to email Dr. Michael Handelsman, head of Global Studies at: handelsm@utk.edu; or Rachel Canon, student assistant, at: rcanon1@utk.edu