A MESSAGE FROM THE DIVISIONAL DEAN

Dear Friends,

With all that is happening worldwide and here at CGA, I find it difficult to decide what to highlight. As you will read in the following pages, CGA continues its mission of preparing global citizens for the challenges ahead through its rigorous graduate program, diplomas, career advancement courses, and public events. It’s a daunting agenda, and to help us realize it, we have been fortunate to add four full-time faculty members (p. 2). They bring expertise to evolving trends in the global economy, data analysis, and transnational security. Our students and alumni also are furthering our mission with applied individual and group research. They are a diverse group that includes a significant number of foreign students, veterans and active military, returned Peace Corps Volunteers, and young professionals.

Partnering with other institutions both within NYU and externally has become an important hallmark. Outcomes from those partnerships are described in the pages that follow, but I want to share two examples. One was a recent collaboration to host the annual conference of the Society for Terrorism Research, organized by Clinical Assistant Professor Mary Beth Altier. That conference brought home to me the benefits of the interdisciplinary and applied focus CGA has always emphasized. During two days of presentations by researchers and practitioners from around the world, including our own MSGA alumni, questions were raised and debated regarding the tactics and nature of violent extremism, strategies for countering it, impacts of enforcement on human rights, the role of the criminal justice system, and much more. Throughout the day, it became evident that these problems are all interconnected.

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Vera Jelinek, Divisional Dean

The perspectives and influence of culture, education, politics, economics, and law provide a much more nuanced and realistic understanding. And nowhere was this clearer than in the presentations of our MSGA alumni, which integrated transnational security with development, community resilience, and peacebuilding.

CGA’s three-year collaboration with the UN Counterterrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) is another example of an ongoing partnership for students researching some aspect of counterterrorism through the lens of international law, law enforcement, media, and human rights. Students representing various concentrations presented their findings on such subjects as the risk to international peace and security from terrorist organizations using information and communication technologies. Among the many challenges were gathering different perspectives, sharing best practices, and bringing terrorists to justice while upholding privacy and freedom of speech. The collaboration between CTED and CGA under the able leadership of Professor Michael Oppenheimer has over the past three years resulted in two conferences and several in-depth reports. It continues today.

Although I have focused on counterterrorism to demonstrate not only the benefits of organizational partnerships but also the value of our interdisciplinary approach, I should add that such partnerships and interdisciplinary approaches apply to other issues, including refugees and migration. The workshop on Statelessness and Inclusion that CGA hosted this past June (p. 2) is another example.

There are many more projects to come. None of these nor the accomplishments of the past years could have been achieved without the commitment and contribution of our truly extraordinary administrative staff and our full-time and adjunct faculty. To them I owe my deepest thanks.

Vera Jelinek, Divisional Dean
ADDRESSING STATELESSNESS

The issue of statelessness—the condition in which a person is not considered a citizen of any state under the normal operations of its laws—has received growing attention as conflicts in Syria and Iraq have led to an increase in numbers of this vulnerable group. In June, CGA hosted a week-long workshop on Statelessness, Citizenship, and Inclusion, organized with the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (based in the Netherlands) and the Open Society Justice Initiative. The workshop brought 25 senior and early-career academics to CGA to build networks and develop new resources for research and teaching on statelessness. Scholars and legal experts from countries including Australia, Kenya, and India participated in sessions on how to gather research in vulnerable communities, how to define what exclusion and inclusion mean to stateless persons themselves, and how practitioners and scholars can collaborate to end statelessness.

FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

Beginning this fall, Christopher Ankersen will be clinical associate professor at CGA where he will teach in the Transnational Security concentration. Previously, Dr. Ankersen was the security adviser for the United Nations in Thailand and has held many other UN positions. From 2000 to 2005, he acted as a strategy consultant to militaries, governments, and private firms in the UK and Canada. From 1988 to 2000, Dr. Ankersen was an officer in the Canadian Forces, serving in Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry, including on overseas missions with the UN and NATO. Dr. Ankersen has taught at the London School of Economics, the London Centre for International Relations, King’s College London, Carleton University, and the Royal Military College of Canada, and he has lectured at staff colleges in Canada, Australia, and Denmark. He holds a BA from Royal Roads Military College (Canada) and an MSc and PhD from the London School of Economics and Political Science. His current research interests include civil-military relations, strategic studies, and international security. He is particularly interested in the geopolitics and transnational security issues of Southeast Asia.

John Kane, who received his MS in Global Affairs with a focus on International Relations, returns to CGA as clinical assistant professor after completing his PhD in Political Science at Stony Brook University. His primary research interests include political psychology and behavior, US foreign policy, and experimental research design. His research has been published in a variety of peer-reviewed journals, including the British Journal of Political Science, Public Opinion Quarterly, Presidential Studies Quarterly, and Social Science Quarterly. He has taught undergraduate courses on human rights and global environmental politics, political ideology, and foreign policy, as well as graduate courses covering quantitative research methods and data analysis. He recently received an award for “Outstanding Research Potential” from Stony Brook University, as well as teaching excellence awards from both Stony Brook University and New York University.

Peter Marber is a professional money manager, teacher, and writer focused on globalization and financial markets. He will direct CGA’s Private Sector/Global Economy concentration. Previously, he was head of emerging markets investments for Loomis, Sayles & Co., and he was chief business strategist and head of global emerging markets debt at HSBC Global Asset Management. Before that, he was founding partner, senior portfolio manager, and chief strategist for The Atlantic Funds, which was acquired by HSBC in 2005. He began his career as a trader at UBS and also was president of the emerging market subsidiaries of Wasserstein Perella & Company. Dr. Marber has taught graduate courses since 1994 and has been a faculty member at Columbia, Harvard, and Johns Hopkins. He is routinely quoted in the media, including CNN, CNBC, the Financial Times, Reuters, Bloomberg, and The Wall Street Journal. He has authored or edited six books, most recently Brave New Math: Information, Globalization, and New Economic Thinking in the 21st Century (2015) and The Evolution of Liberal Arts in the Global Age (2017, with Daniel Araya). Dr. Marber holds degrees from Johns Hopkins, Columbia, and University of Cambridge.

Waheguru Pal Singh (W.P.S.) Sidhu joined CGA as a visiting scholar in September 2016 and will be a full-time clinical associate professor beginning in Fall 2017. Concurrently, he is a nonresident senior fellow for foreign policy at Brookings Institution, nonresident senior fellow at the NYU Center on International Cooperation, associate fellow at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, and guest faculty member at the NATO Defense College. Dr. Sidhu has more than 25 years of experience in traditional and nontraditional security issues, specifically in arms control and nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction—particularly nuclear weapons—and the role of emerging powers, especially India, in the evolving global order. Dr. Sidhu also has served as a consultant to the UN and its affiliate agencies and to other intergovernmental agencies. He is the author of multiple books, chapters, and articles dealing with defense and security issues, and he is a regular commentator on security issues for CNN International, BBC World Service, and other media outlets. His latest publication is Shaping the Emerging World: India and the Multilateral Order.

BOOK PUBLISHED BY CGA’S MARC CHANDLER

Adjunct Associate Professor Marc Chandler, global head of currency strategy for Brown Brothers Harriman, recently published Political Economy of Tomorrow. In the book, Chandler sketches a broad diagnosis of the political economy that emphasizes the surplus of capital, finding in this case study a sort of modern-day “Midas” parallel. His argument: capitalism has been incredibly successful in creating wealth beyond imagination, and it is from that success (of surplus rather than scarcity) that its most intractable problems arise. After examining the historical and political economic narrative, Chandler argues that coping with surplus injects a certain instability into social relations. The second half of the book focuses on how three important relationships are changing: between women and men, employees and employers, and citizens and the state. Chandler’s approach is interdisciplinary, drawing on history, economics, philosophy, social psychology, and sociology (not mathematical formulae). His aim is to offer resources for students looking for an integrative narrative, allowing both present and future policymakers to glean new insights into the underlying challenges in understanding political economy.
A CONVERSATION WITH W.P.S. SIDHU

Waheguru Pal Singh (W.P.S.) Sidhu joined CGA as a visiting scholar in Fall 2016 and is now clinical associate professor, teaching courses in the MSGA program. Dr. Sidhu has more than 25 years of experience in traditional and nontraditional security issues, specifically in arms control and nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). He spoke with Preview to explain why WMDs are now in the news again, what threats they pose, and why nonproliferation efforts have found greater success in Iran than in North Korea.

PREVIEW: Your primary area of work and research is in managing weapons of mass destruction, as well as the various approaches to nonproliferation and disarmament. What makes these a topic of global concern particularly now?

SIDHU: There are three factors that make research and teaching on WMDs pertinent at present. First, there is a dangerous convergence of geopolitical competition coupled with nuclear threats—this is a significant change since the end of the Cold War when interstate geopolitical completion was on the decline. Today, that competition is most evident in US relations with Russia, China, and North Korea, as well as India’s relations with China. These developments in Northeast Asia, the modernization of nuclear arsenals by the US and Russia, and the debates over the Iran nuclear deal have all pushed this subject back into the limelight. The crisis over North Korea, in particular, underlines how existing weapons pose a clear and present danger.

Indeed, every nuclear-armed state is a ticking time bomb because these weapons can be used deliberately, inadvertently, or by accident. There have been any number of accidents involving nuclear weapons since the dawn of the nuclear age, and we’ve been fortunate that none have detonated so far.

Second, there is the growing danger of the use of WMDs—especially chemical and biological weapons—by nonstate actors and terrorist organizations, such as the Islamic State or Al Qaeda. While Syria is in the news for the alleged use of chemical weapons by the Assad regime, there are serious concerns that nonstate actors and terrorist groups, including the Islamic State and Al Qaeda, also are seeking to acquire such WMDs (or make their own). And this is more likely vis-à-vis chemical and biological weapons because it is relatively easier to acquire the materials to make them.

Finally, even though nuclear weapons have consumed newsprint and airtime, they are in fact the tip of the iceberg because nuclear weapons are only one of a trio of WMDs: the other two being chemical and biological weapons. Recent advances in synthetic biology as well as biochemistry (many of which have far reaching benign uses, including meaningful medical interventions) also have the potential to create extremely dangerous and destructive weapons. In February 2016, James Clapper, then director of National Intelligence, warned of the potential danger from genome editing.

PREVIEW: How can states like North Korea, which use nuclear capacity in part as a means to be taken seriously as a global power, be persuaded to disarm?

SIDHU: Nuclear weapons are considered as a symbol of global power, and that is why even countries like North Korea, which should not be considered a global power by any criteria, are now taken seriously. The obvious response to that is to devalue nuclear weapons as the currency of power. But that is easier said than done because the world order as we know it today is premised on either the possession of, or the protection by, nuclear weapons.

One of the major flaws of the present approach to dealing with states newly armed with nuclear weapons is to try and roll back the program after the fact. This approach does not work once states have developed nuclear weapons. This is why the Iran nuclear deal, which basically reversed their nuclear program, differs from the North Korea case and has a better chance of success. Thus, while the emphasis should be on preventing countries from acquiring nuclear weapons in the first place, options (other than the unworkable “roll back” strategy) also need to be developed once a state has built nuclear weapons.

The UN Security Council need to think of new ways to deal with states—like North Korea—once they have crossed the nuclear threshold. Once a country like North Korea has proliferated, a traditional nuclear deterrence will have to be established—meaning accepting North Korea as a state with nuclear weapons and establishing a traditional deterrence relationship based upon mutually assured destruction.

PREVIEW: Is there any other way we can make it less attractive for nations to acquire nuclear technology as a way of asserting their status in the world? Are there partnerships outside of the UN that might lessen the tensions we are seeing here?

SIDHU: There are two ways that we can envisage moving towards a world free of nuclear weapons. First, we must establish a deterrence relationship among great powers and their allies that is not dependent on nuclear weapons. This might be initiated if countries which presently live under a nuclear umbrella—in which they are formally protected by a nuclear-armed state (for example Japan or Australia, which are protected by US nuclear weapons)—decide to move out from under the umbrella. New Zealand was one country which did this with no apparent negative consequences. An even more dramatic gesture might be if a nuclear weapon country were to give up its nuclear weapons. So far, only one country—South Africa—has done so, with no adverse implications for its security.

PREVIEW: Have there been developments multilaterally in these directions?

SIDHU: Yes: one of the most significant and interesting recent developments has been the successful negotiation of a nuclear prohibition treaty (NPT), which was concluded at the UN in July and will be opened for signatures during the General Assembly session in September.

This treaty addresses a major lacuna in that it finally prohibits the possession and use of nuclear weapons. Until this treaty was concluded, only the possession and use of chemical and biological weapons were banned, not nuclear weapons. Of the non-nuclear weapon states that participated in the negotiations, 122 voted in favor of the new NPT and only one state, the Netherlands—the sole NATO representative living under a nuclear umbrella—voted against.

PREVIEW: How do your students respond to these issues in the classroom?

SIDHU: CGA students are very conscious and aware of the challenge that nuclear and other WMDs pose to the world. They examine this issue from the aspect of great power politics, the role of deterrence, the effectiveness of the nonproliferation regime, and the challenges of the path towards disarmament. The course I teach allows for an in-depth understanding of the norms and concepts that relate to WMDs, and a deep dive through case studies in why states proliferate and how they deploy nuclear weapons to advance their national interests.

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PUBLIC EVENTS AT CGA

Events provide an opportunity for you to engage in the topics you care about and expand your network. The following events are free and open to the public. Sign up for our listserv to receive up-to-date information on our public offerings by emailing sps.global.affairs@nyu.edu.

Because our events are offered free of charge, seats are made available until we reach capacity; after that point, we can no longer accommodate preregistered guests. Doors open 30 minutes before the start of the event.

Unless otherwise noted, events are held at the NYU School of Professional Studies Center for Global Affairs, 15 Barclay Street, 4th Floor (between Broadway and Church Street).

INTERNATIONAL CAREERS SERIES

Intrigued by an international career? Ready for life with at least one foot across sovereign borders? Are you a new job seeker or transitioning to a new career? This popular series provides an opportunity to meet international insiders who offer practical advice and who share their real-life experiences.

Visit sps.nyu.edu/cga.events for panelist information and to register. Panels are offered in collaboration with Young Professionals in Foreign Policy (YPFP).

INTERNATIONAL CAREERS IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS

Wednesday, October 11, 6:30–7:45 p.m.
Moderated by Anne Marie Goetz, Clinical Professor, Center for Global Affairs; former Chief Adviser, Peace and Security, UN Women

INTERNATIONAL CAREERS WITH NGOs AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Tuesday, October 17, 6:30–7:45 p.m.
Moderated by Jerry Doran, Social Media Analyst, Open Society Foundations

INTERNATIONAL CAREERS WITH THE US GOVERNMENT

Monday, November 6, 6:30–7:45 p.m.
Moderated by Judith Siegel, former Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Information Programs, US Department of State

INTERNATIONAL CAREERS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Wednesday, November 8, 6:30–7:45 p.m.
Moderated by Steve Godeke, Principal, Godeke Consulting

HAS PEACEBUILDING FAILED?
THE SHIFT TO SUSTAINING PEACE

COSPONSORED BY THE INITIATIVE FOR PEACEBUILDING THROUGH EDUCATION AND THE PEACE AND CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION CLUB

Friday, September 15, 6–8:30 p.m.

How has the concept of Sustaining Peace deepened our understanding of Peacebuilding? A panel of MSGA students who recently completed summer graduate student consultancies through the Workshop in Applied Peacebuilding will address the importance of Sustaining Peace from the perspective of young practitioners. Following their discussion, a panel of senior practitioners will hold a critical discussion about why some actors have begun to distance themselves from the concept of Peacebuilding, while the idea of Sustaining Peace has begun to gain traction at the United Nations and elsewhere.

Panel to include:
Paige Arthur, Deputy Director, NYU Center on International Cooperation
Marc Jacquand, Executive Office, UN Secretary-General
Youssef Mahmoud, Senior Adviser, International Peace Institute

GLOBAL LEADERS:
CONVERSATIONS WITH ALON BEN-MEIR

FEATURING AMBASSADOR FREDERIC C. HOF

Monday, September 18, 6:30–7:45 p.m.

Frederic C. Hof is the director of the Atlantic Council’s Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East and specializes in Syria. Prior to becoming director, he was a resident senior fellow with the Center.

On March 28, 2012, President Obama conferred on Hof the rank of ambassador in connection with his new duties as special adviser for transition in Syria. Hof was previously the special coordinator for regional affairs in the US Department of State’s Office of the Special Envoy for Middle East Peace, where he advised Special Envoy George Mitchell on the full range of Arab-Israeli peace issues falling under his purview and focusing on Syria-Israel and Israel-Lebanon matters. He joined the State Department in 2009 after serving as the president and CEO of AALC, limited company, an international business consulting and project finance firm formerly known as Armitage Associates LC.

Hof has written extensively on Arab-Israeli issues. He is the author of Galilee Divided: The Israel-Lebanon Frontier, 1916–1984 (Westview Press, 1985); Line of Battle, Border of Peace? The Line of June 4, 1967 (Middle East Insight, 1999); and Beyond the Boundary: Lebanon, Israel and the Challenge of Change (Middle East Insight, 2000). He also has written many articles on Jordan Valley water issues. His writing on the Israel-Syria, Israel-Lebanon, and (by virtue of his work on the “Mitchell Committee”) Israel-Palestinian tracks of the Middle East peace process has contributed positively to the body of literature promoting Arab-Israeli peace.

His awards include the Purple Heart, the Department of State Superior Honor Award, the Secretary of Defense Meritorious Civilian Service Medal, and the Defense Superior Service Medal.
**8 Borders, 8 Days: Stories from the Front Lines of the Global Refugee Crisis**

**Special Documentary Screening and Panel Discussion with Syrian Refugees**

Presented in collaboration with Independent Diplomat and Civic Hall

Tuesday, September 19, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Location: Civic Hall, 118 West 22nd Street, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10011

CGA, Independent Diplomat, and Civic Hall invite you to a special documentary screening and panel discussion on the global migration crisis. With 65.6 million people forcibly displaced in 2016, we’re in the midst of an unprecedented global challenge. This event will provide firsthand insights into the front lines of the refugee crisis: following a screening of the documentary 8 Borders, 8 Days, our panelists will describe their journeys from Syria to safety and ultimately to the United Nations to advocate for an ambitious and effective refugee policy.

8 Borders, 8 Days follows Sham, a Syrian mother, to depict the consequences of closing America’s doors to families fleeing war. With no answer to her application for resettlement in the US, and every other path to safety closed off, a smuggler’s raft to Europe was the only way out for Sham and her children. 8 Borders, 8 Days offers an immersive experience of their harrowing eight-day journey to safety, explaining why this single mother was willing to risk her children’s lives for a better future.

After the screening, please join us for a panel discussion with the filmmaker and representatives from the Network for Refugee Voices, formed by refugees who draw from their personal and professional experiences to fight for better international refugee policy, and now visiting New York for UN negotiations on the soon-to-be-adopted Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Mayors Summit.


Presented by the Heyman Program for Philanthropy and Fundraising

Wednesday, September 27, 6:30–7:45 p.m.

Charitable organizations in the United States fared well in 2016, with total giving reaching $390.05 billion, which included strong growth in individual giving. Giving USA 2017: The Annual Report on Philanthropy for the Year 2016 was the 62nd annual report on giving, and the traditional report focused on individuals, corporations, foundations, and bequests and the impact these gifts had on today’s nonprofits—helping fundraising and philanthropy professionals to understand and take advantage of the changes in philanthropy, refocus nonprofit outreach to donors, and compare individual organizational findings with national trends.

Join Rachel Hutchisson, vice president of corporate citizenship and philanthropy at Blackbaud and a member of The Giving Institute, and faculty members of the Heyman Program as they review and examine The Annual Report on Philanthropy for 2016, discuss national trends in growth, forecast future giving, and describe models for fundraising campaigns.

**Fueling Our Future: The Geopolitics and Economics of Energy in the 21st Century**

**Frugal Innovation: Co-Building a Sustainable World with Fewer Resources**

Thursday, October 12, 6:30–7:45 p.m.

Innovation is a key driver of growth for firms and nations worldwide. But we can no longer rely on the “more for more” innovation formula—costly R&D, resource-intensive and polluting supply chains—that has sustained growth in the West for decades. Resource scarcity, climate change, new technologies, and empowered customers/citizens are compelling businesses and governments to learn to “do better with less.” Frugal innovation is a radically new paradigm that enables companies to generate greater social and economic value using fewer resources. Entrepreneurs in emerging markets such as Africa, China, and India are using frugal innovation to leapfrog the West in education, finance, energy, and healthcare—launching ultra-affordable solar panels, energy-efficient medical devices, and schools-in-a-box. And now, Western nations are embracing frugal innovation to serve thrifty, socially conscious, and eco-responsible citizens at home.

Join Vijay Vaitheeswaran of The Economist in conversation with Navi Radjou, author of Conscious Society (2018), and business leaders for a discussion on how the private, public, and nonprofit sectors could join forces and adopt frugal principles and techniques to co-build sustainable societies and overcome the challenge of climate change.

**Fueling Our Future: The Geopolitics and Economics of Energy in the 21st Century**

**Middle East Energy and Politics**

Monday, October 23, 6:30–7:45 p.m.

The last three years have proven tumultuous for energy producers in the Middle East. In 2014, OPEC elected to maintain production levels, while the US shale revolution drove prices down to new lows. OPEC’s most recent decision to work with Russia and other non-OPEC countries to curtail production has created only a minimal rebound. Most of the region’s economies continue to endure economic weakness as a result of the extended price drop, with significant implications for social and political stability. To add to these challenges, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates cut ties with Qatar in June, creating perhaps the worst diplomatic crisis to hit Gulf Arab states in decades. The embargo remains, affecting Qatar’s energy trade and raising questions about shifting regional relationships, particularly between Qatar and Iran. CGA Academic Director Carolyn Kissane will examine these issues and others in a fascinating panel discussion on the geopolitics of energy in the Middle East.
Amendment, a provision of the US tax code that prohibits all 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations from endorsing political candidates. In May 2017, President Donald Trump signed an executive order "to defend the freedom of religion and speech" for the purpose of easing the Johnson Amendment from the nonprofit sector. More than 4,900 nonprofit organizations have signed on to protest the repeal of the Johnson Amendment and the national movement to maintain the amendment, which is considered essential to avoid partisanship in the nonprofit sector and to permit organizations to continue serving all in need.

NORTH KOREA AND THE NUCLEAR DETERRENCE CHALLENGE

Monday, November 20, 6:30–7:45 p.m.

Today, the international community faces a convergence of geopolitical competition and nuclear threats unseen since the end of the Cold War. The imbroglio over a nuclear-armed and very dangerous North Korea involving the United States, China, and other actors epitomizes this peril. How does the North Korean situation differ from the case of Iran, and why has the international community found so little success in preventing proliferation there? As the world accustoms itself to a nuclear North Korea, what multilateral responses might be appropriate to assure stability and prevent any regional or global nuclear conflicts? Join our panel moderated by Clinical Associate Professor W.P.S. Sidhu to discuss these developments and how they might play out.

ADDITIONAL EVENTS TO BE ANNOUNCED: SIGN UP FOR EMAIL UPDATES!

Throughout the year, CGA offers additional events to those listed. Request our email updates by writing to sps.global.affairs@nyu.edu and receive the latest news about our events and special programs as they are added to our calendar.

CONFLICT, SECURITY, AND DEVELOPMENT: ISSUES, ACTORS, AND APPROACHES

Tuesdays, 12:30–1:30 p.m., September 12–October 10
Event location: NYU Wagner at the Puck Building, 295 Lafayette Street

This brown-bag lunch series examines new research, creative policy approaches, and recent innovations in addressing security and development challenges in conflict and postconflict contexts.

CGA offers this series in collaboration with:
- NYU Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service
- Center for Human Rights and Global Justice at the NYU School of Law
- NYU College of Global Public Health
- NYU Program in International Relations

Visit sps.nyu.edu/cga.events for additional information.
Every year, around one-third of MSGA students participate in a Global Field Intensive (GFI), which provides on-ground exposure to the topics students examine in the classroom. Students prepare for their travel with class sessions held in New York to develop their research topics. They then travel for briefings, site visits, and individual and group interviews—opportunities to develop research in the field, as well as to build professional experience. Below, and on the pages to follow, Preview presents some photos and reflections from last year’s GFI participants.

SOUTH AFRICA
Ousseyni Kalilou

Ousseyni Kalilou traveled in June 2017 for “South Africa: Challenges of Transformation” with Adjunct Professor Barbara Borst. This GFI explores the political challenges and the pronounced inequality in economics, justice, gender, and social services that persist following South Africa’s transition from apartheid to democracy. Students also examine the issues of widespread poverty, economic empowerment, regional economic dominance, and other major social concerns.

From June 3 to June 20, I had the opportunity to participate in one of the Global Field Intensives organized by CGA. These GFIs form part of hands-on learning that CGA organizes to complement in-class learning. It is practical and even a sine qua non for experiencing the theories and information that we learn in class sessions. The tours and meetings give students the chance to interview and interact with experts and resources on the ground.

My research topic was the post-apartheid South African government’s role in poverty alleviation. Our faculty lead, Professor Barbara Borst, has a tremendous knowledge of the social and political issues of South Africa because of her experience in the region. The different visits, including to the President’s office, the parliamentary building, and grassroots organizations, expanded upon my research from before the trip. I saw luxurious cities (Johannesburg, Pretoria, and Cape Town) in contrast to impoverished neighborhoods in the slums of historic Soweto, Diepsloot, and Kliptown. We visited orphanages and met orphans and abandoned children at Siyakhatala Child Care Center. We visited HIV/AIDS treatment centers and a school for the diminished and marginalized of the population. I had the chance to closely witness poverty and inequality.

The warm welcome, the professionalism, and the dedication of individuals to help the poor gave me more energy to pursue the profession of International Development and Humanitarian Assistance. Additionally, it was an occasion to form connections because we were not just related by the program—but by the end of the trip, we didn’t feel like a group of researchers, but a family. The teamwork during the trip made me even prouder to belong to this NYU family.

THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA
Taylor A. Ackerman

Taylor A. Ackerman traveled to The Hague, Bosnia, and Serbia in July 2017 for “War Crimes Prosecutions in the Former Yugoslavia: Pitfalls and Promise of International Justice.” This program, led by Clinical Associate Professor Jennifer Thiran and World Policy Institute Senior Fellow Belinda Cooper, introduces students to the mechanisms of international justice and transitional justice—efforts to overcome hostilities and ensure peace in societies emerging from periods of violence. Participants examine how well such mechanisms are functioning in the context of the former Yugoslavia, a region that experienced three horrific wars and mass ethnically motivated crimes in the 1990s, resulting in more than 100,000 fatalities.

Our GFI began in The Hague, with a visit to the International Criminal Court (ICC), the Kosovo Specialist Chambers and Kosovo Specialist Prosecutor’s Office. We also spent a day at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY): watching proceedings and hearing from officials at the Office of the Prosecutor, the Registry, the Defense, Outreach, and SENSE news agency. These court visits altered my understanding of international justice. For instance, there appeared to be a stark difference in the treatment of victims and witnesses compared to what I had previously understood from reports and journals. The speakers’ emphasis on outreach and the role of media invoked an understanding that war crimes prosecutions not only take place in courts but in the realm of public opinion.

In Bosnia, staff at NGOs such as the Post-Conflict Research Center and TRIAL International, US Embassy personnel, academics, victims, and Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN) members shared their experiences. We also visited the War Crimes Chamber of the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the ICTY Field Office, the International Commission on Missing Persons office, and memorials for victims of both sides. In Serbia, we heard from judges, a prosecutor, and other staff at the War Crimes Department of the Higher Court in Belgrade, the War Crimes Department of the Appellate Court in Belgrade, and the office of the War Crimes Prosecutor of the Republic of Serbia. We met with staff from the Youth Initiative for Human Rights, the Belgrade Center for Political Excellence, the Humanitarian Law Center, and the OSCE Belgrade Center for Human Rights, and CANVAS.

By visiting the impacted region, I further understood that court proceedings can only be one part of a broader strategy to effectively deal with the aftermath of war crimes. Local organizations’ programs are an important component of transitional justice. I also noticed how important NGO support for the court’s work can be and how they often worked to fill the gaps left behind. I was forced to think more critically of the ICTY’s impact on the local population. The experiences of victims in Bosnia-Herzegovina provided me with a very different perspective on the processes of international justice. Their stories intensified my interest in the field of international criminal justice and transitional justice and provided me with a different lens to view these institutions.

MS IN GLOBAL AFFAIRS

The Master of Science in Global Affairs provides an indispensable context for understanding critical issues in international politics, economics, dispute settlement, law, human rights, energy, the environment, and related areas. Knowledge and familiarity of these areas are critical for those preparing for careers in virtually every arena.

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To learn more, please visit sps.nyu.edu/cga.msga or call 212-998-7100.
COSTA RICA/PANAMA
Pier Washpon

Pier Washpon traveled in March 2017 for “Environmental Peacebuilding and Development on the Costa Rica/Panama Border” led by Todd Walters, founder and executive director of International Peace Park Expeditions. Students conduct a field-based conflict assessment in a UNESCO World Heritage Site—Parque Internacional La Amistad (International Friendship Park) on the border of Panama and Costa Rica. The course enables students to explore the evolution of conflict sensitivity with regard to contemporary and environmental peacebuilding, and transboundary cooperation with regard to community development, conservation, and ecotourism.

My concentration is International Development and Humanitarian Assistance. Going to Panama and Costa Rica exposed me to a different environment, not only physically, but professionally. The main goal of the course was to use our observations, readings, prior knowledge, and fieldwork to complete a peace-conflict matrix related to environmental peacebuilding.

Talking with local stakeholders about their work enabled me to use my critical thinking and interviewing skills in real time. Working as a group to formulate topics and open-ended questions helped me understand the various perspectives in the group setting. Learning from each other was just as important as learning from the stakeholders. We were able to go on two hikes, which enabled us to adjust to our environment, work together as a team, and learn about the challenges and opportunities regarding the park and community.

We met a diverse set of people and organizations from both countries. A representative from the Panamanian Ministry of Environment and Energy spoke about the actions that the government is taking to increase energy efficiency, while enforcing environmental policies. We met with a representative from ADATA, a network of 12 organizations that formed an alliance to educate the community about sustainable environmental practices and agricultural production methods and advocate for environmental justice at the national level. We also met a member of a small indigenous community who fights forest fires in and near the park.

Our meetings covered issues such as lack of funding for educational programs, poachers in the protected areas, and illegal and legal logging. However, despite these challenges, the stakeholders we met are on the front lines taking progressive action contributing to environmental education, economic development, and political influence. We identified overlapping areas of interest and concern that representatives of both countries expressed, which could be used as an opportunity to strengthen communication, cooperation, and collaboration.

After we collected our information from stakeholders, our teams used the matrix: six different categories of analysis (environmental, political, cultural identity, economic, social, and security) to better understand people’s and organizations’ actions and motivations.

Learning about the theoretical practices of peacebuilding and development before, during, and after the trip made the experience complete. Going forward, I have more confidence doing qualitative research and formulating better questions. When classes resume, I will have a new tool—the peace and conflict matrix—to help me navigate multidimensional issues and concepts that are related to whatever I study. I have a renewed sense of inquiry going forward in my classes that will ultimately help me organize, identify, and analyze my thoughts in a more manageable way.

ABU DHABI AND QATAR
Liza Nugent

Liza Nugent traveled in January 2017 for “Gender and Sustainable Development in the Gulf Region: Abu Dhabi and Qatar.” Led by Clinical Associate Professor Sylvia Maier and Clinical Assistant Professor Jens Rudbeck, this GFI allows students to explore the pathways and strategies for sustainable social development that both countries have taken and to analyze the challenges that remain through site visits and meetings with leading figures in research and development, the private sector, government, civil society, media, and the arts. This program, offered for the first time in 2017, explores how the Gulf states navigate the complicated dynamics among cultural traditions, gender equality, and the post-2015 development agenda.

My concentration is Global Gender Studies with a focus on International Development, so this GFI was perfectly aligned with my interests. My GFI research paper was “Tribal Modern, The Branding of a Nation: The Role of Women in Professional Fields of Communication and the Unique Pathways to Female Empowerment in 21st Century Arab Gulf States.”

There is a strategic effort underway to brand a national Gulf identity, both as a region as well as within individual countries, which is reflected in all areas of development, from infrastructure to culture, political to economic activities. I was focused on the paradox such development presents Gulf women: the patriarchal discrimination that pervades every aspect of their daily lives, alongside the potential opening of space for female empowerment amidst astonishing economic development. From the United Arab Emirates to Qatar, the concept of barzakh, as described by Miriam Cooke in her book, Tribal Modern: Branding New Nations in the Arab Gulf, was an overwhelming presence throughout the trip. The coexistence of the past and future, traditional and progressive, or the “tribal” and “modern,” was most visible among the women with whom our group had the fortune to meet.

Feminine codes of dress are often misunderstood, particularly between Western and Islamic eyes, which tend to view women’s rights through a culturally specific lens. I can assure my fellow Manhattan fashionistas that the feminist consciousness is alive and well in the Gulf region. Often wearing a hijab, or shayla, our female hosts were incredibly knowledgeable and articulate, exuding confidence and clearly not lacking in their own sense of empowerment. As Dr. Rafia Ghubash, founder of the Dubai Women’s Museum asserted, “Focus on what I say, not on what I wear.”

At the Qatar Foundation, Dr. Amal al Malki spoke at length of the social construct within the Western imagination that not only are all Arab women Muslim, and all Muslim women Arab, but also that Arab women are submissive and suppressed, yearning to be saved by Westerners. Dr. al Malki warned that the illusion of Arab female passivity is dangerous because it provides strangers with a false confidence that they know her, while reaching conclusions from incomplete and inaccurate information regarding the day-to-day realities of Arab women.
Our visit to the Dubai Foundation for Women and Children was my first experience of actively engaging in a conversation with a woman in niqab. I was surprised at the degree to which I rely on a sense of facial recognition. The director conveyed incredible strength and determination to protect victims of abuse. Having engaged in dialogue with a person for approximately 30 minutes, yet having no sense of who they are visually, left me with a strange discomfort. Pushing the boundaries on a lifetime of personal social norms is bound to create a little discomfort, yet the outcome is certainly positive.

The grand finale of our program was appropriately a tour of the construction site of the Al Wakrah Stadium, designed by the world-renowned Iraqi-born architect Zaha Hadid. No one personified female empowerment more than Hadid, and the Qatari World Cup plans, for better and for worse, are the epitome of grand scale development.

PRAGUE
Jonathan Mummert

Jonathan Mummert traveled in March 2017 for “Prague and Beyond: Security and Transition in Central Europe” led by Adjunct Professor Mark Galeotti, a specialist in transnational organized crime. This Global Field Intensive course uses the Czech experience to explore how and when countries are able to recreate themselves and what determines how successful such changes can be. Students consider these issues through the prism of security, conceptualized broadly. Using the Czech example, participants study the Central European transitions in the context of fears of Russian interference, challenges of human and economic security, and transnational crime.

I am an active duty Army officer on assignment to the NYUSPS Center for Global Affairs to earn my master’s degree with a concentration in International Relations. This degree will broaden my horizons and diversify my knowledge set, hopefully making the Army more nuanced and effective at understanding geopolitics at the national level and human terrain at the local level. In March 2017, I went with 16 students to Prague for a week to learn about security and development in Central/Eastern Europe, with the Czech Republic functioning as a sort of microcosm for the larger debate over Russian influence, Syrian refugees, organized crime, and EU/NATO membership. Professor Mark Galeotti connected us with academics, government officials, and civic servants to hear each side’s opinion on these issues so that we could discern what the actual on-ground truth is. He gave us time to conduct our own independent research and interviews so we could pursue our own academic and personal interests. I chose to study right-wing politics in Prague: the ways they connect with other resurgent right-wing groups across Europe, and possible connections with Russia’s influencing operations. Professor Galeotti also gave us time to explore the city on our own, with the occasional planned group dinner or cultural experience to round things out. One such visit included a guided tour of a former concentration camp that not only connected us with an important episode of human history but also showed us the ways in which this history affects Central Europe to this day.

CHINA
DeLaine Mayer

DeLaine Mayer traveled to Beijing and Shanghai in June 2017 for “China Today: The Changing Political, Economic, and Energy Landscape” led by Clinical Associate Professor Carolyn Kissane. This program focuses on China’s political system and economy with a special emphasis on its energy sector. Students explore and examine shifts in China’s policies across energy, infrastructure, and investment as a result of China’s dramatic growth over the last three decades.

While taking the high-speed rail from Shanghai to Beijing in June, I looked out at the view that millions of Chinese people experience nearly every day: visible air pollution. The sky was so laden with pollutants that the outlines of buildings lost clarity within several hundred yards from the railroad. The Chinese maxim of “Grow first, clean up later” has underlined the price of development that the people and environment have paid in recent years. Rapid development succeeded in elevating over 800 million people from poverty since economic reforms began in 1978. This is no small feat. However, these same policies and development trajectories that lifted millions out of poverty are now making them sick. Rising cancer rates and other health issues related to pollution have become huge issues across the country, especially in cities.

In the last few decades, most governments have fundamentally misunderstood the danger to security and development posed by climate change. Environmental action has been pushed to the end of development agendas, as seen in China, because countries’ goals have been to alleviate poverty and stimulate economic growth as quickly as possible. Climate change externalities, however, including increased flooding and drought, more serious storms, and lower agricultural productivity, while damaging to economies and people, lack an immediacy to which traditional security mechanisms know how to respond. China’s strength in longer-term strategizing may pay off now that it’s paying attention to pollution and climate change, however.

In China, highly visible air pollution, public health issues, and land and water productivity have already inspired a number of policy changes geared toward cleaner development, specifically in China’s 13th Five-Year Plan. State capitalism has provided the mechanism for the government to coordinate private sector activity alongside national development agendas. Now, the Party is tackling environmental issues alongside social and health issues. The outcome of this policy-market nexus is intersector coordination and innovation, with positive outcomes in terms of public health, the environment, and new economic growth in cleaner auto and tech industries. China has a long way to go before it can surpass American leadership and innovation in green and clean technologies, but the US’s withdrawal from the Paris Agreement creates a new space for the world’s second largest economy to fill. China has an opportunity to showcase non-Western, alternative development strategies. The world will be lucky if that means more efficient, cleaner development.

For DeLaine’s full reflection on her research, please visit our blog: https://wp.nyu.edu/sps-nyuglobalcitizen
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THE LAST WORD FALL 2017 PROGRAM CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday, September 12, 12:30 p.m. (p. 11) Conflict, Security, and Development: Issues, Actors, and Approaches*

Friday, September 15, 6 p.m. (p. 7) Has Peacebuilding Failed? The Shift to Sustaining Peace

Monday, September 18, 6:30 p.m. (p. 7) Global Leaders: Conversations with Alon Ben-Meir—Featuring Ambassador Frederic C. Hof

Tuesday, September 19, 12:30 p.m. (p. 11) Conflict, Security, and Development: Issues, Actors, and Approaches*

Tuesday, September 19, 6:30 p.m. (p. 8) 8 Borders, 8 Days: Stories from the Front Lines of the Global Refugee Crisis (Location: Civic Hall, 118 W. 22nd St., 12th Fl., NY, NY)

Tuesday, September 26, 12:30 p.m. (p. 11) Conflict, Security, and Development: Issues, Actors, and Approaches*

Wednesday, September 27, 6:30 p.m. (p. 8) The Power of Charitable Giving: The Annual Report on Philanthropy for the Year 2016

OCTOBER

Tuesday, October 3, 12:30 p.m. (p. 11) Conflict, Security, and Development: Issues, Actors, and Approaches*

Tuesday, October 10, 12:30 p.m. (p. 11) Conflict, Security, and Development: Issues, Actors, and Approaches*

Wednesday, October 11, 6:30 p.m. (p. 6) International Careers in the United Nations and Multilateral Organizations

Thursday, October 12, 6:30 p.m. (p. 9) Fueling Our Future: Frugal Innovation—Co-Building a Sustainable World with Fewer Resources

Tuesday, October 17, 6:30 p.m. (p. 6) International Careers with NGOs and Civil Society Organization

Monday, October 23, 6:30 p.m. (p. 9) Fueling Our Future: Middle East Energy and Politics

Wednesday, October 25, 6:30 p.m. (p. 10) Global Leaders: Conversations with Alon Ben-Meir—Featuring H.E. Ambassador Yasser Reda, Ambassador of Egypt to the United States

Monday-Tuesday, October 30-31 (p. 10) Special Event—The Transatlantic Partnership: Europe and the US in a New Era

NOVEMBER

Thursday, November 2, 6:30 p.m. (p. 10) Understanding the Johnson Amendment: The Cornerstone of Public Trust in the Charitable Community

Monday, November 6, 6:30 p.m. (p. 6) International Careers with the US Government

Wednesday, November 8, 6:30 p.m. (p. 6) International Careers in the Private Sector

Monday, November 20, 6:30 p.m. (p. 11) North Korea and the Nuclear Deterrence Challenge

TO BE SCHEDULED

Date TBA, 6:30 p.m.
Yemen and Somalia: Long-Term Impacts of the War on Terror

ABOUT THE CENTER FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS

The NYU School of Professional Studies Center for Global Affairs facilitates change by educating and inspiring our community members to become global citizens who are capable of identifying and implementing solutions to pressing global challenges. We believe that the development of solutions to global problems must be informed by an understanding that the world’s challenges are not merely challenges for and among states, but also challenges for and among nonstate actors, urban and rural communities, regional organizations, and traditional diplomatic outlets.

Through rigorous graduate and continuing education programs and public events, we prepare global citizens who are at home in all of these environments—and thus, who are effective agents of change.

Arab Contemporary Art is the focus of the Mathaf Museum at Education City in Doha, Qatar. On view are portraits of Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al Missned and Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani. Sheikha Mozah served as the chairperson of the Qatar Foundation and was the driving force behind the creation of Education City, a shared campus for several elite American universities. Photo courtesy of Liza Nugent.

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Current events, lively debate, critical issues

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