

WINTER 2019

# *Global Studies*

The Official Newsletter of the Global Studies Program at Wayne State University



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## *Islamophobia Panel Discussion*

Last fall, Global Studies and the Department of Communication joined forces to organize a panel discussion on "Being Muslim in the Trump Era".

**Dr. Stine Eckert** and **Ph.D. Candidates Jade Metzger-Riftkin** and **Sean Kolhoff** from the Department of Communication presented a study (co-authored with Ph.D. Candidate Sydney O'Shay Wallace) on the experiences of and responses to Islamophobia by Muslims in the Detroit Metro Area. Their focus groups with 61 participants before, during and after the 2016



*Panelists at "Being Muslim in the Trump Era"*

# ***Being Muslim in the Trump Era***

by Saeed A. Khan

U.S. presidential election campaign found that most women and men with a Muslim background in Southeast Michigan said that Islamophobia online is ubiquitous and overwhelming, leading to feelings of distress and futility. Nevertheless, men and women said they strove to contextualize such messages and to educate people who may not know much about Islam or Muslims. Muslim women in particular spoke about being exemplars of what it means to be Muslim in American more frequently and more strongly than men. Their full study is available online in the peer-reviewed open-access journal CyberOrient: <http://www.cyberorient.net/article.do?articleId=9907>

**Ph.D. Candidate Annisa Rochadiat** presented some preliminary findings from Study 1 of her dissertation research, which is a mixed methods two-study project aimed at exploring the notion of intersectionality and how identity hypertextuality may be a strategic way of communicating online for users with stigmatized identities. Specifically, she is examining this phenomenon among the Muslim population in North America (U.S. and Canada). Using an anonymous online survey, Study 1 specifically looks at individual difference factors, such as sociodemographic background, personality traits, and cultural identification, and how it affects social media use overall and for identity work. Study 1 findings suggest that while some patterns of social media use are similar between Muslim social media users and those of the general adult population, other patterns are particularly unique and warrant further exploration. Study 2, which is based on in-depth interviews of a select group of Study 1 participants, is aimed at not only capturing the lived experience of Muslim social media users from a qualitative and therefore more granular perspective, but also further exploring and expounding on Study 1 findings.

The panel in Manoogian Hall drew a audience of about 50 people and yielded numerous questions, especially regarding what Muslims may be able to do to dispel notions of Islamophobia.

Media analysis of the coverage of Muslims during the Trump era has maintained two main narratives. One concerns the so-called Muslim, or travel, ban, proposed and implemented mere days after President Trump was inaugurated. The issue has been invoked by many on the political left as prime evidence of Trump's bigotry. The second narrative focuses on Muslims as a security issue, within a broader perspective on terrorism and extremism. Of course, these two narratives are related, even interconnected, in the manner the media frames them. Yet, while the Islamophobia expressed by Trump and his supporters is explicit and self-evident, there is a more subtle, but no less dangerous Islamophobia tone from the political left, that ironically borrows certain base assumptions from Trump and the political right: that Muslims are primarily, if not exclusively a foreign, not fully American demographic, and that they are presumptively inclined toward violence and require intervention to be made moderate. This phenomenon of Islamophobia from both the left and right must be recognized and studied to provide the necessary comprehensive perspective on this critical issue.



*Islamophobia talk*



*Lakeview H.S. students with members of the Confucius Institute*

## ***Global Studies at Lakeview H.S.***

Since Fall 2018, Global Studies has been teaching classes at Lakeview High School through its Dual Enrollment Program. This semester, students taking the Global Stories class had a number of special guests, including John Brender and the Wayne State Confucius Institute, which gave a presentation on the Chinese New Year. Students learned about the holiday's traditions as well as a few words in Chinese. They also got their names written in Chinese calligraphy, were treated to Chinese dumplings, and learned how to use chopsticks. Other guest speakers included Olya Sheikina, an English teacher in Korea, who discussed life there and food culture, Hayley Roukin, an MSU student who worked with refugees on Lesbos, and Margareth Corkery, President of the Haitian Detroit Network, who spoke about the history of Haiti and the fate of Haitians during the earthquake.

On March 25, students went on a special day-long outing to Wayne State, where Dr. Leonidas Pittos gave them a tour of the ethnic heritage rooms in Manoogian Hall, Padmaja Rao spoke

about yoga and Hinduism, and Prof. Victor Figueroa discussed a Dominican poem with them. They then joined Prof. Elena Past's Global Stories class to meet with representatives of American Indian Health & Family Services for a discussion of the Native American history and heritage of Detroit. The students also walked along the riverfront and stood at the spot Cadillac landed when founding the City of Detroit.



*Lakeview students in Downtown Detroit*



Global Studies student Anthony Godlewski during his visit to the Global Conference in Spain.



Granada, Spain  
(map from Wikipedia)

## Global Studies Conference in Granada, Spain

This past summer Global Studies student Anthony Godlewski wrote a paper entitled, "The Brink: a brief review of global climate action and its relevance to human continuity" for Dr. Saeed Khan's Global Issues and Institutions course. Dr. Khan encouraged him to submit it to the Eleventh Global Studies Conference in Granada, Spain, and to his great delight, it was accepted. With support from the Office of International Programs, he and Dr. Khan were able to travel to Granada, where he not only presented his paper, but also visited the water-based cityscapes in Amsterdam and Marseille.

Godlewski's paper focused on climate change, and highlighted specific concerns, such as the lack of consistent power in Puerto Rico, hurricanes in Florida, Louisiana, and Texas, dying coral reefs, and disappearing islands.

Godlewski states that the two weeks he spent on this project "have been the best of my college career" and he highly encourages other students to be proud of their work and shared this advice: "If you write a paper you are proud of and there's a conference that fits your topic, send it in. As Dr. Khan told me, the worst they can say is 'no'. And sometimes, apparently, they don't say no."



## Global Studies Events

The Global Studies Program hosted a series of events this past academic year, including talks on job opportunities in Global Public Health (with the co-director of the Global Health Alliance, Kristiana Kaufmann, MD), and with the FBI, the CIA, and the Department of State. On March 8, students will go on a site visit to the Detroit Immigration Office, where they will learn about careers with USCIS and Border Patrol.

Global Studies reintroduced "Global Hangouts" this semester. Every Wednesday, students can meet with a special guest and learn about topics such as the Chinese New Year, Hinduism, how to travel safely internationally, and applying for jobs. Upcoming hangouts include "Haiti and Voodoo" and "Global Poetry."



*Dr. Rasha Soliman speaks on Ancient Egyptian Art*

On Monday, April 1, Global Studies will join a number of WSU programs to host a talk by Dr. Ahmed Abdalrazag of Doctors Without Borders. On April 3, Global Studies and the CMLLC Colloquium Series will present a panel discussion on "Bosporus: Effusions and Diffusions", and on April 18, Global Studies and Religious Studies will host an outing to Mosaic Midtown Church with Prof. Barry Lyons.

*All Global Studies events are free and open to the public.*



*Meet-and-Greet with Latin American and Caribbean delegates to Detroit*

Global Studies also hosted a Meet-and-Greet with visitors from Latin America and the Caribbean, celebrated "Global Foods" at the WSU Sesquicentennial, facilitated a lecture by Fulbright Scholar Dr. Rasha Soliman on Ancient Egyptian Art, organized several ethnic tables at the Schoolcraft Multicultural Fair, helped put on the CMLLC Winter Ball, and participated in International Education Week events.



*WSU students plotting where they are from and where they have travelled in the Student Center during International Education Week*

## Global Health Alliance

For the past year, Global Studies students have been working with WSU medical students to prepare them linguistically and culturally for trips to Haiti, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, and Ecuador. They teach the medical students basic Spanish, French, and Creole, and they prepare all the lessons and study sheets themselves. They also make cultural presentations on the countries. This has been a valuable experience for both Global Studies students, who are able to put their language and culture skills to practical use, and for med students, who report that they feel the training has made their trips more rewarding.

A big thanks to Margareth Corkery, Director of the Haitian Network of Detroit, for helping with Creole and information on Haiti!



*A student teaching med students Spanish.*

## Global Studies Resources

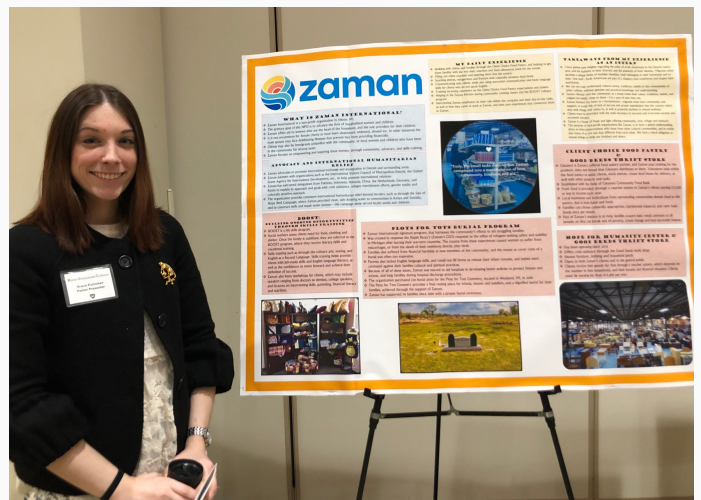
Global Studies has a new resources webpage. Students and faculty can find information about upcoming events, the learning community, global experience requirements, Global Studies Honors, and the Writing Intensive. Go to: [clas.wayne.edu/languages/globalresources](http://clas.wayne.edu/languages/globalresources)



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Global Studies

## Global Studies Learning Community

The Global Studies Program was part of two learning communities over the past two years: Crisis and Revolution (2017-8) and the Mediterranean Learning Community (2018-9). We are pleased to announce that it has been awarded a new Global Studies Learning Community grant for 2019-2020. The Learning Community will be open to all Global Studies students. Peer mentors will organize weekly Global Studies hangouts and study groups, as well as outings and talks.



*Global Studies student Grace Putintsev at the Rushton Undergraduate Conference*

## Rushton Undergraduate Conference

Each year, Global Studies students present on their Global Experience projects at the Rushton Undergraduate Conference. This year, Iris Brauer presented a poster on her study abroad program in Spain and Michaela Lewalski presented on her study abroad trip to Cuba and Russia. Grace Putintsev's poster highlighted her experience interning at Zaman International.

GLS on Facebook: [WSU Global Studies](https://www.facebook.com/WSU-Global-Studies/)  
GLS on Instagram: [wsuglobalstudies](https://www.instagram.com/wsuglobalstudies/)  
Website: [clas.wayne.edu/languages/bachelors/global-studies](http://clas.wayne.edu/languages/bachelors/global-studies)