

# Finding Peace in the Global Puzzle



*Illustration by Abbey Cmiel*

## **Globalization and National Identity** Conference for American Studies Seminar 277H, Spring 2017

**Conference Convener: Professor Rachel Willis**

**April 11-25th, 2:00-3:15pm**

**Dialectic Chamber, 3rd floor of New  
West  
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

**Modified PechaKucha Research Presentations: 6 minutes & 40  
seconds and 20 Slides.**

*Kindly refrain from entering or leaving the room during a presentation.*

### Program

*2 pm Welcome & Start Each Day*

April 11, Session 1: Linking Borders through Technology, Education, and Literature

April 13, Session 2: Putting the Pieces Together: Understanding Muslim Identities

April 18, Session 3: Puzzling Over National Identity and Movements of Power in Asia

April 20, Session 4: Soothing the Headache of the Political *Rompecabeza*

April 25, Session 5: Seeing the Pieces in the Whole

Preliminary conference paper assessments by session to Dr. Willis by 3.15 each presentation day.

Final conference assessments due via SAKAI ASSIGNMENT by Saturday, April 29 midnight.

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<b>Order, Sessions &amp; Presenters</b>	<b>Presentation Title</b>
<b>Session 1: LINKING BORDERS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY, EDUCATION, AND LITERATURE</b>	
1	Neil Davis Information and Communication Technologies in Africa: Global Support and National Challenges in Kenya and South Africa
2	Adam Shoemaker Enabling South American Youth with Digital Literacy in a Globalized World
3	Annie Rutledge The Puzzle of the Immigrant Student: Constructing and Protecting National Identity in the Houston Independent School District
4	Alexis Hartigan Hans Christian Anderson: Piecing Together China and Denmark
<b>Session 2: PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER: UNDERSTANDING MUSLIM IDENTITIES</b>	
5	Mariane Ghazaleh Examining Iraqi and Iranian Identities in Popular Culture: A comparative study between the Middle East and the United States
6	Sara Safi Unveiling the Truth Behind Islamophobia in France
7	Laurel Cunningham The Migration and Enslavement of Muslim, Stateless Rohingya in Myanmar
<b>Session 3: PUZZLING OVER NATIONAL IDENTITY AND MOVEMENTS OF POWER IN ASIA</b>	
8	Robert Conder Contemporary Russian Irredentism
9	Ted Gessner A New Sea Dragon: Chinese Naval Buildup and Reunification Plans with Taiwan and Trump Administration Response
10	Nicholas Larsen Escaping the Hermit Kingdom: North Korean National Identity Through a Defector's Eyes
11	Eimi Ledford Western Feminism in Japan: Foreign Import or Next stage of Japanese Culture
<b>Session 4: SOOTHING THE HEADACHE OF THE POLITICAL ROMPECABEZA</b>	
12	Philip Cave Using Nationalism to Pave the Road for Socialism in Cuba and Venezuela
13	Alex Crutchfield Santurismo: How an Underground Religion Finances an Underground Economy
14	Alessandro Uribe-Rheinbolt Learning to Forgive in Rural Post Civil War Colombia
15	Abbey Cmiel Pinta tu Paz: The Power of Street Art in Bogotá's Peacebuilding Process
<b>Session 5: SEEING THE PIECES IN THE WHOLE</b>	
16	Agnes Ezekwesili The Resilient Biafran Identity: History, Culture, Religion, and the Diaspora
17	Matthew Jackman Results from a Digital Survey: Differences in Views on Brexit by National Identity and More
18	Lili Zay Palauan Identity in the face of Rising Waters and Sovereignty
19	Banks Ferrell Angels and Ventures: Pervious Borders Providing Expansion for Global Venture Markets

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**ABSTRACTS, alphabetically by Presenter (presentation order on program)**

**Cave, Phillip (12)**

**Using Nationalism to Pave the Road for Socialism in Cuba and Venezuela**

*Americanos*, unite! *Yanquis*, go home! These rallying cries in 20th century Latin American revolutions are indicative of fervent nationalist movements that are present today. My presentation seeks to examine how revolutionary leaders Fidel Castro and Hugo Chavez were able to successfully tie their socialist agendas to these emotions. Specifically, I will contrast Castro's violent means to establish economic equality with Hugo Chavez's use of mass mobilization to achieve constitutional referendums.

**Cmiel, Abbey (15)**

**Pinta tu Paz: The Power of Street Art in Bogotá's Peacebuilding Process**

Though 50 years of civil conflict left Colombia's capital city impossibly divided, the legalization of graffiti in Bogotá in 2011 marked a transition in the promotion of peace. Decades of cultural repression and top-down attempts to unify the country have created spaces of misunderstanding and tension. However, the individual expression and collective identity fostered through Bogotá's graffiti culture open room for informal peacebuilding. Street art provides an accessible outlet for political expression and public reclamation of the city. This presentation discusses how the process and presence of street art eliminate the boundaries of misunderstanding and encourage dialogue in conflict-ridden regions.

**Conder, Robert (8)**

**Contemporary Russian Irredentism**

The dissolution of the Soviet Union has left large populations of ethnic Russians displaced by contraction and reduced Russian territorial boundaries to pre-World War levels. This loss is widely bemoaned by both Moscow and the far flung Russian population, and has given breath to a number of irredentist movements- those that would seek to repatriate the people and places who once fell under the shadow of the iron curtain. This has not gone unnoticed by the governments of former Soviet states, and the tensions this produces will be examined within this paper.

**Crutchfield, Alex (13)**

**Santurismo: How an Underground Religion Finances an Underground Economy**

As a product of the transatlantic slave trade: a combination of Spanish-imposed Catholicism and West African Yoruba rituals; Santería is still practiced in some form by 80 percent of the Cuban population. The faith survived the revolution and migrated throughout the Americas, notably the USA. Now, *santurismo* (Santería + tourism) is experiencing a popularity boom as the island opens its doors to its northern neighbor. The religion may be one of Cuba's fastest growing informal economies as it flourishes in American popular culture. This presentation analyzes the metamorphosis of Santería, its relation to Cuban identity and the political and economic ramifications of religious tourism.

**Cunningham, Laurel (7)**

**The Migration and Enslavement of Muslim, Stateless Rohingya in Myanmar**

The Rohingya are a Muslim minority in Myanmar who have been subject to ethnic cleansing by military regimes and Buddhist extremists. They have been rendered stateless by the government and kept in permanent camps without access to health or education. As the Rohingya people have attempted to flee, smugglers often sell them into labor enslavement. The international community sees Myanmar making steps toward democracy and global trade, but human rights abuses are still rampant. The plight of the Rohingya people intersects genocide, migration, slavery and statelessness. Their story is one of resilience, but citizenship must come through international pressure.

## **Finding Peace in the Global Puzzle, UNC, April 2017, Abstracts, continued**

**Davis, Neil (1)**

### **Information and Communication Technologies in Africa: Global Support and National Challenges in Kenya and South Africa**

With the Digital Gap Act, the United States government has demonstrated a desire to invest in ICT worldwide, especially in developing countries. It is time to examine how ICT has shaped the identities of certain developing countries. How has a developing country taken hold of its ICT infrastructure? How has foreign intervention influenced a country's identity with technology? This lecture will examine two of these countries, Kenya and South Africa. The former has developed a specific identity on its own with some foreign intervention, while the latter has struggled in providing ICT to its citizens.

**Ezekwesili, Agnes (16)**

### **The Resilient Biafran Identity: History, Culture, Religion, and the Diaspora In the 1960s**

Can a nation truly be eradicated? Biafra, formed in May of 1967 after the secession of the Southeastern region of Nigeria, says no. While the secessionist state formally ceased to exist after a brutal siege by the Nigerian government in January of 1970, the movement lives on. The primarily Christian, Igbo peoples of the region are connected today by the shared, bloody Biafran story. The retellings of the painful years follow future generations, transcending age and physical experience. The Biafran identity has lived on for decades through unique cultural differences, shared history, cultural cohesion throughout the diaspora and globalization.

**Ferrell, Banks (19)**

### **Angels and Ventures: Pervious Borders Providing Expansion for Global Venture Markets By 2050**

The venture capital market exists as a crossroads for finance and innovation, pervious to political borders. This paper seeks to provide an assessment of global venture capital markets and how political identities shape them. The current flow of \$137 billion in venture investment is spiky and unevenly biased towards internationally connected cities. Entrepreneurial ecosystems capable of attracting competitive talent are often concentrated in metropolitan centers such as San Francisco and London. With the increase in Angel investment and crowdfunding access worldwide, it is expected that these sources of capital will allow increased innovation and entrepreneurial activity in globally underserved markets.

**Gessner, Ted (9)**

### **A New Sea Dragon: Chinese Naval Buildup and Reunification Plans with Taiwan and Trump**

A power struggle simmers in the South China Sea. A determined China seeks to secure its unprotected coastal border. It feels threatened by the many nations that patrol and surround the international waters of the South China Sea. These include Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, and the US. Seeking security and expansion, China aims to grab the Sea and its islands, including Taiwan. Meanwhile, a new American President brings new foreign policy, and tensions are rising. China wants to create an identity as a global power, and America is trying to hold onto its influence in the Asia Pacific.

**Ghazaleh, Mariane (5)**

### **Examining Iraqi and Iranian Identities in Popular Culture: A comparative study between the Middle East and the United States**

Popular culture in the United States has greatly influenced the way in which Americans picture and relate to people in both Iraq and Iran. Iran is typically imagined as a breeding ground for radical Islam, and Iraq is seldom looked at without the skew of war. In reality, Iranian and Iraqi culture are complicated and diverse, not to be reduced to a culture of war or radicalism. This project will highlight key works of culture, especially films and documentaries, which paint and taint the image of these two Middle Eastern countries both from within and without.

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**Hartigan, Alexis (4)**

### **Hans Christian Anderson: Piecing Together China and Denmark**

In 2016 China opened the first theme park in the world named after Hans Christian Andersen. While the Danes are proud to claim the 19th Century Danish author as their own, the opening of this new attraction shows that his stories transcend borders. His fairy tales' existential nature and social messages register with both cultures. This presentation will explore Andersen's influence on Danish and Chinese people, with a focus on three questions: how does each nation identify with his writings; what influence has he had on these two countries; and can literature augment intercultural cooperation?

**Jackman, Matthew (17)**

### **Results from a Digital Survey: Differences in Views on Brexit by National Identity and More**

Brexit: the United Kingdom's vote to leave the European Union with a vote of 51.9% to 48.1%. What do you think of this? And how did you come to your opinion? This session will show how national identity, age, ethnicity, access to different forms of media, and sex informed differences in views on Brexit. With such a narrow margin of victory for the Leave campaign, teasing apart variables that caused *both* British voters and foreign stakeholders to form their opinion is vital, as the results presented in this session can help understand future policy decisions and media from around the globe.

**Larsen, Nicholas (10)**

### **Escaping the Hermit Kingdom: North Korean National Identity Through a Defector's Eyes**

A close examination of defector accounts from North Korea reveals a complex, nuanced reality. While most corroborate human rights abuses and champion freedom, others mourn the simpler, more natural world abandoned upon defection, rejecting the psychological pressures inherent in their new homes in technologically-advanced capitalistic cultures. Some descriptions are rife with internal contradictions. A complete understanding of what it means to be a defector, and by extension, a North Korean, includes a review of contemporary history and national policy, and takes into account individual characteristics, such as generational and class differences, and the subtle realities of life in the "Hermit Kingdom."

**Ledford, Eimi (11)**

### **Western Feminism in Japan: Foreign Import or Next stage of Japanese Culture**

Japan ranked 101th out of 145 countries in the Gender Gap Index 2015. Japanese women show extremely low participation in politics and the workforce. Why is this country so behind in the scale of gender equality? Is the progressive Western feminism not fit and is the world in fact forcing an ideal upon them? However, there are global and domestic pressures on companies to provide more benefits for female workers nowadays. By analyzing Western influences and the effects, this presentation will argue feminism as Nippon's next positive global step in the world for women's greater success beyond the island-nation.

**Rutledge, Annie (3)**

### **The Puzzle of the Immigrant Student: Constructing and Protecting National Identity**

Education is a significant contributor to the formation of national identity. Multicultural school systems implement strategies to develop an inclusive community culture that supports the diversity of their students. The Houston Independent School District (HISD) constructs, interprets, and protects the national identities of its diverse student body through district programs and community outreach. The Trump administration's new directives and rhetoric have forced HISD to adopt new school policies and develop future strategies to help families cope with potential deportation and discrimination.

**Safi, Sara (6)**

### **Unveiling the Truth Behind Islamophobia in France**

France has the fifteenth-largest population of Muslim people in the world with a long history of North African colonization and Muslim immigration. France faces a unique problem with Islamophobia. In France there is an unspoken norm that religion lays in the private realm. Islam directly challenges that standard through blatant religious paraphernalia, such as the veil. Years of war and conflict in colonized nations and terrorist attacks in the country have left a bitter impression of Muslims on the minds of French

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citizens. These negative perceptions are hard to erase and have left the country to pick up the pieces.

**Shoemaker, Adam (2)**

### **Enabling South American Youth with Digital Literacy in a Globalized World**

Since 2005, significant effort has been dedicated to teaching South American technological skills. Digital literacy is an essential asset that propels students to reach for lives beyond their hometown and country. This research will examine efforts such as the One Laptop per Child project and determine the reasons behind its successes and failures in Uruguay. Specifically, the presentation will examine the political and technical climates conducive to digital literacy development projects and present ideas to advance the initiatives further. The internet is a global environment, and this project evaluates how best to give Hispanic children the tools necessary to fully access the resource.

**Uribe-Rheinbolt, Alessandro (14)**

### **Learning to Forgive in Rural Post Civil War Colombia**

In a country bombarded with more than fifty years of civil war lies a great challenge to move on forward. Although most desire peace, many Colombians believe that justice must be sought first, leading to great controversy. The rural areas yearn for a cease of violence and are willing to forgive those that destroyed their communities. Cities, on the other hand, believe that punishment should be placed among the group that killed thousands of people. The research conducted studies why the most affected areas are willing to forgive, and how the rest of the country can follow along.

**Zay, Lili (18)**

### **Palauan Identity in the Face of Rising Waters and Sovereignty**

As a sovereign nation in free association with the US, Palau's status is unique on two accounts: Palauan's conception of their national identity regarding their relationship with the US; and, as a Small Island Developing State, Palau faces rising sea levels. What is the responsibility of the US towards former Pacific territories, especially those threatened environmentally? Palau strives to cultivate identity and nationalism compatible with the economic and political relationship to the US. What factors play a role in undermining identity and contributing to ideas of home and independence? My research will identify and explain prominent forces behind these notions.

Direct inquiries about “**Finding Peace in the Global Puzzle**” to: **Rachel A. Willis, Ph.D.**

Professor of American Studies  
Adjunct Professor  
of Global Studies and Economics  
CB #3520, Room 414 Greenlaw Hall  
The University of North Carolina  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3520  
Greenlaw office (919) 962-0277

[Rachel.Willis@unc.edu](mailto:Rachel.Willis@unc.edu)

