New Security Studies Working Group Focusing on Causes, Conduct and Consequences of Violent Conflict

by Jonathan Caverley, Political Science, and Buffett Center Director Hendrik Spruyt, Political Science

The Buffett Center has launched a new Working Group on Security Studies that seeks to build an interdisciplinary community, at Northwestern and beyond, interested in research on the causes, conduct and consequences of violent conflict—be it civil war, terrorism or interstate competition. Research on the security consequences of international institutions, climate change, religious fundamentalism, and competition for energy is also most welcome.

Members from any intellectual field and research tradition are strongly encouraged to join the Group. Current participants include scholars from the Departments of Political Science, Sociology, and History of the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, as well as from the Kellogg School of Management, Medill School of Journalism and the School of Communication.

Meetings are primarily dedicated to encouraging and providing feedback to research in

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Faculty Affiliate Research » Creative Reckonings: The Politics of Art and Culture in Contemporary Egypt

by Jessica Winegar, Anthropology

Faculty Affiliates present recent research from books, articles, and project proposals.

What is the relationship between visual art and politics in the modern Middle East? What can art tell us about political and economic dynamics in the region after colonialism, and after the Cold War? And what does the production and consumption of art reveal about key social groups—such as youth, state officials, and businesspeople—engage with these dynamics and their historical trajectories? Creative Reckonings: The Politics of Art and Culture in Contemporary Egypt provides insight into these critical questions by examining the intersection of cultural politics, nationalism, and neoliberal globalization in the field of contemporary Egyptian visual arts. It is the first academic study of an art world in the modern Middle East, and is based on over three years of ethnographic fieldwork with artists, critics, curators, and collectors in Egypt at the turn of the millennium. It recently received

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Program of African Studies Launches Adjunct Major

The Program of African Studies launched an adjunct major in fall 2009, capitalizing on strong undergraduate interest and the unique interdisciplinary nature of PAS and its faculty. The new major in African studies has already garnered significant student interest and considerably expanded PAS’s undergraduate student cohort.

The adjunct major focuses on interdisciplinarity and research, drawing on a robust and diverse African studies curriculum. Open to all Northwestern undergraduate students, the adjunct major is designed to complement the students’ other programs of study. Students have an opportunity to take courses from across the University, benefiting from a broad program of study. Providing students with the opportunity to gain skills in cross-cultural understanding, the major challenges students by drawing on innovative scholarship from across departments and schools, while offering a sustained engagement with the African past, present, and future.

The major is structured to serve two broad aims. First, students are exposed to the geographical and disciplinary breadth of African studies. Second, students are required to pursue in-depth research in a topic of their choice. The adjunct major consists of eleven quarter courses: four required and seven electives. A unique aspect of the major is the incorporation of student research and analysis. The research/immersion practicum allows students to complete a quarter-long experience directly relating to African studies that can include, among other projects, study abroad, internships or a senior thesis. In the senior seminar, students develop analyses of the research or fieldwork experience they have undertaken as part of their research/immersion practicum.

The major is reinforced by the creation of a new student-run African studies undergraduate seminar that meets several times a quarter to discuss topics related to Africa, share experiences on the continent, listen to speakers, and present student work.

For more information, visit the Program of African Studies website at www.northwestern.edu/african-studies/academics.html or contact Kristine Barker at african-studies@northwestern.edu or 847-491-7323.

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MISSION
The Buffett Center sponsors and facilitates collaborative interdisciplinary scholarship on crucial problems facing the world. Our activities promote dialogue on international affairs thereby enriching educational programming at Northwestern. Working with a variety of organizations and communities, we contribute to preparing exemplary global citizens.

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Faculty Affiliate Research » Acts of Activism: Human Rights as Radical Performance
by D. Soyini Madison, Performance Studies

Faculty Affiliates present recent research from books, articles, and project proposals.

“The Case for Oral History as Performance”

…Our work is very/very demanding because we are dealing with people’s lives.
(Placing her palms together and clasping her hands; she stares at her hands pensively.)
People want to sit and to tell their story.
Sometimes it’s just giving them a listening ear that is healing for them.
(Gently looking up from her hands)
So you put a lot of emphasis on your work more than you do your own family
(Pause and looking somber with her lips pursed)
Our families suffer and my family is suffering now.
I travel so much/my whole life has become my work.
Yes/I’m often not at home.
(Looking up with a sad half smile)
At one point the conversation with my husband was all about my WORK.
I realized I didn’t talk about anything else but my work.

DSM:
But you choose…
BS:
(Responding quickly, but gently) Yes.

DSM:
You make this choice.
BS:
(Nodding her head slowly)
I make this choice.

DSM:
Why do you make this choice?
BS:
(Shakes her head)
That’s difficult to answer (pause)…a difficult question to answer.
I think first because there is a need out there and believing that your work can actually change that need.
You believe you are capable of doing it.
When you look at women’s rights and the challenges women face…
(Taking a deep breath and shaking her head)
I remember my first year of work
the stories I heard from women affected me so much.
(half laughter)
I had sleepless nights.
But I had to deal with it because if I didn’t deal with it
I could not HELP the people who came to me….

DSM:
Are you a feminist?
BS:
(Looking directly into my eyes with a soft-spoken confidence)
I am an activist.
This excerpt is from the longer oral history of Bernice Sam, a social justice and women's rights activist in Ghana, West Africa. The oral history interview is described as “momentous” and as an “ignition point, charged by and charging its historical moment.” The narrated event (the particular historical moment being told) and the narrative event (the embodied or immediate telling) constitute enlivening dynamics of a telling and a told that create this momentous third space of oral history performance. This notion of a narrated event and a narrative event is not so much a separation between form and content, but “a recognition of the subjective and phenomenological world of a teller framing and crafting a memory” of an actual moment from the past. The narrative event includes dimensions constituting it as performance, e.g. the linguistic, paralinguistic, kinesic, proxemic, artifactual, and olfactory dimensions. These elements combine to form a “drama” which guides the meaning and power of the narration, thereby constituting a poetic transcription. Words reflect the movement, sound, and sensory dimensions which add to their substance and meaning. Poetic transcription attempts to join content and form as embodied reportage, as verbal art, as “performance in print,” or as oral history performance. The concern here is the mutual importance of how something is said along with what is said or with the telling and the told. The narrative event and the narrated event coalesce in a poetic rendering and linguistic layering of feeling, rhythm, tone, pitch, intonation, and volume. Poetic transcription reflects what happens when we translate beyond the “good syntax” and the spelling eye of the prose writer and embrace the poetic style in lines of varying lengths, of positioning words and phrases that project the rhythm as well as the tone and affect of the human voice.

Oral history performance and its poetics attempt to embody the mise-en-scène of history. Oral history performances therefore do not function as factual reports or as objective evidence, nor are they embellished fictions of history. Instead, they present to us what moment of history and how that moment in history is remembered through a particular subjectivity. The emphasis here is an affective or felt-sensing account of history as well as history’s particular materiality. It is at this matrix of materiality, memory, subjectivity, performance, imagination, and experience that events culminate in oral history performance, a culmination of layers that are all mutually formed by each other. James Baldwin once said: “people are trapped in history and history is trapped in them.” It is history that makes subjects and subjects that make history, in the dynamic reciprocity of this embellished present subjectivity and remembered past materiality.

The observations and theoretical analyses accompanying poetic transcriptions are often criticized in certain circles. The argument is that they should stand alone and speak for themselves. The reasons vary. First, the researcher’s analysis is an intrusion, often leaving the narrator in effect silenced. The authoritative voice and heavy hand of the researcher overshadows the voice and presence of the narrator; it “upstages” the narrative thereby leaving the narrator’s actual words only whispers against the booming volume of the researcher’s interpretation. Second, the researcher’s analysis is his or her own idiosyncratic interpretation and distorts the meanings and expressions of the narrator. The view is that such interpretations are sometimes problematic and dishonor the veracity of the narrative while betraying any promise of interpretive illumination and self-reflexive engagement. Third, the researcher’s analysis promotes theoretical jargon that renders the narrative analysis itself ineffectual, at best, and silly, at worst. The researcher becomes so enamored with “theoretical speak” that the narrative is lost to the acrobatics of abstraction and theoretical word play. The researcher’s analysis does not necessarily silence or distort the narrative but becomes undesirable to it, an alien indecipherable rant alongside the vitality of a living account. Fourth, the researcher’s analysis is a descriptive overstatement that is only a redundant summary that becomes an obtuse repetition of what is already apparent and more.

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3. Pollock, p.3
powerfully articulated in the words of the narrator. Here the narrative is narrated again but only second-hand by the researcher in the absence of new insights and possibilities of meaning, making the analysis useless repetition.

Although I sometimes agree with these criticisms, it is also believed that analysis can open a deeper engagement with the narrative text and unravel contexts and connections within the undercurrents of the narrative universe, as well as inscribe the profundity of the narrative event, enhancing its sensual presence and ephemeral intensity. This can be accomplished without the researcher acting as a psychoanalyst, clairvoyant, prophet, or mimic. Analysis attends to the narration as one is compelled to attend to the significance of any object rich with possibilities and thick with description. Analysis does this by promising to open up subtext and discreet elements of signification so that we may realize the depth of their inferences, their overreaching consequences, and their political nuances and so that we may then have the good fortune of a deeper realization, an added insight, or a reality “thwarted” and “un-done.” The researcher’s analysis serves as a magnifying lens or, better, a house of mirrors, to enlarge, amplify, and refigure the small details and the taken-for-granted. Too often hidden in plain sight of words spoken and written are meanings and implications below the surface that beg to be excavated, refigured, or made unfamiliar. We may listen to a story or point of view, and on first impression it may seem pedestrian and uneventful. The researcher points to those moments, large or small, that we take for granted as “ordinary talk,” while, instead, they connect realms of associations that we have not otherwise considered or simply did not know. Analysis helps us pay closer attention. This means that the researcher’s analysis serves to employ theory in order to defend the complexity and dignity of the multiple truths and paradoxes below the surface but holding the surface in place. Theory serves, in part, as a hologram out of which we can insert spectrums of light and changing formations that color the shape and motion of what is before us, after us, and what we see in it. Engaging theory at its best is quintessentially revelatory and imaginative and can be as instrumental as light to help us see what was once obscure, distorted, or unseen. Theory does not necessarily block our access to

The interview narrative, but shows us the way into its deeper (not always seen or evident) questions and veracity. Instead of theory becoming its own narrative—theory for theory’s sake—it can gift us with a language and vocabulary out which we not only discover the layers under the surface, but we re-discover the surface itself and realize in that moment we did not know what we did not know.

The researcher’s analysis also serves to substantiate the beauty and poignancy of description. As narrators describe certain persons, places, things, ideas, and feelings, the researcher may feel it necessary to then describe the description. This is a matter of deep listening and honoring the artistry and poetry of an act of describing. The researcher embraces the emotions and sensuality of what is being described and how it is being described through highlighting, sometimes re-describing, the remembered textures, smells, sounds, tastes, and sights rendered through story and performance.

Acts of Activism: Human Rights as Radical Performance
by D. Soyini Madison
(Cambridge University Press, 2010)

Demonstration in Accra, Ghana in support of the highly contested “Domestic Violence Bill” (to protect women against domestic violence and marital rape). The Bill was introduced to Parliament in 2002 and finally passed in 2007 after many “grass roots” demonstrations and much advocacy work by gender activists.
the Hourani Book Award, given by the Middle East Studies Association for the best book in the field.

*Creative Reckonings* shows how the tensions inherent in modern art production and consumption make it an especially powerful battleground in postcolonial cultural politics in the Middle East and beyond. In fact, art worlds are especially useful places to examine changing relationships between cultural production, nationalism, capitalism, and religion. This is particularly the case in the Middle East, where nationalist and Islamist responses to capitalist expansion have gained international attention, and where the relationship between Islam and art has been especially fraught. In Egypt, as in other postcolonial or post-socialist contexts, modern art has been viewed as a colonial import and elite cosmopolitan practice. But it has been simultaneously engineered as a domain of secular national authenticity protected from market forces. This in-between space of art, which is positioned on the edges of national and religious legitimacy and yet given national and religious purpose, reveals in a particularly dramatic manner the central way that “culture” becomes both an instrument and object of modern governance. *Creative Reckonings* examines how artists (and elites more generally) deal with the new intensified commodification of culture, as well as with new forms of state power and challenges to it. Through chapters on the art education system, art competitions, state and private sector institutions, public art, and art collectors, the book shows how artists engage cultural commodification and the changing state through their visual and discursive “reckonings” with different histories and ideologies of the modern inherited from the European and Arab Enlightenments, anti-colonial nationalism, and nationalist and internationalist socialism.

A central argument of the book is that the recent political and economic transformation has opened new artistic paths but also put new constraints on artists. In the early 1990s, the Egyptian Ministry of Culture began to pour significant resources into supporting young visual artists under the age of 35. Young artists were given increasing opportunities to show their work in state venues, to receive government scholarships for residencies within and outside of Egypt, to sell their work to the national collection, and to represent Egypt in exhibitions abroad. The keystone of this initiative was a new national competition of young artists’ work called the Youth Salon (Salon al-Shaabab), which resulted in a major exhibition replete with lucrative prizes, acquisition deals, and conferences to which major Egyptian, European, and American art critics were invited to discuss the work. State curators favored works that they argued were rooted in national art history (viewed as a combination of Pharaonic, Coptic, Islamic, folk art, and early modern Egyptian art) but that introduced new elements viewed to be contemporary and cosmopolitan (such as new media, forms, and concepts seen as originating from outside of Egypt, particularly in the West). Such works were evaluated as good reckonings with various histories and versions of the modern that would create a new Egyptian art for a globalized era.

This youth initiative was a cultural component of a larger political/economic shift in Egypt. It coincided with a major structural...
adjustment program in which markets were liberalized, state subsidies reduced, and state industries privatized. The initiative also came on the heels of a burst of violent Islamist activity, directed against tourists, state officials, and writers, that was itself partly a reaction to structural adjustment. The massive state intrusion into the cultural field at the same time as its retreat from or reorganization of the economic field highlights the way in which culture became a way to manage the shift to neoliberalism. Youth were encouraged to do art instead of join Islamist groups, they were given state support just as their families were losing the same, and they were encouraged to do art to give Egypt a cosmopolitan international profile (necessary for more foreign investment). This new policy put constraints on artists such that those who did work outside of the preferred evaluative frameworks were denied opportunities, and such that artists became increasingly subject to the patriarchal and secularist workings of state cultural institutions. As Western critics and institutions began to pay attention to this new art coming out of the Salon, they brought their own notions of what constitutes good art and “interesting” artists, and Egyptian artists had to adapt or risk marginalization in the new environment. Many arguments ensued over whether or not the state, and young artists, were “globalizing” correctly.

On the other hand, the state’s policies created also new avenues for artistic practice. Artists were given state support to experiment in new ways. They gained new local and international audiences for their work, and hence new conversations which they found invigorating for its development. Market liberalization also brought new commodities and access to global technologies which proved to be productive resources for new materials and ideas for art work and for enhancing its visibility within and beyond Egypt. Eventually, state cultural and economic policy helped create a huge growth in a private sector art market as well as an increase in non-governmental ties to art scenes outside of Egypt, thereby providing artists with new avenues for artistic experimentation that did not have to cleave so closely to the Ministry of Culture nationalist vision.

In sum, this new direction in state cultural policy gave the impetus to a whole new generation of artists who went on to become internationally famous. Today, they are selected by prominent international curators for influential shows, they garner prestigious international art prizes, and even sell their work for high prices at galleries in Europe, the U.S., the Gulf, and at international auction. But battles over young artists—in the Salon and elsewhere—persist amid concerns that capitalist values have completely overtaken artistic values and social/national commitment. The continually vexed position of modern art, then, reveals the stakes of broader struggles for the future of culture in the Middle East in a postcolonial, post-Cold War world.

Creative Reckonings: The Politics of Art and Culture in Contemporary Egypt
by Jessica Winegar
(Stanford University Press, 2006)
New & Recent Faculty and Visiting Scholars

Several new faculty and visiting scholars joining Northwestern specialize in international and comparative issues. We encourage our affiliates to introduce themselves to these new colleagues. See our schedule of Faculty & Fellows Colloquium events for opportunities to learn more about their research.

Ryan Andrew Brown, an assistant professor of human development and social policy, is an anthropologist with training in public health and psychology. He is interested in how social and cultural dynamics influence variability in health and well-being. His research simultaneously takes evolutionary, biological, psychological, and cultural perspectives into account. This approach to research assumes fundamental human universals and explores plasticity in these biological and behavioral universals through cross-cultural comparison. In collaboration with the Institute for Policy Research, he is establishing a mobile culture, behavior and psychophysiology laboratory. Brown has co-authored articles on subjective social status among Cherokee and White youth in rural America, male mortality in Europe, and social regulation of sleep and co-sleeping in Egyptian families.

Mark Dike DeLancey, visiting scholar at the Program of African Studies, is assistant professor of the history of art and architecture at DePaul University. He received his PhD from Harvard University in 2004, with specializations in African and Islamic art and architecture. His research focuses on palace architecture in northern Cameroon with particular interest in the movement of artistic forms and styles across ethnic boundaries, relationships of Islamic and non-Islamic cultures, equestrian displays, and interactions between nomadic and sedentary cultures. DeLancey is coauthor of the forthcoming Historical Dictionary of the Republic of Cameroon (Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press).

Johanne Grøndahl Glavind, visiting scholar at the Buffett Center, is a PhD candidate at the Department of Political Science, University of Aarhus in Denmark. In her dissertation, she investigates whether it is possible for great powers to change so-called fundamental norms constituting international society. Empirically, this is done by analyzing how former President George W. Bush challenged the norm on non-use of force by claiming an American right to use preventive force and more importantly how international society, as represented by the UN Security Council, responded to this challenge. Glavind will be visiting the Center from January to March.

Şule Kut, Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Visiting Scholar at the Buffett Center, is dean of the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences in Istanbul Bilgi University. Her teaching and research interests include foreign policy analysis, Turkish foreign policy with emphasis on the Balkans, the Caucasus and Central Asia, Turkish-EU and Turkish-U.S. relations as well as Balkan politics. She is the author of four books and more than thirty articles in English and Turkish. Kut is the president of the Turkish Political Science Association and an elected member of the Executive Committee of the International Political Science Association. She received her MA and PhD in political science from the State University of New York in Binghamton. Kut is teaching a course on Turkish Politics and a course on Turkish Foreign Policy in the winter quarter.
Henri Lauzière is an assistant professor in the Department of History. His research interests focus on both modern Islamic intellectual history and the political history of the Arab world, including North Africa. His doctoral dissertation, completed during a stay at Georgetown University’s Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service in Qatar, examines the evolution of Salafism (al-salafiyya) and its epistemological underpinnings over the course of the twentieth century. More specifically, it traces a number of key historical steps and conjunctures that transformed Salafism from an Islamic modernist movement into a movement of religious purism, which nowadays is largely associated with Wahhabism and Saudi Arabia. He has served as contributor to the second edition of The Encyclopedia of the Modern Middle East and North Africa (2004) and has published in the International Journal of Middle East Studies.

Ogenga Otunnu, visiting scholar at the Buffett Center, is an associate professor of history at DePaul University. He is an expert on Uganda, but works on forced displacement, including causes of displacement, resettlement of displaced population, conflict resolution and reconstruction of post-conflict societies. His most recent projects with regional and international organizations included an examination of xenophobia against refugees and immigrants in South Africa, and peace-building, resettlement of displaced persons and property rights in Sri Lanka. He has been affiliated with the Refugee Studies Programme at Oxford and the Centre for Refugee Studies at York University and has trained some of the scholars who founded the Centre for Refugee Studies in Cairo. While at the Buffett Center he will be working with Professor Galya Ruffer to establish a Center for Forced Migration Studies.

Anna Parkinson recently joined Northwestern as an assistant professor in the Department of German. Previously she worked at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as an assistant professor in the Department of Germanic Languages. In 2007, Parkinson completed her PhD at Cornell University in German studies with a minor in gender and sexuality studies. Her current book project, In an Emotional State: The Politics of Emotion in Postwar West Germany, explores theories of affect in the postwar German context. Parkinson’s research interests include 20th and 21st century German literature and film, psychoanalysis, critical and literary theory, literature of migration, translation theory, and Holocaust studies.

Alice Weinreb, visiting assistant professor of history, received her PhD in history in 2009 from the University of Michigan with a dissertation on the politics of food and hunger in Nazi and Cold War divided Germany. Previously, she received a MA in cultural studies from Berlin’s Humboldt University. At Northwestern she is teaching courses on modern Germany, gender and socialism, and the history of food and famine. Her most recent publication is “The Socialist School Lunch: Children, Mothers, and the Meaning of Work in the GDR” in Hunger, Nutrition and Rationing under State Socialism, 1917-2006 (Middell and Wemheuer eds.), forthcoming in 2010.

Xiaohua Wu (Shirley), visiting research scholar at the Buffett Center, received a PhD in law from Minzu University of China and is a Professor of Ethnic Theories and Ethnic Policies at Minzu University of China. Her areas of research are political science and anthropology. In the past she has engaged in studies of nationalities policies. In recent years, she began to research nationalities policies around the world. Her research interest in the U.S. will be to examine how U.S. policies deal with the intersection of immigration and ethnicities.

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Crown Family Middle East Research Travel Awards

The Buffett Center, with generous support from the Crown Family, announces a competition for research travel awards for research projects in the Middle East by Northwestern faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates. Research proposals for individual and group projects are invited in all disciplines of the humanities and social sciences. Proposals indicating collaboration with institutions and colleagues in the Middle East will be given priority.

Proposal narrative and budget: (Not to exceed 3 single-spaced pages)

Proposals should provide a concise description of the research, scholarship or creative activity, including:

a. statement of nature, objectives, and expected outcome of proposed research/creative activity;
b. description of the significance of proposed research/creative activity;
c. plans for accomplishing objectives;
d. itemized budget;
e. graduate students and undergraduates should submit a letter of recommendation from a faculty member.

Award Information: The number and distribution of funded projects will be determined by the number of proposals received and the funding requested by applicants. All awards will be made as scholarship awards and will be paid out through the University’s payroll system.

Deadline: Applications are accepted both for a fixed deadline and on a rolling basis. Deadline for applications for the fixed deadline awards is February 12, 2010. In addition, funds will be reserved for applications submitted on a rolling basis throughout the year.

Selection Process and Notification: Awards will be decided by a committee organized by the Buffett Center. Award notification is expected around March 19 for the fixed deadline, and 4-6 weeks after submission for rolling applications.

Please submit proposals electronically to Brian Hanson (bhanson@northwestern.edu).

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Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Research Grants

The Buffett Center, with generous support from the Keyman Family Program in Modern Turkish Studies, announces a competition for research grants in modern Turkish studies for Northwestern faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates. Research proposals for individual and group projects are invited in all disciplines of the humanities and social sciences. Applicants may place the proposed work in an interdisciplinary context by explaining its relevance to modern Turkey. Projects may build on the work of existing research or they may be an entirely new initiative, as long as they are on modern Turkey. Proposals indicating collaboration with Turkish institutions and colleagues will be given priority.

Proposal narrative and budget: (Not to exceed 3 single-spaced pages)

Proposals should provide a concise description of the research, scholarship or creative activity, including:

a. statement of nature, objectives, and expected outcome of proposed research/creative activity;
b. description of the significance of proposed research/creative activity;
c. plans for accomplishing objectives;
d. itemized budget.

Award Information:
The number and distribution of funded projects will be determined by the number of proposals received and the funding requested by applicants.

Selection process:
Please submit proposals electronically to Rita Koryan (r-koryan@northwestern.edu) and Frances Lowe (f-lowe@northwestern.edu) no later than February 12, 2010.

A three-member faculty committee will review and select the projects to be awarded. Applicants will be notified on or before March 1, 2010 about the results of the competition.
**Graduate Student Grants**

**Buffett Center Graduate Student Summer Research Awards** provide summer funding for fieldwork outside the United States for Northwestern doctoral students writing dissertations on comparative and international topics relevant to important contemporary political, economic and social issues. The maximum award is $2500.

All Northwestern University PhD students at any stage in their dissertation research are eligible to apply. Applications from students conducting exploratory thesis research are particularly encouraged. These awards may not be used for language study programs, expenses in the United States, special equipment such as tape recorders, or fees for transcription or translation. Awards are normally granted for work during the summer, but exceptions can be made if warranted.

All applicants are expected to concurrently seek research support from other sources. Applicants who have previously received a Summer Research Travel Grant must also demonstrate that they have applied for funding from a source outside of Northwestern.

The application deadline is February 12, 2010. Notification of funding decisions is expected around March 19. For information on application requirements, visit www.bcics.northwestern.edu/grants/graduate.

**Buffett Center Graduate Student Conference Travel Awards** fund Northwestern PhD students working on international and comparative topics to attend a professional conference in their field. The maximum award is $300, and students are limited to one conference travel award per academic year. Applicants should submit proposals by email to Brian Hanson (bhanson@northwestern.edu) providing the conference name, location, and date, the student’s role at the conference (i.e. paper presenter, discussant, chair, etc.), and an estimated budget. Students should also indicate whether they have applied for or received any additional funding to attend this conference. Applicants are typically notified within two weeks of their submission.

Regular participants in the Buffett Center Graduate Student Colloquium series (see article below) with strong proposals will receive preference in both grant competitions. ♦

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**The Buffett Center Graduate Student Colloquium Provides a Forum Across Disciplines**

*by Victoria Fortuna, Performance Studies, and Kimberly Singletary, Rhetoric and Public Culture*

For many, if not most, graduate students, feedback from one’s peers is an essential part of the PhD process. Peer review sessions offer a chance for students to work out the kinks in their research, to discover new theories or applications, and to hear constructive feedback from others (besides Mom, who’s always a fan).

The Buffett Center Graduate Student Colloquium was designed as a forum for Northwestern graduate students across disciplines to participate in an informal peer review process.

Led by two graduate students from different departments each year, the Colloquium meets once a month to review a Northwestern student’s work. Students come from various fields such as: anthropology, history, media studies, music, political science, performance studies, religion, rhetoric, or sociology. They have presented on topics as far ranging as: the political aspects of clowning in Colombia, sex tourism in Brazil, Chechen pop music, rebels in Sudan, and development discourse in the Philippines.

As a graduate student, one often is so focused on teaching, researching, and participating in departmental functions that opportunities to meet students outside of the department dwindle. The Graduate Student Colloquium is not only a chance for graduate students to improve their work, but also to create partnerships across disciplinary divides.

For more information, contact this year’s organizers: Victoria Fortuna (victoriafortuna2008@u.northwestern.edu) or Kimberly Singletary (kimberlysingletary2008@u.northwestern.edu), or visit www.bcics.northwestern.edu/groups/graduatecolloquium. ♦
The Northwestern University Conference on Human Rights (NUCHR) is the United States’ largest student-organized undergraduate conference on human rights. The 2010 conference will bring together distinguished academics, activists, policy-makers, and students from around the globe to discuss “Urban Slums: The Shadow of the Humanitarian Generation.” Speakers will confront the problems slum dwellers face and, while focusing on the factors that maintain slum life, explore different motivations and approaches in addressing violations of the human rights of slum dwellers. The three-day summit, which takes place on Northwestern’s Evanston campus from Thursday, January 21 through Sunday, January 24, is free and open to the public.

The 2010 NUCHR staff has committed itself to challenging assumptions and broadening perceptions to realize the universality of human rights. This is our vision for NUCHR:

The Northwestern University Conference on Human Rights (NUCHR) is dedicated to promoting the universality of human rights, which can only be achieved by recognizing the difficulty in consensus, issues of cultural relativism, and the potential paradoxes between design and implementation.

The topic of urban slums will prove to be a great venue for expressing our vision because of slums’ global presence, their rapid growth in light of globalization, and their indiscriminate presence in both the developing and developed world. Given the multiple, interconnected human rights violations that take place in slums, we feel that this topic deserves urgent attention, and in particular deserves the attention of our generation of college students, members of the humanitarian generation. Our generation has been more giving of its time and money to philanthropic causes than any other in history, and yet in our very shadow, in a few short years, 2 billion of the world’s inhabitants are expected to be living in urban slums.

The phenomenon of urban slums is not easily described or addressed because of its connection to so many forces—economic, political, societal, environmental, religious, and cultural. However, we at NUCHR feel that this wide array makes urban slums an excellent topic to bring before our conference delegates, who fly in from all over the country, and our own Northwestern students and faculty, who are from all departments and disciplines. We believe that the challenge of urban slums is best met by a diversity of perspectives.

This year we, the conference co-directors, as well as the larger NUCHR student staff have introduced significant changes to the traditional conference programming, the greatest of which are our expansion of delegate discussion groups and the addition of a panel of human rights youth leaders at the close of the conference.

For NUCHR 2009, on the second day of the conference, delegates were divided into discus-
sion groups. Each group focused on a particular world case study in order to practice applying the concepts presented at the conference to real-life scenarios. This year, delegates will develop action plans within these discussion groups and then will present the action plans for judging on the last day of the conference. These groups are designed to encourage networking among delegates, as they will be interacting and meeting before, during, and after NUCHR 2010.

On Saturday at 3pm, a panel of four youth leaders from the human rights community will discuss their current work in the field of human rights as well as their trajectory for the future. Some of the panelists will be current Northwestern students and some will be former delegates from past NUCHRs. We hope that this panel will serve not only to inspire other Northwestern students, current delegates, and all others in attendance, but also to expand our notions of the potential for human rights to fit into our careers and lives.

As in the past, we will have two keynote speakers at the conference, and four panels of experts. In order to foster the best mechanism for critical dialogue, keynoters and panelists will represent a variety of backgrounds and ideological stances concerning urban slums.

Our opening keynote speaker on Thursday, January 21, at 8pm will be Katherine Sierra, Vice President for Sustainable Development at the World Bank. She will define what urban slums are and impress upon the audience why the problem of urban slums is so urgent, while also explaining what the World Bank is doing to address this issue. Robert Neuwirth, a prolific writer who has spent two years living in slums across the world, will deliver our closing keynote speech on Saturday, January 23, at 6pm about humanizing and learning from urban slums worldwide.

The conference will present delegates with both an analytical framework to examine urban slums and an opportunity to apply their knowledge to a unique case study within their delegate discussion groups. On the first day, the panels will focus, respectively, on three key themes: the human rights violations that occur within a slum, the forces that maintain slum conditions, and possible solutions for the violations that take place within slums, with delegate discussion groups meeting between panels. On the second day, the delegates will continue to work on action plans in their respective world scenarios between two panels designed to aid in the finalizing process. The Case Study panel will begin the day by examining the slum-like conditions of Chicago. With the conference’s subtitle in mind, we want to illuminate the fact that slums exist everywhere, not only abroad, and to emphasize that human rights work methodology should be applied even in the cities the humanitarian generation springs from. The Case Study panel will be followed by the aforementioned Human Rights Youth Leaders panel and the closing keynote.

NUCHR also holds events throughout the year, including a student-organized seminar during winter quarter designed to expound upon the conference topic, and this year has added a Spring Break service-learning trip to the slums of Buenos Aires where students will meet with government officials, human rights advocates, local aid workers, and slum dwellers to further the impact of the conference.

We, as co-directors of NUCHR 2010, warmly invite you to challenge your assumptions and broaden your perceptions about human rights issues alongside us this year.

For further information on NUCHR and this year’s conference, visit www.nuchr.net or contact the organizers at conferenceonhumanrights@u.northwestern.edu.

Slum separated by a wall from wealthier neighborhood in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
Ambassador Richard S. Williamson to Give Roberta Buffett Visiting Professor Lecture

As the 20th Century came to a close, mass atrocities and ethnic killing seemed to take place at a quickening pace. The Cambodian Killing Fields. Rwanda. Bosnia. Kosovo. Now the Eastern Congo and Darfur. How should America act? What is our “responsibility to protect”? And how can America act with the international community to give meaning to the pledge: Never Again?

Ambassador Richard S. Williamson, Roberta Buffett Visiting Professor of International Studies, will deliver the lecture “In The Face Of Mass Murder and Atrocities: What should America Do?” on Tuesday, March 9, at 4pm, in the Guild Lounge, Scott Hall, 601 University Pl., Evanston, Illinois.

Ambassador Williamson recently completed an assignment as the President’s Special Envoy to Sudan. Earlier, he served in the Reagan White House as Special Assistant to the President and Deputy to the Chief of Staff. His many diplomatic posts have included serving as Ambassador to the United Nations in Vienna and to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. He is editor of three books and the author of over 180 articles and seven books, most recently American Primacy and Multilateral Cooperation.

Roberta “Bertie” Buffett Elliott endowed the Buffett Visiting Professorship in International Studies, which brings to campus leading scholars from around the world to build international relationships and provide educational opportunities for Northwestern students. Her gift supports visiting professors from the fields of political science, economics, and history. Past Buffett Visiting Professors have included Louis Pauly of the University of Toronto, Ariane Chebel d’Appolonia of Sciences Po in Paris, Frederik Engelstad of the Institute of Social Research in Oslo, former New York Times foreign correspondent Stephen Kinzer, Ales Debeljak, author of The City and the Child, José Kagabo, an internationally renowned expert on the Rwandan genocide, and Keila Grinberg, a Brazilian legal historian and specialist in comparative slavery.

For information about current and past Buffett Visiting Professors, visit www.bcics.northwestern.edu/programs/buffettprofessor.

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progress presented both by outside speakers as well as working group members. Initial feedback on the research is then delivered by a graduate student discussant, followed by general discussion of the work.

Our inaugural speaker, Michael Desch, Professor and Chair of Political Science at the University of Notre Dame, kicked off the series with a talk appropriately entitled “If, When, and How Social Science Can Contribute to National Security Policy,” leading to a spirited discussion very much in keeping with the Working Group’s intent. Guy Laron of Northwestern’s Department of History followed with a presentation on the domestic influences on the United States’ approach to Egypt leading up to the Suez Crisis of 1956.

Our upcoming speakers also reflect the working group’s multidisciplinary approach. In January, the Department of Political Science’s Michael Loriaux will contribute a paper on Thucydides’ aesthetics of power, and Efraim Inbar, director of the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies at Bar Ilan University, Israel will deliver a presentation on “The Rise and Demise of the Two-State Paradigm.” Future sessions will be devoted to counterinsurgency and great power coercion.

The Working Group meets biweekly on Wednesdays from 1:30pm to 3:00pm in the Buffett Center. Faculty, post-doctoral fellows, and affiliates who are interested in joining the group, as well as advanced graduate students interested in participating in individual activities aligned with their interests, should contact Hendrik Spruyt (h-spruyt@northwestern.edu) and Jonathan Caverley (j-caverley@northwestern.edu).
Winter Events Calendar

JANUARY

Faculty & Fellows Colloquium » Hot Lunches in the Cold War: School Lunches and the Construction of a Gendered Labor Ideology in the German Democratic Republic
Alice Weinreb, History
Friday, January 15 at 12pm - Buffett Center Conference Rm.

Forced Migration Studies Series » From Refugees to Forced Migration: Defining the Humanitarian Problem
Howard Adelman, founder of York University's Center for Refugee Studies
Wednesday, January 20 at 5pm - 2010 Sheridan Rd., Evanston

Thursday, January 21 through Sunday, January 24

Faculty & Fellows Colloquium » Africans or Creoles? Uses of the Portuguese Language in Brazilian Slavery
Ivana Stolze Lima, Buffett Center Visiting Scholar
Friday, January 29 at 12pm - Buffett Center Conference Rm.

FEBRUARY

The Dragon's Gift: The Real Story of China in Africa
Deborah Bräutigam, International Development Program, American University
Wednesday, February 3 at 7pm - Hardin Hall, Rebecca Crown Center, 633 Clark St., Evanston

Human Rights Talks » Wired For War: The Robotics Revolution and 21st Century Conflict
Peter W. Singer, Brookings Institution
Thursday, February 4 at 7pm - McCormick Tribune Forum, 1870 Campus Dr., Evanston

Faculty & Fellows Colloquium » “I Am a Child of Subversion”: DNA and Identity in Post-Dictatorship Argentina
Lindsay Smith, Science in Human Culture
Friday, February 5 at 12pm - Buffett Center Conference Rm.

Human Rights Talks » “If You Leave Us Here, We Will Die”: How Genocide Was Stopped in East Timor
Geoffrey Robinson, University of California, Los Angeles
Wednesday, February 10 at 4pm - Buffett Center Conference Rm.

Faculty & Fellows Colloquium » Who Gets the Job Referral? Evidence from a Social Networks Experiment in India
Lori Beaman, Economics
Friday, February 12 at 12pm - Buffett Center Conference Rm.

Faculty & Fellows Colloquium » The Sociology of Nationalism: A View From the Ottoman Balkans
Dean Kostantaras, History
Friday, February 19 at 12pm - Buffett Center Conference Rm.

MARCH

Keyman Modern Turkish Studies » Istanbul: Between the Global and the Local
Caglar Keyder, SUNY-Binghamton & Bogazici University, Istanbul
Tuesday, February 23 at 4pm - Buffett Center Conference Rm.

Faculty & Fellows Colloquium » What is So New About “New Turkish Foreign Policy”?
Şule Kut, Keyman Visiting Scholar
Friday, February 26 at 12pm - Buffett Center Conference Rm.

The Buffett Center is located at 1902 Sheridan Road in Evanston. All events are free and open to the public. For additional information visit www.bcics.northwestern.edu or call 847-467-2770.
The Buffett Center sends information about upcoming international and comparative events through a sophisticated email system. In addition to a general list to which we send a weekly digest of “next week’s events,” we maintain a dozen specialized lists. Subscribers decide what type of information they receive from the Center by choosing one or more of the following areas of interest:

- Africa
- East Asia
- South & Central Asia
- Central & Eastern Europe
- Western Europe
- Latin America & Caribbean
- Middle East & North Africa
- Turkish Studies
- U.S. Foreign Policy
- Global Issues
- Human Rights
- Documentary Films
- Comparative-Historical Social Science
- French Interdisciplinary Group
- Graduate Student Colloquium

To join our email list, visit: www.bcics.northwestern.edu/join

Missed an event? Visit www.bcics.northwestern.edu/publications/webcasts to view selected webcasts of recent talks.

For more information, please contact Assistant Director Krzysztof Kozubski at kozubski@northwestern.edu or email buffettcenter@northwestern.edu. ▶