BCICS is pleased to announce that beginning this year, the maximum award for its Summer Research Travel Awards has been raised to $2,500. These awards provide summer funding for fieldwork outside the United States for NU doctoral students writing dissertations on comparative and international topics relevant to important contemporary political, economic and social issues. BCICS Director Andrew Wachtel said, “Opportunities for NU graduate students to conduct exploratory research, develop dissertation topics, and build contacts during the summer have produced not only stronger thesis projects, but also positioned our students to be highly competitive for prestigious national and international year-long dissertation fellowships. Summer research trips are also particularly important for students who discover the need for supplemental fieldwork as they are writing their thesis. The increase in awards should allow more students to consider summer field work and to stay in the field for a larger portion of the summer.”

All Northwestern University graduate 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, for expenses in the US, for special equipment such as tape recorders, or for 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 Award must also demonstrate that they have applied for funding from a source outside of Northwestern.

Regular participants in the BCICS Graduate Student Colloquium series with strong proposals will receive preference in BCICS grant competitions. To learn more about this series, see the BCICS website.

The application deadline is March 1. Applicants should submit:

1) Application Form, which is available at the BCICS website;

2) a 2-3 page proposal letter, which provides a brief description of the thesis project, an account of proposed summer activities, and an explanation of how those activities will contribute the thesis research;

3) an estimated budget and a statement about other funding sources that are being sought and for what amount; and

4) one letter of recommendation written by an advisor/mentor.

Please send your application to BCICS, 1902 Sheridan Road, and mark your envelope to the attention of BCICS Graduate Student Summer Research Grants. Faculty letters of recommendation maybe submitted separately to the same address or emailed by the recommender directly to BCICS Associate Director Brian Hanson bhanson@northwestern.edu.

Notification of funding decisions is expected around April 1st.

BCICS Summer Research Travel Award recipients are expected to actively participate in the BCICS Graduate Student Colloquium series after their return. Award recipients are also expected to submit a written summary of their trip and what they accomplished (approximately 5 pages, single-spaced).

Application questions may be directed to BCICS Associate Director, Brian Hanson.
Building Forward: Expanding Northwestern Global Engagement

As one year draws to a close and another starts, the Center for Global Engagement looks back on its first full year as an exciting centerpiece of the expansion of global engagement among Northwestern students, and looks forward to 2008 as an opportunity to expand and deepen the community of students, faculty and staff committed to global problem solving.

In 2007, what started as an idea, a need, and an opportunity grew into a fully-fledged program design center. During the summer, 16 students ranging across grades and majors spent 10 weeks partnering with Ugandan nonprofit organizations to design and implement community development projects. The second annual International Youth Volunteering Summit brought together 75 student delegates from 30 countries, more than 30 nonprofit leaders and social entrepreneurs, and some 50 Northwestern student planning staff for a week of training. The continued success of the program has attracted more than 60 NU students to plan the events this year.

In addition, the CGE has administered almost $40,000 in undergraduate and graduate grants, including debuting two post-graduate fellowships for students working to combat human trafficking around the world. In the Fall, the CGE partnered with the Chicago Global Donors Network to de sign an immersive youth philanthropy training for Chicago youth across the socioeconomic and racial spectrum. Finally, CGE-sponsored student projects have raised more than $40,000 through a partnership with GlobalGiving Foundation, enabling them to impact more than 50,000 lives with programs from community health clinics to arts empowerment for AIDS orphans.

In 2008, the CGE will not only expand its capacity to prepare young people for leadership in global development, philanthropy, and humanitarian work, but also help focus, connect, and educate the student global engagement movement emerging across the country.

Throughout the year, the CGE will be bringing together faculty from around the country to explore how “global engagement relationships” – the relationships between the myriad actors and institutions who contribute to global social change – negotiate differences of incentives, interests, motivations, backgrounds, and perspectives to enable problem solving. We intend to build a repository of research and scholarship accessible to practitioners, professionals, nonprofits, global community organizations, and students alike. Additionally, we will continue to expand our programs, investigating new global engagement immersions in countries such as Egypt, Guatemala, Turkey, and India.

Today’s undergraduates have spoken clearly: they are not content to simply “do good.” They recognize the need to move beyond their good intentions and develop the skills, knowledge, and resources to do good well. We look forward to your support and ideas as the Center for Global Engagement continues to grow and mobilize this exciting generation.

For more information, see www.myCGE.org

NORTHWESTERN VISITING SCHOLARS

Lisa Sien is a post-doctoral fellow in sociology and Jewish studies. She researches post-conflict operations, peacekeeping, violence, and gender relations. She graduated from Amsterdam University and holds a postdoctoral appointment at the Orin Institute for Strategic Studies at Harvard. She taught at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Ben-Gurion University in the Negev, and Tel-Aviv University. Lisa will present in the BCICS Faculty and Fellows Colloquium on February 8th. Straight from the Holy Land, she will discuss her family among Israeli Military Reserve.

Amy Stanley (Ph.D. Harvard, 2007) specializes in the history of early modern Japan. She is particularly interested in women’s history, the history of gender, and the social and cultural history of everyday life in Japan, and the formation of social policy in early modern cities and towns. She is the recipient of fellowships from the Japanese Ministry of Education, the Japan Foundation, and the Whiting Foundation, and she has studied at Kyoto University in Osaka and Waseda University in Tokyo. Her dissertation, which she is currently revising for publication, explores official and popular attitudes toward the sex trade in provincial Japan between 1600 and 1688. Other recent work includes an article on charity and punishment in Tokugawa Japan and research on education for girls during the Meiji period. She will be participating in BCICS Faculty and Fellows Colloquium on January 25th. 

The Enlightenment Garden.
Yi Qian

Yi Qian is Assistant Professor of Marketing and the Donald P. Jacobs Scholar at the Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University. Professor Qian’s research interests shape around marketing strategies in the context of technology advancement and international trade. She applies this knowledge to propose successful business strategies to secure brand values and Intellectual Property Rights against counterfeits, and to suggest reasonable policies in adopting technology and absorbing foreign direct investments. Prior to joining the Kellogg School, she taught courses on Advanced Econometrics and International Trade and Investments at Harvard University. At the Kellogg School, Professor Qian will teach Marketing Research.

Could you talk about your project and how did it start?
My parents were Holocaust survivors, and my own life experiences and professional choices have been indelibly marked by that legacy. I had always been very curious about what their experiences were. I wanted to know what it was like to be a survivor, to be part of the generation that survived the Holocaust.

The project started at Harvard, and I aimed at looking at the long term psychological impact of it on the survivors. We decided to bring together the children of Holocaust survivors and children of Nazi victims to explore what it means when they meet each other face to face.

The meeting, which was videotaped, lasted for four days and was facilitated by my husband, Daniel Gavron, who was then a Harvard psychology student. The findings were used in the statistical method for sequential analysis that is used for coding behavioral sequences.

The data showed that the sons and daughters of Holocaust victims interact face to face with the children of Nazi victims in a manner corresponding to the past activated interpersonal behavior sequences. Sitting face to face with people they considered to be on the opposite side of the violence led to the psychological distress, activated hostile reactions, and increased group polarization. However, it is important to stress that the data also showed there is a great deal of variation among the offspring of Nazis and survivors, making it difficult to generalize from one set of data to another.

In the struggle to translate the unique events into narratives of altruism, the present study had focused on sensation attraction away from the past and instead focused on present opportunities for growth.

This was the first study of its kind, where descendents of both victims and perpetrators were brought together. We found that despite the fact that the descendents were not actively involved in the Holocaust, the memories of the events were passed from one generation on to the next. This project had clearly left a mark as demonstrated by the response shown by the descendents of the victims towards the descendents of the Nazis. At various points throughout the meetings, they would relate and agree on the other side and allocate responsibility for the Holocaust to the descendents of the Nazis. This in turn caused resentment on behalf of the children of the Nazis who were assigned blame for crimes committed by their parents. It is evident that in the face of a tremendous injustice, the legal remedies are not sufficient for wiping out the psychological impact. This study could be expanded to include other groups that have experienced injustice as the cycle of feelings is passed on, from one generation to the next. If we look at cartels that are plaguing around the world in our days, Northern Ireland, Rwanda, the Middle East, etc., we should discern similar reactions.

Mona Sue Weissmark

What kind of publicity did your project receive?
The project received a lot of publicity by the media. A number of magazines, newspapers, and television networks, such as Psychology Today, Ne, Harvard Magazine, Jerusalem Report, the Jewish Federation News, Sch Magazine, and the Christian Science Monitor, the New York Times, the Chicago Tribune, the San Francisco Chronicle, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and the Guardian, featured stories of my research.

CBS2's Sunday Morning News with Charles Kuralt first featured the meeting between the descendents of Nazis and Holocaust survivors on September 15. The CBS2's Producer found the story so compelling that she came to me on March 16, 1995 under the title, “Finding Understanding.” Finally, I was able to organize a meeting between descendants of Nazis and Dutch-Owens for PBS Channel 11's Image Union, which aired on June 29, 1995. The descendents were three to four generations removed from their ancestors who were deports, yet the same cycle is evident. Four generations later, the wounds have not healed; there still remains a large number of hate and revenge. On the other side, the descendents of the Dutch-Owens—who often live on the same lot of property that still houses the same building that used to serve as the shore-front—felt guilty for the actions of their ancestors yet at the same time very responsible for having to bear responsibility.

Encouraged by the widespread reception and by further research that helped strengthen my argument, I was able to turn this project into a book, Justice Matters: Legacies of the Holocaust and World War II (Oxford University Press, 2004). The book offers a new framework for understanding the psychological impact of injustice. It demonstrates how open memories of past injustice are passed along to the offspring of victims and perpetrators. A main focus of the book is on the transmission of memories of injustice, including the question of how emotions and cognitions follow perception of injustice.

In 2006, a 15-minute documentary titled Seeing the Other Side – 60 years after Auschwitz was produced by Johanna Holzbauer of WGR German Television and written by Johannes Hollenhorst and Mirjam Lenz. The WDR Westdeutscher Rundfunk TV filmed the film. The documentary was based on several interviews and on my experiences with the victims and survivors, and my research project into a reflective moment of being able to overcome my own experiences. The film has aired nationwide on German television. The English translation of the film is available online.

What are your future plans?
I am currently conducting a study with Konnata University’s Humanities Center. Konnata was recently acknowledged within a nation-wide competition, organized by the German government and administered by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the Science Council, in the “fellow of excellence” in the humanities and endowed with generous funding.
BCICS and PAS Present: Torture in the Era of Democracy

This winter quarter, BCICS will host a series of lectures and discussions on the topic of torture in the modern day, including lectures from academics, discussing the history of torture, its use in the modern era, and its potential effects on democracy. The series will be held in the BCICS seminar room, 601 University Place, starting on January 17th. The lectures will be followed by a Q&A session, and there will be a panel discussion on the future of torture in the modern era.

Calendar of Events

January

- BCICS Presents Torture in the Era of Democracy: Thu 01/17: 6:00 – 9:30 p.m.
- Faculty and Fellows Colloquium: Fri 01/18: Noon – 1:00 p.m.
- Faculty and Fellows Colloquium: Fri 01/25: Noon – 1:00 p.m.

February

- Faculty and Fellows Colloquium: Fri 02/01: Noon – 1:00 p.m.
- Faculty and Fellows Colloquium: Fri 02/08: Noon – 1:00 p.m.
- Faculty and Fellows Colloquium: Fri 02/15: Noon – 1:00 p.m.
- Faculty and Fellows Colloquium: Fri 02/22: Noon – 1:00 p.m.

March

- Faculty and Fellows Colloquium: Fri 03/02: Noon – 1:00 p.m.
- Faculty and Fellows Colloquium: Fri 03/09: Noon – 1:00 p.m.
- Faculty and Fellows Colloquium: Fri 03/16: Noon – 1:00 p.m.
- Faculty and Fellows Colloquium: Fri 03/23: Noon – 1:00 p.m.

BCICS Documentary Film Series

BCICS is screening two documentary films during the winter quarter. The films will be screened on Fridays and will be followed by discussions with faculty and students. The series will be held in the BCICS seminar room, 601 University Place, starting on January 17th.

January

- Righteous People: Fri 01/18: Noon – 1:00 p.m.
- Righteous People: Fri 02/08: Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Righouse Righteous People

February

- Righteous People: Fri 02/01: Noon – 1:00 p.m.
- Righteous People: Fri 02/08: Noon – 1:00 p.m.
- Righteous People: Fri 02/15: Noon – 1:00 p.m.
- Righteous People: Fri 02/22: Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Over one million Sudanese who escaped their war-torn country now live in Cairo, Egypt. Under international human rights agreements, these refugees have the right to education, employment, healthcare, welfare and protection. But in Egypt they are the right less. They are not recognized as civilians in the war, nor given the possibility to start a new life. The role of the Cairo-based United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is to protect all refugees. So why is it that since the fall of Mubarak, the Egyptian government has neglected the plight of the refugees, their failed expectations, hopelessness and despair.

Muna Taha is a journalist who now specializes on documentary film making. She directed, produced, shot and edited Righteous People, a documentary on the lives of Sudanese refugees in Cairo, Egypt. The film received a graduation project from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University.

LE MENTENDU COLONIAL

(Colonial Misunderstanding) : By Jean-Marie Teno

The film looks at Christian evangelism as the forerunner of European colonialism in Africa. Indeed, as the ideological model for the relationship between North and South even today. In particular it looks at the role of missionaries in Namibia on the centenary of the 1904 German genocide of the Herero people. It reveals how colonialism destroyed African beliefs and social systems and replaced them with European ones at the only acceptable route to modernity.

Jean-Marie Teno was born in 1954, in Cameroun and has been living since 1977 in France, where he studied audiovisual communication in Valenciennes. Since 1985 he has been working as a film critic for ‘Buana Magazine’ and a television editor. For his second short film ‘Hommage’ (1987) he won the short film award of the ‘Festival de la Jeunesse’. His first and only full-length feature film ‘Claude’ was nominated in the same year for the category ‘best film’ at the international festival of French-speaking films in Namur.
KEYMAN FAMILY PROGRAM IN MODERN TURKISH STUDIES PRESENTS:

The Abyssinian Proof

BCICS and the Keyman Family Program in Modern Turkish Studies are pleased to announce that Jenny White will be presenting her new book, The Abyssinian Proof on Wednesday, February 13th (Harris Hall 108, 5:00 pm). Jenny B. White is associate professor of anthropology at Boston University, and has been following events in Turkey since the mid-1970s. She is the former president of the Turkish Studies Association and of the American Anthropological Association, Middle East Section, and sits on the board of the Institute of Turkish studies. Jenny B. White is the author of a number of scholarly works, including: Islamist Mobilization in Turkey: A Study in Vernacular Politics (2002), which was the winner of the 2003 Douglass Priz for best book in Europeanist anthropology, and Money Makes Us Relatives: Women’s Labor in Urban Turkey (second edition, London: Routledge, 2004). Besides the numerous scholarly articles, Jenny B. White has also written a work of fiction, The Sultan’s Seal, which was the finalist of the Ellis Peters Historical Crime Award, and was also chosen as a Booklist “Top ten Historical” and “Top Ten First” novel.

Abyssinian Proof takes place in nineteenth-century Istanbul, and involves a conspiracy to steal an ancient reliquary whose secret could change the world. Many of the novel’s themes in her thriller book are relevant to the events that are unfolding in Turkey today.