

Seeing Globalization in India

By Susan Hangen

In January, I joined ten Ramapo College students, several pursuing majors in AIS, for the first two weeks of their semester in India. A few were international students and experienced travelers, but others had never left the United States. It was rewarding to work with these students as they apprehensively but enthusiastically began learning about the complexities of contemporary India. In some ways, I relived my own college semester abroad in Nepal, a transformative experience that propelled me to become an anthropologist. More significantly, the trip was fascinating because, although I constantly teach students about India, I saw firsthand how India has changed since my last visit there, nearly 10 years ago. This reaffirmed for me the added value of experience based learning.

India is a "hard sell" in the study abroad market. Students and their parents are not easily convinced that there is anything really important that they could learn from studying there. Well-worn images of India as a backwater filled with desperately poor, extremely religious masses still hold true for many people in the United States. These notions persist despite the recent US media blitz heralding the arrival of India on the global scene, with articles on India's stupendous growth rate, its success at maintaining the world's largest democracy, and its hip cultural exports like Bollywood movies. India is now a country that matters to the US. Multi-national corporations have rushed to set up

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This issue of *AIS Occurrences* was produced and edited by Prof. Jeremy M. Teigen and Prof. Michael Unger.

AIS Faculty Updates

Faculty Research and Pedagogy Events

Excerpts from **Lisa Willams'** book, *Letters to Virginia Woolf* will be published in *The Mom Egg*, a collection of writing and art by Mothers. There will also be a release party with readings from the contributors on May 11th, 7-9pm, at the Stain Bar in Brooklyn, and on Friday, May 16th, 6-8pm at the KGB Bar in Manhattan.

Michael A. Unger served as a Chair at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science as well as a Chair and Discussant at the Annual Meeting of the New England Political Science Association.

Jeremy M. Teigen presented two co-authored papers at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, Illinois. "Probing the Reds and Blues: Voter Location and Sectionalism in Presidential Elections" with Seth McKee, and "The Mobilizing Effect of Political Ads in Senate Elections, 2002 and 2006" with Keena Lipsitz.

Ira Spar presented a lecture entitled "Inside the Met: The Curatorial Departments Ancient Near Eastern Art," on March 12, 2008 at The Met. Spar presented some of the unique cuneiform texts in the collection.

Mónica Peláez will participate this summer in the National Humanities Center Summer Institute in Literary Studies "Forms of Life in Emily Dickinson's Poetry." In April 2008, she presented a paper on "Emily Dickinson's Wartime Protest" at the Nineteenth-Century Studies Association conference in Miami. She will be presenting a paper on "Longfellow, the Popular Mind, and Sentimental Death" at the American Literature Association conference in San Francisco in May 2008. Peláez also presented the film "The Big Lebowski" in April as part of the AIS Film Series.

Sam Mustafa's book is coming out this September: *The Long Ride of Major Von Schill: A Journey through German History and Memory* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2008).

Laura McKenna published two articles and presented a paper at The American Political Science Association meeting in Chicago. "Getting the Word Out: Policy Bloggers Use Their Soap Box to Make Change" appeared in the May 2007 edition of *Review of Policy Research*. "What Do Bloggers Do?: An Average Day on an Average Political Blog" appeared in *Public Choice* in January 2008. She also presented the paper, "Reporters Review the Bloggers: Freaks, Geeks, or

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offices in places like Bangalore's Electronic City, and planes to and from India are filled with business travelers.

Our semester abroad program focuses on the most important thing we can learn in India right now: how globalization affects people in diverse and unexpected ways. In addition to seeing glittering malls filled with global consumer goods and driving along smooth highways, we met with tribal peoples who were displaced due to hydroelectric dams and had no clear source of livelihood and few material possessions. Our learning about the disruptive effects of globalization was paired with the study of local social justice movements that are working to create local solutions to new problems. Students met with Indian journalists, NGO leaders, and activists who are working to counter the negative effects of globalization. Both the uneven and problematic effects of India's new global economy and the potential for India to develop creative solutions to these problems became equally clear.

Italian Women During WWII

By Rosetta D'Angelo

On Wednesday, April 23, 2008, Prof. Rosetta D'Angelo and her coauthor, Prof. Barbara Zaczek (Clemson University), presented their newly published collection of translated texts by and about women in the partisan movement in Italy (1942-1945). "One of the things that actually fascinated or attracted us to this project was the lack of information and knowledge about the existence and role of women partisans in Italy during the war," says Prof. D'Angelo. Prof. Zaczek adds, "There were almost 200,000 Italians formally recognized by the government and military leaders as members of the resistance. Of that number 35,000 were women."

With over a hundred students, faculty, and community members, the book signing was very well-attended. Notable attendees included Andrea Chiarenza (Vice Consul of Italy), Joseph Coccia (Coccia Foundation), Anthony Abbate (Vice President of the Columbians of New York), Joseph Torre (former President of the Columbians of New York), Charles Calabrese (Columbians of New Jersey), Stefano Vaccara ("America Oggi" and "La Repubblica"), and faculty from Monclair, Rutgers, Princeton, La Salle, NYU, and Ramapo College, including President Peter Mercer and Provost Beth Barnett. (Author quotations from Sara Grillo, "Resisting Bodies invokes the spirit of WWII Italy," *Ramapo News*, April 24, 2008.)

AIS Clubs & Organizations

Students and Faculty Events

AIS Colloquium Activities

- Michael Unger presented his scholarship to the colloquium on in April. His talk was entitled, "The Supreme Court and Public Opinion: Connections and Consequences."
- Rosetta D'Angelo and her coauthor, Professor Barbara Zaczek (Clemson University) presented their recently published collection of translations, *Resisting Bodies: Narratives of Italian Partisan Women* (see "Italian Women...") in April.
- Pulitzer Prize winner poet Natasha Trethewey came to campus in April and read from her popular title, *Native Guard: Poems*.

Culture Club Activities

- "Sub-Saharan Africa's New Economic Relationship with China," presented by Dr. Karl Johnson, Associate Professor of African American Studies, School of Social Science and Human Services, co-sponsored by The African Ancestry Month Committee, February 24, 2008
- "Cultural Exhibit" representing: Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Cuba, China, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Iraq, Italy, Korea, Morocco, Panama, Russia, Spain, USA, and Vietnam. Co-sponsored by The Women Center and Diversity Education Programs, March 24, 2008.
- "Cuban in New Jersey: Culture and Immigration," presented by Dr. Yolanda Prieto, professor of Sociology, School of Social Science and Humans Services, March 31, 2008.
- "Women in Morocco: From Past to Present," presented by Professor Najat Makhoulfy, visiting professor of Arabic, School of American and International Studies, April 14, 2008.
- "The Nobility in Russian Culture," presented by Dr. Tatiana Ivuchkhina visiting professor of Russian, School of American and International Studies, April 21, 2008.

Italian Club

- Anita Sanseverino, an artist, was a guest speaker for the Italian Club. She lectured on the history of Masks and Carnevale in Venice.

American Democracy Project's Café Demos

- Ramapo College's first Café Demos, "Delegates and Super-Delegates: Does Your Vote Really Count?" was held on Tuesday, March 25, 2008.

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Tex-Mex Spring Break

By Charles Carreras

Ramapo College is part of a large network of universities across the country that participates in Alternative Spring Break. The base of Ramapo's involvement and the coordination is in the Cahill Center. John Yao directs these efforts. This year, John decided to arrange for a group to go to the border of Texas and Mexico to examine the important issues of development and immigration. John arranged for us to have an exchange program with the University of Texas-Pan American. Twelve of us left the college at 3:30am on Saturday March 8th. We arrived in McAllen, Texas and were greeted by eight enthusiastic Texas students and their staff leader. It was a great week and, like the previous trips, had a great impact on our students. As part of our service, we worked for four days at an elementary school in Reynosa, Mexico. We cleaned a large play ground area of weeds and trash. In addition, we painted the outside of four school buildings. The school had two sessions, so in the hour and a half between, we were able to visit with some of the students. We also were invited into an English class. We spent a day at an immigration support center in Brownsville. This was a shelter as well as a food pantry and clothing closet. We sorted donated clothes and organized the food pantry to distribute food. We had lunch with the immigrants and we were able to learn some of their stories. On these trips we try to build in opportunities to learn more about the local issues facing the population. We learned about the building of the wall on the border and saw where a wall would damage and change the local habitat of some of the wildlife. We were addressed by a local member of a merchant's association which leads a lobbying effort in Washington about damage done to building the wall as designed. A representative of the Border Patrol addressed us with that agency's perspective. Finally, we spent a morning at a very large maquilador. LG is a Korean manufacture of flat screen TV's and cell phones. This is an example of about 150 corporations which employ thousands in the Reynosa area. This was another of the very successful Spring Break trips that John has organized and Cahill has promoted over the years.

Student News:

Three students from Professor Castellanos' Urban Anthropology class are presenting papers at the American Ethnological Society and Society for the Anthropology of North America joint meetings that are based on their course projects. The students and papers are: **Jacqueline Garofalo**, "Subversive Art and Culture," **Jennifer Gatto** "On the Street: Challenging Assumptions on Illegal Drug Use," and **Elizabeth Gilmour** "The Cycle and Choice of Unplanned Pregnancy: Have Women Lost Their Right to Choose?"

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Parasites?," at the American Political Science Association in Chicago.

Tae Yang Kwak is preparing for a summer research trip to Seoul, Korea. This trip to the Government Archives and Records Administration (GARS) and the Archives of the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS) is sponsored by a Separately Budgeted Research (SBR) Grant from Ramapo College. On March 27, he presented "Japanese Geisha: In History and Representation," for the RC Women's Center "Herstory" Month series. Along with Prof. Ellen Ross, Kwak will be directing the RC branch of Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honors society. Kwak will also be advising the RC History Club, and he looks forward to working with students to bring more great speakers to campus.

Yvette Kisor will be presenting a paper "Totemic Reflexes in Tolkien's Middle-earth" as part of the special session "Anglo-Saxon Studies in Memory of Stephen O. Glosecki" at the Forty-third International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, May 2008. In addition, she will be participating in a panel on "Teaching Tolkien: A Roundtable" at the same conference. Prof. Kisor also has a book review of *The Erotic in the Literature of Medieval Britain*, ed. Amanda Hopkins and Cory James Rushton (Woodbridge, Suffolk: D.S. Brewer, 2007) forthcoming for *TMR: The Medieval Review*.

Ninza Fabre published an article entitled, "La superstición en el cuento y la novela afroecuatoriana de Adalberto Ortiz" ("Superstition in Adalberto Ortiz's Afro-Ecuadorian Novel and Short Story") in *Revista Diáspora*, No.16 (2007) and has a forthcoming article, "Semblanza Bio-Bibliográfica de Pío Baroja" ("Pío Baroja's Bio-Bibliographical Sketch") in *Revista Calíope*. Fabre also presented her paper, "The Garifunas of Central America: Cultural Values and Religion" at the Popular Culture Association, San Francisco, California, March 19-22, 2008. She also attended a conference entitled, "Homage to Odón Betanzos, Director of the North American Academy of the Spanish Language."

Rosetta D'Angelo and Prof. Barbara Zaczek (Clemson University) published *Resisting Bodies: Narratives of Partisan Women Writers*. D'Angelo also gave a lecture at SUNY College at Old Westbury on "Immigrant Women Writers in Italy" and served as a discussant at a round table on "The Resistance and Fascism" at the Carolina

Conference on World Language and Literature.

Erick Castellanos co-authored a paper with a student, Taylor Hendricks, which was presented at the American Anthropological Association annual meetings in Washington DC in December. The title of the paper was "El Barrio vs. Harlemitlán: The Contestation of Space and Identity in East Harlem." He is also presenting a paper at the American Ethnological Society and Society for the Anthropology of North America joint meetings in Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina, entitled "¿Mi Barrio es su Barrio?: Community Relations between Mexicans and Puerto Ricans in East Harlem."

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State Senator Loretta Weinberg, Professor Charles Carreras, and Professor Michael Unger discussed the Democratic Party's nomination process with students and faculty. Professor Bernard Roy served as the moderator.

- o The second Café Demos, "The Economy and the Job Market," took place on Wednesday, April 30. Guest participants included Martin Kohli, Regional Economist, U.S. Department of Labor, and ASB Professor Alex Olbrecht, and was also moderated by Professor Roy.

Republican Club

- o The Republican Club hosted a lecture by former Clinton advisor, political consultant, and author Dick Morris entitled, "An Insider's Perspective into Presidential Election" on Wednesday, April 23, 2008. The lecture was followed by a question and answer session. Mr. Morris also signed copies of his new book, *Outrage* (with Eileen McGann).



AIS LIONS TO RETIRE, NEW DEAN FOR FALL

- ▶ Three AIS faculty members will add "emeritus" to their titles at the end of this year: Prof. Charles Carreras, Prof. Thomas Heed, and Prof. Sharon Rubin.
- ▶ AIS Dean Jennefer Mazza is stepping down from her deanship this summer and Prof. Hassan M. Nejad will become AIS Dean for fall 2008.

Seoul Conference

By Tae Yang Kwak

This spring I received conference travel funds from the School of American and International Studies to participate in an international conference in Seoul titled "Korea's Changing Roles in Southeast Asia: Expanding Influence and Relations." Participants included scholars and diplomats from South Korea, the United States, and the ten member countries of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations). Nearly 600 million people constitute Southeast Asia. It is a remarkably diverse region in terms of race, religion, and ideology, but they share a common endeavor in the pursuit of economic modernity and prosperity. The economies and societies of Northeast Asia inspire both hope (vital capital investments from Japan and South Korea) and trepidation (exploitation from Japan and Korea, as well as labor competition from China).

ASEAN Secretary-General Surin Pitsuwan began the conference with a keynote speech in which he made an impassioned plea for greater cooperation and regional solidarity. Despite the participation and attendance of many active diplomats, I was impressed by the unusually open and apolitical discourse. Particular highlights included critiques of South Korea's neo-colonial exploitation of Southeast Asia, as both material frontier and pop-culture marketplace, as well as criticism of the ASEAN organization itself, particularly its non-interference policy in light of continuing authoritarian and human rights abuses committed by some of its member states.

My research and presentation focused on the bilateral relationship between South Korea and Vietnam since the Vietnam War. One of the main points of my paper challenges the Korean myth of ethnic homogeneity. A confluence of social, economic, and public policy trends has produced an acute shortage of marriageable women in South Korea. Last year in rural South Korea, 40% of all marriages were between Korean men and foreign women (of which 68% were Vietnamese). After the war, returning South Koreans troops and contractors abandoned 15,000 Viet-Koreans in Vietnam. Today, over 70,000 first generation Vietnamese migrants and immigrants live and work in South Korea. Including second generation Viet-Koreans, that figure may soon exceed 100,000. Unless Koreans adopt a more inclusive national identity, South Korean society will face an inevitable social crisis from disenfranchised minority groups.