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Go Global Newsletter

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Impressions from the World Social Forum, Porto Alegre, Brazil



A Professor's Point of View by Dominic Sachsenmaier

IN 2001 THE WORLD SOCIAL FORUM was founded as a protest event against the Davos World Economic Forum. What was then a small experiment has now grown into a gathering of 200,000 people, getting high attention by the media - particularly outside the United States. Indeed the differences between the two events could hardly be more striking: an exclusive ski resort on the one side, and a sun-baked Brazilian industrial town on the other. Whereas Davos hosts about 2,200 of the global rich and famous in a cordoned-off village, up to 200,000 people assembled in an open tent city near the center of Porto Alegre.

However, the open space and diversity that make the anti-Davos gathering attractive may also prevent it from rising above the cacophony as an effective voice of a global civil society. So far, the groups in Porto Alegre may share certain doubts about neo-liberalism and US-foreign policy, but they are far from embodying a coherent set of political opinions. In the midst of a firework of activities and initiatives, one must ask a crucial question: how can the forum combine its character as an open space with the quest for forming one voice?

If the World Social Forum wants to become a global pressure group, it must narrow its agenda. Only with an accentuated program will much needed dialogue between Davos and Porto Alegre be possible. However, formulating such an agenda means excluding alternative views and opinions. If the World Social Forum wants to deepen its social impact, it will no longer be able to claim to represent the global civil society.



A Student's Point of View by Alexis Sciamberg

THE WORLD SOCIAL FORUM stands as a huge counterforce to the World Economic Forum and to all of the increasingly problematic forces of neo-liberal globalization. It is a dynamic energy builder, generating overwhelming momentum for the "anti-globalization" movement. Session after session, activists and participants are exposed to the *testimonios* of the oppressed and victimized, the knowledge and passion of scholars, and the hard work, ideas and commitment of non-governmental organizations, trade unions and dedicated individuals. With so many exciting ideas and so much to accomplish, the attendees are spun into an activist-inspired frenzy! Despite the fact that the WSF provided a platform for activists to share their work and create bonds amongst people with common values, it fell short of offering a structure for true strategic networking or a mechanism to make the changes necessary to cultivate international solidarity. I believe the world's activists are ready for this next big step. NGO's must collaborate and construct thoughtfully planned out transnational agendas based on this fostered international solidarity in order to combat the global forces that fuel neo-liberal globalization. The energy and enthusiasm of the Forum convinces me of its slogan "another world is possible"...now its time to stop talking about it and start working on it with a thoughtful, productive, and organized plan of action.



UCSB Model Arab League Delegation Wins Top Awards

A UCSB DELEGATION OF 11 undergraduate students, two graduate student mentors, and faculty advisor Professor Juan E. Campo, Co-Director of the Center for Middle East Studies and affiliate of Global and International Studies, garnered top awards at the annual meeting of the West Coast Model Arab League in San Francisco in April 2004. The delegation represented the country of Saudi Arabia at the event, which was organized by the National Council of U.S.-Arab Relations, based in Washington, D.C.

Competing against 11 other West Coast colleges and universities, UCSB won the Best Delegation Award. In addition, Nehall al-Taie won the award for best committee chairperson, and Reza Akef, Lulwa Bordcosh, James Khedari, and Eddie Saade each received awards for Best Delegate. Garth Hall won an honorable mention for his performance. Other members of the delegation were Raffi Arslanian, Hebatallah Gamal, Amy Jordan, Bahar Sadigh and Komal Mehta. History graduate students David Reeves and Elizabeth Brownson served as delegation organizers and mentors.

The conference is divided into five standing committees: Joint Defense, Social Affairs, Ministers of the Interior, Palestinian Affairs, and Environmental Affairs, each of which has delegates representing member states of the League of Arab States. For two-and-a-half days delegates engage in debating, caucusing, and drafting resolutions, which are then voted upon at a general assembly that concludes the conference. Students prepare for the conference by enrolling in a group projects course (INEST 194) during the winter semester, where they gain hands-on experience researching agenda items dealing with Middle Eastern issues, drafting resolutions, and working in committees. This year, UCSB's delegation will represent Egypt at the conference, which will be held at Mills College in Oakland.



UCSB's 2004 Model Arab League Delegation

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Global Studies Faculty on the Move



Laurie Harris, Visiting Professor in Global Studies, is coordinating a series of Conversations in environmental ethics at the Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Management during Winter Quarter. On February 9, she moderated a panel at the Bren School focusing on making ethical decisions in land use and development, featuring Supervisor Susan Rose, Chair of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and Linda Krop, Esq., Chief Counsel for the Environmental Defense Center. She also spoke for a program on global environmental issues presented by the Bren School.

Professor Harris will be a featured speaker at the annual conference of the University of California Academic Business Officers Group in San Francisco in April, 2005. She will speak on current developments in global business ethics and the impact of globalization on the ethical standards of businesses and NGOs. Her presentation will also include a discussion of specific recent developments in corporate social responsibility. She will also be the guest speaker for an evening of SBCC Adult Education on Thursday April 14, discussing "Corporate Morality" and focusing on current cases and issues in this area.



BENJAMIN JERRY COHEN, Professor of Political Science and affiliated faculty member in Global Studies gave two invited lectures in Israel. On January 3 he spoke at Tel Aviv University on "The Geopolitics of Currency: The Euro Challenges the Dollar," and on January 5 he spoke at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem on "Super Debt: Managing America's Balance of Payments."



SABINE FRÜHSTÜCK, Global & International Studies Executive Committee Member and Director of the East Asia Center. Her research interests consist of the study of modern and contemporary Japanese culture and society, and include problems of power and knowledge, sexualities and genders, and military-societal relations. She has recently published numerous articles in *Gender und Militär*, *Z-Net Japan*, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, *Companion to the Anthropology of Japan*, and *Jinbun Gakuhō*.

Professor Frühstück's East Asia Center will be hosting a variety of events this spring on the topics of Japanese Literature. More information can be found at the East Asia Center's website: www.eac.ucsb.edu.

Global Studies Graduates on the Move

JOEY TARTAKOVSKY, CLASS OF '04

DURING HIS LAST YEAR, like every other Gaucho, Joey was swept by Dean-O-Mania. But he misread his ballot and voted for Bush. Fearing reprisals from the Sociology department, he was forced to flee the country. He traveled to the Holy Land to meet with Israeli and Palestinian politicians and journalists. His efforts to resolve the conflict were unsuccessful, but he remains encouraged by the trip.

In the fall after graduation, Joey would return to find a job as Assistant Editor of the *Claremont Review of Books*, a quarterly journal of statesmanship and political philosophy that draws upon the principles of the American Founding. It is published by the Claremont Institute, of which he is a senior staff member. He also continues to work with Victor Davis Hanson. Though his new station lacks the editorial might and influence of the *Daily Nexus*, he is happy and contented.



Joey Tartakovsky (left) with his friend Hatem Abdul Khader, Palestinian Authority parliamentarian and colleague of the late Yasir Arafat

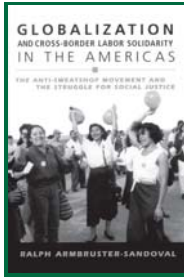
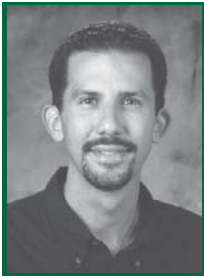


Andrew Banks (left) with his brother, James, enjoying Oktoberfest in Munich on a recent trip to Europe

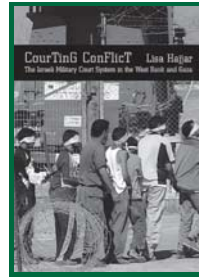
ANDREW BANKS, CLASS OF '03

IMMEDIATELY AFTER GRADUATING FROM UCSB with a double major in Global Studies and Italian, Andrew Banks headed out to New York City to try life on the east coast. After a two week cross country drive, Andrew settled in nicely in New York, and started work in the corporate world. He's been living in Manhattan now for almost 2 years, working as an Account Manager for an international communications firm called Translations.com Inc., a subsidiary of TransPerfect Translations Inc. Since his start with the company, he has been promoted from Associate to Manager, and travels quite frequently for business trips. Work aside, Andrew finds time for some leisure activities, mostly notably his extensive travel abroad. He's made 4 trips to Europe and Africa since his study abroad semester in Italy back in '01. Andrew continues to be involved in organizations such as the Gay and Lesbian National Hotline, the HRC, and various Jewish organizations. Next fall, Andrew plans to visit the Middle East for an extended period of time, and will think about applying to graduate school for the following year.

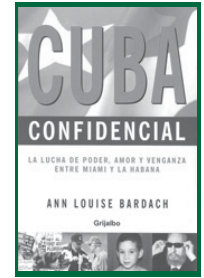
New Faculty Publications



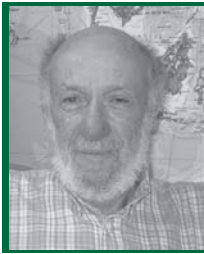
RALPH ARMBRUSTER-SANDOVAL, Professor in Chicano Studies and affiliated faculty member in Global Studies, has a new book, *Globalization and Cross-Border Labor Solidarity in the Americas: The Anti-Sweatshop Movement and the Struggle for Social Justice*.



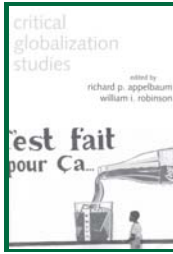
LISA HAJJAR, Professor of Law & Society and affiliated faculty member in Global Studies has a new book entitled *Courting Conflict: The Israeli Military Court System in the West Bank and Gaza*. Her essay, "In the Penal Colony," which deals with America's "torture problem," appeared in the February 7 issue of *The Nation* (www.thenation.com).



ANN LOUISE BARDACH, Visiting Professor in Global Studies, has a book, *Cuba Confidential: Love and Vengeance in Miami and Havana*, which has just come out in Spanish by Grijalbo as *Cuba Confidential* in an updated version to be distributed in the U.S. and world-wide. Professor Bardach has also been appointed Director of The Media Project of the UCSB's Center.



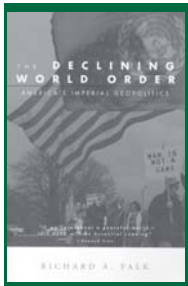
RICHARD FALK, Visiting Professor in Global Studies, has two new books: *The Declining World Order - America's Imperial Geopolitics*, and *The Record of the Paper - How the New York Times Misreports US Foreign Policy*.



WILLIAM I. ROBINSON, Associate Professor of Sociology and affiliated faculty member in Global Studies and Latin American and Iberian Studies, and **RICHARD APPELBAUM**, Chair of the Global Studies graduate emphasis, have co-edited a new book, *Critical Globalization Studies*. This is the first volume to map out a *critical* approach to the rapidly growing field of globalization studies. Unique in its expansive and comprehensive approach, *Critical Globalization Studies* develops new and important theoretical perspectives on globalization while engaging global social activism. It is an indispensable guide for both academics and practitioners.



RICHARD APPELBAUM will be the featured speaker on graduate education in global studies at a conference on "Global Studies in Higher Education" at the Center for Global Studies, University of Illinois, June 19-22, 2005.



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Joseph Conti Receives Fellowship and Grant Awards

JOSHEPH CONTI, GRADUATE STUDENT in Sociology and Teaching Assistant for Global Studies, received the IGCC Dissertation fellowship, which provides a \$12,000 stipend for the year along with research money. He also won a National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant that provides \$7,500 worth of travel and research money. Both of these awards are to support his dissertation entitled "Power through Process: Non-decision Decisions in WTO Dispute Resolution." He is using a statistical analysis along with a set of interviews with WTO jurists, trade delegations, and private practice WTO attorneys to evaluate the determinants of the outcomes of the World Trade Organization's dispute resolution process. He is particularly focused on those cases (over 40%) that never reach the litigation stage of disputing. These cases bring into relief how unequally wealthy and powerful countries seek to satisfy an array of domestic political constituencies in the context of increasingly strict and enforceable rules for global trade.

He has conducted a small set of interviews so far, and he is planning a return trip to Geneva as well as trips to Brussels, Washington D.C., Tokyo, New Delhi and Brasilia.



Global Studies Students Attend "Evening for Peace"

GLOBAL STUDIES STUDENTS, accompanied by Professor Marguerite Bouraad-Nash, were invited to attend the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's 21st Annual Evening for Peace gala and ceremony honoring CBS journalist, Walter Cronkite, with the 2004 Distinguished Peace Leadership Award.

The Evening for Peace event took place on Saturday, October 23rd, 2004 at Fess Parker's Doubletree Resort in Santa Barbara. Walter Cronkite received the award for his "uncompromising integrity" in reporting the news and for his commitment to building a more peaceful world. After receiving his award, Mr. Cronkite was interviewed live by ABC News Anchor, Sam Donaldson.

Past honorees of the Distinguished Peace Leadership Award include Archbishop Desmond Tutu, His Holiness the XIVth Dalai Lama, Jacques-Yves Cousteau, Helen Caldicott, Jody Williams, and King Hussein of Jordan.

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation provided a table of 10 to the Global Peace and Security Program which in turn has been donated by an anonymous donor, enabling the students to attend the event.

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Successful Conference Hosted by the Women, Culture and Development Program: “On the Edges of Development - Critical Interventions”

“DEVELOPMENT HAS FAILED THE THIRD WORLD. Poverty has become increasingly feminized, environmental degradation continues at an alarming pace, and conditions for peace and security remain elusive. This is, therefore, an apt moment to interrogate the paradigm of development.”

On the basis of this rationale, a small committee of faculty in the Women, Culture and Development Program organized “On the Edges of Development; Critical Interventions”, an interdisciplinary conference on 15th and 16th October 2004 at UCSB. The conference brought together academics, activists, and performance artists from Chiapas, Hong Kong, India, Liberia, New Zealand, Mexico, Peru, and the United States who focused on subaltern agency, globalization and development through different lenses. Conference panels, all of which were plenary, included fictions and visions of development, Third World cultures and politics, space and dissent, refusing development, and truth commissions/violence/rights.

Aparna Sindhoor (pictured right) closed the conference through her performance of Agua-Thanneer-Water. This piece was an interplay of dance, music, and theater which brought alive two stories about the struggle of common people to get water: one set in Madurai, India and another in Cochabamba, Bolivia.

The conference was generously co-sponsored by the IGCC, the Global & International Studies Program, the Office of the Chancellor, the Deans and Provost of Letters and Science, the College of Creative Studies, and the Hull Chair in Women’s Studies. Other co-sponsoring units included the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, ISBER, Office of International Students and Scholars, the Center for Black Studies, History of Art and Architecture, Latin American Iberian Studies, the Multicultural Center, the Women’s Center, Women’s Studies Program, and Sociology.

The Conference Committee was comprised of Kum-Kum Bhavnani (Chair of the WCD Program), Swati Chattopadhyay, John Foran, Christopher McAuley, Cecilia Mendez, Sylvester Ogbechie, and Bhaskar Sarkar, with Moira O’Neill and Gloria Ross as Conference Assistants. An edited collection of papers will be produced from the conference. For details of conference speakers, and paper abstracts, please go to www.global.ucsb.edu/events/wcd_conference.html.



Aparna Sindhoor closed the conference with her performance of Agua-Thanneer-Water

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