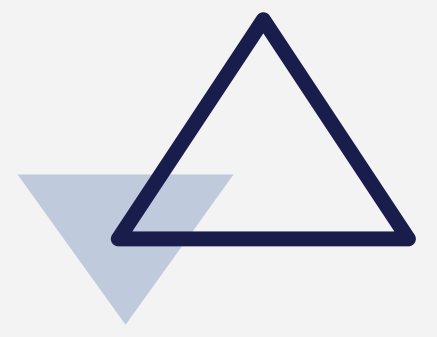
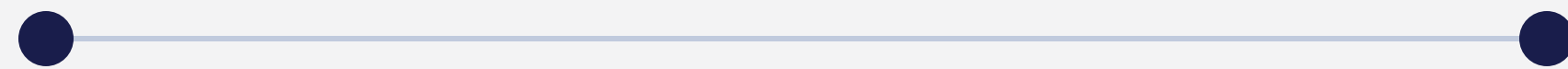




THE UNIVERSITY
OF VERMONT



Global & Regional Studies

University of Vermont

Newsletter 2022



★ African Studies

★ Global Studies

★ Asian Studies

★ Latin American & Caribbean Studies

★ Canadian Studies

★ Middle Eastern Studies

★ European Studies

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A Message from the Directors

Pablo Bose & Jonah Steinberg, GRS Co-Directors

2021-2022 was another year of growth, achievement, milestones and loss for the GRS Program at UVM. We are of course still not out of the woods with the COVID-19 pandemic and disruptions continue to plague our experiences. This is perhaps most noticeable in two of the most prized parts of the GRS student experience – study abroad programs (many of which have been suspended or cancelled since 2020) and internships, many of which have ended up being remote. And yet some of these ‘normal’ activities have resumed, at least in some form. By the spring of 2022 we began to see many more of our students begin to venture back out into the world of student exchange and themed programs, while a number of our alumni from the previous two years began their own adventures overseas. Several began teaching abroad in Spain, France and Argentina, for example.

At UVM, GRS students continued their stellar track record of research and community-based work. Anitra Conover followed up several years of working in community organizations on food access for New Americans with an excellent honors thesis evaluating food insecurity in these communities, while Annalisa Fiore wrote a fascinating thesis on human-nature connections in bee-keeping and Tulley Hescok conducted research on rural education and funding patterns. Claire Kohler worked with the New England Historical Society to research and help create an exhibition called More Than a Market, exploring the history of ethnic and immigrant markets in Burlington in both the late 19th and early 20th centuries and in the contemporary period. Current GRS students are similarly engaged in cutting-edge research – Evie Wolfe is working with the New Farms for New Americans program supporting farm education while Miles McCallum is part of a Research Experience for Undergraduates summer program examining crop diversity and agriculture across the world.

A huge thanks over the last year goes to senior Isabel MacGregor, who served as the inaugural GRS Communications assistant and who has set up a program for current students Kiki Carasi-Schwartz and Alex Amsden to take over. In this role not only did Isabel establish our first true social media presence (a little more regular than our previous once-a-decade tweets), with a new Instagram account and regular postings, she also organized a number of events in-person and remote. These included forums on study abroad, internships and research – in which seniors spoke about their experiences and helped inform younger students about the range of possibilities open to them – as well as one of our highlights of the year, a presentation by several of the Harris Fellows in the College of Arts and Sciences. These newly arrived postdoctoral scholars at UVM presented truly breathtaking and inspiring research – Jennifer Lai (Sociology) spoke to us about her work in environmental justice and health access, Zeina Salame (Theater) shared her experiences as a playwright, actor and activist exploring identity and sense of place, and Christopher Kojzar (Art) presented some of his fascinating public art projects. All were exceedingly generous and engaging and our students loved speaking with them. We look forward to renewed – and more – events and opportunities like this in the year to come.

AWARDS

We are proud to recognize a number of GRS community members in our year-end awards. The recipient of the 2022 Robert V. Daniels Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Field of International Studies is Dr. Caroline Beer, the John G. McCullough Professor of Political Science, who also served from 2012-2022 as Director of Latin American and Caribbean Studies. She teaches courses in comparative politics, Latin American politics and global gender equality and specializes in Mexican politics with research interests in democratization, subnational politics and gender in politics.



Professor Caroline Beer

AWARDS

The 2022 Benedict Prize for Top Student Essay in International Affairs is awarded to two students. The first is Anitra Conover for her paper “The race for sustainable protein: what the US loses by falling behind in entomophagy research” a fascinating study of global food politics and policy – specifically in the area of cultivating and propagating the use of edible insects as an alternative to traditional livestock in order to meet global dietary needs and address the global sustainability and environmental crisis. The second is Isabel MacGregor for her paper titled “Muslim North African migrant and diasporic communities in France: Piety, Secularism, and the “French Other”, a sophisticated examination of many of the most trenchant tensions in contemporary French politics and culture, tensions that continue to be front and center not only in France but throughout Europe and the rest of the globe.

The 2022 Pedro Albizu Campos Award for Excellence in Latin American and Caribbean Studies is given to Sienna Devoe-Talluto. The 2022 Global Studies Research Award goes to Annalisa Fiore and Claire Kohler, for their work with innovative research with refugee youth and historical research on ethnic markets in Burlington respectively, while Jackson Henry receives the 2022 Global Studies Community Activism and Engagement Award for his work with Migrant Justice and its Milk with Dignity Campaign. Our 2022 Global Studies Scholar Award is presented to Anitra Conover and Isabel MacGregor for their sustained brilliance in scholarship, applied research, and community building.



2022 Award Recipients along with GRS Director Bose and LACS Director Osten (From L-R Kohler, Conover, MacGregor, Henry, Fiore, and Devoe-Talluto)

Finally, a total of seven students graduated with **Global Studies Honors** in 2022, recognizing high academic achievement coupled with either language study, internship, research or study abroad experience. These are:

- Anitra Conover
- Annalisa Fiore
- Claire Kohler
- Isabel MacGregor
- Jackson Henry
- Katherine Schinella
- Luna Maschio

We would also like to recognize the following Global Studies majors who have been elected to the **Phi Beta Kappa National Honors Society** for 2022:

- Emma Hoechner
- Sara Bostock
- Cassady Turnbach

EVENTS

One of the most active parts of the GRS program has historically been the on-campus events featuring exciting speakers and fascinating topics that we host or co-sponsor. Our ability to host such activities has been drastically curtailed as a result of the pandemic, but we have slowly begun to feature more of these. In particular, we were able to work with partners under the leadership of our regional program directors to host several events that speak to some of the most important issues of the day including indigeneity, voice and representation, cultural sovereignty, colonialism and historical legacies, the role of public art in the politics of diaspora and place-making, and the complicated dynamics of war and peace in real time. Some highlights of our activities this year include:

Repatriation/Restitution/Reparation: *African Art at the Fleming Museum*

Director of African Studies Vicki Brennan led a series of programs in collaboration with the Fleming Museum at UVM to discuss the place of artwork within its collection, specifically within the context of global discussions regarding the theft and/or appropriation of cultural artifacts during (and beyond) colonialism. The programs included a symposium in Fall 2021 to discuss the responsibilities and obligations of institutions like the Fleming when in possession of such artifacts. A follow-up event in Spring 2022 included the screening and discussion of the film *White Cube* which examines an innovative practice involving the sale of artwork by a Congolese artists collective and the proceeds of which have been used to purchase land towards reparations in Africa.



The Mongolian Steppe

Repatriation Restitution Reparation

AFRICAN ART IN THE
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT'S
FLEMING MUSEUM

NEXT STEPS

EVENTS

UNPACKED: *Refugee Baggage*

Also at the Fleming, GRS Director Pablo Bose helped to organize a return to UVM of Syrian-born sculptor, architect and public artist Mohamed Hafez whose work has evolved from documenting the memories of home he carries as a person displaced by the war in his home country to examining the experiences of refugees from all across the world and the lives, histories, memories and hopes they carry with them along their various journeys and to their many destinations. Hafez last visited UVM in 2019 and displayed some of his miniature sculptures and early interviews with forced migrants. In his return to campus in Spring 2022, Hafez screened a moving documentary he had been working on filming his journeys back to the border of his home, his reunion with his own family, and his ongoing public artwork meant to highlight the lives of refugees.



Mohamed Hafez



Beyond Borders: *Unheard Abenaki Voices from the Odanak First Nation*

Under the leadership of Canadian Studies Director David Massell, GRS co-sponsored a visit and presentation by the delegation of Odanak,. Displaced across the U.S.-Canada border in the era of the American Revolution, the ancestors of the Odanak Abenaki once occupied much of northern New England. Yet Odanak held no representation on Vermont's Commission on Native American Affairs when recognition was granted, nor was Odanak's elected leadership permitted to testify before the Vermont Legislature during that process.

The event held on April 29, 2022 included song, opening remarks, two panels, and a moderated Q&A session. Special guests included Rick O'Bomsawin, Odanak Chief and Ghislain Picard, Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, Quebec - Labrador.



Pictured (left-to-right) Mali-Agat Obomsawin, Jacques Watso, and Jus Crea Giammarino.

EVENTS

War in Ukraine

Echoing earlier topical panels that GRS scholars have participated in – on current and ongoing issues such as the Syrian Civil war, the earlier (2014) Russian invasion of Crimea, the migrant crises on the US-Mexico border and in Europe, and travel bans and immigration politics in the US, in Spring 2022, GRS-affiliated faculty participated in several discussions related to the ongoing Russian invasion and aggression in Ukraine. Led by Russian and East European Studies Director Michele Commercio, panelists including professors Adrian Ivakhiv (Environmental Studies), Jennifer Dickinson (Anthropology) and Kathleen Scollins (Russian and German) spoke about the possible motivations for the invasion, the goals of the Putin regime, resistance by the Ukrainians and the long-term ramifications of the war.

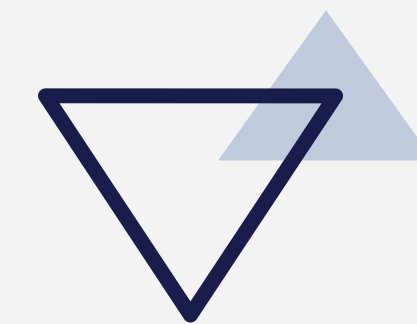
Areas of Russian military control in Ukraine



Source: Institute for the Study of War (21:00 GMT, 13 July)

BBC

PUBLICATIONS & SCHOLARSHIPS



GRS-affiliated faculty continue to be highly productive across multiple fields of scholarship. The following are some (though not all!) of the recent work by some of our members:

Nicole Phelps (History) *Americans and International Affairs* (Cognella, 2021)
Jeanne Shea (Anthropology, lead editor) *Beyond Filial Piety: Rethinking Aging and Caring in Contemporary East Asian Societies* (Berghahn 2020)

Meghan Cope (Geography, editor with Iain Hay) *Qualitative Research Methods in Human Geography* (Oxford University Press 2021)

Loka Losambe (English) *Postcolonial Agency in African and Diasporic Literature and Film: A Study in Globalectics* (Routledge, 2022).

Kyle Ikeda (Asian Languages and Literature) “Transgenerational Hauntings in the landscape of Okinawa, Japan: Medoruma Shun’s ‘Army Messenger.’” In Rahul K. Gairola & Sharanya Jayawickrama (Eds.) *Memory, Trauma, Asia: Recall, Affect, and Orientalism in Contemporary Narratives*. New York: Routledge, (2021), 158-174.

Jonathan Huener (History and Holocaust Studies) *The Polish Catholic Church under German Occupation: The Reichsgau Wartheland, 1939-1945* (Indiana University Press 2021)

Helen Scott (English) “Letters between Paul Le Blanc and Helen Scott.” *Post Rosa: Letters against Barbarism*. Hjalmar Jorge Joffe-Eichhorn, ed. New York: Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, 2022.

Meaghan Emery (Romance Languages and Cultures) “Sickness, Heartache, Punishment, and War: Lessons on the Absurd, or Birth of an Ethic,” *Coming Back to the Absurd: Albert Camus's The Myth of Sisyphus: 80 Years On* (Forthcoming, Brill 2022).

Cheryl Morse (Geography) Braconnier, Meryl, Cheryl E. Morse, and Stephanie Hurley. 2022. Using Photovisualizations to Gain Perspectives on River Conservation over Time. *Land*. 11(4):534. 10.3390/land11040534.

Antonello Borra (Romance Languages and Cultures) “Echi di Guittone in Paradiso” (Echoes of Guittone in Dante’s Paradiso) in *Italica*. *Journal of the Association of Teachers of Italian*, Volume 98, Number 4, Winter 2021, pp. 904-923.

Paul Deslandes (History) *The Culture of Male Beauty in Britain: From the First Photographs to David Beckham* (University of Chicago Press 2021).

Hyon-Joo Yoo (English), *South Korean Film: Critical and Primary Sources* (Bloomsbury 2021)

Dennis Mahoney (German and Russian) “The impact of Romanticism on the thought of Herbert Marcuse (1898-1979)” *Blüthenstaub: Jahrbuch für Frühromantik*

Kevin Trainor (Religion) *The Oxford Handbook of Buddhist Practice* (Oxford University Press 2022)

Mark Usher (Geography and Classics) *How to Be a Farmer: An Ancient Guide to Life on the Land* (Princeton, 2021).

Dan Krymkowski (Sociology) *The Color of Culture: African American Underrepresentation in the Fine Arts and Outdoor Recreation*. (Rowman and Littlefield 2021).

Tina Escaja (Romance Languages and Cultures) “Corriente electrónica en el siglo XXI: El retorno a la poesía original.” *Recepción y canon: el Panteón de las letras hispanicas*. Eds. Ricardo de la Fuente & Jesús Pérez Magallón. Ed. Universitas Castellae. Colección “Cultura Iberoamericana” 50. 99-103.

The important research and scholarship carried out by all of our faculty and directors are a large part of what continues to make GRS a vital and vibrant community. All the best for the year ahead.