



# 2014 Global Scholars Symposium

Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014

8:30-4:00 P.M.

Big 12 Room, Kansas Union

## *Presenters*

Margo Bogossian, journalism and Spanish

Hannah Duff, environmental studies and global and international studies

Jamie Fuller, anthropology and French

Maslyn Locke, psychology and global and international studies

Ethan Lovell, English

Jon Nelson, sociology

Phuc Nguyen, engineering

Brenna Paxton, visual communication - graphic design

Sydney Rayl, English and French

Allen Schaidle, secondary education

Miles Simpson, economics and Chinese language and culture

Amanda Swanson, linguistics

Jerrica Werner, chemical engineering

## Symposium Overview

---

The University of Kansas' Global Scholars Program recognizes and encourages academically talented and motivated undergraduate students who are interested in global studies. Each year, approximately 15 sophomores from disciplines across the university are selected for the program. They participate in a semester-long seminar and are paired with a faculty mentor who has similar research interests. Students present their research on global and international studies during the spring semester of their senior year.

The Global Scholars Symposium, coordinated by the Office of International Programs, consists of student panels with three scholars presenting their independent research on a variety of topics of global importance. The symposium also includes a final roundtable discussion where students share their experiences in the program. For more information about the Global Scholars program, visit [www.international.ku.edu](http://www.international.ku.edu).

The Office of International Programs would like to thank the following faculty for their help and guidance during the seminar and as research mentors for the 2011-2012 Global Scholars Cohort:

Bob Antonio  
Tailin Chi  
Patrick Dooley  
Andrea Greenhoot  
Megan Greene  
Sarah Gregg  
Allan Hanson  
Mary Klayder  
Peter Herlihy  
Elizabeth MacGonagle  
Marylee Southard  
Paul Stock  
Kim Swanson  
Margot Versteeg  
Graham Wilson

## Schedule

---

<b>8:30-8:40 A.M.</b>	<b>Welcome</b>
<b>8:40-10:00 A.M.</b>	<b>Reclaiming Art and Public Spaces</b> <i>Sydney Rayl, Jamie Fuller, Margo Bogossian, Amanda Swanson</i>
<b>10:10-11:15 A.M.</b>	<b>Ecology, Economy and Society</b> <i>Hannah Duff, Jon Nelson, Miles Simpson</i>
<b>11:25-12:30 P.M.</b>	<b>Arts, Education and Global Exchange</b> <i>Brenna Paxton, Ethan Lovell, Allen Schaidle</i>
<b>12:30-1:30 P.M.</b>	<b>Lunch in Alderson Auditorium (by RSVP)</b>
<b>1:45-2:45 P.M.</b>	<b>Sustainability and the Global Environment</b> <i>Phuc Ngyuen, Maslyn Locke, Jerrica Werner</i>
<b>3:00-4:00 P.M.</b>	<b>Q&amp;A Roundtable</b> <i>All Presenters</i>

## Reclaiming Art and Public Spaces

---

### Sydney Rayl

**Title: Modern African Literature: Examining the Language of a Post-Colonial World**

What happens when 90 percent of a continent is colonized over a period of about 100 years? Smaller, independent tribes and kingdoms are forced together by arbitrary territory lines, foreign languages, cultures, and religions. What happens after these colonies break free is less clear. They are left with a confusing mix of cultures and languages, as well as having to build new governments. My research focuses on what language, namely literature, can tell us about the cultural state of a nation. African literature today is a rich genre full of exciting and boundary-pushing authors. Many of these authors choose to write in English or French, the languages of their old oppressors. I will discuss modern African literature and its goals, especially in regards to language choice.

## **Jamie Fuller**

**TITLE: A Place to Find Our Voice: Public Space and Youth Protest in Senegalese Politics**

My work investigates the role of public spaces, both physical and non-physical, on the political activism of Senegalese youth. Proxemic theory promotes the perspective that physical space influences behavior in sometimes unrecognized and profound ways and is used to inform analysis of political activism in public spaces. The re-appropriation of physical spaces has created a non-physical space of discourse wherein young people, traditionally discouraged from straying from the status quo, can challenge the norms and expectations of society. Simultaneously, they are finding their place within society. Ultimately, I hope to contribute to anthropological understandings of the role of space on social movements in developing nations, as well as correct assumptions made by some in development about the function of space in African cities.

## **Margo Bogossian**

**TITLE: Story on the Wall: Graffiti as a Form of Communication**

Each piece of graffiti has a story behind it. While studying abroad in Buenos Aires, I noticed how different the graffiti there is compared to that of the United States. In my presentation I will show how graffiti is used as a form of communication, both by anonymous and identified artists. To do this, I will define what graffiti is, show several pictures of graffiti in Buenos Aires, and discuss the meanings behind them.

## **Amanda Swanson**

**TITLE: Addressing Multilingualism in the Nicaraguan Education System**

The Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua is home to native speakers of three distinct languages: Spanish, the indigenous Miskitu, and Creole English. Each of these languages exists as the native or primary language of a distinct segment of the regional population. This research centers on how the educational system has dealt with this widespread multilingualism and its impact on students. A lack of sufficient government funding, and political disagreement on a bilingual education curriculum, has hindered academic growth, arguably perpetuating the poverty cycle in the region.

## Ecology, Economy and Society

---

### Hannah Duff

**TITLE: Mining Peru: Robbing Resources or Sustaining Livelihoods?**

Gold mining has historically entangled ecology, economy, and society. Though mining creates wealth and jobs for many Peruvians, it also damages the biodiversity of the Amazon and poisons water supplies. Current mining protests in Peru embody the clash between humans and nature, local and global decision-making, and economy versus ecology. While gold mining in Peru cannot be completely prohibited nor fully endorsed, community-based conservation may offer pathways to mitigate the degradation of local ecologies and livelihoods.

### Jon Nelson

**TITLE: Bridging the Conventional/Organic Divide**

Abstract: The last century saw unprecedented growth in the size and productivity of farms. As issues of sustainability arise, current justifications of that growth have come into question. Farmers serve as the most crucial intermediaries between nature and society. I interviewed a number of organic and conventional farmers to see where they differed on matters of ecological practice and concern. While the organic farmers all held similar views, those farmers I initially termed "conventional" failed to adhere to any one ecological mindset. This suggests that "organic" and "conventional" fail to capture the most important aspects of sustainable agriculture; instead, I propose adopting van der Ploeg's notion of peasantry as a model for evaluating sustainable agriculture.

### Miles Simpson

**Title: Chinese Hukou Reform**

Over the past several years, with the opening of China to the West and the marketization of much of the economy, many migrant workers are migrating to the cities. They are in search of better economic opportunities. With that in mind, the Chinese Central Government has made promises of reforming the Hukou system to help these migrant workers. I will discuss whether the central government has the ability or will to truly carry out these reforms.

## Arts, Education and Global Exchange

---

### **Brenna Paxton**

**TITLE: The Universal Language of Visual Communication: Developing *The Guidebook***

Visual Communication – Graphic Design is a form of communication that reaches across cultures, connecting people from around the globe. This presentation will draw upon my experiences with the Rotary Youth Exchange program and the University of Kansas to interpret my definition of Visual Communication. The process of creating a brand will also be illustrated, using my development of *The Guidebook* as an example. Targeting high school exchange students, *The Guidebook* strives to connect young travelers with former exchange students to provide them with a community of support and guidance.

### **Ethan Lovell**

**TITLE: Le Blues: An Application of American Blues Music in French Culture**

This presentation explores the current popularity of American blues music in France, specifically regarding my personal experiences in a French blues bar called T'es Rock Coco. The blues, a music form popularized by African Americans in the early 20th century, has taken root in French culture to a large degree. This presentation will feature a demonstration/performance section and a discussion on the cultural transfer of blues between the USA and France.

### **Allen Schaidle**

**TITLE: An Italian Education: Comparing Italian & American Middle Schools**

Comparing schools, no matter if they exist five or 500 miles apart, is a difficult task. There is no blueprint for constructing great schools. Schools are the accumulation of copious complex factors. When examining educational institutions, one needs to examine the influences of culture, economics, and society. During this presentation, I will compare and contrast overarching themes between Italian and American middle schools. At first, the two systems may seem comparable, but the undertones reveal distinctive characteristics.

---

## Sustainability and the Global Environment

## **Phuc Nguyen**

### **TITLE: Progressive Pathway to the Energy Problem: from Personal Experiences to Global Perspectives**

The world population reached 7 billion in 2012, and by the middle of the century, there will be more than 9 billion people on the planet. Our growing population will place great demands on food, water, and especially energy. That puts a lot of pressure on the energy industry, which for the last 100 years since the first industrial revolution has relied on fossil resources. Although the proven reserve of conventional energy resources such as coal, oil, and natural gas are enough to power society for at least another century, environmental impacts, energy security, and sustainability are the driving forces for developing progressive pathways toward a greener and more sustainable future. During my time at the University of Kansas, I have developed my interests in the energy industry. I have been lucky enough to visit several countries on three different continents to learn about their industry and their approaches to the energy problem. I will provide a brief summary of the energy problem and potential solutions by analyzing the energy industry of the U.S., New Zealand, and Germany.

## **Maslyn Locke**

### **Title: A Comparison of Sustainability Efforts in Ireland and the United States**

The purpose of this research is to explore the differences in sustainable lifestyle practices between the United States and the Republic of Ireland. The study looks at differences in consumption of plastic bags and electricity, as well as differences in legislation and accountability in both Ireland and the United States. The overall premise is that, because Ireland is held accountable by the European Union, differences between the two countries in a sustainable lifestyle arise. There are interesting points regarding cultural differences and similarities between the two places, especially when considering the close ties Ireland has to the United States. The Republic of Ireland and the United States have a relationship that can be considered to be one of admiration and similarity. As such, differences in sustainability are quite intriguing, especially when considering the fact that Ireland is far ahead of the United States in terms of sustainable lifestyle. The United States is a country that, culturally, prides itself on excelling in all fields that "matter" in the global society. Why is the United States behind the Republic of Ireland in terms of sustainability, when Ireland has been an independent nation for less than 100 years? This research examines this question, attributing the answer to Ireland's membership in the European Union, as well as cultural differences between the two nations.

## **Jerrica Werner**

**Title: Ecological Baños in Azacilo, Bolivia**

For several years, the KU Chapter of Engineers Without Borders has been working with the community of Azacilo, a small, agrarian, Aymaran village located in the Andean mountains of Bolivia. Alongside the community, we are developing and implementing engineering projects with the goal of improving the community's health and hygiene. As our chapter's International Program Coordinator, I have had the opportunity to delve into the factors that can affect the success of an international engineering service project, including community support, participation, and continued community education. After completing the implementation of 28 ecological latrines, the Azacilo Sanitation Project has now entered the final monitoring phase and will serve as a model for this discussion.