

BUILDING BRIDGES RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The Fletcher School, Tufts University

November 4th, 2016

We are happy to announce the inaugural **Building Bridges Research Symposium**, an undergraduate research conference which will take place at The Fletcher School on Friday, November 4th, 2016.

In conversations with students, staff, and faculty both at The Fletcher School and the various undergraduate programs at Tufts University, we heard time and again people lament about the perceived Packard Avenue gap: the fact that there is little exchange between graduate and undergraduate students. While Fletcher is sometimes perceived as its own little galaxy in the Tufts universe, Fletcher's graduate students usually only encounter Tufts undergraduates in Ginn Library during finals.

Given the vast experience of Fletcher students in all fields of international affairs and beyond, and Tufts students' equally diverse research interests, a research symposium is a great forum for scholarly exchange to bridge the gap. Over the past months, we established contacts with Tufts undergraduate programs as well as the Jonathan M. Tisch College for Civic Life and the Institute for Global Leadership. Everyone we spoke to enthusiastically supported our idea and made valuable suggestions for improvement.

We are also extremely fortunate to receive financial support for the event from the Tisch Fund for Civic Engagement.

After months of planning, coordinating, and advertising, we are thrilled that our event is around the corner. We hope that this first research symposium will spark continued exchange between Fletcher and Tufts students on academic research, that it will be further institutionalized, and that the conference will become an annual highlight on the calendars of Tufts and Fletcher students.

Rafael Loss & Suzanne Webb

BUILDING BRIDGES RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The Fletcher School, Tufts University

Gender & Identity Politics

Chair: **Rachel Porter**, MALD Candidate

Katie Cho

BA in International Relations, 2018

Reconstruction of North Korean Adolescent Identities through Transnational Experiences

Katie investigates how North Korean adolescent refugees experience territorial and sociocultural boundaries as they undergo the process of migration. The process of North Korean adolescents' departing from spatial, social, and cultural territories of North Korea, entering into those of China or a third country, and settling in South Korea is interpreted in her research as a process of cross-boundary experience. As boundaries, by its very nature, differentiate oneself from others, boundary crossing inevitably entails a reconstruction of identity. She explores how North Korean adolescent refugees experience and react to various boundaries, and how these experiences influence the process of growing into adults as well as the reconstruction of their identities.

Noah Habeeb

BA/MA in Urban and Environmental Policy & Planning, 2017

Building an Archive of an Arab American Cultural Institution: Co-Producing Knowledge for Community Sustainability

Noah's project comes out of participatory action research working with a community partner to produce a digital archive of an important Arab-American community television show, the Arabic Hour. Produced by the American Arab Media Foundation, the Arabic Hour was founded

in 1981 and has been broadcasted in Massachusetts, Maine, and Rhode Island. The English language program seeks to sustain the Arab-American population, while also reaching other residents of New England. The all-volunteer staff has included founding members of the influential Association of Arab American University Graduates (AAUG), and guests on the program range from esteemed public intellectuals (Noam Chomsky, Edward Said, and Ralph Nader), to dozens of local university professors, many local Arab American high school and college students, as well as local activists, religious leaders, and business owners.

His project focuses on the role of knowledge production in creating community power, sustainability, and organization over time. Key questions of the project surround the role and mission of the program and how it has changed over time; the expressly political nature of cultural production as understood by those who have been involved in the Arabic Hour; the various forms of Arabness and Arab identity expressed by guests on the show, and the political implications these representations hold; if and how the Arabic Hour has helped the Arab-American community of New England build political power; and the importance of storytelling and narrative formation in community sustainability.

Sophie Pearlman

BA in Peace & Justice Studies, BA in Sociology, 2018

The Mass Rape of Bosnian Women During the Genocide: Post-Conflict Impacts on International Law and Bosnian Muslim Women

During the war in Bosnia and the Bosnian genocide, Serbian soldiers used methods of sexual violence, particularly rape, to target Bosnian Muslims. Sophie examined two landmark cases from the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia's (ICTY), Prosecutor v. Kunarac et al. and Prosecutor v. Furundžija, to evaluate the ICTY's recognition of rape as a violation of international law. It is commonly believed that the ICTY's prosecution of mass rape perpetrators was revolutionary in recognizing sexual violence as a crime against humanity and a war crime. Despite their successful prosecution of sexual violence persecutors and rapists, these trials were not as

significant as many believe them to be. Rather, these trials were relatively ineffective at targeting perpetrators and acknowledging the large-scale impacts of rape on the Bosnian Muslim population.

Rachel Sheldon

BA in History, 2017

"Beauty on Duty": Constructions of Femininity and The Role of American Women's Uniforms in World War II

Rachel explores the role that uniforms played for American women in World War II as women attempted to balance traditional ideas about femininity while navigating their new roles in society. World War II was a period of rapid change for women as they dove into the war effort and filled positions previously only open to men. As the men went to battle, women took their places in the military and on factory lines in unprecedented numbers. Subsequent changes in women's apparel created tensions between what women were expected to do and what they were actually doing. Women were asked to perform their patriotic duty, whether that be joining the volunteer armed forces or getting a job in an aeronautics factory, but were simultaneously expected to maintain a conventionally feminine appearance. Women's uniforms played a particularly crucial role here, conveying power and influence in traditionally masculine domains, but retaining elements of femininity. Military uniforms were carefully marketed to recruits as ladylike and fashionable. Women in factories emphasized their femininity by wearing lipstick and elaborate hairstyles, while they were often required to wear masculine slacks or overalls. The uniform, in its various iterations, negotiated women's presence in the war effort and traditional gender roles. The object of her research is to examine these uniforms and the societal changes they accompanied, how uniforms were presented to women by the media and the government, and how women themselves felt about their new uniforms.

BUILDING BRIDGES RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The Fletcher School, Tufts University

Development & Economics

Chair: **Megan Rounseville**, PhD Candidate

Sydney Giacalone

BA in Anthropology and Environmental Studies, 2017

Urban Chicken Keeping and Transformational Food Ecologies in Somerville and Boston Massachusetts

In the midst of rising popular consciousness and political attention to food systems discourse, urban chicken keeping stands as a uniquely positioned subset of this scene that calls into question the separation of the rural from the city, industry from nature, human from animal, and livestock from pet. In the past decade, Somerville and Boston have experienced a rise in residential urban chicken keeping as well as the creation of businesses, community networks, and city-level ordinances catering to the practice. Through ethnographic observation and interviews with chicken keepers, policy makers, and businesses in Somerville and Boston, Sydney's research seeks to investigate how the practice of urban chicken keeping might transform keepers' thinking about food systems and urban animal relationships. As the unexpected issue of lead in hens and eggs surfaced as important to these keepers and this research, keepers were found to be in increasingly entangled relationships with the history of the soil they and their birds lived upon, forcing a rethinking of how urban ecology, food, history, and multispecies living might fit together and the resulting complexity of state versus individual responsibility for remediation. The crisis of lead in the urban soil around this scene thus allowed this research to consider how the post-industrial urban environment fits into currently popular urban agrarian imaginaries, exploring how urban residents are grappling with these realities as they seek to build new forms of relationships with animals, urban food systems, and the soil with a complicated history beneath all species involved in this scene.

Ria Mazumdar

BA in International Relations, BSc in Quantitative Economics, 2019

Poverty and Radicalization: An Analysis of the Correlation in the Moroccan Case

Although the correlation between poverty and radicalization has been posited, it has recently come under fire in the wake of globalized terror attacks often conducted by well-educated, materially secure individuals. Especially in the case of Islamic radicalization, many argue that cultural and ideological circumstances primarily motivate the “operationalization” of terrorist attacks. However, specifically in Morocco, a general dismissal of economic circumstances as a primary cause of radicalization is dangerous. Although correlation is a necessary but insufficient condition to prove causation, Ria argues through a combined quantitative and analytical perspective that economic factors drive radicalization relatively more than political circumstances. As such, her policy recommendations to quell such radicalization focus on the Moroccan economy and long-term development strategies.

Andrew Nassar

BA in Economics, 2018

Evolving Preferences: A Microfoundational Analysis of Unemployment among Educated Youth in Morocco

Andrew examines characteristics of unemployment among educated youth in Morocco. Educated workers seek employment in the public sector, where working conditions are better and wages are significantly higher than in the private sector. As a result of their preferences and the inability of the public sector to absorb graduates, workers experience long periods of unemployment. He explores the ways in which workers adapt their preferences for public sector employment in order to increase the probability of finding a job. The literature has explored the determinants of unemployment in Morocco, and this paper seeks to add to existing research with contributions to the micro-foundations of educated unemployment and a behavioral approach to understanding

workers' preferences and how they evolve. The data suggest that as employment prospects remain bleak, workers loosen their preferences for employment exclusively in the public sector in the hope of securing employment in any sector.

BUILDING BRIDGES RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The Fletcher School, Tufts University

Epistemology & Social Theory

Chair: **Rebecca Tapscott**, PhD Candidate

Camden Goetz

BA in International Relations, 2017

"We kill...metadata": Drones and the Processing Regime

Camden's research project draws on a variety of data to argue that contemporary US drone warfare can be understood as a processing regime. Using a variety of technologies with the drone at the center, the US military approaches potential targets as information to be processed both literally and figuratively, suspending their autonomy (partially) as well as the categories of civilian and insurgent themselves. These "data-beings" experience a form of ontological violence that is deeply tied to physical and psychological violence as they themselves are computed, ostensibly in order to determine their intentions and danger and therefore whether they should live or die. This processing has many important ethical and political implications, similar to those presented by automated weapons systems in general, such as the new problematic of pre-determining acceptable civilian casualty levels or risk. Methodologically his piece also aims to add to a growing field of assemblage thinking in international relations. This is a set of theoretical tools that aim to analyze networks of humans and non-humans (like drone) as part of an entangled assemblage wherein both have some degree of independent influence. This also destabilizes images of the drone as a static object and instead positions it as a configuration of technologies shaped by social context for specific purposes. This ties in again to the central thesis that drone warfare must be understood in a broader social context, namely a regime of processing.

Eva Kahan

BA in International Relations, 2019

Teaching Civilizations to Clash: Academia and Culturalist Political Theory

Samuel Huntington's article "The Clash of Civilizations?" analyzed post-Cold War international politics culturally, arguing that "[t]he fault lines between civilizations will be the battle lines of the future." This discourse endures through the democratization in the Arab world, especially in the context of recent international interventions. Huntington's work endures in the academic world through teaching, citations, and published responses. This article's methodology and argument is often criticized, and yet is continuously assigned in introductory-level International Relations courses. This contradiction between popular opinion and use in the classroom leads us to ask how and why those representatives of academia teach this "culturalist" democratization theory so ubiquitously. Eva collected syllabi for introductory International Relations courses to best understand when and how Huntington's "The Clash of Civilizations?" is taught. She also interviewed various professors whose fields overlap with that of Huntington's paper and who teach it to undergraduate students, and attempted to gauge through these interviews how "The Clash of Civilizations?" is taught in the university setting. Her paper addresses three questions about the instruction of "The Clash of Civilizations?": Is it taught, how and why is it taught, and what is the impact of teaching this piece? She concludes that academics feel ambivalent about teaching Samuel Huntington's "The Clash of Civilizations?" as an explanation of Arab non-democratization, but obligated to teach Huntington's thesis due to its historiographical importance, their position as educators, and the degree to which this thesis provokes controversial thought.

Sarah Koosis

BA in International Relations and Environmental Studies, 2017

Surveying Sovereignty's Fault Lines

Land ownership has historically granted significant power and authority. Along with the emergence of the state as the prevalent form of political organization came its claim to exclusive sovereignty. The state's need for a monopoly on power and authority as a sovereign actor, meant questions of land ownership and tenure are central to the state. As the state in Morocco, Việt Nam, and Bolivia, is drawn into supporting and contesting neoliberal and neocolonial processes, community resistance and challenge to the state have coalesced around accompanying changes to land ownership. These community efforts go beyond simply challenging state land policy, advancing alternative conceptions of sovereignty with lasting implications in the transformative moment of climate change.

BUILDING BRIDGES RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The Fletcher School, Tufts University

Keynote Address

Kimberly Theidon

*Henry J. Leir Professor of International Humanitarian Studies
The Fletcher School, Tufts University*

Kimberly is a medical anthropologist focusing on Latin America. Her research interests include political violence, transitional justice, humanitarian and post-conflict interventions, gender studies and drug policy. She is the author of many articles, commissioned reports, and two books. Entre Prójimos: El conflicto armado interno y la política de la reconciliación en el Perú (Instituto de Estudios Peruanos, 1st edition 2004; 2nd edition 2009) was awarded the Latin American Studies Association 2006 Premio Iberoamericano Book Award Honorable Mention for outstanding book in the social sciences published in Spanish or Portuguese. Her second book, Intimate Enemies: Violence and Reconciliation in Peru (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012) was awarded the 2013 Honorable Mention from the Washington Office on Latin America-Duke University Libraries Book Award for Human Rights in Latin America, and the 2013 Honorable Mention for the Eileen Basker Prize from the Society for Medical Anthropology for research on gender and health. She is currently completing two book manuscripts; Past is Imperfect: Working with Former Combatants in Colombia is based on research with former combatants from the paramilitaries, the FARC and the ELN, Sex at the Security Council: A Greater Measure of Justice draws upon her research in Peru on sexual violence, children born of wartime rape, and the politics of reparations.

Kimberly holds a PhD in Medical Anthropology from the University of California at Berkeley, an MPH in Behavioral Sciences from the School of Public Health, University of California, and a BA in Latin American Studies from the University of California at Santa Cruz.

BUILDING BRIDGES RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The Fletcher School, Tufts University

Sponsors and Collaborators



| Jonathan M. Tisch
College of Civic Life



THE FLETCHER
SCHOOL

TUFTS UNIVERSITY



HEMISPHERES

The Tufts University Journal of International Affairs