

Abstracts 2009

Hamas as a Democratic Elected and Its Implications for US Foreign Policy

The foundation national security strategy documents for the United States espouse that increasing the number of democracies will increase security in the international system. The United States attempts to spread and support nascent democracies through a combination of diplomatic initiatives, military force, and economic incentives. In 2006 Hamas, or the Movement of Islamic Resistance, won a majority of seats in the Palestinian legislative elections. While the election marked a significant change for the Palestinian people, Hamas' rise to power, through free and fair elections, presents the United States with a foreign policy dilemma. Should the United States support the fledgling democracy in Palestine in accordance with its stated national security strategy or should the United States seek to undermine the new democracy due to Hamas' position of the State Department's list of international terror groups? The United States' attitude and foreign policy decisions with respect to the Hamas government will affect its prestige and international reputation. Rather than not recognizing the legitimacy of the Hamas regime, the United States needs to adopt a pragmatic approach in its dealings with the elected government of the Palestinian people.

Farid Al-Salim, Kansas State University

The Political Implications of the 2003 Supreme Court Verdict on Resource Control in Nigeria

Resource control as a basic political issue in the recent years has assumed the proportion of a national question of sort having been premised on the fact that land, labor, capital and entrepreneurship are factors of production owned by individuals or groups and should therefore be controlled by them.

Historically, since the era of Macpherson constitution of 1951 to the period immediately before the military takeover of government in 1966, the issue of resource control was not as controversial as it is today because there was the block principle upheld by successive constitutions that made it clear that the resources garnered from a particular region were meant for the development of the region.

However with the coming of the military in January 1966, being a unitary apparatus itself, the military removed the bloc principle and fostered the control of the regional resources at the center. The experience of the events leading to the civil war and the civil war itself culminated in the federal government strengthening itself resource wise against the regions at the end of which the states became recumbent economically. Worst still for the state, the military discovered the oil well and the wealth from oil consequently went to the center.

Obviously this is a negation of the federal principle that allows each unit's development at its own pace given its endowed resources. With the advent of Nigeria's return to democracy and the accompanying agitation to restructure the federal system that the military had bastardized over the years, the demand for resource control by the state came to force. As expected of its constitutional duty to mediate in any occasion of conflict between the center and the units, the Supreme Court made a landmark judgment on the issue declaring that federal Government had the constitutional power over all natural resources within the boundaries of the federation.

The court, however, held that the seaward boundary of a littoral state within the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the purpose of calculating the amount of revenue accruing to the Federation account directly from any natural resources derived from that state pursuant to section 162 (2) of the constitution is the low-watermark of the land surface thereof.

But since there is no physical demarcation between low-watermark and the continental shelf, the disputes as to who actually owns the resources may not have been finally laid to rest.

It is the court's view that all littoral states were entitled to share under the derivation principle, revenue accruing to the Federation account from the low water mark of the land surface.

This paper seeks to discuss the 2003 Supreme Court Verdict on agitation for resource control between the littoral states and the federal government with a view to assessing the political implications of the judgment for the sustenance of the Nigeria's Federal System.

Secondary sources of data gathering will be employed in this work and may be supported with some primary resources where applicable.

Felix Olanrewaju Awosika, University of Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria

Virtual Reconstructions of the Royal Libraries of Illuminated Manuscripts in Heart and Kabul

ADD ABSTRACT

Michael Barry, Princeton University

The Road to Poverty is Lined with Poppies: Afghanistan's Failing Economy and the Need for Education

Since the 1970's, Afghanistan and its citizens have been plagued by war. Afghanistan has fought civil wars and defended its borders from invaders; the most notable invasion happening in 1979 by the Soviet Union. As a result of such turmoil and national instability, the government and its economy have suffered. The cultivation of poppy plants for the production of heroin has become Afghanistan's only legitimate source of revenue. Afghanistan has become a crime-laden, unstable nation whose citizens remain at the mercy of the warlords and drug cartels that run the country. Factions such as the Taliban add to the corrosive atmosphere of this impoverished tribal-nation by not allowing women to contribute to the economy. The literacy rate in Afghani villages remains one of the lowest in the world, formal education rates even lower yet. Most of the warlords responsible for the drug economy are heroic patriots in the eyes of Afghani citizens due to their involvement in the war against the Soviet Union in 1979, making them virtually impossible for the Afghan government to eradicate. According to reports done by the United States government in May of 2009, drug production comprises over half of the Afghan economy and accounts for over seventy-five percent of the job market in the country (*New York Times*, June 2009).

This paper will analyze the on-going efforts towards drug eradication in Afghanistan over the summer months of 2009. Policies of the past and present will be examined in this paper in an attempt to analyze the current and future status of Afghanistan's economy. The author of this paper will also discuss the need for a formal education system and the role that such a program would play in the construction of a united and prosperous Afghan economy and nation.

Matthew Brenn, University of Cincinnati

“Blood Would be Sucked from Those People Until They Were Useless”: Vampiric Rumors and Kenyan National History

In recent years, scholars of Colonial East Africa have produced exciting work on rumor, particularly the oral history of putative blood-taking. These rumors have allowed historians insight as to how those involved in the processes of colonialism constructed specialized knowledge and changing material relations. The best-known author on the subject, Luise White, has convincingly argued that stories of Mumiani – Kenyan firemen who kidnapped Africans so their blood could be drained to make medicine for the British – reflect an understanding of colonial milieu including medicine, civil service, and callousness toward Africans’ well being that Kenyans would know all too well. As White puts it, Mumiani stories and similar rumors reflected a fearsome world in which there really was much to fear. This paper will attempt to historicize these rumors, examining how vampiric legends were part of larger anti-imperial and nationalist discourses.

Stu Burns, Independent Scholar

Greenhouse Gas Emissions and National Development: Specifying Causes of the Dimensions of Climate Change

Our work expands on previous research in greenhouse gas emissions, by including all of the major greenhouse gases outlined in the Kyoto Protocol (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 1997). Applying the logic of modernization theories of development and environment, population perspectives on environmental harm, and political economic understanding of environmental outcomes, we investigate which major theoretical perspective best explains each of the major greenhouse gases. We do find partial support for the modernization, population, and the political economic perspectives when examining carbon dioxide emission intensity. We find there is some support for the modernization approach, as development contributes to decreased carbon dioxide emission intensity. Effects of population aggravate and the role of foreign capital penetration attenuates this development effect. Methane emission intensity is primarily driven by population dynamics. We consider our findings in light of fruitful directions for further research, and conclude with a brief discussion of policy implications.

Thomas J. Burns, Julia R. Dinger, Robert Franzese, University of Oklahoma

FLIO: Reliable Gauges for Assessing Language Competency

The Free Language Immersion Operation (FLIO) is a comprehensive program for high-proficiency language acquisition. FLIO endeavors to bring foreign-language speakers to the top levels of competency in foreign language and foreign culture. FLIO endeavors initially to evaluate critically the available tools for language assessment: the Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) guidelines, the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Proficiency Guidelines, and the European Language Portfolio Global Scale. FLIO also endeavors to clarify the types of tools necessary in particular general-purpose proficiency exams,

education-specific language exams, and placement exams. FLIO also endeavors to identify the standard levels of difficulty in learning a foreign language, in particular, in respect to the Defense Language Institute's (DLI) Language Difficulty Category grouping. Finally, FLIO endeavors to clarify the critical difference between native and near native competency and the relationship of this to heritage and non-heritage speakers of a language. The guiding spirit is the "Lubbers Model" of increasing the number and diversity of foreign language speakers in conformity with ensuring professional-level proficiency among Americans in the area of foreign languages.

Thomas F. Coffey, Creighton University and FLIO

Citizen Participation in Mexico's Democratic Consolidation

This paper analyzes three programs of citizen participation in Mexico using the State of Baja California. Two of them are at the municipal level; the third one is at the state level. The three of them are part of a transition to democracy from a quasi-totalitarian system to a more democratic system in which citizen participation is a process. The first program is at the City of Mexicali in Baja California, in which was established a program that wants to promote citizen participation at the community level. The basic idea is that the municipal government promotes citizen participation using certain community development programs in which cultural, social, and infrastructure activities are created to encourage co-responsibility between the government and community organizations. The importance of this program is that the idea goes from creating of community organizations with the necessary training to participate as citizens in the development of their communities. After that the community organizations work together (in a co-responsibility model) with the government in evaluating their necessities for culture, social, and infrastructure areas. The second program is also at the City of Mexicali in Baja California, this one is totally oriented to empower communities to develop their cultural identities. The importance of this program is that through citizen participation the government works in a co-responsibility structure in which together they develop the necessary aspects to promote cultural awareness and community identity. These communities' identities are helping them to have a more focus and attitude of empowerment on their citizen participation and enhance the social network. The third program is in the area of citizen participation in the educational system. This experience is fundamental in the process of democratization because it breaks the authoritarian experience of school system, in which all the educational structure was manipulated without giving citizens the right to participate as part of the development of their kids' knowledge and skills.

Maria del Carmen Echeverria, CETYS University

Globalization, International Migration and New Forms of Boderization

The debate concerning immigration in the US is part of a larger global debate on the issue of migratory labor. Globally immigration is impacted by such issues as economic cycles, poverty, civil conflicts and natural disasters. Globally, there are approximately 200 million people living outside their country of origin for economic survival. Globally, 45-50% of all immigrants are women and the numbers are increasing. Europe's undocumented populations

number between 10 and 15 million. Meanwhile, in Russia the data indicates approximately 12 million and in the US there are approximately 35 million foreign born and of that number approximately 12 million are undocumented Mexican origin migrants. The US economic globalization policies beginning with the Regan administration through the present have supported open borders for the movement of goods and capital. Increased migration from Mexico, Central and Latin America have been a result of US strategies. The waves of migratory laborers from Mexico and Central America, since the signing NAFTA in 1994, have led to a rupture in the traditional male patterns of migration. Over the past 20 years new migratory waves consist of women, children and whole families. The international migratory labor movements have created new forms of borderization. This research will discuss these three critical issues, globalization, international migration and new forms of borderization.

Priscilla Falcon, University of Northern Colorado

World Trade Organization and Concerns of Developing Countries: An Institutional Need Assessment for Pakistan

Development is the main subject of multilateral trade negotiations in the World Trade Organization (WTO). The current regulation of international trade is primarily concerned with liberalizing markets, neglecting the development perspective, or reducing it to economic growth. Currently, international regulation reduces State intervention in the promotion of development strategies, which may have a relevant impact for developing countries like Pakistan for their capacity to implement national development strategies. The paper emphasizes on the institutional need assessment for inserting the development concerns of the developing countries like Pakistan in the regulation of international trade.

Bushra Hamid, University of Peshawar, Peshawar, Pakistan

Iranian Petroleum Rationing: A Two Year Retrospect

Iran's state controlled petroleum industry is the backbone of the economy. Since it was discovered that Iran has tremendous petroleum and natural gas reserves, the government has heavily subsidized the price of natural gas and petroleum based consumer products. It made little sense to the Iranian people to pay high international market prices for resources that are so abundant in their own lands. The artificially low prices created an instable demand for gasoline and other products. The demand increased so much that Iran, the second largest exporter in OPEC, must import 40% of their gasoline. In recent years, with the fall in petroleum prices, the Iranian government can no longer afford the excessive commodity subsidies, totaling more than one hundred billion per year. In June of 2007 a gasoline rationing program was implemented despite great protest. It has been two years since its implementation and the program has seen little to no success in the nation.

This paper, *Iranian Petroleum Rationing: A Two Year Retrospect*, will discuss the conditions and events that led to implementation of the petroleum rationing program, mostly relating to the nations' long standing subsidies for essential consumer products, including gasoline and natural gas. This paper will also examine the effects of the subsidies and rationing programs on the nations' rising inflation rates, and declining overall economy. Lastly, I will analyze the positive

and negative attributes and effects of the program, highlight unforeseen issues and evaluate potential policy corrections.

Larry Jerome, University of Cincinnati

Misrepresentations of Africa: An Artistic Approach to Un-Learning History

EMAILING ABSTRACT

Melissa Kandido, College of St. Mary

Identifying the Roots of Chaos: A Breakdown of the Political, Economical, and Cultural Status within Somalia

In this paper, I examine representation of Africa in textbooks and newspapers. I present information that shows Africa has been mis-represented in textbook, articles, word-choice, and imagery. Omission, abstraction, negative presentation, exoticism, selective filtering, geographical simplification and generalization have enabled Africa's mis-representations. It is imperative to determine a possible solution to move from misrepresentation to a more informed approach for Africa in the curriculum. What is said is as important as what is unsaid. That which is left out speaks volumes. By examining the misrepresentations, opportunities arise to un-learn the Africa that has been taught, deconstruct the misleading imagery, and demystify the exoticism therefore allowing teachers the opportunity to re-learn in a more creative, non-racist approach to multicultural learning especially in regards to the African continent's role.

Steve H. Kelczewski

Saving Pakistan: Engaging Civil Society

Civil society refers to the arena of uncoerced collective action around shared interests, purposes and values. In theory, its institutional forms are distinct from those of the state, family and market, though in practice, the boundaries between state, civil society, family and market are often complex, blurred and negotiated. Civil society commonly embraces a diversity of spaces, actors and institutional forms, varying in their degree of formality, autonomy and power. Civil societies are often populated by organizations such as registered charities, non-governmental organizations, community groups, women's organizations, faith-based organizations, professional associations, trades unions, self-help groups, social movements, business associations, coalitions and advocacy groups.

Amber Kiani, Islamabad, Pakistan

Traditional Philosophy in Korea: Some Questions

Traditionally Korean philosophy has been divided into three kinds: Confucianism, Buddhism, and Taoism. This has been the way philosophy was originally conceived and practiced in China, and Korea and Japan seemed to have developed it along this line.

In this paper, I present the most important schools of thoughts in traditional Korea and present their general but peculiar characters in contradistinction to their counterparts in China and Japan. In particular, I claim that Korean philosophy has been always highly metaphysical and idealistic.

Halla Kim, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Park and Hwang on Subjectivity

Jonghong Park(1903~1976) and Jangyeop Hwang(1923~) were the philosophers who were representative of the philosophy of South Korea and North Korea, respectively, in the 20th century. They were philosophers who had a great influence on the modernization of South Korea and North Korea. Park led the modernization of South Korea with the ‘logic of creation’ in the regime of General Jeonghee Park. And Hwang led the modernization of North Korea with the ‘juche-thoughts’ under the dictatorial rule of Ilseong Kim. They experienced the Japanese colonial rule on the Korean peninsula and the country divided by the powerful countries, and so they each intended to make their respective country and nation stable and strong country and nation in relatively a short period of time. Therefore, they tended emphasize ‘the national subject’ more than anyone else.

Kim Suk-Soo, Department of Philosophy Kyungpook National University

Pakistan, the Islamists, and WMDs

The author will examine various Pakistani scenarios that may play out in the coming year to show not only the general instability of Pakistan (due to the threat of domestic Islamists and their allies, the Taliban), but also how the Pakistani nuclear arsenal raises the stakes considerably for the whole region.

Thomas Kolasa, Troy University - Montgomery

Latife Tekin’s “Berji Kristin”: Life Amidst Garbage and the Quest for Humanity

In her narrative from 1984 entitled “Berji Kristin: Tales from the Garbage Hills,” Turkish author Latife Tekin shows how people condemned to live outside of the private property regime that characterizes the global economy are denied access to the means required to achieve self-realization. The characters in this text, who build a shanty town on the only land they can get their hands on – a garbage dump outside of Istanbul, score a success denied many would-be squatters: after weeks of brutal struggle against “Garbage Owner” and his bulldozers, they manage to erect the dwellings they need to gain legal protection from the Turkish government. This initial success serves only to allow Tekin to demonstrate her point more convincingly: identities founded on an illegitimate relationship to land-as-property are doomed to flounder and fail. Tekin leaves most of her characters unnamed, but those who do acquire a named identity, such as Sirma, the grief-stricken girl haunted by memories of her lost village life, or Lado, the man whose life-story merely tells a tale of death, illustrate the author’s message that there is no hope of self-realization for the residents of the shanty town they call “Flower Hill.” Their lives are interwoven with refuse, poisons, industrial waste, garbage, and sickness. The residents of

Flower Hill are the refuse of society, and their undeserved fate bears witness to the injustice of a global economy that renders land a commodity accessible only to a limited segment of humanity. “Berji Kristin” is an invaluable narrative from Global Literature as it sheds light on the troubled existence of one billion human beings who attempt to survive in shanty towns across the world today.

Ginny Lewis, Northern State University

Politics in Central America: A Spicy Mix of Leftist and Rightist Regimes.

This paper is a discussion of recent politics in Central America with emphasis on the left/right governmental swings. It includes an examination of the outside influence of North American as well as various Latin American nations, with emphasis on Venezuela and other leftist countries of South America. It examines the present scene with speculation concerning future political and economic directions.

Frank P. Le Veness and Juan M. Fernandez, St. John’s University

Allohistory and Allah: Imagining the Islamic Imagination

Too many people think that Muslims have little or no imagination, that they are uniformly in lock step in regards to the strictures and mores of Islam, in essence, a monolithic “other” frighteningly devoid of imagination. This article explores that premise through the genre of Islamic Science Fiction and, especially, the venue of allohistory, usually termed alternate history. The exploration finds a small but thriving science fiction community among Muslims but literally no alternate history literature. Why?

Vern Liebl, Booz Allen Hamilton

International Law of Pornography and Free Expression Concerns

Pornography, or “porn,” is a socially defined class of sexual communication, which may or may not be protected under national laws, which may or may not clearly define sex and pornography as media content. The term may be distinguishable from legal definitions in the United States and Europe of obscenity or indecency. Pornography is generally considered the depiction of graphic sexual behavior usually designed to promote sexual arousal. Pornographic material may be either legal erotica or illegal obscenity. Many have questioned the validity of the distinction between erotica and pornography, the latter being a pejorative and subjective term. The legal problem is two-fold: (1) What constitutes graphic sexual depiction? (2) How does one judge whether or not the purpose of the sexual content is to arouse?

Jeremy Lipschultz, University of Nebraska at Omaha

An Overview of Pandemic Influenza

Founded in 2002, The Center for Biopreparedness Education meets Nebraska’s need for biopreparedness education, training, exercising and resources. In response to Federal and State initiatives to establish and improve the public health system’s response to all disasters, Nebraska

Health and Human Services commissioned the state's two medical schools – The University of Nebraska Medical Center and Creighton University Medical Center – to join forces to form the Center for Biopreparedness Education, which is under the direction of the Chiefs of Infectious Disease Departments at both institutions and an education consortium consisting of over 40 agencies and organizations from across the state.

In response to the national movement for public health preparedness for an influenza pandemic, the Center joined forces with Nebraska's Health and Human Services leadership to craft a presentation that presents a consistent message and information to communities across the state.

This presentation covers basic information on the nature of influenza from its biological characteristics to how it is spread and ultimately treated. Differences between epidemics and pandemics will be explored to include the concepts of antigenic drifting and shifting. The Novel Influenza A (H1N1) and Avian influenza (H5N1) effects on birds/swine and humans will provide a segue into why the global public health communities has concerns regarding both threats. The presentation ends with an in-depth discussion into public health measures that are being written into response plans, to include stockpiling of antiviral, production and distribution of vaccines and the prioritization dilemmas that are inherent to community planning and preparation.

Sharon Medcalf, Nebraska Medical Center

The Theoretical Implications of the Role of Citizen Participation in Mexico's Deomocratic Consolidation (Baja California Case)

As part of the democratic theoretical literature, the role of citizen participation is explained as fundamental for the consolidation process. This paper wants to analyze the importance of the local experience (Baja California) as part of a democratic consolidation in a centralized experience (Mexico). The importance of the work is to contribute to the democratic theoretical literature using a local experience and its dialectic relation in a centralized reality.

Hector Maymi-Sugranes, CETYS University

Rural NGO's Participation on Social Policy in Northern Mexico

The importance of civil society and its organizations (NGO's, NGDO's, community organizations, etc.) as vehicles of democracy promotion and its role in democratic consolidation process is vastly documented. Countries in process of decentralization find a suitable partner in civil society to attend the social issues that are being left apart; NGOs have a fundamental role in working with marginalized communities. The importance of this paper is the establishment of an in-depth analysis of the role of civil society organizations as form of citizen participation.

Particularly a comparative analysis between what the laws and by-laws from a variety of government levels present as citizen participation and the reality of civil organizations. This paper analyzes the participation of rural NGOs on social policy in Northern Mexico, specifically the State of Baja California. Baja California experiments the first democratic transition in the country, having already 20 years of democracy. Also, in the last decade this state implemented several initiatives in citizen participation, with innovative approach in the relationship between government and civil society. This work focuses on a comparison between what the government presents (through a variety of ways) as citizen participation and the reality that civil

organizations are dealing at the rural area of Mexicali. Mexicali as a capitol of the State of Baja California has a very important rural areas with many social issues, where civil organizations are working in cooperation with a variety of government levels. However, the reality does not promote a citizen participation that could impact the democratic process.

Nadia Nieblas Nunez, CETYS University

Baseball around the Globe: The Visions of Bud Selig and Albert Spalding

Since the World Baseball Classic was inaugurated in 2006, nations around the globe have demonstrated their investment in the game that was once considered uniquely American. International exposure to the game, however, began more than a century ago. In 1888 sporting goods magnate and former Chicago White Sox pitching star, Albert G. Spalding, arranged a world tour of Major League Baseball stars. They played games in Italy, France, New Zealand, Australia, Ceylon, and Egypt. More than 110 years later, Italy and Australia were among 16 teams around the globe to play in the second (2009) World Baseball Classic. The Classic's main proponent, Major League Baseball Commissioner, Bud Selig, developed the Classic with the same vision that Spalding harbored: to spread the concept of baseball as an egalitarian pursuit for all people and, in doing so, to benefit economically. Spalding and Selig diverge, however, in how they thought those visions of international acceptance of the game would play out. This paper will examine and compare Selig's and Spalding's efforts at internationalizing professional baseball. The paper will also examine the impact of Spalding's vision and what Selig's vision means to the future of the game globally.

David Ogden, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Soft Jaw Pliers Instead of a Hammer: How to Obtain Pakistani Cooperation for US Goals in Afghanistan

President Musharraf claimed in this memoir, In the Line of Fire that Richard Armitage, Deputy Secretary of State, obtained his country's cooperation for the Operation Enduring Freedom in 2001 with threats of 'bombing it to the Stone Age'. Although Armitage has denied making such a threat, it is reasonable to assume that Pakistani cooperation was obtained through some coercive pressure. This paper will review Pakistan's support for the US led war in Afghanistan, examine the controversies that have plagued their cooperation and argue for a new approach.

Manju Parikh, College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University

Further Observation of Distance Decay Features on the Kra Isthmus, Southern Thailand

Distance Decay is evident on the landscape of Thailand's Kra Isthmus. These conditions provide fuel for radical Islamic contagion. At the 2007 convention in my presentation, I discussed and demonstrated the visual evidence of distance decay there. The Thai government has been working hard to reduce the effects of neglect over time. The question is "Has there been real change and if so, is it evident on the landscape?" This presentation will summarize my field observations of Kra Isthmus, Southern Thailand.

Joseph Pasztor, Delta College

Economic Growth in an Unhealthy Egypt

The health of a state is often the most important aspect in determining the growth of that state. The Arab Republic of Egypt is considered a less developed country and its health is in a subpar condition for several reasons. The objective of this paper is to analyze the nation and its health care system and determine how to improve the overall health of the population which will, eventually, lead to enhanced economic growth for Egypt. The Millennium Development Goals set forth by the United Nations were established to improve the lives of the populations in less developed countries being targeted by these goals. Three of the eight goals outlined by the Millennium Declaration apply unconditionally to Egypt as they pertain to key health care aspects of the state. By analyzing these goals, conclusions can be reached about what needs to be changed in the medical establishment to improve the health, well-being, and growth of the population.

Karim Salem

Three Response Communities Abilities to Respond to Pandemic Influenza

This research identifies three prominent communities of response to the global threat of a pandemic event. This project looks for relationships among them based on the presence or absence of forty-five independent variables demonstrated in the individual make-up of 123 resources obtained for the statistical analyses performed for this research.

Hughes H Shanks, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department

FLIO: Extending the Study-Abroad Model

Fr. Leland Lubbers, S.J., well-known pioneer in bringing authentic foreign language television to Americans, uncovered a woeful and acute lack of professional-level proficiency in foreign languages among Americans. As a result, he conceived the Free Language Immersion Operation (FLIO) in response to this discovery. FLIO endeavors initially to establish realistic assessments of needs in the field of foreign language and foreign culture. FLIO is in the process of setting parameters for study abroad in terms of logistics for students to live and learn in host countries, in terms of evaluation of choices for host countries that will balance national needs and student welfare, and in terms of commitment to candid evaluation of needs of business, education and government and competency of students for such positions. FLIO endeavors ultimately to collaborate with education, business and government to produce highly productive extended immersion programs resulting in language competency at the highest level possible—either a 4 or 5 on the Interagency Roundtable Scale. The guiding spirit is the “Lubbers Model” of increasing the number and diversity of foreign language speakers in conformity with ensuring professional-level proficiency among Americans in the area of foreign languages.

Michael Shonka, FLIO

One Man's Quest for Critical Understanding: The History and Fiction of Karel Schoeman, Afrikaner

Herman Gillomee, a prominent Afrikaner historian has argued that the fundamental weakness of his white Afrikaans culture is that it “never developed a tradition of critical self-reflection.” Although South Africanists everywhere probably would agree, I would argue that the collected writings of Karel Schoeman— historian, novelist, and essayist— can be seen as one man’s effort to establish a record of critical self-reflection, at least in terms of Afrikaner history and identity. This paper will examine the historical and fictive writings of Karel Schoeman, an author virtually unknown outside his native South Africa, the Netherlands, and Ireland, where he has lived, worked, researched, and written. To date he has written eighteen (18) novels and numerous essays and books of history.

Noel Stahle, William Penn University

The UN's Crisis Management Potential from an Arab Perspective

This paper presents the findings of a quantitative and qualitative content analysis of three influential Arab newspapers (Al-Ahram, Cairo; An-Nahar, Beirut; Al-Hayat, London) regarding their coverage of UN-sponsored activities. Though they present the UN as an “ideal” that deserves public support, the world body’s obvious shortcomings are clearly criticized in terms of irrelevance and ineffectiveness. Overall, the UN is perceived as “just another tool” in the hands of the US’ diplomacy. Therefore, it is doubtful that the UN would be accepted as a mediator by those living in the crisis regions in North Africa and the Middle East, may it be Darfur, Western Sahara, Palestine, Lebanon, or Iraq.

Jan C. Voelkel, University of Freiburg, Germany

Warriors or Diplomats? The US Military's Evolving Role in International Stability Operations

This paper will argue that recent United States government (USG) policy initiatives to improve stabilization, security, transition, and reconstruction (SSTR) capabilities will have a negative impact on the ability of the US military to fulfill its traditional statutory role to provide for national defense. While the Department of State (DoS) has been officially designated as the lead agency for SSTR efforts, foreign policy events have resulted in the DoD assuming non-traditional responsibilities. The dynamic capabilities of the America’s defense forces to deploy and conduct a variety of operations (combat and non-combat) anywhere in the world has made it an easy choice for policymakers to utilize in this non-standard role. As a result of these foreign policy choices, the USG will face a number of challenges to include: military readiness, inability for DoS to acquire SSTR capabilities, and threats to the traditional civil-military roles within U.S. society. This paper will examine these issues, their adverse affects on military forces, and provide suggestions on changes to both DoD and DoS to adequately ensure the military is prepared to support (rather than lead) and the State Department is fully capable to fulfill its role as the primary government agency for nation-building.

LTC Robert Daniel Wallace, Department of Joint, Interagency, and Multinational Operations (DJIMO)

Exploring the Ethics of Isolation and Quarantine: A Visit with Typhoid Mary

“I chased him, I did, swingin’ my fork and a hollerin’!” Travel through time and experience what public health faced in 1907 – Typhoid Mary. Using history as a framework, this one-woman play and subsequent facilitated discussion examine the social and ethical issues surrounding isolation and quarantine – and how they are relevant to current global public health practices. As we face an influenza pandemic this fall, issues surrounding social distancing and both voluntary and compulsory isolation and quarantine become hot topics, often difficult to discuss.

Kristin Watkins, Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center

Saffron “Red Gold”

Saffron growing has been promoted in Afghanistan in recent years in response to a call from the Afghan government to investigate economically viable licit alternatives to poppy. Due to the significant labor costs inherent to saffron production, saffron is the world’s most expensive spice. Not only are saffron profits competitive with opium in relation to other licit crops, but, like poppies, saffron needs little water during growth, requires minimal refinement, and has a low volume and weight, making it easily transportable. Afghanistan’s climate, soil, and labor conditions make it a suitable place for the production of saffron, and may even give it a competitive advantage over other saffron producers. This paper gives a brief history of saffron and its uses, followed by a detailed description of the necessary conditions and best practices for growing and cultivating saffron. The paper then turns toward the economics of saffron, including an account of the Afghan saffron industry at present and marketing strategies that lay out what more could be done to expand the industry in Afghanistan.

Joshua Zenger, Human Terrain System