Teaching and research on cultures, languages, societies, institutions, and practices around the world
For more than a half-century, the Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale and its precursors have served as the University’s focal point for teaching and research on cultures, languages, societies, institutions, and practices around the world. The MacMillan Center is an incubator for innovation in international teaching and research. It houses more than 20 interdisciplinary, collaborative, and transregional programs. In 2016-17, the Center hosted more than 700 events ranging from scholarly seminars, conferences, and workshops to film screenings and cultural performances.

In teaching, the MacMillan Center and its councils and programs support six Yale College majors, three M.A. programs, four graduate certificates of concentration, as well as provide substantial resources for students to pursue opportunities in research, language study, internships, and other international experiences. Additionally, there are joint degree programs between the MacMillan Center and law, management, public health, and forestry and environmental studies. On the research front, the Center spent nearly $1.1 million on Yale faculty research in 2016-17; nearly $2.6 million on student research and academic exchanges; and $1.1 million on conferences, workshops, and seminar series.

For details on all of the MacMillan Center Councils, Programs, and Initiatives, as well as feature articles and videos, visit macmillan.yale.edu.

Overview

For more than a half-century, the Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale and its precursors have served as the University’s focal point for teaching and research on cultures, languages, societies, institutions, and practices around the world. The MacMillan Center is an incubator for innovation in international teaching and research. It houses more than 20 interdisciplinary, collaborative, and transregional programs. In 2016-17, the Center hosted more than 700 events ranging from scholarly seminars, conferences, and workshops to film screenings and cultural performances.

In teaching, the MacMillan Center and its councils and programs support six Yale College majors, three M.A. programs, four graduate certificates of concentration, as well as provide substantial resources for students to pursue opportunities in research, language study, internships, and other international experiences. Additionally, there are joint degree programs between the MacMillan Center and law, management, public health, and forestry and environmental studies. On the research front, the Center spent nearly $1.1 million on Yale faculty research in 2016-17; nearly $2.6 million on student research and academic exchanges; and $1.1 million on conferences, workshops, and seminar series.

For details on all of the MacMillan Center Councils, Programs, and Initiatives, as well as feature articles and videos, visit macmillan.yale.edu.

For more than a half-century, the Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale and its precursors have served as the University’s focal point for teaching and research on cultures, languages, societies, institutions, and practices around the world. The MacMillan Center is an incubator for innovation in international teaching and research. It houses more than 20 interdisciplinary, collaborative, and transregional programs. In 2016-17, the Center hosted more than 700 events ranging from scholarly seminars, conferences, and workshops to film screenings and cultural performances.

In teaching, the MacMillan Center and its councils and programs support six Yale College majors, three M.A. programs, four graduate certificates of concentration, as well as provide substantial resources for students to pursue opportunities in research, language study, internships, and other international experiences. Additionally, there are joint degree programs between the MacMillan Center and law, management, public health, and forestry and environmental studies. On the research front, the Center spent nearly $1.1 million on Yale faculty research in 2016-17; nearly $2.6 million on student research and academic exchanges; and $1.1 million on conferences, workshops, and seminar series.

For details on all of the MacMillan Center Councils, Programs, and Initiatives, as well as feature articles and videos, visit macmillan.yale.edu.
In January 2017, the Program on Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Humanitarian Responses was launched by the Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale to promote rigorous interdisciplinary research and teaching grounded in the social sciences that can inform best practice and sound policy, and have a meaningful impact on the lives of people affected by forced displacement.

As the movement of refugees has reached unprecedented levels globally, the program will explore the profound and permanent consequences that these movements pose for economics, politics, environment, health, religion, culture, and other areas.

The campus-wide, interdisciplinary program draws on the research and teaching interests and combines the intellectual faculty resources of the Yale Faculty of Arts and Sciences and Yale’s twelve professional schools. More than fifty faculty across Yale work on issues related to the program's scope.

“In an era where the forced displacement of more than 200 million people is having a profound impact on our world, it is imperative that we search for responses and solutions that have a more productive and meaningful impact,” said Ian Shapiro, Henry R. Luce Director of the MacMillan Center, and Sterling Professor of Political Science. “The Program on Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Humanitarian Responses puts the resources of academic institutions like Yale, and the field experience of humanitarian workers and policy makers under one virtual roof, encompassing a wide range of issues that cover the refugee experience, to the benefit of both quality academic research and sound policy advice.”

The activities of the program include:

• Providing research grants for Yale faculty and students;
• Developing internship opportunities for Yale students;
• Convening on-campus events, such as lectures, conferences, films, performances, and exhibitions;
• Supporting long-term research initiatives on refugee issues in the Middle East and South/ Southeast Asia;
• Launching a global "Refugee Research Network";
• Hosting short-term residencies for humanitarian experts each year;
• Hosting an annual symposium;
• Encouraging faculty and students to publish online or in print;
• Introducing a gateway course on issues of refugees and forced displacement.

The program’s first annual symposium was held on April 13, with the theme of "The Next Generation of Humanitarianism and Refugee Studies: Challenges and Opportunities." Also, on February 22, the program organized a panel discussion on "Social Innovation and Humanitarian Responses," with speakers from the United Nations High Commission on Refugees, Mercy Corps, the University of Texas, and the Hashemite University of Jordan. Information about the program and its activities can be found on its website at http://refugee.macmillan.yale.edu/.

Collaborative Effort Yields Community College Teaching Fellowship

Yale University and Gateway Community College (GCC) have partnered on an exciting and unique project that benefits students in both institutions of higher learning. The Community College Teaching Fellowship (CCTF), which began in the fall of 2016 with support from the Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies, offers Yale Ph.D. students the opportunity to broaden and enhance their teaching skills in Gateway’s classrooms. GCC students, in turn, gain a world of international experience and knowledge. The CCTF program is made possible through the U.S. Department of Education’s Title VI NRC Funding, and it dovetails perfectly with the Title VI programs' goal of increasing university participation with community colleges in creating its global curricula.

The CCTF program, which stemmed from the Yale Center for Teaching and Learning’s (CTL) Teaching Certificate program, allows Yale students from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences to apply their GCC teaching time toward their doctoral program requirement. For certification, students must complete a series of teaching requirements including: developing instructional materials, co-teaching, classroom observations, and attending 8 Advanced Level Teaching Workshops at the CTL.
From its genesis in the middle of the last century, the MacMillan Center has been the University’s primary vehicle for encouraging interdisciplinary, area-focused research and teaching. The constituent councils, committees, centers, and programs have made tremendous contributions to our understanding of the world, and have trained generations of scholars. With so many of the world’s most challenging and immediate problems requiring collaborative, interdisciplinary, and regionally expert inquiry, the Center is focusing its activities on the following three substantive areas:

Identity, Security, and Conflict

Religious, national, racial, ethnic, and other identities are among the most powerful sources of human motivation. They structure much human conflict, and they are integral to the age-old human search for meaning and security. The MacMillan Center illuminates identities from multiple disciplinary perspectives, accounts for their similarities, differences, and resilience, and explores their implications for the study of security and conflict—sub-national, national, and international.

Democracy: Past, Present, and Future

The last quarter of the twentieth century saw the advent of democracy in more than a third of the world’s countries. Yet the great majority of the earth’s population continues to be governed by undemocratic regimes. The MacMillan Center advances our understanding of how to create and sustain democracy, how the tensions between democracy and other goods are best managed, and how established democracies can renew themselves in the face of internal and external challenges.

Justice and Distribution: Local, National, Regional, Global

In an era of unprecedented global integration, the political organization of the world remains centered on nation states. As the main organs of political accountability and collective enforcement, national governments remain the central focus of demands for justice and redistribution. Governments confront many limits to their effectiveness in such a world, but also profound moral dilemmas. The MacMillan Center studies these moral and practical dilemmas from multiple disciplinary vantage points.

Beyond Jihad

The terrorism perpetuated by ISIS and other extremist groups reinforces the perception that Islam, a religion with more than 1 billion believers worldwide, has spread over the course of its 1,400-year history through violent conquest. A new book by Lamin Sanneh, the D. Willis James Professor of Missions and World Christianity at Yale Divinity School, professor of history, and director of the Project on Religious Freedom and Society in Africa at the Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale, offers a different perspective, one drawn from the historical record. Sanneh’s book, Beyond Jihad, explores the pacifist tradition of Islam in West Africa, describing how the religion took hold peacefully there—promoted by clerics who relied on religious scholarship an d persuasion, not the sword.

The cultural politics of dirt in Africa

On November 3 and 4, a workshop on “The Cultural Politics of Dirt in Africa (DirtPol)” was held at the MacMillan Center. It’s one of the last activities to be held for the DirtPol project that Stephanie Newell, professor of English, began in 2013 with significant “frontier research” funding from the European Research Council. Professor Newell’s research focuses on the public sphere in colonial West Africa and issues of gender, sexuality, and power as articulated through popular print cultures, including newspapers, pamphlets, posters, and magazines. She studies how local intellectuals—ranging from school leaders to national leaders—debate moral and political issues through the medium of print. Professor Newell is especially interested in the cultural histories of printing and reading in Africa, and the spaces for local creativity and subversive resistance in colonial-era newspapers. The DirtPol project positioned these interests in an interdisciplinary and comparative historical perspective, and included the study of popular discourses about dirt in Nairobi and Lagos in relation to changing ideas about taste and disgust, sexuality, multiculturalism, and urbanization.

Urbanization, youth languages, and technological innovations in Africa

Linguists and researchers from around the world specializing in the study of African languages gathered at Yale in early October to discuss the evolution of languages through urbanization, technological innovations, and youth cultures throughout Africa.

Eddie Mandhry, Yale’s director for Africa in the Office of International Affairs, opened the conference. He noted in his speech the Kenyans’ rapturous response to President Obama’s use of Sheng (a combination of Kiswahili and English) during his 2013 visit as a fitting example of the power of language to act as a cultural and generational bridge.

Indeed, the use of slang in political discourse was a topic covered by many speakers during the conference. Aurelia Ferrari of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs described the various ways in which Kenyan politicians have used slang to appear more relatable and to empower youth. In his presentation “Sheng as a Language of Political Mobilization,” Bosire Mokaya...
The Russian century (1801-1917)

On September 30 and October 1, the MacMillan Center welcomed academics from both sides of the Atlantic for a conference on the literary, visual, and performing arts of the Russian Empire, titled “The Russian Century (1801-1917).” Organized by Yale Slavic Languages and Literatures Professors Molly Branson and Bella Grigoryan, the conference featured numerous discussions of canon formation, intertextuality and intermediality, imperial peripheries, and the legacy of the Golden Age of Russian literature and the performing arts.

The conference was comprised of seven panels that included discussions on the reception of the Golden Age canon in the West, the interplay of different kinds of media in Russian literary and performance arts, and the afterlives of nineteenth-century classics. While some panels focused primarily on literature, the vast majority of panels simultaneously discussed theatrical performance, painters, musical compositions, and opera all under one uniting theme.

The Russian Century was funded by the generous support of the Edward J. and Dorothy Clarke Kempf Memorial Fund, the Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale, the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, and the WHC Working Group on the Global Nineteenth Century.

Royalism and revolution

On October 28–29, a roundtable on “Popular Royalism in the Revolutionary Atlantic World” gathered 40 scholars from three continents who study popular royalism in Jamaica, Haiti, France, Italy, Venezuela, Colombia, Brazil, and Sierra Leone, among other places. Because “popular royalism” is a newly conceptualized field of study, organizers Marcela Echeverri (Yale, History) and Clément Thibaud (Nantes) hoped that this international group of scholars would begin the process of defining popular royalism and draw connections between its different instantiations. The conference was made possible by funding from the Edward J. and Dorothy Clarke Kempf Memorial Fund; Yale Department of History; Université de Nantes, Région des Pays de la Loire; STARACO; and Centre de Recherches en Histoire Internationale et Atlantique.

Predicting Taliban attacks

Winning the “hearts and minds” of Afghan civilians is a key component of American strategy in Afghanistan, where war rages more than 16 years after NATO-backed forces knocked the Taliban from power. A recent study co-authored by Yale political scientist Jason Lyall provides evidence that “hearts-and-minds” aid programs have an unintended consequence: Taliban insurgents target villages where aid projects have gained traction.

Lyall, who also is the director the Political Violence FieldLab at the MacMillan Center at Yale, and his coauthors, Kentaro Hirose, assistant professor at Waseda University, and Kossuke Imai, professor of politics at Princeton University, published their findings in the *Journal of Peace Research*.

The hidden histories of Islamic magic

Mysteries of nature, modern enchantments, and the curse words of colorful incantations were among the many topics addressed in the two-day symposium “Magic and the Occult in Islam and Beyond,” held on March 2–3. Organized by Travis Zadeh (Yale University), the symposium brought together an international array of scholars with diverse areas of expertise. The papers and discussions that ensued addressed the place of the occult in Islamic thought and the modern challenges of thinking in scholarly terms with alternative and contested epistemologies. The event was funded by the Council on Middle East Studies at the MacMillan Center at Yale and the Edward J. and Dorothy Clarke Kempf Memorial Fund, and was sponsored by the Departments of Religious Studies and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, and the Beinecke Rare Books and Manuscript Library.

Writing/Curating the Middle East

The cultural production of the Arab World and Iran is often viewed through the limiting lens of European and American modes of art theory. “Writing/Curating the Middle East” — a two-day symposium (March 30–31) sponsored by the History of Art Department, Yale University Art Gallery, and Council on Middle East Studies at the MacMillan Center — sought to challenge this historiographical limitation. Examining issues of national identity and diversity through historical entanglement and synchronicity, curators and art historians proposed a new discourse on art from the Middle East. Consisting of an artist talk and three thematic panels, the symposium illustrated the region’s ties to global modern art movements.
Oman, the founder of the Ottoman Empire, had a dream in which a tree sprouted from his navel. As the tree grew, its shade covered the earth; as Oman’s empire grew, it, too, covered the earth. This is the most widely accepted foundation myth of the longest-lasting empire in the history of Islam, and offers a telling clue to its unique legacy. Underlying every aspect of the Ottoman Empire’s history—from its founding around 1300 to its end in the 20th century—is its successful management of natural resources. Under Oman’s Tree analyzes this environmental history to understand the most remarkable qualities of the Ottoman Empire—its longevity, politics, economy, and society.

The early modern Middle East, Alan Mikhail, professor of history and member of the Council on Middle East Studies at the MacMillan Center at Yale, contends, was the world’s most crucial zone of connection and interaction. According to the Ottoman Empire’s many varied environments affected and were affected by global trade, climate, and disease. From down in the mud of Egypt’s canals to up in the treetops of Anatolia, Mikhail tackles major aspects of the Middle East’s environmental history: natural resource management, climate, human and animal labor, energy, water control, disease, and politics. He also points to some of the ways in which the region’s dominant religious tradition, Islam, has understood and related to the natural world. Marrying environmental and Ottoman history, Under Oman’s Tree offers a new interpretation of the past 500 years of Middle Eastern history.

2017 African Literature Association Conference

“Africa and the World: Literature, Politics, and Global Geographies” was the theme of the 2017 African Literature Association (ALA) Conference that took place at Yale University June 14-17.

The conference brought together more than 600 participants from around the world and featured 165 panels exploring the usefulness of “world literature” as a framework for understanding the literatures of Africa and the Global South. Keynote lectures and panels will explore the possibilities offered by African literatures and cultures for (re)imagining the world.


The 2017 African Literature Association Conference was sponsored by the Councils on African Studies and Middle East Studies at Whitney and Beryl MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale, with support from the Title VI National Resource Center Grants from the United States Department of Education.

Traveling technocrats: Experts and expertise in Latin America’s long Cold War

Approximately 20 historians from North America, Latin America, and Europe recently convened at the MacMillan Center on October 14-15 for a conference to analyze the role of “experts and expertise” in Latin America’s “long Cold War.” The conference, titled “Traveling Technocrats: Experts and Expertise in Latin America’s Long Cold War,” welcomed visiting scholars from as far afield as Argentina, Chile, Cuba, Puerto Rico, the United Kingdom, and across the United States to share their own brand of traveling expertise.

The conference was cosponsored by the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile and funded by the Council for Latin American and Iberian Studies at the MacMillan Center at Yale, the Edward J. and Dorothy Clarke Kempf Memorial Fund, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Fund, the Graduate and Professional Student Senate, Yale Environmental History, the Mellon Fund for Latin American History, and the Yale Latin American Studies Speaker Series.

Russian politics beyond the Kremlin

On November 4-5, the MacMillan Center hosted a diverse group of historians, anthropologists, sociologists, and political scientists to discuss sites and expressions of Russian politics beyond a standard Kremlinology-focused discourse.

The conference, titled “Russian Politics Beyond the Kremlin: New Concepts, Paradigms, and Sites,” was attended by more than 15 academics, in addition to many other participants from the Yale and New Haven communities. Sponsors included the European Studies Council, Russian Studies Program, MacMillan Center, The Carnegie Foundation, and the Edward J. and Dorothy Clarke Kempf Fund.

Invited speakers represented various disciplines in American universities, and also included Russian scholars from Saint Petersburg, Novosibirsk, Moscow, and Tula. Each day of the conference featured two thematic panels. On Friday, panels included “Sites of Russian Politics Beyond the Kremlin” and “Historical Memory Beyond the Kremlin.” On Saturday, the panels highlighted “Regional and Rural Politics Beyond the Kremlin” and “Ethnic and National Politics Beyond the Kremlin.”

Democracy: Past, Present, and Future


The 2017 African Literature Association Conference was sponsored by the Councils on African Studies and Middle East Studies at Whitney and Beryl MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale, with support from the Title VI National Resource Center Grants from the United States Department of Education.
Democracy in America

The 2016 U.S. presidential election was a historically divisive contest in which the victorious candidate repeatedly leveled unfounded accusations of election rigging and widespread voter fraud. To Susan Stokes, a political scientist and director of the Program on Democracy at the MacMillan Center, it seemed the time was ripe to assess the health of American democracy.

Stokes joined John Carey and Brendan Nyhan, professors of government at Dartmouth College, and Gretchen Helmke, a professor of political science at the University of Rochester, to form Bright Line Watch—a project examines the strength of the nation’s commitment to its democratic institutions and values.

In March, Bright Line Watch released a survey of 1,571 political scientists working at U.S. institutions. The survey, reported in The New York Times, had two goals: define the qualities most essential to democracy and use those characteristics to rate the health of democracy in the United States.

The respondents determined that American democracy remains robust, but is showing some signs of weakness. Core standards, such as free and fair elections and freedom of speech, were largely given a clean bill of health. Other areas, such as equal voting rights and majorities in elected branches acting with restraint and reciprocity, are in poor health, according to the survey. Overall, nearly 7 in 10 respondents rated the health of U.S. democracy a 7 or better on a scale of 10.

The Indonesian experiment

As the world’s largest Muslim country with a population of 255 million, Indonesia’s commitment to Islam’s position as an institution of civil society and to the cause of a pluralist democracy is one of the country’s most important achievements. Described in the Qur’an as “Middle Path” Islam, the Wasatiyah movement was launched in more recent times with the backing of two of the oldest and largest Muslim organizations—the Muhammadiyah, founded in 1912 with a current estimated membership of 29 million, and the Nahdhatul Ulama, founded in 1926 with a membership now estimated at 93 million.

To discuss the Indonesian Experiment, a panel was held on April 18 at Yale University that was moderated by Lamin Sanneh, D. Willis James Professor of Missions & World Christianity, Professor of History, and the Project Director of Religious Freedom and Society in Africa at the MacMillan Center. The panel featured Ambassador Jakob Tobing, President of Leimena Institute and former Ambassador to South Korea; Abdi Shihab, President of Indonesia’s Special Envoy for Middle East and OIC Countries; M. Amin Abdullah, Professor of Philosophy and Islamic Studies, State Islamic University, Yogyakarta, Advisor to the Sultan of Yogyakarta; and Azyumardi Azra, CBE, Professor of History, State Islamic University in Jakarta, Special Staff to the Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia.

History and politics concerning the right to vote in the United States

The struggle for the right to vote, and suppression of that right when gained, is a very old American story. It is always at once historical and very current. In recent years, the Republican party has made it deeply relevant to its harnessing of power at the state and national level. The recent election of Donald Trump should make us take notice of this issue, as well as many more.

On November 3—less than a week before the presidential election—the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition at the MacMillan Center hosted a panel discussion titled “The Right to Vote: Protection or Suppression Since 1965.” Moderated by GLC Director David Blight, the panel considered the history of efforts to ensure and to restrict the electoral franchise in the United States. As The New York Times noted in an election day Op-Ed, voting is a fundamental hallmark of American citizenship. And yet, the paper reported, tens of thousands of eligible U.S. voters across the country have been prevented from casting ballots in recent years due to procedural maneuvers initiated by Republican officials. Because of the combination of mass incarceration and state-level restrictions against voting by convicted felons, millions more are not eligible to vote at all. Recent court cases and journalistic sleuthing have revealed that some Republican lawmakers and civil servants have used explicitly partisan language to justify their efforts to suppress voting by young people and people of color.

The GLC panel examined these trends in historical context, focusing most closely on the period between the 1965 Voting Rights Act and the present. Panelists included Ari Berman (senior contributing writer, The Nation magazine, and author of Give Us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America); Beverly Gage (Professor of History, Yale University); Isela Gutiérrez-Gunter (Associate Research Director, Democracy North Carolina); and Kenneth Mack (Lawrence D. Biele Professor of Law and Affiliate Professor of History at Harvard University and author of Representing the Race: The Creation of a Civil Rights Lawyer).
Luxury and Rubble in Ho Chi Minh City

Luxury and Rubble, a new book by Yale anthropologist Erik Harms, tells the tale of two urban developments in Ho Chi Minh City, the Vietnamese city formerly called Saigon. Phỉ My Hùng, a luxurious commercial and residential development, provides a home to members of Vietnam’s rising upper middle class. Thịnh Thięm, a similar development under construction in a nearby district, required the mandatory eviction of 14,600 households.

Harms conducted intensive ethnographic research with residents of the existing luxury development, where he lived for nine months, and also with those being displaced. His book draws contrasts and connections between the two. It shows the human costs of master-planned urban development while exploring the effects of privatization in a socialist country.

Luxury and Rubble: Civility and Dispossession in the New Saigon is published by the University of California Press. It is also available as a free e-book, thanks in part to the support of Yale’s Department of Anthropology, Council of Southeast Asian Studies, the Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center for International and Areas Studies, and Frederick W. Hilles Publication Fund.

Humanitarian intervention and the responsibility to protect

The Responsibility to Protect (R2P), William Burke-White (University of Pennsylvania) observed in the introductory panel of the Humanitarian Intervention and the Responsibility to Protect conference convened by MacMillan Center in February, is alive and well, even if the substantive content of the norm and the temporal focus of action under it are shifting. Drawing lessons from its development in Kosovo, Libya, Cote d’Ivoire, Syria, and Yemen, Burke-White argued that R2P is playing a declining role both as a legal authorization and a political justification for military intervention. Ultimately, he concluded, its lasting legacy will have more to do with the duty of states to provide long-term peace-building and development, than as grounds for intervention.

The Humanitarian Intervention and the Responsibility to Protect conference was sponsored by the John K. Castle Fund for Ethics and International Affairs.

Religion and public policy in Southeast Asia

A symposium on “Religion and Public Policy in Southeast Asia” that focused with the MacMillan Center, studied the causes and consequences of internal religious minorities was held on March 10 at the MacMillan Center. It gathered a team of panelists from the Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies (ICRS) and discussants from Yale, along with about 20 participants to discuss the findings of recent research conducted by ICRS along this theme. ICRS is part of a larger international team of researchers based in Southeast Asia who had embarked on a three-year comparative project to investigate how gender, diversity, and connectivity are managed through public policy across nine countries with their own varied religious traditions.

From left: Bernard Adeney-Riakoterra, International Representative of ICRS; Religion, Culture, and Politics in Indonesia; Leonard Epafra, ICRS doctoral faculty; History of Abrahamic religions, Religion and the Internet; Siti Syamsiyatun, Director of ICRS; Islam and Gender, Women, and Mohammadrah; Jumery Shorry, Associate Director of ICRS; Anthropologist, Religion, and Popular Cultures in Indonesia; and Didey Sofia, ICRS doctoral faculty, Project Director on Religion and Public Policy in Southeast Asia, Islam and politics.

Breaking the hunger cycle in Bangladesh

Researchers led by Mushfiq Mobarak, Professor of Economics and affiliated with the MacMillan Center, studied the causes and consequences of internal seasonal migration in northwestern Bangladesh, a region where over 5 million people live below the poverty line, and must cope with a regular pre-harvest seasonal famine. Their results show that a small monetary incentive led to a large increase in the number of seasonal migrants, that the migration was successful on average, and that households given the incentive in one year continued to be more likely to migrate in future years. Their findings, originally published in Econometrica, were reported on in an article in the Financial Times on March 7, 2017.

An island under siege: Puerto Rico’s current financial, political, and human rights crisis

On April 7, experts gathered at the Yale Law School for a conference on the current financial crisis affecting Puerto Rico. Hosted by the Council on Latin American and Iberian Studies at the MacMillan Center, “An Island under Siege: Puerto Rico’s Current Financial, Political, and Human Rights Crisis” examined the social, legal, and political repercussions of the impositions placed on the island by the most recent American effort to address the government-debt crisis—a federal law enacted by Congress in 2016 known as PROMESA. Panelists with a wide range of specializations, including human rights lawyers, journalists, economists, and scholars, addressed the overreaching parameters of the legislation and offered alternative solutions to position Puerto Rico on a path to fiscal health and self-determination.
Yale Refugee Program convenes first annual symposium

Under the theme of “The Next Generation of Humanitarianism and Refugee Studies: Challenges & Opportunities,” the Program on Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Humanitarian Responses at the MacMillan Center convened its first annual symposium on April 13. It was a day-long event designed to bring together Yale faculty, scholars, and students, with a number of prominent faculty and scholars working on refugee issues from other universities, as well as humanitarian workers from local and international NGOs, and representatives of think tanks and policy groups.

Ambassador Burns on Trump administration’s global foreign policy challenges

As the United States continues to face security challenges in arenas around the world, the MacMillan Center hosted Ambassador (Ret.) Nicholas Burns, who presented its annual George Herbert Walker Jr. Lecture in International Studies on “The Trump Administration’s Global Foreign Policy Challenges.”

Syrian refugee crisis: Ground realities and humanitarian responses in Jordan

Since the outbreak of civil war in 2011, over five million Syrians have left their homes, seeking asylum in the nearby countries of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Jordan has absorbed hundreds of thousands of Syrians in this period, placing a huge burden on not only those displaced, but also on host communities and the Jordanian government.

To explore this issue, the Council on Middle East Studies (CMES) at the MacMillan Center at Yale hosted a panel on April 5 entitled “Syrian Refugee Crisis: Ground Realities and Humanitarian Responses in Jordan.” In addition to CMES, the panel was cosponsored by the Center for the Study of Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration (RITM), and the MacMillan Center’s Program on Refugees, Forced Migration, and Humanitarian Responses. The panel was moderated by Frank Grifflé, Professor of Religious Studies and Chair of CMES; with panelists including Naysan Adlparvar, Postdoctoral Fellow and Lecturer at CMES; Stephen Allen, Team Lead in USAID’s Syria Disaster Assistance Response Team; and Michael Callan, Chief Analyst for the MENA Region in the Government of Canada’s Privy Council Office.

International Book Prizes awarded

In September, two Yale faculty members were awarded book prizes by the MacMillan Center. Emily Erikson, an associate professor in the Department of Sociology, was awarded the Gaddis Smith International Book Prize for best first book for Between Monopoly and Free Trade: The English East India Company, 1600-1757 (Princeton University Press, 2014). Timothy Snyder, the Bird White Housum Professor of History, received the Gustav Ranis International Book Prize for best book for Black Earth: The Holocaust as History and Warning (Penguin Random House, 2015).

175th anniversary of Arabic and Sanskrit studies

Photo caption: The Yale Corporation appointed Edward E. Salisbury professor of Arabic and Sanskrit languages and literature in August 1841, the first appointment of its kind in the United States.

The legacy of Edward E. Salisbury brought together scholars from across the university to commemorate 175 years of Arabic and Sanskrit at Yale. Highlights were an exhibit at Sterling Memorial Library from September 6, 2016 to February 6, 2017, “An American Orientalist: The Life and Legacy of Edward E. Salisbury (1814-1903),” and an exhibit at the Yale University Art Gallery from February 24 to July 16, 2017, “Modern Art from the Middle East,” featuring art on loan from the Barjeel Art Foundation. Activities also included a panel discussion and a week-long series of events by visiting artist Karim Jabbari.

Frankopan delivered Stavros Niarchos Foundation Lecture

Peter Frankopan, a historian from the University of Oxford and author of The Silk Roads: A New History of the World, was the keynote speaker for the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Lecture. On September 12, he gave a lecture titled “The New Silk Road.”

The lecture series, established in 2014, brings to the Yale campus distinguished scholars in the humanities and social sciences, public figures, and artists of international reputation.
Maziar Bahari and the Iranian regime (bahari)

Maziar Bahari is perhaps best known in the United States as the subject of Daily Show host Jon Stewart’s documentary debut Rosewater, which was about Bahari’s 2009 imprisonment and torture at the hands of the Iranian regime. Bahari was invited by the Program in Iranian Studies in the Council on Middle East Studies at the MacMillan Center to give a talk on October 28 titled, “An Iranian Odyssey: Maziar Bahari and the Iranian Regime.” It was moderated by Abbas Amanat, Professor of History and International Studies.

Susan Dunn on “FDR’s Third Hundred Days”

Most history textbooks claim that American involvement in World War II began when Congress issued a declaration of war following the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Prior to the Pearl Harbor attack, the United States was allegedly fiercely dedicated to staying out of the war, even in the wake of Nazi Germany’s nearly complete takeover of Europe. Susan Dunn, Massachussetts Professor of Humanities at Williams College and author of a dozen history books, came to the MacMillan Center in November to dispute this isolationist narrative in her three-part Henry L. Shimson lecture series titled “FDR’s Third Hundred Days – Preparing for War and Global Leadership: November 1940 to March 1941.” In her three talks, she posited that America committed itself to a wartime path immediately following Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s third re-election in November 1940, over a year before the Pearl Harbor bombing.

The Colombian peace process: Challenges to implementation and the role of business in the post-conflict

After more than 50 years of armed conflict, the Colombian government and the largest and oldest guerrilla group in Latin America, the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC), finally struck a peace deal at the end of 2016 that formally ended the civil war. The agreement will necessitate the FARC’s transition into a legitimate political party. Undoubtedly, this will be a complicated process requiring participation from every sector of Colombian society – particularly the private sector, because it will bear much of the financial burden in the post-conflict period.

The role of the private sector in the Colombian post-conflict was the focus of an event hosted by the MacMillan Center on January 18, 2017. The keynote speaker, Sergio Jaramillo, High Commissioner for Peace, recalled the successful execution. Jaramillo, chief architect of the process with the FARC, has worked on numerous other peace negotiations in Colombia’s recent history.

Creating innovative solutions to aid refugees

The MacMillan Center’s newest initiative, the Program on Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Humanitarian Responses hosted a panel on Social Innovation and Humanitarian Responses on February 22. It featured Peter Ventergrogl, a senior mental health expert at UNHCR (the UN Refugee Agency); Rana Dasgupta, Associate Professor of Geography at Hunter College University in London and founding director of We Love Reading; and Stephanie Leutert, a Mexico Security Initiative Fellow at the Robert S. Strauss Center for International Law and the University of Texas. Jon Korte, the Director for Research and Learning at Mercy Corps, served as the discussant, and the panel was chaired by Catherine Pantier-Brick, Professor of Anthropology, Health, and Global Affairs at Yale.

The Arab Revolts are “not a finished story”

Coinciding with the sixth anniversary of the outbreak of revolts in the Arab region, the MacMillan Center hosted a panel discussion in February featuring Amr Hamazawy, Senior Fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; Jonathan Wytetren, Associate Professor of Sociology, History, and International Affairs; and Robert Malley, Former Special Assistant to the U.S. President and White House Coordinator for the Middle East, North Africa, and the Gulf Region.

Surviving conservation: Herders and farmers in China’s northwest

Ecological conservation in China’s northwest brings to light questions about space and power in China. As part of the 2016 Annual John W. Hume Memorial Lecture that took place on April 13, the Council on East Asian Studies at the MacMillan Center hosted You-Tien Hsing, Pamela P. Fong and Family Distinguished Chair in China Studies, University of California, Berkeley, who spoke on “Surviving Conservation: Herders and Farmers in China’s Northwest.” In her lecture, Hsing explored effects of a series of “anti-desertification” campaigns launched by the Chinese government since the early 2000s.

Africa Salon

Africa Salon, a University-wide celebration of African arts and culture, was held on campus on April 22-23, bringing together artists, activists and scholars to discuss contemporary artistry from across the continent. It is a celebration of African arts and culture through unique discussions, screenings, fashion shows, parties, and performances, featuring some of the most consequential artists from the continent and diaspora.
Student Spotlights

The MacMillan Center funded more than 380 students in 2016-17 to do independent research abroad. The students showcased here provide a glimpse into the extraordinary work that they can accomplish.

Last fall, I was supposed to be in India, studying Hinduism and environmentalism, when I ended up boarding the Iuventa, a voluntary search and rescue vessel en route to mitigate Libya’s offshore humanitarian crisis. Instead of being emboled in interviews and libraries, I found myself a member of Jugend Rettet, a Berlin-based NGO, as we saved more than 390 lives in the Mediterranean Sea this November (2016). The experience was certainly unexpected, but ultimately it is the nature of search and rescue missions (referred to as SAR) to be unpredictable.

Life aboard the Iuventa was challenging. As a small international crew of 15 people, the regular upkeep on our moving ship, including cooking, cleaning, lookout, and night watches, was no walk in the park. Add to that intermittent rescue operations, some of which could last more than 8 hours, and sleep and energy become extraordinarily scarce. In such high risk and sleep-deprived situations, control can take on a particularly strong, even aggressive, tone to keep things safe. Near misses add even more mental stress to the situations. Still, the most tiring days were those in which the operations were unsuccessful. On one cold morning at 2 am, we faced the horrifying reality that a boat in our area—outside of our line of sight—had sunk, presumably with approximately 100 people on board. Several hours later, we were called to a second, similarly sized vessel in distress. The vast distances meant that at full speed we were still several hours away. Halfway there, we received confirmation that the vessel had capsized. By the time we finally arrived, another estimated 100 had perished.

Last year (2016) was the deadliest on record for migrants seeking to make the crossing to Italy, with an average of 24 dying every day, and more than 5,000 perishing over the course of the year. In Greece, where I had prior SAR experience, I noticed how smugglers would send refugees and migrants on overcrowded, dangerous boats to hopefully reach the Greek islands—a risky, but feasible crossing. In Libya, the situation is different. Smugglers send refugees on more overcrowded, more dangerous boats, that are simply destined to perish if left to themselves. Every single boat we intercepted did not have close to enough fuel to make it across the Mediterranean—let alone structural integrity and adequate navigational equipment. If these boats had not been found, those aboard would have died.

Days when we are unsuccessful in our mission to rescue lives are chillingly quiet, as the hours of body searches drag on. Needless to say, crew support is essential. I found that the skills I had been taught in freshman counselor preparation at Yale were very transferrable to the situation, and immensely useful. I never expected those hours of psychological training at Yale Health, meant to help field potentially high-stress situations with freshmen, to be so relevant to conversations and lifestyle management on the Iuventa. Coping mechanisms, conversational techniques, and patterns of checking in with your co-workers, all of which I developed during freshman counselor training, proved critical. Without the crew’s support of one another, we certainly could not have continued to operate.

Despite the challenges and difficult days, I will forever be grateful for the opportunity to serve with my crew aboard the Iuventa. The decision to do join the Iuventa was a very natural step for me. As an undergrad, I had the opportunity to serve with and eventually lead the Yale Refugee Project in aiding the resettlement of refugees around New Haven. When I graduated last May, I did so alongside two close friends—one from South Sudan and another from Colombia—who had both faced the horrors of forced migration as refugees.

Unrelatedly, I had attended a very unusual high school that had a specialization in emergency maritime SAR operations. There, I was trained and served as a member of a SAR lifeboat crew. That training, along with my personal connection with refugees, led me to spend some time working on a rescue boat in the Aegean with predominantly Syrian refugees making the crossing to Europe from Turkey. Thus, when I heard about the tremendous need off the coast of Libya, I knew I would have to do whatever I could to help. Though no two stories were alike, everyone on the Iuventa crew had an interesting tale of how they got there. Some were professional firefighters turned SAR rescue swimmers; others were environmental activists with experience aboard Greenpeace or Sea Shepherd ships; most were professional cargo shippers taking time off to volunteer. Wherever they came from, the extent of sacrifice and care exhibited by every member was inspiring. I was awestruck by our translator, who was a Syrian refugee that had only two years ago made the crossing from Turkey to Greece in a boat similar to the ones we were seeing. Despite the tremendous challenges he still faces trying to create a new life in Germany, he volunteered to join us on the mission out of a conviction that he, too, should help whoever he could to make it to safety. Our success in rescuing 390+ persons was the result of a tremendous amount of team effort, springing from a firmly held common devotion to helping others.

Our translator’s devotion, however, was particularly inspiring in that it propelled him to again risk his safety along a dangerous migration route to help others making the perilous journey. His is a story not only of resilience, but also of immense compassion and self-sacrifice.

The sharpest lesson from the experience, however, was the desperate need for political solutions to these issues. I felt it more than ever on that morning when we lost the 300: Our rescue work is a highly limited, transitory solution to much deeper problems. Disturbingly, most of the migrants we spoke to seem to know and accept the risks involved when they step on to the boat. The only way those 300 could have been saved is if they had not been driven to risk their lives to make it to Europe in the first place—either through more effective governance at home, or a renovated immigration policy abroad. After already having been through such a horrendous journey, it is difficult to think that those who had made it safely to Europe still face an uncertain future.

My hope and prayer is that some of those political solutions, on all sides, may be reached soon. Until that time, I hope to continue to do what I can to help, and encourage others to do the same.

Bill Dresel is a Yale College 2016 graduate and a 2016-17 Fox International Fellow
June 16 was the final day of excavations at Tel Shiloh for the 2017 season. Previous to this year, I had three years of archaeological field experience, but this was my first leading my own square as a square supervisor. I am thankful to the MacMillan Center and the Ganzfried Family Travel Fellowship for the opportunity to excavate this year.

Tel Shiloh was the de facto first capital of Ancient Israel, and the semi-permanent location of the Ark of the Covenant in the time of Joshua and the Judges according to the Hebrew Bible. This year our excavations aimed at clarifying as much as possible the 5-meter-wide Middle Bronze period city fortification wall and the storerooms directly abutting it.

We attempted to trace the wall through my square but found only Byzantine period remains built directly above. We dug our square all the way to bedrock, which was reached at a depth over 3 meters below the surface. In doing so we were able to observe channeling in the bedrock, a sign of ancient quarrying in the Bronze Age. In addition to this, we uncovered a trove of artifacts including sling stones, pottery, flint tools, and animal bones. All of these will be used to reconstruct a history of the city in antiquity.

My square mates came from around the United States, as well as from Israel. In undertaking the task of excavating our square, we were all able to interact with people of different backgrounds in accomplishing a common goal. Our daily tasks included breaking earth with picks and axes, removing dirt and stones, sorting and cleaning pottery shards, taking various elevations around the square, and working together to remove large boulders. The best part of each day was the lunch hour, where we could exchange ideas on how each person read the various biblical texts dealing with the city in which we were working.

Without the Ganzfried Fellowship, I would not have been able to take advantage of this incredible opportunity and experience leading my own square. For this, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude.

Matthew Glassman in Tel Shiloh
Class of 2018, MA student, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

Abigail Smith in My Loi, Vietnam
Class of 2018, Master of Environmental Management Candidate, Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies

My work this summer is focused on a Climate-Smart Agriculture project led by the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) in Vietnam. As the planet warms and global population continues to grow, and demand for food increases, it is increasingly urgent to devise solutions that achieve sustainable nutritional and ecological security. On the farm level, these overlapping goals necessitate agricultural ecosystems with high levels of biological productivity to maximize ecological interactions and niche, as well as resource use efficiency to minimize artificial or external inputs into the agricultural system.

Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) denotes a set of practices developed to increase both productivity and resiliency in the face of a changing climate. Practices are developed in partnership with local farmers based on their perceived priorities and needs, and are designed to synergistically address food security, climate change adaptation and mitigation. CSA methods regard the farm and landscape holistically with the goal of facilitating short- and long-term ecosystem health through sustainable management of soil and water resources.

I spent this week in My Loi, Vietnam, learning from farmers about the various strategies they are implementing. My Loi is a Climate-Smart Village, meaning that it was identified as the site for development and testing of technologically appropriate interventions, innovations, and policies which are focused on sustainability as well as social and economic empowerment.

With the support of research scientists from ICRAF, farmers in My Loi test various approaches to determine the impact on yields, resilience to changing weather patterns, and other metrics. Some of these climate-smart practices include the creation of a community nursery to propagate adapted species, vermicomposting using crop waste and livestock manure, and beneficial intercropping combinations to maximize yield and soil fertility. These projects not only contribute to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, but also can have transformative impacts on the livelihoods of rural farmers.

The opportunity to learn about adaptive management strategies from farmers themselves is fascinating, and I’m thrilled to be able to deepen my understanding about these practices and their scalability in the coming weeks. The leadership and creativity of farmers I’ve met fills me with hope and optimism about the future confluence of food security and climate resilience. I’m very grateful to the Coca-Cola World Fund at Yale and the MacMillan Center for making this experience possible.
**Student Spotlights**

**Krisha Patel’s life-changing experience in India**

Class of 2018, Chronic Disease Epidemiology, Yale School of Public Health

This summer, I interned at Tata Memorial’s Advanced Center for Treatment, Research, and Education in Cancer (ACTREC) in Maharashtra, India. It was a life-changing experience, and I am thankful to the MacMillan Center and the Coca-Cola World Fund at Yale for supporting my professional endeavors.

Tata Memorial Center (TMC) is a leading grant-in-aid research institution funded by the Department of Atomic Energy of the Government of India. Tata Memorial Center’s core mission is to provide comprehensive cancer care to all through their motto of excellence in service, education, and research.

The internship was an enriching opportunity to be trained in many areas of cancer epidemiology. It included a four-day field visit to Ratnagiri district, a rural area of Maharashtra, where I observed the implementation of an oral cancer screening program in a resource-limited setting.

The most rewarding aspect of this internship was learning about the incredible investment the Tata Trusts places in improving the lives of South Asians. TMC is comprised of the most dedicated healthcare professionals who work hard in providing accessible healthcare to South Asians. My internship highlighted the positive impact of TMC on urban and rural communities across India.

The training began with understanding the importance of cancer registration, which is a systematic collection of cancer data from populations. Cancer registries must exist to establish appropriate cancer control and prevention programs in communities. TMC is actively involved in creating cancer registries across India. Currently, TMC has established nine cancer registries across India.

TMC has been conducting an oral cancer screening program in Ratnagiri district, Maharashtra, since 2010. The objective of the program is to determine if oral cancer screening performed by visual inspection reduces oral cancer mortality and all-cause mortality in Ratnagiri district. Ratnagiri’s population is composed of agricultural workers who practice a high rate of tobacco chewing. The largest cancer burden in Ratnagiri district is oral cancer due to this lifestyle factor. The program is in its second phase; in the first phase 53,000 people were screened.

For four days, I was immersed in understanding the health system of Ratnagiri, and the challenges public health professionals face when implementing a health intervention in a resource-limited setting. The field experience included visits to a health education program held in a government school, oral cancer screenings held in the community center of a village, a rural primary health care center, a rural hospital, a rural maternal and child health daycare center, and the recruitment of control group participants in a village.

Overall, this internship provided extensive training in understanding India’s health system, with a focus on cancer epidemiology and methods. It incorporated an in-depth understanding of how TMC establishes cancer registries and cancer prevention and control programs on varying Indian terrains, and how it evaluates its performance to ensure quality care is offered to the diverse communities it serves. Without the financial support from the Coca-Cola World Fund at Yale, I would not have been exposed to the impactful work Tata Memorial Center has on the lives of individuals affected by cancer across South Asia.

**Jola Pach’s summer abroad shadowing physicians in Ecuador and Argentina**

Class of 2018 Molecular, Cellular, Developmental Biology major

I had dreamed of traveling to South America since I had first started learning Spanish in high school, and getting to spend the summer months in Ecuador and Argentina was beyond my expectations in every way. Thanks to the Tristan Perfforh Prize I received from the MacMillan Center, I was able to participate in two different programs through the Child Family Health International organization (CFHI): Andean Health—Patient Care from Hospitals to Community Clinics and Hospital Medicine in Latin America. CFHI is a nonprofit that provides individuals with the opportunity to learn about global health. Its trainees are immersed within a country’s existing health and social service systems, and they work alongside local healthcare staff and community members. CFHI taught me first-hand about the challenges and potential solutions to address global health issues. It helped youth (like me) to become partners in achieving health equity and social justice around the globe, while empowering local communities to take charge of their own health narrative.

Through CFHI, I got to work in one of the areas where I felt I could make the most impact. I observed many different specialties, including emergency medicine, hematology, pediatrics, and dermatology. In large city hospitals, I could have hoped for—though not that it was anything like what I could have expected. Ecuador’s unbelievably high altitude had us winded for a significant part of our time there, but even so, it was the incredible chance to share my day-to-day experiences with me. They encouraged me to ask countless questions, which I definitely did—and by doing so, I learned so much about healthcare and immensely expanded my Spanish vocabulary. Their help, I also got to take patients’ health histories, participate in physical examinations, and analyze exam results.

In addition to shadowing and the Spanish language classes offered through CFHI, I explored Ecuador and Argentina. I observed medical practices similar to what I might see in the US, and in a small community clinic I got a remarkable opportunity to observe indigenous medicine. The doctors I got to work with were fantastic—I was touched by how much they cared about their patients, and by how excited they were to share their day-to-day experiences with me. They encouraged me to ask endless questions, which I definitely did—and by doing so, I learned more than I ever expected. Ecuador’s unbelievably high altitude had us winded for a significant part of our time there, but even so, it was the incredible chance to share my day-to-day experiences with me. They encouraged me to ask countless questions, which I definitely did—and by doing so, I learned much about healthcare and immensely expanded my Spanish vocabulary. Their help, I also got to take patients’ health histories, participate in physical examinations, and analyze exam results.

In addition to shadowing and the Spanish language classes offered through CFHI, I explored Ecuador and Argentina. I observed medical practices similar to what I might see in the US, and in a small community clinic I got a remarkable opportunity to observe indigenous medicine. The doctors I got to work with were fantastic—I was touched by how much they cared about their patients, and by how excited they were to share their day-to-day experiences with me. They encouraged me to ask endless questions, which I definitely did—and by doing so, I learned more than I ever expected.
Academic Degree Programs

Undergraduate Majors

AFRICAN STUDIES
One student graduated.

EAST ASIAN STUDIES
Thirty-seven students expressed interest in the major, with 26 officially enrolled; nine seniors graduated.

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES
There were 12 declared majors, five of whom graduated in 2017.

MODERN MIDDLE EAST STUDIES
Five students graduated.

RUSSIAN & EASTERN EUROPEAN STUDIES
The major is administered by the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. Eight students were enrolled; three graduated.

SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES (SECOND MAJOR)
One graduated, three declared seniors for 2017-18, and three students who intend to declare South Asian Studies as a second major.

Master’s Degree Programs

AFRICAN STUDIES
Five students were enrolled: three first-year students and two second-year students.

EAST ASIAN STUDIES
Of the 17 enrolled, 13 graduated; four will be returning to complete the second year of the two-year track.

EUROPEAN & RUSSIAN STUDIES
Of the 21 students, eight students graduated; two concentrated on Russia and Eastern Europe, six on Western Europe.

Language

The MacMillan Center’s councils regularly teach all levels of several foreign languages, including Hindi, Indonesian, modern Greek, Sanskrit, Swahili, Urdu, Vietnamese, Yoruba, and Zulu. It also collaborates with the Center for Language Study (CLS) in supporting Directed Independent Language Study (DILS) of more than another 60 languages for undergraduate, graduate, and professional school students. Additionally, regional councils and language faculty participate actively in the Cornell, Columbia, and Yale shared course initiative led by CLS, using distance-learning technology to send Dutch, Modern Greek, Yoruba, and Zulu, and to receive Bengali, Romanian, and Tamil.

Here are some of the 2016–17 language highlights for each area:

AFRICAN LANGUAGES
The Council on African Studies had a total of 170 students enrolled in Swahili, Yoruba, and Zulu. A Yale Africa Language Initiative continued to be developed, using a model that will respond to the challenge of cost-effectively offering instruction in a wider range of African languages to students in multiple locations.

EAST ASIAN LANGUAGES
The Council on East Asian Studies had 21 language instructors. In Chinese, there were 501 students; Japanese, 192 students; and Korean, 109 students. Through DILS, the Council offered Cantonese, Mongolian, Uyghur, and literary Cantonese.

EUROPEAN LANGUAGES
The European Studies Council continued working with CLS on distance learning courses in Hungarian, Romanian, Serbo-Croatian, Ukrainian, and Dutch, to provide LCTLS, which were especially important for our FLAS fellows. It supported 10 Directed Independent Language Study (DILS) courses in Armenian, Belarussian, Dutch, Georgian, and Ladino.

LATIN AMERICAN LANGUAGES
The Council on Latin American and Iberian Studies sponsored an intensive Nahuatl language course in the summer and continued its support of language teaching in Spanish, Portuguese, Nahuatl, and Quechua.

MIDDLE EASTERN LANGUAGES
The Council on Middle East Studies has 10 language instructors. In Arabic there were 266 students; in Modern and Biblical Hebrew, 110; in Persian, 30; and in Modern and Ottoman Turkish, 44. Through DILS, CMES offered Levantine and Egyptian Arabic as well as Kurmanji.

SOUTH ASIAN LANGUAGES
Language offerings have grown through the Shared Courses Initiative with Cornell and Columbia Universities. South Asian Studies Council has actively participated in this Initiative, including in its governance. A number of languages were offered through this program—Bengali, Sinhala, Classical Tibetan, Punjabi and Tamil. The Council also worked this past year to facilitate the introduction of Modern Tibetan, Urdu, and Punjabi to the repertoire of languages made accessible via this initiative. This is in addition to the thriving Hindi program and steady Sanskrit program. Support for the Directed Independent Language Studies (DILS) Program has increased, given the level of student interest in learning less commonly taught languages for research purposes. The Council supported eight DILS programs.

SOUTHEAST ASIAN LANGUAGES
Indonesian language enrollments continued to experience growth in numbers. There were 104 students in fall; 86 in spring. For Vietnamese, there were 9 in fall and 16 in spring. The Council also continued to subsidize language immersion tables for Vietnamese and Indonesian, along with providing support for Yale’s Directed Independent Language Study (DILS) program for Southeast Asian languages not currently taught at Yale.
Leadership in corporate social responsibility requires engagement and legitimacy

Corporations play an increasingly important role in society as actors who influence and govern the well-being of citizens, workers, and consumers. In today’s globalized world, then, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is of immense importance for society and for business—consider, for instance, taxation, working conditions, and environmental issues. Corporate social responsibility and leadership was the focus of a seminar the Fox International Fellowship hosted on December 5. The keynote speaker Jeremy Moon, Velux Professor of Corporate Sustainability at Copenhagen Business School, conceptualized and addressed the distinctive leadership challenges related to CSR.

Strong environmental leadership key to fighting climate change

Fighting climate change is one of the biggest challenges of our time. In order to reach a global consensus on climate action, environmental leaders have been actively involved in international negotiations, but often without much success. The Paris Agreement, which was adopted in December 2015, is positioned to turn the tide. The Agreement was entered into force in November 2016 and commits state parties to keeping the global average temperature increase to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursuing efforts to further limit the increase to 1.5°C. Even with this consensus, the Paris Agreement is neither perfect nor sufficient. Strong environmental leadership will be required in order to successfully fight climate change. The importance of strong environmental leadership was the focus of a seminar hosted by the Fox International Fellowship on October 5, 2016. The two keynote speakers—Julia Marton-Lefevre, former Director-General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and Dan Estry, Hillhouse Professor of Environmental Law and Policy at Yale—stressed that the key to success is going to be adequately preparing environmental leaders.

Competitive Cities: A Local Solution to the Global Lack of Jobs and Growth

The Fox International Fellowship at the MacMillan Center sponsored a panel discussion on March 6 based on a World Bank report titled, “Competitive Cities: A Local Solution to the Global Lack of Jobs and Growth.” Megha Mukim, a 2006-07 Fox Fellow and an analyst at the World Bank, co-authored the report. She opened the discussion with a presentation on the major findings of the report. In addition to Mukim, the panel included Jeffrey Sonnenfeld, Senior Associate Dean for Leadership Studies & Lester Crown Professor in the Practice of Management (Yale University), and Professor Douglas Rae, the Richard S. Ely Professor in the School of Management (Yale University). Joanne Tan, a current Fox Fellow from the Department of Economics at Sciences-Po Paris, moderated the panel.

Fox International Fellowship

The Fox International Fellowship is a graduate student exchange program between Yale and 19 world-renowned partner universities in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, the Middle East, and the Americas. Its purpose is to enhance "mutual understanding" between the United States and the home countries of its partner institutions in order to contribute to productive knowledge and dialogue around complex global issues. Initiated at the end of the Cold War, the focus on peace and conflict in general, and U.S./Soviet interaction in particular, has expanded to include a host of twenty-first century challenges including prosperity and development, poverty alleviation, global economic and financial integration, environmental degradation, resource stewardship, and human rights.

One of the highlights of the 2016-17 year was the Fox Fellows Reunion that took place January 5-8 in New Delhi, India. The reunion included alumni programming, an international conference and many social and cultural events. There were 120 guests in attendance, including Fox alumni, current fellows, the Fox family, administration from the MacMillan Center, Yale alumni, current Yale students in India, Global Fellows, and administration from partner universities. The reunion included a conference on BRICS countries, with presentations on BRICS leadership as it relates to development, the environment, ideology and psychology.
The MacMillan Report is an Internet show featuring Yale faculty in international and area studies and their research, as well as visiting scholars and dignitaries, in a one-on-one interview format. Webisodes can be viewed at macmillanreport.yale.edu. In its ninth year, 37 interviews aired from October 2016 to May 2017:

“Money Talks: Explaining How Money Really Works”
GUEST: Frederick Wherry, Professor of Sociology
EPISODE: May 24, 2017

“Being Mizo: Identity and Belonging in Northeast India”
GUEST: Joy Pachau, Professor, Centre for Historical Studies, JNU/New Delhi
EPISODE: May 17, 2017

“Normative Power Japan: Settling for Peace in the Asia-Pacific”
GUEST: André Asplund, Japan Foundation’s Center for Global Partnership Postdoctoral Associate
EPISODE: May 10, 2017

“Breaking the Hunger Cycle in Bangladesh”
GUEST: Mushfiq Mobarak, Professor of Economics
EPISODE: May 3, 2017

“Russian Realisms: Literature and Painting, 1840-1890”
GUEST: Molly Brunson, Associate Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures
EPISODE: April 26, 2017

“Ganges Water Machine: Designing New India’s Ancient River”
GUEST: Anthony Acciavatti, Agrarian Studies Program Fellow
EPISODE: April 19, 2017

“Zionist Women in Interwar Poland”
GUEST: Jolanta Mickutė, Joseph P. Katzick Visiting Assistant Professor in Baltic Studies
EPISODE: April 12, 2017

“The Development of Forestry in Early Modern China”
GUEST: Ian Miller, Agrarian Studies Program Fellow
EPISODE: April 5, 2017

“Innovative Student Work in Africa”
GUEST: Bo Hopkins, Lecturer, MacMillan Center
EPISODE: March 29, 2017

“Polarization and the Subversion of Democracy in Latin America”
GUEST: Milan Svobík, Associate Professor of Political Science
EPISODE: March 8, 2017

“State of Rebellion: Violence and Intervention in the Central African Republic”
GUEST: Louise Lombard, Assistant Professor of Anthropology
EPISODE: March 1, 2017

“Nutrition, Public Health, and Filoxénia in Greece”
GUEST: Tassos Kyriakides, Associate Research Scientist, Yale School of Public Health
EPISODE: February 22, 2017

“Prehistoric Projectile Weapons in Kenya”
GUEST: Veronica Waweru, Visiting Scholar, Council on African Studies
EPISODE: February 15, 2017

“Preserving the White Man’s Republic: The Democratic Party and the Transformation of American Conservatism, 1847-1860”
GUEST: Joshua Lynn, Visiting Fellow, Center for the Study of Representative Institutions
EPISODE: February 8, 2017

“Luxury and Rubble: Civility and Dispossession in the New Saigon”
GUEST: Erik Harms, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Southeast Asia Studies
EPISODE: February 1, 2017

GUEST: Inderpal Grewal, Professor of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
EPISODE: January 24, 2017

“Mobilizing under Uncertainty”
GUEST: Anastasia Shesterinina, Visiting Fellow, Program on Order, Conflict, and Violence
EPISODE: January 18, 2017

“A Program Designed to Raise Poor Households Out of Extreme Poverty”
GUEST: Dean Karlan, Professor of Economics
EPISODE: December 14, 2016

“American Covenant: A History of Civil Religion from the Puritans to the Present”
GUEST: Philip Gorski, Professor of Sociology
EPISODE: December 7, 2016

“The UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Regard to Child Rights”
GUEST: Dr. Nicholas Alipui, Senior Fellow, African Studies and Global Health
EPISODE: November 30, 2016

“The Delhi University Photocopy Case”
GUEST: Lawrence Liang, Visiting Fellow
EPISODE: November 9, 2016

“Power and Territoriality: India’s Imagination of South Asia”
GUEST: Shibasis Chatterjee, Fulbright-Nehru Visiting Professor
EPISODE: November 2, 2016

“Modernity and Its Discontents: Making and Unmaking the Bourgeois from Machiavelli to Bellow”
GUEST: Steven B. Smith, Professor of Political Science
EPISODE: October 26, 2016

“Between Monopoly and Free Trade: The English East India Company, 1660-1757”
GUEST: Emily Erikson, Associate Professor of Sociology
EPISODE: October 19, 2016

“Beyond Jihad”
GUEST: Lamin Sanneh, D. Willis James Professor of Missions and World Christianity
EPISODE: October 12, 2016

“The 12-year War in Colombia and the Hope for Peace”
GUEST: Ana María Ibáñez, Rice Visiting Professor and Senior Fellow at the MacMillan Center
EPISODE: October 5, 2016
The MacMillan Center publishes YaleGlobal Online (YG), an online magazine that has explored globalization and the connections of our world, showcasing two original articles each week, many from Yale-affiliated authors. This publication takes both a holistic and historic approach in analyzing globalization as touching all aspects of life rather than viewing the topic solely as a recent and mostly economic phenomenon.

YG publishes 100 original articles and 500 news items each year analyzing globalization’s trends in the economy, the environment, politics, labor, security and terrorism, science and technology, society and culture. More than 390,000 unique users from more than 100 countries visited during 2016–2017: 35 percent from the United States and another 35 percent are from India, United Kingdom, Canada, Malaysia, Australia, Thailand, Philippines, Singapore, France and China combined.

About 30 percent of original articles during 2016–17 were from Yale-affiliated authors including faculty, World Fellows, Fox International Fellows, staff, students, and alumni; other authors include former ambassadors, economists, journalists, demographers and academics prominent in their fields. Original YG articles are distributed for reprinting with attribution to more than 40 partner newspapers, magazines and blogs around the globe, which increases readership exponentially.