

Peace Studies Communiqué

Winter 2016

Two Professors Win Peace Studies Summer Research Grants

Mamadou Badiane, professor of Spanish and a member of the Peace Studies Faculty Committee, was awarded a 2016 summer research grant from the Peace Studies Program. From May 17 to May 29, Badiane was in the Cameroon to do research on the activities of the group Boko Haram.

Badiane travelled to get the perspectives of people outside the capital, Yaounde. He interviewed Cheikhou Oumarou Malam, head of the National Council of Muslims in Cameroon, and Father Sylvestre Olivier of the Catholic Church. These two religious leaders are members of the Cameroonian Association for Interreligious Dialogue (ACADIR), composed of leaders of different religious groups who meet regularly to talk about religion in their country. Both of these leaders saw Boko Haram not as a religious group, but as a group of thugs and criminals.

Colonel Badjeck, spokesperson for the military, and Colonel Ambroise Emmanuel, director of Military Health Services, agreed that Boko Haram is best understood not as a religious group. Badiane also met with Monseigneur Sosthene Bayemi, head of the Catholic Church in Yaounde, who provided further historical background on the group.

Badiane's last interview was with Guibai Gatama, a well-re-



Members of ACADIR in the Cameroon. From left: Father Sylvestre Olivier, Professor Badiane, and Imam Cheikhou Oumarou Malam.



Professor Joanna Hearne with actress Lily Gladstone (Blackfeet).

spected journalist who specializes in studying Boko Haram. Gatama has a deep knowledge of the conflict in northern Cameroon, and he is the editor-in-chief of *L'oeil du Sabel*, a twice-weekly newspaper. Gatama elaborated on the social and economic problems many young people face in the north, problems that cause unemployed, uneducated young men and women to be easily recruited by Boko Haram.

Professor Badiane's preliminary research has led him to apply to the MU Research Council for additional funding supporting a return visit to the Cameroon.

Professor Joanna Hearne, of the Department of English, was awarded a summer 2016 research grant, funded by the Peace Studies Program, for her project "Interviews in Digital Indigenous Studies."

This past summer, Hearne conducted new interviews with game designer and digital media artist Elizabeth La Pensee (Anishinaabe Nation) and with actress Lily Gladstone (Blackfeet) about her role as Marlene in the 2013 feature film *Winter in the Blood* (adapted from a novel by Blackfeet author James Welch). Gladstone had just come from working with young filmmakers at the Standing Rock Sioux protest camp, and she spoke

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Peace Makers in Columbia, MO

An interview with Steve Jacobs, Catholic Worker St. Francis House

By Aaron Arredondo

Can you share your experience participating in civil disobedience protests at School of the Americas in Fort Benning, Georgia?

I first heard about it in the early 90s. Father Roy Bourgeois, who was a Maryknoll priest, started the SOA Watch movement, and he moved down there just outside the base of Fort Benning because he found out that the U.S. Army was starting a combat training school for the professional soldier class all throughout Latin America. And they would invite all these soldiers up and train them in low-intensity warfare, and low-intensity warfare is a type of warfare that used to eliminate the kinds of people that would change the status quo in other countries. They would teach the soldiers to use surveillance on the progressive people that were pushing for social change in Latin America.

Generally, in your view, how does active involvement in civil disobedience protests make peaceful social change happen?

First thing is the action. Speaking truth to power. And you try to do that in a symbolic way that says, “No,



Steve Jacobs at St. Francis House, Columbia, Missouri. Photo by Aaron Arrendondo

I disagree,” when everybody else is agreeing that the United States government has the right to do something, you know, like prosecute a war that nobody gets to vote on. So when you come back after your arrest, they’ll set a trial date and then the next of that is that you talk to people in your own town and they wonder why you were arrested, why you felt so strongly enough about that to get arrested. So you explain the issue over to new people who are wondering why you were arrested. And, you know, you do interviews for newspapers and try to get the issue

out into the public consciousness because most people have no idea that the United States is training human rights abusers. You have to get the word out, somehow. If you’re willing to use nonviolence, maybe sacrifice a little of your time, to go

to jail for a purpose, then I think it adds a little moral equity into the story.

Do you have any other perspectives for how protesting for a political cause at the local level advances peace-building efforts in the surrounding community?

In any religious tradition there always seems to be a small group of activists, people that are promoting peaceful aspects of their own religious beliefs. We’ve been able to speak about and understand, and have discussions with, people from other denominations about social justice issues.

It’s easy to then generate support because you have a common language, and you can see similarities between our culture and their culture. Most religions have social justice teachings imbedded in them. You know, the golden rule to treat others as you want to be treated is imbedded in teachings of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—even in Buddhism and Hinduism. So you start there—that you have a commonality with every person. So as long as you can make those connections, you can start from there and understand each other much better.

Peaceful Integration of Latina/o Newcomers

Aaron Arredondo was the peace studies research assistant in summer 2016. He is a doctoral student in sociology and a Cambio Center Fellow. He presented a paper at the 15th annual Cambio de Colores Conference on June 8–10, 2016, in Columbia, Missouri. The confer-

ence theme, *Latinos in the Heartland: Building Bridges, Dialogue, and Opportunity*, fostered a conversation premised around inclusive peaceful social change at the local level.

Arredondo’s paper demonstrated how a prominent community or-

ganization in northwest Arkansas systematically restricted Latina/o involvement. Nevertheless, Arredondo argues, “Latina/os continue to resist the institutionalized mechanisms that [restrict] access space.”

Insights on Nonviolent Civil Disobedience

In response to the student protests of the past year, the Peace Studies Program has sought to provide opportunities for discussion and learning geared toward peaceful change. On April 7, peace studies brought to MU Jamila Raqib, the executive director of the Einstein Institution, founded by Gene Sharp. The Einstein Institution advises groups about nonviolent action around the world, including in the countries of Brazil, Japan, Norway, and Sweden. Raqib gave a talk “Nonviolent Action as a Means for Social Empowerment,” which was followed by comments about the situation at MU by Curtis Edwards, who teaches a peace studies course on nonviolence in democracy movements; and by Associate Professor Stephanie Shonekan, chair of the MU Department of Black Studies.

The Peace Studies Program continues to address the timely, yet enduring, issues of racial conflict and nonviolent change. This fall,



Jamila Raqib, of the Einstein Institution, Boston.

peace studies Director Clarence Lo is teaching a course on social movements and conflicts, focusing on the history of the black student movement, the black power and black consciousness movements, occupy Wall Street, and the women’s movement around the world. In spring 2017, the Peace Studies Program will sponsor the visit

of Princeton University professor Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, who will speak Feb. 8, 2017, in Ellis Library, Room 114A, as part of Black History Month. Taylor is the author of *From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation*.



Aaron Arredondo at the June 2016 Cambio de Colores Conference.

Research Grants

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eloquently about the relationship between acting and activism and about her commitment to social change through theater, film, and performance. Hearne also interviewed the film’s directors, Alex and Andrew Smith; participated in a roundtable discussion of Indigenous film aesthetics; and spent time in a traffic jam caused by buffalo wandering along a narrow highway.

Hearne’s research grant also supported Dorothy Atuhura—a Fulbright Scholar completing her doctorate in the English department—transcribing interviews with filmmakers Dustinn Craig (Apache), Carol Geddes (Tutchone), and Marcella Ernest (Anishinaabe), as

well as geography scholar Chie Sakakibara.

The grant is leading to several publications, including Hearne’s edited special issue of *Studies in American Indian Literatures*, which includes her introduction, “Native to the Device: Notes on Digital Indigenous Studies” (forthcoming May 2017). Hearne is also working together with digital storytelling Professor Joseph Erb (Cherokee) and geography Professor Mark Palmer (Kiowa) on an article for a special issue of *Boundary 2*, titled “Digital Indigenous Studies: Theory and Community.”

2017 Summer Online Courses in Peace Studies

by Clarence Lo, Peace Studies Program Director



From top: Jesse Van Gerven, Joshua Olsberg, Jamil Al Wekhian, Johann Bruhn, and Isais Smith (at right, shown with his father, Frederic Smith), will teach summer 2017 online classes.

MU undergraduates have big plans for the summer: jobs, internships, travel, getting back in touch with old friends from high school, that generally take them away from Columbia, Missouri. But our undergrads also have courses to take and requirements to fulfill. Summer online courses are a win-win—courses for full MU credit, taken on your device, anywhere in the world that has internet. It is now possible to complete the MU peace studies minor completely online.

To meet student demand, peace studies in 2017 will add new courses to its summer online offerings. Six online courses were already offered in 2016. Our introductory course (Peace Studies 1050) is taught by Jesse Van Gerven, MA '07, PhD '14 sociology, who taught this course face to face three semesters at MU. Van Gerven is now at Butler University and teaches the summer online version of 1050, enriching it with his research on the indigenous communities that oppose the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository and the social movements that oppose nuclear power at the local, national, and international level.

U.S. recognition of Cuba has sparked student interest in Joshua Olsberg's course on Race, Democracy, and Violence in Cuba and Haiti. Olsberg, PhD '14 sociology, has conducted extensive fieldwork and interviews in Cuba and in Cuban-American communities in the U.S.

Jamil Al Wekhian teaches International Conflict Resolution and Group Reconciliation, a new course launched in summer 2016. In the course, Al Wekhian applies his expertise about the Middle East, gained from having attained a bachelor's degree from the University of Jordan, Amman.

Daria Kerridge's course on factory farms, The CAFO Discourse, uses art, ethics, and deep ecology and feminist philosophies to gain a perspective on factory farms and the implications for humanistic sensibilities about stewardship of the earth.

Steve Starr's course Nuclear Weapons: Environmental, Health, and So-

cial Effects draws upon his research and extensive publications in the top journals in his field, such as *The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*. Starr has done pioneering work writing explanatory articles and establishing an interactive website, to make highly technical information about the effects of radiation on humans accessible to a lay audience. A core value of the MU Peace Studies Program is that public knowledge is essential to informed decision making and conflict resolution in public policy, and Starr has focused on the dissemination and application of knowledge in the biomedical and physical sciences.

Johann Bruhn, with George Laur of MU Extension and the Citizens' Climate Lobby, and Carolyn Amparan of the Sierra Club, developed the summer 2016 online course Global Warming, Climate Change, Catastrophic Climate Destabilization to address this all-important issue. A research professor emeritus in forestry, Bruhn has been a keen observer of how science and the public understanding of science drives discussions and policies on climate change. In his course, which has no prerequisites, Bruhn has been careful to sequence the reading materials so as to facilitate the eventual understanding and mastery of key peer-reviewed scientific journal articles. He will offer new materials to students highlighting how scientists promote the public understanding of their work and reflect upon the role of science in policy debates, significant issues for courses at the undergraduate and the graduate level.

Director Clarence Lo and doctoral candidate David Criger will be developing a new course, Peace Studies 2288: Conspiracies, Popular Imagination, Evidence, for online delivery in summer 2017. The course will focus on differing views of what counts for decisive evidence in the heated debates about spectacular elite conspiracies. Lo and graduate instructor Isais Smith are planning another summer online course, Sports, Protest Movements, and Conflict Resolution.

Out Through the Columns & into the World: Sasha Gubina

Story and photo by Sarah Sabatke

Sasha Gubina, a spring 2016 graduate of MU, has lined up her first job out of college at the Department of Defense in Colorado. Gubina, an international studies and Russian studies major, moved to Missouri from Ukraine at the age of 12.

Gubina was a student in Peace Studies 3230H: Terrorism and Conflict Resolution. She chose the course because she wanted to challenge herself and because it sounded relevant to her interest in international relations. She excelled in the class and was recognized by Professor Emeritus Paul Wallace.

"It's awesome. It's one of the best classes I've taken here," says Gubina. "For anybody who's interested in learning more about terrorism or the peaceful means to countering vio-



Spring 2016 MU graduate Sasha Gubina.

lence...there are a lot of topics that [Professor Paul Wallace] covered that I never even thought of, that could tie into conflict resolution or terrorism."

Gubina studied abroad twice during her college career. She spent the summer after her freshman year studying in St. Petersburg, Russia, which counted toward her Russian

studies major. She then took two elementary Arabic courses her sophomore year and won the Boren National Security Scholarship. Gubina spent her third academic year of college in Jordan and took both Arabic and U.S. foreign policy courses.

After working with the Department of Defense in Colorado, Gubina hopes to attend graduate school and then work with a development agency.

"When I was in Jordan, I saw a lot of the Syrian refugees there, especially the children, and a lot of them don't get to go to school like the Jordanian kids. Even if they do, they're kind of the outcasts in the group," says Gubina.

"I'd like to work on that and see how you can improve education for those refugee populations."

The Pressing Issues of Violence



English Professor Karen Piper discusses violence against women in the January 2016 MU forum on terrorism and violence.

MU Professors Paul Wallace, Karen Piper, and Larry Brown gave presentations January 26 this year at a panel discussion, *ISIS, Domestic Terrorism, and Gun Violence: The Problems and What Should Be Done*. The panel took place soon after the San Bernardino, California, shootings, the armed occupation of the Oregon wildlife refuge, and instances of violence against women in Germany.

Paul Wallace, professor emeritus of political science, provided the latest information about the spread of ISIS and its use of violent tactics. Larry Brown, assistant professor emeritus of geography, spoke about Christian identity movements and the theological and ideological roots of their beliefs justifying violence. Professor Karen Piper analyzed the interplay of gender, violence, and war. Students and others in the Columbia community left with a better understanding of the underlying issues of gun violence and the possibilities of reducing violence.

The ALP Interviews Robin Remington

by Clarence Lo, Director of the Peace Studies Program, and Paul Wallace, Professor Emeritus, Political Science

Professor Emerita Robin Remington of the MU Department of Political Science is being interviewed by the Friends of Peace Studies' Activist Legacy Project. In the interview, Remington recounts that long before she was born, her grandmother had to leave her school teacher position in Massachusetts when she married. Grandmother continued to live with the family when they moved to Texas when Robin was eight years old, providing her with a sharp contrast of regional cultures that awakened her sense of social justice. In racially segregated Texas, she saw her mother objecting to, but paying, a poll tax in order to vote. Grandmother also opposed segregation, and Remington had an African-American girl friend. Unlike her twin brother, Remington was not allowed to ride a bicycle around town to make extra money.

Remington did her undergraduate studies at Southwestern State University at San Marcos, in the 1950s. In the summer, she worked for a local newspaper in Galveston whose editor told her that her reporting should not interfere with the paper's relationship with the police department and powerful individuals in the community. She received another lesson in established institutions, speaking the truth, and social justice when a suspicious drowning occurred, and she was discouraged from pursuing the subject.

Remington went on to earn her doctorate in political science at the University of Indiana Bloomington, where she was one of two women in the department's graduate program. She also accepted an invitation to join the new Slavic and East European program. Her dissertation explored how the Warsaw Pact—the Soviet Union's counterpart to NATO—was implemented differently among the coun-

out to be a female, she was refused admittance, but she pointed out that her male colleagues were seated and that reporters from a Boston TV station accompanied her. This broke the gender barrier.

Remington turned down a tenured position at the University of Chicago after the department chair told her that she would be paid less than a man taking the same job. Robin told



From left, Professor Emerita Robin Remington at the January 2016 presentation on violence with Professor Emeritus David Leuthold, and Friends of Peace Studies member Ellen Atkins.

tries of Eastern Europe. Her research earned financial support for her to join the Russian Research Center at Harvard University.

After finishing her dissertation, Remington became an editor with the Center for International Studies at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

While at MIT, she integrated Locke-Ober Restaurant in Boston. She made a reservation at the male-only restaurant under her name, Dr. Robin Remington. When Remington turned

the chair that she would have accepted the position if he hadn't been so blunt about the discrimination. She taught at Yale and Wellesley before joining MU's political science department in 1975.

Additional interview sessions are planned to cover Remington's life and work. The interviews are being conducted by Chris Robinson, co-chair of the Friends of Peace Studies, and Professor Remington's husband, Paul Wallace, professor emeritus of political science.



Martin Fernández, the national coordinator of the Movement for Dignity and Justice (MADJ), spoke on Oct. 11, 2016, about Justice for Berta and Beyond: The Fight against Impunity and Corruption in Honduras. MADJ seeks to expose and combat state violence and corruption while organizing communities around the principles of self-determination.

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The department appreciates hearing from alumni and friends. Send announcements or milestones to the address listed above.

Justin Huang Peace Scholars: Sarah Sabatke and Mallory Brown



Justin Huang Peace Scholar/
Media Intern Sarah Sabatke

Sarah Sabatke has been named a Justin Huang Peace Scholar and media intern for the 2016–17 academic year.

Sabatke is a junior majoring in journalism with an emphasis in convergence photojournalism and minoring in peace studies. She has written for *The Huffington Post* and last spring was a collegiate correspondent for *USA Today*. She is also reporting for

the MU Division of Student Affairs.

Sabatke will work with peace studies to publicize events and courses. She will also work with the department's social media accounts and on various multimedia projects, including the Activist Legacy Project.



Mallory Brown is an Honors College senior studying English and strategic communications, with minors in peace studies and art history. This past summer she worked at an international NGO, the European Youth Forum, as a communications intern in Brussels, Belgium.

Brown is passionate about environmentalism, social justice, and peace movements, and is involved in organizations such as Diversity Peer Educators and Mid-Missouri Peaceworks.



Justin Huang Peace Scholar/
Media Intern Mallory Brown

After she finishes her undergraduate studies, she wants to work as a communications director for an environmental justice organization.