

Peace Studies Communique

Winter 2017–18

Experiencing India's Truths

By Karen Piper, Professor of English

Thanks to generous funding from the Peace Studies Program, my graduate student, Kavita Pillai, and I were able to travel to India in summer 2017 to research our respective projects: climate-change adaptation and the rise of the Hindu Right. I wrote an article, published in *Brink News*, based on our trip, and I also have a longer article forthcoming in the *Routledge Climate Justice Handbook*. Pillai is writing her dissertation on the rise of the Hindu Right in India and its impacts on gender roles.

We travelled to Vandana Shiva's farm (called Earth University) to look at its progress in creating climate change—resilient crops, empowering rural women, and mitigating the farmer-suicide epidemic that has killed 300,000 since 1995. Earth University operates a “seed bank,” a collective indigenous seed-sharing system that operates free of charge for farmers; it combats the high cost of pesticides, fertilizers, and seeds that has led to debt and suicides. We found that, since its inception in the 1990s, Earth University has become so popular that it has spawned 111 similar seed-sharing organizations across India and supplied 600,000 farmers.

Next, we travelled to temples in Rishikesh and Varanasi, the center of the Hindu Right. The Hindu Right—the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its militant arm,

the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)—credits its origins to the World War II Axis between Mussolini and Hitler. Today, the prime minister is a member of the BJP and previously had worked for the RSS his entire life. The BJP is pro-corporate, virulently nationalist,



Professor Piper and Kavita Pillai visiting the Earth University seed bank.

and Islamophobic. In Varanasi, we wanted to see a mosque adjacent to a Hindu temple that has become symbolic of the new aggressive form of Hinduism that the Hindu Right has vowed to tear down. Instead, we discovered that the mosque, though standing and vis-

ible from inside the temple, had essentially already been erased from the city's memory. We were not allowed to go anywhere near it, and Muslims we met were afraid to talk about it.

Finally, we visited the Sundarban region in the south, which is sinking due to climate change and is known for its hybrid Muslim–Hindu–traditional religious practices because it is on the border between Bangladesh and India. We stayed in a mud hut in the jungle to learn more about the folk traditions in this region, as featured in *The Hungry Tide*, a novel we both teach. We also learned how farmers are coping with rising sea levels.

Our last stop was New Delhi, where we met a childhood friend of Pillai who had survived the Gujarat riots of 2002 in which up to 2,000 Muslims were killed by the Hindu Right. He allowed us to interview him about his experience during the riots, as well as the frightening conditions that Muslims are facing today as they are being pushed into smaller and smaller quarters in predominantly Hindu cities.

We also visited numerous archives and museums in Delhi and Kolkata. Overall, the kind of “ground truthing” knowledge that we gained about issues we had previously only studied from afar will be an invaluable contribution to our scholarship on religious far-right movements, climate-change refugees, and adaptation strategies.

Building Indigenous Studies at MU



Andrew Thunderdog speaking on indigenous cultures.

Andrew Thunderdog, a noted speaker on indigenous and sustainable livelihoods, lectured Oct. 5, 2017, at MU on “Sustainability and Thriving: an Indigenous Perspective.” Thunderdog’s talk was co-sponsored by the MU Peace Studies Program and Protectors of Water and Land, a community in Columbia, Missouri.

Thunderdog was born in Australia and is familiar with aboriginal cultures; he worked and lived with the Anangu Pitjantjara tribe of Central Australia and has taught sustainable living skills. He is a mestizo with an ethnic background that includes Mapuche Indian from Uruguay.

He travels to many areas of the world lecturing on traditional, plant-based medicine and an accompanying broader understanding of human relationships to the Earth. At MU, he elaborated how the necessities of clean water, uncontaminated food, affordable shelter, and meaningful human relationships implies protection of natural habitats and sacred sites that support sustainable development.

The Peace Studies Program has been interested in indigenous cultures, sustainable development, and public policy alternatives for the past nine years and has supported MU initiatives in this area by obtaining grants from Mizzou Advantage and the Interdisciplinary Innovations Fund, which resulted in Associate Professors Johanna Hearne and Mark Palmer teaching a course, Peace Studies 3496, Digital Indigenous Studies, cross listed with the English and geography departments. The course covered indigenous perspectives in many genres: documentary film, community video, animation productions, GIS, video games, and social media sites. Students engaged with both scholars and artists working with new media through public lectures, classroom visits, and Skype interviews. Peace studies hopes to offer this course again in the near future.

Peace studies organized an indigenous studies focus area under the [peace studies minor program](#). These activities have contributed to the founding in fall 2017 of a new minor in Native American indigenous studies in the MU College of Arts and Science. Read more at [coas.missouri.edu/news/arts-and-science-offer-new-minor](#).



Dennis Kelley, an associate professor in the Department of Religious Studies, serves as the coordinator of the new minor in Native American indigenous studies.

Badiane Wins Faculty Research Award

In summer 2017, Mamadou Badiane, associate professor of romance languages, visited Cameroon to research and attend the meetings of the Association of Episcopal Conferences in Central Africa. The meetings, held in Yaoundé, the capital of Cameroon, was dedicated to interreligious dialogue among central African nations. For a week, Christian and Muslim leaders from central Africa met to talk

about the issue of religious extremism in the region. The meetings were very important because Boko Haram, an armed religious group in Nigeria, has killed thousands of people, displaced many more every day, raped women, and engineered food shortages in the region. Badiane’s research was funded through a Peace Studies Faculty Research Award.



Interreligious discussions in Cameroon, Africa, 2017.

McKibben Visits Campus

Author, professor, and environmentalist Bill McKibben spoke at the Missouri Theatre on “Climate Change: The Hottest Fight in the Hottest Decade” on Oct. 4, 2017. His 1989 book, *The End of Nature*, is regarded as the first book for a general audience about climate change and has appeared in 24 languages; he’s gone on to write a dozen more books. McKibben was awarded the Right Livelihood Prize in 2014. He is a founder of 350.org, spearheaded the resistance to the Keystone Pipeline, and launched the fast-growing fossil fuel–divestment movement.

The Peace Studies Program contributed to the success of the event and paid for the lecture to be livestreamed and archived at livestream.com/mizzou/billmckibben/videos/163781246.



Activist Bill McKibben speaking at the Missouri Theatre on Oct. 4.

The Peace Studies Program considers global warming a central issue for world peace and social justice. Not only does global warming accelerate food and resource scarcities and mass

migrations, it poses an imminent danger of conflict and war. The burden of bearing the effects of climate change falls squarely on less-developed nations, raising fundamental questions of economic and social justice.

In summer 2016, the Peace Studies Program offered an online course, *Global Warming, Climate Change, Catastrophic Climate Destabilization*, taught by Johann Bruhn, an MU associate research professor of forestry. In the past, the Peace Studies Director Clarence Lo and others have taught a face-to-face course, *Global Environmental Policy Conflict*.

Michael Ugarte

Scholarship and Activism on Three Continents

Many in Columbia know Professor Emeritus Michael Ugarte as a scholar at Mizzou and a local peace activist. He served as the director of the MU Peace Studies Program, has continued to help build the program over the years by teaching courses and organizing speakers and events, and has participated in many forums and campaigns in the community.

Ugarte keeps up his teaching and work for peace studies in Columbia, and at the same time, he continues his academic and political work in Spain. For years, Ugarte has exhaustively researched the Spanish Civil War; in addition, his latest book is about the immigrants who attempt to travel from Northern Africa to Spain in crowded, leaky, makeshift boats. His interests in yet a third continent, Africa, have yielded important insights about the novelists and writers in

exile from the former Spanish colony of Equatorial Guinea.

Peace studies is proud to be able to contribute to the launching of Ugarte’s newest project, on the environmental movement in Spain, focusing on the movement Greenpeace España. Ugarte intends to study the campaigns of this movement for reduced fossil-fuel use and their actions to block the construction and operation of nuclear power plants in Spain, for example in Geroña, province of Burgos, where Greenpeace activists dropped bags, balloons, and smoke generators around the plant to test its warning system. The plant failed the test. Ugarte will focus on three critical issues for Greenpeace España: the



From left, Professor Emeritus Michael Ugarte Precioso, Javier López Precioso, and Amado Giménez Precioso, co-authors of a forthcoming book on Artemio Precioso Ugarte, and editor Francisco Linares.

relation between the protests and more established politicians and mainstream media, the international links of the movement, and the relation of militant direct action to pacifism and peace more generally.

Ugarte’s uncle Artemio Precioso Ugarte (1917–2008) was one of the founders of Greenpeace España. Earlier, he studied workers’ self-

Continues on Page 7

Amalia Dache-Gerbino Studies South African Student Movements

Amalia Dache-Gerbino is an assistant professor of higher education and the Isabelle Lyda Endowed Professor in the MU Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis. From 2015 to 2017, she was a co-principal investigator on a collaborative research project on activism around Ferguson, Missouri. After the Concerned Student 1950 student-led activism at MU, she began exploring transnational connections to black student-led organizing in South Africa, specifically the Rhodes Must Fall and Fees Must Fall movements that began in Cape Town. Thanks to Peace Studies Program faculty research grants, from December 2017 to January 2018, Dache-Gerbino will begin conducting research on these movements through archival, geographic, and qualitative data collection.



Dache-Gerbino, fourth from left, is pictured with MU students, some of whom were members of the activist group Concerned Student 1950, and South African students from the University of the Western Cape, who visited Mizzou in January 2017. Dache-Gerbino led a session on Jan. 27, 2017, "South African Colleges: Student Perspectives," discussing South African student activism within the context of our own Missouri and MU activism.



Cristina Mislán

Drawing from her dissertation, Cristina Mislán will be extending her earlier work on the transnational history of U.S. black power movements. While her earlier work examined the role radio played in linking the Cuban Revolution of 1959 to the Black Power Movement of the 1960s, future research will examine a longer historical tradition in which Cuba remains a significant symbol for constructing what U.S. historians call black freedom imaginations.

Throughout the 20th century, Cuba and the Cuban Revolution of 1959 served as real and imag-

Peace Studies Supports Mislán's Research

ined symbols of racial democracy for many black Americans living in the United States. Many activists and intellectuals would eventually arrive on the "new land" to escape U.S. persecution. Black Panther member Assata Shakur was one of many who would seek refuge on the island. The history of black American migration and pilgrimages to Cuba have thus remained important for many 21st-century activists and intellectuals. When former Prime Minister Fidel Castro died in 2016, the Black Lives Matter organization wrote a public tribute to the former president. Furthermore, much of the movement's sounds are inspired by the voice of Shakur, who remains in asylum on the island.

Mislán seeks to locate a contemporary conversation about Castro's and Shakur's ongoing legacies in U.S. racial politics. This project is guided by a theoretical framework that draws from black transnationalism and black feminist politics. The historiographies on black transnationalism and black feminism are rich bodies of work that will inform how both Shakur's radical black feminist politics and Castro's race and class politics have infused #BlackLivesMatter. To explore this political and cultural discourse, the study will include digital media analysis as well as interviews.

Peace Studies Hosts Fulbright-Nehru Postdoc Bharat Rout

The MU Peace Studies Program was fortunate in spring and fall 2017 to have a distinguished postdoctoral researcher in residence. Bharat Rout won the prestigious Fulbright-Nehru Postdoctoral Research Fellowship and was fully funded during his stay at MU. Rout was co-hosted by the Peace Studies Program, the South Asian Studies Program, and the Department of Sociology.

Peace Ambassador from India

Rout earned his master's degree in political science at Hyderabad Central University, India, and his doctorate from the National University of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi. He also was a research associate at the Indian Council of So-



Bharat Rout and Professors Paul Wallace and Robin Remington discussing Rout's research paper.

cial Science Research, where he coordinated a nationwide study on the educational status of castes that face prejudice in society. His peer-reviewed publications include *Higher Education and Capability Approach: A Country study of India* (with M. Watts) (Oxford: Symposium Books 2015), and "Divergent Perspectives and Differing Logic: The Case of Affirmative Action in India," *The Educational Forum*, Vol. 76, Issue 1, (Routledge).

During his stay at MU, Rout and his wife, Rajalaxmi, attended dinners, lectures, and events sponsored by the Peace Studies Program and the sociology department, including the Population, Education, and Health Seminar Series. Rout gave a presentation at the Falling Walls Lab on Sept. 14, 2017, at the German House at the United Nations Plaza, New York City.

Researching Education & Inequality

Rout's research focuses on educational systems of nations in the South Asian region. He builds upon a paradox first examined by sociologist Gosta Esping Andersen: the welfare state is designed to promote equality; yet its very expenditures and programs award greater benefits to some rather than others, thereby creating new forms of inequality. Furthermore, social programs such as pensions and health care are intended to guarantee that vital services are provided so that citizens can escape the logic commodity markets: that one gets only what one pays for, or as one works and

is paid. Ironically, the welfare state increasingly relies on market mechanisms for service distribution.

Esping-Andersen and other researchers have compared inequality and commodification in welfare states in economically advanced nations. Rout is one of a handful of pathbreaking scholars who are devising new measures of these two key variables by processing statistics about social spending programs in less-developed



Rout presenting at the German House, UN Plaza, New York City.

nations, where issues of transparency and reliability of data abound. Rout has used his new data set to categorize nations in South Asia into groups of nations with different types of educational systems with particular causes and trajectories. He is now engaged in studying differences in educational systems at the provincial level in India, Pakistan, and other nations. By understanding how societies have evolved different educational systems affecting opportunity and later life chances, Rout contributes to a broad discussion of how equality and public provision be made conscious choices in a democratic society, rather than being negated by institutional drift or authoritarian elites.

Save the Date!

Dahr Jamil, investigative journalist on climate change and the war in Iraq, will speak on Monday, Feb. 12, 2018, at 7 p.m. in the Physics Building, Room 114.

February 12

Three New Peace Studies Courses

Peace Studies is offering two new face-to-face courses. One is offered in spring 2018 and the other will debut in fall 2018.

Peace Studies 2293

Globalization, identity, and citizenship is the focus of Peace Studies 2293, being taught in spring 2018. Professor Emeritus of History Ted Koditschek is teaching the course, which is cross listed with the Department of Geography and has writing intensive and non-writing intensive options.

Koditschek is the author of a widely acclaimed book, *Liberalism, Imperialism, and the Historical Imagination*, and has taught the social history of England and courses in historical methodology.

Below, Koditschek describes in his own words how his concerns have led him to teach this new course.

"Peace Studies/Geography 2293 was created as a response to one of the greatest paradoxes of our time: On the one hand, globalization is knitting the world ever more closely together. On the other hand, human societies have become more and more fractured over the past generation into divergent and often-conflicting groups, self-identified in terms of race, gender, nationality, religion, political affiliation, or sexual orientation."



Ted Koditschek

"My idea in putting together the course is that the two opposite sides of this paradox are actually related to one another and interdependent: It is because of the pressures, disruptions, and inequalities generated by globalization as a social, economic, and demographic process that this fracturing in terms of identity groups and identity conflicts has occurred. Our goal, then, will be to understand the relationship between these two processes that are simultaneously bringing the world together and then also driving its peoples apart.

"When I first started teaching an earlier version of this course about a decade ago, this double-edged dy-

namic was still in its infancy. Now it has reached much more dangerous levels, with potential for serious and deadly conflict, which lays upon us a third agenda: To begin thinking about how these conflicts might be eased, or even resolved, in a world where globalization is only going to continue at an ever more accelerating pace.

"Our focus here will be on the notion of 'global citizenship.' Right now, this is a purely aspirational concept that has only limited traction in culture, and very little force in international law. Our goal is to give students enough information and to stimulate debate and discussion so that they can decide for themselves whether 'global citizenship' is a meaningful concept, whether it is realistic or practical, and whether or not it would be a good thing."

Authoritarianism

Peace studies faculty met in September to plan for a team-taught course that will be offered in fall 2018. The course, *Authoritarian Societies, States, and the Prospects for Democracy*, will examine case studies of both advanced and less-developed societies around the world. The peace studies faculty in the photo below are planning in the course to pose questions as to whether the internet, mass culture, social control agencies, and racial and economic hierarchies contribute to authoritarian regimes and trends in society. The course will be open to a variety of viewpoints. Faculty will give students the concepts, knowledge, and tools to better make their own assessments and conclusions on issues of public concern.



From left, Professors Keona Ervin, Ted Koditschek, Amit Prasad, Mamadou Badaiane, and Miriam Golomb.

A

Summer 2018
Online

...watch
me take
you over

Peace Studies 2291:
Artificial Intelligence
and the
Creative Mind

A Note from the Peace Studies Director

We must not ignore the flash points for war and conflict around the world and the dangers of climate change and global inequalities. The University of Missouri Peace Studies Program is poised to make an even stronger contribution to building a sustainable and just world through its speakers, research grants, postdocs, student placements, and scholarships. Our courses, now totaling nine during the summer, and close to 20 each fall and spring, are financed out of university funds, despite budget cuts.

We greatly appreciate all donations we receive, which indicate to possible new funders the breadth of our support among alumni and friends. Please consider donating \$500 this year, only \$1.37 a day, to join or continue in the Gertrude Marshall Society. Our larger donations are placed in our endowment so that the interest can be used to hire distinguished visiting professors to complement the fine work of our faculty and graduate instructors.

Clarence Lo, PhD
 Director of the Peace Studies Program
 Associate Professor of Sociology

David Mehr, MD
 Chair of the Peace Studies Faculty
 William C. Allen Professor of Family
 and Community Medicine

Jack Kultgen, PhD
 Co-president, Friends of Peace Studies
 Professor Emeritus of Philosophy

Chris Robinson, MSW, LCSW
 Co-president, Friends of Peace Studies

Patricia Okker, PhD
 Dean of the College of Arts and Science
 Professor of English

I/We would like to move toward peace, justice, and global understanding in our world by supporting the University of Missouri Peace Studies Program.

- Sponsor - \$250 Contributor - \$50
- Patron - \$100 Other _____
- Gertrude Marshall Society Member - \$500 or more

I/We would like to make our gift of _____ by:

- Check — to *University of Missouri – Peace Studies*
 Please mail your contribution to: University of Missouri, College of Arts and Science, Attn: Peace Studies, 317 Lowry Hall, Columbia, MO 65211

- 
- 
- 

 Credit Card Number Exp. Date

 Name(s)

 Address

 City State Zip

 E-mail Address

Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law

Thank you!

Peace Studies Program, University of Missouri
 Clarence Lo, Program Director, LoC@missouri.edu

**Peace
 Studies**

Michael Ugarte

Continued from Page 3



Ugarte on a climate-action demonstration in Columbia, Missouri.

managed enterprises in the former Yugoslavia and later was concerned about the environmental degradation evident in Eastern Europe. He became a noted economist and pioneered environmental studies in Spain.

Ugarte plans to offer a course cross-listed with peace studies and Spanish on the environmental movement in Spain and how it re-

flects and also alters Spanish culture. He also wants to write a series of essays on the Spanish environmental movement for both an academic and a general audience.

In addition, he is writing a memoir of his mother, Mercedes Precioso Ugarte.

Communiqué is published annually by the Peace Studies Program at the University of Missouri.

Editorial Office

Peace Studies Program
312 Middlebush Hall
Columbia, MO 65211
Phone: 573-882-1736
E-mail: peacestudies@missouri.edu
Web site: peacestudies.missouri.edu

Editorial Board

Clarence Lo, program director
Melody Galen
Nathan Katz, photographerr

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

Congratulations 2017–18 Justin Huang Scholarship Winners!

The Peace Studies Program is pleased to announce the winners of the Justin Huang Scholarship. Winners must be upper-level undergraduate students in interdisciplinary studies with an emphasis in peace studies or in international studies with an emphasis in peace studies. Recipients must have an overall GPA of 3.0 or above and have demonstrated active involvement and leadership in promoting the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

The scholarship honors Justin Huang, who was a professor of physics and astronomy at MU. The winners of \$1800 scholarships are:

Taylor Cofield is pursuing a double major in international studies (peace studies emphasis) and political science and has an expected graduation date of spring 2018. She was awarded a Critical Language Scholarship for summer 2016, and she studied Arabic in Jordan.

Claire Papp is pursuing a double major in romance languages (Span-

ish) and international studies (emphasis in peace studies) with a business minor and an expected graduation date of spring 2018. Papp studied abroad in Alicante, Spain, in spring 16, and is currently serving as an international relations and exchange intern with MU's International Center.

Daphne Psaledakis is pursuing dual degrees—a bachelor of arts in international studies (peace studies emphasis) and a bachelor of journalism in print and digital news. She has an expected graduation date of spring 2019 and has excelled in French. She studied abroad in summer 2017 with MU's faculty-led program in Lyon, France.



David Mehr, MD, chair of the Peace Studies Faculty Committee, and Ann Mehr at a dinner honoring Steve Starr, MU expert on the effects of nuclear weapons.