

# BCICS Newsletter

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**Inside:** Turkish Studies Visiting Scholar / Habitus **Page 2** • Decolonizing the Nation / Ha'Ulpan **Page 3**  
Global Awareness Month / Conference on Human Rights **Page 4** • GlobeMed / Global Engagement Summit **Page 5** • Buffett Visiting Professor  
Lecture / Czech Workshop / TAMMS **Page 6** • Visiting Scholars and New Faculty at NU **Page 7** • FIG / Graduate Student Colloquium **Page 8** • BCICS Affiliate Bonnie  
Honig Presents **Page 9** • Weissmark Awarded Grant **Page 10** • Model Arab League / Joseph S. Nye discusses The Powers to Lead **Page 11** • Nobel Prize Winner Joseph Stiglitz Speaks **Back Cover**

## GENEROUS GIFT FROM KEYMAN FAMILY STRENGTHENS TURKISH STUDIES

Northwestern University has received a generous gift from Melih and Zeynep Keyman that will further strengthen the University's Keyman Family Program in Modern Turkish Studies and increase knowledge about Turkey and its importance in the world.

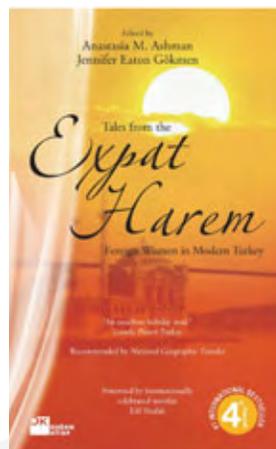
"Previous support by the Keyman family made it possible in 2005 to launch Northwestern's program in Turkish studies," said Andrew Wachtel, dean of The Graduate School and director of the Roberta Buffett Center for International and Comparative Studies. "The new Keyman gift will allow the program to add class offerings, hold more events in the area of Turkish studies and develop long-term relationships with Turkish institutions that result in faculty, student and scholarly exchanges."

Since its beginning, the Keyman Family Program's ongoing conferences, speaker series, lectures and cultural activities on campus has fostered significant interest and introduced various aspects of modern Turkey to the academic community. To promote the study of Turkey BCICS again features a series of interesting events:

On April 7, Kader Konuk, assistant professor of German Studies and Comparative Literature at the University of Michigan, will give a talk on *Mimesis in Istanbul: Jewish-German Exile in Turkey* at BCICS at 4:00 pm. Through an investigation of wartime exile and German-Turkish intellectual exchange, Prof. Konuk will show that German Jews, deemed "un-German" by the Nazis, were instrumentalized as model Europeans in Turkey. While focusing on the exiled philologist Erich Auerbach, Kader Konuk will discuss how Turkey's Western identity was constructed via the translation of humanism into the Turkish context.



BCICS will also present *Tales from the Expat Harem: Foreign Women in Modern Turkey*, edited by Anastasia M. Ashman and Jennifer



Eaton Gokmen, on April 21st at 4:00 pm. The critically-acclaimed anthology showcases the fascinating Turkish lives of 32 foreign nationals from four continents, with real life stories spanning the past four decades and the entire country. This book hit national bestseller lists in the USA & UK, and has been used by universities in Turkish history, culture and literature courses. This humorous and poignant travelogue will take you to weddings and workplaces, down cobbled Byzantine streets, into boisterous bazaars along the Silk Road and deep into the feminine powerbases of steamy Ottoman hamam bathhouses.

The following week, Dr. Abdullah Akyuz, Director of Turkish Industrialists' and Businessmen's Association (TUSIAD-USA) will talk about *Recent Developments in Turkey and US-Turkey Relations*. In his lecture Akyuz



will cover recent political developments, namely the secular-Islamist debate in light of the headscarf issue as well as the reform agenda and the Kurdish issue. The presentation will also include some facts and figures about Turkey's recent economic performance. The current state of the EU process that has been the center piece of the reform process in Turkey will also be addressed. Moreover, Turkey's relations with the US within the context of Iraq, PKK, Iran, and energy security will be briefly touched upon on April 28th at 4:00 pm at BCICS.

Modern Turkish Studies will not take a break during summer. In addition to our undergraduate summer study abroad program that hosts 20 students for six weeks, BCICS will offer a faculty development seminar in Istanbul to expand faculty expertise on Turkey and to build relationships leading to more international exchange opportunities for students, faculty and scholars. The meetings will focus on selected themes of great importance to the region, while also providing some insights into other issues in the social sciences, the arts, and the humanities. To accomplish the explicit goals of the seminar, presentations and activities will be organized around broad interdisciplinary themes.

## MISSION:

BCICS sponsors and facilitates collaborative interdisciplinary scholarship on crucial problems facing the world. Our activities promote dialogue on international affairs thereby enriching educational programming at Northwestern. Working with a variety of organizations and communities, we contribute to preparing exemplary global citizens.

[www.bcics.northwestern.edu](http://www.bcics.northwestern.edu)

Next fall, Sibel Bozdogan will be the Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Visiting Scholar at BCICS. Bozdogan holds a professional degree in architecture from Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey (1976) and a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania (1983). She has taught architectural history and theory courses at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (1986-1991), MIT (1991-1999) and the GSD/Harvard University (2000-current). She also served as the Director of Liberal Studies at the Boston Architectural Center (2004-2006) and currently divides her time between Boston and Istanbul where she teaches in the new Graduate Architecture Program of Bilgi University. Her interests range from cross-cultural histories of modern architecture in Europe, the US, the Mediterranean and the Middle East to critical investigations of technology, modernity and national identity as they have informed the culture and production of architecture in Turkey and across the globe. She has published articles on these topics, has co-authored a monograph on the Turkish architect Sedad Hakki Eldem (1987) and co-edited an interdisciplinary volume, *Rethinking Modernity and National Identity in Turkey* (1997). Her *Modernism and Nation Building: Turkish Architectural Culture in the Early Republic* (University of Washington Press, 2001) won the 2002 Alice Davis Hitchcock Award of the Society of Architectural Historians and the Koprulu Book Prize of the Turkish Studies Association.



Sibel Bozdogan will teach two courses, a lecture course on “Modern Architecture and National Identity: Ottoman/Turkish Case in Global Context” and a seminar on “Istanbul: From Imperial Capital to Global City.”

Focusing on the specific experience of the Ottoman Empire/Modern Turkey from the 18th century into the present, yet presenting this experience within a broader comparative context, her lecture course will address the role of architecture in the making (and continuous re-negotiation) of modern national identities. Bozdogan will explore the romantic 19th century preoccupation with “national styles” in the age of supranational imperialism, colonialism and neoclassicism; the 20th century proliferation of “international style” modernism, paradoxically in the golden age of territorial nation states; and finally, architecture and urbanism as “post-national spectacle in today’s global theme park.”

Her seminar will offer a more focused and site-specific investigation of the urban history and architectural transformations of Istanbul since the 19th century. Supplemented by lectures, films and discussion of selected architectural, urban and literary texts, the course will allow participants to conduct instructor-directed research on the three paradigmatic historical periods of this unique city: 1) late Ottoman reforms in urban administration, infrastructure and transportation; the cosmopolitan architecture of fin de siècle Istanbul; 2) urban interventions and International Style modernism in the 1950s; migration, apartments and squatter development; and 3) marketing Istanbul as global city since the 1980s: trans-national spaces of consumption; gated communities and suburbia; new museums; celebrity architects, spectacular projects and theme parks.

## An evening of writing from Sarajevo with

# *Habitus: A Diaspora Journal*

On May 19th, 2008, BCICS will present an evening of literature from the Bosnian capital, drawn from the pages of *Habitus: A Diaspora Journal* ([habitusmag.com](http://habitusmag.com)), a Jewish magazine of international literature and culture. Two Chicago-based novelists, Aleksander Hemon and Igor Stiks, will read from their work and discuss their native city with *Habitus* editor Joshua Ellison.

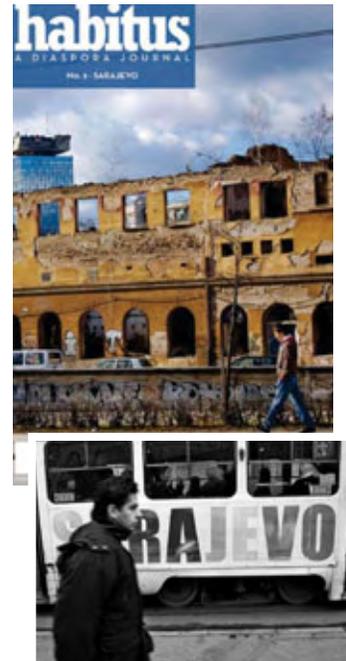
Fifteen years ago, Sarajevo captured the world’s attention as a symbol of multiplicity and resistance to ethnic hatred. During the war in the former Yugoslavia, Sarajevo weathered a four-year siege and unimaginable destruction. The remarkable writing produced by Sarajevo writers such as Hemon and Stiks is vivid proof that the city’s complexity, vitality, and singularity have not been destroyed.

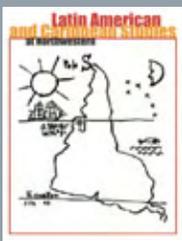
Aleksander Hemon is the celebrated author of *The Question of Bruno* (Vintage Books, 2001) and *Nowhere Man* (Vintage Books, 2004). Hemon was awarded a MacArthur fellowship in 2004. His fiction appears regularly in *The New Yorker*. Igor Stiks is the author of *A Castle in Romagna* (Autumn Hill Books, 2005), which received the Slavic Award for Best First Book. *Elijah’s Chair* (Fraktura, 2006) received both the Gjalski Award and the Croatian Kiklop Award for the Best Fiction Book of the Year.

Both writers contributed to an issue of *Habitus* devoted to writing from, and about, Sarajevo. BCICS Director Andrew Wachtel also contributed translations to the volume. *Habitus 02: Sarajevo* offers creative, audacious perspectives on critical topics like Muslim-Jewish relations, war and genocide, and our broken promises of “never again.” The issue features many esteemed and exciting voices’ including world-renowned Sarajevo writers such as Muharem Bazdulj, Semezdin Mehmedinovic, and Goran Simic; as well as insights from abroad with David Rieff, Courtney Angela Brkic, Chris Agee, and the photographer Simon Norfolk. These selections are not typical war writing. With humor, drama, and imagination, each text fulfills the words of contributor Semezdin Mehmedinovic, who has described “that passionate artistic desire to distill wild beauty from the spectacle of death.”

*Habitus* is not simply a magazine about Jews; it is a Jewish magazine about the whole world. Its pages are intended to speak to everyone who feels the pull of complex identities, and who wrestles with what it means to be truly at home.

The event will be co-sponsored by the Center for the Writing Arts and will be held at McCormick Tribune Forum, 1870 Campus Drive, Evanston.





## Conference:

### Decolonizing the Nation, (Re) imagining the City: Indigenous Peoples Mapping New Terrain

Thursday, May 8 and Friday, May 9, 2008  
McCormick Tribune Auditorium

In the aftermath of neoliberal structural adjustment in Bolivia, economic and social disenfranchisement stimulated mobilizations in the popular sector. In Cochabamba, the proposed privatization of the city's water supply sparked riots of rural farmers, disillusioned migrants, and informal workers. Similarly, in El Alto, the proposed privatization of energy and gas resulted in another mass uprising. This outpouring of populist sentiment led to the overthrow of the neoliberal regime of President Gonzalo Sanchez and the election of Evo Morales in 2005. Indigenous trade unions and grassroots social movements have spearheaded this process and set the national agenda for transformation. These grassroots organizers have pressured the new administration to nationalize the country's oil and gas industries, institute a program to redistribute underutilized land, rewrite the constitution, and reverse the marginalization of its indigenous demographic majority.

This transition has, by no means, been a smooth process. Almost two years into Evo Morales' tenure as president of Bolivia, he and his party, the Movement toward Socialism (MAS), face difficult challenges. In pursuing its 'democratic and cultural revolution,' as MAS calls its national program, the party is grappling with its own missteps and with tensions among indigenists, leftists, and nationalist wings of the movement (Gustafson 2008). Complicating these issues, the right wing in the Santa Cruz region seeks to frustrate the MAS agenda through spectacular mobilization efforts, hunger strikes in the main plazas, and town meetings that stand against the legislative and executive bodies of governance. They have made use of old dictatorial methods of kidnapping, torture, and extralegal forms of violence in order to hold onto land and power. The right is regrouping with a two-pronged strategy in hopes of promoting a regionalist vision of departmental autonomy and rebuilding a national party apparatus.

This conference will bring together a group of Bolivianist scholars from several different disciplines and both Bolivian and American universities. All of the participants have new research to present on the current situation as it is manifested not only in national politics, but also at local and regional levels, and in the domains of popular protest, art, culture, and philosophy. The conference will provide historical contextualization for new (ethnic, racial, and material) conflicts of the 21st century, which range from resource wars to distinct conceptualizations of region and identity. Through a profoundly interdisciplinary approach, we hope to use anthropological, sociological, and literary tools to understand material and cultural struggles and political-economic shift. At the same time, we will point toward some of the challenges of nation-state building in Bolivia by exploring both historical and contemporary representations of marginalized, eccentric, and "wild" voices as presented literally or metaphorically in textual, performance, and visual art. Lastly, we will make use of documentary film in order to understand contemporary struggles. Many of the documentarians worked collaboratively with indigenous communities, turning cameras over to land activists and rank-and-file members in order to capture their everyday lives and struggles to reclaim natural resources from transnational corporations. Such screenings will provoke informal conversations Thursday evening regarding how academic productions can be produced, edited, and even published as collaborative efforts with our interlocutors.

This conference is co-organized by Brodwyn Fischer, Department of History and Director of Latin American and Caribbean Studies and Jorge Coronado, Department of Spanish and Portuguese. It is generously funded by the Graduate School, Buffet Center for International and Comparative Studies, Weinberg College of the Arts and Sciences' Departments of Spanish and Portuguese, and Anthropology.



### BCICS Documentary Film Series presents **A Hebrew Lesson [Ha' Ulpán]**

A Film by David Ofek, Ron Rotem and Elinor Kowarsky.  
Screening followed by Q&A with director David Ofek

A winner of many international awards, David Ofek is renowned for his deeply serious outlook and his constant search for new fields of expression. His latest documentary film *A Hebrew Lesson* is a delightful if thought-provoking look at the problems of several immigrant students in a Hebrew language ulpan, where their personal stories meld with the complexities of Israeli reality. The immense effort of learning a new language is revealed through their encounter with a strange culture and an unfamiliar environment. Ofek's film reveals Israeli society through the foreigner's eyes.

Examining the immigrant experience through the eyes of multiethnic students in a language immersion class in Tel Aviv, this prize-winning and engrossing documentary brings a fresh take on how non-natives cope with life in a new culture. Divided into monthly chapters, the film focuses on five students led by Yoela, herself an immigrant to Israel. At times funny, at times sad, it showcases daily reality with irony. It maximizes the idea of the classroom as the first step toward a hoped-for melting pot.

David Ofek, born in 1968, grew up in the town of Ramat Gan, Israel. Besides being interested in mathematics and philosophy, he dreamed of making movies, and spent most of his free time during high school watching the great masterpieces at the Tel Aviv "Cinemateque."

After graduating from the Sam Spiegel Film & Television School in Jerusalem in 1993, Ofek continued devoting his talent and energy to creating movies that depict unique Israeli scenes and dilemmas. Always straddling a fine line between documentary and feature film, he keeps on challenging the obvious.

The screening and following discussion will take place at the Library Forum Room at Northwestern University Main Library, starting at 4:00 pm.



In the month of April a new campaign, Global Awareness Month, is being started through a coalition of social awareness organizations who have noticed a disconnect between the many social awareness organizations and the student body as a whole. They have found this divide is not due to lack of interest, but simply speaks to the difficulty in connecting personal or community interest with action and understanding.

Global Awareness Month is an attempt to bridge this divide. It is an effort to actively participate in the current global movement of social entrepreneurship, a movement that pushes important issues such as inequality, development, and human rights to the forefront of discussions and presses for constructive and sustainable change. The social awareness groups on campus want Northwestern students to be equipped to be part of this revolution of social awareness and change. We also hope Global Awareness Month will raise awareness of what current students are doing at Northwestern to be energetically and

intelligently engaged in world affairs and advocacy. This April, the Northwestern University Conference on Human Rights, Global Engagement Summit, and GlobeMed conferences serve as the foundation of Global Awareness Month. They provide ways to equip the student body with a new-found knowledge of community and world affairs, how issues are being addressed, where there is need, and how students can step up to fill certain voids.

Global Awareness Month carries beyond the conferences, and includes the speakers and activities promoted by Model Arab League, Americans for an Informed Democracy, Northwestern University Darfur Action Coalition and GLOBE. Global Awareness Month brings together those students and faculty committed to sustainable global change and promotes the synergy of separate groups that can successfully transform goals into results.



## NU CONFERENCE ON

# HUMAN RIGHTS

The fifth annual Northwestern University Conference on Human Rights (NUCHR) will be held on April 10-13. NUCHR seeks to raise awareness and encourage activism by uniting 50 student delegates from across the country with distinguished academics, activists, and policymakers over the course of a three day summit. This year our topic is “Globalization and the Universality of Human Rights” and the conference will feature a wide variety of panels, including “Contextualizing Culture: The Headscarf Debate in France, Turkey, and Iran,” “Corporate Responsibility in Conflict Zones: Extractive Industries,” “Health and Human Rights: Resolving Bioethical Dilemmas in the Developing World,” and “Transitional Justice in Post-Conflict Societies: The Debate over Norms and Definitions.”

NUCHR is excited to announce that the conference will feature Nicholas Kristof as the opening speaker. Mr. Kristof is currently an editorial columnist at the *New York Times*. A two-time Pulitzer prize winner for his poignant commentary on the Tiananmen Square Democracy Movement and the crisis in Darfur, Mr. Kristof has been praised for his ability to give “voice to the voiceless in other parts of the world.” We are also happy to announce that Mark Hanis will deliver the closing address. Mark Hanis is the founder and Executive Director of the Genocide Intervention Network. A testament to the ability of college students to change the world, Hanis founded this organization during undergraduate years at Swarthmore College. GI-Net has grown to become one of the most notable voices in Washington D.C.

In addition to hosting the conference, NUCHR also cosponsors a programming event each month with various academic departments and student groups to raise awareness of issues relating to the conference topics. In January, NUCHR collaborated with the Program on Asian-American Studies, KAN-WIN, and One Voice to host a discussion examining the issue and implications of Asian human trafficking victims into the U.S. In March, NUCHR will continue its dialogue on globalization by screening Jennifer Baichwal’s “Manufactured Landscapes,” which has been praised as “a protracted exploration of the aesthetic, social and spiritual dimensions of industrialization and globalization.” In April, NUCHR will work with the Program on African Studies to host a dinner moderated by the renowned Jean Marie Kamatali. Mr. Kamatali is the former dean of the law school at the National University of Rwanda and made major contributions towards rebuilding the Rwandan justice system.

The conference also hosts a student-organized seminar. The seminar reached its enrollment capacity in the first three days and has been very successful. We greatly appreciate the support from Northwestern faculty. Finally, we look forward to participating in Global Awareness Month with the Global Engagement Summit and GlobeMed! **To learn more about NUCHR, our upcoming conference, and our programming events please visit our website at <http://www.bcics.northwestern.edu/NUCHRweb/index.html>.**

# From GlobeMed

GlobeMed has had an exciting year of activities and programs, and we are looking forward to our annual Global Health Summit being held at Northwestern from April 3rd to the 5th. The Summit will bring together approximately 80 students from 15 campuses across the US to learn about global health challenges and how they can make an impact through GlobeMed's model.

Speakers from Partners in Health, Opportunity International, Global Fund for Women, Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, TB, and Malaria will be discussing relevant issues in global health with summit delegates. Workshops and student-led roundtables will allow participants to develop further understanding of how they can use this knowledge to affect change. The event will end with a benefit dinner to raise funds for our projects in communities around the world. Students at Northwestern have also been active in planning a summer trip to Ghana to work with their partner, the H.O.P.E. Center, while also raising funds to support a new community-based nutrition program addressing malnourishment in the surrounding villages. Other educational programs have included documentary screenings and expert-led workshops related to HIV/AIDS. Looking forward, we hope to continue to mobilize efforts at Northwestern, including work with the H.O.P.E. Center in Ghana and more campus programs related to global health.

GlobeMed is a global non-profit organization with student-led teams across the country (and soon in other parts of the world) committed to improving global health. **To learn more, please visit <http://www.globemed.org/index.html>**



## The Global Engagement Summit: April 16-20, 2008

An increasing number of young people are interested in addressing issues that affect communities across borders of nation, race, class, religion, and gender. Whether it is climate change, public health, poverty, community development, or conflict resolution, more and more students are attempting to engage with these issues and contribute positively towards collaborative solutions. In doing so, they encounter an increasingly complex world that poses a series of challenges they must navigate in order to achieve their desire to do good. Cross-cultural miscommunication, difficulties in project management, and shortages of resources are just a few issues people consistently face. Unfortunately, students often do not find the flexibility and support within their educational institutions to make sense of these difficulties and receive the resources and skills they need.

Those of us involved in the Global Engagement Summit (GES) believe that better education is the missing link between awareness and action, the connection between “good intentions” and responsible, effective, and sustainable global change. This is why we have dedicated ourselves this academic year to continue to develop the best immersive capacity-building event possible for young leaders in social entrepreneurship—the Global Engagement Summit. The mission of the five-day training conference is to build the capacity of the next generation of change leaders to partner with communities and produce responsible, sustainable solutions to shared global problems.

Now in its third year, GES brings together sixty-five college-aged delegates from over fifteen countries. Over the course of the summit, delegates participate in workshops, panels, small group discussions and a variety of social events which enable them to connect directly with experts and peers alike and also gain critical skills in fields such as social entrepreneurship, politics of development, project management, strategic planning, and asset-based community development. In the past, delegates have used these skills to establish and participate in sustainable projects in Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mali, China, Mexico, Zimbabwe, Ecuador, Kenya, and Uganda.

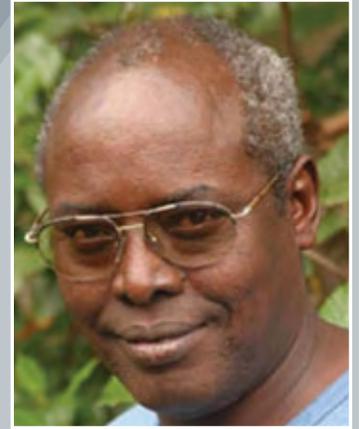
This year, accepted delegates represent at least thirteen countries including Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, South Africa, Ukraine, England, Cambodia, Philippines, China, Australia, Argentina, Pakistan, and Iraq. As the Summit dates near (April 16-20, 2008), we eagerly anticipate the arrival of a new group of delegates who will go on to incredible things in communities throughout the world!

# Rwandan Genocide Expert to give Buffett Visiting Professor Lecture

This spring, on May 29th, BCICS will celebrate its first anniversary as the Roberta Buffett Center for International and Comparative Studies with a public lecture by José Kagabo, that will be held in Harris Hall 108 at 5 pm.

José Kagabo will be the Roberta Buffett Visiting Professor of International Studies in Spring 2008. Kagabo teaches at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in France, and is an internationally renowned expert on the Rwandan genocide. He has testified before the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and has written numerous books and articles on crises in central Africa including *Islam and the "Swahili" in Rwanda* and *The Question of Rwandan Refugees*.

Kagabo is currently working on a book about the Rwandan genocide that will focus on how the network of conspirators was organized and examine the role of politicians, intellectuals, and businessmen in motivating ordinary citizens to become the perpetrators of violence. Building on his distinct knowledge of the Rwandan genocide, international justice programs, and the truth-seeking tribunals, Kagabo will develop and teach two courses while at Northwestern.



## Czech Workshop April 25-26, 2008

In April 2008 the Roberta Buffet Center for International and Comparative Studies at Northwestern University will host the ninth annual Czech Cultural Workshop, an annual gathering of scholars in Czech studies from a wide range of disciplines. In past years the workshop has been hosted by the University of Michigan, the Harriman Institute of Columbia University, and most recently by the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. The Czech Workshop is the only annual event of its kind in North America and is the premier destination for scholars of all ranks working on the region. We are very pleased to be part of this extraordinarily successful program and to have the opportunity to highlight Northwestern's strength in the field of Czech studies. This year's workshop will include papers on the role of gender in Leos Janacek's opera, the writings of Bohumil Hrabal, the Roma's attempts to gain redress for the Holocaust, and the sources of Czech atheism. Several scholars from the Czech Republic will participate. On Friday evening, April 25th, Prof. Igor Lukes of Boston University will present the keynote speech, "Czechoslovakia between Stalin and Truman, 1945-1948." Students and faculty at Northwestern are invited to attend the workshop. The keynote lecture is open to the public. **To learn more, please visit [http://www.bcics.northwestern.edu/Events\\_Conferences\\_CzechWorkshop.html](http://www.bcics.northwestern.edu/Events_Conferences_CzechWorkshop.html)**

BCICS presents:

## Torture in the Era of Democracy

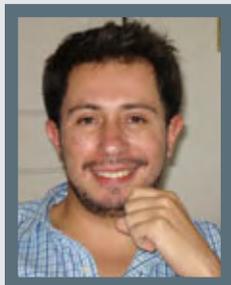
TAMMS  
YEAR TEN

Following the success and well-deserved attention enjoyed by the Torture in the Era of Democracy speaker series, BCICS will host another timely event on the tenth anniversary of the opening of Tamms Correctional Center (Southern Illinois' Supermax prison).

"We believe that Tamms has been open ten years too long," said Laurie Jo Reynolds of the Tamms Year Ten Campaign. "Taxpayers deserve to know that the most expensive adult prison in Illinois is torturing its inmates. We want to see legislation to end the torture of prisoners in Illinois."

Tamms Closed Maximum Security Prison opened in March of 1998. Prisoners are held in permanent solitary confinement and experience extreme sensory deprivation and social isolation. Housing a prisoner at Tamms costs nearly twice as much as any other adult prison in Illinois and there is growing concern about the public safety impact of housing prisoners in conditions that provoke mental illness.

Jean Maclean Snyder, a lawyer with the MacArthur Justice Center of the University of Chicago Law School and Reginald Akkeem Berry, a former Tamms prisoner, will discuss conditions inside Tamms, Stephen Eisenman, associate professor of art history at Northwestern, will moderate this discussion at BCICS's Conference Room on April 29th at 4:00 pm.



## **Fernando Gaál, BCICS** Visiting Scholar, Spring 2008

Gaál has worked with children for 16 years, as volunteer and member of the executive committee in Colonias de Vacaciones, a non-profit organization focused on recreational and educational activities for low-income children in Mexico City, and for the last 10 years as a practicing child psychologist spe-

cialized in play therapy. He has been involved in research projects of the Childhood Program in Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana in Mexico City. His current work is oriented to research and consulting in Children's Rights and social intervention in children at risk. Gaál is doing fieldwork for the Training in Childhood Research program of the Childwatch International Research Network based in Norway, in a joint program with CINDE in Colombia. He is looking into the practices of participation of Mexican-born immigrant children in the neighborhoods of Pilsen and the Little Village in Chicago.



## **Mary Anne Mohanraj** Visiting Writer in Residence, Center for the Writing Arts, Spring 2008

Mary Anne Mohanraj is the author of three collections of short stories, *Bodies in Motion*, *Silence and the Word* and *Torn Shapes of Desire*. She also has written a Sri Lankan cookbook, *A Taste of Serendith*, and was the recipient of

a 2006 Illinois Arts Council Fellowship. She is the executive director of DesiLit, an Asian American literary festival, and of the Speculative Literature Foundation. Mohanraj will be teaching "The Art of Fiction: Writing Your Identity at Northwestern". In her course, she will examine a variety of elements of identity: race, age, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, class, nationality, political orientation, and much much more — all through the lens of fiction. BCICS's faculty and fellows Colloquium will host Dr. Mohanraj on Friday, May 9th at noon on "Arbitrary Passions".

## **Cheikhouna Lô to work on analyzing texts**

Cheikhouna Lô will be in residence at Northwestern University this spring cataloging and analyzing the Ajami texts in the Herskovits African Arabic Manuscript library, as well as the more recent Arabic and Wolof-language ephemeral texts and multi-media materials gathered as part of ISITA's Ford-funded project "Constituting Bodies of Islamic Knowledge." Lô is a scholar whose formation straddles the line between classical Islamic schooling and contemporary forms of Arabic education. He has become one of the country's foremost experts in reading, writing, and translating Wolofal, the centuries-old system for writing Wolof with the Arabic script, and has served on a number of national committees devoted to its standardization. Lô's magnum opus is a recently published translation of the Qur'an into Wolofal.

## Visiting Scholars at

# The Program of African Studies (PAS)



## **Birgit Ricquier, PAS Visiting Scholar**

Working on her PhD in Linguistics at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, Birgit Ricquier joins Northwestern to focus on the historical aspects of her research under the guidance of Professor David Schoenbrun. Her project concerns a historical linguistic study of vocabulary in the Bantu languages, entitled: A Comparative Linguistic Approach to the History of Culinary Practice in Bantu-speaking Africa. While Ricquier will continue her studies in linguistics and Bantu languages at the Royal Museum for Central Africa (Tervuren) and the Université Libre de Bruxelles, she will enhance her studies with historical training necessary to draw valid conclusions from the linguistic data for her project at Northwestern University.



## **West African Islam Specialist** **Charles Stewart joins the ISITA team**

Charles Stewart, Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, has joined Northwestern as a visiting scholar and will be collaborating with ISITA (Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa) on projects related to increasing access to Arabic manuscripts from Africa. Stewart specializes in Islam in West Africa and is the author of *Islam and Social Order in Mauritania: A Case Study from the Nineteenth Century*, and the founder of the Arabic Manuscript Management System (AMMS) which is a bi-lingual database of over 20,000 Arabic manuscripts from West Africa.

# Visiting faculty at the French Interdisciplinary Group (FIG)

Philosopher Marc Crépon will be a visiting professor in the Department of Philosophy where he will teach undergraduate and graduate classes on Nietzsche and will offer a series of Cafés philo on French political theory. Crépon specializes in the German philosophy of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, notably Nietzsche, Rosenzweig, and, in general, the emergence of the discourse of nationhood in the late eighteenth century. He is the author of *Les géographies de l'esprit*, which examines the construction of "peoples" in German philosophy from Leibniz to Hegel. He co-authored *La langue: source de la nation; Le malin génie des langues: essais sur Nietzsche, Heidegger, Rosenzweig; Les promesses du langage: Benjamin, Rosenzweig, Heidegger; L'imposture du choc des civilisations; and Langues sans demeure*.

Eloi Ficquet and Olivier de Sardan will offer graduate methods courses in African Studies, in the framework of creating new partnerships between PAS and the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) in African Studies. Eloi Ficquet is maître de conférences at the EHESS, where he teaches comparative history and anthropology of east Africa, notably Ethiopia. His research has focused in particular on the interactions and the forms of interstitial cohabitation between Christian and Muslim societies of the central Ethiopian highlands, in the region of Wollo. He also published, with Berhanou Abbebe, a French-Amharic dictionary (CFEE / Shama Books, 2003). While pursuing research on Islam in Ethiopia, he has also worked on the categorizations (cartographical, statistical, administrative) of identity in contemporary Ethiopia. Outside the Ethiopian framework, he also works on the actors of contemporary art in Africa. As secretary of the Bureau de l'EHESS, he is responsible for the international relations of this institution, and, in this capacity, strives to develop new partnerships with institutions of higher learning and research in Africa.

Olivier de Sardan is the author of *Anthropologie et développement, essai en socio-anthropologie du changement social; Les sociétés songhay-zarma (chefs, guerriers, esclaves, paysans...); Concepts et conceptions songhay-zarma (histoire, culture, société); Quand nos pères étaient captifs (récits paysans du Niger)*, among other works. He focuses on the socio-anthropology of the state and public service in Africa, notably health care, and development in general. He also teaches and writes on the methodology of field work and anthropological interpretation. His area specialization is Niger.

Bernard Stiegler will offer "Three Lessons on Michel Foucault," on March 31st, April 1st, and April 2nd. Stiegler is Director of Cultural Affairs at the Centre Pompidou, and the author of numerous works on the cultural construction of technology and, inversely, the technological construction of culture.

Stiegler and Crépon co-founded the association Ars Industrialis which explores the political, economic, and cultural challenges of our age. Bernard Stiegler has examined the place of technology in culture and human development in numerous works, notably *Time and Technics, De la misère symbolique, Mécréance et discrédit*, and *Constituer l'Europe*. He appeared in Echographies of Television in which he was interviewed with Jacques Derrida and Jennifer Bajorek.

Olivier Dabène will be visiting in the framework of FIG's partnership with Sciences Po. Olivier Dabène is Professor of Political Science at Sciences Po, where he is the Director of the Program on Latin America, Spain, and Portugal. He has been a visiting Professor at the University of Texas in Austin, researcher at the Center for Mexican and Central American Studies (CEMCA) in Costa Rica, and Attaché de coopération et d'action culturelle in São Paulo, Brazil. Before arriving at Sciences Po he taught at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques of Aix-en-Provence. He is the author of numerous works, including *Exclusion et politique à São Paulo, Les outsiders de la démocratie au Brésil, Les élections contre la démocratie ? Une année d'élections en Amérique latine*, and *L'Amérique latine à l'époque contemporaine*, among others.

## Graduate Student Colloquium

BCICS sponsors several interdisciplinary working groups to address international and comparative research issues that are not confined to a single department, discipline, or school. The BCICS graduate student workshop series is an open forum for budding scholars to present a paper for a conference, discuss a chapter of their dissertation, and/or receive feedback on an article for publication.

This year we have had an exciting group of graduate students present on their dissertation projects. Our approach has been profoundly interdisciplinary, including not only qualitative or ethnographic approaches to understanding global political economic phenomenon, but also literary and performance studies approaches. We have engaged themes from land tenure and power dynamics in Africa to natural resource extraction in places such as South America. We have also discussed topics pertinent to 21st century diasporas - the struggles regarding migration, recreation of home, and community in places such as Newark, NJ and Chicago, IL. Graduate students asked pertinent questions, interrogated presenters, and provide critical feedback in order to rework ideas and/or refine arguments.

All Northwestern graduate students working on dissertation research with an international or comparative focus are welcome to participate in the colloquium series.

**The coordinator for the Colloquium for 2007-2008 is Niki Fabricant and she can be reached at [n-fabricant@northwestern.edu](mailto:n-fabricant@northwestern.edu).**

# FACULTY AFFILIATES PRESENT THEIR WORK



This section provides a forum for BCICS Faculty Affiliates to present their research, books, articles, project proposals, to colleagues and the wider public. This quarter BCICS Affiliate Bonnie Honig presents her work for our newsletter.

## The Politics of Death and Burial: ancient tragedy in modern perspective

Headstones on graves are a way to mark a burial plot and commemorate with words and images the life of a lost loved one. However, they were originally used not to express a love of the dead but rather a fear of them. In the ancient world, survivors put stones on graves to prevent the dead from rising up and returning to the human world to haunt or harm the living. But no stone is heavy enough for that task.

The dead haunt the living. They become the object of our politics. If Greek tragedy remains an important force in the contemporary culture of the West, that is because that genre explores the claims of the dead on the living (which is another way of talking about “fate”) and the obligations of the living to the dead.

What do we owe the dead? Justice? Or mourning? Is the relationship between living and dead a continuation of that which we experience on earth? Or is it properly one of post-political reconciliation, such as that imagined by Walt Whitman in his poem:

*Word over all, beautiful as the sky!  
Beautiful that war, and all its deeds of carnage, must in time be utterly lost;  
That the hands of the sisters Death and Night, incessantly softly  
wash again, and ever again, this soil'd world:  
... For my enemy is dead—a man divine as myself is dead;  
I look where he lies, white-faced and still, in the coffin—I draw near;  
I bend down, and touch lightly with my lips the white face in the coffin.*

With his second line – “Beautiful that war, and all its deeds of carnage, must in time be utterly lost” — Whitman wishes for a memory whose loss will be unimpeded by political wrangling. But the beauty of forgetfulness is not easy to experience. In recent years we have seen what a great deal of work is done to instill memory again and again, to inhibit forgetting, to forbid it. American politicians and citizens devote themselves to the repatriation of bodies from the Vietnam war, more than thirty years after it ended. The *New York Times* recently reported the story of a now elderly relative of World War II soldier who is still seeking the body of his uncle,

sixty years later. And this year, with the publication of *The Republic of Suffering*, historian of the South, Drew Gilpin Faust unburied the politics of burial that marked the American Civil war, in which officer casualties were returned for proper burial while enlisted soldiers were wrapped in blankets at best, or, at worst, piled into mass graves that were, if necessary, stamped upon by survivors who, no doubt exhausted and disgusted, were anxious to make all the corpses fit into the hole as dug.

The smell of battlefields and of rotting corpses permeated the environs for weeks after the battles ended, and longer. With the stench in their nostrils, survivors wrote home to the parents of the fallen, reassuring them that their loved ones had died a good death. Not the beautiful death of the Homeric heroes, but a good death.

The problem was not confined to war time. After the war, the graves of northern soldiers buried in the south were desecrated. The country established its first national cemeteries and spent huge sums of money repatriating the dead to these newly proper burial sites. In so doing, the nation did not only give some of its war dead proper burials. It also fashioned itself as a site of affect and care. National cemeteries were public goods. But the graves provided were topped by headstones.

My new book project is on Sophocles’ *Antigone*, a Greek tragedy that has served as a touchstone for political theorizing from Hegel to Judith Butler. Through the play, the book restages for examination a series of fundamental political theoretical debates, looking in turn at the conflict between justice and mourning (Creon versus Antigone), the political violence of war and treason (is Polynices the city’s *philia* or *ekthros*?), the politics of burial and of sexual difference. I see Sophocles’ play as, among other things, a rumination on the costs of a 5th century B.C. ban on lamentation. In democratic Athens, war dead could be publicly commemorated by orations like the famous one of Pericles. But the keening of the wives, sisters, and mothers of the fallen was regulated and constrained for the sake of public order. Much has changed since the 5th century. Our democracies are both more true (more inclusive) and more false (less participatory) than theirs. But we, too, limit certain forms of lamentation on behalf of public order. President Bush during the Iraq war has invoked military families as his “constituency” while also ruling out of order as irrelevant the anti-war sentiments of those who have lost husbands and children in the war.

At a more fundamental level, Greek tragedy, performed in the context of a festival, the Feast of Dionysus, displayed the great beauty of logos, of language, but also pointed beyond it, to the keening of the forbidden laments, and the music of the Dionysian. That music was, for Nietzsche, the key to tragedy’s contribution to the revival of modern culture. For contemporary classicist Nicole Loraux, it is also a tie that connects the festival and the tragedies to the mourning voice, the vocal lament silenced or unheard by states who require soldiers to die for them.

# FACULTY AFFILIATES PRESENT THEIR WORK Con't

The move from lamentation to logos is one that is both tracked and performed by Sophocles' Antigone, but not secured by it.

Bonnie Honig, Sarah Rebecca Roland Professor of Political Science, is also Research Professor at the American Bar Foundation, Chicago, and appointed (by courtesy) at Northwestern Law School. Working on contemporary political, democratic and feminist theory, she has written on the politics of justification, the cultural politics of immigration, conceptions of time and progress in political and legal thinking, discretion and emergency power, popular constitutionalism, and the politics of mourning. She is the author of *Political Theory and the Displacement of Politics* (Cornell, 1993; awarded 1994 Scripps Prize for Best First Book in Political The

ory), *Democracy and the Foreigner* (Princeton, 2001; the subject of an American Political Science Association theme panel in 2002,), and *Emergency Politics: Paradox, Law, Democracy* (Princeton, forthcoming). Her current project is on Sophocles' Antigone. She has published articles in the *American Political Science Review*, *Political Theory*, *Strategies*, *Boston Review*, *Social Text*, *Social Research*, and *Triquarterly Review*, and has edited or co-edited: *Feminist Interpretations of Hannah Arendt* (Penn State, 1995), *Skepticism, Individuality and Freedom: The Reluctant Liberalism of Richard Flathman* (Minnesota, 2002) and the *Oxford Handbook of Political Thought* (Oxford, 2006). Honig's work has been translated into Japanese, Greek, German, Italian, Swedish and French. Honig has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Center for the Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford, the Murphy Institute at Tulane University, the Bunting Institute at Radcliffe College and, most recently, the American Philosophical Society. Prior to joining the faculty at Northwestern in 1997, Honig was Associate Professor of Government at Harvard University.



## Weissmark Awarded Grant

Mona Sue Weissmark's proposal titled, *US-Germany Joint Workshop on The Transformation of Memory Across Generations: Interdisciplinary Views* has received funding from the German Research Foundation (DFG). Mona Sue Weissmark is the US co-organizer and chair of the proposed workshop and Aleida Assmann of Konstanz University Germany is the German co-organizer of the workshop. The roles in regard to breakdown of funding are that Mona Weissmark was responsible for submitting the proposal to NSF (which is still pending) and Aleida Assmann was responsible for submitting the proposal to the German Research Foundation (DFG).

The goal of the joint workshop is to design a long-term study to advance our understanding of the role of cultural memory in the functioning of political processes. Cultural memory is a key factor that plays an important role in the functioning of political processes. Yet it has received little empirical study by scholars. Therefore, studying how citizens across generations remember the past is a priority for extending our knowledge on the relations between cultural memory and political processes. Knowledge about the transformation of cultural memory across generations gained by U.S. researchers at the workshop should lead to benefits to society and to future research collaborations as well as to improved educational tools. Elements of the workshop will develop as educational tools at American universities in several ways. The workshop will be a forum for exploring connections and synergies between leading researchers from the U.S. and Germany with overlapping research interests and complementary skills in the biological, cultural, narrative, and social psychological dimensions of cultural memory.

The workshop is intended to establish a base for developing collaborative teaching and research links between Konstanz University and other institutions in Germany, and Northwestern University's Roberta Buffett Center for International and Comparative Studies (BCICS) and other other institutions in the U.S..

The host institution will be Konstanz University, a university located in Konstanz on the border between Germany and Switzerland. With over 130 European partner universities and many international exchange programs worldwide, Konstanz University is part of a global research and learning network. Konstanz has instituted an intensive program of visits by foreign scientists. In October 2006, this university was acknowledged within a nation-wide competition organized by the German government and administered by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the Science Council, as the first 'center of excellence' in the humanities and endowed with generous funding. The counterpart institution, Northwestern University's Roberta Buffett Center for International and Comparative Studies (BCICS), has established programs to sponsor and facilitate collaborative interdisciplinary scholarship on crucial problems facing the world.

The personal contacts at the workshop will also greatly raise awareness and interest in U.S.-German exchanges. German scholars will become more familiar with American research, and consequently several graduate students and postdocs will possibly choose to come for their studies in the U.S. As part of their experiences at the workshop, U. S. scholars will also become aware of important research opportunities and intellectual connections and as a result may connect American students and German colleagues for possible foreign studies by Americans, starting at the junior years up to faculty sabbaticals.



## NORTHWESTERN MODEL ARAB LEAGUE

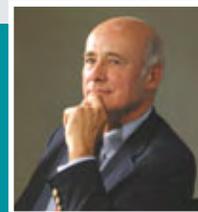
Model Arab League (MAL) is a student group committed to increased understanding of Middle Eastern political, economic, and social issues. Founded in January 2007, Northwestern's MAL attracted widespread interest and support from both students and faculty. At a regional conference held in February 2007, a delegation of ten Northwestern students representing Palestine won several awards. This past February, two delegations represented Saudi Arabia and Syria, winning the award for the best delegation. In addition to preparing for the various model conferences in the year to come, MAL also responds to the Northwestern students' rapidly growing interest in matters related to the Middle East and the Arab world. We hope to offer the Northwestern campus an alternative perspective on Middle East politics that we believe is essential to establishing a comprehensive understanding of the region's complex issues. Our hope is that MAL will encourage and equip its members and Northwestern students to critically analyze and question practices and policies both within the Arab world and between Arab nations and the international community. Our spring event will be a three-part series about Lebanon.

The political situation in Lebanon is of rising regional and international concern. MAL believes that learning about and discussing this key state in Middle Eastern politics is critical to foreign policy and the regional peace process. By bringing this series to Northwestern, MAL provides the students and leaders the opportunity to become more aware of the unique complexities of the Lebanon. By dividing the examination of Lebanon into three parts, we first gain an understanding of the remarkably complicated history of Lebanon that is essential to understanding the current political crisis. The second event will focus on Hezbollah, the militant Islamist group that is influential in Lebanese politics and shapes Lebanon's relationship with Israel. Finally, the third event will build on the previous two events by examining the current political state in Lebanon, progress past historical description to provide varied in-depth perspectives on the future of politics in Lebanon. We look forward to seeing you there!



JOSEPH S. NYE

THE  
POWERS  
TO  
LEAD



BCICS is honored to host the Kennedy School's Joseph S. Nye for a discussion of what true leadership is and how it relates to power. This event will take place on April 9th at noon in the Harris Hall

Joseph S. Nye has changed the way we look at power at a time when power itself is rapidly changing. Nye's concept of "soft power"—which depends on trust and attraction, as opposed to the "hard power" of coercion—applies broadly to both political and business leadership. His books *The Paradox of American Power: Why the World's Only Superpower Can't Go It Alone* and *Soft Power: The Means to Success in World Politics* first explored the concept. Now in *The Powers to Lead*, he lays out a complete approach to "smart power:" a combination of traditional authoritarian leadership and the softer style that seeks to attract, inspire, and persuade rather than dictate. Thought provoking in what it shows us much about our own current political leadership and the nominees' potential for accomplishing their goals in office, this analysis is one we cannot afford to ignore.

With over 6,000 books in the crowded field of leadership studies, *The Powers to Lead* stands alone as the first and only written in an accessible style and based on sound scientific and historical analysis. Nye highlights the relevance to our current national leadership and the upcoming elections, as well as the business world, as he delves into why two thirds of Americans believe we're in a leadership crisis, whether George Bush's approach to power—"I'm the decider, and I decide what's best"—has been effective, what the 44th president can learn from the 43rd, and how business leaders can learn from the success of forward-thinking companies like Google whose "coddled" employees and their perks may in fact be proving what "smart power" is all about.

Joseph S. Nye is University Distinguished Service Professor at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, where he was formerly dean. In Washington, he has served as chairman of the National Intelligence Council, Deputy Undersecretary of State, and Assistant Secretary of Defense, and he has won distinguished service medals from all three agencies. He is the author of many books, including most recently *The Paradox of American Power*, *Soft Power: The Means to Success in World Politics*, and *The Power Game: A Washington Novel*.

# Nobel Prize Winner Joseph Stiglitz Speaks on The Three Trillion Dollar War

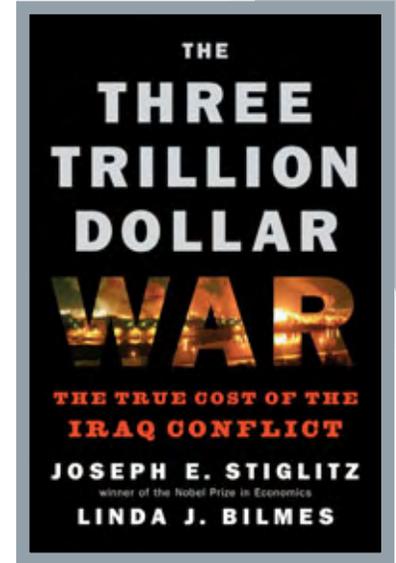


BCICS is pleased to announce that Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph E. Stiglitz will be speaking on campus about his new book, *The Three Trillion Dollar War: The True Cost of the Iraq Conflict*. The event, co-sponsored by the Kellogg School of Management, will be held Friday, April 18th in the Tribune Auditorium at the Allen Center starting at 9:00 am.

Joseph E. Stiglitz is University Professor at Columbia University in New York and Chair of Columbia University's Committee on Global Thought. In 2001, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in economics for his analyses of markets with asymmetric information. Stiglitz was a member of the Council of Economic Advisers from 1993-95, during the Clinton administration, and served as CEA chairman from 1995-97. He then became Chief Economist and Senior Vice-President of the World Bank from 1997-2000.

Dr. Stiglitz is the author of numerous books on economics and international trade, including the bestselling *Globalization and Its Discontents*. In his newest book Stiglitz and Harvard co-author Linda J. Bilmes explore the hidden costs of the Iraq war, including the accelerated depreciation of our nation's military equipment, health care and disability compensation for returning veterans, and the negative effects of the war on the U.S. and global economies. Please join us for what is sure to be a provocative and sobering account of the true financial and human costs of the Iraq war.

This event is free and open to the public. For more details please contact us at BCICS at 847-467-2770.



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Roberta Buffett Center for International  
and Comparative Studies

“BCIC dapat bekerja sama dengan pelaku atau praktisi IKM dalam mengembangkan suatu produk kreatif.” Adi Suprayitno, Klinik Desain - 2015. “Saya mendapatkan program-program yang bagus untuk mengembangkan bisnis saya.” M. Arif Susanto, Tenant Inkubator - 2016. “Senang bisa bertemu dengan desainer-desainer hebat di BCIC.” Hita Sekar Tanjung, Inkubator Bisnis Kreatif - 2016. “Senang bisa difasilitasi berkarya sama ketemu relasi-relasi baru.” Mega Pitriani Puspita, Tenant Inkubator - 2016. Install BCICS. Step 1. Installing a modpack using the Technic Launcher is easy. If you don't already have the launcher downloaded, visit our download page to get the latest version. Step 2. Type in the modpack name (BCICS) or paste the following url into the search box. Step 3. Finally, click Install at the bottom right of the launcher after you select BCICS from the list on the left. The launcher will handle everything else!