



GLOBAL LEADERS OF PENN STATE

Global and International Studies
Monthly Email Newsletter



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WELCOME

by **Gianna Pinto, Managing Editor**

Hello! Welcome to the November issue of *Global Leaders of Penn State*, the Global and International Studies (GLIS) program newsletter. To start, thank you so much for reading. For our second issue of the 2021–22 school year, we will introduce you to junior student Christina Fomunyoh; the integrated GLIS (bachelor of science or bachelor of arts) and master of international affairs program; Dr. Jonathan E. Abel, associate professor of comparative literature and Japanese; and Dr. Yuliya V. Ladygina, Helena Rubinstein University Endowed Fellow in the Humanities and assistant professor of Russian and global studies.

We also would like to welcome the newest member of our GLIS newsletter team, Maria Luiza Carvalho de Moraes, a junior GLIS student in the Culture and Identity pathway.

If you have any feedback or would like to submit a story, please email glis@psu.edu. We look forward to hearing from you and cannot wait to show you all the opportunities that GLIS has to offer.



PennState
College of the Liberal Arts

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

by Gianna Pinto, Managing Editor



Christina Fomunyoh in Madrid, Spain

“My cultural experiences have supported my interests within my pathway of Culture and Identity, as well as my surrounding interests of cultural exchanges and intercultural communication. They both allowed for hands-on practice in understanding, communicating, and sharing cultures, which is something I hope to continue to do after graduation.”

Christina Fomunyoh '23

Hometown: Annandale, Virginia

Christina Fomunyoh is a junior student double majoring in GLIS (Culture and Identity pathway) and International Politics. In addition, Christina is also completing a minor in Spanish. During her time at Penn State, Christina had the opportunity to work as an Au Pair in Madrid, Spain, during the summer of 2021. In Spain, Christina lived with a Spanish host family and created an immersive English course for the children she looked after. This school year (2021–22), Christina will be working as a Virtual Student Federal Service (VSFS) intern with the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. This year-long internship is remote, and Christina will work with assisting staff, program partners, participants, and management in the Cultural Programs Division. Along with other embassies, Christina and the U.S. Department of State will collaborate to administer cultural exchange programs in the arts, which includes film, food, fashion, music, writing, and other unique cultural aspects.

In addition to her stay in Madrid, Christina has also done an immersive exchange with a Fijian host family in Nasivikoso, Fiji, for sixteen days; as well as visits to the following countries: Cameroon, England, France, Mexico, the Bahamas, and Poland.

Christina is a member of our GLIS newsletter team and works as our student outreach coordinator. In addition to the GLIS newsletter, Christina is also a Peer Adviser for the College of the Liberal Arts, as well as a member of the Student Minority Advisory and Recruitment Team (S.M.A.R.T.), Phi Chi Theta Professional Business and Economics Fraternity, and Afrique Fusion.

FEATURED SPOTLIGHT

by Maria Luiza Carvalho de Moraes, Student Outreach

Integrated Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science in Global and International Studies and Master of International Affairs Program

Penn State offers a dual program with the GLIS major to earn an undergraduate degree and a master of international affairs degree, through the Integrated Undergraduate-Graduate (IUG) Program. The dual program is very flexible and allows the students to choose one of twelve concentrations or create their own. About 60 percent of students choose to create their own concentration by taking courses in any graduate program across the University.

The master of international affairs degree aligns well with the GLIS major and supplies students with a variety of opportunities to elevate their learning and experiences.

For this program, the student should start thinking about getting involved with it in their first year, so they can learn more about the program and start seriously considering it during their second year. They will formally apply as juniors and start the program during the first semester of their senior year. GLIS students who want to join the IUG program need a recommendation letter from a faculty member, a 3.5 (or higher) grade-point average, and a strong application for their admission. Interested students also need to schedule a meeting with Dr. Tom Spencer, the GLIS undergraduate academic adviser, and Mr. Matthew Detrick, the IUG program academic adviser, to discuss their long-range planner.

The IUG program is a very diverse and inclusive program that makes sure to welcome students from all different backgrounds, ages, and experiences. It is also a very supportive program that offers advising to students to make sure they are on the right path and can succeed within the program and as professionals. Students will be exposed to a variety of experts in the field of international affairs, including former ambassadors and people who worked in the White House; on the National Security Council; military leaders; as well as some world-renowned scholars of human rights, international development, African studies, economics, climate change, and more. One of the benefits that come with completing this program is the fact that you can be a 21- or 22-year-old and get a bachelor's and a master's degree simultaneously. Those students can enter the world of employment with a higher level of education, expertise, and skills that will definitely make them stand out among other applicants for a job. This will also allow them to apply for higher-paying jobs since they have a master's degree.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

by Kelly Zahour, Alumni Relations

Dr. Jonathan E. Abel Associate Professor of Comparative Literature and Japanese

Why does fiction matter? Professor Abel is working on a book project titled, *Subtitling the World* that exposes the relationship between fake news and online microblog fiction. Conspiracy theory and creative tweets are generated by the same impulse to better make sense of our senseless realities through enchantment and entrancement. Part of this project, Dr. Abel's study of Japanese Twitterature appeared in the *Routledge Handbook of Japanese Literature* arguing that Twitter novels published during the nuclear catastrophe at Fukushima had the effect of garnering support for the anti-nuclear protests. Dr. Abel's previous book projects are *The New Real: Media, Marketing, and Mimesis Made in Japan* (forthcoming from University of Minnesota Press in 2022), *Information: Keywords* (Columbia University Press 2020), and *Redacted: The Archives of Censorship in Transwar Japan* (University of California Press 2012).



Dr. Jonathan E. Abel

Dr. Abel is an associate professor of comparative literature and Japanese, co-director of the Global and International Studies program, and associate director of the Center for Humanities and Information at Penn State. He is interested in the study of global modernism, literary reception, translation studies, and literary and cultural theory. Professor Abel received his bachelor's degree with honors from the University of Pennsylvania in 1993, his master's degree from Columbia University in 1997, and his doctorate from Princeton University in 2005. Dr. Abel is the author of multiple books, including his book in progress, *Subtitling the World: Fake News, Fictional Truth, and Social Media*, which explains how literature is changing the world today. He is also the co-translator of Kojin Karatani's *Nation and Aesthetics: On Kant and Freud* and Azuma Hiroki's *Otaku: Japan's Database Animals*. Dr. Abel is also editor of a special issue of *Japan Forum* titled "Beyond Fukushima: The Ethics of Cultural Production in a Post-disaster Japan."

Dr. Yuliya V. Ladygina

Helena Rubinstein University Endowed Fellow in the Humanities Assistant Professor of Russian and Global Studies

On August 1, 2021, Clarence Lang, Susan Welch Dean of the College of the Liberal Arts, confirmed Dr. Yuliya V. Ladygina's appointment as the Helena Rubinstein University Endowed Fellow in the Humanities for the 2021–22 academic year. This fellowship is traditionally given to promising faculty in the humanities in the early stages of their careers and includes support for the faculty member's research and teaching program. Dr. Ladygina is humbled by the honor and is deeply appreciative for the collegewide recognition of her work. She will use her fellowship funds to finance her research trip to Ukraine next summer, where she will conduct archival research and fieldwork for her new book project, *The Reel Story of the Euromaidan Revolution and the Russian Ukrainian War*. The project examines the legacy of Soviet and Hollywood war films, as well as the influence of contemporary media practices in (mis)representing war, terror, and terrorism, in cinematic depictions of the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian conflict. Dr. Ladygina is particularly interested in how contemporary filmmakers deal with the subject of hybrid and digital warfare and how they frame cinema and other forms of media as pivotal strategic territories, where some of the key battles of contemporary wars are taking place, affecting the ways in which they are perceived and what actions are taken by those directly involved in them.

On a personal level, as a scholar of Ol'ha Kobylians'ka (1863–1942), one of Ukraine's foremost modernists who lived and worked in the Austrian crownland of Bukovina and wrote most of her novels during annual retreats to the Carpathian Mountains, Dr. Ladygina finds it peculiar that the title of her first fellowship at Penn State carries the name of a woman from Kraków, Poland, who is known in the United States as the "princess of cosmetics" and who made her name and fortune selling makeup and skincare infused with herbs imported from the Carpathian Mountains. Curiously, one of Ol'ha Kobylians'ka's novels that Dr. Ladygina analyzed in her first monograph *Bridging East and West: Ol'ha Kobylians'ka, Ukraine's Pioneering Modernist* (Toronto University Press 2019) is titled *The Princess* and another—*On Sunday Morning She Gathered Herbs*—deals with the magic, if not bewitched, properties of herbs from the Carpathian Mountains.



Dr. Yuliya Landygina,
Helena Rubinstein University
Endowed Fellow in the
Humanities

WHY GLIS?

by Gianna Pinto, Managing Editor

Kayla Prag '22

Coming to Penn State, Kayla Prag was not sure of what she wanted to study but was drawn to the GLIS major because she has always had an interest in learning about other cultures and life outside of her own. After spending two years in the Division of Undergraduate Studies, Kayla decided to double major in GLIS and Public Relations. As a GLIS major, she has been able to take a wide range of classes from Women's Studies, Sociology, Spanish, and Communications. Kayla said she feels that GLIS has allowed her to explore all of her interests. She would recommend GLIS to anyone who is unsure what they want to study but wants to gain a wide range of experience and knowledge. For Kayla, GLIS has allowed her to become a more well-rounded student in various subject areas, and she is grateful for the flexibility of the program!



Kayla Prag



Maria Luiza Carvalho de Morais

Maria Luiza Carvalho de Morais '23

From her experience in an international school, Maria Luiza discovered her passion for other cultures and wanted to be involved in something where she could learn more about them. She found GLIS and the Culture and Identity pathway and immediately knew it was what she was looking for. The variety of options GLIS offers are appealing to her, because she can take classes that allow her to gain a better understanding of different cultures and how they can relate to each other or be unique in their own way. Maria enjoys being a GLIS major, because it gives her the opportunity to be able to learn about how our world is shaped and how different countries function, along with helping her achieve her goals of working in an international human rights organization or in a government position.

Before she graduates, Maria plans on studying abroad so she can have the in-depth experience of living in another culture and learning about it from the root source. All these experiences give her the option to shape her own future, whether that involves pursuing a job opportunity or attending graduate school.



Gianna Pinto
Managing Editor
GLIS and Spanish majors
Culture and Identity pathway
Senior



Maria Luiza Carvalho de Morais
Student Outreach
GLIS major
Culture and Identity pathway
Economics minor
Junior



Christina Fomunyoh
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Culture and Identity pathway
Spanish minor
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Kelly Zahour
Alumni Relations
GLIS major
Human Rights pathway
Psychology and
Political Science minors
Senior

Global Leaders of Penn State is looking to expand our team! If you are interested in contributing or submitting a story, please email us at glis@psu.edu.



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