



GLOBAL LEADERS OF PENN STATE

Global and International Studies
Monthly Email Newsletter

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WELCOME

by Abigail Picozzi, Managing Editor

Hello! Welcome to the April edition of the Global and International Studies Newsletter for the 2022–23 school year. We're so excited to continue sharing stories from the GLIS community! In this issue, we have a summary of the recent GLIS alumni panel, a course spotlight on PLSC 439, stories from a student abroad, and a GLIS pathway highlight.

Thanks for reading! 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.



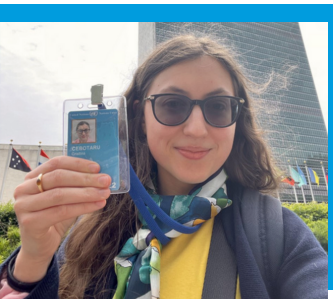
PennState
College of the Liberal Arts

GLIS AT WORK SERIES - ALUMNI PANEL

by Valentina Vallejo

On March 1, the GLIS department organized a panel discussion to highlight some of our distinguished GLIS alumni. The discussion took place via Zoom and was moderated by Maria Luiza Carvalho de Moraes. The main goal of the group discussion was to identify the challenges and opportunities Penn Staters have pre-graduation, to engage in dialogue on the panelists' motivations after their undergraduate studies, and to illustrate how GLIS helped these alums find success post-graduation.

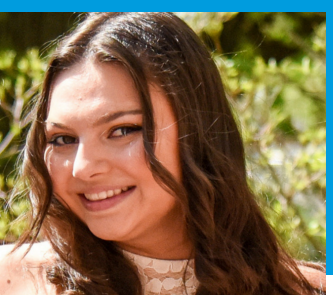
The Panelists



Cristina Cebotaru '21
New York University
M.A. in International Relations Candidate



Carolina Mejía-Moya '22
Compass AmeriCorps Education Intern
Hello Neighbor



Gianna Pinto '22
International Studies Institute
Enrollment Management and Institutional Relations Assistant



Augusta Rentenbach '21
Teach for America corps member
Phillips Academy in Birmingham City Schools

GLIS AT WORK SERIES - ALUMNI PANEL

by Valentina Vallejo

Panelists' background:

The alumni that participated in this event had their own unique journey throughout their undergraduate experience at Penn State. Cristina switched majors from Engineering to GLIS with a focus on the Global Conflict pathway and a minor in Psychology. During her time at Penn State, she participated in the University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA).

Carolina participated in the 2+2 Plan, starting her university experience at Penn State Greater Allegheny and then transferring to University Park. Carolina participated in two separate study abroad programs, one in London, England and the other in Paris, France, both in the same semester!

Augusta majored in History and GLIS with a focus on the Human Rights pathway. With a French minor, she also studied abroad twice and interned in various international organizations throughout her university experience.

Gianna double majored in GLIS and Spanish during her time at Penn State. Her pathway was Culture and Identity, and she was the editorial manager of our newsletter through last year!

Summary of the discussion:

- A crucial point addressed by most panelists was managing the stress associated with the pressure to secure a full-time job offer before graduating. Both Gianna and Carolina emphasized how they benefited from a break after their undergraduate program concluded to then apply for different work and academic opportunities.
- All panelists agreed on the importance of not only expanding one's network but maintaining valuable connections. Carolina pointed out her hardships in networking during and after the pandemic, to which she recommended approaching professors after class, going to their office hours, and participating in their classes.

GLIS AT WORK SERIES - ALUMNI PANEL

by Valentina Vallejo

- Maintaining relationships with professors post-graduation is also very beneficial as many students will require letters of recommendation for graduate programs and/or job applications. Most professors are willing to write their former students a letter of recommendation, expressed Augusta, but to assure that, students should update their connections with occasional emails to keep their connections active.
- Both Augusta and Carolina encourage students to browse the Penn State Alumni Association and Career Services as they provide resources for resume and cover letter revision, as well as personalized training for job interviews.
- One skill that all panelists learned in college was email etiquette: an essential ability for most job industries. Gianna added attention to detail as a crucial skill that she uses in her job every day. Both Augusta and Cristina agreed that their multiple majors and minors in undergraduate program helped to develop their time management skills. Also, Carolina expanded her adaptability in the workplace after her Penn State experience.
- For all the panelists, GLIS provided them with the flexibility and freedom to explore different areas of interest, while expanding their cross-cultural communication and practical skills. Carolina added that GLIS motivated her to pursue two study abroad opportunities in London and Paris, which greatly contributed to her academic development. Additionally, Augusta enjoyed the diverse list of courses offered for GLIS students; she benefited greatly from a GLIS course on the privatization of violence, which expanded her awareness of global conflict. She applies this knowledge today, as she teaches her students about the reality of piracy in other parts of the world.

The panel discussion served as a meaningful dialogue for Penn Staters to understand diverse experiences and paths towards success after graduating with a GLIS major.

UPCOMING EVENT FOR GRADUATING GLIS MAORS

by Abigail Picozzi

Reception for Graduating GLIS Majors

April 20, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

134 HUB-Robeson Center

Graduating GLIS majors are invited to join us on Thursday, April 20, at 4:00 p.m. in 134 HUB-Robeson Center for a reception recognizing their achievements, and celebrating their accomplishments and postgraduate plans. Enjoy tasty snacks from Brazilian Munchies as you talk with your fellow graduates, as well as GLIS faculty and advisors. The formal program will begin at 4:30 p.m. with an awards ceremony and a recognition of every graduating major. It has been our pleasure to have you as students in our program. We look forward to celebrating your successes and learning more about your future endeavors.

COURSE SPOTLIGHT

by Maria Luiza Carvalho de Morais

PLSC 439 - The Politics of Terrorism Global Conflict Pathway

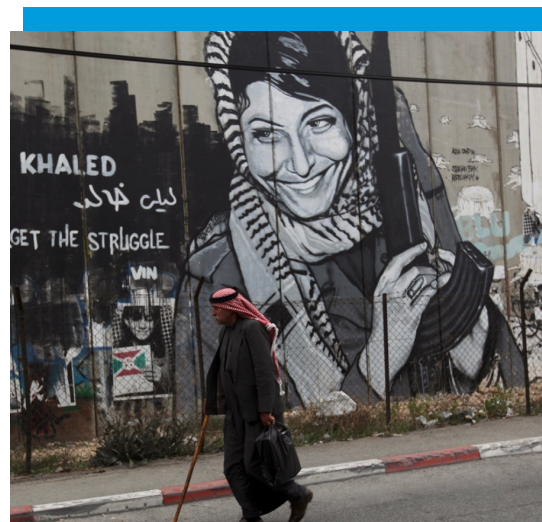
The Politics of Terrorism is offered during both fall and spring semesters and is currently taught by Professors Piazza and Vitek. This 3-credit class is approved under the Global Conflict Pathway for Global and International Studies. The prerequisites for the class are either CRIMJ 100 Introduction to Criminal Justice, PLSC 014 International Relations or permission of program.

PLSC 439 is an analysis of terrorism where students approach terrorism from multiple angles and examine pieces by various scholars in the field. The content includes the changing definition of terrorism and the history behind it. The long, complex history of terrorism is increasingly relevant and can help scholars understand its root causes and end goals in modern societies.

Additionally, students focus on different terrorist groups, their tactics, and their differences. One especially interesting part of the course is the application of rationality to modern terrorism as the multiple competing elements of terrorist acts begs the question: is terrorism *rational*?

Learning the root causes of terrorism is a crucial part of the course as it expands the perspective on different violent groups and their goals; motivations can vary from simply changing political policies to extreme religious agendas. The use of media also creates an interesting element when discussing the relationship between developing societies and terrorism.

When asked about what he would like students to take away from his class, Professor Piazza said that he wants students to appreciate the field of terrorism research, be more curious about the topic, and be more skeptical about information and misinformation.



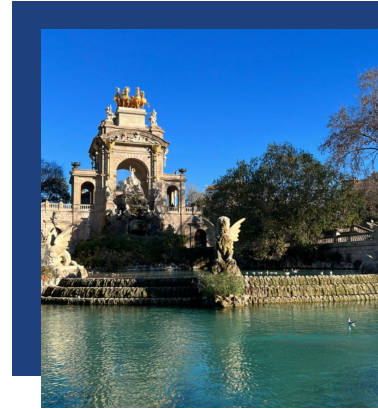
Mural of Leila Khaled who was a member of the PFLP and a symbol/celebrity of the Palestinian Movement.

EDUCATION ABROAD SPOTLIGHT

by Olivia Bratton

Classes

My classes abroad have been surprising, enjoyable, and challenging at times. Throughout my time at Penn State, I had planned to take most of my general education classes abroad, and I extremely glad I did this! I am currently in multiple classes which focus on the arts, history, food, and culture of Barcelona, Spain. These classes embark on guided field trips where I can gain a better grasp on the layout of the city as well as local insights and experiences from my teachers. The classes require attendance, as well as homework and quizzes. I recommend making the most of the classes and assignments because you can learn a lot more about the city you are immersed in!



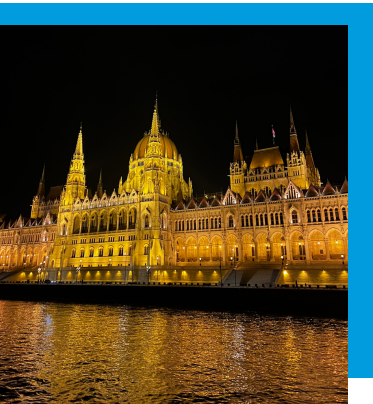
Ciutadella Park,
Barcelona

Traveling Abroad

One of the best parts of an education abroad is the opportunity to see, learn, and be immersed in different parts of the world. From my experience in Barcelona, it is extremely accessible to travel to other cities and countries in Europe. Students in IES Barcelona do not have classes on Fridays, and you will find that many students travel almost every weekend. Thus far, I have visited the cities of Budapest, Hungary; Interlaken, Switzerland; Lisbon, Portugal; Dublin, Ireland; and Tarragona, Madrid, Sitges, and Costa Brava in Spain. The trips are filled with sightseeing, tasting local foods, and exciting activities. However, traveling also comes with a lot of planning, organization, and compromise. Although these weekends have been some of the best of my life, make sure to keep in mind that it can be exhausting scheduling the transportation, housing, and activities for each weekend, as well as always being on the go!

Staying in Your City

In the beginning of our study abroad experience, each student created a list of goals to strive for during their time. While doing this activity, our teachers and staff advised us that the primary regret of most students abroad is that they did not spend enough time in their host city. Rather than putting pressure on trying to travel everywhere, it is also super important to live in the moment and be where your feet are! Luckily, I took this message to heart and have happily stayed and explored Barcelona for more than three weekends. Also, I prioritize wandering and experiencing my city outside of class time during the week!



Budapest, Hungary

CHOOSING YOUR GLIS PATHWAY

by Abigail Picozzi

Abigail Picozzi '24

**GLIS and French and Francophone Studies majors
Culture and Identity pathway**

As every GLIS student knows, choosing your pathway is one of the most crucial parts of your education. With five captivating choices, the decision isn't always easy!

For me, the Culture and Identity pathway just made sense. My favorite courses in the GLIS all fell into that pathway, and with a double major in French and Francophone studies, many of my French credits also counted towards the Culture and Identity pathway.

At first, my decision wasn't so straightforward. I really enjoyed my courses that fell in the categories of Health and Environment and Human Rights, like EARTH 111N Water: Science and Society, and PHIL 108 Social and Political Philosophy, leading me to strongly consider pursuing these pathways. However, at the end of the day, Culture and Identity made the most sense for both my personal interests and academic pursuits. International cultures are what attracted me to GLIS in the first place, and I knew that I would be the most interested and the most motivated in that focus than any other.

If I could give any advice to a GLIS student struggling to choose their pathway, I would encourage them to reflect on why they chose GLIS in the first place and choose the pathway that most closely aligns with their passions!



Abigail Picozzi



Olivia Bratton
 Content Writer
 GLIS and Political Science majors
 Global Conflict pathway
 Third-Year



Maria Luiza Carvalho de Morais
 Content Writer
 GLIS major
 Culture and Identity pathway
 Economics and Political Science minors
 Fourth-Year



Abigail Picozzi
 Managing Editor
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Valentina Vallejo
 Content Writer
 GLIS and German majors
 Wealth and Inequality pathway
 Economics minor
 Fourth-Year

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If you are interested in submitting a story, please email us at glis@psu.edu.



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