

The Most Dangerous Word in the Field: Class

By Solon Simmons, Associate Professor and Director of the Undergraduate Program, ssimmon5@gmu.edu

Many of my colleagues have been intrigued with the publication of my new book, *The Eclipse of Equality*. They wonder how it fits within this adolescent field of conflict resolution; after all it is a book about the United States, it focuses on the media, and it is isolated within the discursive space of Beltway influentials. This is a far cry from our intuitive focus on exotic locales, battlefields in the bush, and suffering of those held in the margins of the Washington consensus on liberal peace building around the world. But as you know, what makes this field so exciting is that conflict happens everywhere: among couples, in corporations, and also in the cloakrooms of the Nation's Capitol. Now that we have seen the street eruptions of Occupy Wall Street and the silliness of the government shutdown, it has been easier for me to sell my standpoint to our community, but even



Solon Simmons.
Photo: Mason Creative Services.

the "celebrity philosopher," Slavoj Žižek, are less than sanguine about a return to the bad old days of Stalinism or even the Second International. What lies ahead for us is some kind of artful theoretical consideration of how to square the circle of liberal democracy and unfair economic advantage. Luckily we are not the first generation in history to confront this problem. Consider the following quotation from the greatest speech of the most successful American class warrior, William Jennings Bryan, who was active in the last big wave of globalization in the 1890s.

"We say to you that you have made the definition of a business man too limited in its application. The man who is employed for wages is as much a business man as his employer; the attorney in a country town is as much a business man as the corporation counsel in a great metropolis; the merchant at the cross-roads store is as much a business man as the merchant of New York; the farmer who goes forth in the morning and toils all day, who begins in the spring and toils all summer, and who by the application of brain and muscle to the natural resources of the country creates wealth, is as much a business man as the man who goes upon the Board of Trade and bets upon the price of grain; the miners who go down a thousand feet into the earth, or climb two thousand feet upon the cliffs, and bring forth from their hiding places the precious metals to be poured into the channels of trade are as much business men as the few financial magnates who, in a back room, corner the money of the world. We come to speak of this broader class of business men."

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now it is hard for us to see our own location in the escalating domestic conflict. Why are things so crazy in this richest country in the world? My answer is simple: class politics.

Let me be clear, I don't mean by this the kinds of philosophical radicalism that inspired European socialism in the nineteenth century. Even the most enraged critics of our new world order like

COMMENTARY

S-CAR and Peace Corps Program:

Reflections on my Experience in Mongolia

By Katherine Bowen-Williams, S-CAR MS Student, kbowen@gmu.edu

The Master's International (MI) program that partners a graduate school degree with Peace Corps field experience is hard to explain, but let me try. The MI program fits the degree to the expected field experience, allowing graduate students to have two years in the field to work and conduct personal research. At the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, this means that most Peace Corps assignments would be a type of community development, such as my own placement as a Community Youth Development volunteer. Peace Corps works well with S-CAR because their training includes aspects such as appreciative inquiry, facilitation skills, capacity building, and community needs assessments. Field work abroad with the Peace Corps in Mongolia seemed

My 2nd year placement is a Swiss-run NGO called Bayasgalant, which loosely translates to "joy." Bayasgalant is a local daycare center that offers services to children whose families live

below the poverty line in the western ger districts. These services include: 3 nutritious meals a day, personalized attention from our two teachers, help with homework, space to play, and now, with the addition of a Peace Corps Volunteer, health and life skills lessons.

A large part of



Group photo at Bayasgalant daycare center, Mongolia.

Photo: Katherine Bowen-Williams.



The view from Bayasgalant daycare center.

Photo: Katherine Bowen-Williams.



Lesson on alcohol in class.

Photo: Katherine Bowen-Williams.

to be the perfect solution to my need for practical experience.

Peace Corps Mongolia is a lot of things: educational, fascinating, engaging, and cold. Winter is already here in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, and that makes getting to work in the ger districts of the capital city a mess of ice and snow. And yet every minute stuck in traffic because a car is spinning out ahead of the bus is worth it because of the students I get to work with.

conflict analysis and resolution has a focus on individuals, their needs, and the needs of the community surrounding them. Working in the ger districts and yet living in the center of the sprawling capital gives me a unique opportunity to help identify life skills that the students could use in their daily lives, such as communication, personal planning, managing emotions, and relationship building. Community building at Bayasgalant starts with giving the children the basic help to live their lives, and then the tools to carry their future forward alone once they graduate high school. ■

Early Warning Systems:

Developing a Blueprint for Conflict Prevention

By Ariana Harner, MS Student, aharner@gmu.edu and Bridget Moix, PhD Student, bmoix@gmu.edu

The Genocide Prevention Integration Applied Practice and Theory (APT) aims at integrating early warning systems knowledge to prevent and mitigate genocide and atrocity risks. During the spring and summer of 2013, a group of S-CAR graduate students, in partnership with former Dean Andrea Bartoli, Tetsushi Ogata, and Bridget Moix, joined forces to contribute to the research and practice of genocide prevention, especially in connection with electoral process. The building of a new APT proved to be a shared learning process, and after two semesters, APT members created a tangible product for practitioners and developed a blueprint that can be used by future S-CAR students.

The APT colleagues came from myriad backgrounds and levels of experience, and discovered as a group how to utilize one another's strengths collaboratively in order to learn about and contribute to the practice of genocide prevention. One member worked for the Bureau of Conflict Stabilization and Operations at the State Department; another had extensive experience in journalism and media;

yet another was a former strategist and policy analyst in the U.S. Army. The distinct differences among APT members, meshed with the mutual aspirations of making a real impact in the field, gave the group a genuine sense of purpose and drive. As a self-driven process, the APT took some time to gel around a common task and working methods, but the investment in students leading the

design of the experience paid off in strong group commitment and collaboration to a shared outcome.

A critical focus of the APT was to examine how local, national, regional, and international actors move emerging policies on atrocities prevention into practice. The integration of these levels is essential to an effective and fully-functioning system of prevention, and has not yet been achieved despite important developments in the genocide prevention field. One key takeaway from the APT was that prevention needs to be a locally-led, ground-up approach. Another

key feature of the APT was meeting with experts and practitioners in the field. We gained exposure to topics such as systems designs, crisis mapping, and hate & dangerous speech monitoring, and we heard first-hand accounts from people who were on the ground in Kenya during the elections. We even had the pleasure of meeting with Ambassador Liberata Mulamula, Senior Diplomatic Adviser to the President of the Republic of Tanzania, and the former Executive Secretary of the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region of Africa. Given the opportunity

Student Meal Assistance Fund

Yara El Mowafy and Jordan Bivings, co-founders of Patriot 2 Patriot program in partnership with University Life, Sodexo, the Office of Student Support and Case Management (OSSCM), and the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs, recently established the Student Meal Assistance Fund. The Student Meal Assistance Fund offers Southside meal vouchers to "students in need" with assistance being temporary in nature. To donate to the Student Meal Assistance Fund, please contact Claire Forman (cforman@gmu.edu), Assistant Director, Office of Advancement and Alumni Relations.



Group photo of Genocide Prevention Program APT on early warning system.
Photo: Genocide Prevention Program.

members in Kenya before, during, and after the national elections; applied conflict resolution theories to better understand the conflict and opportunities for furthering peace processes and preventing violence; and identified gaps and opportunities where a systems approach might contribute to violence prevention efforts. APT members collaborated on individual and group research that became their unique contributions to the field.

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initiatives

25th Annual Lynch Lecture Reflections:

By Alice Peck, S-CAR MS Student, apeck2@gmu.edu

The School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution was delighted to welcome Dr. Willie Esterhuyse to give the 25th Annual Lynch Lecture, "Talking to the Enemy: The South African Case Study" on October 24th, 2013. George Mason University's Founders Hall Auditorium was filled with students, staff, faculty, and members of the public to hear Dr. Esterhuyse, a leading South African writer, philosopher, and intellectual, speak on his role in facilitating dialogue between the African National Congress (ANC) and the then South African government.

Dr. Sandra Cheldelin, the Vernon M. and Minnie I. Lynch Professor of Conflict Resolution at S-CAR, began the introductions with a mention of the Lynch Lectures, an annual lecture series in honour of Edwin and Helen Lynch, whose generosity to S-CAR includes the beautiful Point of View property on Mason Neck and the endowed Chair in the name of Edwin's parents. Dr. Cheldelin emphasized the importance of the lecture series in bringing the idea and theory of conflict analysis and resolution to the attention of the wider community.

Dr. Johannes Botes, Associate Professor at the School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Baltimore, spoke next. He told of being a student under Dr. Esterhuyse at the University of Stellenbosch, and of his experience as a member of the first doctoral class at S-CAR. As well as the 25th year of Lynch Lectures, 2013 marks the 25th celebration of the doctoral program at S-CAR.

Dr. Christopher Mitchell, Professor Emeritus of Conflict



Dr. Willie Esterhuyse.
Photo: S-CAR.

Analysis and Resolution at S-CAR, gave the final introduction. Before welcoming Dr. Esterhuyse to the stage, Dr. Mitchell introduced clips from 'Endgame,' a 2009 film that dramatizes the final days of apartheid in South Africa. Played by William Hurt, Dr. Esterhuyse's contribution to these secret negotiations between the ANC and the government was unmistakable. These negotiations were fundamental in the end of apartheid policies, the eventual release of Nelson

Mandela, and the interim constitution that provided the basis for full democracy in South Africa.

Finally, and with much audience anticipation, Dr. Esterhuyse took the podium. He told a story of the crucial importance of banishing bitterness and building trust. Describing the challenge of the negotiations, Dr. Esterhuyse depicted the suspicion and antagonism between the two parties and spoke of hard decisions about confidentiality, deniability and responsibility to accept outcomes. He emphasized the importance of deconstructing the idea of 'the enemy' and rehumanising the other. Dr. Esterhuyse concluded with a discussion on the justice gap in contemporary South Africa and the importance of addressing this gap. Stressing the need for redistribution of wealth, broad and deeper democracy, job creation, and economic growth, Dr. Esterhuyse underlined the inequalities within post-apartheid South Africa and the fundamental need for social cohesion, nation building, and positive peace. ■

S-CAR Holiday Party and Scholarship Launch

By Kate Molski, S-CAR MS Student, kmolski@gmu.edu

Upcoming Events

Monday, November 25, 2013

Informal Conversation with Johan Galtung
4:30pm - 6:30pm

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Beyond "Speaking as Healing": Silence, Voice
and the Politics of Repair
7:00pm - 8:00pm

Friday, December 6, 2013

S-CAR Holiday Party and Wallace Warfield
Scholarship Launch
6:00pm - 9:30pm

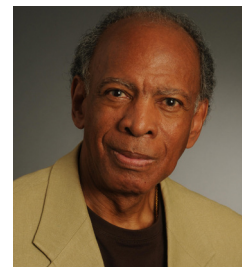
For more visit: scar.gmu.edu/events-roster

On December 6, S-CAR will host a holiday party and officially launch the Wallace Warfield Scholarship Fund. The event, which will take place in the Metropolitan Building, is envisioned as an opportunity for the S-CAR community to share their cultures, tastes, and talents with each other. It will feature music, cultural performances, and a potluck-style dinner.

Starting at 2pm, community members will have the opportunity to DJ a twenty minute set. Event organizers hope this will give faculty, students, and staff a platform to share their favorite songs and answer the question, "What does S-CAR listen to?" The hol-

iday party will also feature live music performed by S-CAR's own Mark Hardee, Adomi Leshem, and Alex Cromwell, as well as cultural performances from the Middle East, the Africa Working Group, and the Latin America Working Group. These performances will take place from 6 to 9:30pm, during the heart of the party.

Drinks will be provided, and attendees are encouraged to share their culinary expertise by bringing a potluck dish for dinner. There will be an opportunity for individuals and groups to donate to the Wallace Warfield Scholarship Fund. Those who are interested in DJing should contact Kwaw de Graft-Johnson at kdegraff@gmu.edu. ■



Dr. Wallace Warfield (1938-2010)

Photo: Mason Creative Services

Student Opinion: Ellen and Jane take on DoD

The Case of Structural Violence Against Women in the US Army

By Ellen Haring, S-CAR PhD Student and a Colonel in the United States Army, eharing@gmu.edu

On May 23rd, 2012, S-CAR PhD student Colonel Ellen Haring became a plaintiff in a lawsuit against the Department of Defense (DoD). She and co-plaintiff Command Sergeant Major Jane Baldwin sued DoD over a policy that prohibited women from serving in a quarter of a million military positions that were considered "combat" positions. The policy was a clear example of "structural violence." Excluding women from the primary mission of the profession effectively created a two-class culture in which women are viewed as a lesser valued sub-group. Furthermore, excluding women from the core competencies of the profession had a secondary effect of keeping them out of key leadership and policymaking positions. The military draws 80% of its senior leaders from the very specialties that women were excluded from accessing. The result is that in the Army women comprise just 6.7% of general officers and less than 4% of the generals in the Marine Corps.

Choosing to sue the Department of Defense was a conflict resolution measure that sought an arbitrated decision to a long standing dispute. Arbitration is not the most effective way to resolve disputes since one side or the other often objects to and may resist the decision of the arbitrator. Fortunately, January 28th, 2013, eight months after the lawsuit was filed and while they were preparing for their first oral arguments, Secretary of



Ellen Haring.

Photo: Ellen Haring.

Defense Leon Panetta directed the services to remove all barriers to women's service. The Secretary gave the military services 3 years to implement the new policy. He and the Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff publicly announced their support for the removal of all restrictions to women's service. While all of these developments are positive steps and many people celebrated the changes, the

reality is that nine months after the removal of the exclusionary policy very little has changed for women in the military. Baldwin recently applied for and was denied a senior staff position in a combat arms unit. The military has yet to explain how it will allow senior women to cross over into branches from which they were previously excluded. As a result, Haring and Baldwin's lawsuit has received several court-granted extensions and remains open. ■

Recent S-CAR Articles, Op-Eds, Letters to the Editor, and Media Appearances

UN Climate Change Negotiations in Poland This Week

Michael Shank, S-CAR Ph.D. Alumnus
Washington Times 11/18/13

Inter-ethnic Cooperation Revisited: Why Mobile Phones Can Help Prevent Discrete Events of Violence, Using the Kenyan Case Study

Charles Martin-Shields, S-CAR Ph.D. Candidate
Stability: International Journal of Security and Development 11/12/13

The Proverb: A Preserver of Shona Traditional Religion and Ethnic Code

Tompson Makahamadze, S-CAR Ph.D. Student
Journal of Pan African Studies 11/1/13

Conflict Analysts from S-CAR have appeared on 10 occasions since the last newsletter. These 3 represent the latest at time of publication. For a complete list please visit: <http://scar.gmu.edu/media>

The President and the Professor

By Catherine Walsh, MS Student, , cwalsh12@gmu.edu

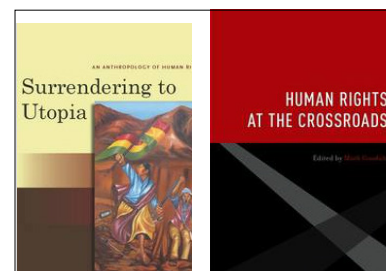


Mark Goodale,
Associate Professor
of Conflict Analysis
and Anthropology
Photo: Mason
Creative Services

The president of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, for the second time this year, referenced Mark Goodale's book *Human Rights at the Crossroads* in a speech titled "The Human Rights Discourse - Some Issues of Source and Prospects for Achievement" at the Annual Human Rights lecture to the Human Rights Committee of the Law Society of Ireland. This follows his earlier speech titled "The Human Rights Discourse: its importance and its challenges," which ref-

erenced another of Mark Goodale's books *Surrendering to Utopia* at the Human Rights Commission's Annual Lecture on International Human Rights Day.

The links to the speeches can be found at: <http://www.president.ie/speeches/6664-2/> and <http://www.president.ie/speeches/the-human-rights-discourse-its-importance-and-its-challenges-by-president-michael-d-higgins-the-human-rights-commissions-annual-lecture-international-human-rights-day-monday/>. ■



press

David Harris, S-CAR Graduate Certificates Program

By Virginia Rubey, MS Student and Graduate Certificates Program Assistant, vrubey@gmu.edu



David Harris.
Photo: David Harris.

As the CEO of Advanced Decision Vectors (ADV), David Harris does not need another impressive line on his resume. This Virginia native enrolled in S-CAR's Graduate Certificates Program because when he is called upon to work with federal agencies on efforts to reconstruct communities where the US is or has been involved - such as Iraq - he needs to be "one of the smartest guys in the room." Harris founded ADV in 2009. The company provides program management, planning, and support for agencies with critical missions. The CAR Certificate for Prevention, Reconstruction, and Stabilization (PRS) befits the head of the company that holds the Advisory and Assistance Services Contract to the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction. However, Harris

says that the PRS Certificate is more than an accreditation. "We are learning international law, how to triage in disaster areas", he remembers of his Spring 2013 Special Projects Class Mara Schoeny and Cindy Mazur. "We had an exercise in Fort Pierce, Florida...It was a humanitarian operation: we were negotiating a disaster relief project... [in] a hostile environment, with gun shots (blanks) firing off around us, and we had to go in and triage, we had to negotiate prisoners' release, set up a base camp...There were a lot of elements going on," he explains. We had to coordinate this [five day operation] ourselves from on-the-ground standpoint: we had rations, we slept for five days...operating on flashlights." He describes a class trip that few would choose. Harris acknowledges, "Pursuing my education is a daunting task, but it is one I am willing to commit to [because there is] a need for this." He points out that few US policymakers working to prevent and stabilize conflicts abroad have a background in conflict resolution. Harris' own undergraduate degree is in marketing. He says his commitment to CAR arose when he was "Reflecting on how we went into Iraq, and what the plan was - or was not - and how we are dealing in countries we are currently occupying" He says S-CAR Certificate coursework "really brought me down to Earth." A class with David J. Smith "opened my eyes to the way I think, how other think, [and] the things you think you know but do not." ■

Alexandra Schaerrer-Cumming, S-CAR PhD Student

By Kwaw de Graft-Johnson, PhD Student and Newsletter Editor, kdegraft@gmu.edu

Alexandra Schaerrer-Cumming grew up in Switzerland during the height of the atrocities and genocide that have come to be associated with the former Yugoslavia conflict. "I became friends with a young girl who had managed to escape the carnage that was taking place in her country and the way she described the horrors and terror of war made me re-evaluate the direction I wanted my life to take." From that period, Alexandra developed a keen interest in learning about repression, ethnocentrism, and intolerance in her own country as well as abroad. Alexandra's journey into the field of conflict analysis and resolution started while she was getting her BA in Political Science and German Literature at Washington & Lee University. While there, issues of her identity were constantly coming up amongst her friends. "Although I was born and raised in Switzerland, my mother is Maltese. The Swiss consider me to be Maltese and the Maltese consider me to be Swiss." This lack of a clear identity made her friends refer to her simply as "the European" and as this was getting rather confusing: "I labeled myself as an international citizen." Although she enjoyed her time at her undergraduate school she felt her education was missing a practical component that she des-



Alexandra Schaerrer-Cumming with some of the kids in the community.

Photo: Alexandra Schaerrer-Cumming

perately wanted to have. Alexandra's passion for linking theory to practice in the field of conflict analysis and resolution eventually led her to work with grassroots organizations in Tanzania and Mozambique after she completed her Masters degree in Comparative and International Studies from the Swiss Polytechnic Institute of Zurich (ETH). While working in East Africa, Alexandra had the opportunity to experience firsthand some of the region's pressing issues such as poverty, a lack of education, lack of job opportunities, corruption, security concerns, tribal violence, HIV/AIDS, and many more. As she said, "This experience provided me with the emotional and intellectual growth allowing me to garner a better understanding between the role of economic, social, and political factors on the outbreak of conflict, security dilemmas, and competition for scarce resource allocation." After three years of working on the African continent, Alexandra was ready to be in the classroom again, this time to focus her academic work on research that could positively influence policy that would complement all grassroots efforts in conflict resolution. After being accepted into and successfully completing a double Masters in Mediterranean Security Studies via the University of Malta and Conflict Analysis and Resolution from S-CAR, she was keen to pursue the PhD program at S-CAR, as she felt she still had a lot to learn. "I was as such very excited to be accepted as part of the 2013 PhD cohort and I look forward to this new challenge in my life." ■

The Most Dangerous Word in the Field: Class

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Bryan was daft on economic theory, but as a mythographer of the American class imaginary he was unmatched. He understood that after John Locke, there was no going back to Marxist communalism and state centralization. Modern society would be organized in terms of businesses providing goods and services in a liberal economy, but we moderns would have to recognize that as we all become businesses in an interconnected global economy (think only of the invention of the concepts of human and social capital), we, "the Many," would have to become attentive to the tendency for competitive advantages in capitalism to accrue and concentrate in the hands of "the Few." If you remember that movie from the mid-80s, *Highlander*, you get the major problem of capitalist accumulation: "there can be only one." As economies develop, there is a tendency for those who have been successful to hold on to their competitive advantages and to perpetuate them at the expense of others who contribute in meaningful ways to the overall value of the goods and services produced. This is a no-brainer idea, but we seem not to be able to admit what all implicitly know: the capitalist game has a tendency to rig itself unless carefully cultivated by custodians of the public good. Ironically, even the winners lose this game in the end because they undermine the stability of the economic system as a whole. These are obvious problems and we will invent new progressive narratives to manage them eventually as we did over a century ago, but one wonders how much damage will have been done in the interim.

You see, you don't need to side with Rosa Luxemburg to speak cogently about class conflict; all you need is the capacity to start seeing abusive power in ordinary business dealings. I describe it as being like that catchy slogan, "start seeing bicycles." We need to start seeing abusive economic power as such, not as some stand-in for a bad conscience as even intersectional theories of racism and sexism often do. By this I don't mean we lose our focus on identity politics, but that we recognize that cultural power and class power are logically separable, even when they are rarely separate. Our problem is not that we care too little but rather that we have lost our class imaginary over the course of the American Century, and in the era of globalization, when America sneezes, the world catches a cold. Why this emaciation of the class imaginary has happened is the story of my book and I encourage you to seek my answer there, but let me use the remainder of this space to channel my inner Luxemburg and advocate for a local revolution in conflict resolution terminology that embraces the idea of class conflict over its more anodyne representations.

The most anodyne is that proposed by our most celebrated conflict theorist, Johan Galtung. Consider these powerful lines from his seminal 1969 article coining the term "structural violence."

"In order not to overwork the word violence we shall sometimes refer to the condition of structural violence as social injustice. The term 'exploitation' will not be used, for several reasons. First, it belongs to a political vocabulary, and has so many political and emotional overtones that the use of this term will hardly facilitate communication."

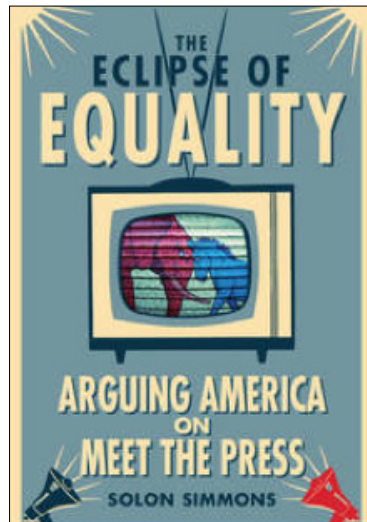
When I asked Johan a few years back about this admission and his obvious debt to Marx, he confirmed my suspicions. His debt was deep, but he covered it up in cunning language that has fooled only us. To be a conflict resolver in the late 1960s, with the concrete threat of totalitarian alternatives to capitalism on offer in something like half of the world, it was too dangerous to speak about the role that "exploitation" played in generating conflict. This was because everyone knew back then that exploitation was a Marxist keyword. It implied class politics and no one wanted to touch that hot potato in the era of the Cold War. This was true of John Burton as well. Our field was born as desperate attempt to triangulate the era of global class struggle and our vehicle has been to substitute an ascriptive imaginary for a class mythology. It was far easier for us back then to speak about the power of the "topdogs" who always had the flavor of some ethnic hegemon than to speak about the power of the capitalist. Our villains now are genocidaires rather than plutophiles and our stories of the root causes of conflict have become impoverished as a result. Burton wrote,

"They [the ethnic underdogs] are deprived because the structure deprives them of chances to organize and bring their power to bear against the topdogs, as voting power, bargaining power, striking power, violent power - partly because they are atomized and disintegrated, partly because they are overawed by all the authority the topdogs present."

Galtung knew what he was doing, but we have forgotten. He knew that culture and capitalism had conspired to produce a world riven by complex inequalities that would require careful critique of class structure in addition to what Fanon called cultural imposition, but we have forgotten. A

typical conflict resolution student today is baffled when confronted with the proposition that people would terrorize one another only for profit, even when no hatred was present over who counted as a true prophet. We see religious and ethnic tensions as root causes of conflict, but we fail to see how these are often playthings of those in power where the real game in global economic integration: in short, class structuration.

Oddly enough, in a world in which we are all closet Fukuyamans, as Žižek has suggested, when no one seriously considers any grand economic projects that embrace even most modest socialist elements, we in the field of conflict resolution still consider class to be the most dangerous word in our lexicon. In a thoroughly capitalist word, we are inclined to cite Marx on his head, "the history of all existing society is the history of ascriptive struggles." Our mythology of modern conflict is one of struggles between primordial identity groups vying for sovereignty over territory in the spirit of an ancient hatred, most productively augmented by their common enemy in the West. What we fail to recognize is that, in the end, the Western project had more to do with commodification and making the world safe for business than it did with cultural hegemony, *per se*, even when it was promoted in the spirit of the "white man's burden." The coming Asian Century will prove this to us and the most helpful tool we will be able to employ as we decode these coming conflicts is the concept of class. Time to get busy. ■



New book by Solon Simmons.
Photo: Stanford University Press.

Early Warning Systems

Continued from page 3



Bridget Moix.
Photo: David Harris.



Ariana Harner.
Photo: David Harris.

In the summer semester, the focus broadened to include the Great Lakes Region of Africa (comprised of 12 member states, including Kenya) with a focus on providing support and assistance to national and regional leaders in a first-of-its-kind regional genocide prevention system (the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region or ICGLR). George Mason University has a Memorandum of Understanding with the ICGLR to support the development of its regional genocide prevention mechanisms, including early warning systems. Working with the ICGLR to identify their needs, the APT team developed a report titled “Guiding Framework for Preventing Electoral Violence,” the first in what will be a series on

genocide prevention in the Africa Great Lakes Region. The topics in the handbook include the following: training and capacity - building measures for election monitors, early warning and response systems for election monitoring, analysis of media and speech acts as preventive communication, and the role of law enforcement and accountability issues. The report also drew from lessons learned from the Kenyan elections in 2007 and 2013. It seeks to illustrate the lessons that can be applied to other Member States in the ICGLR region when they are gearing toward preparing for upcoming elections. APT members intended for the report to provide analytical tools and practical recommendations for the ICGLR Regional and National Committees to monitor and assess risks of electoral violence and prevent them from occurring and escalating.

When the Genocide Prevention Integration APT began, former Dean Bartoli suggested we imagine it as a 30-year project in which S-CAR students would work in practical ways to support the development of effective local, national, regional, and international systems to help move the African Great Lakes Region, in the words of Amb. Mulamula, “from genocide-prone to genocide-free.” It is an ambitious vision but one which S-CAR students and faculty are well-positioned to carry forward. The Genocide Prevention Integration APT has taken a break in Fall 2013 but, with enough student interest, will be offered again in Spring 2014. For more information on the APT, contact Tetsushi Ogata, Director of the Genocide Prevention Program, at togata@gmu.edu. ■



School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution

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