FALL 2020

INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING Newsletter

Message from the Director

Welcome to the first issue of the "relaunched" Institute for Global Understanding (IGU) newsletter. The relaunched IGU seeks to build on the rich tradition and impact that it had at Monmouth in its first iteration from 2002-2015. After a brief hiatus, the IGU has returned and is eager to extend its reach across campus, in the community, and throughout the world.

The relaunched IGU had a very productive first semester. It overcame myriad challenges that the pandemic presented and made a significant impact on and off campus in hosting and co-hosting virtual events to promote its mission.

The IGU's mission seeks to promote cultural literacy and citizenship through academic and arts programs, interdisciplinary research and events, community partnerships, and service at the local and global levels. It is grounded in five important pillars:

- strengthening Monmouth University's connections and engagement with the United Nations
- promoting Monmouth faculty and student placements in the Fulbright Scholars program
- establishing partnerships with academic institutions around the world
- cultivating intracampus synergies on matters related to IGU's mission, and
- fostering "local-global" partnerships in the community.

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MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY | INSTITUTE for GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING

Message from the Director (con't)

The IGU also launched several new initiatives in the fall to advance its mission including the IGU-UCI Global Ocean Governance Lecture Series, the Tuesday Night World Music Record Club, a new blog, describing the IGU's events, and a new Twitter account. All of the IGU's programs and events are accessible on the IGU's new web page.

The end of the fall semester marked the beginning of substantial planning efforts for the IGU Biennial Symposium, which is described in more detail in this newsletter. Confirmed expert interdisciplinary speakers from Canada, Colombia, India, the Kyrgyz Republic, Norway, Qatar, Serbia, South Korea, and the U.S. will headline this exciting global event, scheduled for March 25-27. The theme for this year's symposium is "Human Rights and the Environment." We are excited to build on the highly successful track record of the annual Global Understanding Conventions in the initial iteration of the IGU. An archive of these previous events and other information describing the IGU's history is available on the IGU web page.

I have been fortunate to work with an exceptionally talented and active IGU team on all aspects of the IGU's activities, including the Faculty Advisory Council, graduate assistants, graduate and undergraduate interns, and webmaster Bob Smith's valuable support in building out the new IGU web page. I look forward to another engaging semester of IGU events and impacts on and off campus in the spring.

Best wishes for the new year!

Randall S. Abate
Director, Institute for Global Understanding

"After a brief hiatus, the IGU has returned and is eager to extend its reach across campus, in the community, and throughout the world."

PROF. RANDALL S. ABATE

Fall 2020 Events

Global Ocean Governance Lecture Series

The Global Ocean Governance Lecture Series was jointly launched by the Institute for Global Understanding and Urban Coast Institute. The series showcases leading experts on global ocean governance from the U.S. and around the world to address cutting-edge issues facing the world's oceans, including climate change, biodiversity protection, and marine shipping.

Dr. Wil Burns of American University presented the inaugural lecture in the series. His lecture addressed ocean alkalinization enhancement, which is one of the more promising climate geoengineering strategies for the marine environment. This strategy seeks to enhance storage of carbon dioxide in the world's oceans through the addition of limestone or other substances. The lecture examined the potential effectiveness of this approach, potential risks to ocean ecosystems, and avenues for international governance.

The second lecture in the series featured Dr. Cymie Payne of Rutgers University and Dr. Guillermo Ortuño Crespo of the Stockholm Resilience Centre. Dr. Payne's and Dr. Ortuño Crespo's lecture addressed the treaty for biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ). Human exploitation of the open ocean has increased rapidly over the past few decades. Years of negotiation are coming to fruition with a new treaty to manage conservation and sustainable use of life in the connected, dynamic global ocean.

The spring 2021 lecture series will feature a panel in February addressing marine shipping and maritime jurisdiction in the climate change context, and a panel in April addressing cutting-edge issues in fisheries management.

DR. WIL BURNS

DR. CYMIE PAYNE

DR. GUILLERMO ORTUÑO CRESPO

Fulbright Information Sessions for Faculty and Students

The Institute for Global Understanding hosted Fulbright sessions for faculty and students on October 21, 2020.

FACULTY INFORMATION SESSION

Dr. Michael Cronin, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, led this session. Attendees learned about the mission of the Fulbright program, the types of grants available, and how to apply. This session offered an opportunity to hear about this experience from Fulbright Scholar alumni Dr. Cronin and Dr. Mary Kate Azcuy and ask questions about the application process.

STUDENT INFORMATION SESSION

Dr. Mihaela Moscaliuc, Associate Professor, Department of English, led this session. This session offered Monmouth students and recent graduates an opportunity to learn about Fulbright awards to conduct research, teach English, or a combination of teaching/research awards in over 125 countries.

"We have a tremendous wealth of talent here at Monmouth. It is important to identify faculty and staff who may be interested in lecturing or conducting research abroad."

DR. MICHAEL CRONIN

"I want to encourage every single student who feels inspired by the mission of the Fulbright to apply for a grant."

DR. MIHAELA MOSCALIUC

Tuesday Night World Music Record Club

The IGU co-hosted the inaugural Tuesday Night World Record Club on October 20, 2020. This event was moderated by Dr. Meghan Hynson, Assistant Professor of Ethnomusicology in the Department of Music and Theatre Arts at Monmouth University, and a special guest co-moderator, Dr. León García Corona, Assistant Professor of Ethnomusicology at Northern Arizona University specializing in Latin America Music and Music and Sentimentalism in Mexico.

Dr. Hynson noted that the purpose of this event is to listen, learn, and delve into musical genres and their connection to complex societal issues that we may not be familiar with. Dr. Hynson further observed that through these events we can increase our knowledge about what's happening musically through sharing musical and cultural influences historically and transnationally.

The album, "Celia," by Angelique Kidjo was selected for this event due in part to Kidjo's recognition as the recipient of the 2020 Grammy Award for World Music. *Time* magazine has called her "Africa's Premier Diva."

"We can increase our knowledge about what's happening musically through sharing musical and cultural influences historically and transnationally."

DR. MEGHAN HYNSON

Cross-Campus Collaboration Events

SOCIAL WORK TEACH-IN

The Institute for Global Understanding co-hosted the Social Work Teach-in on November 7, 2020 via Zoom. The teach-in's theme was "Quarantine Confessions: How it took a global pandemic to shed light on some of the most pressing societal issues in the United States."

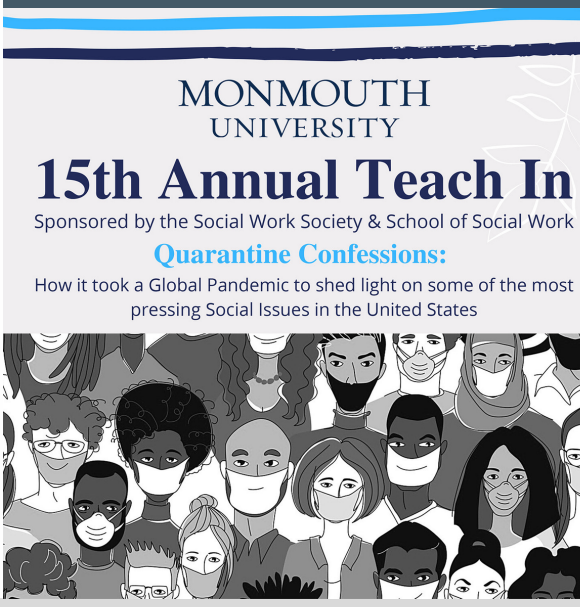
The virtual conference's keynote speaker, NJ State Senator Vin Gopal discussed what he has been working on from a policy perspective around COVID-19 and the continued struggles New Jersey faces. The teach-in also consisted of panel discussions on the economic, health, and educational aspects of COVID-19, which were hosted by members of the Social Work Society's Executive Board. Dr. Ragudaran noted that "this was the first time the Teach In was held online. It was exciting to have attendees from universities across the country on hand to discuss various aspects of the impact of COVID-19, which ignited our call to action."

Although most participants have been overwhelmed by the topic of COVID-19, the event addressed ways in which we can continue to move forward, living our lives while coexisting with the pandemic. It is also important for individuals to continue educating themselves and remain open to learning new things. We are all powerful in what we can do; however, our lifelong learning and adapting can enable us to be powerful in a positive way. Therefore, the call to action for all participants of this event is to consider the information provided and implement new and innovative solutions to the ongoing issues related to COVID-19.

Co-authored by Emilia Intili and Courtney Gosse

"This was the first time the Teach In was held online. It was exciting to have attendees from universities across the country on hand to discuss various aspects of the impact of COVID-19, which ignited our call to action."

DR. SANJANA RAGUDARAN



INAUGURAL SCHOLARLY SPEAKER SERIES IN MONMOUTH'S GRADUATE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

On November 20, 2020, we welcomed Dr. Migalí Armillas-Tiseyra, an Associate Professor of Comparative Literature at Penn State University, for her lecture, "The Dictator Novel: Writers and Politics in the Global South" and discussion as the inaugural Scholarly Speaker Series event. The English Department's Graduate Director, Dr. Mary Kate Azcuy, described the newly developed Scholarly Speaker Series' relevance and importance for Monmouth University. "This series was established to introduce students to scholars who are working in critical new fields of inquiry and integrate these scholars into our graduate programs—in literature, rhetoric and writing, and creative writing—to foster interdisciplinary conversations on gender, intersectionality, and global issues in collaboration with PGIS and IGU."

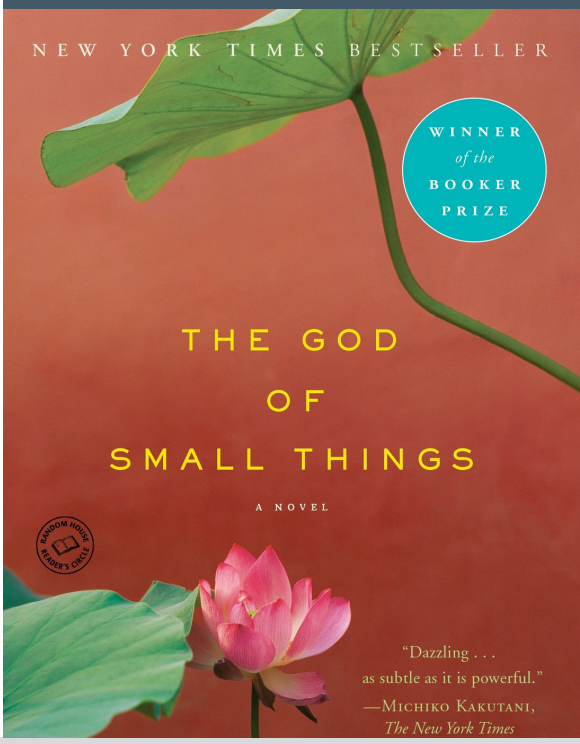
Authored by Deanna Venezio

"This series was established to introduce students to scholars who are working in critical new fields of inquiry and integrate these scholars into our graduate programs to foster interdisciplinary conversations in collaboration with PGIS and IGU."

DR. MARY KATE AZCUY

PGIS FACULTY INTERSECTION BOOK CLUB

The Intersection Faculty Book Club features a thought-provoking novel each break. The books selected highlight equity, gender, and diversity topics. An MU scholar hosts the discussion, bringing an interdisciplinary perspective and inspiring deeper discussion. The fall 2020 book club featured a discussion of the *New York Times* bestseller The God of Small Things. The book club is a collaboration of the Program in Gender and Intersectionality Studies, the Guggenheim Memorial Library, and the English Department. The IGU co-sponsored the fall 2020 book club event.



BORDER LINES: POEMS OF MIGRATION

Dr. Mihaela Moscaliuc, Associate Professor of English, co-hosted a virtual poetry reading along with Kathy Engel, MFA chair and Associate Arts Professor at New York University's Tisch School of Arts on November 15, 2020.

The reading from Border Lines: Poems of Migration (eds. Moscaliuc & Waters, Knopf 2020) was a truly magical event. Dr. Moscaliuc remarked that "readings like these bring people together and create or renew a sense of community we desperately need right now…I truly believe poetry can make things happen." The poems in the collection detail contemporary immigration experiences such as assimilation into American culture, conflicting identities, and the shifting of language. The event was particularly well attended with over 80 participants, yet also felt very intimate.

> "Readings like these bring people together and create or renew a sense of community we desperately need right now…I truly believe poetry can make things happen."
>
> DR. MIHAELA MOSCALIUC

DIWALI EVENT WITH 'ONE LIFE TO LOVE'

The IGU co-hosted alongside INDspire and NJ State Senator Vin Gopal a virtual Diwali event on November 14, 2020 for "One Life to Love." Dr. Joanne Jodry, Assistant Professor, Department of Professional Counseling, established the connection with this important project.

Diwali is a five-day festival of lights, celebrated by millions of Indians across the world. The children from the "One Life to Love" orphanage performed a Diwali dance that was a ray of hope for all Indian orphans and children with special needs. The children also performed a thank you song for the event. The event truly captured the festival of lights and reminded us how vibrant Indian culture and its children are.

Faculty Highlights

Professor Randall Abate

INTERVIEWS AND BOOK TALKS ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE VOICELESS BOOK

Professor Randall Abate was interviewed on the "Law Matters" program on Cambridge TV at the University on July 20, 2020. The interview addressed Professor Abate's recent book, Climate Change and the Voiceless: Protecting Future Generations, Wildlife, and Natural Resources (Cambridge University Press, 2019). Future generations, wildlife, and natural resources - collectively referred to as 'the voiceless' in this work - are the most vulnerable and least equipped populations to protect themselves from the impacts of global climate change. Prof. Abate identifies the common vulnerabilities of the voiceless in the Anthropocene era and demonstrates how the law, by incorporating principles of sustainable development, can evolve to protect their interests more effectively.
The interview is available here.

Prof. Abate was also featured in an interview in The Green Room. Hosted by the Green Institute in Nigeria, the Green Room features interactive discussions with leading experts on sustainability from around the world, followed by live Q&A with a global online audience. Dr. Duygu Sever interviewed Prof. Abate on his Climate Change and the Voiceless book. Prof. Abate also delivered book talks on his Climate Change and the Voiceless book in 2020 in webinars hosted around the world at the University of Aberdeen (Jan. 15), McGill University (Apr. 8), Pace University (Apr. 13), the University of Copenhagen (June 11), and the University of Bergen (June 17).

"We need to perceive climate change not just as an environmental problem but as a social, economic, and political problem."

PROF. RANDALL S. ABATE

Professor Randall Abate (con't)

PRESENTATIONS ON ANTHROPOCENE ACCOUNTABILITY LITIGATION ARTICLE

Professor Abate offers a new approach to fight for climate justice based on his latest law journal article, Anthropocene Accountability Litigation: Confronting Common Enemies to Promote a Just Transition. The article has been accepted for publication in the Columbia Journal of Environmental Law (Spring 2021), one of the top environmental law journals in the nation.

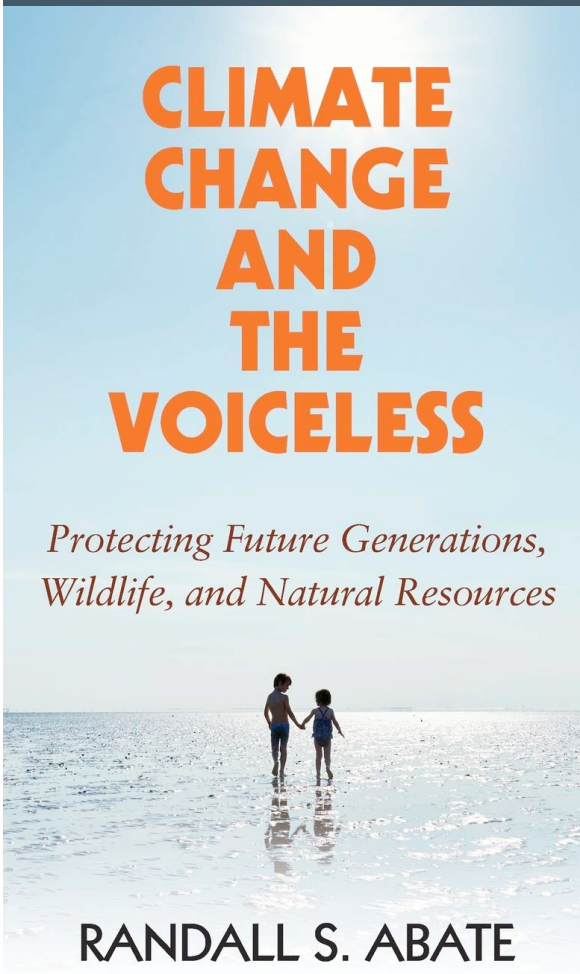
The article first reviews the nature and scope of the climate change impacts from the fossil fuel and industrial animal agriculture industries and examines how federal regulatory gaps and subsidies enable and exacerbate the climate change impacts from these two industries. It examines accountability litigation against the fossil fuel industry and factory farms that seeks to compel these industries to pay damages for the harms they cause to public health and the environment.

The article proposes that accountability litigation against these industries can facilitate a transition away from reliance on fossil fuels and factory farms to more sustainable alternatives. Positive outcomes from several related contexts including tobacco litigation, the phaseout of harmful substances in environmental regulation, and the COVID-19 crisis support the opportunity and urgent need for this "just transition."

Prof. Abate delivered presentations on this article in fall 2020 in webinars hosted by McGill University (Oct. 2), Arizona State University (Oct. 5), Boston College (Oct. 20), Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto (Nov. 11), and Tilburg University (Nov. 13).

"Litigation is crucial for protecting the environment".

PROF. RANDALL S. ABATE



Dr. Saliba Sarsar

Dr. Saliba Sarsar, Professor of Political Science, carried out an engaging and productive scholarly agenda in 2019-2020, which focused on aspects of peace, political culture, and democracy. In Peacebuilding in Israeli-Palestinian Relations [New York: Peter Lang, 2020], he emphasized how "grassroots" peacebuilding efforts contribute to closing the gap between the Israeli and Palestinian national communities that have been in conflict for decades.

Dr. Sarsar's research on peacebuilding also extended to the important role of education in peacebuilding in Israel and Palestine. In an article in a special issue of the *Journal of South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies* [Vol. 43, no. 3 (Spring 2020): 90-100], which he guest edited, he presented the institutional and organizational frameworks through which varying perceptions of peace and peacebuilding materialize. He then analyzed facets of the competing historical narrative issue in order to discover "the truth" and arrive at common ground, which is essential if dialogue, peace, and reconciliation are to grow.

As for the theme of political culture, Dr. Sarsar co-edited the book, Continuity and Change in Political Culture: Israel and Beyond, with Dr. Yael Aronoff of Michigan State University and Dr. Ilan Peleg of Lafayette College [Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, 2020]. In his own chapter, "Memory, Identity, and Peace in Palestinian-Israeli Relations," Dr. Sarsar elucidates the roles of the Holocaust and Al-Nakba (catastrophe) in Israeli and Palestinian collective memory and identity, respectively.

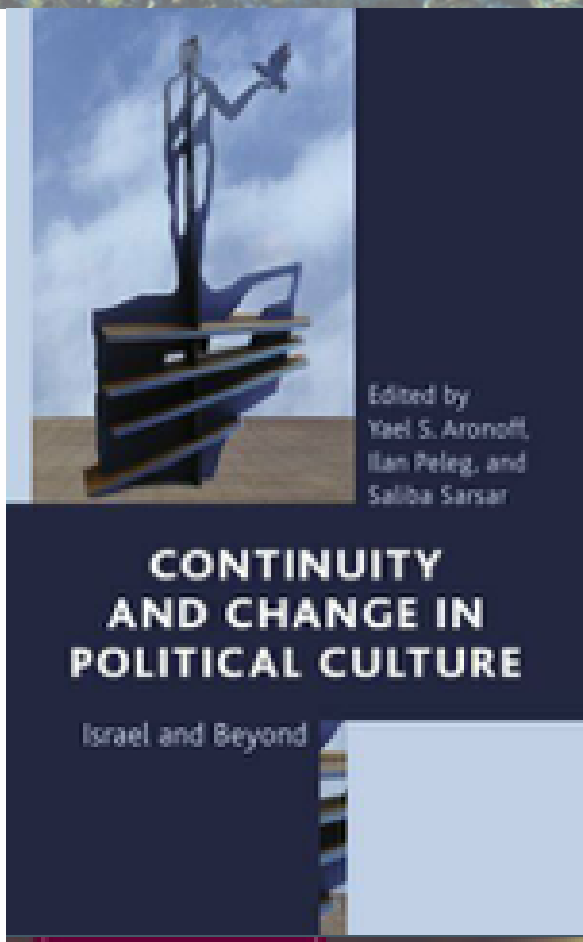
"Peace, as path and destination, empowers and enables. By advancing peace, we value life, we enrich our soul, we heal the world!"

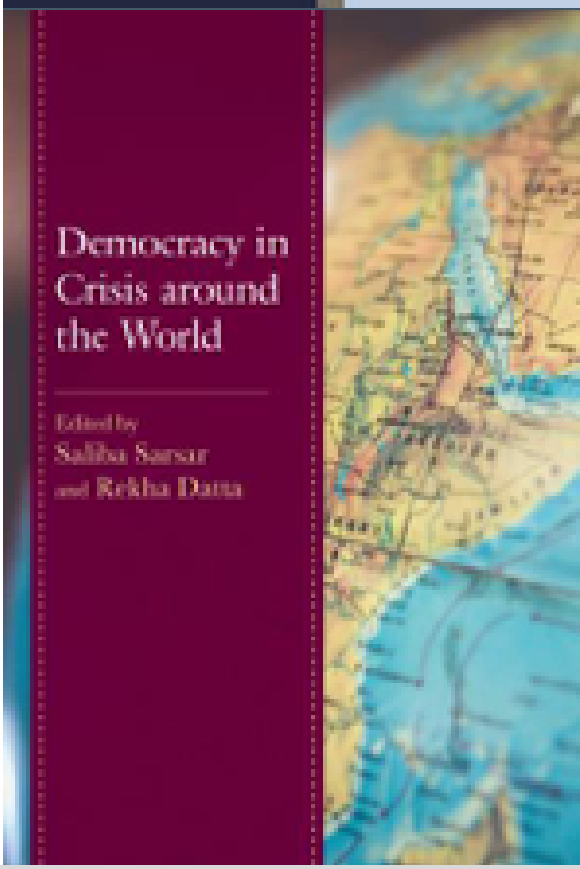
DR. SALIBA SARSAR

Dr. Saliba Sarsar (con't)

While he stresses the lack of qualitative or quantitative equivalence between these two traumas, he explicates how a sense of "righteous victimhood" that addresses the uniqueness of their suffering erases the other's memory and identity tantamount to dehumanizing them. For reconciliation to occur, he argues, the memory of past injustices must be balanced with reciprocal recognition of the other's suffering – essential for the establishment of amity and goodwill. He concludes that Israelis and Palestinians must acknowledge their shared responsibility for perpetuating the conflict. He calls upon both sides to empathize with each other and recognize their mutual dignity and humanity.

In relation to democracy, which is an important generator of stability and peace and a vital influencer of political culture, Dr. Sarsar collaborated with several Monmouth University colleagues to write the book Democracy in Crisis Around the World [Lanham, MD: Lexington Books / Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, 2020]. Co-edited with Dr. Rekha Datta, the authors weaved threads of history and politics to examine the state of democracy in world regions (e.g., Sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern Europe, Western Europe, Latin America Middle East and North Africa) as well as the democratic trajectories of India, China, Russia, and the United States. In the Epilogue to the book, Dr. Sarsar looked at how the world's governments have responded to the coronavirus pandemic and argued that unless democracy is defended with resolution and nurtured with resilience, it will fail.



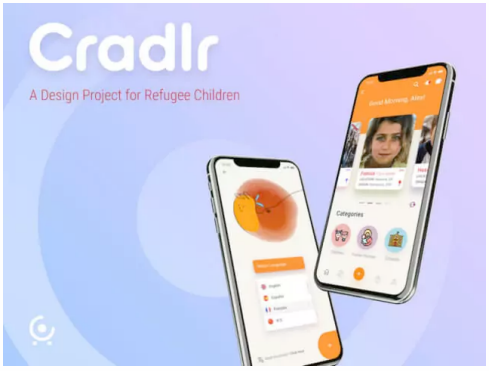


Professor Jing Zhou

Professor Jing Zhou teaches graphic design, web design, UI/UX, digital illustration, and typography. Her professional work includes graphic and interactive design, social poster, video, packaging, digital print, art direction, and fine arts.

Prof. Zhou's recent project is called Cradlr: A Design Project for Refugee Children. The Cradlr project was created in the hope of developing not only a digital tool but a vision for a global network that might help displaced children overcome many adversities in life and receive more love and brighter futures. Cradlr offers a blueprint whose purpose is to serve as a possible testing ground envisioning a digital network system that transcends political boundaries so that various parties can connect to rescue and nurture young lives collectively on a global scale. Prof. Zhou stated that "the Cradlr project realized the need of creating a digital platform for refugee children on a global scale, which is lacking hitherto."

Prof. Zhou received the Creative Work Award of the 2020 Design Incubation Communication Design Educators Awards for Cradlr, a United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) project at Monmouth University.



"The Cradlr project realized the need of creating a digital platform for refugee children on a global scale, which is lacking hitherto."

PROF. JING ZHOU

Dr. Michael Cronin

Dr. Michael Cronin served as a Fulbright Scholar in the 2019-2020 academic year at the Volodymr Poltavets School of Social Work at National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA) in Kyiv, Ukraine. Founded in 1995, it is the first professional school of social work in Ukraine

Dr. Cronin developed and taught innovative new courses during his visit. In fall 2019, he developed and taught a new course for MSW students on Advanced Global Social Work with a focus on Sustainable Community Practice. Students presented research on a Sustainable Development Goal and progress made on specific targets. In spring 2020, Dr. Cronin designed and co-taught a new course on Social Innovation and Social Enterprise with a Ukrainian colleague. In summer 2020, he developed and taught a course on Social Work in Emergencies.

Fulbright scholars also participate in other calls from the community during their visits. Dr. Cronin engaged in several community opportunities, including consulting with three youth teams that developed leadership plans as part of the All-Ukrainian Forum of the National Council on Children and Youth with the participation of Ukrainian President Zelensky; delivering a lecture for students, emergency response cadets, and faculty on Disaster Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergencies at the National University of Civil Defense for Ukraine, Kharkiv; and delivering a motivational speech for the ACCESS Summit for youth, alum, and teachers in an English Language Microscholarship Program.

"One of the most surprising components of this experience in Ukraine was the profound connections made in learning about my Ukrainian ancestry."

DR. MICHAEL CRONIN

IGU Interns and Graduate Assistant

Interns

Emilia Intili *(top)* is an advanced standing graduate student in the School of Social Work within the concentration of Global Community Practice. ***Courtney Gosse*** (center) is a graduate student studying Social Work, with a Global and Community Practice concentration. As interns of the IGU, Emi and Courtney have attended campus events via zoom and written pre- and post-releases for them. They also wrote an article for The Outlook on the UN World Food Programme winning the Nobel Peace Prize. They have created a UN webpage on the IGU website, which is updated on a monthly basis. They also prepared videos explaining aspects of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Graduate Assistant

Lisha Samuel (bottom) is a graduate student studying Communication, with a Strategic Public Relations and Social Media concentration. In the fall 2020 semester, Lisha launched the IGU's Twitter account. She also established and managed the IGU's blog, which summaries IGU events. Lisha received Urban Coast Institute funding for a research project on climate change communication in India. She presented her project at Monmouth University's Climate Crisis Teach-in on October 30, 2020. Lisha plans to pursue a career in communications and public relations.

The IGU Biennial Symposium 2021

The Institute for Global Understanding is hosting its Biennial Symposium event from March 25-27, 2021. The symposium theme for this year is “human rights and the environment.”

The symposium assembles experts from a wide range of disciplines in the government, nonprofit, academic, community, and private sectors to examine topics at the intersection of human rights and the environment and propose solutions for the future. Keynote speakers and panelists will address regulatory responses, litigation, academic and scientific discourse, and the activist movements that have shaped the intersection between human rights and the environment.

Featured Speakers and Performers

- Prof. Maxine Burkett, University of Hawaii, William S. Richardson School of Law
- Gina Abatemarco, Writer and Director, Kivalina: Life in the Modern Arctic
- Dr. Kelsey Leonard, Assistant Professor, University of Waterloo, Faculty of Environment
- Nahko, singer, songwriter, and social and environmental justice activist

IGU
Symposium 2021

Designed by: Hunter Goldberg BFA/GID '21
AR 408 Fall 2020 Professor Bright/Weine

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"We are excited to build on the highly successful track record of the annual Global Understanding Conventions in the initial period of the IGU's history."

PROF. RANDALL S. ABATE