

# INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING

## Newsletter

### Message from the Director

Welcome to the spring 2021 issue of the Institute for Global Understanding (IGU) newsletter. The "relaunched" IGU had a highly successful first year back at Monmouth and made several significant impacts on and off campus in spring 2021 to promote IGU's mission.

The crown jewel of the spring semester's efforts was [the IGU's 2021 Biennial Symposium](#), which featured the theme "Human Rights and the Environment." [The special symposium issue of the IGU newsletter](#) includes a full description of this engaging and successful event. Planning for the IGU's 2023 Biennial Symposium will begin this summer.

In the spring, the IGU extended its work on new initiatives introduced in the fall, including additional build-out of [the IGU webpage](#), [the IGU blog](#), and [the IGU's new Twitter account](#). The IGU webpage expanded to include new tabs for [the IGU Newsletters](#), [Biennial Symposium](#), [Fulbright Program](#), and additional coverage of [the IGU's UN Activities](#). The IGU's Spring 2021 Graduate Assistant, Victoria Cattelona, coordinated the IGU's active engagement on Twitter and edited the interns' stories for the IGU blog.

The IGU hosted or co-hosted several successful and cutting-edge speaker events in the spring, including two panels of the IGU-UCI Global Ocean Governance Lecture Series, a session of the Tuesday Night World Music Record Club, four World Cinema Series events, a panel on COVID-19 vaccine access, and a panel on Human Rights and the Environment in India. All of these informative and inspiring events are described in this issue.

This issue also spotlights several significant faculty and student achievements. Most notably, we are proud to announce that Victoria Cattelona is the first student in Monmouth history to receive and pursue a Fulbright student award. She will serve as an English Teaching Assistant in the Czech Republic during the next academic year.

The IGU looks forward to enhanced engagement with the Monmouth campus community and the surrounding community in the 2021-2022 academic year as we prepare for a robust return to regular campus activities starting in September.

Prof. Randall S. Abate  
Director, Institute for Global Understanding

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# Graduate Assistant and Interns

## Graduate Assistant Victoria Cattelona Receives Fulbright ETA Award to the Czech Republic



Victoria Cattelona, a recent graduate of the M.A.T. degree program and the Spring 2021 Graduate Assistant for the IGU, has received a 2021-2022 Fulbright award. She is the first Monmouth University student to accept this prestigious award. As an English Teaching Assistant (ETA) in the Czech Republic, Cattelona will inspire and assist students studying English as a second language in secondary schools and promote cultural understanding within educational institutions and through community engagement.

The Fulbright Program is the U.S. government's flagship international educational and cultural exchange program. It is designed to forge lasting connections between the people of the United States and those of other countries, counter misunderstandings,

and help people and nations work together toward common goals. Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected in an open, merit-based competition that considers leadership potential, academic and/or professional achievement, and record of service. Since its establishment in 1946, the Fulbright Program has enabled more than 390,000 dedicated and accomplished students, scholars, artists, teachers, and professionals of all backgrounds to study, teach and conduct research, exchange ideas, and find solutions to shared international concerns. Fulbright alumni include 60 Nobel Prize laureates, 88 Pulitzer Prize recipients, and 37 who have served as a head of state or government.

The IGU congratulates Victoria on her extraordinary accomplishment!

## *Congratulations to the IGU's graduating interns!*

View each graduating intern's celebratory tweet by clicking on their names.



**Courtney Gosse**

**Fall 2020 – Spring 2021 Graduate Interns**

Courtney Gosse, M.S.W. (Class of 2021)

Emilia "Emi" Intili, M.S.W. (Class of 2021)



**Emi Intili**



**Emily O'Sullivan**

**Spring 2021 Undergraduate Interns**

Chelsea Franchette, B.S.W. (Class of 2022)

Muge Gore, B.S.W. (Class of 2022)

Madison Hanrahan, B.A. in Political Science (Class of 2022)

Chloey Norris, B.S.W. (Class of 2022)

Emily O'Sullivan, B.A. in Political Science (Class of 2021)





## IGU Hosts “Human Rights and the Environment: Perspectives from India” Panel

This panel featured experts on a wide range of emerging challenges that India faces at the intersection of human rights and the environment including climate justice litigation, the interplay between sustainable development and the rights of indigenous communities, climate change communication and climate migration, and the relationship between climate migration and human trafficking. Dr. Rekha Datta, Interim Provost and inaugural Director of the IGU, delivered inspiring and informative opening remarks. The IGU was proud to feature a presentation from Lisha Samuel, the fall 2021 IGU Graduate Assistant, on her UCI-funded research on climate change communication and migration in Kolkata. Emerging scholars from three universities in India joined Lisha on this dynamic panel. The bios and abstracts of the panelists are available [here](#). Prof. Randall Abate moderated an engaging discussion with the panelists and more than 50 registered attendees from the U.S. and India. Following the panel session, the three universities in India with which the panel speakers are affiliated expressed interest in entering into academic partnership agreements with the IGU for possible faculty and student exchanges and research collaborations.

### Human Rights & the Environment: Perspectives from India Panel

Wednesday, April 14th | 9:00 A.M.-10:30 A.M.  
Meeting ID: 948 1932 8763 | Passcode: 009912



The event is free and open to the public.

This panel features experts on a wide range of emerging challenges that India faces at the intersection of human rights and the environment including climate justice litigation, the interplay between sustainable development and the rights of indigenous communities, climate change communication and climate migration, and the relationship between climate migration and human trafficking.



Moderator: Prof. Randall S. Abate  
Director, Institute for Global Understanding  
Monmouth University

## Lisha Samuel Publishes Chapter and Speaks on Climate Change Communication and Migration

Lisha Samuel, M.A. in Communication (Dec. 2020), conducted UCI-funded research in fall 2020 on climate change communication and migration in Kolkata, India. Professor Randall Abate served as the faculty supervisor for the project. Lisha's paper has been accepted for publication as a chapter in the book, *Climate Change and Risk in South and Southeast Asia: Sociopolitical Perspectives* (Routledge, forthcoming 2022). The edited volume features 25 leading and emerging scholars from several countries. The editors of the book are Dr. Devendraraj Madhanagopal, Xavier University (India) and Dr. Salim Momtaz, University of Newcastle (Australia).

Lisha also presented this paper on the “Human Rights and the Environment: Perspectives from India” panel in April with [emerging scholars from three universities in India](#). More information about Lisha's project is available [here](#).



# IGU Program Developments

## Fulbright Sessions for Students and Faculty



### *Student Information Session*

Dr. Mihaela Moscaliuc, Associate Professor in the Department of English and Monmouth's Fulbright Program Adviser (FPA), hosted the student session. A Fulbright alumna who taught at the Alexandru Ioan Cuza University in Iași, Romania in 2015, Dr. Moscaliuc offered unique insight into recent Fulbright experiences and urged current Monmouth students and recent graduates interested in enhancing their global understanding through teaching, research, and service opportunities to apply for the next award cycle. The first part of the session, delivered by the national Fulbright committee, provided valuable information on the mission of the program, eligibility requirements, and the application process. During the subsequent breakout room with Dr. Moscaliuc, who has closely followed the Fulbright Program's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, students received updates and clarifications on various opportunities. Applicants may pursue awards to one of the more than 140 countries with which the Fulbright Program has partnered.

The Fulbright Program's overview presentation is available as [a Zoom recording](#).



**Dr. Mihaela Moscaliuc**

### *Faculty Information Session*

Dr. Michael Cronin, Associate Professor in the School of Social Work, led the session for Monmouth faculty and administrators. The attendees received essential information on the various available grants and experiences – including the U.S. Scholar Program, Distinguished Chair Awards, Arctic Initiative, Global Scholar Award, and Public Policy Fellowship – as well as the application process. Dr. Cronin also addressed his experience as a Fulbright Scholar at the National University of Kyiv – Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA) in Ukraine for the 2019-2020 academic year. Dr. Priscilla Gac-Artigas, Professor of Spanish and Latin American Literature in the Department of World Languages and Literature and a Fulbright alumna, shared her experience teaching at the Universidad de Santiago in Chile in 2014.

The recording for the faculty session is on [YouTube](#).

For additional information on opportunities via the Fulbright Program, please visit [the IGU's Fulbright webpage](#).



**Dr. Michael Cronin**



# United Nations Relationships Committee

## UN Relationships Committee Submits 2020 Report to UNDGC

In spring 2021, the IGU's UN Relationships Committee submitted its 2020 report to the UN Department of Global Communications (UNDGC). This year's report documented the university's and the IGU's efforts to adapt to and raise awareness of challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The report detailed how the IGU was active in these efforts by hosting or co-hosting programming on pandemic-related issues. In the fall, the IGU co-hosted the Social Work Teach-in, "Quarantine Confessions: How it took a global pandemic to shed light on some of the most pressing societal issues in the United States." The keynote speaker, [New Jersey State Senator Vin Gopal](#), discussed what he has been working on from a policy perspective around COVID-19 and the state's ongoing struggles in confronting the pandemic. The teach-in also consisted of panel discussions on the economic, educational, and health aspects of COVID-19. One of the featured speakers on the Human Rights and Environment Panel of the IGU's Biennial Symposium was Maria Antonia Tigre, LL.M., of the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University. Her presentation topic was "COVID-19 in Latin America: Greening the Jurisprudence of the Inter-American Human Rights System through Indigenous Claims."

## Monmouth Social Work Day: A Look into IFSW's Involvement

On March 16, 2021, the Social Work Society at Monmouth University participated in the 37th Annual Social Work Day at the UN. This year, the group explored the new world of the COVID-19 pandemic, shining a light on social workers collaborating across borders to discuss education during this time. The event featured several discussion topics, such as online learning and field placements, self-care and socialization, and decolonizing the social work profession. In addition, the discussants addressed how social workers have prepared to work internationally due to the pandemic.

The panelists consisted of International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) representatives and UN representatives from the North American region. The following School of Social Work faculty members made special appearances: Associate Professor [Dr. Michael Cronin](#) (IFSW Regional Commissioner), [Dean Robin S. Mama](#), Ph.D. (IFSW Representative), and Associate Professor [Dr. Anne C. Deepak](#) (UN Representative). Graduate social work students Shenae Osborn (Fordham '21) and Hannah Burke (Monmouth '21) joined as event co-chairs.

## Monmouth's Inaugural Sustainability Education Week Conference

Monmouth's first Sustainability Education Week conference was held February 15-19, 2021 to inform students, educators, and the community about the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for environmental issues through forums, workshops, and a contest. IGU intern Courtney Gosse '21 managed K-12 students' essay and video submissions, developed a survey for the inaugural conference program's evaluation, and analyzed the results for next year's event. Kelly Hanna '19, a first-year law student at Drexel University pursuing a career in environmental law and promoting sustainability, was the keynote speaker for the K-12 Student Summit and inspired the young audience. For more information about the event program, speakers, and meeting recordings, please visit [the event webpage](#).

## IGU's Faculty Representatives for UNAI and UNDGC

UNAI (UN Academic Impact)

- [Dr. Laura E. Turner](#)
- [Prof. Jing Zhou](#)

UNDGC (UN Department of Global Communications)

- [Prof. Randall S. Abate](#)
- [Dr. Chris A. Hirschler](#)
- Dr. Scott D. Richards
- [Dr. Vernon S. Smith](#)



# Intracampus Synergies Committee

"Intracampus synergies" is a complex phrase that can be explained by examining each word in the phrase. The first word, "intracampus," means within a college or university, and "synergies" refers to two or more entities interacting and cooperating with one another to achieve a common goal. These terms denote collaboration among various organizations on a campus to accomplish a larger goal, namely, the IGU's mission of promoting awareness of global affairs and cross-cultural understanding issues both on and off campus.

The Intracampus Synergies Committee was established in July 2020 as part of the IGU's relaunch. The IGU Faculty Advisory Council created this committee because it identified a need to bridge the gaps among faculty, staff, students, and student-led organizations. The Intracampus Synergies Committee encourages unity among these different groups and will assist in reaching the goals that these groups might have struggled to achieve on their own. This committee facilitates synergy through outreach to student and faculty leaders on campus who are involved in the various organizations. The Intracampus Synergies Committee has three members: Professor Claude Taylor, lecturer in Communication Studies and the Director of Academic Transition and Inclusion; Dr. Lisa Dinella, Professor of Psychology and the Director of the Program in Gender and Intersectionality Studies; and Professor Jing Zhou, Associate Professor in the Department of Art and Design. The committee seeks to develop ways for people within the campus community to become involved with the IGU's work by supporting university organizations in their consideration of issues in global affairs and cross cultural understanding. The goal is to facilitate these organizations' engagement with the IGU.

The importance of the Intracampus Synergies Committee is its capacity to promote IGU-relevant conversations outside of the students' classrooms. Students of any major can apply what they are learning in their courses to their lives outside of the classroom. This allows students to grasp how they fit into the world around them on local and global scales.

One of the committee's immediate goals is to introduce itself to the Monmouth community. Doing so will raise campus and community awareness of the IGU and of global issues with local opportunities for education and engagement. Although the current COVID-19 pandemic has complicated the committee's efforts, the committee members are conducted and joined virtual meetings to reach students and faculty to inform them about the committee's – and the IGU's – mission.

*Authored by Chelsea Franchette*



**Prof. Claude Taylor**

**"The most important task we have had as a committee in year one is to get connected to student leaders interested in the work and mission of IGU. Our series of spring semester virtual meet-and-greet sessions served as a great way for student leaders to get to know IGU and to brainstorm together on ways we can create student-centered synergies."**

**Prof. Claude Taylor**

# Tuesday Night World Music Record Club

On February 16, 2021, the IGU co-sponsored the Tuesday Night World Music Record Club's discussion of *Love Letters* (2020), Anoushka Shankar's most recent release. Nominated for a Grammy in the Best Global Music Album category, the EP consists of six songs. Dr. Meghan Hynson, Assistant Prof. of Ethnomusicology in the Department of Music and Theater Arts, led participants through a thoughtful discussion spanning Shankar's musical evolution and the intricacies of each *Love Letters* track. She facilitated an immersive and collaborative listening experience for all in attendance.

*Love Letters* showcases Shankar's mastery of the sitar. Shankar's father, legendary Indian musician Ravi Shankar, first introduced her to the instrument at the age of seven. By the time she turned thirteen, Shankar's professional career had taken shape and she had already performed on stage and produced an album. As her musical prowess grew increasingly evident, she opted not to attend university and instead followed in her father's footsteps as a musical pioneer and performer of the sitar.

Dr. Hynson observed that *Love Letters* is a "fascinating fusion of the sitar and a number of other musical instruments." For example, the single, "Bright Eyes" integrates the *ghatam*, a traditional water pot percussion instrument that is played with the mouth while pressed against the player's stomach. The player taps the surface of the ghatam with the fingers and the base of the palm and changes the pitch and resonance of the instrument by varying the pressure of the pot against the stomach. In this way, the EP incorporates a classic Indian aesthetic of sitar, ghatam, kanjira, and tanpura with modern Western pop instrumentation, to create a hybrid sound for a variety of listeners.

*Love Letters* would not exist if not for the efforts of a host of trail-blazing women. The album featured a number of female musicians and writers, as well as a female musical engineer from Brooklyn, Heba Kadry. Ayanna Witter-Johnson plays the cello on the second track, "Those Words," and Shilpa Rao (Indian vocals), Alev Lenz, Nina Harries, and twin sisters Ibeyi are all featured vocalists on the record. Their collaboration was integral to the EP's creation, supporting Shankar both musically and spiritually.

*Love Letters* is a departure from Shankar's typical releases. According to Dr. Hynson, the EP serves as "documentation of this profound period of upheaval" in Shankar's recent history. From health issues to divorce, Shankar has grappled with losses that transcended her personal narrative and made their way into her songwriting. As a result, her album emits a rather "somber," "introspective," and "cathartic" tone. It embodies a journey to healing, meeting listeners where they are in hopes of elevating their spirits.

The album is available to stream on [Apple Music](#), [Spotify](#), and [Shankar's YouTube channel](#). To further encounter musical genius from around the world, be sure to leave your Tuesday nights open!

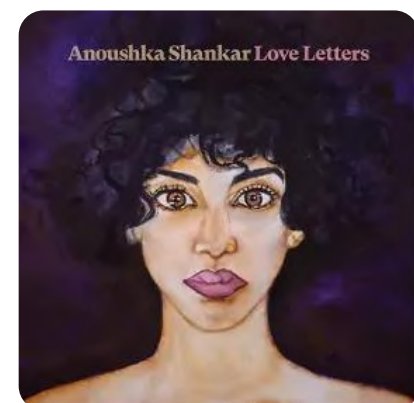
*Authored by Emily O'Sullivan*



**Anoushka Shankar**

**"I really got to experience the way women show up for each other when crisis strikes. That's really where this music came from: the shared experience of women, holding my hand and helping me find a safe place to put some of my feelings."**

**Anoushka Shankar**





# Global Ocean Governance Lecture Series

## Panel on Governance of Marine Shipping and Maritime Sovereignty in the Climate Change Context

On February 19, 2021, the IGU and the UCI co-hosted the first of two spring semester panels in the Global Ocean Governance series. This panel featured global perspectives on adapting marine shipping governance and maritime sovereignty to respond to climate change. Moderated by Professor Randall Abate, the panel featured three prominent speakers: Dr. Beatriz Martinez Romera, Associate Professor of Environmental and Climate Change Law at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark; Dr. Samira Idllalène, a professor of law at Cadi Ayyad University in Safi, Morocco; and Dr. Joanna Siekiera, an international lawyer and postdoctoral fellow at the University of Bergen in Norway.

Dr. Martinez Romera began her presentation with some troubling statistics: emissions from ships and maritime transport currently account for three percent of annual global greenhouse emissions. She stated that by the year 2050, emissions could increase anywhere from 50 to 250 percent. Dr. Martinez Romera explained how international regulation of emissions has caused an oversight in limiting the amount of carbon emissions ships can release. Prior to the 2015 Paris Agreement, there was an "unequal treatment of ships and the amount of carbon they emitted," and this unequal treatment hurt developing countries. Shipping was not included in the Paris Agreement's terms, and unregulated carbon emissions persisted. Dr. Martinez Romera noted that some measures are underway to regulate carbon emissions from ships, such as strengthening the International Maritime Organization.

Dr. Idllalène addressed how the "atmospheric waqf principle" can be applied to the marine environment to respond to climate change impacts. She stated that the atmospheric waqf principle is a belief in the Muslim faith that values trusteeship and can be utilized to respect animals and the natural environment to which they belong. She supported her argument by noting that waqf is an existing legal tool in Muslim countries as well as an ancestral institution with ecological applications. Moreover, "[T]here is a growing spiritual ecology movement happening across the globe, and atmospheric waqf allows animals additional protections by ensuring climate change does not affect their environment."

Dr. Siekiera delivered a presentation focusing on the legal consequences of sea level rise and climate change on islands and their sovereignty and what can be done to protect these islands. These vulnerable island nations are at risk of impacts to their human security, state security, and food security as climate change continues to affect the oceans. Dr. Siekiera noted that one way to change maritime laws and regulations to protect island and coastal states from climate change impacts is to amend UNCLOS. Given that it is highly unlikely that states would agree to this, another option is to issue political declarations that create regional maritime laws. Such measures would provide additional security to coastal and island states with maritime boundaries that would not be challenged or diminished due to sea level rise.

The recording of the lecture is available to view on [the UCI's Global Ocean Governance Lecture Series webpage](#).

*Authored by Madison Hanrahan*



**Dr. Beatriz Martinez Romera**



**Dr. Samira Idllalène**



**Dr. Joanna Siekiera**





## Intersection of Fisheries Governance and Social Justice Panel

On Friday, April 8, 2021, the UCI and the IGU co-hosted the second spring semester Global Ocean Governance panel addressing global fisheries governance and social justice. This panel included three speakers: Dr. Erika Techera, Professor of Law at the University of Western Australia; Dr. Xiao Recio-Blanco, Director of the Ocean Program at the Environmental Law Institute; and Dr. Yoshitaka Ota, a research assistant professor at the School of Marine & Environmental Affairs at the University of Washington.

Dr. Techera addressed illegal fishing and governance in the Indian Ocean. She emphasized the Indian Ocean's importance, as it connects multiple regions and countries with vastly different cultures, development, and laws that comprise a diverse and unique realm of fishing governance. Dr. Techera noted that ensuring sustainable fishing practices in the Indian Ocean is necessary for the environment and for the region's future development. Two areas of concern for countries in the Indian Ocean region are improving their understanding of the region to achieve their blue economy goals and recognizing that sustainable fishing is crucial for this region.

Dr. Recio-Blanco delivered a lecture on galvanizing community participation with regulatory reform for small-scale fisheries governance. He emphasized that 90 percent of the world's 120 million fisheries are small-scale fisheries, and each is unique in terms of technology and cultural use. He discussed how small-scale fisheries are typically underfunded and politically weak compared to their commercial fishing counterparts. It has been a challenging process to create effective laws regarding small-scale fisheries due to a general lack of understanding of small-scale fisheries, inadequate organization, a focus on commercial fisheries for additional profit, and policymakers overlooking small-scale fisheries in their agendas. Dr. Recio-Blanco recommended adopting additional guidelines for small-scale fisheries and encasing the discussion of small-scale fisheries in a human rights lens.

Dr. Ota first discussed the current ocean crisis, which is the result of climate change, development, pollution, and overfishing. He explained that current fish stocks are at a biologically unsustainable level, and the biomass of predatory fish in the world's oceans has declined by two-thirds over the last 300 years, indicating that there is not enough fish to sustain their populations or human communities. Without effective responses to climate change, the warmer ocean waters will drive fish closer to the poles, underscoring the need for sustainable fishing practices. Dr. Ota also stated that current fishing practices violate human rights. Commercial fishermen practice wage slavery to catch more fish, hiring large numbers of workers and compensating them at low wages. By viewing sustainable fishing regulations through a human rights lens, countries could contribute to other sustainability goals such as eliminating poverty and ending world hunger. Loss of fishing jobs to ensure sustainable fish supplies should require countries to guarantee new jobs for these fishermen.

To view the recording of the panel, please visit [the UCI's webpage on the event](#).

*Authored by Madison Hanrahan*



**Dr. Erika Techera**



**Dr. Xiao Recio-Blanco**



**Dr. Yoshitaka Ota**

## World Cinema Series

Each of the four film discussions in the spring semester was moderated by Dr. Thomas Pearson, Professor in the Department of History and Anthropology.

### ***Bhopal: A Prayer for Rain***

On January 26, 2021, the IGU co-hosted a discussion of Ravi Kumar's 2014 film, *Bhopal: A Prayer for Rain*, as the first of four films featured in the World Cinema Series in the spring semester.

The faculty discussants for this film were Dr. Datta Naik, Professor of Chemistry, and Dr. Marina Vujnovic, Associate Professor of Communication and a specialist in global communications. The film was released on the 30th anniversary of the Union Carbide disaster, which occurred December 2-3, 1984 in Bhopal, India. It examines the causes of the chemical leak and vapor spread that killed as many as 10,000 people in Bhopal. The film allows viewers to examine the interdependence between human communities and the natural world. As environmental disasters continue to persist today, due to climate change and human errors, there are many lessons that can be learned from analyzing what is considered the world's worst industrial disaster.



Dr. Datta Naik provided viewers with an explanation of what happened regarding the Union Carbide product's toxicity and why it had killed so many people in Bhopal in 1984. Union Carbide was making and selling a toxic pesticide that was created in large quantities at the Union Carbide plant and needed to be kept cool (near the freezing point) when not in use. Several protocols were not followed. Eventually, toxic gases were released into the plant, and ultimately into Bhopal.

Due to misinformation and lack of education regarding the chemicals being held and produced at Union Carbide, essential workers, staff members, and even the local community knew nothing about how to treat the symptoms during the gas leak. Also, Union Carbide had not conducted emergency training prior to the incident, which is unfortunate because all that needed to be done to avoid inhalation of the toxic gas was to run to higher ground. Therefore, due to lack of education and training, thousands of people were impacted by this horrific event. The official immediate death toll was 2,259. Then, in 1991, after being reassessed, the total count was 3,928 deaths.

Dr. Vujnovic helped viewers understand Union Carbide's (now Dow Chemical Company's) failure to exercise responsibility for this event. She also explained how the company's attitude toward this disaster, along with its poorly coordinated response, reflects poor crisis management. The story of Bhopal is about collusion between governments (both Indian and American) and large corporate powers. The groups involved continue to obstruct justice for the Bhopal disaster's victims due to lack of accountability. Even today, the company continues to refuse to provide basic information regarding the disaster to reporters and blames the local government and the Bhopal community for the crisis. Warren Anderson, the former CEO of Union Carbide, was the source of the problem. In an effort to cut costs, Anderson had signed the paperwork with knowledge that there would be safety issues at the Bhopal location. Documents surfaced in 1981 that confirmed Anderson's role in the disaster and the lack of safety training protocols throughout the company's locations.

*Authored by Courtney Gosse*

## The Odyssey

On February 24, 2021, the IGU co-hosted a virtual discussion of the film *The Odyssey*. The discussion featured [UCI Director Tony MacDonald, Esq.](#) and [Dr. Jason Adolf](#), Associate Professor of Biology and Endowed Associate Professor of Marine Science. The virtual discussion was an invigorating and educational reflection on the oceans' current state and how they impact human life and activities.

*The Odyssey* is a 2016 French film directed by Jérôme Salle. Salle is a former art director and filmmaker who began working on *The Odyssey* in 2012, using two biographies of Jacques-Yves Cousteau, the French explorer, conservationist, television star, filmmaker, and innovator. Creating a plot for this film was difficult because Cousteau was such an accomplished and complex character, which is why the movie focuses on his son Philippe and on their father-son relationship.

The film follows Cousteau's son, Philippe, who works on his father's well-known television program on the oceans, realizes that human pollution harms the ocean and

believes humans should protect and conserve the ocean rather than try to conquer it. Cousteau and Philippe ultimately discover that they must come together to become advocates for the oceans.

Tony MacDonald observed that the film's main theme is perseverance. He drew comparisons to the recently launched Mars Rover to demonstrate how a government agency heavily funds space exploration, costing \$2.7 billion annually, while ocean exploration has an annual budget of only \$45 million a year. This comparison highlights how neglected our oceans are in terms of research and science. UCI's work helps to fill this gap.

Dr. Jason Adolf discussed how little is known about the ocean due to lack of funding and exploration. As his research focus is on phytoplankton and light in the ocean, he discussed the technology that one would need to see and photograph the ocean at different depths, as well as the bioluminescence of marine life. Many marine species use bioluminescence, but since humans can see blue light, the blue light disguises the special fluorescence.

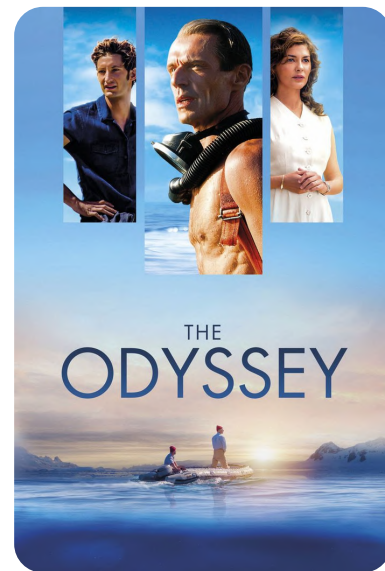
*Authored by Madison Hanrahan*

## Honeyland

On March 11, 2021, the IGU co-hosted a discussion of the 2019 film, *Honeyland*. The faculty discussants were [Dr. Pedram Daneshgar](#) and [Dr. Mihaela Moscaliuc](#). The film addresses the dangers of overexploitation of natural resources, which underscores the fragile balance between nature and human beings.

*Honeyland* is a documentary drama that takes place in Northern Macedonia. The main character, Hatidze Muratova, is a female beekeeper who respects the bees' fragile balance and their sustainable honey production. When a nomadic family invades her small village, the father, Hussein Sam, compromises the bees in the area and Hatidze's livelihood. This film explores how adherence to an Indigenous tradition protects natural resources and impacts human behavior.

Dr. Daneshgar, Associate Professor of Biology, has extensively researched the biology and ecology of the stars of the film: bees. He emphasized that bees work extremely hard to gather nectar and pollen when flowers are in bloom. While consuming some, they ultimately bring back much more to the hive in order to sustain it, especially during the inactive winter months.







## Honeyland (continued)

Dr. Moscaliuc, Professor of English, discussed bees in their ecological symbolism across cultures and recent centuries. She also examined the interaction and structures of labor and care between Hatidze and Hussain. Both characters depend on natural resources for survival; however, they represent different positions on how their dependency works.

Hatidze lives and works with the bees – not as their owner but as a guest in a world where there is enough on which to live and enough to sell if one respects the resources that others provide. Her mantra is “half for me and half for you”; she only takes half of the honeycomb the bees “gave to her.” Hussain, on the other hand, is a migrant capital herder who works to provide for his large family. He sees bees and their honey as a temporary, seasonal undertaking to supplement his income. His beekeeping is done in a hurry; he is not interested in understanding the bees and their habitat. Hussain overharvested honey for a commercial merchant, which deprived the bees of their ability to sustain their hive in the cold. When his bees no longer had a food source, they preyed upon all the other beehives in the village, leading to their demise.

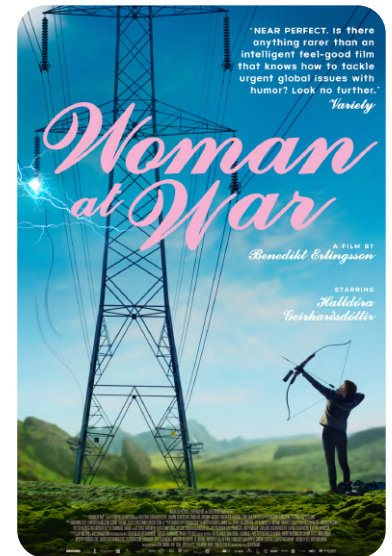
*Authored by Emilia Intili*



## Woman at War

On Thursday, April 15, 2021, the 2020-2021 World Cinema Series concluded with a discussion of Benedikt Erlingsson's *Woman at War*. The 2018 release addresses one of the most pressing issues of our time: climate change. Set as a battle between Halla, a middle-aged environmental activist devoted to ecological integrity, and the Icelandic government's plans for a multinational corporation's construction of an aluminum plant, the film addresses how this generation is the last capable of coming to the Earth's defense in the long-running war against it, and there is no time to waste.

The first faculty discussant was Dr. Catherine N. Duckett, Associate Dean of the School of Science. Dr. Duckett finds great reward in helping her students “find their activist voice.” She approached the film with an understanding that “climate change in the United States is often viewed from a lens clouded by misinformation... when climate scientists share their knowledge, they're often labeled as an extremist or as an alarmist when, for the most part, they have been erring on the side of caution.” This poses a question at the root of the narrative: how can one distinguish between an activist and an extremist?



Dr. Nancy Mezey, Professor of Sociology, Dean of the Honors School, and a specialist in family sociology, identified another conflict: can Halla identify as a “good mother” and a fearless activist? To Dr. Mezey, this issue presents a false dichotomy, especially given that the definition of a “good mother” varies culturally. In *Woman at War*, Halla's bold stance against the climate injustice before her reflects her understanding of motherhood and activism: “It is our inalienable right to protect future generations, and our children and our grandchildren will have no chance unless we act now.”

Professor Maiya Furgason, an instructor in the Leon Hess Business School with over 35 years of wealth management experience, commented on the Icelandic corporate setting. She dissected the “role of industrial sabotage” against ecological initiatives that has left world citizens without “much time to rescue our environment.” Though the aluminum plant only employed a few hundred of Iceland's 343 million people, it accounted for roughly 23 percent of the country's GDP, forcing the Icelandic government to favor economic over environmental interests. Unfortunately, the former frequently often prevail, which underscores the importance of the World Cinema Series theme.

*Authored by Emily O'Sullivan*

# Panel on COVID-19's Impact on Migrant Workers

On March 31, 2021, the IGU held a panel event, co-sponsored by the School of Social Work and the Department of Professional Counseling, titled "COVID-19 Impact on Migrant Workers Globally and Locally: Vaccine Access Equity?" Moderated by [Dr. Sanjana Ragudaran](#), Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work, this event featured four social workers who discussed issues related to COVID-19 and migrant workers. For years, migrant workers have suffered from a lack of resources, and now they face difficulty accessing a COVID-19 vaccine.

Dr. Marciana Popescu, an Associate Professor at Fordham University's Graduate School of Social Service, began her presentation when, by sharing that earlier that day she had received her first dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. She noted that most people do not share this privilege, especially within the forced migrant population. Forced migrants are dealing with elevated levels of insecurities – whether food insecurity, police brutality, job loss, or domestic violence. Dr. Popescu also touched on child abuse and domestic violence cases, which have dropped during the pandemic.

This reduction means that people are failing to report issues and have limited opportunities to leave their homes. Moreover, the pandemic has divided migrant communities. Over 80 million have been forcibly displaced.

What happens when people do not have proper shelter? Why do most people assume that running water and soap are universally available? New Jersey Assemblywoman Joann Downey (LD-11) asked these important questions regarding the state government's role in ensuring its citizens have access to basic necessities. New Jersey has experienced its own challenges since the pandemic began. Food insecurity, housing insecurity, and tech insecurity affect the forced migrants in our state. Moreover, children in schools have suffered from these insecurities, including a lack of working technology or a stable WiFi connection at home, fewer school meals, and an overall learning loss with less instructional time and possibly no in-person instruction at school.

Dr. Omolola Taiwo, Executive Director at the New Jersey Department of Health, and her organization are pushing the barriers of accessibility to communities. Her office ensures that everyone in the community can obtain essential resources during the pandemic. Access to the vaccine has shown a common thread of stigma in these communities. Dr. Taiwo mentioned that something as simple as clean clothing is largely inaccessible.

Ms. Beatriz Oesterheld, Executive Director of the Community Affairs & Resource Center in Asbury Park, proved that working within a community can enhance individuals' lives. Her organization has provided information sessions, like workshops on the vaccine, to raise awareness in the Latinx community. In her experience with the pandemic, she has seen that minority communities do not have reliable access to phones or to the Internet and, therefore, cannot search for accurate vaccine information. Her organization created a registration system that brings families in by appointment. This system has improved vaccine access and provides a sense of security and trust, which saves lives and ensures that the assistance does not affect one's immigration status.

To view [the recording of the discussion](#), enter the following passcode: Z?TpESp3

*Co-authored by Muge Gore and Courtney Gosse*

Co-Sponsored by: The School of Social Work &  
The Department of Professional Counseling

## COVID-19 Impact on Migrant Workers Globally and Locally: Vaccine Access Equity?

This esteemed panel will discuss the disproportionate impact that the COVID-19 virus has had on migrant populations globally and locally. Discussions will address the additional suffering that this already marginalized group of people has had to endure during this pandemic. A focus will be placed on vaccine nationalism and what this has meant for vaccine access in the migrant population.

### Moderator:

Dr. Sanjana Ragudaran  
Assistant Professor, Monmouth University

### Panelists:

Dr. Marciana Popescu  
Associate Professor, Fordham University  
Assemblywoman Joann Downey  
NJ 11th Legislative District  
Beatriz Oesterheld  
Executive Director, Community Affairs and  
Resource Center, NJ

**March 31st, 7:30-9:00pm**

**Register [Here.](#)**

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# Faculty Spotlights

## Dr. Jodry Presents at TEDxAsburyPark

Dr. Joanne Jodry, Ed.D., D.M.H., Assistant Professor of Professional Counseling and the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program Director, presented her talk, "Educational Transformation: Finding Your Meaning through Service to Others," during a TEDxAsburyPark salon on December 1, 2020.

Dr. Jodry shared her passion for service during an intimate discussion of her first meeting with Courtney Deacon Lalotra, the founder of One Life to Love, a nonprofit organization and orphanage that provides education, nutrition, and health care to migrant children with mental and physical disabilities in New Delhi, India. A mutual friend introduced Dr. Jodry to Ms. Deacon Lalotra shortly after Dr. Jodry received a cancer diagnosis in 2015 that she says created "a new identity" for her, leaving her "more fearful." Ms. Deacon Lalotra's selfless and courageous devotion to offering basic necessities, love, and care to children of the greatest need inspired Dr. Jodry to find meaning and healing in service.

With a renewed sense of purpose, Dr. Jodry developed a faculty-led program for the students in her graduate program to embark on an annual service trip to northern India, including One Life to Love. The students serve food at the Golden Temple, provide care to children, and, in Dr. Jodry's words, learn to "answer the call of suffering," as they expand upon their training for therapy and counseling and engage in spiritual growth. Monmouth students will participate in the program for the third time this summer.

Dr. Jodry's presentation is available on YouTube.

*Authored by Victoria Cattelona*

## Dr. Moscaliuc Publishes Poetry Compilation

This April, Dr. Mihaela Moscaliuc published a new collection of poetry, *Cemetery Ink* (University of Pittsburgh Press, Pitt Poetry Series, 2021). In her poems, she explores themes of belonging through both borders and memory, including physical places, such as her native Romania, and knowledge, love, and loss. Dr. Moscaliuc's work honors the Roma while also addressing (mis)representation and violence. As in her other compilations, cemeteries are featured prominently and communicate accountability between the deceased and the living.

To learn more about Dr. Moscaliuc and her poetry collections, visit her author webpage from the University of Pittsburgh Press.



**Dr. Joanne Jodry**

**"Be inspired by people  
who show meaning in their  
lives.... Really look at the  
suffering of other people...  
and ask yourself, 'Why  
can't I help?'"**

**Dr. Joanne Jodry**







## Monmouth Students and the Long Branch Free Public Library Collaborate on Virtual Service-Learning Storytelling Project

Throughout the Fall 2020 semester, students in Dr. Alison Maginn's FS300A Advanced Spanish Conversation and Oral Discourse course collaborated with the Long Branch Free Public Library on a reciprocal service-learning storytelling project that adapted to pandemic-related restrictions and fostered lasting connections among all parties involved. Though students enrolled in Dr. Maginn's course during previous semesters participated in an intercultural mentoring program at the library, COVID-19 forced the library to close its doors in March 2020. Accordingly, Dr. Maginn consulted with the Children's Librarian, Nekesha Marshall, to devise an alternative service-learning structure that would best assist Long Branch in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis.

Ultimately, Marshall identified a need for virtual storytelling content that would provide Spanish-speaking children with educational resources during the library's closure. Given the growing immigrant populations within Long Branch and in nearby towns, many families increasingly rely on such resources to help their children successfully navigate school systems in which the language of instruction differs from their primary languages spoken at home. With this in mind, Marshall suggested that each Monmouth student select a children's book written in Spanish from the library's collection so that they could practice reading and performing the story. After working on their oral presentations throughout the semester, students would then record themselves reading the stories and upload these videos to the library's webpage and YouTube account for local children and their families to view remotely.

This exercise provided immense benefits for the project's student participants, challenging them to refine their oral communication skills for a purpose greater than themselves. As Dr. Maginn explained, "Storytelling is quite a task, even in your own language. You have to really practice enunciating clearly and delivering a bit of dramatization so that the story is accessible for little kids." Moreover, the project demonstrated how foreign language instruction functions as a critical component of promoting global understanding. In Dr. Maginn's words, "Language is never just language: language is language and culture. So, when students study language at Monmouth, they are always studying a language in context, and one of the big things we emphasize in language instruction is that there are similarities and differences amongst cultures that we should embrace rather than be afraid of... Whether it be through readings, videos, or live discussions with native speakers, we encourage students to engage in critical thinking and to move beyond initial gut reactions, and language allows us to do this so well because it necessitates that one try to understand things that may be different from what they're used to."



**Dr. Alison Maginn**

**"Language is never just language: language is language and culture. So, when students study language at Monmouth, they are always studying a language in context..."**

**Dr. Alison Maginn**



## Virtual Service-Learning Storytelling Project (continued)



Isabella Leak '24 reads  
*¿Dónde está Oso?*

**"This project definitely opened my eyes and made me realize how lucky people who speak English as their first language are, and I think we overlook that privilege and do not really acknowledge it."**

Isabella Leak '24

When asked about the project's relevance to the IGU's core value of cross-cultural awareness, she continued, "Even though [with this project] we were only a few miles away from the library, we definitely crossed borders because our students were working with a community that most of them did not know much about. Many of our students had never previously worked with recent immigrant families, so there was a great opportunity for them to open up a conversation and dialogue. Then, in class, we supported this learning experience with readings about social issues for immigrants in the United States, always making sure to back up the service learning with meaningful context."

Despite Monmouth students' inability to meet the children to whom they read, their participation in the project greatly enhanced both their Spanish-speaking skills and connection to Monmouth's surrounding communities. When recalling her experiences while completing the project, freshman Isabella Leak reflected, "Every day, I would go through my story and practice enunciating all of the words to make sure that I would be able to speak clearly for the kids on the video... Just by reading the book, practicing the vocabulary, and making sure my accent was good, my Spanish improved... but I also developed a greater understanding of how Spanish connects us to our community and to other people." Though facilitating such connection during a pandemic may seem daunting, the service-learning experience proved a remarkable success, with Leak concluding that, "This project definitely opened my eyes and made me realize how lucky people who speak English as their first language are, and I think we overlook that privilege and do not really acknowledge it. However, it's really important for us as students to understand that point... being able to teach [Spanish] and connect to other people was my biggest takeaway." Dr. Maginn's course allowed Monmouth students to apply their Spanish language skills while promoting awareness and understanding of Spanish-speaking communities in and around West Long Branch. The project reinforced her students' language skills, while providing them new experiences that helped them grow as people and empowering the communities around them.

To access Monmouth students' finished products, please visit [the Long Branch Free Public Library website](#) or [the library's YouTube account](#).

*Co-authored by Emily O'Sullivan and Madison Hanrahan*