



Southern Illinois University Edwardsville 2021 International Studies Days Program

Virtual Edition, April 27-29

(Join at: <https://siue.zoom.us/j/63553923128>)

Tuesday, April 27

10:00 to 11:30 a.m. CST

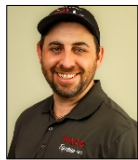
Panel: The State of Regional Businesses with an International Focus during the Pandemic



Silvia Torres Bowman is the Director of the International Trade Center at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, where she spearheads the entry into global markets of regional entrepreneurs and businesses and she manages a program of export consulting and training in international business planning, marketing, logistics, and trade finance. As a native of Lima, Perú, she has unique knowledge and a solid network of connections in promoting and expanding trade opportunities in Latin America. Silvia has led and participated in trade missions and industry shows both nationally and internationally to promote Southwest Illinois and the St. Louis region as the “Gateway to the World.” Her career spans the private sector, academia, and public service. She was honored twice with the Governor’s Export Awards and she has co-founded the Southwest Illinois Trade and Investment Council. She holds an MBA from Webster University and is a Certified Global Business Professional.



Susan Spitz is the International Business Development Officer with the World Trade Center St. Louis, where she assists businesses with international expansion through exporting and she manages the World Trade Center affiliate membership. Prior to this role, she spent 10 years as a business coach to small businesses, entrepreneurs, and nonprofit organizations in the St. Louis region. Susan holds a B.A. in French and Business from The University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Massachusetts, and an M.A. in Intercultural Training & Consulting from Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.



Bruno Nobre is the Owner and Operations Director of Minas Espresso. Nobre has been with Minas Espresso since the very beginning, starting the business in 2018 with his father-in-law, Norberto Torres. Nobre started out in the coffee industry very early in life working on his family coffee farm. Nobre’s family is extremely important to him and is the biggest support system he has. His wife, Priscila, has always been there to support his dreams. When he is able to, Nobre loves to explore the world and take time to travel with his family. Nobre’s lifelong passion for coffee has quickly turned into the American Dream, and he cannot wait to see how far Minas Espresso can go.



Han Ko is the Founder and CEO of USAKO Group, an international investment company. Based on his education in the high tech field, including a graduate degree from Washington University, combined with decades of experience, he has successfully launched and operated multiple ventures in the U.S., South Korea, and the Middle Eastern market. His experience includes venture capital in technology and commercial real estate investment. He has also played various economic and community key leadership roles in multiple organizations, including: Advisor to the President of South Korea, board member of Asian American Chamber of Commerce, founding board member of multiple companies, and contributor to various nonprofit organizations such as Gateway Korea Foundation.



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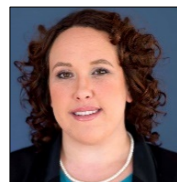
Tuesday, April 27

1:00 to 2:30 p.m. CST

Panel: The State of Regional Nonprofit Organizations with an International Focus during the Pandemic



Kelly M. Moore currently serves as the Director of Community Engagement at the International Institute of Saint Louis. She has been with the organization for 18 years. She previously served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Mali, West Africa, where she was a Water Sanitation Extension Agent. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs and French from Bradley University.



Lorna Kurdi has been working with the World Affairs Council of St Louis since June 2020. In her role as strategic administrator of the organization, she has worked with her colleagues and team of interns to transition all programming to virtual. She has successfully helped the World Affairs Council of St Louis make the transition, having hosted over 85 international visitors this year virtually and produced many online webinars for members, including the Uzbekistan Ambassador and the French General Consul to the Midwest. In her 17 years as political campaign operative and nonprofit organization consultant, she has supported all kinds of different events, never like this before though. She lives in Tower Grove East with her dog, Dodge.



Carlos Suarez has been serving the United Nations Association of Saint Louis as President since 2016 and has been a member since 2010. He is leading the strategy and development of the organization and is implementing its mission at the grassroots level through collaborations around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Prior to serving as President, Carlos was the Treasurer. Carlos currently works professionally for a private estate and has been in the startup scene for a few years. Prior to working in the startup scene, he worked for Junior Chamber International, managing and developing strategic partnerships within the United Nations system and with other international organizations.



Diana Sussman Tockstein is the Senior Manager for Global Partnerships at Junior Chamber International (JCI). She graduated from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville with a B.A. in International Studies. Upon graduation, she immediately started working as a Development Assistant for JCI, and less than a year later, she was promoted to her current role with JCI. Diana is solely responsible for maintaining JCI's international active partnerships and mutually beneficial relationships with globally recognized organizations such as the United Nations, International Chamber of Commerce, or Ban Ki-moon Center Global Citizens. As a member of Generation Z, Diana is devoted to bringing positive opportunities to youth. She takes a special focus on decent work initiatives, sustainable problem solving, and global generational harmony.

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Wednesday, April 28

10:00 to 11:30 a.m. CST

Sabbatical Presentation: The Growing Impact of Social Justice on Public Relations

Sorin Nastasia, Faculty, Department of Applied Communication Studies and Director, International Studies Program, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

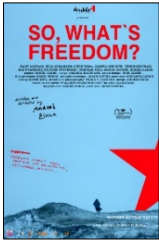


Sorin Nastasia is an Associate Professor of Public Relations in the Department of Applied Communication Studies and the Director of the International Studies Program at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. His sabbatical research explores the expanding possibilities for including social justice among public relations practices by building on the scholarly literature on business organization activism as well as outlining the results of a best practices approach.

1:00 to 2:30 p.m. CST

Discussion: The Memory of Communist-Ordered Deportations in Eastern Europe

Based on the Film “So, What is Freedom?” by Romanian Director Andrei Zinca



The discussion will involve the director and a representative of the RoFest – Trends film festival



3:00 to 5:00 p.m. CST

Keynote Presentation:

Character Assassination in the Relations between the European Union and Russia

Sergei Samoilenko, Faculty, Department of Communication, George Mason University



Sergei A. Samoilenko is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication at George Mason University in Virginia. His teaching and research are focused on bridging academic and professional communities in the areas of political communication, public relations, and reputation management. He is a founding member of the Research Lab for Character Assassination and Reputation Politics (CARP). His recent publications include a handbook on character assassination and reputation management and a handbook of research on deception, fake news, and misinformation online.





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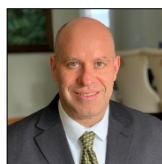
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Thursday, April 29

10:00 to 11:30 a.m. CST

Panel: Learning and Professional Opportunities in International and Global Studies



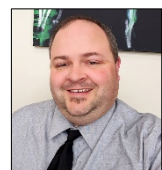
Ronald Packowitz has been a Foreign Service officer with the U.S. Department of State for 21 years, serving as a U.S. diplomat in Colombia, Ecuador, Afghanistan, and elsewhere. Ron is currently the Department's Diplomat in Residence for the Midwest, guiding and advising potential candidates for State Department careers and internships.



Vaughn Thornton spent most of his life in the Midwest, growing up in the hustle and bustle of the Motor City (Detroit, MI) and studying in more rural Bowling Green, OH. As a child, he participated in a Detroit based community service program led by a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV). Those stories inspired him to embark on a path of international study that has sent him across Europe, Latin America, and Africa. After working for a bit, Vaughn decided to follow in her footsteps and apply for Peace Corps. He worked as an English teacher at a vocational high school in Pasuruan, Indonesia. Apart from teaching, Vaughn worked to train teachers on student-centered practices and activities in the classroom. While his primary job was to teach, much of his time in Indonesia was spent learning and reflecting. Having been inspired by an RPCV at a young age, Vaughn is determined to do the same for others, particularly those from underrepresented communities who may be hesitant towards international opportunities.



Lucas Henry is the Coordinator for Academic Programs at the European Union Center at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. He is also a Ph.D. student in musicology at UIUC. His research involves networks of musicians and music festivals in Europe, their engagement with European Commission's Creative Europe Program, and the role of popular music in European integration and identity creation. In addition, Lucas was a Foreign Language and Area Studies fellow with the European Union Center between 2015 and 2017, studying Swedish. He is also a graduate of the Rutgers Institute of Jazz Studies, where he received an M.A. in jazz history and research, and he holds an M.A. in history from East Tennessee State University. He has held teaching positions in the Music Studies Department of the Boyer College of Music and Dance at Temple University, the History Department at Radford University, and the Music Department at East Tennessee State University. Lucas oversees the academic elements of the European Union Center, including instruction, advisement, and management of the EUC degree programs.



Ryan Donald is the Study Abroad Specialist of the Office of International Affairs at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. He was born in Canada and first came to the U.S. as an international student. This experience, combined with an interest in different cultures and world events, brought him to the field of international education. For over ten years he has worked in higher education and is driven by the challenge of creating opportunities to develop their intercultural competency through meaningful programs and experiences. A certified Cultural Intelligence (CQ) facilitator, he has developed international programs and training for students, faculty, and staff.



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Panel: Diplomatic Corps



Rocío Rivera Barradas is the Consul of Economic Affairs at the Consulate General of Mexico in Chicago. She holds a Ph.D. and a M.A. in International Studies from the University of Miami and a B.A. in Political Science and International Relations from CIDE in Mexico City. She has worked at the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit.



Ingrid Ask assumed her position as Minister Counselor and Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Sweden in Washington, D.C. in 2019. Prior to her current position, Ms. Ask served as Political Advisor to the Supreme Commander of the Swedish Armed Forces, General Micael Bydén. She started her diplomatic career in 1999 and has held positions at the Foreign Minister's Office, the Africa Department, and as Head of Consular Affairs at the Department for Consular Affairs and Civil Law. Ms. Ask holds a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree in Political Science and Languages from Uppsala University, Sweden.



Jonas Brunschwig is the Deputy CEO of Swissnex in Boston, contributing to the organization's overall vision, strategy, and external affairs. He also manages Swissnex's academic relations portfolio connecting Switzerland's higher education ecosystem to the Boston area and the East Coast. Jonas is a recent graduate of MIT, where he focused on innovation ecology, researching innovation-driven ecosystems, particularly in the context of sub-Saharan Africa. Prior to joining Swissnex in 2015, he was a fundraiser at MIT, worked for a think tank as well as a startup that invented an energy-generating soccer ball.



Nicholas Koh is Counsellor (Political) at the Embassy of Singapore in Washington D.C., where he assumed post in February 2021. A career foreign service officer, his last overseas assignment was to Jakarta, where he served as First Secretary (Political) from 2015 to 2016. Upon returning to Singapore, he was seconded to the Ministry of Law from 2017 to 2018, working on issues concerning international dispute resolution. At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs headquarters, he has undertaken various assignments covering ASEAN and Southeast Asia. Nicholas graduated from the University of Cambridge and received his Master's degree from Harvard University.



Lewis Gibson is originally from Wellington, New Zealand. He spent a large part of his youth living in Japan and England. Lewis returned to Japan as an adult to teach English at elementary and junior high school on the JET Program. Now working for Education New Zealand at the New Zealand Embassy in Washington, D.C., Lewis promotes the benefits of a New Zealand education to an international audience. Focusing on North America, Lewis works to advance the goals of the New Zealand International Education Strategy by promoting New Zealand as a diverse and inclusive education destination.



Ryan Francis D. Gener is a Foreign Service Officer I at the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs, currently assigned as Consul and Acting Head of Post at the Consulate General of the Philippines in Chicago, Illinois. He heads the Consulate's Political, Economic, and Overseas Voting Sections. As Economic Officer, he sits as a Member of the Board of Directors of the Chicago International Trade Commissioners' Association. In 2010-2016, he worked as a trade negotiator and dispute settlement representative at the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the World Trade Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. From 2007 to 2010, he served as Special Assistant to the Undersecretary for International Economic Relations, where he was Substantive Lead for Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation meetings. Prior to joining government, he was a supervising analyst at DHL Express, Manila Electric Company, and Mansfield International, Inc. Mr. Gener obtained his Master in Contemporary Diplomacy degree from the University of Malta and DiploFoundation.

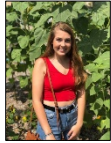
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INTS 499 Capstone Presentations



Grace Garner – *The Problems of Honduras*

This paper discusses how the social problems of Honduras are continuing to overwhelm the country. Migration out of the country continues to grow and I discuss the factors that contribute to this prominent problem. The country is negatively impacted by violence as well as severe corruption.

Almost half of the population of Honduras lives in poverty, while child labor in Honduras is a major issue that continues without consequences. Human rights are also an issue in this country, although the government has tried to ensure that human rights are up to international standards. The paper also discusses ways in which the country is trying to better these issues as well as possible solutions to the nation's societal problems.



Justin White – *The Effects of Unemployment on the Youth in Spain*

My research explores the causes of high unemployment rates that have affected Spain for decades.

The economy in Spain was hit hard during the Great Recession, causing many citizens in Spain without a job. In my paper, I pursue an in-depth review of the effects on the youth population, with interviews of students in Spain. Students face depression and high levels of stress from the uncertainty of finding a job, especially during a global pandemic.



Gabrielle Wimes – *The Salience of Race in South Africa*

Apartheid government, established in South Africa in 1948, implemented a system of legislation that enforced segregationist law and policy against the majority Black population. As a result, the creation of systemic racism through Apartheid has come to manifest itself into the current post-Apartheid South African society. The continued expression of racism within this country is evident through unequal outcomes and ethnic disparities rooted in historical racial inequality. This research project assesses comparatively pre-Apartheid, Apartheid, and post-Apartheid South Africa to examine the salience of race as well as how the Apartheid has influenced the housing and land disparities in the South African society today.



Hayleigh Lutz – *Colorblindness in France*

In this project, I explore racial colorblindness that is present in France. Since 1978, the term "race" has been banned in public documents in this country. The French believed that to promote a world where race was not an issue, they would keep the significance of racial divisions to a minimum by approaching the topic in a different way. They refer to everyone as of French nationality, rather than identifying people with a specific race, culture, or ethnicity. Due to recent events involving racial tensions worldwide and the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement, the impact of racial colorblindness has been brought to the attention of the French population and has caused a rift in the national community.

Ekindra Rasaili – *Assessing Indian Motivation in the India-Nepal Border Dispute*

This research paper seeks to examine the issue of the ongoing India-Nepal border dispute in the area of Kalapani and Limpiadhura which is claimed by both India and Nepal. The paper examines the Indian motivations behind the ongoing border dispute and the encroachment with neighboring countries based on historical development and the current geopolitical situation. This research paper is based on the examination of various policy, scholarly, and media resources which discuss the tensions and agreements between the two countries.



Madison Cook – *Variations of the Chinese Language*

Just as there are different variations of the English language, there are also several different variations of the Chinese language. I will be discussing the Chinese language as a whole and the main components that make it up. Depending on where you go in China, you are more than likely bound to hear differences in the language. However, Chinese and its various forms are not significant only in China, they are also very important both in other parts of Asia and on other continents. For this paper I have focused on the Chinese dialects of Cantonese and Mandarin specifically and how they feature unique components that have significant variations.

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