

BRIEFINGS

WATSON INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

WINTER 2013

BROWN UNIVERSITY

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As you will see in this issue of *Briefings*, it has been a busy and exciting year so far at the Watson Institute. We have launched new pilot programs and other initiatives designed to integrate the Institute more with the rest of the University, gotten undergraduate and graduate students more involved in the life of the Institute, and generally moved the Institute forward as the search for a permanent director progressed. In this regard we are thrilled that the search, under the leadership of President Christina Paxson, has successfully concluded with the appointment, effective July 1, of **Richard Locke**, head of MIT's Department of Political Science and deputy dean of the Sloan School of Management. We are extremely pleased to welcome him to the Institute and to Brown.



—**Peter Andreas**, Interim Director

GLOBAL SECURITY

This year's relaunch of a Global Security Seminar Series is part of an effort to expand the Institute's engagement with pressing contemporary security issues and policy debates. Bridging the gap between the academic and policy worlds, the series features prominent security scholars, journalists, and practitioners.



In October, Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter **Tim Weiner** (left) presented his fourth book, *Enemies: The FBI at War*. The first definitive history of the FBI's secret intelligence operations, Weiner's book reveals that intelligence, not policing, is the Bureau's foremost mission. Framing FBI history as a "tug of war between national security and civil liberties," Weiner raised

important questions in his talk: Which wins, civil liberties or national security? Can there ever be a perfect balance between the two? Have there been times when one has been more important than the other?

Other series speakers were Yale professor **Elisabeth Wood** on wartime rape; Harvard professor **Stephen Walt** on international studies and the public sphere; and homeland security expert **Stephen Flynn** on disasters, terrorism, and societal resilience.

watsoninstitute.org/globalsecurity

THE AMERICAS



This year, the Institute and the **Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies** are jointly convening experts who explore security concerns in the Americas, a region marked by striking contrast: the remarkably longstanding absence of warfare between nations but often extraordinarily high levels of armed violence within them.

In September, a panel of speakers (journalist **Sibylla Brodzinsky**, Human Rights Watch researcher **Max Schoening** '09, photojournalist **Stephen Ferry** '83, and Colombian legal scholar **César Rodríguez-Garavito**) discussed the experience of documenting violence in Colombia. Brodzinsky and Schoening are editors of the oral history collection *Throwing Stones at the Moon: Narratives from Colombians Displaced by Violence*. “The way that people live on a daily basis with the conflict or under the thumb of a bully guerrilla commander or a paramilitary warlord—that non-bloody violence is a form of violence, and it’s how the conflict plays out for the majority of people day to day,” said Brodzinsky. “It’s important to understand what they’re fleeing. The experiences of the displaced people are the most prevalent and at the same time most invisible manifestations of the conflict. We felt that by using this [experience of displacement] as our common thread, we could talk about all the other forms of abuses and violence.”

The series also included Elisabeth Wood (see Global Security, previous page) and UC Berkeley scholar **Leah Carroll**, who discussed peasant and rural worker mobilization and elite reaction in Colombia’s war zones over a period of 25 years. watsoninstitute.org/challenges

CYBERSECURITY

Part of the Cybersecurity Policy and Technology pilot initiative, this colloquium probes the new political, economic, societal, and technological issues that must be addressed as the Internet is integrated into global commerce, domestic and international politics, and national security.

Former Assistant Secretary for Policy at the Department of Homeland Security **Stewart Baker** '70 (below), an expert on technology and cybersecurity legislation, spoke in October about the real and perceived risks of cyberwar. He identified four lessons that can be applied to cyber warfare. *Thirty years can turn winners into losers*: technology can rapidly alter the state of affairs and tip the balance of power. *The offense has the advantage*: cybersecurity is fairly weak and unsophisticated.

The law won't protect us: legal approaches have proven to be complex and ineffectual. And finally, *War is worse in prospect than in reality*: if you possess the resilience you can survive the attacks.



Ronald Diebert, director of the Canada Centre for Global Security Studies and the Citizen Lab at the Munk School of

Global Affairs, University of Toronto, spoke about the political economy of cybersecurity, and **Timothy Edgar**, senior legal advisor to the US government's Office of the Program Manager, Information Sharing Environment, spoke about privacy and internet freedom.

watsoninstitute.org/cybersecurity

INTERNATIONAL FINANCE

In November, Professor at Large **William Rhodes** '57 LHD '05 (hon.) kicked off a new year-long lecture series on international finance, co-sponsored with the **Rhodes Center**. His talk, titled "Leadership Lessons from the Front Lines of Global Finance," offered perspectives on the European debt crisis, the growth of China, and the state of the US financial system. The talk was preceded by a lunch with the first group of Watson Undergraduate Fellows (above).



Rhodes, author of *Banker to the World*, is the former senior vice chairman of Citigroup Inc. and of Citibank, and is a member *emeritus* of the Institute's Board of Overseers.

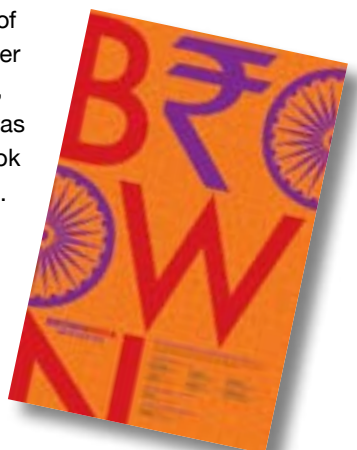


INDIA

Last fall, its inaugural semester, the **Brown-India Initiative** held 14 programs on issues related to contemporary India. In September, then-Minister of External Affairs **S.M. Krishna** spoke to a crowd of 200 at the Initiative's inauguration, and in November, Chief Economist of the World Bank **Kaushik Basu** delivered the first two O.P. Jindal Distinguished Lectures. **Barkha Dutt** (left), one of India's leading journalists, was in residence at the Institute,

enhancing the Brown community's understanding of modern India while helping the Initiative gain broader recognition in India. Among the many other writers, intellectuals, and academics who came to speak was **Rana Dasgupta**, who is currently working on a book based on research in his adopted hometown, Delhi. "An allegory of global capitalism itself," Dasgupta's work explores the psychological and social effects of the massive influx of wealth India's capital has seen over the past two decades.

brown.edu/india



MIDDLE EAST

Led by Institute Faculty Fellow and Joukowsky Family Professor of Modern Middle East History **Beshara Doumani**, **Middle East Studies** last fall entered a phase of accelerated growth, adding three new faculty positions and hosting a robust speaking and event program. In September, as the Syrian army clashed with rebels and civilian casualties continued to rise, Syrian journalist and author **Samar Yazbek** spoke at the Institute. After participating in the 2011 anti-regime demonstrations and publishing work highlighting the atrocities of the regime, Yazbek was forced to flee the country. “I may have written about the regime’s injustices,” she said, “but I only wrote the truth. ... But because it was the truth, what I wrote was unfavorable to the regime. I knew the reaction of the regime would be violent, but the reality of the violence exceeded my expectations.”



In an event co-sponsored with the student organization Common Ground, **Rami Khouri**, journalist and director of the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at the American University of Beirut, spoke about the prospects for Arab-Israeli peace in the context of the Arab uprisings. Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Kutayba Alghanim Professor of Social Science **Sherine**

Hamdy (above) spoke about the national debate over organ transplantation in Egypt. Her book *Our Bodies Belong to God: Organ Transplants, Islam, and the Struggle for Human Dignity in Egypt* was published in March 2012. **Karen Elliott House**, former publisher of the *Wall Street Journal* and former vice chair of the Institute’s Board of Overseers, discussed her book *On Saudi Arabia: Its People, Past, Religion, Fault Lines—and Future*, released in September.

The Institute resumed its partnership with the **International Writers Project** (IWP), part of Brown’s Department of Literary Arts. The IWP offers artistic and institutional support to writers who are unable to practice free expression in their home countries. Last fall, Syrian novelist and playwright and IWP fellow **Nihad Sirees** was in part-time residence at the Institute.

mes.watsoninstitute.org

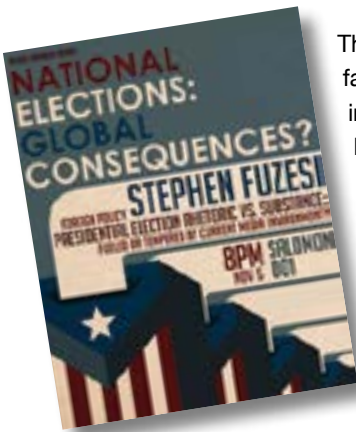
TEACHING AND TRAINING

For two weeks in June, 138 early-career scholars and practitioners from the Global South came together at the Institute for the **Brown International Advanced Research Institutes** (BIARI). In four themed groups convened by Brown faculty, participants experienced a mix of lectures, participant presentations, panels, discussions, and group work that one described as like a “six-month master class.” Benefiting from 30 contributors from universities and agencies from around the world and the participation of more than 50 faculty from Brown, participants heard from leading experts in their fields, received feedback on their ongoing research,

TEACHING AND TRAINING (CONTINUED)

and laid the groundwork for future collaboration. An Office of International Affairs program housed at the Institute, BIARI is now in its fifth year and has 561 alumni from 85 countries.

Last October, for the third consecutive year, the **Botín Scholars** program kicked off at the Institute. Managed by the Institute and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS), the intensive two-month program brought together 40 university students from Latin America and Puerto Rico with a vocation for public service. During the week spent at Brown, their schedule included activities geared toward public service and leadership, as well as workshops, seminars, and lectures by Brown faculty and other experts on Latin America—including former President of Chile and Professor at Large **Ricardo Lagos** (above left, with CLACS director Rich Snyder) and former President of the Dominican Republic Leonel Fernández, keynote speakers of the “Democratization: Lessons from Leaders” conference. The students spent the remainder of the program in Spain.



The **International Relations** Program’s visiting faculty offered courses this fall on topics ranging from international law to the global news media. The Departmental Undergraduate Group hosted a fall speaker series around the theme “National Elections: Global Consequences?” Speakers included Stephen Fuzesi, former vice-president, chief counsel and secretary of Newsweek, Inc., and former global publisher of Newsweek International. In addition, two IR seniors represented Brown at the prestigious Student Conference on United States Affairs, a four-day event hosted by the United States Military

Academy at West Point. With the help of academic and policy experts, the students prepared and presented policy proposals on “Leading in Lean Times: Assuring Accountability and Assessing American Priorities in an Age of Austerity.”

The **Choices Program** recently published an updated print and new digital edition of *China on the World Stage: Weighing the U.S. Response*. This edition features several new lessons, including “Art and Politics: Ai Weiwei,” which has students analyze the political context of Ai Weiwei’s work and his intentions, and learn about censorship. The iBooks Textbook edition (available from the iTunes Textbook store) takes advantage of the iPad’s capacity to embed video and graphics, adding not only video clips of scholars addressing issues covered in the text but also a video short featuring an



excerpt from the documentary *Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry*, by Alison Klayman '06. Xu Wenli, a prominent Chinese pro-democracy advocate and former Institute senior fellow, is also featured.

Last June, 21 secondary teachers from across the country participated in Choices 2012 Summer Leadership Institute focused on human rights. To date this year, Choices Teaching Fellows (graduates of the Summer Institutes) have offered 64 programs for teachers in their regions.

choices.edu

MULTIMEDIA

Explore Watson, a new platform on the Institute's website, went live in December. This online space showcases different dimensions of, perspectives on, and connections among the Institute's core foci, global security, and political economy and development. Originally conceived as the pilot project Angle, Explore Watson uses the same points of entry—region, theme, and medium—to present the voices and opinions of Institute faculty and visitors to a broad audience. The site is continuously evolving as text, audio, and video content is created.

explore.watsoninstitute.org

"The Climate Paradox," a short animation illustrating research conducted by the Institute-supported Climate Development Lab, ran alongside an open letter to President Obama in the *Guardian* online in November, garnering international attention—including an estimated 1.5 million views on social media channels.



The letter and animation explain a dramatic inequality: the least developed countries in the world contribute little to climate change but suffer the most from its effects, while the most developed countries have the largest environmental footprint but suffer the least.



The **Global Media** class explored the historical and contemporary roles of media in international affairs. Former Institute faculty Jim Blight and Janet Lang spoke about their transmedia Armageddon Letters project, launched on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Cuban missile crisis. Other speakers included Pulitzer

Prize-winning *New York Times* columnist Nicholas Kristof, filmmaker Alison Klayman '06 (above), P.J. Crowley, former assistant secretary for public affairs and a spokesman for the US state department, and Ted Widmer, former speechwriter in the Clinton White House and former director of the John Carter Brown Library.

Photo credits: *Andreas, Peter Goldberg; Hamdy, Annika Klein; Weiner, Jesse Nemerofsky; Klayman, Karen Philippi; Baker, Dutt, Rhodes, Lagos and Snyder, Rythum Vinoben. The Institute's undergraduate communications assistants contributed reporting and photography.*

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