STUDENTS ABROAD STARTING ‘GLOBAL CONVERSATION’

People’s lives shaped by violence on the US-Mexico border. Poor kids in Mali, finding an outlet in dance at a local community center. Indian mothers resorting to starting a school of their own. These are some of the people around the world whose stories will be shared online by the University’s first cohort of AT&T New Media Fellows this summer – through documentary films, podcast series, photography, and other media.

Their fellowships are part of the Institute’s launch of a Global Conversation website, where Brown students, faculty, and alumni are invited to submit content on global issues and build communities of interest. The site is being developed by the Institute with support from AT&T Corp. and the AT&T Foundation.

The Global Conversation is conceived as an outlet for the Brown community’s growing use of new media in its international scholarship.

“With so many Brown students already actively engaged in innovative social projects and learning around the world – and given these students’ fluency in new media technologies – the Global Conversation comes at an ideal time to channel these two prominent strands at the University,” said Institute Deputy Director Geoffrey S. Kirkman ’91.

Eleven AT&T New Media Fellows have been selected to integrate media into their work overseas on a range of issues – from health, education, and poverty to politics and culture.

As these New Media Fellows help launch the site, other summer fellows, faculty members, and alums are also joining in the Global Conversation – on an early version of the site that is already online.

Faculty have also been assigned AT&T New Media Research Assistants to digitally enhance research projects on such subjects as the relationship between popular culture and the military. Faculty participants are Assistant Public Policy Professor Geri Augusto, Institute Associate Professor Keith Brown, Modern Culture and Media Professor Anthony Cokes, Institute Visiting Fellow Christina Rowley, and the Choices Program.

Continued on next page
The 2010 New Media Fellows are:

- **Chantal Berman ’10** and **Evan Pulvers ’10**, an international relations/Middle East studies concentrator and a development studies concentrator, respectively, spending the summer in Kenya aiding community radio stations;

- **Colleen Brogan ’10** and **Zachary McCune ’10**, an art history/French semiotics concentrator and modern culture and media concentrator, respectively, who will travel to Ireland to document traditional Gaelic games and examine their wider cultural implications;

- **Sarah Coghlan GS**, a global health scholar who has already arrived in El Salvador to research sustainable alternatives to international food aid in the form of community gardens;

- **Steven Ellis ’10.5**, an applied psychology concentrator going to Croatia to produce a documentary examining the EU accession process and its globalizing effects on a young democracy;

- **Sarah Gibson ’10.5**; a history concentrator going to Georgia to document traditional music and dance;

- **Sarah Kay ’10**, a modern culture and media concentrator who will travel to Gurgaon, India, to document the story of Pragati, a grassroots public school for underserved children;

- **Quyen Ngo ’12**, a development studies concentrator who will explore the strengths and weaknesses of Vietnam’s educational system; and

- **Hannah Olson ’10**, an economic development/comparative literature concentrator who will explore the impact of Mexico/US border regulations on people’s lives.

Kirkman captured the intent of the Conversation, saying: “Information and communication technologies can connect conversations globally in ways that were never possible before. Online audio and video put into a social media context can create communities of conversation that bring attention to challenging global problems and direct discussion to possible solutions.”

Fellow Hannah Olson concurred: “This is an opportunity for me to engage in an issue I believe to be critical to the United States’ understanding of itself and our place in the world and contribute to a project I believe in.”
Alternatives Under Study to Reform Global Finance

With the establishment of the William R. Rhodes Center for International Economics and Finance and a growing faculty in the politics of global finance, the Institute is tackling questions surrounding the global financial crisis. Among them: whether complex finance creates wealth or simply redistributes income among the rich.

Rhodes Center Director Ross Levine told the World Bank in April that in 1996-2006 “time and again, US regulatory authorities and policymakers (1) were acutely aware of the growing fragility of the financial system caused by their policies during the decade before the crisis, (2) had ample power to fix the problems, and (3) chose not to. This crisis did not just fall from the sky on the heads of policymakers; policymakers helped cause this crisis.”

Levine also presented his analysis at several Federal Reserve Banks, the International Monetary Fund, the Bank of England, and the Bank for International Settlements.

Also in April, Watson Faculty Fellow Mark Blyth and colleagues presented their book, Constructing the International Economy (Cornell University Press, June 2010), at the Institute. Noting that unpredicted events often influence markets in improbable ways – and crises recur with worrisome frequency – the authors question why many scholars of the international political economy retain a comfortable certainty about how the world works – repeatedly offering up rationalist explanations based on materialist models despite their well known shortcomings.

The new book advances the view that the assumption of a purely materialist view of theory is not – and never was – tenable. All political economy scholarship needs at least to consider, as a plausible hypothesis, that economies might vary substantially for nonmaterial reasons. In other words, the field needs to engage more systematically with constructivism, a theoretical approach that emphasizes precisely those nonmaterial influences on both institutions and practices.

Planning is under way for a Rhodes-Watson conference on global finance, distribution, and governance that will develop recommendations for alternative economic policies. In June, the Institute will also host a related gathering of the Alliance for Governance Research and Analysis (AGORA) network, an international collaboration of academics aiming to enhance governance in the global political economy.

Institute Now Home to Political Economy Journal

The Review of International Political Economy (RIPE) has established its new editorial headquarters at the Watson Institute. A leading international journal, RIPE dedicates its pages to “the systematic exploration of the international political economy from a plurality of perspectives.”

The journal brings together political economists, international relations scholars, geographers, and sociologists. It publishes work that explores such issues as international trade and finance, global governance and regulation, and development and globalization, in conjunction with issues of culture, identity, gender, and ecology.

Faculty Fellow Mark Blyth plays a leadership role on RIPE’s editorial board, and Catherine Corliss, a Brown graduate student of political science, is managing editor. The journal is issued five times a year by Routledge.
Team to Research Inequality and Democracy in Brazil

Research on “Cities against Poverty: Brazilian Experiences” will begin at the Institute in July, under a $1 million grant from the Research Council of Norway.

Watson Associate Professor Gianpaolo Baiocchi is partnering on the project with the Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research and the Centro Brasileiro de Análise e Planejamento.

Over three years, this international team will conduct statistical analyses to trace the impact of local anti-poverty measures in the 10 largest cities of Brazil. The project will then carry out qualitative research in two of the best performing cities and two of the worst, in order to suggest the political factors causing the different poverty outcomes.

“Brazil is internationally known for its extraordinary inequality and for the poverty that affects the majority of the population,” the researchers write. “It is also recognized for its ability to innovate in terms of democratic-participatory governance. This coexistence of perceived poverty and democratic governance is a paradox.

“On the one hand, for the last 15 years poverty and inequality have been decreasing in proportions unparalleled in the history of the country. On the other, this reduction does not seem to be directly related to the experiences of democratic-participatory innovation. Facing this situation, the project will pursue the following question: what has been, and is, the role of local governance and the cities in poverty reduction?”

The research will not only analyze this question, but also recommend public policies for effective poverty reduction.

The research is in line with the Watson Institute’s goal of advancing the study of the dynamics of inequalities – with the aim of catalyzing public engagements and better policy.

PhD Students Research Developing World Issues

Brown PhD students will conduct field research this summer on social, political, and economic transformations in the developing world as part of the Graduate Program in Development, a National Science Foundation-supported initiative at the Institute that focuses on inequality.

The research subjects are:
• the emergence of small and medium enterprises in Kyrgyzstan’s post-Soviet informal economy, by Aisalkyn Boteva, a doctoral student in sociology;
• the social dynamics of caste inequalities in India, by Bhawani Buswala, in anthropology;
• the political mobilization of Bolivia’s indigenous populations, by Lachen Chernyha, in political science;
• the intersection of identity politics and gender relations in marginalized populations’ struggles for rights in Brazil, by Paula Dias, in anthropology;
• the property rights of small-scale farmers and peasants in the Brazilian Amazon, by Peter Klein, in sociology;
• the production of public spaces and their impacts in Colombia and Peru, by Omar Pereyra, in sociology;
• citizenship and civil society among Rio de Janeiro’s urban poor, by Stephanie Savell, in anthropology;
• Petroles Brasileiros, as a case study of the rise of multinational enterprises from emerging economies, by Jazmin Sierra, in political science; and
• the incorporation of rural-urban migrants in Indian cities, by Gayatri Singh, in sociology.

The program supports training and research for PhD candidates in anthropology, economics, political science, and sociology by offering courses, funding field research, providing fellowships, hosting visiting faculty, and collaborating with overseas partners.
New Project Researches Religion in Internationalism

The story of international law over the past century is being retold through the lens of its relationship to religion, as part of a new Religion and Internationalism Project launched at the Institute by Professor Nathaniel Berman. The current portrait of religion as marginal to contemporary international law cannot begin to account for the disarray and panic evoked in internationalist debate by the challenges posed by religion in the 2000s – ranging from fundamentalisms with global ambitions, whether emanating from Washington or Waziristan, to more localized challenges, whether emerging in the West Bank or Kashmir.

“Departing from views which relegate religion to the margins, I maintain that religion has played an ongoing and highly fraught role in the international legal imagination,” Berman says in his research statement.

His analysis of religion and international law is based on legal history, interdisciplinary study, and policy analysis.

The Religion and Internationalism Project builds on Berman’s previous studies focused on reconstructing the development of international law in the century since World War I in terms of its relationship to nationalism, ethnic conflict, and colonialism. This was the subject of his 2008 book, Passions et Ambivalences: le Nationalisme, le Colonialisme, et le Droit International (Paris: Pedone, forthcoming in English).

The combined projects’ policy implications point away from the tendency toward internationalist responses that are structurally similar, despite the heterogeneity of the problems they have sought to solve. In their place will be proposed more particularized policy responses that are better suited to bringing about the pacification of individual conflicts and securing the individual and collective human rights that are most at stake.

In the coming academic year, two new visiting scholars will be augmenting the Institute’s research on religion and internationalism. The research they will pursue includes the relationships between religion and conflict, the media, and governance and the ways in which inequality, power, ethics, and aspiration might be conceptualized in both religious and secular terms (see page 22).

The Papacy in World Affairs

The Vatican’s opening in 2006 of its archives from the 1922-1939 papacy of Pius XI has prompted a burst of historical research that is shedding new light on the Catholic Church’s role in the major world events of the time. An international network of scholars working in these archives will meet at the Watson Institute in October for the third in a series of conferences on the materials.
Bridging Scholarship and Policy on Afghanistan

Watson is developing collaborations among researchers, policymakers, and the media for more meaningful public engagement on Afghanistan.

The Social Science Research Council and its initiative on Academia in the Public Sphere: Islam and Muslims in World Contexts are providing a two-year, $100,000 grant to support the project, known as “Engaging Afghanistan: Creating Avenues of Engagement between Academics and Think Tanks, the Media, and Policymakers.”

The project aims to redress the current shortfall in policy circles of expertise on Afghanistan, according to project co-directors Michael D. Kennedy, director of the Watson Institute, and Shiva Balaghi, a fellow at Brown’s Cogut Center for the Humanities. Specific needs include studies on the effect of America’s militarized foreign policy on diplomatic efforts; democratic transitions and institution-building; regional implications of stability; and cultural outreach to Afghanistan’s civil society.

At the University, a Brown Afghanistan Working Group of faculty with expertise in a wide array of academic disciplines and geographies has committed to deepening its research on Afghanistan, organizing a variety of educational and cultural programs relating to Afghanistan at Brown, and coordinating outreach efforts to policymakers, practitioners, and the media.

“Expertise on Afghanistan remains insufficient to meet the policy needs the US faces in this critical region,” Balaghi said, citing as one cause the history of areas studies in academia and its lack of clarity on Afghanistan’s place among the overlapping world regions of the Middle East, South Asia, and Russia and Central Asia.

Added Kennedy: “Building contextual expertise around Afghanistan is essential for many reasons, but thinking strategically about how to extend that expertise for impact is critical.”

Lutz Presents Peacekeepers with Report on Sexual Abuse

Institute Professor Catherine Lutz recently recommended steps to address the systematic patterns of sexual exploitation and abuse that have emerged around UN peacekeeping missions.

In a May keynote address to a UN conference for its Conduct and Discipline Unit personnel from around the world, Lutz pointed to the need for a heightened cultural awareness and greater enforcement – on and off duty – among other steps to help reduce peacekeepers’ misconduct in the communities they are sent to protect.

Lutz produced a report on the problem in 2009, together with Institute Associate Professor Keith Brown and University Vice President for International Affairs Matthew Gutmann, following field research with the Conduct and Discipline Units in Haiti, Lebanon, Kosovo, and New York. Support was provided by the Compton Foundation.

Abuses occur “much more often than they are identified and punished,” the report said. “This culture of impunity, or belief in a culture of impunity, was most pronounced in Kosovo, less so in Haiti, and least in Lebanon.”
Questioning the Numbers behind Policy Debates

The inaccuracy and manipulation of big, attention-grabbing statistics in policy debates and media reporting is exposed and analyzed in Sex, Drugs, And Body Counts: The Politics of Numbers in Global Crime and Conflict (Cornell University Press, June 2010), co-edited by Institute Associate Professor Peter Andreas and Tufts University Assistant Professor Kelly M. Greenhill.

The book’s editors produce many examples, from the often cited number of war dead in Bosnia (up to 250,000) to the percent of global GDP attributed to money laundering (as much as 10 percent). Most such numbers are highly suspect, they say, adding that “Their continued use and abuse reflect a much larger and troubling pattern: Policymakers and the media naively or deliberately accept highly politicized and questionable statistical claims about activities that are extremely difficult to measure. As a result, we too often become trapped by these mythical numbers, with perverse and counterproductive consequences.”

The book brings together anthropologists, political scientists, sociologists, and policy analysts – among them, Institute Senior Fellow Sue Eckert, Adjunct Professor Thomas Biersteker, Brown Professor Kay Warren, and former Institute Postdoctoral Fellow Winifred Tate.

Contributors examine the origins of such statistics and trace their proliferation. They also assess the standard metrics used to evaluate policy effectiveness in combating problems such as terrorist financing, sex trafficking, and the drug trade.

Eckert Tapped to Shape US Cyberattack Policy

How can the United States prevent cyberattacks against its national and commercial interests? Institute Senior Fellow Sue E. Eckert is engaging this question at Brown and in Washington.

Eckert last month hosted cybersecurity expert Herbert S. Lin, chief scientist for the National Research Council’s (NRC’s) Computer Science and Telecommunications Board, to give a talk at the Institute on “Cyberattack as a Tool of US Policy?”. Lin last year co-edited an NRC report calling for clear national policy regarding the use of cyberattack, saying that current policy is “ill-formed, undeveloped, and highly uncertain.”

Another NRC committee on which Eckert serves issued a separate paper last month on strategies for deterring cyberattacks, laying out questions that must be addressed to “drive research regarding ways of more effectively preventing, discouraging, and inhibiting hostile activity against important US information systems and networks.”

Laying the Groundwork for Euro-Atlantic Security

The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace has launched the Euro-Atlantic Security Initiative, a high-level commission aiming “to build the intellectual framework for an inclusive transatlantic security system for the 21st century.” Watson Board Member Robert Legvold directs the initiative and Adjunct Professor Catherine Kelleher has been named commissioner.

The initiative was launched because, “the hoped-for undivided ‘Europe whole and free’ of 20 years ago has today become a region in danger of seeing new lines divide the continent with the prospect of heightened tension for all. The responsibility for this situation belongs to all parties, just as it will require adjustments and new thinking from all to recapture the promise of an undivided, secure, and prosperous region.”
Carjacked: The Culture of the Automobile and Its Effect on Our Lives (Palgrave Macmillan, 2010), co-authored by Institute Professor Catherine Lutz

“... Americans living without a car, especially in sprawling communities with weak public transportation, face limited mobility, restricted job options, more expensive goods and services and ... a powerful stigma in a car-based society.

It is not just lack of a car, but car ownership itself, that is helping to make the poor poorer and the rich richer. This established but little-known truth rubs against the conventional wisdom that owning a car is positive by definition, generating not obstacles but opportunities. But the average costs of owning and using a car do not tap all budgets equally. Although the rich buy newer and more luxe cars, their expenditures on them represent a far smaller portion of their household budgets. And the poor and working class pay much more than the well-to-do for the same cars and automotive services.

The car system redistributes wealth upward, magnifying inequality in the United States. How exactly does it do this? In three critical ways. First, people in poor, carless households often face extreme difficulty in getting and keeping employment because it is challenging for them simply to get from their homes to available jobs. Second, working- and middle-class people are being held back from economic advancement or pushed further into debt through car ownership. Cars are an expensive and depreciating asset for which there remains pervasive discrimination in pricing and financing. What these first two factors mean is that the poor can’t live without the car and they can’t live with it. Third, at the same time, the car consolidates and elevates the status of the wealthy. Some of the very wealthiest families in the nation are or have been the beneficiaries of the auto industry, or of windfall gasoline and banking profits reaped from the car- and gasoline-buying public. ...”

Censoring an Iranian Love Story (Knopf, 2009), by 2006-2007 International Writers Project Fellow Shahriar Mandanipour

“... What successful love story do you know of in which the abandoned and tormented lover who has learned of the presence of a wealthy suitor in his beloved’s life does not knock back a few drinks to console himself? [The censor], however, does not under any circumstances allow characters in Iranian stories to drink alcohol – just like all those characters in dubbed foreign films screened in Iran who only order milk or orange juice in bars, and we see bartenders bring them gold-colored milk or burgundy orange juice. ...”
… Why people were more or less hostile to the Soviet Union varied enormously, but in a general way, the more conservative you were, particularly on economic issues, the more anti-Soviet you were likely to be. By contrast, the more sympathetic you were to efforts to alleviate poverty and work actively toward social justice, the more complicated your attitude toward the Soviet Union was likely to become, and the more reluctant you were to see it as wholly evil.

When I was in college and immediately afterwards, I couldn’t help noticing how so many intellectuals of my parents’ generation had begun on the very far Left in the ‘30s and then moved to the far Right. Most of the first generation of new-conservatives began as Communists or Trotskyists and moved – more of less continuously – all the way across the political spectrum after World War II. This pattern was repeated in a less extreme way by my own generation, although notably not among students of Russia.

How come? Those who made that transition from Left to Right invariably say, “We wised up.” Those like myself who did not participate in that seismic shift tend to attribute such dramatic changes in view to the personal instability of the ideological migrants, as well as to the shift of the American political spectrum to the Right between 1945, say, and 2005. …"

Anywhere at the farthest edge of an unimagined country, where people unknown to each other first meet.

This is Nueva España. Nuevo Santander. Mexico and Tejas.

Along with many other South Texans, I am a descendant of the people of this forgotten tale, but nothing of their lives was ever told to me by my elders. Only a few of their names survive. Nonetheless, centuries on in the tale, their story has come to me for telling, their lost story of a lost world – of ancestors who believed they were creating a new world in the age of prophecy’s end, the glorious triumph of their ancient traditions. …”

A Liberal Education (TidePool Press, 2010), a memoir by History Professor Emeritus Abbott Gleason

“The Farthest Home is in an Empire of Fire: A Tejano Elegy (Penguin Group, 2010), by Visiting Fellow John Phillip Santos

“This is a story that took place long ago in a homeland far from where I live today, in a land whose first, forgotten names were never meant to be written down.

I cannot name them now. Perhaps no one can.

It is an American story that began in la otra América, before Jamestown or Plymouth Rock, but it could have been anywhere in the world.
**IR Program Presents 2010 Graduating Class**

Over 125 seniors will graduate this year with international relations degrees.

One of the University’s largest academic concentrations, the IR program maximizes student choice with cross-disciplinary training and strong international skills. Its objectives are to foster creative thinking about pressing global problems and equip students with the analytic tools, language expertise, and cross-cultural understanding to guide them in that process.

The concentration draws on departments including anthropology, economics, environmental studies, history, political science, psychology, religion, and sociology. It also incorporates humanities courses and has a 3-year language requirement.

Located within and drawing upon the expertise of the Watson Institute, the IR concentration is organized around a multidisciplinary core and sub-themes of global security, political economy and development, and politics, culture, and identity.

It also offers an honors program in which students undertake thesis research on an international topic. Thirteen students graduated from the International Relations Honors Program this year. To do so, each of them researched, wrote, and presented a graduate-level thesis, in addition to completing with distinction the usual IR course requirements and three years of a foreign language.

IR Assistant Director Claudia Elliott PhD ’99 designed the current program, now in its eighth year, and worked with IR Program Director Peter Andreas, among 25 other faculty members, in advising the students. This year’s honors recipients and their theses are:

- **Sancho Accorsi.** “The Weaponization of the Civilian: Network-Centric Warfare, the Human Terrain System, and Postmodernist Critique of the ‘Civilian’”
- **Jae Wan Ahn.** “From Developmental State to Welfare State: Defining the Political and Economic Transformations and Consequent Social Conflicts in South Korea”
- **Chantal Berman.** “Between Structure, Policy, and Human Security: Explaining Syrian and Lebanese Policy Responses towards Iraqi Refugees”
- **Sasha David.** “Closing the Global Gender Gap: Explaining the Rise of Female Executives in Latin America”
- **Chihiro Ikegami.** “Interstate reconciliation: Memory and Apology in Germany and Japan”
- **Harrison Kreisberg.** “Of Bullets and Ballots: Reforming Radical Islamists through Political Inclusion”
- **Andrew Nelson.** “The Constitutional Imperative – Establishing Domestic Legal Frameworks as the Foundation of International Law”
- **Erika Nyborg-Burch.** “Representing ‘Deportable’ Subjects: Constructions of Immigrant Identities in the Discourse on Removal in the United States”
- **Amelia Plant.** “Rape: A Crime against Humanity – A Case Study of International Norm Formation”
- **Alex Rothman.** “Japan as a Non-Nuclear State: Capability, Contradictions, and the Nuclear Taboo”
- **Claire Vergerio.** “The Enforcement Gap: Understanding Persisting Discrimination against French and British Muslims in Employment”
Jae Wan Ahn and Alexander Rothman have won Mark and Betty Garrison Prizes for best thesis in international relations, foreign policy analysis, or diplomatic history.

Ahn’s thesis, “From Developmental State to Welfare State: Defining the Political and Economic Transformations and Consequent Social Conflicts in South Korea,” finds that “the detrimental effects of neo-liberal post-developpmentalist transition unchecked by civil society in South Korea serve as a warning to the developing states today that have taken a similar development strategy.”

Rothman’s study, “Japan as a Non-Nuclear State: Capability, Contradictions, and the Nuclear Taboo,” concludes that Japan’s nuclear taboo has strengthened over time, so that the country is unlikely to pursue the nuclear option in the near to mid term, despite the established military and prestige benefits of nuclear weapons in the international system. His research has also been nominated for the University-wide publication of best senior theses.

Chantal Berman and Claire Vergerio have won Samuel C. Lamport Prizes for best thesis on international understanding with an emphasis on cooperation and tolerance.

Berman’s thesis, “Between Structure, Policy, and Human Security: Explaining Syrian and Lebanese Policy Responses towards Iraqi Refugees,” illuminates the logic by which the rights and resources constitutive of national citizenship are proffered or withheld by diverse postcolonial states and suggests how the conditions of refugee populations might be improved.


IR Theses Win Prizes

The following prizes have been awarded for international relations theses:

The University has honored Nandini Jayakrishna with the 2010 Ruth Simmons Prize in Gender and Women’s Studies for her IR thesis, “A Critical Convergence: Gender Development Theory and the Practice of Women’s Empowerment in the Indian Informal Sector.”

In the thesis, Jayakrishna evaluates the Gender and Development (GAD) framework by studying the “evolution of the ideology and practice of India’s Self-Employed Women’s Association, one of the largest and internationally most successful indigenous grassroots organizations.” She finds support for the GAD model, in opposition to the growing literature on its failure. She also proposes ways GAD can be revised to “better reflect ground realities.”

Nandini Jayakrishna

Alexander Rothman

Claire Vergerio
Student Wins Fulbright, IR Prize

Graduating international relations honors student Victoria Haddad-Salah has received a Fulbright fellowship to continue her honors project in Jordan.

At Brown, she has also received the Anthony Riccio Prize in International Relations, awarded each year to a student who “has demonstrated an unquenchable curiosity about another part of the world, a commitment to the rigorous learning of a foreign language, an intrepid pursuit of study abroad, and a pride in her university and her country.”

Haddad-Salah’s time at Brown was focused on the Middle East, including eight semesters of Arabic language; study abroad at the University of Jordan, Amman; honors in IR; co-leadership of Common Ground: Justice and Equality of Palestine/Israel; and an internship at United Palestinian Appeal in Washington, DC.

The work she will pursue as a Fulbright fellow in Jordan is based on her honors thesis, “Defining the Borders of the Nation: Refugee Policy, Regime Security, and the Formation of National Identity in Jordan.” In the paper, she argues that variations in host countries’ refugee policies are not determined by standard policy formulas or legal obligations, but rather by these countries’ historical perceptions of security.

Award Recognizes Service to IR Program

Andrew Nelson, a leader in the International Relations Departmental Undergraduate Group, has been awarded the International Relations Concentration Service and Leadership Award in his graduating class.

Excelling in IR

Seven students have been honored for academic excellence in international relations:
• Sancho Accorsi
• Kien Yoon Andy Chong
• Eric Gastfriend
• Victoria Haddad-Salah
• Chihiro Ikegami
• Rachel Katz-Kubala
• Harrison Kreisberg

IR Fulbright Fellowships

• Victoria Haddad-Salah in Jordan
• Rachel Leora Katz-Kubala in China
• Kelly Michael McKowen in Norway
Development Studies Seniors Analyze Global Issues

Thirty-five students will graduate this year with degrees in development studies.

The development studies program at Brown is designed to provide undergraduates with a comparative perspective on the long-term social, political, and economic changes that have accompanied industrialization and the growth of the modern state in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, and in the historical experience of European countries.

Directed by Professor Gianpaolo Baiocchi, the program includes a particular concern with understanding how processes of change impact the distribution of wealth and opportunity both within and among nations.

Every student of development studies at Brown is required to write a senior thesis. This year’s prize winners for excellence in thesis writing are:

- Rebecca Kim, for “Misaligning Stories: Activism at Brown University and its Ambiguities”
- Trisha Pande, for “The End of Welfare: Examining the Impacts of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act on Noncitizens”
- Lucia Seyfarth, for “Transitional Justice in Africa: A Comparative Study of Post-Conflict Rwanda and Sierra Leone”
- Natasha Somji, for “An Investigation of Alternative and Mainstream Print Media in India – Tehelka and The Times of India Respectively – in Depicting the 2008 Amarnath Land Transfer Controversy in Kashmir”
- Claire Williams, for “Restoring their Voices: Understanding the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Former Child Soldiers”

Honors also went to the following students:

- Moctar Aboubacar, for “‘The Strangers in Our Forests’: Discursive Constructions of National Identity in Cote d’Ivoire”
- Michelle Baer, for “‘A Big Spoonful of Salt’: Critical Perspectives from Third World Feminisms on UN Discourses on Sexual Violence in Conflict”
- Alexa Gips, for “Physicians as Advocates: Harm Reduction Advocacy in the United States as a Lens onto Public Engagement by Physicians”
- Masumi Hayashi-Smith, for “From Our New Thoughts, We Can Change the World: Sarvodaya Shanthi Sena as a Case Study of Buddhist Peacework”
- Nokuzola Jenness, for “Neoliberal Urbanism: Urban Regeneration in Inner-City Johannesburg”
- Sukjoo (Leila) Kang, for “Popular Discourse on Global Development”
- Laura Marcus, for “Mental Health Reform in Mexico: How Local Actors Utilize Supranational Legislation to Create Change”
- Patrick Martin-Tuite, “‘Our Struggle to Overcome AIDS’: Science, Politics and the Boundaries of Citizenship in Post-Apartheid South Africa”
- Benjamin Schanback, for “To Deluxe Apartments in the Sky: Implementing Mumbai’s ‘Slum Rehabilitation Scheme’ in Theory and in Practice”
- Kaitlyn Scott, for “Formal and Nonformal Education of Formerly Abducted Persons in Northern Uganda”

Laura Marcus and her fellow development studies seniors presented their theses at the Watson Institute.

Continued on next page
Donata Secondo, for “The Power of Complexity: Meshworks, Agency, and the Diffusion of Participatory Budgeting”

Kona Shen, for “Failing Haiti: How Blame, Disasters and Foreign Aid Have Destroyed the Haitian Environment”


Aaron Wee, for “Alternative Media and the Development of Counter-Ideologies in India and China”

Yasmine Yu, for “Cooptation and Concession: The Sufi Brotherhoods, the State and Democratic Quality in Senegal”

Melani Zuch, for “‘A Virus and Nothing Else’: The Effect of Antiretrovirals on HIV-related Stigma”

Continued from preceding page

Students Specialize in World Regions

Twenty-three undergraduates will this year receive degrees in area studies concentrations located at the Institute.

The graduating class of 16 students of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies has developed an interdisciplinary understanding of culture, history, and contemporary issues in Latin America.

The concentration in Latin American and Caribbean Studies provides the opportunity to use the methods of various disciplines and integrate different ways of knowing to study the cultural, economic, literary, political, and social factors defining the Latin American and Caribbean societies of today.

Susana Aho has won the William Gaston Premium Scholarship Award from the Center, and Marianna Faircloth and Yaa Sarpong have both graduated with honors.

Six seniors will graduate in Middle East Studies, an interdisciplinary undergraduate concentration that begins with the understanding of the region as an ideal site for considering the diversity and complexity of human interactions, along with the continuities and disruptions that such interactions involve in the long course of history.

In South Asian Studies, Sriram Subramanian has won a prize for excellence; he is the only senior graduating in this concentration in 2010.
Graduate Students Analyze the Americas

The Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies’ Graduate Student Forum Series this semester provided a cross-disciplinary space for exchanging research on the Americas and sharing challenges faced in the field.

In one forum, graduate student James Doyle presented his anthropological work investigating the relationships among city planning, monuments, and population growth. His research on “Cause or Consequence? Planned Monumentality and Population Growth in the Middle Preclassic Maya Lowlands” asks why humans – across time and culture – erect buildings bigger than they need.

One of the answers can be found in power relations among people, he has found in researching the “excessive scale and architectural elaboration” in Guatemala circa 1000-300 BCE.

Another forum in the series gave graduate students a chance to discuss the challenges of conducting transnational research.

Sarah Seidman, a doctoral candidate in American civilization, said transnational research often demands understanding of a broader range of topics than does research at a single site. Since a researcher must navigate the social norms and historical underpinnings of multiple communities, “the breadth of the subject can be particularly overwhelming,” she said.

Seidman’s ongoing research traces the relationship between the African American freedom movement in the United States and the Cuban Revolution. Though they often did not see eye to eye, activists in the two movements were equally invested in issues of race, anti-colonialism, and socialism, Seidman said.

While the “gold standard” of transnational research is to trace the mutual effects of two communities on one another, Seidman has found it difficult to trace the relationship between Cuba and African-Americans as a “two way street,” and thus has focused on African Americans’ experience in Cuba.

Transnational research frequently suffers a rift between theory and practice, agreed Sara Fingal, a doctoral candidate in history. Because transnational research often explores new relationships between states or communities, a researcher may not always find previous work on his or her topic, she said.

Fingal’s own research challenges conventional approaches to migration issues along the US-Mexico border. She is studying the history of Americans settling in beachfront territories in Baja California and the impact of their “occupying a borderland space,” while almost all current analysis of the US-Mexico border investigates Mexican migration to the United States.

Brown Journal Publishes McCain, Roth, and More

The new issue of the Brown Journal of World Affairs publishes essays on global issues ranging from piracy off the Horn of Africa to terrorism on YouTube – from scholars, policy analysts, and public figures including US Sen. John McCain and Human Rights Watch Director Kenneth Roth.

Run by undergraduates, the journal pursues a mission of publishing analysis at the intersection of news and academic theory.

Anagha Prasad ’10 and Harvey Stephenson ’11 are its outgoing editors. Anthony Badami ’11 and Melanie Garunay ’11 are the editors for the coming academic year.
Summer Fellowships Awarded for International Research

The Institute has awarded summer fellowships to 10 Brown undergraduates, under its ongoing McKinney, Ringer, Ruzicka, and Smoke programs.

The McKinney Family Fellowship recognizes excellence in international studies, as encouraged by Watson Institute Board of Overseers Vice-Chair David E. McKinney and his family. The 2010 awardee is:

- **Saskia Brechenmacher '12**, a concentrator in political science and Slavic studies, at the Europeum Institute for European Policy in the Czech Republic.

The Jack Ringer '52 Summer Fellowship in Southeast Asia is made possible by this alumnus who served in Burma after graduating. Recipients are:

- **Margeaux Berroth '11.5**, a human biology/human health and disease concentrator, with Roots of Health in the Philippines.
- **David Dean ’11**, an environmental studies concentrator pursuing an independent research project on the role of aquaculture in providing nutrients and income to Southeast Asian rural and peri-urban communities. His work is in Thailand, Vietnam, and Singapore.
- **Maxwell Rosero ’12**, an international relations concentrator, with Aidha in Singapore.

The Marla Ruzicka International Public Service Fellowship, supported by Watson Board of Overseers Member Lucinda B. Watson in memory of this human rights activist, funds a Brown undergraduate pursuing international human rights, post-conflict rehabilitation, or international public service. The awardee is:

- **Andrea Dillon ’11.5**, an international relations concentrator, with the Iraqi Student Project in Syria.

Richard Smoke Fellowships, named in memory of an Institute scholar, support research, advocacy, or service on contemporary global problems. This year’s recipients are:

- **Noura Choudhury ’11**, a biology and English concentrator, with the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research in Bangladesh.
- **Rafael Bento Juliano ’12**, a Portuguese and Brazilian studies/philosophy concentrator, with Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil.
- **Sophie Kainen ’12**, a development studies/economics concentrator, with Innovations for Poverty Action, Malawi.
- **Avi Kenny ’11**, a biology concentrator, with Gardens for Health International in Rwanda.

Extending Democracy in Latin America

For a week in October, the Watson Institute and Brown’s Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies will host some 40 undergraduate students from across Latin America to study the value and impact of public service.

The gathering, designed in collaboration with Fundación Marcelino Botín, aims to support the extension of democracy across Latin America by building a strong network of university students committed to public service.

The students’ sessions with Brown faculty in such disciplines as anthropology, economics, history, philosophy, political science, sociology, and the humanities will precede a 9-week continuation of their training in Spain.

Watson will also gather data that would allow for a larger research project to be developed around how this kind of educational project contributes most effectively to democracy’s extension.
Inequality Institute Draws Developing World Scholars

Institute faculty will again this year lead one of the Brown International Advanced Research Institutes (BIARI) in June, on Development and Inequality in the Global South.

Now in its second year, BIARI provides a platform for promising young faculty from the developing world to engage in intellectual and policy dialogue with each other and with leading scholars in their fields. Institutes foster networks among young scholars, while providing them with an opportunity to develop their research.

From June 6 to 19, the Development and Inequality Institute will advance research that combines advanced measurement and analytical techniques with grounded understanding of local contexts in the developing world.

“Two recent developments have given the topic broader meaning and new urgency,” according to BIARI organizers. “On the one hand, even as globalization has created new opportunities, it has also generated new forms of inequality. On the other hand, there is increased recognition that inequalities of well-being and inequalities of opportunity present substantial barriers to economic growth, democratic participation, social cohesion, and environmental sustainability.”

Three other BIARI institutes will also take place this summer on campus: Climate Change and its Impacts, Towards a Critical Global Humanities, and Technology Entrepreneurship and Management.

Reflecting on the Impact of Environmental Training

The Institute has begun analyzing the impact in developing world environmental policy and practice that is resulting from its Watson International Scholars of the Environment Program.

Over 10 years, the program hosted 66 mid-career environmental professionals from 41 countries in the developing world. These scholars came to Brown for a semester to work with faculty and students from across academic disciplines, as well as with professionals at NGOs, think tanks, and governments in other US cities. The program was funded by the Henry Luce Foundation.

Emblematic of the program is the last cohort of Watson environmental scholars. The nine visiting scholars in 2009 included the chief executive officer of the Rural Africa Water Development Project in Nigeria, a research scientist from Kenya’s Industrial Research and Development Institute, and a lecturer at Gulu University in Uganda.

Home-country workshops led by program alumni also took place in seven countries. Many continue to collaborate in an international alumni network.

The new research is in line with the Institute’s strategy of analyzing how knowledge institutions and networks of scholars can best be mobilized in the service of global public goods.

In announcing the work, Institute Director Michael D. Kennedy said that, “We view this work as part of a larger public enterprise, one designed to broaden awareness among various publics of environmental challenges and the ways in which they articulate with other needs – from justice and democracy to extending economic development and educational opportunity.”

Inequality Institute Draws Developing World Scholars

Institute faculty will again this year lead one of the Brown International Advanced Research Institutes (BIARI) in June, on Development and Inequality in the Global South.

Now in its second year, BIARI provides a platform for promising young faculty from the developing world to engage in intellectual and policy dialogue with each other and with leading scholars in their fields. Institutes foster networks among young scholars, while providing them with an opportunity to develop their research.

From June 6 to 19, the Development and Inequality Institute will advance research that combines advanced measurement and analytical techniques with grounded understanding of local contexts in the developing world.

“Two recent developments have given the topic broader meaning and new urgency,” according to BIARI organizers. “On the one hand, even as globalization has created new opportunities, it has also generated new forms of inequality. On the other hand, there is increased recognition that inequalities of well-being and inequalities of opportunity present substantial barriers to economic growth, democratic participation, social cohesion, and environmental sustainability.”

Three other BIARI institutes will also take place this summer on campus: Climate Change and its Impacts, Towards a Critical Global Humanities, and Technology Entrepreneurship and Management.
Teaching Haiti in High Schools

Haiti claims a unique place in history: In 1804, it became the first fully free society in the Atlantic world by abolishing slavery, while also becoming the first independent black nation in the Americas.

As such, the Haitian Revolution is one of the most important and influential revolutions in world history, yet few resources exist for secondary school study of the topic.

The Watson-affiliated Choices Program recently produced new educational materials to fill this gap.

The Haitian Revolution curriculum unit traces the history of Haiti from its pre-colonial past to the aftermath of the revolution. Through readings, maps, digital activities, and simulations, students consider the development of the American colonial world and the legacies of the only successful slave revolt in history.

Choices has also supplemented the curriculum unit with digital materials. These include an interactive timeline and Scholars Online videos with Brown University Africana Studies Professor Anthony Bogues and Visiting Lecturer Patrick Sylvain, with a third video forthcoming with Wesleyan University Sociology Professor Alex Dupuy.

In April, Choices ran its first workshop on this subject for secondary level teachers from Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island, with Bogues providing the keynote.

“Since the January earthquake, Haiti has been thrust back in the news as a place of poverty and suffering,” says Choices Curriculum Developer Sarah Massey. “But the images we see on the news overlook the richness of Haitian culture and history, as well as how that history relates to the rest of the world. With these resources focused around the Haitian revolution, we hope to give students and teachers a fuller picture of Haiti and how this important episode in its history helped shape both Haiti and the world after 1804.”

As Bogues puts it: “To think about the Haitian Revolution is to think about a revolution that shakes the entire Americas and indeed perhaps shakes the world.”

The Haitian Revolution is the latest in the Choices Program’s library of over 35 curriculum units, which bring university-level research and innovative learning tools into secondary school classrooms across the country.

Choices Video Contest Treats Global Issues

Electronic waste, transportation, and education are the issues tackled by the three winners of the Choices Program’s “Be the Change” video contest.

Choices invited students in grades 9-12 to produce and post to the web short videos detailing global issues and their efforts to create change in their schools, neighborhoods, and beyond.

The contest was supported by the Cranaleith Foundation.
Political Leaders in Residence
Look to the Year 2030

Former Austrian Chancellor Alfred Gusenbauer, past Chilean President Ricardo Lagos, and former Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi took the stage together in April to talk about the world as they see it in 2030 and the steps needed today to prepare for it.

The event embodied the role of the three international political leaders at the University, where they are all visiting professors based at the Institute. As Watson Director Michael D. Kennedy has said, “The Watson Institute is extremely fortunate to be able to host very distinguished visitors, but even more significant than that, to organize conferences and discussions with them that wind up having lasting impact.”

During the discussion on “The World in 2030: Tomorrow’s Scenarios, Today’s Responsibilities,” Lagos painted a scenario in which conflicts over water will take the place of today’s conflicts over oil. Prodi offered one in which China becomes the single most influential player on the world stage.

All three agreed it is critical to create new international institutional structures to address a changing world.

But as Gusenbauer noted, current international institutions were largely built as the result of World War II. The challenge ahead is to create a new world order without a world war, he said.

In residence for overlapping weeks during the spring semester, the three political leaders interacted with the Brown community in various joint and individual engagements.

Lagos, for instance, also gave a lecture on recovery efforts following the earthquakes in his country and in Haiti; Prodi gave a lecture on Italy and the Euro-Mediterranean partnership; and Gusenbauer gave addresses on Greece’s financial problems and on the future of Europe’s Social Democratic Party.

Hassner and Hoffman
See Politics of Passion

Passion, not rationality, drives contemporary world politics, agreed Pierre Hassner and Stanley Hoffman at a recent talk at the Institute. As part of the Innovating Global Security lecture series, the two scholars – the former of Sciences Po Paris and the latter of Harvard University – challenged the notion of “rational choice” and explored how much of today’s violence and conflict can be traced to a less savory aspect of human psychology: fear.

“The illusion of a dispassionate world,” however popular, is still an illusion, Hassner said. The recent global economic crisis is a case in point. Greed and hubris drove economic actors to forego delayed reward for immediate satisfaction, he said. Popular reactions to this greed were no less passionate, and ripples of anger are still felt today.

Both scholars viewed globalization as a turning point in the relationship between passion and politics. Globalization has brought diverse peoples together, heightening tensions among them. With the rise in power of non-state actors, states’ fears are no longer confined simply to other states.

Fear of other political actors was once reserved for elites, Hoffmann said. “War was unexpected for the average person,” he said. Now, though, the average person “has moved in very little time from complacency to hysteria.”

By Watson Institute Student Rapporteur Juliana Friend ’11
Pulitzer Winner Paints Grim Picture of Iraq

New York Times reporter Anthony Shadid spoke recently at Brown on the very day he won his second Pulitzer Prize for international reporting.

As he reflected on his work in the Middle East over the past 15 years, he also said he saw little hope for the future in the region – particularly in Iraq.

The Middle East’s former tolerance and diversity has been replaced by religious sectarianism and existential threats to any who are unique.

New laws have been laid down in an “imperial fashion,” such that, “everything remains precarious.” This means danger still looms large as the political scenery in Iraq is “very combustible,” he said.

Although Washington previews the chain of events in Iraq as linear, starting with combatting violence then holding legitimate elections and ending with the US troops’ withdrawal, the de facto situation is far more complex.

“It’s really not that tidy. When you are there as a reporter you see how fragile the situation remains. … There may be rules but don’t expect them to play by the rules,” Shadid said.

His talk was part of the Peter Green Lecture Series on the Modern Middle East.

By Watson Institute Student Rapportuer Samura Atallah ‘11

Tracing Knowledge Flows and their Media

The Institute launched a lecture series on “Knowledge Flows and their Media” this semester with a world tour of the legal minefield of intellectual property on the web.

The inaugural lecture by Chris Watson, a leading attorney in the field of information and communication technologies, covered issues ranging from court actions against Google to personal digital rights in the Information Society.

The lecture series was prompted by the profound shifts technology is causing in international relations, development, the environment, and governance.

“At least since the 1970s, many were discussing the ‘knowledge society,’” but with the internet, this society can no longer be understood in terms of national boundaries,” according to Institute Director Michael D. Kennedy. “The internet is profoundly global, and the contents that flow across it become global as well,” he said.

The lecture series will take up questions surrounding this transformation:

• What are the new relations among organizations, people, and other agents in the global networked economy, society, and polity?
• What are the properties and consequences of the media that carry these relationships?
• What kinds of knowledge should be pursued in order to understand the media of these global ties better?
Khurshid suggested a complex range of causes for this issue, many of them deeply rooted in India’s social and political history.

While the problem of Muslim leadership development suggests no easy solutions, Khurshid highlighted one policy that may help foster equality between India’s majority and minority groups. Khurshid has urged his government to create an Equal Opportunity Commission with the aim of empowering disadvantaged sectors of Indian society. Such a commission “will give a new diction to minority rights in our country,” Khurshid said.

Rushdie’s address was part of Brown’s Year of India, based at the Institute.

By Watson Institute Student Rapporteur Joseph Bendaña ’11

Indian Minister for Minority Affairs Sees Gradual Progress

In his keynote address at the recent conference, Six Decades of Indian Democracy, Salman Khurshid, India’s minister of state for minority affairs, called for leadership development among India’s Muslims and increased Muslim representation at the highest levels of Indian government.

Khurshid combined a sweeping survey of pivotal moments in the history of Indian Muslims with a forward-looking discussion of policies that could improve the political status of India’s largest minority group.

While sports, film, and academia have many young, bright Muslims and some of India’s leading businessmen are also Muslim, “we have virtually no representation in the highest levels of government,” he said.

Extremist responses to his fictional questioning are indicative of a deeply unfree society, Rushdie said. “The mark of a free society is the ability to discuss and change its narrative,” he said. Only when discussion is open and uncensored, he concluded, can faulty ideas and theories be constructively challenged. Such ideas “are like the undead,” he said. “Exposed to the light of the sun, they disintegrate.”

Rushdie’s address was part of Brown’s Year of India, based at the Institute.

By Watson Institute Student Rapporteur Juliana Friend ’11

Rushdie: Private and Public Converge in Life and Literature

Salman Rushdie, the prize-winning Indian-born writer whose 1988 novel *The Satanic Verses* famously provoked the imposition of an Islamic fatwa (death sentence) against him, learned early that one’s public and private lives cannot always be kept distinct.

As a young man, Rushdie told a Brown audience in February, he watched as his mother hid a family friend, the Marxist poet Faiz Ahmad Faiz, from the oppressive authorities. The event stuck in Rushdie’s mind, making him aware that as a writer he would need “to take on the issues of my day.”

The fatwa against him, Rushdie said, illustrated the extent to which today’s fundamentalist Islamists are engaged in a revolt against history and have a deep longing for a return to a mythical purity. Their goal, he said, is to “control the narrative” of their culture and religion. *The Satanic Verses* caused so much controversy precisely because it questioned the traditional narrative.

Salman Rushdie

Salman Khurshid
New Members Join Institute’s Board

Four new members from the business, media, and academic worlds recently joined the Institute’s board of overseers. They are:

- **Craig Calhoun**, president of the Social Science Research Council, New York University professor of social sciences, and founding director of NYU’s Institute for Public Knowledge;
- **David Ignatius**, associate editor and columnist for the *Washington Post*;
- **Anne MacMillan Pedrero ’91**, chair of the board of Waycrosse, Inc. and a director of the Juma Ventures youth development program; and
- **Karen Ho Smith ’75 P’11’13**, president of the KMH Management investment firm.

Visitors to Probe Economic Crises, Environment, Religion

Four visiting scholars who will join the Institute in the coming academic year were recently chosen to deepen the Institute’s research in such fields as economic policy, the environment, and religion’s role in world affairs. They are:

- **Cornel Ban**, a PhD candidate in international relations and comparative politics at the University of Maryland, will continue on as a visiting fellow at the Institute, where his work includes comparative research on economic crises and the sources of diversity in economic policy responses.
- **José Carlos Orihuela**, a PhD in sustainable development from Columbia University, brings scholarship to Watson in institutional economics, green governance and environmental conflict, and the modern economic and environmental history of Latin America.
- **Nukhet A. Sandal**, from the School of International Relations at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, researches the relationships between religion and conflict, the media, and governance.
- **Bhrigupati Singh**, a post-doctoral fellow at Harvard University’s Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, focuses on how inequality, power, ethics, and aspiration might be conceptualized in both religious and secular terms.

Recognizing Student Advising

Visiting Fellow and development studies concentration advisor Cornel Ban has been recognized by Brown’s Undergraduate Council of Students with its Outstanding Advisor Award for 2009-2010. He was presented with the award in April, “in honor and recognition of your distinguished devotion to undergraduate students and their pursuit of education.”
‘War Porn’ Spreading via Web

The spread on the web of violent videos from Afghanistan and Iraq represents a break with past practice, according to a recent *Newsweek* article. Combat images were once captured and disseminated only by a few pros. Now, Institute Professor James Der Derian says in an interview, “there’s a new order.” And, “unlike the photograph, the moving image creates a feeling that it more accurately depicts what it is representing, whether it does or not.”

Reflecting Reality at US Border

Associate Professor Peter Andreas took issue with a recent *New York Times* op-ed calling for the US to “regain” control of its border with Mexico. “Such calls to ‘regain’ control of the border suffer from historical amnesia, perpetuating a common myth that it was ever actually under control,” he wrote with colleague Edward Alden, of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Also pointed out in the rebuttal were increased border patrols and the use of new technology and fencing that currently make the US border with Mexico “one of the most heavily policed borders in the world.”

On the UK Election and ‘Labour Pains’

In the run-up to the UK’s recent election, Faculty Fellow Mark Blyth co-authored an article for *Foreign Affairs* calling it a referendum on the country’s evolution over the last 30 years from a manufacturing economy to a center of global finance.

“Languishing in recession, unable to project force, and unwilling to engage with others, Britain may turn inward and rethink its legacies – institutional and economic, domestic and foreign. The upcoming election is nothing less than a referendum on leaders and policies past,” according to the article, titled “Labour Pains.”

“The outcome of that referendum will become the frame for where the United Kingdom will go next,” it said.

Blyth also analyzed the immediate election results on NPR. “You could hardly have engineered a worse result,” he said, citing the difficulties that ensued in forming a new government.

Unknown Khrushchev

Senior Fellow Sergei Khrushchev gave several TV, radio, and newspaper interviews in April, during a book tour in Moscow for his new *Unknown Khrushchev: A History of his Reforms* (Moscow: Vremya, 2010, in Russian).

*Unknown Khrushchev* describes Soviet Premiere Nikita Khrushchev, the author’s father, and his policies from 1953-1964. “We know about Khrushchev’s foreign policy, military strategy, de-Stalinization … however, our knowledge about his economic ideas, struggles within the leadership, and transformation of society is fragmented and disorganized,” the author says.
Human Terrain Premieres during Commencement

The Providence premiere of the documentary Human Terrain is taking place during Brown’s 2010 commencement weekend at the end of May.

Winner of the Audience Award at Italy’s prestigious Festival dei Popoli and official selection of the recent Hot Docs festival in Toronto, Human Terrain breaks open the simmering debate over the military’s “Human Terrain System” – a program to embed anthropologists and other social scientists with combat troops to increase their understanding of local cultures, civilians, and fighters.

The film travels from war games in the Mojave Desert where Marines learn “cultural awareness,” to urban warfare training in Quantico, Virginia, and to the Human Terrain System in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Along the way, Human Terrain tracks a rising insurgency at home, among academics and in the press, about the ethics and efficacy of the new strategy. The documentary takes a tragic turn when an early collaborator on the film, Michael Vinay Bhatia ’99, joins a Human Terrain Team and is killed in 2008 in Afghanistan.

The screening is Saturday, May 29, at 4:15pm at the Avon Cinema, 260 Thayer Street, Providence. Tickets are $7.50. A Q&A will follow with the co-directors: Institute Professor James Der Derian, David Udris ’90, and Michael Udris ’91.

Proceeds from the film will go to the Michael Bhatia Memorial Fund at Brown, which will help underwrite travel by undergraduate students who, like Michael, hope to deepen their understanding of a region or culture by traveling and studying there, with the ultimate goal of helping to promote cross-cultural understanding that might end or avert violence or military conflict.