The Mortara Center for International Studies

Walsh School of Foreign Service
Georgetown University
Annual Report
2017 - 2018
Officially opened in January 2003, the Mortara Center for International Studies was founded through the generosity of the late Mr. Michael P. Mortara, his wife, Mrs. Virginia Mortara, and friends and colleagues. The Mortara family envisioned a center of scholarly inquiry at the School of Foreign Service that would embody the mission of the School and its focus on the intersection of theory and practice in international affairs.

**Mission Statement**

The Mortara Center for International Studies seeks to advance scholarship and inform policy by combining the expertise of scholars and experience of international affairs practitioners to illuminate the fundamental forces - political, economic and cultural - that shape international relations.

To realize this mission, the Center:

- organizes and cosponsors lectures, workshops and conferences
- provides support for research and publications
- generates communities of research
Dear Friends of the Mortara Center,

Over the past year, the Mortara Center has continued to promote and energize faculty and student research at the School of Foreign Service. Focusing on pressing global problems from climate change to financial crisis to mitigating violence in post-conflict states, the Center has hosted hundreds of events, convened working groups, and supported deep student mentorship experiences through the Mortara Undergraduate Research Fellowship program.

For the 2017-2018 annual report, I would like to draw your attention to two exceptional programs, which exemplify the extraordinary work happening at Mortara and the School.

The Center was honored to host the launch of the Mortara Distinguished Professor of Diplomacy Madeleine Albright's book Fascism: A Warning. The book calls on policy-makers and scholars across the globe to rededicate themselves to the study and protection of democracy. It reminds everyone here on the Hilltop and in DC as to the stakes of political apathy and charts an ambitious agenda as to how we can all meet that challenge.

We also inaugurated a new initiative, the Mortara Faculty Fellows. The program brings together an interdisciplinary group of nine faculty to conduct research on two clusters: globalization and disorder and social stratification. The aim of the program is to leverage the immense expertise in the school and catalyze synergies among the faculty. In this multiyear effort, SFS faculty and students are working daily to help our country and the world grapple with these complex problems.

I hope that you will come to the next Mortara event and be inspired by the breadth of international studies at Georgetown.

Sincerely,
Abraham Newman
Director, Mortara Center for International Studies
Professor, Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service
The Year in Summary

41 Research Seminars

Research Life Cycle

5 Book Launches

1 Faculty Book Workshop
Stakeholders

- 80 Students in INAF 630: America’s National Security Toolbox
- 75 Guest Speakers
- 50+ Affiliated Faculty
- 17 Student Research Fellows
- 9 Faculty Fellows
- 4 Visiting Researchers
On April 16th, 2018 the Mortara Center hosted Former Secretary of State and Distinguished Professor in the Practice of Diplomacy Madeleine K. Albright for a conversation on her new book, *Fascism: A Warning*. Albright cautions the reader about the rise of authoritarian rulers in Eastern Europe, North Korea, Turkey and Russia. Secretary Albright discussed with SFS Dean Joel Hellman the similarities in today’s political climate and warned that fascism is also on the rise in the United States, threatening to dismantle the nation’s democratic norms. Several local and student news organizations were present to cover the event, which brought a packed crowd to Lohrfink Auditorium.
Secretary Albright taught both her graduate and undergraduate courses, INAF 653: America’s National Security ToolBox - a favorite class for many students; and held the accompanying annual Role-Play simulation. The students represented countries on the UN Security Council and individuals on the U.S. Principals Committee, discussing the humanitarian crisis and conflict in Yemen and its implications for regional and U.S. national security.

“Professor Albright’s students were forced to navigate complex dynamics on the Arabian Peninsula and beyond while also managing one-on-one relationships in high-stress environments. Additional “disruptions,” including the bombing of a humanitarian aid convoy in Yemen and the poisoning of a former Russian spy in Poland only made things more complicated.” – Kirby Neuner, Teaching Assistant for Secretary Albright, SSP ’18

“The Role-Play this year was fantastic! All of the students came thoroughly prepared and were able to confidently handle the hypothetical crises Secretary Albright threw at them. Students said they found it especially fascinating to follow the trajectory of real-life events in preparation for the Role-Play, and that it got them interested in a humanitarian crisis and regional proxy war that has flown under the radar.” – Shannon Mizzi, Teaching Assistant for Secretary Albright, SSP ’18
The Mortara Center supports the entire research life cycle - from preliminary brainstorming, through the presentation of rough drafts in workshops, to the unveiling of published books. Such activities help to develop “thought communities” between faculty and students on campus, and promote interaction with scholars, practitioners and experts outside of Georgetown.

**Mortara Faculty Fellows**

The 2017-18 academic year marked the launch of the Mortara Faculty Fellows program. The program brings together nine outstanding faculty from across the school to build interdisciplinary research teams, addressing urgent world order challenges. This multi-year initiative centers on two themes, Globalization and Disorder and Social Stratification. In the first year of the program, faculty shared research interests, identified potential areas for joint work and engaged in faculty mentoring exercises.
The group’s efforts have already bared fruit, creating the space for collaborations between faculty on joint work. Professors Diana Kim and Yuhki Tajima, for example, developed a new project on illicit trade and border control, which was presented at Barnard College in February 2018.

**Manuscript Workshops**

The Mortara Center continued to support research by hosting workshops to develop faculty publication projects. In May 2018, Mortara hosted a workshop for Professor Alexander Thurston’s forthcoming book, *Jihadism and Local Politics: Cases from North Africa and the Sahel*. Participants came from Haverford University, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the Congressional Research Service, the Wilson Center and Georgetown University to provide feedback on Professor Thurston’s manuscript.

“My book manuscript workshop was an invaluable opportunity for me to grow as a scholar. Mortara’s support allowed me to bring a mix of scholars and practitioners to Georgetown. The resulting conversation gave me concrete ways to tighten and improve my manuscript in advance of submission to a press.”

- Alexander Thurston, Associate Professor, SFS
Book Launches

The Mortara Center sponsored five book launch events in the 2017-2018 academic year, including Secretary Albright’s *Fascism: A Warning*. By inviting authors to discuss their work and methods of research, the Mortara Center helps celebrate the end of the research cycle, publication, with a broader community audience. Book launches included:

Professor Alexander Thurston: *Boko Haram: The History of an African Jihadist Movement* explores the origins and rise of the radical Islamist group in the context of Nigeria’s recent political history.

Professor David Edelstein: *Over the Horizon: Time, Uncertainty, and the Rise of Great Powers*, which analyzes past rising powers and how they react to competitors.

Professor John Tutino: *The Mexican Heartland: How Communities Shaped Capitalism, a Nation, and World History, 1500–2000*, which provides a new history of capitalism from the perspective of the landed communities surrounding Mexico City.
Research Seminars

During the 2017/2018 academic year, the Mortara Center supported the CRITICS, Energy and Climate Policy, GUITARS, International Development, International History, and Political Economy research seminars. Directly addressing the Center’s core mission, these working groups fostered intellectual exchange and scholarly research in some of the key academic disciplines of the School of Foreign Service. The research seminars unite faculty and students in communities of research.

The Mortara Center thanks the Government Department, History Department, and the McCourt School of Public Policy for their partnerships on these seminars.

CRITICS

The Current Research on Issues and Topics in Comparative Scholarship series (CRITICS) met eight times throughout the year, under the guidance of co-chairs Marko Klasjna and Diana Kim.

Energy and Climate Policy Research Seminar

Cosponsored by the Mortara Center and McCourt School of Public Policy, the Energy and Climate Policy Research Seminar held six seminar meetings in its third year. This seminar series, led collaboratively by SFS Professors Joanna Lewis and McCourt Professors Paasha Mahdavi and Raphael Calel, aims to enhance intellectual exchange among faculty and students whose research focuses on the international and domestic dimensions of energy and climate change policy.
Chaired by Mortara Center Director, Abraham Newman, The Georgetown University International Theory and Research Seminar series (GUITARS) gathered approximately five times per semester to discuss in-progress international politics research of Georgetown faculty and visiting scholars.

**Post-Doctoral Research Fellow Filiz Kahraman leads a GUITARS Seminar.**

**International Development Seminar**

Co-chaired by Professors Jen Tobin, SFS, and Andrew Zeitlin, McCourt, the International Development Seminar met seven times and included guests from across the globe.

**Political Economy Seminar**

The Political Economy Workshop brings together Georgetown faculty from various disciplines to discuss political economy research in informal sessions over lunch. Hosted by Professor Irfan Nooruddin, the group met fourteen times over the course of the academic year to workshop papers in progress.

**International History Seminars**

Convened by Professors Aviel Roshwald, LT Toshihiro and John McNeill, and co-sponsored by the Georgetown Institute for Global History, the IHS series brought scholars from across the country to present working papers and discuss their research with Georgetown faculty and students six times this year.
Post-Doctoral Fellow and Visiting Faculty

The Visiting Researchers program at Georgetown University welcomes scholars seeking to engage with Georgetown faculty and use Georgetown University resources for research purposes. The University extends its resources on a selective basis in the spirit of institutional collegiality to foster the further development of knowledge. The Mortara Center for International Studies has hosted almost twenty senior and junior scholars from across the globe over the last fifteen years.

**Ann Towns** is an Associate Professor in political science at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. Her research deals with questions about norms, international hierarchies and resistance in international politics, generally with a focus on gender. Her work on gender and diplomacy has been awarded a 6-year Wallenberg Academy Fellowship by the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation.

**Lena Lee Andresen** is a PhD student in economics at ETH Zurich. Her research focuses on influences of geopolitical and financial sector interests in the lending process of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

**Filiz Kahraman** is a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow funded by the Carnergie Corporation of New York. Her research examines law and social change from international and comparative perspectives.

**Simon Frankel Pratt** is a post-doctoral researcher, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. His research focuses on institutional change, strategic innovation, and normative evolution in national and international security sectors.
In partnership with the SFS Dean’s Office, the Mortara Center continued support of the Global Governance Lab. The lab included two research groups. Professor Erik Voeten worked with 15 students from the Krogh Seminar (INAF339) on the Multilateral Moneyball project initiated by the State Department’s International Organization Bureau. Professor Abraham Newman constructed a research team to investigate the global governance of finance. The team included a PhD student from the Government Department and four SFS undergraduate research assistants.

In April 2018, the Mortara Center hosted the 7th Annual Walsh Exchange. The Walsh Exchange is a student run research conference, that brings high quality undergraduate researchers from all over the world, this year from Singapore and Italy, to share their findings and receive feedback.

The group discussed topics ranging from the rise of Bitcoin to the North African Insurgencies. The Walsh Exchange featured a keynote address from the German Ambassador to the United States. The event offers students critical skills in project management and public speaking at the same time that they build a first class student research community on the Hilltop.

Lisa Xiao, Johns Hopkins University ‘18, student presenter
Now in its seventh year, a very select group of six students from the SFS were chosen to partner with professors as research assistants throughout their undergraduate career. This unique four-year research apprenticeship program empowers students as generators, not just consumers, of knowledge. MURFs emerge from the program with the advanced research skills needed for post-graduate careers in research (academia or private sector); as well as, in-depth knowledge in their chosen research area. As part of the University’s commitment to undergraduate research, this program is sponsored by the Mortara Center and the SFS Dean’s Office.
**MURFs Research Symposium**

In March 2018, the senior and sophomore MURFs presented their research at the annual MURF Symposium.

Senior Bessie Zavidow described her research experience in Udaipur, India collaborating with a leading development non-profit, Seva Mandir, on evaluating a number of projects, including Gender-Disaggregated Monitoring and an Impact Analysis of a Trained Birth Attendant.

Senior Eric Menna explained his personal motivations and research path that eventually led to a qualitative text analysis of racial and religious bias in the South African media in response to acts of terrorism.
In 2017-18, the Mortara Center continued its tradition of offering talks by distinguished scholars, authors, dignitaries, and practitioners in the field of international studies.

Remapping International Relations

2017-18 marked the second year of the Remapping IR initiative cosponsored by the Mortara Center and the Department of Government. The Remapping IR initiative aims to highlight diverse approaches to the study of International Relations. In its second year, Remapping IR sought to embed these topics and perspectives into the research process by hosting thought leaders for discussions on their cutting edge research and running two Master Classes for students at all stages of their careers. Students were invited to bring their own research project proposals to discuss with each master class group and teacher.
Remapping IR: Master Classes

In January 2018, six students gathered to discuss their ongoing research involving sexual and gender minority rights with Phillip Ayoub from Drexel University. Dr. Ayoub shared his experiences conducting research that incorporated the perspectives of vulnerable populations and cut across methodologies to challenge traditional IR discourse. He further advised students on next steps they could take to explore funding opportunities, mentorship and rigorous academic research in this field. In April 2018, Sabrina Karim from Cornell University held a master class addressing international relations research on security and peacekeeping from a gender perspective.

“I really benefited from the broad advice on a variety of topics that the presenter provided at the beginning of the session and also gained a great deal from the latter portion of the session during which the speaker discussed each of our individual project ideas with us. It was a fantastic experience!”
- Master Class Student
Mortara In the News

The Mortara Center’s ‘In the News’ series highlights speakers from both academia and the policy sector to discuss different sides of current world events.

A Discussion on “Black Panther”

In March, the Mortara Center’s Director Abraham Newman hosted a talk with Soyica Colbert (Georgetown University), Clarence Lusane (Howard University), Katrin Sieg (Georgetown University), and Scott Taylor (Georgetown University) about the recent Black Panther blockbuster. As Newman explains, “Black Panther sparked an important conversation on the many ways in which global politics is defined by issues of race, power, and interdependence. It was a tremendously rich discussion, which frankly could have gone on well into the night.”

Nuclear Security Issues in North Korea

On October 10, the Mortara Center, Center for Security Studies, and Asian Studies Program hosted a discussion with SFS professors Robert Gallucci, Michael Green, and Oriana Mastro about ongoing security issues with North Korea. The three superb faculty members epitomized bridging the gap between research and policy, and were able to bring their unique experiences outside of academia (as former government advisor, former negotiator, and active military respectively) together with their academic knowledge to the lively discussion.
2017 Lepgold Book Prize

In November 2017, the Mortara Center for International Studies awarded the Georgetown University Lepgold Book Prize to Dr. Jessica Stanton, Associate Professor at University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs.


The Georgetown University Lepgold Book Prize honors Joseph S. Lepgold, a Georgetown University Government and School of Foreign Service professor who died in Paris in December 2001. The prize awards exceptional contributions to the study of international relations, with particular emphasis on the resolution of critical policy challenges.
Home to the Mortara Center for International Studies, as well as the Center for Security Studies, the Mortara Building features a beautiful and high tech conference room, small group meeting space and faculty and staff offices. It serves as one of the main event spaces on campus, hosting over 300 events each academic year. A highly valuable resource, the conference room space in the Mortara Building brings the Mortara’s vision to fruition by convening academics and policy makers for meetings, interactive workshops, and distinguished events from across the university.

Michael P. Mortara
A 1971 graduate of Georgetown’s School of Foreign Service, Michael Mortara was a dedicated volunteer leader, as evidenced by his many commitments to the School’s Board of Visitors, the Third Century Campaign Steering Committee, and the board of the Wall Street Alliance, of which he was a founding member. Just months before his tragic death, Michael Mortara began his service on the University’s Board of Directors.
Faculty and Staff

Madeleine K. Albright, Endowed Chair, Michael and Virginia Mortara Distinguished Professor in the Practice of Diplomacy

Abraham Newman, Director and Professor, School of Foreign Service and Department of Government

Kathleen McNamara, Professor, School of Foreign Service and Department of Government

James Vreeland, Professor, School of Foreign Service

Moira Todd, Assistant Director

Alex Phelan: Events and Communications Coordinator

Mortara Faculty Fellows: Fida Adely, Charlotte Cavaille, Marko Klasnja, Emily Mendenhall, Lahra Smith, Marwa Daoudy, David M. Edelstein, Diana Kim, Yuhki Tajima


Albright Teaching Assistants: Friederike Kaiser, Kirby Neuner, Shannon Mizzi

Student Assistants: Sophie Jacobson, Maya James, Nik Kalyanpur, Vinitha Raj, Daniel Shlayen, Lev Sugarman
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