CIRS hosts *Media between Dialogue and War: When Enemies Boost the Ratings*
*Day-long symposium is co-sponsored with Italian think-tank Reset: Dialogues on Civilizations*

On February 26, 2008, the Center for International and Regional Studies collaborated with the Rome-based Italian think-tank Reset: Dialogues on Civilizations to host a joint one-day symposium on the topic of *Global Media between Dialogue and War: When Enemies Boost the Ratings*. This symposium featured an intensive set of discussions in which experts from the fields of media, journalism, international relations, and film studies came together to deliberate the consequences of using the international media as a weapon of war. The symposium was attended by students, journalists, scholars, Doha-based ambassadors, and other members of the public.

The audience and guests were welcomed by Mehran Kamrava, Director of CIRS, and Nina Zu Fürstenberg, Director of Reset. Guests were then given a brief introduction by the Honorable Giussepe Buccino Grimaldi, the Ambassador of Italy to Qatar, who praised the efforts of Georgetown University, Qatar Foundation, and Al Jazeera in their vision and value of progressive thinking, open dialogue and education.

Some of the speakers taking part in the symposium included Giuliano Amato, the Italian Minister of Interior, and Otto Schily, Member of the German Parliament. Other speakers-including noted political figures, film-makers, academics, and practitioners-deliberated on several important issues pertaining to the relationship between media and war, as well as the state of the interaction between, broadly-defined, Arab and Western media.

Also discussed was the balancing act that many media conglomerates play between local demands and preferences on the one hand and international and multi-cultural trends on the other. This has resulted in a proliferation of multi-language media broadcasts. In the context of the post-9/11 global environment, broadcasts in Arabic have assumed particular significance as more media outfits are eager for a wider audience share in the Arab world. Other issues of contemporary relevance-immigration, terrorism, cultural diffusion-have also combined to heighten interest in the role of global media.

The audience also observed two documentary films and was able to...
I am pleased to announce the completion of another successful quarter by the Center for International and Regional Studies. Over the last few months, we have had a busy agenda, with a host of activities and initiatives ranging from educational outreach to sponsoring distinguished lectures and conferences.

One of our goals has been to bridge the gap between the academic and policy communities and to help the two better understand each other. Toward this end, several of our events have brought together leading experts from both fields in order to exchange ideas and to explore issues of common concern. Our symposium on Global Development and Faith-Inspired Organizations in the Muslim World, held in collaboration with Georgetown’s Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs, brought together both scholars and practitioners involved in the fields of charity and development. We pursued a similar goal in our conference on Global Media between Dialogue and War: When Enemies Boost the Ratings, which featured, among others, leading political figures from Europe as well as journalists, academics, and media professionals from around the world.

By far one of the most rewarding of the CIRS’s activities took place in January, when we had some 350 high school students from twenty-two countries gather here in Doha for our annual Model United Nations conference. The gathering was a smashing success, and I sincerely hope that many of today’s MUN delegates become the United Nations representatives of tomorrow.

Over the last few months, our educational outreach efforts have also kicked into high gear, with CIRS sponsoring workshops on quantitative research methods in the social sciences at Qatar University, and also skills enhancement workshops at local K-12 schools.

Our primary focus, of course, continues to remain research and scholarship, and in this regard our latest efforts are designed to fill significant gaps in the existing literature on the international relations and ecology of the Gulf. Professor Renee Richer, from Weill Cornell Medical School in Qatar, has just completed an important study for CIRS on the effects of industrialization on biodiversity in Qatar. The paper, to be published this month, is entitled Conservation in Qatar: Impacts of Increasing Industrialization.

Also, CIRS is bringing together seventeen of the most distinguished experts in the fields of international relations and Gulf studies to study the various aspects of the international relations of the Gulf. Our upcoming conference on Innovation in Islam, featuring some of the most distinguished scholars in the field of Islamic studies, will also result in significant additions to the existing body of knowledge in Islam.

None of our efforts would be possible without the dedication and hard work of our staff and the support of the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar and the Doha communities. I feel personally fortunate to work with a wonderful team at CIRS—Aphrodite Hammad, Kathryn King, Suzi Murgani, Naila Sherman, and Maha Uraidi—and all of us benefit immeasurably from the support, advice, and input we receive from the communities we serve in Doha, in Washington, DC, and beyond.

All of us at the CIRS team look forward with excitement to the upcoming months.

Sincerely,

Mehran Kamrava
Director

Dr. Mehran Kamrava is Director of CIRS and Visiting Professor of Government at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar. He received his PhD in Social and Political Sciences from the University of Cambridge. His specialities include political development, comparative politics and Middle Eastern Studies.
Georgetown Professor John Esposito: What Do a Billion Muslims Really Think?

World-renowned scholar and prolific author John L. Esposito spoke to an audience of nearly 400 guests on February 17, 2008 at the Diplomatic Club in Doha. In his remarks, the Georgetown University Professor of Religion and International Affairs briefly covered the findings of his latest book, *Who Speaks for Islam: What a Billion Muslims Really Think*.

As the Founding Director of the Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, Esposito emphasized that throughout his career he has been repeatedly asked the same questions regarding Islam: Is Islam compatible with democracy? What is the relationship between Islam and modernity? And, is Islam particularly violent?

According to Esposito, such questions affirm this clear clash of perceptions between the West and the Muslim World. The problem, he said, is that extremism and terrorism have too often been amplified in the media, consequently overshadowing the variety of hopes, fears, resentments, and realities of a billion Muslims globally. Rather than lend credence to an extremist minority, Esposito, along with the Gallop Center for Muslim Studies, decided to compile data and give voice to a silenced majority—which will enable the public to get beyond stereotypes, ideologies and ignorance.

*Who Speaks for Islam? What a Billion Muslims Really Think* is based on six years of research and more than 50,000

continued on page 11

CIRS Advisory Board Convenes in Doha

The CIRS Advisory Board consists of:

**Dr. Sheikha Abdulla Al-Misned**, President, Qatar University

**Mr. Alexander Dodds**, President and General Manager, ExxonMobil Qatar

**Dr. Michael Hudson**, Director, Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University

**Dr. Stanley N. Katz**, Director, Princeton University Center for Arts and Cultural Policy Studies

**Sir Timothy Lankester**, President, Corpus Christi College, Oxford University

**Dr. James Reardon-Anderson**, Dean, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar

**Dr. Gary Sick**, Senior Research Scholar, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University
CIRS Publishes Paper on Conservation and Industrialization in Qatar

“Great economic benefits can be gained from ecological development,” says author Renee Richer

Conservation in Qatar: Impacts of Increasing Industrialization, a CIRS Occasional Paper published in March, is a continuation of a paper delivered at an Education City-wide panel hosted by CIRS in November 2007 that was entitled “Environmental Degradation and Conservation: Challenges and Prospects.”

Conservation in Qatar: Impacts of Increasing Industrialization is a comprehensive study, authored by Dr. Renee Richer of Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, that examines the state of environmental degradation in Qatar with regards to increased industrialization.

Richer’s research focuses on the state of biodiversity in Qatar and how best to preserve it. According to Richer, Qatar is home to approximately 1,955 known species and of these approximately 955 are marine organisms. Richer argues that if more detailed and thorough research were to be undertaken by experts in the field of biological research then these investigations may yield many more species that are as yet unknown to Qatar and possibly even to science.

Richer argues that Qatar, led by a forward-thinking administration, has great opportunities to act as a pioneer of environmental conservation in the face of industry demands. Richer insists that Qatar can find a happy medium between increased industrialization and environmental protection. The strategy would be for Qatar to exercise sustainable development and educate its own population, as well as those within the Gulf region, about the benefits of ecological development.

Spotlight on the Faculty

Qatar’s Transformation to a Knowledge-Based Economy

by Ibrahim Oweiss

During the first week of February 2008, Qatar’s General Secretariat for Development Planning and the World Bank held meetings over five consecutive days to discuss a draft proposal for Qatar’s Knowledge-Based Economy.

The challenge is how to transform a country from a resource-driven economy, be it natural or human resources, to an investment-driven economy attracting both national and foreign investments, then to a knowledge-based economy (KBE); a recent transformation experienced in Finland, for example.

At the meetings I argued that it is essential for any country wishing to grow through education to acquire knowledge from highly known learning institutions around the globe. Prophet Muhammad said, “Seeking knowledge is a duty for every Muslim.” No wonder Egyptians taught the Greeks, and in turn, Muslims learned from the Greeks and others. Muslim civilization then flourished, contributing to several branches of knowledge and Arabic became the scientific language of the world for seven centuries during the dark ages in Europe. I gave two illustrations, the first dates ten centuries ago, while the other began only a few years ago.

It was the year 1028; King George sent the following message to Caliph Hisham III requesting permission to allow a mission of royal princesses to study at the University of Cordoba: “From George II, the King of England, Sweden and Norway to the Caliph of the Muslim Kingdom of Spain, His Majesty Hisham III: With due respect, we heard of the great knowledge that inundated your educational institutions and industries in your prestigious country.

“We wish for our children to copy your modalities so that it would be a good start of following your footsteps of science enlightenment in our countries that are besieged by darkness of ignorance in all of their four corners. We put my niece Princess Dobant in charge of a mission of noble English girls to be honored to your crown in seeking your kind attention to learn under your great patronage and under the protection of your esteemed court for those are to be in charge of their education. With the young princess, we sent a small modest gift to your majesty hoping that you kindly accept it. With respect and true affection, Your obedient servant, George”

Caliph Hisham III replied: “In the name of God, the Most Gracious the Most Merciful. Grace be upon God. May He bestow mercy upon his Prophet. To the King of England, Sweden and Norway: We read your request and we agreed after consultation with those concerned, we wish to inform you that the expenditures of your mission will be at the expense of the Muslim treasury as a proof of our relationship with your Royal Self. As to your gift, we over gladly accepted it. In return, we are sending precious Andalusia handicrafts from the making of our people as a gift to you carrying with them the meaning of our attention and cordiality. Salam. Caliph of God’s Messenger in the lands of Andalusia.”

The recent experience that I cited is the establishment of Qatar Foundation, attracting well-known American universities to aid Qatar’s growth. Qatar has a head start to become a KBE because there is a political determination to diversify and modernize. In addition, as a small country, Qatar has a fast-mover advantage. Last but not least, Qatar has the financial means for a serious and sustained KBE investment effort.
Innovation in Islam
a two day conference featuring some of the most prominent scholars of Islamic thought, culture, and history
April 5-6, 2008
Four Seasons Hotel, Doha

Saturday April 5, 2008

9:00 am  Panel I  Innovation in Islam: Concept and Reality
Development of Knowledge in Early Islam  Nasr Hamid Abu-Zayd
History from Below; Dictionary from Below  Nelly Hanna

11:00 am  Panel II  Islamic Institutions: Traditions and Contributions
The Fatimid Legacy: Policy and Precedent for
Minority-Majority Coexistence in Islam  Sumaiya A. Hamdani
The Changing Family in Islam  Amira Sonbol
The Mosque Yesterday and Today  Zakaryya Abdel-Hady

2:30 pm  Panel III  Islam and the Intellectual Process
New Directions in Islamic Thought  Hassan Hanafi
Islam and the Intellectual Process: Deconstructing Episteme(s)  Mohammed Arkoun
Knowledge of Hermeneutics in Islam Today  Tariq Ramadan

Keynote Address by Adonis
Innovation in Islam: New Directions for Humanity
April 5, 2008 at 6:00 pm

Sunday April 6, 2008

9:00 am  Panel IV  Literary and Artistic Innovation
Innovation and Tradition in Islamic Art  Walter Denny
Sufi Poetry: Innovation and Tradition  Patrick Laude
History and Biography  Jawid Mojaddedi

11:00 am  Panel V  Theology and Politics of Fiqh
Shi’a Fiqh at the Gates of Historic Change  Mehran Kamrava
Fiqh and Moral Disagreement in Iran: Challenging the Justice of the Criminal Justice System in the Islamic Republic  Ziba Mir-Hosseini
Interpreting Women’s Biographies in Medieval Islamic Writings  Omaima Abou-Bakr
A Sub-text of the “Feminine”

2:30 pm  Panel VI  Islam and Modernity
Islam, Muslims, and the American State  Sherman Jackson
Modern Movements in Islam  John Voll
The Reception of Islamic Roots of Capitalism as a Bellwether of Scholarly Views about Islam and Modernity  Peter Gran
Students take Diplomatic Lessons of Doha Model United Nations Home worldwide

From January 24 to 27, 2008, 350 high school students from 52 schools and 40 nationalities gathered in Doha to discuss current global international issues, including topics such as “Restarting the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process,” “Global Warming: Post-Kyoto Protocol,” and “Torture and Extraordinary Rendition.”

All eight Model United Nations committees were led by Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar (SFSQ) students, who have trained and prepared throughout the year for their leadership roles. The SFSQ students participated in the Oxford International Model United Nations in November 2007, and also hosted their own “Sample Session” of the MUN for local students in the fall.

Speaking at the Opening Ceremonies was Professor Andrew Natsios of Georgetown University; Natsios is former director of the United States Agency for International Development and the former U.S. Special Envoy to Darfur.

The committees that students participated in included: the Arab League comprising of 25 delegates, the African Union comprising 50 delegates, the UN Security Council comprising of 15 delegates, the U.S. National Security Council comprising of 20 delegates, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) comprising of 26 delegates, the UN Social Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM) comprising of 60 delegates and the UN Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL) also composed of 60 delegates, and a press committee comprised of three teams of students representing Al Jazeera English, BBC World, and CNN International.

The students commanded every potential conference space in the Marriott hotel as they acted as international problem-solvers. Thus, students left Qatar having theoretically resolved many of the world’s most pressing crises. While January 27, 2008 was the final day of debate for students from over 50 different high schools participating in the third annual CIRS Model United Nations, the experience of MUN certainly did not end there. Over 350 student delegates have carried the discussions back to their homes across the Middle East, Europe, Asia and Latin America.

Dignitaries from the Doha diplomatic community joined the students for the grand finale. Nations represented by their country’s ambassador or representatives to Qatar included Algeria, Brazil, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Israel, Japan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mauritania, Palestine, Romania, South Africa, South Korea, Syria, Thailand, the United States of America, and Yemen.

Dean James Reardon-Anderson presided over the event. After mingling with the diplomats, Georgetown University students awarded “Best Delegate” and “Honorable Mention” awards to students in each of the seven committees.

The Diplomatic Lunch was the highlight for many of the delegations. “To see real ambassadors from real countries, to honor their peers with awards, to be a part of such a big organization—all gave our students and teachers a great feeling,” said Sandra Corbacioglu, a teacher from Robert College in Istanbul, Turkey.

Gilead Amir of Hebrew University High School in Israel shared the sentiments of his school. “The highlight of the conference for me and the students was the meetings we had with the real ambassadors.”

Student delegates to MUN applaud their committee chairs on the final day of the conference. Delegates to the Model United Nations act as ambassadors of a foreign country, and work throughout the conference to write and pass resolutions in their committees. These students are nervously awaiting the vote of their fellow committee members to see if their sponsored resolution will pass or fail.

Delegates of Ghana and Guinea take notes during a session of the African Union. The African Union is a body of over 50 members and the topics discussed this year were AIDS and the situation in Zimbabwe.
with students and teachers we cannot meet and hear otherwise, in an atmosphere of open dialogue and mutual respect!” Amir said.

Model United Nations can be a formative experience for many young people. Assia Kaced, a teacher from Algeria, remarked that she has received many compliments from the students’ parents in Algeria. “After our return to Algeria, the parents called me to thank me because they found that their children have become more mature and more self-confident!” Kaced said. “The students have learned that they can really change things if they work hard enough … and that the MUN is not a game but preparation for the real world.”

Schools came for the first time from the Czech Republic, El Salvador, Ecuador, Hungary, and Morocco. A returning teacher from Greece, Rannelle McCoy of the American Community School of Athens, said “The diversity of the conference was very welcome and we believe you should continue to promote such diversity. It is a rich cultural experience.”

When Al Jazeera journalist Omar Khalifa met with students in the press committee, none of them professed aims of becoming journalists rather than politicians or ambassadors. “Thanks to their lively and rewarding time on the press committee however, I have a feeling their career ambitions may have been altered somewhat,” Khalifa commented after the conference. Khalifa also observed the students’ struggle with the ethics of journalism. “Stifling their determination to be biased often took the fun out of the job, but it was an important lesson learned.”

Peter Parker accompanied his students of Academia Cotopaxi to Doha from Quito, Ecuador. Parker said the highlight for his students was “the chance to visit a part of the world which is very different from the one in which we live … my students commented again and again how their exposure to the different countries and schools represented heightened their understanding and awareness of the very real political and social problems of the Middle East.”
address questions to the directors who presented their works. The first film was entitled “Who to Believe?” and was shown by the Iranian film-maker Hossein Dehbashi and his assistant Mateo Farzaneh. This was an edited version of a longer, seven-hour documentary commenting on the war in Iraq and how it has become a subject of polarization by West by emphasizing cross-cultural communication. The symposium concluded on the note that listening is as much a solution to war as speaking is, and that two-way communication is the simplest yet hardest-to-achieve model of communication.

The second documentary was a proposal introduced by Carlo Sartori, the CEO of NewCo Rai International, the Italian media organization, to launch an Arabic language channel from an Italian perspective. The hope is to ease some of the strained relations between the Arab world and the

Behind the Scenes at the Model United Nations: Reflections of a Student Leader

Last year, as a second-year student at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar, I was a co-chair of the United States National Security Council during the MUN. Since my first year at Georgetown, I have worked as part of the general logistics staff of the MUN conference that we sponsor, so I thought I was prepared for the 2008 MUN conference. However when I found myself nervously awaiting the first international students at the Doha airport, it felt like a completely new experience this January.

Firstly, I had not expected the overwhelmingly enthusiastic reactions of the students and their chaperones as they arrived in Doha. They were eager for the conference to begin, and they were already thanking us for simply being there at the airport with them.

When the MUN Opening Ceremony kicked off, I knew that this was going to be different from previous years. The delegates headed to their committees immediately and emptied the lobby. Some had all their files ready, some asked me about the location of their rooms, and others nervously wondered if they had to stand up and speak on their first day. Some students later rushed to me from various rooms informing me of how “strict” their chairs were, and asked me all kinds of questions. I was initially stressed by the overwhelming flow of questions and advice-seeking.

But the four days flew by, and the students worked diligently on their resolutions, even taking their lunches to their rooms in order to work on their drafts. This was the first time that I met students who took their work so seriously and truly wanted to prove themselves worthy ambassadors.

That final night of the MUN, I was chatting with some of the international students in the lobby when I heard singing and some music. I found a group of students from various schools and countries dancing and singing together. Some were from Bahrain, others from Egypt, some from the South American schools and some from Palestine. They were finally letting all their energy out and simply enjoying being in one another’s presence. I wondered at the energy they had, since I already felt completely exhausted.

When it was time for goodbyes, I noticed how many students had made lasting friendships, and how they were truly sad they had to leave Doha and their fellow delegates, and yet they were already anticipating next year’s conference. I was proud of these students, of the efforts they put into the debates, and of their newly-formed friendships. This was exactly what I was expecting from the conference after all, and this is what keeps me involved in Model United Nations year after year.

Dana Al Kahlout is a third-year student at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar and a student worker for CIRS. She will graduate in May 2009 with a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University.
In March 2008, CIRS staff interviewed Ganesh Seshan, Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics at Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service in Qatar, on his research into remittances of Qatar’s migrant laborers.

CIRS: Could you give us a brief overview of the project?

Ganesh Seshan: While remittances bring numerous benefits to households in developing countries, little is known about the extent to which remittance flows are reduced by the fact that migrants have no direct ability to monitor how remittances are spent by recipients. Migrants may have greater preferences for investment and savings than recipient households, but can only imperfectly monitor how remittances are spent. Without direct monitoring of the use of remittances, therefore, migrants may choose to keep their earnings overseas and to remit less. Any positive effects that remittances might have on recipient households are therefore attenuated. We’re working on a study of remittance innovations in Qatar that would enable migrants to better monitor the use of their remittances using telecommunication devices. The project is being funded by the Qatar Priorities Research Program. The products we hope to design and test can potentially stimulate more remittances by migrants and channel them towards productive uses in their households back home.

CIRS: What is the time-frame of the research?

Seshan: The study is expected to span two years and involves survey work involving around 1500 migrant households in Qatar.

CIRS: Who are you collaborating with?

Seshan: I’m working with Dean Yang, an assistant professor of economics and public policy from the University of Michigan. Yang has a strong background in migration studies and brings important insight to this work. We’re also looking to partner with a telecommunication provider and remittance firm in Qatar.

CIRS: What methodologies are you using?

Seshan: We’re using an experimental design where migrant households are randomly assigned to receive the new products and their use of it will be tracked over a period of time. It’s a unique approach that allows causal effects to be better identified and it’s probably among the first attempts of its kind in this region with respect to the issue that is being studied.

CIRS: What have your results so far shown?

Seshan: We conducted a pilot study of migrants in Qatar during the summer of 2007 which encouraged us to move forward with this research. The results showed a statistically robust and positive relationship between weekly international calls and annual remittances, even after controlling for other co-variates which suggested that there are synergies between international telecommunication and remittance demand. Figure 1 describes the relationship between remittances and weekly international calling time. Annual remittances increase with additional calling time up to around 25 minutes per week. An additional US 1000 is sent abroad per year when weekly calls last between 15 to 25 minutes compared to less than 5 minutes. Conceivably migrants do not require more than 25 minutes a week communicating with their relatives abroad to be acquainted with their welfare and subsequently decide upon additional remittances.

Figure 1 Qatar: Plot of Annualized Remittances (USD) against International Calling Time (minutes/week)

Source: authors’ calculations from survey of 140 migrant workers. Graph excludes migrants with zero remittances.

CIRS: What are the biggest challenges you faced during this research?

Seshan: At the moment we’re in talks with potential commercial partners for this research and it takes time for these relationships to bear fruit, but so far the study has been well received and we’re optimistic that we can move ahead with it.

CIRS: What will you do with the research results?

Seshan: If we find that better monitoring has an important effect on remittances and the ways they are used, the research can help shape policies at the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and other development institutions. Such institutions are interested in stimulating remittances, steering them towards productive uses at the household level that may have greater development impacts and in finding ways to course them through the formal financial system, thereby raising aggregate saving and economic growth.

In addition to this research project, Seshan has been working closely with CIRS over the past few months to develop workshops for the academic community in Doha in order to share skills and knowledge. In January, Seshan offered a CIRS-sponsored workshop on Quantitative Methods at Qatar University to faculty members from various disciplines.
Elżbieta M. Goździak, a prominent scholar of migration issues at the Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM) at Georgetown University was invited by CIRS to visit the SFS-Qatar campus.

Goździak’s visit aimed to forge research relationships and future collaborations with SFS-Qatar professors working on migration issues. During her time in Doha, she was also a guest speaker at the CIRS Monthly Dialogue Series. Goździak is the Director of Research at ISIM and Editor of International Migration, a peer reviewed, scholarly journal devoted to research and policy analysis of contemporary issues affecting international migration.

The Monthly Dialogue took place on March 3, 2008 at the SFS-Qatar library. Goździak’s lecture was entitled “Victims No Longer: Challenges, Dilemmas, and Opportunities in Studying Trafficked Children” and focused on issues of child trafficking and abuse. Goździak outlined the parameters of a comprehensive research project which examines the situations of trafficked children. The study examines the trauma experienced by many children who are lured away from their families and homes under, often times, false pretences, and with the promise of travel to better environs. The study also analyzes the challenges that service providers face in assisting the children, and assesses prospects for rehabilitation and integration of the children into society. During the lecture, Goździak presented key findings from the study and discussed the methodological and conceptual challenges involved in research with trafficked children.

Goździak emphasized the need for conducting in-depth academic research concerning the trafficking of children because, she said, there is much general writing on the subject but little that yields sufficient results that aid in explaining or easing the situation. Solutions towards rehabilitation and prevention can only happen if governmental policy-making is informed by in-depth and concerned research. Goździak told the gathered audience of the difficulties of conducting research on such sensitive and clandestine affairs as the trafficking of children and gaining access to them. She reported that the originally intended year-long study, lengthened to become a two-year endeavor, as the researchers were faced with a variety of challenges concerning approvals, permissions, and grants that needed to be secured before the research project could begin. Thus the dynamics at work are difficult for any research on the subject to fully comprehend and analyze the situation.

Because of the illegality of trafficking, the children can usually only be addressed after they have been freed from their ordeals. Therefore, the research revolves around the rehabilitation process of the children. In these rehabilitation centers the children are immediately considered to be “victims” and so there is even greater challenge in trying to gain permission to study such “vulnerable” populations. Goździak insisted, however, that in order to treat trafficked children as beings beyond that of victims, they must not be considered helpless. Instead, they must be allowed and encouraged to have their own sense of self-identity and their own agency.

Self-identity is an important component of rehabilitation as every child’s trafficking situation is different from the other. It is true that some children are neglected and abused in the worst possible ways. At the same time, however, there are many others who do not consider themselves to be victims and were merely fulfilling a cultural and familial obligation, often by working at young ages to support their families. This is why critical and informed research into the subject is important as all the children should not be simply considered to be in the same predicament. The research should aid in distinguishing each child’s individual needs.

The process of rehabilitation from this point of view should be one that focuses on the children’s sense of empowerment and treats them through cultural relativity as individuals rather than relying on a standardized and homogenous, and Westernized, ideal of what it means to be a child.
argued that the U.S. democracy promotion policy was “not an export of self-determination but the export of a particular brand of democracy.” Furthermore, not only do Muslims want greater democratization within their countries, but “young Muslims want jobs, not jihad.” Hence, not only are Muslims frustrated with their domestic policies as well as with US foreign policy, but more poignantly, they are also disappointed about the lack of opportunity and economic mobility in their own countries.

Esposito recommended that the way forward for the West and the United States is to emphasize soft power rather than military power. When speaking about America’s role in the Muslim world, he recommended that the United States use the carrot and stick approach. More specifically, the US and the West have to honestly promote freedom, civil society, and human rights in countries that they offer aid and support to. These countries have an important role to play in flexing their muscles in order to address governments that marginalize their people.

According to the Gallup research, both the West and the Muslim world care about the future, but each thinks that the other side does not. Both agree that there needs to be greater interaction, exchange and education. Respect and partnership should be central to Western and Muslim foreign policies. It is more about policy than principles.

At a time when sensationalist headlines often eclipse and undermine mutual understanding between Western and Muslim communities, it is essential to engage in meaningful dialogue and discourse. Esposito told his audience, “I see the light at the very end of the tunnel. It is going to take years for us to get out of where we are.”

This summary was prepared by Aalaa Abuzaakouk, who obtained an M.A. in Arab Studies, with a concentration on economic development, from Georgetown University in 2007. She also received her B.S. from Georgetown’s School of Foreign Service where she majored in regional studies of the Muslim world and minored in Justice and Peace Studies. She now serves a Student Affairs Officer for Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service in Doha.
Theology Experiences in the Classroom

New York Times religion columnist Peter Steinfels has remarked upon the state of religious illiteracy among otherwise literate U.S. college graduates. Steinfels’s observations were prompted by a recent book by Boston University professor of religion Stephen Prothero entitled Religious literacy: What every American needs to know—and doesn’t. Prothero makes a distinction between irreligious, but literate, Europeans and their American counterparts: religious, but ill-informed when it comes to scriptural (or doctrinal) details. When assigned this book at SFS-Q, students drew a parallel between the American and Qatari religious scenes: a religious populace in practice and belief, but not always well-versed in the doctrinal nuances of their respective traditions. Is this comparison reflective of the sentiments of students from the Islamic world at large?

At the recent Model United Nations conference hosted by CIRS, I had the chance to explore this question with high school students from Turkey, Pakistan and Palestine. The students (and their teachers) were not uniformly Muslim, but, like many of the conference attendees, came from a predominantly Muslim milieu. The Turkish students were well-acquainted with the differences between secularism and laicism and the Pakistanis immediately saw the distinctions between (and potential difficulties with) a “religious studies” as opposed to “theological” university curricular requirement. Bright and engaging, the students eagerly voiced their opinions on religion and society, church and state.

If Steinfels and Prothero are correct, and religious literacy is an important part of an informed citizenry and a healthy and responsible civic life, then the Islamic world seems to be ahead of the United States – at least in scriptural matters. Religious literacy – be it scriptural, doctrinal or historical - in the face of secularization is a topic that merits close examination in the dialogue of civilizations. Why would the Islamic world be more scripturally literate than the American? In what sense would the American and Islamic realms be more ‘religious’ than the European? These are just a few of the questions that have come to mind on the heels of the MUN conference, and while teaching at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar.

CIRS Outreach Aimed at Local Schools

Spotlight on the Faculty
Professor Candith Pallandre

Candith Pallandre has been a Senior Instructor in the English as a Foreign Language Department at Georgetown since 1996. She has been Curriculum Coordinator, instructor of all levels of language courses, and has done teacher training on both short and long-term assignments in Chile and Korea. She has presented at International TESOL Conferences on issues related to academic reading and writing skills in second-language learning, as well as on incorporating technology into the learning process.

CIRS and the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar have, for some time, initiated a particular type of community outreach focused on forging social and educational relationships with local high school teachers in order to exchange dialogue and integrate the local cultural network. Essential to this initiative’s success has been the participation of faculty, in this instance, of EFL instructor Candith Pallandre, who is making a series of visits to Al Nahdah Independent Primary School for Girls.

Al Nahdah is on the outskirts of Doha, ten miles out of town on the North Road which winds behind Landmark Mall and the West Bay area. It is the school’s first year of operation in a grand building with small classes, as well as science labs and gracious courtyards. As an independent school, Al Nahdah follows the Supreme Council for Education (SEC) guidelines for Independent Primary Schools, with half of its curriculum in English and half in Arabic and a team of English-language consultants organizing workshops and seminars on a daily basis.

With all the formal instruction and training, SFSQ professor Candith Pallandre has found the teachers and administrators at Al Nahdah eager for a break—Discussions in English? Yes. But further discussion of teaching methods and grammar? No thank you. The teachers prefer to practice their speaking skills while talking about daily life.

Pallandre has been visiting Al Nahdah weekly to engage in focus group-style meetings with teachers from all departments - different grade levels, IT, and library staff. Each week’s discussion focuses on practice and confidence-building; the meetings are structured but remain informal and flexible. Meanwhile, more meetings have been set up with administrators eager to join.

The goal of the project is to demonstrate a model for talking to school teachers in English as well as building confidence in speaking and assisting others. Pallandre notes the challenges involved in gathering a group of teachers of different nationalities and levels together for discussions, but stresses the many positives of the experience, not only for the teachers participating but for the moderator as well. “It’s the perfect way of entering the local culture, something that’s not always easy for us to do,” Pallandre said.

Pallandre’s topic of choice for the next meeting is the role of women in Qatar. The teachers are eager to talk about life outside of work, and about Qatar’s rapidly changing society.
CIRS Monthly Dialogue Series
Dr. Gary Wasserman Speaks on Interest Groups’ Impact on U.S. Foreign Policy

On February 11, 2008, students and guests of CIRS were treated to a lecture by Gary Wasserman, Professor of Government at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar. Wasserman’s lecture, part of the CIRS Monthly Dialogue Series, discussed the question “Democracy and American Foreign Policy: Do Interest Groups Help or Hinder?”

Wasserman argued that allowing interest groups to lobby helps open up the highly centralized U.S. foreign policy process, which is dominated by the executive branch. Wasserman called this executive hegemony “presidentialism.” Presidentialism can be illustrated by many experiences under the Bush administration, Wasserman said. He cited examples of presidential language modelled on rhetoric of the armed forces, and of the increase in classified documents under the Bush administration.

Wasserman claimed that the use of classified documents limits the involvement of outsiders in the political process, and reduces political debate and executive accountability. Moreover, these classified documents are used selectively as a means to an end, as in the case of the buildup of argumentation for the Iraq War, Wasserman said. Serving as another example of presidentialism are governmental sanctions against dissident voices, such as the case of two American Israel Public Affairs Committee lobbyists who have recently been prosecuted for having obtained classified information.

According to Wasserman, the post-9/11 climate has added strength to the tendency of presidentialism; however, over the past few years and with new presidential elections coming up, this trend is beginning to be undermined by others, like globalization. Through globalization, new and different influence groups have risen, and this broadening of the political sphere has made American foreign policy slightly more pragmatic.

Wasserman then anticipated an expected audience question, stemming from the widespread negative image of interest groups and lobbyists: Is greater public involvement in foreign policy desirable? Here, Wasserman referred to Alexis De Tocqueville, who, in the mid-nineteenth century, pointed to the uneasy relationship in the United States between foreign policy and democracy.

Traditionally, these two entities are seen as antagonistic towards each other. Wasserman commented, however, that foreign policy often results from bureaucratic compromises, and that foreign policy is portrayed as more coherent than it actually is. Discussing the people factor, he referred to the work of Benjamin Page, who portrays the public as just as coherent, and stresses that it should not be excluded from the political decision-making process. Page then provides suggestions for the problem at the core of this matter, i.e., how to make democracy work with foreign policy.

Currently in U.S. society, the problem of the “people factor” has led to increasing prominence of experts in all fields. Since in foreign policy, lobbyists are the experts, lobbyists can in fact open up the foreign policy process, and lessen presidentialism, Wasserman claimed.

Traditionally, democracy and foreign policy have had an antagonistic relationship

Wasserman argued against the traditional negative stereotype that surround lobbyists. Adding nuance to their traditional image, he alerted his audience to the potentialities of lobbyists as contributors to foreign policy-making in the democratic state, rather than selfish takers in that process.

This summary was prepared by Katrien Vanpee, a PhD candidate in Arabic Language and Literature at Georgetown University. Vanpee holds a Master’s degree in Arabic and Islamic Studies from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium and a Master’s in Contemporary Arab Studies from Georgetown University. She currently works for the Embassy of Belgium in Doha.
On January 24, 2008, CIRS sponsored a Distinguished Lecture by Andrew Natsios, Professor on the Practice of Diplomacy at Georgetown University and former U.S. Special Envoy to Darfur. The lecture took place at the Al Sharq Village hotel and was attended by fifty invited guests who gained insight into one of the world’s most prominent crises. Earlier in the day, Natsios also spoke on the Sudan in a keynote address to some 350 high school students gathered at the Opening Ceremony of the CIRS-sponsored annual Model United Nations conference.

Commenting on the on-going crisis in the Sudan, Natsios detailed the complex tensions that have fueled violent conflicts in the Darfur region, building on his firsthand knowledge of the Sudan and its political actors. Beside the tense relations that exist between Sudanese of Arab and African descent, Natsios’s discussion touched upon a series of lesser-known issues, such as the strained relations between the central government and the Janjaweed (tribal militias).

Natsios highlighted the real danger regarding the collapse of central authority in Africa’s largest country should the country return to war between the North and the South, which nearly happened in October and November 2007. The ethnic cleansing of Darfur represents only one aspect of a much larger crisis that could lead to the disintegration of the Sudan, with even more tragic political and humanitarian consequences for the whole of eastern Africa. Unless the international community realizes the gravity of the situation and the fragility of central authority in Khartoum, and enjoins all of the political actors involved to alter their current course of action, the country is likely to breakup under the pressure of various centrifugal forces.

Natsios argued that the central government in Khartoum has managed to alienate several previously non-political Sudanese social groups. It has, among other things, failed to honor all the articles of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 2005, which was intended to put an end to the long civil conflict between the predominantly Muslim north and the oil-rich Christian south. As a result, the most serious conflict in recent Sudanese history—with casualties ten times those of the Darfur crisis—remains a partially unresolved issue that continues to threaten the stability of the entire country. With high levels of discontent and resentment among the population and a high proportion of government officials who are unwilling to defuse the situation peacefully for fear of a coup or of standing trial for war crimes, the Sudan is becoming increasingly unstable and should the North and South return to war, might well disintegrate as a state.

To bring the current crises to an end and avoid future degradation, Natsios argued that the international community must first and foremost encourage the parties to the agreement to enforce the Comprehensive Peace Agreement it originally supported and normalize political relations with the Sudanese government. Because the International Criminal Court is a sword of Damocles hanging over Sudanese officials, it has become an impediment to conflict resolution. For this reason, Natsios recommended that the international community forego the right to bring suspected war criminals to justice in exchange for peace and stability. The Sudanese government, for its part, would have to share oil revenues equitably, restrain the hardliners within its own ranks, and give greater regional autonomy to Darfur. These measures, combined with free, fair and open elections, present the only viable options for saving Sudan from fragmenting into its various provinces and bringing the Darfur crisis to an end.

This summary was prepared by Henri Lauzière, a Teaching Assistant in History at Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar 2007-08. Lauzière recently received a Princeton University Post-Doctoral Fellow for the academic year 2008-09.
CIRS to Screen *Promises* Documentary Featuring Palestinian and Israeli Youth

On Monday April 14, 2008, CIRS will host public screenings of the 2001 documentary *Promises*, a film about a group of Israeli and Palestinian children growing up in very different worlds. CIRS will be welcoming the producers/directors Justine Shapiro and B.Z. Goldberg to Doha in conjunction with the screenings, one of which is aimed at a local high school audience in Qatar.

*Promises* offers a glimpse into the daily lives of young Israelis and Palestinians, who are often overshadowed in global reporting on the conflict. The film’s focus on children evokes feelings for people on both sides of the conflict. The film’s young stars are now in their twenties and dispersed around Israel, Palestine, and the world.

The CIRS events will take place in the auditorium of the College of the North Atlantic - Qatar, a Canadian college in Doha. A daytime screening will be aimed specifically at local high school students, who will be invited to watch the film together and then participate in a question and answer session with Shapiro and Goldberg. An evening screening will be open to the public.

Justine Shapiro has been a host on the travel series *Globe Trekker* since 1994. Through the show, she has visited nearly 40 countries around the world. Shapiro graduated from Tufts University, has studied theater in Paris, and has taught English as a Second Language in Los Angeles.

B.Z. Goldberg grew up in Israel outside of Jerusalem. He attended the New York University Film School and worked in television news during the first Palestinian Intifada in 1987. Goldberg has also had experience working in conflict resolution.

Goldberg and Shapiro teamed up in 1995 to begin interviewing children in Palestine and Israel; thus work began on *Promises*.

CIRS welcomes student assistants from Georgetown campus in Washington, DC

**Meet Louisa Aviles**

Louisa Anne Aviles is a third-year Georgetown University student majoring in International Politics at the School of Foreign Service. She is studying at Classes at SFSQ for one semester.

**WHY QATAR?**

“I wanted the experience of learning and living with people whose views would be different from my own, and I liked the idea of a small academic community. I’m interested in sustainable development and urban planning, and the Gulf is a fascinating place to study these topics.”

**CLASSES AT SFSQ**

“My classes are tiny so the academic experience feels more challenging. The campus itself is much more intimate than the DC campus ...”

**WORKING AT CIRS**

“I am responsible for the usual administrative tasks, but I also get to help the Director with some of his research on Iran and the Gulf states. It’s also nice to have an entree to CIRS events going on around campus.”

**Meet Lydia Rodriguez**

Lydia Rodriguez is a third-year student in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. She is a Culture and Politics major, and decided to come study in Qatar in the early fall of 2007.

**WHY QATAR?**

“I am studying Arabic and wanted to work on my language skills but I also am interested in the Gulf region. My senior thesis, inshallah, will also focus on religion and material culture in the Gulf, particularly Qatar.”

**CLASSES AT SFSQ**

“Avoiding teachers is next to impossible, but at the same time sitting down and having coffee with a professor is a regular occurrence. The content of the classes is equal to main campus, but the discussions that take place inside and outside the classroom provide a lot of new perspectives.”

**WORKING AT CIRS**

“Helping with the Model United Nations conference has been a highlight of my semester at Classes at SFSQ ... I am definitely running a risk that at the end of the semester I won’t want to leave.”
The CIRS staff breathes a sigh of relief after the Closing Ceremony and Diplomatic Lunch of the third annual Model United Nations conference, which gathered 350 high school students for four days of debate in Doha. From left to right, Aphrodite Hamad, Kathryn King, Suzi Mirgani, Mehran Kamrava, Maha Uraidi, and Naila Sherman.

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Upcoming 2008 CIRS Events

April 5-6  Conference: *Innovation in Islam*
Four Seasons Hotel, Doha

April 14  Cultural Program: Screening of Documentary *Promises* and Q&A with the Producers, College of the North Atlantic - Qatar

April 22  Monthly Dialogue Series: Dr. Victoria Pedrick, SFSQ Library, LAS Building, Education City


For all event inquiries, please e-mail cirsevents@georgetown.edu.

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