



# Spotlights

Spring 2020

International & Global Studies Department  
Newsletter



UNC  
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International &  
Global Studies

## Greetings from the Assistant Director, Will Zang



Dear IGS Students,

To be frank, this is not how we expected to be communicating with you all at the end of the semester. The Covid-19 epidemic has altered almost every aspect of our lives and we have each had to face our own unique set of challenges. While we are all in the same storm, I think it is important to recognize that we are not all in the same boat. Within the UNCG community, we are especially impressed with all of you who have continued to work, parent, and caretake during the pandemic, all while keeping up with the hectic transition to online learning.

That being said, we do have some good news: we are delighted to welcome our new faculty member, Dr. Neelofer Qadir, who joins us from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. For more information about Dr. Qadir, please see her profile below.

The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic reminds us more than ever of the importance of understanding international events and of supporting each other as a community. We want all of our students to know that we will continue to give you the individual support that we believe sets us apart from other departments. Although the pandemic has radically changed how we interact with each other for the foreseeable future, we are all just one email or zoom call away. All students should know that the [UNCG Counseling Center](#) is offering remote counseling services and that the university has made substantial changes to policies in order to help students cope with the disruption that the Covid-19 pandemic has caused. More information on those policies can be found [here](#).

We hope that all of you remain safe and healthy over the summer break and that we can see you all again as soon as safely possible!

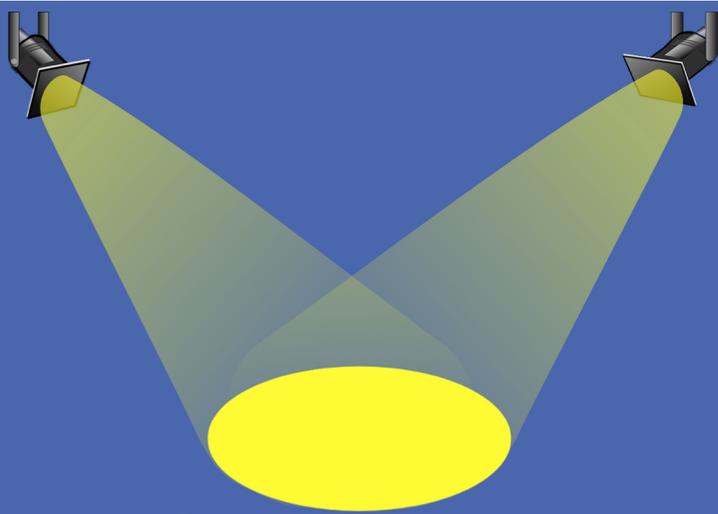
- Will Zang, IGS Program Assistant Director



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# Program News



Welcome to our  
new colleague,  
*Dr. Neelofer  
Qadir*

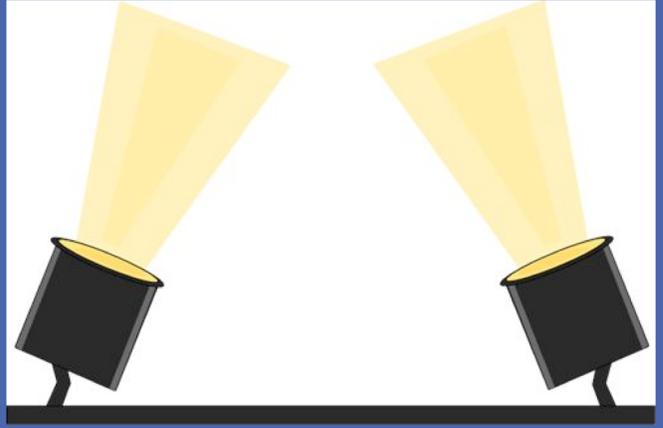
Dr. Neelofer Qadir is a scholar and teacher of the Global South with a focus on contemporary literary and cultural studies of the Indian Ocean world. Her teaching interests include colonialism, postcolonialism, and empire studies; histories of global capitalism; race, gender, and sexuality studies in African, Asian, and Caribbean contexts. She grew up bilingual, speaking Urdu and English, adding Spanish and Swahili to her repertoire more recently; these language skills led to a collaboration with her parents in which they translated a short story by the Kenyan writer Ngugi wa Thiong'o's into Urdu as part of large scale translation project hosted by [Jalada](#) magazine. Her research and personal travels have taken her to places across Africa, Asia, and the Americas.

On behalf of everyone in the IGS Department and our students, we are thrilled to welcome Dr. Qadir!



# Congratulations to our Fall 2019 IGS Graduates!

- Erica Chambers, Human Rights
- Janelle Crubaugh, Latin American & Caribbean Studies
- Joseph Davidson, Asian Studies
- Robyn Davis, Affairs & Development
- Ian Esquillin, Latin American & Caribbean Studies
- Maria Victoria Kouba, Human Rights
- Seydou Mohaman, Affairs & Development
- Thanh Hao Nguyen, Asian Studies
- Janet Verwelius, Human Rights
- Jean-Andre du Preez, Asian Studies
- Marianna Levithan, Affairs & Development



# Congratulations to our Spring 2020 graduates and Phi Beta Kappa inductees!

[Click here for the official IGS  
graduation recognition page.](#)

We would like to recognize the graduating class of Spring 2020, one of the largest ever IGS graduating classes. We lament the fact that we could not hold an official graduation ceremony for you and we hope to be able to do so at some point in the future.

Congratulations!

- ❖ Arlenys Almonte-Breton, Arts & Beliefs Systems
- ❖ Amber Ceballos, Global Affairs & Development
- ❖ Lesley Colon, Arts & Beliefs Systems
- ❖ Sophie Crouse, Asian Studies
- ❖ Josée Davis, Human Rights
- ❖ Mondonna M. Deldgie, Arts & Beliefs Systems
- ❖ Juan Dixon, Asian Studies
- ❖ Arél Doyle, Affairs & Development
- ❖ Iteig Ellis, Asian Studies
- ❖ Timia Ferguson, Human Rights
- ❖ Carolyn Garner, Latin American & Caribbean Studies
- ❖ Gabrielle Handy, Affairs & Development
- ❖ Raygan Hansley, Human Rights
- ❖ Matthew Hellenbrand, Human Rights
- ❖ Sydni Johnson, Human Rights
- ❖ Megan Juliar, Human Rights
- ❖ Ekaterina Khokhrina, Russian Studies
- ❖ Sofie Kuehr-McLaren, Human Rights
- ❖ Raymond Earl Matteson, Affairs & Development
- ❖ Antonee Merritt, Affairs & Development
- ❖ Paul Nava, Affairs & Development
- ❖ Florecita Olmos Aguirre, Arts & Beliefs Systems
- ❖ Myah Robinson, Russian Studies
- ❖ Danielle Valentine, Asian Studies
- ❖ Sydney Washington, Affairs & Development
- ❖ Juanita Webb, Human rights

We would also like to recognize our 9 Phi Beta Kappa inductees. This year only one department at UNCG had more students elected to the prestigious honors society.

- ❖ Jon Beliveau, Affairs & Development
- ❖ Joseph Davidson, Asian Studies
- ❖ Josee Davis, Human Rights
- ❖ Mondonna Deldgie, Arts & Belief Systems
- ❖ Maria Esch, Human Rights
- ❖ Fiona Grant, Asian Studies
- ❖ Isaac Hawkins, Affairs & Development
- ❖ Ekaterina Khokhrina, Russian Studies
- ❖ Janet Verwelius, Human Rights

Finally, special congratulations goes out to three graduating IGS majors:

- ❖ Matthew Hillenbrand has been selected for the Austria Fulbright USTA Program and will spend the next year as an English TA in Kärnten, Austria.
- ❖ Ekaterina Khokhrina won the Graduate School Merit Fellowship for UNC Chapel Hill's M.A. Program in Russian Studies.
- ❖ Janet Verwelius has accepted a full scholarship to the University of Florida College of Law.

Congratulations to all three of you for these outstanding achievements!

Welcome to our  
new  
International &  
Global Studies  
Student  
Association  
(IGSSA)  
leadership  
team!

We would like to welcome our newest IGSSA leadership team and congratulate them for holding their first event of the semester on February 4th, in which they hosted a speaker from the Center for New North Carolinians who spoke about local volunteer opportunities with refugee populations.

Sarah Myers- President

Gracie Ruebel- Vice President

Alyssa Major-Moze- Secretary

Daakwam Abernathy- Treasurer

Keep an eye on the IGS Weekly Digest for more information on future IGSSA events. For students who are interested in joining IGSSA, please contact president Sarah Myers at [skmyers@uncg.edu](mailto:skmyers@uncg.edu)

## Featured Student- *Sarah Myers*



*Tell us about yourself and what you are studying here at UNCG*

I am from Burlington North Carolina. My major is International and Global Studies with a concentration in Human Rights. I also am pursuing both a Spanish and sociology minor. I am also in the disciplinary honors program here at UNCG. I studied abroad in Toledo, Spain during the fall 2019 semester.

*What do you think you gained from studying abroad? Did it change your world view/outlook?*

My time in Toledo was invaluable. My program was a total language immersion program, and while that was daunting at first, by the end I am so grateful that I pushed myself out of my comfort zone. I feel as if I improved my Spanish immensely. I also feel extremely grateful to have gotten to experience a new culture and learn about the history of Toledo and Spain. I also feel like I grew immensely as a person during my time abroad. I faced several unexpected bumps in the road during my time abroad, I experienced the death of a family member back home and couldn't return home for the services and was faced with some health problems while away. At the time, it was challenging to deal with these things while away, but I think that having to deal with these challenges while in a different country, while having to use a different language, showed me what I am capable of and helped me grow a great deal in my confidence and strength. I think that my time abroad in many ways shaped and changed my worldview. Being able to live in a different country for four months, allowed me to live within a different culture and at least for a short time, allowed the world from a different vantage point. Breaking up the routine of my everyday life here in the states and being immersed in a new culture, I think helped to broaden my outlooks on many things in life.

*What do you want to do after graduating from UNCG and how do you think the skills and knowledge you have gained as an IGS major will help you get there?*

When I graduate from UNCG, I hope to pursue a master's degree in international studies with a focus on migration studies. And eventually, I want to work doing immigration research. I think that the IGS program here at UNCG, has really given me the tools and skills necessary for this next step. The IGS program has helped me to grow in my intercultural competence and has helped me realize what it means to be an engaged global citizen. Taking classes through the IGS program here at UNCG has helped me to analyze global issues from an array of diverse perspectives. All of this experience and knowledge, I am confident will help me as I further my career.

Featured  
Alumna-  
Amanda  
Ingman,  
2015



*Where are you from? Which concentration within IGS did you focus on and when did you graduate?*

My family is from Finland, but I grew up just north of Greensboro. My IGS concentration was Affairs & Development. I had begun to nurture an interest in international theory and relations during my time at Guilford College (just down the road from UNCG) as an Early College student, and I thought someday I'd like to work for an international organization or at least a company with an international presence. I graduated in December 2015

*Why did you choose IGS at UNCG?*

When I came to UNCG, I had already delved into several college-level classes in political science and I had also completed most of my gen-eds so I knew I had to get to business fast - and I knew that I wanted a degree that would lend itself to further study and a flexible academic career, and flexible future professional career. I had looked at programs at colleges in Washington, DC and even applied for some, but the competition was cut-throat and it just wasn't a viable option financially. At UNCG I found my place among people who are just as passionate and serious about the same things - and I got to stay so much closer to home.

## Amanda Ingman, 2015

*What have you done after graduating from UNCG? How have the things you learned as part of the IGS major influenced your career path and/or helped you along your career path?*

In the spring after I graduated, I worked as an administrative assistant at the Guilford College admissions office while I began the process of applying to graduate programs. I only applied to two programs, both in Europe, and eventually accepted a spot at the fairly new M.Sc. Security Risk Management at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark. I completed my foundation year of studies and learned very valuable and practical skills related to the security field, but I still didn't feel completely fulfilled, so I decided to shift gears, applying to a M.A in Conflict, Security and Development at the University of Sussex in Brighton, England. I found my home there as I had at UNCG, and I turned in my master's thesis last fall. I returned stateside last May and it took me a while to find a job. I now work at MetLife in Global Corporate Security as an Intelligence Analyst. This is a good stepping-stone for me to gain experience in corporate security, which is often transferable to international organization or nonprofit settings. As an IGS major, I learned that I have to carve out my own place in the world. I didn't emerge as newly minted dentist or lawyer or teacher or chemist. Instead, I had to constantly envision my future self in relation to what I think the world needs from me, and then draw on my academic background to will myself to become that future self.

*If you could give current IGS students one piece of advice, what would you tell them?*

Sometimes, you will feel like you don't connect with any particular professional title, or job description, or societal/parental expectation of what your career should look like. Draw on your inner voice (and your skills set, which is totally unique!) to figure out why you chose this path, and how to market yourself in a way that feels authentic. There are lots of new and encouraging trends in the job market that should give us social scientists a boost of confidence - employers are looking for unexpected (interdisciplinary!) combinations of skills as well as 'soft' skills, like creative problem-solving and critical thinking. An IGS degree is preparing you for the real world in a way that may often be overlooked - but that is absolutely invaluable in guiding you towards a fulfilling and authentic career.

Faculty Spotlight-  
*Dr. Cassandra Workman,*  
*Anthropology*

*Dr. Workman gave the 2019 Global Spotlight Lecture, where she spoke about Syndemic Theory and its applications to the nation of Lesotho. The Global Spotlight Lecture Series is designed to highlight international work that UNCG faculty members are currently undertaking.*



*Dr. Workman writes that*

“Syndemic Theory (Singer et al. 2017) asserts that stressors and diseases cluster within vulnerable populations due to marginalization and other political economic processes. That is, diseases are both biological and social or biosocial. Food insecurity (lack of adequate safe food), water insecurity (lack of adequate safe water), and sanitation insecurity (lack of adequate sanitation and hygiene) work in concert to lead to multiple negative biological, psycho-emotional and social outcomes. My research is concerned with how these interact and how these stressors are defined by policy makers and health practitioners.”

- Singer, M., Bulled, N., Ostrach, B., & Mendenhall, E. (2017). Syndemics and the biosocial conception of health. *The Lancet*, 389(10072), 941-950.



## Support Global Studies

Generous donors help us to provide greater opportunities. Individuals or groups wishing to make a gift in support of IGS's academic and co-curricular programs and/or the success of its majors are invited to contact the director, Dr. Kathleen Macfie, via email at [k\\_ahern@uncg.edu](mailto:k_ahern@uncg.edu).

## Updates to IGS

Alumni and current majors wishing to share special news about their accomplishments should contact IGS Assistant Director Will Zang by email or IGS Program Administrative Assistant, Ms. Yvonne Matlosz by email, [yimatlos@uncg.edu](mailto:yimatlos@uncg.edu), or by phone at (336) 334-5560.



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