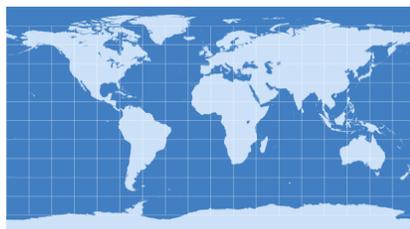


# International Relations Newsletter



## Growing Locally and Globally

The International Relations Program expands its presence both in and outside of the classroom during the Spring 2015 semester.

**Hawks Abroad, p. 2**  
**IR Courses Spring 2015, p. 3**

Spring 2015

Saint Joseph's University

Est. 2014

## International Relations Program Updates

Although Dr. Fukuoka has been on leave this spring, the IR program has continued to prosper. We have even more students and a new Middle East course. We also learned Megan Duffy and Dana Saraco were among only 12 selected nationwide to present their research at the Walsh Exchange at Georgetown's School of Foreign Service. Congratulations Megan & Dana!

The IR Facebook page continues to provide interesting information about world affairs, keeping students informed about globally relevant events on campus, and sharing news from alumni.

Thanks to the members of SIR and IRS who helped reach out to prospective students!

We hope you enjoy this issue, which provides the fall course schedule, a message from a junior studying abroad, brief summaries of Megan Duffy's and Patrick Curley's Honors Theses, and an interview with Dr. Balasubramaniam (ECN).

The sense of community among IR students, faculty, and alumni continues to grow. We encourage you to connect with us!

Lisa Baglione  
Acting Director, IR Program

## Connect with the IR Program!



Saint Joseph's University  
International Relations  
Program



@SJUIR



<http://www.sju.edu/int/academics/cas/internationalrelations>

## IR Program Projects & Developments

### New Members

This Spring, IR's honor society, Sigma Iota Rho (SIR), welcomed 11 new inductees!

#### Senior Inductees

John Contosta  
Patrick Curley  
Taylor Heil  
Graziella Ioele  
James Muehring

#### Junior Inductees

Kimberly Bielous  
Anthony J. Cerra  
Mary Korchak  
Bailey McIntyre  
Gabrielle Saxon  
Tatiana Pulido

### Co-Sponsored Events

In Spring 2015, the IR Program co-sponsored the following events:

- Reflections on the Recent Events in Paris: Are We Really All Charlie? (Feb 3)
- "An Alum's Story: How I Went from Intern to Hill Staffer to White House Aid, and Google Exec in 6 Years" and Meet & Greet, Jill Stracko (Feb 20)
- Real-Life Effects of Contemporary Economic Conditions: Reflections on American Consumer & Firm Behavior, Financial Markets, and Elections (March 31)
- Student Presentations: Erin Caffrey, Megan Duffy, and Dana Saraco (April 7)
- The Politics of Normalization: A New Era of US-Cuba Relations (April 9)
- Thinking About Graduate School in Political Science, International Relations, or Public Policy/Public Admin? When and Why to Go (April 28)
- Security in Central America and the Child Migrant Crisis on the Mexican Border by Dr. Mary Frances Malone (May 1)

### International Relations Society

The IR Society (IRS) is the official student organization of the IR Program and has spent the past year building a community for all IR majors and minors. This semester we are sponsoring an IR Happy Hour/Meet and Greet for students and faculty. We have also partnered with SIR to reach out to incoming freshman IR majors through letter writing and phone calls. Elections for officer positions will occur this April, for all students interested. For any questions, contact: [sjuirsociety@gmail.com](mailto:sjuirsociety@gmail.com)

### Incoming Freshman Class of 2019

This semester, Sigma Iota Rho has been involved in reaching out to newly accepted undergraduate IR majors. Through letter writing and phone calls, members of SIR have been in contact with our incoming class of 2019 to answer questions, talk about the IR major, and create a more personal connection to SJU. We will see some of these prospective students at the Admitted Students Days, April 11-12. We look forward to meeting all of our new IR majors next fall!

### IR Facebook

Along with IR Twitter, IR Facebook has become an indispensable tool for the program to communicate with students, alumni, and the outside world. On this page, along with announcements of upcoming on-campus events, IR faculty members also share articles/links they find interesting. This way, we are trying to share with our students (and perhaps people outside the campus) the ways we acquire the information about on-going global issues. We believe it is very important that the IR program, faculty and students, share what we study, publish, and achieve. The number of followers is now over 180. This semester we covered a lot about ISIS, Israel's election, Russian politics, Saudi Arabia, and Cuba.

## Hawks Abroad

In this issue, we feature a student currently abroad in Belgium.

### The World on Your Terms: Engaging in Travel and Exploring Alone

By Tatiana Pulido '16

Some of my best study abroad stories have happened while I was exploring by myself. I'm not naturally prone to solitary walks or doing things alone, but I promised myself that I would travel alone and explore while I was here in Europe, and I'm so glad that I did.

My adventures began when I arrived in Leuven. Jet-lagged, bewildered, and overwhelmed, I realized that I had left my laptop charger in my room! So I ventured out, trying (and failing) to riddle out how exactly to pronounce "Janseniustraat." After walking in circles for a few minutes, someone mistook me for a friend of his. After the initial linguistic confusion and switch to English that is quite common here, he apologized for disturbing me and asked what I was doing in Belgium. I told him I was supposed to be studying but that I was lost. He showed me the way to the store I needed.

Encountering this kindness all over the world helps unify the Jesuit teachings at SJU with the real world.



I apologize for this shameless language-learning plug, but I have to advocate operating in the language of the place in which you are trying to strike up a conversation. In Leuven, although people speak English, it's hard to gauge how much English people know and are willing to speak. When I went to Spain, it was much easier to connect with the culture and the people I met on my travels because I speak Spanish. I was able to talk to everyone, from the university students to taxi drivers, from bartenders to the street cleaners. In Belgium, it's uncommon for less privileged people to speak English well, so I can't talk to them about what they think. In Barcelona, I threw fear of crassness to the wind (as seems to be acceptable in Spanish culture) and asked pretty much all taxi drivers about their families and what they thought about Catalanian independence. It is a relevant and contentious issue, and

the responses I received gave me insight into why that is the case. I also got to know the people and culture better, so I grew to love Spain even more.

Since I went to Madrid alone (only meeting up with a friend for one day), I was free to take an afternoon to explore Parque del Oeste. It was liberating to be able to see cool fountains (which it turns out are my favorite kind of public art), statues, or museums and just check them out. I could see a restaurant that looked good and just walk in and talk to the bartender about traveling and language and life. I wasn't spending any time waiting or looking behind me; I was scanning the landscape, taking it all in, and looking ahead, enjoying every moment in confidence and fulfillment of the cheesiest of my study abroad dreams.

I strongly recommend taking some time to explore solo, especially while studying abroad. Even if you're in a group, you can take initiative, strike up conversations where you can, and go off the beaten path to explore. You'll learn what you never knew you loved and how differently you perceive yourself when you realize that you've mastered a new city and discovered it on your own terms.

## Departmental Honors

In this issue we feature two of our current IR seniors who have spent the year working on their Honors Theses.

### Megan Duffy

My Departmental Honors thesis centers on Russian foreign policy, specifically in the post-Soviet region. I'm analyzing why some states, like Ukraine, feel more pressure from Russia than do others. For example, Russia first covertly, then overtly, invaded Crimea and eastern Ukraine, all the while maintaining that the

Kremlin needed to defend ethnic Russians living there. Oddly enough, however, Russia has not done the same in Kazakhstan, which has a large ethnic Russian population as well. I've theorized that Russia interferes in states like Ukraine because Ukraine's politics and society challenge a "created reality" within Russia. Vladimir Putin's cult of personality, a hatred of the West, and

a paternalistic attitude to the former Soviet republics compose this "reality." States in the region that establish closer relations with the European Union and NATO, and promote democracy in their domestic politics, are consequently subject to the wrath of the Kremlin. It's a fascinating and ever-changing topic, and I'm grateful to have the opportunity to study it.

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### Patrick Curley

I am investigating the economic effects of the International Trade Commission's investigations into unfair importation (e.g. patent or trademark infringement) which provide trade protection to US firms. Recently, ITC activities have been

more prominent, and I have found them especially interesting because understanding their relevance combines knowledge of my favorite topics: financial economics, international trade, and political economy. The two most interesting findings of my research are that these ITC probes of publicly traded

companies have significant impacts on firms' stock prices, such as a positive bump after they "win" the investigation and receive protection. Second, the ITC appears to be easier on domestic companies than on international firms, meaning they find international firms guilty more often.

## Meet the Faculty: Dr. Divya Balasubramaniam (Economics)

**Q: Would you tell us how your academic interest in economics started?**

**A:** It started in college. My undergraduate degree is in commerce (business equivalent in the US) but I had to take a course in Economics. The teacher was great. I started developing an interest in Economics then.

**Q: Can you tell us about your experiences growing up in India, and how they have informed your current research?**

**A:** I personally experienced water shortages and how it can impact everyday living. I have waited in line for hours to collect two buckets of water, and I wondered: if getting water was a big issue for me (i.e. growing up in an upper-middle class family), what would it be for people from lower income groups in my community? This experience shaped the research thesis that I analyzed in my Ph.D. studies.

**Q: How do you incorporate your interest in Asian economies, especially Indian economics, into your classes here at SJU?**

**A:** When I teach topics that overlap with my research I present my scholarly work to my upper division Asian classes. For example, I am currently working on women's empowerment and health outcomes in India. When I discuss topics on gender issues, I provide a brief overview of my research paper to my students. I have received great comments that I use to improve my work.

**Q: You recently published an article in *Economica*, "Got Water? Social Divisions and Access to Public Goods in Rural India" in January 2014. What did you most enjoy about working on this article?**

**A:** I enjoyed several aspects of this project. First, data collection was a long process for this paper. Repeatedly speaking with the Indian Census office, data mining, and empirical analysis were time consuming but very rewarding. Second, I learned a lot more about the caste system in India than I would have known otherwise. For example, I learned the names of the 180 castes that exist in India! Finally, I learned how to effectively work as a team member. My co-authors are renowned and established researchers in this field. As a newcomer I learned protocols, journal submissions, and how to respond to blind reviewers to name a few. Overall, it was a thoroughly enriching experience.

**Q: What has your research led you to investigate further?**

**A:** I have continued to research access to water and its implications on child health outcomes in India. One of my recent co-authored paper "The Effect of Safe Water, Sanitation and Human Capital on Child Nutrition and Health: A Quantile Regressions Approach with Santanu Chatterjee and David B. Mustard" investigates how access to water and sanitation affect children's stunted growth and other health concerns.

**Q: Do you have any future projects in mind or anything you are currently working on?**

**A:** 1. Access to Water and Nutritional Status: A study of School-aged Children in India (coauthored with Echu Liu and Amanda Hunt)  
2. Female Empowerment and its Implications for Women's Healthcare Utilization in India.

Thank you very much, Dr. Divya!

### International Relations Faculty

#### IR Committee

Lisa Baglione (POL)  
Divya Balasubramaniam (ECN)  
James Carter (HIS)  
Melissa Chakars (HIS)  
Kazuya Fukuoka (POL), Director  
Cristian Pardo (ECN)

#### Affiliated Faculty

Amber Abbas (HIS)  
Milica Bookman (ECN)  
Richard Gioioso (POL)  
Erik Huneke (HIS)  
Susan Liebell (POL)  
Benjamin Liebman (ECN)  
Katherine Sibley (HIS)  
Richard Warren (HIS)  
Brian Yates (HIS)

#### Newsletter Editor

Caley Rolt '16

### International Relations Courses Fall 2015

#### Economics

ECN 101 Introductory Economics (MICRO) / MULTIPLE SECTIONS  
ECN 102 Introductory Economics (MACRO) / MULTIPLE SECTIONS  
ECN 322 Intl Macroeconomics / Pardo TR 12:30-1:45

#### History

HIS 210 Hist Intro to Modern Africa / Yates MWF 2:30-3:20  
HIS 311 Nazism-Fascism Global Perspective / Huneke MWF 1:25-2:15  
HIS 353 Modern China / Carter MWF 11:15-12:05  
HIS 359 India & Pakistan: Colony to Nation / Abbas MWF 3:30-4:45  
HIS 491 Philadelphia-Area Internship / Chakars

#### International Relations

IRT 250 Research & Writing in IR / Baglione MWF 10:10-11:00  
IRT 495 IR Sr Capstone: Natns & Natlisms / Fukuoka MW 3:35-4:50

#### Political Science

POL 113 Into to Comp Politics / Baglione MWF 9:05-9:55  
POL 115 Intro to Global Politics / Gioioso TR 3:30-4:45 or 5-6:15  
POL 334 Russian Politics / Baglione TR 9:30-10:45  
POL 352 Global Political Econ/ Gioioso TR 9:30-10:45  
POL 364 IR of East Asia / Fukuoka MWF 12:20-1:10