

Western Worldwide

Your Gateway to Global Engagement

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Newsletter of the Global and International Studies Program
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The Changing Identity of Latinos in the U.S. Today

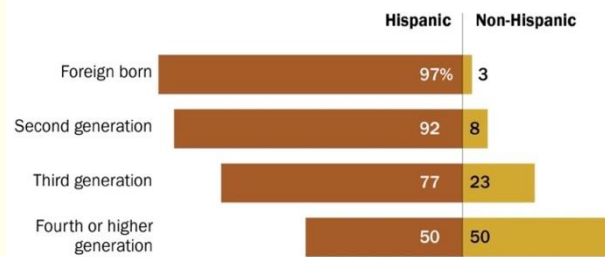


Did you know that over the period 1990-2018 the U.S. Hispanic population increased by 50.3 million (from 9.6 to 59.9 million)? This September, the GIST program sponsored visiting scholar Dr. Mark Hugo Lopez, director of programs at the Pew Research Center, to visit WMU and share his research findings on the changing identity of Latinos in the U.S. Dr. Lopez's expertise in the study of demographic and social integration of Latinos in the U.S. made him the perfect speaker to join us in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Dr. Lopez's talk walked us through the diverse origins of Latinos in the U.S., highlighting that Venezuelans, Dominicans, and Guatemalans were reported as the fastest growing origin groups between 2010 and 2017.

This diverse group of people generally has no preference in being referred to as Hispanic, Latino or Latinx. However, Lopez noted that among Americans with Hispanic ancestry, the share that identifies as Hispanic/Latino falls across immigrant generations (as shown in the image at right).

% of U.S. adults with Hispanic ancestry who self-identify as ____



Following the lecture, attendees were invited to a reception with the visiting scholar to enjoy refreshments and continue discussions. Dr. Lopez also held a small discussion group with Latinx students from across campus to discuss issues surrounding identity. We thank the WMU Visiting Scholar and Artists Program and the Institute for Intercultural and Anthropological Studies for helping to fund this opportunity. We also thank our attendees for their support.

FROM THE DIRECTOR:



Dear GIST Friends,

Please be sure to join us this coming spring for a new round of our ever popular Faculty Abroad and Research Brief series. Because we enjoy inventing new programming, the GIST office will direct some of its energies on activities to launch the new Latinx and Latin American Studies minor. Don't miss out on a forthcoming announcement detailing how GIST majors may apply for study abroad scholarships through a newly endowed GIST study abroad fund.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for your contributions to our program. Wishing you an excellent new year!

Yours truly,
Susan Pozo

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Going Global: Prepping for a Career in GIST



The GIST major provides an exciting opportunity for students to make a difference in the world, meet people from different cultures, learn a world language, study abroad, and build a professional career. To help students navigate the career planning process, we hosted a one-day workshop consisting of the three panels listed below.

Start Now: Academic preparation for career building

Current student and employer panelists discussed steps that students can take while still in school to prepare for their career. Jodi Michaels (Colleagues International) discussed internships, GIST senior Rachael Bartholomew spoke about study abroad, and WMU Philosophy master's student Anna Kietzerow touched on applying to graduate school.

Next Steps: Post-grad resume building experience

The second panel engaged students in a discussion regarding potential opportunities for resume- and experience-building after completion of their undergraduate studies. This panel included Michelle Metro-Roland, the WMU representative for the Fulbright Program; Peace Corps alumnus and current Manager of WMUK radio, Stephen Williams; current PhD candidate at WMU and former English teacher in South Korea, Ayla Ludwig; and a video testimonial given by GIST alumnus Brendan Sapato who recently completed a stint teaching English abroad in Spain.



Looking to the Horizon: Long-term career planning

The final panel included testimonials from GIST alumni who spoke to potential GIST careers and pathways, tackling the common question: "What jobs can I actually get with my degree?" Panelists with established careers spoke about what they do now and how they got there. Daniel Hadley, Sarah Murray, and Diana Bergwin offered tips about careers in foreign service, academia, and the federal government, respectively.

The WMU Career and Student Employment Services and the Haenicke Institute for Global Education reviewed students' resumes to help them effectively market their acquired skills (including study abroad, internship, and language). We thank all who participated.

Research Briefs in Global Studies

We continue to foster an environment where global studies scholars can share ongoing projects in order to stimulate and develop international and inter-disciplinary, high-quality research. Through the fourth staging of "Research Briefs in Global studies", the series welcomed four speakers from across the disciplines to discuss their research.

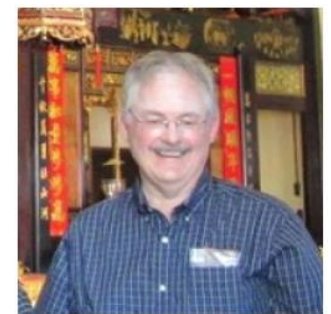


Religious Pluralism in Ukraine and the Midwest:

Dr. Vyacheslav (Slava) Karpov (Sociology; bottom, left) gave his talk on the different periods of religious secularization and desecularization in Ukraine while Dr. Brian Wilson (Comparative Religion; bottom, right) discussed his work on John Harvey Kellogg and his involvement in the Seventh Day Adventist movement in Battle Creek, Michigan.

Indigenous-Colonizer Dynamics in Latin America:

Dr. Matt Nielsen (GIST; above, left) used maps to discuss the Orinoco river system and its importance in the economy, culture, and politics of indigenous people in northeastern South America. Dr. Marcela Mendoza (Gender and Women's Studies; top, right) shared her pictures of the Toba people, in Bolivia, carrying the audience through a timeline of their 19th century tribal warfare.



Study Abroad with GIST

Did you know that roughly 70% of GIST's 2017-18 graduating class studied abroad during their time at WMU? The GIST program is designed to provide students with an academic foundation in global studies and experiential learning in a global context. Through study abroad, our students are given the opportunity to obtain first-hand foreign language and cultural experience. Study abroad is required for GIST majors. Students may choose from programs spanning a few weeks, a semester, or a full academic year as an exchange student. The GIST program boasts a growing number of diverse short-term study abroad offerings.

GIST 3500: Trinidad and the World: History, Culture, and Environment (Summer I 2020)



In Summer I 2020, Dr. Matthew Nielsen and students will embark on a study abroad trip to Trinidad. This trip will provide an opportunity for students to learn about the people, culture, places, and environment of Trinidad and to understand the global power relations that continue to shape the island. Students will also have the opportunity to visit Trinidad's twin island, Tobago.

GIST 3500: Conflict & Diplomacy in Europe (Summer II 2020)

Dr. Joyce Busch and students will travel for three weeks in France, Germany and Belgium studying the ways that politics, geography, architecture, culture, and religion influence war and peace. Students will be transported down the Rhine River to understand its use in military strategy and explore former concentration camps, NATO headquarters, memorials, monuments, historical landmarks, and much more.



GIST 1100- Special Topics in Global Studies Courses

This coming spring semester will feature two 1-credit GIST 1100 special topics courses. These courses are designed to introduce students to diverse, specialized global topics without the need to enroll in a full three-credit class. The courses are **Warfare in Early Societies** by Dr. Marcela Mendoza (Global and International Studies; left), and **Global Leadership** with Dr. D. Eric Archer (Educational Leadership; right). For course descriptions and additional information visit wmich.edu/globalstudies/advising/courses.



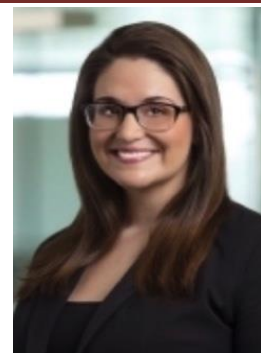
Make a Difference Awardee: Kala Willette



Congratulations to Kala Willette, Academic Advisor and Administrative Assistant of the GIST program, on being selected for a semi-annual Make a Difference Award. Kala has been a part of GIST since July 2016. She provides outstanding service to students, faculty, and staff. The GIST family is indeed happy to have her as part of the team and is grateful for the impactful work she continues to provide. In addition to singlehandedly running the GIST office, Kala is also completing an MA degree at Western Michigan University in Comparative Religion.

Alumni Achievement Award Winner: Kathleen (Katie) Fish

Katie Fish (BA 2011) is this year's GIST Alumni Achievement Award winner. Katie attended Western Michigan University where she earned a B.A. in Global and International Studies and Spanish and a minor in Gender and Women's Studies. She went on to study at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School and was sworn in to the Bar in May 2015. Katie is now an attorney at Ellis Porter PLC in Detroit, where she handles immigration court cases. Earlier this semester, Katie met with current and prospective GIST majors where she spoke about how her GIST degree prepared her for a career in immigration law.



New Graduate Assistants



The GIST program would like to welcome Joseph Wu (left) and Patrice Anderson (right), our graduate research assistants for the fall 2019 semester. Joseph and Patrice are both doctoral candidates in the Department of Economics and are helping with our various programs throughout the semester. Joseph is working to improve the newly introduced Global Data Center and Patrice serves as the editor for this issue of the newsletter.



Current Student Internship

GIST would like to thank the Southeast Michigan chapter of the Bethany Christian Services for providing internship opportunities for students. This semester the organization's internship program welcomed one of our students to work with refugee and immigrant resettlement.

Congratulations to our Fall 2019 graduates!

Majors

Rachael Bartholomew
(Spanish)

William Belser
(Vietnamese)

Collette Green
(Spanish)

Alicia (Kurth) Hitch
(Spanish)

Jake Kubiak
(Arabic)

Cory Matkovich
(French)

Madison Sides
(Spanish)

Minors

Mikhayla Dunaj

Tatayana Hall

Nicole Samaroo