

BRANDEIS
UNIVERSITY

GLOBAL AFFAIRS
TABLE

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Brandeis University **Global Affairs Table**

2008 Activity and Financial Report

Organizational Information:

The Global Affairs Table is collaborative effort between student organization Gen Ed NOW, and the Wien International Scholars.

The Project Directors Committee comprises the following members:

Benjamin Gorelick '11

Jonah Seligman '10

Sridatta Mukherjee '09

Prof. Sabine von Mering, GRALL

David Elwell, Director, International Students and Scholars Office

Charles Radin, Director, Department of Global Communications

Origins and Purpose:

The Global Affairs Table was founded during the spring semester 2008 at Brandeis University to address the need to enhance on-campus dialogue and discussion of important current events in international affairs.

What was perceived at the time as the lack of true globally focused dialogue at Brandeis, particularly among the undergraduate student community, led to the establishment of the Global Affairs Table with the help of a grant from the Office of Global Affairs' Global Brandeis Fund.

A number of criteria were identified during the planning stage that were seen as essential to the project's success:

- i) Project events would be open and accessible to the entire Brandeis Community, with the aim of bridging gaps existing between undergraduates, graduates, faculty and staff.
- ii) The discussions would not emulate lectures; they would take place in a more intimate environment, conducive to inclusive discourse and participation.
- iii) Student initiative would be crucial; the local insight of the Wien International Scholars would serve as the principal source of informed, experiential knowledge.

Based on these criteria, the project committee chose to hold three to four discussion events per semester (equating to about one per month), and to host them around a lunch table in the faculty club, limiting attendance to 30 participants per event by means of an electronic sign-up list. The basic format of each discussion would center on an important and current global topic pre-selected by the directors' committee, and proposed by one of the Wien Scholars from the region or country in question. Faculty

with relevant research or personal interests would be invited to present and respond at each event, to help direct discussion and supplement the insight of the student presentations. In order to provide context for the rest of the participants, pertinent resources and articles would be sent out to all confirmed attendees via the electronic sign-up list, in advance of the event.

Publicity would target e-mail lists of student organizations with international orientations and interests, as well as academic departments, and the graduate schools. The International Student and Scholars Office, as well as the Office of Global Affairs would aid in publicity efforts by including the events in their newsletters.

The hope of the directors committee was that over time, once the project got off the ground, it would develop a community of followers interested in maintaining a focus on current global affairs, and eventually become an ongoing Brandeis tradition. The project directors envision that with enough success, the Global Affairs Table could collaborate with other departments and organizations on campus, as well as seek to invite prominent off-campus speakers such as Wien Scholarship alumni with careers and experience in international affairs.

Events: Fall Semester 2008

Grant funding from the Global Brandeis Fund was made available for project activity beginning in fall 2008. In keeping with the proposal for that semester, the Global Affairs Table hosted three events. The first two, focusing on Zimbabwe and Pakistan respectively, were planned and implemented by the Global Affairs Table. The third, on Russia with a guest professor from Germany, was a collaboration between the Global Affairs Table and The Center for German and European Studies, CGES.

Zimbabwe 09/25/08

Wien Scholars presenting:

Tapiwa Mushove '09

Benjamin Gorelick '11

Faculty Presenting:

Wellington Nyangoni, AAAS

Other Faculty Attendants:

Robert Lange (PHYS Emeritus)

Jane Hale

The first event, which took place on Thursday September 25th focused on Zimbabwe and the economic and political turmoil that have marred the country and region over the past several years, reaching a peak with the 2008 presidential elections. Professor Wellington Nyangoni of the AAAS Department, specializing in economic development and comparative Third-World politics mediated and offered his own unique insight and perspective.

Zimbabwean Wien Scholar Tapiwa Mushove '09 began the discussion with a presentation on Zimbabwe's political history from its colonization by the British Empire, to independence in 1980 under Robert Mugabe's ZANU-PF Party. He was followed by Namibian Wien Scholar Ben Gorelick, who gave a brief presentation on the more recent pre-independence economic history and how since Mugabe's land reform program, implemented in 2000, the Zimbabwean economy has suffered serious negative growth and hyperinflation.

Professor Nyangoni's presentation helped tie together the economic and political factors that can often be difficult to understand so far removed from the reality on the ground in Zimbabwe. He explained how regional pressures affected Mugabe's political agenda for land reform, and how similar unsettled issues in neighboring countries like South Africa and Namibia might impact the region in the future.

Overall, this first event was successful. Attendance was good, and the presentations by the Wien Scholars and Professor Nyangoni were, based on feedback, informative and engaging. As part of the planning policy for the Global Affairs Table, requests were sent out to participants for suggestions and constructive criticism, a compilation of which can

be found in the appendix to this document. The next page is an article from the Brandeis Student newspaper *The Justice*, which covered the event.

Pakistan: 11/18/08

Wien Scholars Presenting:

Nadir Daudi '10

Anum Irfan Khan '10

Brandeis Graduate Speaker:

Zahid Saleem, Sustainable International Development Candidate, The Heller School

Faculty Attendants:

George Ross, POL/SOC

For the second event on November 18th, the focus country was Pakistan. Based on feedback from attendants of the Zimbabwe discussion, some changes were made to the format of the event to foster more fluid dialogue and reduce presentation time.

The scope for discussion was broadly framed. The speakers and participants would address important contemporary themes; social, political and economic issues facing Pakistani democracy, as perceived by the speakers through local experience as well as the experience of being Pakistani students studying in the United States. The implications of a new Pakistani government's relations with the United States, and the history of partnership and co-operation between the two nations was also raised, particularly in the field of global security.

The following three talking points served to direct discussion during the event:

- i) How the absence of rule of law in Pakistan is construed as a major cause of the non democratic elements in Pakistani society.
- ii) How and why the international community should help Pakistan in its fight against terrorism, instead of labeling it a state sponsor of terrorism
- iii) Particular internal and external elements that have been disrupting national integration in Pakistan, such as in the case of Balochistan.

Based on feedback, this event was well received and successful in meeting some of the issues for improvement raised after the first discussion. Despite a turnout that was lower than expected (some confirmed guests did not arrive), audience participation was much greater, and discussion more inclusive than previously. Dividing the discussion by talking points seemed an appropriate way to direct discussion and retain focus.

Global Affairs Table II: Pakistan

November 18th 2008

Three key issues for discussion:

- I How the absence of rule of law in Pakistan is construed a major cause of the non democratic elements in Pakistani society.
- II How and why the international community should help Pakistan in its fight against terrorism, instead of labelling it as a State sponsor of terrorism
- III Particular internal and external elements that have been disrupting national integration in Pakistan, such as in the case of Balochistan.

Our Speakers

Zahid Saleem, Fulbright Grantee, pursuing Graduate degree in international development at Heller School. Born and lived in Quetta, Pakistan.

Nadir Daudi, Wien Scholar Class of 2010. Born and lived in Karachi, Pakistan. Majoring in Economics.

Anum Irfan, Wien Scholar Class of 2010. Born and lived in Karachi, Pakistan. Majoring in HSSP and environmental studies.



Russia 12/08/08

A collaborative Event co-sponsored by the Brandeis Global Affairs Table and The Center for German and European Studies.

Special Presentation:

Guest Professor Jorg Himmelreich, visiting Professor at UC San Diego and Senior Transatlantic Fellow, the German Marshall Fund at Berlin. on contemporary Russian authoritarianism under Vladimir Putin.

This presentation by Professor George Himmelreich focused on the era of Vladimir Putin's 'managed democracy' and explained Russia's divergent political history (with that of Europe) through a persistent theme of authoritarianism and autocratic state control. Himmelreich's substantial knowledge and research in this subject field served to provide the audience of this event with a through-provoking and insightful presentation. The talk was followed by a session of questions and discussion between Professor Himmelreich and the audience, which addressed different questions including those on Russia-EU and Russia-US relations.

Because the Global Affairs Table and CGES organized this event jointly, the format was modified slightly from the previous two events. Principally, the comprehensive presentation by Professor Himmelreich took up half the time, but because of the fantastic opportunity for dialogue on Russia with a foremost expert on the pertinent issues, and the lack of any Russian Wien Scholars, the project directors elected to change the format slightly.

Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, and turnout was much better than at the Pakistan discussion, as particular attention was given to publicity and publication of posters with the help of the Department of Global Communications. The poster for the event is included in this document, on the next page.

**A Brandeis Global
Affairs Lunch Table**
sponsored by

**The Center for
German and
European Studies**



Russia Under Putin



With Joerg Himmelreich
Senior Transatlantic Fellow of
the German Marshall Fund at
Berlin and Visiting Associate
Professor at University of
California, San Diego

Russia's history indicates a centuries-old tradition of authoritarian rule. What are the reasons for this separate Russian path in European history? To what extent is Putin's "Managed Democracy" rebuilding this Russian authoritarianism? What does it mean for the Russia policy of the new US administration and the EU?

Monday, December 8, 2008

12-2pm, Faculty Lounge

**Free and open to the community; lunch provided.
RSVP to <http://russia.yalespector.com>**

Future of the Global Affairs Table:

As outlined in the first section of this report, it is the hope of the directors of the Global Affairs Table that the project continue as an ongoing and sustainable forum for dialogue on international affairs at Brandeis.

It will remain at the center of Gen Ed NOW's mandate to create global awareness, and foster greater community cohesion within the Brandeis population. In particular, emphasis will be placed on creating relationships between graduate and undergraduate students (a network arguably lacking) through common interest and knowledge of international affairs, with the goal of widening the pool of insight and experience of our student-led discussions. The Wien International Scholars will, of course, continue as the centerpiece of undergraduate global insight and leadership in the Global Affairs Table.

We look forward to another semester and year of successful and informative dialogue, anticipating that with enough participation, this project can become a tradition at Brandeis, to complement the University's fine global academic orientation and international cause.

Financial Report

The Global Brandeis Fund issued a grant of \$2000 to sustain the activities of the Global Affairs Table for Fall Semester 2008.

Table I represents a basic overview of the income and expenses of the Global Affairs Table during the semester.

Table I

Date	Income \$	Source	Expenditures \$	Location	Balance
Spring 2008	2000	Grant: GBF	0	-	2000
9/25/08	0	-	625	Zimbabwe Event	1375
11/18/08	0	-	625	Pakistan Event	750
12/8/08	0	-	0	-	750

The expenses of \$625 for the events on 9/25/08 and 11/18/08 represent a fee paid to Conference and Events Services (CES) for services rendered regarding menu and wait staff at the faculty club, for 30 participants each time. Because of the collaboration between the Global Affairs Table and CGES for the event on 12/8/08, CGES provided the funds to cover the necessary costs.

At the end of the semester, a budget surplus of \$750 remains. Please see the attached invoice documents from CES as proof of costs for the first two events. The Global Affairs Table corresponded with CES directly over reservations, but the Office of Global Affairs provided the chargeline to fund the events, under reservation reference number 72150.

Conference & Event Services
 Kutz Room 9 / MS 087
 415 South Street
 Waltham, MA 02454
 781-736-4300 / FAX 781-736-4318

Confirmation

Organization	Reservation 72150 (Tentative)
Benjamin Gorelick Gen Ed Now	Event: Foreign Affairs Table Phone: 781-529-8860 Fax: Coordinator: Andrea Kline

Bookings / Details	Quantity	Price	Amount
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Food orders must be received at least 5 working days prior to the event. Audio/visual orders must be received at least 5 working days prior to the event. Weekend and after business hour events require 10 working days notice for AV equipment. Orders received after these deadlines will incur 25% late fee. Please note that the absolute deadline for any changes to your reservation must be received at least 36 hours prior to the event in order to ensure that all changes can be communicated and received by the appropriate department. Late fees do apply.

Thursday, September 25, 2008

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm Foreign Affairs Table (Tentative 9/18/2008) FC LOUNGE

Reserved: 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Clsd Square for 30

Notes:

- Global Affairs is sponsoring this event.
- Brandeis community members only attending the event.

Setup Notes:

Closed square for 30 with linen

Catering:

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm SALAD BAR for 30

Meet & Munch

30 12.50 375.00

The Meet & Munch includes the Faculty Club's Soup, Salad and Bread Bar. Prices per person include: soft drinks, iced tea, regular, decaffeinated coffee or hot tea as well as a tray of homemade decadent dessert bars and cookies.

Waitstaff

2 125.00 250.00

Based on a minimum 2-hour service period

Subtotal	625.00
Grand Total	625.00

Please review your confirmation for accuracy. If everything appears correct, sign it and return a copy to our office. Please make sure you are using appropriate PeopleSoft chartfields.

Charge Line: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

CES Approval: _____ Date: _____

Distribute To: ARA FM AV PS SIGNS

Conference & Event Services
 Kutz Room 9 / MS 087
 415 South Street
 Waltham, MA 02454
 781-736-4300 / FAX 781-736-4318

Confirmation

Organization

Benjamin Gorelick
 Table
 Gen Ed Now

Reservation 72150 (Tentative)

Event: Foreign Affairs
 Phone: 781-529-8860
 Fax:
 Coordinator Andrea

KlineBookings / Details

Food orders must be received at least 5 working days prior to the event. Audio/visual orders must be received at least 5 working days prior to the event. Weekend and after business hour events require 10 working days notice for AV equipment. Orders received after these deadlines will incur 25% late fee. Please note that the absolute deadline for any changes to your reservation must be received at least 36 hours prior to the event in order to ensure that all changes can be communicated and received by the appropriate department. Late fees do apply.

Tuesday, November 18, 2008
 12:30 pm - 9:00 pm Foreign Affairs Table (Confirmed) FC LOUNGE
 Reserved: 11:30 am - 10:00 pm
 Clsd Square for 30
 Notes:

Global Affairs is sponsoring this event.
 Brandeis community members only attending the event.

Catering:

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm REFRESHMENT for 30			
Meet & Munch	30	12.50	375.00
Faculty Club's Soup, Salad & Bread Bar			
Tray of Homemade Decadent Dessert Bars & Cookies			
Soft Drinks, Iced Tea, Regular, Decaffeinated Coffee or Hot			
Waitstaff	2	125.00	250.00
Based on a two hour service period, each additional hour add \$25.00 per hour, per waitstaff.			

Subtotal	625.00
Grand Total	625.00

Please review your confirmation for accuracy. If everything appears correct, sign it and return a copy to our office.
 Please make sure you are using appropriate PeopleSoft chartfields.

Charge Line: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

CES Approval: _____ Date: _____

Proposed Activities for funding extension: Spring Semester 2009

Due to the co-sponsorship of the Russia event on 12/8, \$750 remains in the allotment of funding from the Global Brandeis Fund grant. An event for spring 09 is being planned that could utilize the remainder of these funds.

With a date tentatively booked for 3/18, a discussion will be held on how the international financial crisis has impacted Iceland economically and politically. A graduate student from Iceland, Bjorn Gunnarsson, will talk based on his experience and understanding, with Professor Kerry Chase (POL) attending as a faculty participant to help direct discussion and address the international political economic aspects and questions of the discussion.

Costs remain the same, and booking through CES, as before, will come to \$625.

Perhaps the remaining funds (\$125) could be put to use creating some sort of journal/literature of the events held to date (including the Howard Wolpe event of 2/4/09) as a means of consolidating the tangible results of the project so far, and as a tool to market/publicize the project with a view to future fundraising.

A dedicated mailing list is being created for the project, and a more universal signup list webapp is also being designed.

NB This is assuming that the OGA was able to source the \$100 the project is contributing to the Wolpe event from the Brandeis Pluralism Alliance grant we received last semester. If not, then the Iceland event will represent the last of the expenditures from the GBF grant.

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Tapiwa Mushove '09 talks about Zimbabwe's political history.

Students examine Zimbabwe

By: Michelle Liberman

Posted: 10/7/08

Students and faculty met for a Global Affairs Table that focused on Zimbabwe and its economic and political turmoil on Thursday, Sept. 25.

The Global Affairs Table is a collaboration between the student organization Gen Ed Now, a club on campus that educates and inspires the campus on contemporary national and global issues, and the Wien International Scholars, international students who have won the Wien Scholarship for outstanding academic and personal achievements.

Ben Gorelick '11, a Wien Scholar and member of Gen Ed Now who helped organize the event, said, "Brandeis really claims to stand for a global focus and to be oriented towards global awareness. We noted that there was a lack of global dialogue on campus, and we wanted to improve that. So, we came up with the idea of the Global Affairs Table."

The topics for the Global Affairs Table are decided by the Wien Scholars, who come from different parts of the world, Gorelick said. "[They] have local insight not shared from people on campus necessarily. They can bring this insight, especially when there are events happening in these countries. They can bring forward that insight at a time when it is important to talk about it."

He said Zimbabwe was the topic of choice for the first discussion "because of the recent political developments in the country since the beginning of the year."

Twenty-five students and faculty members at the event learned about and discussed the process that is underway in Zimbabwe to create a government where "power is shared between the ruling party [Zimbabwe African National Union-Political Front] and the opposition [Movement for Democratic Change]," Gorelick said.

Prof. Wellington Nyangoni (AAAS) discussed the tension surrounding issues of land reform, and Gorelick and Tapiwa Mushove '09 gave brief presentations on the political and economic history of Zimbabwe using what they have learned in class, articles they have read, personal experiences and

personal research.

Nyangoni discussed the issue of resentment among unsettled Africans of white ownership of land expropriated in the colonial era. He said land distribution has serious ramifications today in Zimbabwe.

He stressed the importance of understanding these worldwide issues, because we are students heading out into the global community.

During the presentations, students learned from Gorelick about the economic factors that have led to 11 million percent hyperinflation in Zimbabwe and were able to discuss and question the role that nongovernmental organizations have played in the country. The inflation is a result of an increase in the amount of money printed, a loss of confidence in money, and the political policies of current president Robert Mugabe.

Students at the event also questioned the intentions that non-governmental organizations have when they decide to help people in urban areas versus people in rural areas.

The Office of Global Affairs sponsored the event using money from the Global Brandeis fund, said Gorelick. "We are going to hopefully have one event per month and three to four per semester. We want to try to improve and increase the amount of dialogue on campus and bring the faculty, students and staff together to talk about global events."

"[The event] is not meant to be a lecture. This is meant to be an inclusive discussion where people can bring insight that they've gotten from classes or interesting current events," he said.

Laura Velez '11 said she was interested in attending the event because "The idea of talking about important happenings, both current and historical, in a relaxed environment, with faculty and students, seemed like a perfect opportunity. ... I feel like everybody [at the event] was truly interested in learning without feeling like they had to have something smart to say."