



Institute for Regional and International Studies  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

## 2017 Scott Kloeck-Jenson Fellows Biographical Statements

**Saeedeh Asadipour** is a PhD student in the department of Art History focusing on contemporary Arab world art and visual culture. Her main academic interest is unravelling the ways in which bodies resist in time of crisis. For her master's thesis, written in the University of Cincinnati, she looked at the ways of representing trauma in a Palestinian documentary film. Her PhD research primarily focuses on Palestine and exiled Palestinian artists, and is concerned with the ways in which the concepts of grief and trauma operate as political and gendered signifiers. As everyday experiences, war and exile are frequent visual motifs in Palestinian art, media and urban visual culture. The significance of the visual rendering of these experiences lies in their ability to affect Palestinian understandings of political practices and gender identity. She is particularly interested in the representation of grief and loss as manifested in the idea of martyrdom and funereal rituals, and their influence on the process of resistance and collective identity formation and gender roles. During June and July 2017, she will travel to Lebanon (as the main destination of Palestinian refugees) and to Palestine, supported by an SKJ travel grant, in order to conduct preliminary research, and to collect necessary information to develop my research proposal as well as refining my methodological and theoretical approach.

**Stephanie du Chatellier** is a PhD student in the Department of Anthropology with a minor in Southeast Asian studies. She holds a B.A. with Honors from Wheaton College (MA), where she studied English Literature and Anthropology. Stephanie's research focuses on the political development of modern Thailand and how Thai identity is constructed in the capital. Prior to graduate school, Stephanie has held internships with the Thai Embassy in Vienna, Austria with their UN division, and Villa Medica Clinic in Edenkoben, Germany as a Thai-English translator. Stephanie has also worked as a Thai-English translator for the Cremation Book for H.E. Nitya Pibulsonggram, and proofread and edited the photo documentation and exhibition *Through our Eyes*, a project of the Southern Thailand Program by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Bangkok (FES). With support from a Scott Kloeck-Jensen award, Stephanie will undertake pre-dissertation research in Bangkok archiving historical documents related to Thailand's political transition to better understand the current political instability in the nation.

**Sara Farsiu** is a PhD dissertator in the Second Language Acquisition program. She was born and raised in Iran. Sara comes to UW-Madison after ten delightful years working and studying linguistics and English Philology at the University of Cologne in Germany. She has been teaching Persian and German at UW-Madison since fall 2013. She has also worked as a German language teacher and counselor at Concordia Language Villages in Minnesota and German school of Madison; English teacher and counselor in China; and Persian Language Lecturer for the Arabic, Persian, Turkish Language Immersion Institute (APTLII) at UW-Madison. She is now volunteering for a local agency to resettle refugees in Madison. Sara was named a 2016 College of Letters and Science Teaching Fellow. In 2017, she was accepted into the UW-Madison Teaching Academy. Sara currently works on documenting the experiences and language

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trajectories of immigrants and refugees from Iran. This summer Sara will use her SKJ fellowship in Germany to develop her ethnographic dissertation research. She will collect narratives of Iranians who have experienced emigration to learn about their opinions, perspectives, and experiences with using and learning multiple languages. Through this research, she hopes to better understand refugee language learners' feelings towards their native language(s), the language(s) of the new country, and the linguistic challenges they face in their new country. This research is useful for teachers, educators, and other groups or individuals who aim to improve educational opportunities for refugees from different parts of the world.

**David Greenwood-Sanchez** is a doctoral student in political science at UW-Madison. He studies biotechnology and civil society activism in Latin America, particularly the use of international law as a means of challenging the adoption and regulation of genetically modified crops. His project will explore the domestic factors that shape the success of this legal approach, using Peru and Mexico as case studies. With support of the SKJ fellowship, David will travel to southern Mexico — Oaxaca, Chiapas, Veracruz, and Puebla — to better understand regional advocacy efforts, and the ways in which farming communities think about genetically modified crops. David has a B.A. in economics from Whitman College, a M.P.P. from the University of Minnesota, and a M.A. in political science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Youbin Kang** is a PhD candidate in Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research studies the changing nature of work in global supply chains, and its implications on regulation, law, and economic development. She received a B.A. in International Relations from Brown University and a B.F.A. in Textiles from Rhode Island School of Design as part of the Brown-RISD Dual Degree Program. Her B.A./B.F.A. resulted in a written thesis that explored managerial values and its relation to private compliance initiatives in the garment industry, and a performance piece on the dynamics of supply chain actors inspired by American pro-wrestling. She received her M.Phil in Innovation, Strategy, and Organisations at the University of Cambridge, where she wrote her dissertation on the institutional background of the managerial sensemaking of garment factory owners in response to a multi-stakeholder initiative to improve building and fire safety in Bangladesh. Before starting her graduate studies at UW-Madison, Youbin worked at the International Labour Organization in Geneva, Switzerland researching the textiles, clothing, leather, footwear, electronics, shipbuilding, and transportation sectors. This summer, Youbin will be conducting preliminary research in Dhaka, Bangladesh and Geneva, Switzerland for her dissertation that explores how transnational governance affects working conditions in the garment industry of Bangladesh in the aftermath of the Rana Plaza and Tazreen industrial disasters that has killed more than 1200 workers.

**Niwaeli Kimambo** is a PhD student in Geography. She studies smallholders' land use around protected forests in East Africa. She earned her B.A from Brown University and an M.Sc in Geography from UW-Madison. The Master's project presented options for increasing forest connectivity in Southern Tanzania through incorporating farmer's woodlots. Niwaeli's interest in conservation and rural land use stems from her upbringing; as she was born and raised on the slopes of Kilimanjaro – Tanzania where farming and conservation are closely linked. She also worked at a conservation NGO in Tanzania for several years before starting graduate school. She is excited to combine modern satellite imagery analysis with on-the-ground surveys in order to make site-specific environmental policy recommendations. She will use the SKJ support to visit villages in Mbeya, Tanzania and in Kibale, Uganda to inquire about land use trends and present results from Master's work. Her goal is to highlight conservation options that are both ecologically viable and socially equitable.

**Nick Lally** is a geographer, artist, and computer programmer with research interests in software studies, social movements, visual epistemology, social and spatial theory, science and technology studies, and feminist thought. His work describes the role of software in constructing the world through its material entanglements with social, political, and economic systems. He is currently a PhD student in the Department of Geography at UW–Madison where he studies the ever-tightening coupling of political processes with software and builds software to produce speculative visualizations of non-Euclidean spaces. In his summer research, made possible through the generous support of the Scott Kloeck-Jenson Fellowship, he will travel to London to study the production of software tools created to securitize against future risks to the city. Through interviews, ethnographic methods, and archival research, Nick will study how this resilience software is produced and how it makes the world and future legible in particular ways.

**Lauren Lauter** is a 3rd year PhD student in the school of education in the department of Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She is specializing in comparative and international education with a focus on teacher training. She came to Madison after 8 years teaching elementary school in Chicago, and developing teacher training curriculum in Mumbai, India with the American India Foundation and Muktangan NGO. Lauren has been on FLAS (Foreign Language and Area Studies fellowship) this year in Hindi, and is finishing up her sixth semester in the language. Lauren has studied, worked and traveled in India extensively, as well as worked in education for almost a decade there and in the US. Lauren's work this summer is interested in investigating privatization movements in education, particularly in Mumbai and Delhi, and the ways which teacher training programs are influenced by these reforms – both in message and mechanism. Her work this summer aims to clarify the educational ecosystems in the cities she visits, strengthen her relationships with key stakeholders and set up her sites for dissertation research.

**Matthew Venker** is a current PhD student in Cultural Anthropology studying forms of political belonging and legal rights in Myanmar (Burma). Originally from St. Louis, Missouri, Matthew studied Chinese and Anthropology at St. Olaf College, where his senior thesis critically analyzed the politics of religious freedom contained within China's constitution. Following graduation, Matthew spent two years teaching English at a high-needs elementary school in rural Southwestern China as member of the 2012-2014 Teach for China teachers corp. During this time spent living near the Burmese border, Matthew developed an interest in that country through conversations with his students and their families about their migration experiences between China and Myanmar. Convinced of the need for more research on Myanmar during its political transition away from military rule, Matthew began graduate school at University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2015. With the generous support of a Scott Kloeck-Jenson Fellowship, this summer Matthew will seek to build relationships with local political activists and civil rights organizations while conducting exploratory research on citizens' rights.