



Andrew G. Walder,
ICA Director

LETTER FROM THE ICA DIRECTOR – 2009-2010

Dear friends,

There were a number of exciting developments in the Division of International, Comparative and Area Studies last school year. I'd like to share some of the major ones with you.

The first is that our two-year search for a distinguished scholar to head our new Center for South Asia was successful. Thomas Blom Hansen arrived on campus at the end of the summer as the first holder of the Reliance-Dhirubhai Ambani Professorship. Professor Hansen, an anthropologist, is an expert on religion and politics in India and joined us from the University of Amsterdam. During the next few years he plans to significantly expand the Center, introduce new courses, and hire additional faculty.

A second development is the merger of two separate programs on modern and contemporary Europe into the Stanford Europe Center. This new Center will integrate faculty with European interests university-wide, and is a joint venture between ICA and the Freeman-Spogli Institute for International Studies. The Center has received an infusion of new resources and office space, and a reconstituted faculty steering committee is working to raise the visibility and coherence of programs on Europe that previously were small scale and scattered across different programs and schools.

At the Ford Dorsey Program in International Policy Studies Steven Stedman, the founding director of the M.A. program, turned over the reins to Kathryn Stoner-Weiss, an expert on the politics of Russia and former Soviet republics who is currently a Fellow in the Center for Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law. We are delighted to have a scholar of Stoner-Weiss's caliber take over the program as she builds upon the strong foundation laid by Dr. Stedman. One of the highlights of the program this past year was a Global Study Trip to Istanbul during spring break in which all enrolled students participated. The participants met with Prime Minister Erdogan, Minister of Foreign Affairs Davutoglu, and U.S. Ambassador James Jeffrey, as well as other government officials, academics, journalists, and business leaders. They discussed Turkey-EU relations, Islam and secularism, the Armenian question, the Turkish economy, and the private sector, and the students' meeting with the prime minister was featured in the Turkish press. As you can imagine, student response to this experience was enthusiastic, and we will find it difficult to top it this year.



IPS students meet with Prime Minister Erdogan in Turkey

In addition to Kathryn Stoner-Weiss and Thomas Blom Hansen, we are very pleased to welcome the following new directors to ICA:

ROBERT CREWS – Director, Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies. Robert Crews teaches in the Department of History. He is the author of *For Prophet and Tsar: Islam and Empire in Russia and Central Asia* (Harvard University Press, 2006) and co-editor, with Amin Tarzi, of *The Taliban and the Crisis of Afghanistan* (Harvard University Press, 2008). He teaches courses on Afghanistan, Central

Asia, the Caucasus, and the Russian empire. He was named by the Carnegie Corporation of New York as one of the 2009 Carnegie Scholars selected for influential ideas and enhancing public discourse about Islam.

RODOLFO DIRZO – Director, Center for Latin American Studies. Rodolfo Dirzo, the Bing Professor in Environmental Science, directs his own lab (The Dirzo Lab) that looks at a broad range of topics, from species interactions and community ecology to genetic diversity and population ecology. He teaches, among other biology courses, Tropical Ecology and Conservation, a course that brings Stanford students to a biological preserve in Mexico over spring break each year. His interests are centered on the study of plant-animal interactions, trying to understand how the ecology and evolution of plants are affected by their biotic environment, particularly animals. He has published extensively in journals such as *Evolution* and *Ecology Letters*.

AMIR ESHEL – Director, The Europe Center. Amir Eshel holds the Charles Michael Chair in Jewish History and Culture. He is a Professor of German Studies and Comparative Literature and Director of the Forum on Contemporary Europe at FSI. His research focuses on German culture, comparative literature, and German-Jewish history and culture from the Enlightenment to the present. He is currently working on a book about the poetic figuration of historical narratives, and he is also involved in an interdisciplinary project on urban space in Berlin. At Stanford, he has taught courses on German Jewish literature, literature of the Holocaust, modern German poetry and the contemporary German novel.

ICA is answering our students' need to better understand the complexity of international problems and develop solutions. International customs, culture and processes are becoming more important in both work and personal lives and all of our Centers and programs are seeing increased interest from the student population and within the community. The International Relations program in particular is experiencing higher enrollment each year. Global trade, development and communication are all seen as interrelated and interdependent and approximately 120 undergraduate students have declared IR as their major in 2010-11. In addition to coursework, an IR Summer Research Program is offered that has been very successful, enabling students to pair with faculty members and work on specific research projects. Last summer, fifteen students participated with the faculty and students presenting to the group on topics such as Mapping Terrorist Organizations, Assessing Foreign Aid, and The Political Economy of Energy Efficiency.



IR students at Stanford Commencement

And there is keen interest among students at Stanford in going abroad to study, research, and work on community service-related activities. In addition to the visit by IPS students to Turkey, students from ICA Centers received funding to travel to China, Japan, Korea, Ecuador, Argentina, Brazil, Honduras, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Mali, Israel, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, Albania, Greece, France, and Morocco. Community service projects our students worked on helped burn victims; taught sustainability concepts to school children; built prosthetic implant, and worked with government officials on environmental policies.

In Cape Town, South Africa, the Center for African Studies was able to provide summer grants to several students to collaborate with community organizations. One student is working with the organization Young in Prison, examining the interrelation of at risk youth and government policies; two others are studying the impact of efforts being conducted by the Social Development Fund on Community Cohesion in Khayelitsha, South Africa. The value of international travel and experiences cannot be overestimated, and we hope to provide many more such opportunities in the future.


Events of special note on campus during the past year were:

- A two-day conference on nation building and nationhood in South Asia
- A distinguished lecture series on the history of the People's Republic of China, with six successive speakers covering developments in each of the regime's six decades
- An international workshop on Russia-European Union relations
- A conference by the Stanford student group SURF (Stanford US-Russia Forum) that brought together forty American and Russian students
- A conference by the Stanford student group FACES (Forum for American-Chinese Exchange at Stanford) that brought together forty American and Chinese students
- An international conference on the politics of the Afghan-Pakistani borderlands
- The ICA International Film Festival featuring six films portraying how global changes transform kinship, passion and friendship
- *A Portrait of Leonard Bernstein* – a concert and dialogue
- Awarding of the Bitá Prize for Literature to Iranian author Goli Taraghi

These are just a small sampling. With some fourteen centers and programs under ICA, and with many of our small start-up centers of recent years (i.e. Iranian Studies, Islamic Studies) becoming more active, every week there are lectures, film showings, informational sessions, conferences, and more – many of which are open to the public. I invite you to visit the ICA Web site at ica.stanford.edu for news and details of all upcoming events.

One of the great pleasures of holding this position is keeping in contact with outstanding scholars, students, and programs across Stanford, and helping to strengthen the expansion of international education and research. It has turned out to be a fascinating and rewarding position and I take great pride in the students and faculty across ICA as they continue the Stanford tradition of addressing societal and global problems and working to improve lives.

Best wishes,



Andrew G. Walder



Research in Khayelitsha, Cape Town

ICA ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Andrew Walder

The Sakurako and William Fisher Family Director of the Division of International, Comparative and Area Studies
Denise O'Leary and Kent Thiry Professor
Senior Fellow, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies

Shahzad Bashir

Director, Abbasi Program in Islamic Studies
Associate Professor of Religious Studies

Richard Roberts

Director, Center for African Studies
Frances and Charles Field Professor of History

Kenneth Schultz

Director, Program in International Relations
Professor of Political Science

Kathryn Stoner-Weiss

Director, Ford Dorsey Program in International Policy Studies

Kären Wigen

Director, Center for East Asian Studies
Professor of History

ICA PROGRAM AND CENTER DIRECTORS AS OF SEPTEMBER, 2010:

Sohaib and Sara Abbasi Program in Islamic Studies

Director: Shahzad Bashir
Associate Professor of Religious Studies

Center for African Studies

Director: Richard Roberts
Frances and Charles Field Professor of History

Center for East Asian Studies

Director: Kären Wigen
Professor of History

Center for Latin American Studies

Director: Rodolfo Dirzo
Bing Professor in Environmental Science

The Europe Center

Director: Amir Eshel
Charles Michael Professor in Jewish History and Culture
Professor of Comparative Literature, and Senior Fellow, by courtesy, at FSI

Ford Dorsey Program in International Policy Studies

Director: Kathryn Stoner-Weiss
Senior fellow at FSI
Deputy Director at CDDRL

France-Stanford Center for Interdisciplinary Studies

Jean-Paul Gimon Director: Keith Baker
J.E.Wallace Sterling Professor of Humanities
Professor, by courtesy, of French and Italian

Robert H. N. Ho Center for Buddhist Studies at Stanford

Co-Director: Carl Bielefeldt
Evans-Wentz Professor of Religious Studies
&
Co-Director: Paul Harrison
George Edwin Burnell Professor, Religious Studies

Program in International Relations

Director: Kenneth Schultz
Professor of Political Science

Mediterranean Studies Forum

Director: Aron Rodrigue
Director, Stanford Humanities Center
Eva Chernov Lokey Professor of Jewish Studies
Anthony P. Meier Family Professor in the Humanities

Hamid & Christina Moghadam Program in Iranian Studies

Director: Abbas Milani
Consulting Professor in the Program of Iranian Studies

Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies

Director: Robert Crews
Associate Professor of History

Center for South Asia

Director: Thomas Blom Hansen
Reliance-Dhirubhai Ambani Professor in South Asian Studies
Professor in Anthropology

Taube Center for Jewish Studies

Co-Director: Charlotte Fonrobert
Associate Professor of Religious Studies
&
Co-Director: Vered Shemtov
Eva Chernov Lokey Senior Lecturer in Hebrew Language and Literature