

# Peace and Conflict Studies Program

Humanities and Western Civilization Program

The University of Kansas



Fall 2013

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## Witness for Peace at KU

In October, Peace and Conflict Studies helped sponsor Mexican Human Rights activist Francisco Cerezo's visit to KU. Students in PCS 120, "Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies," had the chance to hear Mr. Cerezo speak on the topic of "Drugs, Guns, and U.S. Policies in Mexico." Many thanks to KU's Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies and Witness for Peace for organizing Mr. Cerezo's visit.

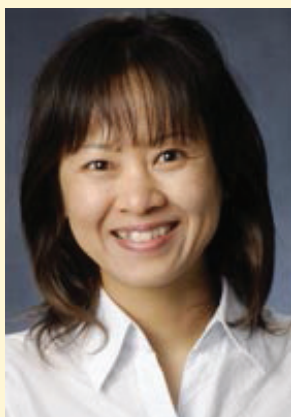
## New Peace and Conflict Studies major track

The new Humanities major track in Peace and Conflict Studies that we inaugurated in January 2013 is off to a good start! Currently four students are enrolled in the major: **Noah Compo**, **Alyssa Rudman**, **Alissa Miller**, and **Sydney Ragsdale**. The Peace and Conflict Studies track joins the other two major tracks offered by the Humanities and Western Civilization Program: Civilization in a Global Context and World Literatures.

## New steering committee members



Nimrod Rosler



Akiko Takeyama



Rachel Schwaller

Welcome to our new Peace and Conflict Studies steering committee members **Nimrod Rosler**, **Akiko Takeyama**, and **Rachel Schwaller**. Professor Rosler is a Schusterman Visiting Assistant Professor in KU's Jewish Studies Program. He researches the political and psychological dynamics of intractable conflict and peace processes, political leadership, and emotions in conflict. He is currently teaching "Israeli-Palestinian Conflict" and "Leadership in Conflicts." Professor Takeyama is Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at KU. Her research focuses on "new millennial capitalism" and human rights. She teaches courses such as "Anthropology of Gender: Female, Male, and Beyond," and "Neoliberalism and Globalization." Rachel Schwaller is a graduate student in American Studies at KU, and a current TA and future instructor of PCS 120, "Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies." Her research focuses on the use and interpretation of Biblical texts, especially Hebrew Bible texts, by radical Christian groups in the United States.

## New graduate certificate students

**Meaghan Kelly** and **Onyekachi Obi-Okoye** are new students in the Peace and Conflict Studies graduate certificate program. Meaghan is a graduate student in KU's English department. Her research interests include Trauma Studies, with a specific emphasis on U.S. war narratives from the Vietnam War to contemporary conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. Onye is pursuing a law degree at KU. He is interested in policy and practice issues in international relations, transnational trade and national security. He is also interested in human rights, humanitarian intervention, and ethno-religious conflict.

## What are they up to now?

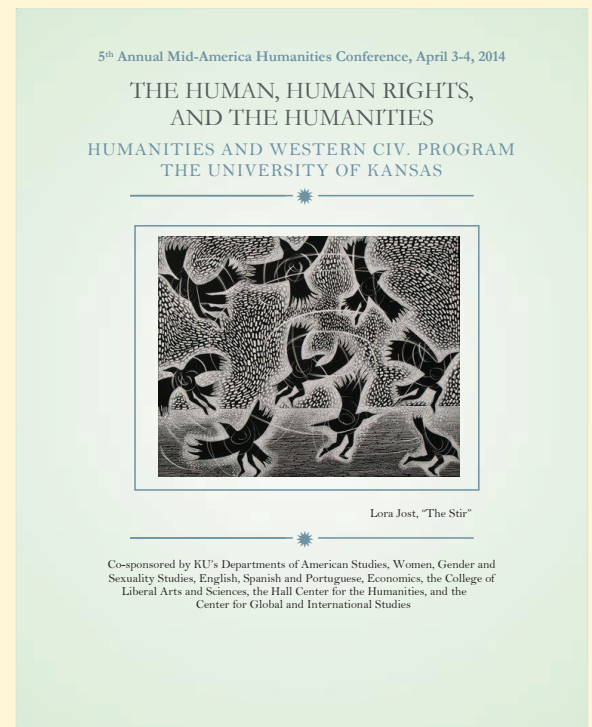
**Adam Nicholson**, who graduated from KU with a sociology major and a Peace and Conflict Studies minor in the spring of 2013, is pursuing graduate work in sociology at the University of Indiana. He is currently conducting research on barriers that veterans face when seeking treatment for issues, such as PTSD, that may lead to suicide. He is also investigating voter participation and turnout rates across various demographics to track the effects of voter ID laws.

## Mark your calendar

Next semester, the Humanities and Western Civilization and Peace and Conflict Studies Programs will be organizing a conference and hosting a speaker that will highlight the ways in which scholarship in the Humanities can offer insight into issues related to peace and conflict.

From April 3-4, 2014, the Mid-America Humanities Conference (MAHC) for undergraduate and graduate student research on the topic of "**Human Rights, the Humanities, and the Human**," will be held at the Kansas Union. The deadline for students to submit 250-word abstracts for the conference has been extended to December 30. Please email abstracts to Marike Janzen, [mjanzen@ku.edu](mailto:mjanzen@ku.edu).

On April 3, 2014, **Bruce Robbins**, Old Dominion Foundation Professor in the Humanities in the Department of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University, will offer the keynote address for the MAHC which will also serve as the 2014 Peace and Conflict Studies Lecture. Professor Robbins has published widely on cosmopolitanism. His most recent publication is *Perpetual War: Cosmopolitanism from the Viewpoint of Violence* (Duke University Press, 2012). His talk, titled "Blue Water: Inhumanity in Deep Time," will be held at 4:00 pm in the Alderson Room of the Kansas Union.



Offered by the Humanities & Western Civilization Program, Peace & Conflict Studies is a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approach to the study of human conflict. It examines the origins and nature of conflict within and among societies and the various ways in which humans address conflict. Through academic coursework and the possibility of practical experience, Peace & Conflict Studies offers students a concentrated program of study of one of the most central and urgent human issues: the causes and consequences of human conflict and the achievements and possibilities of building peaceful and equitable forms of social existence.

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