Atlanta Global Studies Center

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### Welcome to the Atlanta Global Studies Center Newsletter

We look forward to "seeing" you at our events and partnering with you through our various initiatives! Learn more about the exciting ways we are empowering the Atlanta region's global agenda on the <u>AGSC website!</u>





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Global Communities Internship Program New Spring 2022 Course!

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This course brings together students from six metro Atlanta institutions to provide them with a unique opportunity in cross-institutional community building, community partner engagement, and professional development, under the auspices of a global communities theme. The instructor team brings a wealth of expertise on the topic, and students will enjoy dynamic sessions led by Clarkston-based community partners and have the option of joining one or more of three Clarkston site visits throughout the term. Every student will have the opportunity to apply for an internship with the course's Clarkston-based partners, and five students will

be awarded summer internships through their engagement with the course.

Questions? Please contact Ruthie Yow - ryow6@gatech.edu.

This course is supported in part by the AGREC.

# Universities and Non-Profits Partner to Aid Resettlement of Afghan Refugee Women in Metro Atlanta

For months, you have heard about Afghan women trying to build new lives after escaping the cruelty of the Taliban. Now, you can help! At Georgia State University, the Intensive English Program (IEP) is sponsoring six female students from the Asian University for Women (AUW). They managed to escape from Afghanistan in August and since then, have been staying at Fort McCoy, a military base in Wisconsin. They should arrive in Atlanta in the next few weeks.

These women, ages 21-24, were at the start of their academic careers but had to flee their homeland after the Taliban took over. GSU will provide them with support for the first year while they improve

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The students are Snegora, Hobaba, Shamsia, Zarafshan, Hanifa, and Husnia. They are eager to learn and build futures for themselves, but nervous about this new stage of their lives. IEP teachers have been in touch with them via Whatsapp and have sent them short welcome videos. The students sent a video back to introduce themselves.

These young women have been through a horrific ordeal, but their spirits remain high. As we have learned from them, they had only

sweatshirts - no coats - and Wisconsin is getting very cold! Good people here in the Atlanta community have mailed them some useful items, as well as some fun items, to help them stay warm and positive. These women also are teaching English to Afghan children on the base, which is a great display of their resilience and determination.

Georgia State University is working with a group of universities including DePaul University, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, University of North Texas, Suffolk University, West Virginia University, and University of Delaware to place a total of 56 students from AUW. <u>READ MORE</u>

The Atlanta Global Studies Center at Georgia Tech is participating in similar conversations led by GT's Office of the Vice Provost for International Initiatives and contributing to efforts on campus to help with the resettlement of Afghan refugees, in particular women.

Find out how you can get involved by writing to afgameralliancega@gmail.com and checking out the Afghan American Alliance of Georgia at <u>https://www.facebook.com/AfgAmerAllianceGA</u>. Contact AGSC Associate Director Sebnem Ozkan at sebnem.ozkan@gatech.edu for more information on efforts at Georgia Tech.

### Let Us Advertise Your Event!

We would love to help you publicize your event on our AGSC Monthly Newsletter. If you have an upcoming event that would interest and benefit the AGSC community, please fill out the form below!

Partner Event Submission Form



# Upcoming Events

Mark you calendar, exciting events are happening at the Atlanta Global Studies Center in the next few weeks!

Georgia State University's Urban Studies Institute Speaker Series with Dr. John O'Loughlin



"Does climate change lead to conflict? The debates and field-based evidence from surveys in Kenya"

Thurs. December 2nd | 4pm EST



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This initiative for FACULTY & STAFF integrates community-based experiential learning activities with introductory readings and follow-up reflection to acquaint and educate participants about Asian culture, with the following objectives: (1) understanding and engaging with GSU's significant Asian and Asian American student populations; (2) recognizing the cultural and economic impact on the metro area and state from Asia and Asian American communities; (3) for faculty, integrating Asian content and issues into courses, if appropriate. Faculty and staff from Perimeter College and the Atlanta Campus are invited to participate.

For more info, contact Eric Kendrick • ekendrick@gsu.edu

Hindu Temple

**BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Atlanta** 

Saturday, December 4

10:30 am (EST)

Click here for more details.

### Authors Amplified - Lalit Dhingra's 'Driven: A Journey to Leadership'



December 9 | 5pm-6:15pm Register Here

Venue: Arnall Golden Gregory

### 171 17th Street NW, Suite 2100 Atlanta, GA 30363 United States

Global Atlanta's Authors Amplified series highlighting Georgia voices in global affairs continues with an in-person interview with Lalit Dhingra, founder and CEO at Ensignis Digital, on his recently released book DRIVEN: A Journey to Leadership.

Mr. Dhingra came to the U.S. in 1997 to lead NIIT Software's business for the Americas, retiring in 2017 after 20 years leading its expansion from Atlanta.

Tickets for the in-person reception are \$25 each and include a signed copy of the book, light snacks that will be boxed for guests, and beer and wine.

There will be a meet and greet at 5:00 p.m. in advance of the interview at 5:30 p.m. that will be broadcast live to Zoom, just in case you can't join us in person.

For public health and safety reasons, everyone attending in person must wear masks during the event when not eating.

Can't make it? The interview portion of this event will also be broadcast and viewable free of charge via Zoom at 5:30 pm. Please select your preferred option when registering.

You can read more about the book, author, and series here.

The Authors Amplified series is presented by the AGSC.

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Atlanta Global Studies Center

# **November 2021** Events & Initiatives Recap

The Atlanta Global Studies Center has been busy! Here are some of the exciting events from November..

aunched in 2020 and housed within the Atlanta Global Studies Center (AGSC), AGREC is currently comprised of six universities:

AGSC, a partnership of Georgia Tech and Georgia State University Emory University's Office of Global Strategy and Initiatives (GSI) Agnes Scott College's SUMMIT Center for Global Learning and Leadership Development Spelman College's Gordon Zeto Center for Global Education Kennesaw State University's Division of Global Affairs

AGREC seeks to build and strengthen collaborative networks of multi-institutional scholars and practitioners to support global research and education initiatives in the Greater Atlanta region.

AtlantaGlobalStudies.gatech.edu/AGREC



We kicked off the Atlanta Global Research & Education (AGREC) Project Presentations in October and since then featured five of the six projects supported during Academic Year 2020-21:

Water quality monitoring network for highly impacted urban headwaters in metro Atlanta

Growing Intercultural Competence for Peace and Mediation: The Case Study Method in the Foreign Language Classroom

Advancing a Community-Based Participatory Research Model for Metropolitan Regional Immigrant Integration and Receptivity through the One Region Initiative

Atlanta-area migrant communities and climate change: characterizing drivers of migration, exposure risks, and health vulnerabilities

The Global Communities Internship Program

Recording of these presentations will be available on AGSC YouTube channel soon!

Visit AGREC website for upcoming presentations and to learn more about this impactful initiative!



From left to right: Dr. Wolfgang Schlör, Dr. Ryan Carlin, Ambassador Nestor Forster, Jr., Dr. Anthony Lemiuex, Consul General of Brazil in Atlanta Carlos de Abreu e Silva, Dr. Leslie Marsh

The Ambassador of Brazil to the U.S. Nestor Forster Jr. visited Georgia State University on November 4th, at an event that highlighted Brazil's long standing relationship with the United States and

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The hybrid event was co-sponsored and organized by the Atlanta Global Studies Center, GSU's Office of International Initiatives, GSU's Center for Human Rights and Democracy and GSU's Center for Latin American and Latinx Studies.

Vanessa Ibarra, Director of the Atlanta Mayor's Office of International Affairs, opened the event citing that Atlanta is home to over 75,000 Brazilian nationals who contribute to the economic vitality and diversity of the city. Dr. Wolfgang Schlör, Associate Provost of International Initiatives at GSU, introduced the ambassador, who began by remarking on the warmth of Atlanta's southern hospitality.

The ambassador's visit coincided with the COP26 climate meetings in Glasgow, Scotland, and as such, the ambassador affirmed Brazil's commitment to environmental action. Ambassador Forster indicated that Brazil has more than doubled federal funds for environmental enforcement and forest fire prevention and firefighting. In addition, Brazil anticipates reaching its climate neutrality objective ten years earlier than expected, by 2050, rather than 2060.

In addition to combating climate change, Brazil is making strides to reduce global food insecurity through innovations in science-based sustainable agriculture, which the ambassador endorsed as "playing a great role in food security around the world using about 7% of its territory."

On the educational front, the ambassador recognized that the U.S. plays an important role in hosting 16,000 students from the Brazilian diaspora. He expressed that interest in studying STEM is increasingly on the rise and will fuel innovation in Artificial Intelligence, hydrologic monitoring in the Amazon, and biotech fields. He noted the potential to "increase Brazilian students in higher education studying at Georgia State and Georgia Tech," and was enthusiastic about the universities' commitment to teaching introductory Portuguese at their institutions.

Moderators Anthony Lemieux, Ryan Carlin, and Leslie Marsh asked tough questions about political tensions and criticisms of Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro and his administration. <u>READ MORE</u>

#### International Education Week

As part of this year's <u>International Education Week</u>, the Global Career Series featured an incredible lineup of global organizations, including the U.S. Department of State, USAID, the Peace Corps, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Metro Atlanta Chamber, the Japan America Society of Georgia, the Brazilian American Chamber of Commerce of the Southeast, the Japan Exchange Teaching (JET) Program, the Latin American Association, the Globe Academy, the International Rescue Committee, the Carter Center, and Care International. Representatives from these organizations shared information about career and internship opportunities and advice about how to find a rewarding global career and thrive in one. 438 students, faculty, and community members attended the series, organized by the Atlanta Global Studies Center, The Center for Urban Language Teaching and Research, the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies Career and Alumni Services, and the Global Studies Program. If you missed it, you can watch the videos here: <u>https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLoIPNOGu-uTozLu9lvnly-9ayfxKrjlHg</u>

Thank you to all the speakers, moderators, and audience members who participated and made this the most engaging Global Career series yet!

**Discover Asia** attracted 362 students, staff, and faculty to five Perimeter College campuses to view visual and interactive exhibits on China, Vietnam, Japan, Korea, and India. On the iCollege platform, 382 students browsed virtual exhibits on various Asian cultures and learned about the diversity of Asian communities here in Atlanta. Students reflected on their discoveries by writing and responding to posts on discussion boards.



In "**Bringing the World to Atlanta's K12 classrooms**," <u>Dr. Yali Zhao</u>, Associate Professor of Social Studies and Multicultural Education at Georgia State University, and <u>Dr. Lou Tolosa-Casadont</u>, Clinical Associate Professor and World Language Program Coordinator at the University of Georgia, spoke to future and current K12 teachers and demonstrated how to connect students to peers in another country and build global competence, communication skills, digital literacy, and teamwork through

Across all IEW events, over 2,750 attendees joined in celebrating Georgia State's commitment to global engagement and international education. This year boasted over 25 signature events hosted with partners across Atlanta and Perimeter campuses, representing several colleges and dozens of units and departments.

### **ACTFL Networking Event for Arabic Teachers**



The newly formed <u>Arabic Teachers Council of the</u> <u>South</u> (ATCS) hosted its first in-person gathering at Alif Institute on Sunday, November 21st. The ACTFL Networking event, funded by a grant from Qatar Foundation International (QFI), brought instructors of Arabic together to view live-streamed ACTFL sessions, discuss takeaways from the ACTFL Convention, and exchange ideas with other teachers. Participants expressed joy and gratitude for the opportunity to gather, eat delicious food from the Arabic world, and be a part of a supportive community of Arabic teachers.

The Arabic Teachers Council of the South also sponsored the registration of 12 member teachers to attend the virtual ACTFL Convention.

If you are interested in joining the ATCS, please

complete <u>this short form</u>. Membership is open to educators in K12, community, and college/university environments, as well as to future teachers, community members, program administrators, and members representing civic and private organizations interested in supporting the teaching and learning of Arabic language and culture in the southern region of the United States.



# AGSC Spotlights

Check out some of the incredible students, faculty, and partners affiliated with the Atlanta Global Studies Center

### Georgia Tech FLAS Fellow Spotlight:

### Eboni Goar

is pursuing her MS in Global Media and Cultures at Georgia Tech with a concentration in Japanese. She received her BA from UGA in Asian Languages and Literature with a concentration in Japanese.

## Why is studying a language important to you? Why do you like studying Japanese?

Studying a language is important to me because it has opened doors for me to meet people that I might have otherwise never met. (Some of my Japanese friends can't speak English but we are friends because of my Japanese ability.) I like studying Japanese because it's cool to impress people that I speak Japanese; I've noticed that there are few African-Americans that speak the language well.

#### What are your career plans?

My career plans are to either work at an American embassy in Japan or to become a university professor teaching linguistics.

### What kind of impact has the FLAS fellowship had on you?

The FLAS fellowship has honestly had a financial impact on me; without this fellowship, my graduate school studies would not have even been remotely possible.

## In addition to your FLAS fellowship, have you engaged in other programs offered through the Atlanta Global Studies Center?

At this point I have not engaged in any programs that the AGSC offers but plan to do so in the spring.

### What advice would you like to give to students interested in applying for a FLAS Fellowship?

My advice to students interested in applying to FLAS is: if you have had any outside experience using your target language, be it teaching/tutoring, foreign language speech contests, internship centered around it, etc. be sure to mention that in your statement of purpose! I think this will help you to have a more competitive application and show the committee that you're serious about studying your foreign language.



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### Georgia State University FLAS Fellow Spotlight:

### Ebi Poweigha

is a FLAS Fellow pursuing a BA in Applied Linguistics and double minoring in Japanese and Chinese at Georgia State University.

### Why is studying a language important to you?

Studying a language is more than merely important to me - it's something I've been doing literally since birth. Between growing up in a bilingual home and living in a community where many people spoke a different language at home than they did at school, language has always had a dominant presence in my life.

### Why do you like studying Chinese and Japanese?

I think what I find most fascinating about studying Japanese is the



writing system. Though it often gets a bad rap, I think the way that Japanese people adapted Chinese characters into not one, not two, but three writing systems that work together seamlessly is incredibly ingenious. It also reflects iitoko-dori, which is the Japanese method of taking the best qualities from foreign sources and recombining them into something uniquely suited for Japanese people and culture.

#### What are your career plans?

I am deeply interested in researching heritage language learners with regards to the intersection between their cultural identity and their motivation to learn their heritage language. This is a global topic, but in the context of Japan it is particularly interesting given the new immigration patterns happening there. On the acquisition side of things, I am interested in developing learning materials that can be adapted for use by many different (especially endangered) heritage languages. I believe these interests will take me through grad school to the doctoral level (if I may dream a moment!) before working in language education in some capacity.

### What kind of impact has the FLAS fellowship had on you?

I am a single parent and a non-traditional student (ie, older than both my classmates and my instructors!) and have found very few opportunities for my demographic that support language studies. Though there are numerous study abroad programs, there is often no accommodation for students traveling with dependents - either with regards to program structure or housing, etc. Because FLAS allows domestic study, I have been able to deepen and further my studies of Japanese from something I did in my spare time to something that will be the basis of future studies and professional opportunities. While I eventually hope to go abroad with my child. It is priceless to be able to be taken seriously as a language student even though I am based full-time in the US.

## In addition to your FLAS fellowship, have you engaged in other programs offered through the Atlanta Global Studies Center?

I am a huge International Education Week fangirl! This year was my second year, and once again I made sure to attend or catch the recording of every single session. It is so inspiring to learn about the many different paths that language study can take you down, and how these paths interact to affect national and global change.

What advice would you like to give to students interested in applying for a FLAS Fellowship? Apply! Even though many award winners have intimidating accomplishments and resumes, don't rule yourself out.

Learn more about the Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships (FLAS) here.

### Georgia State University

### Faculty Spotlight:

# Leslie L. Marsh

Meet AGSC affiliated faculty Leslie L. Marsh, a Professor of Spanish and Chair of the Department of World Languages and Cultures at Georgia State University, where she also serves as the Director of the Center for Latin American and Latinx Studies. Her most recent book is <u>Branding Brazil:</u> <u>Transforming Citizenship on Screen (Rutgers University</u> <u>Press, 2021)</u> in which she examines a panorama of contemporary cultural productions including film, television, photography, and alternative media to explore the transformation of citizenship in Brazil from 2003 to 2014.

We talked with Dr. Marsh about language study and the significance of Latin America.



The Latinx population is one of the fastest growing populations in Georgia. In what unique ways do Latinx students contribute linguistically and culturally to the larger GSU community and, more specifically, to the Department of World Languages and Cultures?

Yes, that's right. Georgia's Latinx population has increased significantly in recent years, and a growing percentage of Georgia's K-12 and college students identify as Latinx, Latino, or Hispanic. GSU is approaching the official benchmark of being considered an Emerging Hispanic-Serving Institution. GSU's Latinx students are an incredibly diverse group, representing various identities and backgrounds, who contribute a wealth of experiences, cultures, and language skills to our academic communities.

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Besides being home to a significant population of people of Latin American descent, there are numerous Latin American companies headquartered in metro Atlanta. More generally, Latin America is a major trading partner with the United States for imports and exports. In the area of technology and innovation, Atlanta has been increasing its ties with Latin America in recent years. Local Latinx communities are driving business and innovation in our state and are vital to Georgia's economic growth. And of course, we cannot talk about Latin America without recognizing the profound cultural influence it has had on American society. Latin America is an important region because our cultures and societies are so interwoven, and we face many of the same challenges and opportunities. We should work together to research and solve problems that affect the U.S. and Latin America and to support sustainable and equitable economic development in the Western Hemisphere.

#### Why do you believe students should study foreign languages?

Besides being an incredibly rewarding achievement and a great way to meet people and learn about the world, learning another language has some very practical benefits. Experts say learning another language improves brain power, problem solving skills, and memory. Then there is the fact that Atlanta is a global center of international commerce and culture. Being able to communicate in another language as well as possessing cultural knowledge opens up many professional opportunities in the region.

# The Atlanta Global Studies Center is a proud supporter of the department of World Languages and Cultures at Georgia State University. Could you say a few words about how AGSC's partnership has made a difference?

The Atlanta Global Studies Center (AGSC) has played a vital role in supporting the study of Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Arabic, and Portuguese. The AGSC has been able to provide funding to allow us to offer courses in these languages as well as help students prepare for careers that call for proficiency in another language and intercultural competence. Another great benefit to our students has been the FLAS (Foreign Language and Area Studies) scholarships that AGSC offers to study abroad or to study language in combination with global studies.



### A Few Cubic Meters of Love Screening and Panel Urban Media Fest Fall 2021



#### Thurs. December 2nd | 2pm EST

Somewhere in the outskirts of Tehran a small factory illegally employs Afghan asylum seekers, who live with their families in old containers or modest shacks in nearby shantytowns. Saber, a young Iranian worker, secretly meets Marona, daughter of Abdolsalam, an Afghan worker. A love story unfolds the conclusion of which no one can foretell.

Meet the Panelists: Jamshid Mahmoodi - Writer and Director; <u>Ayda</u> <u>Melika</u> - Professor; <u>Navid Mahmoudi</u> - Producer.

RSVP Here I Zoom Link I Watch the Movie

The Center for Studies on Africa and its Diaspora, in collaboration with the Obama Institute for Transnational Studies at Johannes Gütenberg University in Mainz, Germany, hosts

Intersecting Medicine and the Humanities: A Roundtable Discussion

Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. (EST)

https://bit.ly/CSADMedHum

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The rise of Medical Humanities as an interdisciplinary framework is growing within research, pedagogical and care delivery communities. Distinguished from the traditional and distinct medical and humanities fields of study, Medical Humanities offers consideration of moral implications, stakeholder experiences and culture, and a gateway to consider factors of social justice in diagnosis and treatment in healthcare. It is an approach to treatment and delivery that acknowledges the central place of culture and society for more impactful healthcare outcomes.

In the first webinar of this virtual series, panelists will discuss the development of Medical Humanities and address the field's potential to reshape current healthcare practices for more effective outcomes in economically challenged areas and communities of color. Panelists include Mita Banerjee, Ph.D., Obama Institute for Transnational American Studies, Johannes Gütenberg University, Mainz, Ralph H. Didlake, MD, University of Mississippi Medical Ctr & Ctr for Bioethics and Medical Humanities, Peggy Dilworth-Anderson, Ph.D., The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Bisan A. Salhi, MD, Ph.D., Emory University, Department of Emergency Medicine and Department of Anthropology. This series is co-sponsored by the Obama Institute for Transnational American Studies, Johannes Gütenberg University, Mainz, the Auburn Avenue Research Library, and Atlanta Global Studies Center. Please register at <u>https://bit.ly/CSADMedHum</u>.

If you'd like to subscribe to the AGSC Newsletter or give us feedback about our monthly publication, please take a moment to take this quick survey.

Take the Survey

Atlanta Global Studies Center (AGSC), a partnership of Georgia Institute of Technology and Georgia State University, is funded in part by a US Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center grant.

Know someone who would be interested in the AGSC newsletter and events? Forward this issue below!

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