Meriem Aissa

My name is Meriem Aissa and I was born in Algiers, Algeria. My family immigrated to the United States when I was eleven years old. We chose Columbus, Ohio as our new home. We left Algeria as a result of a civil war which claimed thousands of lives. The conflict changed the face of Algeria. The ensuing change in state-society relations and the role of conflict in Algerian politics have driven my research interests. Specifically, I am interested in conducting research on civil war, democratization, and civil/military relations. I graduated from Ohio State with a BA in Political Science and a BA in International Studies.

Alex Antony

Alex graduated from the University of Dayton in 2012 with a dual degree in German and International Studies concentrating in Peace and Global Security. During that same year he received his commission as an intelligence officer in the US Army Reserves and will be working to develop products for the National Ground Intelligence Center. Alex will be a first year Ph.D student at IU in Fall 2013, and plans to specialize in both International Relations and Political Philosophy. Specifically, his present research interests include the critical theory of the Frankfurt School, normative IR theory, issues of global governance, and the effects of globalization in modern liberal democracies.
Soyoun Choi

I was born in South Korea and grew up in Oxford, England. I came back to South Korea during my high school years and received my BA from Ewha Womans University in 2011 and MA from Seoul National University in 2013. I like to travel and have traveled extensively around Europe, Asia, and Turkey. My MA coursework are related by the theme of interstate conflict. Specifically, I have been exploring how interstate conflicts are influence by (1) the structure and culture of the regional system within which they interact, and (2) the history of dyadic interactions. Varied experience, especially a yearly volunteer work in Laos during my high school years, spurred my academic curiosity in international security. In Laos, I was shocked by meeting a scared little girl partially blinded by an antipersonnel bomblet that exploded belatedly, killing her brother. In the hope of reducing the occurrences of war and the severity of its consequences, I became interested in finding out the causes of war and militarized conflict.

David Endicott

David is a first year Ph.D. student focusing on comparative politics and international relations. He holds a M.A. in Political Science from the University of Akron and a B.A.in Economics and Political Science from the University of Memphis. David has also studied economics at Cairo University, studied Arabic in Morocco, and was a research assistant at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, D.C. David’s research is a culmination of those experiences and currently includes questions on social movements, extremist groups, political parties, and political or economic development. His hobbies include walking, astronomy, and St. Louis Cardinals baseball.
Zachary Goldsmith

Zach's main interests lie in political and social theory. Specifically, he is interested in left-wing political theory and intellectual history from Marx onward. Zach is interested in the various theoretical debates that emerged from the permutations of Marxism, including Critical Theory and Cosmopolitanism, as well as the condition of man in modern mass societies. Zach graduated from the University of Michigan (political science; 2011) with high distinction and was thereafter a Fulbright Fellow in the Republic of Armenia (2011-2012).

Brandon Miliate

Brandon Joseph Miliate (B.A., University of Southern California; M.A. The University of British Columbia) is interested in issues of nationalism and international cooperation; specifically, how these topics relate to “small states” and indigenous populations. He has spent the last 5 years studying Mongolian foreign policy, domestic politics, and language. Brandon wrote his B.A. Honors Thesis on Indian-Mongolian relations and his M.A. thesis on Mongolia’s democratization and resulting soft power resources. At IU, he looks forward to deepening his current interests, while expanding his geographical reach to include Central and Southeast Asia. Brandon also has a particular (and currently underdeveloped) interest in applying IR and Comparative perspectives to the analysis of indigenous peoples’ politics and movements for independence/autonomy, as a way of understanding state creation and national identity.
Tim Model

Tim Model studies comparative politics and international relations. He received dual bachelor’s degrees in Political Science and in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies from Miami University in 2012. He speaks Russian and has also taken undergraduate and graduate courses at the Saint Petersburg State Polytechnic in Russia and at Boston College, respectively. Tim’s primary research interest is the development of authoritarian and semi-authoritarian regimes, namely those in former Soviet states. Tim has also presented research at the annual Havighurst Colloquium and has served as an International Business Intern at the Cleveland Clinic. In his free time, Tim enjoys photography and is an avid tennis player.

David Ruigh

David Ruigh is a first-year graduate student in the Department. His research interests concern how social and cultural identities manifest themselves politically in a context of increasing economic and political integration, particularly in Western and Southern Europe. He has a BA in History and a BS in Journalism from the University of Kansas, and an MA in International Affairs from Marquette University in Milwaukee.
Sofía Solano

I have had the privilege of growing up to love and study a continent greatly diverse. At age 17, uncertain of who I was or what I wanted, I took the best -rash- decision I have ever taken, and decided to study History and Art History despite some raised eyebrows, and countless questions of grownups and friends, who asked among other things: "can a historian make a living nowadays?". Almost 10 years later, I entered a Masters Program on Political Science and have been doing research mainly on topics like: political participation in impoverished Costa Rican communities, and the role of politics and art in contemporary Latin America.

Katelyn Stauffer

Katelyn Stauffer is a graduate of Gettysburg College, where she received her Bachelor's degree in History and Political Science. From Ephrata Pennsylvania, Katelyn's primary research interests are female representation in state legislatures, and the role of political parties in this representation.
Maria Waqar

I have done my BSc. from Lahore University of Management Sciences in Lahore (my native city) and my MA in political science from National University of Singapore.

Most of my work experience is in journalism -- I have edited, researched and written for several sections of a newspaper. I also have experience in teaching undergraduate students -- I have taught journalism in Karachi and political science courses in Singapore.

My research interests broadly focus on politics of authoritarian and democratizing regimes. I am specifically interested in research puzzles relating to the durability of authoritarian regimes, endurance of mass protests and politics of development spending in nascent democracies.

Thomas Wonder

Tom comes to Bloomington from the Washington D.C. area, where he worked in the government contracting sector. Prior to that, he taught English for two years in Moscow, Russia. He received a B.A. in Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia, with a minor in Russian and East European Studies. In his free time, Tom enjoys cycling, running, hiking, travelling, and watching sports, particularly soccer. His major research interests involve post-Soviet politics as well as ethnicity, nationalism, and religion.