

November | 2008

Newsletter

Center for Global Politics

Chapters

pages

- 1 **Editorial**
- 2 **Center for Global Politics Mission Statement**
- 3 **Online Master's Programs**
- 6 **German Studies Russia**
- 7 **Summer Schools**
- 12 **Alumni Workshop in Nida**
- 13 **New Graduate School of Global Politics**

November | 2008

Newsletter

Editorial

Dear Newsletter Reader,

The Center for Global Politics (CGP) welcomes the opportunity to introduce itself to you with the first edition of this newsletter. The newsletter provides an overview on the mission, structure and the current educational programs of the CGP. You can also read about our extracurricular projects which took place in summer 2008.

Find out more about our two Online Master's Programs *Eastern European Studies Online* (EES Online) and *International Relations Online* (IR Online). Our one-year study program *German Studies Russia* (GSR) is taught at *Moscow State Institute for International Relations* (MGIMO). And the recent summer programs included *Summer School China*, *Summer School Syria* and the *Alumni Workshop* in Nida, Lithuania.

Drawing on its extensive and outstanding experience in the international educational market, the Center for Global Politics now also offers custom-made professional training and e-learning solutions as well as summer school programs. Additionally, just a few months ago the Center for Global Politics launched the *New Graduate School of Global Politics*, which is now open for its first round of applications.

Welcome from your Center for Global Politics Team!



Klaus Segbers is professor for political science at the Freie Universität Berlin and the director of the Center for Global Politics.

(photo: private)

Center for Global Politics Mission Statement

by Klaus Segbers

The Center for Global Politics offers a European intellectual response to challenges and opportunities caused by globalization.

The complex processes of globalization have substantial effects on every citizen. The same applies to impacts on educational systems. Teaching requirements are changing significantly and performances vary widely. This makes it increasingly difficult for a young professional to identify those programs best suited for his or her current and future needs.

The manly unregulated global environment and its effects on educational systems and labor markets are immediate. Therefore, traditional organizations offering degrees and training courses are under pressure to adapt. New agencies are multiplying; not all of them being solid and reliable.

The CGP makes a difference: the Center and its programs are part of the Freie Universität Berlin (FUB), a first-rate German University of Excellence. The CGP master programs East European Studies Online and International Relations Online address young professionals and have a global outreach, due to their blended learning formats. The summer schools in key regions like China, Syria and Turkey cover current questions of global politics and bring excellent students together. The Center offers up-to-date teaching tools and e-learning technologies including audio and video streams. The programs are embedded in flexible networks sustainable beyond graduation.

There are seven fields where the CGP programs make a difference.

1. The world is becoming an ever more complex place. Opportunities, but also uncertainties multiply. The CGP programs provide **context and orientation**, without false promises and a misleading mission.
2. There are new cycles of training and work, often emerging simultaneously. **Learning is a life long process**. The CGP offers fine-tuned solutions in three program lines: blended learning master and certificate programs, summer schools, and customized professional training.
3. **Knowledge related skills** remain relevant. At the same time, **soft skills** are in demand today. Training for both skill-sets is built into the CGP programs. Progressive and cutting-edge technologies enhance social interaction.
4. **Post-modern networks** are flexible, fluid, and shifting. Each geographical and functional shift of individual members puts those old contacts at risk. The CGP sees as one of its main responsibilities the establishment and maintenance of flexible, resilient student and alumni networks.
5. Labor markets are changing and the supply and demand of human capital do not synchronize easily. The CGP programs help professionals to become more competitive by offering our **network of public, social, and corporate partners**.
6. In the 21st century, we are lacking credible, big, mobilizing narratives. Still, some orientations are useful. The CGP does not advocate political, religious or cultural visions. But we do have a few basic **value orientations** that are reflected in our programs: institutions matter and can work, as the EU example demonstrates. And, secularism is a basic principle of organizing post-modern societies. These principles are reflected in our programs, because they are part of the **European higher education system**.
7. The CGP programs are competitive and complementary to undergraduate and other post-graduate programs. We offer a **competitive selection procedure, excellent degrees, guaranteed ECTS modularity, professional evaluation, and dedicated tutoring**.

Freie Universität Berlin provides degree and non-degree certificates for the CGP students. FUB is one of the leading and excellent universities in Germany, in Europe, and beyond. The FUB's reputation is that of an international network university. The CGP programs contribute to FUB's reputation whilst maintaining their distinct identity.

Prof. Klaus Segbers, Director of the Center for Global Politics
November 2008



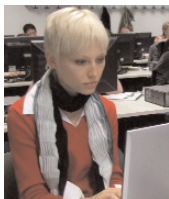
EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES ONLINE



Wendy Stollberg is project coordinator for the M.A. Program EES Online.
(photo: private)



EES Online's students from the sixth run.



Introduction to the learning management system Blackboard.



At the graduation of the third run.
(photos: EES Online Team)

Online Master's Programs

M.A. Program East European Studies Online - EES Online

by Wendy Stollberg

The longest standing program at the Center for Global Politics is the Master's program East European Studies Online - or as it is usually abbreviated - EES Online. In 2003, the program was developed and implemented as a response to the growing demand for East European area experts over the last few decades. EES Online is mainly directed at young professionals who want to better understand the interrelations and latest developments in the region while at the same time fostering their career perspectives. The program qualifies its graduates to work for NGO's and international organizations as well as for governmental agencies or private enterprises and for further academic studies and research. As most parts of EES Online's courses are web-based, this advanced studies program is the perfect choice for professionals who want to study alongside their job.

EES Online is an interdisciplinary program. The program's portfolio comprises the following modules: Introduction & Tools, Politics, Society, Economics, Law, Humanities, History, Conflict Management, Intercultural Communication, Migration, European Integration, Globalization, and Project Management. The latter incorporates tutorial support during an internship or project work with East European relevance. Through the specifically tailored modules, students acquire the skills that are necessary for approaching different kinds of regional topics.

The two-year program comprises 120 credits according to ECTS standard. Students become familiarized with innovative information technology since they study mostly online. Students find all of the information and material they need on the internet learning management platform 'Blackboard'. Throughout the duration of the modules, students are supervised, tutored and graded by their instructors at regular intervals. Twice a year, students and instructors come to Berlin to study together. These one-week in-house classes are accompanied by guest lectures held by international experts, excursions to cultural, political or historical institutions in Berlin and by social events. Through the in-house classes participants not only get to know Germany's capital but also one another. After completing the modules, their internship or project and their Master's thesis, students are awarded the title Master of Arts.

The program's tutors and module authors are internationally trained experts with multinational professional backgrounds. EES Online's student body is made up of men and women hailing from all over the world who bring an enriching variety of personal experiences and expectations to the program. Four runs of students have already completed EES Online. The latest run, which is already the sixth, started in October 2008. After graduating from FU Berlin, EES Online's graduates become part of the alumni network which offers bi-monthly internal newsletters and access to an alumni portal on the website featuring, amongst other things, exclusive alumni services.

EES Online was accredited in 2005. One year later, the Donors' Association for the Promotion of Sciences and Humanities in Germany and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) named East European Studies Online one of Germany's Top Ten International Master's Degree Courses. EES Online was also awarded the Freie Universität Berlin 2007 e-learning prize for outstanding blended-learning initiatives.

You can apply for EES-Online until April 30, 2009.

Contact Details:

Project Director: Prof. Klaus Segbers (Chair of Political Science, Freie Universität Berlin)

Project Coordinator: Wendy Stollberg

Student Advisor: Sabine Pag

Email: ees@fu-berlin.de

Center for Global Politics, Garystraße 55, 14195 Berlin, Germany

Tel: 0049/ 30 838 54970

Fax: 0049/ 30 838 53616

Web: www.ees-online.org



On leave from her position as the project coordinator of International Relations Online **Kristina Klinkforth** is currently visiting research fellow at the George Washington University, School of Media and Public Affairs.
(photo: private)



Agnes Bodens is the new project coordinator for IR Online. She started in September 2008.
(photo: private)



The IR Online students during the in-house class in Berlin, October 2008.
(photo: IR Online Team)

M.A. International Relations Online - IR Online

by Kristina Klinkforth

Freie Universität Berlin is one of Germany's leading research universities and has just been awarded the status of University of Excellence through a program funded by Germany's federal government to strengthen academia in international competition. In 2006, the Center for Global Politics at FU Berlin chaired by Prof. Klaus Segbers developed a blended learning program focusing on international relations and current issues in global politics. This Master of Arts program is particularly designed for international young professionals wishing to qualify for higher positions in government agencies, in internationally operating private enterprises, in NGOs and in international organizations. IR Online is a two-year M.A. program taught in English comprising 120 credit points according to ECTS standards. Online study is supported by four weeks of in-house teaching throughout the two year study cycle.

Our students are full-time working professionals who are unable to spend one or two years in residential university programs, but still seek further academic qualifications to access new career paths or gain promotion within their respective field of work. Blended learning programs such as IR Online are an ideal answer to this demand: students are able to stay on the job while enhancing their career perspectives. In addition, getting in touch with students from other regions of the world and opening channels of cooperation and dialogue between them are the central objectives of IR Online. The mission is clear: leading discussions about common challenges in world affairs.

IR Online conveys scientific and practical competencies and the ability to adapt to a variety of professional challenges, thus reflecting the need for new analytical skills to understand today's globalized world. Our modules cover a broad range of topics such as International Law, International Political Economy, Migration or Culture and IR, providing for a truly interdisciplinary and thrilling learning experience. The curriculum is completed by intensive practical training imparting soft skills in the fields of intercultural communication, conflict management and negotiation. To broaden students' perspectives in new vocational fields, a two-month internship or applied study project forms an additional part of the program.

IR Online proves that e-education can be much more than just classical distance learning via the internet. The project director Prof. Klaus Segbers explains: "Blended learning brings together online delivery and face-to-face instruction. This makes it the ideal combination of full flexibility for the students' time management and an enriching intellectual exchange through personal meetings." Students use state-of-the-art IT methods and benefit from innovative elements such as a virtual library and interactive learning tools. Furthermore, during all stages of the program, students have access to highly personalized tutoring capacities. In-house classes provide a unique opportunity to build a network of young dedicated IR professionals and make it possible to get in touch with decision-makers from different IR related fields through round-table discussions and informal meetings.

You can apply for IR-Online until April 30, 2009.

Contact Details:

Project Director: Prof. Klaus Segbers (Chair of Political Science, Freie Universität Berlin)
Project Coordinator: Agnes Bodens
Student Advisor: Nina Reinecke
Email: IRonline@zedat.fu-berlin.de

Center for Global Politics, Garystraße 55, 14195 Berlin, Germany
Tel: 0049/ 30 838 55476
Fax: 0049/ 030 838 53616
Web: www.ir-online.org

November | 2008

Newsletter

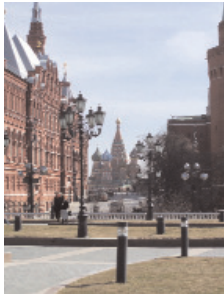
E-Learning Solutions

After several years of experience and cutting-edge expertise, the Center for Global Politics is now offering customized e-learning solutions and consulting services. See our new flyer for more details.





Julia Gerlach is program coordinator of German Studies Russia and at the same time research fellow and lecturer at the Center for Global Politics.
(photo: private)



The capital of Russia - German Studies Russia is taught at the *Moscow State Institute for International Relations*.



Klaus Segbers, the director of the Center for Global Politics, lecturing at MGIMO.
(photos: Julia Gerlach)

German Studies Russia - International Career Perspectives with Strong Ties to Germany

by Julia Gerlach

Germany is one of the leading countries in many different economic and social areas as well as being an important actor in global politics. The *Center for Global Politics* offers students the chance to get closer to Germany with the program *German Studies Russia* (GSR). One can broaden international career perspectives and strengthen vocational and personal links with Germany at the same time. The course is taught in German and held at *Moscow State Institute for International Relations (MGIMO)*, which is our main partner university in Russia. MGIMO has an acclaimed academic reputation and is internationally oriented. Outstanding bachelor-students from all MGIMO-faculties with a good command of German are invited to apply for the program.

GSR is a one-year supplementary study program which means that participants continue studying their regular subjects and additionally attend their GSR-classes in the afternoon. This is, of course, an intense workload but our students can be certain to improve their knowledge and skills in order to achieve their personal goal of an international career.

The program is interdisciplinary and integrates four modules with a focus on Germany: Media, economics, law and predominantly politics. All of our students must have basic knowledge in at least one of these modules, depending on their bachelor course. It is a great opportunity and also a challenge for the students to get their head round the other disciplines.

Throughout the program different methods of teaching and learning are chosen. All courses are taught in-house. We have seminars, held by German and Russian professors and tutorials supporting the seminars held by German university graduates. The main content of all classes are socio-scientific methods and theories, which supports students in addressing and reading political and social contexts and in deepening their understanding of complex processes. Interaction and communication characterize the atmosphere in the classes. Presentations, discussions, group work and simulation games encourage students to reflect on the contents of the classes in depth. Modern (online) learning technology is also part of the expertise of the CGP and integrated in the course. Lecturers and students use the intranet platform 'Blackboard'.

Internships at German organizations or companies - depending on the students' personal choice - are also part of GSR. After their one-year study course, students proceed with a six week internship. This international work experience also provides an excellent networking opportunity.

Anyone who wishes to find out more about Germany can also take the chance to stay at *Freie Universität Berlin* for one semester: We award attractive grants to our outstanding GSR-graduates.

What do our graduates receive when completing the course? A study certificate (40 ECTS) from the *Freie Universität Berlin* and much more than that: International working experience and a profound improvement of their language skills, regional expertise, method- and theory competence, communication skills etc. Overall, this means a big step forward for their international career perspectives, with strong ties to Germany.

If you want to find out more about GSR, visit german-studies-russia.org or write directly to

Contact Details:

Project Director: Prof. Klaus Segbers (Chair of Political Science, Freie Universität Berlin)

Project Coordinator: Julia Gerlach

Email: julia.gerlach@fu-berlin.de

Center for Global Politics, Garystraße 55, 14195 Berlin, Germany

Tel: 0049/ 30 838 52102

Fax: 0049/ 30 838 53616

Web: www.german-studies-russia.org



GLOBAL POLITICS SUMMER SCHOOL CHINA



The Summer School China takes place in Shanghai over a period of two weeks.
(photo: Ole Jantschek)



Meeting in Beijing - the regional alumni groups are very active.
(photo: CGP)

Summer Schools

Summer School China

by Ole Jantschek

The Global Politics Summer School China (GPSSC) is a joint project of the Center for Global Politics (CGP) at Freie Universität Berlin and the School of International Relations and Public Affairs (SIRPA) at Fudan University in Shanghai. The core objective of the GPSSC is to present and discuss new approaches in global politics, paying special attention to the role of institutions in international relations. This focus allows the summer school program to go above and beyond the traditional methods and perspectives usually encompassed in an international relations curriculum. In 2009, the guiding theme of the program will be *International Responsibility and Global Governance*.

State-of-the-art teaching and learning methods, ranging from interactive working groups to simulation games, are employed by the summer school to provide a showcase of German curricula. In particular, students are offered the opportunity to gain practical competence in the field of Corporate Social Responsibility by benefiting from close ties with our business partners in the project module. Additionally, the summer school closely collaborates with the German Industry and Commerce (GIC) and the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation in Shanghai to offer its students roundtable discussions with experts.

Alongside the academic program, excursions to Shanghai and surrounding cities as well as other extracurricular activities such as a visit to the Kunshan Beer Festival or a boat trip on Huangpu River make the summer school program a time to enjoy and to make new friends.

The program is financed primarily by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Fudan University Graduate School and also profits from the sponsorship of several private sector companies, including Bosch, Siemens and Rittal.

A strong focus on alumni activities contributes to the establishment of a close and sustained alumni community with more than 150 members that continues to be lively and active for years after graduating from the summer school. Local alumni groups regularly meet in Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou. Building on many years of cooperation, the summer school team also helps alumni to find their place as interns or employees in German companies in China, or as Ph.D. candidates and researchers in German and European academia. All Alumni are invited to exchange their experiences and ideas in a regular newsletter. By creating such a strong alumni network, the summer school contributes both to enhancing Chinese-German relations and to establishing close ties between professionals in the two countries.

Contact Details:

Project Director: Prof. Klaus Segbers (Chair of Political Science, Freie Universität Berlin)
Project Coordinator: Ole Jantschek
Student Advisor: Bettina Rollow
Email: ole.jantschek@fu-berlin.de

Center for Global Politics, Garystraße 55,
14195 Berlin, Germany
Tel: 0049/ 30 838 56021
Fax: 0049/ 30 838 53616
Web: www.summer-schools.org

In Shanghai - Global Politics Summer School China 2008

by Ole Jantschek

The fifth run of Global Politics Summer School China recently took place in Shanghai, running from August 16-30, 2008. To this year's schedule we added new courses and events while at the same time preserving the successful structure of previous years.

Study program

In the study program, *China and Europe - Joint Solutions or Competition*, the latter was the guiding theme that touched on multiple facets of a very complex relationship. The Summer School's mission involves presenting and discussing new perspectives in global politics while exploring topics and viewpoints that go beyond the traditional government-to-government interactions. Therefore, the program was centered on five theory-based seminars and two practical modules. In the academic part, there were classes on Global Politics (Prof. Klaus Segbers), Multi-Level Governance (Prof. Chen Zhimin), European Union (Dr. Ulrich Brückner) and Current Conflicts in Asia (Prof. Shen Dingli). Additionally, for the first time, there was a special thematic focus on *Environmental Policy*.

Focus on Environmental Policy

Choosing this topic reflects our belief that environmental issues are at the forefront of global challenges and that these can only be resolved through international cooperation. This part of the program familiarized students with key concepts, actors, and instruments in environmental policy. Special attention was also given to a comparative perspective, addressing the policy approaches of China and Europe and drawing conclusions for the prospects of future cooperation on selected issues. Hence, we were particularly happy to welcome two new lecturers on board, both of whom are experts in the field: Prof. Miranda Schreurs, director of the Environmental Policy Research Centre at Freie Universität Berlin, and Prof. Bo Yan of the School of International Relations and Public Affairs (SIRPA) at Fudan University.



Students taking part in the project module class.



Beer Festival: Many thanks to Mr. Bernd Reitmeier of the German Business Delegation for inviting us once again to the German tent in Kunshan.



The participants of GP Summer School China in front of Fudan's main building.

Furthermore, a roundtable discussion on environmental issues was held in cooperation with the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation in Shanghai. In addition to the two lecturers, two more experts discussed the role of civil society in Chinese environmental policy and introduced the students to the work of their organizations: Magali Menant, who works for *Econet China at the German Industry and Commerce Co.* and Agnes Sauter, executive director of the German NGO *Deutsche Umwelthilfe*.



Exploring Siemens: Students in discussion with CEO Annette Schumm during their visit to Siemens Electrical Drive.

Practical Modules

The practical modules again included both a project module and a simulation game (Christoph Raiser). Here, students had to solve a conflict regarding a minority group's growing demand for autonomy and self-determination within the borders of an existing state. Students simulated this conflict in the fictive state of Fontania.

The second practical course, the project module (Ole Jantschek), was organized together with some of our business partners. The 2008 project focus was on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). CSR is a strategy formed by companies to include social standards such as labor rights, environmental considerations and fundamental human rights into their strategic decision-making. Students acted as counselors who worked out a CSR strategy for a high-tech joint-venture company in China. Once again, they presented their strategies to a jury of experts during the farewell event.

Supporting program

The extracurricular program was at the same time informative and pleasant. Networking opportunities included a meeting with the head of the German Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai and visits to the Shanghai branches of German companies. Additionally, the Summer School participants once again had a lot of fun during an excursion to Hangzhou and their stay at the German beer tent at the *Kushan Beer Festival*.

Alumni meetings

During that time, two alumni meetings were held in Shanghai and Beijing, bringing together former participants. Most of them are currently working in academia, the media and international business. These meetings also confirm that the ever expanding and strong GP Summer School alumni network is alive.

A word of thanks goes to the *German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)* and the *Fudan Graduate School* as well as our corporate partners *Siemens Shanghai*, *Bosch China*, *Rittal*, *Electromechanical Technology*, the *German Industry and Commerce and Econet China*, and the *Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation* for supporting the Global Politics Summer School China.



The jury of experts rating the student presentations included Mr. Assandri of Bosch China Germany, Prof. Chen (hidden), Consul General Dr. von der Heyden, Prof. Wu, Prof. Segbers, General Manager Dr. Meng of Siemens Shanghai, Managing Director Palm of Rittal (from left to right), and Ms Menant of Econet China (not pictured).

(photos: Ole Jantschek)

Global Politics Summer School Syria 2008

by Kristina Klinkforth



Simulation of the UN Security Council meeting.

In July 2008, the Center for Global Politics (CGP) at Freie Universität Berlin and Arab International University (AIU) conducted the joint Global Politics Summer School Syria 2008 in Syria's capital Damascus. The 10-day summer school was the very first joint German-Syrian educational project in the field of international relations. In the beginning the project had to overcome several administrative and political obstacles before finally being successfully implemented.

Fifteen Syrian and five German students met at AIU to discuss *Global shifts and transitional politics in the Middle East* in a very open and highly constructive atmosphere. The summer school was opened with an official ceremony; next to the program director of the CGP Prof. Segbers and AIU president Prof. Maa-Bared speakers included the Minister of Higher Education, H.E. Dr. Barakat and the German Ambassador to Syria, H.E. Wenzel. All speakers emphasized the political momentum provided for such projects by the historical participation of Syria's President Bashar Al-Assad at this year's Mediterranean Summit and underscored the importance of joint education projects in Syria. The challenges that lie ahead in reforming the Syrian educational sector were discussed in a subsequent expert workshop, in which university officials and representatives of both Germany and Syria took part.



This is the group of the first joint Syrian-German Summer School taking place in Damaskus.
(photos: IR Online)

The summer school addressed topics such as new challenges in global politics and Syria's role in today's international relations, international media politics and image-building, as well as the Syrian reformation process. Students designed presentations and arguments in working group sessions. They interactively discussed them with their tutors. In addition, they took part in a role play simulating a UN Security Council meeting on development politics, thus applying their theoretical knowledge in a concrete policy-making setting. At the end of the summer school joint certificates covering four credit points according to ECTS standards were conferred upon students.

In the coming months, AIU will be responsible for building the first Department of International Relations and Diplomacy in a privately run organization of higher education. The objective is to build a high standard educational profile featuring international programs in cooperation with European partners - such as the CGP - which are compatible with European education programs. In this context, the GP Summer School Syria 2008 marked a first and successful step in the establishment of joint cooperational projects between the CGP and AIU.

To find out more about this cooperation go to: www.global-politics.org/syria or email to syria@global-politics.org

Newsletter

Customized Summer Schools

With several years of experience and expertise, the Center for Global Politics now offers customized summer school programs. See our new flyer for more details.



Alumni Workshop in Nida - A Strong CGP Alumni Network

by Victoria Muntendorf



Victoria Muntendorf is head of press and public relations at the CGP. She planned and organized the alumni workshop in Nida.
(photo: private)



Close to the Russian border lies the little town of Nida in Lithuania where the CGP first alumni workshop took place.
(map: <http://www.kalnovila.lt/>)



The fifteen participants of CGP alumni group in Nida.



Picnick in the little picturesque village of Minge close to Nida.
(photos: Staff and participants of the alumni workshop Nida)



Antonia Ritchie is the brand new alumni contact at the CGP. If you want to get in touch with her, send an email to:
alumni@global-politics.org
(photo: private)

It was in 2007 that the four programs - East European Studies Online, International Relations Online, the German Studies Russia program at the MGIMO and the Global Politics Summer School in Shanghai - all successfully initiated in the last six years by Prof. Klaus Segbers, found a new home under one roof at the Center for Global Politics. All of the programs have similar aims and goals. They provide context and orientation for understanding today's global processes and teach the use of tools that help students to cope with the political, economic, cultural and social processes of globalization. CGP programs want to promote and encourage life-long learning by enabling continuing education, and last but not least, the programs seek to create an active network of students and alumni dedicated to understanding global challenges.

While East European Studies Online and the Summer School China already have a good tradition of alumni networking, IR Online and German Studies Russia are just at the beginning of building their sustainable networks. This was why we at the CGP wanted to use the energies and synergies of the existing alumni networks, and developed a plan to bring together participants from the different programs. We wanted to provide a platform for the kick-off of such a strong comprehensive alumni network.

The DAAD supported our mission to found this inclusive alumni network meeting by funding a kick-off event for 15 participants for four days. The participants were asked to take part as representatives from all the program years. We arranged for the event to combine an academic schedule, excursions to selected sites, and leisure time and fun. Time was also set aside for contemplation and networking between the participants.

Berlin was not the ideal location to satisfy the last two criteria, New York was simply too far for most of the European participants, and it was just too difficult for the non-Russians to receive visas for Kaliningrad...;-) We then decided to hold the meeting in the little town of Nida, Lithuania, instead. The 15 participants from all four programs and the CGP team spent the first week in September there. Nida turned out to be extremely advantageous for such an event. A small town with few distractions left us with plenty of time for discussions and getting to know each other.

This small but beautiful town was really worth the long trip to the Curonian spit and we could more than understand how Thomas Mann, Lovis Corinth, and many other artists chose this place to do some of their most creative work. As the workshop got underway, the CGP alumni discussed, argued about and agreed on not only education and globalization in the 21st century, but also on the creation of a successful CGP alumni network.

The results exceeded our expectations, especially because of the fact that all the alumni attending the conference in Nida were absolutely in favor of an alumni network with both global and local connections. More specifically, the participants wanted a network combining all the CGP program alumni that would allow for online exchanges via a social network site. At the same time, regional groups should form and arrange meetings to get in contact with alumni that live in the area. The outcome of the three workshop groups was very tangible and was presented as a list of the next steps to be taken.

To start off, the CGP needs an alumni platform where alumni from all programs can communicate with each other on a personal and on a professional level. It should be a forum to talk freely about current issues and to meet people globally. Job opportunities can be announced and, at the same time, insider information can be transmitted. Alumni can exchange news about experiences in the field, local groups in cities and regions can form and meet, and interesting events can be broadcast. In short, the alumni network platform that you are all looking and waiting for.

The CGP team has been given many ideas and suggestions from the alumni representatives in Nida, and we have been starting to realize these ideas in the last few weeks. The CGP comprehensive alumni platform is on its way already and we hope to present it online at the end of the year. In order to make all this possible, we are happy to announce that we have welcomed a new member to the CGP team: Antonia Ritchie, who, from now on, will be in charge of the overall coordination and correspondence with the CGP alumni.

New Graduate School of Global Politics - Cooperating for the Future

by Bettina Rollow and Ole Jantschek



Extending its international network and fostering the academic dialogue between Germany and partner countries is one of the main focuses of the Center for Global Politics (CGP). With the launch of the Graduate School of Global Politics (GSGP), the CGP now takes another important step in translating this mission into practice. Building on the existing programs on the Master level, the GSGP offers 8-10 outstanding doctoral candidates the opportunity to pursue their research in a three-year integrated German-Chinese PhD program. Being the first bi-national program at PhD level in the social sciences, the GSGP forms a unique opportunity to further the dialogue between China and Germany.

In this endeavor, Freie Universität Berlin cooperates closely with Fudan University in Shanghai, which has been a partner of the Global Politics Summer School China over the last six years. In line with the other programs of the CGP, the GSGP program uses fine-tuned concepts and innovative learning tools like online courses and project modules. The PhD candidates will be supervised and supported by renowned scholars, which are all experts in their fields. Focusing on both academic and practical experience, the GSGP program includes extensive research stays in the partner country. The GSGP receives generous support from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) within the framework of *PhD Net - Bi-national PhD Programs*.

The program was designed to deepen students knowledge and to prepare them for academic careers in the field of International Relations (IR) and Political Science. Its main focus lies on the role of formal and informal institutions in global politics, and on the increasing cooperation between China and Europe. The PhD candidates will be trained to develop new ideas to promote bi- and multilateral cooperation and contribute to the international academic dialogue.

During the first two years of the program doctoral candidates will intensify their knowledge and understanding of both methodology and theory. This period involves a structured coursework, a research stay of 6-12 months at the partner university and a project module. Several courses will be offered online; thereby allowing for greater flexibility in study and research. The interdisciplinary coursework as well as the colloquia will provide the PhD candidates with the opportunity for extensive interaction - especially with their counterparts from the partner university. An additional set of elective courses will foster their skills in preparation of future research, teaching and research management. During these first two years, the doctoral candidates will spend six to eight hours a week in class while also developing a detailed plan for their dissertation. Three advisors, all of whom will be expert scholars in the doctoral candidates' particular area of interest, will support them during this process as well as in writing their theses during the third year. While on their research stay at the partner university, the doctoral candidates will be offered the possibility of interning or conducting research at public and private sector partner institutions. Successful completion of the program will be confirmed with a joint certificate complementing the doctoral diplomas of the respective home university.

The first round of calling for applicants begins in November 2008. Eight to ten outstanding students will be chosen from the applicant pool. Applicants should apply to either Fudan University or to the Freie Universität as doctoral candidates, and to the German-Chinese program. Further information can be obtained by writing an email to phd@global-politics.org, or check our website www.cgpphd.org

Ole Jantschek drafted the concept of the GSGP over the last two years and now coordinates the program together with Dr. Claudia Kissling.

Email ole.jantschek@fu-berlin.de, claudia.kissling@fu-berlin.de or summer-schools@global-politics.org

(photos: private)



Bettina Rollow is the new student advisor of the GPSS. Email her at bettina.rolow@fu-berlin.de

(photo: private)



The Graduate School of Global Politics is a three-year integrated German-Chinese PhD program between Freie Universität Berlin and Fudan University Shanghai. Here you see FU's library and the main gate of Fudan.
(photos: CGP)

November | 2008

Newsletter

Our new *German-Chinese Graduate School of Global Politics (GSGP)*. The graduate school invites students to pursue their PhD in a three-year program offered by Freie Universität Berlin in cooperation with *Fudan University*.



Imprint:

Articles: Center for Global Politics (if not indicated otherwise)
Please contact us at info@global-politics.org regarding all contributions to and comments about our CGP community (net)work. We welcome your ideas and support! The opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect the opinions held by the Center for Global Politics or Freie Universität Berlin.

