



2019

*International Comparative Studies  
Diploma Ceremony*

*Sunday, May 12th, 1pm, Duke University, East Campus, Durham, NC*



# *Order of Events*

## **Welcome**

Kathryn Mathers, Director of Undergraduate Studies

## **Senior Valedictory Remarks**

Yunjie (Caroline) Lai

Elsie Otero

Matthew Tran

## **Capstone Research Prize**

*presented by* Jessica Namakkal

Matthew Tran

## **Graduates with Distinction**

*presented by* Kathryn Mathers

Daniela Flamini

Dillon Leovic

Katharyn Loweth

Phoebe Naomi Mary O'Hara

Muyi Zhang

Samuel Zhu

## **Distinguished Thesis Award**

Daniela Flamini

Phoebe Naomi Mary O'Hara

## **Awarding of Diplomas**

## **Group Photo (Graduates and Faculty)**

Immediately following ceremony

# *ICS Majors 2019*

**Paula Yeside Ajumobi** ~ Spanish

**Aydin Anwar**

**Luisa Maciel Bigal** ~ Global Health (Fall 2018)

**McKenzie Gene Cook**

**Victoria Emma Cormack**

**Bianca Lauren D'Souza** ~ Global Health (Fall 2018)

**Catherine Bertrand Farmer**

**Anna E. Egas**

**Nelia Ifeyinwa Ekeji**

**Daniela Isabel Flamini** ~ Asian & Middle Eastern Studies

**Melissa Gerdts** ~ Medieval and Renaissance Studies

**Natalia Ann Gonzalez-Boneta**

**Savanna Nichole Groft**

**Eyram Klu** (Fall 2019)

**Dillon Stewart Leovic**

**Caroline Pearl Levine**

**Katharyn Stuart Loweth**

**Josephine Hayes McManemin** ~ Asian & Middle Eastern Studies

**Elsie Akinyi Otero** ~ Public Policy

**Kimberly Perez**

**Melany Kristy Puente** ~ Global Health

**Taylor Marie Racioppi**

**Emile Marie Riachi**

**Margaret McKenzie Richards**

**Dolores Claudia Sanchez-Carrion**

**Emilia Evyenia Dorothy Soulios**

**Maegan N. Stanley** ~ Medieval and Renaissance Studies

**Kennie Taylor, Jr.**

**Alexandra Julieta Uribe** (Fall 2019)

**Richard Van Vliet**

**Muyi Zhang** ~ Asian & Middle Eastern Studies

## *Second Majors*

**Rafae Alam** ~ Chemistry

**Isabel Rose Aptman** ~ Public Policy

**Yash Bajaj** ~ Public Policy

**Philippe Frederic Robert Heitzmann** ~ Economics

**Yunjie (Caroline) Lai** ~ Economics (Fall 2018)

**Delia Li** ~ Computer Science

**Noah Benjamin Martin** ~ Economics

**Nia Moore** ~ Public Policy

**Yu Jin Oh** ~ Neuroscience (Fall 2018)

**Phoebe Naomi Mary O'Hara** ~ History

**Sarah Elizabeth Perrin** ~ English

**Amanda Sear** ~ Public Policy (Fall 2018)

**Matthew Tran** ~ Political Science

**Hawa Penda Tucker** ~ Political Science

**Caroline Zhou** ~ Political Science

**Samuel Zhu** ~ Public Policy

# *Graduates with Distinction*

## **Daniela Flamini ~ Highest Honors**

*Fact-Checking in Buenos Aires and the Modern Journalistic Struggle Over Knowledge*

Research Advisor: Philip Napoli (Public Policy)

## **Dillon Leovic ~ Honors**

*Coming to Terms with the Past in a Post-Conflict: A Case Study of Youth*

*Reconciliation in Croatia and Serbia*

Research Advisor: Shai Ginsberg (Asian and Middle Eastern Studies)

## **Katharyn Loweth ~ High Honors**

*The Spirit of Survival: Projections of International Solidarity and Security in*

*Contemporary Estonia*

Research Advisor: Gareth Price (Linguistics)

## **Phoebe Naomi Mary O'Hara ~ Highest Honors**

*Exercising Agency; women, space and place in Saudi Arabia*

Research Advisor: Erdag Gökner (Asian and Middle Eastern Studies)

## **Muyi Zhang ~ Honors**

*Model Illegal Alien - How Undocumented Asian Americans "Deserve" Citizenship*

Research Advisor: Nayoung Kwon Aimee (Asian and Middle Eastern Studies)

## **Samuel Zhu ~ High Honors**

*Spectacular China: Performing Pessimism in 21st Century China*

Research Advisor: Leo Ching (Asian and Middle Eastern Studies and

International Comparative Studies)

# *Capstone Research Prize Winner*

## **Matthew Tran**

*"Executive Chefs" and the "Other Asians:" Racialization in Physical and*

*Online Food Spaces*

Spring 2019 Capstone Seminar with Jessica Namakkal

# *Reflections on ICS by the Class of 2019*

ICS has allowed me to study my community and myself. I am so grateful for the academic flexibility that ICS allowed me to have and for the way that it has changed the way I think about the world.

~ **Paula Ajumobi**

ICS has helped expand my worldview to consider the perspectives and lived experiences of people with different backgrounds than mine. I have enjoyed the opportunity to learn a new language in depth as an ICS major and receive a truly interdisciplinary education. I strive to act as a global citizen. ~ **Yash Bajaj**

Thank you to my parents, friends and professors for helping to shape how I see the world. ~ **Victoria Cormack**

ICS requires us to be critical of existing global structures, identifying the who, what, why, and how of society. Through identifying these, ICS has not only helped me better understand the world around me, but given me the resources and tools necessary to critique and transform it for the better. ~ **Nelia Ekeji**

Ever since my freshman year, ICS has inspired me to think differently, write courageously and brag snootily about Foucault. I couldn't be more grateful to the friends and mentors I've met through the department for all their love, passion and support throughout my Duke experience. ~ **Daniela Flamini**

ICS has taught me how to analyze the culture and politics of different communities through a variety of lenses. Also, in no other major would I have been able to take a human rights class and one on magic, science and religion, teaching me about many interesting topics I'm passionate about. ~ **Melissa Gerdts**

ICS has given me the tools necessary to think critically about the world around me. It has given me the opportunity and space to share my unique perspective and never stop learning from my peers. Thank you, ICS, for pushing me to always stay curious.  
~ **Natalia Gonzales Boneta**

ICS brings together my disparate interests — language learning, public health, justice, and intercultural understanding. It has been a central place in which to draw these themes together to form a cohesive understanding of the world and my position in it.

~ **Savanna Groft**

ICS has meant a tremendous amount to me over these past four years, not just because of the fascinating course material I was exposed to but also because of the human connections I made through the program. Thank you, ICS! ~ **Philippe Heitzmann**

I took my sophomore spring off from Duke and was fortunate to do volunteer work, intern at an IT firm, and work on a crypto startup in Accra, Ghana. I enjoyed being there and having experiential learning so much, that International Comparative Studies with a concentration in Africa made sense to me. ~ **Eyram Klu**

ICS HAS BEEN A LIFE CHANGER FOR ME!!!

~ **Yunjie (Caroline) Lai**

ICS has allowed me to pursue my personal interests in a way no other major could. I never felt like class was a burden, but rather an opportunity to expand my knowledge in subjects that I actually want to learn. ~ **Dillon Leovic**

The ICS program has forever changed my perspective on the world and my place within it. It has opened my mind to issues around the world and pushed me to think about the global forces that impact even the smallest of communities. ~ **Katharyn Loweth**

ICS has permitted me to see the world not only from the view crafted by my upbringing and has taught me to view the world through the lens of a diverse set of cultures. I appreciate that ICS embraces a multidisciplinary learnings approach, which has broadened my horizons far beyond my expectations. ~ **Noah Martin**

ICS has prepared me to interact with our increasingly interconnected world via my new understanding of my place in it. And as an unexpected bonus, the perspectives I've been presented have given me a number of lenses through which I can view and engage with my own personal growth post-graduation. ~ **Kimberly Perez**



ICS has meant expanding my worldview and helping me construct a framework with which to investigate and keep informed about a wide range of topics. ~ **Sarah Perrin**

ICS has allowed me to catch a glimpse of the world from the perspectives of people all across the globe. These perspectives, that I have only been introduced to, will forever shape my worldview and have taught me to continuously ask questions. ~ **Taylor Racioppi**

The ICS Program has been a foundation for my intellectual and personal growth while at Duke. I am thankful to have had opportunities to learn for the sake of learning, whether through engaging courses, supportive faculty, or study programs. ~ **Matthew Tran**

ICS enabled me to view the world through an interdisciplinary global lens and build language and analytical skills by studying the European and Latin American regions. The flexibility of the degree provided the foundation to confidently succeed in any career while empowering communities around me. ~ **Alexandra Uribe**

ICS has been a program that has pushed me to think deeper about my daily life and the influences that have led me to be where I am and who I am. This program serves as a constant reminder that the world is always full of shifting boundaries and peoples. ~ **Muyi Zhang**

ICS has encouraged and pushed me to seek the courage to imagine the world as it could, should, and can be. ~ **Samuel Zhu**

## *Scott Lee Stephenson Memorial Fund*

We are grateful to Fay M. Stephenson for establishing an endowment for ICS in honor of her son, Scott Lee Stephenson. Thanks to her generosity, the following seniors received funding support for their honors research: Melissa Gerdtz (Great Britain), Dillon Leovic (Croatia), Katharyn Loweth (Estonia), Muyi Zhang (Washington, D.C.), Caroline Zhou (Hong Kong).

## *Program Faculty*

Leo Ching, Associate Professor of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies  
*Director*

Kathryn Mathers, Associate Professor of the Practice  
*Director of Undergraduate Studies*

Jessica Namakkal, Assistant Professor of the Practice

Adam R. Rosenblatt, Associate Professor of the Practice

## *Affiliated Faculty*

Roberto Maria Dainotto, Professor of Romance Studies

Samuel F. Daly, Assistant Professor of African and African-American Studies

John D. French, Professor of History and African and  
African-American Studies

Jehanne Gheith, Associate Professor of Slavic Languages and Literature

Mona Hassan, Associate Professor of Islamic Studies & History

Esther Kim Lee, Professor of Theater Studies

Mbaye Lo, Associate Professor of the Practice of Asian and  
Middle Eastern Studies

Philip Napoli, Professor in the Sanford School of Public Policy

Jocelyn Olcott, Professor of History

Sumathi Ramaswamy, James B. Duke Professor of History

Erika S. Weinthal, Lee Hill Snowden Professor of Environmental Policy

## *Program Staff*

Lisa Poteet, Program Coordinator

Jon Puckett, Program Assistant

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