ISSUE 2

Sono trascorsi dieci anni dalla fondazione della Scuola di Studi Internazionali. Nata come un esperimento all’interno del sistema universitario italiano, la Scuola ha saputo consolidarsi, accogliendo sempre di più la sfida di formare gli studenti ai grandi cambiamenti che interessano il sistema internazionale. Potevano i dieci anni della Scuola non essere festeggiati con una nuova riforma del Master in European and International Studies? Ovviamente, no!

Nel fare questo, ci ha “dato una mano” un nuovo decreto ministeriale (il DM 17 del 22 settembre 2010), che ha costretto tutte le università italiane a rivedere la propria offerta formativa mantenendo invariata la tradizionale qualità del MEIS.

Una riforma che semplifica l’offerta formativa mantenendo invariata la tradizionale qualità del MEIS

A partire dall’anno accademico 2011/2012, il MEIS si caratterizza per una crescente semplificazione dei percorsi di studio, una maggiore autonomia decisionale degli studenti e una nuova offerta in termini di corsi attivati. In primo luogo, sono stati aboliti i tre percorsi precedenti e con loro i corsi da 14 ECTS. Ciò ha permesso di innalzare a 24 ECTS il numero dei crediti liberi e a 22 ECTS il numero di crediti attribuiti per il...

FROM THE EDITORS...
by Benedetta Voltolini and Sergio Zanotti, Editors of ASSIST

Hi everybody and welcome back to a new issue of ASSIST!

Many months have passed since the last issue of ASSIST. We hope that the 2011/2012 academic year has progressed smoothly so far and that the new SIS students have had the opportunity to enjoy the new Master programme (see pp. 1-2). We are sorry for this delay, but in the past few months professional and organisational developments, which occurred in the School but also at the editorial board level, made us think that it was better to put the project in a hiatus that definitely lasted more than expected. Notwithstanding the delay and the fact that as of today some articles could not be quite up to date anymore, much effort had already been put in this issue, so we have decided to acknowledge the contributions of those who have helped us building this issue. During this time we also took a chance to reflect on the future of this newsletter, as more than one year has passed since we embarked on this experience and, especially thanks to the positive feedback we had so far, we have come to realize that it would have been a pity for this project to fade away without having tried to resume it where we left it off.
lavoro di tesi. Allo stesso tempo, i corsi del secondo anno sono diventati più leggeri di quelli del primo: saranno attribuiti 6 ECTS per ogni corso del secondo anno, diminuendo anche la permanenza in classe degli studenti, che potranno, quindi, lavorare di più e meglio sulla loro tesi finale.

La riforma è stata anche l’occasione per una messa a punto dell’offerta formativa. Nel corso degli anni, si è notata l’esigenza di attivare al primo anno un corso di Metodi e tecniche della ricerca sociale, al fine di migliorare la qualità delle ricerche empiriche degli studenti e per offrire loro conoscenze di indiscutibile rilevanza nel mondo del lavoro. Il corso di lingua inglese, infine, è stato portato da 8 a 10 ECTS.

Le riforme introdotte hanno due effetti principali: permettono agli studenti di personalizzare maggiormente il loro piano degli studi e consentono al MEIS di internazionalizzarsi ulteriormente, attirando accordi di doppia laurea con atenei stranieri. Un primo accordo è stato recentemente siglato con la Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna di Pisa e ha portato alla creazione del Graduate Program in International Studies and Transnational Governance (vedi p. 9) di cui siamo particolarmente felici. Questa nuova opportunità formativa consolida ulteriormente la reputazione del MEIS e dell’Università di Trento. Ogni riforma comporta dei costi di transazione e richiede tempo ed energie. Siamo sicuri, però, che la nuova offerta formativa risponda in modo più compiuto alle esigenze formative degli studenti, integrando anche molti dei suggerimenti da loro emersi nel corso di questi anni.

### La nuova organizzazione del Master in European and International Studies

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Thus, we would like to make an effort to move things ahead with the aim of – why not – publishing this newsletter on a more regular basis and of enhancing the quality of its content. In view of these plans, it becomes a necessity to expand the line-up of collaborators to bring new and fresh ideas into the newsletter. Therefore, contact us to become part of the team and contribute to ASSIST!

But before all this happens, enjoy this issue of ASSIST with all its interesting items starting from the celebration of the tenth birthday of the School. As you may already know, the School has undergone some changes, ranging from the MEIS reform for the 2011-2012 academic year to the partnership with the Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies in Pisa, a project aimed at creating an Integrate Graduate Program in International Studies and Transnational Governance. These innovations would not have been possible without the past. In particular, we deemed it important to remember one of the minds behind the origins of the School of International Studies, Professor Ferdinando Targetti, who passed away in July 2011. Not only is the article on Professor Targetti a recollection of this eminent man, but it is also a way to pay a tribute to all the efforts that he made during his life for the establishment and development of the School. The editorial committee of ASSIST joins all his former colleagues in the memory that you can find on page 3.

To go “back to the future”, we would also like to draw your attention to the first International Career Day hosted by the School in May 2011 and which marked a significant occasion where professionals and representatives of national and international institutions shared their insights with students and graduates. We hope such an initiative will help students in undertaking their future careers – and we also hope someday they will share with us their “success stories”, as two MEIS Alumni, Serena Natile and Alex Bernard, have done in this issue with respect to their careers in 2011. In March 2012 the conference “Conflict, Peace, Statebuilding, and Local Institutions” took place at the School. Irene Costantini used this opportunity to ask a few questions to Stephan Massing; you can read the interview on page 9.

Finally, as usual, you will also find some practical information concerning the activities of the School, the presentation of the students’ representatives, as well as info on internships and opportunities abroad.

That’s it for now. We hope you’ll enjoy reading this issue of ASSIST!
L’eredità di Ferdinando Targetti
A cura dei colleghi della Facoltà di Economia e della Scuola di Studi Internazionali


I temi dell’integrazione europea e della globalizzazione economica non furono solo quelli intorno ai quali si svilupparono l’attività della Scuola, ma spiccarono tra quelli di maggior interesse per Ferdinando. Era un europeista convinto: l’Europa era il suo orizzonte “naturale”, per formazio- ne, cultura, visione del mondo e della vita. Ma era un europeista esigente, ossia non si limitava alla retorica della grande Europa unita, né allo strumentalismo di “usare” l’Europa come “vincolo esterno” per sanare i
malanni italiani. Sia durante la sua esperienza parlamentare, sia successivamente, Ferdinando fu un instancabile promotore di riflessione e azione politica su questi temi.


Il fatto che entrambe queste proposte si siano al centro del dibattito e del negoziato per la riforma della governance ebra e portino i cambiamenti auspicati. La via indicata rimane così valida, oggi come allora. Erano tante le ragioni per apprezzare Ferdinando e il tempo speso con lui: le idee, il rigore intellettuale, il “generoso senso delle istituzioni” (ricordato anche dal Presidente della Repubblica Giorgio Napolitano) e il coraggio ne-priva di una regia e di un governo all’altezza delle sfide da esso generate. Proprio l’esigenza di affrontare questi temi in una prospettiva economica di ampio respiro, spinse nel 2006 Ferdinando a intraprendere, insieme ad Andrea Fracasso, un lungo lavoro di analisi e scrittura di un testo sulla globalizzazione economica (“Le sfide della globalizzazione. Storia, politiche e istituzioni”, 2008, Francesco Briscese Editore, Milano), premio Capalbio 2008 per il miglior saggio di economia dell’anno. Ferdinando non intendeva scrivere un pamphlet politico ma un testo econometrico: come in passato, il coraggio delle idee doveva andare insieme al rigore scientifico. Pur al culmine di quella che veniva definita come l’epoca d’oro dell’economia globale, Ferdinando sentiva la necessità di affrontare anche gli aspetti più controversi della globalizzazione, tra cui disuguaglianze, povertà, propensione dei sistemi finanziari alle crisi, squilibri macroeconomici mondiali, concorrenza tra sistemi di welfare, tutela dell’ambiente, per evidenziare l’urgenza di una riforma della governance mondiale. Era sua convinzione profonda che le politiche pubbliche potessero contribuire in modo cr-
On May 20, 2011 the School of International Studies, together with the Jean Monnet Centre of Trento with the financial support of the European Commission, organized the International Career Day 2011, the first event in the history of the School dedicated to job opportunities in the European and international environment. The event, open to all students and particularly focused on giving an insight to graduate students about the various future possibilities at the international level, featured important speakers belonging to national and international institutions, NGOs and academia. The Day was organised in 6 sessions dealing with specific topics, namely, careers in international institutions (Session 1), careers at the EU level (Session 2), careers in NGOs (Session 3), practical information on CVs, motivation letters and the opportunities offered by the University of Trento (Session 4 and 5), and last but not least MEIS Alumni’s experiences (Session 6).

After the welcoming speech delivered by, among others, the director of the School of International Studies, Professor Paolo Collini, and the President of the Autonomous Province of Trento, Mr. Lorenzo Dellai, the first session began, dealing with Careers in International Institutions. Mr. Stefano Baldi (from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs) remarked that, however fascinating and satisfying, careers in international institutions are characterized by extremely demanding requirements and strong competition among candidates. Therefore, a would-be officer/official in the international public sector must be prepared to go through a tough selection, and this is particularly true for what concerns, for instance, the entrance test for the diplomatic career in Italy. Regarding such a test, Ms. Cristina Puccia and Ms. Eva Palombi representatives of the Società Italiana per l’Organizzazione Internazionale (SIOI) gave a talk, detailing the various activities carried out by SIOI, which is, among other things, one of the organizations that manage specific preparatory courses for those willing to try the diplomatic career.

For what concerns general requirements in an international working environment, all speakers concurred on the fact that language, too, plays a pivotal role, since fluency in English and possibly in another EU language (usually French) is mandatory. Furthermore, and this is especially the case for “on the field” positions, one could also be requested to be proficient in the local language and customs depending on the region where he or she is seconded. The possibility of working in an international institution is certainly one of the most sought after goals that a young professional in international matters can aspire to, and the European Union definitely acts as a major catalyst for such aspirations. This is why a whole session, the second one, was completely dedicated to careers in the European institutions, thanks to the participation, in particular, of Mr. Daniele Dotto, from the European Commission. Mr. Dotto shared with the students his expertise for what concerns the various candidate selection procedures at the European Commission level, giving practical information, hints and anecdotes ranging from the structure and the preparation of written tests, to the way one should handle a job interview. In particular, notwithstanding the specific technical and theoretical skills required for each position, great attention was attached to the behaviour and attitude of candidates, who must comply with the quite rigid standards of ethics and political correctness that the multicultural EU spirit promotes. To this purpose, Mr. Dotto concluded stressing the fact that candidates have “only one chance to make a first impression”, recommending that an application for a position within the EU must be treated with all the care it deserves, not only as a matter of respect for the institution, but also for the candidate himself.

While the selection process and job interviews per se are often, quite rightly, considered the most feared obstacles towards an international career, Mr. Dotto also remarked that nowadays a professional profile is first of all built during the univer-
governmental and non-governmental worlds, provided that certain NGOs with a strong international footprint might be quite complex and therefore not be very different, in terms of structures and internal processes, than IOs. However, Ms. Riggio and Ms. Chiodi pointed out that NGOs usually have fewer resources, less negotiating power and fewer privileges, thus representing a challenging experience at the grassroots level of international relations. For what concerns skills, often, especially in applying for smaller NGOs, a strong technical/theoretical background is not mandatory — as instead usually happens for IOs — since “learning by doing” is a common way of building competences. Furthermore, flexibility, spirit of sacrifice, strong commitment and even physical resistance are personal and moral qualities usually required. There are also advantages, of course: in smaller NGOs one might more easily build personal and professional relations, the selection processes are less competitive and more straightforward, there is less bureaucracy and, often, a more immediate return in terms of satisfaction for having, almost personally, sustained or championed a particular cause or project.

Lastly, the event hosted a final session where some SIS alumni had the opportunity to share their views on and offer some tips about their professional experience. One aspect that emerged comparing the various experiences shared by the alumni is how they were each able to pursue very different paths, which ranged from public institutions, NGOs and the private corporate sector. This demonstrates to what extent the interdisciplinary approach embraced by the School contributes to giving its students a very flexible and adaptive background.

In addition, great importance was drawn again to aspects such as the growing importance of network building, as well as to “old-fashioned” values that have always played a pivotal role in developing a successful career, like ambition, perseverance, commitment to the goal and a “leave no stone unturned” attitude. And, last but not least, a little bit of luck — why not. The experiences gathered during the ICD 2011 showed how, when it comes to jobs and recruitment, having a practical understanding of how things work might be an advantage for students who are willing to undertake an international career. In this sense, the event organized by the School served as a tool aimed at bridging the gap between university and the “real world”. The fact that this was made possible through the intervention of experts coming both from the public and private sector certainly added a significant value to the initiative.

In conclusion, the International Career Day 2011, with its insightful testimonies, contributed to the School’s mission to develop talents in international matters.

The ICD was not only about sharing professional experiences. During Session 4 and 5 representatives of the University of Trento delivered presentations dealing with all the practical issues that you can come across while searching for a job, as well as an overview of the principal foreign exchange programs offered by the University and the School.

For further information on the opportunities at UNITN, see the University’s Internship and Placement website and the International Mobility Portal.
Marcel Proust said that “the real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes” and this is particularly true for Brussels. Brussels is not an enchanting city to visit. It is well known for decorated chocolates, greasy frites, tasty beers and the Mannekin Pis (a tiny statue of a heroic boy peeing like a fountain). This city has a double personality: spectacular constructions, such as the Grand Place, the Cathedral of Sts-Michel-and-Gudule, the Royal Palace and the chic-antique Place du Grand Sablon are ingeniously alternated with shabby squares reigned by improbable beggars and carnival pavements adorned with colourful trash. However, there is a veiled vibrant beauty beneath the magnificent architecture and the grime. Considered in the abstract as the capital of the European Union, governed by Euro-rules and the ever-enlarging Euro-Tribe, Brussels is in essence made up of a melting pot of different nationalities that distinguish themselves like oil drops in a bowl of water, from the local Flanders and Walloons to the European communities, not to mention the variety of non-European foreigners — the African district of Matongé, the Turks of Saint-Josse, and the Maghreb Arab community spread in the poorest places of Schaerbeek, Anderlecht and the Gare du Midi. Behind the huge glass buildings Brussels reveals a surprising sub-world, home to a million people with different tongues and cultures where nothing is mixed and everything is shared. Brussels is made up of scents more than symbols, by spontaneous art more than established galleries, by ideas more than realities, by creativity more than schemes, by chances more than plans.

For all these reasons, Brussels is a kind of tribal call for ambitious twenty-something European (but also not European) graduates, many of whom see Europe as a lifestyle model. Brussels is a very interesting place to be: long working hours are balanced with a busy schedule of social and cultural events, all in name of networking. Stagiaires are usually dynamic and determined and they try to meet as many different people as possible. There is a constant buzz in the air, particularly in the well-established meeting places — Place Luxembourgh is a classic example — where people drink and argue with ambitious intensity. Brussels is not all about regulations, directives and committee meetings; it is also about people having fun together, but always with an eye to the future. The opportunities that the city offers are directly or indirectly related to the European Union: EU institutions, national and regional Representations to the EU, Unites Nations agencies — Brussels office, NATO, other international organisations, NGOs, press agencies, law firms, or investment banks.

I have been an intern in Brussels for one year: first (from September to December 2010 — MAE/CRUI pro-
programme) at the Permanent Representation of Italy to the EU (Justice and Home Affairs, Migration and Asylum) and since February 2011 at the United Nations – in particular at the EC-UN Joint Migration and Development Initiative, a programme financed by the European Commission and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme. These internships have been for me two extremely rich and formative experiences. My work varied from one job to the other and often from day to day: at the Permanent Representation I mainly participated in migration/asylum working groups and JHA Council meetings; while at the UNDP my main task consists in monitoring and assessing the implementation of some projects related to gender equality and the empowerment of women in African countries.

As for prospective interns, during the selection of my successor at the UN I have been able to get an inside view of the selection process. An application usually consists in CV and cover letter, but in many cases (such as for the EU institutions, MAE/CRUI, Amnesty International and other organisations) you need to complete the online/offline application form. The content is more or less the same: general information, educational and professional background, languages and other skills, and references. Application forms require a much more bureaucratic approach: applications that do not conform exactly to the guidelines are immediately rejected. On the other hand, by sending your own CV and cover letter you take the risk of choosing an inappropriate format. I think that the most important aspects of a successful application are: the good match between your back-

ground/qualifications and the internship requirements, including the organisation’s values and aims; the use of language – clear but not obvious; the reliability of the information provided – which is usually verified during the interview for those candidates who are shortlisted; strong motivation, and finally a bit of good luck.

In my experience, the range of applicants is quite wide: from 20-year-old students to 35-year-old unemployed candidates with at least 7 years’ working experience. This is a clear signal of the difficulty finding a proper job, particularly in those countries with lower rates of graduate employment, including Italy. From a gender perspective, I noticed that two-thirds of the candidates are women and my general impression is that two-thirds of the interns in Brussels are actually women. This disproportionate is confirmed by the European Commission: “During the past three years female trainees have outnumbered their male counterparts by 70% to 30%” (see The big stage: 50th anniversary of the Commission’s traineeship programme). I find it encouraging, even though there is substantial evidence that this percentage even out once it comes to taking a steady job (EUROSTAT, employment rate by gender: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/refreshTableAction.do?tab=table&plugin=1&pcode=tsiem010&language=en).

Apart from this broad analysis, I think that Brussels is an essential stop for those graduates who aspire to work at the European/international level or who want to experience a multicultural working environment. Brussels can be a heady experience and it should be lived fully, without preconceptions and without being intimidated by the challenging and often competitive selection procedures. It could be a great opportunity to find out who you want to be or just to consolidate your future career aspirations. I didn’t fall in love with Brussels, but I have very much enjoyed the spicy atmosphere filled with different tongues and exotic smells, mixed up with the drizzly air and the sweet smell of freshly baked waffles coming up from metro stations, the lovely lunches in the “secret parks” surrounding the city, the animated chats in the old-fashioned bars, and the suggestion of knowledge that you can feel all around.

After one (hectic) year I left Brussels enriched, with a renewed confidence about who I am and what I want to do, many contacts and a different perspective of Europe, work and life. In return, I will give Brussels my view of the world that will pile on the thousands of lenses belonging to many other birds of passage, to which, just like me, Brussels have been a warm nest for a while, a nest that belongs to none of us and to all of us.

To undertake a Brussels internship you can check out the range of opportunities at:

http://eurobrussels.com/jobs/internship or

http://jobs.euractiv.com/

United Nations:

European Commission:
http://ec.europa.eu/stages/index_en.htm

European Parliament:

For a placement at the EP you can also contact a MEP directly, details can be found at http://www.europarl.europa.eu/members/expert/groupAndCountry.do

Council of the EU:

MAE/CRUI
http://www.esteri.it/MAE/IT/Ministero/Servizi/Italiani/Oppor

MAE/Stage al MAE.htm
Conflict, Peace, Statebuilding, and Local Institutions: An Interview to Mr. Stephan Massing
by Irene Costantini

The School of International Studies, University of Trento and the Training Centre for International Co-operation organised the conference “Conflict, Peace, Statebuilding, and Local Institutions” held 1-2 March 2012. During the conference, I had the opportunity to pose some questions to Stephan Massing of the International Network on Conflict and Fragility, established in 2009 as a subsidiary body of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC).

Mr. Massing, in the last 10 years, governments and international organisations have paid an increasing amount of attention to conflict and fragile states. Is this simply a response to the perceived threat posed by these countries, especially after 9/11, or does it represent a changing perspective by donor countries on how to improve development assistance?

Since 9/11, interest in the concepts of fragile states and fragility has indeed increased, even among developing countries themselves. Terms like ‘nation-building’ and concerns about fragile or even failed states became more common during the military interventions in Afghanistan and Iraq. But it would be short-sighted to say that the increased interest in fragile states is only a reaction to the threat posed by these countries. While this may initially have triggered the discussion, work on conflict and development has been happening at the OECD Development Assistance Committee since 1995. A major reason to pay increasing attention to fragile states has been the fact that these countries are home to 1.5 million of the world’s poor, and progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals has been very slow. So the interest in fragile states derives not only from a security perspective but also from a development one. In the development discussion, the use of the concept of state-building has been more recent. It complements discussions and thinking on conflict prevention or peace-building. It is also relevant in situations where there has not necessarily been a conflict but where there may be weak institutions or a risk of conflict in the future. As such the fragile states discussion is broader then the focus on post-conflict situations.

In 2007, the OECD Development Assistance Committee endorsed 10 Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Situations, a sort of yardstick for donors to use when engaging in these settings. However, international engagement has not improved significantly in the past five years. Why?

The reality is that it takes time to implement policy and to change practice, incentives and mindsets. But the limited achievements by donors in fragile states also show that in many cases there has not been enough awareness of staff at the country level and insufficient commitment or knowledge to change policy into operational reform at the country level. At the same time there often reasons related to the challenging environment of fragile states which make it difficult to change.

The International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and State-building was launched in 2008 by both donors and partner countries. What is the purpose of this Dialogue?

The International Dialogue is an initiative that came out from the Third High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Accra (2008). At that meeting, many fragile states expressed concern that the discussions were focussed exclusively on aid effectiveness in general, without addressing the specific challenges fragile states face in this respect. Other issues related to peacebuilding and statebuilding were not addressed either. A group of fragile states called the g7+ was interested in engaging in a dialogue with donors on how aid can be improved and how it can be focussed on a set of key priorities chosen by fragile states themselves. One of the most important agreements reached at the Fourth High-Level Forum in Busan last year was the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States, which includes five peace-building and state-building goals (PSGs). These goals are meant to complement and serve as building block for achieving MDGs. The International Dialogue engages in technical discussions on aid in fragile states, but also in political discussions as reflected by the endorse-ment of the PSGs.

An important aspect that is often raised in relation to aid effectiveness is “ownership” — or putting developing countries in the driver’s seat. What are the specific challenges in post-conflict and fragile settings?

On the one hand — and especially immediately after a conflict — different groups represent different interests within a particular country, and it is hard to say where national ownership lies. Therefore the main challenge is to identify whose ownership is represented at the country level: that of some groups or that of society as a whole? On the other hand, there are cases where external intervention plays a very strong role. There are extreme cases of shared sovereignty, like in Kosovo, where international administration takes over part of a government’s functions. In these cases, it becomes more challenging to realise national ownership. In order to better conceive ownership, donors need to consult with non-state actors, especially civil society. Too often, donors engage only with officials representing the central government.

One last question: Has the so-called Arab Spring changed the discourse on fragility, broadening its meaning and applicability to other contexts?

This is a very interesting point. In fact, the countries
where the uprisings occurred are not those that we would traditionally consider to be fragile states. This shows that the causes of fragility in these countries were different from those identified in those countries typically considered to be fragile states. That being said, there also some overlap in the problems these countries face and in the recommendations that would apply to these countries as well. What I think is interesting is that the state-building framework that we have used for fragile states can, to a large extent, also be applied to these countries. Take for instance the importance of political settlements, and the popular feeling that they have not evolved in line with citizens' expectations. Although there are also important differences, the events of the Arab Spring show that our thinking about fragility needs to grow in order to identify destabilising factors in a wider range of contexts.

Matteo Falagiarda won the Angelo Costa 2009 Prize!

Matteo Falagiarda, who graduated in 2009, recently won the prestigious prize Angelo Costa 2009, for the best Master thesis in Economics.


The Angelo Costa The Prize (supported by Rivista di Politica Economica and the University LUISS Guido Carli at Rome, consists in the publication of the five most deserving papers taken from graduate theses in Economics (two-year MSc.) The initiative has two aims: to renew the commitment to making promising Italian graduates in Economics known, awarding them with the publication of their paper so as to encourage the continuation of their studies and their chances of admission to Master and/or Ph.D. programs; – to promote the publication of excellent studies which too often remain unappreciated by a larger audience.

Congratulations to Matteo from all of us!!!
The new “Integrated Graduate Program in International Studies and Transnational Governance” - ISTG Program

The School of International Studies of the University of Trento and the Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies (Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna di Studi Universitari e di Perfezionamento) offers an Integrated Graduate Program in International Studies and Transnational Governance. The program develops its curriculum in coordination with international partner universities, through flexible mobility schemes designed for both students and faculty members. The Integrated Graduate Program is open to a limited number (maximum 10) of students who have successfully completed their first year of the Master’s Degree in European and International Studies (MEIS) at the School of International Studies in Trento. Selected students (selected each spring) have the opportunity to spend a year at Scuola Sant’Anna and its international partner institutions. The activities offered by the two institutions allow participating students to complete the required 120 credits (ECTS) in order to receive the MEIS diploma from School of International Studies in Trento in addition to the Graduate Diploma in Transnational Governance from the Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna.

The programme allows students:
- to acquire advanced knowledge of the functioning of international institutional systems, with a specific focus on transnational phenomena and governance challenges;
- to build interdisciplinary analytical skills and critical analysis of complex issues, policies and regional dynamics;
- to broaden critical understanding of contemporary political, economic, legal and social issues;
- to become familiar with theoretical and methodological pluralism;
- to acquire practical skills for designing research projects, conducting empirical research, policy analysis and policy plans;
- to work in a multilingual context.

If you are interested in the Integrated Program in International Studies and Transnational Governance (ISTG) please refer to following contacts:
- For issues related to the academic content of the program: Prof. Roberto Belloni (School of International Studies, University of Trento) e-mail: roberto.belloni@unitn.it and Prof. Francesco Strazzari (Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa) e-mail: f.strazzari@sssup.it
- For issues related to application, visa requirements and other administrative procedures: School of International Studies - Program Office e-mail: sis@sis.unitn.it

Titles awarded
- Master’s Degree (‘Laurea magistrale’) in European and International Studies from the University of Trento
- Graduate Diploma in Transnational Governance from the Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna in Pisa

Structure
First year in Trento (School of International Studies)
Second year in Pisa (Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies) + period of study/internship abroad

Intake
September both for the first and the second year

Duration
2 years full-time

Language
English

Class size
About 10 students (second year at Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna in Pisa)

Deadline
The deadline is the deadline established for MEIS applications. Students must be enrolled to the MEIS and pass a selection among the students enrolled to the MEIS organised at the beginning of the spring semester of the first year

Academic calendar
1st year organised by School of International Studies in Trento
Fall semester: September 2011 – February 2012
Spring semester: March 2012 – June 2012

2nd year organised by Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna in Pisa
Fall Semester: October 2012 – February 2012 at Pisa
Spring Semester: March 2012 – June 2012 at a partner university abroad

Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna di Studi Universitari e di Perfezionamento

School of International Studies http://www.ssi.unitn.it
Hi, I am Alex, a former SIS student, and this is my story at the School of International Studies and beyond. I should say right at the outset that, before attending the School of International Studies, I studied Economics. Economics has always been my passion and now I am among the few happy souls able to combine my job with my passion. I say this because I truly believe that everyone should find her/his own passion and strive to make this their work.

One might wonder why I decided to study International Relations at the School. Well, the reasons are pretty simple. First, back in 2006 it was among the few master’s degrees in Italy that offered lectures in English; also, one needed to attend a demanding English course. Second, it was already clear to me that one cannot understand economics and globalization without knowing the greater picture offered by social and political phenomena. Third, as you will sooner or later experience in your life, in business you are required to be quick, tough and flexible. The School offered a competitive entrance, small classes and team-work experience. This allowed me to develop not only the so-called soft-skills, like the ability of delivering a presentation in front of an audience, but also “social skills” such as working in teams or dealing with people from different cultures and backgrounds; the latter skills are often neglected but crucial in everyday work. Also, the daily face-to-face contact with lecturers was a valuable experience that helped me to undertake my own research. Actually, I spent almost the entire last year preparing my thesis on the international activities of Italian manufacturing firms. During this period I greatly benefited from the frequent discussions and the constructive help of experienced researchers both at the School and at the Economics department.

Right after graduating in June 2009 I moved to Germany where I attended a one-year intensive course in International Economic Policy at the Kiel Institute. I was eager to learn more sophisticated techniques in economic analysis and I was happy to discover that both my academic writing and my presentation skills were sound enough to succeed in this challenging program. In Kiel I co-authored a working paper, which is now considered for publication.

One week after graduating from the Kiel Institute in spring 2010 I moved to Milan for an internship. I was offered the opportunity to work in the research department of a well-known merchant bank. As I was used to working with company-level data and I knew German, they asked me to contribute to a piece of research on German and other European medium-sized enterprises. During those months I was challenged by the need to study also foreign accounting and commercial laws, a subject matter I wasn’t acquainted with. Again language skills proved very helpful. Today I am working in the same bank as a research analyst. I have a broad range of tasks, though my work focuses mainly on the characteristics of European manufacturing firms and the operations of stock-listed companies.

So in the end I guess that J. M. Keynes—who I do not quote very often—was right when he wrote: “the master-economist must possess a rare combination of gifts. He must be mathematician, historian, statesman, philosopher—in some degree.” I am not a master but in our modern and swift changing world, I am ready to bet, this sentence is true for almost every subject you are going to study and just as true for every possible job you have in mind.

Wishing you all good luck for your studies and work
Alex
http://www.linkedin.com/in/bernardalex
News from the MEIS Students

From the MASTER’S COURSE REPRESENTATIVES

Hi everybody! I'm Valentina, a second-year MEIS student, and MEIS student representative since November 2010. I come from Brescia, where I graduated in foreign languages with a specialization in International Relations at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore. Now I’m happily living here in Trento and attending the Protection of Fundamental Rights in European and International Law track. I'm interested in humanitarian law, protection of fundamental freedoms and human rights, refugee and asylum law (more specifically the case of Palestinian refugees), Middle Eastern dynamics, contemporary changes and, finally, European relations with the Middle East. Don't hesitate to contact me whenever you have problems or you would like to know something specific about issues related to the School.

Valentina Lorini
Email: valentina.lorini@alice.it
Facebook: Valentina Lorini
Skype: edimetra06
Mobile phone: 3397289609

Hi! My name is Daniele Cuomo Coppola, I'm a second-year MEIS student. I graduated in International Studies at the University of Bologna and then I chose to come to Trento. Often I wonder why I made such a choice, but actually the SIS has much to offer, indeed, even the city offers some opportunities. Don't waste your time but ask straight away, find out what else you could do here besides studying, such as doing an internship or volunteering. Above all, I'm one of the two MEIS student representatives. If you have problems or doubts concerning the School, or you want to know anything about the Master’s course, contact me.

Daniele Cuomo Coppola
Email: daniele.cuomo85@gmail.com

Book Review: SIS Professors Read by SIS Students and Alumni

Paolo Rosa

Lo stile del drago. Processi e modelli della politica estera cinese

Soveria Mannelli: Rubbettino editore, 2010; pp. 279

Mezzo secolo fa, un famoso giornalista italiano ironizzava sul fatto che “Ci deve essere qualcosa di più noioso dei libri che si scrivono sulla Cina: la Cina stessa”. Erano quelli gli anni immediatamente precedenti alla diplomazia del ping pong: il mondo, da allora, e' profondamente cambiato: e con esso anche la Repubblica Popolare Cinese, oggi una superpotenza economica e una minaccia per l'egemonia occidentale. Tanto che numerosissimi fioriscono i libri di improvvisati sinologi, importanti giornalisti e rinomati accademici: in Italia, oggi, sono Federico Rampini e Loretta Napoleoni i più conosciuti divulgatori dell'ascesa cinese, non da ultimo anche alle recenti edizioni del Festival dell'Economia di Trento. Il professor Paolo Rosa della Scuola di Studi Internazionali sta a sua volta offrendo un contributo a questa causa, analizzando il background che guida le scelte di questo fondamentale attore sullo scenario internazionale contemporaneo. Il suo ultimo lavoro, pubblicato da Rubbettino nel 2010, costituisce una delle più complete analisi delle politica estera cinese ad oggi pubblicate in Italia. Quest'ultima viene studiata attraverso gli strumenti della Foreign Policy Analysis e schematizzata nella prima parte del libro distinguendo tra fattori interni (tipi di leader, dinamiche di gruppo, cultura societaria, politica interna) e fattori esterni (anarchia internazionale, interdipendenza economica, norme internazionali). Nella seconda parte il volume passa in rassegna alcuni episodi chiave nella politica estera cinese a livello diplomatico, economico e militare avvalendosi, tra l'altro, di una amplissima bibliografia. Uno studio tanto ampio, tuttavia, corre due oppositi pericoli: da una parte, l'essere dispersive e frammentario; dall'altra, al contrario, iper-semplificatorio e prigioniero di rigidì schematismi. Il libro sembra riuscire nello slalom tra i due ostacoli: non a caso, e' oggi adottato come manuale di riferimento da molte delle università che offrono agli studenti corsi di politica estera cinese. Non sarà adrenalinico come una partita a ping pong, ma e' certamente meno noioso di tanti altri libri che si scrivevano sulla Cina.

Lorenzo Piccoli - MEIS Alumnus
Ieri, oggi e domani: SEI domande agli Alumni

MARA DISSEGNA
CLASSE 2003
MASTER IN EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Due anni vissuti ‘pericolosamente’.
Per quanto mi riguarda si tratta di un anno e non due, vissuti più che pericolosamente, freneticamente.
Stage: dove, cosa, quando e perché.
Ho svolto uno stage presso l’ufficio dell’ambasciata l’Italia a Tel Aviv nella primavera precedente al master. Volevo vedere con i miei occhi e cercare di farmi un’idea su ciò che accade in Israele e il ruolo delle istituzioni politiche nel conflitto. Al mio ritorno ho trovato un percorso che mi desse delle competenze per comprendere meglio la realtà delle relazioni internazionali e mi sono iscritta al Master SIS.
Dalla finestra vedo…
Le persone che guardano la gente studiare in biblioteca. Sarà forse il mio futuro?
I sogni son desideri…
Se ben annaffiati si! Per ora continuo a fare ricerca!
Le follie dell’imperatore…
Sperare che in Italia il settore della ricerca riceva maggiore attenzione e finanziamenti!

MATTEO FALAGIARDA
CLASSE 2005
SEI - PERCORSO GIURIDICO

Perché 6?
Scelsi il master offerto dalla SSI essenzialmente per il suo profilo multidisciplinare. Provenendo da un percorso di laurea triennale puramente economico, sentivo la necessità di affiancare al tradizionale corso di economia, tematiche che sempre mi avevano affascinato, quali la politica internazionale, il diritto internazionale, la storia contemporanea. Altri fattori importanti che influirono sulla mia scelta furono l’ambiente quasi familiare che si respirava nella Scuola ed il fatto che molti corsi fossero impartiti in inglese.
Due anni vissuti ‘pericolosamente’.
Il primo anno fu particolarmente duro: nuove materie, tanti esami, corsi pesanti. Ho però un ottimo ricordo dei professori e dei miei compagni di corso (con alcuni dei quali sono ancora in stretto contatto), delle Facoltà, di una braciolata all’aria aperta…
Stage: dove, cosa, quando e perché.
Trascorsi tre mesi presso l’ufficio commerciale dell’Ambasciata d’Italia in Tanzania a Dar es Salaam, nell’ambito del programma di tirocini del MAE. L’esperienza fu molto interessante e struttivua: sperimentai dal vivo come “funziona” un’ambasciata e raccolsi le prime idee di quella che sarebbe diventata poi la mia tesi di laurea.
Dalla finestra vedo…
La Torre degli Asinelli di Bologna, dove sto frequentando il secondo anno di dottorato in economia.
I sogni son desideri…
Non so dove sarò tra alcuni anni, se lavorerò nel mondo accademico, in qualche istituzione pubblica o in un ente privato. Posso dire, per il momento, che la ricerca in campo economico mi appassiona. Il lavoro dei miei sogni dovrà essere intellettualmente stimolante ed al tempo stesso garantirmi un contatto, umano e professionale, con altre persone.
Le follie dell’imperatore…
Concordo con quanto scrisse un famoso scrittore francese: “Bisogna fare cose folli con la massima prudenza” (M. Mohr). Non mollerò tutto per aprire un ristorantino ai Caraibi; tuttavia, mi concederò quelle piccole follie quotidiane che aiutano a crescere e migliorarsi in ogni campo.

MEIS Graduation Final Exams

November 8th, 2012
March 6th, 2013
November 7th, 2013
March 20th, 2043
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All the MEIS alumni are warmly invited to collaborate on the following issues of ASSIST. We want to make this newsletter your voice. The voice of dozens of MEIS Alumni scattered all around Europe and beyond.

You can reach us by e-mail and send us ideas, comments and criticisms. But we would also ask you to give us a more concrete contribution: we are looking for materials and short articles describing your ongoing projects, your current work, your experiences of academic life as well as in any other sectors.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

The editorial board of ASSIST

Contribute to ASSIST!

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The editorial board of ASSIST

Contribute to this issue:

Alex Bernard
Daniele Cuomo Coppola
Irene Costantini
Mara Dissegna
Matteo Falagiarda
Valentina Lorini
Serena Natile

Foto: Alessio Coser e altri, picture archive of the University of Trento

A.S.S.I.S.T.

The NEWSLETTER of the Alumni and Students of the Master’s Degree in European and International Studies

School of International Studies
University of Trento

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Sergio Zanotti

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Marco Brunazzo - SIS lecturer
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Sergio Zanotti - MEIS Alumnus

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Contributing to this issue:

Martina Bazzanella
Stefano Schiavo
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Saverio Bellettini
Giorgio Fodor
Foreign Assistance to Greece, Ireland and Portugal (2010-2012), with Special Reference to European Funds

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Jens Worik
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Roberto Belloni
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Vincent Della Sala
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Daniela Sicurelli
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