

INSIGHTS

A look inside innovative programming with ACCENT



PARIS • FLORENCE • LONDON • MADRID • ROME • ISTANBUL

Global Markets in London

It takes a motivated student to be out of bed and on-site for class by six in the morning, but for the University of California students who rose to the occasion, a visit to Billingsgate Fish Market in East London proved a fascinating addition to Dr. Peter Jones' course, *Tales from the Migrant Metropolis, 1860–2009*. Much to the students' surprise, a visit to the United Kingdom's largest inland fish market tied in perfectly.

The course explores migration and mobility as a means of decoding the experience of London in the modern era. In close readings of the urban novel, students connect with unsettled, restless, and dislocated voices as they speak about identity in a city characterized by its migrant histories.

The students were led through the market by a marine biologist and former fishmonger with more than fifty years' experience at Billingsgate. The tour began with the history of the market, before moving to the trading floor to come face-to-face with the fish, familiar and exotic.

The guides gave an extensive history of the impact of migration on the consumption of fish in Britain, as well as information on endangered species, pricing, regulation, and even some cooking tips. On the morning of the visit, fish prices had spiked overnight due to a storm off the south coast of England that had kept the boats in the harbor.

What most interested the group, however, was the visual representation of multicultural British society, and East London in particular. Students toured stalls specializing in salt cod for the West Indian market and a Sri Lankan trader explained his struggles with EU import regulations.

The students had been reading about markets in 19th century London and during the visit learned that even with today's heightened regulations, Billingsgate still operates as it did in 1850 when the doors first opened on its newly constructed building on Lower Thames Street.

At the end of the tour, students joined their guides for a traditional British breakfast of kedgeree, a spicy rice dish with smoked haddock. This was the market's first visit from a university group, but it certainly will not be the last from ACCENT.



Understanding Culture through Media

Students in the University of California European Transformations program spend a semester in two capitals, Madrid and Rome, investigating contemporary issues in Mediterranean society through comparative study.

In Madrid, a *Spanish Mass Media and Society* course introduces students to the main principles of mass media studies, analyzing the birth and evolution of Spanish mass media from *franquismo* to today. The course aims to give students the tools and vocabulary to analyze Spanish culture and its idiosyncrasies through a close study of its mass media.

In addition to the many comparisons professor Daniel Espín draws between Spanish and US media, the experience in Madrid also prepares students to closely examine the role of media in Italy when the program continues in Rome. It is a skill that can be adapted to any new culture.

Espín incorporates visits to media outlets in Madrid, the most recent of which was to the headquarters of *20 Minutos*. During the visit, students met with Editor-in-Chief Arsenio Escolar, a renowned journalist with experience at some of the country's top publications, including *El País* and *Cinco Días*. Escolar founded *20 Minutos* in 1999 as the country's first free national newspaper, which is now the second most read newspaper in Spain.

Students were curious about the differences in readership between free and paid press. Escolar explained that *20 minutos* readership was younger, more urban, and more evenly split between genders.

The students visited the newsroom and Escolar's office, where he was candid about the newspaper's strategy. Escolar explained that the paper's chief investor is a Norwegian communication group and that *20 Minutos* is independent of Spain's media conglomerates, the relevance of which was not lost on the group after studying Francoist propaganda and the political alliances within today's media landscape.

Later in the semester the group will visit two additional Spanish media companies: Antena 3, a television station, and *eldiario.es*, an online newspaper.



There and Back Again: Working with Men in Study Abroad

James M. Lucas, Ph.D.
Michigan State University

As a man working in higher education, I have followed the scholarship of male engagement for many years. Male students participate in study abroad at about half the rate as females, and this gap exists in other areas: men are less likely to attend and graduate from college; participate in service, hold leadership positions, and belong to a living-learning program. Conversely, men are more likely to dropout, not attend class, and get into trouble with the university's conduct system.

My dissertation explored male study abroad participation and suggested that gender role norms play a role in how young men perceive study abroad. Many males view study abroad as frivolous and not as important as part-time work or an internship. Since completing my research, I have tried to connect my findings to practice both as an administrator and program leader. During an effort to reach out to the fraternity community, I found an eager group of young partners in Michigan State University's (MSU) Chapter of Sigma Epsilon Phi (SigEp). Not only did these students want to discuss study abroad, but they wanted to create a program for fraternity men at the university.

For the pilot program, I worked with the students to design the course outline, and with ACCENT to organize the travel component during the MSU spring break. Prior to and

post-travel, the students attended class and discussed the concept of gender, different opinions about gender differences, gender role conflict, and the influence of gender on males in college, with a comparative perspective to Italy. This program also focused on leadership, connecting this topic with the fraternal context - both historically and in the present.

The collaboration between MSU, SigEp, and ACCENT represented the first for-credit study program that was co-created with undergraduate students at MSU. The program would never have occurred without the buy-in and support from a group of fraternity men willing to champion the effort. Similarly, the ACCENT Rome and Florence teams helped find guest lecturers and tours able to connect our unique topic to the fabric of these cities. The local faculty proved to be wonderful partners. They adapted their scholarship to the theme of gender, and put a lot of effort into making topics like Renaissance art and Roman archeology engaging for a group that was mostly business and engineering students.

Since our return, the students have reported seeing the world differently, having realized



that not everyone thinks, acts, and lives like them. They speak of a newfound understanding that even small everyday things, such as a statue or the straightness of a road, have meaning. They have made connections between history and modern culture, noting how the past can influence who we are as a people. The excitement from this learning has come back to campus, and I can only describe our classes post-travel as "transformed" in terms of their interaction and engagement.

My colleagues thought I was a bit crazy for taking this group overseas. Many would say that there would be too many disciplinary problems, or even question why men would need a men's studies course. My answer is that this group needs the experience. As educators, we too often assume that men's social entitlements mean that they do not have special needs. They do. Men need to be thought of as gendered, and they need help understanding their gendered lives and their privileges. Only by educating them can we get them to own their entitlements and help build societies that are socially just.

History of Medicine in London

ACCENT London recently welcomed a group of freshmen from the University of Wisconsin - Madison, on a program designed for biology students to retrace the steps of Darwin, White, and Hooke in the establishment of the foundations of the field. To ensure that the students immediately understood the



relevance of the city to their topic, ACCENT London arranged a History of Science walking tour with Richard Barnett.

Richard specializes in the history of health and disease in London. He completed a PhD in the history of medicine at University College London and is now a Director of Studies for Pembroke College, Cambridge. His books include *Medical London: City of Diseases, City of Cures* and *The Sick Rose: Disease and the Art of Medical Illustration* and he writes for the *London Review of Books* and the *Lancet*.

The walk started at the Horse Hospital near Russell Square and continued to Coram Fields, once home to the Foundling Hospital, founded in 1741 to reduce child mortality in the city. Charles Dickens, who wrote pioneering journalism on poverty and illness in Victorian London, lived in nearby Doughty Street.

The route of the Fleet, a river once wide enough for barges but now buried beneath pavement, leads to the ironically named 'Mount Pleasant' - a Victorian-era dumping ground for London's refuse, where mountains of rubbish towered over the local landscape. Just around the corner, Spa Gardens Park shares its stories of over-flowing cemeteries and corpses burnt en masse in charnel houses.

A recurring theme of the tour was how individuals fought to make a free healthcare platform for all Londoners - including the birth of the original Royal Free Hospital in the 1830s; the world's first ambulance station in 1908; and the School of Medicine on Hunter Street, set up for women forbidden by law to learn medicine elsewhere until the mid-1940s. The walk ended in Tavistock Square, outside the British Medical Association.

ACCENT *on* INTERNSHIPS

Medici Archive Project

Francesca Pezzullo was drawn to UC Santa Barbara for two reasons: the school's great reputation in the sciences and its extensive study abroad offerings. Francesca has always felt pulled in those two directions and is currently finishing her sophomore year as a dual major in Marine Biology and Global Studies. After a year of lab sciences, Francesca thought that the Florence semester would allow her to embrace her "other side" and perhaps "get it out of her system." However, following a rewarding semester and internship in Florence, she is even more torn.

As a student intern at the Medici Archive Project, Francesca took part in the editing of a new digital archive project, designed to make the Archive more accessible to the public. She also made updates to the project website, and copy-edited a paper before submission to the *Oxford Art Journal*. Her experience translating synopses of different documents and letters from Italian and English informed her own process of learning Italian. "I realized they were making the same mistakes as me, but in the opposite direction," she reflects.

The experience also brought her studies of art and history to life. "The pure drama and ridiculousness was so funny," she remembers, recalling the letters between artists and their patrons. During her internship, she attended

a presentation of her colleagues' research projects in the Harold Acton Library at the British Institute of Florence, allowing her to connect the individual documents from her day-to-day work to wider research objectives.

She was inspired by the drive of the Italian and international researchers. The experience reinforced her own interest in the liberal arts, she says, "I never want to give up that piece of my education. It's a passion."

With two more undergraduate years ahead of her, Francesca has her eyes set on another study abroad experience. Quite predictably she is undecided between two locations: a Marine Biology research lab in Tahiti and a French and European Studies semester in Paris.

Sacro Cuore Medical Genetics Lab

When Evin Wieser enrolled at UC Berkeley he knew that he would study in Italy, but as a student of Molecular and Cellular Biology he assumed his semester abroad would require a break from the lab. Instead, when inquiring about internships on the UCEAP Rome semester program, Evin learned about an opportunity at the Medical Genetics lab at the Rome campus of Università Cattolica di Sacro Cuore, Europe's largest private university.

Evin worked along side a team of five researchers investigating haploinsufficiency and neurodevelopmental disorders. While Evin had laboratory experience on campus and a year as a lab associate at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, he found his experience in Rome to provide increased independence, and at the same time push



Evin Wieser (second from left) with research team at the Università Cattolica di Sacro Cuore Medical Genetics lab

him further than prior research experiences.

The research covered material that Evin had not yet learned in the classroom, but his mentor, a post-doctorate research fellow, was a willing teacher. "Giuseppe and I would leave our work stations and he would explain the research and theory behind what we were doing," Evin explains. At the same time, Evin was encouraged to work on his own when he felt comfortable to do so, allowing him room to make and learn from mistakes.

Evin went to the lab after Italian class on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, and often devoted his Fridays as well in order to cover more ground. He always made sure to arrive before lunch in order to share the meal with the other researchers.

After his internship experience in Rome, Evin has already done the necessary paperwork to change his major specialization to Genetics, Genomics, and Development. The change will require an extra semester's coursework, but he is convinced that he needs to finish the work started in Rome.

Istanbul: A Laboratory for Graphic Design

In March, students from the University of Minnesota devoted their spring break to a whirlwind graphic design program in Istanbul. As students from the University's College of Design, they arrived in Istanbul with a significant portfolio already in place; however, by the end of the program they had acquired a much more sophisticated understanding of the history and heritage of their craft.

The group, led by professor James Boyd Brent, set out to explore the importance of design and innovation in the multicultural metropolis, a hub of creative industries that is quickly joining the ranks of New York, London, and Milan. The unique characteristics of the city – among them rapid growth, multiculturalism, and a rich religious history

– inspire a distinctive design discourse that calls upon centuries of history to enrich global design culture.

A series of visits explored the history of art and design, including the Hagia Sofia, Grand Bazaar, and the Green Mosque in Bursa. With this background, the students joined professor Nur Balkır Kuru, head of Graphic Design at Kadir Has University, to discuss contemporary issues in the field, including the role of designers in the Gezi protests in 2013. Professor Balkır Kuru also detailed the role of street art and graffiti in Istanbul today, a phenomenon that students had been observing throughout the week.

A highlight for all was a visit to Depo Istanbul, personally guided by the center's director Aslı Cetinkaya. Located in a former tobacco warehouse in the Tohpane district, Depo is a

space for critical debate addressing the socio-political implications of socially engaged art practices in Turkey, the Caucasus, the Middle East, and the Balkans.

After visiting the current installations the group gathered in a gallery space to discuss Depo's mission and current projects, drawing connections to the visual impact of designers witnessed during their week in Istanbul.



ACCENT *at a glance*

Expanded ACCENT Madrid Study Center

ACCENT Madrid recently moved into a newly renovated, expanded Study Center on Paseo del General Martínez Campos, just a few steps from its previous location. The new location is equipped with four spacious, light-filled classrooms, a large welcome desk and cultural support area, and a shared office for local and visiting faculty. Students have access to a dedicated lounge space, a separate study room, and a student computer lab with ten desktop computers. The Study Center was officially inaugurated on May 7th and looks forward to welcoming its custom, summer programs.



ACCENT on Freshman Study Abroad

By the end of this year, ACCENT will have collaborated with US partners to design and host ten unique study abroad programs for freshmen. In February, Ashley Spinelli, Program Development Manager, joined

colleagues from Michigan State University, the University of Minnesota Learning Abroad Center, and Skidmore College to discuss the challenges and opportunities associated with programming for first year students in a panel discussion at the 34th Annual Conference on the First Year Experience in Dallas, Texas.

Italo Lecture in Rome

Andrea Giuricin from Italo Trains recently gave a guest lecture in Rome for executive MBA students from Purdue University. Italo entered the Italian market in 2012, providing, for the first time in Europe, direct competition to the state train company, Trenitalia. The company was founded by two of Italy's top businessmen, Luca Cordero di Montezemolo, then CEO of Ferrari, and Diego Dalle Valle, CEO of Tod's. Students learned about key strategic factors for Italo, including competition, regulation, and strategic partnerships.

The Evolution of Hector Guimard in Paris

Students from the University of Pennsylvania took to the streets of Paris to explore the early works of architect Hector Guimard, whose metro entrances are among the most easily recognizable architectural elements in Paris. The walk brought students to Auteuil in the 16th arrondissement where they studied the evolution of Guimard's style from his earliest buildings, completed in his twenties, to later Art Deco designs. The visit addressed changes in the *métier d'architecte* in France towards the end of the 19th century and explored the birth of modern architecture during the lifespan of Hector Guimard.

Urban -Sociology in the 'Real' Paris

University of California students on the *Global Cities Urban Realities* program enroll in courses designed around themes of immigration, diversity, and urban conflict, especially salient in Paris today. In her course, *Documenting the Periphery: Identity and Citizenship in the 'Other' Part of Paris*, professor Carole Viers-Andronico examines the socioeconomic and political marginalization experienced by France's working class citizens, often of immigrant origin and from France's former colonies.

The course explores urban sociology through documentary film, photojournalism, and literature, providing students with the opportunity to meet filmmakers and photographers in person throughout the course. Students met with photojournalist and artist, Jean-Manuel Simoes, to discuss his work, including *Chiens de la Casse* (junkyard dogs), an exhibition and book featuring his photography of France's rough suburban neighborhoods. After years of covering crime as a photojournalist in Paris suburbs like Clichy-sous-Bois and Villiers-le-Bel, Simoes decided to return to those neighborhoods to take simple photographs, close up, to more accurately document the complexity of life in those areas.

26 Years of Inspiring Students

Lia Raileanu will lead her 26th study abroad program this summer, making her one of ACCENT's longest serving program leaders. She started in 1989 and has led programs for Coast Community



Lia receiving the winners' trophy with her CCCD team at the annual ACCENT Paris Pétanque tournament in 2014

District every year since. Her ability to motivate beginning students of the French language has led to many successful programs and students' continued study of the French language, and above all their passion for the country, its people, language, and culture.

Innovative Collaborations for Faculty-Led Programming

Jim Perry, European Program Development Manager, recently led a working session at the Forum on Education Abroad's 11th Annual Conference, *It Takes a Campus & More*, to explore the role of nontraditional stakeholders in faculty-led programming. Together with a panel of faculty program leaders from Michigan State University and East Tennessee State University, Jim introduced "out-of-the-box" collaborative strategies to improve faculty-led programs, including interdepartmental collaboration, partnerships with high-level administration, university development initiatives, alumni offices, and local corporations.

Students say the course exposes the 'real' Paris and the 'true' France, and pushes them to engage with French culture and society in order to examine the complexity of what it means to be French and to belong in France today. It is an exercise that encourages reflection on cultural difference within France, between France and the U.S., and ultimately for these students, within California, as they reexamine race, immigration, and social issues at home with new, more developed eyes.

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