

# **ERASMUS MUNDUS MASTER'S**

## **Journalism and Media within Globalization: The European Perspective**

Blue Book  
2008 - 2010



**The 2008-2010 Mundus Master's class brings together forty-four students from twenty-eight different countries.**

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# INTRODUCTION

## World Dynamics in a Nut Shell

The place is full of activity and energy when you gather 44 students with a background in journalism from more than 28 countries.

This energy is going to explode and disperse in the nutshell of Århus during this first semester, when the 2008 group of the Mundus Journalism family is going to explore the environments of the Danish School of Journalism and the Århus University social science and media studies institutes. Hopefully further enriched, the group cycles on to Amsterdam next. Then the energy is further dispersed, with the group being split in three to go to London, Swansea or Hamburg. Some of the European students will even explore the world outside Europe, with studies in Sydney, Berkeley or Santiago.

The following articles show most places of the world have already been thoroughly explored by the students, and the spirit among the participants of Mundus Journalism 2008 to explore even more places is highly motivated. With a quote from a **Canadian** participant, "Travelling is fundamental to providing us with a better perspective of who we are." To be followed by a **German** participant, "Together we break the myths about each other."

One thing each member of the group seems to have in common is the will and energy to at the same time explore and work with the group and with the amazing network which has been shaped with this multicultural group. By letting the world come to one place, students have the energy to explore the world outside discussions in the classrooms and during the group work.

An eye opener, with an opportunity "to see people from different perspectives and to become more open to new ideas," said the **Philippine** representative, to be followed by a representative of **Brazil**, "As a journalist, I need to report on an issue from a number of angles and viewpoints. This program allows me to learn about these different views from the life experiences of other students and experience the curriculum of life."

The discussions, for sure, will be lively, with a desire for intercultural communication and, with the **Ukrainian** quote from Socrates, "Discussions bring the truth." This is followed by an **Italian** representative, "We have this amazing opportunity to speak to, and connect with people from all over the world, and compare their perspectives on various issues. I think it is fantastic."

An **Indian** representative says, "As a journalist, I believe that a global perspective on media would add value to my understanding of the media world." Says another **Indian** representative, who sees the course as "the world in a classroom," helping him to find a way to be a travel journalist or academic teacher in the wide field of creative writing.

The **Basque** representative “believes she can learn from her classmates things she cannot read in books.”

All participants have different media backgrounds, representing all media types from TV, Radio, Newspaper, Magazine, and the Web. Many plan to use the knowledge from the master’s to work as foreign correspondents around the world. Some would like to pursue an academic career, with Ph.D. studies. In common they have it that none will be an average journalist.

Students coming from conflict areas like **Georgia**, **Kosovo**, **Nepal** and **Nigeria**, or who have been working in conflict areas already, want to go back and use their knowledge to help their countries’ future journalists. Some will do this by implementing their new knowledge in the country either by teaching at universities, by producing international news programs, or by working at non-governmental organizations. Their missions are covered by the **Nepalese** participant “who would like to contribute to his country through learning how to better understand the world.” And the **Chilean** representative, who “sees her mission in bringing forward the integration within the country, communicating between different social strata with different backgrounds and helping to integrate the country into the global community.” An ambitious mission which is hopefully going to be fulfilled.

These lines are followed by other participants, like one of the **Chinese** students who wants to work in the developing world to make a real difference “trying to better the world through a positive change in values and ideas.” Another **Chinese** representative continues, “I would like to gain a global perspective in this age of globalization and I hope to bring back Beijing both practical and theoretical tools that can help me in presenting the modern China to the world.”

In common for all 44 participants is that they, through the Mundus Journalism programme, get a fantastic network. As expressed by a **Chinese** representative, “to have friends from 28 countries will be one of the precious treasures I can ever gain.” It is a network not only limited to this group, but expanded to the other members of the Mundus Journalism family. Furthermore, there is the opportunity to join the global alumni network of all 110 Erasmus Mundus Master’s students, representing different subjects and traditions of the European educational arena. The Mundus programme gives the possibility of making friendships and to have a home in all the countries being represented by the participants. The only thing remaining is to grab this world.

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EU Coordinator for the Mundus Journalism Master’s  
Danish School of Journalism / University of Århus  
September 2008*



## AN ZHIPING

**A resume of accomplishments, time to try something new**

ROMAN CHLUPATY

“Been there, done that.” With just a slight hyperbole, this is exactly what An Zhiping could have said to himself at the age of thirty-three, subsequently opting for the comfortable life of a highly respected photo editor at China’s largest press agency. Instead, he decided to give it all up for the modest life of a student in faraway Europe.

“I wanted to try something new, not just photography,” says Zhipin succinctly at first; an elaborate explanation followed. “The Chinese economy is booming and to understand how the global economy works, how it influences us, and what perspectives different people have on these issues will be in ever-higher demand.” He further added, after living and visiting many different countries all around the globe the relocation to Europe is a welcome challenge rather than something to be afraid of. “With my experience I do not to have fear anywhere,” says Zhiping laughing.

A short inventory of his resume confirms this premise: fresh out of the highly-respected Peking University, he was tested by the demanding environment of the Xinhua agency as an assistant to the photo editor; later on, as the head of Xinhua’s South Asian bureau, Zhiping experienced the post-tsunami chaos as well as that which followed the Mumbai bombing - which he survived just as easily as he did the devilish spiciness of biryani; and soon after his return to Beijing he was on the road again with the Olympic torch, which took him to all the inhabited continents and “way too many hotels” over the course of four months.

Sound exhausting? Not to Zhiping, who enjoys travelling in his free time. Among his favorites are Bhutan, where he especially enjoyed a serenity so rare in today’s hectic, industrialized world. And what if travelling is not an option? That is when the local comes into play: a quiet corner and a Chinese novel preferably by an author portraying everyday life in his hometown of Beijing, is Zhiping’s choice.

Another one would be a moment with his wife whom he married just a month before he came to Europe and has now left behind. For Zhiping, this is yet another sacrifice the good-natured Chinese man made in order to get a chance to “try something new.”



# NAIARA ARTEAGA-TABERNA

## From Basque Country to Århus

### KHATIA SHALAMBERIDZE

In the country where Naiara comes from, people have two last names. They get one from father's side and the other from mother. So, her full name is Naiara Arteaga-Taberna. She was born 23 years ago in Basque Country, in a town called Lezo, which is very close to San Sebastian. The Spaniard with Basque blood in her veins notes, "When people ask me where I come from, I directly say Spain and then if they want to know more, I say San Sebastian or the Basque Country. I don't say directly Basque country because many people don't know where it is and anyway, it's a part of Spain."

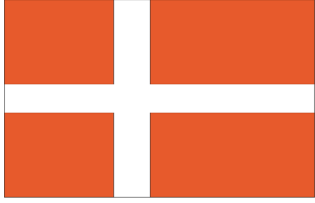
She tells me about her educational background. Naiara graduated with the Bachelor's Degree in art and communication from the University of Deusto in San Sebastian, which is a religious university. During her studying she specialized in journalism. Right after the graduation, she decided to put her knowledge into practice. She made her first steps in the world of journalism by getting an internship at one of the biggest radio companies, which broadcasts throughout the whole Spain. She was producing political and social news there.

Though she loved it, after 6 months she decided to leave the radio and try herself in the print journalism. "I loved radio. But I wanted to try something different. I wanted to compare other aspects of journalism," she says. That's how she got her second internship at one of the local newspapers, called Berria. "Berria is the only newspaper which is printed in the Basque language. So, when I started my internship there I had to switch from writing in Spanish to writing in Basque language," Naiara notes. Speaking of the languages, she speaks five languages. Spanish and Basque language are her native languages, she is fluent in English and she has basic language skills in French and German.

When asked what she likes the most about her profession, she replies that it is journalists who get to inform people and open up some details to them.

The reason why she is in Århus now and pursuing her master's degree in Journalism through the Erasmus Mundus Programme is that she wants to acquire more in-depth knowledge. "I wanted to learn a bit more, to get more knowledge about journalism and international organizations, particularly about EU, because I am European myself. And I think this master's programme will give me not only theoretical background but also practical background about different countries and cultures in the world," she says. She believes that she can learn from her classmates things she cannot read in books.





# DAVID BARNWELL

## **Dreaming of life in an international society**

JOHN NARAYAN PARAJULI

What separates David from rest is that he instantly comes off as an internationalist—someone at odds at his own home in Århus. An avid football player, he can be found mentoring other international students how to get around in the Århus, between his classes and practice sessions.

David says that his mother always told him that the entire globe was his home. He took his mother's words to heart and set out to make the globe his home in his own modest way and to find his place in this world early on. As it is a practice in Denmark, after high school David ganged up with few friends and left for Spain in 2002.

“It was a thing to do after high school,” says David, recounting numerous odds jobs he did to survive in Málaga. Not only did he survive, he came out it wiser and clearer on what he wanted to do in life. In Spain, he had his first encounter with the Spanish culture. His experience abroad truly shaped his ideas and helped him to reflect where he really belonged.

“Since then I have known that I belong in an international society,” says David. After he returned to Denmark, he decided to pursue international studies and Latin American history, alongside Spanish. David is very passionate about his dreams and his vision of living in a truly international society.

Son of an English father and a Danish mother, an international marriage, he naturally feels at home among foreigners than among his countrymen. Every time he returns Denmark from his trip abroad, he says he has a powerful dose of reverse culture shock. He has also travelled to Argentine and England.

David, whose his legs are always itching to go away from home, was born in Copenhagen but his family moved to the west coast of Denmark, where he grew up until he was 15. He moved again to Århus a year later.

In 2006, David interned as a sports reporter with an online football portal: [www. Bold.dk](http://www.Bold.dk). Since many Spanish football players played in Denmark and as fate would have it, his Spanish language skills came into play. After the end of internship, he was hired for a year.

“The reason why I chose the Erasmus Mundus is that I to want make sense of all the confusion and put things into context,” says David. He insists that he is looking forward to academically stimulating debates and understanding of news and the different perspectives for what they really are. His dreams are numerous, but at heart of it all, he wants to become one thing: an international reporter in its literal sense—informing and getting informed in the process.

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## NORA BERNING

### **Catch her if you can**

CARMEL GEVEROLA

A girl on the move, whether travelling from Germany to Australia for an internship, taking up studies in Freiburg, working in Hamburg, joining the Erasmus Mundus programme, or simply pedalling her way around Århus - that is Nora.

She took up a bachelor's degree in FrankoMedia at the University of Freiburg. The interdisciplinary course focuses on French media systems and also deals with culture and literature. Freiburg is close to the French border, and Nora speaks French and English apart from her native German.

In 2005, Nora flew to Australia for a three-month internship with the Sydney Weekly. She wanted “to go out and see the world, and not just be in Germany all the time.” Also, she said, “winter in Australia is even better than summer in Germany.” It was her first time away from home.

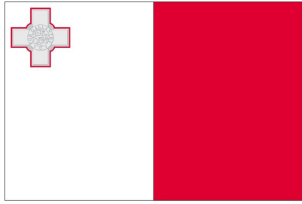
She was in Sydney when she learned that she got accepted to all 10 universities she applied for. She chose Freiburg because of its interdisciplinary approach to journalism. Her undergraduate degree fits in with the Erasmus Mundus programme, and to be studying in three different countries means learning about different cultures and social systems in “exceptional” conditions.

After her Erasmus Mundus, Nora might maintain her fleetness with plans to pursue an academic career and work as a correspondent for a bilingual newspaper. “I was impressed by Teke (Erasmus Mundus 2006-2008), who already had three thesis proposals for his Ph.D. in his first weeks in Århus,” Nora shared.

She will be heading to Hamburg for her specialism. “It is a continuation of my studies and work experience in Hamburg.”

It is not always a blur of activities for Nora, though. She knows how to put on the brakes and take time to smell the sea breeze and listen to the sound of seagulls outside her bedroom window. She lives in an enviable location in Århus —a five-minute walk from the beach. Nora likes speed, and that includes the fast balls on the tennis court. She played the game for about 15 years until she made studies her priority.

It is her first time in Århus, and in Denmark. She already loves the city. “Münster is a bicycle city and Århus is one, too.” This time, she has a racing bike. Nora, no doubt, will speed her way through life.



## MATTHEW CARUANA GALIZIA

### **The vision to realize your ideas**

SAKSHI SHARMA

Meet Matthew, his shy but ever-smiling demeanour tells you one story, but his confident mind that holds strong convictions reflects quite another. Being born and bred in Malta, where he has spent 22 years of his life, he is now in Århus, Denmark, to share his perspective and understanding of journalism.

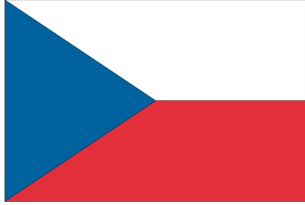
Matthew originally wanted to become an architect because design and aesthetics interest him a lot. “Most of my friends from high school did pursue architecture, but I have chosen to keep it as a diversion and practice journalism which excites me a lot more,” he says.

Like his diverse interests, he completed his Bachelor degree with a combination of International Relations and Anthropology in 2007. His interest in the study of politics, people, and society rose from these very subjects. He says that taking up different kinds of jobs since he was 15 led him to understand teamwork and people management better. Now, one thing Matthew is sure about, “a typical 9-5 desk job is not for me,” he says. Instead, his love for travel and urge to meet intriguing personalities from all walks of life makes journalism fit the bill perfectly.

A high point of his career was his selection to be a part of the World Economic Forum’s media team in Davos. “I was ecstatic at my selection and worked behind the scenes during the build-up to the annual meeting and throughout it. I got hands-on experience in interview and panel discussion set ups, as well as a peek into the minds of various business policy makers and their views on world economy,” he says.

His experience at Davos reassured his interest in business journalism, and Matthew is quite delighted about his specialization at City University, London, next year where he would get more insights into this ever-changing, vast world of economics. He hopes to bring some difference to the way business news is handled in his native country. “Business news is not given enough importance on our news channels, it is squeezed somewhere along with the main bulletin, and that’s something I dislike. I hope it gains more prominence so that people become aware about it,” he says.

While Mathew would love an ideal world without conflicts, he is practical in his approach and thus chooses business journalism over war reporting. Freedom of ideas signifies Mathew’s picture of journalism, “I love the internet because it is a free market of ideas, where everyone has the power to publish. While, some might argue that there is no regulator but, then it is your choice to absorb what you want to,” he says.



## ROMAN CHLUPATY

### Seasoned journalist upgrades from local to global

AN ZHIPING

“This is a wonderful program that can broaden my horizon, interact me with other people from nearly 30 countries,” says Roman Chlupaty when he tells me why he participated in the Erasmus Mundus Program.

Roman, 32 years old, is really a professional business reporter who has working experience as journalist of 13 years.

He began his career with Tyden, a weekly magazine, after high school in 1995. Completing a one-year internship, he formally joined a local newspaper in Prague, as an investigative journalist on bank and investment funds and worked there for two years. Thereafter, he changed to a radio station and worked as both anchor and reporter on business news until 2000.

Gaining much experience on news reporting after 5 years in media, Roman chose to go back to the campus for further study. He went to Canada in 2000, and stayed there for 7 years. He was admitted by a university in Toronto at that time where he majored in international relations with a minor in economics. After graduation, he worked as a freelancer in Canada.

In May 2007, Roman came back to Czech Republic. He joined a local radio station to be an editor of the business desk and worked as a market analyst for an English written weekly magazine as well. Even Now when he participates in the Erasmus Mundus program, he still works for the radio and accepts some assignments of it.

Talking further on the reason why he left his position in the Radio for Erasmus Mundus Program, he said that it was somewhat similar to his choice to study in Canada after 5 years in media. He hoped to upgrade himself from ideas of national coverage to global coverage.

At first glimpse, Roman, a tall and slim guy with a pair of glasses from Czech Republic, seems a sober professional. However, when we talk more, I find he is really an active person full of ardor. He likes sports very much. He is a good runner and took part in marathon races before. Soccer is his favorite sport and he also like to play floor ball. Although he is a new comer in Århus, He has already begun to play football and floor ball with his new friends.

Besides the sports, he is also fond of travelling. He has been to around 40 countries in which Burma and Cuba are his favorites.

Roman has married and his wife now is also participating in a study program in London.



# ISABELLA COTA SCHWARZ

## A 'drama queen' from Mexico

SIMON SCHMITT

"I am very rebellious", Isabella admits and adds, "at least for Mexican standards." The self-called "drama queen", a habit, which simply lays in her nature, was 24 and unmarried, when she left her family house – in Mexico a very uncommon behavior. "But that's ok. I'm doing a lot of things that are unusual." One of these things was her decision to start a journalistic career. "The profession is currently opening up for both genders. But there is quite a few women journalists." The 26-year-old cannot remember at which point in her life she chose this career, "I have just always known, that I wanted to be a journalist." However, Isabella had very different possibilities. At the age of 13 she was allowed to go to a professional ballet school. This would have opened to her the opportunity to become a professional dancer. But the intention to get into the journalistic field was stronger.

The reason why the woman from Monterrey, a city in the northern part of Mexico, wants to work in this profession is very clear to her: "I want to stimulate the readers with my work." Something that Isabella already has reached. While she was working for the newspaper El Norte, one of the biggest newspapers in northern Mexico, she wrote an investigative article about the declining marriage and increasing divorce rates, a process Isabella traces back to the western influence on her country. This article triggered a wide range of discussion in her region. For Isabella this was the highlight of her career – at least at the moment. But if you consider the passion, with which she is talking about her work, it can be easily supposed there will come further moments as well. When the moments will come cannot be said at present, however, at which medium it will be in, is obvious for this girl, who grew up with three sisters: "My absolute favorite is the newspaper." Therefore after the Erasmus Mundus Programme Isabella wants to return to this kind of medium, for which she has worked already two years.

Her decision to start the Erasmus Programme almost seems to be a return to her origin. Isabella's grandfather was born in Hamburg, the city, where she is going to study the third and fourth semester. "I could have also started my Master in the USA, but I wanted to come to Europe and I wanted to study in this M.A.-programme, because I fear, that I am lacking political knowledge. But furthermore after I've read the description I knew that this programme fits me very well."

Therefore Isabella, who graduated in information and communication sciences at the University of Monterrey, hopes to profit from her time in Europe and wants to experience the European work culture. Just thinking of moving to Hamburg is exciting for Isabella: "Although my grandfather lived in Germany, I'm not really connected to this country so far. But I want to get more of that feeling, to get in contact with some part of my roots." A "drama queen" like Isabella will surely attract attention in the sometimes a little bit square city of Hamburg.



## ANCA DANILESCU

### **Leader of the generation of change in Romania**

JAN LEPETUN

Anca was born in very small town in South of Romania to a teacher and the captain of a big ship. Some years ago her family moved to Bucharest. New life began there for Anca.

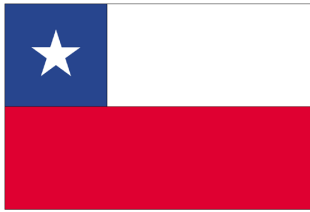
Anca's fascination with journalism began in high school, when she discovered that she liked writing. As a young activist, she organised writing and speaking competitions in school. The sessions in the public-speaking group covered various topics including corruption, racial discrimination, and youth problems. Her devotion to this activity was so profound that it drew attention of mass media. This is how her affiliation with journalism started. At first journalists covered sessions of the club, and then asked Anca to write for a newspaper, to great excitement of her mum. Anca's social activeness didn't end here, however. She was a founding member of the NGO "Aici" whose primary goal was to curb corruption in high schools.

In university, she started her journalistic work as contributor for an art magazine and a TV show. Then she moved to a national political television programme, TV Realitatea. During two years of passionate work there she matured as journalist. One of the foremost qualities Anca developed is the ability to step aside from personal views, which is a true value of a journalist. Most of all Anca likes in journalism the need to constantly challenge one's ideas and convictions as well as talking to people and continuous learning.

Anca spent one year in the U.S., where she was involved in community service. After returning to Romania, Anca continued her social activities, conducting anticorruption programmes in high schools and collecting paper for recycling. She also organised trips for children to extremely poor Roma ghettos. In this way Anca and her friends were trying to change attitudes of children in relation to Roma people. Anca still idealistically believes that people can always get together, regardless of their nationalities.

As a Mundus student, Anca is excited to learn from the diverse people attending the programme as well as the educational process itself. Students, she says, are not given chance to get lazy here and are constantly challenged.

After her studies Anca wants to go back home and try a job as news presenter. Alternatively, she sees herself as moderator of a TV show devoted rather to discussing world affairs than domestic events. Anca feels she is a part of generation that can make dramatic changes in Romania, and that is able to challenge the way Romanians think. She wants to fill a gap of strong voices in the Romanian media sphere dominated by former generation journalists with their own prejudices.



## PAULETTE DESORMEAUX

**Passion, dedication, and a heart of gold**

AANKATRIN STENDER

Born in Chile's capital Santiago twenty-five years ago Paulette has a lot of experience to offer – journalistically and regarding life in general. She studied journalism and social communications at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, and worked as a teaching assistant meanwhile.

Paulette successfully participated in the essay contest “Ruta Quetzal” initiated by the Spanish Universidad Complutense de Madrid. She won a two month journey with a group of international students taking her to different parts of the world. Getting to know other cultures and countries as well as facing cruel realities were formative experiences for Paulette. These made her realise two things: she wanted to improve living conditions and fight grievances for the poor and, moreover, she wanted to see more of this world, gain further experiences and knowledge on other cultures.

Back in Chile, Paulette founded an initiative together with some friends in order to tackle problems such as extreme poverty and illiteracy in her country. They held Spanish courses as well as courses on how to become more self-confident in order to help young people from the less privileged social class.

Still, the young Chilean's engagement reached further. Since she had the chance to do an internship at the main TV station in Chile, Channel 13 during her studies she started working for a program called *Contacto*. There, Paulette discovered her passion for investigative journalism. Getting a deep insight into the lives of the poor, interviewing homeless people and uncovering the abuse of donations were one part of the job. In addition, Paulette got to travel all around Chile to conduct her reportages. The program got nominated for an Emmy Award.

She is highly motivated to learn more about Europe, travel around the continent and get in touch with all different kinds of people from all over the world. “I don't believe that objectivity exists but there is always an honest way to face reality” as Paulette puts it. Paulette has come to Europe to join the Erasmus Mundus programme not primarily because of professional goals – she wants to face a personal challenge. Living in a different environment and finding herself in a new kind of diversity are the main factors which motivated Paulette to choose this study program.

Regarding her live after Erasmus Mundus Paulette is open and lets the matter take its course. She could imagine staying in Europe for a few more years and living in an exciting city like Paris. However, one day she wants to return to Chile. She sees her mission in bringing forward the integration within the country, communicating between different social strata with different backgrounds and identities and helping to integrate the country into the global community.

Erasmus Mundus Masters

Journalism & Media within Globalization

Blue Book 2008-2010



## CHRISTINA DILLMANN

**One life with international knowledge and experience**

### MEAS BUNLY

“I decided to join the Erasmus programme because I want to arm myself with information for my path which, in my opinion, is to arm oneself with power,” said Christina Dillmann, a student of European Master of Media and Journalism within Globalization.

Born in San Diego, a southern Californian coastal city in 1980, she is the youngest child among other two sisters and a brother. Her parents are German, and they came to the U.S. in the 1970's to work in the medical field. Her father's career as a physician does not really attract her future's ambition. But, a cover of a National Geographic inspired her willingness to be part of the journalism industry. “I have always been a dreamer. I wanted to write and travel as early as I could remember,” says Christina.

Stepping into this media arena has not always been an easy career path. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in 2005, she worked at several internships for weekly newspapers in the States such as El Reportero/the Reporter, The San Francisco Bay Guardian, Point Reyes Light and a paid position as a writer/editor for MAS Magazine.

After losing her job at MAS Magazine, she went through an eleven month period of temping and applying to journalism and media positions. “I love the work but hate the print media industry,” she says. Following this, she took the opportunity to travel, live in a foreign country and perfect her Spanish by teaching English in Madrid, Spain for ten months.

The Erasmus Mundus Media and Journalism programme has brought her back to the field of journalism. She was looking for a course that could provide her with skills in international relations, economics and the chance to travel. The programme is just the right one for her. “Mundus offers something that is more general but leads to broader professional opportunities. It is better than preparing one for a very narrow, traditional journalism track,” she says.

After completion of the programme, she wants to get herself to the next level of the media profession by working for Deutsche Welle or the U.S.'s National Public Radio. She also aims for communication work at international companies or humanitarian career at non-governmental organizations.





## MICHELLE DOBROVOLNY

### **Avid biker travels to Europe for a global degree**

#### IGNAZIO FEDERICO LANZO

Michelle is not the kind of person who likes to attract the attention; you need to discover her yourself. It's like when you are looking for something, and then maybe it comes to light. Along the interview, I found in Michelle a very active person, quite similar to me, and this was a thing I didn't expect.

Michelle graduated in journalism in the same school as Neil Young, the University of Winnipeg. She has two sisters, and her god is Leonard Cohen. At the school of journalism, she studied theory and academic disciplines for the firsts two years. In the last two years, she improved the technical skills like radio, TV and writing.

Michelle's favorite hobby is cycling, that's why she likes Denmark. "Everyone has got a bike here," she says. Once, she rode her bike from Winnipeg all across the U.S.A., to Texas. Five hundred miles in 45 days - it was the greatest experience of her life. She shows me a sticker on her notebook. It is the label of *Team Barfly*. She says that in the middle of travelling, she causally found in Iowa a huge cycling event, where a lot of people were going all around Iowa with bikes. "I was with thousands of people along the villages, where often we were put up for sleeping or have a shower," she says.

After graduation, Michelle went to Europe. She spent 6 months in Czech Republic where one of her sisters lives. There, she wrote for a newspaper in English, and for a magazine.

She says that now she is happy to be here in Denmark. She likes the Master's in Journalism so far, and she is looking forward to going to Amsterdam - plenty of bikes there! In the second year, our group will be spread all over Europe, and she will be going to Swansea. At the end of the first year, our lives will go in different directions, but this is the purpose of this master's degree - meeting people from the entire world, travelling, acquiring new citizenship, discovering new identities to become global. This is what Michelle is looking for, and this is why she is arriving and leaving at the same time in our lives.



# GABRIEL FRAGA DE CAL

## North of the North

ARADHANA SHARMA

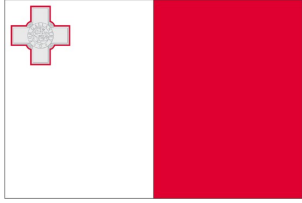
“I just did it for the love of art,” I heard him say, so I turned around to see who this was. I introduced myself and found it was Gabriel, one of the 44 students from my class, talking about his love of photography. It all started with clicking pictures of his home town of Ferrol in Northwest Spain. Then it became a passion, which everyone in town got to know about. So, Gabriel found himself taking pictures - catalogue pictures, wedding pictures, portfolio pictures, and sometimes even pictures that found a place in the local newspapers. He got little or no money for it, but then that was what “love of art” was all about.

When it came to deciding a career path, Gabriel chose something that would be just as close to his heart as photography. It was going to be film and media, but not in his home country, Spain. He wanted to live and experience other parts of Europe. He decided in favour of Copenhagen. Besides the fact that the course was good, “it had to be North Europe” he told me. “I knew much more about the South, so I wanted to experience the North.”

And thus was born, “Al Norte del Norte,” or “North of the North,” a regular column he wrote from Copenhagen for El Diario de Ferrol newspaper back home. “It was through the eyes of someone from the North of Spain who was always distinguished from people from the South, writing from further up north. Now, I had become from the South,” he says. It gave him a different perspective, he says, “You see things differently from different places. It’s like looking at things from a different lens.”

After pursuing journalism and media and film, it was the Erasmus Mundus programme in journalism that he chose. “I want to travel and write about people from across the globe,” he says. This programme would give him an understanding of the wider world of media and also the changes taking place across the world to give his writings an edge. So, what does he want to do after the programme? “I want to work for the Spanish media, but outside of Spain,” he says. Travel writing and having a portfolio of pictures of people and places from across the globe is also very much a part of Gabriel’s agenda for life.

Gabriel likes travelling and meeting people from different parts of the world, but he knew travelling the entire world could take years. So, for him, the Erasmus Mundus programme was a degree which also gave him what he wanted most out of life. “There might be places and countries I am never able to go. So coming to Århus for this programme was like meeting the whole world here,” he says. It’s not just an academic degree and professional expertise that Gabriel wants to take back from the programme. “A home in 20 countries across the world,” that’s what he says he will have once he is finished from here.



# ANTHONY DAVID GATT

## **Taking the world by storm**

LEO MIRANI

In the summer of 2005, Hurricane Katrina forever changed the lives of million of Americans. The most destructive natural disaster in the history of the United States killed nearly 2,000 people, inflicted over \$80 billion of damage and destroyed the city of New Orleans, where Anthony landed two days before the hurricane struck. Evacuated to a nearby university, he spent days on a gym floor with 700 other evacuees, spending 48 hours in the aftermath of the hurricane with no light, no food and contaminated water.

The experience made Anthony (or Toni, as he prefers to be called) the person he is today. After attempting to gain admission to other universities “because my uni went bye bye,” but being denied, Toni returned to his home in Paola, Malta, where he instantly became the subject of national media coverage.

“I made contacts in the national media and the next week, I began my internship,” said Toni, who has worked in Maltese television and radio ever since, going full time last year. With a background in reporting, news casting and a little dabbling in both print and online media, Toni felt he was, “beginning to strengthen his career and being recognised nationally.” But he was dissatisfied with his education in Malta, which he felt was too sporadic; not concentrated enough on journalism. “I had this feeling I needed a solid academic background,” he said.

Like his entry into the world of the Maltese media, Toni’s introduction to Erasmus was a matter of being in the right place at the wrong time. In this case, the place was Brussels where he was attending the European Youth Media Days, a networking event for young journalists. Newsletters followed when he returned home and one mentioned the Mundus programme. But the time was a few days before the Erasmus Mundus deadline for applying.

As is apparent, Toni made it in time (with no small thanks to DHL). In his brief two weeks here, he’s already taking full advantage of the programme and thoroughly enjoying his favourite part of the classes – the heated debates that follow presentations.

Toni hopes his time at Mundus will allow him to develop into the sort of journalist who can engage with the world at large, rather than merely his home country. “I have plans in life,” he said. “I see myself making it in the world, not just Malta.”



## EMMA GODFREY

### **Media has the potential to change lives - globally**

SHAMEEM MAHMUD

Asked about her motivation for enrolling in the programme, Emma says, “I want to work in journalism with a global focus and that has motivated me to pursue the Erasmus Mundus Masters in Journalism and Media in Globalisation.”

Born in Canada, Emma moved to England when she was eight with her mom. “I grew up in an environment that, from the very beginning, emphasised the ideas of diversity and openness. My career path is inspired by the philosophy that different cultures and outlooks enrich our lives and are essential to building a more secure and sustainable planet”.

Emma started education in a French immersion school in rural Ontario, and moved to an inner city primary school in London with more than 40 nationalities and languages spoken, and continued with a multi-cultural secondary school education in Waldegrave School for girls in London. Later, she chose Warwick University because of its highly international student body which has provided a diverse working environment with an international perspective.

“Being able to attain fluency in French and at the same time attend one of France’s outstanding institutions in the field of politics and international relations together with the European ‘Erasmus’ community, gave me a stimulating experience,” says Emma. “However, what now motivates me is to explore further other European educational opportunities. The international dimension is key: studying at three different international institutions in a truly the international student community would be a natural progression and enable me to make the most of my international background.”

She described three important personal experiences have shaped her goals. Firstly, this year she was privileged to be part of the Public Relations and Marketing team for the world’s largest student-run global event, One World Week.

Secondly, Emma said during the past summer, she and her other colleagues won a grant to carry out a project titled “*An exploration into the relation between socio-economic status and attitudes to France and Europe: in a context of conflicting nationality and identity in Réunion.*” The hands-on investigative reporting for the project was particularly valuable.

Turning on her journalism experiences, Emma is a regular contributor to the student newspaper, *The Boar*, and she has worked at the BBC Paris Bureau. But, her first exposure to the media was in 2006, as a summer Communications Assistant at the BBC World Service Trust, a charity of the BBC. Emma says, “I am inspired by the potential the media has to change people’s lives – globally.”



## ANDREW HERCULES

**Destination: Los Angeles**

GUILHERME KFOURI

The youngest member of the Erasmus Mundus group 2008-2010 is also by far the most talkative and outgoing one. “My professional goal is to host my own talk show and top Oprah Winfrey within the next 5 years,” says Andrew Hercules, 22. The recently graduated political scientist – also a blog fanatic and freelance writer – certainly sets high goals for himself, but leaves no doubt that he has his feet on the ground. “I want to be well informed and really conscious about the issues that I, as a TV presenter, intend to discuss. For me, that's the only way to make a positive contribution and generate useful dialogue.”

Born in Toronto, Andrew finished his studies at the York University in June 2008, and decided to enroll immediately into a master’s program. Searching for possibilities, he ran into the Erasmus Mundus Journalism and Media within Globalization website. “The chance of studying in three different cities really got me motivated to apply for the scholarship.” A couple of months later he was packing his bags and saying good-bye to his parents and his three younger brothers. “My family encouraged me from the very beginning, and gave me all the support to take this opportunity. However I had to swear to my mum that I’d be back for Christmas”.

For better or for worse, Andrew’s family will have to get use to his absence. In the next two years he will spend most of his time in Europe, having classes in different countries. After his first two semesters – in Århus and Amsterdam, respectively – Andrew is heading to London, where he will attend his specialism in business and finance at City University. He is quick to explain how this field comes together with his showbiz aspirations: “I think that economy is a matter of public interest, as everybody wants to know how it works, and how it affects our lives. Having a better understanding of the topic will give me a greater ability to discuss and present finance-related issues to my audience.” Apart from that, he confessed to being a huge fan of the eclectic and fast-paced English capital.

Travelling and getting in touch with different cultures and new experiences is one of Andrew’s favorite hobbies. “As clichéd as it is, I believe that travelling is fundamental to providing us with a better perspective of who we are. Our values and beliefs are put constantly to the test.” That is why he emphasizes that in the Erasmus Mundus, “what we learn outside the classroom is as or even more important than what we learn inside. Having the chance to know people from all over the world is something that shouldn’t be taken for granted. We can grasp much more from them, than we would from a bunch of books and newspapers.”

When asked about how he imagines his future right after the Masters, he says: “I’d definitely like to see myself in the showbiz industry. That’s why I believe that Los Angeles would be a great place to be!”



## IGOR RASULA

**A voice for the children**

### STEPHANIE-VIKTORIA SCHMITT

Igor was born in Belgrade, the capital of Serbia on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July, 1986. He finished his senior year of high school as an exchange student in Portage, Michigan (USA) in 2005 and started his academic career as a journalist with majoring in *Journalism and Mass media Communications* at Olivet College in Michigan in 2008.

Throughout his studies he worked for the College newspaper *the ECHO* not only as a reporter but as a photographer and production manager. Furthermore, he developed the newspaper's own website. With ambition and strength Igor achieved his BA degree in only three years instead of four. Also, Igor still works as one of the web editors of the famous swimming portal in Europe called [www.SwimStar2000.net](http://www.SwimStar2000.net).

During his freshman year, Igor was an active and successful member of the Olivet College swim team. Next to swimming, Igor's heart is devoted to charity. It began with a donation for a charity organization called *Serbs for Serbs*. This organisation collects money to buy clothes, schoolbooks, household utilities and more, to support families with five or more children in Serbia and the Balkan region. Getting interest in the whole system, Igor got involved in the organization and now is the chairman. The most essential aspect for him is that the donated money is transferred into goods before reaching the families. A key problem in his country –and as I believe in nearly all countries all over the world- is that giving money to people in need does not, in many cases, solve the problems they are dealing with. Igor pointed out that indeed children “are our future and they need a voice to speak up for them.”

So, when his BA degree was coming to an end, Igor decided to apply for a Masters Program and return to Europe. The Erasmus Mundus program tempted him, especially with the opportunity to study in three different cities, and three different countries. After living in the United States for four years, he seeks for new experiences, exploring new cultures, languages and people. “The advantages of cultural exchange and what other people have to say”, fascinate Igor the most. His expectations about the program are not written in stone, he is more interested in the group's own development within the progress of the program.

Igor chose the Swansea specialism for several reasons. First of all, to continue his studies in an English speaking environment, further to travel around the UK and visit his friends over there. The most relevant for him is to compare the UK with the US. Specialising in war and conflict is his choice because he wants to write about the “hot topics”. That is why Igor plans to go back to Serbia and work in his home country after the Erasmus Mundus programme, where after the years of war and conflict, the media system is still in progress.



## BEATRICE JESCHEK

### Evolution of a journalist

SAUMAVA MITRA

As she went snorkeling in the clear waters of the Pacific off the coast of the Galapagos, Beatrice, a student of Social Psychology and Media studies, also went deep into her own mind. And like a certain Mr. Darwin, she came up with a few answers about evolution, albeit in her own life.

“Something suddenly cleared in my mind and I knew what I wanted to do in life and I realized that I want to travel and connect with people”, she thought some years ago aboard a ship around the Galapagos Islands. In a way, that ship turned out to be the HMS Beagle in her life.

“The boat was full of people from all over the world and I spent the happiest moments of my life talking to them and learning about them.”

As she describes herself, she is a straddler of worlds. And this reflects in the kind of work she does and hopes to do. She is interested in both the world of fashion and conflicts. War and conflict zone reporting is going to be her specialization subject next year. But she also has an internship with Elle magazine lined up in New York next summer right before she starts off at Swansea. So how does she overcome this disjuncture between the glitzy world of fashion to the squalor of war, the chasm which gapes wide from the so called superficiality of silk and cashmere to the super-reality of bloodshed and human misery?

Beatrice answers this question like a true traveler. With an anecdote. “I was in Miami for a length before I went to Ecuador to work as a social psychologist among underprivileged children there. At first it was hard to come to terms with the sudden change from people worried about whether their Louis Vuitton bag went with their Gucci dress to people who were worried where their next meal is coming from, but I realized something that these were two different worlds within one and I as a journalist had nothing more to do than observe and comment on both.” For her fashion is also a political statement. It is reporting about the people who like politicians affect people’s daily lives by deciding what they wear and how they look at other people. “And specializing in conflict zone reporting will allow me to look at the ultimate outcome of misguided politics so the focus remains the same, politics and fashions are both about people.”

It is because of the same reason that she is excited with the Erasmus Mundus Journalism class. “There are people from 28 different nationalities in the course, going to class everyday is like going back on that boat in the Galapagos for me and it is even better because here we have people who across borders and culture share the same concerns and interests as me. Together we break the myths about each other.”



# GUILHERME KFOURI

## Experiencing the curriculum of life

### ANDREW HERCULES

The life story of Guilherme Kfourri begins on April 2, 1984. Born in São Paulo, Brazil, he spent much of his life living in a bustling financial and cultural metropolis. After completing primary and secondary school and participating in a 6-month academic exchange in Dover, England in 2000, Guilherme enrolled in post-secondary studies. With a naturally inquisitive personality and ability to tell a good story, he elected to study journalism at Faculdade Cásper Libero.

Guilherme completed his journalism degree in 2006, and one of the media outlets he interned with immediately offered him the job of TV text editor for international news. With this position came a dramatic increase in responsibilities, but Guilherme remained committed to the public service imperative and ensuring that his reports were fair and accurate and stimulated public discourse.

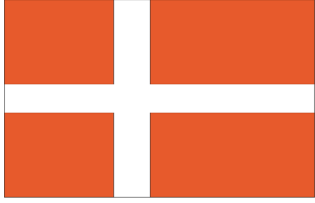
However, a year into his work, he began to yearn for other challenges in journalism and the opportunity to travel and see the world. After looking at his options, the young Brazilian journalist packed up and relocated to Munich, Germany. His decision to move to the Bavarian capital was based primarily on his desire to become fluent in German and travel throughout Europe – plus, it helped that two of his friends were already based in the city!

After getting settled in Munich, Guilherme found work as a freelance journalist with a number of print and online publications. As he continued to freelance, Guilherme also thought about going back to school. Knowing that he would like to stay in Europe and complete a post-graduate degree, he literally searched Google for “journalism programmes in Europe” and came across the programme's website. After reading the information on the website and contacting other Brazilians who were part of the program, he knew this was a program for him.

“Not only was the program a chance to study in Europe, but it also sounded like an excellent opportunity to further develop and grown as a journalist. And having the opportunity to specialize in Business & Financial journalism at City University would allow me to enhance my understanding of global markets and business.”

After the program, he doesn't know exactly what to do – whether he stays in Europe or returns to Brazil will be based on his job prospects. Regardless of where he is, Guilherme expressed that his ideal job involves “covering all media – radio, television, print, and online” and “offering my personal views while promoting healthy and constructive dialogue.”





# ANDERS HØEG LAMMERS

## **A reflective decision maker**

### BEI BEI YIN

Only when Anders Lammers took off his glasses could I see his blue eyes clearly. They are actually quite determined rather than confused, as the first impression he gave me when he seemed to be lost in his own thoughts.

Born in Hjørring, a town at the top of the Jutland peninsula in northern Denmark, Anders stayed in his hometown until he finished high school. Instead of applying for studies in the university, Anders chose to have a sabbatical year. His destination was Berlin, the city he fell in love with during a high school excursion. “The reasons for doing so were partially due to the eager of going abroad and experience the culture and life there, meanwhile, I really had no idea of what I would study in the university that time.” He and some of his high school fellows ended their adventure after a year stay and work in Germany.

After returning to Denmark, Anders registered in a folk school to learn some practical journalism skills. Anders recalls that in one writing class, they were assigned a topic to write an article every hour. The 12-hour constant writing marathon was indeed a suffering, but he survived.

Being influenced by his father and uncle who are journalists, young Anders had a premonition that someday, he might be a journalist too. “But, I had to do something else first.” says Anders, “Though I never know what is really worth doing.” Again, doubts of interest, future and even fundamental meanings of life hit him and made it difficult to make a decision. However, his final choice was to major in philosophy with a minor in political science for his bachelor degree. “To make our society better, I have to understand political practices, and studying in philosophy, can definitely train my thinking ability,” he says.

Just after graduation, Anders again chose to pause himself from regular life to join the Himalayan Project, an NGO that helps to build a better education system in Nepal. In Upper Solu, a Nepalese mountainous area, where Anders and his girlfriend worked as volunteers to collect information in local schools, he found what he had only been seen on TV. suddenly alive in front of him. The schools are very poor and some do not even have any glass in the window, and lack of teachers and other learning materials. The eight-month stay in Asia extended Anders’s understanding of the globe.

Apparently, choosing the Mundus Journalism programme was based on this motivation. “I hope I can have a better understanding of the world though this programme and learn how to report on global issues as well,” he says.



## FEDERICO LANZO

### **Journalistic drive**

MICHELLE DOBROVOLNY

The decision to become a journalist was not an easy one for Federico Lanzo. Coming from Italy—a country where journalists are routinely exposed to threat and intimidation from mafia—the 24-year-old knew that practicing the profession in his country would pose risks not necessarily confronted by his counterparts in other European nations.

"It is difficult to be a journalist because if you start talking about and covering the mafia, you will probably be in danger," says Lanzo. "They don't like it when people know about them and what they are doing. Journalists are often under police protection and their families will be in danger."

His choice to enter the field, then, says much about his character. Though calm and self-possessed on the exterior, Lanzo is in fact a man who feels very passionately about issues concerning freedom of the press, and it takes only a few minutes to get him heatedly discussing the problems facing Italian media. It was his interest in this area that led him to study communications science at the University of Perugia as well as at the Umbra Institute, where he says a comparative journalism course made a particular impact on his perceptions of the Italian media.

"In Italy, the situation for the press is not that free. I came here [to the Erasmus Mundus Masters programme] because I believe that journalists should follow the American way of modern journalism: be free, independent, don't support political parties, and be able to write whatever you want to write without intimidation. In Italy, it is not like that. It is quite difficult to be free."

While he is also aware of problems in American media—he cites concentrated media ownership as one of the main issues—Lanzo's personal experience in Italy has shown him the unique restrictions facing journalists in his country. He would ideally like to see the situation change and believes working as a journalist—or ultimately a political columnist—will provide him with a means to affect reform in Italian media. His most valued print article—about the work of Nicola Gratteri, a prominent Italian magistrate who has criticized the influence of the mafia—stems from his passion for this cause.

Journalism has, it seems, played a very pivotal role in Lanzo's life in other ways. His long-time girlfriend Catrien is a journalist as well and Lanzo is looking forward to joining her in Amsterdam in the second semester of the year.



## JAN LEPETUN

### **Dreaming of Africa**

ANCA DANILESCU

He dreams of Africa although he was born in Kiev, Ukraine at a time when Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union. Jan Lepetun is not your average journalist, but then again probably no one from the Erasmus Mundus program is. From his childhood during the communist regime Jan vividly remembers the never ending lines for food and his father's frightening accidental encounter with the KGB. Then the 1990's came bringing with them the dissolution of the USSR. Ukraine regained its independence but the road to democracy was a difficult one. Most institutions were plagued by corruption and this is why Jan chose to study not his passion, International Relations but Political Science at the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, a venerable institution, dating from 1615, which boasted a Western approach to education and transparent entrance exams. Getting into the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy also required a great challenge: passing the English exam. Jan had only three months to master the English language. And even though at the beginning he barely knew some words he had heard in movies, by the time of the exam he was fluent enough to get a high score.

After 6 years of university, during which he got a BA and an MA in Political Science and after reading European Integration as a university lecturer, Jan started his career as a journalist. He says he got into journalism rather by chance. A friend who was leaving for the United States asked Jan to replace him at one of Ukraine's weekly newspapers. Jan spent two years covering international news and then he was elected as deputy editor of the newspaper.

Unfortunately, the paper -which started out as politically affiliated to the Orange Revolution and Ukrainian president Victor Yushenko- encountered some managerial problems after going independent and was shut down.

Jan Lepetun might have started his career as a journalist by chance, now he doesn't see himself as anything else. After finishing the Erasmus Mundus masters he'd like to become the editor or at least a permanent columnist of a national publication. His focus as a journalist is not only on international affairs but also on the different aspects of life. He is convinced that journalists have to present the public not only with what it wants to know but more importantly, with what it needs to know. He credits as the highlight of his career convincing the editorial board to cover the news in developing countries such as Zimbabwe. In fact, after having visited the Asian countries of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan and Uganda in Africa he dreams of spending some time on the Asian and African continent and reporting on the development issues there. Jan confesses he fell in love with Africa after visiting war torn Uganda and becoming fascinated with the people and culture there. He describes the Africans as "more optimistic and less restricted" in their behaviour than Europeans and would love to get to know them better one day.



## SHAMEEM MAHMUD

### Embarking on a new adventure

EMMA GODFREY

Shameem is from a “very small country.” This country is not small like Denmark; it is small but has a very, large population. It is among the world’s most densely populated countries; Bangladesh. As a nation, it has only been independent since 1971. Prior to that, it was part of Pakistan, and formally part of India and therefore coming under the rule of the United Kingdom. Shameem was born into the independent nation in the country’s capital city, Dhaka in 1979.

He tells me that he was met by his mentor here in Århus with warmth and hospitality, it is clear to me that he appreciates this kindness and that it is a hospitality that he is accustomed to giving himself. As we chat about his home, Shameem invites me several times.

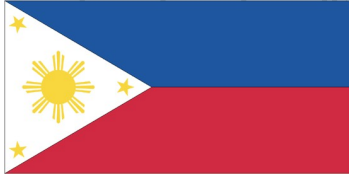
As well as coming from a part of the world that as yet exists only in my imagination, an amalgamation of the stories I’ve heard and the pictures I’ve seen, Shameem shows me a photo of his daughter and I realise his life is rich with experiences that I can only imagine.

In the picture, his daughter Tultul is holding a fluffy looking green object, which I first think is a flower and then Shameem corrects me; it is a local fruit, the Amra. This exchange exemplifies the learning and sharing process that Shameem is so excited about.

The path that has led Shameem here tells me that he is an industrious, thoughtful, and intelligent man. Having studied mass communication and journalism in Dhaka University, he went on to be a reporter for four and a half years at the Daily Star; the most widely circulated English Broadsheet in Bangladesh. In 2005, he returned to academia to become a lecturer at the same university that awarded him his master’s degree back.

I didn’t ask directly, but I sensed that his path turned from field journalism because of a particular incident. He told me that a political rally he had covered when he was a reporter had toured sour when the military arrived and he had been lucky to escape physically unscathed. “As a reporter”, he said, “you are taught to write your story and that is all that matters. How disturbed you are by what you have experienced, however shaken you are – you have to shake it off and get your paper to print.” Indeed separating the facts from the feelings that they ignite is a battle many journalists in the field have to face.

This master’s is a natural progression for Shameem, as his focus turns to the pursuit of intellectual endeavours. He already has ideas about a PhD he would like to do, and it is apt that he will be in Hamburg to continue the rigorous academic training that will provide him with these tools.



## CARMEL GEVEROLA

**Feet on the ground, but eyes on the world**

### NORA BERNING

“I am an itinerant journalist,” says Carmel, whose friends back home in the Philippines describe her as the most travelled person they know from Cebu. From her sojourns in Southeast Asia, Australia, Europe and Africa, Carmel makes her way to Århus, Denmark. Indeed, the climate might be a bit rough for someone who has seen snow for the first time in 2005, but as a Mundus student Carmel wants “a fresh perspective on the world.”

Not only did Carmel not stop short of national borders on her quest for knowledge, but the open-minded and outgoing Filipino also embarked on a zigzag course along the three traditional media. After she finished her bachelor’s degree in mass communications, Carmel worked as a part-time journalist for both radio and TV in Cebu. She also has eleven years of experience as editor of an English language newspaper.

“There is a bigger world out there,” is what initially comes to Carmel’s mind when she thinks of the multicultural encounters she has in class and the learning environment shaped by students from twenty-eight different nations. The cultural diversity of the course is for Carmel a great opportunity to “see people from different perspectives and to become more open to new ideas.”

And what comes next after Århus and Amsterdam? Carmel’s transformation from an insular to a more cosmopolitan person will lead her to the Hanseatic City of Hamburg where she will study for her specialism. Going global is one thing for Carmel, the European perspective that the programme focuses on is another. “I think this approach to media is a good addition to the Filipino perspective I am acquainted with”, explains Carmel in her choice of Hamburg. The German language should not be a problem for the smart girl either: A laptop Carmel bought in Germany has functioned so far as her personal language instructor. “Since the operating system is in German, I know at least a lot of technical German words”, remarks Carmel with a smile.

One thing Carmel is absolutely sure of is that her journey is far from being over when the Mundus course in Hamburg comes to an end. Her journey across countries and different areas of research will possibly foster Carmel’s dream of a career in academia. If this will not work out, Carmel can also imagine herself working as a full-time journalist. “There is always something to learn. The newsroom offers an incredibly enriching environment”, she says. The newspaper coverage of human rights was not only the topic of Carmel’s bachelor thesis, but is in her eyes also an interesting field of research. Apart from that, Carmel is also into environmental policy. What interests her most is the impact of human beings on the environment. With so many interests and visions, there is only one more thing to say: Carmel, grab your bags...and ready, steady, go!



## MEAS BUNLY

### What will happen to this Bunly?

CHRISTINA DILLMANN

In 1996, Thun Bunly, a Cambodian newspaper editor and publisher, was shot on the back of his motorbike; he had been accused of insulting Cambodia's prime ministers.

In a country where the answer to talking too freely could very well have been a shot fired to the back of the head, a classmate of another aspiring Cambodian journalist, Meas Bunly, said, "Let's see what happens to this Bunly?"

According to Bunly it is still dangerous to be a journalist in Cambodia. But for a person who, "just (likes) to take risks and go," courage seems to be fear that has learned to say its prayers.

Bunly is a twenty-seven year old Erasmus Mundus Masters in Journalism and Media student from Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Bunly, a member of the incoming class of 2008-2010, has come a far way from home to answer questions in Denmark on the coldest, summer day he may have ever experienced.

Bunly is soft spoken and polite. There is a gentleness to him that shines through his eyes when he speaks. Even when he recalls the violence and killings of the Khmer Rouge there is nothing in his voice that tightens or becomes bitter, just earnest in the way you know someone is talking about what they lived through.

The Khmer Rouge was in power in Cambodia from 1975 to 1979. During this time an estimated 1.5 million people (1 out of every 5 Cambodians) were killed under its regime. The Khmer Rouge still had a devastating influence in Bunly's lifetime.

When Bunly worked at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as a Communications Associate for two and a half years in Phnom Penh, he used tell his co-workers to "smile through it," when things got tense in the office. Bunly's personal and professional drives are intertwined, that is, to make things better for his country.

Bunly joined the programme because he wanted to: "broaden my mind and see the world." Bunly expects to go back to Cambodia post graduation and work in the stock market or in communications within the private sector. Leaving the rest of us to wonder: What will happen to this Bunly? One thing is for certain, this Bunly born in Takeo Province who growing up, "didn't know what happened in the world," will leave Europe having made the world his oyster.



# MATILDE MEREGHETTI

## **A desire for adventure**

### MEDHA

“My dream is to work as an international correspondent and report from different places of the world,” says Matilde Mereghetti. It is society that she wants to write about, and chronicle its changing realities from a multitude of perspectives.

Matilda grew up in Milan – the city of design and high fashion and, also, in many ways Italy’s commercial capital. Even though she sometimes found the people to be a little superficial – “it was less about being and more about appearing and I didn’t like that,” she says – it was still a great city to grow up in as it had a very rich cultural scene. It was here that she was exposed to film and theatre, two things she enjoys and is passionate about.

Another thing she is passionate about is travelling. Travelling for her is immersion in a new culture, in new ways of thinking and looking at things, and she finds that language is a very important aspect of that. Language, she feels, embodies culture and gives an insight into it. So in addition to Italian, she speaks English, German and French, can understand some Spanish and is very much interested in learning Arabic and Chinese. A strong motive to learn the languages is to be able to read her favourite authors in the original.

She has taken every opportunity to travel, and as part of her bachelor’s she spent a year in Bremen, Germany. She chose it because, she says, “Germany has a very strong philosophical tradition.” She has lived for a few months in Paris, has travelled to northern India and before coming here, took a break and worked for 3 months in Norway as a tour guide.

Matilde tells me she always knew she wanted to be a journalist, but the idea crystallized in her mind after working for a year with local newspaper and Web TV in Milan. At the undergraduate level, she has majored in philosophy with some additional courses in economics, history and literature – topics that are very relevant to the practice of journalism.

She chose the Erasmus Mundus Masters in Journalism and Media within Globalisation for several reasons. One was that after having studied in Italy and Germany, she was curious about the northern European system of education. Secondly, she wanted to study in English. What attracted her most, however, was the possibility of studying with people from all over the world, “We have this amazing opportunity to speak to and connect with people from all over the world, and compare their perspectives on various issues. I think it is fantastic,” she says.



## LEO MIRANI

### **Hardcore brains from Bombay**

ANTHONY DAVID GATT

Pertinent questions in class, music, travelling, hardcore intelligent brain - these are your average fist impressions of Leo Marini. But who is he in reality? That's what I said to myself when his name popped up in the email referring to the 2008-10 Bluebook.

First the ID card details: Leo Mirani is a 25 year-old, bushy-haired guy from India's commercial and media capital, Bombay.

How should we describe Leo in three words? Superintelligent, Hugely talented, Humble. In that order Leo right? I love the intended contradiction, again so Leo-ish.

I extend to him the over-abused question - Why are you a journalist today? Simple and straightforward for him, both his parents are journalists. Film journalists, he clarifies. Still, Leo's father pulled out the journalist rug when 13 year-old Leo asked about the career. "Think of another job son, we journos don't make good money!" his father said.

Leo went from freelancing to becoming stringer for Agence France Presse in India in 2003, then to his first full time job at the left-wing weekly news magazine, Tehelka in 2004.

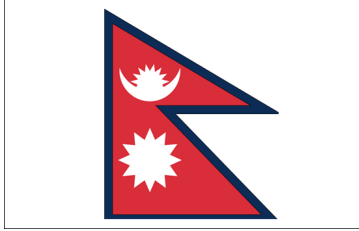
But after his first full-time year, Leo felt that he needed to give more travelling time to his life, so he left for a six month Euro-tour with London being his new home away from home.

Next, came Leo's Bollywood moment, or the closest he's been to it. When he got back to India Leo worked as research assistant on a biography of Bollywood's biggest star, Shah Rukh Khan.

Leo's latest venture takes us to "Time Out Mumbai," the City's fortnightly magazine where lucky Leo consumed good food, drink, festivals and music for a living.

And, why is he in the city with the funny name in Denmark? "I came here to drink lots of interesting new beers, waste time until I figure out what to do, and also to get smarter," he responds. Leo himself chose this as his closing remark to you all, "Buy me drinks please." Right on Leo.





## **JOHN NARAYAN PARAJULI**

### **Becoming an internationalized journalist**

DAVID MICHAEL BARNWELL

At first sight, John may come off according to what the well-used stereotype of the Himalayan people dictates – harmonic, peaceful and calm in every sense of the word. Beneath the quiet surface however, lies the story of a true cosmopolitan – a young man of Global Society with dreams of both seeing and understanding the world that surrounds him.

Coming out of a typical lower middle class family, John grew up in the eastern part of the small Himalayan kingdom Nepal. Being schooled in both Nepal and India, John quickly got a taste of what international life is like. Fascinated from an early age by television and radio journalism, the only Nepalese participant of this year's Erasmus Programme naturally found his way to what should turn out to be an impressive career as a true internationalized journalist. "I was always interested in international affairs. I guess it's just my cup of tea," says John as he describes an impressive line of work that reveals just how true that statement really is.

He started working freelance for the Himalayan Times and the Kathmandu Post. Then he began at the Nation Weekly, an English paper, which led him to the capital, Kathmandu, where he started full time as a chief reporter. "I was the youngest of them all, but was handed a great deal of responsibility. I think this really matured me," says John.

After ten months at the Nation Weekly, a political development would put a sudden end to John's comet career. In what is known today as "The Royal Coup," Nepalese King Gyanendra dismissed the elected government, took powers in his hand and clamped down heavily on press and opposition parties. The incident had severe impact on Nepalese society life, which naturally was abruptly turned upside-down. For John this meant that the Nation Daily closed down, leaving him unemployed.

John was then offered a scholarship by the U.S. State Department, an opportunity he didn't hesitate to grab. He thus spent a full semester in South Carolina followed by stays in both Washington and New York. In 2007 John returned to Nepal, but his experience abroad had already spawned a profound interest in the surrounding world within the young adventurer.

He dreams of a future that combines his love for international affairs with his destiny as journalist. "I'm from a small country and I therefore think that it's important to know about the world around me. I would like to contribute to my country through learning how to better understand the world. For now, my plan is to gain more experience on a personal level," says John as the 26-year old Nepalese prepares for yet another international adventure.



## **KIMBERLY PETERSON**

### **From sleepless in Seattle to Ambitious in Århus**

BETTINA REHMANN

25-year-old Kimberly Peterson was born in Colorado, and grew up in Seattle, Washington - the city of Starbucks, Microsoft and Kurt Cobain on the American West Coast. She lived there with her family until 2001, when she graduated from high school. In the same year Kimberly decided to pursue a high school exchange programme in Switzerland.

“After highschool I spent three month travelling in Costa Rica, I came back, kissed my mom, washed my clothes and after only four days I moved to Switzerland, ” she says. There, she attended college and took classes in history and philosophy. In Switzerland, Kimberly experienced the 9/11 attacks from a European perspective.

After finishing high school, Kimberly applied for different study programmes. She was looking for a school that offered a good journalism and international relations programme. Finally, she got accepted at the American University, in Washington, D.C. “There is nothing in the world, that can justify a 120.000 U.S. Dollar education, but American University was close,“ she says. With a private scholarship from American University, the help of her parents and jobs like waitressing, catering and even working at a fishplant in Alaska, it was possible for her to attend the expensive university. To move to the “otherside” of America, “was more of a cultural shock as to move from Seattle to Switzerland, ” she states.

In her third year, Kimberly took the chance to study abroad. She spent the autumn of 2004 in Brussels, studying EU-related topics. In Spring of 2005, she studied NAFTA in Monterrey, Mexico.

Back in Washington, D.C., Kimberly spent her senior year attending classes and interning 40 hours a week in a research programme on student journalism. In 2006, she graduated with a major in international relations, specialising in international economics, and with a minor in communications.

After finishing her studies, Kimberly finally found herself in the very middle of the United States, in Fort Wayne, Indiana, working as a business reporter for a daily newspaper. She loved her work and tried to gain more practical experience before applying for the Erasmus Mundus Journalism Programme. Being a Mundus Student, Kimberly feels enabled to combine her interests in both journalism and international relations and economics. She therefore chose to specialise in business journalism in London. She would like to find herself as a foreign correspondent writing for an American audience about foreign affairs, especially in the realm of international business.



# **BETTINA REHMANN**

## **Falling into radio**

**KIMBERLY PETERSON**

Keeping her options open led Bettina Rehmman into a career in radio and back to university after working various jobs.

Working was more of a priority for Rehmman than just studying. After school, Rehmman worked as a promoter and marketer for the Body Worlds exhibition in Germany in 2000 and learned about music production and audio editing working with a friend. That experience peaked her interest in media.

In Münster, Rehmman completed an apprenticeship at an advertising agency as management assistant in advertising. “It was very good. I worked for big companies and I learned a lot, but it wasn’t my field,” Rehmman said.

After those work experiences, Rehmman said she knew she wanted to study media economics or media management. Before she began university in autumn 2004 – she had half a year’s time to be filled with work to save some money for the studies. Then a radio station called to say a place had become available, so in 2004, , Rehmman began working for them.

After six months at the radio station, Rehmman completed her media management studies at the University of Applied Sciences Mittweida in Saxony. While pursuing her studies, Rehmman worked in different media projects, especially at the student radio station, presenting the morning show and reporting. Rehmman became the head of programming for the station, training new students and coordinating on and off air.

Rehmman took a semester off in 2006 to gather more experience in TV production. In London, she worked for the production company Guerrilla Group in Soho and in the Film & TV Licensing department at Warner Music Co. While in London, she wrote articles on media in the UK for the university’s media website as a foreign correspondent.

Rehmman graduated in 2007. After that, she worked as a freelance radio journalist for different radio stations in Berlin, reporting on various topics, presenting and speaking.

As Rehmman wrote her B.A. thesis on public service broadcasting in Germany, where she learned a lot about the German media system, she chose the Hamburg specialism to continue research around the idea of public service media in a globalized and commercialized world.



## SAUMAVA MITRA

### From Calcutta's sidelines into Mundus spotlight

BEATRICE JESCHEK

Most people hate waiting in line. Imagine how it must feel standing shoulder to shoulder with hundreds of Indians who all want to incinerate people they loved. During the summer rain. Hours after hours. And that is just because only one crematorium of a bunch is open. „I felt embarrassed, angry with my country“, so says 23-year-old Saumava, who tried to pay his last respect to his deceased grandfather as waiting in that outrageous chain.

“This was a real cathartic moment. I felt like I could change something.” For the very first time, Saumava felt like a journalist and went ahead to express his feelings, to have a voice – and things entirely changed after his reportage about this sad event in one of India's oldest English newspapers, The Statesman. Class boundaries may still exist in his hometown Calcutta, but at least there are briefer lines for mourners now.

Maybe such butterfly effects are the reason why Saumava remained true to himself, rambling in the classical world of short stories up to modern analytical print journalism. So experienced in the field of TV-journalism that he turned out to run a bureau by himself of the new Indian channel UTVi, Saumava found himself doing a job that should have probably split into ten. And he began to doubt, “That's it? That's all life can offer me?! TV means high salaries and glamour, but it's not what I want.” A deeply rooted wish for satisfaction in work carried him then to the Mundus programme.

Culture shock in Europe? For Saumava, this concept is far away. As he studied English literature (B.A.) in Calcutta, and after a TV and Journalism Diploma in New Delhi, he needed to live with two souls dwelling in his breast - the Indian and English culture pieces which can hurt like needles if you can't use them appropriately. Coming from a liberal family, in which no one gets a heart attack when young people hold hands with no intention to marry, Saumava learned that, “God is love and love is God. That's all you need to know, especially in a country where 'Hindu' could mean nothing and everything at the same time.” Travelling through whole multifaceted India as much as he could, trained him to follow his heart and obviously adopt a nice kind of “somewhere over the rainbow,” mentality with a solid touch of realism. So, to deal with cultures really is no biggie for him.

“The world in a classroom,” should train him to look as a participating observer at different nations and with his expression, “most of India is about conflicts,” Saumava answers quite logically why he heads to war and conflict in Wales for specialisation – to understand his own country and its global connection.



## STEPHANIE-VIKTORIA SCHMITT

**German with a British accent**

IGOR RASULA

Stephanie was born in Cologne, Germany, and has been celebrating her birthday on November 13th for the last 28 years. Throughout her intensive academic study, Stephanie successfully concluded 13 years of elementary and high school in Cologne, business studies in Siegen, and literary, culture and media studies (with economics as minor) in only five semesters. Sounds astounding, but it gets better. Prior to entering the university program, Stephanie had practical training to be a clerk in the global market industry for the famous Henkel Company in Düsseldorf for three years. Also, you could find her working part time as a shop manager for sports equipment earning her money and paying for university.

After receiving her BA degree, Stephanie worked for a local newspaper in Cologne, part of a publishing house that covered three different magazines with weekly newsletters. Last year, she found herself in Århus, studying business, and by random Google search Stephanie came across the Erasmus Mundus programme. On my sudden question why did she decide to participate in the programme, Stephanie quickly responded in her perfect British accent: “This program is the opportunity for me to learn and explore more. I want to deal with more complex topics within global society, and Erasmus Mundus will certainly offer a lot to me.”

I was also interested in the present everyday life in Germany and Stephanie had many critics toward young German generations, since their only interest are TV, partying, and “hanging in the streets”. “It seems like those kids live in a different world then I do, even though I can see them walking by me every day back home,” said Stephanie. Also, she mentioned that many people are losing their jobs, despite very good living standard in Germany.

Something that you will not hear from Stephanie during the regular chit-chat is that she did rowing for more than 11 years in Cologne. Unfortunately, after moving to Siegen to continue her education she wasn't able to keep up with constant practices and steady work out. When she get some free time, Stephanie likes to cook with her friends, relax and probably watch some good movie.

The expectations for the second year in Swansea are high for Stephanie. She loves the United Kingdom, and she has worked as a movie and editor coordinator within several student projects across the UK – organized by her university (which explains her strong British accent). Also, she is eager to learn more about important issues within global politics, economy, wars and conflicts. Although Stephanie hasn't made up her mind about “life after Erasmus Mundus”, she'll probably try to look for a job within the UK since she already has developed many connections throughout the country.



## SIMON SCHMITT

### A German in search of himself

ISABELLA COTA SCHWARZ

Simon Schmitt likes his coffee black. Sitting at the newly acquainted school cafeteria in Århus, the 24-year-old German takes a sip from the thin plastic cup and shakes his head in dislike. He openly admits it: he's very demanding when it comes to coffee.

Just like his friendships, he says, which he considers should be profound and meaningful ones and never shallow; just like his education and his future. "After my A-levels", he recalls "I didn't have a clue about what to do with my life: I always thought I'd be a football star but then I grew up and had to realize... I wasn't really good at football!" Thinking back on these days, Simon makes a confession. "I feel like I've been stumbling through my life".

After one semester studying Law and "not really liking it", Simon, who was born in Sulzfeld, got a job as a copywriter for an advertising agency in Munich, then Berlin, which led to the discovery of his true talent and passion: writing. "So I (then) knew I wanted something where I can write, so Journalism it was".

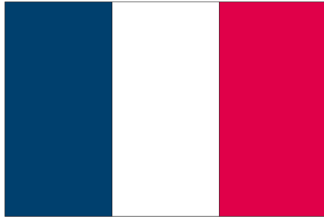
In addition to his studies in Communication Science and History at the University of Erfurt, Simon took his first steps in his journalistic career as a freelance reporter for different regional newspapers and TV-stations in his country. But it was his last month in Germany that taught him the most about the journalism profession, while working as an intern in one of Germany's News Broadcast TV Stations N24.

As a journalist, Simon is especially interested in topics that revolve around migration, integration and the west Asian area. Issues that awaked his interest during his course of studies. "My specialism was in communication as well as in history the west Asian area. I would like to work in this region for a certain time – the best would be Turkey." The fact that Simon is able to speak this language – "at least good enough to communicate" – will surely help him.

And when it comes to choosing a particular medium for his work, he does not hesitate to answer. "Newspapers are my thing", he says confidently.

But when asked to talk about his expectations of the programme and his future, Simon is stuck. "I'm having hard time thinking about the future, to be honest".

It seems to be that this new experience he is just sailing on is not to him no so much about the programme and the future of his profession, and more about his growth, learning, and wider understanding of the world.



## **THOMAS SEYMAT**

### **A Frenchman searching for advocacy journalism**

AUSTEN UWOSOMAH

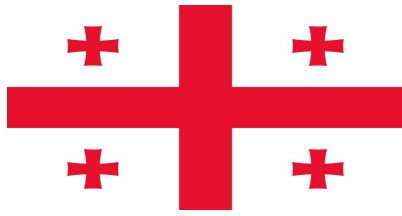
Thomas was born to a family of French nationals in France. He has a sister to share his home with so he never had a lonely childhood. Being part of the Erasmus Mundus programme follows one of his big desires to study global journalism. But what he never reckoned was that he would turn out to be one of the youngest participants in the programme. He actually turned 23 on the 25th of September, few days after his arrival in Århus.

He started off with a multidisciplinary five-years degree, which is equivalent to a masters degree, progressively specializing in communication and journalism at the Institute D'Etudes Politiques of Lyon (Institute of Political Studies, Lyon) in France and proceeded to Southern Oregon University, Ashland USA, as an exchange student for one year. He has worked in the aspect of writing, photo editing and layout design on several collegiate newspapers in France and the USA where he had schooled. He also worked as a local correspondent for a regional daily newspaper in Lyon and as an intern for a regional news magazine in France. He also did some blogging on the Lyon city municipal 2007-2008 elections and worked as a freelance journalist for a website about skateboarding, one of his hobbies.

Having travelled to a lot of European countries, Thomas finds Denmark a more hospitable place to stay. He seems to like life in Århus and prefers to work as a foreign correspondent for a mainstream or online print media outside France. He does not mind if he would find a job in Denmark in the future.

Thomas however does not wish to go further than a master's degree in his educational pursuit. He simply intends to settle for real practical journalism upon completion of the Erasmus Mundus programme. He is optimistic that the programme will provide scaffold of more academic knowledge for his later practice as foreign news correspondent.

Thomas has identified political actors' influence on journalists' media as a major threat to professional journalistic practice in France and he hopes to later wield his pen toward advocacy journalism with recourse to helping to salvage this problem. However, he is conscious of the implication of doing that if he works as a journalist in France. So, he concludes: "I hope to write critiques on it if I have opportunity to work as a foreign correspondent outside France."



## **KHATIA SHALAMBERIDZE**

**A dream as a Georgian, a challenge as a journalist**

NAIARA ARTEAGA TABERNA

Doing her MA in Journalism through the Erasmus Mundus Program is one of the greatest experiences and opportunities in the life of Khatia Shalamberidze, a 26-year-old girl from Georgia. She was born in Abkhazia, a trouble spot of Georgia, but because of the conflict which erupted between Georgia and separatist Abkhazians she had to move to the capital city Tbilisi at the age of 7. Because of the war her family was forced to leave their house, becoming refugees. „ It was not easy to start life from the beginning, but with hard work we managed to stand back on our feet again”, she admits. She has a dream: one day this conflict will be solved, and she will be able to come back to the city of her childhood and the house where she grew up, which she remembers so vividly.

She knows with certainty that she wants to be a journalist, though during high school she dreamed about becoming a doctor. But she gave up this idea because she was not that good at chemistry. So after finishing her school instead of faculty of medicine she appeared to be studying in the faculty of foreign languages, specializing in English Literature. In 2001 she had the opportunity to study as an exchange student at the University of Wisconsin in the US. That’s where she fell in love with journalism and was inspired to choose it as her future profession. While studying in the US she signed up for the classes related to journalism. She began writing for the campus newspaper and magazine. She liked interviewing people and exploring new things so much, that she decided to become journalist. So, when she came back to Georgia to continue with her studies, she moved from the Faculty of Languages to the Faculty of Journalism. In 2004 she received her Bachelor’s Degree from the Tbilisi State University majoring in International journalism.

As she says she was lucky, because only within a couple of months after graduating she got a job at the Public Broadcasting Organisation of Georgia at the position of International Reviewer. She has always dreamt about working in television, so it was her dream come true. “I did not have working experience and chances of employment, especially in TV, were very little. But to my astonishment I was hired after two-months of probation. In my opinion, the reason why I got the job is because of my language skills. I am fluent in English. Besides, I speak two more foreign languages, and being able to speak different languages is one of the main skills needed for reporting international news. As for news and story writing skills, I acquired them through hard work and practice while working there. It was challenging, but it was worthwhile”, she adds. “Working in TV is breathtaking and once you start working there you get addicted. That’s what happened in my case”, she points out. She wants to go back to TV after graduating and implement her knowledge there. “I would like to apply the theories and methods I will learn in the master to an international news program,” she explains.





## **SAKSHI SHARMA**

### **From Delhi to Denmark**

**MATTHEW CARUANA GALIZIA**

A conversation with Sakshi bounces rather than flows. I've met two types of people who've spent their time flitting from one place to another: those who are made melancholic by the constant upheaval and those to whom the world is a pinball table upon which they spin. Sakshi, naturally jolly, is the latter.

The 23 year-old Indian student sitting in front of me couldn't seem to feel more at home in a place so distant: Århus, the capital of provincial Denmark. We're in the foyer at the Danish School of Journalism, a nuclear-bunker of a building with bare concrete walls and humongous doors. We both get out our notepads as the chattering blondes finally diffuse.

Sakshi grew up in New Delhi, the capital city of India and the seat of the Indian Government. "My roots are there," she declares, "but I moved a lot to different cities with my family, from Bangalore, to the Gulf, to Bombay, where my formative years took place." I get the feeling that Sakshi grew up in big family, which helped her keep her sanity along the way.

Her drive to become a journalist began at a young age. Right from her school days, she harboured an interest to be a part of the media, at the age of sixteen; her first show was broadcast on All India Radio's youth program segment. Along with this she also wrote articles for one of the leading English-language daily newspapers in India, The Times of India.

Sakshi began attending a Catholic college in Bombay, at 18, reading journalism. She describes her experience there as though it were an extension of the family dinner table, spending her free time taking part in debates and using her confidence acquired through years of arguments with her family to question her teachers.

"It was at college that my identity was highlighted", says Sakshi. While still attending lectures, Sakshi interned at a publishing house and a regional language news channel, which is where her relationship with business journalism began. Upon graduating from University, she moved quickly, applying for a position at CNBC in Bombay – India's financial centre – becoming Assistant Editor for their website and working in the field for over 3 years.

Due to this deep interest in the field of business and finance, the Erasmus Mundus course came as a unique opportunity for her; it goes unsaid that her expectations are high. The specialization at City University, in London, she says, opens a plethora of opportunities for her, that she hopes to explore soon. "As a journalist, I believe that a global perspective on media would add value to my understanding of the media world," she says.



## ARADHANA SHARMA

### Switching eyes

GABRIEL FRAGA de CAL

Aradhana feels like wandering around Århus without any concrete destiny. “Life is so smooth here, not only in comparison with India, but even more naïve than other European cities I have been,” she says. After more than ten years of working in her country she has ended up in the main city of the biggest region of Denmark. Why? The Erasmus Mundus Programme is responsible. Her expectation is to get a sound academic grounding to be able to report events from across the world. She wants to report on people’s needs, aspirations, difficulties and successes.

For her, the programme is like a second youth after having been a working journalist for several years. Aradhana has been working in Delhi, both in national newspapers and national TV. news networks; always in the English language. “I love to change locations. Within India too, I have worked in three different places: Delhi, Bangalore and Lucknow,” she says.

Aradhana decided to join the master’s programme because the experience of studying in three different countries seemed to be unique and incomparable. She wants to see the world through the eyes of Europe, get familiar with the old continent and learn about its people. “It is really interesting because I am interacting with people from different parts of the world who bring a new perspective to almost everything I know,” she tells me. Aradhana is sure that these next two years will be very rewarding; both academically and culturally.

As we said before our partner is from New Delhi, a totally different place than any in Europe. This also shows her as a person willing to face up to new challenges. “Once,” she says, “I studied philosophy. But that was a long time ago. It is quite funny the fact that I am moving from the real world of working to become a student again.” And that entails much more than just attending classes. After having lived alone for the past seven years, she says, it’s exciting to share a house with eight other students. “It’s my new family. And it has people from all over the world,” she says.

So, what else is new for her? Friday Bar at the School, “Every faculty has its own bar; even the student residences have their own bars. It’s interesting to see how this is part of their culture. In India when you are at college, you have to hide and drink.”

She is quite sure about her specialization, war and conflict. After the programme she wants to continue practicing what is already her vocation, journalism. Nonetheless, Aradhana does not reject taking up teaching as a profession in the future. “But that will be after a long time, at the moment, there is still a lot to learn. And a lot of stories to tell as a journalist,” she says.



## **ANNKATRIN STENDER**

**A European who loves language, culture, and TV glamour**

### **PAULETTE DESORMEAUX**

When she was a little girl, Annkatrin couldn't pronounce her name, so she called herself Angie. Since then, all her friends and even her parents called her that. With her lovely smile, her sweet soft voice, her easy character and strong determination, Angie has it all. Born in a town near Frankfurt, she was always clear that she was going to go somewhere else.

After finishing school she felt attracted to theatre, she loved acting and giving presentations. "Art is what distinguish us from animals," she says, explaining that it is also a way to show critic thoughts about society. But she also loved Europe and wanted to know much more about it, so she took her degree on European studies. "We have a common heritage, it is a beautiful continent. It is so rich and wherever you look there is a lot of culture", she explains. Angie defines herself as a very European person, with a more regional identity. "I don't feel primarily German, but European", she argues. When Angie graduated the year 2007, she wanted to go out of Europe and also learn Spanish. Thus, she went to Argentina and spent four months in Buenos Aires, the capital city of the country. She describes it as a great experience: "I faced a completely different reality, poverty was different also, sometimes it was intimidating, because it was a whole new world". In Argentina, she realized that she wanted to work on TV - she loves news and political talk shows - and also help to educate society. After this experience, she took three internships in TV journalism. First, she worked in a regional news programme, then in a scientific programme, and finally in a political talk show in Berlin.

Then, she discovered Mundus Master Programme. It was perfect for her, because it combines the interest in Europe with journalism. Angie believes that journalists can help to create a European common identity and integration, and she is also interested in the convergence of European public sphere. That is why, she is going to Hamburg to spend the second year of this Mundus Masters. "I'm huge fan of this idea of peace in Europe. Everybody can contribute something and live happy trough it", she states. She wants to try to find common level to get along, and is willing to contribute something to society. Angie thinks this programme is unique because it helps to make new friends, create a global network of journalists and also achieve an academic progress.

For Angie, TV is the stage of the theatre. It has the glamour she loves, but also, when journalists produce high level content, it is a good tool to make a contribution to society. After the programme, she would love to work as a host in TV reading news or hosting political talk shows, fulfilling the journalistic task or challenges that arise for European integration.



## **ALBANA ULAJ**

### **A brave girl from Kosovo**

**HILDEGARD WILLER**

On the evening of March 23rd 1999, an 18-year old Albana stood at the Montenegro border and implored Serb military policemen to let her join other refugees into the country. A simple sentence in Serbian possibly saved her life, a moment that will stay with her forever. “Get in the bus and have a safe trip,” the officer said. One day after, NATO military airplanes started the bombing campaign against former Yugoslavia.

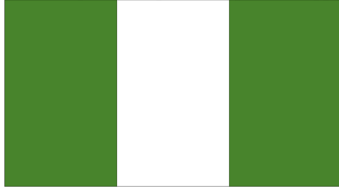
After three months, Albana went back to join her parents in Prishtina, finished high school, and started working as a journalist for a news agency and a television station. She also studied English language and literature at the University of Prishtina. “After two years working as a journalist, I wanted more” she says. “I wanted to advance in my career, to get a degree from a Western country and this was a promise that I had given to myself as a child actually.” She picked the United States as a choice and started looking at the possibilities.

Albana found a Language School in San Francisco that would not demand loads of documents, language test scores and fat bank accounts. She applied, got the visa and boarded a plane to San Francisco, a city where nobody was waiting for her. Which force was able to drive a 20-year old girl from Kosovo to do such a risky thing? “My deepest motivation,” tells Albana “was the experience when Serbian government oppressed our rights to get education. It was when they took over our educational institutions and when we had to study in self-organized homes for ten years. This was the time when I truly understood the value of good education.”

In 2007, only five years after having arrived to the USA, Albana received her B.A. in Radio and TV from San Francisco State University and headed to New York, where she freelanced as an assignment desk coordinator for a local news station.

Now, Albana is back into the old continent, as an Erasmus Mundus student. She knew that she wasn't going to stay in the United States, because she wanted her Master degree from a European country. “After I got my B.A., I decided that I will come to Europe for my M.A. so I started searching for opportunities until I found the Erasmus Mundus Journalism programme. This programme will complete my American perspective with the European perspective of Media and Journalism.”

After graduation, she plans to work for International TV companies in Europe, travel, do her PhD and then – “my biggest dream” she says is “to go back to Kosovo and set up a modern Media School, similar to the ones that I had a chance to learn from.”



## AUSTEN UCHE UWOSOMAH

### The story of a teacher going back to life

THOMAS SEYMAT

At 36, Austen has already a long career both in journalism and academia in Nigeria, a country on the sub-Saharan west coast of Africa, where he was born and raised. Indeed, he worked for 6 years as a journalist in print media and a copy editor in a newspaper and earned not less than 3 diplomas in mass communication, at lower, higher and post-graduate level.

While doing so, he had two works in English published, both about journalism. The first one talks about the perspective of journalism law and ethics in Nigeria and the second on deals with the effects of opinion journalism in the society. Austen even taught journalism to undergraduate students in Nigeria.

So far, Austen, who had been previously to Europe, visiting Italy, hasn't experienced a culture shock. "It's not for now" he says. "I'm not afraid of the European perspective taught in this program because I'm interested in studying global journalism." On the differences of ages and profiles in the master's, he views are that it will make sharing experiences interesting and that more experienced students will help the least experienced.

Once he learned about the Erasmus Mundus program while surfing on the Internet looking for a European program accepting international students, Austen decided to give it a try. Indeed, this ex-teacher-now-student is hungry for more. "I'm coming to the Erasmus Mundus program for the academic experience" he says. After his specialism year in Hamburg, Austen plans to keep going on with his studies. "I will apply for a PhD, in Århus probably." After earning his PhD, his ambitions are going back to Nigeria to become a teacher. "I want to teach journalism in my *alma mater*, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka. I want to contribute to academics there."

According to Austen, in Africa, there is a need for more private-owned media. "Journalists need to learn entrepreneurship" he says, "because now, too many newspapers are owned by the governments, particularly in Nigeria, and it all sounds like public service journalism there, you often only get one side of the story." There is also a crucial need for a broader audience of press consumers, "so that newspaper could rely less on advertisement money." And Austen foresees the role he could have in this process: "I want to be an actor of those transformations", as a journalism teacher in Nigeria.



## **HIEKE VAN DER VAART**

### **A small girl in the world under a nutshell**

WEIYI WU

Starting in 2003, by being a volunteering political reporter in the local TV station of Rotterdam, the Netherlands, Hieke made her first step into the field of journalism. Even though fascinated by the beauty of language, she chose Spanish to be the major of her bachelor's degree, with media studies as her minor. Five years later, when Hieke thought seriously about her future career, journalism stood out from all other occupations, leading her to being a member of the Erasmus Mundus family.

“I love being a journalist because the work is so diversified.” Hieke said. In ANP, the biggest press agency of the Netherlands, she finished her internship in the video department. “My work basically contained editing, reporting and camera work”, she added. “We went to different places to meet all kinds of people with various stories.” It is during the internship that Hieke not only learned, but also enjoyed how to produce news and how to work with deadlines. It is this experience that encouraged her to go back to the journalism field where her passion belongs.

Besides participating in classical news production, Hieke also did something adventurous during her studies in the University of Amsterdam. The “World2xPress” project set up by students of her university was one of the most wonderful experiences the young aspiring journalist ever had. “With 12 students we went to three countries: Ghana, Surinam and Nicaragua. I chose the latter because I speak Spanish. The purpose of the trip was to contact local journalists to set up an online press agency for ‘forgotten’ stories, features that do not appear on CNN and other big world media,” she says. “I would like to find out some unique human-interest stories and bring them to the outside world. Media do interpret the world in their own ways, depending on their political, cultural and economical point of view. And I hope that some day, I can present a picture of life to people from my own perspective,” she says.

To fight against media bias is what this 25-year-old journalist bears deeply in mind whether in her hometown or Århus. “I am glad that I came here,” She says passionately, “Because it is definitely a perfect combination of all my interests such as journalism, language and travelling.” And now, everything seems to be just the same as she had been expecting. “Even though each of us possesses different ideas and judgments, we have more or less the same professional background which provides me with a sense of community.”

To Hieke, the class is “a world in a nutshell,” where she could gain a real global perspective and true knowledge both from distinguished scholars and media practitioners all over the global village.



## HILDEGARD WILLER

**A world traveler, challenge seeker, adventurer**

ALBANA ULAJ

In 1983, some 25 years ago, a Bavarian girl left her native country Germany and set off to Venezuela. She was only 18 years old and had already developed the idea that getting to know other cultures and engaging for social justice was something she wanted to do. “I worked with the Catholic church in programmes such as health care, teaching music lessons, social work and community building programmes.” After three years in South America, she decided to go back to Germany, get her MA in Theology, as well as Roman Languages and Literature. After several years working in Switzerland as a desk officer for Colombia and Ecuador, she went back to South America and settled in Peru where she worked as a journalist for almost ten years.

Empowering people who don't have a voice in different societies in South America has been Hildegard's mission for a decade. She has experienced the lack of breath at 5000 metres, reporting about the highest informal gold digger town in Peru. She has felt the sun burning her skin when she visited the coca farmers and she experienced the anarchy when writing about the biggest jail of South America. She has done this—as she puts it—because “I like to write in the way that brings communities together and makes them understand other people's lives and the structures and politics which are operating behind them.”

Hildegard gives an impression of someone who in a sense has everything she needs to succeed on a professional and a personal level, yet she seeks more challenges, knowledge and understanding. “This programme will help me to sort of put order upon my experiences, to re-engage with the European reality and reflect different views and ideas. It will help me to see things from a different angle, and as a journalist it will help me understand and explain the issues of today's world more effectively.”

Even though Hildegard is 43 years old, she feels and is young at heart. She loves dancing to Latin beats, playing the guitar, skiing and biking. She has a goal after this programme and it's pretty clear: “I want to go back to Peru where I will teach journalism and continue writing for magazines in Germany and Switzerland.”



## WEIYI WU

**Every story starts form page one**

HIEKE VAN DER VAART

Weiyi, who is also known as Vicky, started acting as a bridge between different people, organizations and information in her high school years. As the editor-in-chief of the school's English official website and as student representative and interpreter for a visiting UNESCO teaching evaluation group, she enjoyed the excitement brought by the successful exchange of information, ideas and critical examinations of people's daily lives and society at large. In 2008, after she finished her bachelor's degree, Vicky decided to pursue further education in her beloved journalism field. "I would like to gain a global perspective in this age of globalization and I hope to bring back Beijing both practical and theoretical tools that can help me in presenting the modern China to the world."

At first glance, this young Chinese girl seems a little shy. But when she starts talking, you can hear she is a radio girl. She answers quickly and without hesitating, but chooses her words carefully. In her hometown Beijing, Vicky studies broadcast journalism at what local people honoured as, "the cradle of the Chinese media elite" - the Communication University of China. There, she was the editor-in-chief and anchorwoman of the only English programme of the university radio, CUC Radio.

In the last year of her bachelor's, she started an internship at China's Central Television, CCTV. As a desk editor and translator, she has covered reports on the Wenchuan Earthquake and Beijing Olympic Games. "It is an unforgettable experience. Many of the athletes the programme interviewed won gold medals," she says proudly.

Culture is one of Vicky's main interests. Working at, or even creating, China's own National Geographic or Discovery Channel is one of her ideal occupations. "I am always curious about happenings around the globe and I am looking forward to reporting human interest stories about my home country." Besides culture, Vicky also has an ambition in business and finance journalism. Therefore, she chooses her specialism at the City University of London. "Economy is becoming more and more important nowadays. Every corner of the global village is connected by international finance and business networks," she says.

Even though Vicky is born and raised in one of the biggest cities of the world, she still enjoys living in Århus. "It is really a peaceful and beautiful place," she says. Although it is her first time in Europe, she does not seem to suffer a big culture shock. "It is amazing to meet 43 students coming from various nations with radically different media and political environments. We can definitely create valuable cross cultural exchanges of ideas," she says, adding, "To have friends from 27 countries will be one of the most precious treasures I can ever gain."





## **BEI BEI YIN**

### **A student in the fairytale country**

**ANDERS HØEG LAMMERS**

As Bei Bei flew into Billund, she was taken aback. Instead of an industrialised country with factories all over the place, she saw fields, fields and more fields. Had her history book been wrong? Was Denmark not a developed country? Baffled by these questions, she came to Århus, a tiny city with no one in the streets. A whole day can pass without anyone going past her window, an immense difference from the world she came from.

Born and raised an only child in a small Chinese town of barely 800.000 citizens, Bei Bei moved to Nanjing, in search of new challenges in her B.A. study of journalism. The choice was not that clear to her, but with top marks from high school in the arts and humanities, there was an expectation that she would use them for something with prestige in, journalism. During her four years of study she put less weight on the studies and more weight on the journalistic practice and work, including a variety of internships and editing the school's newspaper. Through this, she learned that her interest was in print and her priorities turned out successfully.

Before graduation, she got a job at Life, a monthly privately owned magazine in Guangzhou, China's third largest city. She had doubts whether to take it as her global outlook urged her to go abroad, but today she is sure she chose correctly. "I wanted to go abroad, but I did not know my own country and the Chinese perspective. The past two years, working and travelling all over China for Life has taught me immensely about Chinese culture and politics. When I got admitted for Mundus I was in doubt whether to go or not because the job was so interesting, but my editor convinced me it was the right thing to do," she says.

At Life, she wrote feature articles about a variety of issues, including history, art, culture and work- and life-conditions at the Western owned factories. The long articles and the monthly deadlines were just how she prefers journalism: As a deep, investigative practice, where the articles are well written and the photos well chosen. She herself being very visual, doing calligraphy since she was small, photos and visual expressions mean the world to her.

Returning our minds to the grey sky of Århus in the land of the fairytales, Bei Bei turns her attention to the upcoming months. She is excited to see how the Mundus students will conduct their social life in different ways and especially expects prevalent differences among the oriental and the western students. The studies will hopefully give her the broader global vision which she considers China to be in need of. Bei Bei intends to learn the theories well enough to be able to use them in her daily work and life, and, "with hard work, I know I can do it," she says.



## **MEDHA**

### **Journalism at 360 degrees**

#### **MATILDE MEREGHETTI**

Born in Lucknow, capital of Uttar Pradesh, in Northern India, Medha spent her childhood in various parts of India, following her father's work together with her family. This gave her the opportunity to "experience the amazing diversity of India's cultural and physical landscape". At the age of 20, Medha moved to Pune, second largest city in the state of Maharashtra in Western India, in order to study English literature, tourism and travel management. Then she continued her studies with a master in mass communication.

Despite the young age, she already boasted various experiences in the field of Journalism: collaboration with a television news channel in Bombay for a few months, then almost three years with The Times of India, in her city, Pune, where she was dealing with local problems, civic affairs, and cultural events. "One of the most interesting things was to report from the famous film festival held in January."

In parallel to journalism Medha has studied German at the Goethe Institute, and this is where she met her husband, mechanic engineer.

Medha has spent the past 6 months in Bonn, Germany working for Deutsche Welle, Germany's International Radio broadcaster. Chosen for a fellowship for South Asian Journalists., she was working with international news, European and German affairs. It was her first time in Europe and she could discover the cultural, political and economic aspects.

Deutsche Welle would have renewed her contract, but Medha has chosen to begin the master Erasmus Mundus, that interest her both for the opportunity to meet and learn from people from so many different cultural backgrounds and for the theoretical nature of the course:"it would give me a framework to reflect on my work as a journalist and give me a different and a broader perspective - since we normally miss out on that in day to day reporting."

She chose the War and Conflict specialism at Swansea because, "I am really interested in looking at and understanding various factors that affect reporting of conflicts, to explore the various forces that influence coverage of war in today. It is also an area that I haven't worked in yet - but is very relevant to the world today and especially to South Asia."

After the Erasmus Mundus master Medha dreams of returning to India and pursue a journalistic career at 360 degrees. Maybe it's the right time because India is a country in strong expansion and rich of opportunities.

