

New and Relevant Courses Offered at S.T.C.C., Spring 2019

ENG-246, *Immigrant Perspectives: Film and Literature*, 3 credits

TH, 6PM-9PM with Assistant Professor Yasotha Sriharan

This is a course that explores narratives and film from the immigrant perspective. Using techniques employed in good fiction, creative nonfiction and film-making techniques, students will craft their own narratives and learn to study and analyze film. Students will study different forms of the personal narrative, including traditional narratives, vignettes and memoirs in verse. In addition, students will read a well-regarded memoir and analyze writing techniques that the author employs in order to further their own work. For the film component of the course, students will view films based on the immigrant experience, and will learn how to 'take apart' a film; students will have a series of analytic writing assignments about film, and will also write a film review.

HIS-155, *The Immigrant City*, 3 credits

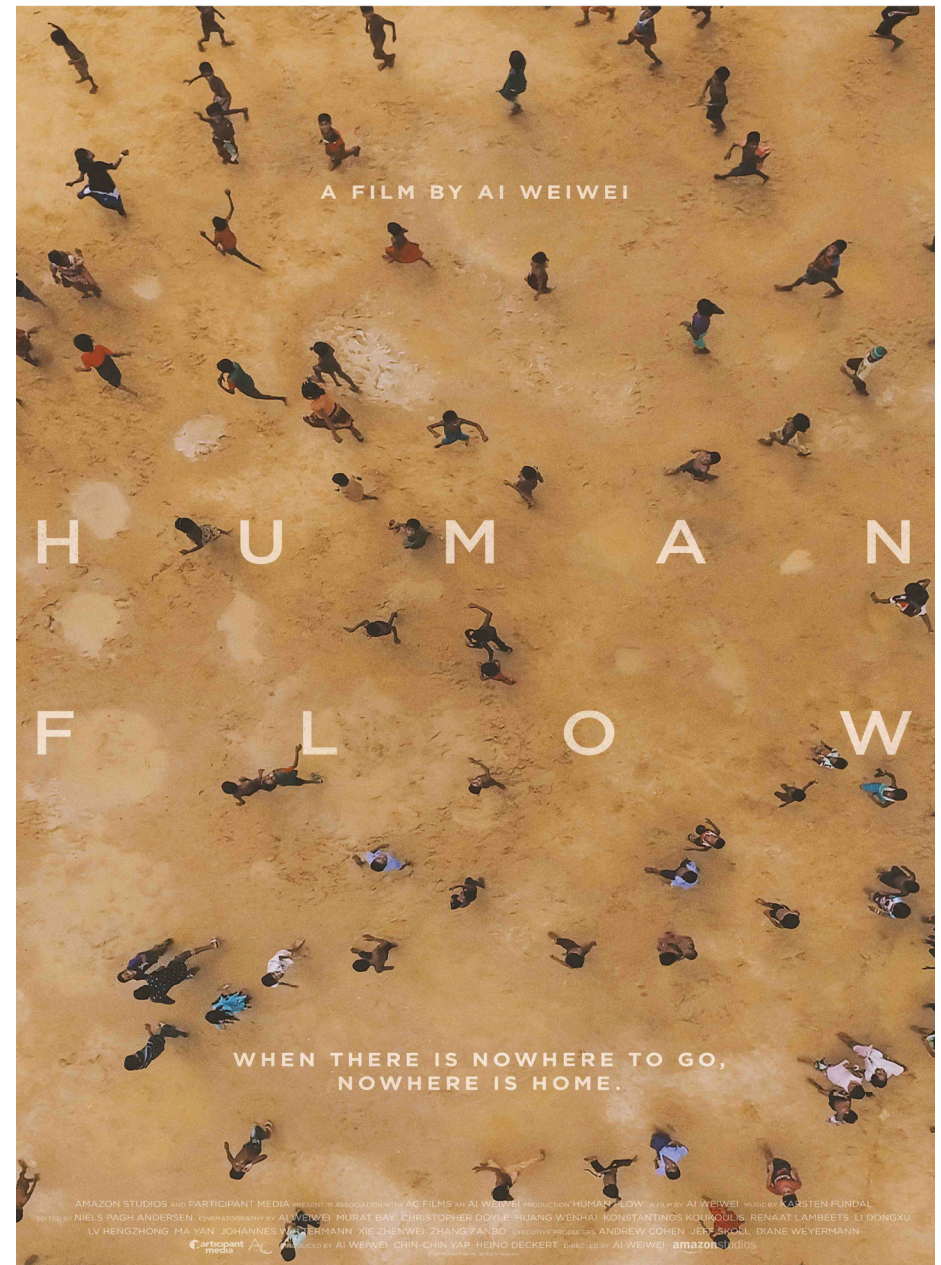
T/TH, 9:30AM-10:45AM with Assistant Professor John Diffley

This course will examine the role of immigrants in shaping the physical and cultural landscape of American cities. Focus will be paid to the historical development of immigrant neighborhoods within a number of major American cities including: NYC, Boston, and Los Angeles - as well as examining local cities such as Springfield and Holyoke, MA.

HNR-214, *Human Flow: Understanding the Global Refugee Crisis*

3 credits, Saturdays 9AM-12PM with Assistant Professor Sondra Peron

The history of human migration is as long as the history of mankind, and people moving from one place to another is either voluntary or involuntary. Today the world is experiencing the greatest human migration since the end of World War II in 1945. Why? In this honors course, students focus on the involuntary movement of people due to war, famine and ethnic cleansing, to name a few factors, in modern and contemporary times. Students examine the historical context of the current global refugee crisis, analyze the last one hundred years of immigration policy in the United States, and grapple with the complex issues associated with terms like migrant, refugee and displaced persons. Students engage in philosophical and theoretical discussions during weekly colloquia.



Film Screening & Panel Discussion on the Global Refugee Crisis

**Springfield Technical Community College, Scibelli Theater, Building 2
Thursday, November 15, 2018, 10am**

Producer's notes and special thanks

Last fall I first saw the documentary about the global refugee crisis, *Human Flow*, while standing in my kitchen. I could not sit down for the entire 145 minutes because the journey I was witnessing by refugees from 23 different countries oscillated between profoundly sad and disturbing to harrowing and hopeful. I remember the film ending and deciding right then I wanted to do more than just share it with my students. I started meeting with people across campus and throughout western Massachusetts in an effort to make this event happen.

Human Flow and ***I Am S.T.C.C.*** is supported in part with funding from **STCC Library** and the **School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences**.

This event would not be possible without the support of Erica Eynouf, Dean of Library Services, and **Richard Greco**, Interim Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. In the earliest days of this project's infancy, I'm thankful for the guidance I received from **Dr. John Cook**, President of the College and **Robert Dickerman**, Dean of Science and Engineering Transfer and interim dean of A.H.S.S. during part of 2018; **Diane Sabato**, Professor, Business/Honors Coordinator; **Kamari Collins**, Vice President of Student and Multicultural Affairs; **Vonetta Lightfoot**, Multicultural Affairs; Equity Retreat colleagues: **Brian Candido**, **Marko Packard**, **José Lopez-Figueroa**, **Yezenia Lopez**, **Jean Prast**, **Maria Puppolo**, **Reneé Tetrault**, **Cheru Atraga**, **Barbara Bradbury**, **Cindy Breunig**, and **Jennifer Wallace-Johnson**; **Kerri Kane & Deb Avery**, Facilities; **Jim Danko** and **Joan Gravel**, Communications Office; **Anne Bonemery**, former Dean of AHSS; STCC students **Mohamed Hamror**, and **Olivia Barkett**, Human Flow Intern; **Jane Lerner**, Title III/SI Director; **Kimberley Broderick**, Director of Grants; **Frances Riddle**, Dept Chair/Professor of Art; **Pamela White**, Director, Career Development Center; to all the folks at the STCC library that I drive crazy with all my research requests, especially **Kim Noel**, Circulation Librarian; **Cynthia Claudio**, AHSS Super-clerk; **Heather Cahill**, Springfield Museums; **John Reynolds** and **Eddie Sabiak**, Events Management; **Dr. Marian MacDonald**; **Luanne Carbaugh**, **John Wakelin**, and **Dan Misco**, all professors in Digital Media Technology and their student videographers and audio techs; **Alexis Greenblatt**, ABE; **Adele Mattern**; and incredible panelists-**Maria Beatrice Castillo Canas**, **Kathryn Buckley-Brawner**, **Ibrahim Nuru**--with faith in humanity and a belief in peace, their willingness to publicly share deeply personal stories of tragedy and struggle is to be admired.

I am deeply indebted and thankful to all my friends and family, especially my wife, **Marta Martinez**, and our four-year-old son, **Kai Alexander Martinez-Peron**, for teaching me to love life and for helping me realize my dreams; and **all of my photography students**--past, present and future--who push me every day to do more as a professor and be a better global citizen. --Sondra Peron, November 2018

TAKE ACTION

What can you do? Help refugees where you are.
Welcome refugees into your community with compassion & empathy.
Volunteer. Be a friend. Hold awareness and fundraising events.
Donate your time or donate some money.
Donate new or gentle-used household items.
Donate clothes. Donate new baby supplies.
Help a refugee practice English.
Be an advocate.
Learn more, be informed.
Vote.
Get Involved.
Contact organizations like Catholic Charities: diospringfield.org,
Jewish Family Services of Western MA, www.jfswm.org,
welcomehomenorthampton.org,



I Am S.T.C.C.

This photography project seeks to raise awareness about the global refugee crisis by celebrating our diverse community at Springfield Technical Community College. Part of a global participatory art project called "InsideOut," initiated by the award-winning French artist J.R., "I Am S.T.C.C." is designed to pay tribute to the power and dignity of individuals by displaying their portraits in public spaces.

These portraits, captured by students in ART 150 and ART 250, of S.T.C.C. students, faculty, and staff demonstrate a community based on **openness, acceptance, and respect for all people** by democratizing the portrait.

No name, no title -- just the face.

Look for hundreds of portraits like these to grace the exterior of buildings throughout the city of Springfield in the spring of 2019.

FACTS

Who is a refugee? A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence. This is not voluntary.

A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Most likely, they cannot return home or are afraid to do so. War and ethnic, tribal and religious violence are leading causes of refugees fleeing their countries.

By the end of 2017, 68.5 million individuals were forcibly displaced world-wide as a result of persecution, conflict, violence or human rights violations.

That was an increase of 2.9 million people over the previous year, and the world's forcibly displaced population remained at a record high. This includes:

25.4 million refugees in the world—the highest ever seen;
40 million internally displaced people; and
3.1 million asylum-seekers.

Refugees do not choose the country in which they would like to live. UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency identifies the most vulnerable refugees for resettlement and then makes recommendations to select countries.

Once a refugee is recommended to the U.S. for resettlement, the U.S. government conducts a thorough vetting of each applicant.

This process typically takes between 18 and 24 months and includes:

- * Screening by 8 federal agencies including the State Department, Department of Homeland Security and the FBI,
- * 6 security database checks and biometric security checks screened against U.S. federal databases,
- * Medical screening, and
- * 3 in-person interviews with Department of Homeland Security officers.

Since 1975, the U.S. has welcomed more than 3 million refugees from all over the world, and these refugees have built new lives for their families in all 50 states.

There were 24,559 refugees resettled to the U.S. in 2017. With the number of refugees increasing every day, the Trump administration recently announced it is decreasing the number of refugees allowed into the U.S. for FY 2019.

(Facts from USA for UNHCR, www.unrefugees.org)

HUMAN FLOW

Film and Panel Discussion Program

Thursday, November 15, 2018

10:00am	Dr. John Cook, President, Introductory Remarks
10:05am	<i>Human Flow</i> Screening Film Excerpt 00:36:06-01:09:04
10:40am	Richard Greco, Interim Dean School of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Introduction of Panelists
10:45am	Panel Discussion Moderated by Sondra Peron
11:15am	Q &A with audience



Panel Discussion Participants

Maria Beatrice Castillo Canas

Born in Ilobasco, El Salvador, Maria Castillo Canas lived with her mother, two brothers and one sister under constant threat of death by delinquents and gangs. She and her family could not leave their house because the fear was so great. After living with constant crime and violence, her family decided to leave El Salvador. Recently arriving in the United States, Castillo Canas and her family finally feel safe, and now go to work and school without fear.

Kathryn Buckley-Brawner

Kathryn Buckley-Brawner is the Executive Director of Catholic Charities Agency of the Diocese of Springfield. She has worked with Catholic Charities and Catholic Relief Services for 15 years, and has had the privilege of participating in the development of projects in Haiti, Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Burundi. In 2017, Catholic Charities became a Reception and Placement Agency site for the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program.

Wanda Garcia, Translator

Wanda Garcia is a graduate of Springfield Technical Community College, and is currently working on her bachelor's degree at Elms College in social work.

Ibrahim Nuru

Ibrahim Nuru, born in Moshi Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, went to Majengo secondary school, and completed his B.A. in Human Services at Muccobs College in Kilimanjaro. Over the past ten years, Nuru has worked to help refugees in Nairobi, Kenya (I.O.M), and worked in a refugee camp in Goma, Congo before working to help refugees here in the United States. He is currently a case worker in refugee case management for Catholic Charities Agency in Springfield.

Sondra Peron, Panel Moderator

Since 2011, Sondra Peron has taught traditional photography and in the honors program at Springfield Technical Community College. This past September she was appointed assistant professor of art and special cultural programming, and is gallery coordinator for the Amy H. Carberry Fine Arts Gallery. She is a graduate of Smith College with a B.A. in philosophy and holds an M.F.A. in photography from the Maryland Institute College of Art. Her photographic work of atrocity landscapes includes concentration camps and World War I and World War II battlefields.

HUMAN FLOW

Film Synopsis

Over 65 million people around the world have been forced from their homes to escape famine, climate change and war in the greatest human displacement since World War II. *Human Flow*, an epic film journey led by the internationally renowned Chinese artist Ai Weiwei, gives a powerful visual expression to this massive human migration. The documentary elucidates both the staggering scale of the refugee crisis and its profoundly personal human impact.

About the Film Director



Ai Weiwei (b. 1957-) is a Chinese contemporary artist and activist. In 2008, Ai collaborated with Swiss architects Herzog & de Meuron as the artistic consultant on the Beijing National Stadium, also known as “The Bird’s Nest.” Openly critical of the Chinese Government’s stance on democracy and human rights, government corruption and cover-ups following the collapse of so-called “tofu-dreg schools” in the 2008 Sichuan earthquake, Ai was arrested in 2011 and held for 81 days without any official charges being filed. After his release, he lived under virtual house arrest and without a passport until 2015, when he was able to leave China. Considering himself a kind of refugee, Ai has been living in Berlin, Germany, with his family, working on art installations, and traveling extensively in an effort to raise awareness about the global refugee crisis documented in his film, *Human Flow*.