



At Castle Schlaining
in February

After a Snowy Winter, EPU Gears Up for Spring

The EPU's Spring Term – being slightly misnamed in that respect – started with bitterly freezing temperatures and plenty of snow around town and castle. During most of February, going outside required special preparations – but nonetheless it could be great fun. Check out Meah Mostafiz's season's report on page 2 (and his photos, too).

Ice and snow of course did not keep our instructors and guest lecturers from coming:

Apart from the ongoing MA courses we hosted a talk on "EU Foreign Policymaking and the Middle East Conflict" by Patrick Müller from the Institute for European Integration Research of the University of Vienna, and a presentation on "Career Opportunities at the

UN" by Irene Hoegliger-Neiva from the United Nations Information Service in Vienna, Austria (see report on page 3).

The new term also brings an abundance of events and initiatives old and new:

The "Methodology Club", moderated by Bertold Schweitzer provides opportunities to discuss epistemological frameworks, methodological approaches, and generally sharpen everyone's academic tools.

We have also established a "Writing Center", run by our Academic Assistant, Imane Bendra. The Center's function is to help students to improve their academic writing and arguing skills. It provides individual tutoring to assist students in

areas such as writing course and module papers, and theses, and to answer questions concerning literature research, structuring, formatting, reference management, and avoiding plagiarism.

In addition, EPU students are organizing an "Alternative Lecture Series" where students share their unique set of experiences, knowledge, and skills, starting this month with workshops on social media.

Students are also organizing an "EPU Career Club" to share information and ideas to help building future careers.

For all other events at EPU please check out the "Mark your calendar" section on page 4.

We wish everyone a happy and successful month of March – and a lovely early spring!



Snow in Stadtschlaining, Austria

By Meah Mostafiz

The mid-February snow had brought lots of fun for the European Peace University scholars, a group of international peace researchers living in an Austrian town named Stadtschlaining. The snow covered the Austrian landscape, homes, mountains and every little thing. The EPU students seemed happy playing with snow, making a snowman and throwing snow at each other. But for the regular town dwellers it wasn't a happy moment at all in this severe weather condition, rather harsh and miserable.

The snow was thrilling for me. I was born and raised in Bangladesh, a country where the weather is tropical, hot and humid. All of a sudden, in 2010, I was able to see snow for the first time in my life and was amazed to see this soft, white thing coming down from far up in the sky, from somewhere else.

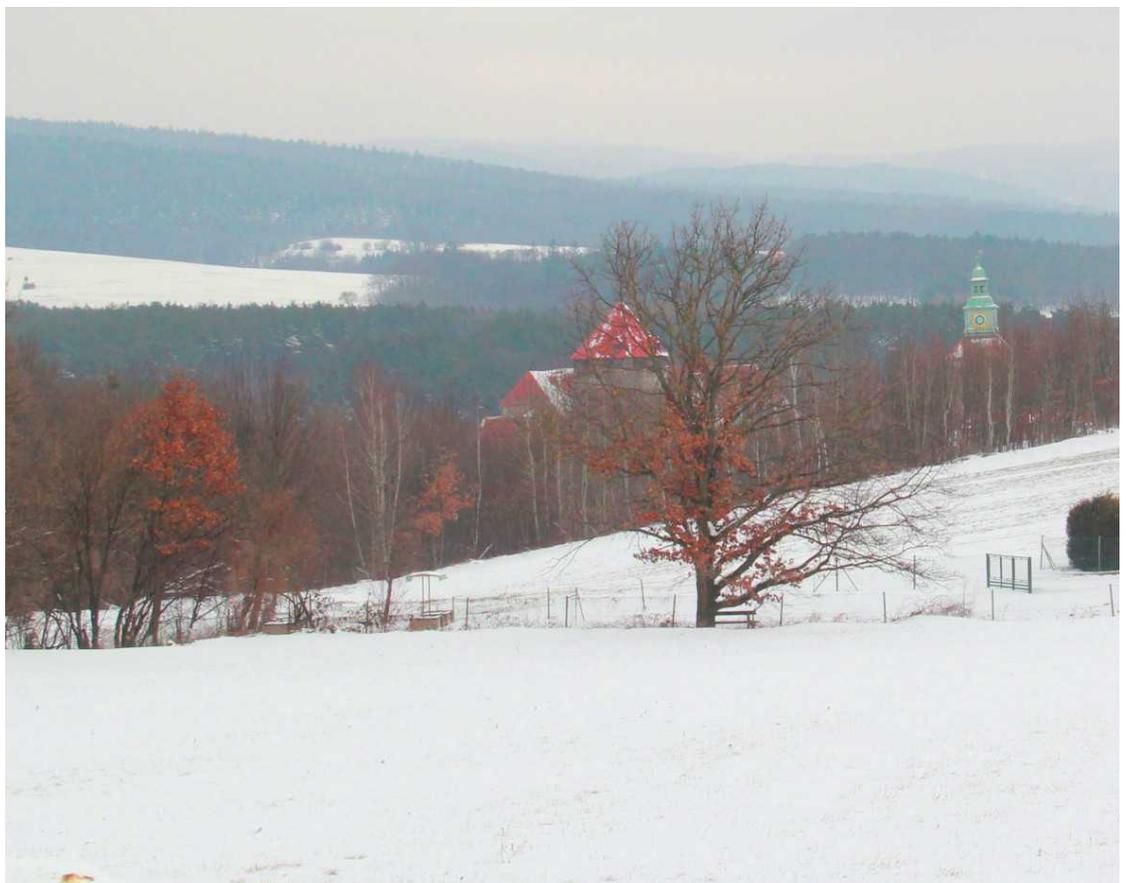
Like many a time in my boyhood I was looking up, wondering how rain drops come down, where they stay and where they go again. Rain brings lots of misery for my people, those who have no roof. And it brings floods too, floods that kill many people, and the heartless flood that comes from upriver neighboring India, the flood that destroys homes, sweeps away farms, animals and the dreams of the poor. Yet rains bring happiness to many who are romantic,

romantic like Humayun Ahmed, the great Bangladeshi novelist, who inspired many romantic young people to get a shower in the rain. I too loved the rain and took showers under the open sky. But the rain here in Europe is much colder than the rain I used to love in my country during a hot summer.

Snow is white, like a white heart that my country needs badly. A white heart in my country is invisible, but it can be found within a man of honor, a man who is not corrupted and who cares for his fellow countrymen. And so when I see white snow, like in Austria, covering everything, I think of the need for white hearted men in my country, the country where corruption stalls the development.

My mother told me on a winter morning, when I was afraid of cold water, that I had to take a bath in the pond. She told me "cold is in your mind, get out of fear, jump into the water and the cold will go away". On a dark day like today, in this harsh weather when the Schlaining people seem to remain at home, I recall my mother. I open the door, step on the snowy road, I put a smile on my face, I feel warm and I move forward ...

More: <http://meahmostafiz.wordpress.com/2013/02/16/snow-in-stadtschlaing-austria/>



Career Opportunities at the United Nations

By **László W. Farkas**

On 19 February, 2013, the EPU was visited by Irene Hoeglinger-Neiva, Public Information Officer at the United Nations Information Service (UNIS) in Vienna to give an (already traditional, annual) presentation on “Career Opportunities at the UN”.

Students were not only informed about the job and internship opportunities in the UN system, but they also received useful technical advice about how to apply and how to avoid the common mistakes and traps during the application process.

There will be more opportunities for the EPU students to continue their discussions on this topic when they spend a whole day in the premises of the UN headquarters in Vienna during their week-long Academic Excursion in April.



EPU Students Launch Alternative Lectures Initiative

By **Lorna Balie**

Alongside mandatory lectures attended by the EPU students, the students are taking the opportunity to learn more about and from each other. Therefore an alternative lecture series will be starting soon where students will share their unique set of experiences, knowledge, skills and wisdom.

Some students have therefore volunteered to offer supplementary knowledge that is relevant to peace research, present theories from other area of studies as well as skills, work experience and anything that will contribute to personal and academic growth.

For example, Meah Mostafiz will present a lecture on social media – Blogging, Filming, Video Editing and Youtubing. He describes his class as follows: One of the amazing innovations in human history is the Internet, which created a

more connected world and made it convenient to share knowledge and skills with other people around the globe.

For us, as Peace Researchers and Human Rights defenders, reaching people is vital in order to promote our motto, “A better world – A peaceful world.” Social media is therefore a great tool to reach people. Meah will show us how to create a blog, filming and editing videos, and how to upload videos onto youtube.

Other lectures presented during March will be presented by Daniela with relation to her background in psychology, Anamika will talk about food security and Hamid will share his experience about working in a conflict area. These lectures will take place every Tuesday evening at 7 pm in Haus International, seminar room 1.

EPU Career Club

By **Meah Mostafiz**

The EPU Career Club launch meeting was held at the Schlaining Haus International on 21 February 2013, at 3 p.m.

EPU Student and coordinator of the club, Meah Mostafiz explained that the goal and mission of this project is to provide information related to the EPU field of study and interest and

to give an opportunity to share information and ideas with each other in order to help building future careers.

Further information regarding the EPU Career Club can be obtained by contacting the coordinator, Meah Mostafiz, or by sending an email to: epucareerclub@gmail.com.

Mark Your Calendar

Term Dates

- Start: 28 January 2013
- End: 19 April 2013

MA Courses

(Venues: Haus International, unless indicated otherwise)

- “Civilizing Processes” (Elective Course, Tilman Evers, EPU and Researcher & Consultant, Kassel, Germany, 25 Feb–01 Mar 2013, mornings)
- “Fragile Statehood vs Good Governance” (Elective Course, Farzana Bari, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan, 25 Feb–01 Mar 2013, afternoons)
- “Institution-Building in Post-Conflict Situations” (Elective Course; Chris Van Der Borgh, University of Utrecht, The Netherlands, 04–08 Mar 2013, see special schedule)
- “Strengthening of Civil Society Institutions and Actors” (Elective Course; Giovanni Scotto, Syracuse University, Florence, Italy, 04–08 Mar 2013, see special schedule)
- “Peace, Economy and Ecology” (Patricia Bauer, EPU, 11–15 Mar 2013, mornings)
- “Transformation of War Economies and Economics of Violence” (Elective Course; Werner Ruf, University of Kassel, Germany, 18–22 Mar 2013, mornings)
- “A Sustainable Global Economy” (Elective Course; Georg Frerks, Wageningen University, The Netherlands, 18–22 Mar 2013, afternoons)
- “Peace through Social Justice” (Elective Course; Lester Kurtz, George Mason University, Washington D.C., USA, 25–29 Mar 2013, mornings)
- “Development Cooperation” (Elective Course; Helmuth Hartmeyer, Austrian Development Agency, Vienna, Austria, 25–29 Mar 2013, afternoons)

Methodology Club

moderated by Bertold Schweitzer

- “Case Studies and Process Tracing” (Thu, 07 Mar 2013, 7:00 pm)
- “Designing and Conducting Surveys” (Thu, 21 Mar 2013, 7:00 pm)

Interested in Studying at EPU?

Apply for Fall 2013!

Starting in Autumn 2013, the European Peace University will be offering two additional MA programs for a total of three:

- Peace & Conflict Studies
- European Peace & Security Studies
- Peacebuilding

“European Peace and Security Studies” focuses on the EU system and Europe’s responsibility for global peace.

“Peacebuilding” connects academic peace studies with the professional and personal challenges peacebuilders are facing in the field.

More details about all of EPU’s MA programs may be found at <http://epu.ac.at/study/>.

Applications for fall 2013 in all three MA programs are open now!

We are looking forward to hearing from you and are happy to answer any questions you may have. Please contact Ms Anita Flasch at epu@epu.ac.at.

EPU Lecture Series

- “The Vienna Circle: Analysis, Not Metaphysics!” (Bertold Schweitzer, EPU, Wed, 06 Mar 2013, 7:00 pm)
- “The future of the European Union: Muddling through, disintegrating or completing federalization?” (Manfred Kohler, European Commission, University of Kent, Brussels School of International Studies, Wed, 14 Mar 2013, 2:00 pm)
- “Euro-Mediterranean relations and the persistence of authoritarianism – problems and stumbling blocks for cooperation” (Patricia Bauer, EPU, Wed, 27 Mar 2013, 7:00 pm)

Film Colloquium

- “Starship Troopers” (introduced by Patricia Bauer, EPU, Wed, 13 Mar 2013, 7:00 pm)

Special Events

- Meeting of EPU and IPT students, with presentation on the EPU and dinner in Haus International (Thu, 07 Mar 2013, 7:00 pm)

Alternative Lectures

- Student-run “Alternative Lecture Series” (each Tue, 7:00 pm)

In addition, applying for the EPU certificate program – i.e., studying selected terms or modules of any of the EPU programs – is possible any time. For term dates please visit our academic calendar at <http://epu.ac.at/admission/academic-calendar.html>.



Project work at EPU

Interactive lectures, intense discussions, group work, renowned instructors from all over the world, and an excellent student-instructor ratio are some of the hallmarks of EPU

