



**2022 James E. Smith Conference on World Affairs
For Better or Worse: Crossing the Line**



The world we live in is filled with visible and invisible lines—directing us, connecting us, and dividing us. We create them, negotiate them, erase them, replace them, and, of course, cross them both accidentally and deliberately every day of our lives. We cross streets to visit our neighbors but sometimes also to confront them. We cross class, ethnic, religious, and gender lines in ways that expand and enrich our social fabric but sometimes also risking tearing it. We cross national lines to see the world and learn about new cultures but also to conquer other civilizations, imposing our own cultural values upon them. And meanwhile, nature itself ignores all our artificially imposed boundaries—storms, heat waves, fires, viruses, and species move and cross these lines at will—sometimes for better, sometimes for worse.

The 2022 James E. Smith Conference on World Affairs cannot begin to address all the ways lines may be crossed or the resulting consequences, but here are a few of the ways we hope to stimulate thought and discussion on this topic. Our keynote speaker, Pulitzer Prize Winning author Sonia Nazario, will discuss the modern-day odyssey of many child migrants—some as young as seven, all of them traveling alone—who cross the line from Mexico in a quest to reunify with their mothers already living in the United States. Dr. Margaret Jacobs from the University of Nebraska Lincoln takes a slightly different perspective on children crossing the line with her research into Indigenous Child Removal. The Conference will also host two original art exhibits relevant to these issues: an invitational show of six established immigrant printmaking artists from Japan, France, Korea, Russia, and Estonia and a curated exhibition of the artists affected by the Russian-Ukrainian conflict. Indeed, there can be no clearer example of a line brutally crossed than one country's unprovoked invasion of another. For this reason, we will have two additional speakers on Ukraine. Sergey Melnitchenko is a photo artist from Mykolaiv in Southern Ukraine who will speak not only about the exhibit but about the effect of the invasion on artists, while Dr. Sophia Wilson, Professor of Political Science from Southern Illinois University, will speak on Ukraine's Revolution and Russia's Invasion. Dr. Moises Park, a Chilean/Korean Professor of Modern Languages and Cultures, will show how individuals with multiple ethno-religious and gender identities are constantly "crossing lines" in the realm of poetry, film, and music. Kael Welch Sagheer and Yolima Rey Rosas, both UNK alumni, will address similar issues in the area of education. International trade and economic development allow us to cross not only national but also class and social boundaries as will be seen in the presentation by UNK alumnus Mahabir Pun and others. Additional speakers will consider how we respond when nature crosses the line. Dr. Roberto Razeto from Italy, for example, will discuss the complexities of addressing climate change and the opportunities offered by algorithms, while the Embassies of Spain, Slovenia, and Taiwan address their country's responses to current challenges.

We hope that students, faculty, and community members from all over the state of Nebraska will take this opportunity to become better acquainted with the countries across our border lines and be inspired to visit them so that we may one day become a more united world. Crossing the line has not always occurred "for better," but it should!



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Sunday, November 13, 2022

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM International Food Festival (Free and Open to the Public)
Location: Health and Sports Center

Monday, November 14, 2022

8:00 AM – 4:30 PM Crossing the Line Exhibition
Location: Walker Art Gallery

The exhibition was organized under the aegis of the UNK's World Affairs Conference 2022 and showcases the work of the artists displaced by turbulent historical events including the current Russian-Ukrainian conflict. It features the work of 6 immigrant artists currently residing in the USA, prints from a group of students and professors from the Wroclaw Art Academy in Poland, and photographs created by the Mykolaiv Young Photographer's group (MYPH) from Mykolaiv, Ukraine. It will be accompanied by a series of lectures/presentations explaining the themes and techniques used in the show.

Guided tours will be available on Monday, November 14th, from 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM and 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM, with 30 participants per tour. The guided tour with the explanations will last 30 minutes. You are welcome to visit the art gallery at any time from 8:00-4:30 to leisurely enjoy the art.

Ponderosa E/C/D
9:00 AM – 9:05 AM

Opening Remarks
Senior Vice Chancellor Kristen Majocho
University of Nebraska Kearney

Ponderosa E/C/D
9:05 AM – 10:30 AM

Enrique's Journey: How to Fix Immigration and Fight for Child Migrants
Ms. Sonia Nazario

In the past year, the U.S. has struggled with the largest influx of migrants ever recorded at our southern border. Using public health and Covid as a pretext, the U.S. continues to turn away half of those requesting asylum at the border, reneging on the moral reckoning this country had after WWII when it turned away a ship with 900 Jews fleeing the holocaust. After that incident the U.S. made a vow: never again would it bar people fleeing harm. In her talk, two-time Pulitzer Prize winner Sonia Nazario will discuss the changing face of who is coming to the U.S., the journey they make to get here, and how the U.S. can both welcome the stranger and curtail unlawful migration by implementing three solutions rarely discussed in the heated immigration debate.

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Using award-winning photographs, Nazario takes you inside the journey made by millions of immigrant women who have come to the U.S. as single mothers in recent years and illustrates what children face when they are left behind in their home countries in Central America. She discusses the modern-day odyssey many child migrants—some as young as seven, all of them traveling alone—make many years later, riding on top of freight trains through Mexico in their quest to reunify with their mothers in the United States. Many today are also fleeing some of the most dangerous countries on earth in Central America. Nazario, who spent three months riding on top of these trains to tell the story of one child migrant named Enrique, shares her story in the context of determination.

A child of immigrants, Nazario discusses the power of determination in her own life—in overcoming the death of her father at age 13 and living through parts of the Dirty War in Argentina, where her own sister was tortured by a military dictatorship, to ultimately become the youngest person hired at the *Wall Street Journal* and one of a handful of Latinos to win the Pulitzer Prize. Unlike many who speak on this topic, Nazario sees immigration as an issue with many shades of gray—with winners and losers.

**Ponderosa E/C/D
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM**

Book Signing by Author Ms. Sonia Nazario - Enrique's Journey

Have you read Enrique's Journey? If so, bring your book and have it signed by the author Sonia Nazario. If you don't have a copy of the book and would like to have it signed, purchase your copy on campus at the UNK Bookstore to have it signed on-site.

**Walker Art Gallery
10:30-11:30 AM**

Guided Tour of Crossing the Line Art Exhibit

**Ponderosa E/C/D
11:15 AM – 12:05 PM**

**Art is Keeping Us Alive in this War
Mr. Sergey Melnitchenko, Ukraine**

MYPH photography school and collective was founded in 2018 by Sergey Melnitchenko. It started in his hometown of Mykolaiv, Ukraine, but now his students are all over Ukraine and abroad. "When I got the idea for the school," Sergey says, "I wanted to work on expanding imaginations and the understanding of contemporary photography among young photographers, colleagues, and students. I was looking for professional growth and communication. Deviating from the usual standards and doing something 'different' is the main goal in the process of creating students' projects." Not only is MYPH about education, but it also offers assistance in the promotion and popularization of the works of the graduates among galleries, for specialized publications and collectors worldwide. Now it has more than 100 active Ukrainian authors living all over the world. In addition to teaching, MYPH has organized or participated in more than twenty projects (exhibitions, festivals, fairs, etc.) in Ukraine, Poland, Italy, France, Austria, Hungary, Netherlands, USA, and Norway since 2018.

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In the fall of 2022, a book with the works of Sergey's students was published. The concept arose several years ago, but the beginning of a full-scale war prompted Melnitchenko to realize that the time had come to sum up the history of the school. *MYPH*, the book designed by Kateryna Lesiv, consists of the works of 63 authors. There are 1,000 copies of this edition. It's a joint project of RODOVID publishing house and MYPH photography school.

Ponderosa A/B

11:15 AM – 12:05 PM

Alternative Approaches to Crossing the Line

Ms. María Jesús Fernández García, Spain

Mr. Bill S.C. Huang, Director General, Taiwan

Spain: Clinical Trial Powerhouse - Spain has become a world reference in clinical trials. With almost 15,000 patients participating in clinical trials promoted by the pharmaceutical companies each year, Spain has become the second country, after the US, in terms of participation in clinical research. The increased level of attention that Spain has been drawing for over a decade is the result of a set of conditions related to legislation, scientific research, and healthcare infrastructure that has been working well with a pharma and biotech industry totally committed to biomedical research in the country. Being a pioneer in adopting the EU legislation on clinical trials has given Spain a very significant competitive edge. And, more recently, Spain has gone one step further, becoming the first country in Europe to reach the important milestone of approving a code of conduct for the pharma industry.

Taiwan's Trade with Nebraska -Taiwan is a free and democratic country with dynamic economic development. It is front and center in recent discussions of global supply chain issues and the semiconductor shortage. An island country five times smaller than Nebraska, Taiwan has a phenomenal influence on the global economy, from information technology, medical devices, and electronic components to smart manufacturing. The manufacturing and high-tech sectors drive Taiwan's economic development. Many of Taiwan's product and industries, such as the semiconductor, motherboards, desktops and notebook computers, and bicycles, rank number one worldwide.

Student Union – The Graze

12:05 PM – 1:15 PM

Take a Delegate to Lunch

Organizer: Theresa Yaw

University of Nebraska at Kearney

The "Take a Delegate to Lunch" event pairs guest speakers with conference attendees.

Ponderosa A/B

12:20 PM – 1:15 PM

Film Showing: *Coming to the Plains*

Once primarily a homogenous region, Nebraska has shown enormous growth of Latinx populations in the past decades. Just over 10% of Nebraska's current population is Hispanic, a whopping 111% increase over 15 years (Pew Research Center). Amid a national climate of increasing intolerance for outsiders, juxtaposed with the unprecedented growth of Latinx peoples in Nebraska, it is crucial to get the story out about this vulnerable and oftentimes invisible population.

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The research team has been working for several years to do just that through their oral history project, *Coming to the Plains*. To date, they have gathered 20 video-recorded interviews from participants living in Central Nebraska. The interviews are being used for a variety of purposes including this interactive exhibit.

**Walker Art Gallery
1:00-2:30 PM**

Guided Tour of Crossing the Line Art Exhibit

**Ponderosa E/C/D
1:25 PM – 2:15 PM**

**Repairing the Harm of Indigenous Child Removal
Dr. Margaret Jacobs
University of Nebraska at Lincoln**

Indigenous children became the basis for a misguided attempt at reconciliation by concerned settlers for more than a century in Australia, Canada, and the United States. From the late 1800s, many liberal white settlers became concerned with the “plight” of Indigenous peoples. Efforts by white settlers to address Indigenous difficulties in all three nations came to focus on rescuing supposedly “forgotten” Indigenous children from their allegedly dysfunctional families. Authorities promoted the removal of Indigenous children to boarding schools and other institutions and increasingly, after World War II, their placement for adoption in settler families. Officials touted this scheme as a means to heal past injustices, and many liberal white settlers embraced the enterprise. Rather than leading to reconciliation, however, it devastated Indigenous families and communities. Indigenous children today are once again the focus of reconciliation. Canada and Australia are exposing and trying to come to terms with past policies and practices of Indigenous child removal. Little public discourse on Indian child removal has taken place in the United States, by contrast, and reconciliation remains an elusive goal.

**Ponderosa A/B
1:25 PM – 2:15 PM**

**New Media and New Migrations
Dr. Vladimír Polách, Czechia
Dr. Abel Gomez Gutierrez, Mexico**

Russia and Ukraine: The Hybrid War, Case of Czech Republic - Dr. Vladimír Polách --It is known that modern warfare is fought not only on the physical battlefield but also in cyberspace or within media discourse. This presentation will demonstrate several examples of Russia’s hybrid warfare aimed on Czech population. In Czech Republic, even with its long and uneasy history of Soviet/Russian liaisons, the Kremlin propaganda still successfully influences public opinion. We will discuss examples taken from social networks, public gatherings, and speeches or actions of several Czech politicians. The aim is to sketch the complexity of Russia’s propaganda network and partially also to address the inclination of many people to fall for fake-news or “alternative facts”.

New Migrations in Mexico and the US- Abel Gomez Gutierrez Professor Gutierrez will discuss major international migratory routes with emphasis on migratory routes of Mexicans to the United States, as

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well as Mexico as a transit territory for international migrants from locals such as Asia, Africa, Central and South America, and the Caribbean trying to reach the northern border. In the course of this talk, he will address border security, labor migration, and migration management, as well as the impact on expelling countries both when they face the return of migrants and when they strive to reduce emigration to more developed countries.

**Ponderosa E/C/D
2:30 PM – 3:20 PM**

**Ukraine's Revolution and Russia's Invasion
Dr. Sophia Wilson**

The core reason behind the Russian invasion of Ukraine was the consolidation of a democratic regime in Ukraine in the aftermath of the Maidan revolution of 2013-14. The grass-root revolutionary movement strengthened Ukraine's democracy, civil society, and national identity. A restored democracy in Ukraine meant a truly sovereign state, which paralyzed the Kremlin's ability to meddle in the Ukrainian politics. Moreover, the Ukrainian pro-democratic movement had a potential to empower Russian democrats and threaten Putin's regime. As a result, the Kremlin unleashed aggressive propaganda, which dehumanized Ukrainians by presenting them as a 'fake nation' and an intellectually inferior group who were unable to govern themselves and therefore prone to become 'pawns of the West.' The current atrocities, committed by Russian forces against the Ukrainian population, are dictated by imperialistic ideology, which justifies atrocities.

**Ponderosa A/B
2:30 PM – 3:20 PM**

**Building Empowerment in Women and Self-Defense in India
Dr. Brett Mayfield**

From his early training and teaching nurses about personal safety & self-defense across hospitals in the US, Dr. Mayfield gained knowledge in how to facilitate and guide women in stressful environmental situations. He took this concept to India over 30 years ago, working with women in the slums to survive and elevate themselves from their stressful environment. Hence, this presentation will not only provide an overview of women's psychological and physical struggles at all levels of Indian society but also illustrate some ways these women learned to overcome negative environmental situations in their lives and build pride and confidence in themselves by taking control of their own mental and physical health.

**Ponderosa E/C/D
3:35 PM – 4:25 PM**

**Climate Change and the Age of Complexity
Dr. Roberto Razeto, Italy**

Climate change is the greatest challenge of our time—perhaps of all time. The system of which we are a part, planet earth, has been and is constantly being changed by human beings, with increasing speed. This leads to effects that are difficult to summarize and, above all, whose scalability is complex to predict. The remedies to cope with what looms as an insurmountable obstacle lie perhaps in the great social revolution we are experiencing, the digital revolution. Appropriately conveying the enormity of climate change means not only finding the right communication strategies that can create cultural change but also knowing how to manage the digital revolution. In computer science, an algorithm refers to a list of instructions that perform a task based on the understanding of available alternatives.

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Algorithms are used to solve problems or perform tasks like sorting, searching, or extending a date to the next day. Algorithms are nothing more than a set of specifications for performing calculations, data processing, or automated reasoning. In this sense, the algorithm prefigures itself as the function of the digital that could fill the gap between social change, always slow and difficult, and climate change, always faster and with devastating effects. The aim of this talk is precisely to highlight the terms of reference of this digital path, highlighting its positive aspects and criticalities.

**Ponderosa A/B
3:35 PM – 4:25 PM**

**Searching for Perspectives in Classrooms around the World
Ms. Kael Welch Sagheer
Ms. Yolima Rey Rosas, Columbia**

Musings of a Lifelong Line Crosser - Ms. Kael Welch Sagheer –These musings will center around things I wish I had known when I was younger. How can two seemingly opposite things both be true? How can we not lose hope or become overwhelmed with anger or despair in a time of national and global crisis? What is my own personal responsibility in making this a better world? These are big questions. Ones with which I continue to wrestle almost daily. But of all the questions, dilemmas, and conflicts, I have found these three to be the foundation on which I now base everything. Every decision. Every action. It's a relatively new practice of mine that has come from a lot of seemingly random learning and living. These are questions I hope to pass onto others in the event that they, too, will grow into them to meet the challenges of our world, now and in the future.

The challenge of globalizing identities – Ms. Yolima Rey Rosas -- Globalization has impacted classrooms more than instructors and mentors realize. As the world appears to become smaller, learners build their cultural, social, and intellectual identities on the grounds of a single global culture. These identities are shaped in relation to breakthroughs in science and technology at an unprecedented pace, as well as forged with value systems from the so-called West. International education may not be an unbiased platform shaping global citizens; rather, it might be directing us towards a somehow homogeneous worldview.

How do learners across regions and nations experience the challenge of affirming their sense of belonging, while also being encouraged to grasp the modes of life elsewhere? After the pandemic, schools have focused on connectivity. However, we must address the transformation of classroom dynamics beyond electronics and, in context, pay attention to how education impacts each learner's holistic understanding of themselves, their culture, and the world surrounding them.

**Ponderosa E/C/D
7:30 PM**

**Crossing Identities: Identity Formation in a Global World
Moises Park**

Moises Park will debate categories of identity as an Asian Latino and the intersections of race, ethnicity, gender, language, religion, and sexuality.



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Tuesday, November 15, 2022

8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Walker Art Gallery

You are welcome to visit the art gallery any time from 8:00-4:30 to leisurely enjoy the art. The art displayed consists of three collections:

- The work of six immigrant artists in the United States
- A portfolio from Wroclaw, Poland
- Prints from Ukraine

Ponderosa E/C/D

9:30 AM – 10:45 AM

**Crossing the Line from Developing to Developed: Research
and Innovation for Economically Poor Countries
Dr. Mahabir Pun, Nepal**

This presentation on crossing the line from developing to developed will consider why poor countries are poor and explore the first steps for how to begin moving toward the characteristics of a developed country.

Ponderosa A/B

9:30 AM – 10:45 AM

**Responding to Migration/Refugees on the Local Level
Ms. Ita Mendoza
Mr. Zeitife Obi
Discussant: Ms. Sonia Nazario**

Migrant Education Program - Ms. Ita Mendoza—The goal of the Migrant Education Program is to ensure that all migrant students reach challenging academic standards and graduate with a high school diploma (or complete a High School Equivalency Diploma that prepares them for responsible citizenship, further learning, and productive employment). In this session, we will present the structure and function of the migrant program and share how children and youth are identified, recruited, and served. In addition, we will also present information about the intent of the Binational Initiative in efforts to coordinate with states in Mexico to improve the continuity of educational and social services for migrant students who migrate between Mexico and the United States.

Interdependence: From Displacement to Resettlement - Mr. Zeitife Obi—Refugee resettlement is the natural byproduct of the international community's work to enhance human rights, specifically, the right to leave one's country and the right to asylum. The refugee's expression of this right to leave his country and seek refuge in another one has positive effects on development in host countries and the country the refugee came from. These positive effects don't come without their challenges.

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**Ponderosa E/C/D
11:00 AM – 12:15 PM**

**Korean Hispanophones in Social Media
Moises Park**

Esteban Seong Jin Ahn, better known as COREANO LOCO, is a Korean YouTuber raised in the Canary Islands, known for reactions to music videos and humorous comments. QPark, a Korean-American comedian also known for his Vines and YouTube channel, experiments with videos “serenading New Yorkers” by lipsyncing, dancing, and covering popular songs, including Reggaeton. This presentation will examine the hybridity (Bhabha) of the YouTube channels, with special attention to multiracial and multilingual intersections performed by Ahn and Park, and the use of humor that heightens “second degree masculinity”, an agency-awareness of their own otherness, and the communal solidarity of their Spanish-speaking and panethnic “otherness” (Spivak).

**Ponderosa A/B
11:00 AM - 12:15 PM**

**Green Diplomacy
Ms. Darja Ferlez, Slovenia**

Slovenia’s Approach to Sustainable Development - Ms. Darja Ferlez-- Slovenia is known worldwide for its identity as a green nation and a pioneer in renewable energy. At a time when the future of sustainable development and the stability of global energy supplies seems uncertain, it is a country which has the potential to lead Europe and the world forward toward a greener future. Green diplomacy has been at the forefront of the Slovenian foreign policy strategy. During the 2021 Slovenian Presidency of the European Union, they used this diplomatic model to facilitate the E.U.’s recovery and reinforce its resilience in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2023 Slovenia seeks to implement green diplomacy on the global stage in its bid for a non-permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council. In this way, Slovenia is crossing the line by reimagining the shape and scope of diplomacy between nations.



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Thank you for attending the 2022 Conference.
If you have comments or suggestions, please email intstudies@unk.edu.

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