



FULBRIGHT

AMBASSADOR



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Overview

- **WHY** I applied for a Fulbright Scholar grant
- **WHAT** I did on my Fulbright Scholar Grant
- **IMPACT** of my Fulbright Scholar grant
 - Personal
 - Professional
- Additional Fulbright Scholar opportunities
- How to stay engaged



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Cara Cilano

- Chair and Professor
- Department of English
- Michigan State University



- Fulbright Visiting Professor of Cultural Studies to Austria 2014
- Fulbright Lecturer to Belarus 2007

Graz, Austria

- Visiting Professor of Cultural Studies
- Karl-Franzens University
- Post-9/11 Literary Representations of Terrorism

Grodno Belarus

- Lecturer
- Yanka Kupala University
- American Studies



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Why I Chose to Apply

To Connect: Both Fulbright opportunities allowed me to connect with colleagues, students, and acquaintances who had unique historical and social perspectives that enlarged my thinking, my teaching, and my outlook on the world.

To Inquire: While both grants had teaching emphases, my interaction in the classroom and with colleagues gave me the change to ground broader theoretical questions in specific contexts.

To Represent: File this one under ‘public diplomacy.’ I was and remain eager to demonstrate the openness that accompanies intellectual curiosity so that the colleagues, students, and everyday people I encountered on my grants could engage with what I’ve found best in American life.



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Post-9/11 Representations of Terrorism



American Studies



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Personal Impact

Productive Disorientation: In part due to language issues and in part due to location, my Fulbright experiences deepened ability to be in the present, attentive and open. Moments of closedness became opportunities for personal insight.

Alternative Living: Although some aspects of my life stayed the same, I took these months as moment to try living differently, especially with respect to time.

Outward Inclination: These experiences reinforced my convictions about the 'good' that comes through international exchanges, and they've motivated me to encourage and support others' interests in pursuing such exchanges.



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Professional Impact

Productive Disorientation: My grant opportunities were tremendously formative. I went at two key moments in my career, and these experiences profoundly re-shaped my teaching and research.

Key Connections: Thanks to conversations in Grodno and class content in Graz, I have been able to make clear connections between language, place, and belonging – theoretical insights that have forwarded my subsequent scholarship.

Abiding Collaborations: I remain in close contact with a colleague from Graz, which has enhanced both of our professional profiles.



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Question & Answer



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Other Fulbright Programs

Fulbright U.S. Student Program

- Recent graduates, postgraduate candidates dissertation level, developing professionals and artists to study and research abroad

Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Program

- Principally for primary- and secondary-level educators.

Fulbright-Hays Awards

- Faculty research, group projects and seminars in designated social sciences and humanities fields



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Stay Engaged!

- Sign up for MyFulbright at cies2.org to receive tailored messages regarding the Fulbright Scholar Program
- Invite a Visiting Scholar to your campus through the Outreach Lecturing Fund
- Register for an upcoming Webinar
- **Questions?** Email outreach@iie.org



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