Pictures Travel, Discourses Do Not: The Mohammed Cartoons Controversy, Global Media Communication, and Ethics

September 16, 2014

211 Bernhard Center

Dr. Oliver Hahn

Dr. Hahn is German, and I got to speak with him for a few minutes in German before his presentation. We just talked about where we were from and what brought us to America.

Dr. Hahn’s presentation was very applicable to our class, as it was primarily centered on Gaseousness. He made the point that someone can say something in one city, and within seconds that can be transferred to another city clear across the world. A big point he made is that while pictures can travel in a gaseous manner, their meaning and reasons cannot. They may be interpreted differently in other cultures, and in the case of the Mohammed Cartoons, can cause quite a big problem. He then went on to talk about how something like this can happen over and over again, and that there isn’t really a simple fix as people like to take offence easily. He said that Video is a much better alternative, but it doesn’t travel nearly as quickly or as simply as images do.