



Center for the Study of Global Gender Equity

Monthly Perspectives

November 2025 ♦ Fall 2025

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Reflection on Barbara A. Yates

Barbara A. Yates History

Barbara A. Yates was the founder and first director of CSGGE, formerly known as Women in Development (WID). Yates was known for her dedicated, compassionate, and unconventional spirit. Her solo flying across Cambodia and serving in the Foreign Service in the Democratic Republic of Congo only serve as a couple of examples to the adventurous person that she represented.

Barbara Yates' background of policy change and her passion for women's equality in academia and the workplace led her to establish WGGP/WID in 1980 and where she served as director until 1985. Her dedication to CSGGE is apparent in the lasting legacy that she has left CSGGE through a generous Barbara A. Yates endowment. The Barbara A. Yates Graduate Fellowship will provide the awardee with financial support plus tuition and fee waiver for an academic year.



CSGGE Barbara A. Yates Blog Series

The Center for the Study of Global Gender Equity is excited to announce a special six-part blog series celebrating the life and career of our founding director, Barbara A. Yates. The series takes us on a journey through Dr. Yates's early life and education, her adventures in foreign service and graduate studies, her research and travels in Africa, her transformative career at Illinois, including the founding of our Center, and her vibrant life after retirement. We invite you to follow along this Fall and Spring 2026 as we share stories, insights, and reflections that honor her inspiring legacy as a scholar, educator, mentor, and leader. **The first blog, released in October will focus on her early life and family.** Information for write ups were gathered from materials in the University of Illinois Archives. We are deeply grateful to Dr. Adam LoBue for crafting these wonderful blogs and to Dr. Antoinette Burton, Professor of History for her generous support in making this heartfelt tribute possible. October 14th marked the birthday of the late Barbara A. Yates, whose memory continues to inspire all.

[Visit Barbara A. Yates six-part blog series](#)

Upcoming Events

University YMCA Friday Forum + Conversation Café

Please join the University YMCA and Diversity & Social Justice Education for our Fall 2025 Friday Forum + Conversation Café series. Students, faculty, and community members are invited to hear from local advocates as they discuss crucial public issues. All lectures are free and open to the public, taking place on Fridays at 12 PM in Latzer Hall at the University YMCA! Free lunch will be provided.

FRIDAY FORUM

+ CONVERSATION CAFÉ

November 7 | 12:00-1:00

FIGHTING FOR
ALGORITHMIC JUSTICE
IN AN AGE OF AI-
DRIVEN SURVEILLANCE



Clara Belitz
University of Illinois School of
Information Sciences

UNIVERSITY YMCA
1001 S. WRIGHT ST., CHAMPAIGN
FREE LUNCH PROVIDED

Sponsored in part by the Center for the Study of Global Gender Equity

FRIDAY FORUM

+ CONVERSATION CAFÉ

November 14 | 12:00-1:00

IN THE DEEP END



Jameel Bridgewater
Freelance Director & Designer

UNIVERSITY YMCA
1001 S. WRIGHT ST., CHAMPAIGN
FREE LUNCH PROVIDED

Sponsored in part by the Center for the Study of Global Gender Equity

On Friday, November 7th, from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM, the University YMCA's Friday Forum + Conversation Café will host a presentation titled "***Fighting for Algorithmic Justice in an Age of AI-Driven Surveillance***." The featured speaker will be Clara Belitz from the University of Illinois School of Information Sciences.

On Friday, November 14th, from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM, the University YMCA's Friday Forum + Conversation Café will host a presentation titled "***In the Deep End***." The featured speaker will be Jameel Bridgewater, a freelance director and designer.

Please, click [here](#) to view upcoming events

This event is co-sponsored by: Bruce D. Nesbitt African-American Cultural Center; Center for Advanced Study; Center for Global Studies and the US Department of Education Title VI Grant; Center for the Study of Global Gender Equity; College of Fine & Applied Arts; Department of African American Studies; Education Justice Project; First Mennonite Church of Champaign-Urbana; First Presbyterian Church; Champaign, Gender & Sexuality Resource Center; Humanities Research Institute; Office of the Provost; Prairie Research Institute; School of Social Work; Social Action Council of the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Urbana-Champaign; Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting; Urbana Champaign Reproductive Justice; Women's Resources

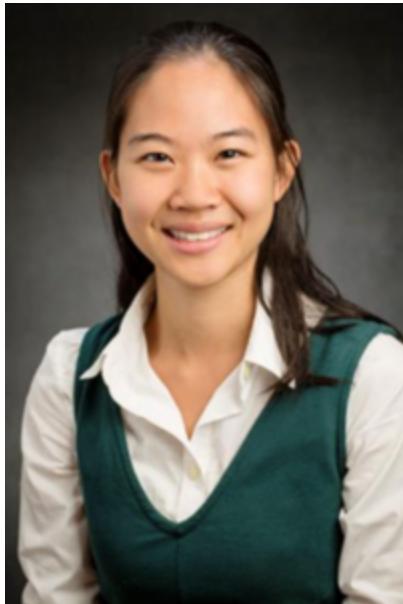
Women in Science Lecture Series Fall 2025

The University of Illinois Archive has announced that they will be hosting a monthly women in science lecture series, featuring speakers from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign scientific enterprise. The lecture series will concentrate on highlighting a vast range of innovations and contributions of women in sciences at the University of Illinois. The University of Illinois Archive wants to highlight the importance of identifying women in scientific fields of study and engineers, in order to develop a diversified historical record. Please share this information with anyone who seems interested!

[Graduate student Vivian Cheng](#) from the School of Integrative Biology will present a lecture on her research, which integrates genetics, ancient DNA, and historical archives to explore the impacts of climate change and colonialism on narwhal populations. The lecture will be held at 12:00 pm CST on Thursday, November 13, 2025. This event

will be conducted in a hybrid format; attendees may join in-person at the University Archives (Room 146, Main Library) or virtually via Zoom. A Zoom link will be provided upon registration. All are welcome to attend.

November lecture: Vivian Cheng registration



[Dr. Pinshane Huang](#), Professor and Racheff Faculty Scholar in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering, will present a lecture on her research involving transmission electron microscopy and spectroscopy of two-dimensional materials and soft-hard interfaces. **The lecture will take place at 12:00 pm CST on Thursday, December 11, 2025.** This lecture will be conducted in a hybrid format; attendees may join in-person at the University Archives (Room 146, Main Library) or virtually via Zoom. A Zoom link will be provided upon registration. All are welcome to attend.

December lecture: Dr. Pinshane Huang registration

ILLINOIS
GLOBAL
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CENTER FOR THE STUDY
OF GLOBAL GENDER EQUITY

Affiliate Lunch Talk MUSLIM WOMEN AND ARCHITECTURAL PATRONAGE

D. Fairchild Ruggles

Friday, February 6

12:130 pm

HYBRID EVENT:

306 Coble & Zoom

Lunch provided with RSVP

Register at

<https://go.illinois.edu/AffiliateTalk>

Lecture Description:

Women have been important patrons of major works of architecture in the Islamic world historically, a phenomenon that reveals their social agency and can illuminate their lives even when they are barely mentioned in historical texts. They were almost all empowered by wealth and proximity to powerful men. But coming from different social and ethnic backgrounds, some of them high born, others emerging from enslavement, their reasons for patronage differed.



Please save the date for the Affiliate Lunch Talk: Muslim Women and Architectural Patronage

Dr. Fairchild Ruggles: Professor in the Architecture department at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Debra L. Mitchell Chair in Landscape Architecture, and CSGGE Faculty Affiliate

Date: Friday, February 6th

Time: 12-1:30 pm

Location: 306 Coble Hall

801 S. Wright St., Champaign, IL

Virtual Option: A Zoom link will be provided upon registration

Lecture Description: Women have been important patrons of major works of architecture in the Islamic world historically, a phenomenon that reveals their social agency and can illuminate their lives even when they are barely mentioned in historical texts. They were almost all empowered by wealth and proximity to powerful men. But coming from different social and ethnic backgrounds, some of them high born, others emerging from enslavement, their reasons for patronage differed.

and can illuminate their lives even when they are barely mentioned in historical texts. They were almost all

empowered by wealth and proximity to powerful men. But coming from different social and ethnic backgrounds, some of them high born, others emerging from enslavement, their reasons for patronage differed. Lunch will be provided for in-person attendees. If you have any questions, please contact [Anita Kaiser](#).

[Register now](#)

ILLINOIS GLOBAL INSTITUTE
Center for the Study of Global Gender Equity
presents:

Graduate Book Discussion

"The Feminist Killjoy Handbook: the Radical Potential of Getting in the Way"
by Sara Ahmed.

 Friday, Feb. 20

 11am CST

 Online via Zoom

Register at <https://go.illinois.edu/Febr20bookgroup>

Need a copy of the book? We have complimentary copies available, so please request during registration so you can pick one up while supplies last.



Know others that might be interested? This is open to all graduate campus students!

SARA AHMED THE
**FEMINIST
KILLJOY
HANDBOOK
THE RADICAL
POTENTIAL OF
GETTING IN THE WAY**

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES • UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



[Register now](#)

Please view our full schedule of hosted and co-sponsored events on our website.

[Please, click here for CSGGE Master Calendar](#)

CSGGE Faculty Affiliate News

This is a selection of highlighted publications and presentations for CSGGE faculty affiliates. To learn more, please visit the CSGGE faculty affiliates webpage and click on each scholar's profile to explore their recent scholarly publications, engagements, and academic service.



Carolina Rocha, Ph.D., is Associate Director of the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies and a Faculty Affiliate of the Center for CSGGE. Her research centers on the representation of Latin American women, as well as children and adolescents, in contemporary film and literature. Dr. Rocha's recent publications include "The Father-Daughter Relationship in Claudia Piñeiro's Novel of Formation *Un comunista en calzoncillos*," *Studies in 20th and 21st Century Literature* and "The Abject in Claudia Piñeiro's *El tiempo de las moscas*," *Bulletin of Hispanic Studies*. To read the first article, click [here](#). To read the second article, click [here](#).

If you would like a Faculty Affiliate CSGGE publication to be featured in an upcoming issue of the CSGGE Monthly Perspective Newsletter, please contact Anita Kaiser at arkaiser@illinois.edu.

Please, click [here](#) to learn more about CSGGE Faculty Affiliates

CSGGE Alumni Spotlight



The Center for the Study of Global Gender Equity (CSGGE) November 2025 *Monthly Perspectives* newsletter features **Jessica Alfaro**.

Jessica Alfaro will share insight into her current work, offer an in-depth reflection on her experience with the GRID Minor, and provide valuable advice for current GRID students.

Additionally, during her time in the MA/GRID Minor program, Jessica Alfaro wrote an article titled "*Learning About Africa, One Experience at a Time.*" In it, she reflects on how her current work connects to the studies and aspirations she held during her time in the program. To read the article, please click [here!](#)

Please, click [here](#) to read the entire interview with Jessica Alfaro

Spring 2026 GRID Elective Course



CSGGE

Center for the Study of
Global Gender Equity

Meets 01/20/26 - 05/06/26
Thursday, 2:00 pm - 4:50 pm
Location: 131 English Building
608 South Wright St, Urbana, IL

CRN: 78215

Course description: Students in this course acquire the theoretical and empirical skills required for understanding, evaluating, and critiquing development programs and policies. The core focus is on the gendered dimensions of such programs and policies. Theoretical skills are acquired through comparative analyses of competing models of development such as the capability approach, dependency theory, and neo-liberal theory. Empirical skills are built by critically evaluating national and international programs and

policies related to education, health, nutrition, and agriculture as well as access to economic resources and the means of production. **This course will be led by Professor Fogelman, C.**

CSGGE Programs



Master of Science in Global Studies

CSGGE joins the ACDIS and the Center for Global Studies to offer a Master of Science in Global Studies. CSGGE's track is Gender and Public Policy. The MS in Global Studies (MSGGS) is a 32-hour, three semester program that also offers a 5-year dual BA or BS and MSGGS degree option.

Please, click [here](#) to learn more about the Masters Program



CSGGE Gender Relations in International Development Graduate Minor

CSGGE offers a graduate minor in Gender Relations in International Development (GRID). The GRID interdisciplinary minor is designed to give students the analytical and empirical skills needed to address and critically evaluate human development issues in research and policy analysis, as well as in daily life. As of 2021, GRID Alumni have come from 41 departments across campus and

52 different countries. To learn more about the GRID minor, please contact Anita Kaiser at arkaiser@illinois.edu or by phone at 333-6221.

Please, click [here](#) to learn more about the GRID Minor

Undergraduate Certificate in Global Health

Joint with CSGGE and LAS Global Studies



Certificate in Global Health

LAS Global Studies, in conjunction with the Center for the Study of Global Gender Equity (CSGGE), is offering a Certificate in Global Health. **This certificate is open to all undergraduate majors at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.**

Please, click [here](#) or more information on the Undergraduate Certificate



Center for the Study of Global Gender Equity

Illinois Global Institute | College of Liberal Arts & Sciences | University of Illinois

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Contact: csgge@illinois.edu



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