



Center for the Study of Global Gender Equity

Monthly Perspectives

February 2026 ♦ Spring 2026

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**SAVE THE DATE: International Women's Day
Celebration, March 4th 3:30-5:00pm**

The Center for the Study of Global Gender Equity and the Humanities Research Institute at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign host the campus celebration of International Women's Day with "12 Women Who Changed the World: Untold Stories". International Women's Day takes place annually on March 8th.

The format of this event is that 12 featured speakers from across campus and community come together to tell the story of a woman who made an important contribution to the scholarship, discipline and/or broader community life in 5 minutes.

Please, [click to visit links to past celebrations](#) and watch recordings of the event, learn about the featured person, or view photos from the event. **Mark your calendars to join us on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, for**



Barbara Williams
Interim Director

International Women's Day

March 4, 2026
3:30-5:00 p.m.
Levis Faculty Center, Third Floor



Barbara Brown Young
Vice-Chancellor for
Student Affairs



Rosemarie Allen
Teaching Professor of
Latin, College of Arts



Joseph Anderson
Professor and Head
Department of
Philosophy



Terrence Beasmore
Community Member and
Research Assistant
Administrative Office of
Internationalization



Kate Barham
Student Study Assistant



Katherine T. Miller
Director, Center for
Gender and Equity
Department of
Communication



Luanna Wang
Assistant Coordinator for
Strategic Programs and
Institutional Effectiveness
Human Resources



Susan Sigurd Ellis
Academic Advisor
LDS Global Studies



Eva Pomeroy
Assistant Center for Equity &
Behavioral Science



April Tan
Assistant Director
Office of Social Work



Angela L. Williams
Assistant Professor, Center
for Youth Action and Global
Equity Studies

Co-sponsored by Women's Resources Center, Department of Gender and Women's Studies

the International Women's Day 2026 Celebration, from 3:30-5:00 p.m.
in the Levis Faculty Center, Third Floor.

Spring 2026 GRID Student Organized Activities

The **Reading Book Club** will discuss issues surrounding gender, race, and technology inequalities. If you wish to have a platform to share some of your thoughts from reading a book or hearing other people's thoughts, this is the group for you! Additionally, each person will get access to free books. The first book to be discussed will be *Algorithms of Oppression: How Search Engines Reinforce Racism* by Safiya Noble.

The **Graduate Student Writing group** will include structured writing sessions, peer feedback, accountability check-ins & progress tracking, and resource style sharing. By attending these sessions, you will increase writing productivity and clarity, develop peer-review skills valued in academia, collaboration and community, and CSGGE-certified participation record for CVs. There will be a focus on thesis chapters, journal articles, conference papers, dissertation proposals, and academic writing.

Student Interview with Asmaa Elsayed: "Insights on Graduate Studies Funding for Women"

GRID Student, Asmaa Elsayed took time to share some valuable insights about seeking funding and tips and resources that might be helpful. We are deeply appreciative of her efforts to share these insights with other students.

Asmaa Elsayed, Ph.D. Candidate, College of Education, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Ms. Elsayed is a past recipient of the Barbara A. Yates Graduate Fellowship and the Evelyne Accad and Paul Vieille International Research Award.

The full interview with Asmaa "Insights on Graduate Studies Funding for Women" is available on our website. [Click to read the full interview.](#)



Asmaa Elsayed, Ph.D. Candidate,
College of Education

Graduate Fellowships and Funding, 2026-2027

CSGGE Graduate Fellowships and Award

The Center for the Study of Global Gender Equity (CSGGE) holds an annual competition for graduate student awards with a deadline mid-February. We offer two full fellowships through the Rita and Arnold Goodman Fellowship and the Barbara A. Yates International Fellowship. We also have smaller research award through the Accad & Vieille International Research award. Please note that you must be a graduate student in the Gender Relations in International Development (GRID) minor to apply for the Barbara A. Yates Fellowship. The Evelyne Accad and Paul Vieille International Award require research to be on issues related to women in North Africa, Iran, or the Middle East.

A graduate student enrolled at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign may apply for one or more of the awards on the application form by submitting the required materials. Only one application form needed. **Both the application and reference letter submission deadline is Monday, February 16, 2026, 11:59pm.**

[Click here to learn more about the CSGGE Fellowships and Awards](#)

Beinecke Scholarship Info Sessions

If you are planning on pursuing a PhD or MFA in the arts, humanities, or social sciences the [Beinecke Scholarship](#) is a merit- and need- based award that supports students with strong academic promise and financial need. To learn how to apply and pick up some helpful tips, please click [here](#)!

Eligibility: Juniors who are U.S. citizens, have received need-based financial aid at UIUC, and plan to peruse a terminal graduate degree in the arts, humanities, or social sciences.

Award: \$5,000 before graduate school and \$30,000 during graduate study.

Looking to earn a graduate degree in the arts, humanities, or social sciences?

The Beinecke Scholarship

INFO SESSIONS
2/5 @ 3:30 pm in 514 IUB
2/6 @ 9:00 am ONLINE

WORKSHOP
2/6 @ 3:00 pm in 514 IUB

I National and International Scholarships Program

Deadline is February 23rd, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. (noon)

Attend an information session to learn more and hear application tips from recent Illinois Beinecke Scholar. **The first info session will take place Thursday, February 5th, at 3:30 pm in 514 IUB. The second session will take place online on Friday, February 6th, at 9:00 am. Finally, there will be a workshop available to all Thursday, February 6th, at 3:00 pm in 514 IUB.**

[Click here to register for online session](#)

If you are applying, please attend the informational sessions! For more information, contact the scholarship office at topscholars@illinois.edu or visit www.topscholar.illinois.edu.

CSGGE Barbara A. Yates Blog Series



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 second blog will focus on her Graduate Education. 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.

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

Upcoming Events



Public Speaking Workshop

Led by Dr. Laura Stengrim, this workshop focuses on building confidence and effective public speaking skills.

Hosted by the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies. Co-sponsored by CSGGE

Registration required.

<https://go.illinois.edu/LemannFeb3>



CSGGE Faculty Affiliate Talk by D. Fairchild Ruggles: Muslim Women and Architectural Patronage

A faculty affiliate talk examining Muslim women's roles in architectural patronage.

Lunch provided with RSVP.

Available in-person and via Zoom.

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



Virtual Graduate Student Book Discussion: The Feminist Killjoy Handbook

GRID student-led discussion of The Feminist Killjoy Handbook: The Radical Potential of Getting in the Way by Sara Ahmed. Registration required.

<https://go.illinois.edu/Feb20bookgroup>



Series on Gendered Displacement and Erasure: Transcending the In-Between: Provocation, Humor, and Joy in Performance

A discussion by Anida Yoeu Ali exploring gendered displacement through humor and joy.

An extended dialogue session will follow moderated by Dr. Patricia Turner which is available for CEU or PDH credit with pre-registration at

<https://forms.illinois.edu/sec/103958059>

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

Please, click here for CSGGE Master Calendar

University YMCA Friday Forum



CSGGE is a proud sponsor of the University YMCA Friday Forum + Conversation Café

Please join the University YMCA and Diversity & Social Justice Education for our Spring 2026 Friday Forum + Conversation Café series. Students, faculty, and community members are invited to hear from local and national speakers as they engage pressing public issues. All events are free and open to the public and take place on Fridays from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM at the University YMCA. Free lunch will be provided.

[Click to view upcoming YMCA Friday Forum Events](#)

CSGGE Faculty Affiliate and Staff 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.



[Faranak MirafTAB](#), a professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign and a Faculty Affiliate of CSGGE, conducts research on the social and institutional dimensions of urban development and planning, with a focus on basic human needs such as housing, infrastructure, and essential urban services. Recently, MirafTAB received the [2025 Distinguished Scholar Award](#) from the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP).



[Ruth Elizabeth Velasquez Estrada](#) is an Assistant Professor in Latina/Latino Studies, Anthropology, and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, as well as a Faculty Affiliate of CSGGE. Estrada recently co-edited the collection *Fugitive Anthropology: Embodying Activist Research*. Her paper has now been published in *Critical Criminology*. [Click to read the full article.](#)

CSGGE Associate Director, Anita Kaiser, honored with College of LAS Staff Award. Her nominators note that Kaiser's professionalism, competence, and warmth have made her one of the most visible and respected representatives of the CSGGE and Illinois Global Institute. Noted one: "Anita approaches her work with a level of mastery and diligence that is inspiring." [Click to learn about all of the LAS Staff awards.](#)



The Humanities Research Institute announces **Co-taught Cross-Disciplinary Courses to be offered in Spring 2027** where faculty pairs will be supported in the co-design and co-teaching of graduate seminars. Congratulations to the following faculty instructor pairs, some of whom are Faculty Affiliates of CSGGE:

Deepasri Baul (History) and Mania Taher (Art & Design, CSGGE Faculty Affiliate): *Living Between Worlds: Gender, Migration, and the City.*

Daniel Nabil Maroun (French & Italian) and Nic Flores (Latina/Latino Studies, CSGGE Faculty Affiliate): *Remembering and Reimagining HIV/AIDS in Contemporary Times.*

Jennifer Monson (Dance) and Magdalena Novoa (Urban & Regional Planning, CSGGE Faculty Affiliate): *The City through the Body.*

To learn more about the following courses and program, please click [here](#).

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

[Click here to learn more about CSGGE Faculty Affiliates](#)

CSGGE Student News



[Kshitij Tewari](#), a Doctoral Student in the Department of Recreation, Sport, and Tourism, as well as a GRID student, has recently published a research article titled, "Beyond Binaries: Reimagining Leisure Education Through Queer Pedagogy." The article appears in *SCHOLE: A Journal of Leisure Studies and Recreation Education*. To read the full article, click [here](#).

If you would like your work and accomplishments to be featured in the CSGGE GRID Student Spotlight, please contact [Anita Kaiser](#).



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 2025, 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

[Click here for more information on GRID minor](#)



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 (MSGS) is a 32-hour, three semester program that also offers a 5-year dual BA or BS and MSGS degree option.

[Click here to learn more information on MSGS](#)



Undergraduate Certificate in Global Health

Joint with CSGGE and LAS Global Studies

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.**

Certificate in Global Health

[Click here for more information on the Undergraduate Certificate](#)



Center for the Study of Global Gender Equity

Contact: csggeatillinois@illinois.edu



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