



Center for the Study of Global Gender Equity

# Monthly Perspectives

April 2026 ♦ Spring 2026

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## CSGGE Hosted Events



**CSGGE Alumni Lecture: "Planning with a Purpose: Reflection from a Journey in Urban Sustainability and Gender Equity"**



**Weaving Resilience: "Communities, Ecosystems, and Knowledge from the**

**Speaker:** Dr. Mansi Sachdev, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and GRID alumna.

**Date:** Thursday, April 9th

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Virtual Talk via Zoom (register with link below)**

Please join the Center for the Study of Global Gender Equity for a virtual alumni lecture featuring Dr. Mansi Sachdev, who will reflect on her work integrating climate resilience into urban spatial planning and gender equity initiatives.

**This is an online event, and registration is required to receive the Zoom link.**

[Registration and co-sponsors](#)

**Colombian Caribbean in Times of Socio-environmental Crisis"**

**Date:** Monday, April 13th

**Time:** 4:00 p.m.

**Location:** 210 Levis Faculty Center  
919 W. Illinois St., Urbana, IL

Join the Center for the Study of Global Gender Equity for a panel exploring ecological and community-based approaches to resilience in the Colombian Caribbean.

Panelists will discuss topics including marine science, environmental risks, biodiversity conservation, and collaborative knowledge systems.

[Registration and co-sponsors](#)



**Student Dialogue: "Bridging Ancestral Knowledge and Scientific Research: Community Perspectives from the Caribbean"**

**Date:** Tuesday, April 14th

**Time:** 3:00-6:00 p.m.

**Location:** Women's Resources Center  
616 E. Green St., Champaign, IL, Suite 213

Join CSGGE for a student-centered dialogue examining the intersection of ancestral knowledge and scientific research in shaping sustainable and inclusive environmental practices.

This session highlights student perspectives on community engagement, resilience, and knowledge production.



**Comparative Research Roundtable: "Bridging Science and Governance"**

**Date:** Wednesday, April 15th

**Time:** 3:10-4:30 p.m.

**Location:** 210 Levis Faculty Center  
919 W. Illinois St., Urbana, IL

As part of the Global Policy Forum, this panel brings together scholars and practitioners to explore how gender, sustainability, and resilience are understood across global contexts.

The discussion will highlight interdisciplinary and cross-regional perspectives on knowledge production and policy.

Registration and co-sponsors

Registration and co-sponsors



**“Aimé Césaire in the Era of Black Lives Matter” by Freida Ekotto**

**Date: Thursday, April 16th**

**Time: 4:00 p.m.**

**Location: Bruce Nesbitt African American Cultural Center**

**1212 W. Nevada St., Urbana, IL**

Join the Center for the Study of Global Gender Equity for a lecture by Dr. Freida Ekotto, who will discuss the historical significance of Aimé Césaire’s work in relation to contemporary movements such as Black Lives Matter.

Registration and co-sponsors



## *Spring Reception*

*Honoring GRID Graduates & CSGGE Award Recipients*

### **CSGGE Spring Reception**

**Date: Thursday, April 23rd**

**Time: 4:30-5:30 p.m.**

**Location: YMCA Latzer Hall**

**1001 S. Wright St., Champaign, IL**

Please join us as we honor our GRID Graduates and CSGGE Award Recipients. Remarks will begin at 4:45pm.

This event is free and open to the public. Registration is appreciated by April 21st!

Registration and event details

## **CSGGE Co-Sponsored Events**



**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. **April will feature three key events on the 3rd, 10th, and 17th.**

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.

[Event details and co-sponsors](#)

**Women in Science Lecture Series: Dr. Gisela Sin**

Please join us for a lecture with Dr. Gisela Sin, Professor of Political Science and co-founder of Women in Legislative Studies, as she discusses her research on political institutions and their interactions.

The event will be held on Thursday, April 9th at 12:00 PM at the University Archives, Main Library, Room 146 (1408 W. Gregory St., Urbana, IL).

Please note that a Zoom link will be provided upon registration.

[Registration and co-sponsors](#)



**7th Annual Sociolinguistics Symposium  
(SOSY)**

**Date: Saturday, April 4**

**Time: 8:00 a.m.**

This year's theme, ***Between Languages, Between Worlds: Language, Culture, and Global Communication***, foregrounds the role of language in shaping cultural connection, social positioning, and senses of belonging in an increasingly interconnected world.

The symposium invites work that examines how individuals and communities navigate linguistic boundaries across social, cultural, and geopolitical contexts.

**I ILLINOIS**  
Lemann Center  
for Brazilian Studies

**Women in Local Government Leadership  
during COVID-19 Pandemic in Brazil**

**Speaker:** Dr. Ivan Filipe Fernandes, Federal University of ABC and CEAPS/IGI Visiting Scholar.

**Date: Tuesday, April 14th**

**Time: 12:00 p.m.**

**Location: 306 Coble Hall  
801 S. Wright St., Champaign, IL**

This presentation examines the impact of women in leadership roles within local governments in Brazil amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Using novel municipal-level data, we investigate how female leaders in executive positions responded to the crisis.

Event details and co-sponsors

Event details and co-sponsors



### **Addressing Racial Inequality in Brazilian Higher Education: The Expansion of Affirmative Action to Graduate Programs**

**Speaker:** Thais Zappelini, Postdoctoral Fellow at the Brasillinois Initiative.

**Date:** Tuesday, April 21st

**Time:** 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Please join us in a discussion examining the expansion of affirmative action for historically excluded Black (pretos) and Brown (pardos) students in Brazilian federal and state universities.

It proposes that implementation has been gradual yet enduring, contributing to a demographic shift in student composition.

Event details and co-sponsors



### **Looking Ahead: Women in Science Lecture Series with Dr. Samar Hegazy**

Please join is for a lecture with Dr. Samar Hegazy, Teaching Associate Professor of Biomedical and Translational Sciences, as she discusses her research on pathologies in female reproduction and her work on improving pathology education.

The event will be held on Wednesday, May 6th at 12:00 PM at the University Archives, Main Library, Room 146 (1408 W. Gregory St., Urbana, IL).

Please note that a Zoom link will be provided upon registration.

Registration and co-sponsors

**Campus Events of Interest**

# **I** ILLINOIS

## Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies

### **Brazil's Digital Decade (2013-2023): How Social Media Reshaped Politics**

**Date: Wednesday, April 8th**

**Time: 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

**Location: 210 Levis Faculty Center  
919 W. Illinois St., Urbana, IL**

The Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies announces an upcoming symposium that will explore the relationships between social media and politics in contemporary Brazil.

The rise of social media deeply altered the way political information is produced, disseminated, and mobilized by political parties at a time of heightened public distrust.

RSVP is appreciated by April 3rd!

[Registration and event details](#)



### **Meritocracy, Bias, and Evaluation: A book talk on the promise and pitfalls of merit-based systems**

**Speaker:** Emilio J. Castilla, NTU Professor of Management and Professor of Work and Organization Studies at MIT Sloan.

**Date: Friday, April 10th**

**Time: 9:30-10:50 a.m.**

**Location: Business Instructional Facility (BIF)  
2041  
515 E. Gregory Dr., Champaign, IL**

**A cocktail-style meet-and-greet will follow  
from 11:00-11:50 a.m. in BIF 2057.**

Professor Castillo will discuss his new book, *The Meritocracy Paradox* (Columbia University Press, 2025). Castilla examines how meritocratic systems operate in practice, showing how organizational processes can unintentionally reproduce disadvantage.

## **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 fourth blog will focus on her African trip.** 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

## Reflection on International Women's Day 2026



On March 4, 2026, the Center for the Study of Global Gender Equity (CSGGE) and the Humanities Research Institute hosted the annual International Women's Day event, "**12 Women Who Changed the World: Untold Stories,**" at the Levis Faculty Center. Over 100 people gathered to highlight the impactful contributions of women who have shaped intellectual, cultural, and public life across disciplines and regions. This event encouraged reflection on the importance of recognizing women's achievements and their lasting influence on global knowledge and society.

We thank all of the campus and community members that joined the annual celebration. It is one of favorite events of the year to come together and celebration the histories and contributions of so many wonderful women.

### **SAVE THE DATE**

**Monday, March 8, 2027 at 3:30pm**  
**International Women's Day 2027**



## 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.*



[Yazmín M. Crespo Claudio](#) is an assistant professor in Architecture at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and a faculty affiliate of CSGGE. Professor Crespo Claudio is leading the development of a new course, [Arch 403: Spatial theories from/with the Caribbean](#), which explores spatial practices, histories, and theoretical frameworks emerging from Caribbean contexts. The course highlights critical perspectives on space, place, and power, engaging with interdisciplinary approaches to understanding the built environment and its social implications



[Kate Clancy](#) is a professor of Anthropology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a faculty affiliate of CSGGE. We want to congratulate Professor Clancy for being selected as an Illinois faculty named AAAS Fellow for her scientifically and socially distinguished accomplishments! To read more about the award and Professor Clancy's accomplishments, please visit the following [page](#)!



[Mania Taher](#) is an assistant professor in Art and Design at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and a faculty affiliate of CSGGE. Professor Taher is developing a project titled "[Shifting Dwellings: Worldmaking of Bangladeshi Immigrant Women in New York](#)", which examines how immigrant women shape and reimagine spaces of belonging through everyday practices. Her work brings attention to gender, migration, and spatial transformation, offering insights into how communities create meaning and resilience across transnational contexts.

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](mailto:arkaiser@illinois.edu).

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

## News at the Illinois Global Institute

We implore students and faculty to stay up to date on upcoming events, programs, and the latest news from the Illinois Global Institute (IGI) by exploring their [2026 Spring Newsletter](#).

We also invite you to join IGI's mailing list to receive future updates and stay connected in the months ahead. By subscribing, you will gain timely access to event announcement and opportunities to engage with a variety of communities across the campus throughout the semesters!

[Subscribe to IGI](#)

## GRID Student Spotlight

On February 12, **GRID student Kshitij Tewari** was part of a team to receive The Academy of Leisure Sciences 2026 Innovation in Teaching Award for developing the Inclusive Champions for Change through Sport (IC-ChangeS) program at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Here they created a new, innovative undergraduate course at Illinois that empowered undergraduate students to develop a multi-session social justice leadership curriculum, which the students subsequently taught to local high school athletes in Champaign County as part of the course.



He also presented two of his research works at this TALS conference. These included a presentation on his recent publication in SCHOLE: A Journal of Leisure Studies and Recreation Education, titled "[Beyond Binaries: Reimagining Leisure Education Through Queer Pedagogy](#)." His second presentation, titled "Third Places and Graduate Student Well-Being," emphasized the need for third places (places outside of work and home) in the lives of graduate students because of their contribution to students' overall subjective well-being.

## Announcements

We invite you to subscribe to **Gender@Work: A Global Lab on Bodies and Politics** monthly newsletter to receive updates on upcoming events, organizational news, and opportunities for involvement!

[Subscribe to Gender@Work](#)

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**The call for proposals for international research through the Illinois Global Institute's grants, funded by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences INSURE program, is now live!**

Proposals should support both new and ongoing international research, with the aim of sustaining and strengthening the international agenda of research by LAS faculty.

Each grant will offer up to \$5,000 (or, \$10,000 for teams of two or more) in research support with the aim to keep LAS faculty's international research on track and globally competitive.

Applications will be accepted for a **May 1, 2026**, deadline.

[IGI International Research proposal details](#)

## CSGGE Programs



### **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](mailto:arkaiser@illinois.edu) or by phone at 333-6221

[Click here for more information](#)



## 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 for more information](#)



## 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](#)



Center for the Study of Global Gender Equity

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

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