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Center for the Study of Global Gender Equity

End of Year Newsletter

May 2026



Dear CSGGE Community,

I hope your spring semester is wrapping up nicely! It was wonderful to see many of you at the Spring Reception as we celebrated our shared work and achievements. As the academic year comes to a close, I am filled with gratitude and pride for all we have accomplished together, from impactful events and global collaborations to the many achievements of our faculty affiliates, staff, and students. None of this would be possible without your dedication and support.

This year marks the 46th anniversary of our Center, a milestone that reflects both our history and our continued commitment to advancing scholarship, education, and service in women, gender, and international development. As highlighted in this newsletter, we have built on this legacy this past year through innovative programming, dedicated student support, and engaged partnerships that have created important spaces for dialogue, reflection, and connection across disciplines and perspectives. These initiatives, made possible through strong collaboration across units and communities, underscore the power of collective work, especially in times of uncertainty and constraint. I am deeply grateful for the energy, insight, and commitment you bring, which continue to inspire our shared efforts to advance global gender equity and social justice.

Wishing you all a restful and fulfilling summer! I look forward to continuing our work together in the coming year.

Min Zhan Director, CSGGE

2026-2027 CSGGE Fellowship and Awardee Recipients

Congratulation to 2026-2027 Fellowship and Award Recipients!

We would like to thank our donors who have generously set up our fellowships and grants to support the research of University of Illinois graduate students.



Rita and Arnold Goodman Fellowship

Jianing (Ginny) Lu
JSD candidate, College of Law



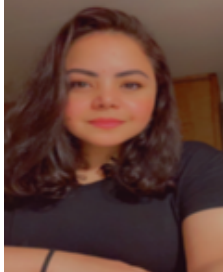
Barbara A. Yates Fellowship

Azifah (Ina) Astrina
Ph.D. Candidate, Political Science



Accad and Vieille Award

Seung Deok Seo
Ph.D. Student, Political Science



2026-2027 IGI Language Fellowship through CSGGE

Asmaa Elsayed
Global Studies in Education, Arabic Language



2026-2027 IGI Language Fellowship through CSGGE

Soodeh Mansouri
Sociology, Arabic Language

We would also like to congratulate those who have completed their GRID Minor!

Niranjan Raja, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics
Vongai Sagonda, Department of History

2025-2026 LAS Staff Award



We are delighted to congratulate Anita Kaiser, CSGGE Associate Director, on being named a recipient of the College of LAS Staff Award for the 2025-2026 academic year!

This honor recognizes staff and academic professional whose dedication, leadership, and service make a lasting impact on the university community. We are proud to recognize her excellence and grateful for the positive difference she brings to CSGGE!

Year in Review

Series on Gendered Displacement and Erasure



"African Refugees, Gender and the Global Polycrisis"

On September 23rd, 2025, Olajumoke Yacob-Haliso (Brandeis University) presented on the global polycrisis, examining how African refugees' lives are constructed as the "Other."

The Talk challenged Eurocentric, androcentric, and anthropocentric biases, highlighting implications for knowledge production and refugee futures.



"The Second Battle for Africa: Writing New Histories of Global Africa"

On October 8th, 2025, CSGGE Faculty Affiliate, Dr. Erik McDuffie delivered a lecture on research ethics and the politics of writing new histories of Global Africa, with a focus on women, gender, and sexualities. This talk was co-hosted by CSGGE and the Center for

African Studies.

[Click to view event recording](#)

"Transcending the In-Between: Provocation, Humor, and Joy in Performance"



On February 26th, 2026, Artist, educator and global agitator Anida Yoeu Ali (University of Washington Bothell) presented a hybrid performance/talk and visual experience on themes of transnationalism, otherness, and belonging.

This visit and talk were made possible through co-sponsorship support from The Office for Arts Integration at the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign; IGI Grant Team on Leveraging the Arts in Global Dialogue at the School of Social Work; Global Arts Performance Initiative and Civic Engagement and Social Practice at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts; International Education; Asian American Cultural Center; Center for Global Studies; Women's Resources Center; Department of Gender and Women's Studies; Department of Anthropology

[Click to view event recording](#)

“Aimé Césaire in the Era of Black Lives Matter”

On April 16th, 2026, Dr. Frieda Ekotto (University of Michigan) concentrated on contemporary issues of law, race and LG BTQIA2S+ lives, inviting attendees to think critically about justice, identity, and the lived realities!

Co-sponsors for this talk included the Center for Advanced Study; Center for African Studies; Center for Global Studies; Department of African American Studies; Department of Gender & Women's Studies; Unit for Criticism & Interpretive Theory; African Students Organization; and the Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center.



[Click to view event recording](#)

Center for Advanced Study MillerComm Lecture Series



Climate Change and the Urgency of Hope, Action, and Joy

On October 8th, 2025, Dr. Lisa Reyes Mason (Graduate School of Social Work, University of Denver), uncovered examples of climate injustice in the US and abroad.

This event was hosted by the Center for the Study of Global Gender Equity with support through the Center for Advanced Study MillerComm Series in conjunction with the Center for Global Studies; College of Law; Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering; Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Science; Institute for Sustainability, Energy & Environment; and the School of Social Work.

[Click to view event recording](#)

2026 International Women's Day Celebration



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 our favorite events of the year to come together and celebrate the histories and contributions of so many wonderful women.

[Click to view event recording](#)

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, March 3, 2027 at 3:30pm
International Women's Day 2027

CSGGE Alumni Lecture

**"Planning with a Purpose: Reflection from a Journey in Urban Sustainability and Gender Equity" by
Mansi Sachdev**

On April 9, 2026, Mansi Sachdev, Alumna of the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and GRID program, shared insights from her professional journey in a virtual discussion.



Attendees were provided a reflective outlook on her academic foundation, particularly her GRID minor, and how it has shifted her approach to integrating gender perspectives into urban sustainability projects worldwide.

[Click to view event recording](#)

Faculty Affiliate Lecture

"Muslim Women and Architectural Patronage" by D. Fairchild Ruggles

On February 6, 2026, Dr. D Fairchild Ruggles gathered with students, faculty, and administrators to discuss how women, historically, have been important patrons of major works of architecture in the Islamic world.



[Click to view event recording](#)

Scholars from the Universidad de la Costa, Barranquilla, Colombia

Professor Ana Cristina de la Parra Guerra, Ph.D. in Environmental Toxicology and Professor ([CUC](#)); **Dr. Ana Carolina Torregroza Espinosa**, Ph.D. in Marine Science and Dean of Natural and Exact Sciences ([CUC](#)); and **Dariana Cecilia Zapata Lozada**, Project Manager ([CUC](#)), visited the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign this Spring!



During their visit, they delivered public talks and met with students, faculty, and administrators! We sincerely thank each of them for sharing their time, insights, and expertise with our community!

Weaving Resilience: "Communities, Ecosystems, and Knowledge from the Colombian Caribbean in Times of Socio-environmental Crisis"

[Click to view event recording for April 13th presentation](#)

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



Comparative Research Panel: "Crossing Knowledge Frontiers: Gender, Sustainability, and Resilience between the Global North and South"

COVID-19 Five Years Later



Five Years Later: Reflection, Lessons, Pathways Forward and the COVID-19 Legacy

On December 15th, 2025, the Midwest Nursing History Research Center at UIC and the Center for the Study of Global Gender Equity brought together community

members, students, and individuals who have been affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Attendees carefully reflected and honored the collective experience of Champaign-Urbana residents, in a healing and enlightening space!

[Click to view event recording](#)

Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 Reception



On behalf of The Center for the Study of Global Gender Equity (CSGGE), we want to thank everyone who joined us for our Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 Reception! It was wonderful to see so many of you, to share such engaging conversations, and honor those who have continued to sustain and uplift the CSGGE community!

The Fall Reception marked the beginning of the academic year by bringing together students, faculty, visiting scholars, and community partners engaged in global and transnational research. It offered a welcoming space to reconnect, build new connections, and reflect on CSGGE's mission, core values, and goals for the year ahead.

The Spring Reception similarly serves as a moment of reflection, honoring our GRID Graduates and CSGGE Award Recipients as we bring the academic year to a close!

We are truly grateful for your continued support of our Center, and we look forward to more connections and collaborations in the coming CSGGE receptions!



CSGGE Co-sponsored Events

This year, the Center for the Study of Global Gender Equity (CSGGE) co-sponsored a variety of events across campus, bringing together students, faculty, and administrators. We are grateful to each host for their collaboration and commitment to bringing community members together!

Thank you to everyone who made these events possible, and we look forward to continuing our collaboration in the years ahead!

CSGGE is proud to support the year-long talk series by the University YMCA and the University of Illinois Archives

The University YMCA and Diversity & Social Justice Education hosted the **Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 Friday Forum + Conversation Café series**.

Here, students, faculty, and community members have heard from local and national speakers as they engage in pressing public issues. This series has created meaningful space for dialogue, reflection, and connection.

[Click to view Friday Forum Recordings](#)



The University of Illinois Archive has hosted a monthly **Women in Science lecture series** for Fall 2025 and Spring 2026, featuring speakers from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign scientific enterprise.

The lecture series has concentrated on highlighting a vast range of innovations and contributions of women in sciences at the University of Illinois. We celebrate this series for bringing forward these stories and recognizing the lasting impact of women in the field of science.

[Click to view past Women in Science Lectures](#)



Professional Development Events for Students

The Center for the Study of Global Gender Equity (CSGGE) hosted several events throughout the academic year, that focused on enhancing participants' skills, expanding their knowledge, and supporting their career trajectory!

Fellowship Information Session "American Association of University Women"

"Writing Effective Fellowship Proposals" Workshop

GRID Minor Information Sessions



The Center for the Study of Global Gender Equity and the Interdisciplinary Health Science Institute co-hosted a panel on "Community Engaged Research in Action: Insights for Graduate Students". Co-sponsors included the Humanities Research Institute and the Graduate College Career Development Office.

[Click to view event recording](#)

Student Hosted Events

We are honored that several of our graduate student events this year have been led by students. Special thanks to the following students for giving their time and talent for these successful events.

Kshitij Tewari, Biweekly Graduate Student Writing Group (Fall 2025 and Spring 2026)

Joanna Adewumni, Biweekly Graduate Student Spring Book Club (Spring 2026)

Marina Moscoso, Marwah Malik, and Daniela Morales, Virtual Book Discussion on "The Feminist Killjoy Handbook: The Radical Potential of Getting in the Way" by Sara Ahmed

CSGGE Call for Presentations for Lunch Talk Series

The Center for the Study of Global Gender Equity invites faculty, staff, and students to present in our new lunch series held on Thursdays at noon for the upcoming academic year with the theme of "Gender Equity in Inequitable Era".

Gender Equity in Inequitable Era programming series explores how persistent and emerging inequalities in a global context shape the pursuit of gender justice by bringing together theoretical inquiry, research, and

practice through interdisciplinary dialogue. It connects scholarship with policy, education, and community engagement, and addresses pressing issues such as reproductive justice, labor, and knowledge production.

For full consideration, please submit application at <https://forms.illinois.edu/chooseAuth/2080725505> by **June 15, 2026**.

If you have questions, please reach out to Anita Kaiser at arkaiser@illinois.edu.



Center for the Study of Global Gender Equity

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