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Women & Gender in Global Perspectives Program

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

Monthly Perspectives

February, 2025 ♦ Spring 2025

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Message from Director



Dear WGGP Community:

Hope your winter break was restful and rejuvenating! As I welcome you back to Spring 2025, I am excited to announce that the proposal for the Center's name change was officially approved! The new name, the ***Center for the Study of Global Gender Equity***, captures the centrality of the Center's work over the last four decades as well as the essence of our mission

and goals; and it allows us to continue our historic focus on promoting women's access to resources and rights in the Global South in a broader and more inclusive context of gender identities. As we

celebrate this new chapter of the Center, I want to express my gratitude to Colleen Murphy, former Director, and Anita Kaiser, Associate Director, for their leadership role in the process, and to all of you for your support that made this change happen. We will roll out the name change on our various platforms in the coming weeks, and we embrace this exciting moment as we mark the 45th Anniversary of the Center.

I also want to take this opportunity to share with you some highlights of our programming and events in the Spring, including the 8th annual *Women's International Day Celebration* (March 5, co-host with the Humanities Research Institute), the panel discussion on *Gender and Economy* (April 3), and the panel discussion on the impact of the 2024 election, *What Now: Women and Gender in the New Era* (April 7, co-host with the Initiative in Holocaust, Genocide, Memory Studies). We always welcome opportunities to co-sponsor events with other units across campus, and a few co-sponsored events in the Spring include *Uman Tok: A Discussions on Period Poverty and Global Collaboration* (February 13), the 23rd Annual *Women's and Gender History Symposium* (February 20-22), the 28th *Daniel S. Sanders Annual Peace & Social Justice Lecture* (February 26), and lecture series and workshop on *Women Environmental Defenders and Climate Change in the Amazon* (May 21-23). Please also mark your calendars for the *Spring Reception and Student Recognitions* (April 25), which is always a joyful event to celebrate the achievements of our faculty and students and the end of the academic year.

Our graduate minor students in Gender Relations in International Development (GRID) play a vital role in promoting gender equity in global settings, through engaging in collaborative research activities and leading programming across campus and community. A few highlights of the events that they lead or co-lead in Spring 2025 include *GRID student Book Discussion* (February 12 & 26) and *Film Discussion* (March 4), *Graduate Student Workshop on Publishing* (April 4), as well as the *GRID Student Forum* (March 7), an opportunity to showcase the work of students that received support and funding through the Center's Fellowships and Awards.

Please check our *website* to find the full list of Spring events. We look forward to seeing many of you at these events and working with you on our continued partnership in the new semester!

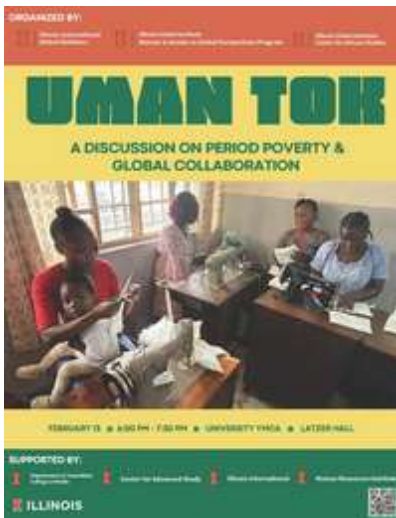
Warmly,

Min Zhan

Director, Center for the Study of Global Gender Equity
Professor, School of Social Work

Upcoming Events

Join the Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program (WGGP) for a co-sponsored discussion on global collaboration and period poverty as we come together to watch the trailer for the compelling documentary "**Uman Tok: Tailoring Hope, Renewing Futures**" which sheds light on the critical issue of period poverty in Sierra Leone. This event will take place on *February 13, 2025, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. at University YMCA Latzer Hall*. Set against the backdrop of a post-civil war nation, the film highlights the



resilience of young girls battling the stigma surrounding menstruation while also calling attention to a local, grassroots NGO (Uman Tok) that facilitates health awareness, education, and sustainability of feminine healthcare. The event will also feature a short talk by the film's director, Associate Professor of Journalism Stretch Ledford, a panel discussion with journalism lecturer Alison Davis and partners from Fourah Bay College in Sierra Leone and University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom, an information table hosted by the student organization 'Code Red', as well as a virtual reality exhibit where attendees can use state-of-the-art virtual reality headsets to enter an immersive experience of Uman Tok's tailoring shop in Freetown.



Join The PhD Program in Architecture and Landscape Architecture at UIUC as they host "**Spaces of Nature / Natures of Space**", an in-house graduate student symposium on *Friday, February 14, 2025*. This one-day event will feature 12 presentations that examine dynamic interactions and interrogate the conceptual ambiguities of space and nature across cultural, political, and ecological contexts. The symposium will conclude with a keynote lecture by Professor D. Fairchild Ruggles (Landscape Architecture & Unit for Criticism), titled "[Land, Water, Plants, and Human Society in the Mediterranean: A Material History](#)". The lecture will take place from 5:00 PM to 6:45 PM in *Plym Auditorium (Room 134), Temple Hoyne Buell Hall*, preceded by a light reception in the atrium at 4:20 PM.

Hoyne Buell Hall, preceded by a light reception in the atrium at 4:20 PM.



Join the Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program (WGGP) for a "**Graduate Book Discussion of Data Feminism.**" The book is written by Catherine D'Ignazio and Lauren Klein. The discussion will take place on *February 12th and 26th, 2025, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. CST via Zoom*. The sessions will be led by GRID students [Mahbubeh Moqadam](#) and [Marwah Malik](#). Complimentary copies of *Data Feminism* are available for registrants, while supplies last. To learn more and register, click [here](#).

Join the Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program (WGGP) for a co-sponsored event: The 28th Daniel S. Sanders Annual Peace & Social Justice Lecture: "**Why Refugee-Led Organizations Must Be At The Forefront of Leading Change.**" The event will take place on *Feb 26, 2025, 12:00 -*



3:15 pm, at Hilton Garden Inn, Champaign, IL and via Zoom. The speaker is Mr. Robert Hakiza, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Young African Refugees for Integral Development (YARID). To learn more and register please, click [here](#).



Join the Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program (WGGP) and the Humanities Research Institute (HRI) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for the seventh annual event, **"12 Women Who Changed the World: Untold Stories."** Celebrating **International Women's Day**, the event will feature 12 speakers from across our university and local community, each sharing a story of a woman who made significant contributions to scholarship, their discipline, and/or the broader academic community. The event will take place on *March 5, 2025, from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. at Levis Faculty Center, Third Floor*. It is co-sponsored by the Women's Resources Center and the Department of Gender and Women's Studies. To learn more, click [here](#).



Join the Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program (WGGP) in collaboration with the Initiative on Holocaust, Genocide for **"Spring Reception"** event on *April 25, 2025, from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. at YMCA Latzer Hall*. This event will honor GRID Graduates and WGGP Award Recipients. Remarks by Dr. [Min Zhan](#), Director of WGGP at 4:20 p.m. To learn more and register, click [here](#).

Please, click here for WGGP Master Calendar

WGGP Student Spotlight



[Joanna Adewunmi](#) and [Adétùtù Fábùsórò](#) (GRID students) presented at a panel discussion titled **"Of Virgin Suicides and Suicidal Futures: Reading Transnational Urbanisms, Alnized Temporalities, and Dystopian Afro-futurisms in Disney's Iwájú."** This panel was part of the AfricaNow! section in the **African Studies Association 67th Conference** that was held in Chicago on December 12 - 14, 2024. Their panel was on Disney's animation series - Iwaju - a movie set in a futuristic Nigeria of which Joanna co-chaired with CAS student - 'Tobi Adewunmi; Adetutu Fabusoro (GRID), Simeon Ònàṣlápò (CAS) and 'Wonu Fayemiro (UIC) were presenters. They

explored how the film's portrayal of urban life, technological advancements, and socio-economic disparities (such as language use) reflect broader themes of hope, despair, and agency in African cities.



[Mahbubeh Moqadam](#), [Nehal Elmeligy](#), [Marina Moscoso Arabia](#) (GRID students), and Amaury J. Rijo Sánchez (Sociology) organized a panel discussion titled **"Common Differences Revisited: Reflecting on Two Graduate Student-led Transnational Feminist Conferences Forty Years Apart,"** which was part of the **Annual National Women's Studies Association Conference** which took

place in Detroit in November 2024. The panel included the two organizers of the first conference, Dr. [Chandra Talpet-Mohanty](#) (Head of Gender Studies at Syracuse University) and Dr. [Anne Russo](#) (Head of Gender Studies at DePaul University, Chicago), along with the four UIUC students. The discussion covered key aspects of organizing the second conference. The students reflected on the sociopolitical contexts shaping both conferences and the transformations in transnational feminist scholarship and activism over the last four decades. As graduate student organizers, they shared insights into creating a horizontal feminist atmosphere and highlighted the crucial role of university centers like WGGP in supporting their efforts. They also discussed how teamwork and thoughtful panel structuring helped foster inclusivity, equity, and meaningful dialogue. They concluded the panel with reflections on next steps and potential initiatives inspired by the conferences, aiming to encourage ongoing transnational feminist solidarity and future collaboration



[Adétùtù Fábùsórò](#) (GRID student) received the **Bureau of Education Research Dissertation Award** in November 2024. Additionally, she will co-present a panel on **Hybrid Work Style** at the **AHRD International Research Conference**, scheduled for February 19-22, 2025, in Arlington, Virginia. She will also co-present a poster titled **"Increasing Disability Employment through AI-Enhanced Websites Reviewed"** at the same conference.



[Mahbubeh Mogadam](#) (GRID student) was invited to an interview with KAOS GL magazine, Turkey's first LGBTQI+ magazine, which has been publishing on LGBTQI+ issues since 1994. Since it is in Turkish, here is a brief summary of it in English: In the article titled "**Reflections from Transnational Feminist Experiences: Our Common Differences Are Our Common Ground,**" Mahbubeh discussed the significance of transnational feminist solidarity, particularly in the Middle East, where women often resist patriarchal state policies like mandatory dress codes, even if they do not explicitly identify as feminists. She highlighted how increased access to information and global connectivity empower women to challenge oppressive ideologies. She stressed the importance of mutual understanding, inclusive feminist strategies, and the production of alternative feminist knowledge to combat exclusion and marginalization effectively. The interview emphasized the need for solidarity that transcends national and cultural boundaries, while also acknowledging the diversity and shared struggles within feminist movements. A link to the interview can be found [here](#).



Fatou H Jobe (GRID student) published a blog titled "**The Cycle of Inequity in Fishmeal Factories in the Gambia**" on Fathom, an ocean nexus blog. Fatou explored how fishmeal production fuels global aquaculture while disrupting local livelihoods and ecosystems in the Gambia. This Fathom blog post explained why Gambian coastal communities fight for environmental justice and social equity. To read more, please click [here](#). Additionally, Fatou published an article titled "**Fishmeal Production and the Dispossession of Women in the Gambia.**" To read her article please, click [here](#).

Please, click [here](#) to learn more about GRID Student Spotlight

WGGP Alumni Spotlight

Alice Iannantuoni, Ph.D.

What is the focus of your current work and/or research?



This past September, I started as Assistant Professor of International Political Economy at the European School of Political and Social Sciences (ESPOL) at the Université Catholique de Lille, France, although I am based in Paris. I work on the political economy of international cooperation, with particular emphasis on foreign aid and the OECD's Development Assistance Committee.

How has your GRID minor helped you in your career?

The GRID minor has influenced my career in two key ways: first, it taught me that viewing political and economic phenomena through the "gender lens" enriches our understanding of them more often than not: for example, I have a recent research project studying how foreign aid donors decide where to fund projects targeting gender equality objectives. Second, while one can easily get cornered into an ever more narrow disciplinary subfield during graduate school, my time at GRID show me the tremendous value of an interdisciplinary approach.

Do you have any advice or suggestions for current GRID Students?

My advice for current GRID students is to take advantage of their GRID network and their time at Illinois to take classes and connect with scholars in departments outside of their own.

How can we learn more about your work?

You can follow my work on [Twitter](#) and on [LinkedIn](#)

Please, click here to learn more about WGGP Alumni Spotlight

WGGP Faculty Affiliate Spotlight

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

- **Maimouna Barro:** Dr. Maimouna presented a paper titled "West African Women in Istanbul: Ethnographies of Entrepreneurs in Transit" at the African Studies Association (ASA) 67th Annual Meeting held in Chicago, December 12-14, 2024. In this paper, Dr. Maimouna examined West

African women's transnational mobility and the extent to which it influences their agency and well-being based on pilot research she conducted in Istanbul, Turkey, in summer 2024.

- **Melissa Rae Goodnight:** Goodnight, M. R. (2024). Ethnography and Evaluation Possibilities: Fostering Transformative, Intersectional, and Comparative Work. In M. R. Goodnight, & R. Hopson (Eds.), *Theories Bridging Ethnography and Evaluation: Making Transformative, Intersectional, and Comparative Connections* (pp. 1-35). (Studies in Educational Ethnography; Vol. 20). Emerald Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.1108/S1529-210X20240000020003>
- **Erik S McDuffie:** McDuffie, E. S. (2024). *The Second Battle for Africa: Garveyism, the US Heartland, and Global Black Freedom*. Duke University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1215/9781478060062>
- **Ghassan Moussawi:** Moussawi, G., & Reyes, V. (2024). Crisis Feminisms: How Convenient Forgetting, Feminist Ambivalence, and Racial Gaslighting Maintain the Status Quo. *Critical Sociology*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08969205241292752>
- **Colleen Murphy:** Murphy, C. (2024). Abolition, scholar-activism, and deterrence: Reflections on Tommie Shelby's *The Idea of Abolition*. *Politics, Philosophy and Economics*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1470594X241292375>
- **D Fairchild Ruggles:** Habibullah, A., & Ruggles, D. F. (2024). The 21st-Century Islamic Garden: Connecting the Present to the Past. *Landscape Journal*, 43(2), 1-18. <https://doi.org/10.3368/lj.43.2.1 >
- **Rebecca Lynn Thornton:** Ghosh, P., & Thornton, R. (2024). The mother-in-law effect: Heterogeneous impacts of counseling on family planning take-up in Jordan. *Review of Economics of the Household*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11150-024-09714-9>
- **Tingting Zhang:** Frangi, L., Signoretti, A., & Zhang, T. (2024). Union officers' turnaway: Push, pull, and values in Canada, Italy, and the United States. *British Journal of Industrial Relations*, 62(4), 824-848. <https://doi.org/10.1111/bjir.12822>
- **Flavia Cristina Drumond Andrade:** Angel, J. L., Andrade, F. C. D., Riosmena, F., & Mejia-Arango, S. (Eds.) (2024). *Older Mexicans and Latinos in the United States: Where worlds meet*. Springer. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-48809-2>
- **Mary Paula Arends-Kuenning:** Arends-Kuenning, M. P., Baylis, K., & Garduño-Rivera, R. (2024). The effect of NAFTA on Mexico's wage gap. *Annals of Regional Science*, 73(3), 1241-1267. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00168-024-01287-w >
- **Jose M Atilas Osoria:** Atilas, J. (2025). Funding the colonial tax haven: unpacking the role of the paycheck protection program in Puerto Rico's state-corporate crimes. *Crime, Law and Social Change*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10611-024-10192-4>
- **Antoinette M Burton:** Burton, A. (2024). Beyond the big tent: recontextualizing settler colonial studies. *Settler Colonial Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/2201473X.2024.2371481>
- **Kate Clancy:** Junkins, E. J., Chehab, S., Lee, K. M. N., & Clancy, K. B. H. (2024). No one listens to us, we know this, so we participated: Qualitative evidence from menstruation research during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Women's Health*, 20. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/17455057241285189>

Please, click here to learn more about WGGP Faculty Affiliates

Research and Funding



2025-2026 Fellowships and Awards Application Now available

Offered by
the Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program
(WGGP) for full-time new and continuing graduate students
enrolled at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- RITA AND ARNOLD GOODMAN FELLOWSHIP, \$ 18,000
- BARBARA A. YATES GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP*, \$ 18,000
*Must be GRID Students
- EVELYNE ACCAD AND PAUL VIEILLE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AWARD, up to \$ 1,000 ***Must have research in North Africa or Middle East

Application and submission details at
<https://go.illinois.edu/WGGPFellowships>

Deadline: **February 16, 2025, by 11:59 p.m**
More information at <https://wggp.illinois.edu/>

Please direct questions to Anita Kaiser
arkaiser@illinois.edu or (217) 333-6221

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The Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Fellowships application is now open. WGGP offers two full fellowships (Rita and Arnold Goodman Fellowship & Barbara A. Yates International Fellowship). WGGP also offers smaller research awards (Accad & Vieille International Research Award & Due and Ferber 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 and the Due and Ferber International Research Award. The Evelyne Accad and Paul Vieille International Award requires research to be on issues related to women in the MENA region. To gain insights into the application process from a past fellowship awardee, please click [here](#).

Please, click here to learn more about
WGGP Fellowships

WGGP Programs

WGGP Gender Relations in International Development Graduate Minor

WGGP 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 WGGP and LAS Global Studies

LAS Global Studies, in conjunction with Women and Gender in Global Perspectives (WGGP), 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 to learn more about the Undergraduate Certificate



Certificate in Global Health



Women & Gender in Global Perspectives Program

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