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Women & Gender in Global Perspectives Program
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

Monthly Perspectives

September, 2024 ♦ Fall 2024

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On behalf of the Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program (WGGP), it is my pleasure to introduce you to our series of Monthly Perspectives.

Monthly Perspectives will provide a comprehensive look into news, interviews, and achievements of our faculty affiliates and GRID students. We will continue to publish our Weekly E-news, which will be shorter, focusing on

upcoming events. We hope you enjoy the monthly series that celebrates the brilliance of our WGGP community. Please share your own publications, grants, awards, and innovations! We are also happy to help circulate advertisements if you are looking for research collaborators. Any items to share should be submitted to Anita Kaiser arkaiser@illinois.edu by the 20th of each month.

We are always happy to meet with you to discuss any questions you might have about our program or about how you may get involved with WGGP. Please don't hesitate to contact me or our Associate Director, Anita Kaiser, at arkaiser@illinois.edu or (217) 333-6221. We look forward to hearing from you!

With best wishes for the fall semester,

Min Zhan

Director, Women and Gender in Global Perspectives (WGGP)
Professor, School of Social Work

WGGP Fall Reception



Proposal to Rename the Center for Women & Gender in Global Perspectives

Public Hearing: The Senate Committee on Educational Policy is collecting information regarding a Proposal to Rename the Center for Women & Gender in Global Perspectives to the Center for Global Gender Equity. A public hearing will be held September 9, 2024 at 2 p.m. in room 232 of the English Building. Follow [this link](#) for more information and provide [written comments](#).

Please, click here to RSVP for the public hearing

WGGP and IGI Fellowships and Awards

Congratulations to WGGP and IGI award recipients for the academic year 2024-25!



Rita and Arnold Goodman Fellow: *Mahbubeh Moqadam* is a third-year Ph.D. student in Sociology. Her research focuses on the roles and experiences of Generation Z in digital activism, exploring how they use digital platforms as tools/spaces of resistance and mobilization amidst rigorous state surveillance and control. Her work utilizes cyber and digital feminist methodologies to provide an in-depth analysis of emerging forms of activism among the youth, particularly Gen Z women.



Barbara A. Yates Fellow: *Fatou Jobe* is a 3rd-year Ph.D. student in sociology from Senegambia. She obtained her BA in economics from the University of Connecticut and completed her master's degree in African Studies at UIUC. Her research interests center around international fishery processes, with a specific focus on gendered dynamics within the industry, local environmental perceptions, and the sustainable development logic associated with fisheries industrialization and development in the Gambia and Senegal.



Evelyne Accad and Paul Vieille International Research Awardee: *Nehal Elmeligy* is a Sociology Ph.D. candidate. The tentative title of her dissertation is *Emergent Publics in the Time of Unpredictable Crackdowns: The Impact of Online/Offline Feminist Counterpublics in Contemporary Egypt*. It is a qualitative study of nine Egyptian feminist initiatives founded between 2015 and 2020 that create counterpublics by producing feminist knowledge about violence against women, examining the initiatives' relationship with the state, each other and society. Nehal's publication "Airing Egypt's Dirty Laundry: BuSSy's Storytelling as Feminist Social Change" has won two awards at the American Sociological Association in 2022 and 2023.



Evelyne Accad and Paul Vieille International Research Awardee: *Asmaa Elsayed* is currently pursuing her doctorate within the Department of Education Policy, Organization, and Leadership at the College of Education. Her academic journey is marked by examining the nuances of education as a transformative tool for empowerment. Asmaa's research examines the potential of emancipatory and transformative lifelong learning as a pathway for fostering healing, resilience, and holistic well-being among minority women in the Middle East.



Illinois Global Institute Graduate Language Fellow: *Eylul Begum Saglam* received a 2024-2025 IGI Language Fellowship to study Arabic. Eylul is a first-year Ph.D. student in the Political Science Department. Eylul is interested in studying immigration, elections in Türkiye, and radical right-wing populist parties which form their main program around identity politics and anti-immigration rhetoric.



Illinois Global Institute Graduate Language Fellow: *Aysenur Senel* received a 2024-2025 IGI Language Fellowship to study Arabic. Aysenur is a PhD student in Architecture with a concentration in History and Theory. With a background in architecture and graphic design, currently, her research focus is on Islamic architecture and women's agency in spatial production, especially on Ottoman history.



Illinois Global Institute Graduate Language Fellow: *Seung Deok* received a 2024-2025 IGI Language Fellowship to study Arabic. Seung is a Ph.D. student in Political Science, specializing in the study of foreign aid effectiveness and NGO cooperation, focusing on Middle Eastern countries. He worked with UN Women in Palestine and Korea International Cooperation Agency in Iraq, and conducted surveys and interviews with Palestinian NGOs. His studied and worked in South Korea, Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan, England, Israel, Palestine, and

the United States.



Illinois Global Institute Graduate Language Fellow: *Manuela Quijano Hoyos* received a 2024-2025 IGI Language Fellowship to study Portuguese. Manuela is a Masters student in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences with a minor in Gender Relations in International Development. Her research examines how conflicts and peace dynamics in Montes de María (Colombia) are reflected in land cover and land use change. Additionally, she explores how gender shapes these interactions and communities' capabilities.

Please click to learn more about the WGGP Fellowships and Awards

WGGP Student Spotlight

Presentations

Graduate students Amaury J. Rijo Sanchez, Mahbubeh Moqadam, Marina Moscoso-Arabia, and Nehal Elmeligy, along with Dr. Chandra Talpade Mohanty, will present at the National Women's Studies Association Conference in November 2024 in Detroit, Michigan. Their panel, "Common Differences Revisited: Reflecting on Two Graduate Student-led Transnational Feminist Conferences Forty Years Apart," will compare the 1983 and 2024 Common Differences conferences held at UIUC. Dr. Mohanty co-organized the 1983 conference, while the graduate students organized the 2024 one. The panel will explore the sociopolitical contexts, challenges, and changes in feminist scholarship and activism over the decades, examining issues of gender, race, language, and class, as well as mentorship and community building.

Awards

Asmaa Elsayed, Ph.D. student in the Education Policy, Organization, and Leadership Department at the College of Education, was awarded the *Jean M. Due and Marianne Ferber International Research Award* and the *Nelle M. Signor Graduate Scholarship in International Relations*.

WGGP Alumni Spotlight



September Spotlight on Annie Contractor

What is the focus of your current work and/or the subject of your current research? I currently work as the Policy Director at RuralProgress and RuralOrganizing (sister organizations) and my focus is on grassroots power-building in rural communities of the United States.

How has your GRID minor helped you in your career? The GRID minor helped me, during my graduate studies and after, to keep a global view and to zoom out and notice the patterns on a macro level into which my day-to-day practitioner experience fits. This global view allows for more innovative solutions than a heads-

down view would. A case in story: A local community has identified childcare as a key barrier to economic stability for many area families. An opportunity arose in the last few years to subsidize childcare with government funds. When the elites in the community redirected the funding to a traditional, trickle-down economic development approach, we were able to learn from patterns from other economies to understand the influences that led to this outcome and to re-strategize how to continue seeking this investment in people.

Do you have any advice or suggestions for current GRID Students? 1) Power-building starts with listening—take the time to hear the stories of those you seek to support, and use your academic knowledge- and your position of academic privilege and visibility- to amplify their voices, 2) Lean into the expertise that is here. Each academic talk is an opportunity to turn an idea into action that can tangibly change a community, if you connect the people with technical expertise to the people with the lived expertise. Let's take academic lectures into action!

How can we learn more about your work through social media? (Twitter? Facebook? Instagram? LinkedIn? Personal website?)

- Annie (Gierhart) Contractor | [LinkedIn](#)
- [RuralOrganizing](#) | Matt Hildreth | Substack
- As an organization, we are divesting of Twitter

Please, click here to see more WGGP Alumni Spotlight News

WGGP Faculty Affiliate Spotlight

[Dr. Alexia Victoria Williams](#) was named Humanities Research Institute's Campus Faculty Fellow 2024–25. To learn more, click [here](#).

[Dr. Erik S. McDuffie](#) was named Humanities Research Institute's Interseminars Initiative, 2024–25 Faculty Convener. To learn more, click [here](#).

[Dr. Antoinette Burton](#): In July 2024, Dr. Burton authored a book titled "Gender History: A Very Short Introduction," published by Oxford University Press. This volume introduces the field of gender history--its origins, development, reception, recalibrations, and frictions. It offers a set of working definitions of gender as a descriptive category and as a category of historical analysis, tracing the emergence, usage, and applicability of these entwined subjects across a range of times and places since the 1970s. To learn more, click [here](#) and [here](#).

[Dr. Helga Varden](#): In June 2024, Dr. Varden published a book chapter titled "A Kantian Theory of Intersectionality." This chapter brings the ideas of early Black feminists together with important, related proposals from W.E.B. Du Bois, Karl Marx, Hannah Arendt, and Simone de Beauvoir, and relates these works to central ideas in Kant's practical philosophy in an effort to develop a Kantian theory of intersectionality. To learn more, click [here](#).

[Dr. Samantha Lindgren](#): In April 2024, Dr. Lindgren authored an article titled "Sociocultural Determinants of Electric Cooking in Rural Namibia: Recommendations for Youth and Education Approaches to Implementation Strategy and Policy." Drawing on an energy cultures framework, the findings of this quasi-experimental study conducted in rural Namibia indicate that households with children who attended a sustainable energy education program during their school years were significantly more likely to prefer modern energy services and be less committed to their traditional biomass cookstoves than similar households in their community. To learn more, click [here](#).

[Dr. Faranak Miraftab](#): In March 2024, Dr. Miraftab co-authored an article titled "Urbanizing Social Reproduction: (Re)thinking the Politics of Care in Capitalist Urban Development." Drawing on observations from multiple sites ranging from cities in the US to Mexico, the authors offer three examples to highlight strategies capitalist urban development uses to make care work invisible and marginal: bantustanization, gentrification, and informalization. To learn more, click [here](#).

[Dr. Melissa Rae Goodnight](#): In February 2024, Dr. Goodnight co-authored a book chapter titled "Missing Girls on the Margins? Equity, Assessment, and Evaluation in India's New Education Policy." The chapter addresses the representation of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) girls' learning and interests in India's new policy, particularly its educational assessment and monitoring provisions. To learn more, click [here](#).

[Dr. Catalina Herrera-Almanza](#): In February 2024, Dr. Herrera-Almanza co-authored an article titled “C-Sections, Obesity, and Healthcare Specialization: Evidence from Mexico.” This study explores whether hospitals with higher increases in obesity levels have higher cesarean section (CS) rates and the consequential effects on maternal and newborn health in Mexico for 2008–2015. To learn more, click [here](#).

[Dr. Lynne Marie Dearborn](#): In January 2024, Dr. Dearborn co-authored a book chapter titled “Aging in Place: The Roles of Food-related Activities Engagement Among Older Indonesian Women.” Through the Food-Related Activities Engagement and Adaptation Study (FEAST), the chapter analyzes older women’s aging-in-place experience through their engagement in food-related activities. To learn more, click [here](#).

[Dr. Paul E. McNamara](#): In December 2023, Dr. McNamara co-authored an article titled “Assessing Gendered Impacts of Post-harvest Technologies in Northern Ghana: Gender Equity and Food Security.” The authors used a gender technology assessment tool to analyze the impacts of an introduction of three common post-harvest technologies to communities through farmer-based organizations (FBOs) in the Northern Region of Ghana. They found that, while both men and women had access to the technologies, the technologies were controlled by literate/numerate men. To learn more, click [here](#).

[Dr. Ikuko Asaka](#): In December 2023, Dr. Asaka published an article titled “Guerilla Women and Men in Silk Dresses: Diplomacy and Orientalism During the 1860 Japanese Mission.” In the summer of 1860, seventy-seven samurai conducted a month-long tour of Eastern Seaboard cities during a diplomatic mission to advance the fledgling US-Japan relations. News coverage of this visit revolved around a few motifs: feminized representation of the Japanese diplomats; white women’s enthusiastic reception; and castigations of white women’s autonomous participation in formal and informal diplomatic arenas. This article interprets this presses’ feminizing discourse as an instantiation of American orientalism and argues that diplomacy undercut and subverted the press’s feminization of Japanese men and devaluation of white women’s political capacity and that white women’s interracial sexual desire was imagined in such a way that disconnected the organization of sexuality from a rigid male-female gender binary. To learn more, click [here](#).

[Dr. Samantha Lindgren](#): In 2023, Dr. Lindgren co-authored an article titled “Engaging Youth at School to Advance Sustainable Agriculture and Inspire Future Farming: Evidence from Cambodia.” The purpose of this study was to examine rural school students’ perception of a career in farming following their participation in educational farming activities. The findings can guide future training agendas and agricultural educational programs to be more efficient in attracting and retaining youth in the sector by incorporating contextually-appropriate educational topics that highlight agriculture’s impact and strengthen youth relatedness to their local environment. To learn more, click [here](#).

[Dr. Ramon E Soto-Crespo](#): In 2023, Dr. Soto-Crespo authored a book titled “Neobugarrón: Heteroflexibility, Neoliberalism, and Latin/o American Sexual Practice.” Published by the Ohio State University Press. This book chronicles the cultural modifications of a distinct male–male sexual practice in Latino/a America and the Caribbean during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

Historically this practice has been embodied in the figure of the bugarrón, an ostensibly heterosexual man who has sex with other men but who is presumed to take the dominant role exclusively. An ambiguous figure, the bugarrón—who is neither clearly gay nor simply straight—has for decades eluded comprehension by anthropologists and epidemiologists, as well as by public policy experts in the Americas and around the globe. To learn more, click [here](#).

News

Retirement of Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Faculty Affiliate Cynthia Buckley

Cynthia Buckley, a Professor of Sociology and a Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Faculty Affiliate and Executive Committee Member, retired earlier this month. Her research focused on migration, population aging, and reproductive health. Dr. Buckley will now serve as an adjunct research professor at the University of Michigan's Population Studies Center, remain involved with the WHO Health Cluster for Ukraine, and continue as a board member of the Association of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES). Also, she will lecture at the CEU Invisible University for Ukraine on displacement data and demography. Thank you for your dedicated service to the Women and Gender in Global Perspectives community. We wish her a fulfilling retirement!



Invitation: Campuswide Investiture - Presidential Humanities and Social Science Chairs

Provost John Coleman cordially invites you to attend the Inaugural Presidential Humanities and Social Science Investiture honoring the following endowed chair: Dr. Fairchild Ruggles, Professor of Landscape Architecture and Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Faculty Affiliate. The event will take place on September 17, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. at Alice Campbell Alumni Center, 601 S Lincoln Avenue, Urbana. To learn more, click [here](#) and [RSVP](#).



Women and Gender in Global Perspectives's Library Subject Liaison

Cindy Ingold is the Library Subject Liaison for the Women and Gender in Global Perspectives and she can help with:

- Library Instruction: Classroom visits (in person or via Zoom).
- Requests for books, journals, etc.

- Help with Your Research

Location: 101E SSHEL, first floor Main Library | Email: cingold@illinois.edu | Phone: 217-333-7998

New Online Course: Women, Money, and Power

On March 20th, 2024, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign launched "Women, Money & Power," a new online course open to the public. This course is designed to empower women both financially and in the workforce. The course is offered by the financial planning program in the [Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics](#) (ACE), part of the [College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences](#) (ACES). To learn more, click [here](#).

University of Illinois Journalism Students Address Global Period Poverty in New Documentary

After a week-long stay in 2024 in Sierra Leone, six UIUC journalism students focused on filming a documentary addressing the global issue of "period poverty." Alongside their instructors, UIUC students collaborated with students from Fourah Bay College in conducting interviews and captured footage for the documentary. This significant problem persists in the West African country, where women lack access to menstrual products, education and proper sanitation facilities. The documentary debuted on May 28, 2024, coinciding with Menstrual Hygiene Day. To learn more, click [here](#).

Upcoming Events

The Women and Gender in Global Perspectives is proud to sponsor an information session about the American Association of University Women Fellowship on Friday, September 27, 2024, at 12:00 PM. The event will be held in 306 Coble Hall, 801 S Wright St, Champaign, IL 61820.

Click to RSVP



The Women and Gender in Global Perspectives program is hosting an Alumni Lecture titled "Community Engagement, Rural Edition: Navigating Local Power and Conquering the Fear Factor," presented by Annie Contractor. The lecture will take place on Wednesday, October 2, 2024, at 12:00 PM in 306 Coble Hall, 801 S Wright St, Champaign, IL 61820 and virtual via Zoom. Lunch provided for in-person attendees.



[Click to RSVP for lunch talk](#)

The Women and Gender in Global Perspectives is proud to co-sponsor the University YMCA and Diversity & Social Justice Education's Friday Forum + Conversation Café series. All presentations are open to the public and free on Fridays at 12 PM in Latzer Hall at the University YMCA.


[Click to learn more about the YMCA Friday Forum Series](#)

The Women and Gender in Global Perspectives is proud to co-sponsor the "Women Environmental Defenders and Climate Change in the Amazon" series. Join us on October 1, 2024, at 3:00 PM in Coble Hall 306 at UIUC to hear Dr. [Luz Angela Rodriguez](#) speak.


[Click to learn more about Dr. Luz Angela Rodriguez Talk](#)

Dr. [Jordan Pascoe](#), George A. Miller Visiting Scholar and Professor of Philosophy at Manhattan College will speak at UIUC on September 17, 2024 at 3:00 pm at Levis Faculty Center, Room 210, 919 W. Illinois Street, Urbana. In her talk, she will explore how disasters trigger social change- in both progressive and authoritarian ways. By examining how people learn from one another in disaster contexts, and how this learning can shift longstanding practices of collective knowing, she explores how and why disasters generate social change, and how disaster policy can shape that social change.


[Click to learn more about Dr. Jordan Pascoe Talk](#)

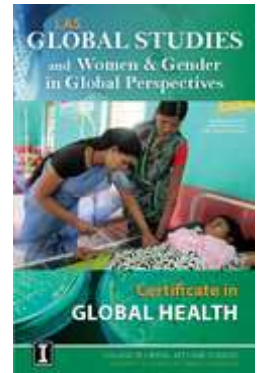
WGGP Programs

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.

Click for more information on the GRID
Minor

Undergraduate Certificate in Global Health: 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.**



Click for more information on Undergraduate
Certificate



Women & Gender in Global Perspectives Program

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