

[Click here to see this online](#)

Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program

Monthly Perspectives

April ♦ Spring 2024

Upcoming WGGP Events

Upcoming Transnational Feminist Conference: Common Differences 2: Transnational Feminist Resistance(s) Against Contemporary Violence(s)

The Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program (WGGP) and the Department of Gender and Women's Studies (GWS) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign are thrilled to announce that they have organized the Transnational Feminist Conference, scheduled for **April 4-5, 2024**. This significant event celebrates the 41st anniversary of the groundbreaking 1983 Conference, "Common Differences: Third World Women and Feminist Perspectives,"

which was originally organized by then-Illinois graduate students **Dr. Chandra T Mohanty and Dr. Ann Russo**. In keeping with the pioneering spirit of the 1983 conference, four graduate students from WGGP and GWS are at the helm of organizing this year's conference. **Amaury J. Rijo Sanchez, Nehal Elmeligy, Marina Moscoso, and Mahbubeh Moqadam**. The conference is set to explore the compelling theme of **"Transnational Feminist Resistance(s) Against Contemporary Violence(s)."** As the event approaches, stay tuned for more details about the panels, speakers, and other exciting aspects of the conference. This is an opportunity not just to reflect on the past but to engage with the current and future challenges and victories of



to reflect on the past but to engage with the current and future challenges and victories of transnational feminist movements. To learn more about the conference and its exciting news, [check out this link](#). Looking forward to meeting you all there!

[Click here for a complete list of Spring 2024 Events](#)

Faculty Awards & Recognitions



Breaking Barriers: Dr. Lynne Dearborn's Architectural Journey

In celebration of Women's History Month, the News-Gazette features a special story by [Dr. Lynne Dearborn](#) on her journey into architecture—a field once dominated by men. From her early days faced with discouragement and blatant gender disparities to becoming a professor advocating for diversity and sustainability in architecture, Dearborn's narrative is a testament to the evolving landscape of the profession. Her advice to young women aspiring to make a mark in the world through architecture is both inspiring and empowering. For a deeper dive into her experiences and the significant progress within the architectural field, read the full article [here](#).

WGGP Student Recognitions

GRID student [Lila Ann M. Wong](#) was invited to present at the "Tensions globales et dynamiques de création en Afrique de l'Ouest" workshop in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, organized by a consortium including the University of Ouagadougou Joseph Ki-Zerbo, Point Sud, Association MbOmen, the Goethe Institut, CDC La Termitière, Université Côte d'Azur, and l'École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales. The event gathered an international group of scholars, researchers, artists, and professionals in contemporary dance development. Lila contributed virtually to [the round table on economic models for contemporary dance in Africa, sharing insights from her dissertation research in Burkina Faso](#).

Lila also co-organized the "Education Autour de la Culture" project with Hamadou Traoré at a public elementary school in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso. This cultural arts education initiative benefits 100 elementary and middle school students with high-quality cultural and arts education, offers practice-based pedagogy training to 6 young performing artists, and provides an intensive internship in cultural administration and project management for a university student. The program supports the school fees and materials for students in need.

Emphasizing gender equity, social responsibility, and inclusion, the project aims to address the

Emphasizing gender equity, social responsibility, and inclusion, the project aims to address the unique needs of each child. They invite WGGP readers to follow [their progress on Facebook](#).

WGGP and IGI Awards 2024-25

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



Rita and Arnold Goodman Fellow

Mahbubeh Moqadam, born and raised in Tehran, Iran is a third-year Ph.D. student. Mahbubeh holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Tehran University, a master's degree in Women and Gender Studies from Allameh Tabatabaie University in Iran, and another master's in Sociology from the Maxwell School in the US. Her current 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.



The Evelyne Accad and Paul Vieille International Research Awardees



Nehal Elmeligy, born and raised in Cairo, is a Sociology Ph.D. candidate. She forecasts graduating in May 2025; 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*. Briefly, this is a qualitative study of nine Egyptian feminist initiatives founded between 2015 and 2020 that create counterpublics by producing feminist knowledge, most importantly about violence against women. It studies the initiatives' relationship with the state, each other and society. Nehal's 2021 publication "Airing Egypt's Dirty Laundry: BuSSy's Storytelling as Feminist Social Change" in *Gender and Society* has won two awards at the American Sociological Association in 2022 and 2023.

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 women in the Middle East. Her work addresses the educational needs and challenges faced by women, aiming to elevate their experiences through learning opportunities.



IGI Graduate Language Fellows



Eylul Begum Saglam received a 2024-2025 Illinois Global Institute 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.

Aysenur Senel received a 2024-2025 Illinois Global Institute 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



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.



Seung Deok received a 2024-2025 Illinois Global Institute 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 brings field experience, including work with UN Women in Palestine and the Korea International Cooperation Agency in Iraq, and conducting surveys and interviews with Palestinian NGOs. His educational journey spans South Korea, Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan, England, Israel, Palestine, and the United States.

Manuela Quijano Hoyos received a 2024-2025 Illinois Global Institute 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, I explore how gender shapes these interactions and communities' capabilities.



WGGP Alumni Spotlight

The Alumni Spotlight showcases previous GRID students and where they have been since graduating from UIUC.

November Spotlight on Dr. Mansi Sachdev

Dr. Mansi Sachdev's current work revolves around integrating climate resilience into urban spatial plans and strategies. In India, master plans, which are known as General Plans for Comprehensive Development Plans in the US, are the only statutory urban planning tool with the cities and the process of master plan development needs an overhaul for climate resilience integration. Dr. Sachdev credits her GRID minor for imparting a nuanced understanding of gender relations and inclusion, key components that have influenced her professional journey. The program's rich curriculum and practical exposure provided her with the tools to critically evaluate gender dynamics across eight different countries, enabling her to advocate for equality and



dynamics across eight different countries, enabling her to advocate for equality and inclusiveness consistently.

To current GRID students, Dr. Sachdev advises a wholehearted dive into the curriculum's breadth, embracing coursework, seminars, and the practical experiences offered. She highlights the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign's abundance of resources that support hands-on learning and stresses the importance of networking for a well-rounded educational journey. Emphasizing adaptability, Dr. Sachdev encourages students to remain agile in their pursuit of solutions to the complex, rapidly evolving gender-related issues of our global society. For those interested in following Dr. Sachdev's ongoing contributions to urban planning and gender dynamics, she can be found on LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/mansisachdev

Women in History Wednesday



Every week WGGP celebrates the accomplishments of women associated with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. These series are part of the 150 for 150 website that was created by the Gender Equity Council and the University Library to highlight women who have made significant achievements during their time at the University either as students, staff, faculty, or alumni.

This week's feature celebrates the remarkable contributions of Dr. [Maimouna Barro](#) to the University of Illinois. Barro, an alumnus of the university, earned her M.A. in African Studies in 1997 and her Ph.D. in Education, with a specialization in Gender

Relations in International Development, in 2005. Serving as the Associate Director at the Center for African Studies, her pivotal role in the expansion of the Center's academic offerings is noteworthy. She has been a driving force behind the creation of a joint degree with the School of Information Sciences and the establishment of a graduate minor in African Studies. Her excellence has not gone unnoticed; among her accolades is the prestigious Chancellor's Academic Professional Excellence Award, which she was honored within 2010. Barro's story is highlighted on the '150 for 150' website, an initiative by the Gender Equity Council and the University Library celebrating the accomplishments of women at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. This tribute is a testament to the women who have made significant contributions to the university community in various roles, including students, staff, faculty, and alumni.

Campus Events and Announcements



Reflecting on Cultural Richness: A Report on Nakshi Kantha Workshop

On the evening of March 6th, the South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Center and Women and Gender in Global Perspectives cohosted **Nakshi Kantha Workshop**. The Levis Center was alive with the vibrant traditions of Bangladesh, thanks to the event that brought the Bangladesh Institute of Performing Arts and the Bangladeshi Ladies

Club to the campus. The event, held from 4:00 to 6:00 PM on the third floor of the Levis Faculty Center, was a moment to learn about Bangladesh's rich culture. Participants were first treated to a Nakshi Kantha Workshop, where they learned and practiced the intricate world of traditional Bangladeshi hand-stitching. The workshop was a hands-on experience that celebrated creativity and craftsmanship, encouraging participants to learn, create, and share, regardless of their prior stitching experience. The evening took a rhythmic turn with the Dhamail Dance, a unique experience in the joyous realm of Bangladeshi folk tradition. The attendees reveled in the vibrant rhythms and hues, reflecting the communal spirit and festive essence of Bangladesh. The event was not just a showcase of Bangladeshi culture but also a collaborative platform, bringing together the Bangladeshi Ladies Club and a myriad of enthusiasts eager to learn and celebrate. To learn more about their activities you can [check this link](#).

Exciting Opportunity for Asia Scholars: MCAA 2024 Conference at the University of Notre Dame

The Liu Institute for Asia and Asian Studies is thrilled to announce that it will be hosting the Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs (MCAA) from September 13 to 15, 2024, at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. This in-person event invites faculty, students, and independent scholars to submit abstracts by May 1, 2024, for consideration in the conference program. The submission deadline is 11:59 p.m. ET on May 1, with results communicated by May 31. [For more information check out this address](#). Students participating can compete for prestigious awards such as the Percy Buchanan Graduate Prize, the Sidney DeVere Brown Prize, the Mikiso Hane Prize, and the Jackson and Caroline Bailey Public Service Award. For further details and submission guidelines, [please visit the MCAA 24 Official Website](#) or contact mcaa2024@nd.edu.

Applications Now Open: Undergraduate Student Awards in the Department of Latina/Latino Studies

The Department of Latina/Latino Studies is now accepting applications for its three undergraduate student awards. You can find descriptions of the awards and the application process [here](#). **Applications are due by April 5, 2024, at 5 pm.** If you have any questions about these awards or the application process, please reach out to Sean Ettinger at snettin2@illinois.edu

The Intensive Language Instruction Program (ILIP) at Illinois

Dive into a world of languages this Summer 2024 with the Intensive Language Instruction Program (ILIP), formerly known as IFLIP. Whether you're part of the university community or the general public, ILIP offers an engaging, immersive learning experience designed to accelerate your language acquisition. Enjoy 30 hours of dynamic instruction focused on conversational skills, travel preparation, and essential language survival skills. Our courses are crafted to be enjoyable and impactful, with minimal homework and no strict attendance policy, ensuring a stress-free, enriching experience. Although the program doesn't offer academic credit, the emphasis is on practical language use in fun, culturally rich settings. If you are interested, you can find the registration link [here](#).

Summer Institute for the Languages of the Muslim World (SILMW)

Since 2008, the University of Illinois's Less Commonly Taught Languages Program has been home to the Summer Institute for the Languages of the Muslim World (SILMW). This program invites participants to learn about the rich languages and cultures of the Muslim World. Students can choose from intensive courses in Arabic, Persian, Swahili, Turkish, and Wolof, all while engaging with seasoned experts in the region. Beyond the classroom, SILMW enriches the language-learning experience with an array of extra-curricular activities that provide deeper cultural understanding and additional language practice. SILMW is dedicated to promoting the study of languages that are increasingly essential in the global landscape and are of strategic importance to US interests. Don't miss the chance to be a part of this program. Learn more and secure your spot by visiting silmw.linguistics.illinois.edu before the registration deadline on May 6, 2024.

If you have news to share about your publications, grants, awards, and innovations, please get in touch with Associate Director, Anita Kaiser, at arkaiser@illinois.edu or (217) 333-6221. We look forward to hearing from you!



Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program

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

111 Coble Hall, MC 401 | 801 S. Wright Street | Champaign, IL 61820 ** New Address and Mailcode Fall 2021**

Contact: wggp@illinois.edu



[Subscribe](#)