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## Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program

◆ February 2024 ◆

### Faculty Awards & Recognitions



Women in Italy protest abortion laws. Image credit: Giuseppe Garelli / Wikimedia Commons

[Dr. Helga Varden](#), Professor of Philosophy at Illinois and WGGP Faculty Affiliate, has written an article titled "How to Move Beyond Our Endless Disagreements over Abortion Policies," which proposes a Kantian solution to the seemingly insoluble moral conflict surrounding abortion. The article examines the complexities of the abortion debate in the United States. It highlights the problem with the current focus on when life begins, arguing that legal discussions about abortion should not be based on personal beliefs but on a legal conception of personhood. The article

references philosophical perspectives, particularly Kantian theory, to suggest a shift in focus from deeply personal convictions to legal justifications for abortion, thereby enabling the formulation of unifying and justifiable abortion laws. To read the article [check out this link](#).

We are proud to announce that [Dr. D Fairchild Ruggles](#), a WGGP Faculty Affiliate and Debra L. Mitchell Chair in Landscape Architecture, has been recognized as [one of nine faculty members to receive the prestigious appointment of university endowed chairs](#) or professors at UIUC. Her extensive work, which examines the multifaceted impact of garden aesthetics, has had significant implications for our understanding of agricultural production, environmental stewardship, water management, and global urbanism dating back to the seventh century. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Ruggles on this esteemed accomplishment.



WGGP celebrates the achievement of [Dr. Charles Fogelman](#), Professor of Global Studies at UIUC and WGGP alumni, on the publication of the third edition of the "Historical Dictionary of Lesotho." This edition, co-edited by Dr. Fogelman, John Aerni-Flessner of Michigan State University, and Nthabiseng Mokoena-Mokhali from the National University of Lesotho, marks a significant contribution to the field. [The book is now available for access here.](#)



[Dr. Laila Mustafa](#), in her recent op-ed for the Los Angeles Times, highlights how the destruction of essential public infrastructure, such as the Gaza City Public Library, is being overshadowed by the profound loss of human lives. For further insights, [please follow this link.](#)

[Dr. Ghassan Moussawi](#), a Sociology Professor at UIUC and a WGGP Faculty Affiliate, has been chosen for the 2024 SWS Distinguished Feminist Lecturer Award. This honor includes the development of a lecture that Dr. Moussawi will present at two locations: the 2026 SWS Winter Meeting, at a yet-to-be-determined venue, and at one selected college or university campus during the 2025-2026 academic year. Additionally, his lecture, or a paper based on it, is set to be published in the journal 'Gender & Society' at a date to be arranged with the journal's Co-Editors.

[Dr. Erik McDuffie](#), a faculty member in African American Studies and History and a faculty affiliate of the Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program, will serve on the committee for the Interseminars graduate fellowship program 2024-2025. For more information, please check out [this link.](#)



## WGGP Student Recognitions

GRID student [Adetutu Fabusoro](#) will be presenting at the Academy of Human Resource Development in February in Virginia. The title of her paper is 'Career Experiences of Non-Native English-Speaking Workers in Corporate Organizations in Relation to Communication Competence: A Structured Literature Review. Here is [the link to the conference](#).

GRID student [Janet Husunukpe](#) presented her paper 'Centering African Feminist Practice in Decolonial Discourse' at the African Studies Conference that took place in December 2023.

GRID student [Mahbubeh Moqadam](#) has published her first peer-reviewed academic article in the Journal of Asian African Studies titled '[Ali Shariati and Crafting a Collective Revolutionary Islamic Identity for Women: A Socio-Historical Perspective](#)' (November 2023).

## WGGP Funding and Fellowship Opportunities

### WGGP Event Programming Support is now available!

The Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program invites University of Illinois faculty to apply for funding to support event programming with an emphasis on gender equity globally.

This funding is available to support programming such as conferences, symposia, workshops, or lectures that align with WGGP's mission. Preference will be given to programming that includes the Global South. More details can be found [here](#).

### Graduate Fellowships and Awards

WGGP holds an annual competition for graduate student awards with a deadline of **February 16, 2024**. We offer two full fellowships through the Rita and Arnold Goodman Fellowship and the Barbara A. Yates International Fellowship. We also have smaller research awards through the Accad & Vieille International Research and the Due & 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 North Africa and the Middle East. A graduate student enrolled at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign may apply for one or more of



the awards on the application form by submitting the required materials. Only one application form is needed. [More details can be found here.](#)

WGGP awards flyer

## Insights from a Former Fellow: An Interview with Dr. Ananya Tiwari on Winning the WGGP Fellowships

Dr. Ananya Tiwari, an assistant professor in Educational Psychology and ACES faculty fellow, focuses on the intersection of educational psychology, cross-cultural psychology, and evaluation. Her work emphasizes the sense of belonging, social and emotional development, educational technology, artificial intelligence, and international development. She explores how identities, social structures, and experiences influence the sense of belonging among marginalized communities and evaluates the impact of policies and programs aimed at enhancing this belonging. Previously, as a GRID student, Dr. Tiwari was honored with two WGGP Fellowships, recognizing her contributions and potential in her field of study.



[Click here to view the complete interview](#)

## Campus-wide Funding and other Opportunities

### Lemann Center Research Grants

The Lemann Center at the University of Illinois offers two annual research grants, with a maximum of \$20,000 each, for faculty conducting Brazil-related research. Eligibility requires full-time status and proficiency in Portuguese. The center promotes both individual and collaborative research projects, with the latter encouraging partnerships between U of I faculty and Brazilian institutions. Visit the Lemann Center's [webpage](#) for details and eligibility, or contact their team at [lemann@illinois.edu](mailto:lemann@illinois.edu).

### **Jean M. Due and Marianne Ferber International Research Award**

The Jean M. Due and Marianne Ferber International Research Award was established through generous gifts from emeriti professors Marianne Ferber and Jean Due.

The Jean M. Due and Marianne Ferber International Research Award is intended to provide financial support for individuals from developing countries conducting dissertation research on gender and development issues, especially research that promises to make a significant contribution to the improvement of women's lives and gender equity in the developing world. Applications are due by **March 15**. For more information, please [check out this link](#).

### **Nelle M. Signor Graduate Scholarship in International Relations**

The Nelle M. Signor Graduate Scholarship in International Relations is awarded to outstanding University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign graduate students for research in international relations (both in the U.S. and abroad).

The Nelle M. Signor Graduate Scholarship in International Relations is funded through a generous gift from the late Nelle M. Signor. Applications are due by **March 15**. [More information is available here](#).

### **The Illinois Database of Grants and Fellowships for Graduate Students**

*Fellowship Finder* specializes in awards offered by *external* funders: government agencies, private foundations, corporations, and other entities outside of the university. We also include a handful of campus opportunities, such as those offered by the Graduate College. Best of all, *Fellowship Finder* is a curated database, meaning that real people (we here in the Office of External Fellowships) make sure that the listings we include are truly useful to graduate students. [How does the database work? Let's take a look at this page](#), and to learn about the fellowships that are right for you, [go to this link](#).



# WGGP Event: In Focus

## Celebrate International Women's Day: "12 Women Who Changed the World: Untold Stories"

Join us on **March 5, 2024, from 3:30-5:00 PM** at the Levis Faculty Center, Third Floor, for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's seventh annual International Women's Day event. Hosted by the Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program (WGGP) and the Humanities Research Institute (HRI), this year's theme is "12 Women Who Changed the World: Untold Stories." We're bringing together faculty, staff, students, and community members to honor women who have made significant contributions to academia and beyond. The event will feature 12 speakers from our university and community, each sharing a 5-minute story about a woman whose work has profoundly impacted scholarship, their discipline, or academic community life. Mark your calendars and join us in celebrating the remarkable achievements of women who have shaped our world. More information is available [here](#).

## Upcoming Transnational Feminist Conference: A Landmark Event at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

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 40th 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 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 (Department of Sociology), Nehal Elmeligy ((Department of Sociology), Marina Moscoso (Department of Geography), and Mahbubeh Moqadam (Department of Sociology) are leading the charge. 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 transnational feminist movements. To learn more about the conference, you can [check out this link](#).

[Click here for a complete list of WGGP Spring 2024 events.](#)

## 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 Wednesday, we celebrated Carolyn Tomchik.**

Carolyn's academic path is a testament to her dedication and excellence. She earned all her degrees from the Department of Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological Engineering: a Bachelor of Science in 2005, a Master of Science in 2011, and a Ph.D. in 2016. Carolyn's involvement extended far beyond the classroom during her time as a student. She was an active member of the Engineering Council, took on key roles in the Student Branch of the American Nuclear Society, and participated in numerous student service activities. Her leadership skills were recognized when she was elected to the Knights of St. Patrick, the highest honor for leadership among engineering undergraduates. She eventually rose to become the Director of this group. Carolyn's graduate years were marked by several distinguished honors, highlighting her academic prowess and commitment to her field. She received the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Fellowship, the U.S. Department of Energy Nuclear Engineering/Health Physics Fellowship, and the Carver Fellowship. Carolyn Tomchik stands as an exemplary figure, embodying the highest academic standards while fervently working to enhance the experiences and opportunities for her peers and making significant contributions to the stature of the Department, College, and University. Her story inspires current and future students, showcasing the impact of combining academic excellence with active community involvement.

*You can find the series every Wednesday on WGGP [website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#). You can learn more about the 150 for 150 website [here](#).*

## Campus Announcements

### Organize & Analyze: Social Movements Reading Group

Join a multi-disciplinary reading group on social movements. This reading group focuses on global working-class social movements. We will begin with theories of social movements to develop a shared vocabulary, then delve into movement history and analyses of contemporary struggles. We plan to meet biweekly to discuss a range of both theoretical and empirical texts alongside cultural expressions of movements via short stories, plays, and poems. We hope our readings and discussions will inform our intellectual development, political education, and praxis.

To join you can get in touch with: [Soraya Cipolla](#) (Department of French & Italian), [Chelsea Birchmier](#) (Department of Psychology), [Karla Sanabria](#) (School of Social Work), [Essam Elkorghli](#) (Department of Education Policy), [Marcos Alarcón-Olivos](#) (History Department)

*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](mailto: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](mailto:wggp@illinois.edu)



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