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Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program

# *Monthly Perspectives*

November ♦ Fall 2023

## **Faculty Awards & Recognitions**



Dr. Angharad N. Valdivia

### **Congratulations to Professor Emeritus Angharad N. Valdivia for being named Cordova-Puchot Scholar of the Year!**

The Latina/Latino Communication Studies Division and La Raza Caucus of the National Communication Association have awarded Professor Emerita Angharad N. Valdivia the Cordova-Puchot Scholar of the Year Award, the division and caucus' highest honor. This award is in recognition of Prof. Valdivia's "excellence in teaching, research, service, and advocacy" as well as her work in elevating Latina/o/x voices throughout her career. The awards committee expressed that Prof. Valdivia "embod[ies]

the spirit of the award in scholarship, praxis, and mentorship." Prof. Valdivia will be presented with the award at the upcoming NCA meeting on November 17th.

### **Dr. Eric McDuffie joins the Third Interseminars Project as Convenor!**

The Humanities Research Institute (HRI) at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign has launch the third Interseminars Initiative project, titled "Collisions Across Colorlines." Dr. [Eric McDuffie](#) will be one of the three faculty conveners for the project. His fellow conveners are Gilberto Rosas (Anthropology and Latina/Latino Studies) and Gisela Sin (Political Science).



Dr. Eric McDuffie, Associate Professor, Department of African American Studies

## Faculty Affiliates in the News



WGGP Faculty Affiliate Antoinette Burton's op-ed piece, "The humanities is not at a crossroads, but is flourishing beyond traditional classrooms" appeared in the Chicago Tribune on October 26, 2023.

Burton states, "We're standing at the intersection of the campus and the community, and that's where we are already doing some of our best, most consequential work."

[Click to view article in Chicago Tribune](#)

Dr. Antoinette Burton

## WGGP Student Recognitions

### Presentations

Cintia Martins Freitas participated in a panel discussion titled "Ask a Grad Student" organized by the Gender and Women Studies Department on October 24.

Marwah Maqbool Malik presented at the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) conference held in Chicago from 19th -21st October. Her presentation was titled "Solidarity Not Charity": Rethinking Flood Relief from a Feminist Planning Perspective." She also presented at the International Conference of Critical Geographies (ICCG) held in Mexico City from the 23rd 28th of October. Her presentation was titled "Adaptation(s) otherwise: knowledge and praxis from the peripheries."

Marina Moscoso Arabia presented at the International Conference of Critical Geographies (ICCG) held in Mexico City from 23rd - 28th October. Her presentation was titled "Neoliberalismo Desde el Medio (y hacia adentro): Pragmatica Vitalista y Fabrica Social."

Mayra Alejandra Saenz Amaguaya's Job Market Paper, titled "Can Institutional Factors Affect Intergenerational Family Transfers?" was accepted at The Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA) Conference, jointly organized with the Latin American Chapter of the Econometric Society (LAMES). The joint conference "is currently regarded as one of the most prestigious gatherings of academic economists in the developing world, not just in Latin America." It was held in Bogota, Colombia, on November 17.

Aysenur Senel presented at the National Women Studies Association Conference held from October 26-29, 2023. She presented in the "Roundtable: Dissident Identities: Gendered Cartographies of Resistance in Communities of Color."

Beatriz Carvalho Teixeira attended the Brazilian National Association of Graduate Studies and Research in Social Sciences (ANPOCS) conference on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Her paper was titled "*Violence against Women in Politics: An Exploratory Study of the 2022 Elections in Brazil*" and was presented in the session titled "Feminisms in Politics: representation, participation, and Movements."

Lila Ann M. Wong, one of the GRID fellows and a Doctoral Candidate in the Department of Anthropology at UIUC, and her colleague Hamadou Traoré collaboratively developed the program "Éducation Autour de la Culture" (Education Centered on Culture) in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso. Involving multiple weekly workshops in storytelling, dance, theater, music, singing, and crafts for approximately 100 students from January to July 2023, the initiative culminated in a 45-minute performance by the students during the school's end-of-year closing ceremony. Lila and Hamadou also organize a sponsorship program for school children who cannot afford school fees and materials, supporting 30 elementary and middle school children in need. Please contact Lila directly (Imdodge2@illinois.edu) for more details about the "Education Centered on Culture" project and the opportunity to sponsor schoolchildren in Bobo."

## Awards

Lila Ann M. Wong, one of the GRID fellows and a Doctoral Candidate in the Department of Anthropology at UIUC, is awarded a Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant; she recently completed 14 months of ethnographic research in Burkina Faso studying the political economy of cultural development, with a special emphasis on Burkinabè women's efforts to build of careers in the performing arts. Lila has been selected for the 2023-24 US

Student Fulbright Fellowship, originally intended for Burkina Faso. Due to changes in the US State Department's security restrictions, it is now being transferred to Côte d'Ivoire.

Anissa Chitwanga, a GRID fellow, has been awarded the: "Daniel S. Sanders Peace and Social Justice Memorial Fund Travel Award." This award will be used for travel expenses to support Anissa's research presentation at the biennial Joint Conference on Social Work, Education, and Social Development (SWSD), scheduled for April 4-7, 2024, in Panama.

## Other Achievements

Anissa Chitwanga passed the preliminary dissertation defense, achieving the status of a Ph.D. Candidate. The topic of Anissa's dissertation is: "Intersections of Agency, Identity, and Gender: Exploring the Experiences, Needs, and Aspirations of Malawian Women in Blesser Relationships and their Links to Mental, Sexual, and Reproductive Health."

## WGGP Alumni Spotlight



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

### November Spotlight on Dr. Pronoy Rai

Dr. Pronoy Rai's academic journey was enriched by the Gender and International Development (GRID) minor program. WGGP fellowships from the program supported his research in India and paved the way for his academic career. Dr. Rai is also a dedicated educator, teaching "Gender and International

Development" to undergraduates.

**1. Current position:** Dr. Pronoy Rai is an associate professor of Geography.

**2. Location:** at Portland State University in Oregon.

**3. The focus of the current work:** His research focuses on migration, social change, caste, masculinities, climate, and agrarian issues, with a regional emphasis on rural India and Portland, Oregon.

He encourages current GRID students to embrace the program's diversity and utilize campus resources for fellowships to achieve their academic goals. Connect with Dr. Rai on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#) for insights into his research and academic pursuits.

For more information about Pronoy and his work, please see [the full interview available on our website.](#)

Click to see more WGGP Alumni Spotlight news

## WGGP Event: In Focus



To mark the National Domestic Violence Awareness month, WGGP hosted a workshop on Domestic Violence (DV) Awareness led by Lovern J. Gordon. Lovern is the President and Founder of [Love Life Now Foundation, Inc. \(LLN\)](#) which promotes year-round awareness around DV. Her international and award-winning memoir on domestic violence titled 'The Legacy He Left Me' narrates her experience of witnessing domestic violence as a child, and as a survivor from a young adult abusive relationship.

During the workshop, Lovern talked about ways of recognizing domestic abuse in its various forms and manifestations. She also

talked about the stigma associated with DV shelters, which often acts as a barrier for people trying to escape abusive places or relationships. She shared "there is still a lot of shame associated with being a survivor of abuse or seeking help from DV agencies, when there shouldn't be. The act of abuse was done to you and that shame and blame belongs with abusers. DV agencies are located just about everywhere and serve as a gateway to healing and offer so much more than shelter."

## WGGP Events to look out for!

### Fellowship Writing Workshop





Join us on November 3rd, 2-4pm for a Graduate Student Workshop on 'Writing Effective Fellowship Proposals', led by Dana Johnson who is the Assistant Director of External Fellowships at the Graduate College. This will be followed by a short fellowship tips session led by graduate students who have successfully received external fellowships in the past.

[Click to view more details and register](#)



### Graduate Student Workshop in Evaluation Design

Join us for a Graduate student workshop on "Evaluation design with a Gender Focus: lift gender-blindness in development evaluations" on December 1st, 12-2:30pm in 306 Coble Hall. The workshop will be led by Rana Elmeligy who is an international development and humanitarian practitioner. Lunch will be provided to registered attendees.

[Click to view more details and register](#)

### Save the date!

WGGP, in collaboration with Gender and Women Studies Department will host a conference on "Transnational Feminist Resistance(s) Against Contemporary Violence(s)" on April 4-5th, 2024. Keep watching this space for more details!

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

### Women in History Wednesday



Every week WGGP celebrates 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 **Tonja Buford Bailey** who graduated from the University of Illinois in 1993. In 1992, she won the NCAA championship in 400-meter hurdles. Tonja competed in three Olympics (1992, 1996, 2000), being the first female Illini to make the US Olympic team and win a medal.

From 2008 to 2013, she was head coach of the women's track and field team at the University of Illinois and led the team to a Big Ten championship in 2013.

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](#).

## Funding Opportunities

**ILLINOIS GLOBAL INSTITUTE**  
**WOMEN & GENDER IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES PROGRAM**

**2024-2025 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, 2024, by 11:59 p.m.  
 More information at <https://wggp.illinois.edu/>

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

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### WGGP Graduate Student Fellowships and Awards are now live!

[WGGP Graduate Student Fellowships](#) are now open and will be due on **February 16th, 2024**. The awards include two full fellowships through the *Rita and Arnold Goodman Fellowship* and the *Barbara A. Yates International Fellowship*, and a smaller research award through the *Accad & Vieille International Research Award*.

For more information about eligibility and other requirements, please visit the [WGGP](#) website.

## IGI Language fellowships now open!

This fellowship provides support for critical language training necessary to fields of academic and professional development for UIUC graduate students. The fellowship offers academic year support (AY 2023-2024) to graduate students at the MA or PhD level. Successful applicants will receive a \$20,000 stipend and a waiver of tuition and some fees. Applications are due by **Friday, Jan. 26, 2024, at 11:59pm**. For more details, visit the [IGI Graduate Language Fellowship](#) webpage.

## Don't forget to apply for American Association of University Women (AAUW) Scholarships!

The AAUW offers a range of scholarships to domestic and international women students to pursue their academic research or community-based projects. The International Fellowship Program provides support for women pursuing full-time graduate or postdoctoral study in the United States to women who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents, and who intend to return to their home country to pursue a professional career. Opportunities for domestic students range from dissertation completion fellowships to community action grants. The deadline to apply is **November, 15th**. You can find more information on AAUW website.

## Apply for Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships!

Foreign Language & Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships support undergraduate and graduate study in modern foreign languages in combination with area studies, international studies, or international or area aspects of professional studies. The purpose of the FLAS program is to train students to integrate global knowledge into a future career, particularly in areas of national need, such as college or university teaching, government service, and business. FLAS fellowships are available for both undergraduate and graduate students and the deadline to apply is **Friday, January 26th, 2024 at 11:59 P.M. CST**. For more details, visit the [FLAS](#) webpage.

## WGGP Event Programming Support 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](#).



*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

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