MIAMI UNIVERSITY | COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE
Department of Global and Intercultural Studies

Global and Intercultural Studies Department Newsletter

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Welcome back to students, faculty, staff and friends of the Department of Global and Intercultural Studies! Read on to find out what the GIC community has been up to over the summer, as they work to bring their globally- and academically-engaged pursuits to the classroom this fall.

Student News

Buddhist Temple Pilgrimage in Japan



Caitlin Buzzard (ITS, LIN, East Asian Language and Culture '28) spent the summer on an 870-mile pilgrimage to Buddhist temples on the island of Shikoku, Japan. The experience is part of her Honors Senior Project. Along the way, she collected data about local experiences of Osettai (a cultural practice of gift-giving along the pilgrimage). She received gifts of food, conversation, and kindness on her sojourn: "One person may give me a bottle of water to please Kobo Daishi, another may hand me coins to pray for their family, and someone else might stop their car on the side of the road to give me a fresh donut because I looked like I needed it." Read more about Caitlin's journey here.

Caitlin's Photo Blog

Faculty-led Student Trip to Ecuador



This May, GIC took its first summer workshop trip to Ecuador as part of our growing partnership with the Tandana Foundation. Co-led by GIC faculty **Juan Carlos Albarrán** and Economics faculty Jenny Minier, ten students experienced life in the Andes for one week, living in homestays and volunteering with the community in a setting ringed by volcanoes. Read more about the meaningful imprint that experience made at the Tandana blog.

Watch this space for news of our next trip to Ecuador!

ITS Major Selected as Dean's Scholar



Kate Louagie (ITS '27) has been awarded the CAS Dean's Scholarship for 2026-27 to complete a project titled “International Systems Theory and What We Owe to Each Other on a Global Scale” under the mentorship of **Indivar Jonnalagadda**. She will look closely at two case studies of international crisis, where the lack of international ethical principles precipitated harm on certain populations. She will then address these empirical cases through philosophical and theoretical analysis and create a system of foreign policy recommendations to ethically ground the practice of international relations.

Did you have a notable summer travel, research, or work experience? Click here to let us know about it!

Events

Global and Intercultural Studies Welcome Event



Monday, September 14, 4-5:30 | McGuffey 415

Mandatory event for all majors and minors in GIC programs (ITS, WGS, LAS, CRE, AMS, MEJIS). Come meet your professors and other students. Learn about career support, internships, research opportunities and more.

J-Term Trip to Brazil Info Session



More Info

Global Brazil: Economic & Culture from Bahia to Rio | September 2, 6pm, MacMillan 212 **|** September 11, 11am, FSB 0027

GIC is teaming up with ECO for a J-Term workshop to Brazil. Come to the info sessions or click on the link to learn more!

WGS Fall Break Chicago Experience



October 9-11 | Application deadline September 11

WGS faculty will lead a student trip to Chicago during Miami's fall break The trip will connect students interested in the WGS program with diverse professional settings, community leaders, and alumni

Apply to the Chicago Trip

career paths, with an emphasis on LGBTQ+ connections. Apply today!

GIC Student-Faculty Lunchtime Research Seminar

Monday, September 21, 1:30-2:30 | MMH 012

Bring your lunch and learn more about research by professors and students in GIC.

RSVP for pre-circulated paper that will form the basis of discussion; details forthcoming via listserv.

WGS Fall Fest: Community, Careers, Connections



Wednesday, September 30, 11-2:30 | Fritz Pavilion, Armstrong Student Center

Join us for these exciting activities:

·Career Exploration

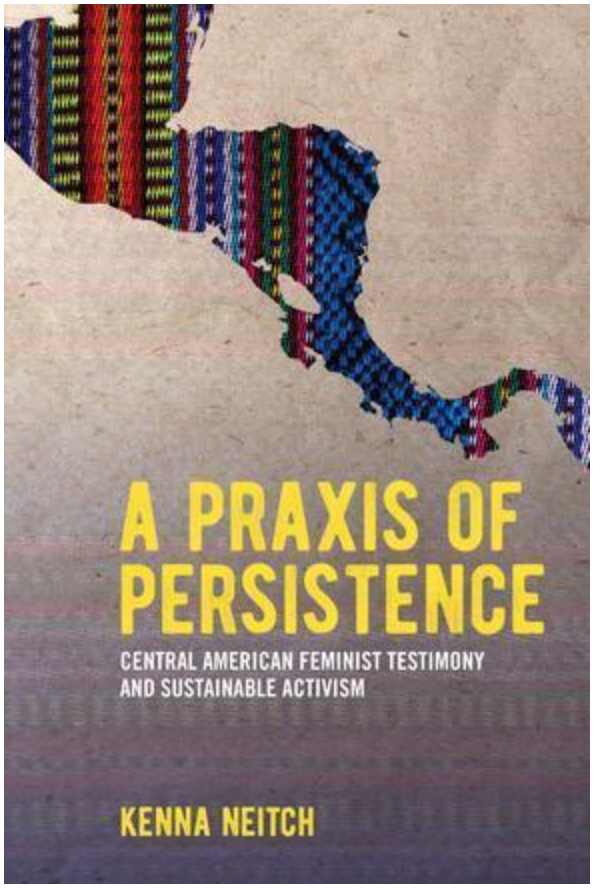
·Games, Crafting, and Prizes

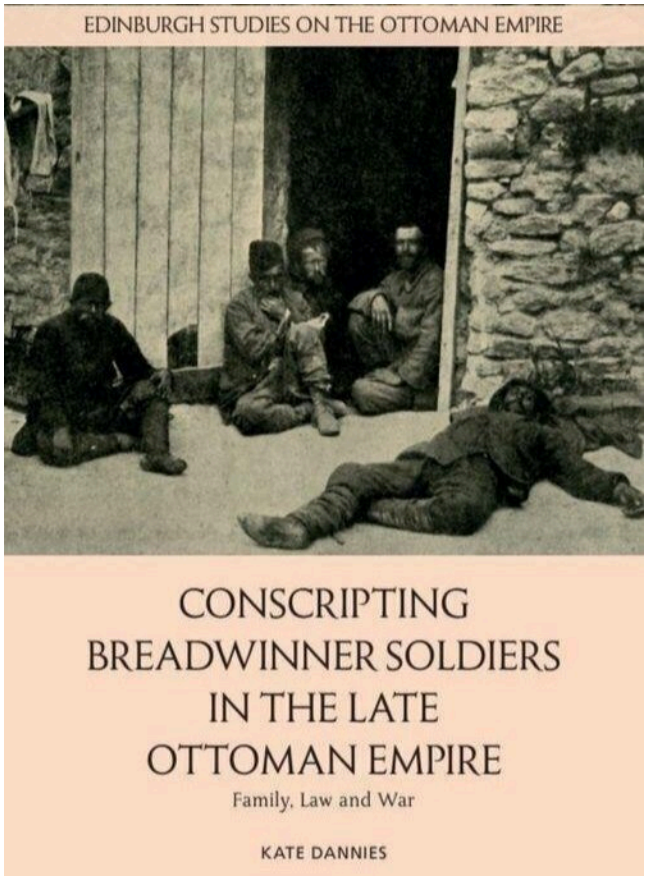
·Food and Snacks

·Networking with WGS faculty

Faculty News

Neitch and Dannies Publish Books





It's not every day--or even every year--that we can celebrate the publication of an academic monograph, but two GIC Faculty members published their first books this summer. **Kenna Neitch** published *A Praxis of Persistence: Central American Feminist Testimony and Sustainable Activism* (SUNY Press, 2026). In it, she examines the documented testimonial record of feminist activist movements since the 1980s to argue that the practice of feminist persistence is adaptable across contexts.

New Books Network Interview with Kenna Neitch

Kate Dannies published *Conscripting Breadwinner Soldiers in the Late Ottoman Empire* (Edinburgh University Press, 2026), in which she examines how gendered politics and practices shaped Ottoman military policy and the lived experience of World War I in the Ottoman Empire. Her book was awarded a Humanities Center Book Publication Grant to support its translation into Turkish.

New Books Network Interview with Kate Dannies

Stay tuned for opportunities to engage with both of these authors about their research, scholarly, and publication trajectories later this semester!

Jonnalagadda Receives Global Justice, Foreign Relations Fellowships



Indivar Jonnalagadda has been selected as an Academics Stand Against Poverty Fellow for 2026-27. This fellowship program is part of the Yale Global Justice Program and seeks to bridge rigorous scholarship with practical reform. As part of this fellowship, he will be working on interdisciplinary research on the question of global habitat justice.

Additionally, he has been selected as a Higher Education Ambassador for 2026-27 by the educational arm of the Council on Foreign Relations. This program brings together educators from across the country who are dedicated to helping students make sense of the world around them.

Albarrán Discusses Cuba on CNN, *The Conversation*



Juan Carlos Albarrán spoke to CNN this summer about deteriorating conditions in Cuba and the prospect of humanitarian aid to the island.

Watch CNN Clip

In related news, Albarrán published the article "Cuba's Future Remains in Limbo while Trump's Unpredictable Foreign Policy Offers No Clear Path Forward," in *The Conversation* (July 13, 2026), in which he considers the ambivalence that Cubans on and off the island feel about the potential for regime change and a U.S. role.

Amador and Scott Host Latin American Students in Chicago



For the eighth year in a row, this August **José Amador** and **Damon Scott** co-led a weeklong workshop in Chicago for Latin American students participating in the Study of U.S. Institutions (SUSI) through the U.S. State Department. These students represent the most promising leaders, scholars, and innovators from their respective countries, and build powerful international connections through this program.

Detloff Oxford University Press Blog on Gender Justice



Madelyn Detloff is the editor of a new blog, "Gender Justice In These Times," on the Oxford University Press site. Contributors examine the intersections of gender with dynamics of power and privilege in the human condition. You can read the blog here, and access the full Oxford Intersections series on Gender Justice through Miami's library database subscription.

Amador Conducts Research in Brazil



José Amador traveled to Brazil this summer to present at the Brazilian Studies Association in Salvador. With support from Miami's Global Travel Fund, he visited archives in Belo Horizonte to research how mineral extractivism impacted Black workers' struggles in Nova Lima, Brazil's richest mining city.

Alcalde Publishes on Scholarly Productivity, Representation



Cristina Alcalde published two articles over the summer:

"Encouraging, Defining, and Evaluating 'Expanded Scholarship' as Productivity in Academic Institutions." Co-authored with Ellen Riggle. *ADVANCE Journal* 2026 7 (3): 1–31.

"On Silencing, Disappearance, and the Refusal to be Defeated." *Dear Higher Education: Letters from the Social Justice Mountain*, Volume 3. Special Issue on Women of Color in Higher Education: The Lonely Only. University of Minnesota: SPARK Academic.

Coates to Head Social Justice Organization



At the recent annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, **Rodney Coates** was named President-Elect of the for the upcoming year. The organization is an interdisciplinary community of scholars, practitioners, advocates, and students interested in the application of critical, scientific, and humanistic perspectives to the study of vital social problems.

Dannies Presents at Conference in Bulgaria



Kate Dannies gave a presentation titled "Family, Masculine Identities, and Desertion during World War I" at the CIEPO Ottoman Studies conference in Varna, Bulgaria. She appears here with one of her colleagues doing research at the Bulgarian National Library in Sofia.

GIC Pet(s) of the Month



Feast your eyes on these feline furballs from **Walt Vanderbush**'s household. The orange boy in the front is Kingsolver Vanderbush McClellan. King is their sweet 15 year old guy who loves belly rubs, naps, and treats. Lady Amelia Grace Vanderbush McClellan, also known as Mimi, is their 4 year old black and white girl cat. Mimi loves cuddles, exploring, and destroying things.

Save the Date

Upcoming September GIC Dates and Deadlines

- **September 2, 11** Brazil Info Sessions
- **September 11** P&T Committee Meetings
- **September 11** WGS Chicago applications due
- **September 14** All-GIC Welcome Event
- **September 18** GIC Faculty Meeting
- **September 21** Student-Faculty Research Seminar
- **September 29** Grad and Law School Workshop
- **September 30** WGS Fall Fest
- Coming soon: info session for a May trip to Ecuador!

Submit newsletter content to Elena Jackson Albarrán at albarrej@miamioh.edu

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