

Georgia  
Tech

Atlanta Global Studies Center

Georgia State  
University



September 2021 Newsletter

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Welcome to the Atlanta Global Studies Center Newsletter

We look forward to "seeing" you at our events and partnering with you through our various initiatives! Learn more about the exciting ways we are empowering the Atlanta region's global agenda on the [AGSC website!](#)

Atlanta Global  
Studies Center

"A Higher Education Hub Empowering  
the Region's Global Agenda"



News &  
Announcements

The AGSC has some exciting updates and announcements!  
Check out some of the latest news and new opportunities.



Farewell Anna! With our deepest gratitude...

In June, Anna Westerstahl Stenport, founding co-director of the Atlanta Global Studies Center, professor of global studies, and chair of the School of Modern Languages, was named professor of communications and dean of the Rochester Institute of Technology College of Liberal Arts. Anna started her [new role](#) on September 1.

It has truly been a pleasure and an honor to work with such a visionary leader and an amazing colleague over the past three years to advance the Atlanta Global Studies Center's mission and strategic priorities in strengthening global competency, advanced language learning, international studies, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. We will forever treasure Anna's leadership that has given rise to the bold dreams we shared and tangible projects we launched. Thank you, Anna, for making magic happen and good luck on your next endeavor!

More information about filling the role Anna vacates will be forthcoming in the near future.

Let Us Advertise Your Event!

We would love to help you publicize your event on our AGSC Monthly Newsletter. If you have an upcoming event that would interest and benefit the AGSC community, please fill out the form below!



Atlanta Global Studies Center

"A Higher Education Hub Empowering the Region's Global Agenda"

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendar, exciting events are happening at the Atlanta Global Studies Center in the next few weeks!

"Authors Amplified" with *Global Atlanta* and "Race Beyond Borders"

Stayed tuned for the continuation of two signature series in October and November. To learn more and view past event recordings, visit [Authors Amplified](#) and [Race Beyond Borders](#) webpages.

Race Beyond Borders

Explore where Atlanta intersects with the global conversation on race for concrete action.

Authors Amplified

A SERIES OF BOOK TALKS PRESENTED BY:

GLOBAL ATLANTA

SPONSORED BY:

Georgia Tech

Atlanta Global Studies Center

Georgia State University

13th Annual Georgia Tech Diversity Symposium

Wed. September 15, 2021 | 8am-2pm EST

The 2021 Georgia Tech Diversity Symposium will feature [Ibram X. Kendi](#), historian and award-winning author of *How to Be An Antiracist*.

The event will also include panel discussions with Tech community members on the topics of local, national, and international anti-racism movements. The day will conclude with the recognition of this year's Diversity Champion Awards and Faces of Inclusive Excellence honorees.

*The AGSC is proud to be part of the [Symposium planning committee](#) this year!*

[More Information](#) | [Register Here](#)

Global Climate Action Symposium

September 27-29, 2021

GSU Faculty Community on Virtual Exchange

**Virtual Event**  
**Thurs. September 23 | 3-5pm EST**

Join a supportive community of GSU faculty interested and engaged in virtual exchange! We will meet at 3pm on Sept. 23, Oct. 21, and Nov. 18, 2021. Each meeting runs for about 90 minutes to 2 hours. Feel free to join any meeting and come for all or part of it. All are welcome! <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82027968405>

**September 23:** Introduction to GSU Virtual Exchange Resources; Upcoming VE Workshops, Conferences, and Professional Development Opportunities; Current VE Projects and Planning Discussion

[READ MORE](#)

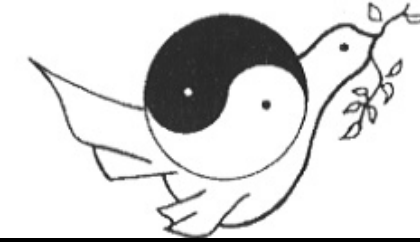
World Languages Week

Symposium themes are as follows:

- September 27: Sustainable Food Systems
- September 28: Climate & Health
- September 29: UN Ocean's Decade

[More Information](#) | [Register Here](#)

Peace History Society Virtual Conference  
2021: Oct 21-23



Struggling for justice, struggling for peace: peace history engages with visions and movements around racial, climate, gender, and social justice.

[More Information](#) | [Register Here](#)

The conference opens Thursday evening, October 21, with a presentation about the [Atlanta Peace Initiative/Peace Education Project](#), housed within AGSC.

Registration gives you access to the film [Sweet Home, Monteverde](#) for a week prior to the conference, and the filmmakers will join us to talk about it on Friday evening. The film follows a group of Alabama pacifists who refused to be drafted to fight in Korea. Emigrating to Costa Rica (which had just abolished its army), they created a community that is still known for its environmental stewardship.

Midday dialogues Friday and Saturday feature members of the [National Council of Elders](#) in conversation with students from metro-Atlanta and Minneapolis-St. Paul. The midday dialogue on Friday with Aljosie Harding will also include Alexa Vaca and Quincy Jean-Louis.

The conference closes Saturday night with Instigating Peace: Mountainkeepers and Curious Minds. *Join artist-instigators Paul Corbit Brown (photo journalist-environmentalist) and Sandra Agustín (choreographer and creative engagement specialist) as they share stories of environmental protection and the art of holding difficult conversations. Presentation and active engagement.*

The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict:

2020-2021 and What Comes Next



Presented by [Georgia State University Middle East Studies Center](#) and [The University of Michigan Department of Political Science](#)  
Tuesday, October 19 | 10-11:30am EST

Speaker: Mark Tessler, Samuel J. Eldersveld Collegiate Professor of Political Science, University of Michigan

Join us for an in-depth talk with Dr. Mark Tessler, Samuel J. Eldersveld Collegiate Professor of Political Science at the University of Michigan.  
[READ MORE.](#)

In-person:  
Georgia State University Downtown Campus  
8th Floor - Room 830  
25 Park Place NE  
Atlanta, GA 30303

To attend online: [register here](#)

Register for the Global Inclusion Conference!



October 25-29, 2021

Georgia State University is the exclusive host sponsor of the 2021 [Global Inclusion Conference](#) taking place in Atlanta October 25-29th. The conference will be hybrid (plenary events held at the Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel with concurrent sessions offered virtually). [Conference schedule available.](#) [Register now!](#)





# Summer 2021 Events & Initiatives Recap

The Atlanta Global Studies Center has been busy!  
Here are some of the exciting events from June-August.

## AGSC Supports Dissemination of COVID Health Information

Over the past year, Atlanta Global Studies Center has supported Georgia State University’s Prevention Research Center and the Adult Literacy Research Center in translating vital [COVID health resources](#) into different languages. AGSC funding helped pay for the translation of [COVID vaccine hesitancy videos](#) as well as [flu vaccine videos](#). The COVID vaccine videos were shared nationally with the following organizations:

- The Adult Learning Resource Center (ALRC)
- The Open Door Collective
- World Education.org
- Health Literacy Listserv at IHA Health Literacy
- CDC-funded National Resource Center for Refugees, Immigrants, and Migrants (NRC-RIM)
- Georgia Department of Public Health
- Center for Pan Asian Community Services
- Cosmo Health Center and other Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)
- and more!



AGSC values the work of the Prevention Research Center and the Adult Literacy Research Center and wishes to express its thanks to the dedicated faculty and staff involved in this project for creating culturally and linguistically appropriate vaccine education materials that have reached thousands nationwide. These resources continue to be invaluable tools for healthcare providers working with patients who speak various languages. For more information, please visit <https://prc.gsu.edu/>

## AGSC Associate Director Dr. Ozkan Co-leads Project Global Officer, a Department of Defense Initiative

The Georgia Tech School of Modern Languages' Project Global Officer (Project GO) grant proposal has been selected for funding by the [US. Department of Defense/Defense Language and National Security Education Office \(DLNSEO\)](#). This

award, in the amount of \$486,925 annually (renewable for three years), will fund language programming in Korean, Japanese, and Russian and provide training to ROTC cadets across the nation. Please join us congratulating the project team:



Co-PIs and Co-Directors:

Dr. Sebnem Ozkan, Associate Director of the Atlanta Global Studies Center (AGSC)  
Dr. Natalie Khazaal, Assistant Professor of Arabic; Director of Middle East and North Africa Studies & Arabic programs

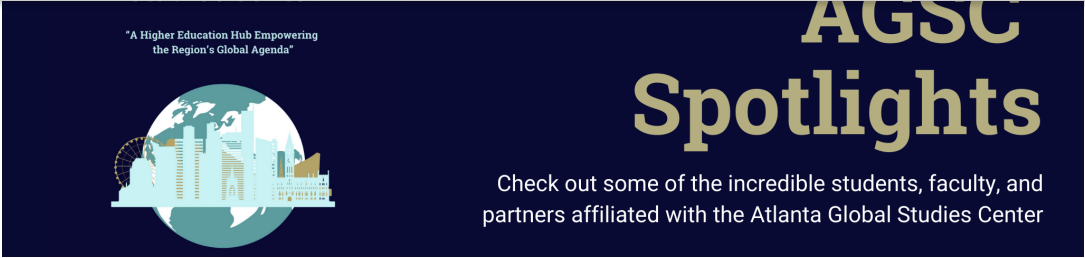
Language Directors:

Dr. Stuart Goldberg, Associate Professor of Russian  
Dr. Jong Hyun Lee, Lecturer of Korean and Korean LBAT Director  
Dr. Kyoko Masuda, Associate Professor of Japanese

Neta Kanny, Academic Program Manager and Project GO Coordinator

Our special thanks and deepest gratitude go to Prof. Vicki Galloway, who started Project GO in 2008 and grew the program through consecutive funding since then. We are so very grateful for the strong foundation she has built and for her support during the proposal writing process.

View the [news release here](#).



Georgia Tech  
FLAS Fellow Spotlight:

Jade Wurapa

**Why is studying a language important to you? Why do you like studying Korean?**

I've always loved studying languages because it allows me to connect with a culture and history other than my own. Through studying languages, I feel like I am given the opportunity to experience other cultures as a native, rather than as a foreigner. I like studying Korean because I love the way the language sounds when it's spoken and because Korean has a very mathematical alphabet so being able to utilize it is really satisfying. It's nice seeing all the characters come together to form words and then piecing all the words together to form sentences. It feels like I'm cracking a code.

**What are your career plans?**

I'm interested in going to law school to pursue a career in immigration law.



**What kind of impact has the FLAS fellowship had on you?**

The FLAS fellowship has helped give my language-learning process more structure. Due to the courses, I must take and the pre and post-program language assessments, FLAS has made me prioritize improving my Korean. FLAS also holds me accountable for the time I spend studying Korean, and I am thankful for that. Lastly, FLAS has helped me to study abroad at Yonsei University in South Korea this semester, and I know that my time here will have a lasting impact on my personal and professional growth.

Learn more about the Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships (FLAS) [here](#).

Georgia State University  
FLAS Fellow Spotlight:

Maleeha Khan,

a Political Science major, studied advanced Korean this summer at Yonsei University's Intensive Summer Program. She has extended her stay in South Korea and is studying Asian Culture, History, and Economics as well as continuing her study of the Korean language at Hanyang University in Seoul.

**How will your language skills and experience living abroad apply to your future work?** Having studied Korean exclusively in the States, it's really been an eye-opening experience coming here and seeing what "it's really like." After graduation, I want to work in international business or communication and work specifically on strengthening ties between businesses and people in other nations. Right now, as I'm learning more about Korean culture and improving my Korean proficiency, I'm learning a lot about what to do and especially what not to do. These simple mistakes in speaking or cultural practices, I believe, are going to be incredibly helpful when working with and securing deals with various foreign companies. I'll also be taking Model UN while I'm at Hanyang, which will help enormously with my understanding of global development, diplomacy, peace-building, which will all be tremendously helpful no matter where I end up working in the international sector.

**What advice would you give to other students who want to study abroad?**

It's never too late to start preparing. I would highly recommend applying for any scholarship you come across. Every little bit helps, and being a scholarship recipient is a great thing to put on your resume, and you will gain a lot of skills through the process. On a personal level, whether you've been planning on studying abroad for a decade, or if you decided to go on a whim, you will struggle. We all struggle in different ways. Take a day and just go get lost on the subway. Walk around a district, a neighborhood. Try a food or drink you've never had before, and don't be afraid to try street food either. Just don't worry about messing up because it will inevitably happen.



**What advice can you give to students interested in applying for a FLAS Fellowship?** Don't feel too intimidated by the language aspect of the scholarship. I've been studying Korean for three years and my passion for my language study has had its ups and downs. Even if you're mildly interested, you should still apply because it serves as a great motivator to consistently take language courses. Becoming proficient in a language requires intense discipline and commitment. Studying abroad is undoubtedly helpful, but one must constantly put in the effort to study and practice the language to improve.

Learn more about the Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships (FLAS) [here](#).

Georgia Tech  
**Faculty Spotlight:**  
**Kelly Comfort**

Meet AGSC affiliated faculty [Dr. Kelly Comfort](#), Associate Professor of Spanish, Director fo Undergraduate Studies, and Director of Spanish program at Georgia Tech's [School of Modern Languages](#)

We talked to Dr. Comfort about her current research and the future of undergraduate studies at the School of Modern Languages.

**What are you currently working on in your research?**

I recently completed [New Directions in Flânerie: Global Perspectives for the Twenty-First Century](#), a forthcoming volume (November 2021, Routledge) that I co-edited and co-introduced with Marylaura Papalas of East Carolina University. The book offers an inclusive and comprehensive treatment of urban walking from 1800 to the present. Divided into three sections—geography, genius, and gender—the introduction establishes the origins of the *flâneur* and *flâneuse* in early foundational texts and explores later works that reimagine *flânerie* in terms of these same three themes.



I wrote Chapter 5 (“Uncivilized *Flânerie*: The *Gaucha-Flâneur* in Jorge Luis Borges’ ‘The South’), which explores how Argentina’s long-established dichotomies between the city and the countryside and between civilization and barbarism play out in terms of the *flâneur* and the *gaucho* in Borges’ short story.

Dr. Papalas and I are also the guest editors of a special issue of the *South Atlantic Review* (SAR) on *Twenty-First-Century Flânerie: From Social Distance to Social Justice* (Summer 2022). In addition to co-writing the introduction to the journal issue, I will contribute an article on “Walking in Senegal: The Artistic Ragpicker, the Stagnated *Flâneuse*, and Environmental Justice in Fabrice Monteiro’s ‘[The Prophecy](#),” which explores impediments to urban walking in terms of race, gender, environment, and postcoloniality as well as the implied connection (or tension) between beauty and waste in this photographic collection.

Finally, I am working on a monograph on *Transatlantic Flânerie in Latin American Modernismo* that compares various prose, poetic, and journalistic works from three of the leading authors of Latin American *modernismo*: Manuel Gutiérrez Nájera, Julián del Casal, and José Asunción Silva. Set primarily in Latin American and European capitals, the works examined show *flâneur* figures who differ considerably in their aims, methods, and successes on either side of the Atlantic. While all three authors portray a utopic *flânerie* marked by the pleasurable search for art, beauty, and modernity on the streets of Paris, they also coincide in their portrayal of a dystopic *flânerie* in Latin American cities: Casal moves the *flâneur* indoors to search for both ugliness and commodities in Havana; Gutiérrez Nájera immobilizes the *flâneur* in his search for the ethical and the aesthetic in Mexico City; Silva depicts a domestic *flâneur* who engages in mental *flânerie* in Bogotá. This comparative study focuses on how the *flâneur*’s genius—his intellectual and artistic nature and ability to conquer *ennui*, overcome *spleen*, and appreciate modern beauty—becomes undermined in the Latin American context and celebrated in the European (mostly Parisian) setting.

**You also serve as the Director of Undergraduate Studies in the School of Modern Languages. What are some of the exciting trends you see in ML undergraduate programs? Can you also tell us about future plans?**

We had 691 students begin the study of a new foreign language at Georgia Tech this fall by enrolling in the 1001 section of Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hebrew, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Russian, or Spanish. We added fifteen additional language courses after Phase I registration to meet the overwhelming demand for our classes from new and continuing students. We have significantly increased the total number of language and area studies minors in the School of Modern Languages as well as the number of Applied Languages and Intercultural Studies (ALIS) majors. We have added two new interdisciplinary minors in African Studies and in Latin American and LatinX Studies. We hope to see the gradual return of our signature Language for Business and Technology (LBAT) summer study abroad programs as well as new models in global education such as Global@Home. Finally, we have made some important modifications to our B.S. in Global Economics and Modern Languages (GEML) in the hopes of making this dual-degree more accessible to students.



I have been invited to present at two Collaboratorium events through the AGSC: one on “Global Citizenship and Service Learning: Best Practices at Georgia Tech” and another on “Urban Walking in a Global Context: A Brief History on *Flânerie* and Why It’s Still Relevant Today.” I have also benefitted from attending numerous talks on a diversity of topics of great interest to me—both professionally and personally.

In terms of our undergraduate and graduate programs in the School of Modern Languages at Georgia Tech, we benefit greatly from FLAS fellowship funding for our students as well as support for program development and partial salaries for many of our less-commonly-taught languages (LCTLS). The AGCS has contributed directly to the expansion of language offerings at Georgia Tech, especially with regard to our lower-level courses in Hebrew, Hindi, Portuguese, and Swahili.

We have also fostered new and important collaborations with Georgia State University as a result of AGSC and its many cross-university endeavors.

**Thank you Dr. Kelly Comfort for taking the time to speak with us!**

AGSC Partner Spotlight:

## Three Years of Partnership with the Center for Urban Language Teaching and Research

AGSC actively collaborates with dedicated partners to promote language learning and global education. **The Center for Urban Language Teaching and Research (CULTR)**, a Title VI National Foreign Language Resource Center at Georgia State University, has been a natural and vital partner of AGSC since 2018. CULTR works to enhance the global skills and opportunities of urban and underrepresented learners and educators and to bring attention to the opportunity gaps in language education that impose social and institutional obstacles to students’ future success as global citizens. CULTR provides professional development for language teachers and career readiness events for students and advocates for equitable access to language instruction and global skills training. CULTR has worked alongside AGSC on numerous initiatives, including the [Greater Atlanta Coalition for Global Education and Research](#), the [How to Grow into a Global Pro Student Video Competition](#), and the [Global Career Series](#) to build language capacity and global skills in the region.

"Together CULTR and the AGSC have built a solid alliance focused on advocacy for language learning and intercultural competence by opening spaces for student voices to be heard." – Dr. William Nichols, Director, CULTR



Every year, CULTR celebrates World Languages Week, and this year is no exception! [The 7th Annual World Languages Week](#) is coming **October 18-22** in a virtual format. [Registration is open](#) to students, teachers, and classes to explore the exciting opportunities tied to global skills. The event brings together organization representatives from businesses, non-profits, government, and education to connect with over 1,000 high school and college students about the global skills essential to their industries. Diverse speaker panels and topics highlight the value of language skills, cultural experiences, and DEI for all learners in the global economy. Registered schools and individuals are welcome to attend their preferred sessions throughout the week. Sessions include representatives from UPS, FBI, Truist, U.S. Department of State, Peace Corps, and many more.

“The best part is getting to hear about others' experiences with their languages and studying abroad! Also, it is really helpful because we are provided with a lot of resources and information to help many of us get prepared for our future with our target language, and are provided with

AGSC is proud to co-sponsor this year's World Languages Week and is excited to attend this memorable event for students and partners! To learn more about the important work that CULTR does to support teachers and students of foreign languages, please visit [www.cultr.gsu.edu](http://www.cultr.gsu.edu)

Atlanta Global Studies Center


"A Higher Education Hub Empowering the Region's Global Agenda"



Upcoming Partner Events

 **USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Annual USAID Historically Black Colleges and Universities International Development Conference



**USAID-HBCU**  
International Development Conference

September 15-16  **USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is pleased to announce the opening of registration for the **Annual USAID Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) International Development Conference**. This event will take place virtually and will provide information on the Agency's work overseas on issues such as:

- Global health;
- Humanitarian assistance; and
- Resilience and food security.

In addition, there will be a career expo in which participants can learn more about job opportunities with the Agency and also interact directly with USAID staff who are working in these roles.

Wednesday September 15–Thursday, September 16, 2021

Please register at: <https://usaid-hbcu.conference.tc/>

Current students and alumni from HBCUs who are interested in exploring careers in international development should plan to participate!

**September 15-16**

GSU students, alumni, and faculty are invited to participate in the USAID Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) International Development Conference, September 15-16, 2021. The virtual event will provide information on work overseas on issues such as global health, humanitarian assistance, and resilience and food security. There will be a career expo to learn about job opportunities with the agency and interact directly with USAID staff who are working in various roles.

Please register at: <https://usaid-hbcu.conference.tc/>.

If you'd like to subscribe to the AGSC Newsletter or give us feedback about our monthly publication, please take a moment to take this quick survey.

Take the Survey



Atlanta Global Studies Center (AGSC), a partnership of Georgia Institute of Technology and Georgia State University, is funded in part by a US Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center grant.

Know someone who would be interested in the AGSC newsletter and events? Forward this issue below!

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