



Atlanta Global Studies Center



October 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!](#)



"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.

AGSC Names New Co-Director:
Welcome Aboard Dr. Juan Carlos Rodríguez!

It is our great pleasure to announce the new AGSC faculty co-director at Georgia Tech. [Dr. Juan Carlos Rodríguez](#), associate professor of Spanish in the School of Modern Languages, has been selected to co-lead AGSC for the next three years. You can view the full announcement [here](#).

Dr. Rodriguez has supported AGSC initiatives in several roles over the past three years. The AGSC team looks forward to working with him in his new role and taking the Center to the next level together!

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Rodriguez (juan.rodriguez@modlangs.gatech.edu) to the AGSC family!



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!

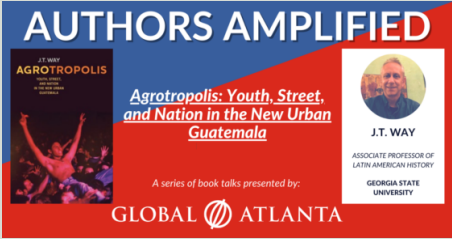
[Partner Event Submission Form](#)

"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" series
hosted by Global Atlanta, presented by AGSC



Agrotropolis: Youth, Street, and Nation in the New Urban Guatemala
by G.T. Way, Associate Professor of History, GSU

October 12 (rescheduled from Sep 28)
11 am -12:15 pm

[Learn more and register here](#)

Global Atlanta’s **Authors Amplified** series highlighting Georgia voices and presented by the Atlanta Global Studies Center, continues with an **in-person** interview with **J.T. Way**, professor of history at Georgia State University, on his recently released book, [Agrotropolis: Youth, Street, and Nation in the New Urban Guatemala](#).

Note: Space for the in-person event at the Global Atlanta offices [135 Auburn Avenue 2nd Floor, Suite 213], is **limited to the first 20 guests**. Tickets are \$15. A meet and greet with the author will begin at 11 a.m., followed by an in-person interview starting at 11:30.

Can’t make it? This event will also be broadcasted and viewable free of charge via Zoom. Please select your preferred option when registering.

World Languages Week

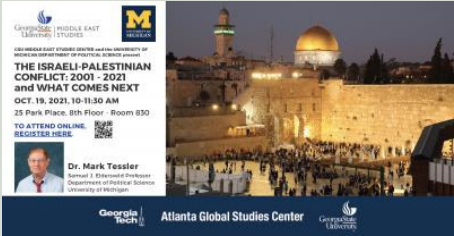


October 18-21, 2021

AGSC is a proud co-sponsor of World Languages Week, a FREE Virtual Global Career Expo hosted by the Center for Urban Language Teaching and Research that highlights the value of language skills, cultural experiences, and DEI for all learners in the global economy. AGSC and GSU’s Office of International Initiatives will present a session on [GSU’s Global Scholar Distinction Program](#), a program that recognizes students in any bachelor’s degree program who take global courses and gain global competence. More details are coming soon!

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

The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict:
2020-2021 and What Comes Next



Tuesday, October 19 | 10-11:30am EST

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

Beginning with the first Palestinian intifada in late 1987, Professor Tessler will discuss selected key events and their impact on the evolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. His emphasis will be on the way that interconnections between these events shaped the conflict and pushed either toward or away from the prospects for an agreement between Israelis and Palestinians. Professor Tessler will also present findings from his research on voting behavior in Israel.

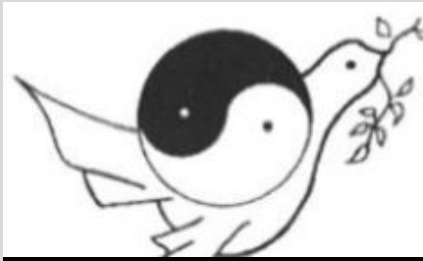
[READ MORE HERE.](#)

In-person:

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

To attend online: [register here](#)

Peace History Society Virtual Conference 2021



October 21-23, 2021

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.

GSU Faculty Community on Virtual Exchange



Virtual Event

Thurs. October 21 | 3-5pm EST

Join a supportive community of GSU faculty interested and engaged in virtual exchange! We will meet at 3pm on 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>

October 21: Demonstration of VE Technology Tools; Tech Resource Guide; Discussion of Technology Concerns and Questions

[READ MORE](#)

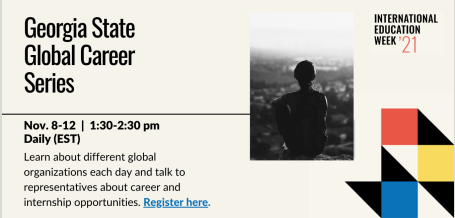
Register for the Global Inclusion Conference!



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!](#)

International Education Week



November 8-12, 2021

AGSC, together with CULTR, the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies Career Services, and the Global Studies program, hosts the [Global Career Series](#) as part of International Education Week. The Global Career Series features organizations who work globally and others who work on global issues locally. Representatives from agencies such as the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Commerce, Peace Corps, U.S.AID, CARE International, the Carter Center, and the Japan America Society of Georgia will speak to students about internship and career opportunities and give advice about preparing for and succeeding in a global career. All sessions will take place on Zoom from 1:30-2:30pm EST. [Register here.](#)

Other IEW events:

Discover Asia

November 8-12, 11am – 2pm

Join the Perimeter College Asian Studies Program as we explore the diversity of Asia, the largest and most populated region of the world. This event will include exhibits on all five Perimeter campuses, as well as a week-long virtual activity.
Sponsor(s): Perimeter College Asian Studies Program & Atlanta Global Studies Center

Bringing the World to Atlanta’s K12 Classrooms (Virtual)

Thursday, November 11, 3pm – 4pm

Current and future K12 teachers will learn how to connect students to peers in other countries and build global competence, communication skills, digital literacy, and teamwork! Classroom activities and project ideas will be provided.
Sponsor(s): College of Education & Human Development & Atlanta Global Studies Center

Atlanta Global Education & Research Collaborative (AGREC)
Project Presentations

October & November, 2021



Featured Projects:

Subscribe

Past Issues

Water quality monitoring network for highly impacted urban headwaters in metro Atlanta (GA) in comparative perspectives

Translate ▼

RSS

Growing Intercultural Competence for Peace and Mediation: The Case Study Method in the Foreign Language Classroom

Advancing a Community-Based Participatory Research Model for Metropolitan Regional Immigrant Integration and Receptivity through the One Region Initiative

Atlanta-area migrant communities and climate change: characterizing drivers of migration, exposure risks, and health vulnerabilities

Savings Lives in the Refugee Community: A Cultural and Linguistic Adaptation of Stop the Bleed

The Global Communities Internship Program

Please stay tuned for the schedule and registration link!

For more information and updates, visit the [AGREC website](#).

Launched in 2020 and housed within the Atlanta Global Studies Center (AGSC), AGREC is currently comprised of six universities:

AGSC, a partnership of **Georgia Tech** and **Georgia State University**

Emory University's Office of Global Strategy and Initiatives (GSI)

Agnes Scott College's SUMMIT Center for Global Learning and Leadership Development

Spelman College's Gordon Zeto Center for Global Education

Kennesaw State University's Division of Global Affairs

AGREC seeks to build and strengthen collaborative networks of multi-institutional scholars and practitioners to support global research and education initiatives in the Greater Atlanta region.

Atlanta Global Studies Center

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

September 2021

Events & Initiatives Recap

The Atlanta Global Studies Center has been busy!

Here are some of the exciting events from September..

Embrace Your Inner Sidekick:

Georgia Tech Professor Envisions Global Philanthropy Model Based on Humility

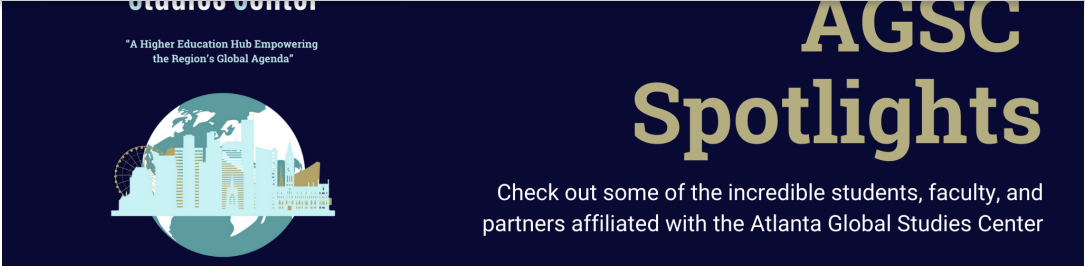
Thank you all again for joining us last month as we continued our Authors Amplified Series, hosted by Global Atlanta, with Dr. Kirk Bowman and Jon Wilcox on their new book Reimagining Global Philanthropy. Whether you joined us in person or virtually through the live broadcast we are delighted that you had the chance to participate in an illuminating and informative conversation with the authors

who shared how they tested their new approach in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro. In case you were not able to attend in-person or virtually please feel free to listen to a [shortened version of the interview on SoundCloud](#) or to view a shortened version of the live broadcast Global Atlanta's [YouTube Channel](#).

Dr. Bowman has provided the [book's website](#) where you may find all the trailers and films for the 5 accompanying documentaries he has worked on, discussion questions for chapters in the book, and other resources:

If you missed out on purchasing a copy of the book, Global Atlanta still have a few unsigned hardback copies left for purchase at \$25 [here](#)

Thank you for your support of [Global Atlanta](#) and the Authors Amplified Series made in partnership with AGSC!



Georgia Tech
FLAS Fellow Spotlight:

Rachel Hudson

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

Language capabilities increase the number of people you're able to communicate with -- and that doesn't just mean abroad; it starts domestically. In America, where we are continuing to increase our linguistic and cultural diversity, communication and relationship building are crucial to our unity as a nation. I like learning Korean because both on-campus and in my hometown, there is a large Korean-American and Korean population, and so I can see the immediate connection as it has already helped deepen my relationships with friends, co-workers, students I tutor, professors, church community, family friends, restaurant owners, and so many more. Even if we communicate in English, it's the unspoken elements, like not having to explain certain cultural habits, un-translatable words, and the ability to have deeper conversations about our personal lives, that makes learning Korean worthwhile to me. Language learning shows interest in someone else, which is a great basis to building lasting relationships.



What are your career plans?

I am looking at pursuing a career in software engineering, possibly within the State Department. If the opportunity arises one day, I would also love to support North Korean refugees, working with a non-profit that helps them settle down and overcome cultural, financial, and other barriers.

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.

In addition to your FLAS fellowship, have you engaged in other programs offered through the Atlanta Global Studies Center?

Freshman year, I participated in the 21st Century Global Atlanta VIP. My group worked on a module about Georgia's Dual Language Immersion (DLI) programs. My favorite part was getting to interview Dr. Valentine, director of foreign language in Gwinnett County, and learning about the benefits of DLI from an administrative perspective. Actually, I told my mom about these programs and she's now teaching at a DLI school!

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

Georgia State University
FLAS Fellow Spotlight:

Inman Mohamed,

recipient of a Gilman Scholarship, Foreign Language Area Studies Fellow, president and founder of the Ethiopian-Eritrean Students Association, Inman has a BA in Political Science, International Relations, and Arabic from GSU. Iman is currently pursuing her Master's in International Relations at Georgia State University and working as an intern at The Carter Center. We interviewed Iman about her Summer FLAS Fellowship at the [Sijal Institute](#).



Tell us about your Summer FLAS experience.

The FLAS Fellowship allowed me to study Arabic at the Sijal Institute's online intensive summer program. Without FLAS, I would not have had the great experience I had. I had wanted to study abroad in Jordan, but because of COVID, it was impossible. The FLAS team was very supportive and connected me with the Sijal Institute. At first, I was skeptical about attending an online program, but the Sijal Institute created a real online community with supportive instructors and students from all over the place. I think I was the only American student. The instructors created personalized lesson plans for students and made me feel

a part of a community. They also had cultural agents outside of class and gave us cultural resources that I am still using. It was very immersive with 6 hours of straight-up language instruction every day. I learned so much about grammar and linguistics. The way I approach Arabic is totally different now. If I have the chance, I'd like to go to Jordan to study at the Sijal Institute in person.

Why is studying Arabic important to you?

I work with international organizations and am interested in migration issues and democracy-building. My native language is Amharic, and I have a background in reading and writing Arabic for religious reasons. Before FLAS, I was working with a lot of Syrian and Iraqi refugees, and I realized there was not enough support for Arabic speaking refugees. I wanted to enhance my Arabic skills, particularly my speaking skills, to serve communities like these. Arabic is a widely-spoken language in many parts of the world, and it has many influences from other languages. I learned a lot about Greek, Spanish, and Persian culture through my study of Arabic. It has been a linguistic journey!

What are your career plans?

I hope to work professionally for an NGO or humanitarian organization on migration issues and with refugees. Fluency in Arabic will be extremely beneficial.

What advice would you like to give to students interested in applying for a FLAS Fellowship?

Students who have a deep-rooted passion for language and global studies and a lot of motivation should apply. FLAS actualized my dreams of taking my Arabic skills to the next level. If you get a fellowship, you should utilize all of the opportunities it provides, not just the financial resources. I attended events and met other amazing fellows. The FLAS Fellowship gave me deeper insight about global issues, and the experience widened my perspective. I also want to say that of all the scholarship programs I've encountered, the FLAS program was the most supportive.

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

Georgia State University

Faculty Spotlight:
Elizabeth West

Meet AGSC affiliated faculty [Dr. Elizabeth West](#), Professor of Africana Studies and English, and Georgia State University's [Center for Studies on Africa and its Diaspora's](#) Director of Academics.

We talked to Dr. West about developments in the Africana Studies program, upcoming CSAD events, and race as a global issue.

[Georgia State University recently changed the name of its African-American Studies program to Africana Studies.](#) **Why was this change necessary? How does the new name emphasize global perspectives?**



As scholarship has brought us to the understanding that politically imposed boundaries do not always translate to cultural realities, experiences, or identities, it is clear that to study the history and culture of African-descended people in the U.S. is to study the diasporas of African descended people globally—particularly out of the dawn of the so-called Age of Exploration. African-Americans are a subset of a larger and more expansive diaspora of Africans in the Americas whose origins and experiences overlapped and intertwined for centuries into the present.

You are a member of the AGSC Race Beyond Borders Initiative, and you were a panelist at the Race Beyond Borders February 5th event, “[Understanding Race as a Global Concept: Power, Access, and Policy](#).” Why is it important to recognize and redress the fact that skin color, labels, and notions of race have been used to restrict upward mobility, power, and material success in this country?

If the brake line in a car incurs a puncture or a large air bubble, and the mechanic troubleshoots only the section connecting to the pads, they will never repair the line or bring the brakes to a safe and functional performance level. History and memory work similarly. If we continue to reject genuine examination of how conditions of the present were built by actions of the past, then like the car with the compromised brake line, we are a machine in crisis. For some –specifically those who have benefitted from a system founded in hierarchies of difference–this may appear a machine well-oiled and functional. But for those who have been generationally categorized and othered in ways that maintain them as outside the national project and citizenry—the machine is rambling and broken. America’s machinery churns on the racial axis of blackness as different and substandard, imposing a requirement for Blacks to prove themselves by way of a definition of human that was constructed out of their dehumanization. It is most strikingly evident if we revisit comprehensively the words and lives of the nation’s founders. Jefferson himself noted in Query 14 and 18 that in a nation where one man commands his living at the expense of another’s labor and freedom, conflict is inevitable and irresolvable. And when centuries later, the reality of this history still goes unrecognized and the hierarchy of difference still undergirds power systems in law, economics, and education, for example, the brake line is still compromised.

It’s been over a year since George Floyd’s death on May 25, 2021. Did the worldwide attention on Floyd’s death and on the Black Lives Matter movement change anything? Where do we go from here?

Do you consider “race” a global issue? Why/why not?

Recall the [recent image of border authorities on horseback lashing Haitian refugees](#). The centuries of Haiti’s struggles are not unconnected to U.S. and western—particularly French—imposed policies and occupations. Race is not only a global issue; it continues to park itself at America’s doorsteps. This is not by chance.

As a member of GSU's Task Force for Racial Equality, what progress do you hope to see at GSU in the next year? What should the academic community be doing to support DEI efforts on their campuses?

I'd like to see GSU continue to address the most alarming revelations unveiled in its 2019 [Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education \(COACHE\) survey](#) regarding the experiences and perceptions of its minoritized members. The strength of this university as noted nationally is its success with student graduation rates—particularly its leading mark in improvement of Black student graduation rates. I find GSU’s students inspirational, and I see their presence and their aspirations as the driving force for the university’s relevance and standing into the future. We can be of greater and growing service to students when we demonstrate to them that critical self-reflection and reconstruction can work on the institutional as well as the individual level.

AGSC Partner Spotlight:
GSU Center for Studies on Africa and its Diaspora

The Center for Studies on Africa and Its Diaspora (CSAD) is a hub for fostering a dynamic exchange of cultural, scientific, economic, policy and humanities knowledge among communities, partners and the university. The center supports academic initiatives, artistic efforts, and public programming guided by a transdisciplinary framework which explores the engagements, worldviews, and influences of African peoples on worldwide social, cultural, economic, health and political systems. CSAD is a valued partner in the Race Beyond Borders Initiative, a scholar and activist network that has opened up a collaborative, diverse, multi-institutional, and multi-disciplinary space for a global conversation on race. We asked Dr. Elizabeth West, Director of Academics for the Center for Studies on Africa and its Diaspora, to give us a preview of upcoming CSAD events. This is what she said:



This fall I am particularly excited about the Medical Humanities webinar that we will be hosting. This is the start of a series of webinars, lectures, and discussion panels exploring the meaning of and possibilities for impactful collaborations, research, and teaching among specialists in humanities, medical, and health care fields. This initiative came out of cross disciplinary conversations with colleagues both nationally and internationally, who are passionate about promoting and advancing scholarship and teaching that will integrate science and humanities to advance health care outcomes—particularly for minoritized and low income populations. Understanding how race and culture impact health care and treatment success has been made expressly clear in the almost two years now of the covid crisis, and with all its damaging effects, the pandemic has ironically served as a springboard for these conversations. We are also planning student focused programming highlighting original creative productions by GSU students focusing on “return and reflections.” We look forward to providing a creative platform for students to share their experiences and perspectives on the return to campus and physical interaction after enduring a year of pandemic and social unrest.

The Atlanta Global Studies Center proudly recognizes the contributions that the Center for Studies on Africa and its Diaspora has made toward reducing racial inequalities and

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Upcoming
Partner Events



Attention Arabic Instructors

Arabic educators are invited to attend a [hybrid networking event on Sunday, November 21st](#) at [Alif Institute](#), Atlanta's Arab American Cultural Center, hosted by the newly formed [Arabic Teachers Council of the South](#). The networking event coincides with the last day of the [Virtual ACTFL \(American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages\) Convention](#) and is an opportunity for Arabic instructors to gather in person and online to share what they learned from ACTFL Convention sessions, view selected live and pre-recorded sessions, and celebrate the teaching and learning of Arabic. Morning refreshments and lunch will be served. To attend, please [register here](#). The networking event is made possible through support and funding from [Qatar Foundation International \(QFI\)](#). QFI engages a diverse, global community of learners and educators, fostering cross-cultural connections through the exploration of the Arabic language and the Arab world's histories, cultures, and peoples in student-centered learning environments. QFI is headquartered in Washington, DC, and is a member of Qatar Foundation (QF). We welcome all who are interested in the teaching and learning of Arabic culture and language to join the Arabic Teachers Council of the South. Membership is open to educators in K12, college, and university environments as well as to students, community members, program administrators, and representatives of community, civic and private organizations who are interested in supporting the teaching and learning of Arabic language and culture in the southern region of the United States. [Join today](#)

The ATCS encourages all language teachers to [register for and attend the Virtual ACTFL Convention, November 19-21](#). Arabic teachers can apply to receive up to \$1,500 for professional development through [QFI's Maharaat grants](#).

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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