

NINETEENTH GLOBAL STUDIES CONFERENCE

BRIDGING BOUNDARIES

Collaborative Solutions to Complex Social Issues
in an Interconnected World



UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY
GALWAY, IRELAND

15-17, JULY
2026



Global Studies

The Nineteenth Global Studies Conference

<https://onglobalization.com/2026-conference>

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Welcome Letter



New Thinking

New Practices

New Societies

International Independent Interdisciplinary Scholar-led Non-Profit Since
Research Networks Conferences Journals Books Media Lab 1984



Dear Conference Participants,

On behalf of Common Ground Research Networks, I welcome you to the Nineteenth Global Studies Conference.

Founded in 2008, the Global Studies Research Network is devoted to mapping and interpreting past and emerging trends and patterns in globalization. We aim to traverse a broad terrain, sometimes technically and other times socially oriented, sometimes theoretical and other times practical in their perspective, and sometimes reflecting dispassionate analysis while at other times suggesting interested strategies for action. Our aim is to build an epistemic community where we can make linkages across disciplinary, geographic, and cultural boundaries..

This truly international conference brings together a diverse group of scholars, practitioners, and thought leaders from around the world. We are proud to provide a platform for exchanging ideas, and presenting research, addressing some of the pressing issues of our time.

Our conference theme, "Bridging Boundaries: Collaborative Solutions to Complex Social Issues in an Interconnected World," reflects our commitment to exploring new frontiers in research and practice. Over the next few days, In-Person or Online, you will have the opportunity to attend keynotes, panel discussions, and other session types led by our Emerging Scholars. We encourage you to take full advantage of these sessions to gain new insights, expand your professional network, and find inspiration for your own work.

We want to thank our keynote speakers Emilio José Delgado-Algarra, Pat Dolan, Geoff Bates, Nata Duvvury, presenters, and volunteers whose dedication and hard work have made this conference possible. We also thank our host partner University of Galway, for their generous support.

We hope you find this conference to be an intellectually stimulating and rewarding experience. Your active participation is crucial to the success of this event, and we look forward to the lively discussions and valuable connections that will emerge over the next few days.

Warm regards,

Dr. Phillip Kalantzis Cope
Chief Social Scientist
Common Ground Research Networks



Global Studies Research Network

Founded in 2008, the **Global Studies Research Network** is devoted to mapping and interpreting past and emerging trends and patterns in globalization. We aim to traverse a broad terrain, sometimes technically and other times socially oriented, sometimes theoretical and other times practical in their perspective, and sometimes reflecting dispassionate analysis while at other times suggesting interested strategies for action. Our aim is to build an epistemic community where we can make linkages across disciplinary, geographic, and cultural boundaries. As a Research Network, we are defined by our scope and concerns and motivated to build strategies for action framed by our shared themes and tensions.

Mapping the 'New Globalization'

Arguably the twenty-first century momentum of globalization is markedly different from twentieth century globalization and involves a new geography of trade, weaker United States hegemony and a trend towards growing multipolarity. Like a giant oil tanker, the axis of globalization is slowly turning from North-South to East-South relations in trade and finance.

Large questions arise. Is the rise of East Asia, China, India and other newly industrialized economies just another episode in the rise and decline of nations, another reshuffling of capitalism, a relocation of accumulation centers without affecting the logics of accumulation? Or does this phase of globalization mark a departure? Does it advance, sustain or halt neoliberalism? The rise of Asia is codependent with neoliberal globalization and yet unfolds outside the neoliberal mold. What is the relationship between zones of accumulation and modes of regulation? What are the ramifications for global inequality?

On the subject of cutting-edge globalization there are two big stories to tell. One story tells of the rise of Asia and the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates) economies, with the accompanying growth of East-South trade and financial, energy and political relations. In the words of Paul Kennedy, 'we can no more stop the rise of Asia than we can stop the winter snows and the summer heat'. The other story is one of growing social inequality and major crises in agriculture and urban poverty in the emerging countries.

The new globalization can be mapped as trends in trade, finance, international institutions, hegemony, inequality, social movements and struggles, cultural changes, and ecological dynamics. Here are some trend estimates, indicating some of the dimensions of this discussion:

- Trade: Growing East-South trade leads to a 'new geography of trade' and new trade pacts.
- Global value chains: Viewed in terms of global commodity chains, the role of emerging economies in East Asia, Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates appears to be more limited. They generally play a subsidiary part in buyer-driven commodity chains and have so far established few producer-driven chains.
- Finance: The current imbalances in the world economy (American overconsumption and trade and current account deficits and Asian surpluses) are unsustainable and are producing a gradual reorganization of global finance and trade.
- Institutions: The 1990s architecture of globalization (built around the IMF, World Bank and WTO) is now fragile and the clout and influence of emerging economies is growing.
- Hegemony: The United States is losing influence. Arguably, what is taking place, rather than hegemonic rivalry, is global repositioning and realignments toward growing multipolarity.
- Inequality and social struggle: The flashpoints of global inequality are rural crises and urban poverty in emerging economies, chronic poverty in the least developed countries, and international migration. In advanced economies such as the United States social inequality is growing. In terms of political economy, the overall question is what the new trends mean for the emerging twenty-first century international division of labor and the implications of these trends for global futures, in particular from the viewpoint of the world majority.

- Social movements: Social movements have succeeded in influencing policy changes, notably in Latin America. Planetary social movements such as international NGOs are increasingly important in articulating social demands. They also act as watchdogs of international institutions. The World Social Forum is a major global platform for formulating progressive alternatives. A key question, however, is the extent to which progressive movements are driven by opposition to globalization, or an attempt to imaging a different and more humane globalization.
- Cultural change: Overall trends are towards the growing hybridization or intermingling of cultural patterns (new combinations of cultural motifs giving rise to new differences). Geopolitical conflicts and resource wars in many arenas produce local political backlashes. An incipient cosmopolitanism is short circuited in some instances.
- Ecological changes: Climate change and global warming necessitate global collective action.

Globalization in the Larger Human Scheme

The newness of our latest globalization makes another kind of sense within a wider frame of reference. How wide might we cast such a comparative frame? One could make the case, for instance, that human beings have only ever been global creatures. From the moment we became a species, we become the first sentient beings to fill virtually every habitat. Our first act as a symbol-making species was to walk to the ends of the earth. This may have taken as little as one hundred thousand years, a mere instant in biological time. We did not stop walking until there was almost no desert, no tundra and no sea where we did not or could not make a life. This happened during a first globalization, a process unprecedented for any species in natural history.

There have been several other globalizations since then. Questions of how many, and the peculiarities of their forms, are amongst the subjects of the Global Studies network. Another globalization comes with the spread of farming. This happens independently in five different places over a span of just six thousand years. Another is the emergence of writing, which happens independently in four different places over several thousand years—in Mesopotamia about five thousand years ago and then in India, China and Mesoamerica. With these new material and symbolic modes came material inequalities of a type never experienced in the earlier globalization of hunters and gatherers. Farming brings the possibility of accumulating material wealth and the application of surpluses to the gratuitously monumental projects of ‘civilization’ which stand both as a testament to, and overwhelming reminder of, the scale of that inequality.

The relative simultaneity of these developments suggests that the peoples of the first globalization were talking, and that the transition from the one globalization to another was a singular event. This globalization also occurs remarkably quickly. It brings not just the continuities represented by large language groups, ‘world’ religions and ‘civilizations’. There is also a sameness across and between these groups: the handful of domesticable plants and animals that spread like wildfire across the globe; the world-encompassing religions which even share common ancestral figures, such as the Abraham of the Jews, the Christians and the Muslims; and the inventions that are so quickly swapped and copied such as the plough, the wheel, monumental architecture and writing. There are nuances, to be sure, and these are the stuff of tourist awe and foreboding about the apparently always-imminent ‘clash of civilizations’. On a broader scale of reference, however, these differences may be regarded as small. Then there a number of globalizations in the varied permutations of modern imperialism, supporting mercantile, then industrial, then post industrial capitalism. Each of these phases of globalization brings with it peculiar logics of territoriality and sovereignty, its own framing of spaces and pragmatics of flows. They are all preludes to the ‘New Globalization’.

Globalization in Theory

So, what do we mean by this so-many faceted thing, 'globalization'? Global markets are such that there is almost no place in the world where you cannot sell your wares and no place in the world from which people are unable sell their wares into your local market. There is almost no place in the world to which you cannot journey in a few days. There is almost no place in the world that is not instantaneously to be seen or heard at the other end of a telephone line, or the Internet, or a television reporter's camera.

However, there's a paradox here. Whilst the globalizations of our recent past forced homogeneity upon populaces, the New Globalization is more equivocal, complex, hybrid, potentially cosmopolitan. Neighborhoods are constantly changing as a consequence of global migration. The local community comes to feel like a microcosm of the whole world. Products and representations of the world appear more insistently than ever in our markets and on our screens.

In this new globalization, anti-cosmopolitanisms (such as racism and discrimination) are not only bad in principle. They are dysfunctional in practice. They are bad for business. If your neighborhood or your workplace is diverse as a consequence of global labor flows, you need to get on with your neighbors, your team-mates and your customers, or least quietly accept their differences. If your workplace is part of a global enterprise, you need to be able to get on with parts of the organization located in different places, and even move to live there if needs be. If your goods can be sold at the other end of the earth, you need to find out about the kind of people who might be purchasing them if they are going to sell well. If global tourism is one of the new boom industries, you need to be tolerant of the quirks of visitors from distant places in your midst and respectful of cultures you visit. If the big news is now as much global as it is local and national, you need to become an aware global citizen. As for imperialism, there's no need to take over other people's countries by force in order to access their markets. Besides, why would you? When other peoples' markets are open, your enterprises can do business there without having to fire a shot.

Meanwhile, the powers who historically buttressed nationalisms and racisms come to discover that happy homogeneity amongst their citizens is neither possible nor desirable. Civil rights movements, anti-colonial movements, feminists and supporters of multiculturalism all begin to say, loudly and clearly, that exclusion and discrimination on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, nationality, gender, disability and sexual orientation are not acceptable either in principle or in practice. All manner of social movements vociferously dispute and discredit the very idea of the global homogeneity.

The humanistic, however, has its own occupational hazards: disengaged critique and supercilious inaction without design responsibility; political confrontation without systematic empirical foundation; ideological fractiousness without apparent need for compromise; the agnostic relativism of lived experience and identity-driven voice; voluntarism that leads to a naive lack of pragmatism and failure in application.

A reconstructive view of the social, natural and applied sciences would be holistic, attempting always to avoid the occlusions of narrow methodological approaches. It would also be ambitious, intellectually and practically. In this context, the Social Sciences conference, group of journals, book Imprint, and online media pursue two aspirations, two openings. The first is an intellectual opening, founded on an agenda designed to strengthen the theories, the research methodologies, the epistemologies and the practices of teaching and learning about the social world and the relation of the social to the natural world.

The second opening is pragmatic and inventive. All intellectual work is an act of imagination. At its best, it is ambitious, risky and transformative. If the natural sciences can have human ambitions as big as those of the medical sciences—the fight against MS or cancer or Alzheimer's, for instance—then the social sciences can have ambitions as large as to settle the relation of humans to the natural environment, the material conditions of human equality and the character of the future person.

Networks of Economy and Trade

On the economic dimensions of globalization.

Living Tensions:

- Understanding Global Markets – Singular or Multiple
- Rules of the Game – Free Trade and Fair Trade
- Power of Scale – Transnational Corporations, Public Investment, Small Enterprise
- Patterns of Global Investment – Core and Periphery
- Leveraging Advantages – Engines of Growth in the Developing World
- Logics of Accumulation and Inequality – Patterns and Trends
- Division of Labor – Rethinking Inside and Outside

The Power of Institutions

On the political dimensions of globalization.

Living Tensions:

- Legacies of the Past – Imperialism and Neo-colonialism
- Understanding Soft Power – Structures of Hegemony
- Global Imaginaries – Neoliberalism, Anti, Alt-Globalization (and Beyond)
- Agents and Structures – Nations and Sovereignty in the 'New Globalization'
- From Below – Social Movements, NGOs, Non-State Actors
- Negotiating Conflict – Intervention, Political Violence, Terrorism
- Advancing Universal Rules – Democratic Practices and Human Rights in Diverse Contexts

Vectors of Society and Culture

On the socio-cultural dimensions of globalization.

Living Tensions:

- Globalism as Ideology – From Above and Below
- Visions of Progress – Development and Underdevelopment
- Imagining Communities – Nationalism and Post-Nationalism
- Pathways of Human Movement – Migrations and Diaspora
- Social Meaning Making – Cosmopolitanism, Multiculturalism, Cultural Hybridization
- Forced Movements – Refugees, Human Trafficking, Statelessness, Internally Displaced Persons
- Just Relations – Inequality, Poverty, Racism
- Digital Societies – Big Data, Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence

Ecological Foundations

On the eco-systemic dimensions of globalization.

Living Tensions:

- Growth and Its Limits – Environment over Economy
- Common Space – Ecological Footprints, Atmospheres, Biospheres, Eco-spheres
- Biological Diversity – Its Past and Prospects
- Shared Danger Signs – Rising Sea Levels, Desertification, Soil Degradation
- Planning Food Systems – Security or Sovereignty
- The Built Environment – Urbanization and the Sustainability of Human Settlement
- The Future of Everyday Life – Weather events, Natural Disasters, and Ecological Surprises

Rafal Soborski

Associate Professor, International Politics, Richmond, The American International University in London, UK



Dr. Rafal Soborski is professor of international politics at Richmond, the American International University in London. He has taught and published extensively on globalization, ideology, social movements, and green politics. He is the author of two books: *Ideology in a Global Age: Continuity and Change* (Palgrave Macmillan 2013) and *Ideology and the Future of Progressive Social Movements* (Rowman and Littlefield 2018).

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The International Journal of **Interdisciplinary Global Studies**



The International Journal of Interdisciplinary Global Studies

Editor:
Dr. Rafal Soborski,
Professor, International Politics,
Richmond, The American International University in London,
United Kingdom

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Publication Frequency: Biannually

Exploring new trends and patterns in globalization.

Indexing:    



The International Journal of Interdisciplinary Global Studies

The International Journal of Interdisciplinary Global Studies investigates the dynamics of globalization and the transformation of the local. Intellectually, the conference and the journal take three steps: the first is a "this-worldly" step, mapping the details and extrapolating to big picture analyses in order to interpret what is at times challenging, dangerous, and excitingly positive about the "New Globalization." The second step is to set this New Globalization in the context of earlier globalizations—what are the continuities, and what is genuinely new? The third step is to re-examine and redefine the very concept of globalization—in theoretical, anthropological, and philosophical terms. The journal works between the most fastidiously empirical and profoundly generalizing modes of engagement with one of the central phenomena of our contemporary existence.

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Rafal Soborski

The American International University in London, United Kingdom

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The Nineteenth Global Studies Conference



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Past Events

- 2008 - University of Illinois, Chicago, USA
- 2009 - Zayed University, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- 2010 - Pusan National University, Pusan, South Korea
- 2011 - Rio De Janeiro, Brazil
- 2012 - Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia
- 2013 - India International Centre, New Delhi, India
- 2014 - Center for Global Studies, Shanghai University, Shanghai, China
- 2015 - Imperial College, London, UK
- 2016 - University of California, Los Angeles, USA
- 2017 - National University of Singapore, Singapore
- 2018 - University of Granada, Granada, Spain
- 2019 - Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland
- 2020 - Concordia University, Montreal, Canada (Virtual)
- 2021 - Concordia University, Montreal, Canada (Virtual)
- 2022 - National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece
- 2023 - Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, UK
- 2024 - Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland
- 2025 - University of Málaga, Málaga, Spain



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Emilio José Delgado-Algarra

Professor, University of Huelva, COIDESO Research Center, Spain



"Ciudadanía crítica y compromiso socioambiental: claves educativas entre lo local y lo global" (In Spanish)

Professor of Social Sciences Didactics at the University of Huelva (Spain), in the Faculty of Education, Psychology, and Sports Sciences. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Primary Education Teacher and in Psychopedagogy, along with several Master's degrees in educational research and teaching. He earned a PhD in Research on Teaching and Learning of Social Sciences from the University of Huelva and a PhD in Education from the University of Almería. He has participated in numerous educational innovation and research projects at regional, national, and European levels, serving as principal researcher in several teaching innovation projects.

He is a member of the COIDESO Research Center (Contemporary Thought and Innovation for Social Development) [2017 to present], where he previously served as Deputy Director [2020–2022] and Director [2022–2024]. He is also the Director of the East Asia Academic and Cultural Center at the University of Huelva [2017 to present], and a researcher in the DESYM Research Center (Initial Teacher Education and Professional Development) [2010 to present].

He has organized and participated in numerous conferences, symposia, and academic events, and has contributed as an author, editor, and/or reviewer for high-impact journals, books, and book chapters. His main research interests include citizenship education, democratic memory, and the use of technologies in social sciences didactics.

16 July - 2:00 PM (Ireland Time)

Pat Dolan

Emeritus Professor, University of Galway, Ireland



"Social Empathy the Secret Sauce for Effective Multidisciplinary Working and Human Flourishing!"

Dr Pat Dolan is Emeritus Professor UNESCO. He was former Academic Director of the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre and founding Director of the Institute for Lifecourse and Society at the University of Galway. Prof Dolan has completed an extensive body of research on children youth and family issues including longitudinal research on adolescents and has over 100 peer reviewed academic publications. His research interests include Civic Engagement, Empathy, Family Support, Youth as Researchers initiatives, and Resilience and Social Support theory. Prof. Dolan has extensive practice and policy experience, both nationally and internationally.

15 July - 9:30 AM (Ireland Time)

Geoff Bates

Lecturer, Public Health Policy, Institute for Policy Research, University of Bath, UK



"Humility, Positivity, Adaptability and Resilience: Lessons from a Multisectoral Collaboration and a Systems Approach to Tackle a Societal Challenge"

Dr Geoff Bates is a Lecturer in Public Health Policy at the Institute for Policy Research, University of Bath (UK). Geoff's research focuses on how to improve public health and reduce inequalities through tackling the wider determinants of health, such as the social, political and economic factors that shape the conditions we live in. He is interested in the effective use of different types of evidence to influence preventative policymaking, and in how to collaborate effectively across sectors and disciplines for impact in complex policy areas. Geoff currently works on projects seeking to embed health evidence into areas of upstream decision-making that shape urban environments, and supporting government organisations to understand and tackle the negative impacts of businesses on health.

16 July - 9:00 AM (Ireland Time)

Nata Duvvury

Professor, Gender and Women's Studies and Director, Centre for Global Women's Studies, School of Political Science and Sociology, University of Galway, Ireland



"Violence Against Women: A Multi-Headed Hydra"

Prof Nata Duvvury is a development expert with research interests in gender, labour markets and welfare state, gendered impacts of globalization, economic costs of gender based violence, civil society and global governance, and social mobilization. She has done extensive work on violence against women, and in particular establishing the economic and social consequences of violence for women, families, communities and society at large. She is actively involved in the Anti-Racism Committee in the Office of the VPEDI at University of Galway and recently completed research titled Intersectional Discrimination Index: Understanding Student Experience of Intersectional Discrimination at the University of Galway.

17 July - 9:00 AM (Ireland Time)

Each year a small number of Emerging Scholar Awards are given to outstanding early-career scholars or graduate students. Here are our 2026 Emerging Scholar Award Winners.

Nikoloz Esitashvili

Georgian Institute of Public
Affairs (GIPA),
Georgia

**Gabriel Rached**

Università degli Studi di Milano,
Italy

**Nnennaya Ukwuoma**

Northeastern Illinois University,
United States

**Ivy Yeung**

University of Hawaii at Manoa,
United States

**Morgan O'Neill**

Queensland University of
Technology,
Australia

**Amir Hossain**

IBAIS University,
Bangladesh

**Anmol Mukhia**

South Asian University,
India

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University of California, Irvine,
United States

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University of Massachusetts,
United States



Online Welcome and Training Session

Join other delegates for a pre-conference welcome reception and training session. This special event will walk you through the CGScholar Event Mircosite so you have a rich online experience by learning how to comment and participate online. It will also teach delegates how to update their profile and Presenter Pages in order to add digital media: video, sound, other files. This will be held "live" via Zoom.

15 July 2026 - 16:00 PM (Ireland Time Zone) / 10:00AM (Central Standard Time USA)

Online Talking Circle

Talking Circles are a distinctive feature of our in-person conference, and this year we are also taking them online. Talking Circles offer an opportunity to meet other delegates face-to-face, and engage in extended discussion about the issues and concerns they feel are of utmost importance to that segment of the Research Network. Participation is open, encouraged, and supported.

17 July 2026 - 16:00 PM (Ireland Time Zone) / 10:00AM (Central Standard Time USA)

In-Person: Pre-Conference Walking Tour

Join other delegates for a walking tour of Galway. You will experience how walkable Galway is, with some highlights of the downtown and the great views.

Date: Tuesday 14th July 2026

-Group 1 Time: 2 PM

-Group 2 Time: 5 PM

Meeting point: Eyre Square (at Entrance of The Hardiman Hotel) [Click here for the Map](#)

Cost: USD \$20

In-Person Conference Dinner

From the restaurant: "Kirby's offers a relaxed dining experience in modern surroundings. Savour the best of local produce cooked with a modern twist. Assured of a warm and friendly welcome and value for money, Kirby's is the ideal venue for a night out with friends or when celebrating that special occasion."

Options will be subject to some seasonal changes.

Starter

Goat's Cheese Brioche, Toasted Pistachios, Peach & Prosecco Purée, Beetroot Relish, Goat's Cheese Bon Bon, Hot Honey Drizzle

Mains

- Meat: Roast Breast of Chicken, Nduja, Buffalo Mozzarella & Baby Spinach, Stuffing, Gnocchi, Pesto Cream Sauce, Roast Aubergine Purée
- Vegetarian: Sweet Potato, Cauliflower & Edamame Tikka Kale, Coconut Cream, Wild Rice, Onion Bhaji, Mango Chutney (VE) (V) (GF)
- Fish Risotto: Pan-fried Salmon with Smoked Haddock, Pea & Leek Risotto, Garlic Courgette, Saffron & Cucumber Dressing (GF)

Dessert

- Cheesecake of the Day

Wine and soft drinks are included.

Date: Thursday, 16th July 2026

Time: 6 PM (18:00)

Location: Kirby's Restaurant ([Map](#))

The Swan, Cross Street Lower, Galway, Ireland

Cost: USD \$80



Common Ground Research Networks



Founded in 1984, Common Ground is committed to building new kinds of knowledge communities, innovative in their media, and forward-thinking in their messages. Heritage knowledge systems are characterized by vertical separations--of discipline, professional association, institution, and country. Common Ground Research Networks takes some of the pivotal challenges of our time and curates research networks that cut horizontally across legacy knowledge structures. Sustainability, diversity, learning, the future of humanities, the nature of interdisciplinarity, the place of the arts in society, technology's connections with knowledge--these are deeply important questions of our time that require interdisciplinary thinking, global conversations, and cross-institutional intellectual collaborations.

Common Ground Research Networks are meeting places for people, ideas, and dialogue. However, the strength of ideas does not come from finding common denominators. Rather, the power and resilience of these ideas is that they are presented and tested in a shared space where differences can meet and safely connect--differences of perspective, experience, knowledge base, methodology, geographical or cultural origins, and institutional affiliation. These are the kinds of vigorous and sympathetic academic milieus in which the most productive deliberations about the future can be held. We strive to create places of intellectual interaction and imagination that our future deserves.

MEMBERS OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS



Common Ground Research Networks is not-for-profit corporation registered in the State of Illinois, USA, organized and operated pursuant to the General Not For Profit Corporation Act of 1986, 805 ILCS 105/101.01, et seq., (the "Act") or the corresponding section of any future Act.

www.cgnetworks.org



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The Common Ground Media Lab is the research and technology arm of Common Ground Research Networks. Common Ground Research Networks has been researching knowledge ecologies and building scholarly communication technologies since 1984.

Since 2009, we have had the fortune of being based in the University of Illinois Research Park while building our latest platform – CGScholar. This is a suite of apps based on the theoretical work of world-renowned scholars from the College of Education and Department of Computer Science at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. CGScholar has been built with the support of funding from the US Department of Education, Illinois Ventures, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The CGScholar platform is being used today by knowledge workers as diverse as: faculty in universities to deliver e-learning experiences; innovative schools wishing to challenge the ways learning and assessment have traditionally worked; and government and non-government organizations connecting local knowledge and experience to wider policy objectives and measurable outcomes. Each of these use cases illustrates the differing of knowledge that CGScholar serves while also opening spaces for new and emerging voices in the world of scholarly communication.

We aim to synthesize these use cases to build a platform that can become a trusted marketplace for knowledge work, one that rigorously democratizes the process of knowledge-making, rewards participants, and offers a secure basis for the sustainable creation and distribution of digital knowledge artifacts.

Our premise has been that media platforms—pre-digital and now also digital—have often not been designed to structure and facilitate a rigorous, democratic, and a sustainable knowledge economy. The Common Ground Media Lab seeks to leverage our own platform – CGScholar – to explore alternatives based on extended dialogue, reflexive feedback, and formal knowledge ontologies. We are developing AI-informed measures of knowledge artifacts, knowledge actors, and digital knowledge communities. We aim to build a trusted marketplace for knowledge work, that rewards participants and sustains knowledge production.

With 27,000 published works and 200,000 users, we have come a long way since our first web app twenty years ago. But we still only see this as the beginning.

As a not-for-profit, we are fundamentally guided by mission: to support the building of better societies and informed citizenries through rigorous and inclusive social knowledge practices, offering in-person and online scholarly communication spaces

Supporters & Partners

As they say, “it takes a village.” We are thankful for the generous support of:



And to our Research Network members!

www.cgnetworks.org/medialab



United Nations
Climate Change

CLIMATE
NEUTRAL NOW

Climate change is one of the most pressing problems facing our world today. It is in the interests of everyone that we engage in systemic change that averts climate catastrophe. At Common Ground Research Networks, we are committed to playing our part as an agent of transformation, promoting awareness, and making every attempt to lead by example. Our Climate Change: Impacts and Responses Research Network has been a forum for sharing critical findings and engaging scientific, theoretical, and practical issues that are raised by the realities of climate change. We've been a part of global policy debates as official observers at COP26 in Glasgow. And we are signatories of the United Nations Sustainability Publishers Compact and the United Nations Climate Neutral Now Initiative.

Measuring

In 2022 we start the process of tracking and measuring emissions for all aspects of what we do. The aim is to build a comprehensive picture of our baselines to identify areas where emissions can be reduced and construct a long-term plan of action based on the GHG Emissions Calculation Tool and standard established by the United Nations Climate Neutral Now Initiative.

Reducing

At the same time, we are not waiting to act. Here are some of the "low hanging fruit" initiatives we are moving on immediately: all conference programs from print to electronic-only; removing single-use cups and offering reusable bottles at all our conferences; working closely with all vendors, suppliers, and distributors on how we can work together to reduce waste; offering robust online options as a pathway to minimize travel. And this is only a small sample of what we'll be doing in the short term.

Contributing

As we work towards establishing and setting net-zero targets by 2050, as enshrined in the Paris Agreement and United Nations Climate Neutral Now Initiative, and to make further inroads in mitigating our impacts today, we are participating in the United Nations Carbon Offset program. As we see climate change as having broad social, economic, and political consequences, we are investing in the following projects.

- Fiji Nadarivatu Hydropower Project
- DelAgua Public Health Program in Eastern Africa
- Jangi Wind Farm in Gujarat

Long Term Goals

We're committing to long-term science-based net-zero targets for our operations – and we believe we can do this much sooner than 2050. We'll be reporting annually via The Climate Neutral Now reporting mechanism to transparently communicate how we are meeting our commitments to climate action.

www.cgnetworks.org/about/climate-pledge