

FIFTEENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
FOOD STUDIES

FED UP

LEARNING *FROM THE PAST*
IMAGINING *NEW FUTURES*



8-10, OCTOBER, **2025**

UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA, PRETORIA
SOUTH AFRICA

Fifteenth International Conference on Food Studies

<https://food-studies.com/2025-conference>

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Welcome Letter



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New Practices

New Societies

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Dear Conference Participants,

On behalf of Common Ground Research Networks, I welcome you to the Fifteenth International Conference on Food Studies.

Founded in 2011, the Food Studies Research Network is brought together around a common interest to explore new possibilities for sustainable food production and human nutrition, and associated impacts of food systems on culture. We seek 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, "Fed Up: Learning From the Past, Imagining New Futures," 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 Erik Wolf, Miles Kubheka, Chris Broodryk, and Jesús Alonso Amezcua López and volunteers whose dedication and hard work have made this conference possible. We also thank our host partner the University of Pretoria, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Kalantzis'.

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



Faculty of Natural and Agrigultural Sciences
Department of Consumer and Food Sciences

Welkom. Siyakwamukela. Re a le amogela. Welcome.

On behalf of the Local Organising Committee in the Department of Consumer and Food Sciences at the University of Pretoria, it is our privilege to welcome you, our online delegates, to the Fifteenth International Conference on Food Studies.

Although you are joining us virtually, you are an integral part of this gathering. Convened by Common Ground Research Networks, this conference thrives on the exchange of ideas and perspectives, whether in person in Pretoria or connected from across the globe.

Our theme, Fed UP, is both a reflection and a challenge. It asks us to learn from the past, what worked and what did not, and to imagine food futures that are just, sustainable, and nourishing for all.

South Africa, even through your screen, offers a meaningful backdrop: a country rich in food heritage and creativity, but also facing affordability concerns, nutrition transitions, climate stress, and food loss and waste. These challenges mirror global realities, making our conversations urgent and relevant.

In the days ahead, you can expect:

- Fresh insights from researchers, practitioners, policymakers, educators, and creators.
- Interactive debate and discussion that invite your participation and reflection.
- Networking opportunities to connect with colleagues across borders.
- Inspiration where food heritage and innovation meet, even online.

This conference values every voice. Whether you are an early-career scholar or a seasoned leader, we encourage you to engage fully. The strength of this community lies in its diversity and collaboration across disciplines, geographies, and generations.

Thank you for making the effort to join us online. May the sessions inspire new thinking, the conversations open doors, and the connections you make here continue far beyond this week.

Here's to learning from the past and imagining new futures, together.

With warm South African regards,
On behalf of the Local Organising Committee,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nadene'.

Dr. Nadene Marx-Pienaar
University of Pretoria
nadene.marxp@up.ac.za



Food Studies Research Network

Founded in 2011, the **Food Studies Research Network** is brought together around a common interest to explore new possibilities for sustainable food production and human nutrition, and associated impacts of food systems on culture. We seek 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.

Food Sustainability

How sustainable is our current food system?

Access to affordable and quality food is one of the key challenges of our time - to feed a growing world population, to feed it adequately and to feed it using sustainable production practices. Food production entails intensive and extensive relationships with the natural environment. Many of the world's key environmental problems today are related to agricultural practices. Agriculture and food industries are also uniquely positioned to make a constructive contribution towards efforts designed to address these problems.

How sustainable is our current food system? It takes 160 liters of oil to create a tonne of corn in the United States. One kilo of beef takes 8-15 kilos of grain in feedlot production, requires 10,000 liters of water, generates 35 kilos of greenhouse gasses, and creates feedlot pollutants which need to be disposed of responsibly. There is growing public concern for the welfare of feedlot animals and birds, the use of antibiotics in feed and the food values of meats grown under these conditions. Agriculture is also the largest single user of fresh water, accounting for 75% of current human water use. In many parts of the world we are on the verge of a water crisis, exacerbated in places by climate change. Meanwhile, lengthening food supply chains extend the carbon footprint, and centralized just-in-time production creates new food vulnerabilities.

Concern is also raised about the impacts of rising energy costs, the diversion of foods into biofuel production, soil depletion and exhaustion, chemical fertilizers, encroachments of onto farming land for residential and commercial uses, deforestation as more agricultural land is sought, depletion of wild food sources such as fish, and fresh water crises ... to mention just a few critical issues raised by today's food systems.

In the meantime, our food needs are not standing still. It is estimated that food production will need to rise 50% in the next 20 years to cater for an increased global population and changing habits of food consumption with more people are eating increased quantities of meat and dairy. This not only has environmental consequences; the resultant food price inflation also has negative consequences measured in terms of its social sustainability.

In this context, some commentators have even started to speak of 'peak food' when the earth's food-producing capacities are stretched beyond their limits.

What might be done? How might a sector which has often become part of the problem, become a pivotal player in finding solutions? How might we create sustainable food ecosystems? How might we develop low-carbon agriculture? Indeed, how can food systems assist in carbon sequestration? How can we use water less wastefully? How can we improve animal welfare? How can we change eating habits so they are both more healthy and also use our natural resources to best effect in a more equitable global food system? We can only answer questions that are so large with a new green revolution, qualitatively different from the green revolution of the twentieth century, and in its own way potentially just as transformative.

Food in Human Health and Wellbeing

How do we improve public understandings of nutrition and community eating practices?

It is estimated that three quarters of health care spending in the developed world addresses chronic diseases—including heart disease, stroke, cancer and diabetes—many of which are preventable and linked to diet. Similar trends are in evidence in other developed countries, and also developing countries as diets come to resemble more closely those of affluent countries. Meanwhile, access to inadequate food is one of the key consequences of widening global inequality, and translates into malnutrition, hunger, disease and shortened life expectancy for billions amongst the world's population.

This is the momentous background to the work of researchers, practitioners and teachers in the wider range of disciplines that concern themselves with food and human nutrition, from the agricultural to the health sciences, from economics to sociology, from studies of sustainable human systems to the aesthetics and culinary arts of food. At root, the aim of all these endeavors can simply be stated: the equitable availability of a nutritious and safe food supply.

Food and health sciences need to work together to address these issues. How do we ensure food sovereignty, on a local and global scale? How do we build public trust in food safety, creating a broader understanding of new technologies and addressing concerns that are frequently voiced about microbiological safety, genetically modified crops, animal health and welfare and food additives?

Food Politics, Policies, and Futures

How do we navigate the politics and policies of food systems?

Governments have long intervened both in agriculture and public health. In the case of agriculture, government intervention brings controversy, raising as it does questions about the role of government in relation to the market, 'protectionism' versus 'free markets', 'food sovereignty' or when some argue that agricultural policies should be allowed to be determined by global markets, and the difficulties that poor countries have selling their products into protected, developed-world markets.

In the area of public health, for some in the developing world, an improvement in health and wellbeing may simply arise from having an opportunity to eat once a day. In both developing and developed countries, however, government policies to improve health require integration of nutrition and food needs with economic growth and development objectives. Included in this agenda has to be the health care system, education addressing diet and nutritional needs, and changing life styles and food choices. Political support is required to achieve national health goals with emphasis on nutrition and food sciences. The medical community also has a role to play as it considers the impact of diet and nutrition on health outcomes.

Members of food producing communities and enterprises have a role to play—ranging from global agribusinesses that need to adapt to changing markets and social norms, to innovative alternative organic or local foods enterprises, to organizations advocating farm and food processing worker rights, to groups trying to address the needs and farming practices of the world's one billion agricultural workers, half of whom do not own land or equipment and who effectively work in conditions of semi-serfdom.

Social movements and lobby groups will also have their roles to play. These may range from groups representing agribusinesses, to organic and local farming groups, to alternative food movements such as vegetarians and vegans, 'slow food' and healthy food movements, to efforts to create gardens and teach cooking, health and nutrition in schools.

Finally, educators and researchers also have a role to play, studying problems, testing solutions and communicating their findings to the public through the media, as well as in formal education programs. Better education efforts are needed to inform the public of human nutritional needs, and to encourage food producers and manufactures to produce healthier foods using more sustainable systems. While health and wellness is a booming global industry, there are still billions of world citizens that are malnourished or lacking sufficient food to meet their basic nutritional and physiological needs.

Theme 1: Food Production and Sustainability

Exploring the environmental conditions of food production.

Living Tensions:

- Principles and practices of sustainable agriculture
- The green revolution
- The new green revolution
- Genetically modified foods
- Organic foods
- Natural disasters and the food supply
- Food production and the water supply
- Diversion of foods into biofuels
- Implications of transitions with growing affluence from grains, legumes and pulses, to meat and dairy
- Agricultural fossil fuel use and rising energy costs
- Soil depletion, exhaustion, erosion and fertilizers; and remedies
- Agricultural land availability and 'peak food'
- Farmland preservation
- Urban agriculture
- Agriculture and deforestation
- Agricultural greenhouse gases and climate change; and remedies in agricultural carbon sequestration
- Hydroponic and low-carbon agriculture
- Farm originated and feedlot pollution
- Animal welfare
- Sustainability of wild fisheries and other wild food sources
- The environmental impact of seafood farms
- Waste management in food production and environmental sustainability
- The global food market
- Large scale and global agribusiness: efficiencies, offerings and deficiencies
- Community food security
- Sustainable food communities
- The local food movement
- Economics of farmers markets and community co-ops
- Urban and rural food deserts
- Supply chains: just-in-time distribution, transportation and warehousing

Theme 2: Food, Nutrition, and Health

Investigating the interrelationships of nutrition and human health.

Living Tensions:

- Human nutritional and dietary needs
- The chemistry of food, nutrition and human energy
- Food contamination and food-borne illness
- Food safety assurance, risk analysis and regulation
- Growth hormones and antibiotics in food, and their effects on children
- Food and chronic disease: obesity, heart disease, cancer, diabetes
- Food poverty
- The socially equitable diet
- Food, nutrition and public health
- Nutrition labeling
- Processed and unprocessed foods: health implications
- Safe fruit and vegetable processing in a global market
- Genetically modified foods and food engineering
- Foods and nanotechnology
- Food flavors, the taste of food and preferences
- Biotechnology and today's food
- Food and global health challenges
- Consumer trends and nutritional behaviors
- Nutrition and disease management and prevention
- Food and the wellness industry
- Eating disorders
- Vitamin supplements and medical needs
- Food marketing to children
- Ethnic foods and community nutrition

Theme 3: Food Politics, Policies, and Cultures

Exploring claims, controversies, positions, interests and values connected with food.

Living Tensions:

- Urbanization, population growth and the global food supply
- The political economy of food
- Food prices inflation and food scarcity
- Food supply, transportation and storage
- Free markets versus agricultural protectionism and subsidies
- Farm law and public financing
- The impacts of developed world trade barriers on the developing world
- Hunger and poverty: public policy in food and nutrition
- WHO policies on world nutrition
- Global food ethics
- Farmers' organizations and movements
- Farm worker rights
- Fast food and slow food
- Celebrity and media chefs
- Consumer 'taste'
- Vegetarian, vegan and other dietary systems
- 'Ethnic' and regional foods
- Food taboos: kosher, halal etc.
- The cultures of 'the table'
- Food sociability
- Gendered home cooking patterns
- School and community food gardens
- The alternative food movement
- Food advertising and food media
- Food safety regulations and guidelines
- Food self-sufficiency and 'food sovereignty'
- 'Fair Trade'
- Animal rights and welfare initiatives
- Food sovereignty and free trade regimes
- Malnutrition and international food programs

Hennie Fisher

University of Pretoria, South Africa



Dr. Hennie Fisher is a Culinary Arts lecturer in the Department of Consumer and Food Sciences of the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Pretoria. He holds a PhD in Food Management for which he developed and validated a Food Literacy Measurement Instrument using Rasch Modelling. Other research involves Cultural Food such as the Chikanda of Zambia, Sensory Research regarding Mogodu (a local tripe dish) as well as collaborative work in areas of Food Waste, and modernising Culinary Training through Flipped Learning and on-line submission of practical preparation documents. Hennie co-authored a book chapter titled Eating and Drinking in Southern Africa, edited by professor Herbert Meiselman and published by Springer (2020). Hennie holds an advanced diploma from the Cordon Bleu School as well as a two-year Diploma from the Cape Wine Academy. He gained cooking experience at the Michelin-starred Gidleigh Park restaurant in Devon, England, under Shaun Hill; at The Wilds Restaurant in Fulham, London, and worked as restaurant manager at Lucy's Restaurant in Stanley, Hong Kong. Back in South Africa, he co-owned Sirocco, a restaurant serving Mediterranean food in the Gerhard Moerdyk Village in Sunnyside, as well as Mufuti Restaurant in Riviera, which served modern Pan-African cuisine.

Hennie occasionally writes about food and wine for the Pretoria News and the Sunday Times, writes monthly reviews for the Eat Out Restaurant Guide website and contributes to the annual Eat Out Top 500 Restaurant print guide. Hennie is involved in many community engagement programmes, and has acted as external moderator for tertiary education institutions such as the University of Johannesburg, University of North-West, University of South Africa (UNISA), Steyn's Culinary Academy, Capital Hotel School, Rietondale High School and the Chaîne des Rôtisseurs. Hennie has served on the Department of Basic Education's examination panel for Hospitality Studies and as book referee for Hospitality text-books. Hennie is a full board member of BICSA, a baking incubator based in Pretoria. Hennie belongs to the South African Chefs Association and the South African Association of Family Ecology and Consumer Science, and is a member of the International Association of Consumer Research. Hennie has been invited to serve as a judge at the annual Sunday Times Cookbook Awards as well as at the annual Galliova Awards. Hennie regularly presents at international conferences, most recently at the International Food Studies Conference in Kaohsiung City, Taiwan in October 2019, as well as The Oxford Food Symposium in September 2021.

Blanca Rosa Aguilar Uscanga

University of Guadalajara, Mexico (Spanish)



Doctora en Ciencias en Biotecnología, egresada del Institut National des Sciences Appliquées de Toulouse en Francia. Master en Ciencias de los Alimentos. Actualmente Profesor investigador de tiempo completo en el Centro Universitario de Ciencias Exactas e Ingenierías de la Universidad de Guadalajara en México. Miembro del Sistema Nacional de Investigadores (SNI) en México con nivel 2. Profesor asociado honorífico en el INRS-Institute Armand Frappier en Canadá. Las áreas de investigación que trabaja son: Biotecnología de Alimentos, desarrollo de alimentos funcionales, bebidas fermentadas, probióticos, prebióticos y seguridad alimentaria. Así como, el área de la microbiología de alimentos y aplicada, para la obtención de metabolitos y compuestos bioactivos vía microbiana, Colaborador con instituciones nacionales e internacionales.

The **Food Studies Research Network** is grateful for the foundational contributions, ongoing support, and continued service of our Advisory Board.

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Food Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal

Food Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal explores new possibilities for sustainable food production and human nutrition. It provides an interdisciplinary forum for the discussion of agricultural, environmental, nutritional, health, social, economic, and cultural perspectives on food. Articles range from broad theoretical and global policy explorations to detailed studies of specific human-physiological, nutritional, and social dynamics of food. Food Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal examines the dimensions of a "new green revolution" that will meet our human needs in a more effective, equitable, and sustainable way in the twenty-first century.

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Past Events

- 2011 - University of Nevada Las Vegas, Las Vegas, USA
- 2012 - University of Illinois, Champaign, USA
- 2013 - University of Texas at Austin, Austin, USA
- 2014 - Monash University Prato Centre, Prato, Italy
- 2015 - Virginia Polytechnic University, Blacksburg, Virginia, USA
- 2016 - University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, USA
- 2017 - Gustolab International Institute for Food Studies and Roma Tre University, Rome, Italy
- 2018 - University of British Columbia - Robson Square, Vancouver, Canada
- 2019 - National Kaohsiung University of Hospitality and Tourism, Kaohsiung City, Taiwan
- 2020 - Marymount Manhattan College, New York City, USA (Virtual)
- 2021 - Aarhus University, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2022 - Marymount Manhattan College, New York USA
- 2023 - University of Guadalajara Guadalajara, México
- 2024 - Politécnico de Portalegre, Portalegre, Portugal

The **Food Studies Research Network** is thankful for the contributions and support of the following organizations.





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Fed Up: Learning From the Past, Imagining New Futures

The Fifteenth International Conference on Food Studies, "Fed Up: Learning From Tradition, Imagining New Futures," will be hosted in the vibrant heart of Pretoria, South Africa. The conference is dedicated to unraveling the intricate threads of food, culture, and sustainability that shape not only our local landscapes but also the global food discourse. In a world marked by abundance and scarcity, this conference serves as a forum to explore the multifaceted dimensions of food in contemporary society, transcending borders and boundaries.

We invite scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and food enthusiasts to join us to engage with renowned experts and thought leaders. Foster cross-cultural collaborations and share innovative research. Gain insights into South Africa's culinary heritage and its global impact. And be part of shaping sustainable and equitable food futures. Together, let's embark on a culinary journey that transcends boundaries, unlocking the wisdom of tradition and harnessing the power of imagination to pave the way for a more sustainable, nourishing, and inclusive world. Prepare to be inspired, challenged, and nourished in mind and body. We look forward to welcoming you to this transformative conference.

Food Production and Sustainability:

South Africa's diverse ecosystems and agricultural traditions have long been intertwined with its rich tapestry of cultures. We'll delve into sustainable farming practices, innovations, and indigenous knowledge systems. Our discussions will address how these practices can be harnessed to ensure food security for all while safeguarding the environment for future generations.

Nutrition and Health

As we navigate the complexities of modern diets and their impact on public health, we emphasize the importance of nourishing our bodies with local, nutritious ingredients. In the quest for improved well-being, we explore dietary diversity, indigenous superfoods, and innovative culinary approaches. Together, we'll uncover the intersection of traditional wisdom and cutting-edge research to promote healthier societies.

Politics and Policies:

Food is inherently political, entangled in the webs of policymaking, trade agreements, and global geopolitics. We analyze the implications of government policies and international agreements on food access, sovereignty, and justice. We invite dialogue on how we can collectively advocate for equitable and sustainable food systems on local and global scales.

Heritage, Culture, and Pop-Culture:

Food is not merely sustenance; it is a mirror reflecting a society's identity and evolution. Through gastronomy, we will delve into the depths of heritage, culture, and pop-culture, exploring the narratives and traditions that have shaped our culinary landscapes. From traditional dishes passed down through generations to the fusion of global cuisines in urban centers, we celebrate the diversity that enriches our culinary experiences.

Erik Wolf

Executive Director, World Food Travel Association, USA



"South Africa's Culinary Tourism at a Crossroads: Learning from the Past, Imagining New Futures"

Erik Wolf is recognized as the founder of the modern food tourism industry and the World Food Travel Association. He is a highly-sought speaker, thought leader, strategist and consultant, in the US and abroad, on food and drink tourism issues, and is considered the go-to resource on food and beverage tourism for a wide variety of media outlets that include CNN, the BBC, the Wall Street Journal, Newsweek, NBC, Forbes, Click by Booking.com, PeterGreenberg.com, Huffington Post, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and many more. He advises leading global brands such as World Travel Market, Absolut, American Express, Disney, Marriott and Royal Caribbean, and organizations such as UNESCO and UNWTO. His articles, research and books have been translated into dozens of languages.

9 October - 16:30 PM Pretoria

Miles Kubheka

Entrepreneur and Chef, South Africa



"A Change Makers Mindset"

Miles Kubheka is a passionate serial entrepreneur and changemaker on a mission to drive positive change in South Africa, a country he firmly believes to be the best in the world. With the audacity of hope and innovation, he transforms dreams into reality. His influential story resonates across the cultural landscape of both South Africa and beyond, inspiring others to embrace the spirit of entrepreneurship and contribute to the country's greatness. As a thought leader, he fosters an entrepreneurial mindset in individuals (across walks of life) and organizations, making a lasting impact on the nation's business landscape. Accomplished in business, he founded Vuyos and later, Wakanda Food Accelerator & Gcwalisa. Beyond entrepreneurship, he serves on the board of the food rescue organisation, SA Harvest, further cementing his commitment to making a positive difference in South Africa.

8 October - 09:30 AM Pretoria

Chris Broodryk

Assistant Professor, University of Pretoria, South Africa



Chris Broodryk is Associate Professor in the School of the Arts, Faculty of Humanities, University of Pretoria. He completed his doctorate in Film and Television Studies at the University of Cape Town. His trans-disciplinary research focuses on identity dynamics and cultural expression, which ranges across film studies, television studies, and social media studies. He has published academic articles, book reviews, film reviews, and play reviews in peer-reviewed journals such as *Journal of African Cinemas*, *Critical Arts* and *Journal of Literary Studies*. Currently, Chris is collaborating with the Centre for Asian Studies in Africa (CASA) on a theatre-based climate action project, and is in conversation with the UP Institute for Sustainable Malaria Control (UPISMC) on film-specific research and outputs about malaria. He is the editor of *Public Intellectuals in South Africa: Critical Voices from the Past* (Wits University Press, 2021). He is coordinator of postgraduate film praxis in the School of the Arts, and supervises MA and PhD research in Drama and Film Studies and at the Unit for Creative Writing.

9 October - 09:15 AM Pretoria

Jesús Alonso Amezcua López

Profesor e investigador, Centro Universitario UTEG, Guadalajara, México



El Dr. Jesús Alonso Amezcua López es profesor e investigador en el Centro Universitario UTEG, donde lidera proyectos en biotecnología alimentaria, nutrición neonatal y lactancia materna. Su trabajo se centra en la investigación sobre leche humana en polvo y su fortificación con probióticos, así como en el impacto del consumo de sustancias tóxicas durante la lactancia.

Doctor en Ciencias en Procesos Biotecnológicos por la Universidad de Guadalajara, el Dr. Amezcua también realiza investigaciones en recién nacidos con sepsis neonatal y el desarrollo de nuevos fármacos bioterapéuticos, contribuyendo al avance de la salud neonatal en colaboración con el Laboratorio de investigación Leche Humana de la Universidad de Guadalajara.

Su labor ha sido reconocida con diversos premios, incluyendo el Premio Latinoamericano en Idea Innovadora 2023. Además, combina su destacada trayectoria académica con un compromiso social enfocado en la promoción, fomento y apoyo a la lactancia materna y la alimentación en neonatos críticos.

Each year a small number of Emerging Scholar Awards are given to outstanding early-career scholars or graduate students. Here are our 2025 Emerging Scholar Award Winners.

Nadine du Piesanie

University of Pretoria,
South Africa



Marina Fourie

University of Pretoria,
South Africa



Lilian Kafuko

University of Pretoria,
South Africa



Rochelle Van Veijeren

University of Pretoria,
South Africa



Lesego Marule

University of Pretoria,
South Africa



Charmaine Sehoole

University of Pretoria,
South Africa



Giulia Damilano

University of Pretoria,
South Africa



Maria Catalina Villalpando Paez

University of Berkeley,
USA



Sujata Kalkal

Panjab University,
India



Zelmari Coetzee

University of Pretoria,
South Africa



Arcènia Notilija Vilanculo

Syracuse Urban Food Forest Project,
USA



Munashe Catharine Kurehwatira

Africa University,
Zimbabwe



Justin Clayton

University of Pretoria,
South Africa



Sahar Tavakoli

University of Milan,
Italy



Abdelilah Ahnich

Sultan Moulay Slimane University,
Morocco



Nechama Huba

Duke University,
United States



Anna Garner

Columbia University,
United States



Yuanke Zhou

National University of Singapore,
Singapore



Online Welcome and Training Session (Live)

Join other delegates for a pre-conference welcome reception and training session.

This special event will walk you through the CGScholar Event Microsite 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.

7 OCTOBER 2025

10:00AM Central Standard Time Chicago USA // 17:00PM South African Standard Time

Online Talking Circle

Talking Circles are a distinctive feature of our in-person conference – and this year we are taking them online. Talking Circles offer an opportunity to meet other delegates 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.

9 OCTOBER 2025

10:00AM Central Standard Time Chicago USA // 17:00PM South African Standard Time

Pre-Conference Afternoon: "Siyakwamukela!" A True South African Welcome

(Siyakwamukela means "We welcome you" in Zulu)

We invite you to join us for an enriching excursion to the Moreleta Kloof Nature Reserve – one of Pretoria's most scenic and tranquil locations. This 100-hectare reserve is home to a variety of wildlife, including Springbok, Zebra, Impala, and Ostrich, as well as abundant birdlife, making it a haven for nature enthusiasts.

During your visit, enjoy a guided exploration of the reserve's natural beauty, followed by an elegant tasting of South African wines and canapés in a serene outdoor setting.

The Moreleta Spruit, which flows through the reserve, adds to the peaceful ambience, creating the perfect backdrop for this unforgettable experience.

This is a unique opportunity to experience South Africa's natural heritage and enjoy a taste of local hospitality in a beautiful setting. We look forward to welcoming you!

Date: 7 October 2025

Tour Departure Time: 3:00PM (15:00)

Meeting Location: Future Africa

Seeds of Resilience: Exploring Africa's Indigenous and Orphan Crops

Join us at Future Africa for an enlightening garden tour that delves into the critical role of Africa's indigenous and orphan crops in promoting food security, sustainability, and agrobiodiversity. Led by Dr. Hennie Fisher and Mr. Richard Hay, this immersive experience provides an in-depth exploration of these underutilized species and their potential contributions to urban food security.

Participants will gain valuable insights into the historical, cultural, and ecological significance of these crops while exploring innovative approaches to integrating them into urban greenspaces and contemporary food systems. This tour not only highlights the resilience and versatility of Africa's agricultural heritage but also fosters discussions on addressing global challenges such as climate change and nutrition security through indigenous knowledge systems.

Engage with thought leaders, connect with peers, and expand your understanding of how these crops can shape the future of sustainable agriculture and equitable food practices.

Date: 8 October 2025

Start Time: See Event Schedule for Specific Time.

Meeting Location: Future Africa

Conference Gala Dinner

Join us for a spectacular Gala dinner hosted by our final-year hospitality students at the Javett Art Centre. Experience a curated multi-course menu celebrating South Africa's rich culinary heritage, blending traditional flavours with modern creativity using locally sourced ingredients.

This event marks the culmination of our students' journey, showcasing their passion, innovation, and hospitality expertise in an unforgettable dining experience while celebrating South African art and culture in the inspiring setting of the Javett Art Centre.

Date: 9 October 2025

Start Time: 7:00PM (19:00)

Location: Javett Art Centre, University of Pretoria, 23 Lynnwood Rd, Hatfield, Pretoria, 0002, South Africa

Crust and Crumb: A Cultural Journey Through Bread

Join Prof Gerrie du Rand and Dr Hennie Fisher on Friday 10 October 2025 (14:00PM) in the training kitchens of the Department of Consumer and Food Sciences in the Old Agriculture Building on the main campus of the University of Pretoria for a hands-on bread-baking workshop.

Please book using the link below and tell us about your favourite cultural bread. Add your requested bread-baking ingredients and enjoy an afternoon of baking, illustration, sharing and tasting.

Gerrie and Hennie will illustrate and demonstrate a selection of South African breads, whereafter participants will each make their own favourite cultural bread.

This workshop is priced along with the South African braai that takes place on Friday evening, and the breads that participants have baked during the workshop will be taken along to the braai venue, where it will be served, in South African style, as a starter to the braai, along with items such as cheese, preserves, pâtés and other South African snacks such as biltong.

Date: 10 October 2025

Start Time: See Event Schedule for Specific Time.

Meeting Location: Future Africa

South African Braai

Join us on the last day for an unforgettable traditional South African braai – the ultimate way to savour local flavours, enjoy great company, and soak in the vibrant atmosphere. Good food, great vibes, and a perfect farewell! You won't want to miss it!

Date: 10 October 2025

Start Time: 5:30PM (17:30)

Location: "Uitspan" University of Pretoria Sports Campus

Guide to the Guide

HEADING STRUCTURE

Access	Guides to Ensure Access
Navigate	Guides on How to Navigate
Engage	Guides on How to Engage

SCHOLAR MEANINGS

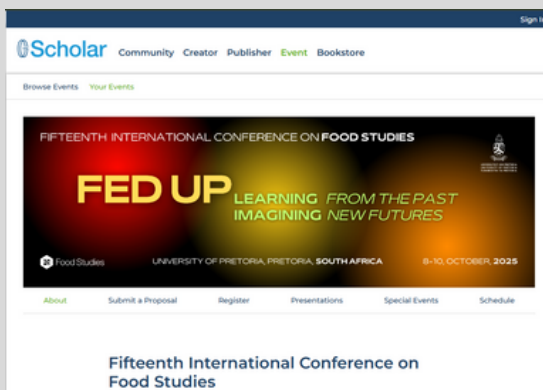
Everywhere you see an underlined term look to the Scholar Meanings box at bottom of page for more detailed intromation.

CGScholar Meanings

Access

Navigate to your Microsite ...

The **Event Microsite** in CGScholar will be your hub for navigating the conference. If you are an In-Person Blended delegate it's where you'll view the schedule, find your way around the venue, and engage with digital media and online discussion boards. If you are Online Only it is where you'll view the schedule, find live sessions, and engage with asynchronous digital media and online discussion boards.

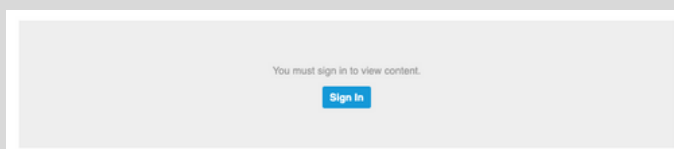


Visit: https://cgscholar.com/cg_event/events/O25en/about

Access

Make sure you are Signed-In....

Before starting any session in the Event Microsite ensure you are **Signed-In**. If you are not Registered you'll be prompted to do so.



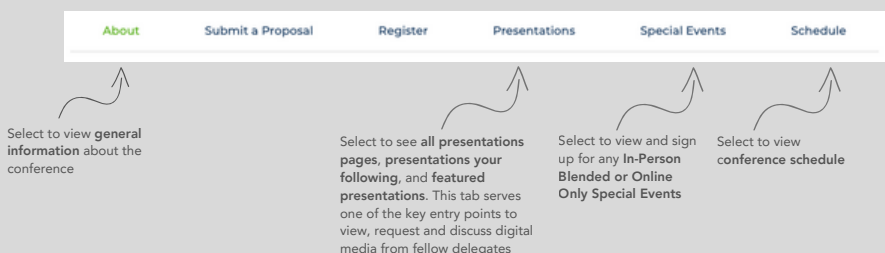
CGScholar Meanings

Event Microsite: The CGScholar Event Microsite is your 'hub' for the online portion of the conference. It is where you will find your Presenter Page, sign up for special events, and view the Event Schedule.

Registered: Registering for the conference will give you access to the conference content. You can register for the conference under the 'Registration' tab on the CGScholar Event Microsite.

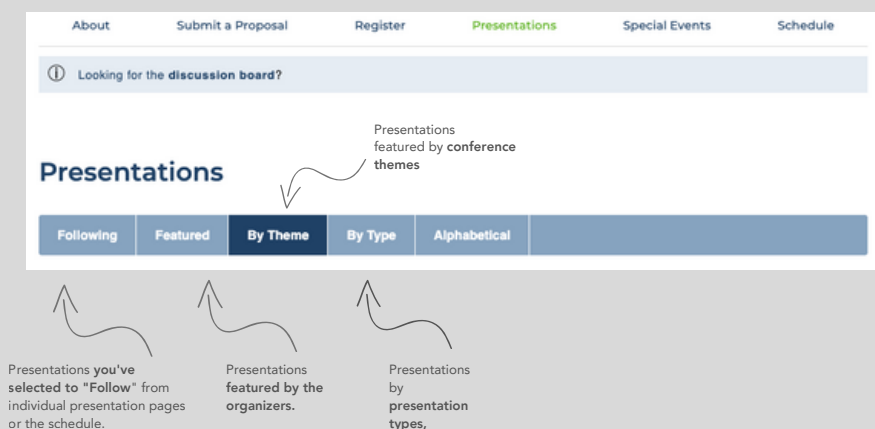
Navigate From the Landing Page ...

The main URL for the Microsite will take you to the **Landing Page**. For both In-Person Blended and Online Only, this top-level navigation will be the entry points for all actions, content, and social activity.



Navigate From the Presentations Tab ...

The **Presentations** tab is the entry point to view all In-Person Blended and Online Only Presentation Pages. The sub-navigation offers different ways of viewing the lists of presentations.



CGScholar Meanings

In-Person Blended: An In-Person Blended delegate is one who has registered to participate in-person at the conference venue, and online.

Online Only: An Online Only delegate is one who will only participate in the conference online.

Presentation Pages: A Presentation Page is a unique page for each presentation. If you are presenting at the conference, you can edit and upload your digital media to your Presentation Page. You can also view other delegates Presentation Pages.

Featured: A Featured session is one which is highlighted by the conference organizers or local hosts. In most cases, these are the Emerging Scholars Presentation Pages, but can also include Advisory Board sessions, Plenary Sessions and other notable sessions.

Theme: Each Research Network has a number of themes that are consistent from year to year. There is also a Special Focus theme that is unique to each conference year.

Type: Presentation type is **how** you will present. This can be a Themed Paper Presentation, or a Poster session or a Workshop.

Navigate From the Schedule Tab ...

The **Schedule** tab is the entry point to the program for all In-Person Blended and Online Only delegates. In-Person Blended tabs will be marked with dates and times. Online Only content is asynchronous, unless marked with date and time.

The screenshot shows the 'Schedule' tab in the CGS Scholar interface. The top navigation bar includes links for 'About', 'Submit a Proposal', 'Register', 'Presentations', 'Special Events', and 'Schedule' (highlighted in green). Below the navigation bar is a section titled 'Navigating the Schedule' with a sub-header 'Schedule'. A dropdown menu labeled 'SHOW' is set to 'English Language Sessions'. Below this are tabs for 'Pre-Conference' (13 JAN 2022), 'Day One' (14 JAN 2022), and 'Day Two' (15 JAN 2022). The main content area lists sessions with titles, speakers, and times. Each session has a 'Discuss' button. Some sessions also have a 'Follow' button. Annotations with arrows point to various elements: 'Guide to navigating the conference schedule' points to the 'Schedule' sub-header; 'Tabs for each day of the conference.' points to the day tabs; 'Use to switch between English and Spanish Language Sessions' points to the 'SHOW' dropdown; 'Select Themed Panel titles/headers to view all presentations for the themed panel. You'll find (or be able to request) digital media to view on each individual presentation page.' points to the 'Emphasis on Education (Asynchronous Session)' header; 'Select Presentation titles / headers presentations pages. On these pages you'll find (or be able to request) digital media to view.' points to the 'Creating a More Resilient Inclusive Culture in Higher Education' header; 'Select names to open CGS Scholar profiles in the Community space in CGS Scholar. Here you'll be able view their profile, add as your "Peer" and send messages.' points to the speaker names; 'Select Discuss to go directly to the Discussion Board to comment on presentation/s' points to the 'Discuss' button; and 'Select Follow to add this presentation to your Following list in the presentation tab. Once you've selected Following you'll also receive email notification for all comments the discussion board for that presentation.' points to the 'Follow' button.

Guide to navigating the conference schedule

Tabs for each day of the conference.

Use to switch between English and Spanish Language Sessions

Select Themed Panel titles/headers to view all presentations for the themed panel. You'll find (or be able to request) digital media to view on each individual presentation page.

Select Presentation titles / headers presentations pages. On these pages you'll find (or be able to request) digital media to view.

Select names to open CGS Scholar profiles in the Community space in CGS Scholar. Here you'll be able view their profile, add as your "Peer" and send messages.

Select Discuss to go directly to the Discussion Board to comment on presentation/s

Select Follow to add this presentation to your Following list in the presentation tab. Once you've selected Following you'll also receive email notification for all comments the discussion board for that presentation.

CGS Scholar Meanings

Asynchronous: Asynchronous content are presentations which are Online Only, and are not dependent on a date and time for presentation, but a Digital Media upload.

English and Spanish Language Sessions: Under this drop down, you can 'flip' between sessions in English, or sessions in Spanish.

Themed Panel: A Themed Panel is a grouping of three or four Themed Paper Presentations according to theme and topic. Each Themed Panel has its own discussion board, and title.

CGS Scholar Profile Page: Each CGS Scholar user has their own profile page with headshot, bio and educational information.

Community: The Research Network Community page is where you will find the latest Updates and information about what is happening in the Research Network.

Discuss / Discussion Boards: The discuss button will take you to the discussion board for that session (Plenary Session or Themed Panel, for example). Here you can pose questions, comment on Digital Media and engage with other delegates.

Navigate From a Presentation Page ...

Each presenter is given a personal **Presenter Page**. On **Presenter Pages** you can read the Abstract, view or request Digital Media, or Follow the presentation. You can also follow link breadcrumbs to other presentations in the same Theme or Presentation Type.

[About](#) [Submit a Proposal](#) [Register](#) [Presentations](#) [Special Events](#) [Schedule](#)

Follow

Going it Alone : Primary Caregivers and the Consequences of Support Loss in the Transition to Remote Work

THEMED PANEL: PAPER PRESENTATION IN A THEMED SESSION | JAN 14, 2022 | 56 Engagements

Abstract

The transition to remote work following the COVID-19 pandemic placed an inordinate burden on working primary caregivers. Outside institutional support (daycare services, school, in-home health care) quickly vanished, and employer support often failed to adapt to caregivers' distinct needs. We find that these new burdens prompted primary caregivers to reexamine their roles at home and work and, consequently, their careers. Our research was guided by three central questions: 1) How did the transition to remote work influence primary caregivers' perceptions of career advancement? 2) How did primary caregivers navigate this sudden change, and what job-related compromises did they make? 3) To what extent did this experience compel them to remain in or exit the workforce? For this exploratory study, we conducted semistructured interviews with 20 primary caregivers who were working onsite, full time in March 2020, and who subsequently transitioned to fully remote work. Five key themes emerged: 1) persistent stress due to the combined pressures of full-time work and caregiving, 2) hesitancy to take on new projects or professional development goals, 3) perceptions that promotional opportunities had been lost or pushed farther out, 4) enhanced connection with family members, and 5) a reexamination of career plans. It is imperative that researchers, practitioners, and organizations understand and attend to primary caregivers' recent experience, as it portends a significant withdrawal from the labor market, potentially reversing pre-pandemic trends toward greater gender equity. This research raises crucial questions concerning post-pandemic career opportunities and the downstream socioeconomic effects of a reduced workforce.

Presenters

Nathaniel Young
Research Associate, Marketing, O.C. Tanner, Utah, United States

Details

PRESENTATION TYPE
Paper Presentation in a Themed Session

THEME
The Value of Culture and the Demand of Change

KEYWORDS
Caregivers, Remote, Work, Equity, Labor, Participation

Digital Media

Select names to open CGScholar profiles in the Community space in CGScholar. Here you'll be able view their profile, add as your "Peer" and send messages.

Select Presentation Type to see other presentations of a similar type

Select Theme to see other presentations of a similar conference theme.

Select Follow to add this presentation to your Following list in the presentation tab. Once you've selected Following you'll also receive email notification for all comments the discussion board for that presentation.

VIEW DIGITAL MEDIA

REQUEST DIGITAL MEDIA

Digital Media

Employees as Lifelong Learners: Characteristics and Promotion in The 21st Century

Employees as Lifelong Learners: Characteristics and Promotion in The 21st Century (PDF)

Digital Media

This presenter hasn't added media.
[Request media and follow this presentation.](#)

CGScholar Meanings

Digital Media: Digital Media is the asynchronous method for delegates to view your presentation. Digital media can be an embedded video, a PowerPoint with audio, a PDF or an mp4 file.

Request Digital Media: If a delegate has not uploaded their Digital Media to their Presentation Page, you can request that digital media by clicking the link. The delegate will then receive an email reminding them to upload their Digital Media, and you will automatically 'follow' that session.

Follow: You can follow sessions that are of interest to you so you can go back to them easily, and view the discussion boards. You can access your 'followed' presentations in the Follow tab of the CGScholar Event Microsite.

Navigate From a Themed Panel ...

The majority of the conference sessions are themed paper presentations. Our programming team groups individual presentations into **Themed Panels**. You access these themed panels via the Schedule tab in the Microsite. To view or request Digital Media from a Presenter click on their individual tiles. To view a delegates CGScholar profile and/or add them as Peer click on their name.

The screenshot shows the 'Schedule' tab selected in the top navigation bar. The main heading is 'Progress and Recovery Post-COVID'. Below it, a green box indicates '22 Engagements'. A link 'Select Discussion Board to comment on presentation/s' points to a 'Discussion' tab in a blue bar. Below this, the first presentation is 'Policy Uncertainty in the Lithium Triangle' by Jennapher Lundt Seefeldt. The second presentation is 'Measurement to Support a Just, Equitable, and Green Post-pandemic Recovery' by Stacey Haugen. Annotations on the left side of the image point to specific elements: 'Title of the Themed Panel' points to the main heading; 'Select Presentation titles / headers to find (or be able to request) digital media to view.' points to the presentation titles; 'Presentations Featured by the organizers.. Will also appear as a category on the Presentations Page' points to the 'Featured' tag; and 'Select names to open CGScholar profiles in the Community space in CGScholar. Here you'll be able view their profile, add as your "Peer" and send messages.' points to the presenter names.

Annotations:

- Title of the Themed Panel
- Select Presentation titles / headers to find (or be able to request) digital media to view.
- Presentations Featured by the organizers.. Will also appear as a category on the Presentations Page
- Select names to open CGScholar profiles in the Community space in CGScholar. Here you'll be able view their profile, add as your "Peer" and send messages.

CGScholar Meanings

Themed Paper Presentations: A Themed Paper Presentation is a 20 minute presentation (either In Person Blended or Online Only). Each Themed Panel has a discussion board for questions and comments.

CGScholar Profile: Your CGScholar Profile is a delegate's profile page. It is where you can learn further about that delegate such as current affiliation, past experience and education.

Peer: When you add a colleague as a Peer you will be able to view their CGScholar Profile and interact with them in the CGScholar platform.

Engage

Follow Presentations ...

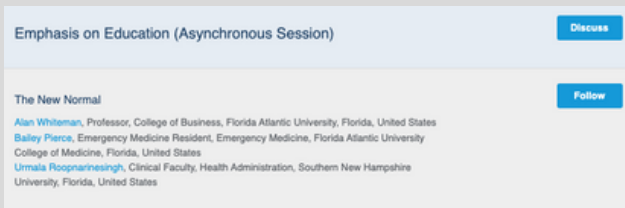
When you see a **Follow** button you can add this presentation to your Following list in the Presentation tab. Once you've selected **Follow** you'll also receive email notifications for all comments the discussion board for that presentation.

FOLLOW FROM A PRESENTATION PAGE



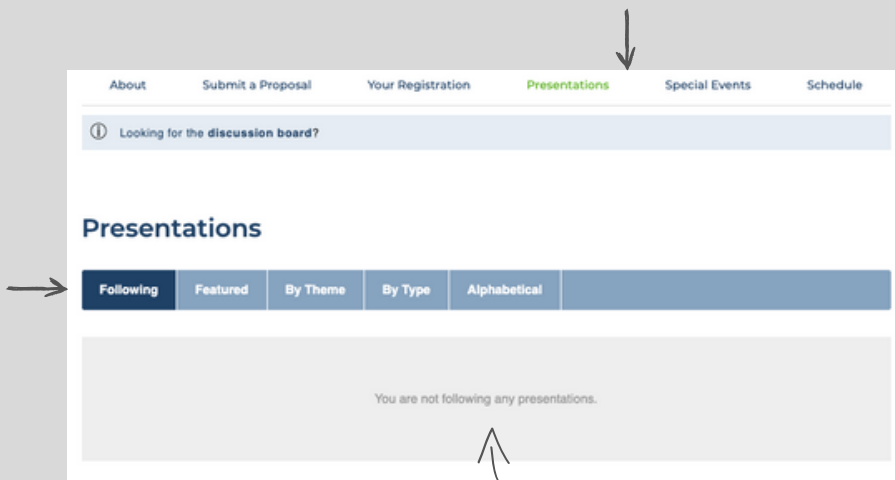
The screenshot shows a presentation titled "Mental Health and Wellbeing @ Work : Another Dimension of the Pandemic". Below the title, it says "THEMED PANEL: PAPER PRESENTATION IN A THEMED SESSION" and "JAN 14, 2022". To the right of the title is a blue "Follow" button. An arrow points to this button from the right.

FOLLOW FROM A SCHEDULE



The screenshot shows a schedule entry titled "Emphasis on Education (Asynchronous Session)". Below it, there is a section titled "The New Normal" with a list of speakers: Alan Whiteman, Bailey Pierce, and Urmala Roopnarain Singh. To the right of this section is a blue "Follow" button. An arrow points to this button from the right.

PRESENTATIONS YOU ARE FOLLOWING



The screenshot shows the "Presentations" tab selected in the top navigation bar. Below the navigation bar, there is a section titled "Presentations". Under this section, there are tabs: "Following", "Featured", "By Theme", "By Type", and "Alphabetical". The "Following" tab is selected. Below the tabs, there is a large grey box with the text "You are not following any presentations." An arrow points to this box from the bottom right.

Presentations you are Following will appear here.

Engage

Comment in Discussion Boards ...

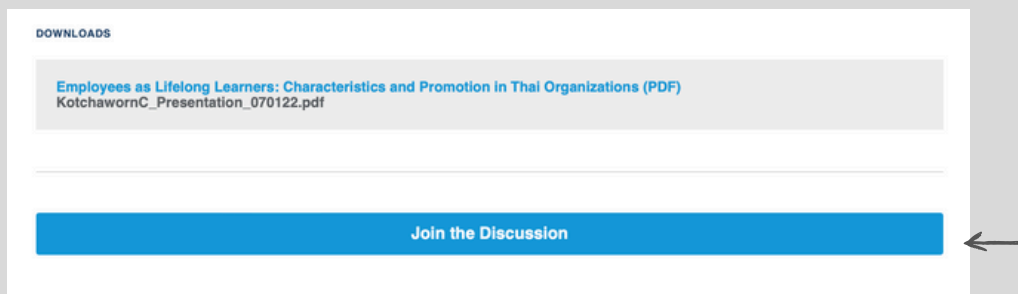
Discussion Boards are your space to engage with the presenters and other audience members. Discussion Boards open the day before the conference and close two days after. We encourage all delegates -- In-Person Blended and Online Only -- to use these Discussion Boards to leave questions and comments for speakers. And do this in an asynchronous manner -- in other words leave a question at any time and the user, the'll get and email when you do. .

NAVIGATE TO TO **DISCUSSION BOARDS** FROM SCHEDULE



The screenshot shows a conference schedule with tabs for 'Pre-Conference' (13 JAN 2022), 'Day One' (14 JAN 2022), and 'Day Two' (15 JAN 2022). Under the 'Day One' tab, there are three session cards. Each card has a 'Discuss' button on the right, which is pointed to by a black arrow. The sessions are: 1. 'Plenary Session - Dr. Kathleen E Allen, Author, President, Allen and Associates, United States' (Live - 14 January 2022 - 9:00 AM CST). 2. 'Plenary Session - Dr. Spencer S. Stober, Professor, Biology, Alvernia University, United States' (Live - 14 January 2022 - 10:30 AM CST). 3. 'Emphasis on Education (Asynchronous Session)'.

NAVIGATE TO TO **DISCUSSION BOARDS** FROM PRESENTER PAGE



The screenshot shows a 'DOWNLOADS' section with a link to 'Employees as Lifelong Learners: Characteristics and Promotion in Thai Organizations (PDF)' by KotchawornC_Presentation_070122.pdf. Below this, there is a large blue button labeled 'Join the Discussion', which is pointed to by a black arrow.

COMMENTING IN A **DISCUSSION BOARD**




The screenshot shows a discussion board interface with tabs for 'Presentations' and 'Discussion'. The 'Discussion' tab is active. On the left, there is a small image of a person sitting at a desk. To the right of the image is a text input field with the placeholder 'Add a comment...'. Below the input field is a blue button labeled 'Add Comment', which is pointed to by a black arrow. At the bottom left, there is a note: 'Please keep our discussion courteous and productive.'


Engage

With the Community ...

The Event Microsite is only one space in **CGScholar**. Our general social space is called **Community**. Your Research Network has its own Community page where you'll find the latest updates and news from the community members.

[Community](#) [Creator](#) [Publisher](#) [Analytics](#) [Event](#) [Bookstore](#)









Climate Change: Impacts ...



Welcome to the Climate Change: Impacts & Responses Research Network!








Views: 2,941

COMMUNITY ADMINS (18)

-  William Cope
-  Ebony Jackson
-  Phillip Kalantzis-Cope
-  Tamsyn Gilbert
-  Jeremy Boehme
-  Common Ground
-  Sara Hoke
-  Alex Pate











[View All](#)

MEMBERS (2,652)








-  Reda Sadki
-  Izabel Szary
-  Abigail Manekin
-  Adrian Wiese
-  Tamara Stanberry
-  Kelsey Shannon
-  Bill Cope

Activity Stream

[Filter Activity](#)





-  MUDESSIR TEMAM IMAMU JOINED THE COMMUNITY.
Added on January 06, 2022
-  NIKO TIAN JOINED THE COMMUNITY.
Added on January 05, 2022
-  MAQBOOL SHEIKH JOINED THE COMMUNITY.
Added on January 05, 2022
-  NOUR LYNA BOULGAMH JOINED THE COMMUNITY.
Added on January 04, 2022
-  PAVITHRA RAVI JOINED THE COMMUNITY.
Added on January 04, 2022
-  LAMBERT CYRILLE NGAYAP KAMGANG JOINED THE COMMUNITY.
Added on January 02, 2022
-  MARINA ANDERSON JOINED THE COMMUNITY.
Added on December 27, 2021
-  MD JAHIRUL ISLAM JOINED THE COMMUNITY.
Added on December 22, 2021
-  VISHAL SHARMA JOINED THE COMMUNITY.
Added on December 21, 2021
-  BOSHIR AHMED AWAL JOINED THE COMMUNITY.
Added on December 20, 2021

Recent Activity

-  Mudessir Temam Imamu joined the community.
-  Niko Tian joined the community.
-  Maqbool Sheikh joined the community.
-  Nour Lyna Boulgamh joined the community.
-  Pavithra Ravi joined the community.
-  Lambert Cyrille Ngayap Kamgang joined the community.
-  Marina Anderson joined the community.

[View All](#)

PUBLICATIONS (429)


-  The International Journal of C...
-  The International Journal of C...
-  Adaptations toward Climate ...
-  Environmental Awareness, R...

[View All](#)

SHARES

Share a file or link...

EVENTS (1)




Responding to CLIMATE CHANGE
GOVERNING THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

[Submit](#) / [Register](#)


Engage

Add Peers ...

Within Community are individual CGScholar Profile Pages. Here you can view a person's bio, send them a private message, and add them as a **Peer**.

 **Scholar** Community Creator Publisher Analytics Event Bookstore

Kinzi Duncan



[Add to Peers](#)
Views: 501

THEIR COMMUNITIES (23)

- Climate Change: Impacts an...
- Tourism and Leisure Studies
- e-Learning and Innovative P...
- The Learner
- The Constructed Environment

[View All](#)

THEIR PEERS (33)

- Murali Venugopalan
- Victoria Hurth
- Gabriella D.
- Deborah Bartley Carter
- Andrea Spada Jiménez

[View All](#)

About Kinzi Duncan

MICRO-BIO

Eastern Illinois University Graduate with a degree in English and Multi-Cultural Studies.

EXPERIENCE

Common Ground
Conference Assistant
December 2020 to Present

EDUCATION

Eastern Illinois University
BA in English
August 2016 to 2018

Lakeland Community College
AGS
August 2014 to 2016

DISCIPLINES

Intercultural/Multicultural And Diversity Studies

English Language And Literature, General

INTERESTS


Diversity In Education


Media Studies


English Studies


LANGUAGES


Recent Activity


 Kinzi Duncan created the update Get to Know the Emerging Scholars! - Twelfth International Conference on The Constructed Environment.


 Kinzi Duncan created the update Audience Passes Available! - Eighteenth International Conference on Technology, Knowledge, and Society.

 Kinzi Duncan created the update Learn About the Event Microsite! - Thirteenth International Conference on Sport & Society.

 Kinzi Duncan created the update Audience Passes Available! - Fifteenth International Conference on e-Learning & Innovative Pedagogies.

 Kinzi Duncan created the update Sign Up for Social Events! - Twelfth International Conference on Food Studies.

 Kinzi Duncan created the update Sign Up for Social Events! - Twelfth International Conference on Religion & Spirituality in Society.

 Kinzi Duncan created the update Meet the Emerging Scholars! - Twenty-second International Conference on Knowledge, Culture, and Change in Organization.

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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.

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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:



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