



Feminist Theory and Gender Studies Section (FTGS)



FTGS Annual Report 2021-2022

Executive Committee

Section Chairs (three-year term):

Current Co-Chairs: Dr Olajumoke Yacob-Haliso, Babcock University, Nigeria (2020-2023)

Dr Punam Yadav, University College London, UK (2020-2023)

Outgoing Chair: Professor Roberta Guerrina, University of Bristol, UK (2019-2022)

Incoming Chair: Dr Amanda Chisholm, King's College London, UK (2021-2024)

Programme Chairs (three-year term)

Current Programme Co-Chairs: Dr Sara C. Motta, University of Newcastle, Australia (2020-2023)

Dr Theresa de Langis, American University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia (2020-2023)

Incoming Program Co-Chairs: Dr Toni Haastrup, University of Sterling, UK (2021-2024)

Dr Maria Tanyag, Australian National University, Australia (2021-2024)

Outgoing Program Co-Chairs: Dr Catherine Eschle, University of Strathclyde, UK (2019 -2022)

Dr Catherine Goetz, University of Tasmania, Australia
(2019 -2022)

Communications: Dr Kandida Purnell, Richmond University - The American
International University in London

Members-at-Large (two-year term)

Dr Anwar Mhajne, Stonehill College, USA

Ms Khushi Singh Rathore, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

Dr Amya Agrawal, Centre for Global Cooperation Research, Duisburg, Germany

Dr Sharmila Parmanand, University of Cambridge, UK

Dr Ayako Kobayashi, Sophia University, Japan

Dr Huey Fen Cheong, Universiti Malaya

Graduate Student Members (one-year terms):

Ms Krystal-Gayle O'Neill, University of Massachusetts, USA

Ms Hoimi Mukherjee, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

Membership

In March 2022 FTGS membership stood at 617, a decent increase from 514 in 2021 which continues the trend of steady membership growth since 2005.

Finances

In the year of our stewardship (2021-2022), the FTGS financial balance recovered some buoyancy as the Section (and the world) gradually came to terms with the severe disruptions to financial solvency occasioned by the Covid-19 pandemic globally. The key financial highlights are as follows:

- Section finances came mainly from determined efforts which resulted in the recruitment of more members, rather than from traditional fundraising from donors. We are so grateful to all our dedicated FTGS members whose financial commitment and support have been landmark in the current financial year.
- Also, the main expenses were the various awards given to an ever more diverse set of scholars. In addition to the cash value of certain awards, expenses always include production of the certificates/plaques, and postage, all done directly by ISA, and accounted for after the Convention. These expenses therefore only reflect in the future balance sheet at that time.
- As the traditional FTGS Reception could not hold physically in 2022, for the second year running due to Covid disruptions to travel, there were no expenses in this regard.
- The only atypical expense was the payment of \$500 for the Spanish-English translation at the Virtual Roundtable on Colombia.
- Excom also set up a Finance & Sponsorships Committee to brainstorm ideas and strategies for strengthening section finances.
- Given that one of the limitations for fundraising this year was the lack of a pre-existing template, the Committee drafted a fundraising/ appeal letter that future Excom may find useful. It is appended to this report.

Income and expenses in 2021-2022

Income	
Starting balance FY' 2021 (2020-2021 Excom)	\$22,115.11
Starting balance FY' 2022 (2021-2022 Excom)	\$19,563.64
Closing balance, February 2022	\$19,904.65
Projected Convention Expenses	
Cash Awards, at ISA Convention 2022	
Convention Award(s)	\$900
Eminent Scholar Award	\$800
Early Career & Community Engagement Award	\$500
Graduate Student Paper Award	\$500
Teresia Teaiwa Award	\$800
Global South Feminist Scholar Award	\$800
Total	\$4,300

Programme Chair's report - abstract submissions and panels

CFP: In our call for papers for the 2022 Conference, we intentionally foregrounded the intersectional nature of feminisms, feminist theories and the study of genders. We welcomed new thinking on putting this intersectionality into practise and text/thought, centring Black, Indigenous, decolonising, queer, trans, eco, anarchist, abolitionist and other other(ed) lineages of feminist bodies, thought and practice. The CFPs radically invigorated the Conference Themes, described by ISA as: 'The theme for this year is "A Wider Discipline for a Smaller World," and the ISA is actively encouraging papers, panels and roundtables that address how International Studies is transformed by a seemingly smaller, more interconnected and inclusive world.' Our call highlighted how feminisms in their plurality demonstrate the raced, classed and gendered distances and lines of global separation, now at a critical conjuncture. We are arguably at a moment of political, theoretical and ethical collective choices and (im)possibilities: in which a politics of life, lives well lived which is feminised/ist, decolonised and pluridiverse is an increasingly necessary demand and prefigurative emergence that requires both engagement and nurturing. The Feminist Theory and Gender Studies section takes this political-theoretical conjuncture seriously. '

Number of papers and panels received: The section received 184 submissions with FTGS as their first choice, comprised of 21 Panels, 16 Roundtables, 147 Papers. The section was allocated 41 panel slots (including a Distinguished Scholar Panel and FTGS Town Hall) for the 2022 Conference. To build the program, which ISA originally announced would be only in-person despite an unpredictable global pandemic, we accepted 15 of the submitted panels and 10 Roundtables, and we created enough new panels (68 in total) to fit 133 papers by leveraging co-sponsorships. Co-sponsorship included old friends such as the Women's Caucus, Queer Theory, Peace and Conflict and the Global South, as well as brand new co-sponsors, such as the Science, Technology and IR section. Eventually, ISA converted to two parallel streams for the conference, with FTGS program co-chairs building two separate programs, one for the in-person event and one for the virtual event.

Number of FTGS events on final program: Presently, the ISA system shows FTGS appearing in (either 100% or as co-sponsor) 25.64 in-person panels and 18.64 virtual panels. The pandemic, as discussed below, as well as the shifting platform to two

parallel streams, contributed to close to half of the panels missing some element (a paper, a chair and/or discussant).

Pandemic: The ongoing reality of the global pandemic continues to have differential and often a severe impact on members of our section - as it is comprised of women, women identifying and others undertaking feminist research in all its complexity as intersectional from South/North and raciaised/classed lines who are often more intensely impacted by covid vis a vis health and additional caring labours, and by HE restructurings and erosion of spaces of critical feminist (in broadest sense) and gender research/theory (with covid often given as the justification). This results in increased precarity for many members of our section who are often facing casualisation and work instability, the triple burden of care, and burnout/exhaustion/chronic health challenges.

For us in this report, therefore, it became important to bring visibility to the stories and herstories of who is able to be present and who is absent. We do not include this not merely to archive in a formalistic manner but to mark in our text and make a call for active listening and action from the entirety of the organisation

Result of the pandemic and its differential impact for those of us who care (in multiple senses of the word): As the pandemic went through a series of surges, moving around the world like a multi-coiled slithering beast. ISA announced the program would be hybrid, with many panels deciding to switch to the virtual format (so therefore outside the management of the FTGS co-chairs) and, over time, many participants deciding to drop out altogether.

Inclusion and Transformation Committee

The Inclusion and Transformation Committee carried forward the work of previous section executives by designing programs and initiatives to further the objectives for which the committee was set up. Three key initiatives were agreed by the Executive Committee during the past year, to be carried forward into the coming year.

Writing Sprints/ Workshops: The first one is building a stronger sponsoring/mentoring community between colleagues located in global North and global South institutions and between people in senior and junior career stages. We will do this through a

series of virtual writing sprints/workshops, and/or writing communities, possibly run as part of ISA regional conferences. These virtual spaces will enable a prioritising of writing, of thinking through ideas in a collaborative format, of demystifying publishing by bringing in publishers and commissioning editors and building a community through regular virtual check-ins between regional conferences. In this pursuit, the committee is also considering the idea of possible collaborations with journals with the intent to work on special issues. We were in conversation with *Journal of International Women's Studies*, *International Affairs*, and the *International Feminist Journal of Politics* (IFJP) during the year to explore synergistic possibilities and are looking forward to continuing this dialogue in the coming year. Given the current academic work environments globally, which continues to see an increase in workloading of our members in this committee, we have had to prioritise this initiative for the 2022-23 term.

FTGS Global Voices Series: The second initiative is to raise the visibility of the diverse expertise our section holds by hosting a virtual "FTGS Voices in Global Politics" seminar series. Each seminar will showcase the work of members who are structurally and institutionally marginalised. They will present their work with a discussant and broader audience question/answers. These will be recorded and uploaded onto a Youtube channel for further social media dissemination. To facilitate the initial take off of this initiative and take advantage of institutional infrastructure, we are exploring a partnership with the School of Security Studies, King's College London.

'Feature' Interviews: In collaboration with E-IR, the committee is working to coordinate 'feature' interviews which will profile emerging feminist scholars, specially those located in the Global south. The first of this collaboration is the published [interview](#) with Eda Gunaydin as winner of the FTGS Graduate Student Paper Award in 2020. E-IR has also agreed to help circulate information regarding FTGS to their wider readership.

The FTGS Convention Award 2022 remains committed to facilitating increased participation of young feminist scholars from institutions that do not enjoy significant resource and geographical privilege, with non-western, marginalized, and precaritized scholars given first consideration. In light of the global pandemic induced uncertainties, the committee unanimously arrived at the decision to give 3 awards this year. This

was done with the intent of supporting increased remote and in-person participation. The committee decided to give one \$700 & \$200 grant to support participation at ISA 2022. The winners of ISA 2022 are Julio César Díaz Calderón (*University of Florida*), Kiran Chauhan (*Jawaharlal Nehru University*)

(Note: Tripti Chowdhury (Jawaharlal Nehru University) was also offered the award but it was turned down as she would no longer be attending ISA 2022 due to the uncertain Covid situation. The left over funds would added to the FTGS budget to be utilised as best determined by the executive committee)

FTGS-ISA Global Conversations Series

In a year that was dramatic in the range and breadth of globally significant events, FTGS considered it imperative for its voice to be heard engaging publicly on feminist security concerns arising from these events. Consequently, with the initiative, facilitation and collaboration of ISA HQ, the first in the series of virtual “Global Conversations” was convened on the Afghanistan situation, and two others subsequently on Ethiopia and Colombia. It was important to us for these Conversations to be inclusive in every sense and collaborative, involving topics from some of the less studied regions in IR scholarship (Africa, Asia and Latin America), and including feminist scholars, activists and practitioners representative of a multiplicity of voices, wisdoms, experiences, and perspectives. Speakers, moderators and participants at the virtual events were from every continent in the world, and for this we are very grateful. Details of the events are on the FTGS website. The Conversations are listed below:

1. FTGS, ISA, and the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security, Virtual Roundtable: Women and Girls’ Security, Agency and Rights Beyond the Current Afghan Crisis, 28 September 2021.
2. FTGS, ISA and the ISA Global South Caucus, Virtual Roundtable: Ending the Conflict and Violations of Women’s Rights in the Ethiopia-Tigray Civil War, 5 November 2021.

3. FTGS, ISA and ISA Latin America and the Caribbean Region, Virtual Roundtable on Colombia: Feminist, Decolonial and Intercultural Politics in the Popular Resistance in Cali, 17 January 2022.

FTGS Distinguished Scholar Award

Every year, Feminist Theory and Gender Studies (FTGS) Section honors an Eminent Scholar in International Studies for their contributions to feminist theory and gender studies. Scholars nominated have made significant impact in pushing the boundaries of the subfield, and advancing feminist scholarship through their teaching, mentoring and leadership. Further, they have distinguished themselves through commitment to the Section.

As with previous years, we received several exceptional nominations. As a committee, we unanimously chose to recognise Professor Geeta Chowdhury, for her dedicated service in promoting inclusivity and diversity of scholarship within the section, her commitment to mentoring and supporting junior colleagues and her exceptional scholarship and contribution to knowledge. Professor Chowdhry was a long-time member of the ISA and served as the ISA Diversity Committee (2006-2008) and the ISA Executive Council (2005-2006). She served FTGS in various capacities, as a Section Chair, Program Chair and Vice Chair, Executive Council Member and on the Graduate Student Paper Award Committee. As one of the first women of color to serve as a Chair of FTGS, Professor Chowdhry brought her academic commitment to practice by creating institutional space for other women of color.

Professor Chowdhry was a leader in the discipline. She was on the cutting-edge of feminist post-colonial and race theorisations that expanded the study of International Studies and the way we produce knowledge in the social sciences. Her research and community outreach work contributed to rethinking the discipline, the structures of feminist theory's configuration, postcolonial and Global South approaches and South Asia. This work has not only expanded the boundaries of the field of International Studies, but also pushed feminist scholarship theoretically, methodologically, and empirically.

Professor Chowdhry has an exceptional record over decades of her academic career in creating institutional space for those marginalised in the academy and knowledge at the margins. She was instrumental in advancing the position and standing of scholars and students facing structural exclusions along intersecting lines of gender, racialisation and class in these programs and within and beyond the field of International Studies. Professor Chowdhry not only successfully developed and expanded programs in Women's Studies and Ethnic Studies, but she also served as the Director of both programs and took on countless (and often thankless) committee assignments, serving often as the sole woman and/or person of color on committees that otherwise invisibilised the efforts of faculty and staff pushing for curricular and racial diversity in the institution and programming. In her capacity as Chair of the Department of Politics and International Affairs at Northern Arizona University, she ensured that her long running efforts to steer the curriculum toward more balance and provide a space for critical lines of inquiry in the graduate and undergraduate curriculum were sustained and advanced during her tenure.

It is with great pleasure that the FTGS confer the award of Eminent Scholar to Professor Geeta Chowdhry for her impact on and service to the field. Like too many women scholars of color, who go unrecognized in their lifetimes, Professor Chowdhry will not be able to accept the award, but we hope that this recognition provides historical bookmark of the important legacy of her scholarship, commitment and care for her many students around the globe and across the years.

FTGS Early Career and Engagement Award

As a committee we got an exceptional pool of nominations. It is inspiring to learn the amazing scholarship and engagement work members of our section are pursuing. Unanimously we chose to recognise the work of both Anwar Mhajne and Shenila Khoja-Moolji. Both scholars have demonstrated an enormous commitment to producing world leading research that pushes our knowledge forward as well as an unfettered commitment to mentoring and advocating for their respective communities.

FTGS Book Prize

As a committee we received a large volume of book nominations. This is a testament to the diverse and prolific scholarship of our committee members of publishing. It was a difficult decision. All the nominations were exceptional. In the end we unanimously awarded Sylvia Tamale's book *Decolonisation and Afro-Feminism* FTGS Book Prize. This book is exceptional in its rigour, accessibility and breath of coverage. It makes a clear contribution to our existing knowledge as a community and fills a very important knowledge gap. The comments from the Book Award committee are summarised below:

"Sylvia Tamale's Decolonization and Afro-Feminism makes a compelling case for unlearning imperial power relations by "shaking off" the colonial filters through which we view the world. This process, she argues is a process of relearning that re-envisions Pan-Africanism as a more inclusive decolonizing/decolonial movement that embraces Afro-feminist politics. Tamale also challenges the traditional human rights paradigm and its concomitant idea of "gender equality," flagging instead, the African philosophy of Ubuntu as a serious alternative for reinvigorating African notions of social justice.

Decolonisation and Afro-Feminism is outstanding in terms of originality, significance and contribution to the FTGS mission. It provides an important alternative to the hierarchies, so easily reproduced by international relations theories. It is a book that encourages us to think beyond binaries to imagine a different future in which the Orientalist Western gaze is replaced by a deep sense of ownership for a radical future. As Tamale points out in the introduction, this book is "This book is my humble contribution in the efforts to construct a counter-hegemonic feminist narrative for future generations. It is part of the narrative that does not simply commit to the struggle for decolonialization, but also recognizes the dynamics of gender within the struggle for new ways of being" (Tamale, 2020: 10). It is a book about hope, transformation, inclusion and participation in a movement rooted in the ethics of Afro-Feminism.

This book stands out in a field in which great work was published in the last two years for its commitment to transformation and creating a new vision that transcends the legacy of colonialism and neo-liberalism. The analysis is theoretically sophisticated and empirically rich, providing ample opportunities for engagement for all readers".

FTGS Graduate Student Paper Award

The FTGS Graduate Student Paper award went to Dean Cooper-Cunningham, who is a Ph.D candidate at the University of Copenhagen, for their paper on “Photographing Queer Dystopia”. The comments from the award committee are summarised below:

"This is a very original paper presenting a novel and deeply reflected approach to understanding international politics through the lens of homophobic politics, queer protest and homonationalism. The topic is highly relevant and the approach intriguing. The self-reflective writing communicates brilliantly the complexity of homonationalist/homophobic international politics."

FTGS and GDS Teresia Teaiwa Award

The Teresia Teaiwa award was this year given to I-Chang Kuo from the Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University, for his essay ‘*Kamapim gutpela man*: Papua New Guinean and Chinese mineworkers’ changing understandings of becoming man’. The committee enjoyed this thoughtful and empirically rich ethnographic study of changing masculinities in the confined space of an oil refinery and associated homesteads in PNG. The study challenges dichotomised understandings of masculinities as traditional/modern and western/non-western, by examining the reciprocal and adaptive strategies of both PNG and Chinese mineworkers, with significant implications for the study of masculinities in PNG, the Pacific and beyond.

FTGS Global South Feminist Scholar Award

It is with great pleasure that we announced Dr Srila Roy of the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, as the inaugural winner of the Global South Feminist Scholar Award. This FTGS Award was instituted this year to recognise scholars in the area of feminist theory and gender studies whose scholarship have extended the frontiers of the discipline and advanced our understanding about Global South contexts in particular. The award committee received a large number of nominations, with many worthy nominees, whose work we also commend as important.

The award committee unequivocally acknowledged Dr Srila Roy's exceptional mark on feminist and gender scholarship in and from the Global South. She has made impressive and wide-ranging contributions across her teaching, mentoring, and leadership to promote multiple voices and platforms for south-south collaborations.

The committee also acknowledged Professor Jean Encinas-Franco of the University of the Philippines as deserving of honourable mention. Her intellectual contributions are in the study of gender, women's rights and global migration, and in pioneering the development of graduate and undergraduate level courses on Feminist International Relations and Gender in International Security at her department in the Philippines.

Nominations and Elections: FTGS Excomm Election Results 2022

We are delighted to announce the new members of the FTGS-ISA Executive Committee 2022-2025.

Section co-chairs 2022-2025

- Dr Lata Narayanaswamy, University of Leeds, UK
- Dr Srila Roy, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, SA

Program co-chairs 2022-2025

- Dr Anwar Mhajne, Stonehill College, USA
- Dr Itziar Mujika Chao, University of the Basque Country

Communications co-officers 2022-2024

- Dr Keshab Giri, University of Sydney, Australia
- Ms Khushi Singh Rathore, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

Members at Large 2022-2024

- Dr Masaya Llavaneras Blanco, Balsillie School of International Affairs (BSIA)

- Dr Saba Joshi, University of York, UK
- Dr Dipti Tamang, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

Graduate Student Representatives 2022 - 2023

- Ms Karoline Faeber, King's College London, UK
- Ms Eda Gunaydin, University of Sydney, Australia
- Ms Luah Thomas, University of York, UK

Many congratulations to the newly elected members!

Communications

Having appointed a Communications Officer in May 2021, The Comms committee have established an Instagram presence (https://www.instagram.com/ftgs_isa/) and continued to expand our presence and community on Twitter to over 3,350 followers (https://twitter.com/ftgs_isa). Internally, the Comms team have now established Slack as our de facto communications platform and transitioned FTGS over from e-mail in August 2021. Going forwards the Comms team aim to establish a monthly FTGS newsletter and are refreshing the FTGS Website (<https://genderingworldpolitics.com/>) while codifying a position statement on FTGS online practice towards 'outside' events and international political developments.

Townhall

The FTGS Townhall is conceived as an open and safe space for FTGS members and any other invited persons to share experiences, exchange ideas and extend support and understanding to one another. According to the 2019 FTGS Report, the Townhall "gathering is an open meeting slot that feminist scholars at ISA use to discuss questions and concerns amongst its members." In 2021-2022, the FTGS Townhall Committee comprised Olajumoke Yacob-Haliso, Sara Motta, Khushi Singh Rathore, Roberta Guerrina and Hoimi Mukherjee. The theme selected for the Townhall discussion at the 2022 ISA Convention was "Feminist Praxis in/and Post-Covid Futurities." This discussion is envisioned to be embracing of issues around feminist (from an intersectional lens) praxis in the forging and embodying of feminist post-covid

futures/futurities—an idea that compels us to take stock of the disabling and disorienting effects of the Covid pandemic on feminist-activist-praxis and simultaneously go beyond that to imagine feminist *futurities*, a future beyond the current to what can, and *must* be.

Concluding Remarks

It has been a challenging year. Our personal, professional and collective existences have been daunted by the persistence of the pandemic, as well as the unrelenting vicissitudes of everyday politics in our local, national and global contexts. In spite of all the challenges, it has been a very productive and progressive year for the FTGS. We initiated many new initiatives, including establishment of a new award and successful seminar series. Our team efforts in terms of igniting great progress in ensuring larger inclusion and transformation of the FTGS section have been especially commendable. Thank you to the entire FTGS executive committee members, ISA and the wider FTGS community for your continued support and the FTGS section looks forward to continuing all these great initiatives.