

## **Study Group Annual Report**

**Deadline:** January 31

Please fill in all relevant sections by typing text into the boxes. The boxes will expand as needed.

Name of Study Group:

Feminist Intersectional Solidarity Group

Membership stats:

2023: 35 so far..

2022: 78

2021: 89

2020: 45

Executive Members (names, roles, term of office):

*Martina Paloheimo, Co-Chair (July 2021-present)*

*Shawna Lewkowitz, Co-Chair (July 2021-present)*

*Rosemary Collard, Member at Large (spring 2020-present)*

*Araby Smyth (Member at Large)*

*Leah Coppella*

*Mantha Katsikana*

*Alkim Karaagac (Treasurer)*

*Monika Krzywania (Student Member)*

*Zoe Meletis, Past Chair (July 2021- present; ending in July 2023; was Chair from 2018-21)*

*other members who served in 2022:*

*Brittany Davey, Student Member (started in spring 2020- 2021)*

*Nasya Razavi, Member (started in January 2021- July 2022)*

Summary of activities at the national CAG Conference, and related activities:

Our group promoted CAG and FIGS membership via social media, and emails. We also promoted the Annual Meeting. Many of us attended the Meeting, as well as contributing special sessions and papers. We also held our AGM as part of the 2022 Annual Meeting. We thank the organizers for creating space for our AGM and our sessions in the Meeting, and for making it a successful online gathering.

We submitted a Special Events proposal for the CAG Meeting in 2022 as well as a revised proposal (at the request of the “mini exec”), and 3 Executive members attended a one hour long meeting the 2 members of the “mini exec.” We further justified and explained our complete required proposal and budget.

The Special Events application process had mysterious and unpleasant components in 2022 that we had not experienced with 2 prior successful applications. We had submitted our 2022 application with two other Study Groups on board (Indigenous Peoples’ Working Group; Economic Geography Study Group). The CAG Executive confirmed that ours was the only proposal for Special Events submitted in 2022. Despite these facts and the 10,000\$ reserved for hosting such events annually, we were offered approximately half of what we had budgeted for using real numbers and close estimates.

In the end, we decided not to organize the events as they could not be organized for the amount of funding extended. Proper compensation of students and invited guests is a priority for improved access and equity in academia and we had included appropriate suggestions in our budget. We decided that this should remain a feature of our unfunded proposal.

We hope to submit a similar proposal this year, and we hope that this dedicated funding will be allotted to such proposals since they typically do serve members well, reflecting the dedicated funds and another part of the CAG Mission Statement: “Improved Service to the Membership”.

We have also argued for a clearer fairer Special Events application process, along with other suggested governance improvements, in meetings with members of the CAG Executive, at the CAG AGM in 2022. Our experience in 2022 is also part of what inspired our petition. We filed the petition to alert and reach out to broader CAG membership after we were denied a discussion after

our presentation of motions at the AGM. The petition can be found here: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeW5cwdTctvcLP2id-93geeyBJk\\_ikj\\_qO-jxtvxYADJpLu-ng/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeW5cwdTctvcLP2id-93geeyBJk_ikj_qO-jxtvxYADJpLu-ng/viewform). At last check, 48 members had signed in support, from across Canada.

We hope that these efforts are contributing to improve governance and process for such proposals. We also thank the former CAG Exec. members who fought for this Special Event funding for recognizing that they would foster creativity, dynamism, and inter-Group collaboration linked to the Annual Meeting.

We have followed up on these concerns with members of the CAG Executive, including several meetings with the new President.

Summary of activities at other conferences (e.g. regional divisions):

Several FIGS Executive members were on the organizing committee for the 2022 Fem Geog international feminist geography conference called Pushing Boundaries. We contributed to conference design, delivery, and organization including vetting abstracts, chairing sessions, running workshops, and also giving papers. This was a ground-breaking, innovative, hybrid conference across international time zones and many other barriers.

Zoë Meletis and Nancy Worth submitted a proposal to the CAG to partially fund a set of speakers and activities that would have added and highlighted both content and participation from Canada as part of this international conference. Their proposal (for under 2000\$) was denied. The CAG “mini exec” and Exec said that it did not fit with the CAG’s mandate. We later noticed that the CAG Mission Statement includes the following components, all of which were present in Fem Geog 2022, and our proposal: “1. Dissemination of Geographic research”..., “2. Promotion of Geographic Education at All Levels”..., and “3. Increased Cooperation with Other National and International Organizations”. Thus, this was a missed opportunity to both raise the profiles of FIGS and the CAG by directly funding a portion of Fem Geog.

FIGS members including some Executive members participated in the WDCAG online meeting in 2022 as well.

Summary of activities outside of conferences:

Our Exec met regularly (quarterly+) throughout the year. We also worked with Kathryn and later Philip at the CAG (many thanks!) to continue FIGS active presence as a Study Group of the CAG. We are grateful for this support and the resources it brings with it.

As mentioned in a prior section, we also worked hard to calling for improved governance by the CAG Executive. We hope that these efforts are contributing to improved governance and process. We have followed up on these concerns with members of the CAG Executive, including several meetings with the new President. We did note, for example, that the EDI committee was reduced to one member, and that its budget is likely insufficient to contribute to long-term, ongoing change (as noted in our motions). We are contributing to and helping to promote EDI efforts at the CAG in the hopes that participation and funding will increase.

We held our annual FIGS Student Paper Awards contest in spring/summer of 2022 and awarded \$200 to both an undergraduate and graduate winner. Undergraduate winner: Jessica Froese (University of Northern British Columbia--UNBC), for "The Moon and Her Tides: Indigenous Women and Menstruation." Graduate winner: Sophie Rowson (York University): "Towards Affective-Emotional-Moody Geographies of Menstrual Bodies." The awards committee agreed that these were fascinating papers and powerful explorations of menstruation via feminist geography.

Note re Student Paper Award Amounts: FIGS has increased its student awards multiple times since 2018 as a way to work towards fairer prize amounts that better represent and reward the work put into such essays. FIGS acknowledges the high levels of student debt, the low levels of student funding, and the limited number of Geography awards for students. We hope to keep raising the award amount with this context in mind.

We opened calls for contributions to our third zine, and a 2022/23 newsletter last fall. Both are currently in production for release this term.

Communication with members (frequency and type, e.g. email list, website, social media, in person)

We appreciate the well-organized member list that the CAG is managing for us. Thank you!

FIGS has worked hard to improve our social media presences, information and image sharing, and related archiving over the last few years, building on prior efforts. We particularly thank Nasya, Mantha, and Leah for their contributions on this front in 2022. In addition to sending emails to members, we now share information on Instagram (100 followers), Facebook (106 members), Twitter (276 followers), and via a LinkTree consolidation of information on FIGS:

[https://linktr.ee/figsgeog?utm\\_source=linktree\\_profile\\_share&itsid=99dab687-3ce-e-496a-b751-5074285ae6c5](https://linktr.ee/figsgeog?utm_source=linktree_profile_share&itsid=99dab687-3ce-e-496a-b751-5074285ae6c5).

We publish at least one newsletter a year and these are now posted to the FIGS page at the CAG. They are posted here: <https://www.cag-acg.ca/figs-newsletters>

The Exec met online multiple times this year, as did sub-committees for particular issues. We also held a lively AGM during the CAG Annual Meeting in June of 2022. At this meeting, new members of the Executive were added and some prior Exec members also renewed commitments.

Planned use of study group funds:

We will soon have costs related to zine printing and mailing.

We hope to continue offering student awards and to further increase the dollar amounts for these, as indicated.

We hope to continue hosting academic and social events centered on feminist geography.

(regarding the use of dedicated SMML funds) We are currently co-organizing the Suzanne McKenzie Memorial Lecture alongside the CAG Annual Meeting's Organizational Committee. It should take place during the in person CAG Annual

Meeting in Montreal this May. We will fund the speaker and partially fund a reception. This will be announced in our imminent newsletter.