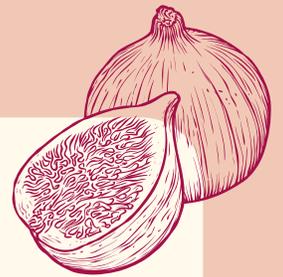


FIGS NEWS - Fall 2025



A semi-regular update from the Feminist Intersectional Solidarity Group of the Canadian Association of Geographers

Message from the Co-Chairs

As we close on 2025, we're reflecting on how much has changed – and how much continues to call for feminist voices, care, and solidarity. Across campuses, communities, and continents, FIGS members have been showing up: creating, teaching, mentoring, organizing, and imagining otherwise. In a world that often feels heavy with uncertainty, this community remains a reminder that feminist geography is not just a field of study – it's a practice of hope.

This year has been one of reconnection and renewal for FIGS. We've celebrated member achievements, welcomed new collaborations, and shared space at conferences across the country. One of the year's standout moments was the Suzanne Mackenzie Memorial Lecture at CAG – a full and lively event that captured exactly what makes FIGS so special. The lecture was more than a reflection on Suzanne's legacy; it was a gathering of feminist geographers across generations, honouring her commitment to justice, relationality, and imagination.

We've also launched new initiatives to strengthen our connections and collective energy – including the upcoming FIGS Cross-Pollination Coffee Hours, a space to share ideas, stories, and "witchy business" across disciplines and time zones.

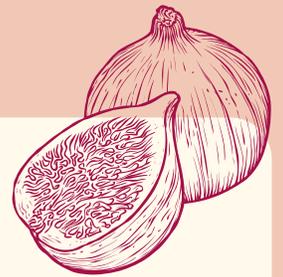
We also lost a long-time FIGS member, former Chair, and a friend and mentor to many - Dr Margaret Walton-Roberts who passed away in August after a long journey with cancer. Her contributions to feminist geographies were extensive, including editorial positions at *The Canadian Geographer* / *Géographe Canadien* and *Gender, Place and Culture*. She is missed by her family, friends, colleagues and the FIGS community.

We hope this newsletter captures the vibrancy of our community – from new publications to creative works, field reflections, and feminist pedagogy in action. FIGS thrives because of the energy, generosity, and care that each of you bring. As we move into 2026, we invite you to stay connected, share your work, and continue building this collective with us. Feminist geographies matter – now more than ever.

In solidarity and gratitude,
Shawna & Robin
FIGS Co-Chairs

Stay Connected with FIGS

**Follow us on Instagram,
Join the conversation on Facebook,
Connect with us on LinkedIn.**



Meet the FIGS Committee 2025-2026



Shawna Lewkowitz
She/her
FIGS Co-Chair

PhD Candidate, Western University

Research Interests: Urban feminist geographies, mobility methods, community-engaged learning, youth health and wellbeing

Robin Westland
She/her
FIGS Co-Chair

Assistant Teaching Professor,
Thompson Rivers University

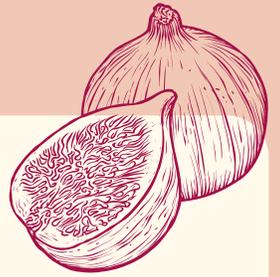
Research Interests: Feminist and more-than-human pedagogies



Jemima Duru
She/her
FIGS Member-at-Large

PhD Candidate
University of Northern BC

Research Interests: Gender and Displacement, Livelihood and Climate Change, Gender and Inequality, Disaster and Resilience,



Meet the FIGS Committee 2025-2026



Sarah Gelbard
She/her
FIGS Member-at-Large

Adjunct Professor,
University of Ottawa

Research Interests: Community Engagement,
Spatial Justice, Radical Planning, Abolition
Geography

Adrienne Johnson
She/her
FIGS Member-at-Large

Associate Professor,
Wilfrid Laurier University

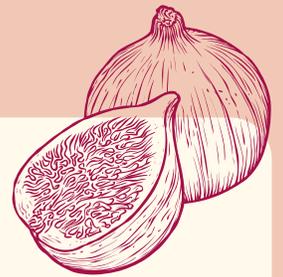
Research Interests: Environmental Justice,
Political Ecology, Resource Governance, Palm Oil
Geographies, Transnational Sustainability Policy



Jennifer Mateer
She/her
FIGS Communications

Assistant Professor,
Brandon University

Research Interests: Feminist Political Ecology,
Participatory Research, Environmental Justice



Meet the FIGS Committee 2025-2026



Zoe A. Meletis
She/her
FIGS Past Chair

Associate Professor,
University of Northern BC

Research Interests: Perceptions of Environment, Critical Conservation Studies; Human Dimensions of Wildlife; Inclusive Graduate Education; and Feminist Organizing

Emma Melis
She/her
FIGS Graduate Student Representative

MSc Student
Utrecht University

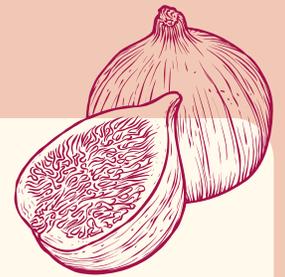
Research Interests: Urban Mobility, Environmental Sustainability, Feminist Geography, Science Communication



Emily Mills
She/her
FIGS Graduate Student Representative

MA Student,
Brock University

Research Interests: Abortion Mobilities, Critical Feminist Geographies and Rural Geographies



FIGS in the Field

CAG- Carleton

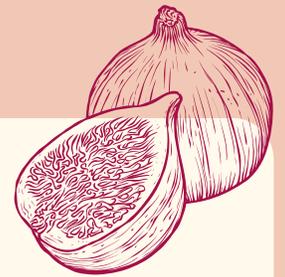
FIGS is grateful to Carleton University for hosting this year's CAG conference. The event offered a meaningful celebration of geography, and FIGS was pleased to represent feminist geographies in several important ways.

We hosted the session Feminist Geographies in Transdisciplinary Dialogue, which featured presentations on non-hierarchical teamwork, narrative and oral history methods, decolonial perspectives, and spatial justice. Together, these contributions demonstrated the continued relevance and strength of feminist geographic scholarship, with both long-standing and newly elected FIGS Executive members sharing their work.

We were also honoured to host the 25th Suzanne Mackenzie Memorial Lecture, which brought together a multigenerational panel of feminist geographers to reflect on feminist geographic genealogies and the emerging directions shaping the field.

Shawna and Robin were honoured to chair this special event. The panelists are working on a submission to Canadian Geographies that captures the depth of conversation. FIGS will alert its membership once that is published!





FIGS in the Field

This year's Prairie Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers (PCAG) conference offered a blend of scholarship, fieldwork, and reflection. On Saturday afternoon, participants joined a walking field trip in Wasagaming, the main townsite in Riding Mountain National Park. Participants were guided by Parks Canada Resource Conservation staff. The two-hour walk explored aquatic invasive species and forest and fire ecology, sparking rich discussions about how perception and care shape our relationships with these landscapes.

The evening's keynote by Mireille Lamontagne, "The Fort Ellice Legacy Project," wove together environmental history, heritage, and feminist storytelling. Lamontagne highlighted the often-overlooked roles of Indigenous peoples and women at Fort Ellice—from their work sustaining the trading post to their ecological and cultural knowledge that continues to inform conservation today. Her talk emphasized how centering women's voices and Indigenous knowledge deepens our understanding of place, stewardship, and community resilience.

PCAG 2025 reminded us that geography thrives when it's grounded in collaboration, care, and curiosity—both in the field and beyond.

PCAG 2025

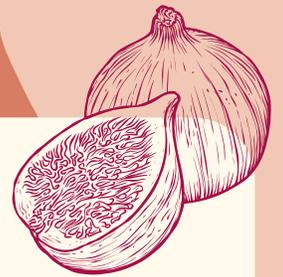


Clear Lake at Wasagaming



Mireille Lamontagne

Monthly FIGS Cross-Pollination Coffee Hours in 2026



As of January 2026, FIGS, will be hosting monthly virtual coffee hours for feminist geographers to come together and exchange ideas!

Part show-and-tell, part coffee hour, part hive mind, these monthly meetings will be a space where we can come together to exchange ideas, opportunities, and potential for collaboration.

These sessions invite feminist geographers, feminist geographic data scientists, and scholars (from all disciplines) studying feminist spatialities to pollinate across disciplines, build networks, and come together as a hive mind.

Feminist geography is highly reliant on trans- and interdisciplinary connections, so it's important for us to cross-pollinate across our fields, united by common interests.

The idea for the FIGS Cross-Pollination Coffee Hours is for it to be a kind of book club, but all you need to bring is just the most interesting fact or thing you have learned since the past meeting through doing your research in your area of expertise/interest. Nothing to share on a particular day? No problem, you are still welcome!

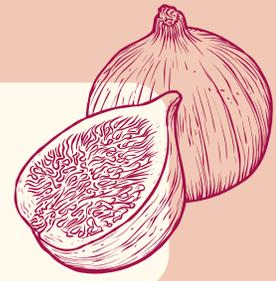
The sessions will also serve as a place to share any witchy business (as we call it at FIGS), to exchange solidarity, and to break down siloes.

The sessions will be hosted at 5 PM GMT, typically on the last Tuesday of each month, to accommodate as wide a range of time zones as possible.

To keep the meeting secure, a one-time sign up through the interest form below will be needed to access the info to join online, whenever you can attend.

Interest form: <https://tinyurl.com/coffeefigs>





We're thrilled to highlight recent contributions from our members, showcasing the breadth and depth of feminist geographic scholarship across journals and collaborations.

Colls, R., Fluri, J., Boonabaana, B., Coddington, K., Datta, A., Faria, C., ... Worth, N. (2025). Pushing boundaries: Reflections on the 2022 International FEMGEOG Conference. *ACME: An International Journal for Critical Geographies*, 24(4), 464-487.

This collaborative paper reflects on the challenges and possibilities of organizing the 2022 hybrid International Feminist Geography Conference (FEMGEOG), themed Pushing Boundaries. Drawing on reflections from the organizing committee, it explores how the conference sought to resist pandemic-era isolation, academic hierarchies, and inequities in access by experimenting with an international, multi-hub format. The authors also candidly discuss the logistical, technological, and emotional labour involved in creating inclusive and connected feminist spaces across physical and digital settings.

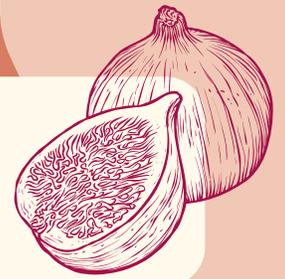
Lewkowitz, S., Gilliland, J., & Coen, S. (2025). Gender, toilets, and the planning gap: A United Nations framework analysis of Canadian municipal parks policies. *Canadian Geographies / Géographies canadiennes*, 69, e70036. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cag.70036>

This paper examines how Canadian municipalities address gendered access to public toilets in their parks and recreation master plans. Using a United Nations framework that links sanitation to human rights and gender equality. Their analysis reveals a significant planning gap—most municipalities fail to consider the needs of women, transgender, and gender-diverse people, falling short of meeting their human rights obligations for equitable access to sanitation.

Meletis, Z. A. (2025). [Review of the book *The cactus hunters: Desire and extinction in the illicit succulent trade*, by J. D. Margulies]. *Canadian Geographies / Géographies canadiennes*.

This review discusses *The Cactus Hunters*, a book which offers an ethnographic exploration of the illicit global trade in cacti, tracing collectors, poachers, scientists, and enforcement agents across seven countries and four continents.

If you have any recent
publications to share, get in touch!
figscag@gmail.com



Creative Corner

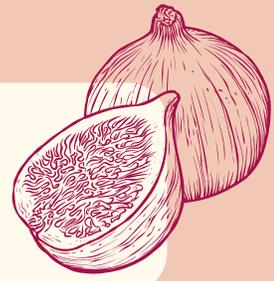


**“A Girl Walks into the Woods”
by
Diana Tamblyn**

<https://tinyurl.com/3hwf227c>

This issue we spotlight “A Girl Walks Into the Woods,” a hauntingly beautiful comic by award-winning graphic novelist Diana Tamblyn, adapted from poet Cornelia Hoogland’s “Woods Wolf Girl.” A contemporary re-imagining of Little Red Riding Hood, this short but powerful comic draws readers deep into a world where the forest itself breathes and the girl, Red, is not always eaten. Tamblyn’s expressive linework brings stunning texture and emotional depth to Hoogland’s visceral poetry. Each page, from Red’s first step into the woods to her encounter with the Wolf, captures a sense of defiance and wonder. Tamblyn used her own daughter as the model for Red, grounding this timeless story in a contemporary feminist lens—one that asks who the wolf really is, and what it means to find your power in a hostile world.

Want to feature your poetry, photography, or art in the Spring issue? Send it to figscag@gmail.com with “FIGS Art Submission” in the subject line



Updates for 2026

Student Paper Award Update:

A quick note for those who may have missed our earlier call, the FIGS committee is currently reviewing this year's student paper submissions. Thank you to everyone who shared their work with us! We'll be announcing the selected paper in January. If this deadline slipped by you, keep an eye out next year—we'd love to see even more student scholarship featured!



New FIGS Membership Fee Structure

Based on feedback from FIGS members at our AGM we are introducing a tiered membership fee structure to provide flexibility and support for our collective work. We know this format isn't the simplest, but we have done our best to work within the CAG technical limitations to provide options.

New FIGS Membership Options:

Membership is free for students and precariously employed individuals

For others the options are:

- Option A: \$15 (minimum)
- Option B: \$25
- Option C: \$50
- Option D: \$100

These tiers allow members to choose a contribution level that aligns with their capacity to give.

Important Note for Current Members:

When you renew your membership for 2026 if you wish to contribute at a higher tier than Option A, you will need to reapply for a new membership to select the higher tier.

Your contributions help sustain and promote initiatives that support students, feminist geographies, academic scholarship, and activism. Thank you for being part of this important work!

Join or renew your membership today through the CAG registration portal. If you have any questions, please email info@cag-acg.ca and Philip will assist you.