

## **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: 61

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)*

*Araby Smyth (Member at Large)*

*Leah Coppella*

*Mantha Katsikana*

*Alkim Karaagac (Secretary and Treasurer)*

*Zoe Meletis (Member at Large)*

*other members who served in 2023:*

*Rosemary Collard (ended July 2023)*

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 thank the organizers for creating space for our AGM and our sessions in the Meeting, and for making it a successful online gathering.

FIGS also organized and hosted the Suzanne Mackenzie Memorial Lecture this year. We were honoured to have Dr. Sharlene Mollett present. The title of Dr. Mollett's presentation was *Racial Geographies of Land and Domestic Service in Panama*. It was a powerful and inspiring talk, which led to a fruitful discussion through Q&A at the end. There were around 75 attendees, and the reception following the lecture created a positive atmosphere for participants to enjoy each other's company and share ideas. We would like to particularly thank the Conference Organizing Committee for their assistance in planning and hosting such a vibrant and successful event.

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

Several FIGS Executive members attended and presented at the CAG-ONT conference held at Toronto Metropolitan University in October. Saturday was the paper and poster presentations, and three of our FIGS members presented papers. Mantha Katsikana, a PhD Candidate from York University presented “Social reproduction, dispossession and the urban palimpsest: counter topographies of care and survival in Athens and the Balkans, beyond the grassroots laboratory” as part of a Special Session in Urban Geography. In a later session on Urban Geography, Dr Alkim Karaagac from the University of Waterloo co-presented with her colleagues Dr Nancy Worth, Saif Malhas and Matthew Gajewski a paper on “International “student-family” housing: understanding challenges, addressing needs”. As part of the Cities, People and Public Spaces Session, Shawna Lewkowitz, PhD Candidate from Western University presented her paper on “Public Toilets, Gender and the UN Framework on Sanitation – A Systematic Review”.

FIGS member,

Zoë Meletis helped to organize a series of week-long events for Inspiring Women Among Us at the University of Northern British Columbia from November 22-29th, 2023. She shared access and schedules via FIGS social media and encouraged members and others to participate. This includes 4 free online anti-oppression training sessions and a set of invited talks by Dr. Eden Kinkaid. These were co-sponsored by the Geography, Earth, and Environmental Sciences at UNBC, and the initial connection was established via the FEM GEOG conference in the summer of 2022.

#### Summary of activities outside of conferences:

Our Exec met regularly (quarterly+) throughout the year.

We continued to work hard in calling for improved governance by the CAG Executive. We hope that these efforts are contributing to improved governance and process. We followed up on these concerns with members of the CAG Executive, including meeting with the new President.

We held our annual FIGS Student Paper Awards contest in the spring/summer of 2023 and awarded \$200 to both an undergraduate and graduate winner:

Undergraduate award to Emma Melis for “The Sisterhood of the Travelling Patterns: A cross-sectional analysis of travel patterns among women and men in Montréal based on data from the 2018 Montréal Origin-Destination Survey” (undergraduate thesis, McGill)

Graduate award to Wajiha Mehdi for: “Muslim women’s geographies of Islamic practice as a response to anti-Muslim violence in India” (PhD candidate, Institute for Gender Race Sexuality & Social Justice, UBC)

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.

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

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

FIGS has worked hard to improve our social media presence, information and image sharing, and related archiving over the last few years, building on prior efforts. We particularly thank Mantha and Zoe for their contributions to this front in 2023. In addition to sending emails to members, we now share information on Instagram (105 followers), Facebook (112 members), Twitter (301 followers), and via a LinkTree consolidation of information on FIGS:

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

We released a Fall 2023 Newsletter communicating our activities for the year, FIGS member's recent publications and presentations, our awards, zine submission and resources of interest to FIGS members were all included.

The Exec met online multiple times this year, as did sub-committees for particular issues. We also held two versions of our annual meeting/AGM: 1) live as part of the CAG Annual Meeting in Montreal, Quebec, and 2) as a follow-up online AGM in July 2023. At these meetings, activities were summarized, new members of the Executive were added, and some prior Exec members also renewed commitments. Several FIGS members met up for social events at the CAG and the CAG-ONT conferences.

Planned use of study group funds:

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 intersectional feminist geography and increasing exposure to it. We might also use the funds for web and print communications materials as well.

We hope to see the CAG Special Event funding associated with its Annual Meetings reinstated, as these dedicated funds were member-driven, and we hosted several well-received events using these funds over recent years.

