



Canadian Association of Geographers Association Canadienne des Géographes

www.cag-acg.ca

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Study Group Annual Report 2021

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 / (FIGS)

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

Current

Zoë Meletis- Chair (outgoing at AGM in 2022)

Nasya Razavi- Secretary

Alkim Karagaac- Treasurer

Leah Coppella- Communications and social media; Student member

Mantha Katsikana- Communications and social media; Student member

Rosemary Collard- Member-at-Large

Prior; ending in 2021

Kate Parizeau- Secretary (until Spring 2021)

Brittany Davey- Communications and social media; Student member (until Summer 2021)

Illeana Diaz- Communications and social media; Student member (until Fall 2021)

Summary of activities at the national CAG Conference:

We submitted a successful CAG Study Group Special Funding application for events at the national Annual Meeting in 2021 (originally submitted for the cancelled 2020 Annual Meeting; adapted for the 2021 online Annual Meeting of the CAG hosted by UNBC).

FIGS participated in the 2021 CAG Annual Meeting in many ways. We organized and funded FIGS special sessions (a plenary panel and a strategy panel) in collaboration with the Economic Geography Study Group and the Diversity, Migration, Ethnicity, and Race Group. We also promoted and sponsored additional sessions with feminist content, as well as generally promoting the CAG Annual Meeting sessions, events, etc.

We organized and hosted the (delayed due to the 2020 CAG cancellation/COVID-19 impacts) biannual Suzanne Mackenzie Memorial Lecture (June 1, 2021), in collaboration with the UNBC Organizing committee. This year's speaker was Dr. Beverley Mullings from Queen's University.

Her poignant and well attended talk was entitled Beyond the Dark Side of Resilience: Thinking through racial capitalism, dispossession, and Caribbean radical traditions. We also connected Dr. Mullings with Nadine Schuurman of The Canadian Geographer about the possibility of publishing the lecture.

Thanks to our funded Special Events proposal for the CAG Annual Meeting, we were able to fund three student correspondents who promoted FIGS sessions and events, as well as other sessions of interest to FIGS and friends, before, during, and after the Meeting. They were active on social media for about a week, and wrote contributions for the FIGS newsletter. We also encouraged student attendance at sessions by offering 10 bookstore prizes drawn from participating student names. We also hosted a lively trivia event (incl. 3 prizes) as a virtual social event.

Overall, we have received very positive direct and indirect feedback on the FIGS/CAG collaborations detailed here. We have submitted a new proposal to host a similar suite of events at the 2022 CAG Annual Meeting.

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

In February of 2021 (26-27), several of us participated in the “Eruptions and Disruptions” Graduate Students in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Conference hosted by Penn State [virtual]. We generated a pre-conference video panel and interacted with conference attendees via a live Q&A. We spoke about the FIGS zine origins, process, experience, and outcomes. We also presented a related session about the zine at the 2021 Annual Meeting of the CAG.

We continue to connect with international feminist geographers via inclusion in the Fem Geog international conference organizing committee. Zoë Meletis and Nancy Worth, organizing committee members, also sent a special CAG funding request (for \$1600), with FIGS’ endorsement, to partially fund a suite of activities at the Fem Geog conference, which is happening remotely but with clusters in India, the UK, Canada, Uganda, Ecuador and elsewhere. The proposal was rejected by both the small and regular CAG Exec. despite its potential for supporting Canadian participation in the FemGeog conference (June 2022). We continue to connect FIGS with this international conference as it approaches, and are optimistic that many FIGS members will participate.

Summary of activities outside of conferences:

The FIGS Executive met regularly throughout the year (at least 9 times: Jan 18, Apr 23, May 3, Jun 14, Aug 9, Sep 29, Oct 7, Nov 29, Dec 15). We continued to consolidate and streamline our governance via CAG hosting of financials, reports, and other documents.

We hosted an online AGM in the week after the 2021 CAG Annual Meeting, welcoming some new executive members as a result. We also voted to increase the student paper prize award amount again, to \$250 per award.

We published 3 newsletters in 2021 and promoted these via our Facebook page, Twitter, our membership list, the CAG listserv, etc.

We awarded 2 student paper awards: Shruti Raji Kalyanaraman (PhD student in York University's Gender, Feminist and Women's Studies Department) won the FIGS graduate student paper award for her paper, "Foucauldian approaches in relation to mothering in a pandemic: Understanding privileges and precarity of racialized mothering in a multiple colonialisms' framework." Lila Mansour (recent BA graduate in Economics at UNBC) won the FIGS undergraduate student paper award for her paper, "Working and Parenting in a Pandemic: The Impacts of COVID-19 on Working Parents in Canada."

We compiled and published a second zine (paper edition; PDF; and flip book). It was promoted widely (FB; Twitter; CAG listserv; membership list email) and we also mailed hard copies to 30+ people who requested them in various parts of the world (Canada; US; UK; India). "Second Dose: A Feminist Call for Anything," involved 6 editors and 28 contributors who submitted approx. 33 entries. The zine editors integrated all of these into the zine. We (zine editors) also met at least 6 times as we compiled the 2021 edition (May 19, Aug 16, Aug 31, Sept 16, Oct 6, Oct 20).

Generally, we maintained semi-regular outreach to members, friends, and colleagues to build upon FIGS community activities and momentum (below).

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

In 2021, we created a shared Exec email account (figsCAG@gmail.com) to facilitate communication with our members, and to receive zine submissions, etc.

We maintained a Facebook page (the Feminist Intersectional Solidarity Group) that we continue to use regularly. This a publicly accessible group, and we currently have 104 members internationally.

We shared information via Twitter (@FIGSGeo) as well; we currently have 174 followers. We also posted materials to our CAG-hosted (thank you!) web pages. And we received CAG funding (thank you again!) to help employ special student correspondents to promote FIGS and other session before, during, and after the 2021 CAG Annual Meeting. The students also wrote pieces that appeared in the Summer 2021 newsletter.

We appreciate the CAG hosting and maintenance of our membership list. We have used it for many communications including reminders for folks to renew their FIGS/CAG memberships.

We are currently adding an Instagram account to our social media portfolio. It will be made public shortly, and we will connect with the CAG in this way as well.

Planned use of study group funds:

FIGS will use its study group funds to cover:

- Zine printing (the second zine bill from 2021 and possibly a third zine printing this year).
- A funding contribution to our proposed special events for the 2022 CAG Annual Meeting, hopefully with support from the CAG special event fund.
- 2022 student awards (we expect to award at least one undergraduate and one graduate student award).

The FIGS Exec is also discussing (and in some cases will raise with membership at the next AGM) the possibility of:

- Creating and selling FIGS merchandise for members and friends (as a fundraising drive and community-building undertaking).
- Marking or celebrating FIGS's 40th birthday with an archival collection and/or special event.
- Honoraria for student Exec members' yearly contributions.
- Support of student-led events at the 2022 CAG Annual Meeting.