



## Welcome to **csuglobal** ~

The caricature of California as a “state of mind” has become a post-modern/post-pandemic reality. California is not only a state within a larger national entity, but an international actor in its own right. The 4<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world, California has multiple stakeholders both within and well beyond the state’s boundaries – many of whom hold conflicting claims to sovereignty. California is simultaneously place and space - real and virtual - many identities and one - history and future. Each layer is complex and contested.

The California State University system, the largest public university in the world, remains the beating heart and hope for California’s socioeconomic transformation and potential. The CSU exists to serve the causes of democracy, peace and progress through the twin touchstones of scholarship and teaching. **csuglobal**, an entirely online open access journal, was created in 2023 to help break down silos between our campuses and to help bridge the growing gap between the public and academe in a collective effort to build a more sustainable and equitable world.

This webinar, “Global California: Scholarship in an Age of Forgetting”, extends that vision to a new platform. By offering faculty, students, and staff the opportunity to engage directly with each other on their research and their efforts to internationalize both their scholarship and their campuses, we hope to expand and strengthen the network of Californians committed to creating a truly “global” California.

**Professor Alison Holmes**  
Politics & International Studies  
Associate Editor, **csuglobal**  
International Education Week Chair  
Cal Poly Humboldt

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## Tuesday February 10, 2026

**4:00 Title: Globalizing Romance Languages: Dynamic Acquisition Strategies for Spanish Speakers**

**Moderator:** Clorinda Donato, CSULB

**Presenters:**

**Clorinda Donato**, CSULB and Francesca Ricciardelli, USC, *“Creating Translanguaging Spaces for Heritage Speakers in the Language Classroom”*

**Joanna Tatro**, CSULB and Elizabeth Chan, CSULB *“Building Bridges and Breaking Barriers: A Multilingual Toolbox for Heritage Speakers”*

**Diana Salazar**, CSULB and Diego Batres Brol, CSULB *“From Heritage Speakers of Spanish, to Instructors of French and Italian for Spanish Speakers: Personal Insights from a CSU Education”*

**Abstract:** A widely-debated topic in academia is multilingualism and how to achieve it. A hallmark of educated people worldwide, the US has struggled with educating students to be multilingual. Ironically, a majority of students who come to study at the 22 campuses of the CSU are already multilingual, possessing a heritage language and knowledge of a language studied in high school, besides English. New research and teaching strategies use a student’s linguistic repertoire to network and build upon the languages students already possess. These strategies, Intercomprehension and Translanguaging, teach students how to use what they know as a bridge to acquiring new linguistic knowledge. At California State University, Long Beach, these pedagogical innovations have been making strides in the language acquisition capabilities of heritage speakers of Spanish since 2007. Our panel will present the work we have been doing in this field over the past 18 years with presentations by the founder of the program at CSULB, Clorinda Donato, Director of the Clorinda Donato Center for Global Romance Languages and Translation Studies and the team of former graduate students, now instructors and professors, who have specialized in these methods in their teaching and research activities at CSULB and USC. Our panel will present fresh data from the last two years of teaching heritage students to expand their knowledge of languages and global awareness through Intercomprehension and Translanguaging.

## Wednesday February 11, 2026

**9:00 Title: Jerusalem from the Seams of Memory: Connecting Palestine and California through Oral History and Placemaking**

**Presenters:**

**Dr. Gabi Kirk**, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography Environment and Spatial Analysis, Cal Poly Humboldt *Connecting Palestine and California through Place and Memory*

**Dr. Des Saad Amira**, Urban Studies and Spatial Practices, Al-Quds Bard College, Abu Dis, Palestine *Introduction to the Endangered Palestinian Memories initiative*

**Samar Awaad**, Independent Researcher, Ramallah, Palestine *Jerusalem Through the Seams of Memory comes to Oakland, California*

**Abstract:** Palestine and California are geographically distant, yet they share, per Edward Said, related "imaginary geographies"- both are Mediterranean climates; both have seen violent histories and ongoing structures of settler-colonial genocide; and both have vibrant stories of resilience and resistance through continued connection to land and placemaking in spite of state violence. This panel explores Palestine-California relationships through the methodology and narrative of a new exhibit to open in Oakland in mid-March, "Jerusalem from the Seams of Memory." The exhibit explores Jerusalem's Palestinian history through the story of those displaced from it (including to California, which has a large Palestinian-American community). It offers a portrait of lived experiences of Palestinians in Jerusalem and its villages, the lands of Jerusalem that are at the center of their lives, and stories of their homes. The exhibit blends oral history testimonies, personal belongings collections, artistic interpretations and installations including critical cartographic maps, photography, and multimedia displays. Speakers on the panel will share about the overall oral history project of the Endangered Palestine Memory initiative, what the process has been like to design the exhibit for audiences in California, and how Palestine and California connect through narratives of displacement and resistance through placemaking.

**10:00 Title: Local-to-Global Learning at CSU San Marcos: Partnerships, Programs, and Student Work**

**Moderator/Presenter:** Xiaoye She, Faculty Fellow, Committee for International Research (CIR)

**Abstract:** This panel explores how California State University San Marcos (CSUSM) cultivates global competencies through curricular innovation, faculty-led research, and student-led projects. By connecting local engagement to global perspectives, the panel highlights three distinct pillars of internationalization. First, it examines the institutional evolution of the Global Commitment Committee, and its non-credit certificate program designed to incentivize campus-wide participation. Second, it presents longitudinal research on the long-term impacts of short-term study abroad programs, offering data on how these experiences shape student success. Finally, it showcases the "Climate to Action" student podcast, demonstrating how student voices bridge campus sustainability initiatives with global climate justice conversations. Geared toward a student and teaching audience, this session offers replicable models for fostering global citizenship across the CSU system.

**Presenters:**

**Devan R. Romero**, Department of Kinesiology

**Examining Cross-Cultural Awareness and Global Health Perspectives: Impact of Short-term Study Abroad in Italy and Science Identity. Description:** This presentation will capture pedagogical research in examining experiential learning outcomes and processes through study abroad and global education. It highlights the lasting value of these experiences for CSU students and discusses strategies for maximizing global competency outcomes.

**Anne Dabb & Molly Saruwatari**, Environmental Studies

**Climate to Action: Amplifying Student Voices in Global Sustainability. Description:** This presentation features the "Climate to Action" student podcast, an initiative of the Climate Action and Sustainability Center (CASC). It demonstrates how student-led media projects serve as a "local-to-global" pedagogical tool, connecting campus-based sustainability efforts to broader global dialogues.

**11:00 Title: From Policy to Practice: AB 91 and the Push for Transborder Educational Equity and Justice**

**Presenters:**

**Mitzi Salgado**, M.I.P.P.M Founder & CEO Transfronterizo Institute

**Vannessa Falcón Orta**, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Division of Education San Diego State University-Imperial Valley

**Alexa Ochoa**, Student Leader Transfronterizo Institute

**Abstract:** AB 91 is a first-of-its-kind policy, amended in 2024, that exempts eligible community college students from nonresident tuition fees if they reside near the California-Baja California (Calibaja) border. This bill is especially important for Transfronterizx (transborder) students who live and learn along the U.S.-Mexico borderlands, crossing the border each day to exercise their human right to an education.

This session introduces participants to the Transfronterizx student population, highlights the activism that led to the passage of AB 91, and examines ongoing advocacy to implement the policy across community colleges in the CaliBaja region. Implementation efforts are led by the TransFronterizo Institute, a nonprofit organization dedicated to elevating the experiences, knowledge, and bilingualism of Transfronterizx students and transforming educational settings to recognize the strengths of those navigating multiple borders.

The session concludes with practical recommendations for community colleges enrolling Transfronterizx students and for four-year institutions admitting Transfronterizx transfer students. Our goal is for California colleges and universities to adopt these recommendations in a supportive, equity-driven manner and to encourage the creation of similar policies throughout the U.S.–Mexico border. Ultimately, we aim to advance educational justice for the diverse student populations that shape our interconnected Global world.

12:00 Brown Bag: Student Presentations

Samuel King, CSU Long Beach MA Student. **Development dependency in Zambia**

**Abstract:** In 2025, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) reduced its assistance to Zambia by nearly 90%, cutting funding from USD 408 million to USD 47 million. This paper examines the geographies of aid withdrawal and how abrupt donor retrenchment reshapes spatial, political, and social relations within Zambia's development landscape. Drawing on qualitative field research in Kabwe, Chipata, and Lusaka, the study explores how the end of U.S. aid was experienced and reinterpreted across scales—from clinics and farms to national institutions. Anchored in soft power theory, dependency theory, and post-aid resilience frameworks, this research analyses uneven geographies of impact. Relational interviews and testimonies from former aid employees contribute to a narrative of USAID exit in the context of Zambia. The findings suggest that USAID's exit marks not only a fiscal event but a spatial and geopolitical realignment. A retreat of American soft power alongside the emergence of multinational investors creates a critical juncture for Zambia's development future. By situating these processes in everyday spaces of governance and production, the paper contributes to international debates on development dependency, soft power projection methods, and the shifting moral geographies of global aid.

Rowella Aldana, CSU East Bay Undergraduate. **Marine Plastic Pollution: Philippines' ever-growing problem**

**Abstract:** Marine plastic pollution (MPP) is a growing problem in the Philippines and has been gaining more attention in the last few months due to not only climate change and its effects on people and their daily lives, but also due to the continuing protest by its youth, demanding to know what the government is doing with tax money. We will explore and attempt to understand why the impact of climate change has been so much harder in the Philippines than any other countries, who are also affected by the same typhoons, monsoons and heavy storms. In this paper, we ask why it is that the Philippine government has not effectively managed such a serious issue for more than twenty years? What is the Philippine government doing /not doing that is making no difference in storm management or the plastic pollution?

## **Tania Vasquez, CSU Long Beach MA student. Localizing Aid Beyond Regionalism: A Country-Specific Strategy for Reproductive Health and Gender Equality in Bolivia**

**Abstract:** This paper addresses the paramount need for country-specific differentiation within reproductive health and gender equity funding structures, using IPAS Bolivia as a case study. Usually, international aid sees Latin America as a monolithic region, diluting resources intended for unique national contexts. This study presents a strategic framework for **international positioning** that separates IPAS Bolivia's localized, intercultural mission and challenges from broad regional agendas. By analyzing Bolivia's specific legal landscape—specifically *Sentencia Constitucional 0206/2014* and *Law 1639*—and the particular needs of women from rural areas, the paper suggests a 'micro-implementation' model instead of a regional 'macro-strategy.' It details the creation of a partnership toolkit designed to avoid regional intermediaries and secure direct international funding for localized gender-based violence prevention and comprehensive sexual education programs. Moreover, it highlights a pioneering academic alliance with California State University, Long Beach, proving how cross-border research partnerships can support national strategies and unlock specialized funding. This approach offers a replicable model for Global South entities pursuing autonomy and financial sustainability in an era of centralized and changing aid."

**1:00 Title: Experiential Learning via Responsible Business Consulting for Panamanian Micro-Enterprises**

**Presenters:**

**Dante Di Gregorio**, CSU Monterey Bay College of Business

**Amanda Izaguirre-Lumm, Glora Lewis, Julia Ulm** - CSU Monterey Bay MBA students

**Abstract:** Experiential learning is particularly valuable in international business education, yet traditional forms of international experience can be inaccessible, especially for working adults in MBA programs. This article examines an alternative model of international experiential learning integrated into the online MBA program at CSU Monterey Bay (CSUMB). In partnership with Global Brigades' Kambia program, MBA students have conducted consulting projects for micro-enterprises in Panama and Honduras between 2022 and 2025, collaborating with 54 clients across 14 Panamanian and 23 Honduran communities. We outline the program's structure and its alignment with curricular goals, reflect on both faculty and student perspectives regarding its contributions to the MBA experience, and present a sample consulting engagement with a coffee grower to illustrate student learning outcomes. Broader student feedback is then synthesized, with implications for learners, faculty and program administrators seeking to expand access to meaningful global business experience.

**2:00 Title: Global Awareness and Community Partnerships**

**Presenters:**

**Jolene McCall**, Assistant Professor CSU Long Beach

**Wendy Chou Le**, Pen Pal Program, UCLA

**Susan Redfield**, Long Beach Sister Cities

**Omar Quezada**, CSU Long Beach student

**Abstract:** This article emerges from a longstanding relationship with the Long Beach Sister Cities Program, culminating in a recent visit to Qingdao, a Long Beach Sister City in China, as part of this collaborative partnership. My visit to China was marked by profound cross-cultural exchanges and networking with both Chinese counterparts and other CSU faculty and students, offering inspiration and insight into the potential for the California State University (CSU) system to harness the power of community partnerships. These interactions underscored the critical importance of developing scalable models that can be shared across CSU's diverse campuses, enriching student and faculty engagement through international collaboration. By leveraging such partnerships, CSU is uniquely positioned to deepen global awareness and foster sustainable, mutually beneficial relationships that enhance our students, faculty, and community members through educational growth and experiences

**3:00 Title: Scaling Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) at California State University:  
CSU Lessons from Germany, Colombia and Taiwan.**

**Presenters:**

**James Simon**, Cal State L.A., School of Social Work

**Odine Gage**, CSU San Marcos

**Tasha Willis**, Cal State L.A., School of Social Work

**Abstract:** How can COIL enrich education across diverse contexts? Drawing on three projects at two CSU campuses with partners in Germany, Colombia, and Taiwan, this panel synthesizes student-reported benefits and concrete implementation practices across disciplines (social work and marketing). Reported gains include stronger comparative reasoning ("Similarities/Differences → So what?"), enhanced intercultural communication, problem solving, and motivation to sustain international collaborations.

We will share successful implementation strategies including pre-assigning binational teams, quick-start COIL guides, milestone-based rubrics, brief micro-lectures during COIL weeks, hybrid troubleshooting (one device per in-room group, captions, low-bandwidth options), and time-zone scheduling. Each panelist will present lessons learned plus a ready-to-adopt artifact (rubric, timeline, or tech checklist). Attendees will leave with

inspiration and ideas on how to get started with COIL, how to incorporate COIL across various disciplines, and possibly scale up to multiple courses.

**4:00 Title: Local Weather Data for Smarter Farm Decisions** (*Project proposal in review for the 'Drought Resilience Innovation Challenges Pilot Program' of Australian Government*)

**Presenters:**

**Steve Blumenshine** CSU Fresno, Exec Director, CSU-WATER

**Abstract:** The aim of this project is to assist farmer and grower groups to become more drought resilient by improving access to and literacy in best-available weather and climate information. Our team brings together grower groups together with global experts in weather and climate forecasting to focus on establishing grower information needs and using this information to deploy cutting edge weather sensors. Simultaneously we will evaluate currently available weather and climate forecasting products using grower and science-based evaluation criteria. The outcome will enable farmer-led decision making in adoption of innovative weather information to reduce critical business risks thereby increasing overall business resilience to weather and climate uncertainty.

**5:00 Reception - Goodwin Forum**

Simulcast event with CSU campuses at Long Beach and East Bay.

**5:30 Keynote Panel: Global California: Scholarship in an Age of Forgetting**



**Kate Gordon**, CEO, CA FWD

Gordon is the CEO of a statewide organization dedicated to a more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive economy across every region of the state. Gordon has spent the past two decades working at the intersection of climate change, energy policy, and equitable economic development. Most recently, she served in the Biden-Harris administration as Senior Advisor to U.S. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm.

Prior to her time in the Biden-Harris administration, Gordon served for several years in California state government as the Director of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and Senior Climate Policy Advisor to Gov Gavin Newsom. In this role, Gordon launched or led several initiatives to better integrate climate and economic development strategy, including the Commission on Catastrophic Wildfire Cost and Recovery, the Regions Rise Together initiative, and the Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF), now known as California Jobs First.

Gordon earned a J.D. and a Masters in City and Regional Planning from the University of California-Berkeley, and an undergraduate degree from Wesleyan University. Gordon serves on multiple boards, including for Brown Advisory and Element Resources. She teaches a regular course on "Climate: Politics, Finance, and Infrastructure" at the University of California-Berkeley and serves as a Non-resident Scholar at Carnegie California.



**Jaishankar Raman, PhD**

Executive Director of International Affairs,  
California State University Office of the Chancellor

As the Executive Director of international affairs, Raman oversees a portfolio that includes the systemwide study abroad programs, administers all campus agreements and MOUs, acts as a liaison between campuses and the Chancellors office for policy matters. He is the designated systemwide senior international officer in the Chancellor's office for the 22 universities of the California State University system.

Prior to joining CSU, Dr. Raman was the Assistant Provost for International Affairs at Valparaiso University, Indiana and Professor of Economics. Dr. Raman has a B.A. in Economics from the University of Bombay, an M.A. from Fordham University, and a Ph. D from the University of Notre Dame in International Economics and Economic Development.



**Ian Klaus**, Founding Director of Carnegie California

Klaus is a leading scholar on the nexus of urbanization, geopolitics, and global challenges, with extensive experience as a practitioner of subnational diplomacy.

As a practitioner, Klaus has extensive experience advancing and implementing policy. He served as the deputy U.S. negotiator for Habitat 3, as senior adviser for global cities at the U.S. State Department, and as a member of the Policy Planning Staff. More recently, he helped lead the development of both the Urban 20 and Urban 7, the G20 and G7 urban-focused engagement groups. He served as an adviser to the National Intelligence Council on the urban elements of the most recent Global Trends report.

He holds an MA from Oxford University, where he studied as a Rhodes Scholar, and a PhD in international history from Harvard University. He has published widely on the implications of urbanization for global challenges.