

Global Update

**Newsletter of the International & Comparative Education Program
at Teachers College, Columbia University**

Message from the Program Director

Dear Members of the ICED Program Community,

We are now four months into the semester, and fall has truly settled over New York City. The leaves in Morningside and Riverside Parks are changing colors, the air is cooler, and campus is full of life. I hope this message finds you well, wherever you are in the world.

This semester has already brought meaningful conversations in our classrooms, new research collaborations, and growing engagement across our community. Our alumni continue to do inspiring work around the globe—as educators, researchers, advocates, and leaders—and our current students are building on that legacy with passion and purpose. You can read more about what's happening in the program throughout this newsletter, and you can always stay connected by visiting our website or following us on social media.

As we look ahead, I want to ask for your partnership in helping our program continue to grow. [Applications for the next cycle are now open](#), and we would be grateful for your help spreading the word. Please consider sharing this newsletter—or even a personal note about your experience—with colleagues, students, or friends who might be interested in our work. Your recommendation remains one of the most powerful ways to bring new talent into our community.

We also want to stay connected with you. Please take a moment to update your contact information and share any news, publications, projects, events, or milestones. Your stories strengthen our network and inspire our students.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter. It highlights accomplishments, opportunities, and collaborations that reflect the depth and spirit of our ICEP community. Thank you for being part of our program and for everything you do to advance education, equity, and global understanding.

Oren Pizmony-Levy

Associate Professor and Director

International and Comparative Education Program (ICEP)

Program News



[TC introduces a new fellowship connecting students to the United Nations and the frontlines of global policymaking](#)

Teachers College, Columbia University, in partnership with the [Consortium for Diplomacy and Global Action \(CDGA\)](#), has launched the Global Policy Fellowship, an innovative program designed to equip students with the skills and experience to lead in the fields of diplomacy, education, and international development. The fellowship connects academic research with real-world policymaking, giving TC students hands-on opportunities to collaborate with the United Nations, international organizations, and member-state missions in tackling some of today's most urgent global challenges.



[TC Launches Program in Sustainability & Education](#)

The online master's program will prepare leaders to advance sustainability efforts through educational strategies and welcome its first class in the summer of 2026. How can educators and sustainability advocates more effectively drive progress across schools, organizations and communities? Teachers College's new [Sustainability & Education](#) program will prepare graduates to create and

lead transformative, environmental learning experiences across K–12 schools, nonprofits, higher education, and community-based organizations. Now accepting applications for its inaugural class, the program builds upon the College's [groundbreaking work](#) to equip teachers in sustainability education and ready young people for the challenges ahead.



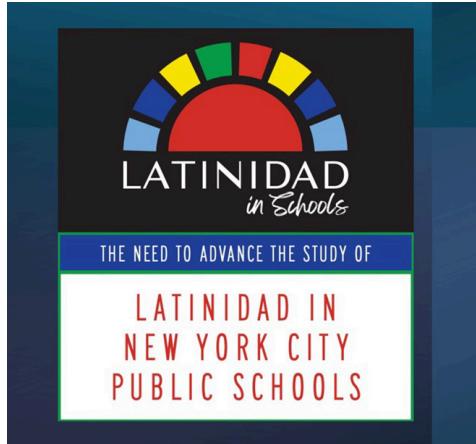
[Beyond Borders: Studying Migration in Morocco](#)

A 10-day study abroad program immersed TC students in the realities of migration and refugee education, from grassroots initiatives to global policy debates. Dr. Mary Mendenhall partnered with TC's Office of Global Engagement and IES Abroad to offer a dynamic study abroad program for a cohort of 26 master's and doctoral students from programs across the College.



[Current Issues in Comparative Education publishes the 2025 Special Issue on Climate Change, Migration, and Conflict: Lessons in Education](#)

The program's flagship academic journal, Current Issues in Comparative Education (CICE), published the 2025 Special Issue to spotlight the impacts of climate change on education globally.



[TC Leaders Partner with NYC Educators in Developing An Innovative Latinidad Curriculum](#)

The Latinidad Curriculum Initiative team at the Edmund W. Gordon Institute for Advanced Study at Teachers College, Columbia University, is creating a new curriculum to enhance the education of Latinidad for students in New York City Public Schools (NYCPS). In the first year of this multi-year project, the team has developed a framework for the curriculum development process, regularly seeking feedback from students, parents, teachers, school and district leaders, and other community members.



[ICEP says 'Presente' at the 8th Binational Education Week and 2nd Community Plazas Summit](#)

On October 23, 2025, Dr. Amanda Earl, Visiting Assistant Professor of Teaching in International and Comparative Education, Jonathan Beltrán Alvarado, ICEP doctoral student, and ICEP alumna Laura Itzel Carbajal Montalvo from [Teach for America](#), delivered a panel presentation highlighting the significant presence and experiences of Mexican students in the New York City Public Schools (NYCPS). Melissa de León, the Principal of the [International High School at Lafayette](#), moderated the presentation. Principal de León is an experienced educational leader of a school that belongs to the [International Network for Public Schools](#), a nationwide initiative centered on supporting immigrant students' K-12 experience and success in college, career, and beyond.



ICEP Fall Social Highlights: Building Community for the Year Ahead

The International and Comparative Education Program (ICEP) celebrated the start of the new academic year on September 15, 2025, with its annual Fall Social, a lively gathering that united students, faculty, alumni, and friends of the program.



We're Excited to Welcome Dr. Shamo Thar as a Visiting Scholar!

The International and Comparative Education program is excited to welcome Dr. Shamo Thar, a multilingual scholar-practitioner in international and comparative education whose research centers on equity, inclusion, and belonging among Indigenous and minority communities. Dr. Shamo's work examines the intersections of international education, education policy, multilingualism/bilingualism, and issues of equity for minoritized and indigenous communities. She brings regional expertise in China and Tibet.



TC & NYU Host a Dynamic Alumni Panel on International Education Careers

On Wednesday, November 12, [New York University \(NYU\)](#) and Teachers College, Columbia University (TC) welcomed students and alumni for an energizing evening of conversation, career insight, and community building. The International Education Professional Futures Alumni Panel and Networking Event brought together graduates from both institutions to reflect on their diverse professional journeys and to support emerging practitioners navigating the field.

Student and Alumni Highlights



Emily Forbes



Youngkwang Jeon



Welcome New Doctoral Students – Fall 2025!

The ICEP program is delighted to welcome six new doctoral students this year! They bring a wide range of research interests, and we're excited to learn from them and grow together in the years to come.



Moisa Saidu



Ksenia Tishkus



Haoyue Wang



Teaching Internationally with TC's New Fulbright Scholars

These TC alumni have been honored for their contributions to education and research. Enriching teaching experiences across the globe define the career journeys of thousands of TC alumni. Now, shortly after graduating, Genevieve Thévenin (M.A. '25), Sierra Cazassa (M.A. '25), Jacqueline Cofield (Ed.D. '24), and Lesley Crawford (M.A. '11) will join their ranks through Fulbright awards that will deepen their practice and support underserved students.



Language, Conflict, and Education Policy in Cameroon

Based on the article by Doctoral Fellow Camille Fabo and Professor Garnett Russell (Comparative Education Review, 2025, Vol. 69, No. 2), this work examines the complex intersections of language, conflict, and education policy in Cameroon. The authors show how competing language ideologies have fueled political tensions—and how education is both a reflection and a point of tension for these dynamics.



[New Cohort, New Conversations: ICEP Orientation 2025](#)

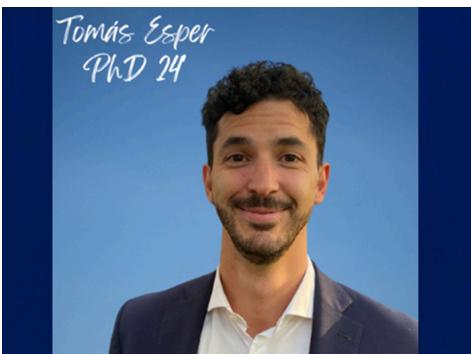
The incoming cohort of 37 students represents more than 15 countries across six continents. From North and Latin America to Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Caribbean, the group reflects ICEP's tradition of connecting global reach with local engagement. Students bring backgrounds in teaching, policy, advocacy, and research, and arrive eager to explore the intersections of education, identity, and social change.



[From TC to CERPS: Building More Inclusive Universities](#)

Alumni Abbas Abbasov, Ph.D. '24, has recently joined the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) as a postdoctoral researcher with the [Center for Education Research and Policy Studies \(CERPS\) in the College of Education](#).

In this new role, he supports the project *Research Academic–Work Integration in STEM Education*, funded by the Board of Regents of the University of Texas System. The study examines how students' academic and work experiences shape one another and how universities can design more inclusive structures that view employment as a source of learning and growth rather than an obstacle to success.



[ITS Alumnus Dr. Tomás Esper \(Ph.D. '24\) Begins New Role as Assistant Professor at UAB](#)

The Department of International & Transcultural Studies at Teachers College, Columbia University congratulates Dr. Tomás Esper (Ph.D. '24, Comparative & International Education) on his appointment as Assistant

Professor in the Department of Theories of Education and Social Pedagogy at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) this September.



[SIE and PEN Strengthen Community and Global Engagement at Teachers College](#)

The Society for International Education (SIE) and the Peace Education Network (PEN) are two of the most active student groups in International and Comparative Education at Teachers College. SIE supports students interested in global education and international development, creating spaces for connection and professional growth. PEN brings together students committed to peacebuilding and conflict transformation, offering dialogue circles and events that explore how education and community relationships foster everyday peace.



[New Publication and Postdoctoral Research Expand Dr. Carine Verschueren's Work on Sustainability Education Policy](#)

Dr. Carine Verschueren (Ph.D. '21) is advancing national conversations on sustainability and education policy through her recent article, [Local Pathways to Sustainability Education Policies: A Comparative Case Study of Three Large School Districts in the USA](#), published in August 2025 in the Journal of Education Policy.



[Teachers College Distinguished Alumni Award Honoree: Dr. Rebecca Winthrop](#)

Teachers College, Columbia University is proud to honor Dr. Rebecca Winthrop (Ph.D. '08) as a recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award for her extraordinary leadership in advancing global education and equity. Dr. Winthrop is a Senior Fellow and Director of the [Center for Universal Education at the Brookings Institution](#), where she leads research on how education systems worldwide can better equip young people with the skills they need to thrive in work, life, and civic participation.



[A Global Vision for Accessible Education](#)

The International and Comparative Education program is excited to welcome Dr. Shamo Thar, a multilingual scholar-practitioner in international and comparative education whose research centers on equity, inclusion, and belonging among Indigenous and minority communities. Dr. Shamo's work examines the intersections of international education, education policy, multilingualism/bilingualism, and issues of equity for minoritized and indigenous communities. She brings regional expertise in China and Tibet.



[Giving Back Through Leadership](#)

TC alumna Claudia Schrader (Ed.M. '01, Ed.D. '02, M.A. '92) is cultivating change through her visionary work in higher education. When Claudia Schrader (M.A. '92, Ed.M. '01, Ed.D. '02) was in high school, she traveled from her hometown, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, to Morningside Heights, where she took a two-week journalism course at Columbia University. Little did she know that many years

later, in 2024, she would return a few blocks away to West 120th Street to [receive TC's Distinguished Alumni Award](#) in honor of her robust contributions to education leadership.



Congratulations to our new graduates 2025!

On May 20, students, families, friends, and faculty gathered at Teachers College to celebrate the graduation of Master's and Ph.D. students in the International and Comparative Education Program (ICEP). It was a joyous occasion to recognize and reflect on the achievements of the program's graduates—faculty joined in their doctoral robes from the institutions where they earned their degrees, and loved ones from across the United States and around the globe visited campus to celebrate alongside the ICEP community.



Celebrating our students' fantastic achievements in 2024-2025—and exploring new opportunities!

Continuing with a great tradition, students and alumni in the International and Comparative Education Program (ICEP) have obtained more than 40 awards and distinctions this 2024-2025 academic year.

Faculty Highlights



[Navigating Education and Displacement in Kenya](#)

Drawing on the article by Professor Mary Mendenhall, Danielle Falk, and Peter Bjorklund Jr. (*Comparative Education Review*, 2025, Vol. 69, No. 1, pp. 87–113), this work shed light on the lived contradictions urban refugees face in accessing education, revealing how national policy swings between inclusion and exclusion in response to security threats and rising xenophobia.



[Watch: The Importance of Time in Education Policy Transfer with TC's Gita Steiner-Khamisi](#)

In her new book, *Time in Education Policy Transfer*, [Gita Steiner-Khamisi](#), [William Heard Kilpatrick Professor of Comparative Education at Teachers College](#), introduces an essential yet underexplored dimension in the study of policy transfer: time. The book uncovers how the temporal dimension impacts the adoption of educational reforms worldwide, revealing the dynamic processes through which these reforms evolve in response to global influences and local contexts.



[Language Policy, Indigenous Knowledge and Language Justice: Dr. Prem Phyak's Summer Research and Collaboration in Nepal](#)

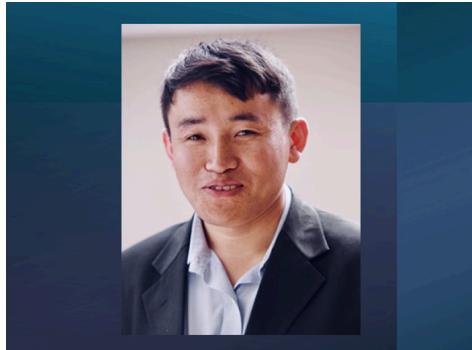
This summer, Dr. Prem Phyak deepened his long-standing engagement with language policy, Indigenous education, linguistic justice, and community-based learning through a series of interconnected initiatives in Nepal and at Columbia University. His work demonstrated how educational research can

inform policy, strengthen institutions, and empower communities.



[Education Philanthropy in China: Exploring Student Intentions to Give and Engage](#)

Drawing on the article by Xianping Liang, Noah D. Drezner, Jian-Zhong (Joe) Zhou, and Professor Oren Pizmony-Levy (Comparative Education Review, 2025, Vol. 69, No. 2), this piece how Chinese university students understand their future roles as alumni—especially around giving back and staying connected to their alma mater.



[Public Schooling and Linguistic Diversity in Nepal](#)

Based on the article by Prem Phyak and Peshal Khanal (Comparative Education Review, 2025, Vol. 69, No. 1, pp. 18–38), this work examines how neoliberal ideologies and model school reforms are transforming public education in Nepal. The authors demonstrate how these reforms heighten social inequities, marginalize linguistic diversity, and enable elite capture in school governance.

Alumni Profiles

Please complete [this short survey](#) if you would like your profile to be featured on the [ICEd Program's website](#). If your profile is featured but outdated, please fill out the survey again for us to update your information.

Thank you! Stay tuned for the Spring 2026 newsletter!

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