

Team Updates

Professor Máiréad Dunne moves on after almost 30 years at Sussex!



The Centre for International Education came together in December with current students, faculty and alumni from around the world to celebrate our long-standing colleague Professor Máiréad Dunne. When she joined Sussex almost thirty years ago, Máiréad already had extensive experience in international education, having worked on curriculum development in Kenya (that she calls her 'African birthplace'), at the University of the South Pacific in Fiji and in Australia. From her first position at Sussex as a post-doctoral researcher on a project on social class and maths education, she went on to become a Professor of Sociology of Education with an international reputation. This was recently recognised through the award of Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences.

Máiréad's concerns have always been to bring sociological theories and methodologies to understand the reciprocal links between society and education across a range of local, national and international contexts, always in a contextually located way, always in conjunction with local partners, with an overriding concern social justice, questioning the normative work of education and its entanglement with modernity and coloniality.

Alongside significant methodological contributions, Mairead is particularly renowned for her research into gender and sexuality, and their intersections with the diverse social relations and differences through which our identities are produced, such as social class, race, ethnicity, nation and religion. Her different research projects have been funded by DfID, FCDO, UNESCO, UNICEF, FAO, national governments and a range of INGOs.

With respect to CIE, Máiréad has contributed hugely to our research and teaching. As CIE's first woman Director, it was during Máiréad's tenure that CIE became integral to the Sussex Development Consortium that achieved No 1 for Development Studies, which has been sustained to this day. She has also played a major part in our flagship Masters in International Education and Development, our undergraduate pathways, and our doctoral programmes. She has supervised almost 50 doctoral researchers, many of them going on to hold senior positions themselves, across many different contexts of the world. Both at a personal and a professional level, as many recognised during our celebrations together, Máiréad has played what can only be described as a transformative part in our lives.

Our heartfelt thanks to Máiréad for all her multiple contributions to CIE and more widely – we wish her well as she takes up her new position as Adjunct Professor, Institute for the Social Sciences, University College Cork, Ireland.

Professor Barbara Crossouard, Director, CIE

Publication Spotlight

Birgul Kutan and Mario Novelli's new special issue features in University World News Article

The 24-article Special Issue, "Supporting and learning from universities in times of conflict: Towards resilience and resistance in higher education." grew out of the "Towards resilience and resistance in higher education" conference hosted by the Political Economy of Education Research (PEER) Network at the University of Sussex. It was co-edited by CIE researchers Birgul Kutan and Mario Novelli, with colleagues from Birzeit University (Palestine), the University of Rojava (Autonomous Administration Area of Northeast Syria) and Nelson Mandela University (South Africa), and brings together contributions from more than 40 scholars working in contexts of conflict and exile, as well as transnational academic and solidarity networks.

Both the process and the publication are intended as acts of solidarity with universities, academics and students living and working in times of conflict – many of which have worsened since this work began.

Read the University World News article :

<https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20260121075658819>

Explore the Special Issue :

<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/cgse20/24/1>

Presentation Spotlight

Professor Máiréad Dunne gives keynote address at Nazarbayev University, Astana, Kazakhstan

On 15 November 2025, Professor Máiréad Dunne (ISS-CSF) gave the keynote address entitled 'Persistent patriarchy and epistemic violence: gender entanglements in education and work' to the 'Voices from the Margins: Rethinking Gender, Labor and Belonging' conference in Nazarbayev University, Astana, Kazakhstan. This conference was jointly supported by: Nazarbayev University president, Professor Waqar Ahmed; leader of the Nazarbayev University Research Centre for Entrepreneurship, Professor Shumaila Yousafzai; and the Gender, Work and Organisation journal. It was part of the fifteenth anniversary celebrations of Nazarbayev University which is located in Central Asia and continues to make a significant contribution to the global higher education landscape.

The conference drew participants from all corners of the globe and included academics, policy makers and practitioners in all stages of their careers as well as entrepreneurs, educators, activists and entertainers from the local area. This gave rise to many intersecting conversations about gender equality, economic challenges, work and the burdens of care within different historical and contemporary geographical contexts. Congratulations Professor Dunne! (See images below).



Researcher Spotlight

Dr Emily Danvers presented at the Society for Research in Higher Education Conference in Nottingham, UK in December on 'What University Signs Might Tell Us About Contemporary Pedagogic Practices' with Dr Susanne Strömberg Jämsvi from the University of Borås, Sweden. This group's work got picked up by Times Higher Education [https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/impersonal-and-generic-classroom-signs-impacting-pedagogy] and they have a paper submitted and under review.

On 20 January, Emily was an invited speaker at the Society for Research in Higher Education EDI summit on Gypsies, Roma and Travellers in Higher Education. She presented with Chris Derbyshire, Eloise Goodman-Thompson, Beth Harri-Lirette and Shannon Phillips (representing rich expertise of education professionals and former Sussex students) on: Mainstreaming decolonisation for those of Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller heritage: Working towards a whole University approach. This builds on a book chapter of the same title written with a collaboration of Sussex students, activists, academics and education professionals. The book will be out later this year.

Emily also accepted her National Teaching Fellow award in September (see image below). This prestigious national award recognises, rewards and celebrates individuals who have made an outstanding impact on students' outcomes and the teaching profession. Previous Education and Social Work winners include Michelle Lefevre, Simon Thompson and Tab Betts. Congratulations, Emily!



Project Updates

Mahidol University-CIE Collaboration

The research collaboration between Mahidol University and the Centre for International Education that ran between January 2025 and January 2026 has generated highly fruitful research activities. Exchange visits between Mahidol researchers and CIE researchers allowed us to deepen our conversations around three key themes linked to SDG Goals 4, 5, 8, 11 and 13, these being gender, education and livelihoods; teacher education and AI, and education and climate justice. A special thanks to our postgraduate researchers (Marcela Gola-Boutros, Silin Li and Yanyi He) for their in-depth analysis of the progress of Thailand and the UK against these goals, now available as Working Papers here: [CIE/Mahidol Collaboration](#). These Working Papers have informed the development of a joint research article as well as ongoing research funding bids. Watch this space!!



Professor Linda Morrice starts new project

The University of Sussex is working in partnership with the Network of International Women Brighton and Hove ([NIWBH](#)) and Brighton and Hove Council to develop a participatory evaluation framework for the NIWBH. The mission of the NIWBH is to reduce social isolation & increase opportunities for community cohesion for vulnerable women, with particular emphasis on working with those who have fled war, persecution and personal violence and have additional language barriers to overcome, alongside uncertain immigration status. Established in 2017 the objectives of the Network are to facilitate access to information, statutory, third sector and specialist services; increase confidence, participation in public events and access to civic life; improve personal health and wellbeing; increase friendships within and across many cultures; strengthen trust and security, which encourages disclosures to be shared. The evaluation is funded by the Roddick Foundation and Brighton and Hove Council, and is led by Prof. Linda Morrice (PI) and Dr Synne Dyvik (Co-PI).

Dr Gunjan Wadhwa completes research trip in Pune, India

Dr Gunjan Wadhwa visited Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) to meet research partners at the Department of Women and Gender Studies as part of the Faculty of Social Sciences "grant capture" funding and the departmental funding at Education and Social Work.

The visit led to meetings with the research team at SPPU and local industry partners, the waste pickers' trade union, Kagad Kach Patra Kashtakari Panchayat, and its cooperative movement, Swach (see photo below). It culminated in planning a pilot project in Pune city, submission of two research grants, to the British Academy and to the Sussex Knowledge Exchange Fund for the Innovation Fellowship, and a larger grant under preparation.



Gunjan was also invited to give a guest lecture attended by the Masters students at the Department studying the Inequalities and Exclusion paper. Additionally, she interacted with the doctoral researchers at the Department, conducting a workshop on Writing from data with the researchers (see photo above).

The visit strengthened Sussex and CIE ties with research partners in India. It underlined a shared commitment towards fostering equitable and sustained partnerships in research and teaching.

MAIED Updates

MAIED supports *We are still here* book launch

The MAIEDs attended the launch of the book "We are still here: an anthology of resilience, grief and unshattered hope from Gaza's university students". The event took place on Wed 22 Oct and featured powerful short and long stories, poems, essays, and testimonies written by students from Gaza's universities, cut off not only from their universities, but from their dreams and futures. Yet, despite this unimaginable trauma, many are still writing.



House of Lords lecture on British reparations for Trans-Atlantic slavery

A group of students from MAIED with Dr. Nimi Hoffman participated in the annual lecture featuring Professor Alan Lester, a distinguished specialist in British colonial history from the School of Global Studies. The team engaged in a rigorous Q&A, posing critical questions that facilitated a deeper discussion on social justice and the UK's agency regarding reparations.

Walk and picnic in Stanmer park

The MAIED held a walk and picnic in Stanmer park on Sun 9 Nov, keeping alive the course's social tradition for the students to get to know each other and the local Sussex community better. We walked through the woods and ended in Stanmer park for a picnic and game of badminton and football.



End of term party!

Another MAIED tradition, the party took place on Thurs 4th Dec to celebrate the end of term with student performances, singing and dancing. It was attended by the MA students, doctoral researchers and faculty and reminded us of the joys of collective learning!

MAIED alumna receives prestigious award

CIE alumna and former faculty member, Professor Naureen Durrani, has been awarded the Outstanding Career Achievement Research Excellence Award 2025 at Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan. This prestigious honour recognises a Full Professor whose work exemplifies the highest standards of research quality and real-world impact. In 2024, Naureen was also awarded a national medal by the Minister of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Sayasat Nurbek, in recognition of her outstanding contributions to education and research in the country. Since moving to Nazarbayev University in 2018, Naureen has maintained a close and active research relationship with CIE. This includes her involvement in a £2 million AHRC-funded collaborative project, jointly led by Professor Mario Novelli, which has played a significant role in building the research capacity of early career scholars across Central Asia. Congratulations, Professor Durrani!



PGR Updates

Celebrating Kamakshi's fruitful start to PhD studies



Kamakshi began her PhD at Sussex in September 2025 after securing the Prabuddha Overseas Scholarship, marking a milestone for Karnataka's Devadasi community. Since joining Sussex, she has received funding from the university's Researcher-Led Initiative to lead interdisciplinary doctoral roundtables. She also has a paper, "Beyond Voice: Youth Learning, Connecting, Collaborating and Leading for Change," due to be published in the forthcoming Educational Leadership Network Europe (ELNE) Journal. Alongside research, her poetry was selected for 'Apples and Snakes', a competitive poetry development programme in Brighton. Congratulations, Kamakshi! And a very warm welcome to Sussex.

About CIE

The Centre for International Education (CIE) was established in 1989 and is one of the University of Sussex Centres of Excellence.

The centre is located within the University of Sussex's Faculty of Social Sciences and is a constitutive part of a cross-university consortium on Development Studies, a group which has been ranked best in the world for the last nine years (2017-25) by the QS World University Rankings. CIE is recognised as a leading actor in the field of international education and development. In keeping with its distinctively critical, decolonial approach, CIE works in collaboration with partners around the world to address the part that education plays in society, both in social transformation and in the reproduction of social inequalities.

CIE is affiliated to the Sussex School for Progressive Futures (SSPF), University's flagship interdisciplinary hub. CIE's research cuts across the transformational themes that inform the research at SSPF and underpin the Sussex 2035 Strategy.

The Team



Professor Barbara Crossouard
(Director)



Dr Gunjan Wadhwa
(Deputy Director)



Clare Ferguson
(Senior Research Officer)



Eve Wilcox
(Senior Research Coordinator)

Get in touch

cie@sussex.ac.uk / www.sussex.ac.uk/cie / [CIE/MAIED LinkedIn](#)

Spring Semester Events



Register here: [CIE Events](#)

Education as a Tool for Existence: The Pedagogy of Hope in Palestine

3 Feb, 3-4:30PM

Prof Saida Affouneh

(An Najah National University)

Sussex Development Lecture: EuroBorderWalks: Walking Borders, Risk and Belonging

17 Feb, 4-5:30PM

Prof Maggie O'Neill (University College Cork)

Local environment education practice within a context of policy decentralisation: lessons from Nepal

3 March, 3-4:30PM

Boris Kilgarriff and Guarav Thapa

Gender violence in intimate partner contexts in India: implications for education

21 April, 3-4:30PM

Anitha Sundari

(University of Sheffield)