CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2025

Education Research for a Better World



Welcome!

A warm welcome to the 2025 CIE Spring Newsletter! In this newsletter, we take stock of activities and achievements since our 2023/24 annual report.

In October 2024 we said many thanks to Linda Morrice who stepped down from her role as Co-Director of CIE and welcomed Barbara Crossouard who has stepped forward as new CIE Co-Director with Jo Westbrook, taking on the role effortlessly!

We have all been busy giving lectures, applying and winning grants, sharing ideas for new bids, working as scholar-activists and writing and publishing alongside our daily research and teaching activities.

Of note too are the ongoing activities of students and alumni on the MA International Education & Development and PGRs and their welcome engagement in the Centre seminars.

Do please share the newsletter with friends and colleagues who might be interested.

Professor Barbara Crossouard



Professor Jo Westbrook



BAICE 2024

Co-chaired by then Directors Jo Westbrook and Linda Morrice, CIE were delighted to run the prestigious British Association of International & Comparative (BAICE) 24 conference last September 3-5 2024 in the Jubilee Building on campus with the theme of "Transgression and transformation: (re)bordering education in a time of conflict and crises".

The sub-themes reflected those of CIEs, plus a 'Borderless theme', making our own concerns and interests at the forefront for the conference. Over 300 delegates attended the conference, with a very large number of high quality and thoughtful papers, symposia and creative sessions as well as poster. Conference highlights included: keynotes from Omar Shweiki, Director of Fobzu (Friends of Birzeit University) in dialogue with Professor Arathi Sriprakash, with Mario Novelli as discussant and the BAICE 2024 Professor Michelle Schweisfurth; nature walks around the woods near Jubilee; two drinks receptions; a decolonial tour of Brighton's 'dolphin' imagery, followed by fish and chips on the beach; lunchtime music, poetry, comedy and a Human Library from Ukraine; a buffet curry followed by music from Russian, Ukraine and Syrian refugees living in Brighton followed by a lively a World Music disco. Our wonderful group of PGRs and one MAIED student volunteers really made a splash in their turquoise t shirts and kept the whole thing rolling along smoothly – many thanks to you all!



CIE Members at the BAICE Conference 2025. Credit: Hauwa Umar Aliyu

Mahidol - Sussex Bid Success

CIE has been awarded Sussex – Mahidol Seedcorn funding from Sussex's Global Engagement to develop research collaborations with colleagues in the Faculty of Social Science at Mahidol University in Thailand. The partnership will focus on three themes:

- Education, Gender and Livelihoods
- Teacher Professional Development, Inclusion and Digital Technologies
- Education and Climate Change

The project involves a number of colleagues from CIE, with a particular focus on ECRs and PGRs. The objective of the work is to develop at least two proposals for research funding by the end of 2025. We will start to collaborate now with our respective teams, working up to our first meeting in Mahidol, proposed for May. There will then be a return visit in July. The funding provides a great opportunity to develop new collaborative links in the social sciences, exchange skills and ideas, and build partnerships for future research.

Senior Research Officer Update

I've been CIE's Senior Research Officer for 8 months now, and have enjoyed finding out about everybody's research. I've become more familiar with specific funding opportunities for work on international education. The deadlines for these calls are often quite short, and the Research Development team asks to be notified of any application involving international partners 8 - 12 weeks before submission, so it's good to plan ahead. I 've produced <u>a calendar of repeat funding calls</u> to help with this and will email everybody when other research funding and consultancy opportunities appear.

I spent much of November and December working on CIE's Mahidol-Sussex partnership seedcorn funding bid, helping draft and complete the application form, doing the budget and organising meetings with colleagues in Thailand. I'm happy to offer this type of support to anybody working on a bid, as well as doing tailored searches for funding. I work part-time, usually Monday to Wednesday, and the best way to contact me if you'd like a chat is by email: <u>clare.ferguson@sussex.ac.uk</u>.

CIE has been working with IDS colleagues on a flyer for fundraising and promoting our collective skills.



Clare Ferguson, SRO

This year, I'm hoping to build on CIE's partnerships across the Social Sciences faculty and will be looking for ways of strengthening connections with other research centres. Many funding opportunities require multi-disciplinary teams, so these relationships are increasingly important for research bids. I'm also going to look for links with philanthropic organisations that are interested in education, to increase CIE's pool of potential funders. I'll keep you posted on my progress!

CIE Research Updates

CIE Seed Corn Fund

Dr Birgul Kutan

Dr Birgul Kutan organised a workshop in Turkey in October 2024 supported by CIE's Seed Corn Fund, focusing on the increase violence against women and its impact on feminist movements under Turkey's increasingly authoritarian government. The fund enabled me to organise a workshop in Istanbul with representatives from various feminist organisations, where we discussed the challenges and strategies faced by women in response to the country's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention. Despite growing repression, the women highlighted innovative approaches, particularly the use of digital technologies, to mobilise support and document violence. The workshop provided valuable insights into the current state of feminist movements in Turkey and laid the groundwork for future larger research project which I plan to develop in 2025, contributing to the broader feminist struggle in Turkey and beyond.

Dr Gunjan Wadhwa

In December 2024, Dr Gunjan Wadhwa visited the Department of Women and Gender Studies at Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) to deepen research collaborations in India and develop a research proposal to bid for external funding with the team in Pune. This visit was supported by the CIE seed corn funding and ESW ECR funding secured by Dr Gunjan Wadhwa in April and December 2024 respectively. It built on an earlier knowledge exchange visit to SPPU in May 2024 which helped chart out mutual research interests and related directions for future funding through engagement workshops.

The recent visit in December focused on the intersections of gender, work and education with a specific focus on the education and work trajectories of young people who are children of waste-pickers in Pune city. The mapping workshops to develop the research proposal were co-designed by Gunjan who led the discussions with the Pune team to help establish positive connections and scope out feasible collaborative research projects between Pune and Sussex researchers.

Addressing the international development discourse around "just transitions", "decent work" and "sustainability", the discussions highlighted assumptions of waste-picking as "dirty" and "stigmatised" work informed through gender- and caste-based hierarchies in India. In a series of workshops which involved founding members of the waste-pickers trade union in Pune, KKPKP (Kagad Kach Patra Kashtakari Panchayat) and its cooperative movement Swach, recent shifts in the waste economy were broadly mapped out. This mapping helped frame the research focus on the intergenerational mobility and wider citizenship of youth of whose parents were waste-pickers and members of the trade union.

(Cont.)

The research team included Dr Gunjan Wadhwa and Professors Barbara Crossouard and Máiréad Dunne from CIE, Dr Anagha Tambe, Dr Swati Dyahadroy, Dr Sneha Gole, Dr Lalit Bhaware, Ms Deepa Tak, Mr Sanjay Kumar Kamble, Ms Sayali Shankar, Ms Shubhanshi Dimri and Ms Sinu Sugathan from the Department of Women and Gender Studies at Savitribai Phule Pune University. Ms Poornima Chikarmane, Ms Laxmi Narayan and Mr Aditya Vyas joined from KKPKP and the Swach cooperative.

The visit culminated in meeting the union members who were waste-pickers themselves and following them as they collected, segregated, sorted, composted and recycled the waste, highlighting incredibly complex, demanding and multi-faceted dimensions of this work (see below photo). Finally, the visiting team met youth who worked as second-generation in the waste economy while transitioning to 'higher' supervisory jobs in the Swach cooperative, indicating the complexities within youth trajectories and transitions which require further examination and form the basis of collaborative research with SPPU and the union.



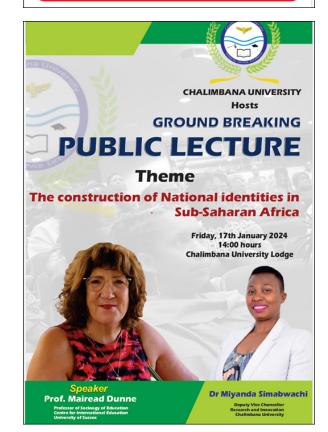
Credit: Gunjan Wadhwa

Zambia Lecture and Knowledge Exchange Visit

In January, Professor Máiréad Dunne gave invited lectures at the University of Zambia and Chalimbana University, Chongwe in Zambia. These lectures traced the history of national formation focusing on the work of education in the production of national citizens. Faculty and students from both universities attended these lectures and engaged in rich and extensive discussions. In each university roundtable discussion took place with the faculty to explore future knowledge exchange and research collaborations with Sussex.

In addition Máiréad held discussions with several officials from the Zambian Ministry of Education including the Permanent Secretary, Mr Joel Kamoko; the Acting Director, University Education, Mr Brian Makufele and Dr Agness Mumba-Wilkins, Managing Director of the Government Publishers. Dr Mumba-Wilkins, a Sussex Alumna and Máiréad are already engaged in joint academic writing projects on gender and sexuality in rural communities. In Lusaka Máiréad and Agness visited urban communities around Sovereign market where they had informal conversations with working young mothers and women counsellors about the everyday issues confronting women. Clearly, there is more research to be done!

THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA **Department of Educational Sociology**, **Psychology and Special Education presents a Public Lecture** Speaker: Professor Mairead Dunne Title: "What Kind of Citizen? The Construction of National Identities in Sub-Saharan Africa' Date: 15th January, 2025 Time: 10 - 12hrs Venue: Language and Literary Studies Seminar Room. This lecture will also be available online. Join on the link below: https://meet.google.com/omh-ntyn-jrj About the Speaker: Professor Dunne is a globally recognised scholar and former Director of the Centre for International Education at the University of Sussex. With decades of experience in international education and development, she has led pioneering research on the societal impact of education. Contact: 0977394552



Designing an equitable model of whole school Continuous Professional Development - Stakeholder workshops in Rwanda November 2024

A two-day stakeholder workshop was held in Kigali, Rwanda, in November 2024, to consider strategies to strengthen the school-based component of a large scale English Language Proficiency programme for Lower Secondary school teachers. Findings from the earlier project phases had shown that while there were benefits to participation in this TPD, women teachers and teachers with disability, particularly in rural and border Districts, faced greater challenges in accessing TPD. The workshop brought together stakeholders across national, District, sector and school levels with many women in these roles as well as participants with disabilities to discuss and reimagine models of school based CPD that sought to address issues around gender and disability.

The research team will be using Participatory Action Research with nine more schools in three new Districts between March and July 2025 to co-construct localised approaches to equitable CPD, drawing on the thinking that came out of this workshop.

Jo Westbrook is PI for 'Designing and piloting an equitable whole school approach to quality TPD: exploring conditions and support needed to succeed at scale in Rwandan Lower Secondary Schools', a project led by the British Council, with John Simpson and Ruth Bath, with a research team from the University of Rwanda – Jolly Rubagiza, Delphine Mukingambeho and Pierre Barayagwiza. It is funded by the Canadian International Development Research Centre/Foundation for Information Technology - Education.



Prof Jo Westbrook with colleagues at the November stakeholder workshop to reimagine what good equitable teacher professional development might look like – Kigali Nov 2024. Credit: Jo Westbrook.

UNESCO Teacher Task Force on disability

Jo Westbrook, together with Pierre Barayagwiza from the University of Rwanda, have been invited to take part in and present their research on teachers with disability in Rwanda at the UNESCO Teacher Task Force series of webinars 'Inclusion and Equity in Teacher Policy and Practice', which have run from November to February 2025. Those in attendance are global with notable input from Lebanon, Sudan and Ethiopia as well as NGOS working on disability. These three learning sessions lead up to the April UNESCO Global Disability Summit and are run by VSO and the International Council for the Education of Teaching (ICET).

The Art of Global Peacebuilding and Excellence in Education: pathways to hopeful transformational practice

This new book by Angie Kotler (CIE Research Fellow) and Professor Jo Westbrook is to be published by Routledge, London in spring 2025. This collaborative work is the culmination of multiple conversations over the past ten years about the meaning and purpose of education in diverse contexts around the world. The book explores the terms 'excellence' and 'peacebuilding' within education and argues for both to be revisited and combined into a new paradigm which is urgently needed. The volume is in three parts, part 1 being a dive into theory and policy, part 2 comprising a series of case studies of the authors' work over many years, and the final part offering reflection and signposts for practitioners. It foregrounds ongoing challenges of colonial and neoliberal thinking and aims to illustrate small transformative actions that can lead to significant positive change. We hope Education for excellence and peacebuilding will be thought provoking for academics, teachers, policy makers and others in the field of international education.

City of Sanctuary

Brighton and Hove is part of the City of Sanctuary movement, a network of cities that welcomes refugees and migrants and builds a culture which recognizes their rights and voice. Linda Morrice has been part of a collaborative project that supports this work. The project brings together Brighton and Hove city council, Brighton and Hove Sanctuary on Sea and an interdisciplinary team from the University of Sussex led by Dr Jo Wilding (Law) and including Prof. Mike Collyer (Geography). The project aims to create a city framework which supports everyone, including those seeking sanctuary, to flourish. The framework covers people's rights and needs in four key areas : access to legal advice, education, health and housing. The project also maps the current state of welcome and integration in the city, and reviews integration frameworks that support refugees and migrants elsewhere in the UK and Europe. The report, 'What Does it Mean to be a City of Sanctuary? was launched at Brighton and Hove Cricket Club on 3rd October by Councillor Bella Sankey, Leader of the Council.

New UKRI-Funded Project

UK Research and Innovation. The role of digital technology in social networks and wellbeing of unaccompanied young refugees (2025-2027). With Prof. Linda Morrice (University of Sussex), Dr Linda Tip (University of Brighton), Prof. Ilse Derluyn (Ghent University) and Elaine Ortiz (Hummingbird Project, Brighton). Total grant £440,000

Starting in March 2025 we will be investigating the digital worlds of Unaccompanied Refugee Children and Young People (URCYP) and how their engagement with digital tools relates to their sense of belonging, integration and wellbeing. This is a multidisciplinary, participatory mixed methods project that adopts a longitudinal approach so that social networks and wellbeing of URCYP can be tracked over time. The research takes place throughout the UK and addresses the following questions:

- How do UCYP in the UK engage with and experience digital technology, and how does this change over time and across context and place?
- How does UCYP's engagement with the digital world link to their social networks (online, offline, in the UK, and elsewhere), their sense of belonging, social risks, and their wellbeing?
- How can services and stakeholders better support and protect wellbeing of UCYP while they navigate the intersection of child protection and immigration control in an increasingly digital world?

Workshop at the Georg Eckert Institute, Braunschweig, 20-22 November 2024

Professor Mario Novelli delivered a keynote at the "Doing Research on Contested Paths in Authoritarian Contexts: Challenges, Experiences, Ethics and Methodologies" Workshop, Georg Eckert Institute, 20-22 November 2024, entitled 'Researching in Times of Authoritarianism: Reflections from South to North'.

Aspire, India Collaboration

CIE hosted a workshop with Dr Kartika Bhatia (ASPIRE, India and Coventry University) to think through research partnerships with CIE and ESW more broadly on participatory and action research. This will now involve initial exploratory meetings between CIE/ESW and ASPIRE teams and establishing a working partnership and collaboration with ASPIRE in India.

The FreshEd Podcast: 2024 in Review

Professor Mario Novelli joined Susan Robertson and Will Brehm on The FreshEd Podcast. They discussed the big events in 2024, how might they impact the field of international education and where we're headed in 2025. Check it out via the link below: Robertson, Susan, Novelli, Mario with Will Brehm, FreshEd, 381, podcast audio, December 23, 2024. https://freshedpodcast.com/2024inreview/

British Association of International and Comparative Education (BAICE) 2024 Conference

Professor Mario Novelli presented at the biennial BAICE 2024 Conference, held at the University of Sussex, between September 3-5, 2024. His paper was 'Social Movement Learning & Knowledge Production in the Struggle for Peace with Social Justice'.

WE-SAY dissemination at Savitribai Phule Pune University, India

In December 2024, Professors Barbara Crossouard and Máiréad Dunne were invited by Professor Anagha Tambe and her team at the Women and Gender Studies Centre of Savitribai Phule Pune University, India, to disseminate findings from the WE-SAY project (2020-23). This research investigated how young rural women navigated the conflicting demands of work and education in a Northern Nigerian context where many young women do not complete primary education.

Our presentations focused on the participatory visual methodologies (PVM) adopted in the WE-SAY project and substantive findings on the politics of gender. We highlighted how a series of PVM workshops and subsequent community dialogues created spaces for young women in rural communities of Northern Nigeria to develop their agendas for change and then present these in a public forum. We also argued for caution about PVM claims to empower, highlighting the reproduction of gendered norms within the research processes themselves. The second presentation addressed the extent to which young women's lives were systematically permeated by gender violence. Much of this was mundane and unremarkable, thoroughly normalized within their daily lives. (Cont.) Overall, these presentations fed productively into detailed discussions of the relevance of the WE-SAY project to the Indian context and future research collaborations building on previous research into education, gender and work by Dr Gunjan Wadhwa, Professor Anagha Tambe and colleagues.



CIE researchers and colleagues at Savitribai Phule Pune University. Credit: Barbara Crossouard

Related publications:

Moses, D., Adamu, S., Crossouard, B., & Dunne, M. (2024). Developing participatory visual methods with young rural women in Northern Nigeria. In SAGE Research Methods Cases: Diversifying and Decolonizing Research: SAGE ONLINE.

Dunne, M., Crossouard, B., Dauda, M., & Aliyu, S. (forthcoming). Mundane violence and gender politics: young women's narratives from Northern Nigeria. In A. Akpinar & N. Ammar (Eds.), The Emerald Handbook of Family and Social Change in the Global South: A Gendered Perspective: Emerald.

MAIED Updates

MAIED Alumni from the class of 23/24 presented on the Academic and Research Skills module in the joint lecture and in the MAIED workshop in the final week of Semester 1. Their presentations included an overview of their completed individual research projects as well as the 'ups and downs' of their experiences in the process. These included deciding on a research focus, shaping the proposal and design, developing research instruments. managing ethics clearance, accessing participants, generating data, analysis and writing. Their impressive, enthusiastic and 'masterful' accounts of their projects wide-ranging research provided important and informative insights as well as plenty of food for thought for the current students on the MAIED, MACY, MAE and our Bolashaq scholars.



(Left to right) Chilufya Mulenga, Namse Udosen, Similoluwa Adefioye. Credit: Máiréad Dunne.



Imisiayo Oloyede. Credit: Máiréad Dunne.

The newly confident social science researchers and successful MA graduates included, Namse Udosen, Similoluwa Adefioye, Sio Broh, Ali Aftab Ghias, Chilufya Mulenga and Imisiayo Oloyede. Their respective research dissertatations focused on: Examination of Community Education for Out Of School (OOS) children in Nigeria; Exploring the Gender Identities of Yoruba Youths Living in the United Kingdom; A Biography of an un-schooled women in Liberia; Agonistic Identities: Decoloniality and the (mis)Gendered Student in Pakistan; Analyzing the effects of tax abuse on financing primary and secondary education in Zambia; Overlooked Voices: Evaluating the inclusivity and adequacy of safeguarding policies against child sexual abuse in Nigerian secondary schools from the perspectives of school leaders and diaspora Nigerian students.

Stanmer Park Picnic

The MAIED hosted a walk and picnic in the Stanmer Park on Sunday 13th October with the current (24/25) and outgoing (23/24) MAIED cohorts to welcome the new students and have a mixer with the old ones. This was followed by a friendly yet exciting football match between the MAIEDs.



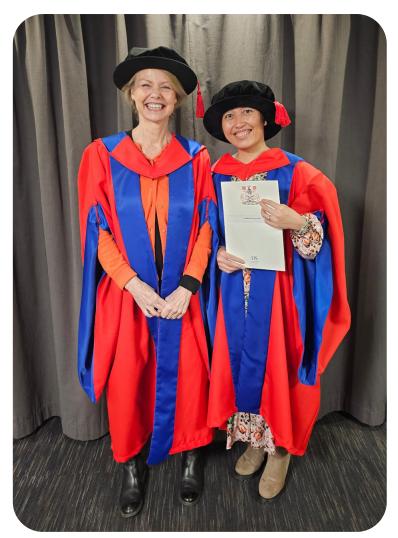
MAIED picnic in Stanmer Park. Credit: Gunjan Wadhwa



MAIED students and colleagues. Credit: Gunjan Wadhwa

CIE PGR Updates

Congratulations to Dr Imelda Dwi Rosita Sari who graduated this year!



Professor Jo Westbrook and Dr Imelda Dwi Rosita Sari at graduation. Credit: Jo Westbrook

Congratulations to Alejando Farieta-Barrera on the below publication

López Gómez, C., Farieta-Barrera, A., & Roa-Mendoza, C. P. (2024). Retos y controversias de la formación ética en las universidades de Bogotá [Challenges and controversies of ethical education in the universities of Bogotá]. Cadernos De Pesquisa, 54, e10460. https://doi.org/10.1590/1980531410460

Publications

Dunne, M., Crossouard, B., Dauda, M., & Aliyu, S. (forthcoming). Mundane violence and gender politics: young women's narratives from Northern Nigeria. In A. Akpinar & N. Ammar (Eds.), The Emerald Handbook of Family and Social Change in the Global South: A Gendered Perspective: Emerald.

López Gómez, C., Farieta-Barrera, A., & Roa-Mendoza, C. P. (2024). Retos y controversias de la formación ética en las universidades de Bogotá [Challenges and controversies of ethical education in the universities of Bogotá]. Cadernos De Pesquisa, 54, e10460. https://doi.org/10.1590/1980531410460

Moses, D., Adamu, S., Crossouard, B., & Dunne, M. (2024). Developing participatory visual methods with young rural women in Northern Nigeria. In SAGE Research Methods Cases: Diversifying and Decolonizing Research: SAGE ONLINE.

Sutherland, J. & Westbrook, J. (forthcoming) (2025) How do students read, interpret whole texts and become engaged readers? Chapter in Secondary English for Generation Alpha: Humane Pedagogy for Local, National and International Contexts, (Editor Dr Lorna Smith), London: NATE/Routledge series

Wadhwa, G., & Dunne, M. (2024). Blurring belongings: navigating Indian and Adivasi identities in an area of protracted violence in India. Social Identities, 1–18. https://doi.org/10.1080/13504630.2024.2388147

Wadhwa, G. (2024). Gendered navigations of space, work and education in young Adivasi lives in India. In T. Abebe, A. Dar, K. Wells (Eds.) Routledge Handbook of Childhood Studies and Global Development, pp. 442-454. London: Routledge

Westbrook, J., Simpson, J., Rubagiza, J., Mukingambeho, D. & Barayagwiza, P. (forthcoming) (2025) Navigating language barriers between formal education and community at the Rwanda-DRC border, in 'Multilingualism and Language Transition: Innovations and Possibilities - a NORRAG Special Issue'(eds Barratt, A., Bowden, Essien, A., Phyak, P. & R., Trudell, B.).

Grants

UK Research and Innovation. The role of digital technology in social networks and wellbeing of unaccompanied young refugees (2025-2027). Prof. Linda Morrice (CIE), Dr Linda Tip (University of Brighton), Prof. Ilse Derluyn (Ghent University) and Elaine Ortiz (Hummingbird Project, Brighton). Total grant £440,000.

Global Engagement, Mahidol Sussex Seed Fund. Mahidol-Sussex collaboration on education and the challenges of meeting the SDGs: gender, inclusion, livelihoods and sustainability (Jan-Dec 2025). Professor Jo Westbrook (CIE), Associate Professor Dr Arisara Leksansren (Mahidol University). Total grant £17054.

Autumn 2024 Events

Date	Title	Speakers
10 October	A Black Man Stuck in a White Education System: An autoethnography of a Black British English teacher in the British Education System	Bhishma Asare
17 October	Educate, Organize, Empower: Transforming the Lives of Children in Tribal India	Kartika Bhatia (ASPIRE, India)
24 October	Voice, position and power: engaging with young women in Northern Nigeria through participatory visual methods	Barbara Crossouard and Mairead Dunne (CIE), Safiya Aliyu and Dauda Moses(Modibbo Adamu University, Yola, Nigeria)
31 October	Development and Education: Challenges of Holding the UK Accountable in a Shifting Policy Landscape	Hannah Frisch (Results UK)
6 November	Young Women Navigating Discourses of Education and Marriage: A case study of the Dinka community in South Sudan	Alan Neville (CIE)
29 November	Using Contextually Relevant Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Approaches to Deliver Culturally Sensitive Programs in Support of Girls' Education across India, Pakistan, and Kenya	Khuzama Khan (Girl Rising)

Find our upcoming events on the CIE website!

Sussex Development Lectures

The Sussex Development Lecture series is run jointly by CIE, the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), the School of Global Studies, and the Science Policy and Research Unit (SPRU) at the University of Sussex. The theme for the 2024-2025 series is Power, Politics and Hope. <u>You can see ourupcoming SDLs here.</u> Last semester's schedule included:

Power to the people: how to make this the century of the citizen with Danny Sriskandarajah (New Eceonmics Foundation).

<u>Combatting Violence against Women: What's wrong with the global governance of a feminist agenda?</u> with Remi Hammami (Birzeit University) - this event has been postponed.

Contact Information



The Centre for International Education (CIE) is located within the Department of Education in Essex House on the University of Sussex campus. The University is situated on a modern campus on the edge of the South Downs National Park near the lively seaside city of Brighton and Hove. London is one hour away by train, and there is easy access to Gatwick and Heathrow airports.

> School of Education and Social Work Essex House University of Sussex Falmer

