

TIME	EVENT	SPEAKER	VENUE
8:30 - 9:00am	Registration (Sign in) & Breakfast		Kirkland Room, EUC
9:00 - 9:15 am	Welcome and Symposium Overview	Dr. Maria Anastasiou Associate Provost and Senior International Officer, Global Engagement Office (UNCG)	Kirkland Room, EUC
9:15 - 9:20 am	Transition		
9:20 - 10:20 am	Breakout Session A (please choose one of these three sessions)		
	THEME: RESEARCH		
	Cross-cultural Communication: Conflict, Adaptation, and Competence Improvement Dr. Ning Wang currently serves as the Director of the International Cooperation and Exchange Office at Suzhou City University and the Director of the Institute of Intercultural Studies. She is also the Secretary-General of the Intercultural Research Committee of the Jiangsu Comparative Literature Association. Her research focuses on cultural communication and intercultural communication, with over 20 papers published in CSSCI and Peking University Core journals. She has led numerous provincial and municipal research projects and has received multiple awards for her contributions to social science and teaching excellence. <i>(Dr. Ning Wang will join us virtually from China.)</i>	Dr. Ning Wang , Director of International Cooperation and Exchange, Suzhou City University & Director of the Institute of Intercultural Studies	Kirkland Room, EUC
	THEME: TEACHING AND LEARNING		
	Local and Global Pathways for Enhancing Educators' International Perspectives In this presentation, we will share collaborative efforts for internationalizing teacher education at UNCG by offering opportunities for preservice teachers to engage in international learning opportunities in partnership with their local community as well as in international contexts. Specifically, the presenters will highlight the development of our study abroad program connecting pre-service teachers, teacher educators, and school-based educators across diverse communities in the two countries.	Dr. Doris Kroiss , Clinical Assistant Professor of TESOL and Elementary Education (UNCG) & Dr. Faith Freeman , Director of Alternative Licensure and Pathways and Spartan Education Scholars (UNCG)	Claxton Room, EUC
	THEME: STUDENT REFLECTIONS		
	Access in Action: Student Perspectives on Gilman Scholarship Impact UNCG has been recognized as a Top Producing Institution for the Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship, with more Gilman Scholars than any institution in North Carolina. During this session two Gilman Scholars will reflect on their time abroad in Japan and the Dominican Republic and share the impact of their experiences on their personal, academic, and professional growth.	Hsun Romah (UNCG Undergraduate Student) & Sarah Strickland (UNCG Undergraduate Student)	Sharpe Room, EUC
10:20 - 10:30 am	Transition		
10:30 - 11:30 am	Breakout Session B (please choose one of these three sessions)		
	THEME: RESEARCH		
	Proposing Contextualization as New Methodological Approaches for Nonprofit Research: Insights from Local-Language Scholarship Across Asia This research project proposes a framework for context-grounded systematic approaches, called "contextualization," to advance nonprofit and philanthropic studies. This project introduces contextualization to nonprofit studies -- the multidisciplinary field that has evolved with strong international focuses -- and presents a framework that blends conceptual and methodological approaches. The project was awarded the 2025 Global Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership Award from the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action, the premier scholarly association in the field of nonprofit studies.	Dr. Tamaki Onishi , Associate Professor in the Master of Public Affairs Program (MPA) at UNCG	Kirkland Room, EUC
	THEME: RESEARCH		
	Who Gets to Discover Themselves? Rethinking What Study Abroad Teaches Students of Color Study abroad programs are often designed around the assumption that students arrive as open vessels, ready to develop cross-cultural awareness and discover themselves through international experience. But what happens when that assumption doesn't hold? For students of color, identity is not waiting to be discovered abroad; it is already being read, interpreted, and repositioned by others across geographic contexts. This presentation shares findings from a qualitative study examining how the intersecting racial, ethnic, and cultural identities of 14 Black and Latina undergraduate students shaped their learning experiences during a short-term global health study abroad program in the Dominican Republic.	Dr. Andrea Lewis , Assistant Professor of Public Health Education (UNCG)	Sharpe Room, EUC
	THEME: VISITING SCHOLAR REFLECTIONS		
	Light of Volunteerism Across Cultures: Connection and Co-creation This session explores the intersection of rapid mobilization and the steady pulse of community building through the lens of human purpose. By juxtaposing the Chinese model of Rivers, the surging energy of volunteers rising in crisis, with the American Stars, the persistent grassroots engagement that provides long-term light, this work highlights the unique strengths found in both cultures. Ultimately, the goal is to build systems that are not only efficient in a crisis but deeply sustainable and empowering for the individuals who power them.	Daisy Ji , UNCG Global Visiting Scholar Program (GVSP) Participant (UNCG)	Phillips Room, EUC
11:30 - 11:40 am	Transition		
11:40 - 12:30 pm	Keynote Address: Everyday Behaviors Matter	Praveen Pasupathi , UNCG Ph.D. student, Kinesiology Department	Kirkland Room, EUC
12:30 - 1:30 pm	Global Awards Luncheon	Marikay Abuzuaiter , Mayor of Greensboro	Kirkland Room, EUC
1:30 - 1:45 pm	Transition		
1:45 - 2:45 pm	Supporting Students Abroad: Cultural Humility Approach to Faculty Led Program Management Study abroad can be transformative—but only when students feel seen, valued, and supported throughout the process. Faculty and staff play a pivotal role in ensuring access, persistence, and meaningful learning outcomes for students from all backgrounds. This session will emphasize practical strategies for creating culturally responsive recruitment, program design, and program group dynamics that empower students academically, professionally, and personally. This session will explore how our cultural humility can be a superpower for faculty and staff, to create an atmosphere that can foster student success in study abroad programs. Through a cultural engagement lens, we will examine how intentional cultural understanding can strengthen our interactions with students and ensure more supportive and successful study abroad programs.	Liz Torres Melendez , UNCG's Global Engagement Office (UNCG) & Kory Saunders , AIFS Abroad	Kirkland Room, EUC
2:45 - 3:00 pm	Closing Remarks	Dr. Maria Anastasiou , Associate Provost and Senior International Officer, Global Engagement Office (UNCG)	Kirkland Room, EUC