

2025

## Briefing Report—2025—July - December

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### A Note from the Chair



Dear ECCSSA Members and Friends,

As we look back on the past year, I'm happy to share some exciting accomplishments and plans for the future, all made possible through the efforts of our dedicated members and supporters.

A key highlight was ECCSSA's 50th Annual Virtual Conference Roundtable on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The theme, "Global Perspectives: The Social Sciences in a Connected World" brought together scholars from various fields to discuss important issues in social sciences and health. The event was a great success, thanks to the participation and contributions of all who attended. We truly appreciate your involvement and expertise.

We are also excited to announce that Volume 22, Summer 2025 of the ECCSSA Chronicles has been published. This issue, titled "Bridging Perspectives: Interdisciplinary Insights into Social Sciences and Health," builds on the themes explored during the conference 2024. It is now available to ECCSSA members and the broader academic community. We extend our gratitude to the authors, reviewers, and editorial team for their efforts in bringing this publication to fruition.

We're excited to start planning ECCSSA's 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference on August 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026. This year's theme is "Bridging Society and Economy: Challenges, Opportunities, and Futures." We are also excited to announce that the 51<sup>st</sup> conference will be moved to in-person and held at Southern Connecticut State University, at New Haven, CT. We hope you'll join us for this special milestone.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude to our board members for their hard work and dedication, and to all of you for your ongoing support. We look forward to another year of learning, collaboration, and growth together.

Warm regards,  
Dr. Sushma Shukla  
Chair, ECCSSA

## UPDATES ON THE ECCSSA JOURNAL

The ECCSSA Journal has been published in Summer 2025, themed as “Bridging Perspectives: Interdisciplinary Insights into Social Sciences and Health. The published articles include:

Allison Millward, “Behind the Numbers, Between the Lines: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Understanding Healthcare Workers’ Experiences in Mass Casualty Events.”

Babita Srivastava, “Challenges in Healthcare Workforce Management: Addressing Turnover, Burnout, and Economic Strain”

Anjita Singh, Luman Zhao, and Jia Yu, “Icebergs to the Surface: Understanding and Prevention of Medical Error”

## SUMMARY OF LATEST CONFERENCE

The last conference held on September 26<sup>th</sup> was held virtually and had many academic participants. The theme was as follows:

### ***Global Perspectives: The Social Sciences in a Connected World***

***This theme highlights the role of social sciences in understanding our increasingly interconnected world. It emphasizes global issues, cross-cultural exchanges, and the ways in which societies influence one another through economics, politics, culture, health, and technology. By fostering dialogue across disciplines and borders, it encourages innovative solutions to shared challenges and deepens our collective understanding of global interdependence.***

This conference had several speakers and presenters, including our keynote speaker. These are the academic professionals and students who presented their papers and participated making this conference an educational and incredible experience:

**Dr. James A. Thorson (Keynote Speaker):** The Global Economy: Opportunities and Challenges, Winners, and Losers. Over the past half century, globalization has deepened economic interdependence on an unprecedented scale. This process has contributed to higher living standards worldwide, yet it remains deeply contested, not least because the gains and losses are distributed unevenly across and within nations. For example, while trade and investment have fueled growth in many emerging economies, they have also accelerated structural change and job displacement in advanced economies. In this keynote, Dr. Thorson will examine globalization from three comparative perspectives: low-income countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, middle-income economies in Southeast Asia, and high-income nations in North America and Western Europe. The analysis will highlight how each group experiences both the opportunities and dislocations of global integration. The research is to assess not only the economic outcomes but also the policy challenges that arise, and to consider how globalization might be shaped to deliver more equitable and sustainable benefits in the decades ahead.

**Dr. Beverly Yuen Thompson:** Digital Nomadism: Serious Leisure, Non-Location Based Employment and the Online Gig Economy. Remote work has allowed white-collar workers the option of becoming non-location based. The Covid-19 pandemic made this option widely available for several years, and therefore, the subcultural lifestyle of “digital nomadism” gained mass appeal. Rising expectations of career-options and the bleak realities of the gig economy position educated younger workers to long for the promises of the digital nomad lifestyle in order to make their lives more fulfilling. As millennials and Gen Z generations earned more degrees than previous generations, the payoffs were far fewer, as they became the least financially solvent. Thus, digital nomadism also appeals to younger workers because their finances can stretch much further in low-income nations. Thus, one outcome of the lifestyle is the reliance on digital gig-work and subsequent precarity. This presentation will overview cutting edge topics regarding the digital nomad lifestyle and the lessons that can be expanded to understanding the expanding precarity of white-collar work in general. Various themes of this lifestyle will be overviewed including global inequalities and passport strength, online gig employment, digitally based

social relationships, upper-income migration contrasted to forced migration, sustainability and marginalized demographics. This research is based on qualitative interviews with forty digital nomads and provides the voices and insights of those living the lifestyle.

**Dr. Allison Millward:** With the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) being first proposed in the United States in 1923, some activists thought that this addition, which guaranteed women equal treatment under the law, would naturally extend to labor and employment. Though the ERA was never passed, its occasional resurfacing brings the conversation to women, work, and service, and exposes discriminatory practices and beliefs of working women around the country and world. Realistically, women had been working long before the ERA's inception and advocated for fair treatment in labor. Unskilled working women filled the factories, and skilled labor, such as nursing and teaching, emerged as viable careers for women in the latter half of the nineteenth century, continuing into the twentieth. This presentation will review the roots of professional careers that became affiliated with women's work, and suggest that beliefs about traditional womanhood seeped into such occupations, both creating and perpetuating long-standing social ideologies about acceptable careers, pay, and behavior within these professional roles. It will then review rules, policies, education, and movements to demonstrate how these ideals were enforced both within the fields and in broader society. Ultimately, this presentation argues that history can inform current beliefs on women and work in the Western world and explores to what extent these lasting beliefs extend to the broader global landscape. It further seeks to emphasize the importance of understanding the historical background to these beliefs to inform decisions and policies on women and work in modern-day society.

**Dr. Ze Zhang:** A Study on the Impact of Health Shock on Intergenerational Stratum Mobility in Rural China. This article is based on the comprehensive social survey data of China from 2015 to 2021, using the CMP model and structural equation model to test the impact of health shocks on intergenerational mobility in rural China and its mechanism path. Research has found that: firstly, health shocks hinder the upward mobility of intergenerational classes in rural China; Secondly, health shocks hinder the upward mobility of intergenerational classes in rural China by reducing individual total income levels; Thirdly, health shocks hinder the upward mobility of intergenerational classes in rural China by reducing individual labor supply capacity; Fourthly, health shocks hinder intergenerational mobility in rural China by reducing individual social frequency; Fifth, the accumulated knowledge and experience due to age can effectively alleviate the negative impact of health shocks on intergenerational mobility; Sixth, the risk transfer effect of medical insurance on health impacts is ineffective, and it cannot effectively transfer health risks during intergenerational mobility. In order to mitigate the negative effects of health shocks on intergenerational mobility in rural China, we should strengthen the risk warning and prevention of rural health shocks, improve the protection system of rural residents' health rights and interests, focus on fostering a healthy social culture in rural areas, improve the rural health education system, and enhance the risk Executive functions function of rural public medical insurance.

**Dr. Sushma Shukla:** Financial Inclusion in India: Driving Economic Growth and Reducing Poverty. The focus of our paper is the impact of India's major financial inclusion initiatives: Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY), and the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) on poverty reduction and economic growth since 2010. This paper is based on primary and secondary data from the World Bank, the IMF, the Reserve Bank of India, and India's Ministry of Finance, specifically targeting women, rural populations, and microentrepreneurs. The mixed-methods approach was chosen. Results from studies and past literature have been promising, showing significant progress in financial access. For example, bank account ownership rose from 35% in 2011 to over 80% by 2017. Other metrics like efficient delivery of welfare via DBT and micro-entrepreneurship support have also improved drastically. The increased financial access has empowered previously unbanked populations, improved household welfare, and contributed to more inclusive growth. At the same time, challenges such as account inactivity, low financial literacy, and gender gaps in usage persist. This paper conclude that India's experience demonstrates financial inclusion's potential as a driving force for poverty alleviation and growth, provided that usage deepens and last-mile barriers are addressed.

**Dr. Jeong Taek Lim:** Corporate Migration and New Immigrant Settlements in the Global South: Korean Expatriates in Southeast Asia. Corporate migration, driven by the expansion of transnational corporations (TNCs), has emerged as an important mechanism for the international mobility of skilled workers. Much of the existing literature interprets this phenomenon through the global city paradigm, emphasizing advanced producer services in major urban nodes of the Global

North. This framework, however, reflects a Western bias: it privileges advanced capitalist centers while overlooking the influence of corporate actors in shaping migration to emerging destinations in the Global South. Moreover, research often frames mobility in terms of host-society pull factors, rather than as flows actively generated by corporate strategies. This paper examines South Korean corporate expatriates as key agents in the formation of new immigrant communities in the Global South, drawing on cases from Southeast Asia. Beginning in the 1970s, South Korea's export-oriented development strategy led major conglomerates to deploy expatriates abroad to oversee subsidiaries, particularly in contexts with weak institutional capacity. These personnel not only managed operations but also transmitted corporate knowledge in societies newly integrated into global markets. In many such destinations, especially where preexisting Korean diasporas were absent, communities emerged around temporary expatriates and their families, who typically did not pursue long-term settlement. Although expatriates are often viewed as privileged sojourners, their presence generates lasting urban impacts. Through institutional demands, class-based practices, and strategies for navigating precarity, they establish ethnic infrastructure that supports subsequent migration. This process transforms short-term corporate assignments into more durable settlement flows. The paper situates these findings within broader migration theory, critiquing global city frameworks for reinforcing entrenched North-North flows and overlooking North-South migration. By reconceptualizing TNC activity as "migration infrastructure," the study demonstrates how corporate mobility initiates and sustains new migration pathways. South Korea's globalizing expatriates thus offer insights into how TNCs foster community formation and reshape migration dynamics beyond traditional gateways

**Dr. Jia Yu:** Exploring the Determinants of Happiness Among China's Retiree Population. China is experiencing one of the most rapidly aging populations globally, driven by increased life expectancy and declining fertility rates. Ensuring a fulfilling retirement life has become an increasingly important issue for current retirees. This study aims to identify the key factors that significantly influence the happiness of retirees in China and to explore how these effects vary by gender and age. Our findings highlight several critical determinants of retirement well-being, including geographic region, physical health status, pension benefits, education level, and marital status. Notably, intergenerational caregiving exerts a statistically significant influence on the happiness of male grandparents, but not female grandparents. Future work will further address potential endogeneity issues and deepen the heterogeneity analysis to enhance the robustness of our conclusions.

**Skyler Begley:** Defending a Complex: The Emotionality of the American South and the Unsustainable Identity of Slavery. The aim of this discussion is to establish an emotional context of the American South that supports the claim that the American South utilized the defense of American chattel slavery to process societal anxiety from an unstable sense of identity. Sources from infamous pro-slavery speakers demonstrate how a culture weaponizes their internal anxiety to resist external influences that challenge their present state of affairs. This anxiety is argued to originate from the dependency of the identity of the American South with the system of slavery. Further, this anxiety would increase over time due to the growing presence of abolitionists until it would reach a head in the form of the American Civil War. A combination of rhetorical analysis and a theoretical method grounded in the history of emotions serves to execute the perspective of the American South participating in an identity crisis and processing this crisis inadvertently through their defense of slavery. By considering the pro-slavery argument as a product of a larger emotional instability, connections can begin to be made to have a better understanding about the nature of ideas of hate, specifically racism and white supremacy.

### ***Student Presenters:***

#### **Rashmi Pal**

Media Pedagogy for Promoting Global Citizenship Education in the Indian Classroom: Challenges and Strategies of Teacher Educators.

Higher education provides the opportunity to learners to broaden their horizons and also include pluralistic and cosmopolitan perspectives. The higher education classrooms have courses like teacher education where we prepare educators to be a Global Citizen to cater diverse needs and promote 21st century skills. For this, Teacher educators play a critical role in shaping the pedagogical approaches of teachers, especially in integrating media pedagogy for promoting Global Citizenship Education (GCE). In the Indian context, where diverse cultural backgrounds, limited resources, and traditional teaching methods prevail, teacher educators face unique challenges. This study aims to explore the challenges

encountered by teacher educators in implementing media pedagogy for GCE and proposes strategies to overcome these barriers effectively.

This study adopts a qualitative approach, exploring existing research on media pedagogy, GCE, and teacher education in the Indian context. The convenient sampling is opted for the study. Semi structured interviews with teacher educators and educational policy makers provide insights into the challenges and strategies related to media pedagogy for GCE. The findings suggest that there is Limited access to technology and digital resources are also affecting the adequate environment for the learners. The findings also include that the institutions are providing hands-on training and workshops on media literacy and technology integration. Adapting content to cater diverse cultural contexts and linguistic backgrounds of students and Encouraging collaborative learning and peer support with media content are some strategies practised by the teacher educators.

It is concluded that the teacher educators face significant challenges in promoting GCE through media pedagogy in classrooms. By providing adequate training, fostering collaboration, and advocating for policy changes, teacher educators can enhance their role in preparing teachers to effectively integrate media pedagogy for GCE. These efforts contribute to nurturing informed and responsible global citizens in the Indian classroom.

### **Rashmi Pal; Deepak**

#### Caste-Based Oppression and Women in Rural India: A Historical Perspective

Caste-based oppression has historically impacted the individuals from Dalit communities and other marginalized communities. This paper examines how the intersection of caste and gender has reinforced socio-economic exclusion, denied access to education and land, and subjected women to systemic violence. The study highlights structural barriers faced by women and their resistance through grassroots activism and legal reforms through tracing historical patterns of discrimination in Indian society.

Historically, caste-based sexual assault has been used as a means of oppression to uphold upper-caste domination. For example, the Devadasi system ritualised the sexual exploitation of Dalit women. Dalit and lower-caste women were subjected to exploitative labor, often as agricultural workers, manual scavengers, or bonded laborers under dominant caste landlords.

Education and land ownership have been crucial avenues for challenging caste oppression. Figures like Savitribai Phule and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar emphasized education as a tool of liberation for Dalit women, leading to policies like reservation in education. However, caste discrimination in schools, early marriage, and economic precarity continue to hinder progress. Similarly, while land reform movements have attempted to redistribute resources, Dalit women rarely gain control over agricultural land, perpetuating cycles of poverty.

Despite constitutional safeguards, caste-based discrimination persists in rural India, where Dalit and marginalized women face violence, wage discrimination, and denial of basic rights. Crimes such as sexual violence against Dalit women often go unpunished due to caste bias within law enforcement and judicial systems. The paper will analyze significant cases which exposed the deepseated caste and gender injustices in India.

### **Brianna Conner**

#### Economic Disparities in Relation to Health

The findings of this project are that the Economics of a country can significantly affect the health of its citizens. Whether there are programs in place to address public health concerns, what economic or medical research is being done, and obtaining pertinent data to assess what, if any action needs to be taken, are all vital steps in ensuring that a system of public health accountability is firmly in place. Individual and class associated wealth, state stability, government funding, and economic/political policies which have an influence over national prosperity, are shown to be pivotal factors in determining the wealth and health of a nation. Therefore, this proposal aims to investigate the extent to which the relationship between a country's economic status and the health of its citizens may be connected.

# UPCOMING CONFERENCE

## ECCSSA's 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference Roundtable

August 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Southern Connecticut State University

New Haven, CT

### *Bridging Society and Economy: Challenges, Opportunities, and Futures*

The ECCSSA hopes to bring together scholars, practitioners, and policymakers from across the social sciences to explore the dynamic interplay between society and the economy. From the forces shaping international trade, housing markets, and inflation, to the societal impacts on mental health, inequality, and community resilience, the conference discussion can illuminate how economic trends and social realities are deeply intertwined. Participants could examine pressing global and local challenges, share innovative research, and debate policy solutions that can foster equitable and sustainable futures. By bridging disciplines and perspectives, the conference aims to deepen understanding and inspire actionable pathways toward stronger connections between economic systems and the social well-being of communities worldwide.

There is a list of possible (but not limited to) research topics related with the conference theme:

**The social impact of inflation:** how rising prices affect household well-being, inequality, and community resilience.

**Housing affordability and social stability:** exploring links between housing markets, urban migration, and social cohesion.

**Mental health in economic uncertainty:** assessing the psychological effects of unemployment, job insecurity, and financial stress.

**Global trade shifts and local communities:** investigating how changes in international trade policies impact regional economies and livelihoods.

**Technology, Automation, and the future of work:** analyzing the social implications of AI, robotics, and digital transformation on employment.

**Inequality and economic mobility:** understanding barriers and pathways to upward mobility across different social groups.

**Climate change, sustainability, and economic policy:** evaluating the intersection of environment challenges with social and economic priorities.

**Aging populations and economic systems:** exploring how demographic shifts shape labor markets, healthcare needs, and social policy.

**Migration, labor markets, and integration:** examining the economic and social integration of migrant populations in host societies.

**Public trust, governance, and economic decision-making:** studying how public perception of institutions influences economic policy outcomes.

**Education skills in a changing economy:** assessing the role of education systems in preparing populations for future economic demands.

**Community resilience in economic crisis:** identifying factors that help communities withstand and recover from economic shocks.

***Please submit your proposals to: [here](#)***

*We look forward to your inspiring point of view!*

## **NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

We welcome Dr. Allison Millward, joining ECCSSA board as secretary, Dr. Praveenrao Bolli, joining ECCSSA board as board of directors, and Brianna Conner, joining ECCSSA as student ambassador.



**Allison Millward** is Assistant Professor of History at Rowan College at Burlington County in New Jersey. She is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Southern Queensland where she is researching the lived-experiences of Allied nurses on the Western Front. She previously earned her M.A. from the State University of New York at Albany and her B.A. in government and international politics from George Mason University. With an academic background in war and society, her research interests include women’s experiences in war, life-writings of participants in conflict, wartime art and media and design history.



**Dr. Praveenrao Bolli** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, Virginia State University. He earned his Ph.D. from the Department of Justice Studies, Prairie View A&M University and holds master’s degrees in Sociology and Engineering. He serves as Journal Committee Member for Journal of Qualitative Criminal Justice, assistant Editor for International Journal of Justice and Police Sciences and Criminology, and social media chair for Virginia Social Sciences Journal. His recent work addresses youth bonds and fear of crime, victimization resources and youth fear of crime, child soldiers, and under-criminalization and overcriminalization of various social classes. His research interests include juvenile delinquency, cybercrime, social bonds, fear of crime, public perceptions of police technology, and social structures and hierarchies.



**Brianna Conner** is a Business Administration student at Regent University, with an Associate of Science in Business Administration from Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC). At PVCC she was the president of the Spanish Club, Economics Club, and Student Representative of the Administrative Services Committee. Serving as president of the economics club, Brianna orchestrated school funded trips to the Federal Reserve of Richmond DivEc Conference, the Southern Economics Association 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, and the Virginia Social Science Association 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference where she was also a presenter. Facilitating guest speaking events between the UVA Economics club, as well as welcoming State Delegate Nick Freitas to PVCC. Brianna also went to the Richmond Capital to advocate for college funding with fellow PVCC faculty, staff, and students. In recognition of her outstanding contributions as an active and respected community volunteer, she was honored with awards for Leadership and the PVCC Board Community Service Award. Graduating from PVCC on the President’s List, Magna Cum Laude. Currently, she is studying at Regent University to obtain her Bachelor’s in Business Administration with a minor in economics. She loves to cook, play piano, read books, watch movies, and learn about all things in life.

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Contact Us:

Dr. Sushma Shukla, Chair, Board of Directors at [conference@eccssa.org](mailto:conference@eccssa.org) or visit our website at: [www.eccssa.org](http://www.eccssa.org).