

UNIVERSITY OF  
**ILLINOIS**  
SPRINGFIELD



# Spring 2025 Public Event Schedule

All events are free and open to the public\*

- A UIS campus map & visitor parking information are available at <https://www.uis.edu/parking/visitor-parking>
- Recordings of previous ECCE Speaker Series events are available at <https://go.uis.edu/SpeakerSeriesVOD>
- For additional information visit <https://www.uis.edu/speaker-series> or [speakerseries@uis.edu](mailto:speakerseries@uis.edu)

\*If you plan to bring a class or large group to an event, please contact Kimberly Craig in advance to make appropriate seating arrangements at 217.206.6245 or [craig.kimberly@uis.edu](mailto:craig.kimberly@uis.edu)

***Artificial Intelligence (AI) For All:  
Leveraging Emerging Technologies to  
Empower Diversity, Equity, and Inclusio3n***

Lecture & Discussion



Dr. Sookyung Suh



Dr. Neetu Singh

Event #1  
Wednesday  
February 5  
6:00PM

Brookens  
Auditorium

This event explores the transformative power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives. Participants will discover effective strategies for integrating AI into existing frameworks and learn how emerging technologies are reshaping workplace and social dynamics through real-world case studies. Critical discussions will address ethical and safe AI practices, focusing on bias and data privacy to ensure fairness and transparency. Additionally, the event will highlight insights into how human-centered technology can drive meaningful change and foster a culture that embraces diversity in all its forms, promoting inclusivity and a sense of belonging.

**Dr. Sookyung Suh** is a Transformation Strategist for the Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion and an Assistant Professor at SIU School of Medicine. With over 15 years of experience, she has successfully implemented organizational change in healthcare, manufacturing, and government sectors. Dr. Suh has led change management teams at PwC, Dell Services, and other consulting firms and played a key role in launching the Center for Human and Organizational Potential (cHOP).

**Dr. Neetu Singh** is an Associate Professor of Management Information Systems at UIS. Her research centers on healthcare informatics and business analytics, focusing on digital innovations for patient well-being. A prolific author, she has received numerous awards, including the 2022 College of Business and Management Scholar of the Year Award. Additionally, she co-founded the UIS AI Campus Learning Community to promote AI literacy across the board.

**Co-sponsored by** UIS AI Campus Learning Community

**Moises Salazar Tlatenchi:  
*Hijx De Viboras Doradas***

Lecture & Discussion



Moises Salazar Tlatenchi

**A reception will follow this presentation at the UIS Visual Arts Gallery with food, drinks, and an opportunity to meet the artist!**

333Event #2

Wednesday  
**February 19**  
6:00PM

Brookens  
Auditorium

Co-Sponsored by and held in conjunction with an exhibit at the UIS Visual Arts Gallery, artist Moises Salazar Tlatenchi will share and discuss projects that explore the intersections of queer and immigrant identities within the Latinx community. Their studio practice examines themes of cultural heritage, resilience, and social justice, with works that challenge the dehumanization of immigrant communities. These projects create space for dialogue on issues of representation, equity, and empowerment.

This event will highlight how the personal narratives in their work reflect broader cultural dynamics and offer insights into the challenges faced by marginalized communities. Tlatenchi's art practice encourages the audience to critically engage with topics of social justice and representation, demonstrating how creative expression can foster collective action and drive meaningful change.

**Moises Salazar Tlatenchi** is a non-binary artist based in Chicago, Illinois. Tlatenchi's work has been exhibited nationally and internationally at WOAW Gallery, Salon ACME 8, the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, NADA, National Museum of Mexican Art, and the Chicago Cultural Center. A Finalist of The QUEERART PRIZE, Tlatenchi's work has been featured in publications such as The Hispanic Executive, artnet, HYPERALLERGIC, and THE LATINX PROJECT. Tlatenchi has participated in the The Hyde Park Art Center Residency and is a recipient of LuminArts Foundation Arts Fellowship, 3Arts Make a Wave Grant and is a Fire Island Artist Residency recipient. Most recently Tlatenchi has been named one of the 2023 Breakout Artists: Chicago's Next Generation of Image Makers.

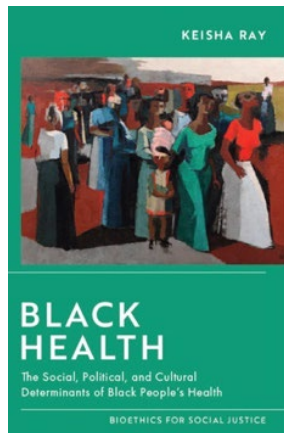
**Co-sponsored by** UIS Visual Arts Gallery, Gender & Sexuality Student Services Office and Diversity Center

***Believing Our Stories:  
Narrating Black Health and Health Equity***

Lecture & Discussion



Dr. Kiesha Ray



Event #3

Wednesday  
**March 5**  
6:00PM

Brookens  
Auditorium

Medical humanities is a growing interdisciplinary field that uses humanist and social science methods to approach questions about the experience and significance of health, illness, and healthcare. Dr. Keisha Ray's work in the medical humanities and bioethics focuses on the effects of institutional racism on Black people's health, highlighting Black people's own stories, and the sociopolitical implications of biomedical enhancement. Her work uniquely prioritizes linguistic justice as a matter of access and commitment to public scholarship.

**Professor Keisha Ray** received her Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Utah. She is currently a tenured Associate Professor and holds the John P. McGovern, MD Professorship of Oslerian Medicine at the McGovern Center for Humanities & Ethics at UT Health Houston, where she also serves as the Director of the Medical Humanities Scholarly Concentration. Dr. Ray serves as an associate editor for the *American Journal of Bioethics* and its online site, "Bioethics Today" as well as Senior Associate Editor for the Journal of Medical Humanities. Dr. Ray has also been elected as a Hastings Center Fellow. She has contributed to top clinical, bioethics, and medical humanities journals. And based on her expertise, Dr. Ray is frequently called upon as a bioethics expert for popular news sources. Lastly, Dr. Ray is the author of the book "[Black Health: The Social, Political, and Cultural Determinants of Black People's Health](#)" with Oxford University Press.

**Co-sponsored by** UIS Department of English, UIS Institute for Race, Gender, Sexuality, & Social Justice, SIU School of Medicine's Humanities Department, & Memorial Health



***What Does It Mean To Be White?***

Lecture & Discussion



Dr. Jacqueline Battalora

Dr. Battalora’s lecture entitled, “*What Does It Mean To Be White*” will feature a discussion on the relationship that exists between the American system of law and jurisprudence and the perpetuation of “whiteness” as the dominant Narrative of Socio-political and cultural identity within the United States.

**Dr. Jacqueline Battalora** is the author of *Birth of a White Nation: The Invention of White People and Its Relevance Today*. She is an attorney and professor of sociology at Saint Xavier University, Chicago and a former Chicago Police Officer. She is also an editor of the *Journal of Understanding and Dismantling Privilege* and a Board Member of the Oscar Grant Foundation. Upon completion of her Law Degree, Dr. Battalora relocated to Chicago and began her practice. Her interest in law in creating Human difference shaped her graduate work at Northwestern University where she received her Ph.D.

**Co-sponsored by:** UIS Institute for Race, Gender, Sexuality & Social Justice, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Diversity Center, English Department, History Department, & Women’s Center

Event #4

Wednesday  
**March 26**  
6:00PM

Brookens  
Auditorium



***Global Conflict in Context***

Lecture & Panel Discussion



Dr. Brandon Bolte



Dr. Isabel Skinner



Dr. Ali Nizamuddin

Event #5

Wednesday  
**April 9**  
6:00PM

Brookens  
Auditorium

In recent years the world has watched major wars develop across the globe including in Gaza, Ukraine, and Sudan. These conflicts share similarities and differences from historical wars. Additionally, these conflicts have had immense global implications including a rise in displaced people, changes in migration patterns, famine, new challenges in international alliances, and the reconsideration of domestic and foreign policy goals at the state level, not to mention the potential long-term influences these conflicts will have on elections and public opinion. At this event, you will hear from, and be able to join in conversation with, content experts about the challenges and implications of recent conflicts from a global perspective. Topics of discussion include global patterns of interstate and civil wars and how they are fought, how current conflicts compare to these broader trends, and implications for migration, global institutions, and the United States' role in a changing international order.

**Dr. Brandon Bolte** is an Assistant Professor in the School of Politics and International Affairs at UIS. His research focuses on civil wars, international conflict, militia groups, and statistical methods.

**Dr. Isabel Skinner** is an Assistant Professor in the School of Politics and International Affairs at UIS. Her research focuses on immigration and refugee issues, race, ethnicity, gender politics, and political psychology.

**Dr. Ali Nizamuddin** is a Professor in the School of Politics and International Affairs at UIS. His research focuses on international trade, globalization, and the role of multinational corporations in the developing world.

**Co-sponsored by** UIS School of Politics and International Affairs

***UIS Earth Week Keynote Lecture***

***Building Tree Equity to Support Health  
Using The Miyawaki Method***

Lecture & Discussion



Christine Dannhausen-Brun



Event #6

Wednesday  
**April 23**  
6:00PM

Brookens  
Auditorium

Christine Dannhausen-Brun, the Chief Operations Officer of Nordson Green Earth, a non-profit and all-volunteer organization based in Chicago, will discuss her work using the Miyawaki method of tree planting to bring the benefits of forests to urban communities. By creating tiny native forests, Nordson builds tree equity and helps ensure that everyone can benefit from the health, community, and social benefits that greenspaces provide. Miyawaki forests grow quickly and are self-sustaining in two to three years and mature in twenty to thirty years (versus centuries). They are low maintenance and can help historically disadvantaged communities mitigate the health effects of climate change. They also help remediate damaged urban soils and can support sixteen times as many species as non-native landscapes. Dannhausen-Brun will explain how these tiny forests are established and why tree equity matters.

**Christine Dannhausen-Brun** earned a BA in psychology from the University of Chicago and an MPH from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a major in Health Policy Administration. She has 15+ years of experience as a public health researcher and evaluator. As Chief Operations Officer of Nordson Green Earth, she works with communities to plant tiny native forests and collaboratively build greenspaces that can improve health outcomes and help fight climate change. Ms. Dannhausen-Brun is also a Senior Research Specialist at the University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford where she conducts community needs assessments and evaluates statewide chronic disease programs that work to improve health by addressing social drivers of health.

**Co-sponsored by** UIS Sustainability Committee, UIS Green Fee Committee, School of Integrated Sciences, Sustainability, and Public Health