

UNIVERSITY OF  
**ILLINOIS**  
SPRINGFIELD





# Fall 2025 Public Event Schedule

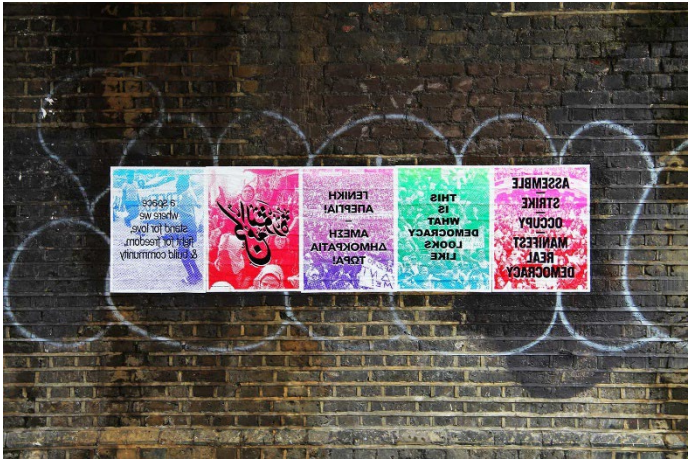
**All events are free and open to the public\***

- A UIS campus map & visitor parking information are available at <https://www.uis.edu/parking/visitor-parking>
- Recordings of some 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)

<p>Wednesday <b>September 10</b> 6:00PM</p> <p>Brookens Auditorium</p>	<p><b><i>Asian American Youth Literature: Immigration, Imagination, &amp; the Library</i></b></p> <p>Lecture &amp; Discussion</p>  <p>Sarah Park Dahlen</p> <p>Co-sponsored by the Department of English and Brookens Library</p>	<p>Asian American youth literature had a slow start in the early twentieth century. Books were mostly in the genres of folk and fairy tales and written by outsiders at that time. There were books about Asians in Asia, but almost nothing about Asians in the United States. After World War II and the Korean War, some books about Japanese American incarceration and Korean War orphans emerged, but it wasn't until the Civil Rights Movement that more books shared stories of Asians in the United States. After 1965, what Min Hyoung Song calls "the children of 1965" generation began writing, publishing, and winning major awards, including books for young readers. This lecture provides a historical overview of Asian American youth literature in the context of immigration patterns, social movements, and other larger issues, and relates books for children and young adults with library services and programs for youth.</p> <p><b>Dr. Sarah Park Dahlen</b> is an Associate Professor in the School of Information Sciences at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where she is also an affiliate faculty in the Department of Asian American Studies and the Center for East Asian &amp; Pacific Studies. A graduate of UCLA's Asian American Studies Department, she earned her Ph.D. and M.S. in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Her research focuses on Asian American youth literature and transracial Korean adoption. She co-edits <i>Research on Diversity in Youth Literature</i> with Sonia Alejandra Rodríguez and has co-created the Diversity in Children's Literature infographics with David Huyck. Together with Ebony Elizabeth Thomas, she co-edited <i>Harry Potter and the Other: Race, Justice, and Difference in the Wizarding World</i> (2022). Her next book addresses Asian American youth literature with Paul Lai. She is represented by Tricia Toney Lawrence of Aevitas Creative Management.</p>
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<p>Wednesday <b>September 24</b> 6:00PM</p> <p>Brookens Auditorium</p>	<p><b><i>The Power of Latinidad in a Fractured World</i></b></p> <p>Interactive Lecture &amp; Discussion</p>  <p>Carlos Andrés Gómez</p> <p>Co-sponsored by Student Life, Diversity Center, &amp; Institute for Race, Gender, Sexuality, and Social Justice</p>	<p><b>Hispanic LatinX Heritage Month Event</b></p> <p>In conjunction with Hispanic LatinX Heritage Month, join award winning author and equity strategist Carlos Andrés Gómez for an engaging and interactive workshop that explores the complexity of Latinidad and identity. Through powerful storytelling, poetry, and guided reflection, Carlos will invite participants to explore how culture, race, gender, and other intersecting identities shape our understanding of self and community. This event will explore how embracing nuance and complexity can disrupt outdated binaries and inspire more inclusive approaches to authenticity, belonging, and equity. Whether you identify as Hispanic / LatinX or are seeking to deepen your understanding of intersectionality, this event offers a meaningful opportunity to engage in transformative dialogue and celebrate the vibrancy and depth of the Hispanic / LatinX experience.</p> <p><b>Carlos Andrés Gómez</b> is a Colombian American poet, speaker, actor, and educator from New York City. He is the author of <i>Fractures</i> (Felix Pollak Prize), <i>Hijito</i> (Broken River Prize, #1 SPD bestseller), <i>Circling Fatherhood</i> (Poetry International Prize), and the memoir <i>Man Up: Reimagining Modern Manhood</i> (Penguin Random House). Carlos has appeared on HBO's <i>Def Poetry Jam</i>, TV One's <i>Verses and Flow</i>, and in Spike Lee's <i>Inside Man</i> with Denzel Washington. He is one of the most booked college performers and a globally sought-after keynote speaker. His honors include the Sandy Crimmins National Prize, Atlanta Review International Poetry Prize, Foreword INDIES Book of the Year, North American Book Award Gold Medal, and the International Book Award for Poetry. Carlos also partnered with John Legend on <i>Senior Orientation</i>, a program promoting inclusive masculinity in high schools. He is a proud father of two.</p>
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<p>Wednesday <b>October 22</b> 6:00PM</p> <p>Brookens Auditorium</p>	<p><b><i>A Radical Turn: Artist, Curator, and Anti-War Veteran Aaron Hughes on Creative Resistance</i></b></p> <p>Lecture &amp; Discussion</p>  <p>Aaron Hughes</p> <p>Co-sponsored by the Visual Arts Gallery</p>	<p>Aaron Hughes is an artist, curator, and anti-war veteran whose work explores the impact of war, violence, and trauma on individuals and communities. In this lecture, Hughes will share images and stories from his projects, which draw from his own military experience and long-standing activism. Through printmaking, installation, and collaboration, Hughes honors the legacy of anti-war veteran movements and imagines new paths toward justice and healing. His work often uses everyday materials, like military uniforms and protest banners, to challenge militarism and support collective healing.</p> <p>The event will explore how art can help us understand complex histories, connect with others, and take action for a better world. Hughes's work encourages reflection on the cost of war and the power of community, dialogue, and creative resistance</p> <p><b>Aaron Hughes</b> is an artist, curator, and anti-war veteran. Working through an interdisciplinary practice rooted in drawing and printmaking, he works collaboratively to develop projects that create meaning out of personal and collective trauma, transform the materials and habits of state violence, and imagine liberation in defiance of militarized norms. Often, these projects utilize popular research strategies, experiment with forms of direct democracy, and operate in solidarity with the people most impacted by structural violence. Currently, Hughes' work focuses on researching the relationship between political violence, authoritarianism, and trauma in contrast to the cultural production surrounding political participation, direct democracy, and meaning making. Hughes has presented work internationally at institutions including the Museum of Modern Art in New York, Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, Haus der Kulturen der Welt in Berlin, Maruki Gallery in Tokyo, and Ashkal Alwan in Beirut.</p>
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<p>Wednesday <b>November 5</b> 6:00PM</p> <p>Brookens Auditorium</p>	<p><b>Learning Indigenous Truthtelling of Boarding Schools</b> Lecture &amp; Discussion</p>  <p>Farina King</p> <p>Co-sponsored by Department of History, Department of Sociology-Anthropology, History Club &amp; Illinois State Museum</p>	<p>This talk invites students and community members to explore how young researchers are helping uncover the layered histories of Native American boarding schools, especially in the heartland of Native America—Oklahoma. Centered on the collaboration of students and professionals engaged in mentored, community-centered research, this presentation highlights how archival searches, archaeology, oral histories, and digital mapping are used to understand and share Indigenous stories. Dr. Farina King has mentored and guided university students to work closely with Native Nations and communities affected by boarding schools— institutions that deeply impacted generations of Native American lives. By reflecting on what it means to listen, learn, and serve through research, this talk introduces audiences to the complexity of Indigenous education histories, the importance of tribally specific and intertribal perspectives, and the continued relevance of these histories today. This session offers insight into how students across disciplines can respectfully engage with Native histories and communities, and how this kind of work contributes to broader efforts of Indigenous truthtelling and healing.</p> <p><b>Dr. Farina King</b>, a citizen of the Navajo Nation, is the Horizon Chair of Native American Ecology and Culture and Associate Professor of Native American Studies at the University of Oklahoma. Her research centers on Native American oral histories, especially among her Diné relatives and connections in Oklahoma. In 2023-2024, she served as the interim department chair of Native American Studies at OU. She received her Ph.D. at Arizona State University in History. She is the author of various publications, including <i>The Earth Memory Compass: Diné Landscapes and Education in the Twentieth Century</i>; co-author with Michael P. Taylor and James R. Swensen of <i>Returning Home: Diné Creative Works from the Intermountain Indian School</i> and author of <i>Gáamalii dóó Diné: Navajo Latter-day Saint Experiences in the Twentieth Century</i>. She is a co-editor of The Lyda Conley Series on Trailblazing Indigenous Futures with the University Press of Kansas. She is the past President of the Southwest Oral History Association (2021-2022).</p>
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Wednesday  
**November 19**  
6:00PM

Brookens  
Auditorium

***Water-Energy Sustainability Across Scales:  
Systems, Society, Self***  
Lecture & Discussion



Ashlynn S. Stillwell

Co-Sponsored by the School of Integrated Sciences,  
Sustainability & Public Health  
& the Sustainability Committee



Ashlynn Stillwell, Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, will discuss her work on sustainable water and energy systems. Water and energy are closely linked resources with clean water and sanitation services dependent on energy, and fuels production and electric power generation dependent on water. This water-energy nexus spreads across scales to include large-scale infrastructure systems, societal trends and patterns, and individual behaviors. This presentation and discussion will include data and analysis of water-energy connections and sustainability across scales, ranging from sector and infrastructure transformations to individual behaviors within homes. How do electricity fuel changes affect water resources? Where do cities demonstrate water-energy sustainability? What human activities determine residential water and energy consumption? In a world with increasing amounts of data, modeling and analyses can translate data into knowledge for further action around water-energy sustainability as an approach to future change.

**Dr. Ashlynn S. Stillwell** is an Associate Professor and the Elaine F. and William J. Hall Excellence Faculty Scholar in Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Her research focuses on creating sustainable water and energy systems in a policy-relevant context. She earned a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Missouri, and an M.S. in Environmental and Water Resources Engineering, M.P.Aff in Public Affairs, and Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from The University of Texas at Austin. Her previous work experience includes consulting engineering at Burns & McDonnell and policy research at the Congressional Research Service. Dr. Stillwell received the NSF CAREER and UCOWR Early Career Award for Applied Research. She was honored with the 2015 Girl Scouts of Central Illinois Woman of Distinction Award in STEM and the 2018 AEESP Award for Outstanding Teaching in Environmental Engineering and Science.