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Global Update

Newsletter of the International & Comparative Education Program
at Teachers College, Columbia University

Message from the Program Director

Dear Students, Alumni, Faculty, and Friends of the ICEP Program,

As we wrap up another academic year, I want to thank each of you for being part of the vibrant and global ICEP community. Despite the many challenges facing higher education and our world today, this newsletter reminds us of the importance of community, collaboration, and the meaningful work our students, alumni, and faculty continue to pursue across diverse educational contexts.

It was wonderful seeing so many of you at the 2026 conference of the Comparative and International Education Society in San Francisco. I felt proud and excited to see such a strong presence of Teachers College students, alumni, and faculty throughout the conference program — presenting papers, organizing panels, receiving awards, and contributing to important conversations shaping the field of comparative and international education.

This edition of the newsletter highlights the breadth, creativity, and global engagement of the ICEP community. Across these pages, you will read about student and faculty research, international collaborations, study abroad experiences, professional development initiatives, and public scholarship that together reflect the dynamic intellectual life of the program. From conversations about global education governance and peacebuilding to innovative approaches to knowledge production and dissemination, ICEP community members continue to engage critically with some of the most pressing educational questions of our time.

The newsletter also celebrates the many accomplishments of our students, alumni, and faculty — including conference presentations, awards, publications, dissertation research, career development, and community-based work across diverse educational contexts. What connects these stories is a shared commitment to advancing education in ways that are thoughtful, socially engaged, and grounded in

the pursuit of justice, equity, and human dignity.

To stay connected and receive more regular updates about ICEP news, events, student accomplishments, and opportunities, I warmly invite you to follow our new LinkedIn page: [ICEP at Teachers College on LinkedIn](#).

Thank you for being part of this global community. Congratulations to our graduates, and I wish everyone a restorative, joyful, and regenerative summer.

Oren Pizmony-Levy

Associate Professor and Director

International and Comparative Education Program (ICEP)

Program News



[A Field Reconnects: Reflections from CIES 2026](#)

At its 70th anniversary gathering, the Comparative and International Education Society wrestled with some of education's hardest questions — and found renewed purpose in community.



[Exploring the Sonic Possibilities of Knowledge: ICEP Hosts Dr. Will Brehm](#)

What if the way we share knowledge matters just as much as the knowledge itself? Knowledge does not have to remain behind a paywall or inside a journal. Sometimes, it travels through a pair of headphones. That idea sat at the center of a recent Lunch & Learn hosted by the International and Comparative Education Program (ICEP), where faculty and students gathered to explore how knowledge is produced, shared, and challenged across global education contexts.



Inter-University Research Conference
Global Governance and Comparative Policy Studies in Education

[Inter-University Conference on Global Education Governance](#)

On March 17, 2026, graduate students from Teachers College, Columbia University joined peers from Sciences Po and Panthéon-Sorbonne Université Paris 1 for an inter-university research conference on Global Governance and Comparative Policy Studies in Education. Hosted at the historic Centre Panthéon in Paris, the conference created a space for emerging scholars to present research-in-progress and completed studies while engaging in sustained cross-national dialogue. The conference was organized by the three universities and supported by the Sorbonne's students association for the United National SONU.



[Behind the Scenes at CICE: The Life of an Issue](#)

When a new issue of *Current Issues in Comparative Education* is released, it appears as a finished and polished body of scholarship. Arguments are refined, citations aligned, framing cohesive. What readers do not see is the extended arc of collaboration, deliberation, and revision that makes publication possible.



[Study Abroad with Teachers College: Learning Peace in Practice in Costa Rica](#)

In January 2026, graduate students from Teachers College participated in an immersive study abroad experience in Costa Rica, hosted in partnership with the United Nations mandated University for Peace. Designed around education, conflict, and peacebuilding, the program invited students into place-based learning where theory met lived experience and classrooms extended into communities.



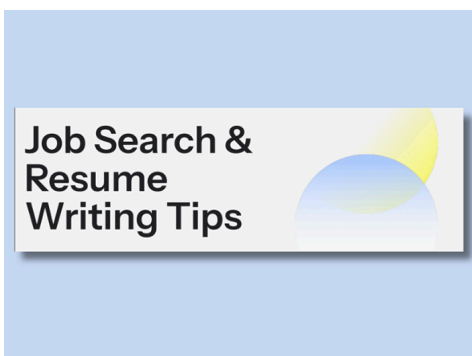
[Spring Energy in Full Bloom: ICEP Students Gather to Kick Off an Exciting Semester Ahead](#)

Although it may still be cold outside, spring energy was in full bloom inside Everett Lounge as students and faculty from the International & Comparative Education community came together for the ICEP Spring Party at Teachers College, Columbia University.



[Lunch & Learn with the Obama Scholars from Africa: Building Connections Across Africa and the Diaspora](#)

On October 21, 2025, the Center for African Education (CAE) hosted a vibrant Lunch & Learn featuring the Obama Scholars From Africa, bringing together students, faculty, and practitioners for a rich conversation on leadership, innovation, and community-driven change across Africa and the Diaspora. The event created a welcoming, informal space where members of the TC community could engage directly with scholars whose work is reshaping governance, health systems, media, and economic opportunity in their home contexts.



[ICEP Hosts Career Development Workshop on Job Search and Résumé Strategies](#)

The International and Comparative Education Program (ICEP) recently hosted an engaging professional development workshop, "Job Search & Résumé Writing Tips," led by Professor Mary Mendenhall. The session brought graduate students together for concrete, actionable guidance on preparing competitive application materials and

navigating an increasingly complex global job market.



[The Role of Education in Peacebuilding: PEN Hosts 2025 Panel at Teachers College](#)

The Peace Education Network (PEN) at Teachers College, Columbia University, hosted a thought-provoking panel discussion on “The Role of Education in Peace Building” on November 20th, bringing together leading practitioners, scholars, and peacebuilding experts working across global, national, and community contexts. The event drew students, faculty, and practitioners interested in how education can serve as a foundation for conflict transformation and social cohesion.

Student and Alumni Highlights



[A Passion for Community Drives TC's 2026 Education Grads](#)

As a new cohort of education scholars prepare for Convocation on May 18 and 19, they will go on to push the field forward as educators, researchers and policy makers. We sat down with a selection of graduates to learn about their motivations, their favorite TC moments and what's next.



[ICEP Master's Students Present Research at Annual IP Showcase](#)

On May 5, the annual IP Project Showcase hosted by the International and Comparative Education Program highlighted one of the defining academic experiences of the program's master's students: the Integrative Project, commonly referred to as the “IP.”

Serving as the culminating component of the M.A. program, the IP invites students to bring together the theories, research methods, and professional experiences they have developed throughout their time in ICEP while examining issues of personal, academic, and professional significance.



[Professor Keiichi Ogawa Receives Harold J. Noah Distinguished Alumni Award](#)

At the CIES 2026 Annual Conference in San Francisco, Professor Keiichi Ogawa of Kobe University was awarded the Harold J. Noah Distinguished Alumni Award, the highest recognition presented by the International and Comparative Education program at Teachers College.



[Celebrating New Doctoral Research in International and Comparative Education](#)

Dissertation Spotlights highlights this year's PhD graduates across International and Comparative Education. Their work reflects the breadth of research produced across the program, spanning education, conflict, displacement, citizenship, gender, climate, food systems, and global governance. Congratulations to the new Drs.!



[Paving the Path to Career Success](#)

To forge new connections among TC's alumni network and offer opportunities for personalized growth, TC Alumni Relations and TC NEXT are connecting TC grads through its newly revamped Alumni Mentorship program, unveiled this month.



[ICEP Alumna Tianxin Li Awarded Schwarzman Scholarship in Global Affairs](#)

Tianxin Li, alumna of the International and Comparative Education Program (ICEP) at Teachers College, Columbia University, has been awarded the prestigious Schwarzman Scholarship in Global Affairs at Tsinghua University. Reflecting on her experience in ICEP, Li shared that the program helped her connect her personal experiences to broader global questions surrounding education, international affairs, and cross-cultural communication.



[Congratulations to our new 2026 graduates!](#)

The front steps of 525 West 120th Street mark both the beginning and the end of many journeys at Teachers College. For new graduate students, arriving for the first time can bring a mix of excitement and nerves. After countless papers, presentations, and late nights in the library, these steps now stand as a place of celebration, marking how far our graduates have come.

Faculty Highlights



[How 5 TC Faculty Make a Hands-On Global Impact](#)

Home to the nation's first graduate program in international and comparative education, members of the Teachers College community have been leaders in the field since 1899. TC faculty and alumni were integral in the modernization of education in China, assisted in the creation of UNESCO and launched an

international teacher preparation program that preceded the Peace Corps. More than 125 years later, TC students come from more than 80 countries and faculty continue their commitment to making an impact in the fields of education, health and psychology worldwide.

Alumni Profiles

Please complete [this short survey](#) if you would like your profile to be featured on the [ICEd Program's website](#). If your profile is featured but outdated, please fill out the survey again for us to update your information.

Thank you! Stay tuned for the Fall 2026 newsletter!

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