

# *Inaugural* **Michigan Fulbright Symposium**



**Celebrating the impact of Fulbright  
in the Great Lakes State**

## **Sponsors**

Michigan/Northwest Ohio Chapter of the Fulbright Association  
West and Mid-Michigan Chapter of the Fulbright Association  
Michigan State University—International Studies and Programs  
Ferris State University Fulbrighters & Friends



**12 April  
2025**



**Location:**

**East Lansing**



**Starting At:**

**9:30 AM**



# *Notes & Networking*

# Program

**Registration | Welcome Coffee**

**9:30AM - 9:45AM**

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**Opening Remarks**

**9:45AM - 10:00AM**

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**Concurrent Sessions 1**

**10:00AM - 11:35AM**

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**Lunch | Networking | Poster Viewing**

**11:35AM - 1:00PM**

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**Concurrent Sessions 2**

**1:00PM - 2:35PM**

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**Break | Cookies**

**2:35PM - 2:55PM**

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**Concurrent Sessions 3**

**2:55PM - 4:05PM**

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**Closing Remarks & Advocacy Ideas**

**4:05PM - 4:30PM**

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**Evaluations**



# Sessions

## Concurrent Sessions 1

### Room 303

**Michaelle Sermenó**

Visiting Student & Humphrey Fellow | El Salvador to US  
*Fulbright: A seed well planted*

**Büşra Coşkun**

FLTA | Türkiye to US  
*Bridging cultures: My Fulbright experience as a Turkish FLTA*

**Thao Dang**

Visiting Student | Vietnam to US  
*Fulbright: A challenging but rewarding experience*

**Larisa Ilaria Tabără**

Visiting Student | Romania to US  
*Nine months in the US: My Fulbright experience*

### Room 201

**Jacob VanHouten**

US Scholar, Specialist | US to Czech Republic  
*Hockey Town to Brno: Hockey and hunting in the Czech Republic*

**Janey Berends**

US Student | US to Peru  
*How late is too late? and other lessons in Andahuaylas living*

**Tanusree Basak**

FLTA | India to US  
*Tracing the linguistic history of the Indian subcontinent*

**Bill Weiner**

US Scholar | US to Germany  
*Germany 2004: Watching the EU Expand*

## Concurrent Sessions 2

### Room 303

**Shabnam Heydarzade**

FLTA | Azerbaijan to US  
*Historical thinking and critical thinking in teacher education*

**Diane Rodriguez-Kiino**

US Scholar | US to Japan  
*Female academics in STEM: Japan policy and practice in conflict*

**Solo Mercene**

Visiting Student | Philippines to US  
*Fighting fall armyworms with maysin: A Fulbright experience*

**Jeanine Refsnider**

US Student | US to New Zealand  
*Conservation of the tuatara, New Zealand's "living fossil"*

### Room 201

**Phillip Sterling**

US Scholar | US to Belgium, Poland  
*"The Poet as Immigrant"*

**Gregory Dykhouse**

US Student | US to Austria  
*Wiener Komödie on the US stage: Nestroy's Der Talisman*

**Brendan Kredell**

US Student | US to Canada  
*Film festivals and culture-led urban development strategies*

**Nailya DeLellis**

US Scholar | US to Kazakhstan  
*Health services research in Kazakhstan*

# Sessions cont'd

## Concurrent Sessions 3

### Room 303

**András Komáromy**

US Scholar | US to Australia

*Development of improved therapies for glaucoma*

**Volodymyr Tarabara**

US Scholar, Specialist | US to Georgia, France, Singapore, Ukraine

*Environmental forensics for microbial safety in critical settings*

**Odhiambo Otieno**

FLTA | Kenya to US

*Decolonizing stereotypes: A path to authentic cultural competence*

### Room 201

**Delilah Pacheco**

FLTA | India to US

*Community reflections: Connecting Greater Lansing to the world*

**Richard Scott Cohen**

US Student | US to Spain

*The Community Band Movement in Valencia Spain: A 30 Year Update*

**Jagienka Timek**

US Student | US to Austria

*Weaving a web of wonder: My Fulbright experience in Austria*

## Posters

*Posters are displayed in the Third Floor hallway and can be explored at your leisure.*

**Jooyoung Choi**

FLTA | South Korea to US

*Connecting Greater Lansing to the world*

**Somneang Oul**

Visiting Student | Cambodia to US

*Primary determinants of strawberry quality and consumer preference*

## Fulbright Types

*Our Symposium attendees represent at least 30 home and host countries and have participated in widely varied Fulbright programs.*

**Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA):**

International educator coming to US to teach their language

**Fulbright-Hays Programs:** Multiple projects formerly administered by the Department of Education, including Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad fellowships, Group Projects Abroad, and Faculty Research Abroad

**Fulbright Specialist:** US-based faculty going abroad for short-term, 2-6 week Fulbright partnerships

**Humphrey Fellow:** International professional coming to US for professional development

**International Education Administrator (IEA):**

US-based administrator going abroad for two-week Fulbright seminar

**US Scholar:** US-based faculty going abroad for Fulbright

**US Student:** US-based student going abroad for Fulbright

**Visiting Scholar:** International faculty coming to US for Fulbright

**Visiting Student:** International student coming to US for Fulbright

# Connect

Feel free to continue making connections with symposium attendees at Lansing Shuffle. All are welcome to join us for further discussion, dinner, drinks, and more (pay your own way). Lansing Shuffle features five local chefs and their spin on upscale street food, as well as a full service bar.

## **Fulbright Association**

<https://fulbright.org/>

## **Michigan/Northwest Ohio Chapter of the Fulbright Association**

<https://michigannwohio.fulbrightchapters.org/>  
[michigannwohio@fulbright.org](mailto:michigannwohio@fulbright.org)

## **West and Mid-Michigan Chapter of the Fulbright Association**

<https://wmmichigan.fulbrightchapters.org/>  
[wmmichigan@fulbright.org](mailto:wmmichigan@fulbright.org)

## **Michigan State University Fulbright Programs**

<https://www.isp.msu.edu/fulbright>

<https://www.lansingshuffle.com/>  
325 Riverfront Drive  
Lansing, MI 48912  
(15-minute drive west of MSU)



# Thank You

**Thank you for attending the Inaugural Michigan Fulbright Symposium!** We hope this will become an annual event, gathering Fulbrighters from across the Great Lakes State to network, learn, share, and celebrate the transformative nature of the Fulbright program. Please submit your conference feedback using the QR code or a hard copy evaluation (available in Room 303) to help us plan for future years.

## Michigan Fulbright Symposium 2025 Planning Committee

### **Daniel Hayes | US Student 2011-2013 | South Korea**

State of Michigan, Michigan/Northwest Ohio Chapter of the Fulbright Association—President

### **Richard Scott Cohen | US Student 1993-1995 | Spain**

Ferris State University, West and Mid-Michigan Chapter of the Fulbright Association—President

### **Joy Campbell | Fulbright Program Advisor & Scholar Liaison**

Michigan State University

### **Nailya DeLellis | US Scholar 2023-2024 | Kazakhstan**

Central Michigan University

## *Evaluation*

