



# 21st Century Educational Alternatives SIG

*Confronting Racial  
Capitalism, Patriarchy,  
Militarism, and the  
Climate Crisis*

**CIES 2026**

“Re-examining Education and  
Peace in a Divided World”  
Online & San Francisco, California

March 28 to April 1, 2026



Learn more  
about TAP



Sign up  
for our SIG



@educatorsolidarity



[www.thealternativesproject.org](http://www.thealternativesproject.org)



# 21st Century Educational Alternatives SIG

*Confronting Racial Capitalism, Patriarchy, Militarism,  
and the Climate Crisis*

## CIES 2026

This year we proudly present 19 panels, 3 symposia and a highlighted session – **all underscoring the need to reimagine education for societal transformation.**

In addition to our sessions, we hope you will stop by at our table in the Exhibit Hall to learn more about us, join our business meeting to discuss ways to get involved, engage in our featured events in solidarity with Iranian educators & students, come to one of two activist walking tours in the Bay Area, and enjoy our multi-SIG social.

**Please come join us as we hold space for critical conversations about peace and justice in this new world (dis)order. Build solidarity and work together to create a more just and humane world!**

## Who we are

**The 21st Century Educational Alternatives SIG** is organized by members of The Alternatives Project.

**The Alternatives Project (TAP)** envisions and works towards a radical rethinking of education and society globally.

**The Alternatives Project (TAP)** is a diverse, transnational collective of progressive academics, union members, civil society activists, and social movement participants concerned with building a global collective and critical voice—oriented towards education and societal transformation.

Learn more  
about TAP



Sign up  
for our SIG



@educatorsolidarity



[www.thealternativesproject.org](http://www.thealternativesproject.org)

# SIG HIGHLIGHTS

## Sunday, March 29

9:45 AM - 11:00 AM  
Ballroom Level, Imperial A

**Symposium N°1: Education and The Political Economy of Genocide: A Discussion of the UNSR Report "From economy of occupation to economy of genocide"**

10:00 AM - 1:15 PM

South Asian Radical History Walking Tour (flyer attached)

2:45 PM - 4:00 PM  
Ballroom Level, Continental A

**Symposium N°2: Education's role in Confronting Racial Capitalism, Patriarchy, Militarism, and the Climate Crises**

## Monday, March 30

9:45 AM - 11:00 AM  
Lobby Level, Golden Gate 6

Critical Comparative Education: Understanding the Research Complex and its Consequences

9:45 AM - 11:00 AM  
Ballroom Level, Imperial A

Learning With/From Sites of Empire and Settler Colonialism: Palestine, Iran, and Knowledge Production Across the Transatlantic Global North

11:15 AM - 12:30 PM  
Ballroom Level, Continental  
Ballroom 4, 5 & 6

CIES 2026 Keynote Address: Peace Education in Precarious Times

2:45 PM - 4:00 PM  
Ballroom Level, Imperial A

Human Capital: A Brilliant Idea or An Ideological Dead End? (Steve vs. Steve)

4:30 PM - 5:45 PM  
6th Floor, Nob Hill 2&3

Business Meeting 21st Century Educational Alternatives: Confronting Racial Capitalism, Patriarchy, Militarism, and the Climate Crisis SIG

4:30 PM - 5:45 PM  
Ballroom Level, Continental  
Ballroom 4, 5 & 6

Presidential Invited Symposium: Educating and Organizing for Peace and Justice: Lessons from Decades of Activism in the Bay Area and Beyond

Happy Hour

Multi-SIG Social Event: 21st Century Educational Alternatives: Confronting Racial Capitalism, Patriarchy, Militarism, and the Climate Crisis; Globalization & Education; Study Abroad and International Students

## Tuesday, March 31

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Black Panther Party Murals in West Oakland (flyer attached)

## Wednesday, April 1

9:45 AM - 11:00 AM  
Ballroom Level, Imperial A

**Symposium N°3: Peace is not Neutral: Comparative Education in Times of Accelerated Militarism**

Visit us at The Alternatives Project table in the Exhibit Hall throughout the conference

# 21st Century Educational Alternatives SIG

## FULL Program of SIG Events

*Hear and engage with TAP members!*

Saturday, March 28

**11:15 AM - 12:30 PM**  
6th Floor, Nob Hill 8&9

### **From Theory to Praxis: Designing Education Alternatives within Farsi-speaking Communities experiencing Conflict and Political Instability**

Deepa Srikantiah, American University - School of Education, Chair  
Alice Taylor, Georgetown University, University of Denver, Chair  
Ahmad Medadi, IOE, UCL  
Michael Gibbons, The Alternatives Project  
Roozbeh Shirazi, University of Minnesota

**11:30 AM**  
Beginning at Embarcadero Plaza

### **No Kings Rally and March** (march ends near Union Sq.)

**1:15 PM - 2:30 PM**  
Ballroom Level, Imperial A

### **Cultivating Peace through Resistance: Teaching for Justice Across Borders and Histories**

Monisha Bajaj, University of San Francisco, Chair  
David Andrew Tow, University of San Francisco  
Genesis Jasmin Morales, University of San Francisco  
Rosa M Jimenez, University of San Francisco  
Carmen E Barba, USF School of Education

**2:45 PM - 4:00 PM**  
6th Floor, Nob Hill 6&7

### **Attacks to Academic Freedom in the context of Persisting Inequalities**

Camilla Croso, Coalition for Academic Freedom in the Americas, Chair  
Clara Arenas, Asociación para el avance de las ciencias sociales en Guatemala, Avancso  
Anthony Lewis Wagner, New York University

**4:30 PM - 5:45 PM**  
6th Floor, Nob Hill 1

### **Academic Freedom and Democratic Backsliding in Latin America**

Carol Anne Spreen, New York University, Chair  
Camilla Croso, Coalition for Academic Freedom in the Americas  
Gustavo Setrini, FLACSO Paraguay  
Maria Fernanda Silva Assis, Federal University of Minas Gerais  
Jose Henrique Bortoluci, Maranta

**Sunday, March 29**

**9:45 AM - 11:00 AM**  
4th Floor, Union Square 19

**Reimagining Education for Planetary Futures: Refusal, Relationality, and Radical Renewal**

Iveta Silova, Arizona State University, Chair  
Victoria Desimoni, Arizona State University  
Carrie Karsgaard, Cape Breton University  
Dilraba Anayatova, Arizona State University  
Carla Andrea Sabbatini, Universidad De San Andrés  
Jeremy Rappleye, The University of Hong Kong

**9:45 AM - 11:00 AM**  
Ballroom Level, Imperial A

**Symposium N°1: Education and The Political Economy of Genocide: A Discussion of the UNSR Report “From economy of occupation to economy of genocide”**

Rezan Benatar, Independent Scholar, Chair  
Salim Vally, University of Johannesburg, (online)  
Sangeeta Kamat, University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Mark Ginsburg, University of Maryland  
Zeena Zakharia, University of Maryland  
Pauline Lipman, University of Illinois, Chicago

**9:45 AM - 11:00 AM**  
Lobby Level, Plaza Room A

**Promoting Peace from the Grassroots Up: A Participatory Human Rights Education Approach in West Africa**

Molly Melching, Tostan, Chair  
Yussuf Abdurrahman Sané, Tostan, Chair

**10:00 AM - 1:15 PM**

**South Asian Radical History Walking Tour (flyer attached)**

**2:45 PM - 4:00 PM**  
Ballroom Level, Continental 8

**Symposium N°2: Education’s role in Confronting Racial Capitalism, Patriarchy, Militarism, and the Climate Crises**

Steve Klees, University of Maryland, Chair  
Nanre Nafziger, McGill University  
Frank Adamson, Sacramento State University  
Alice Taylor, Georgetown University, University of Denver  
Becky Tarlau, Stanford University

**Monday, March 30**

**9:45 AM - 11:00 AM**

Ballroom Level, Continental 7

**Form as Praxis: Aesthetics, Affect, and Dialogue in Comparative & International Education**

Will Brehm, University of Canberra, Chair  
Irving Epstein, Illinois Wesleyan University  
Iveta Silova, Arizona State University  
Victoria Desimoni, Arizona State University  
Dilraba Anayatova, Arizona State University  
Nicole Oster, Arizona State University  
Sandra Nabulega, Arizona State University  
Hugh McLean, NORRAG

**9:45 AM - 11:00 AM**

Lobby Level, Golden Gate 6

**Critical Comparative Education: Understanding the Research Complex and its Consequences**

Jonathan David Jansen, Stellenbosch University, Chair  
Joel Samoff, Stanford University  
Carlos Alberto Torres, UCLA  
Sangeeta G. Kamat, Univ of Massachusetts Amherst  
Rebecca Tarlau, Stanford University

**9:45 AM - 11:00 AM**

4th Floor, Union Square 21

**Pedagogies for Peace: Linguistic, Feminist, and Decolonial Approaches**

Sandra L Stacki, Hofstra University, Chair  
Makynzie Horvath, International Education Policy Department, University of Maryland, College Park  
Deanna Pittman, California Institute of Integral Studies  
Mathias Urban, Dublin City University

**9:45 AM - 11:00 AM**

Ballroom Level, Imperial A

**Learning With/From Sites of Empire and Settler Colonialism: Palestine, Iran, and Knowledge Production Across the Transatlantic Global North**

Roozbeh Shirazi, University of Minnesota, Chair  
Nikoo Nikoonazari, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities  
Zeena Zakharia, University of Maryland College Park  
Maria Hantzopoulos, Vassar College  
Taher Herzallah, American Muslims for Palestine  
Hanadi Shatara, California State University Sacramento

**11:15 AM - 12:30 PM**

Ballroom Level, Continental  
Ballroom 4, 5 & 6

**CIES 2026 Keynote Address: Peace Education in Precarious Times**

Rita Z. Nazeer-Ikeda, Waseda University, Chair  
Monisha Bajaj, University of San Francisco, Plenary Speaker  
Kazuo Kuroda, Waseda University

## Monday, March 30

**2:45 PM - 4:00 PM**

6th Floor, Nob Hill 4&5

### **Taiwan Otherwise: Reimagining Gender, Peace, Indigeneity, and Decolonization in Education**

Sean Jung-Hau Chen, University of Maryland, College Park, Chair

Mu-Yen Chan

Pin-Ru Su, University of Arizona

Ting-Yen Ho, University of Arizona

**2:45 PM - 4:00 PM**

4th Floor, Union Square 5&6

### **Youth Empowerment, Transformative Education, and Social Movements**

Virginia C. Gomes, University of Maryland, College Park, Chair

Sofia Antonia Gomez-Doyle, New York University

Claire Okatch

Alejandro Gutierrez

Giuseppe Lipari, Scuola Normale Superiore

**2:45 PM - 4:00 PM**

Ballroom Level, Imperial A

### **Human Capital: A Brilliant Idea or An Ideological Dead End? (Steve vs. Steve)**

Dana Burde, New York University, Moderator

Stephen P Heyneman, Comparative-Education.com

Steven Klees, University of Maryland

**4:30 PM - 5:45 PM**

6th Floor, Nob Hill 2&3

### **Business Meeting 21st Century Educational Alternatives: Confronting Racial Capitalism, Patriarchy, Militarism, and the Climate Crisis SIG**

Frank Adamson, California State University, Sacramento, Chair

Virginia C. Gomes, University of Maryland, College Park, Chair

Carol Anne Spreen, New York University

**4:30 PM - 5:45 PM**

Ballroom Level, Continental Ballroom 4, 5 & 6

### **Presidential Invited Symposium: Educating and Organizing for Peace and Justice: Lessons from Decades of Activism in the Bay Area and Beyond**

Monisha Bajaj, University of San Francisco, Chair

Amy M Argenal, University of California, Santa Cruz, Chair

Joe Artiga

Deborah Lee

Margo Okazawa-Rey

**Happy Hour**

**Multi-SIG Social Event: 21st Century Educational Alternatives: Confronting Racial Capitalism, Patriarchy, Militarism, and the Climate Crisis; Globalization & Education; Study Abroad and International Students (flyer attached)**

Tuesday, March 31

**10:00 AM - 12:00 PM    Black Panther Party Murals in West Oakland (flyer attached)**

**2:45 PM - 4:00 PM    Reparative Education: the politics and practice of repair**

Ballroom Level, Franciscan B

Karishma Desai, Rutgers University, Chair  
Krystal Strong, Rutgers University  
R. Nanre Nafziger, McGill University  
Amelia Simone Herbert, Barnard College, Columbia University  
Tyler J Hook, Graduate School of Education, University of Pennsylvania  
Rebecca Tarlau, Stanford University

**2:45 PM - 4:00 PM    Positive Peace, Global Transformations, and U.S. Contestations: Decolonial, Ecological, Economic, and Democratic Pathways in Education (Part 1)**

Ballroom Level, Imperial B

Carol Anne Spreen, New York University, Chair  
Frank Adamson, California State University, Sacramento  
Rezan Benatar, Independent Scholar  
Michael Gibbons, The Alternatives Project  
Steven Klees, University of Maryland

**4:30 PM - 5:45 PM    Climate Resilience, Agroecology, and Environmental Justice**

Ballroom Level, Continental 9

Gareth Alexis Brinkworth, Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge, Chair  
Ana Ligia Scachetti, Nova Escola Association  
Zahid Majeed, Allama Iqbal Open University  
Nils McCune, Institute for Agroecology at the University of Vermont  
Rebecca Tarlau, Stanford University

**4:30 PM - 5:45 PM    Positive Peace, Global Transformations, and U.S. Contestations: Decolonial, Ecological, Economic, and Democratic Pathways in Education (Part 2)**

Ballroom Level, Imperial B

Rezan Benatar, Independent Scholar, Chair  
Frank Adamson, California State University, Sacramento  
Michael Gibbons, The Alternatives Project  
Carol Anne Spreen, New York University  
Anthony Lewis Wagner, New York University  
Shannon Barnes, California State University, Sacramento  
Yaereem Lee, Penn State University  
Brittany Aronson  
Haniyeh Kheirkhah

Wednesday, April 1

**9:45 AM - 11:00 AM**  
Ballroom Level, Imperial A

**Symposium N°3: Peace is not Neutral: Comparative Education in Times of Accelerated Militarism**

Michael Gibbons, American University, Chair  
Maria Hantzopoulos, Vassar College  
Carol Anne Spreen, New York University  
Roozbeh Shirazi, University of Minnesota  
Ahmad Medadi, University College of London  
Shiva Amelirad, Official Representative of CCITTA, the Coordinating Council of the Iranian Teacher Trade Association

**9:45 AM - 11:00 AM**  
Lobby Level, Golden Gate 3

**Decoloniality, Activism, and Resistance in Education Systems**

Erik O'neil Elshire, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chair  
Jordan Corson, Stockton University  
Birgul Kutan, University of Sussex  
Diana Morea-Ghergu, Columbia University Teachers College

**11:15 AM - 12:30 PM**  
Ballroom Level, Franciscan B

**The climate crisis and learning and development: some global perspectives**

Jennifer H Adams, Johns Hopkins University, School of Education, Chair  
Rehana Odendaal, GSE, University of Pennsylvania  
Nazar Khalid, University of Pennsylvania  
Emily Hannum, University of Pennsylvania  
Jere Richard Behrman, University of Pennsylvania  
Amrit Thapa, University of Pennsylvania  
Tingting Yang Rui, University of Pennsylvania  
Minghong Shen  
Michael MA  
Jia Miao, NYU Shanghai  
Yabo Vidogbena, University of Pennsylvania  
Wendy Chan

**1:15 PM - 2:30 PM**  
Ballroom Level, Continental 8

**Reimagining and restoring: Confronting structural violences and their legacies in education**

Connor Middleton, Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge, Chair  
Sohane Inès Mousseid Yahya  
Shahnaaz Khan, Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge  
María Fernanda Rodríguez, Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge

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**Wednesday, April 1**

**1:15 PM - 2:30 PM**

4th Floor, Union Square 22

**Global Governance, Transformative Relations, and Human Rights in Education**

Susan Lee Robertson, The University of Manchester, Chair

Mark Ginsburg, University of Maryland

René Espinoza Kissell, University of California, Santa Cruz

**Visit us at The Alternatives Project table in the Exhibit Hall throughout the conference**

# IRAN

**EXPRESS YOUR SOLIDARITY WITH  
IRANIAN EDUCATORS & STUDENTS  
LEARN & CRITICALLY ENGAGE  
AT CIES 2026**

## **SAT, MARCH 28**

**PANEL 11:15-12:30 Sixth Floor,  
Nob Hill 8&9**

**From Theory to Praxis:** Designing Education Alternatives within Farsi-speaking Communities experiencing Conflict and Political Instability

## **MON, MARCH 30**

**PANEL 9:45-11 am - Ballroom Level,  
Imperial A**

**Learning With/From Sites of Empire  
and Settler Colonialism:** Palestine,  
Iran, and Knowledge Production  
Across the Transatlantic Global  
North

**EXHIBIT, booth No. 37, Exhibition Hall**

**"Empty Desks":** A memorial for Iranian Students and teachers who lost their lives: Organized by the Iranian Teachers' Trade Associations (CCITTA). *Come 1 pm before the Mon. teach-in or anytime during the day; also visit SEED Foundation booth 23*

## **WEDS, APRIL 1**

**SYMPOSIUM 9:45-11 am  
Ballroom Level, Imperial A**

**Peace is not Neutral:**  
Comparative Education  
in Times of Accelerated  
Militarism

*Image: graves for the estimated 168 students killed by a U.S.-led airstrike, at the Shajareh Tayyiba girls' school in Minab, 3/2/2026*

## **TEACH-INS**

**WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?  
JOIN US TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE**

**1:15 - 2 pm daily - TAP Booth,  
Exhibition Hall**

Themes include:

- Unraveling myths of pre-revolutionary paradise in Iran
- US Representations of post-1979 Iran
- Overview of US Sanctions Against Iran
- Social Movements in Iran, including the roles of women, ethnic minorities, and the education sector, highlighting the Teachers' Union as the largest civil society network in the country



- Students killed in the US-led war: at least **143**
- Students killed during the January 2026 protest by Iran's authorities: **247**

- Teachers killed in the US-led war: at least **16**
- Teachers killed during the January 2026 protest by Iran's authorities: **14**

# IRAN

**EXPRESS YOUR SOLIDARITY WITH  
IRANIAN EDUCATORS & STUDENTS  
LEARN & CRITICALLY ENGAGE  
AT CIES 2026**

## FURTHER READING

Matin-Asgari's (2026) *Axis of empire: A history of Iran-US relations*

Abrahamian's *A History of Modern Iran* (2012) & *Iran Between Two Revolutions* (1982)

Amanat's (2017) *Iran: A Modern History*

Dabashi's (2016) *Iran Without Borders: Towards a Critique of the Postcolonial Nation*

Poetry by Jalal Al-Din Muhammad Rumi, Hafız-e Shirazi, Omar Khayyam, Ferdowsi

See the essential reading list curated by topic by the Raha Feminist Collective and the Middle East Studies Pedagogy Initiative (MESPI) at the Arab Studies Institute: <https://www.jadaliyya.com/>

## IRAN AT A GLANCE

**Iranians have led major struggles in the past century for education, social justice, and freedom:**

- Students' Movement, 1999
- "Green Movement" electoral protests, 2009
- Haft Tappe Labor unions' protest, 2018
- Teachers' Strikes, 2021
- Woman, Life, Freedom, 2022
- Mass Nationwide Protest, January 2026

**The Iranian education sector:**

- Literacy rates: adults, 89%, youth (15-24), 99%
- ~16 million K-12 students
- ~3.5 million university student, 63% female
- ~735,000 total teacher count (with a shortage of 176,000)

- Farsi is the official language, but an estimated 80+ indigenous and other languages are also spoken in Iran
- The Achaemenid Empire (550-330 BC), was the first major world empire
- Both the first formal courier post and first subterranean aqueduct system were developed by the Persians

***Contributions spanning five millennia particularly in the fields of:***

- **Medicine:** Avicenna's medical text (Ibn Sina)
- **Mathematics:** al-Khwarizmi introduced the decimal-based positional number system to the Western world, developed the field of trigonometry
- **Arts & culture:** Iran is home to 29 UNESCO World Heritage Sites and a multitude of contributions to calligraphy, carpet weaving, ceramics, architecture and garden design

***"In every school, the sight of empty desks serves as a grief-stricken monument to the children who never returned to class during the nationwide protests of Jan 2026."***

**Visit the memorial to students:** <https://hamahangi.org/yadbood/memorial/empty-desks/>

Organizers of these Iran Solidarity events at CIES:  
The Alternatives Project (TAP), 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education SIG & collaborators and educators from Farsi-speaking communities

Join us for our 2nd

# CIES Multi-SIG Social!

Organized by

Globalization &  
Education

Study Abroad &  
International  
Students

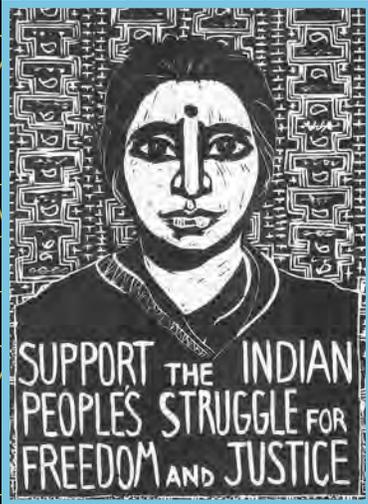
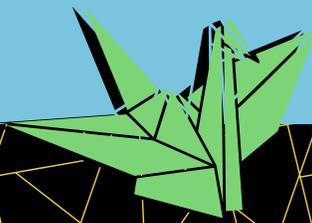
21st Century  
Educational  
Alternatives

Appetizers are  
on us! And the  
first 20 will have  
a free drink!

**WHEN:** Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 9:00 PM

**WHERE:** Ula Restaurant & Tapas Bar  
450 Post Street, San Francisco  
(Jellyfish Bar Lounge)





# LEARN ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA ACTIVIST HISTORIES WHILE AT CIES!



## OPTION 1

### RADICAL SOUTH ASIAN HISTORY WALKING TOUR

- 📅 Sunday March 29, 10am–1:15pm
- 🕒 Meet at the 16th St. Mission BART Station at 9:45am
- 📍 SF Mission District, 25 spots
- 💰 \$30 per person\*  
(students pay half price!)
- \*does not include transportation

## OPTION 2

### BLACK PANTHER PARTY MURALS IN WEST OAKLAND

- 📅 Tuesday March 31, 2026
- 🕒 Meet at the West Oakland BART Station at 9:45am
- 📍 Tour from 10am-12pm
- 💰 \$30 per person\*  
(students pay half price!)
- \*does not include transportation

Register at [bit.ly/cies26-bayarea-tours](https://bit.ly/cies26-bayarea-tours)



### LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO ON YOUR OWN? CHECK OUT **TABI TABI PO** AT SOMA ARTS!

- 📅 March 28–29, 2026, gallery hours 12pm–5pm
- 📍 SOMA Arts (934 Brannan Street, SF, CA 94103)
- 💰 By Donation, \$10 recommended

Tours not official CIES events, but organized by Bay Area-based CIES members in collaboration with **The Alternatives Project**