



**University of Guyana  
School of Graduate Studies and Research (SGSR)  
2nd Graduate Symposium**

October 5 - 7, 2022 via Zoom

Website: <https://sgsr.uog.edu.gy/Graduate-Symposium-2022>

Email: [symposium.sgsr@uog.edu.gy](mailto:symposium.sgsr@uog.edu.gy)

**UG SGSR 2nd Graduate Symposium General Theme:  
Innovative Research on Sustainable Development  
in a Resource Abundant Economy**

# **CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

Email submission to: [symposium.sgsr@uog.edu.gy](mailto:symposium.sgsr@uog.edu.gy)

Deadline: **on or before Sunday, July 30, 2022**

Research must not only add to previous existing knowledge, but must lead to discoveries and novelties, among other areas. Throughout the world, graduate students and their work are recognized as critical to the ongoing research process that helps us to better understand the human and natural world in which we exist. Moreover, research does not only aid the decision-making process of policymakers but also contributes to enhancing growth and development at various levels of society through creative and innovative solutions to real-world problems and issues.

The 2022 Graduate Symposium of the School for Graduate Studies and Research, the second of its kind at the University of Guyana, will allow graduate students at the University of Guyana in various fields and disciplines to communicate and exchange their innovative research, toward building knowledge, facilitating learning, fostering public awareness, informing societal action, and developing knowledge in various fields of study. The central theme "Innovative research on sustainable development in a resource-abundant economy" underscores the importance of scientific inquiry into processes and procedures required to attain sustainable development - a widely recognized goal for human society of the 21st century, given its focus on the three interconnected pillars: ecological sustainability, social sustainability, and economic sustainability, together with good governance and effective institutions.

This year, the symposium will feature oral and poster presentations and will culminate with the award of prizes and scholarships to various categories of participants who excel in their presentations. There will also be publications to further add to the outputs. It is anticipated that each research presented will promote continued sustainable development and foster new opportunities and challenges in Guyana. Additionally, this symposium will exhibit the spectrum of multidisciplinary research activities pursued by students in all Academic Units of the University and will further enhance collaboration with private and public sector agencies, civil societies, international universities, and the University of Guyana. This will be achieved by inviting these sectors as participants in the symposium and allowing their interaction with our graduate students.

# UG SGSR 2nd Graduate Symposium Sub-themes:

## 1

### **FOOD PRODUCTION AND FOOD SECURITY**

Presentations on this sub-theme will feature innovative research in food security for sustainable development is currently incorporating the value chain approach, which goes from the small farmer (food production) to domestic and international markets in a sustainable way through which environmental and social externalities are considered.

Applied Science with appropriate technology transfer in the agriculture sector, agroforestry developments and climate-smart agriculture are necessary for sustainable development.

## 2

### **PUBLIC HEALTH AND EQUITABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

Several Global changes have caused devastating effects on societies throughout the world including the loss of lives, major disruptions to public health in food systems, coupled with significant loss of livelihoods, while millions are at risk. Additionally, some Global changes have highlighted many social factors that create vulnerability, including social inequality and inequities, the disproportionate burden of the poor, gender issues, absence of adequate social protection measures, lack of adequate social infrastructure, among others.

This subtheme covers topics such as rural-urban inequities, transforming built environments, climate change and human health, water and sanitation, improving health systems and services, mental health, and policy responses.

## 3

### **ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES**

Environmental Management, Biodiversity and Ecosystem services will feature studies dealing with climate change and its interactions with human and environmental systems, quantifying specific levels and effects of global warming, adaptation potential, green technologies, land-use planning and mechanisms for climate change mitigation. In Guyana's resource-abundant economy, innovative research is also needed in cross-disciplines of environmental governance, green economy, circular economy, and low carbon development. On the other hand, Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecosystems play a critical ecological role and provide economically important services.

Over time, there have been increasing threats to the biodiversity, including loss of species and populations habitats, degradation of important aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, due to pollution, deforestation, unsustainable water extraction, inadequate infrastructural development, invasive species, overharvesting of species, climate change, all of them undermining the ecological services.

Mitigation opportunities are offered by green energy technologies, restoration and reclamation, in-situ and ex-situ conservation, as well as alternative local economies based on sustainable community forestry, eco-tourism and products from extracts of plants with medicinal or agricultural uses.

# UG SGSR 2nd Graduate Symposium Sub-themes:

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## **MIGRATION, VIOLENCE, SUICIDE, POVERTY AND RESILIENCE**

In what is considered the largest humanitarian crisis in the world, millions of refugees and migrants have left their homelands thus creating economic and social changes in the host countries. This sub-theme will focus on migration and resiliency, development, education, multiculturalism and humanitarian issues of Migrants, women, and children; gender-based violence, issues of suicide and poverty-related to socio-economic and psycho-social conditions.

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## **PUBLIC HEALTH AND EQUITABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

Education for sustainable development in the 21st century requires a paradigm shift. The chaos of balancing the need for education against dealing with a pandemic has helped us to realize that education can no longer be business as usual. There is a need to align the skills and competencies taught at schools with what is needed to function and work effectively in society.

This subtheme focuses on how societies can be transformed by reorienting education to help people develop knowledge, skills, values, and behaviours needed for sustainable development. Issues for consideration include advancing policy, transforming learning environments, building capacities of educators, empowering and mobilizing youth, and accelerating local level actions.

Abstracts under this subtheme will focus on transformative education, special education needs, virtual learning, content and learning outcomes, action-oriented pedagogy/andragogy/cybergogy/heutagogy, the learning environment, autonomous learning, participation and collaboration, problem-solving, inter and transdisciplinary, and formal and informal learning.