EGC’s History

In celebration of EGC’s 60th anniversary in 2021, the Center documented its rich history and built an EGC historical archive available to Yale students and other development researchers. The aim was to recognize the people who made up EGC — the founders, faculty, students, and visitors — to understand how their ideas helped shape development economics at Yale and beyond, and to contribute to the picture of the history of the discipline more broadly. This ongoing project has uncovered a wealth of stories and underrecognized research. It has also convened past members of the EGC community to reconnect with the Center, Yale, and each other. To read the latest articles in the series and access archival materials, visit the EGC History section of our website.

REMEmBERING INTELLECTUAL PIONEERS WHO VISITED EGC IN THE 1960s

As part of the effort to document its history, EGC published a series of articles on prominent Latin American economists, some of whom had been forced out of their positions in their home countries by repressive regimes. These economists found an intellectual home at EGC in the 1960s and 1970s. One of them was Carlos F. Diaz-Alejandro who became renowned for his analysis of Latin American economies and for his advocacy for human rights.

HONORING THE WOMEN WHO SHAPED EGC

Mariam Chamberlain, Mary Reynolds, and Nancy Ruggles were part of the founding team of EGC — and scholars, pushing boundaries in the early 1960s. However, due to discriminatory rules of the time, they were excluded from the academic career track. A series of EGC profiles uncovered their contributions and also told the stories of other Yale women who argued for greater equity in the economics profession.

EGC STAFF EXCELLENCE: SUSAN EGGERGS’ GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH PATH

Susan Eggers entered EGC in the mid-1940s as a secretary and discovered her talent for programming while working on a data-analysis task. She went on to pursue an illustrious career as a computer scientist and broke barriers as the first woman to win the Eckert-Mauchly Award in 2018 for her contributions to the field of computer architecture.