



Canadian Association for Postcolonial Studies

CAPS 2025 Conference Schedule

Postcolonial Studies, Sustainability, and Shared Futures

Sunday, June 1 – Tuesday, June 3

Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto

Revised May 30, 2025

CAPS 2025 Conference Schedule

Welcome to CAPS 2025

Conference Theme: Postcolonial Studies, Sustainability, and Shared Futures

Territorial Acknowledgment

We acknowledge that Toronto is in the ‘Dish With One Spoon Territory’. The Dish With One Spoon is a treaty between the Anishinaabe, Mississauga and Haudenosaunee that bound them to share the territory and protect the land. Subsequent Indigenous Nations and peoples, Europeans and all newcomers have been invited into this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship and respect.

Conference convened and organized by Azza Harras, Prabhjot Parmar, Jesse Arseneault, Jason Sandhar, J. Coplen Rose, Arshad Said Khan, Stephanie Oliver, Anindo Hazra, and Aruna Srivastava.

Links to our sessions for virtual presenters and attendees:

ILC International Room

<https://zoom.us/j/3127482383>

Meeting ID: 312 748 2383

ILC Room 100

<https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/87668616266>

Meeting ID: 876 6861 6266

ILC Room 226

<https://concordia-ca.zoom.us/j/81877629656?pwd=FgC9VbnUTs1QzO0be34ZOb3uGXAbrF.1>

Meeting ID: 818 7762 9656

Passcode: 196785

ILC building wifi

Network: TMU

User: tmucampusevents

Password: TMUguests962\$

Time Zone: EST

Sunday, June 1, 2025

Day 1: June 1st

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM CAPS-Canadian Society for Digital Humanities Plenary Session (ILC International Room)

Chair: Donia Mounsef

Digital colonial archives and shifting colonial power dynamics

Lissa Paul (virtual) - Donia Mounsef- Jill Planche-

Harriet Sonne de Torrens (virtual)- A K M Iftekhar Khalid- Elisa Tersigni-Frank Onuh

Donia Mounsef is Professor of performance and media studies at the University of Alberta. She is the author of *Chair et révolte dans le théâtre de Bernard-Marie Koltès* and the co-editor of *Toxic Media Ecologies: Critical Responses to the Cultural Politics of Planetary Crises*. Her work appeared in *RIDE: The Journal of Applied Theatre & Performance*, *Global Performance Studies*, *Journal of Dramatic Theory & Criticism*, *Women & Performance Journal*, *Féminismos*, *Journal of Global Studies & Contemporary Art*, etc.

Lissa Paul, Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, is a Professor in the Department of English, Faculty of Humanities, and Director of the PhD Program in Interdisciplinary Humanities at Brock University. Her attention to the small and the overlooked has resulted in high-impact projects in multiple disciplines.

Jill Planche is an independent scholar and sessional instructor at Brock University and Toronto Metropolitan University Chang School. Education: PhD English Literature (York U), PhD Interdisciplinary Humanities (Brock U). Current research interests: decolonial literature; Deleuze's minoritarian conceptualization; 'minor' theatre's role in contemporary South African discourse; feminist geographies; posthumanism; the Anthropocene.

Elisa Tersigni is the Senior Research Associate at the Collaborative Digital Research Space, University of Toronto Mississauga. Her recent research on the effects of generative AI on the humanities has appeared in the *Journal of Applied Learning and Teaching* and *TextGenEd: Teaching with Text Generation Technologies*.

Frank Onuh is a doctoral researcher and member of the Humanities Innovation Lab at the University of Lethbridge whose research is at the intersection of Digital Humanities, information disorder, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and inclusive technology systems. His doctoral research focuses on decolonizing information verification practices in Africa. He was among the recipient of the EDIA pilot program funded by the Digital Research Alliance of Canada and a Black representative on the Community Advisory Council for the development of VR to improve ethical decision-making (EDM) in police recruitment. He recently developed a 17-page AI bias detection canvas for Black scholars, which can be used to identify and mitigate algorithmic biases, especially from chatbot responses.

A K M Iftekhar Khalidis a Ph.D. student in Cultural, Social, and Political Thought (CSPT) at the University of Lethbridge, housed in the Department of English and Humanities Innovative Lab (HIL). His research examines the impact of Artificial Intelligence on the English language, aiming to safeguard linguistic diversity and cultural heritage in a rapidly changing world.

Harriet M. Sonne de Torrens is an academic librarian and medievalist at the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) in the UTM Library and Department of Visual Studies, and an Associate Scholar with the Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of Toronto. She is co-director of the Baptisteria Sacra Index, a digit research project, and the author of *Crusader Rhetoric and the Infancy Cycles on Medieval Baptismal Fonts in the Baltic Region* (Brepols, 2024) and a member of the Researchers Council at the Digital Research Alliance of Canada.

10:00 AM – 10:30 Coffee break- light refreshments, coffee, and tea served (ILC Lounge)

Session 2 —----- 10:30 a.m- 12:00

10:30 Contesting Campus Climates: Resistance and Institutional Critique

(ILC room 100)

Chair: Jesse Arseneault

- Maab Al-Rashdan, University of Waterloo, — Revealing Racism in Higher Education: A Counterstory of Discriminatory Diversity (virtual)
- Jesse Arseneault, Concordia University— Campus Climates and Student Resistance: Gaza and the Colonial Atmospherics of Campus Administration in Montreal, 2023–2025
- Gah-Kai Leung, University of Warwick — The Wet’suwet’en conflict, environmental civil disobedience, and institutional change in British Columbia.

Jesse Arseneault is the Past President of CAPS. He is an Associate Professor of English and director of the Interdisciplinary Humanities PhD program at Concordia University in Montreal, QC.

Maab Al-Rashdan completed her first MA in English Language from the University of Jordan, her second in English Literature from the University of Waterloo and is currently a PhD candidate at the latter. Her research interests include Postcolonial Literature, Critical Race Theory and Counterstory, and Discourse Analysis. She is the recipient of UWaterloo’s Doctoral Rhetoric Essay Prize (2022), and RhetCanada’s Michael Purves-Smith Student Paper Award (2021).

Gah-Kai Leung (first name pronounced 'GAR-kay') is a PhD candidate in political theory at the University of Warwick, UK. His dissertation research considers the ethical and political issues in earthquake/tsunami risk management. His work has appeared in *Nature Climate Change*, the *Springer Handbook of the Anthropocene* and most recently in *Taylor Swift & Philosophy*.

10:30 a.m “Whose Shared Future? Reading/Imagining Extra-Canadian Ecologies”

Chair: Susie O’Brien (ILC International Room)

- Samuel Ikueze, McMaster University — Arts, Humanities, and the International Student’s Counternarrative Project in Canada
- Zahra Tootonsab, McMaster University — The art of sustainable shelter-making: Métis and Bakhtiari craft adaptation in response to environmental change" (virtual)
- Susie O'Brien, McMaster University — Beyond diversity and security: immigration ecologies in Mariam Pirbhai’s Outside People

Samuel Chinaza Ikueze is a PhD student of English and Cultural Studies at McMaster University. He is interested in African creative expressions, decolonial studies, cultural studies, and environmental humanities. Ikueze’s research combines his knowledge of African literature and politics, Igbo Indigenous knowledge, cultural studies, and decoloniality. He has a publication in African Journalism Studies and other ongoing projects.

Zahra Tootonsab is a Ph.D. candidate in the English and Cultural Studies Department at McMaster University. Her research explores how decolonial sheltering and living can address the challenges of global climate change. She is inspired by the sheltering and weaving ethics and practices of the Bakhtiari nomads of Iran.

Susie O’Brien is a professor in the Department of English and Cultural Studies at McMaster University, where her teaching and research focus on settler colonialism and the decolonial environmental humanities. Her recent book, *What the World Might Look Like: Decolonial Stories of Resilience and Refusal* (McGill-Queen’s UP, 2024), analyzes the usefulness and the limitations of resilience thinking through an anti-colonial ecocritical lens.

10:30 Migrations (ILC room 226)

Chair: Onyeka Odoh

- Faten Ramadan, Fayoum University — Immigration Trauma and Adaptation Mechanisms in Gratz’s Refugee and Gurnah’s Gravel Heart: A Cross Cultural Psychological Approach (virtual)
- Nahla Khalil, University of Massachusetts Amherst — Refugee Narratives and Resistance in Modern Arabic Literature: A Postcolonial Reading
- Sam Otieno, The Pennsylvania State University — On The Effluent Gaze: Migrancy, Excess, and Statehood in Postcolonial East Africa (virtual)
- Onyeka Odoh, University of Calgary — Tragedy Capitalism in Three African Migrant Novels

Sam Dennis Otieno is a dual title PhD candidate at the Pennsylvania State University in the departments of Comparative Literature and African Studies. His research interests focus on East African life writing, urban studies, contemporary visual narratives, and the Indian ocean worlds.

Onyeka Odoh is a Doctoral Candidate in the Department of English, the University of Calgary. His research interests are African literature, African/black diaspora, postcolonial/decolonial ecology. Onyeka has published

papers in peer-reviewed journals like Research in African Literature, CLCweb: Comparative Literature and Culture and Literature Compass.

Nahla Khalil is currently a senior Lecturer in the department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures at University of Massachusetts Amherst. Nahla's research interests include Arabic and Arab American literatures, literary theory, refugee literature, literary translation and foreign language pedagogy.

Day 1- Lunch 12:00 p.m- 1:30 p.m.

Session 2 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

1:30 p.m. Art, Culture and Communal Resistance (ILC room 100)

Chair: Blaze Welling

- Kim Darbouze, independent researcher — ‘Haunting Material Matters’: The Ecological and Woven ties Across Oceans (virtual)
- Colin Tucker, independent artist— Decolonial Mappings of Global Warming with Situated Sound Art
- Fatme Abdallah, Western University— I Wear the Land on My Body: Palestinian Tatreez as Memory and Sumud- (Virtual)
- Hamza Karam Ally, University of King's College— Contemporary Iterations in Postcolonial Literature: of the Relationship between Identity and National Consciousness

Kim Darbouze is psycho-social researcher who merges material, ecological, and artistic embodied themes to address the various haunting impacts colonialism. Through these themes Kim shows how colonialism justifies killability and extraction for capital commodity. Using weaving and dance Kim builds upon indigenous, local, and cultural knowledge of the intertwined connections between Land, species, ecologies, bodies, memory, and embodied trauma that takes shape long after trauma, wounding, erasures, and violence. Kim incorporates a way re-form, heal, and connect.

Colin Tucker is a musician and curator who investigates intersections between music, art, decoloniality, and abolition. Through scores, videos, installations, and artist books, Colin undertakes critical investigations of sensory politics in the concert hall and of possessive logics in the settler colonial Everyday.

Fatme Abdallah is a PhD candidate at Western University's Department of English and Writing Studies. Her research interests include postcolonial feminisms, “Third-World” prison literature, diaspora studies, and resistance literature. Her doctoral dissertation, still in progress, interrogates the intersections of collective memory and resistance in different forms of Palestinian women's prison writing.

Hamza Karam Ally is an Assistant Professor in the Contemporary Studies and the Foundation Year Programs. He has a PhD in Humanities from York University. His work develops the subject of radical alterity/otherness in texts from multiple literary traditions, working with phenomenology and postcolonial theory.

1:30 p.m. Environmental Racism & Justice (ILC room 226)

Chair: Gideon Umezurike

- Shumaila Ashraf and Barirah Nizar, University of Sargodha — Ecocritical Dimensions in Qurratulain Haider's *Fireflies in the Mist* (virtual)
- Bandana Mili, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur — Dreams Turning into Ashes with the Rising Smoke: Environmental Racism and the Baghjan Tragedy (virtual)
- Khondlo Mtshali, University of KwaZulu-Natal— The racial-patriarchal habitus: The limitations of the anti-neo-colonial movement in Imbolo Mbue's *How Beautiful We Were*

Shumaila Ashraf is a lecturer in English language and literature at Govt. Associate College for (women) Wanhar Buchal kalan where she teaches courses of English poetry, prose and history. Her research explores the interconnectedness of nature and human nature with a particular focus on ecological criticism. Her current research project explores the Qurat ul ain Haider's novel 'Fireflies in the mist' from ecological prospective.

Bandana Mili is a Ph.D. Scholar in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, India. She is from the northeastern Indian state of Assam. Her research interests are Ecocriticism, Environmental Humanities, and Literatures from North East India. She is currently working on Postcolonial Ecocriticism, specifically focused on the frameworks of Environmental Racism and Environmental Justice Studies in 21st-century Assamese Narratives.

Khondlo's interests are African Philosophy, African Literature and Political Economy. Khondlo teaches Political Theory and Political Philosophy at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He has published in various journals including Research in African Literature and Journal of Black Studies.

1:30 p.m : CAPS Now: Defining, Locating, Doing Postcolonial Studies in 2024 (ILC International Room)

Chair: Jason Sandhar

In light of our association's recent name change—from the Canadian Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (CACLALS) to the Canadian Association for Postcolonial Studies (CAPS)—this session asks how our members engage with debates about the field right now (some examples might be the status of humanism and Enlightenment reasoning after postcolonial studies' ecocritical, animal, and anti-humanist turns; how form/aesthetics figure into the political/social imperatives of postcolonial studies; or ongoing controversies about "world literature" as a genre in the literary marketplace). At the same time, we ask how CAPS's embrace of approaches beyond the strictly "postcolonial" (i.e. decolonial; anti-colonial; Indigenous studies; Black studies; diaspora studies) and the strictly "literary" (i.e. film; visual arts; geography; ecocriticism; cultural, area, transoceanic, and other "studies") raises pressing questions about how we might navigate the resonances and tensions between the diverse fields and approaches that CAPS engages with. We envision this session as a successor to "The Future of the Association," a 2022 discussion led by John C. Ball, Susie O'Brien, and Jason Sandhar. Held before the CACLALS AGM in which our membership ratified the name change to CAPS, "The Future of the Association" offered some reflections about what the shift from "Commonwealth" literatures and languages to "postcolonial" studies might signal for our membership moving forward. Bearing in mind this year's conference theme, "sustainability and shared futures," we are especially interested in how CAPS's engagement with interdisciplinarity speaks to the future of postcolonial studies and the association amidst the uncertainty and unsustainability of our economic, geopolitical, and ecological crises.

Jason Sandhar, Arshad Khan, Feisal Kirumira, Kris Singh, Rūta Šlapkauskaitė, and Sue Speary.

Jason Sandhar is an Assistant Professor of Eighteenth-Century British and Postcolonial Literature at the University of Windsor. He is completing a book, *Indian Literature Across Species*, which explores how literary texts engage with the shared precarity of animals and people at the margins of colonial and postcolonial society. His essays have appeared in *The Journal of Commonwealth Literature*, *Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies*, and *Postcolonial Animalities* (Routledge 2019).

Kris Singh is a faculty member in the English Department at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. His scholarly and creative attention spans the legacy of indentureship, the relationships among writers of the Caribbean diaspora, and the place of technology in Caribbean literature.

Arshad Said Khan is an Assistant Lecturer, Faculty of Arts - English & Film Studies Dept. Arshad's research interests are citizenship studies, transgender studies, queer theory and South Asian queer and trans literature and media. My PhD dissertation examined literary and cinematic representations of the Hijra (a South Asia specific subaltern transfeminine community) subject within the framework of Indian nationalist ideologies and practices of citizenship

Feisal Kirumira is the Public Safety Lead, Antiracism Program, Community Services, City of Calgary. Feisal's training as Adjunct Professor of German/ Humanities Studies coupled with decade-long experience as Faculty Lead, Diversity Working Group in university settings honed his unique skill set as a community broker for sustainable antiracist public safety initiatives. Born and raised in Uganda, Feisal studied and worked in Europe for 13 years before migrating to Canada in 2005 where Calgarians welcomed him and his family as their own. He has lived, studied, and taught diversity, inclusion and antiracism in Germany and Canada.

Rūta Šlapkauskaitė is an Associate Professor of English literature at Vilnius University, Lithuania. Her research interests include Canadian and Australian literature, neo-Victorianism, and environmental humanities.

Susan Spearey is an Associate Professor at Brock University and Chancellor's Chair for Teaching Excellence (2005–2008). Her interdisciplinary research spans trauma studies, anticolonial theory, climate justice, and Environmental Humanities, emphasizing desire-based and abolitionist frameworks, healing justice, and transformative pedagogy grounded in decolonial and emancipatory practices.

- Day 1: Break 2: 3:00 p.m.- 03:30

Music performance 03:00-03:30 p.m

Artist, musician and writer Colin Tucker plays his piece “In the Wake of the Santa Maria” at Pitman Quad just across the ILC building.

Day 1, Session 3: 03:30- 05:00

3:30 Indigenous Knowledge, Storytelling, and Sustainability (ILC room 100)

Chair: Grace Miller

- Grace Miller, Binghamton University — Decolonizing Sustainability: The Onondaga Nation, Land Back, and Ecological Restoration through Robin Kimmerer's Braiding Sweetgrass
- Alice Salion, University of Padova — Performing Medicine: reclaiming Indigenous knowledge and kinscapes through Native dramaturgy against the backdrop of global crises in Yvette Nolan's 2014 play *The Unplugging*
- Alex Ventimilla, University of Alberta— Medicinal Rematriation: Watching and Teaching Indigenous Conservation as Decolonial/Ecological Remedy

Grace Miller is a PhD Candidate in English at Binghamton University specializing in Native American Literature and American Pluralism. Her work on Native American literature and intergenerational trauma was published in *Comparative Women*. Her dissertation focuses on putting trauma studies and Native American literature on boarding schools in conversation.

Alice Salion is an ESL professor and PhD candidate in Literary Science at the University of Padua, Italy. My project focuses on the works of Indigenous women authors in contemporary Anglophone Canadian literature to contribute to a more articulate representation of their voices through a practice of decolonial feminist inquiry.

Alex Ventimilla is a Ph.D. candidate and lecturer in the Department of English and Film Studies at the University of Alberta. His dissertation examines the cultural politics of mass extinction as they emerge in documentary representations of biodiversity loss and conservation. He has been published in the *Animal Studies Journal*.

03:30 Other Worlds, Other Natures: Rethinking Crisis through Race, Land, and Water (ILC International Room)

Chair: Tathagata Som

- Blaze Welling, Waterloo University — From Anthropocene to Symbiocene: Indigenous Ecologies and the Racial Politics of Environmental Crisis
- Jenna Miller, University of Saskatchewan — Currents of Displacement: Water Imagery in Kiran Desai's *The Inheritance of Loss*
- Tathagata Som, University of Calgary — Anthropocentrism, Colonial Land Use, and the Enchanted Forest in Bibhutibhushan's *Aranyak* (1939)
- Raphaela Pavlakos, McMaster University — Anishinaabe Activism and Artistic Possibilities of Resistance in Rebecca Belmore's Work

Blaze Welling is a second-year Ph.D. student in English at the University of Waterloo. Her research explores comparative analyses of nineteenth and twentieth-century Métis and settler texts and rhetorical representations of 'nation' and 'identity.' Her methodologies leverage her settler-scholar privilege and work to amplify Indigenous voices in academia.

Jenna Miller's (she/her) research focuses on contemporary life writing by women authors. She is interested in experimental narratives characterized by fragmentation, non-linearity, and genre-blurring. Jenna's work examines the alternative structures and spaces women use to voice their stories.

Tathagata Som is a PhD candidate in the Department of English at the University of Calgary. His research interests include postcolonial studies, environmental humanities, South Asian literatures, and global Indigenous literatures. His scholarly work has appeared in *ISLE*, *ARIEL*, *The Goose*, and *The Bloomsbury Handbook to the Medical-Environmental Humanities*.

Raphaela Pavlakos (she/her) is a fourth-year PhD candidate in McMaster University's English and Cultural Studies Department. Her dissertation research looks at Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee poetry and drama in Southern Ontario, considering landscape as an alternative site of memory and framework for ongoing Indigenous activism. Her scholarly work can be found in *Canada and Beyond* (forthcoming), *Contingencies* (2024), *Theatre Academy* (2023), and *The Scattered Pelican* (2023).

03:30 Visual and Performing Arts (ILC room 226)

Chair: Laurene Manaa Abdallah

- Noor ul Ain, OCADU — Movement, Mobility and Motherhood in Moor
- Laurene Manaa Abdallah and Johnny Razak Abdallah, Makerere University/ New York University Abu Dhabi — Vestiges of Empire: Postcolonial Cinema as a Site of Agricultural and Ecological Resistance
- Susan Rajendran, York University— Between the Sacred and the Profane: an Interplay in Modern Sinhala Drama

Noor ul Ain is an English master's graduate from BrockU. Her intermedial research interests focus on representations of migration and displacement in Pakistani film and literature. She is interested in exploring issues of the body, those negotiating the violence of everyday in their politically strained homes and those in transit, mediated spaces of 'foreignness'.

Laurene is currently an instructor at NYUAD, holds a PHD from Makerere University, under Gerda Henkel Scholarship, MFA from EICAR, Paris, and Diploma from NAFTI. She believes films' ability to cross barriers and provoke discourse on pertinent issues. She recently co-published in *Mobility, Identity and Conflict Resolution Africa* pp 213-229. Her filmography as producer and editor includes internationally acclaimed films *Keteke* (2017) which won the Best Screenplay at the 26th edition of FESPACO.

Susan Rajendran is a doctoral candidate in Humanities at York University. She holds an MA in Humanities and a BA in English Literature also from York University. Her research focuses on the intersections of modernity, Buddhism and literature situated within the broader context of nation-building in Sri Lanka.

Evening events: 05:00 p.m.

Keynote Speaker: Niigaan Sinclair (ILC International Room)

Dr. Niigaanwewidam James Sinclair is Anishinaabe and originally from St. Peter's (Little Peguis) Indian Settlement near Selkirk, Manitoba. He is an award-winning writer, editor and activist who was named one of Monocle Magazine's "Canada's Top 20 Most Influential People" and he won the 2018 Canadian columnist of the year at the National Newspaper Awards for his bi-weekly columns in The Winnipeg Free Press. His creative work can be found in books such as The Exile Edition of Native Canadian Fiction and Drama, newspapers like The Guardian, and online with CBC Books: Canada Writes. He is also the co-editor of the award-winning Manitowapow: Aboriginal Writings from the Land of Water (Highwater Press, 2011), Centering Anishinaabeg Studies: Understanding the World Through Stories (Michigan State University Press, 2013) and The Winter We Danced: the Past, the Future and the Idle No More Movement (Arbeiter Ring Press, 2014). Currently at the University of Manitoba, Niigaan teaches courses in Indigenous literatures, cultures, histories, and politics and is a proud Treaty One member.

CAPS reception 06:15 p.m. (ILC Lounge)

Day 2, Monday, June 2, 2025

Session 1: 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

08:30 Indigenous Knowledge and Environmental Imaginaries (ILC room 226)

Chair: Amanda da Silva Martins

- Sydney Wildman (Queen's University) — Ecological Actants and Anti-Colonial Agency in James De Mille's *A Strange Manuscript Found in a Copper Cylinder* (1888)
- Martina jakubchik-paloheimo and Shuar Kakaram de Buena Esperanza, Queen's University— *Anentaim-Sa-Tin-Nunka'* (Thinking Earth) for Planetary Health: Listening to Mother Earth's Wisdom through Indigenous Shuar Science
- Mridula Sharma, The University of Manchester— Land, Landscape, and Justice (virtual)

Sydney Wildman is a PhD candidate in the Department of English at Queen's University. Her research interests are in Victorian literature and culture, with an emphasis on anti-colonial studies of empire and ecocriticism in the Victorian adventure novel. She is particularly interested in the Gothic representation of nonhuman environments.

Martina is a PhD Candidate in the Human Geography department at Queen's University, working with Dr. Heather Castleden in the Health, Environment, and Communities Lab (<https://heclab.com/>). Her research is community-based participatory with members of the Indigenous Shuar Community in what is now known as the Ecuadorian Amazon.

Mridula Sharma has published over 20 journal articles and book chapters, some of which are scheduled for publication by Oxford University Press and Routledge. Her areas of interest include critical theory and twentieth century literature. Her current research links existing discourses on human rights with emerging dialogues in environmental humanities in the context of Kashmir and Palestine.

08:30 a.m Form and Hybridity: Aesthetics in Postcolonial Narrative (ILC International Room)

Chair: Jennifer McDougal

- Gugu Hlongwane, Saint Mary's University — *It's an Aesthetic Thing—For Looks Only': Race and Beauty in Zadie Smith's On Beauty*
- Adwoa Tiwaah Ofori Atakorahm, West Virginia University — *Between Echoes and Futures: Colonial Residues, Hybridity, and the Fragile Pursuit of Liberation in Purple Hibiscus* (virtual)
- Michael Spiridigliozzi, (Concordia University) — *Articulating the Language of Form: Aesthetics, Infrastructure, and Metaphor in Namwali Serpell's The Old Drift*
- Jennifer McDougall, University of Calgary— *The Role of Realist Fiction in the Pursuit of Low Carbon Energy Futures*

Gugu Hlongwane is an Associate Professor of English at Saint Mary's University, Halifax. Her collection, *Electric Fences and Other Stories*, was published by Mawenzi House in 2016. She is

currently working on a novel. Her articles, in the field of postcolonial theory and literatures, appear in *Muziki: Journal of Music Research in Africa*, *African Identities*, *Journal of Black Studies*, *Alternation*, *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*, *Studies in Canadian Literature*, *Ariel: A Review of International English Literature*, *Postcolonial Text*, the *Journal of Literary Studies and Research in African Literatures*. She is a Research Associate at the University of the Free State in South Africa.

Adwoa Tiwaah Ofori Atakorah is a first-year M.A. student in Literature at West Virginia University. Her research examines how postcolonial literature critiques the persistence of colonial legacies, focusing on the intersections of identity, power, and cultural hybridity. She interrogates the limits of hybridity as a solution to colonial oppression and explores alternative pathways to liberation.

Michael Spiridigliozzi is a graduate student in the English Department at Concordia University. His work focuses on nonhuman life and domestication in Transnational Literature.

Jennifer McDougall is a creative writer and PhD student at University of Calgary. Her in-progress novel told through the eyes of female oil and gas professionals, examines the impact of western Canada's energy sector on local identity and articulates the complex relationship women have with male-dominated industries and social institutions.

8:30 a.m. Spatialization, Power, and Literary Memory (ILC room 100)

Chair : Chandrima Chakraborty

- Chandrima Chakraborty, McMaster University — The Spatialization of Difference in Thrity Umrigar's *The World We Found*
- Brennan McCracken, Concordia University — Haze and Form in Alexis Wright's *Praiseworthy* (virtual)
- Niru Raghavan, University of Alberta — The Sound of Chains, Unlinking: The Pleasures of Radicalisation in Kamila Shamsie's *Home Fire* (virtual)

Chandrima Chakraborty is Professor of English and Cultural Studies and Acting Humanities Associate Dean, Graduate Studies and Research at McMaster University. Her research examines the intersections of nationalist history and public memory, race and nation-making in Canada, and the politics of memorialization in South Asia and Canada.

Brennan McCracken is a PhD candidate in the department of English at Concordia University.

Niru Raghavan (they/them) is an MA English student at the University of Alberta. Their primary research interests are in manga, postcolonial and ecocritical studies, an outcome of their enduring fascination with colonial histories and power dynamics, and the intersections of the ecological world and the eco-illogical biome we've made.

Day 2 break 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Day 2, Session 2: 10:30 a.m- 12:00 p.m

10:30 a.m. Autoethnography and Memoir: Decolonial Narratives (ILC room 226)

Chair: Arielle Lavine

- Darcy Ballantyne, Toronto Metropolitan University—"An Object in the Midst of Other Objects": Orphaning and the Outside Child
- Jumoke Verissimo, Toronto Metropolitan University — "Transcendental Homelessness" to Homecoming: An Afro-Brazilian Decolonial Journey
- Cornel Bogle, Simon Fraser University: Every Third Thought... OCD, Blackness, and the Narrative Labour of Belonging

Darcy Ballantyne is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English at Toronto Metropolitan University where she teaches in the Black Studies Minor Program. Her research focuses on Black Canadian literatures, critical mixed-race theory, diaspora literatures, and Black memoir.

Jumoke Verissimo is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English. She teaches and researches in the areas of creative writing (poetry, fiction, and non-fiction). Her scholarship extends to African literary criticism and literature, memory studies, traumatic affect and research creation. Dr Verissimo is a globally recognised author who has published two poetry collections (*I am memory* and *The Birth of Illusion*); a novel (*A Small Silence*); and a children's book (*Aduke and the Moon's Hidden Secret*), which she also translated into Yoruba. She is co-editor of *Sòròsókè*, an anthology on police brutality in Nigeria.

Cornel Bogle is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English at Simon Fraser University. He teaches and researches in the areas of Caribbean, Black, and diasporic literatures and cultures, as well as creative writing. He earned his BA in Literatures in English from the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus in Jamaica, and his MA and PhD in English from the University of Alberta. His scholarly work includes essays, interviews, book chapters, and articles on Caribbean, Caribbean Canadian, and Black diasporic expressive cultures, creative writing studies, masculinities, and life writing, published in various journals and edited collections.

10:30 Regenerative Pedagogies and Decolonial Futures (ILC room 100)

Chair: Susan Spearey

- Susan Spearey, Brock University— From Sustaining Violence to Embodied Practices of Regeneration
- Sabujkoli Bandopadhyay, University of Regina — Postcolonial Ethics, and Sustainable Relationships in the Context of Canadian Higher Education

Susan Spearey's research and pedagogy operate at the juncture of postcolonial/anti-colonial studies, trauma studies, and studies of literature and the arts, with increasing emphasis in recent years on environmental humanities. She has recently co-edited a Special Issue of Studies in Social Justice entitled Reckoning, Repairing, Reworlding, a collaborative project involving several CAPS members.

Sabujkoli Bandopadhyay is a researcher in Comparative Literature and her academic work focuses on the genre of political novel in the twentieth century World Literature. Challenging established elitist conventions of studying literature as an 'exclusive' and 'high brow' category, her PhD dissertation demonstrates that literary activities concerning the 'people' or 'the working masses' call for a revision of our perception of the 'literary world'. Her research looks into the world of the novel as a mouthpiece of revolutionary resistance and argues that an approach of studying 'literature from below' is a much awaited moment in World Literary History.

10:30: Indebted Futures: Capitalism and Colonial Remnants (ILC International Room)

Chair: L. Camille van der Marel

- Zunaira Yousaf, Binghamton University — Sea of Poppies: Postcolonial Critique of Capitalism” (virtual)
- Reedah Hayder, Toronto Metropolitan University— Elizabeth Nunez’s Prospero’s Daughter: Remnants of Colonialism in Contemporary Caribbean
- Hillary Ekere, University of Victoria— From Obi Okonkwo’s Debt to Nigeria’s Deficit-Financing: The Psychic Economy of Indebtedness in Postcolonial Nigeria
- L. Camille van der Marel, MacEwan University— Hearthless life: Reading Housing Crises in Canada via Marilyn Dumont’s South Side of a Kinless River

L. Camille van der Marel (settler) is an assistant professor of literatures in Canada at MacEwan University. Her research and teaching depends on anticolonial theory, ecocriticism, and diaspora studies. She LOVES the writing of Dionne Brand, Eden Robinson, Leanne Simpson, Wayne Compton, Fred Wah, and so many more.

Day 2: Lunch 12:00 p.m.- 01:30 p.m.

Light refreshments served (ILC Lounge)

Session 3: 01:30- 03:00 p.m

01:30 Spectatorship, Displacement, and the Politics of Visibility (ILC International Room)

Chair: Sabujkoli Bandopadhyay

- Tarndeeep Pannu, University of Toronto — *Between Worlds: The Role of Spectatorship in Racialized Diasporic Identity*
- Shivani Duggal, National Institute of Technology— *From Refugee to Returnee: Contesting Identities in Ike's Sunset at Dawn (Virtual)*
- Jonathan Nash, University of Victoria — *Thresholds of Invisibility: The Migrant Detention Centre in Tings Chak's Undocumented: The Architecture of Migrant Detention (Virtual)*
- J. Coplen Rose, University of Toronto— *Armed Response, Disarming Drama: the Role of Humour in Excavating Topographies of Trauma in David Peimer and Martina Griller's Play*

Tarndeeep is a PhD student in Social Justice Education at the University of Toronto. With a background in Dramatic Arts, Political Science, Public Relations, and Cultural Studies, she combines storytelling and advocacy to champion inclusion, diversity, and equity. Her work amplifies marginalized voices through interdisciplinary research and strategic communications.

Dr. Shivani Duggal is an Assistant Professor in NIT, Delhi. She has working experience of 4 years, in various capacities. Her areas of interest include African Literature and Postcolonial Literature. She has completed her PhD (English) and MPhil (English) from GGSIPU. She has also presented various research papers in National and International Conferences and has some published works to her acclaim.

Jonathan Nash (University of Victoria) is a PhD candidate in the Department of English at the University of Victoria in British Columbia, whose research investigates how refugee spaces like refugee camps, detention centres, and migrant boats are represented and contested in refugee literature and comics. He is humbled and grateful to teach, learn, and research in the place of the Łək'wəḡən and WS'ANEC' peoples.

Dr. J. Coplen Rose teaches in ISTEP and the New College Writing Centre at the University of Toronto. He completed a Ph.D. in English and Film Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University in 2016. He is a member of the Ratnakara Research Group and is the Early Career Scholar on the Executive Council of the Canadian Association for Postcolonial Studies.

01:30 Reimagining Home through Artistic Resistance (ILC room 226)

Chair: Tamara El-Hoss

- Tamara El-Hoss, Brock University — *Drawing Protest: When Home is at War*
- Heather Smyth, University of Waterloo — *Get ready for the next world : Collaborative poetry, futurity, reworlding*
- Anindo Hazra, York University— *Multi-Form Queerness: Subject, Space, and Media in Bhupen Khakhar's Work*

Tamara El-Hoss is an Associate Professor of Francophone Studies in the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures, and Director of the Social Justice Research Institute at Brock University. She teaches courses on Francophone Postcolonial Literatures and Cultures, and on Portraying Forced Displacement in the Arts. Her research recognizes that the present global migrant crisis has inspired numerous comics artists and graphic novelists to draw and tell the stories of refugees and migrants to a Western audience. Her current project is to curate a multi-layered open-source digital archive on 'drawing displacement' in Africa and the Middle East that will be accessible to students, scholars, artists, and the public. The archive will be located on Brock University's server.

Heather Smyth is an Associate Professor in English Language and Literature at the University of Waterloo. Her work in social justice studies bridges humanities and social science methods. Arts methods in community-based research; literatures and rhetorics of advocacy and activism; postcolonial and transnational studies; gender and sexuality.

Anindo Hazra (PhD, York [English]) teaches in York University's Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies (DLLL | English | Humanities) and Glendon Campus (English). He is editor, with Theodore W. Goossen, of *Human Rights and the Arts in Global Asia: An Anthology* (Lexington Books). His primary research focus at present is a monograph-length project on the operation of transitoriness on queer Indian literary and visual cultures. Born and raised in Calcutta, India, Anindo received his undergraduate degree in English Literature from the University of Bristol, UK, and his Master's degree in English Literature from Queen's University in Kingston. His research interests have largely cohered around issues of gender and sexuality at the intersection of postcolonial and queer theories. Anindo's ongoing work extends the critical discourse on queer Indian subjectivities, tracing the shifting contours of "queer India" in the contemporary period.

1:30 Oppression, Representation and the Racism (ILC room 100)

Chair: Shelly Hulan

- Cara Schwartz, University of Saskatchewan — Relational Silence in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *Half of a Yellow Sun* (virtual)
- Madelaine Hron, Wilfrid Laurier University — "You Are Eating My Flesh": Digesting Representations of Modern African Child Slavery (virtual)
- Shamika Shabnam, Capilano University — The Bloodied Pond: Women's Testimonies of Environmental Risks and Wartime Atrocities During the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War
- Shelley Hulan, University of Waterloo — Raspberries of Discord: Colonial Ingratitude in Two Early Canadian Novels

Cara Schwartz (she/her) is a settler doctoral student at the University of Saskatchewan whose research is situated at the intersection of Black and Indigenous literary studies.

Madelaine Hron is an Associate Professor in the English and Film Department at Wilfrid Laurier University and author of *Translating Pain: Immigrant Suffering in Literature and Culture*. She specializes in human rights issues, and postcolonial African literature (esp Nigeria and post-genocide Rwanda). Her current book project explores the representation of African children's rights issues.

Shamika Shabnam is an Instructor in the English Department at Capilano University. She has a PhD in English and Cultural Studies from McMaster University. Her research focuses on nationalism, masculinity, and the

missing gendered voices of the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War. Shamika has multiple publications related to postcolonial theory and gender issues.

Shelley Hulan is an associate professor of Canadian literature at the University of Waterloo. She specializes in nineteenth- and early twentieth-century women's writing in Canada and across the Atlantic. Her scholarship has appeared in several peer-reviewed journals and essay collections.

Day 2, Break 2: 03:00-03:30

Day 2, June 2- Session 4: 3:30-05:00

03:30 Narrating More-Than-Human Vulnerabilities (ILC room 100)

Chair: Kris Singh

- Vanya Rachel Gnanih, University of Waterloo— “If You Want My Story, You’ll Have to Put Up With How I Tell It”: Reframing Invisibility in the Age of Ecological Crises through Indra Sinha's *Animal's People* and the 19th Century Humane Animal Movement
- Suvradeep Banerjee, Ashoka University— The Continuum Between Non-Human and Human Vulnerability (virtual)
- Amrita Bakshi, University of Alabama— Paradoxes of Ustopia: When “Beyond-Human” Is “Becoming-Human” (virtual)

Vanya is a PhD Scholar in English at UWaterloo, with an MA from IIT-Madras, India (thesis: The Apocalyptic Narrative in Biblical and Literary Texts: An Ecological Approach). Her PhD research explores the historical evolution of humane meat production, interweaving literary analysis to probe the paradoxes of addressing and evading suffering.

Suvradeep Banerjee finished his graduate studies at the Department of English, Ashoka University, Sonapat with a research focus on the interaction between Animal Studies and Literary Studies. His wider interest engages with the fields of ecocriticism, gender studies and postcolonial studies to orient his students towards a literary perception that is sensitive to voices, both human and non-human, which otherwise get defined in patriarchal, racial and anthropocentric terms.

Amrita Bakshi is a PhD candidate in English at the University of Alabama, specializing in modernist poetry with a keen interest in comparative literature, postcolonial studies, and ecocritical texts. She teaches courses in composition and world literature and actively integrates multicultural perspectives into her pedagogy.

03:30 Art in the Context of illness (ILC room 226)

Chair: Veronica Austen

- Veronica Austen, Waterloo University — The Present and Presencing: Word/Image Relations in Olive Senior's Pandemic Poems
- Gideon Umezurike, University of Saskatchewan— Illness and Extractivist Miracles: Interrogating Neoliberal Spiritual Care in Okwudili Nebolisa's Terminal Maladies
- Azza Harras, Royal Military College of Canada— Decolonizing Disease Narratives: A Comparative Study of Anthropocentrism and Ecocentrism in Ebola Literature

Veronica Austen is an Associate Professor in the Department of English at St. Jerome's University where she also serves as Associate Dean. Her current work, which is funded by a SSHRC Insight Development Grant, considers how representations of the visual arts are deployed in contemporary Canadian literature to navigate experiences of (un)belonging.

Gideon Umezurike is a PhD candidate in English at the University of Saskatchewan. His ongoing dissertation examines the disabling representation of infertility in twenty-first-century Nigerian fiction, bringing together disability, postcolonial, gender, and cultural studies to explore the reproductive cultures of West Africa.

Azza Harras is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English, Culture, and Communication at the Royal Military College of Canada. She earned her PhD in Postcolonial Studies from the University of Kent in 2015. Her research focuses on postcolonial theory, Middle Eastern literature, and cultural politics. She is the author of *Theatre and the Israel-Palestine Conflict: Identity, Resistance and Contested Narratives* (Bloomsbury, 2025), which examines theatrical representations of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through postcolonial and cultural lenses. She currently serves as the President of CAPS.

03:30 Botanical Relations (ILC International Room)

Chair: Maureen Moynagh

- Jessie Sherlock, McMaster University— Entangled with Extinction: Colonialism, Cultivation, and Vegetal Futures
- Maureen Moynagh, St. Francis Xavier University— Un/natural Narration and Companion Species in a Conflict Zone: Elif Shafak's *The Island of Missing Trees*
- Emma Ferrett, Queen's University— They Resisted: Decolonizing Botany in André Alexis's *Days by Moonlight*

Jessie Sherlock is a first-year PhD student at McMaster University working at the intersection of eighteenth-century studies and environmental humanities, with a particular interest in the ways in which cosmological orientations influence perceptions of our planetary world and our place within it.

Maureen Moynagh is Associate Professor in the English Department at St. Francis Xavier University where she teaches postcolonial literature and does research in the areas of modernism and empire, nationalism/transnationalism, and the literature of the African Diaspora.

Emma Ferrett received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in English literature from the University of British Columbia and is currently a PhD candidate at Queen's University. Her research is focused on phytocriticism, critical animal studies, and ecocriticism in contemporary North American and Indigenous literatures.

05:00- 6:30 Evening Event:

Graduate Students Presentation Prize (ILC International Room)

Chair: Coplen Rose

- Waed Hasan, University of Guelph — Reflections on Refugeetude: A Self-Reflexive Praxis for Shared Futures
- Mani Dixit, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur — The Colours of Queer Ecology: Memory, Identity, and Ecology in Nelson, Kang, and NDiaye (virtual)
- Abdul Wahid Dippro, University of Alabama — Conceptualizing Multispecies Contact Zones: Collective Survival in VanderMeer's *Annihilation* (virtual)
- Shambhavi Siddhi, Western University, and Farzan Dar, Warwick (virtual) — Apples of Resistance: Colonial and Environmental Double Fractures in Kashmir's Political and Ecological Crises

Waed Hasan, a Palestinian refugee and Ph.D. candidate at the University of Guelph, focuses on postcolonial theory and trauma studies in diasporic nations. Her research centers on establishing Refugee poetics as a genre, encompassing diverse forms of expression by refugees, exiles, and immigrants documenting their trauma and quest for a home.

Mani Dixit is a PhD scholar in English at IIT Kanpur, India, focusing on Memory, Family, and Queer Studies. A University of Delhi graduate and JNU topper (M.A. CGPA 8.43/9), she has presented at prestigious conferences, winning the Best Paper Award at the 2023 INMS conference for her work on Octavia E. Butler's *Dawn*.

Abdul Wahid Dippro is a PhD student in the Department of English at the University of Alabama. His areas of interest include Postcolonialism, Environmental Humanities, and International Modernisms. He is currently working on ecological sustainability and multispecies collective survival through a postcolonial perspective for his Doctoral dissertation.

Shambhavi Siddhi, PhD candidate at Western University, researches Kashmiri women's epistemic resistance and femonationalist discourses in occupied Kashmir. Farzan Dar, PhD candidate at Warwick, researches law, colonialism, and gender in Kashmir, analyzing feminist co-optation by colonial states.

Day 3: June 3rd

Session 1

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Plenary ILSA-CAPS Roundtable (ILC International Room)

Chair: Aubrey Hanson

In alignment with the themes of ILSA, CAPS, 2025, this year's roundtable invites speakers to reflect on the impact of the original roundtable held at Congress 2000. Drawing on decades of dialogue between ILSA and CAPS/CACLALS, and inspired by the influential Creating Community: A Roundtable on Canadian Aboriginal Literature collection, participants will explore how that inaugural gathering has shaped their teaching, scholarship, and broader contributions to Indigenous literary studies. This session celebrates the enduring influence of that formative conversation and invites continued reflection on the evolving relationships and commitments within the field.

Featured Speakers:

Daniel Heath Justice

Kristina Bidwell

Aruna Srivastava

Warren Cariou

This session is made possible with the financial support of the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences

10:00 a.m – 10:30 a.m continental breakfast served (ILC Lounge)

Session 2 10:30 a.m – 12:00 p.m

10:30 a.m Planetary Fictions and Unstable Futures (ILC room 226)

Chair: Rūta Šlapkauskaitė

- Saba Pirzadeh, Lahore University of Management Sciences— Narrating Unstable Futures: Interrogation of the Anthropocene and Planetary Climate Crisis in South Asian Fiction (virtual)
- Rūta Šlapkauskaitė, Vilnius University— Bio(in)security and Interspecies Intimacy in Laura Jean McKay's *The Animals in That Country*
- Yusuf Saadi, McGill University— “The Suturing Birds”: Resisting Human and Nonhuman Binaries in South Asian Bengali Poetry

Saba Pirzadeh is associate professor of English at Lahore University of Management Sciences. Her scholarship has appeared in *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*, *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*, *Interventions*, *Parergon*, *South Asian Review*, and *The Journal of Commonwealth Literature*. She has been a research fellow at the Rachel Carson Center.

Rūta Šlapkauskaitė is an Associate Professor of English literature at Vilnius University, Lithuania. Her research interests include Canadian and Australian literature, neo-Victorianism, and environmental humanities.

Yusuf Saadi is a PhD student in English at McGill University researching in the field of postcolonial ecocriticism. His current research focuses on representations of nonhuman natures in vernacular South Asian poetry. He is also a poet whose first collection, *Pluviophile*, was shortlisted for the Griffin Poetry Prize.

10:30 a.m. Postcolonial Digital Archives and the Changing Power Dynamics in the AI Era (ILC room 100)

Chair: David Gaertner

- David Gaertner, University of British Columbia— “They Found a Way to Siphon the Dreams Right out of our Bones”: Primitive Accumulation and Extractivism in the Age of Generative A.I.
- Muhammad Waqar Azeem, Binghamton University — Digital Marginalization and Asian American Culture (virtual)
- Amer Al-Amry, University of Waterloo— Problematizing Digital Queer Culture Through a Postcolonial Lens

David Gaertner is a settler scholar and an Associate Professor in the Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies. He writes, researches, and teaches new media, Indigenous studies; Indigenous literatures; contemporary Canadian literature, cultural theories of reconciliation, and speculative fiction. His most recent publications have appeared in *_Transmotion_*, *_Anglistica AION_*, and *_Future Horizons: Canadian Digital Humanities_*. He is currently working on an edited collection *_Indigenous X: Networks of Relations and Resistance During and After Twitter_* forthcoming from Wilfrid Laurier University Press.

Muhammad Waqar Azeem is an adjunct lecturer at Binghamton University where he teaches courses on 20th Century American and Asian American Literature, Film, and Art. His research interests include Postcolonial and Ethnic Studies, Human Rights, and Critical Theory.

Amer Al-Amry is a sociology Ph.D. student at the University of Waterloo interested in exploring the queer subcultures in global settings outside of North America. As a Gulf Arab-Canadian queer that grew up on the internet, he aims to highlight the profound implications of neocolonialism within a queer context.

10:30 a.m : Indigenous and Decolonial Activism (ILC International Room)

Chair: Shamika Shabnam

- Philip Egbule, University of Delta — Leveraging Indigenous Knowledge for Climate Resilience and Sustainability in Africa: Exploring the Africa's Rain-Making Technology
- Arielle Lavine, Architectural Association School of Architecture— Forest Children: Reexamining the Assimilation Era through Camp Educations in 20th Century Ontario
- Amanda da Silva Martins, Erasmus University Rotterdam— Indigenous Perspectives: Rethinking Colonialism, Capitalism, and Nature in Brazilian Historical Fiction
- Beth Jacobs and River Valade, Wilfrid Laurier University— Re-centring our Relations: Wholistic Healing with Mother Earth and Communities

Philip Onyekachukwu Egbule is Nigerian. He lectures in the Department of Social Studies, University of Delta, Nigeria. As a social scientist by training, his areas of research interest include globalization studies, African culture and human rights. He has 55 scholarly articles in journals and presented over 40 research findings in conferences/workshops between 2013 till date.

Arielle is an architectural designer and researcher. She holds a BAS (2020) from Carleton University and an MPhil (2024) from the Architectural Association. Her work explores the manipulation of “wilderness” in settler colonial placemaking. She previously worked at Ian MacDonald Architect and is currently rebuilding a cottage near Georgian Bay.

Amanda da Silva Martins is a postdoc interdisciplinary researcher at the Erasmus University Rotterdam. Her areas of interest are Public History, Decolonial Theory, Historical Fiction, Theory of History and Literary Writing. She has a strong background in creative writing, having published historical fiction tales and flash fictions.

Beth Jacobs and River Valade are Two-Spirit Therapists and Researchers. Beth is Anishinaabe-Settler, River is Red River Metis. Both are passionate about supporting 2SLGBTQIA+ and neurodiverse communities. Their practice is dedicated to supporting individual and collective paths of wholeness through anti-racist, anti-ableist/sanist relations and Indigenous resurgence as anti-colonial resistance.

Day 3, Break 2: 12:00 p.m- 01:30 p.m

Day 3, Session 3: 01:30 p.m- 03:00 p.m

01:30 p.m The Wilderness Writes Back: Environmental Crises and Storytelling Practices (ILC room 100)

Chair: Jill Planche

- Jill Planche, Brock University and Toronto Metropolitan University Chang School — Tracing the World in “simultaneous multiplicities”: Zakes Mda’s *The Whale Caller*”
- Donia Mounsef (University of Alberta) “— Anti-colonial Blue Eco-critical Resistance and the Petro-normative State”
- Ishaan Selby (Concordia University) — Beavers, Blockades, and the Spectre of the Settler Colonial Fur Trade in Sydney Hegele and Leanne Simpson
- Antonis Sarris (University of Cyprus) — Nature writing between Utopia and Myth: The borderline case of Miguel Asturias’ novel *The Men of Maize*

Jill Planche is an independent scholar and sessional instructor at Brock University and Toronto Metropolitan University Chang School. Education: PhD English Literature (York U), PhD Interdisciplinary Humanities (Brock U). Current research interests: decolonial literature; Deleuze’s minoritarian conceptualization; ‘minor’ theatre’s role in contemporary South African discourse; feminist geographies; posthumanism; the Anthropocene.

Donia Mounsef is Professor of performance and media studies at the University of Alberta. She is the author of *Chair et révolte dans le théâtre de Bernard-Marie Koltès* and the co-editor of *Toxic Media Ecologies: Critical Responses to the Cultural Politics of Planetary Crises*. Her work appeared in *RIDE: The Journal of Applied Theatre & Performance*, *Global Performance Studies*, *Journal of Dramatic Theory & Criticism*, *Women & Performance Journal*, *Féminismos*, *Journal of Global Studies & Contemporary Art*, etc.

Ishaan Selby (he/they) is a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of English at Concordia University. His research explores the intersections between animality, capitalism, and social difference in social formations where the dominant relationship to animal life is one of ownership. He divides his time between Montreal and Toronto.

Antonis Sarris is a postdoctoral researcher with a Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowship at the University of Cyprus. His research project entitled “Recontextualizing Utopian Poetics: The Futuristic Reenactment of the Past in Juan Rulfo, Miguel Asturias, and Alejo Carpentier” concerns the possible intersections between Utopian and Postcolonial Studies.

01:30 p.m Memory, Place, and the Politics of Preservation (ILC room 226)

Chair: Heather Smith

- Glenn Deer, University of British Columbia (virtual) — Where Have All the Salmon Gone? Revisiting Daphne Marlatt and Robert Minden’s *Steveston*
- Janice Vis, McMaster University — Harmless (but Killable): Fall Webworms and Role of Natural Beauty in Sustainability in Popular Culture

- Amritha Anil Shiji Nair, Wilfrid Laurier University— A Memoir of Literary Ecology: Exploring the Infusion of Literature and Science in Madhur Anand's "This Red Line Goes Straight to Your Heart"

Glenn Deer's areas of teaching and research include Canadian and Asian North American literature, multi-ethnic and mixed race studies, and the intersections of writing, photography, and film. He has published essays on representations of race relations in the media, literary maps of urban space, representations of culinary desire, and visual culture studies. He is currently an Associate Professor and Associate Head, Curriculum, in the Department of English Language and Literatures at the University of British Columbia.

Janice Vis is a PhD candidate, course instructor, and award-winning creative writer in the department of English and Cultural Studies at McMaster University. She specializes in the Environmental Humanities, and she works most intimately with the stories of creatures who incite fear, disgust, and haunting.

Amritha Anil Shiji Nair, an international student pursuing a Master's in English and Film Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Canada. Teaching Assistant for Dr. Eleanor Ty's course, Literature and Crime. I am currently working on a Major Research Paper under the supervision of Dr. Mariam Pirbhai, titled Amplifying Black British Women's Voices: A Comparative Study of Bernardine Evaristo's 'Girl, Woman, Other' and Reni Eddo-Lodge's 'Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race'. I am interested in exploring avenues into further research in the area of women's writing, diaspora, feminism, and gender studies.

1:30 p.m Faith and the Postcolonial (ILC International Room)

Chair: Humaira Shoaib

- Clara A.B. Joseph, University of Calgary — Beyond Binaries: Thomas Christian Narratives and the Evolution of Postcolonial Theory
- Humaira Shoaib, University of Waterloo— Advocacy for Black Muslims: The Need for Prefigurative Politics in the BLM Movement for a Sustained Future
- Rhiannon Cobb, York University— The Will to Property as 'Bad Faith'
- Lincoln Shlensky, University of Victoria— Post-Liberal Jewish Anti-Zionism and the Ethics of Sustainability (virtual)

Clara A.B. Joseph is a professor of English and an adjunct in Religious Studies at the University of Calgary. She is the author of Christianity in India: The Anti-Colonial Turn (Routledge 2019), M/OTHER (Poems) (Wipf and Stock 2024), and India's Non-violent Freedom Struggle: The Thomas Christians (1599-1799) (Routledge 2024).

Humaira Shoaib is a PhD student at the University of Waterloo. Her dissertation studies the reappropriation of "Muslim badness" through the representation of Bad Muslims in Canadian Muslim literary fiction. Her research lies at the intersection of Critical Muslim Studies, Post-colonial studies, Diaspora Studies, and social justice rhetoric. She has presented her academic work at numerous national and international conferences, and it has been published in reputable journals. In addition to teaching courses as a Graduate Instructor at UWaterloo, she works at the Center for Teaching Excellence, UWaterloo as the Workshop Facilitator for Teaching Assistants.

Rhiannon Cobb is a PhD candidate in Social and Political Thought at York University in Toronto. Their dissertation formulates a theory of dispossession that functions as a structural, relational, and subjective disruption brought about through racial capitalism, settler colonialism, and Western understandings of property. They also facilitate creative writing workshops and are training to be a psychotherapist.

Lincoln Z. Shlensky is an associate professor of English at the University of Victoria, where he teaches literature and film and researches the intersections of cultural identity, ethics, and political critique. His work engages postcolonial and diasporic thought, with a focus on Jewish intellectual history, film studies, and critical theory

Day 3- break 3: 03:00 p.m- 03:30 p.m

Day 3, June 3, Session 4: 03:30 p.m -05:30 p.m

30:30 Offerings, Rituals, and Gatherings: Dreaming Foodways in Diaspora (ILC room 100)

This panel will present creative non-fiction pieces rooted in auto-theory and speculative imagination. We will incorporate foodways – which are the cultural and geographic transmission of food/recipes/practices – and food memories, to co-create diasporic futurities. As queer diasporic people, we will work together to relate across similarities and differences from our cultural backgrounds and foodways to highlight practices of inheritance, collective care, and relationships between lands and people. Specifically, our panel offers perspectives from South Asian, Southeast Asian, Iranian, and Caribbean diasporic foodways. Through co-articulating food memories, we insist on memory as an epistemological tool for imagining queer and diasporic futurisms which are sustainable, livable, and joyful.

Chair: Rijaa Khan

Rijaa Khan– McMaster University: Dias-para and Disjointed Desi Recipes

Tayah Clarke– McMaster University: The Kitchen Table as a Queer, Feminist, and Diasporic Methodology of Gathering

Roya Motazedian– McMaster University: Ahmad Tea and Me

Myra Malik– McMaster University: Food and Members of Queer, Diasporic Communities

03:30 The Empire Remains Shop: Canadian Branch (ILC International Room)

Though tea does not grow in the UK, nor cocoa in Belgium, British tea and Belgian chocolate are emblematic of colonial appropriation. In 2016, “The Empire Remains Shop” opened in London England as a series of performances, art installations and discussions “on the implications of selling the remains of Empire today.” A collection of essays of the same title, edited by “Cooking Sections” was published that year. The six panelists of the Canadian “franchise” of The Empire Remains Shop critique global colonial encounters; from South American cochineal in European art to exploding oil tankers in Nigeria; from marketing Elsie the Borden cow to challenging prosperity in Persia; and from masks of Benin to Vietnamese resistance to French education.

Chair: Lissa Paul

Lissa Paul (Brock University) — The Empire Remains Shop: Canadian Branch

Philip Akoje, Brock

Teresa Galbraith, Brock

Hani Hedayati, Brock (virtual)

Laur Pilon, Brock

Long Vu, Brock

Friday Okpo, Brock

5:30-07:00 p.m Annual General Meeting (ILC International Room)

Light refreshments, coffee, and tea served (ILC Lounge)