



# **CAPS 2026 Conference Program**

**Postcolonial Freedom(s)**

**Thursday, June 4 – Saturday, June 6**

**Concordia University, Montreal**

## CAPS 2026 Conference Program

### Conference Theme: Postcolonial Freedom (s)

The last decade's geopolitical upheavals have provoked urgent questions about political freedom. Indeed, words like "autocracy," "totalitarianism," and "fascism" pepper contemporary scholarship and everyday discussion as some global leaders spurn the rule-based order of the postwar era. Vladimir Putin's unprovoked war on Ukraine betrays his expansionist ambitions; Narendra Modi's aggression against Kashmir and Pakistan echoes his Bharatiya Janata Party's orthodox Hindu ethic; the genocide in Gaza has sparked worldwide outrage with no meaningful global intervention; ICE raids, electoral gerrymandering, and Donald Trump's tariff war contradict America as a "land of the free." As big questions about freedom—or its decline—occupy our everyday lives, this year's Canadian Association for Postcolonial Studies conference revisits claims about "postcolonial freedom" to ask how the legacies, failures, and successes of anticolonial liberation might illuminate our current predicament. Frantz Fanon, for instance, differentiated between national bourgeoisie, urban proletariat, peasant, and lumpenproletariat struggles by colonized actors, a distinction further nuanced in the Indian context (albeit to great controversy) by the Subaltern Studies Group in the latter decades of the twentieth century. After colonial withdrawal, Structural Adjustment Programs by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund in former African colonies dictated who enjoys economic freedom and who does not (Ferguson). The Cold War imposed upon the world a narrative of "consensus" and "freedom" mandated by American foreign policy. Western assumptions about freedom changed, again, after the 9/11 attacks and subsequent War on Terror, while the 2008 banking collapse and Eurozone crisis threw free market neoliberalism into disarray. The COVID pandemic produced a whole different set of impingements on freedom, and the refugee crisis of the last decade raises urgent questions about forced vs. free movement. The Trump administration's sanctioning of UN special rapporteur for the occupied territories, Francesca Albanese, for her support of Palestinian rights is but the latest expression of a longstanding and bipartisan "supremacist logic" at the heart of American foreign policy (Speri). As we wade into uncertain geopolitical territory—to say nothing of how catastrophic climate change and AI further destabilize our world—this conference invites participants to explore how postcolonial studies can complicate our received notions about "freedom." What sorts of freedoms do we prioritize in a given historical moment, and who stands to gain or lose from them? How do our assumptions about freedom shift according to a given context, and how can postcolonial studies help us navigate and critique those shifts? In what ways do we conceive of freedoms like sovereignty, expression, or movement? What of the tension between rights and responsibilities? What happens when the uncritical embrace of "freedom" leads to the ugliest expressions of political violence and, indeed, unfreedom?

## Territorial Acknowledgment

We would like to begin by acknowledging that Concordia University is located on unceded Indigenous lands. The Kanien'kehá:ka Nation is recognized as the custodians of the lands and waters on which we gather today. Tiohtià:ke/Montréal is historically known as a gathering place for many First Nations. Today, it is home to a diverse population of Indigenous and other peoples. We respect the continued connections with the past, present and future in our ongoing relationships with Indigenous and other peoples within the Montreal community.

Nous aimerions commencer par reconnaître que l'Université Concordia est située en territoire autochtone, lequel n'a jamais été cédé. Je reconnais/Nous reconnaissons la nation Kanien'kehá: ka comme gardienne des terres et des eaux sur lesquelles nous nous réunissons aujourd'hui. Tiohtià:ke / Montréal est historiquement connu comme un lieu de rassemblement pour de nombreuses Premières Nations, et aujourd'hui, une population autochtone diversifiée, ainsi que d'autres peuples, y résident. C'est dans le respect des liens avec le passé, le présent et l'avenir que nous reconnaissons les relations continues entre les Peuples Autochtones et autres personnes de la communauté montréalaise.

Conference convened and organized by Azza Harras, Jesse Arseneault, Jason Sandhar, J. Coplen Rose, Prabjot Parmar, Arshad Said Khan, Stephanie Oliver

## Conference Location

CAPS 2026 will be held at Concordia University (downtown campus)

Our keynote speeches and plenary sessions are held in the Henry F Hall building (H521) 1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd.



Our panels and catering are held in J.W. McConnell (LB) building 1400 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W.

Rooms LB 619, 612 and 628



# Conference Highlights

## Thursday, June 4

- 1- 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
**Joint Panel with ACCUTE**  
Teaching, Researching, and Writing Literature in Genocidal Times: Gaza in the Classroom  
Room: MB 3.255
- 2- 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.  
**Workshop on Academic Publishing with the Editorial Board of the Journal of Postcolonial Writing Room**  
Room LB 619 Zoom link: <https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/85827594442>  
Prof. Janet Wilson, editor; Prof. Pilar Cuder-Domínguez, managing editor; Prof. Marc Maufort, associate editor; Prof. Felicity Hand, editor
- 3- 6:45 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.  
Room LB 628 Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/3127482383>  
**Literary Performance / Play Reading**  
Donia Mounsef reading from her forthcoming play, *The Impromptu of Vegreville*

## Friday, June 5

- 1- 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.  
**Keynote Speech - Henry F Hall building (H521)** Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/3127482383>  
Prof. Janet Wilson, University of Northampton, UK  
“Decolonising War in Aotearoa/New Zealand: The 28th (Māori) Battalion”
- 2- 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/3127482383>  
**Plenary Session - Henry F Hall building (H521)**  
**War, Memory, and the Afterlives of Violence**

This panel honours the memory of Canadian scholar Donna Coates (Calgary) whose research focused on women and war (e.g. editing Routledge’s 2020 seven-volume *Women and War*; the monograph *Shooting Blanks at the ANZAC Legend* (2023) by offering a collective dialogue around her work

- 3- 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.  
Room LB 628 Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/3127482383>  
**Graduate Student Presentation Prize**
- 4- 07:00 p.m. – 08:30 p.m.  
**Annual General meeting (AGM)**  
Room: LB 619 Zoom link: <https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/85827594442>

## Saturday, June 6

1- 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

**Keynote Speech-** Henry F Hall building (H521) Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/3127482383>  
Prof. Donia Mounsef, University of Alberta

**“Don’t Call us Resilient: Freedom, Necropolitics, and the End of Democracy”**

2- 03:30 p.m. - 05:00 p.m.

**Graduate Student Panel: Navigating Graduate Studies: Skills and Opportunities**

Room LB 628 Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/3127482383>

Chair: Susan Rajendran-- York University

Link to virtual panels: <https://zoom.us/j/3127482383>

## Who to send your presentation slides to

1- Room LB 612: [ask1@ualberta.ca](mailto:ask1@ualberta.ca)

Zoom link to LB 612 <https://ualberta-ca.zoom.us/j/8274617147>

2- Room LB 619: email [coplen.rose@utoronto.ca](mailto:coplen.rose@utoronto.ca)

Zoom link to LB 619: <https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/85827594442>

3- Room LB 628: [harrasazza@gmail.com](mailto:harrasazza@gmail.com)

Zoom link to LB 628: <https://zoom.us/j/3127482383>

# Day 1 — Thursday, June 4

**9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

Conference Registration LB 619

**Session 2 — 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Panel 1 — Teaching, Researching, and Writing Literature in Genocidal Times:  
Gaza in the Classroom (CAPS- ACCUTE joint panel)**

Room: MB 3.255

Chairs: Aaron Kreuter, Trent U; Zishad Lak, Trent U

**Lisa Richter** — Independent Scholar

*Poetry after Zionism: Diasporism as a Gateway to a Pluralistic Poetics*

**Waed Hasan** — University of Guelph

*When the World Burns: Refugeetude and Writing Through Catastrophe*

**Osama Jarrar** — Arab American University

*Narratives of Resilience and Hope: Theory and Practice against Scholasticide*

**Panel 2 — Prairie Borderlands, Indigenous Presence, and Asian-Indigenous  
Relations**

Room: LB 619    Zoom link: <https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/85827594442>

Chair: tbc

**Kayla Penteliuk** — Université de Montréal

*Perogy, Pierogi, Pirohy: Ukrainian Food, Witchcraft, and Folklore in the Canadian Prairies*

**Cailly Wiebe** — University of Manitoba

*The Brave Warrior and the Nervous Father: The Chinese vs. Indigenous Masculinity Contest in Paul Yee's A Superior Man*

**Odessa Twibill** — Simon Fraser University

*Finding Black and Indigenous Solidarity in the Life Writing of Maria Campbell and Malcolm X*

Day 1, Thursday June 4

Kayla Penteliuk is a Fonds de Recherche du Québec (FRQSC) postdoctoral fellow at the Université de Montréal. She received her Ph.D. in English at McGill University, and her B.A. and M.A. from the University of Saskatchewan. Her work has appeared in *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature* and *Studies in the Novel*.

Cailly Wiebe is a SSHRC-funded graduate student pursuing a MA degree in English at the University of Manitoba. Her research interests include Canadian literature, Asian Canadian literature, postcolonialism, and gender and sexuality studies. Cailly hopes to encourage deeper examination of how systemic discrimination and racist discourse affect Asian Canadian men.

Odessa Twibill (she/they) is a nonbinary Black scholar and guest living on x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm, Sk̄w̄x̄w̄ú7mesh, and səlilwətəl lands. They are currently pursuing an MA in English at SFU and their academic interests include Black and Indigenous literatures, Queer theory, decolonial studies, kinship studies, Research Creation, orature and storytelling.

### **Panel 3 (virtual) — Indigenous Sovereignty, Borders, and Colonial Mobility**

**Room LB 628 / Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/3127482383>

**Chair:** Patricia Branco Cornish — Concordia University

**Blaze Welling** — University of Waterloo

*Misrecognition and Rhetorical Resistance: Newspapers, Métis Identity, and Colonial Discourse*

**Lindsey Meyer** — University of North Dakota

*Drawing Lines in the Prairie: Wahkohtowin, Colonial Borders, and Métis Mobility*

**Alicia Fahey** — Capilano University

*Imagining Indigenous Freedoms in Chelsea Vowel's Buffalo is the New Buffalo*

**Zunaira Yousaf** — Binghamton University

*Reclaiming Sovereignty and Self-determination in Indigenous Fiction: A Study of Louise Erdrich's Tracks and Night Watchman*

Blaze Welling (She/Her) is a Ph.D. candidate in the English Language and Literature department at the University of Waterloo. Blaze's research focuses on the entanglement of rhetoric, technology, and colonial power in shaping Canadian and Indigenous identities of the nineteenth century. As a settler scholar, she maintains a respectful and considerate methodology.

Day 1, Thursday June 4

Dr. Lindsey Meyer is a Teaching Assistant Professor in the Honors Program at the University of North Dakota. She earned her Ph.D. in French from Emory University in 2024 and specializes in Francophone literature, Caribbean and postcolonial thought, and comparative philosophies of freedom.

Alicia Fahey is a settler scholar who lives and works on the traditional, ancestral, unceded lands of the Tsleil-Waututh and Squamish nations. She teaches in the department of English at Capilano University. Her research interests include Canadian literature and visual arts, Indigenous storytelling, speculative fiction, archives, and land-based pedagogy.

Zunaira Yousaf is a PhD Candidate in the English Department (Literature track) at Binghamton University. She works on Postcolonial Theory, Indigenous Literature, and Digital Humanities. She received the 2023 Graduate Student Excellence Award from Binghamton University as well as the Public Humanities Grant from Humanities New York. She translated into English the first Sindhi novel, *Zeenat*, to make indigenous literature accessible to a global audience. She is committed to community engagement and social justice, and actively participates in various literary and academic conferences.

**12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

**Lunch Break**

**Session 3 — 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Panel 1 — Diaspora, Solidarity, Intimacy, and Abolitionist Struggle**

**Room:** LB 619    **Zoom link:** <https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/85827594442>

**Chair:** Kayla Penteliuk — Université de Montréal

**Jesse Arseneault** — Concordia University  
*The Intimacy of Two Apartheids*

**Maya Jaishankar** — University of Western Ontario  
*“Let’s Shift Then”:* Reading Affect and Movement as Freedom in Hanif Kureishi’s *Outskirts and Borderline*

**Gugu Hlongwane** — Saint Mary’s University, Halifax  
*“Space Oddity”:* Short Circuits and Crash Landings in Louis Chude-Sokei’s *Floating in a Most Peculiar Way.*”

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Jesse Arseneault is an Associate Professor of English at Concordia University.

Maya Jaishankar (she/her) is a PhD candidate in English & Writing Studies at Western University. Her doctoral dissertation explores articulations of unhomeliness experienced by women and children in the short stories of Tamil writers R. Chudamani, Ambai, and Bama. Her research focuses on affective and alternative forms of knowledge and experience as responses to ideological institutions and practices.

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. Her work appears in numerous journals in the field of postcolonial literatures.

## **Panel 2 — Feminist Resistance, Decolonial Art, and Affective Freedom**

**Room:** LB 612    **Zoom link:** <https://ualberta-ca.zoom.us/j/8274617147>

**Chair:** Rūta Šlapkauskaitė — Vilnius University

**Patricia Branco Cornish** — Concordia University

*Women's Art as Decolonial Knowledge during Brazil's 1964–1985 Military Dictatorship*

**Jay Pahre** — McMaster University

*Transness, Tornadoes, Turning: Crisis, Evasion, and the Turn as Critical Method*

**Ava-Udeane Ellis** — McGill University

*Mockery as Freedom: The Philosophy of Jab-Jab*

**Gaurav Jain** — University of Victoria (Virtual)

*Not Sick Enough: Comic Overflow and Affective Freedom in Mohammed Hanif's Karachi*

Patricia Branco Cornish is a PhD candidate in the Communications Department at Concordia University. Her research investigates Brazilian women artists' experiences living under censorship and conservative societal values during Brazil's military dictatorship (1964-1985). The artwork becomes a memory prompt to talk about the past and reveal aspects of dictatorship outside the dominant historical discourses. Patricia applies oral history methodology under a feminist and decolonial framework to uncover women's everyday life experiences and their contributions to Brazil's 1960s-1970s avant-garde art movement.

Jay Pahre is a queer and trans settler artist, writer, and cultural worker currently based on the territories of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples (Hamilton, ON). His work engages trans and queer ecologies, interspecies collaboration, and place in the context of settler colonialism.

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Ava-Udeane Ellis is a McGill University graduate in Political Science and Art History. Her research explores Black aesthetics and visual culture. She examines how irony and satire in Black artistic practices reclaim agency and challenge dominant narratives, informed by work in African and Diaspora Studies and political theory.

Gaurav Jain is an MA student in English at the University of Victoria and a former literary editor. His current research examines uneasy humour and affective overload in comic literature.

### **Panel 3 (virtual) — Gender, Islamophobia, and Racialized Belonging**

**Room LB 628** / Link: <https://zoom.us/j/3127482383>

**Chair:** Blaze Welling — University of Waterloo

**Teresa García-Salcedo** — University of Córdoba, Spain  
*Politics of Communal Liberation and Postcolonial Feminist (Un)freedom in Bernardine Evaristo's Girl, Woman, Other*

**Milan Kang** — York University  
*Women for "Freedom": Genealogies of Korea's Anti-Feminist Womanosphere*

**Susan Rajendran** — York University  
*Writing with Freedom: The Liberated Subject in the Work of Punyakante Wijenaike*

**Fadime Apaydin** — University of California, Riverside  
*A Critical Analysis of the Narratives Surrounding Muslim Women in Digital Media*

Teresa García Salcedo is a PhD student at the University of Córdoba (Spain), where she teaches and pursues doctoral research under the FPU Doctoral Fellowship. Her research interests focus on the exploration of hope, community, resistance and temporality in black British and African American fiction.

Milan Kang is a Toronto-based sociologist with a strong foundation in gender studies, social services, and recreation management. Milan earned her MA in Sociology from York University in 2024, where she examined anti-discrimination efforts led by Korean feminist and queer activists. Milan's research, outreach, and creative work focus on amplifying underrepresented voices. She has contributed to a federally funded project on 2SLGBTQ+ Poverty in Canada in 2023 - 2024, mentored new and international students (2020-2025), and served in community advisory roles since 2015.

Susan is a doctoral candidate in the Department of 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.

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Fadime Apaydin, a first-generation college student, is a Ph.D. student in Religious Studies at the University of California, Riverside, and holds an M.A. in Religious Studies from the University of South Florida. Her research centers on the intersection of religion, migration, and cultural adaptation, with particular attention to Muslims in the United States. In addition to co-editing a volume on sustainability and religion, she has co-authored book chapters on the role of faith-based organizations in disaster response, media representation of religious minorities, faith-based diplomacy in climate negotiations, and religion and political legitimacy. Also, Fadime has been serving as co-chair of the Asian Religions Unit of the American Academy of Religion-Western Region.

**3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**Break**

**Session 4 — 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Panel 1— Unruly G(hosts): Untranslatable and Unassimilated Presences**

**Room: LB 619      Zoom link: <https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/85827594442>**

**Malaika Mitra**

**Rijaa Khan** — McMaster University / University of Toronto / York University  
*I Sing a Song into the Sky, Translating the Self in Diaspora*

**Roya Motazedian** — McMaster University  
*English Has Never Been Ours*

**Salma Ragheb** — York University

*loafing in Cairene beauty salons*

We are an interdisciplinary group of students, scholars, and creatives across the GTHA interested in post-colonial ways of imagining translation. The group includes Malaika Mitra (she/her), Rijaa Khan (she/her), Roya Motazedian (they/them), Salma Ragheb (she/her), and Logan Rooks (he/him).

**Panel 2— Reckoning, Repairing, Reworlding Working Group: A Workshop on Decolonial Academic Freedom (Virtual)**

**Room: LB 612      Zoom Link: <https://ualberta-ca.zoom.us/j/8274617147>**

*Day 1, Thursday June 4*

**Jesse Arseneault** — Concordia University  
**Tayah Clarke** — McMaster University  
**Ejiofor Nwogwu** — McMaster University  
**Susie O'Brien** — McMaster University  
**Susan Spearey** — Brock University  
**Zahra Tootonsab** — McMaster University  
**Feisal Kirumira** — University of Alberta

Jesse Arseneault, Associate Professor, Concordia University; Tayah Clarke, PhD Candidate, McMaster University; Ejiofor Nwogwu, PhD Candidate, McMaster University; Susie O'Brien, Professor, McMaster University; Sue Spearey, Associate Professor, Brock University; Zahra Tootonsab, PhD candidate, McMaster University, Feisal Kirumira, PhD candidate University of Alberta

### **Panel 3 (virtual) — Speculative Futures, AI, and Decolonial Imagination**

Chair: **Lindsay Diehl** — University of Manitoba

**Room LB628 / Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/3127482383>

**Ishita Lahiri** — University of Washington  
*Reproductive Futurisms in South Asian Science Fiction*

**Frederick Coleman** — The Pennsylvania State University  
*Governing Against Dependency: Institutional DNA and AI Policy in the Global South*

**Alessandra Capperdoni** — Simon Fraser University  
*Vibrant Matter: Retooling Writing and Other-than-human Agency in the Work of Amitav Gosh and Jordan Abel*

**John Bessai** — Independent Scholar

*Postcolonial Freedom(s) and the Digital State: Settler Order, AI Governance, and Public Power in Canada*

*Day 1, Thursday June 4*

(Ishita Lahiri) I am currently a 4th year PhD student in the department of English in the University of Washington. My research span Feminist and Marxist theory, labor studies, speculative fiction and south-asian studies. I am invested in questions of labor and care work which I investigate through a speculative lens

Frederick Coleman is a doctoral student in the School of Engineering Design and Innovation at the Pennsylvania State University researching AI governance and financial inclusion in the Global South, with a focus on African financial services institutions. Frederick holds degrees in Master of Business Administration and Master of Engineering.

Alessandra Capperdoni teaches in the Department of Global Humanities at Simon Fraser University. Her current work focuses on post-1960s Canadian poetics in the context of the social imaginaries shaped by nationalism and globalization, as well as women's avant-garde writing and feminist phenomenology in Canada, war and trauma, and animal studies.

**Break 05:00- 05:30 p.m. Light refreshments served in LB 612**

**Evening Events — 5:30 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.**

**5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.**

**Workshop on Academic Publishing with the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Postcolonial Writing* (JPW)**

**Room: LB 628**

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

Prof. Janet Wilson, editor; Prof Pilar Crude, managing editor; Prof Marc Maufort, associate editor; Prof Felicity Hand, editor.

*Day 1, Thursday June 4*

**6:45 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.**

**Literary Performance / Play Reading**

Donia Mounsef reading from *The Impromptu of Vegreville*

**Professor of Drama and Media Studies**

**Room: LB 628**

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

The Impromptu of Vegreville is a satire comedy set in Vegreville, Alberta as Alberta is preparing to separate from the rest of Canada and the world to form K.O.W. (Kingdom of the West). The themes are contemporary and provide a comedic treatment of current events in a not-so-distant futuristic setting.

# Day 2 — Friday, June 5

## Session 1 — 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

**Keynote Speech** Henry F Hall building (H521)

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

**Prof. Janet Wilson** — University of Northampton, UK

### **Decolonising war in Aotearoa/New Zealand: The 28th (Māori ) Battalion**

Selected Māori war narratives, some linked to the indigenous struggle for freedom from colonisation, are read through a decolonising lens for their use of matauranga Māori (Māori knowledge), which helped deal with stress during war, and in peacetime became a source of renewal, spiritual healing, and a future pathway . 50

Janet M. Wilson is emeritus professor of English and Postcolonial Studies, University of Northampton, UK. She works on Pacific, New Zealand, and global anglophone literatures, including postcolonial memory, transculturalism, and precarity. An editor-in-chief of *Journal of Postcolonial Writing* she has co-edited volumes on postcolonial and diaspora writing, transnationalism, and war.

## 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Coffee/ tea Break (tea and coffee served in the hall – H 521)

## Session 2 — 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Plenary Session — War, Memory, and the Afterlives of Violence**

**Henry F Hall building (H521)**

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

**Chair: Azza Harras--- Royal Military College**

This panel honours the memory of Canadian scholar Donna Coates (Calgary) whose research focused on women and war (e.g. editing Routledge's 2020 seven-volume *Women and War*; the monograph *Shooting Blanks at the ANZAC Legend* (2023)) by offering a collective dialogue around her work

Day 2, Friday June 5

**Marc Maufort** — Université Libre de Bruxelles

*The Traumatic Legacy of Ares in Canadian Drama and Australian Fiction: Visions of War in A Line in the Sand and The Narrow Road to the Deep North*

**Dolores Herrero** — University of Zaragoza, Spain

*Shehan Karunatilaka's The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida: Trauma, Memory and Resistance in the Afterlife of Sri Lanka's Civil War*

**Felicity Hand** — Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

*Fighting Apartheid Behind Bars: The Power of Prison Memoirs*

**Pilar Cuder-Domínguez** — University of Huelva, Spain

*Toronto's Geography of Incarceration: Leah Simone Bowen's The Flood (2018)*

Marc Maufort is Emeritus Professor of Anglophone literatures at the Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium (ULB). From 2015-2025, he served as the Editor of Recherche littéraire/Literary Research, the journal of the International Comparative Literature Association (ICLA).

Dolores Herrero is Full Professor of English and Postcolonial Literature at the Department of English of the University of Zaragoza, Spain. Her main interests are postcolonial literature and cinema, on which she has published extensively. At present she is the main researcher of the project "Literature Of(f) Limits" (PID2021-124841NB-I00).

Felicity Hand is Honorary Professor in the English Department of the Autonomous University of Barcelona. She has published articles on various Indian Ocean writers and is a founding member of the research group Ratnakara <https://ratnakara.org> Felicity is the editor of the electronic journal Indi@logs. Spanish Journal of India Studies <http://revistes.uab.cat/indialogs>

Pilar Cuder-Domínguez ([picuder@uhu.es](mailto:picuder@uhu.es)) is a Professor in the Department of English at the University of Huelva, Spain. Her research interests are the intersections of gender, genre, nation, and race from decolonial, anti-racist, and feminist methodologies.

**12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

**Lunch Break served in LB 612**

Day 2, Friday June 5

## Session 3 — 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

### Panel 1— Memory Work, Archives, and Creative-Critical Method

**Chair:** Pilar Cuder-Domínguez — University of Huelva

**Room:** LB 619    **Zoom link:** <https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/85827594442>

**Janet Neigh** — Pennsylvania State University, Erie Campus  
*The Small Routes of Postcolonial Freedom*

**Lindsay Diehl** — University of Manitoba  
*Field Notes on Creative-Critical Practice: Revisiting Chinese-Canadian Literature through my Grandmother's Stories*

**Glenn Deer** — The University of British Columbia  
*Enslaved by Time: Metaleptic Entrapment in Octavia Butler's Kindred*

Janet Neigh is an Associate Professor of English at the Erie campus of Pennsylvania State University. She is the author of *Recalling Recitation in the Americas: Borderless Curriculum, Performance Poetry, and Reading* (2017).

Lindsay Diehl is Assistant Professor in the Department of English at the University of Manitoba. She is the author of *Reading with My Grandmother: Chinese Canadian Literature, History, and Family* (WLUP, 2026). Her work has also appeared in *Canadian Literature*, *Canada & Beyond*, *English Studies in Canada*, *Postcolonial Text*.

(Glenn Deer) My areas of teaching and research include Canadian and Asian North American literature, narrative theory, and multi-ethnic and mixed race studies. I have published on the politics of interpretation and ideologies of postmodernism in *Postmodern Canadian Fiction and the Rhetoric of Authority* (McGill-Queen's UP) and essays on race relations in the media, literary maps of urban space, representations of culinary desire, and visual culture studies. I am an Associate Professor in the Department of English Language and Literatures at the University of British Columbia, and also serve as an Associate Editor for the journal *Canadian Literature*.

*Day 2, Friday June 5*

## **Panel 2 — Diaspora, Speculative Freedom, and Decolonial Imagination**

**Chair:** John Hawley — Santa Clara University

**Room:** LB 612      **Zoom link:** <https://ualberta-ca.zoom.us/j/8274617147>

**Amanda Perry** — Champlain College-Saint Lambert  
*Revolution or Diaspora: Haiti, Cuba, and Émile Ollivier's Passages*

**Khalilah Luchs** — University of Western Ontario  
*Postcolonial (Un)Freedom and Artificial Intelligence*

**Ana Fraile-Marcos** — Universidad de Salamanca  
*Imagining Decolonial Freedoms in Contemporary Speculative Fiction from Canada / Turtle Island*

Dr. Amanda Perry is a tenured college teacher at Champlain College-Saint Lambert and a sessional instructor at Concordia University. Her book manuscript, *Cuba in the Caribbean Imaginary: Race, Censorship, and Regionalism* is currently under consideration with University of Virginia Press.

Khalilah Luchs is a master's student in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies at Western University. Their work centres identity development as a narrative framing for experiences of oppression, suppression, education, and everyday life. They deploy a focus on youth experience and culture as integral to the shaping of tomorrow.

Ana Fraile-Marcos is a Full Professor of English at the University of Salamanca. Her recent publications include *The Many Faces of Resilience and Healing in Contemporary Narratives* (2023), *Glocal Narratives of Resilience* (2020) and *Literature and the Glocal City* (2014). She is the PI of the research project *Narrating Resilience*, and co-editor of *Canada and Beyond*.

## **Panel 3 (virtual) — Refuge, Hostile Environments, and Conditional Belonging**

**Chair:** J. Coplen Rose — University of Toronto

**Room** LB 628/ **Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/3127482383>

**Sophie Fennelly** — University of Leeds  
*'That's what it feels like to be Black here: like you're dead & alive at the same time.'* (Femi, 2020, p.30): *Imagining freedom and safety in a hostile environment*

Day 2, Friday June 5

**Hamza Karam Ally** — University of King's College  
*Multiculturalism and "Sustainable" Migration: The Future of Recognition-based Politics in Canada*

**Maab Al-Rashdan** — University of Waterloo  
*Welcome to Freedom where Terms and Conditions Apply: How U.S. Media Reconfigures Freedom for Refugees*

**Asma Sayed** — Kwantlen Polytechnic University  
*On Navigating Brownness, (Lack of) Freedom, and Islamophobia: Reading the Politics of Race in Omer Aziz's Brown Boy*

Sophie Fennelly is a doctoral researcher in the School of English at the University of Leeds. Her PhD explores contemporary Black British literary and cultural depictions of mental health. Her wider research interests include contemporary postcolonial literature, border studies, and the medical humanities.

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 doctoral work developed the subject of radical alterity/otherness in texts from multiple literary traditions, working with phenomenology and postcolonial theory.

Maab Al-Rashdan completed her first MA in English Language from the University of Jordan, her second MA 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, Discourse and Rhetorical Analysis. She is the recipient of UWaterloo's Doctoral Graduate Creative Writing Award (2024), and RhetCanada's Michael Purves-Smith Student Paper Award (2021).

Dr. Asma Sayed is the Canada Research Chair in South Asian Literary and Cultural Studies in the Department of English at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. Her publications include seven books and numerous articles in academic journals and anthologies. She is the former President (2019-22) of the Canadian Association for Postcolonial Studies.

**3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**Break**

*Day 2, Friday June 5*

## **Session 4 — 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

### **Panel 1 — Universities, Knowledge, and the Politics of Academic Freedom**

**Chair:** Janet Neigh — Pennsylvania State University, Erie Campus

**Room:** LB 612 **Zoom link:** <https://ualberta-ca.zoom.us/j/8274617147>

**Azza Harras** — Royal Military College of Canada

*Repressing Resistance: Canary Mission, Knowledge Control, and the War on Postcolonial Palestine Discourse*

**Markus Schwarz** — University of Salzburg

*Disappearing Into the Maroon Community of the University: Refusal, Fugitivity, and Academic Freedom in the Campus Novel*

**Majed Alenezi** — Northern Borders University

*The Troubled Partnership: between Islam and Postcolonial Theory*

**Rosemary Kasiobi Nwadike** — Carlton University

*I MEAN-iri Ihe a?: Engli-Igbo and the Spread of an Anglicizing Pandemic*

Azza Harras is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English, Culture and Communication at the Royal Military College of Canada and the current President of the Canadian Association for Postcolonial Studies

Markus Schwarz is a PhD candidate at the Department of English and American Studies at the University of Salzburg. In his research, he works at the intersections of space colonization and climate change and reads contemporary perspectives on the future through Black and Indigenous speculative refusals.

Majed Alenezi, associate professor of English Studies, department of languages and Translation, Northern Border University

Rosemary Kasiobi Nwadike is an Igbo-Nigerian scholar and writer working at the intersections of postcolonial studies, African feminism, migration, and cultural memory. She holds her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Nigeria and McMaster University and is pursuing a PhD in English and African Studies at Carleton University.

Day 2, Friday June 5

## **Panel 2— Performance, Poetry, and Political Aesthetics**

**Chair:** Amanda Perry — Champlain College-Saint Lambert

**Room:** LB 619     **Zoom link:** <https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/85827594442>

**J. Coplen Rose** — University of Toronto

*Canadian Resistance to South African Apartheid: Poet Al Purdy's Interpretation of Athol Fugard, John Kani, and Winston Ntshona's Sizwe Bansi is Dead.*

**John Hawley** — Santa Clara University

*Silenced Tongues, Speaking Spirits: Freedom, Censorship, and Political Agency in Postcolonial Fiction.*

**Rūta Šlapkauskaitė** — Vilnius University

*The Western as an Ecopoetic Form in Robbie Arnott's Dusk*

J. Coplen Rose teaches in ISTEP and the New College Writing Centre at the University of Toronto. He specializes in postcolonial literature and technical communication. Coplen is the Early Career Scholar on the Executive Committee of the Canadian Association for Postcolonial Studies. He is also a member of the Ratnakara Research Group.

John C. Hawley is the author or editor of 16 books and journal articles in the areas of postcolonial studies. He is a former chair of the now-defunct US chapter of ACLALS, President of the South Asian Literature Association, and served on the executive committee of the African Literature Association.

Rūta Šlapkauskaitė is Associate Professor of English literature at Vilnius University, Lithuania. Her research interests include Canadian and Australian literature, neo-Victorianism, and environmental humanities. Rūta is currently researching the conceptual relevance of genre in narrating the climate emergency in contemporary Anglophone literature.

## **Panel 3 (virtual) — Academic Freedom, Institutions, and State Power**

**Chair:** Antonios Sarris — University of Cyprus

**Room LB 628** / Link: <https://zoom.us/j/3127482383>

**Anna Guttman** — Lakehead University

*"The disease we're living now": (Un)Freedom and Holocaust Memory in Jai Chakrabarti's A Play for the End of the World*

Day 2, Friday June 5

**Asmaa Mansour** — Badr University in Cairo

*Traumatized by Academia: Women of Color Decolonial Strategies against Fear, Silence, and Complicity*

**Lincoln Shlensky** — University of Victoria

*The Limits of Liberal Proceduralism: Definition and Conflict in the Contemporary Canadian University*

**Ejiofor Nwogwu** — McMaster University

*Nigeria: Education, Youth Culture, and the Practice of Freedom*

Dr. Anna Guttman is a professor of English at Lakehead University. She is the author of *The Nation of India in Contemporary Indian Literature* (2007), *Writing Indians and Jews: Metaphorics of Jewishness in South Asian Literature* (2013) and co-editor of *The Global Literary Field* (2006) and *Ruptured Commons* (2024).

Dr. Asmaa Mansour received her PhD in English from The University of Texas at San Antonio in May 2021. Currently, she teaches at Badr university in Cairo. Prior to joining BUC, she was an Assistant Professor of English at the American University in Dubai. From May 2021-May 2022, she was a Mellon postdoctoral fellow in the Middle East and North African Studies program at Tulane University.

Dr. Lincoln Z. Shlensky researches, teaches, and supervises graduate students in the fields of postcolonial literature, Jewish and diaspora studies, and media studies at the University of Victoria. He has published in *AJS Perspectives*; *The Routledge Companion to Caribbean Literatures in English*; *Literature for Our Times: Postcolonial Studies in the Twenty First Century*; *La Habana Elegante*; *The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict in the Francophone World*; *Essays and Studies: Slavery and the Cultures of Abolition*; *Shofar*; *Prooftexts*; and *Qui Parle*.

Ejiofor Udu Nwogwu is a graduate student in English and Cultural Studies at McMaster University, and a former secondary school teacher. His research focuses on Nigerian education, culture, and politics, as well as African literature. He engages these topics through resistance and anti-oppression frameworks, decolonial, postcolonial, and critical education theories.

**Evening Events — 5:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

**Graduate Student Presentation Prize — 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.**

**Chairs: J Coplen Rose- University of Toronto**

**Arshad Said Khan- University of Alberta**

Day 2, Friday June 5

**Room LB 619/ Link:** <https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/85827594442>

**Tayah Clarke** — McMaster University (virtual)

*Experiments in Freedom: Abolition Geographies in Canadian Universities*

**Shambhavi Siddhi** — University of Western Ontario

*Spectral Freedom: Hauntology, Nationalism, and Feminist Memory in Kashmir*

**Richie Daly** — Concordia University

*The Vortex of the Present: Disaster Mythopoethics and Affective Sovereignty in Trinidad and Tobago*

Tayah Clarke is an English PhD student and SSHRC-D scholar in the Department of English and Cultural Studies at McMaster University. Weaving together an interdisciplinary framework of analysis, her research explores Black queer feminist praxes, identifying collectivities of care as critical practices in past and present abolition movements.

Shambhavi Siddhi is a PhD student in Gender and Women's Studies at Western University. Her research examines Kashmiri women's epistemic resistance through feminist memory, testimony, and postcolonial theory, focusing on occupation, nationalism, and the afterlives of colonial violence in South Asia.

Richie Daly (they/them) is a PhD candidate at Concordia University in the Individualized Studies in Social Sciences program. They previously studied Film and Gender Studies at The University of the West Indies, St Augustine campus. Their transdisciplinary research project examines how Trinbagonian citizens and Venezuelan migrants narrativize lived histories in the wake of recursive national crises.

**Break: 6:30- 07:00 (Light snacks/ refreshments served in LB 612)**

**AGM — 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

**Room LB 619/ Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/3127482383>

# Day 3 — Saturday, June 6

## Session 1 — 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

**Keynote Speech-** Henry F Hall building (H521)

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

**Prof. Donia Mounsef** — University of Alberta

**“Don’t Call us Resilient: Freedom, Necropolitics, and the End of Democracy”**

## 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Coffee/tea Break (served in LB 612)

## Session 2 — 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

### Panel 1 — Food, Labour, and Colonial Consumption

**Chair:** Liani Lochner — Université Laval

**Room:** LB 612 **Zoom link:** <https://ualberta-ca.zoom.us/j/8274617147>

**Niña Adawag** — McMaster University

*Ube: Civilizing The Uncivilized Flavor*

**Peter Walmsley** — McMaster University

**and Doaa Tirmizi** — McMaster University

*Eating Jamaica: Gothic Dining in Matthew Lewis’s Journal*

**Kris Singh** — Kwantlen Polytechnic University

*Framing Freedom: Makeda Silvera’s Silenced and Gabriel Allahdua’s Harvesting Freedom*

*Day 3, Saturday June 6*

Niña Adawag is currently an MA student at McMaster University and completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Winnipeg. Niña's research interests are: Filipino/a/x Studies, Asian Canadian Studies, Race, and Colonialism. "Hindi pa tapos ng laban. Set ablaze the Philippine sun in our hearts."

Doaa Tirmizi is a graduate student in the Department of English and Cultural Studies at McMaster University researching Gothic literature through psychoanalytic theory and philosophy, with interests in monstrosity, spirituality, and the tensions between reason, desire and the unconscious.

Peter Walmsley has published books on Enlightenment British science and philosophy, and more recently articles on the fascination with the technologies of Turtle Island nations in English fiction, and the impact of Wendat political practices on the thought of John Locke.

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

## **Panel 2 — More-than-Human Relations and Material Worlds**

**Chair:** Bhawya Wadhera — McMaster University

**Room:** LB 619    **Zoom link:** <https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/85827594442>

**Rui Chen** — University of Exeter

*Animal Ethics Unleashed: Exploring Dogs and Moral Complexity in J.M. Coetzee's Age of Iron and Disgrace*

**Ishaan Selby** — Concordia University

*Capitalist Racialization, Taxonomy, and Animal Life*

**Mohsina Shafqat Ali**—University of Waterloo

*The Illusion of Freedom in the Land that Promises Freedom: Irony and Exclusion in Aarti Namdev Shahani's Here We Are*

Day 3, Saturday June 6

Rui Chen is a third-year PhD student in the English Department of University of Exeter. Her research explores the intertwined relationship between animal issues---such as animal morality, animal rights and carnivory--- and social issues in human society, including racism and sexism in apartheid and post-apartheid South Africa.

Ishaan Selby is a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow at Concordia University in the Department of English. His research sits at the intersections of animal studies, Marxist theory, and critical theories of race and queerness. His work has appeared or will appear in *Humanimalia*, *Canada and Beyond*, and *Ecocene* among other venues.

Mohsina Shafqat Ali is currently a PhD Candidate in the Department of English Language and Literature at the University of Waterloo. Her dissertation responds to the paucity of memoirs by South Asian women writers who have not been analyzed in the discourse of Postcolonial Studies, Diaspora Studies, and Translation Studies.

### **Panel 3 (virtual) — Transnational Economies, Cold War Performance, and Postcolonial Political Imagination**

**Chair:** Patricia Branco Cornish — Concordia University

**Room LB 628** / Link: <https://zoom.us/j/3127482383>

**Oluwatoyin Fagbamila** — University of British Columbia  
*Transgressive Freedoms: Navigating the Geopolitical Binary in Contemporary Hustler Narratives*

**Jiyoan Auo** — University of Pittsburgh  
*Staged Freedom and Prefigurative Freedom: The Kim Sisters and the Sonic Politics of Cold War Humanitarianism*

**Russell Betker** — University of Alberta  
*"I ate it slowly to savor it": Food as Memory Work in Sinan Antoon's Fihris*

**Susan Spearey** — Brock University  
*Entanglements and Emergent Pathways: Transforming Systems of Exclusion, Extraction, and Annihilation*

*Day 3, Saturday June 6*

Susan Spearey teaches in the Department of English, the MA in Social Justice and Equity Studies and the PhD in Interdisciplinary Humanities at Brock University. She works at the intersection of anticolonial studies, trauma studies, social justice and equity studies, literary and cultural studies, and critical pedagogy.

Oluwatoyin Fagbamila is a graduate student at the University of British Columbia, Okanagan. Her research interests are informed by the link between literature and society as well as the implications of this link for the effectiveness of literature as a tool for societal change.

Jiyoon Auo is a Ph.D. student in Musicology at the University of Pittsburgh and a recipient of the Mitsubishi Graduate Fellowship in Asian Studies. Her research focuses on Korean and Japanese popular music, Cold War performance cultures, and the sonic politics of diaspora and identity.

Russell Betker is a master's student in the English & Film Studies program at the University of Alberta. His interests include technological and ecological posthumanism, specifically in literature from the Victorian era and the intersection (or artificial boundaries) between the "human" or "nonhuman" in colonial and postcolonial narratives

**12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

**Lunch Break served in LB 612**

**Session 3 — 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Panel 1 — Postcolonial Freedom, Citizenship, and Political Theory**

**Chair:** Kris Singh — Kwantlen Polytechnic University

**Room:** LB 612     **Zoom link:** <https://ualberta-ca.zoom.us/j/8274617147>

**Precious Gauthier** — McMaster University  
*Beyond the Language*

**Sampson Adese** — York University  
*Freedom as Trojan Horse: A Genealogy of Managerial Sovereignty from Decolonization to Liberal Internationalism*

**Adhora Ahmed** — University of Alberta  
*Conditional British Citizenship on Muslim Bodies in Kamila Shamsie's Home Fire*

Day 3, Saturday June 6

Precious completed her undergraduate degrees and MA at the University of Winnipeg and is now in her first year of a PhD program at McMaster. Precious is a multidisciplinary scholar who aims to bridge disciplines in her work. She is also a writer and poet of creative and historical fiction.

Sampson Adese is a PhD candidate in Environmental Studies at York University. He holds a master's degree in Political Science from Carleton University. His research takes a transdisciplinary approach, exploring environmental politics, resource extraction, energy transitions, global political economy, and postcolonial studies to address pressing global challenges

Adhora Ahmed is a graduate student in the University of Alberta pursuing a Master's degree in English. Her research interests include postcolonial South Asian literatures, trauma and memory studies, gender studies, and narratives of nationalism. She is currently working on a thesis about hauntology in Bangladeshi Anglophone novels.

## **Panel 2 — Colonial Taxonomies, Canonical Authority, and Counter Archives**

**Chair:** Marc Maufort — Université Libre de Bruxelles

**Room:** LB 619    **Zoom Link:** <https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/85827594442>

**Liani Lochner** — Université Laval

*Freedom from the Canon: Interrogating Nineteenth Century Discursive Personae in Zoë Wicomb's Still Life*

**Natasha Vashisht** — University of Toronto

*Barely human: unhearing and unseeing the subaltern in Gustavo Ott's Passport.*

**Anna Roshni Jose** — Brock University

*Embodied attunement: Answering why the subaltern can't speak*

**Michele Fiedler Fuentes** — Concordia University

*"Why Can't We Love the Possible?": Elizam Escobar's prison anti-diary through the lens of Beatriz Santiago Muñoz*

Liani Lochner is an Associate Professor of Anglophone Postcolonial Literature at Université Laval, Canada. Educated in her native South Africa and in England, her research interests are in critical theory and the political and ethical possibilities of world literatures. Her essays on J.M. Coetzee, Kazuo Ishiguro, Zoë Wicomb and others have appeared in publications such as *Ariel: A Review of International English Literature*, *Australian Literary Studies*, and *The Cambridge Companion to Kazuo Ishiguro*.

*Day 3, Saturday June 6*

Natasha Vashisht teaches Global South literatures and world drama in the Department of English & Drama at the University of Toronto. Her research is committed to the study of minority discourses and incorporates literary narratives of the Global South from subaltern and decolonial perspectives. Natasha has co-edited the *Encyclopedic Dictionary of Diasporic Indian English Writing* published by Springer in 2025.

Anna Roshni Jose is a third-year PhD student in Interdisciplinary Humanities at Brock University. Her research focuses on the representation of non-spectacular forms of domestic violence in Malayalam cinema. Her research interests include feminist film theory, gender studies, trauma studies, embodiment studies and postcolonial studies.

Michele Fiedler Fuentes is a Puerto Rican curator, researcher, and PhD student of Humanities at Concordia University, Tiohtià:ke/ Mooniyang. Her research is focused on the material formations of affect, Caribbean decolonial studies, everyday performance, moving image, and art.

### **Panel 3 (virtual) — Colonial Structures, Naming, and Countervisual Archives**

**Chair:** Peter Walmsley — McMaster University

**Room LB 628** / Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/3127482383>

**Clara Joseph** — University of Calgary

*When Freedom Misclassifies: Postcolonial Theory, Colonial Taxonomies, and Ancient Christian Traditions*

**Tatiana Konrad** — University of Vienna

*Disempowered Queen and Colonial Subjects: Identity, Agency, and the (De)Coloniality of Names in Victoria & Abdul*

**Utkarsh Sharma** — Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur

*Bodily Memorials, Embodied Truth: The (Im)Possibilities of Speech in Mahasweta Devi's Bitter Soil*

**Jonathan Nash** — University of Victoria

*[Title not provided: paper on Leila Abdelrazaq's Baddawi]*

Clara A. B. Joseph is Professor of English at the University of Calgary. Her research examines Thomas Christian histories, colonial and decolonial theory, and religion as a classificatory problem in postcolonial studies. She is the author of *Christianity in India: The Anti-Colonial Turn* (2019) and *India's Nonviolent Freedom Struggle* (2024).

*Day 3, Saturday June 6*

Tatiana Konrad is the PI of “Air and Environmental Health in the (Post-)COVID-19 World,” a postdoc in the Department of English and American Studies, University of Vienna, and the editor of two book series—“Environment, Health, and Well-being” (Michigan State UP) and “Environment, Senses and Emotions” (U of Exeter P).

Utkarsh Sharma is a PhD candidate at the School of Liberal Arts, Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur. His doctoral research is on the history and form of the Indian short story cycle.

Jonathan Nash is a PhD Candidate at the University of Victoria, researching refugee comics and narratives.

**3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**Break**

**Session 4 — 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Panel 1— Counter-Histories, Censorship, and State Narrative**

**Chair:** Ishaan Selby — Concordia University

**Room:** LB 612 **Zoom link:** <https://ualberta-ca.zoom.us/j/8274617147>

**Bulat Rakhimzianov** — University College Dublin  
*From Defiance to Loyalty? Tatar Historians and Public Discourse in Putin’s Russia*

**Liya Izmukhanova** — University of Ottawa  
*Language as Freedom: Kazakhstan and Soviet Censorship*

**Bhawya Wadhera** — McMaster University  
*Children and the Cost of Freedom: Children’s Graphic Narratives of 1947 Partition*

(Bulat Rakhimzianov) I am a historian of contemporary Russia with a focus on the politics of history, committed to creating critical, multi-sided accounts of local practices and global processes. I Have two PhD degrees: University College Dublin, 2024, and Kazan State (currently Federal) University, 2001, as well as two areas of specialization.

Liya Izmukhanova is a master’s student at the University of Ottawa. Her research interests include postcolonial and feminist studies, modernism and post-modernism, and creative non-fiction. Along with her academic interests, Liya is an emerging writer and has two creative non-fiction publications at the University of Toronto.

*Day 3, Saturday June 6*

Bhawya Wadhera is a PhD candidate in the department of English and Cultural Studies at McMaster University, Canada. She has done BA (2014), MA (2016), and MPhil (2018) in English literature from the University of Delhi. Bhawya also worked as an assistant professor of English literature at the University of Delhi for three years. Her MPhil dissertation meditated on the idea of home in 1947 Partition literature. Bhawya's doctoral research focuses on the narratives of children exposed to communal violence in India.

**Panel 2-- Nation state, Migration and Higher Education**

**Chair: TBC**

**Room: LB 619** Zoom link: <https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/85827594442>

**Zakirah Allian – York University**

*Saint Lucian Migration for Higher Education: Student Stories on the Pursuit of a 'Better Life'*

**Behnam Amini — York University (virtual)**

Beyond the Nation-State: Democratic Confederalism as a Framework for Postcolonial Freedom

**Ozichukwu Ifesie — McMaster University**

THE TERRIBLE GIFT OF MEMORY: WITNESSING PARTITION AND BIAFRA IN ANITA RAU BADAMI'S CAN YOU HEAR THE NIGHTBIRD CALL? AND CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE'S HALF OF A YELLOW SUN

Zakirah Allian is a Masters student, studying Social Anthropology at York University. Zakirah specializes in creative methods, including drawing, collaging, storytelling, and dream visualization. They contribute to research surrounding human rights, education policy, and Black student success. They strive to produce accessible, inclusive, and engaging research for youth and public audiences.

Behnam Amini is a PhD candidate in the Graduate Program of Social and Political Thought at York University, Toronto, Canada. His research interests include democratic theory, colonialism and decolonization, critical race theory, the Kurdish question, state theory, and Iranian modern politics and history.

Ozichukwu Chimezie Ifesie is an Igbo-Nigerian PhD student in English and Cultural Studies at McMaster University. His research examines the intersections of postcolonial violence and the politics of memorialization. By crafting counter-commemorative narratives, his work seeks to re-member dispersed and ongoing violences in ways that actively challenge state-sanctioned archives.

*Day 3, Saturday June 6*

**Panel 3-- Navigating Graduate Studies: Skills and Opportunities**

**Chair:** Susan Rajendran-- York University

**Room:** LB 628      Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/3127482383>

This is a friendly space where graduate students can come together and discuss the challenges of navigating the twin goals of scholarly and professional development. At present, university students are under immense financial strain and struggling, all the more, with pressures, both new and ongoing, in academia. We understand how the present reality hampers our ability to put our best work forward, where scholarly rigour and time management are needed in equal measure for success. Therefore, we would like this session to serve as a great opportunity for sharing our experiences and for exploring ways to create new avenues for thriving in academia. Support systems, too, are tremendously valuable to graduate students who often find themselves working in isolation. We hope that you will be able to expand your collegial networks and learn from one another.

**Many thanks for attending CAPS 2026 conference**

**See you next year!**