



ACCUTE 2026 CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Thursday, June 4 - Sunday, June 7, 2026

Concordia University, Montreal

DRAFT 1 – revised March 3rd, 2026

ACCUTE 2026 CONFERENCE PROGRAM

About ACCUTE

Founded in 1957, the **Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English (ACCUTE)** was incorporated under the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act in 2015. ACCUTE's purpose, as ratified in 2015, is to promote the interests of those teaching and researching in the various fields of English Studies in Canadian colleges and universities by facilitating the dissemination and exchange of research and the exploration of professional issues, by organizing scholarly and professional meetings, by seeking to improve working conditions, by representing and promoting the scholarly and research interests of members before such bodies as provincial and federal granting agencies, and by supporting the interests and aspirations of members entering the profession.

Territorial Acknowledgement

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.

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Code of Conduct

ACCUTE supports the [Code of Conduct](#) outlined by the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences. We are committed to the advancement of teaching, research, and scholarship through respectful, inclusive, and collegial discourse and engagement. Accordingly, we require adherence to these values by all participants in our events and meetings. We strive to ensure that the participants in our activities enjoy an environment free from discrimination, harassment and bullying. Further, we are committed to providing an atmosphere through all of our activities that encourages free expression and the exchange of ideas — in a respectful manner — as well as open, critically engaged and sometimes challenging discourse. To that end, we require that all participants comply with the Code of Conduct. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from Federation or association membership and/or participation in Federation or association activities.

Association Acronyms

CAAS Canadian Association for American Studies
CACE Canadian Association of Chairs of English
CAF Contract Academic Faculty
CAPS Canadian Association for Postcolonial Studies
CSM Canadian Society of Medievalists
CWC Creative Writing Collective
ESC English Studies in Canada
GSC Graduate Student Caucus
NASSR North American Society for the Study of Romanticism
NAVSA North American Victorian Studies Association
RSVP Research Society for Victorian Periodicals
VSAO Victorian Studies Association of Ontario

ACCUTE Board Members

Jason Camlot, Concordia University – President
Cynthia Quarrie, Concordia University – Vice-President
Ghislaine Comeau – ACCUTE Coordinator
Megan Arnott, Lakehead University – Contract Academic Faculty Caucus
Rajarshi Banerjee, Western University – Graduate Student Caucus
Glenn Clifton, Sheridan College – Coordinator for the CWC
Richard Douglass-Chin, University of Windsor – Member-at-Large: BIPOC Caucus
Jessi MacEachern, Dawson College – Member-at-Large: Colleges
Neta Gordon, Brock University – Member-at-Large: Professional Concerns

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Lorraine York, McMaster University – Member-at-Large: Priestley Prize

Allan Pero, Western University – Editor of *English Studies in Canada* (ex-officio)

Joel Baetz, Trent University – CACE President (ex-officio)

ACCUTE Staff

Gladwell Pamba, Concordia University – Coordination and Communications Assistant

Josie Teed, Concordia University – Coordination and Communications Assistant

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ACCUTE Membership

ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY TEACHERS OF ENGLISH

ACCUTE'S MISSION To create the conditions for a diverse and strong association of teachers and scholars of literatures in English in Canadian colleges and universities so that we can share, support, and learn from each other. To promote the interests of our members by facilitating the dissemination and exchange of research and the exploration of professional issues, by organizing scholarly and professional meetings, by seeking to improve working conditions, by representing and promoting the scholarly and research interests of members before such bodies as provincial and federal granting agencies, and by supporting the interests and aspirations of members entering the profession, and seeking careers outside the profession.

As an ACCUTE member, you gain:

- o Four issues annually of cutting-edge scholarship from ESC: English Studies in Canada, the nation's leading generalist journal in the discipline and a global force in multidisciplinary humanities scholarship (ESC is downloaded more than 80,000 times per year in over 80 countries);
- o A direct political voice in one of the largest and most recognized humanities associations in Canada;
- o Membership in the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences (CFHSS), which lobbies on our behalf to SSHRC and the Federal government;
- o Our annual conference, where scholars from around Canada and the world discuss research, teaching, and professional concerns, and where experts from across all areas and methodologies of English studies can offer you new insights and areas of inquiry;
 - o Eligibility for students, contract faculty and underwaged scholars for travel funds to present at our annual conference.
 - o The right to propose conference panels (all papers are anonymously peer-reviewed);
- o Access and the right to submit to the quarterly ACCUTE Newsletter - THE ANGLE, with articles about scholarly and professional concerns, as well as advocacy documents and surveys and data on the profession;
- o Access and the right to submit to posts, links and images to ACCUTE's recently expanded social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Contract Academic Faculty Caucus Facebook, Twitter @ACCUTEEnglish and @ACCUTE_CAF) and its blog English Matters, which builds on our advocacy voice and opens space for discussion, promotes your Calls for Papers, and provides our well known jobs list of academic and other pertinent employment opportunities.

WE SUPPORT EACH OTHER THROUGH OUR MEMBERSHIP, AND TOGETHER WE SUPPORT THE FIELD OF LITERARY STUDIES IN CANADA:

- o ACCUTE advocates for improvements to working conditions in the Canadian academy, including issues related to Contract Academic Faculty;
- o We developed a best practices document regarding contract faculty employment, which was unanimously supported by the Canadian Association of Chairs of English and sent to English departments across Canada;
- o Working with CFHSS, we are lobbying SSHRC regarding our members' research needs;
- o ACCUTE is regularly consulted by CFHSS, SSHRC, and other agencies regarding professional and scholarly policy matters, including, recently, open-access policies, metrics, and other issues;
- o ACCUTE's presidents and board members address universities, colleges, government, government agencies, and national forums on pressing scholarly and professional issues.

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Schedule at a Glance: THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2026

8:30 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.	Salvage Inventory &/or Inventory Salvage	Fractured Selves in Canadian Literature	Literature and the geo-logics of conquest 1	Speculative Renaissance	New Writing in a Time of Disorientation 1	Adaptation Across Media	Creative Research 1	Imagining Futures Otherwise	Pedagogies of repair	Social Media, Communi- cation, and Community
10:00 a.m.	BREAK									
10:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.	Rethinking Romantic Science 1	How Should a Person be Bored?	The World Remade 1	Rethinking the Profession of Journalism and Authorship in/through Periodical Studies (RSVP/ ACCUTE)	Marxism vs. Poetry	Reimagining Canada: Roundtable	Celebrity and Cultural Authority	Writing the Eighteenth Century	Pedagogy in the Age of AI	Storytelling, Worldbuilding
12:00 p.m.	LUNCH									
1:30 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.	Disability and Illness Narratives as Re-worlding 1	Worldbuilding as a Political Practice 1	Alienation and Identity in Western Poetry	Special Issues of Cultural and Critical Production in Canada	Speculative Fictions of Sleep and Wellness	Reflexive Trauma Methodology: Workshop	Ecological Kinship, Grief, and Care	Fictions, Ethics, Attention	What is African Feminism?	Queer Mediation
3:00 p.m.	BREAK									
3:30 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.	Plenary: Michael Bucknor									
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.	Evening Events: Opening Conference Dinner at Satay Brothers (Ticket Required)									

ACCUTE 2026 CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Schedule at a Glance: FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2026

8:30 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.	Mental Health in the Creative Writing Classroom 1	Beyond Binaries, Victorian Literature	Humour Me	Re- imagining Canada	Literature in the Digital Age 1	That Sh*t Hurt: Beyond the Limits of Language	Diaspora and Memory in Asian North American Literature	Mediating Meaning: Time, Politics, Embodiment	Poetic Worlds, Poetic Spaces	Philosophical Approaches	
10:00 a.m.	BREAK										
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Writing a Life from the Margins 1	New Writing in a Time of Disorientation 2	Narratives of the Unspoken 1	Irrepressibility: Women's Writing Throughout History 1: 1600-1900	AMA and FAQ: Submitting your Research to a Literary Journal	Sound Pedagogy: Listening to Literary Audio in Classrooms	Postcolonial Masculinities and Femininities	Modernism, Fascism, and Race	Practicing Poetic Attention	Restorative Storytelling	Mapping Canadian Literatures from Backwoods to Prairies
12:00 p.m.	LUNCH										
1:30 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.	Margaret Laurence's Cultural Mosaic in the Manawaka Saga	Wave Upon Wave 1	Literature and the Geo-logistics of Conquest 2	Disability and Illness as Narrative Reworlding 2	Audience Reactions to Shake- speare	Improvisatory Practices in Research and Pedagogy: Workshop	Feeling American: Race, Labour, Orientalisms	Black and Indigenous Relationalities	Worldbuilding as a political practice 2	Opacity, Agency, and the Subject in Creative Forms	Problems of Memory and Nostalgia
3:00 p.m.	BREAK										
3:30 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.	Self in the Age of Autofiction 1	Medieval Masculinities	Indigenous Horror	Ramones at Fifty	The Literary Critic of Humour, round 2	The Role of Publishing Houses in Shaping Discourse	Montreal in the Cultural Imagination	Technology in the Literature Classroom	Performing Resistance	Circulation and Authority in Victorian Literature	R. Murray Schafer: Reassessing his legacy
5:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.	Plenary: Marcie Frank										

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Schedule at a Glance: SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2026

8:30 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.	Gail Scott: Fiction+/Theory 1: Scott's Styles	The World Remade2	The Pregnant Text: Reimagining the Maternal Body	Pedagogies of Relation	Poetic Infrastructures: Panel 1	Transparency and its others in 18th Century Literature	Modernism, Markets and the Politics of Use	The Future of EDI	Writerly Forms from Doodles to Data	Writing a Life in the Margins 2	Tuning in to literary radio 1
10:00 a.m.	BREAK										
10:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.	Beyond Inter- disciplinarity	Imagining Spatiality in End of the World Narratives 1	Irrepressibility 2: Women's Writing Throughout History	How Much do I need to learn about elves?	Doing Magic in the University: A workshop for the Admin-Curious	Doing Critical Thinking Differently	Gail Scott: Fiction+/Theory 2	Montreal as Contact Zone: Topography, Diaspora, and the Poetics of Place	Queer Memory and Forms of Care	Staging Vision in Early Modern Literature	Translation in Contemporary Literature
12:00 a.m.	Lunch										
1:30 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.	Climate Change and the Maximalist Novel	Narratives of the Unspoken: Trauma, Memory, and Identity 2	Literature in the Digital Age: Reading, Writing and Reviewing Across Platforms 2	New Writing in a Time of Disorientation 3	Care for: Epistolary as Reflection, Research, and Resistance	19th Century Activism and Social Justice	Roundtable on The Bloomsbury Handbook of Poetry. Gender, Sexuality and Poetry	Decolonial Poetics and Archives in Canadian Contexts	Trust, Labor, and Voice in the Contemporary Academy	Forbidden Fiction	Mary Shelley's "The Last Man" in 2026
3:00 p.m.	BREAK										
3:30 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.	Plenary: Jordan Abel										
6:00 p.m.	Evening Activity: TBD										

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Schedule at a Glance: SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2026

8:30 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.	AGM									
10:00	BREAK									
10:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.	Gail Scott: Fiction+/Theory 3	Imagining Spatiality in End of the World Narratives 2	Poetic Infrastructures 2	Narratives of the Unspoken: Trauma, Memory, and Identity 3	Medieval Magic	Creative Research 2	Rethinking the Postcolonial Subject	Indigenous Literary Resistance	Teaching, Researching and Writing Literature in Genocidal Times	Nineteenth-Century Forms and Practices
12:00 p.m.	BIPOC Caucus Lunch				English Studies in Canada					
1:30 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.	Systems Thinking and/in Literature	Writing a Life in the Margins 3	Rethinking romantic science 2	Self in the age of autofiction 2	Reading Canada Otherwise	Ecocritical Perspectives in Contemporary Canadian and Indigenous Writing	Neoliberalism and the Public Sphere	Shakespeare in Extremis	Silence, Speech, and Trauma	Diasporic Identities
3:00 p.m.	BREAK									
3:30 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.	Wave Upon Wave 2	Tuning Into Literary Radio 2	Teachers as Investigators in the Age of AI	Canadian Fictions and Movements	Paradise and Polemics in Milton and Dryden	Global and Indigenous Graphic Narratives	Life Writing in Embodied and Feminist Forms	Indigenous Storytelling as World(re)making	Victorian Faith, Femininity, and Felines	Identifying and Disrupting Racialized-Gen- dered Normativities in the Classroom

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DAY 3 – Break: 3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

DAY 3 – Session 4: 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

DAY 3 – Evening Events

MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2025

DAY 4 – Session 1: 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

DAY 4 - Break 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

DAY 4 – Session 2: 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

DAY 4 – Lunch: 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

DAY 4 – Session 3: 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

DAY 4 – Break: 3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

DAY 4 – Evening Events

WORKSHOPS

THURSDAY JUNE 4, 2026

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

8:30 a.m. *Salvage Inventory &/or Inventory Salvage*

Chair: Mark McCutcheon, Athabasca U; Titi Aiyegbusi, U of Toronto

Paul Barrett, U of Guelph – Sounding the Future: *The Blue Clerk* After Humanism
Madhubrata Bhattacharyya, U of Toronto – “Thinking of water in a time of wreckage”:
Dionne Brand and *The Boatmen of Bengal*
Titiola Aiyegbusi, U of Toronto - **TBD**

8:30 a.m. *Fractured Selves in Canadian Literature*

Chair: TBA

Sara Jamieson, Carleton U – Multi-Species Perspectives on Dementia in Recent Writing
by Margaret Atwood
Doaa Tirmizi, McMaster U – When The Soul Splits
Sophia Shelley, McMaster U – Mocking the Phallus: Gendered Subjectivities and
Humour as Counter-Narratives in *Lives of Girls and Women*

8:30 a.m. *Literature and the Geo-Logics of Conquest 1*

Chair: Brennan McCracken, Concordia U

Sydney Wildman, Queen’s U – Reading the Rocks: Nineteenth-Century Perceptions of
Africa’s Geological Primitivity
Harman Uppal, Simon Fraser U – Island Laboratories and Building Nations:
Deconstructing Terra Nullius in Rachel Heng’s *The Great Reclamation*
Benjamin Bush Anderson, Dalhousie U – Site-specificity and eco-poethics in Jacquelyn
Mills’ *Geographies of Solitude*

8:30 a.m. *Speculative Renaissance*

Chair: TBA

Darragh Languay, Concordia U – Willing and Tilling: The Utopian Sustainability of Isabella Whitney and Hugh Plat

Erin Palhus, McGill U – *The Tempest*: Shakespearean Romance and Speculative, Apocalyptic, and Dystopian Adaptation

Paul Yachnin, McGill U – *King Lear* as Speculative Theatre

8:30 a.m. *New Writing in a Time of Disorientation 1*

Chair: Anna Veprinska, U of Calgary; Uchechukwu Peter Umezurike, U of Calgary

Anna Veprinska, U of Calgary – Writing Crisis: Poetry as Violation, Responsibility, and/or Necessity

Theo Fox, York U – Decontextualize, Reappropriate, Materialize: Palimpsestic Poems That Resist

Euan Lim, U of Calgary – Thirty Days Left to Live: Autofiction as Therapy

8:30 a.m. *Adaptation Across Media*

Chair: TBA

Madelaine Moynes-Keshen, U of Western Ontario – The Yuppie Oedipus: Michael Almereyda's 2000 film adaptation of William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*

Julia Garcia, U of Western Ontario – The Sun Will Shine on Us as on Man: Reimagining *Frankenstein's* Creature and Other Monsters in the 21st Century

Irina Znamirovski, U of Toronto – To Dance in the Moonlight Revels: The Narratological Function of Pas De Deux sequences in 1960s Classical Ballet Translations of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

8:30 a.m. *Creative Research 1*

Chair: TBA

Misha Solomon, Concordia U – Montréal Biodôme as Place and Bestiary

Scott Ennis, Independent Scholar – *Mill Relics*: Sonnettics and the Poetics of Infrastructural Memory

Jenna James, U of New Brunswick – *Fire in Virtue*: Queering Ecological Crisis Through Poetics of Dissociation

8:30 ***Imagining Futures Otherwise***

Chair: TBA

Naomi Boswell, Dalhousie U – No Orange Sunsets Over Grass: Afropessimism, the Extroverted African Novel, and Afrofuturism as Ways of Writing Africa
Reed Inver, U of British Columbia – “Might Be Going to Have Lived”: Anthropology, Anarchism, and Unknowable Utopias in Ursula K. Le Guin’s *Always Coming Home*

Aiza Gamboa Bragg, U of British Columbia – Even In Another Time: Poetic Reproduction and Immortal Queer Futurism

8:30 ***Pedagogies of Repair***

Chair: TBA

Payal Nagpal, U of Calgary – Rice’s Decolonial Apocalypse: the Possibility of Epistemic Resurgence

Emily Zepick, U of Saskatchewan – In Search of Safe Spaces: 2SLGBTQIA+ Spaces in Mary Jean Chan’s Poetry Collection *Flèche* in Relation to Saskatchewan Trauma-Informed Pedagogy

Deborah Blenkhorn, Kwantlen Polytechnic U – Trauma Informed Practice in Composition and Literature Classes

8:30 ***Social Media, Communication, and Community***

Chair: TBA

Zahra Falahatpisheh, U of Western Ontario – Social Media, Social Capital, and International Students’ Adaptation in Canada

Rebecca Halliday, U of Victoria – Communication as Workplace-Ready Skills for English Majors?: Exploring Professionalization and Interdisciplinary Boundaries at the University of Victoria

Sarah Rewega, U of Guelph – Veiled Histories and Viral Protests: How one Image of Mahsa Amini Transcended Personal Suffering

DAY 1 – Break 1: 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

DAY 1 – Session 2: 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

10:30 a.m. **Rethinking Romantic Science 1 (NASSR/ACCUTE)**

Chair: Raj Banerjee, U of Western Ontario

Joel Falfak, U of Western Ontario – You Put a Spell on Me: Romanticism, Mesmerism, and Psychoanalysis

Andrew Sargent, U of Western Ontario – Romantic Astronomy, Myth, and the Revelation of Finitude: Keats's *Saturnine Cosmos*

Jeremy Arnott, Concordia U – Romanticism and the Mechanical Body: Hoffman & Kleist on Automation

Adam Mohamed, U of Western Ontario – Exploring the Limits of Schlegel's "Logical Chemistry:" Reading Shelley's *A Defence of Poetry* as Symphilosophy and the "Science of Sciences"

10:30 a.m. **How Should a Person be Bored?**

Chair: Myra Bloom, York U; Erin Wunker, Dalhousie U

Busra Copuroglu, U of Western Ontario – Hanging Over Like a Lazy Rain Cloud: Describing a Feel

Kasia Van Schaik, U of New Brunswick – "The cruelty of the world was tranquil": Clarice Lispector's Bored Women

Myra Bloom, York U – The Banality of Incel: Russell Smith's *Self-Care*

Alex Prong, U of New Brunswick – Plotlessness as Resistance in Contemporary Queer Fiction

10:30 a.m. **The World Remade: Deconstruction and Reconstruction through Language 1**

Chair: Kate Sheckler, Marianapolis College

Emily Magajna, McGill U – Diagnostic Colonialism v.s. Guerilla Mutineers: Cracks in the Attempted Calcification of Meaning in Translations and *Blue/Orange*

Kirsten Bussière, U of Ottawa – "Littl Shyning Man the Addom": The Development of Myth in Post-Apocalyptic Fiction

Kate Sheckler, Marianapolis College – Burning Down the House: Determinative Metaphor and the Patriarchal Gaze in *Jane Eyre*

Nitasha Baig, U of Alberta – Fanatic and Fanatacized: Rejecting Orientalist Identity in *Poems From Guantanamo: The Detainees Speak*

10:30 a.m. *Rethinking the Profession of Journalism and Authorship in/through Periodical Studies (RSVP/ACCUTE)*

Chair: Stephan Pigeon, St. Francis Xavier U

Kaitlyn Fralick, Queen's U – Reconsidering the Female Poet's Interpretive Labour through Nineteenth-Century Illustrated Literary Annuals

Lisa C. Robertson, U of New Brunswick – The Prophetic Reviewer: Time and Authorship in Margaret Oliphant's "Modern Light Literature" Series in Blackwood's

Stephan Pigeon, St. Francis Xavier U – Endless Precarity: Status and Labour in Victorian Journalism

Alexis Easley, U of St. Thomas – Celebrity Portraiture, Intimacy, and the Mass Media in Late Victorian Britain

10:30 a.m. *Marxism v. Poetry*

Chair: Paisley Conrad, Concordia U; M.A. King, Concordia U

Amie Zimmerman, U at Albany – "Writing & Fighting": Wendy Trevino's Committed Poetics

Fintan Calpin, King's College London – Depreciated Machinery

Annalise Quesnelle, Brock U – "Teaching That We Matter": Poetic Instruction in Derek Beaulieu's *Do It Wrong: How to be a Poet in the Twenty-First Century*

10:30 a.m. *Reimagining Canada: Roundtable*

Gregory Betts, Brock U

Concetta Principe, Trent U

Barrington Walker, McMaster U

Carl James, York U

Ian Mckay, McMaster U

10:30 a.m. *Celebrity and Cultural Authority*

Chair: TBA

Lorraine York, McMaster U – “Mr. Murakami’s Place”: Reluctant Literary Celebrity As Digital Agony Uncle
Sosthenes Ekeh, U of Alberta – Literary Prize Culture and the Politics of National Literature: Interrogating the Nigeria Prize for Literature
Bebhinn Jennings, McMaster U – *Doppelgänger* and Double Life: The Constraints of Public Persona in Celebrity Memoir

10:30 a.m. Writing in the Eighteenth Century

Chair: TBA

Chance Pahl, Briercrest College – Tranquility in/and the Eighteenth-Century Periodical: James Boswell’s *Hypochondriack* as a Cure for Melancholy
Mariana Chajon Oliveros, Independent Scholar – A Heteronormative Veil: Interpreting the Marriage Plot in Frances Burney’s *Evelina*
James Munro, McMaster U – The World On Stage: Geographic Shifts in the Representation of Colonized Spaces in the 17th Century English Theatre

10:30 a.m. Pedagogy in the Age of AI

Chair: TBA

Taylor Breckles, Alexander College – The Fear of the Required Unknown in Higher Education: Exploring Hesitancies Surrounding the Encouraged Adoption of AI and Indigenization
Sarah Seeley, U of Toronto – Naming the Response: A Critical Examination of Bot-Proofing
Matt Kavanagh, Okanagan College – Uncanny Valley: Encountering AI doppelgängers in the classroom

10:30 a.m. Storytelling, Worldbuilding

Chair: TBA

Kirsten Favreau, U of Ottawa – Greater than Resistance: Metafictional Orality in Toni Morrison’s *Beloved* and Louise Erdrich’s *Tracks*
Louise Harrington, U of Alberta – Border voices: storytelling and peacebuilding
Morgan Kittson, Dalhousie U – Marriages, Misfortune, and Manifestation: Gudrun’s Agency in the Face of Fate in *Laxardal Saga*

THURSDAY JUNE 4, 2026

Renan Cabral Paulino, Simon Fraser U – Negotiating Archipelagic Identities in Rachel
Hang's *The Great Reclamation*

DAY 1 – Lunch: 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

DAY 1 – Session 3: 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

1:30 p.m. *Disability and Illness Narratives as Re-worlding 1*
Disability Gain: Writing the Creative, Reframing Disequilibrium, and Thinking
in the Hyphens

Chair: Jorge Vallejos, York U

Maureen Medved, U of British Columbia – Disability Gain: Writing the Creative
Mikaela Kassar, McGill U – Reframing Disequilibrium: Investigating the Politics of Care
and Cure in Contemporary Literature
Tess Casher, U of Alberta – Thinking in the Hyphens

1:30 p.m. *Worldbuilding as a Political Practice 1: Theory*

Chair: Brent Ryan Bellamy, Trent U

Antje Rauwerda, Goucher College – Creative Reading as Challenge to the Academy: A
Cognitive Science Approach
Danna Petersen-Deeprouse, Queen's U – The Subversive Potential of Queernormative
Worldbuilding
Jennifer Komorowski, U of Western Ontario – Indigenous Worldbuilding as Indigenous
Futurism
Sharon Engbrecht, U of Guelph – Worldbuilding through Improvisation

1:30 p.m. *Alienation and Identity in Western Canadian Poetry*

Chair: Solomon Goudsward

Maia Harris, Concordia U – Even the Ground's Dispersed

Jordan Price, U of Victoria – “writing a self / a country”: Western Alienation and National Allegory in bpNichol’s *The Martyrology*

Patric Aura, U de Montréal – “An Explosion of Trying”: Alienation and the Prefatory Long Poem in Patricia Blondal’s *A Candle to Light the Sun*

1:30 p.m. Special Issues of Cultural and Critical Production in Canada

Chairs: Bart Vautour, Dalhousie U; Marissa Carroll, Dalhousie U

Eric Schmaltz, Dalhousie U – A Periodical That Sings: R. Murray Schafer’s *Open Letter Festschrift*

Billy Johnson, Dalhousie U – What Makes an Issue Special? Canadian Little Magazine Precursors at the Turn of the Twentieth Century

Molly Pearce, McGill U – Groundwork: Periodicals and the Development of Critical Bioregionalism in Canada

Smaro Kamboureli, U of Toronto – Special Issues: Re-fashioning Canadian Literature

1:30 p.m. WORKSHOP: Reflexive Trauma Methodology: Emotional and Structural Reflexivity in Research

Organizer: Waed Hasan, U of Guelph

This workshop addresses the challenge of conducting research on sensitive, potentially traumatic subjects while remaining critically aware of one’s own emotional responses and positionality. Drawing on Bourdieu’s reflexive sociology and Finlay’s reflective methodologies, participants will explore both structural and personal dimensions of reflexivity in their research. The session will be highly interactive, combining short theoretical overviews with practical exercises.

Activities include:

- Structured Reflexive Mapping: Participants trace their positionality and emotional responses to their research topic.
- Emotional Journaling Exercise: Guided prompts encourage researchers to document feelings, triggers, and embodied reactions encountered in research.
- Peer Reflection Dialogue: Participants share insights in small groups, practicing ethical and empathetic engagement with emotions in research.
- Integrative Discussion: Participants link their personal reflections to structural and theoretical frameworks, exploring how emotions shape research decisions, interpretations, and representations.

By the end of the workshop, participants will gain concrete strategies for identifying, documenting, and analyzing emotional responses in research, understand the interplay

between structural reflexivity and personal emotions, and develop a methodologically rigorous yet ethically sensitive approach to trauma-informed scholarship.

Capacity: 20

1:30 p.m. *Ecological Kinship, Grief, and Care*

Chair: TBA

Jason Haslam, Dalhousie U – No Island is a Man: Francis Stevens' “Friend Island” and Extraction

Veronica Exner, U of Alberta – In the Midst of the Willows: A Poetics of Willowiness

Ben Berman Ghan, U of Calgary – Everything is Happening Right Now: Writing the fantastic with Climate Grief

1:30 p.m. *Fiction, Ethics, Attention*

Chair: TBA

Bahare Yousefi, U of Ottawa – Unexpected Attunement and Lyric Attention in Kim Stanley Robinson's *The Ministry for the Future*

Aaron Kreuter, Trent U – Fictionalizing Pivotal Moments in the Zionist Colonization of Palestine in Alison Pick, Tova Reich, and Adania Shibli

Sanchari Sur, Wilfrid Laurier U – Using Postmemories to Write the Mad Naxal Revolutionary into Fiction

1:30 p.m. *What is African Feminism? (CAAS/ACCUTE)*

Chairs: Chinelo Ezenwa, Memorial U; Deborah Egbekpalu, Memorial U

Gladwell Pamba, Concordia U – So Vulgar: Understanding African Feminism through Use of Language

Racheal Kalaba, U of Toronto – Women's Narratives as Living Theory: An African Womanist Reading of Bemba Indigenous Leadership

Uchechukwu Umezurike, U of Calgary – Feminist Criticism and Penile Masculinity in Lola Shoneyin's novel *The Secret Lives of Baba Segi's Wives*

1:30 p.m. *Queer Mediation*

Chair: TBA

Erika Hunter, York U – Acting Upon The Body: On David Wojnarowicz and Bridging the Gap Between Queer Literature and Drug Literature

Asmar Ahmadi Golabkharan, Waldorf International School – Queer Visibility and Media Representation in Canada: Cultural Narratives, Identity, and Inclusion

Amy LeBlanc, U of Calgary – “Buried alive and suffocating to death”: Body Horror and Gothic Embodiment in *I Saw the TV Glow*

DAY 1 – Break 2: 3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

DAY 1 – Session 4: 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

3:30 p.m. PLENARY LECTURE: Michael A. Bucknor – “(De)colonial Hauntings and the Black Sonic Fantastic: Riffing Off Dub Poetry”

Michael A. Bucknor is Professor and Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Black Global Studies and Decolonial Practice at the University of Alberta. Formerly, he was Chair of the Department of Literatures in English, Public Orator at the Mona Campus (University of the West Indies), and Chair of the Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (ACLALS). Awarded the 2018 and 2020 UWI Principal’s Award for Best Research Article, he also received the 2019 Institute of Jamaica’s Gold Musgrave Medal for Eminence in the field of Literature. He currently serves on the editorial boards of several journals and is Co-Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of West Indian Literature*. He carries out research on the African Diaspora, Austin Clarke, Caribbean-Canadian writing, Black Canadian cultural production, postcolonial literatures and theory, masculinities, sexualities, and popular culture. Widely published, his most recent publication is “‘Leaving Traces’: Decolonial Hauntings and Affective Ecologies,” (Co-authored with Aon Abideen) *JWIL* (April 2025), and the monograph, *Olive Senior*, in The Caribbean Biography Series, UWI Press is forthcoming in 2026.

Sponsored by Wilfrid Laurier University Press

DAY 1 – Evening Events: 5:00 p.m. onwards

6:00 p.m. Opening Night Dinner

DETAILS TO FOLLOW



FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2026

DAY 2 – Session 1: 8:30 a.m. -10:00 a.m.

8:30 a.m. *Mental Health in the Creative Writing Classroom*

Chair: Samantha Annie Bernstein, York U

Bronwen Tate, U of British Columbia – 10 Practices to Support Emotional Agency in Creative Writing Courses

Joshua Friesen, U of Western Ontario – Affective Writing and its Grading Practices

Kate Hargreaves, U of Windsor – Trauma-Informed Practice in the Post-Secondary Creative Writing Workshop

Maria Cichosz – Managing Boundaries and Difficult Topics in Creative Nonfiction

8:30 a.m. *Beyond Binaries: Victorian Literature in Transnational Contexts (NAVSA/ACCUTE)*

Chair: Reza Taher-Kermani, Concordia U

Ella Hooper, Concordia U – Opium, Object and Orientalism: Symbols of Empire and the Expansion of the Victorian Periodical Press

Donna Tillotson, Queen's U – From Translation to Transformation: Spinoza's Role in Eliot's Reimagining of Victorian Gender

Ali Hassanpour Darbandi, York U – "Azad or Free Like Cypress?": Thoreau's Non-propositional *Religion of Nature* and Saadi's *Gulistan*

Cherrie Kwok, U of Iowa – E. Pauline Johnson's Mohawk Metalepsis

8:30 a.m. *Humour Me: Retelling Stories and Histories*

Chairs: Mohammad (Mo) Sharifi, Fanshawe College; Kristine Dizon, Concordia U

Christiane Tarantino, Toronto Metropolitan U – Sprinkles and Sweatshop Stories:
Humour, Trauma, and Immigrant Labor in Thammavongsa’s Work
Gladwell Pamba, Concordia U – Trading with Caution: Retelling of History & Trauma
Amelia (Molly) Labenski, U of Calgary – Storytelling through Absurdism in E.L
Doctorow’s *Ragtime* and Paul Beatty’s *The Sellout*
Maya Phillips, McMaster U – Replacing Lack with Abundance: Indigenous Historical
Fiction as Retroactive Self-Determination

8:30 a.m. *Reimagining Canada: Panel*

Chair: Gregory Betts, Brock U

Malli McIver, U of British Columbia – Time-Travelling with Warren Cariou's
Petrographs
Isabelle Lirette, Dalhousie U – Mi’kmaq Poetry as “Counter-mapping”
Zoe Mix, **TBD** – Métis Books Abroad: Studying the Transnational Reception of Métis
Literature in the US and Canada

**8:30 a.m. *Literature in the Digital Age: Reading, Writing, and Reviewing Across
Platforms 1***

Chair: Aman Grewal, McGill U

Juliana Lau, U of Calgary – BookTok, Bookstagram, and BookTube
Alexandra Lamb, U of British Columbia – The Work of Art in the Age of Digital
Reproduction: What Modern Readers Can Learn From Medieval Manuscripts
Elena Sénéchal-Becker, McGill U – Teaching Each Other How to Love: Queer Affect
Transmission and Archiving Methods in Digital Poetry Communities

8:30 a.m. *That Sh*t Hurted: Beyond the Limits of Language*

Chair: Theo Fox, York U; Tamara Frooman, York U

Emily Mao, U of British Columbia – “watch me vanish”: Psychic Suffering and
Postdramatic Poetics in Sarah Kane’s *4.48 Psychosis*
Emily Cann, **TBD** – Graphic Suffering: Comics and Remaking the World of Chronic Pain
Natasha Alcalde Lawton, York U – My Body’s Pain: Undone, and Knit Into a Shawl
Asmar Ahmadi Golabkharan, Waldorf International School – Non-Standard Grammar as
Emotional Expression in Contemporary English

8:30 a.m. *Diaspora and Memory in Asian North American Literature*

Chair: TBA

Avleen Grewal, U of Ottawa – Haunting artefacts: Traumatic disorientations in Sharon Bala’s *The Boat People*

Sofia Osborne, U of British Columbia – Mapping Mixed-Raceness in Edith Eaton’s Montreal

Mary Igmen, McMaster U – The Hyphenated State: Mediation and Trauma in the Asian-American Diaspora in Ocean Vuong’s *On Earth We’re Briefly Gorgeous* and Ling Ma’s *Severance*

Hanako Teranishi, Simon Fraser U – Re-historicizing *In Cold Blood* (1965) in Light of Japanese Internment and the Civil Rights Movement

8:30 a.m. *Mediating Meaning: Time, Politics, Embodiment*

Chair: TBA

Megan Gorsalitz, Queen’s U – Television Temporalities: The Effects of the Streaming Model on Medievalism

Ian-Jyzel Gallardo, U of Guelph – Fluxeuse Poiesis

Alex Blais, TBD – Claiming Jane: Affinity Spaces of the Alt-right Janeites

8:30 a.m. *Poetic Worlds, Poetic Spaces*

Chair: TBA

Joel Katelnikoff, U of Alberta – “The Limits of My Language Mean the Violent Thudding of My Heart”: Investigating the Strangeness of Wittgenstein’s Language through Cut-Ups

Youeal Abera, McGill U – The Affordability of Archiving: An Analysis of Rukeyser’s *The Book of the Dead* and the Obscuration of White Supremacy

Christopher Giannakopoulos, U of Waterloo – Made under constraint: literary tensions in poetry as architecture

8:30 a.m. *Philosophical Approaches*

Chair: TBA

Kayla Fanning, Concordia U – Rootedness, Trans-corporeality, and Violence in Sarah Moss's *Ghost Wall*

CJ MacDonald, U of Toronto – Pink Opacities: Trans Becoming as Opaque Illumination

Jesse Genereux, McMaster U – Cultivating the Conditions of Ethical Subjectivity Through Experiments in Literary Form: bpNichol and Emmanuel Levinas

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. *Writing a Life from the Margins 1: Writing a Queer Life*

Chair: Titi Aiyegbusi, U of Toronto

Bronte Cronsberry, U of Western Ontario – Reading the Canon: Life Writing and the Embodiment of Queer Theory

Shannon Brown, Dalhousie U – A Queer Mourning Matrix: Beautiful Writing and Living

Aiza Gamboa Bragg, U of British Columbia – "A Shout from the Grave": *Pro Bernal Anti Bio* as Queer Filipinx Anti-Archive

Arshad Said Khan, U of Alberta – Deviant Citizenship: Caste, Gender, and the Promise of Hindu Sovereignty in Contemporary Indian Hijra Life Narratives

10:30 a.m. *New Writing in a Time of Disorientation 2*

Chair: Anna Veprinska, U of Calgary; Uchechukwu Peter Umezurike, U of Calgary

Andy Weaver, Trent U – PurgatorioXIX: Erasure (Poetry) In the Time of COVID

Uchechukwu Peter Umezurike, U of Calgary – Postwar Memory, Historical Trauma, and Poetry

Blair Yoxall, U of Calgary – An Historical Presence: Treat Them as Buffalo in Its Modern Catastrophic Contexts

10:30 a.m. *Narratives of the Unspoken: Trauma, Memory, and Identity 1 – Trauma at the Borders*

Chair: Nafiseh Shajani, U of Western Ontario

Aamna Rashid, U of British Columbia – The Body as an Archive: Performing the Memory of Partition (1947)

Fatemeh Zarvasi, U of Victoria – Co-naissance and Co-affectivity in Aliyeh Ataei's *The Alcove*
Concetta Principe, Trent U – Minor Detail and the Muselmann

10:30 a.m. Irrepressibility: Women's Writing throughout History 1 - 1600-1900

Chairs: Charlotte Esme Frank, McGill U; Emily McConkey, McGill U

Marie Trotter, McGill U – “I’m Bold To Sit Amongst You For My Ease”: Irrepressible Female Spectatorship in *The Knight of The Burning Pestle*
Abigail Butler, McGill U – Negotiating Female Sexual Pleasure in the Early Romance Novel
Zohreh Ramin, Acadia U – Irrepressible voices from Qajar Iran to Enlightenment England
Julia Bifulco, McGill U – “We found her hidden just behind those screens”: Christina Rossetti and Elizabeth Siddal

10:30 a.m. ROUNDTABLE: AMA and FAQ: Submitting your Research to a Journal

Mary Chapman, U of British Columbia – Canadian Literature Journal
Allan Pero, U of Western Ontario – English Studies in Canada
Janice Shroeder, Carleton U – Victorian Review

10:30 a.m. Sound Pedagogy: Listening to Literary Audio in Classrooms and Beyond

Chairs: Karis Shearer, U of British Columbia; Klara du Plessis, U of British Columbia

Natasha D’Amours, U of Alberta – 360° Video and Ambisonic Audio: A Case Study in “Re-Sounding” Literary Audio for Research-Creation
Emily Fedoruk, Independent Scholar – The Classroom Theatre: Pedagogies of Sound at the 1963 Vancouver Poetry Conference
Cole Mash, U of British Columbia (Okanagan Campus) – ‘Physiology Flutter’: Reading and Pedagogy of Mediatized Spoken Word Poetry

10:30 a.m. Postcolonial Masculinities and Femininities

Chair: TBA

Ifra Kainat, U of Lahore – Masculinities in Transit: Gender, Power, and Vulnerability in the works of Mohsin Hamid and Kamila Shamsie
Mariana Chajon Oliveros, Independent Scholar – The Mimic Women in The Mimic Men
Haley Prosser, McMaster U – Resisting the Domestic Space: Gender, Sexuality, and Imagined Spaces in *The Shadow Lines*

10:30 a.m. *Modernism, Fascism, and Race*

Chairs: TBA

Allan Hepburn, McGill U – Rex Warner, Betty Miller, and Fascist Melodrama
Andre Furlani, Concordia U – Counter-Flanerie: Racialized Walking in Modern Fiction
Joseph Rosenberg, U of Notre Dame – Litvinoff Contra Eliot

10:30 a.m. *Practicing Poetic Attention*

Chairs: TBA

Andy Weaver, York U – Theodore Enslin’s Poetry of Ethical Attention
Gaurav Jain, U of Victoria – The Queer Fool’s Etiquette: Gary Snyder’s Fire Writings and the Refusal of Redemption
Kasia Van Schaik, U of New Brunswick – A Day’s Work: Durational Poetry and Domestic Time

10:30 a.m. *Restorative Storytelling*

Chairs: TBA

Tathagata Som, U of Calgary – Storytelling, Indigeneity, and Landscape in Dai’s *The Black Hill*
Waed Hasan, U of Guelph – Nostalgic Storytelling In/Through Apocalypse in Ma’s *Severance* and Mandel’s *Station Eleven*
Zahra Mirabolfathi-Nejad, TBD – Why Not Laugh Back?: Humour and Storytelling in Firoozeh Dumas’ *Memoir of Iranian Resistance in the West*

10:30 a.m. *Mapping Canadian Literatures from Backwoods to Prairies*

Chair: TBA

Marissa Carroll, Dalhousie U – A Digital Literary Cartography: Mapping The Song Fishermen’s Song Sheet’s Transnational Field of Cultural Production
David Buchanan, Athabasca U – Literary Historification of Canada: *British Columbia: A Centennial Anthology*
Jackson Mattocks, U of Calgary – Empathetic Loneliness: Empathy and Loneliness in Prairie Fiction
Matthew Zantingh, Redeemer U – What Lurks in the Backwoods?: Jeff Lemire’s Comics as Southern Ontario Gothic Texts

DAY 2 – Lunch: 12:00 p.m - 1:30 p.m.

12:00 ***Creative Writing Caucus Member Meeting***

12:00 ***Graduate Student Caucus Member Meeting***

12:00 ***Contract Faculty Member Meeting***

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

1:30 p.m. ***Margaret Laurence’s Cultural Mosaic in the Manawaka Saga***

Chairs: Nora Foster Stovel, University of Alberta

Nora Foster Stovel, **TBD** – Margaret Laurence’s Cultural Mosaic in her Manawaka Saga
Christl Verduyn, Mount Allison U – Writer to Writer: Marian Engel’s Defense of Margaret Laurence’s *The Diviners*
Laura Davis, Red Deer Polytechnic – What Margaret Laurence Told Us About the Environment: Reading Laurence’s Writing Through Eco Criticism
Leilei Chen, U of Alberta – Globalizing “the Canadian Local”: Translating Margaret Laurence’s Short Stories into Chinese

1:30 p.m. ***Wave Upon Wave 1: A Poetry Reading and Discussion***

Chairs: Gillian Sze, Concordia U; Diane Yeung, Concordia U

Rijaa Khan, McMaster U – Water as Archive: Memory and the Earth in Diasporic Poetics
Madelaine Caritas Longman, Concordia U – Common Grounds and Waters: Ethics, Elegy, Ekphrasis
Vinh Thach, McMaster U – Delta Elegy: Refugee Poetics of Water
Rob Winger, Trent U – Selected Bridges

1:30 p.m. *Literature and the Geo-Logics of Conquest 2*

Chair: Brennan McCracken, Concordia U

Sydney Wildman, Queen's U – Reading the Rocks: Nineteenth-Century Perceptions of Africa's Geological Primitivity

Harman Uppal, Simon Fraser U – Island Laboratories and Building Nations: Deconstructing Terra Nullius in Rachel Heng's *The Great Reclamation*

Benjamin Bush Anderson, Dalhousie U – Site-specificity and Eco-poethics in Jacquelyn Mills' *Geographies of Solitude*

1:30 p.m. *Disability and Illness Narratives as Re-Worlding 2: Pain Without Resolution, Re-Envisioning Terminal Illness and Caregiver Coping, and Non-linear Narratives of Photographic Non-Capture*

Chairs: Jorge Vallejos, York U

Rachel Huh, U of Calgary – Pain without Resolution: Disenfranchised Grief and the Right to Suffer

Anastazia Csegeny, U of Western Ontario – "This is Not a Story About Grief": Re-Envisioning Terminal Illness and Caregiver Coping in Rick Louis' *Ronan and the Endless Sea of Stars*

Shane Neilson, McMaster U – This is Not a Picture of Me, and There has Never Been One: On Photographs of Autistic People and Nonlinear Narratives of Photographic Non-Capture

1:30 p.m. *Audience Reactions to Shakespeare*

Chair: Alexandra Lukawski, U of Western Ontario; Alice Hinchliffe, U of Guelph

Julian Quigg, U of British Columbia – 'Women to Change Their Shapes': Reconciling Homoeroticism and Heterosexuality in *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*

Linda Steele, Carleton U – Ambiguity and Monarchy in Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*

Kenzo Pecchia, McGill U – Mitigating the Trauma of the Civil War: William Davenant's Shakespeare on the Early Modern Stage

Jacqueline Petropoulos, York U – Playing with Shakespeare and Audience Expectations: The Politics of Colonial Betrayal

1:30 p.m. *WORKSHOP: Improvisatory Practices in Research and Pedagogy*

Organizer: Sharon Engbrecht, U of Guelph

"When broken down improvisation, etymologically, lends itself to the idea of unproviding for the future, a decolonial approach to colonialist histories of individualization and knowledge production, what Elwood Jimmy and Vanessa Andreotti describe as "thread sensibilities" in *Towards Braiding*. Threading sensibilities are an orientation towards relationships that focus on collective well-being critical of the hierarchical nature of goal- and progress-oriented outcomes and decision-making. With this in mind, what does it mean to improvise research? What can we do to incorporate improvisation into our scholarship? How can we incorporate improvisatory practices as educators?

Part introduction to the language and tools offered through Critical Studies in Improvisation, part open discussion, and part collaborative and create think-tank about arts-based practices and creative output, the "Improvisatory Practices in Research and Pedagogy" workshop will call attention to implicit hierarchies and institutional practices while also asking participants to respectfully consider and also call into question their own practices as scholars and educators.

This workshop will give participants the chance to answer some of the above questions and to think about the confluence of improvisatory practices in research and pedagogy. Critical Studies in Improvisation gives us language and tools to work within and responsibly challenge the colonialist creep, and neoliberal structure, of the university. The language and tools of improvisation can help us reevaluate the models we have inherited, asking us to think outside the box about how to shift entrenched institutional practices while mindful of the stakes in what it means when we expose a problem at the same time we might be perceived as posing a problem (Ahmed, *Living a Feminist Life*).

The workshop will ask participants to examine how improvisation brings into perspective different approaches to ways of being and doing. The design of the workshop will invite participants to co-design the contents and focus of discussion. This addresses questions about how co-creation takes place within structures that demand or, in the least often presume, a clear structure of knowledge production and quantifiable outcomes. The intention behind this opening-up of the workshop's potential boundaries also invites participants to think about the way modelling can be a basis for thinking through and embodying improvisatory practices.

Together we will investigate multiple contexts of knowledge production and improvisatory practices, including what that means for post-secondary teaching and learning, community-engaged research, and spaces of knowledge curation. The hope is to work together to build a collaborative and caring environment where we can experiment, take risks, and learn from one another, while acknowledging the diversity of our lived experiences and approaches as scholars and educators.

1:30 p.m *Feeling American: Race, Labour, Orientalisms*

Chair: TBA

Colleen Foster, U of Waterloo – Under Construction: The Affective Ideal in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

Nicholas Marcelli, Queen's U – Cover Art and the Erasure of Labour: A Paratextual Analysis of Willa Cather's *My Antonia*

Albana Stafa, York U – Materializing the American Universal and its Orientalisms Through the Campus Novel: Mary McCarthy's *The Groves of Academe*, Vladimir Nobokov's *Pnin*, and Sonora Jha's *The Laughter*

1:30 p.m *Black and Indigenous Relationalities*

Chair: TBA

Odessa Twibill, Simon Fraser U – Finding Black and Indigenous Solidarity in the Life Writing of Maria Campbell and Malcolm X

Jay Pahre, McMaster U – Whiteness as Ambush Predator: Strategies of Settler Hunger, White Consumption, and Gut-turning

Bailey Schaan, U of Alberta – Shading in the Shadow of the Future: Creative History in Wade Compton's *The Outer Harbour*

1:30 p.m *Worldbuilding as a Political Practice 2: Criticism*

Chair: Brent Ryan Bellamy, Trent U

Diana Manole, Trent U – To Have or Not to Have a Lapdog in Iran: The Fictional Rereading of Chekhov's Short Story in Fereshteh Molavi's Fiction

Alison Dyck, U of Western Ontario – The Human Under Totalitarianism in *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*

Ethan Coleman, U of Ottawa – Reading Books with Maps: Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* and the Politics of the Paratextual Map

Johanna Gibson, Dalhousie U – Time Flies Like a Banana: Queer Temporality in *This is How You Lose the Time War*

1:30 p.m. *Opacity, Agency, and the Subject in Creative Forms*

Chairs: Kendra Guidolin, U of Ottawa; Ritu Kurien, U of Ottawa

Claudia Martinez Rivera, U of California, Berkeley – No sé traducir pedregosidad
Kiera Obbard, U of Waterloo – Quiet Comings Out: A Poetics of Queer Opacity
Salena Wiener, Simon Fraser U – “I am half sick of living in the shadow of his gaze”:
Desire and Opacity in *Cities of Delusions*

1:30 p.m. *Problems of Memory and Nostalgia*

Chair: TBA

Craig Jacobs, U of British Columbia Okanagan – What I Remember Is This: Reflexivity,
Physical Decline, and Shifting Memories of Atrocity in Westerns
Adelvida (Amor) Lomibao, York U – Nostalgia and Futurism and Its Discontents
Shelley Hulan, U of Waterloo – Blind Spot: Nostalgia and Eugenics in Alexander
McLachlan’s *The Emigrant*

DAY 2 – Break: 3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

DAY 2 – Session 4: 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

3:30 p.m. *Self in the Age of Autofiction 1: Aesthetic Considerations*

Chair: Concetta Principe, Trent U

Tony Cooper, McGill U – Realer than Real: Accessing the Ideal in the Sonnets of Diane
Seuss
Julia Polych-O’Neill, Memorial U – “IF SHE IS AN IMAGE, SHE IS THE IMAGE OF
EVERYTHING THE STATE EVADES”: The Archive and/of Lisa Robertson’s
Autofictional Selves
Hannah Gardiner, Independent Scholar – From autos to eros: deceptive aesthetics &
autofiction

3:30 a.m. Medieval Masculinities (CSM/ACCUTE)

Chairs: Megan Arnott, Lakehead U; Kathryn Walton, Lakehead U

Megan Arnott, Lakehead U – Female Masculinities in the Robin Hood Tradition
Sophia Hastings, Simon Fraser U – Medieval Male Gaze and Feminine Body Politics
Emily Pickett, Queen's U – "The Heart and Stomach of a King": How a Genderbent
Henry V Can Unlock New Parallels to Elizabeth I in Contemporary Performance
Krista Milne, Leiden U – Representations of Maternal Age in Literary Sources from
Medieval England

3:30 p.m. Indigenous Horror

Chairs: Krista Collier-Jarvis, Mount Saint Vincent U; Naomi Simone Borwein, U of
Western Ontario

Gage Diabo, Concordia U – Horrors and Comforts of Kinship: The Tones of Shirley
Cheechoo's Bearwalker
Mylène Gamache, U of Manitoba – Haunting relations across the Indigenous prairies
(and beyond)
Diona Ciochina, U of Sherbrooke – Mythic Beasts and Survival: The Rougarou and
Wendigo as Symbols of Colonial and Environmental Decay: *Empire of Wild* and
Moon of the Crusted Snow

3:30 p.m. Ramones at Fifty (CAAS/ACCUTE)

Chair: Peter Robert Brown, Mount Allison U

Bradley Clissold, Memorial U – Come On, Let's Renegotiate Nazi Rhetoric with the
Ramones!
Susan Ingram, York U – Hey! Ho! Let's Go... to Berlin: Musealizing the Ramones
Frances Cameron, McGill U – Curating Rebellion: Punk Music and Alternative
Aesthetics in the United States

3:30 p.m. The Literary Critic of Humour, Round Two

Chair: Danielle Bobker, Concordia U

Gaurav Jain, U of Victoria – Cringe, Click, Repeat: Funny Feelings, Affective Overflow, and the Doomscrolling Critic
Yara Ajeeb, Concordia U – When Kings Cannot Read Themselves: Humour, Misrecognition, and Interpretive Failure in *Kalīla wa Dimna*
Mike Robertson, Vancouver Island U – The Clowns of Country Music: Word Play and Literary Relevance
Emily Stuchbery, Concordia U – Memes and Whimsy

3:30 p.m. *The Role of Publishing Houses in Shaping Literary Discourse*

Chair: Tom Halford, Memorial U (Grenfell Campus)

Rowan Li, Queen’s U – Harvest House: Un Québec universel
Sandra Yeboah, U of British Columbia – The Presence of African Literature in the Global Book Market: Gatekeeping, Barriers, and Emerging Pathways
Ruth Panofsky, Toronto Metropolitan U – “A slew of entertaining business books”: Diane Francis and Key Porter Books
Logan Ropson, Memorial U – Breakwater Books Influence on the Teaching of Newfoundland Culture

3:30 p.m. *Montreal in the Cultural Imagination: Mapping a City Through Story and Symbol*

Chairs: Nathalie Cooke, McGill U; Lorraine York, McMaster U

Nathalie Cooke, McGill U – Cafés, Clubs, and Clandestine Cabarets: Prohibition-era Nightlife in Sin City and its Surrounds
Sophie Feng, U of Toronto – Mapping the Montreal Queer Nightscapes
Tina Wayland, Independent Scholar – Faint Traces: Mapping the History and Cultural Significance of Montreal’s Lithuanian Community
Lu yu, NanJing Normal U; University of Alberta – Alternative Flavors: Culinary Writing and Citizenship Transformation in *Mãn*

3:30 p.m. *Technology in the Literature Classroom*

Chair: TBA

Navid Jalali, McMaster U – Reimagining Shakespeare Pedagogy through Video Games
Joe Toner, Concordia U – ChaucerCast: Embracing Middle English Phonetics
Aaron Tucker, Memorial U – Creative Writing Against, With, and About AI

3:30 p.m. *Performing Resistance*

Chair: TBA

- Zahra Barzegar, York U – Spiral, Radial, Fractal: Performing Gendered Memory in Contemporary Indigenous Poetry
Niloofer Rezaee, U of Western Ontario – “It Wasn’t Always Easy Growing Up Here”: Translation and Iranian Diasporic Identity Onstage
Tika Simone, Iverna Island – Rest as Resistance: Black Feminist Aesthetics, Creative Sovereignty, and the Politics of Refusal
Katarina Dyck, Queen’s U – All the World’s a Stage in “this low cottage”: How Ann Yearsley’s “To Indifference” Blurs the Line Between Public and Private Space

3:30 p.m. *Circulation and Authority in Victorian Literature*

Chair: TBA

- Marziyeh Ghoreishi, U of Western Ontario – Gendered Voices of Empire: British Travel Writing on Iran in the Nineteenth Century
Kaitlyn Fralick, Queen’s U – The Anglo-Irish Author and the English Periodical Press: J. Sheridan Le Fanu’s Literary Revisions for Charles Dickens’s *All the Year Round*
Alex DiCecco, U of Western Ontario – “Elle Était Un Peu Gourmand”: Navigating the Taboo of the Gourmand in Victorian Women’s Cookbooks

3:30 p.m. *R. Murray Schafer: Reassessing his legacy*

Chair: Eric Schmaltz, Dalhousie U; Shannon Brown, Dalhousie U

- Emanuel Puscoi, U of Calgary – The Function of Absence: A Psychoanalytic Reading of Silence and Noise in the Work of R. Murray Schafer
William Brubacher, McGill U– The Sonic Meaning of Water in R. Murray Schafer and bpNichol’s Ecologies
Karl Jirgens, U of Windsor – R. Murray Schafer’s Literary Accomplishments

DAY 2 – Session 5: 5:00p.m. - 6:00 p.m

5:00 p.m. **PLENARY LECTURE: Marcie Frank –“Genre, Situation, Rule: Some Concepts for Literary History?”**

Marcie Frank is Professor of English at Concordia University. She has published books on gender, theatre, and the development of literary criticism in 17th-century England, Gore Vidal’s career as a public intellectual, and most recently, *The Novel Stage: Narrative Form from the Restoration to Jane Austen* (Bucknell UP, 2020). Recent essays include “Point of View and Embodiment Revisited” in *Eighteenth-century Fiction* and “Situation: A Narrative Concept” in *Critical Inquiry* (Summer 2024), which she co-authored with Kevin Pask and Ned Schantz. The former is part of her current project about narrative point of view in the eighteenth-century novel and the novel of today; the latter emanates from SSHRC-funded team research into the narrative concept of situation. The plenary talk for ACCUTE 2026 builds on the work of the Situation team and takes it into some directions that members may neither recognize nor approve.

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2026

DAY 3 – Session 1: 8:30 a.m. -10:00 a.m.

8:30 a.m. *Gail Scott: Fiction+/Theory 1: Scott's Styles*

Chairs: Sarah Burgoyne, Dawson College; Jeff Noh, U of Toronto

Corey Frost, New Jersey City U – Nonfinite Possibilities: Syntactical Effects in *Furniture Music* and Other Works by Gail Scott

Geneviève Robichaud, U de Moncton; Erin Wunker, Dalhousie U – Gail Scott's Sartorial Poetics

Andre Furlani, Concordia U – Gail Scott's Arcades Projects

8:30 a.m. *The World Remade: Deconstruction and Reconstruction through Language 2*

Chair: Kate Sheckler, Marianopolis College

Dakota Jabbour, U of Western Ontario – o pen: Playing with em ty Language in bpNichol's Poetry

Joseph Sereney, York U – “Her voice carves / ginger root and oregano / into purloined air”: Female Prophecy and the Destruction of Linguistic Meaning in *After Beowulf*

8: 30 a.m. *The Pregnant Text: Reimagining the Maternal Body*

Chairs: TBA

Krista Collier-Jarvis, Mount St. Vincent U – It's A...: Portmortem Virality and the Pregnant (Zombie) Body

Michael Gillis, Concordia U – Queering the Patrilineal Patriarch: Birthing Performative Becomings in Gertrude Stein's “Picasso”

Kelsey Blair, U of the Fraser Valley – Minor Pain and the Postpartum Experience in *Nightbitch* and *Die My Love*

8:30 a.m. *Pedagogies of Relation*

Chair: TBA

Maddie Beaulieu, Independent – "Burn the Buried Sunshine": The Queer Ecopedagogies of Ann-Marie MacDonald's *Fayne*

Myra Bloom, York U/ U of Mannheim – Where is Here—and There?: Transnational Approaches to CanLit in the Digital Age

Kate Monahan, Thompson Rivers U – Presencing Indigenous Knowledge in Land-Based Post-Secondary Education: A Settler Educator's Reflexive Inquiry into Decolonization, Accountability, and Relationality

8:30 a.m. *Poetry of Infrastructure/ Poetic Infrastructures: Panel 1*

Chair: Robert Stacey, U of Ottawa

Karis Shearer & Cole Mash, U of British Columbia (Okanagan) – The Lab as Poetic Research Site

Joseph (J) Shea-Carter, U of Guelph– Along the Bièvre: The Poetics of Infrastructure in Lisa Robertson's *Riverwork*

Jason Wiens, U of Calgary – Tish's Bridges

8:30 a.m. *Transparency and its others in 18th century literature*

Chair: Marcie Frank, Concordia U

Janice Niemann, Camosun College – "I am no longer to be deceived": Disability, Transparency, and Summer-house Settings in Frances Burney's *Camilla*

Mathieu Bouchard, John Abbott College – "A Transpicuous Gloom": Visibility in Richard Bentley's *Paradise Lost* (1732)

Trishala Dutta, U of British Columbia – Exhaustion as Method: Opacity, Refusal, and the Archive in M. NourbeSe Philip's *Zong!*

8:30 a.m. *Modernism, Markets, and the Politics of Use*

Chair: TBA

Ann Martin, U of Saskatchewan – How Bazaar: Virginia Woolf and the Politics of Use(fulness)

Elloïse Bastien, McGill U – Reclaiming the Fragmented Nymph in H.D.'s "Oread"

Catherine Hogg, Concordia U – Shopping at the Supermarché: Advertising and Consuming in Gertrude Stein's *Tender Buttons* and Harryette Mullen's *Trimings and S*PeRM**K*T*

8:30 a.m. *The Future of EDI*

Chairs: Mohammad (Mo) Sharifi, Fanshawe College; Richard Douglas-Chin, U of Windsor

Candace Brunette-Debassige, Laurentian U – “The chilling effect of residential school denialism on Indigenous faculty members in universities”

Chinelo Ezenwa, Memorial U – Designing Inclusive and Bias-Free Language Systems: Empowering (Racialized) Faculty Through Transformative Union Agreements

Nicole Kaniki, Huron U – XXX

8:30 a.m. *Writerly Forms from Doodles to Data*

Chair: TBA

Sheheryar Sheikh, Dalhousie U – The Doodle as Antidote: Meandering Toward Self-Directed Meaning

Ryanne Kap, U of Calgary – Scholars of the Self: Parasocial Readings of Catherine Lacey’s *The Möbius Book*

André Babyn, McGill U – Sphere Without Circumference: Systems Thinking, the Library of Babel, and Generative AI

8:30 a.m. *Writing a Life in the Margins 2: Mental Illness, Trauma, and Life Writing*

Chair: Titi Aiyegbusi, U of Toronto

Odessa Twibill, Simon Fraser U– Finding Black and Indigenous Solidarity in the Life Writing of Maria Campbell and Malcolm X

Theresa Tinkle, U of Michigan– Mad Cripistemologies

Lydie Hua, U of Saskatchewan – Slow Postmemory and Ocean Vuong's Memorialization of his Mother in *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*

8:30 a.m. *Tuning in to Literary Radio 1*

Chair: Michael O'Driscoll, U of Alberta; Sean Luyk, U of Alberta

Katherine McLeod, Concordia U – Fugitive Radio: Listening to CBC Radio Recordings Outside the CBC Archives

Niloofer Rezaee, U of Western Ontario – The Haunted Medium: Radio, Voice, and Intertextuality in Samuel Beckett’s *Embers*
Elena Razlogova, Concordia U – From Virtuosity of the Segue to Poetry of the Body: Freeform Radio at Listener-Supported WFMU

DAY 3 – Break: 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

DAY 3 – Session 2: 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

10:30 a.m. *Beyond Interdisciplinarity*

Chairs: Marisa Bordonaro, U of Western Ontario; Bailey Schaan, U of Alberta; Melanie Fishbane, U of Western Ontario

Daniel Green, U of Western Ontario – Why I Study Videogames in an English Department; or, Gadamer’s Hermeneutics and the English Department Today
Marisa Bordonaro – Making Narratives “Mad”: (Re)writing Mad Radical Poetry as a Collaborative Creative Process
Wiam Berred, Qatar Museums – Thinking In, With, and Against Interdisciplinarity: Towards a Practice of Conceptuality

10:30 a.m. *Imagining Spatiality in End of the World Narratives 1*

Chair: Kirsten Bussiere, Mount St. Vincent U; Marisa Lewis, Heritage College

Theo Gray, U of Alberta– Urban Border-space and Apocalypse in adrienne maree brown’s *Grievers*
Michael Cameron, Dalhousie U – The City and the Wasteland: Apocalyptic Spatialities in Kevin Brockmeier’s *The Brief History of the Dead*
Mik Tampold, McMaster U – Objects Among Themselves: Anti-Anthropocentrism in A Tidy Armageddon
Ian-Jyzel Gallardo, U of Guelph – B-Mor: A space of hope on such a full sea (of squalor and decay)

10:30 a.m. *Irrepressibility 2: Women’s Writing Through History 1900-2020s*

Chairs: Charlotte Esme Frank, McGill U; Emily McConkey, McGill U

Aman Grewal, McGill U – The Aesthetic of Difficulty: Reading Mina Loy’s *The Lost Lunar Baedeker*
Kayla Penteliuk, U de Montréal – “Secret Friends”: Queer Love, Disability, and Witchcraft in *Living Alone* (1919) by Stella Benson

Maya Jaishankar U of Western Ontario– "To always carry one's inner voice about is a heavy burden": Young Girls' Voices in Postcolonial Cultural Resistance
Sophia Shelley, McMaster U–Songs of Self-Pleasure: Irrepressibility, Feminist Resistance, and the Politics of Pop Music

10:30 a.m. 'How much do I need to learn about elves?': Genre in the Creative Writing Workshop

Chairs: Glenn Clifton, Sheridan College

Richard Kevis, Toronto Metropolitan U – Books That Play Back: Choice, Agency, and Literacy in *Escape from Tenopia*

Danielle Martak, U of Toronto – Genre as Compass: A Pedagogy for Situating A Piece of Creative Writing in Discourse

Bronwen Tate, U of British Columbia – Influences and Inspirations: Micro-Presentations to Support Genre and Aesthetic Diversity in the Creative Writing Classroom

Heather Clitheroe, U of Calgary – Writing Romance and Erotica: Designing a consent-based, trauma-informed online classroom

10:30 a.m. *Doing Magic in the University: A workshop for the admin-curious*

Organizer: Lily Cho, York U

Co-organisers: Laura Moss, U of British Columbia; Neta Gordon, Brock U

English literature professors are over-represented, in the best way, in the ranks of senior administration across Canada. In this workshop, we examine the skills that scholars of English literature bring to administrative and leadership work in the university. Participants will learn to map the skills they already have as scholars in our field onto some of the skills necessary for being an effective administrator. As former administrators who have served in roles at multiple levels of leadership in Canadian universities, we know that administrative work, despite its many challenges, can be a place for doing magic in the university. We want to share that possibility for magic, and for transformation during these times of crisis and austerity. We will guide participants to understand how their gifts as scholars can set them up to be outstanding university leaders. While we would be delighted to be joined by folks who are currently administrators, we particularly welcome graduate students who may be considering careers in the university outside of TT positions, and colleagues who are newer to administrative roles (or who have not yet served in one).

Skills participants will acquire skills in:

- Understanding principles of university governance

- Using a literary review and similar research skills to understand the needs of leadership roles
- Recognizing the value of strategic editing in policy revisions
- Understanding the role of storytelling for better communications plans
- Connecting literary critical skills to understanding institutional budget processes
- Locating institutional data and using institutional data for advocacy and decision-making
- Connecting our skills in empathy and intersectionality to approaching leadership roles

Workshop Leaders:

Lily Cho is an Associate Professor of English at York. She has served as Undergraduate Program Director, Department Chair, Associate Dean at York University. She also served as Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President, International, at Western University.

Neta Gordon is a Professor in the Department of English Language and Literature at Brock University. She served as Department Chair from 2008 to 2014 and Associate Dean for the Faculty of Humanities from 2018 to 2021.

Laura Moss is Professor of Literature at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. Among other leadership roles, she has served as Canadian Studies Program Chair and as Associate Dean, Students for the Faculty of Arts. Currently on UBC Senate, she is chair of the UBC Teaching and Learning Committee.

10:30 a.m. *Doing Critical Thinking Differently*

Chairs: Joel Katelnikoff, U of Alberta

Joel Katelnikoff, U of Alberta
Klara du Plessis, U of British Columbia
Erín Moure, Writer and Independent Scholar
Geneviève Robichaud, U de Moncton

10:30 a.m. *Gail Scott: Fiction+/Theory 2: Re-reading The Obituary*

Chair: Sarah Burgoyne, Dawson College; Jeff Noh, U of Toronto

Carla Harryman, Eastern Michigan U – A Score for *The Obituary*
Alonso Gamarra, U of Toronto – Fragmented Prose and the Narratable Self in Gail Scott's *The Obituary* (2012)
Jennifer Henderson, Carleton U – *The Obituary*: a family story that is not one

10:30 a.m. Montreal as Contact Zone: Topography, Diaspora, and the Poetics of Place

Chair: TBA

John Z. Ming Chen, Global College – Montreal and Sui Sin Far: Daoism from Here to Everywhere

Nina Cloutier, McGill U – A City Imagined: Migration, Escape, and Montreal's Contradictory Contact Zone

Adam Carter, U of of Lethbridge – *Two Solitudes*, Two Views from Mount Royal, and the Topographical Tradition

10:30 a.m. Queer Memory and Forms of Care

Chair: TBA

Lydie Hua, U of Saskatchewan – Multiplication or Fragmentation: Queer Black Masculinities and Diasporic Identity in Marlon James' *A Brief History of Seven Killings*

Evan Buck, U of Ottawa – “More Than a Painful Memory”: Queer Kinship in Jane Rule's *Memory Board*

Camila Lefebvre, McMaster U – Feminist Epistolary Intimacy and the Practice of Care

Emily Cann, Dalhousie U – Queer Time and Mad Healing in Carmen Maria Machado's *In the Dream House*

10:30 a.m. Staging Vision in Early Modern Literature

Chair: TBA

Julian Quigg, U of British Columbia – ‘Not Amurath’ and Amurath: Foils and Racialized Performance in *Henry V* and *The Courageous Turk*

Katherine Walker, U of Western Ontario– Investigating the Male Gaze: Laura Mulvey's Scopophilia and the Renaissance Love Poem

Fatemeh Shahnavaz, U of Western Ontario– Penning with Paint: Redefining Female Authorship Through Lady Anne Clifford's Visual Autobiography

10:30 a.m. Translation in Contemporary Literature

Chair: TBA

William Brubacher, McGill U – From “Dog of water” to “Chien d’eau”: Translation, Relationality, and Ecology in Erin Moure’s Little Theatres
Malaika Mitra, McMaster U – The Opacity of Grammar: Kathy Acker and Clarice Lispector’s Assertion of Agency Through Foreignization
Nisha Susan, U of Calgary – Stealth Glossing: The Satisfying Melodrama of Translation’s Multitasker

DAY 3 – Lunch: 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

DAY 3 – Session 3: 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

1:30 p.m. *Climate Change and the Maximalist Novel*

Chair: Anjalee Nadarajan, York U

Adam Hill, McGill U – More less and more more in Samatha Harvey’s *Orbital* (2023)
Richini Abayakoon, McMaster U – “How many peaceful lives must follow a violent one, not to redeem it, exactly, but to remove the violence from relevance? Is the play more of a history or a fiction?” : Exploring the fault lines between history, fiction and climate change in *Rakesfall*
Anjalee Nadarajan, York U – Cultivating a Politics of Patience in Pynchon and Robinson

1:30 p.m. *Narratives of the Unspoken: Trauma, Memory, and Identity 2: Artistic Mediations of Trauma*

Chair: Nafiseh Shajani, U of Western Ontario

Pamela Beyer, Concordia U – Intertextual Productivity and Traumatic Temporalities in Nicole Raziya Fong’s *PEYFACT*
Anindita Mukherjee, U of Alberta – The anxiety of listening after the Holocaust in Wolfgang Koeppen’s *Death in Rome*
Yasmine Lemnij, U of Western Ontario – Articulating the Inarticulable: Representations of Trauma in the Works of Derek Jarman and David Wojnarowicz

1:30 p.m. *Literature in the Digital Age: Reading, Writing and Reviewing Across Platforms 2*

Chair: Aman Grewal, McGill U

Aman Grewal, McGill U – Rewriting Romance: Genre Categorization and Reader-Driven Taxonomies on #BookTok

Chloe Mee, U of British Columbia – Dearth and Deluge: Victorian and Digital Social Reading Responses to *Oliver Twist*

Eric Joosse, U of Guelph – Reader-Response in the Algorithmic Age: YouTube Personalization, Visibility and Algorithmic Identity

1:30 p.m. *New Writing in a Time of Disorientation 3*

Chair: Anna Veprinska, U of Calgary; Uchechukwu Umezurike, U of Calgary

Aaron Kreuter, Trent U – Where We Both Are: Antizionist Jewish Fictional Responses to the Gaza Genocide

Jackson Mattocks, U of Calgary – A Lesson in Evil Companies

Amy LeBlanc, U of Calgary – This Is How It Ends: Interactive Fiction in a Time of Disorientation

Lisa Richter, Independent – Curiouser and Curiouser: Duende and the Associative Leap in Writing through Rupture

1:30 p.m. *Care for: Epistolary as Reflection, Research, and Resistance Workshop*

Organizer: Jorge Vallejos

Epistolary is not only a form of communication, but it can also be a practice of care for oneself and care for others. Epistolary as we know it has roots in feminism; women (originally of European background) practiced agency on the page via reflecting on their lives and sharing their lived experiences, ideas and strategies of defiance and resistance, while building community with other women. Academia as is practiced in the academic industrial complex has its roots in patriarchy (Acevedo-Zapata, 2019) and often sees a practice of writing that is formulaic: "...the professional article and monograph – is underwritten by conformity rather than philosophical reflection and commitment (Lysaker, 2019).

Letter-writing offers students and philosophers the freedom to explore ideas without judgement, worry of disappointing a professor or supervisor, and/or feeling the pressure of academic perfection and professionalism. And in several cases, it facilitates the building of academic community (Khang Le et al., 2024).

Following my intro and listing of group agreements, I will encourage participants to share their names and preferred pronouns, then lead a quick diaphragmatic breathing exercise (that can be done sitting or standing) to ground ourselves. The first third of the workshop will see me give a brief introduction about the herstory and practice of letter-writing; my

own practice of writing letters to friends alive and dead, and an 18-month correspondence with an LatinX inmate in the American prison industrial complex.

As a group we will read one of three short open letters by Cree Two-Spirit academic, poet, and novelist Joshua Whitehead, Trans writer Cindy Bourgeois, and British journalist Eva Wiseman. These three letters are examples of writers practicing care for themselves as well as care for the people and systems they are challenging, calling-in, and extending an olive branch to. We will then have a group discussion about the letters by Whitehead, Bourgeois, and Wiseman. Following this will be two twenty-minute letter-writing exercises. The final section will see an opportunity to voluntarily share writing done in the workshop and/or ideas about the practice and process of letter-writing. A check-in, debrief, and communal outro will end the workshop.

This workshop is aimed to be a safe-r space with participants practicing respect for others.

1:30 p.m. *Nineteenth-Century Activism and Social Justice (VSAO/ACCUTE)*

Chairs: Jo Devereux, U of Western Ontario; Taylor Tomko, U of Western Ontario

Matthew Samuelson, U of Western Ontario – "To Make Cogs and Compasses of Themselves": William Morris, Utopian Landscapes, and the Politics of Work in Socialist Societies

Hilary Lerner, U of Alberta – George Moses Horton: Subverting Allusions

Karen Selesky, U of the Fraser Valley – The Lady Visitor as Mother Confessor: Felicia MF Skene at the Oxford County Gaol

1:30 p.m. *Roundtable on The Bloomsbury Handbook of Poetry. Gender, Sexuality and Poetry*

Chair: Heather Milne, U of Winnipeg; Elena Basile, York U

Alyson Brickey, U of Winnipeg – Rereading Canonical. Poets: Walt Whitman's Queer Democracy

Sarah Dowling, U of Toronto – Speaking in the Second Person

Concetta Principe, Trent U – The Messiah and the Mystic: Mad Subjects and the Feminine Poetics of Ethics

Bethany Hicok, Williams College– Queer Feminist Publishing and the Women's Liberation Movement: The Women's Press Collective

Laura Westengard, CUNY – Queer Corporeal Poetics and the Medical Gothic

Erin Wunker, Dalhousie U – Reproductive Bodies and Poetic Matterings

1:30 p.m. *Decolonial Poetics and Archives in Canadian Contexts*

Chair: TBA

Amber McMillan, U of of New Brunswick– Metaphor as Relational Ontology: Ethics, Poetics, and Pedagogy

Veronica Austen, St. Jerome's U – The Work of a Photograph: Heeding a Call to be Friends in Face Kao: Portraits of Japanese Canadians Interned During WWII

Precious Gauthier, McMaster U – The Prairies Black History Project: The Counter Erasure Through Archives and Narratives

1:30 p.m. *Trust, Labor, and Voice in the Contemporary Academy*

Chair: TBA

Carlyn Eckert, U of Waterloo – A Formula for Trust: A Framework for Rhetorical Trust-Building in Crisis Communication

Daryl Bruce, Dalhousie U – The Queer Voice in the Ivory Tower: Scholarly Podcasting as Acts of Refusal

Eric Lehman, Trent U – Eat. Sleep. Grade. Repeat – New Narratives of Precarity in Seminar Leader, Teaching Assistant and Marking Roles in 2025.

1:30 p.m. *Forbidden Fiction: Intellectual Freedom, Fear, and Control on the Battleground of Banned Books*

Chair: Zara Diab, U of Western Ontario

Parastoo Tahmasbi, U of Saskatchewan – Read No Evil: Producing Conformity by Banning Dystopian and LGBTQ+ Books

Liam Rockall, U of Western Ontario – Harry Potter and the Bedlam of Banned Books

Alexander Sallas, Literary Review of Canada – Deus ex Machina, Colonial “Civilizing Missions,” and the Politics of Intellectual Control

1:30 p.m. *Mary Shelley's The Last Man in 2026*

Chair: Raj Banerjee, U of Western Ontario

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2026

Megan Misztal, McMaster U – Against Disastrous Thought: Mutations of Hope at the End of Shelley's World

Jennifer McDougall, U of Calgary – From Romanticism to Posthumanism: Shelley's Early Experiment in Decentering the Human

Devin Stroink, U of Western Ontario – Framing Authenticity: The Problem of Veracity in Mary Shelley's *The Last Man*

DAY 3 – Break 2: 3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

DAY 3 – Session 4: 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

3:30 p.m. *PLENARY LECTURE: Jordan Abel – “Dad Era: Indigenous Knowledge Transmission Through Poetry”*

Jordan Abel is a queer Nisga'a writer from Vancouver. He is the author of *The Place of Scraps*, *Un/inhabited*, *Injun*, *NISHGA*, and *Empty Spaces*. Abel has won many awards for his work, including the Griffin Poetry Prize and the Governor General's Award, and his latest book of poetry is titled *Dad Era* (Coach House Books 2026). Abel is a Professor at the University of Alberta where he teaches Indigenous Literatures, Research-Creation, and Creative Writing.

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2026

DAY 4 – Session 1: 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

8:30 a.m. ***Annual General Meeting***

DAY 4 - Break 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m

DAY 4 – Session 2: 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

10:30 a.m. ***Gail Scott: Fiction+/Theory 3: Friends, Histories, Contexts***

Chairs: Sarah Burgoyne, Dawson College; Jeff Noh, U of Toronto

Nora Fulton, Independent Scholar – The Periodizing Subject in *Permanent Revolution*

Jessi MacEachern, Dawson College – Among Friends: Reading and/as Translation in
Scott's *The Obituary* and *Furniture Music*

Sarah Dowling, U of Toronto – Gail Scott and Damion Searls Write the American 2010s

10:30 a.m. ***Imagining Spatiality in End of the World Narratives 2***

Chairs: Kirsten Bussiere, Mount St. Vincent U; Marisa Lewis, Heritage College

Sharon Engbrecht, U of Guelph – When the Past and Future Collide: Spatiality in *The Past Is Red*

Sean Rhoads, Queen's U – Nostalgic Geographies and Apocalyptic Spatialities in
Stranger Things

Naomi Boswell, Dalhousie U – Inevitably Buried: Uneasy Erosion of the Self in Yoko
Ogawa's *The Memory Police*

10:30 a.m. ***Poetry of Infrastructure/ Poetic Infrastructures: Panel 2***

Chair: Robert Stacey, U of Ottawa

Max Karpinski, Trent U – Pipelines, Poetics, Worldmaking

Jennifer Baker, U of Ottawa – The Necro-georgic: Insider oil poetics and
labour-as-nation

Dale Tracy, Kwantlen Polytechnic U – Poetry and Infrastructural Spirit

10:30 a.m. Narratives of the Unspoken: Trauma, Memory, and Identity 3

Chair: Nafiseh Shajani, U of Western Ontario

Jenna Miller, U of Saskatchewan– "it is not known in words but in the body": Embodied Memory in Yaa Gyasi's *Homegoing*

Kellie Chouinard, U of Waterloo– Recasting Trauma: Collaborative Art and Queer Survivorship

Emily Zepick, U of Saskatchewan –The Body Remembers: Traumatic Bodily Memory and Diasporic Experience in Ocean Vuong's *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*

10:30 a.m. Medieval Magic (CSM/ACCUTE)

Chairs: Kathryn Walton, Lakehead U; Megan Arnott, Lakehead U

Kathryn Walton, Lakehead U – BSacred and Secular Crossover in the Magical Spaces of Cotton Nero A x

Serafina Piasentin, Dalhousie U – Pearl and Paradise Lost: The Fall of Divine Consolation

Sansian Tan, U of British Columbia – Infinite Joust: Spectral Return in Sir Launfal

10:30 a.m. Creative Research 2

Chairs: TBA

Rebecca Fredrickson, Thompson Rivers U – Touching the Heart Hereafter: Janis Ledwell-Hunt's Knotted Sculptures and the Persistence of Tactile Perception

Glenn Clifton, Sheridan College – Writing to Catch up with Crisis: A Comedy
Sheheryar Sheikh, Dalhousie U – "The Last TRC": Collaging Genocides to Write the Multi-Perspective Narrative of Our Time

10:30 a.m. Rethinking the Postcolonial Subject

Chair: TBA

Ali Hassanpour Darbandi, York U – Disenchantment, Postcolonial Liberation and the Emergence of the Secular Selves in V.S. Naipaul's *In a Free State* (1971)

Friday Okpo, Memorial U – Transcultural Phenomenology in Yaa Gyasi’s *Homegoing*
Mahdiyeh Ezzatikarami, George Brown College – In the Margins No More: Class,
Gender, and Uprising in Marjane Satrapi’s Artistic Trajectory from Persepolis to
Woman, Life, Freedom

10:30 a.m. Indigenous Literary Resistance

Chair:

Shirin Z. Z. Shoushtari, York U – *The Marrow Thieves*: A Subversion of the Panoptic
Eye

Taylor Breckles, Douglas College – Understanding (Il)literacy: Examining the Shadow
Presence of Residential Schools as Found in Jordan Abel’s *Nishga*

Naomi Simon Borwein, U of Western Ontario – Speculative Indigipoeitics of Apocalypse

**10:30 a.m. Teaching, Researching, and Writing Literature in Genocidal Times: Gaza in the
Classroom (CAPS/ACCUTE)**

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, U of Guelph – When the World Burns: Refugeetude and Writing Through
Catastrophe

Osama Jarrar, Arab American U – Narratives of Resilience and Hope: Teaching
Literature During the Genocide

10:30 a.m. Nineteenth-Century Forms and Practices

Chair: TBA

Donna Tillotson, Queen’s U – The Shape of Becoming: Literary Form and Identity
Formation in George Eliot

Tobin Valcour, U of Western Ontario – English and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance:
studying English in the Mechanics Institutes of 19th century Canada (before there
were motorcycles)

Nora Foster Stovel, U of Alberta– Why ‘Miss Elliot Never Dances’: Why Jane Austen
Suspends (E)Motion in *Persuasion*

Yasmin Solomonescu, U of of Notre Dame – *The Last Man* as Metafiction

DAY 4 – Lunch: 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

BIPOC Caucus Lunch

English Studies in Canada Lunch

DAY 4 – Session 3: 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

1:30 p.m. *Systems Thinking and/in Literature*

Chairs: Jay Ritchie, Bishop's U

Brennan McCracken, Concordia U – "Reading" the Anthropocene? On systems-thinking and literary technique

Migrant Labour Market through the lens of CBC's First Person Migrant Stories

Jon Saklofske, Acadia U – "When, after all, it was you and me": Systems literacy, responsibility, and the poetic potential of semantic systems

Georgiana de Rham, U of California Davis – Ecosystems of Voice and Meaning in Roslyn Orlando's *Ekhō: A Poem in Three Parts*

Zahra Barzegar, York U – Ocean as Memory, Poem as Witness: Systems Thinking in Craig Santos Perez's *Habitat Threshold*

1:30 p.m. *Writing a life in the margins 3*

Chair: Titi Aiyegbusi, U of Toronto

Mohsina Shafqat Ali, U of Waterloo – Issues with Collaboration: Regaining Authorship in Mukhtar Mai's *In the Name of Honor*

Susanna Joseph, U of Toronto – "Autobiography of a Community": Tracing Dalit Subaltern Counter Publics in Bama's *Sangati* and Yashica Dutt's *Coming Out as Dalit*

Jorge Vallejos, York U – Counter Stories from the Shoreline: Life Writing by Reinaldo Arenas and Audre Lorde

1:30 p.m. *Rethinking Romantic Science 2 (NASSR/ACCUTE)*

Chairs: Raj Banerjee, U of Western Ontario

Nathan TeBokkel, U of Western Ontario – Steady thy Laden Head: A Romantic Critique of Philosophy of Science's "Ladenness" Metaphor

Natasha Lomonosoff, Independent – Natural and Social Uses of Science in Anna Barbauld's *The Invitation*

Liam Rockall, U of Western Ontario – William Blake and Romanticism's Moral Revolution

McKenna Boeckner, U of New Brunswick – On Botanical Sex: The Homoerotic Science of Botany in Long-Romantic Literature

1:30 p.m. *Self in the Age of Autofiction 2*

Chair: Concetta Principe, Trent U

Saghar Ghezel, McMaster U – Autofiction, Trauma, & The Language of Freedom in Ocean Vuong's *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*

Daryl Bruce, Dalhousie U – Proof, Pain, and the Managed Lie: Queer Refusal in Autofiction

Charlotte Esme Frank, McGill U – Playing the field: The Strategic Marketing of Contemporary “autofiction” and “autotheory”

1:30 p.m. *Reading Canada Otherwise*

Chair: TBA

Jessica McDonald, U of Saskatchewan – “Freeways / superb in all their trash and glam”: Non-Place Poetry by Elizabeth Bachinsky and Sarah Pinder

Madelaine McLaughlin, York U – In Sickness: Monstrosity and Metaphor in W.W.E. Ross's “The Cloud” and James Reaney's “Antichrist as a Child”

Sarah Regier, U of Western Ontario – “We Do Immortal Tasks”: Malcolm and Max as Settler Kings in Crawford's *Malcolm's Katie*

1:30 p.m. *Ecocritical Perspectives in Contemporary Canadian and Indigenous Writing*

Chairs: TBA

Meaghan Sych, U of Alberta – Sonic Habitat Study: Aspen, Sparrow, Creek Disability-Centric Workshop Experience

Patrick Aura, U de Montréal – Stone Grammar: ‘Transcreation’ and Radical Ecology in Fred Wah's Pictograms from the Interior of B.C.

Denbeigh Whitmarsh, Queen's U – Ecocritical Asian Canadian and Indigenous Relations in Saeed Teebi's *Her First Palestinian and Other Stories* and Mariam Pirbhai's *Garden Inventories: Reflections on Land, Place and Belonging*

1:30 p.m. *Neoliberalism and the Public Sphere*

Chair: TBA

Samantha Bernstein, York U – Derelict Daughters: Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore, Sarah Shulman, and Sim Kern on Urban Roughness and Resistance
Alia Wazzan, Brock U – Netflix Feminist Identity
Cal Smith, U of British Columbia Vancouver Campus – Little Sister’s, the Public Sphere, and Queer Liberation[?]

1:30 p.m. *Shakespeare in Extremis*

Chair: TBA

Max Soucie, U of Western Ontario– Traumatic Cannibalism and the Othered Mother in Titus Andronicus
Alice Hinchliffe, U of Guelph– What does it mean to kill Shakespeare?
Chloe Stewart, Queen’s U –“Ever since I discovered art, this cell has become a prison”:
The audience behind prison bars in *Caesar Must Die*

1:30 p.m. *Silence, Speech, and Trauma*

Chair: TBA

Dania Idriss, U of Calgary – Consuming Imperatives: Collective Trauma of War and Occupation as Monstrous Apparitions
Sarah Webster, U of Victoria – The Silent Treatment: Silence as Resistance in *All My Puny Sorrows* and *Swing Low: A Life*
Payal Nagpal, U of Calgary – Silence and Speaking in David Chariandy's *Soucouyant*: Adele's Right to Forget

1:30 p.m. *Diasporic Identities*

Chair: TBA

Samira Shahanjarini, Goethe U – The Role of Literature in Identity Formation of Iranian Women in Diaspora
Adhora Ahmed, U of Alberta– Performance of British and Muslim Identity in Kamila Shamsie's *Home Fire*

Mahdiyeh Azzatikarami, George Brown College –Reimagining Diasporic Subjectivity:
Linguistic Disruptions, Feminist Cartographies, and Epistemic Rupture in
Prophetess

DAY 4 – Break: 3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m

DAY 4 – Session 4: 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

3:30 p.m. *Wave Upon Wave 2: A Poetry Reading & Discussion*

Chair: Gillian Sze, Concordia U; Diane Yeung, Concordia U

Bronwen Tate, U of British Columbia – Body in Cold Water
Kenzie Allen, York U – "The River Formed by the Hand" -- Water Poems and Wampum
as Framework
Tony Cooper, McGill U – Cadent Currents: The Ocean as a Structural and Thematic
Device
Misha Solomon, Concordia U – "You Tell Me I Should Appreciate the Water": Water
Beyond Bodies

3:30 p.m. *Tuning Into Literary Radio 2*

Chairs: Michael O'Driscoll, U of Alberta; Sean Luyk, U of Alberta

Katherine McLeod, Concordia U – Listening on the Radio
Sabrina Binte Masud, Queen's U – Reading Sound: Epiphanic Listening and the Literary
Possibilities of Radio Drama
Pouria Torkamaneh, U of Alberta – From Radio to Algorithmic Sound: Listening to
Welcome to Night Vale

3:30 p.m. *Teachers as Investigators in the Age of AI*

Chair: Rahul Gautham Veliyil Edwin, U of Saskatchewan

Liam Exner, Independent Scholar – “You can Build Culture Out of Trash, but Only Trash
Culture.” The Role of Educators as Champions of Human Creativity
Ella Ophir, U of Saskatchewan – Metaphors We Teach By
Antje Rauwerda, Goucher College – Issues Arising from AI in Assistive Learning Tools
like Genio (formerly Glean) and Kurzweil 3000

3:30 p.m. Canadian Fictions and Movements

Chair: TBA

Allan Weiss, York U – Schools in the Schools: University-Based Literary Movements in Canada

Solomon Goudswaard, York U – Beautiful Beasts: Land and Parricide in *Mad Shadows* and *The Double Hook*

Avleen Grewal, U of Ottawa – Becoming Grotesque: Queer Masculinities in Danny Ramadan's *The Foghorn Echoes* (2022)

3:30 p.m. Paradise and Polemics in Milton and Dryden

Chair: TBA

Christian Wiendels, Fanshawe College – “The rising world of waters dark and deep”: Creation and Liquid Space in Milton's *Paradise Lost*

Jillian Vandervoort, McMaster U – From Misogyny to Irrepressibility: Leonida as an Active Agent in *Swetnam the Woman-Hater: Arraigned by Women*

James Munro, McMaster U – Competing Universalities in the Poetry of John Milton and John Dryden

3:30 p.m. Global and Indigenous Graphic Narratives

Chair: TBA

Stephanie Lewis, Wilfrid Laurier U – Blood Memory: Interconnectivity, Reconciliation, and Embodiment in Indigenous Graphic Novels

Kiana Fazilatmoaddeli, U of Western Ontario – Rebels Write Back: Nonmovements and Youth Agency in Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis*

Dr. Bhawana Pillai, Texas Tech U – Graphic Stories from Global South

3:30 p.m. Life Writing in Embodied and Feminist Forms

Chair: TBA

Ari Lord, U of Calgary – NeuroElectric: Exploring Neurodiversity Through Memoir

Dr. LaTrina Johnson, WGB Collective – Writing From the Flesh: Black Women's Epistolary Life Writing as Temporal Witness and Survival Practice"

Andrea Cabajsky, U de Moncton – The Montaignian Essai as Feminist Critical Practice:
Archival Recovery and the Lost Memoir of Marguerite Dutcher

Haley Down, U of Waterloo – Culinary Recreation: the role of recipes in women's food
memoirs

3:30 p.m. Indigenous Storytelling as World(re)making

Chair: TBA

Mohammad Sharifi, U of Western Ontario – *Kiss of the Fur Queen*: Retelling a Story,
Rebuilding the World

Shannon Webb-Campbell, Lakehead U Orillia– Mi'kmaq Visual Artists and Writers from
Newfoundland and Labrador Speaking Back Against 1949's Confederation Terms
of Union

Maya Jaishankar, U of Western Ontario – From Abstract to Concrete: Storytelling,
Embodied Language, and Identity in *The Marrow Thieves*

3:30 p.m. Victorian Faith, Femininity, and Felines

Chair: TBA

Karen Selesky, U of the Fraser Valley – Faith, Doubt, and the Body in the Victorian
Novel

Chrispher Keep, U of Western Ontario– “Beauty's Hour”: Towards a Theory of the
Double as Caregiver

Hannah Rigg, U of New Brunswick – "A very ambitious kitten you were...but marriage
sobered you" (Stables, Cats...429-30): Gender Constructionism Through the
Feminine and the Feline in Mona Caird's *The Wing of Azrael*

**3:30 p.m. WORKSHOP: Identifying and Disrupting Racialized-Gendered Normativities
in the Classroom Workshop**

Organizer: Alia Wazzan, Brock U

This workshop follows on the panel of the same title at the 2021 ACCUTE conference. English literature professors are over-represented, in the best way, in the ranks of senior administration across Canada. In this workshop, we examine the skills that scholars of English literature bring to administrative and leadership work in the university. Participants will learn to map the skills they already have as scholars in our field onto some of the skills necessary for being an effective administrator. As former administrators who have served in roles at multiple levels of leadership in Canadian

universities, we know that administrative work, despite its many challenges, can be a place for doing magic in the university. We want to share that possibility for magic, and for transformation during these times of crisis and austerity. We will guide participants to understand how their gifts as scholars can set them up to be outstanding university leaders. While we would be delighted to be joined by folks who are currently administrators, we particularly welcome graduate students who may be considering careers in the university outside of TT positions, and colleagues who are newer to administrative roles (or who have not yet served in one).

Skills participants will acquire skills in:

- Understanding principles of university governance
- Using a literary review and similar research skills to understand the needs of leadership roles
- Recognizing the value of strategic editing in policy revisions
- Understanding the role of storytelling for better communications plans
- Connecting literary critical skills to understanding institutional budget processes
- Locating institutional data and using institutional data for advocacy and decision-making
- Connecting our skills in empathy and intersectionality to approaching leadership roles

Workshop Leaders:

Lily Cho is an Associate Professor of English at York. She has served as Undergraduate Program Director, Department Chair, Associate Dean at York University. She also served as Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President, International, at Western University.

Neta Gordon is a Professor in the Department of English Language and Literature at Brock University. She served as Department Chair from 2008 to 2014 and Associate Dean for the Faculty of Humanities from 2018 to 2021.

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WORKSHOPS

Pre-registration instructions and full descriptions for all workshops to be announced

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Students for the Faculty of Arts. Currently on UBC Senate, she is chair of the UBC Teaching and Learning Committee.

Improvisatory Practices in Research and Pedagogy

Organizer: Sharon Engbrecht, U of Guelph

"When broken down improvisation, etymologically, lends itself to the idea of unproviding for the future, a decolonial approach to colonialist histories of individualization and knowledge production, what Elwood Jimmy and Vanessa Andreotti describe as "thread sensibilities" in *Towards Braiding*. Threading sensibilities are an orientation towards relationships that focus on collective well-being critical of the hierarchical nature of goal- and progress-oriented outcomes and decision-making. With this in mind, what does it mean to improvise research? What can we do to incorporate improvisation into our scholarship? How can we incorporate improvisatory practices as educators?"

Part introduction to the language and tools offered through Critical Studies in Improvisation, part open discussion, and part collaborative and create think-tank about arts-based practices and creative output, the "Improvisatory Practices in Research and Pedagogy" workshop will call attention to implicit hierarchies and institutional practices while also asking participants to respectfully consider and also call into question their own practices as scholars and educators.

This workshop will give participants the chance to answer some of the above questions and to think about the confluence of improvisatory practices in research and pedagogy. Critical Studies in Improvisation gives us language and tools to work within and responsibly challenge the colonialist creep, and neoliberal structure, of the university. The language and tools of improvisation can help us reevaluate the models we have inherited, asking us to think outside the box about how to shift entrenched institutional practices while mindful of the stakes in what it means when we expose a problem at the same time we might be perceived as posing a problem (Ahmed, *Living a Feminist Life*).

The workshop will ask participants to examine how improvisation brings into perspective different approaches to ways of being and doing. The design of the workshop will invite participants to co-design the contents and focus of discussion. This addresses questions about how co-creation takes place within structures that demand or, in the least often presume, a clear structure of knowledge production and quantifiable outcomes. The intention behind this opening-up of the workshop's potential boundaries also invites participants to think about the way modelling can be a basis for thinking through and embodying improvisatory practices.

Together we will investigate multiple contexts of knowledge production and improvisatory practices, including what that means for post-secondary teaching and learning, community-engaged research, and spaces of knowledge curation. The hope is to work together to build a collaborative and caring environment where we can experiment, take risks, and learn

from one another, while acknowledging the diversity of our lived experiences and approaches as scholars and educators.

Proposed Workshop Format (90 minutes):

15 minutes: welcome, introductions, & icebreakers

10 minutes: open discussion about experience with improvisatory practices (modelling pre-assessments of knowledge base)

15 minutes: brief intro to critical studies in improvisation's language and tools for research and pedagogical practices

15 minutes: creative problem-solving challenge & small group dialogue

10 minutes: reflective discussion

15 minutes: reassessing practices of knowledge production, embodied action, & co-creation

10 minutes: reflective discussion & debrief (handouts)

Care For: Epistolary as Reflection, Research, and Resistance

Organizer: Jorge Vallejos, York U

Epistolary is not only a form of communication, but it can also be a practice of care for oneself and care for others. Epistolary as we know it has roots in feminism; women (originally of European background) practiced agency on the page via reflecting on their lives and sharing their lived experiences, ideas and strategies of defiance and resistance, while building community with other women. Academia as is practiced in the academic industrial complex has its roots in patriarchy (Acevedo-Zapata, 2019) and often sees a practice of writing that is formulaic: "...the professional article and monograph – is underwritten by conformity rather than philosophical reflection and commitment (Lysaker, 2019).

Letter-writing offers students and philosophers the freedom to explore ideas without judgement, worry of disappointing a professor or supervisor, and/or feeling the pressure of academic perfection and professionalism. And in several cases, it facilitates the building of academic community (Khang Le et al., 2024).

Following my intro and listing of group agreements, I will encourage participants to share their names and preferred pronouns, then lead a quick diaphragmatic breathing exercise (that can be done sitting or standing) to ground ourselves. The first third of the workshop will see me give a brief introduction about the herstory and practice of letter-writing; my own practice of writing letters to friends alive and dead, and an 18-month correspondence with an LatinX inmate in the American prison industrial complex.

As a group we will read one of three short open letters by Cree Two-Spirit academic, poet, and novelist Joshua Whitehead, Trans writer Cindy Bourgeois, and British journalist Eva Wiseman. These three letters are examples of writers practicing care for themselves as well as care for the people and systems they are challenging, calling-in, and extending an olive branch to. We will

WORKSHOPS

then have a group discussion about the letters by Whitehead, Bourgeois, and Wiseman. Following this will be two twenty-minute letter-writing exercises. The final section will see an opportunity to voluntarily share writing done in the workshop and/or ideas about the practice and process of letter-writing. A check-in, debrief, and communal outro will end the workshop.

This workshop is aimed to be a safe-r space with participants practicing respect for others.

Doing Magic in the University: a workshop for the admin-curious

Organizer: Lily Cho, York U

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Reflexive Trauma Methodology: Emotional and Structural Reflexivity in Research

Organizer: Waed Hasan, U of Guelph

"This workshop addresses the challenge of conducting research on sensitive, potentially traumatic subjects while remaining critically aware of one's own emotional responses and positionality. Drawing on Bourdieu's reflexive sociology and Finlay's reflective methodologies, participants will explore both structural and personal dimensions of reflexivity in their research.

The session will be highly interactive, combining short theoretical overviews with practical exercises. Activities include:

- **Structured Reflexive Mapping:** Participants trace their positionality and emotional responses to their research topic.
- **Emotional Journaling Exercise:** Guided prompts encourage researchers to document feelings, triggers, and embodied reactions encountered in research.
- **Peer Reflection Dialogue:** Participants share insights in small groups, practicing ethical and empathetic engagement with emotions in research.
- **Integrative Discussion:** Participants link their personal reflections to structural and theoretical frameworks, exploring how emotions shape research decisions, interpretations, and representations.

By the end of the workshop, participants will gain concrete strategies for identifying, documenting, and analyzing emotional responses in research, understand the interplay between structural reflexivity and personal emotions, and develop a methodologically rigorous yet ethically sensitive approach to trauma-informed scholarship."