



New College  
University of Toronto

**Year-In Review**

**2023**



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**HIGHLIGHTS  
& SIGNIFICANT  
EVENTS**



# Inagural Palestine Studies Salon



The course CSE445: "Re-thinking Palestine: Colonialism, Revolution & Transnational Solidarity" presented the unforgettable "Palestine Studies Salon" on November 29th, 2022. In collaboration with New College and 'Hearing Palestine', the event was hosted at the William Doo. The salon was dedicated to the memory of the courageous Palestinian journalist, Shireen Abu Akleh, who was tragically martyred in Jenin on May 11th, 2022. Her spirit was present throughout the salon, inspiring all who attended to deepen their commitment to the struggle for Palestinian freedom and justice.





The salon was a display of the creativity and talent of the students in the course. The opening ceremony was graced by Ojibway drummer and singer, Isaiah Cada, who set the tone for an evening of reflection.

The William Doo was transformed into a gallery that showcased a diverse range of artistic works, all of which reflected the core themes of Palestine studies. These themes included the history of colonization, third-world internationalism, militarization, colonial capitalism, and gender, all of which were explored through the lens of Palestinian culture and history.







Students also presented powerful Palestinian oral histories and captivating performances that illuminated the realities of living under occupation and colonization. Through these presentations, the students sparked important discussions surrounding the ongoing struggle for justice and liberation in Palestine, leaving an indelible mark on all who attended.

The keynote was delivered by Dr. Abdel Razzaq Takriti, the Mahmoud Darwish Visiting Professorial Chair of Palestinian Studies at Brown University. In his address, Dr. Takriti examined how history was (ab)used to colonize Palestine and its people and to justify and defend the expansion of this colonization. Dr. Takriti then went on to explore the possibility of centering Palestinians in their history and discussed the enabling potential of anti-colonial frameworks in retrieving the modern Palestinian experience. Ultimately, the powerful keynote and themes of the salon brought together students, faculty, and community members to reflect on the histories and futures of Palestine.







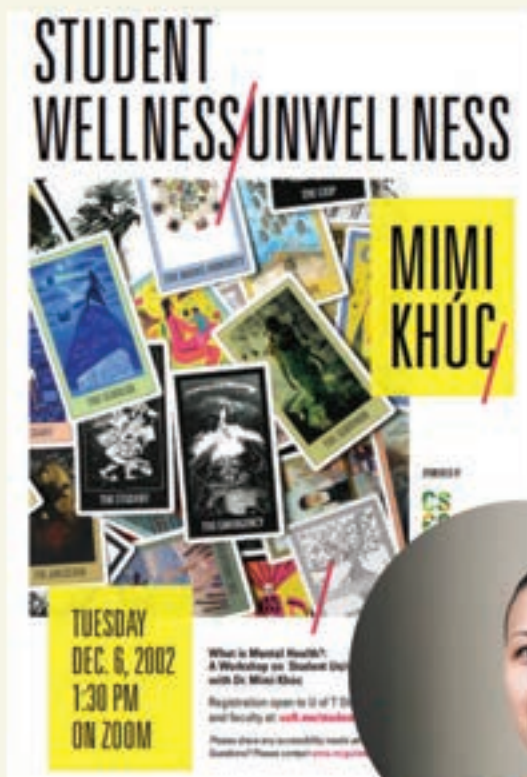
The online event was a true celebration of intergenerational connections and authentic conversations. We were delighted to see participants from various walks of life, including University of Toronto students and faculty from diverse disciplines. Additionally, Grade 5 and 6 comrades from Nelson Mandela Park School and members of the Protege Project for Self-Defense joined us, creating a space brimming with revolutionary love and intercommunity.



Despite the physical distance, Elaine's presence was nothing short of inspiring and reminded us of the power of transformative education, solidarity, and activism. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Elaine Brown, New College, the Transitional Year Programme, Nelson Mandela Park School, and Dr. Stan Doyle-Wood for their collaboration and for making this unforgettable event possible.



# Disability Studies Speaker Series: Mimi Khuc on Student Mental Wellness/Unwellness



On December 6, 2022, CSES students were joined by close to a hundred community members from across the University of Toronto for a Disability Studies Speaker Series event with Dr. Mimi Khúc "What is Mental Health?: A Workshop on Student Un/Wellness".

Dr. Khúc is a writer, scholar, and teacher of all things unwell. She is an adjunct lecturer at Georgetown, a 2023 Scholar/Artist/Activist in Residence for FLOURISH: Community-Engaged Arts and Social Wellness at the University of Toronto Scarborough, and Managing Editor of The Asian American Literary Review.



Who can see your viewing activity? X

escapism	state of wellbeing	good friendships	World Health Org
by stress and fear	happiness	feeling of freedom	Mental health is a state of well-being in which an individual
not comfortable with yourself	feeling accepted	confidence	(1) realize his or her own potentialities,
also rashes	feeling loved	stability—basic needs	(2) can cope with the normal stresses of life,
skin rashes	agency	not being rushed	(3) can work productively and fruitfully, and
skin rashes	feeling comfortable		(4) is able to make a contribution to his or her community.
skin rashes	social inclusion—belonging	calmness, clarity, curiosity, compassion, courage, creativity, connectedness	
skin rashes	can flow with uncertainty	feeling in control	
skin rashes	balance	security	
skin rashes	feeling a strong sense of community	feeling heard and understood	
skin rashes	feeling like you can take on challenges	control of emotions	
skin rashes		self-advocacy	
skin rashes	can zoom-out, take long view	boundaries	
skin rashes	appreciation for yourself and others	space to grow	
skin rashes		taking care of yourself	
skin rashes	having material safety	sense of self	
skin rashes	social safety network	not feeling guilty for wanting your needs first	
skin rashes	positive attitude	mindfulness	
skin rashes	chosen family	living in how being present	
skin rashes	able to communicate		
skin rashes	harmony with oneself		
skin rashes	mind-body connected		

What are some of the differences we're seeing?

Audio Transcript Chat Messages

Search transcript

want to compare.

Let's compare

the world Health definition versus ours.

I mean it, it

It looks totally different.

What are some of the differences we're seeing?

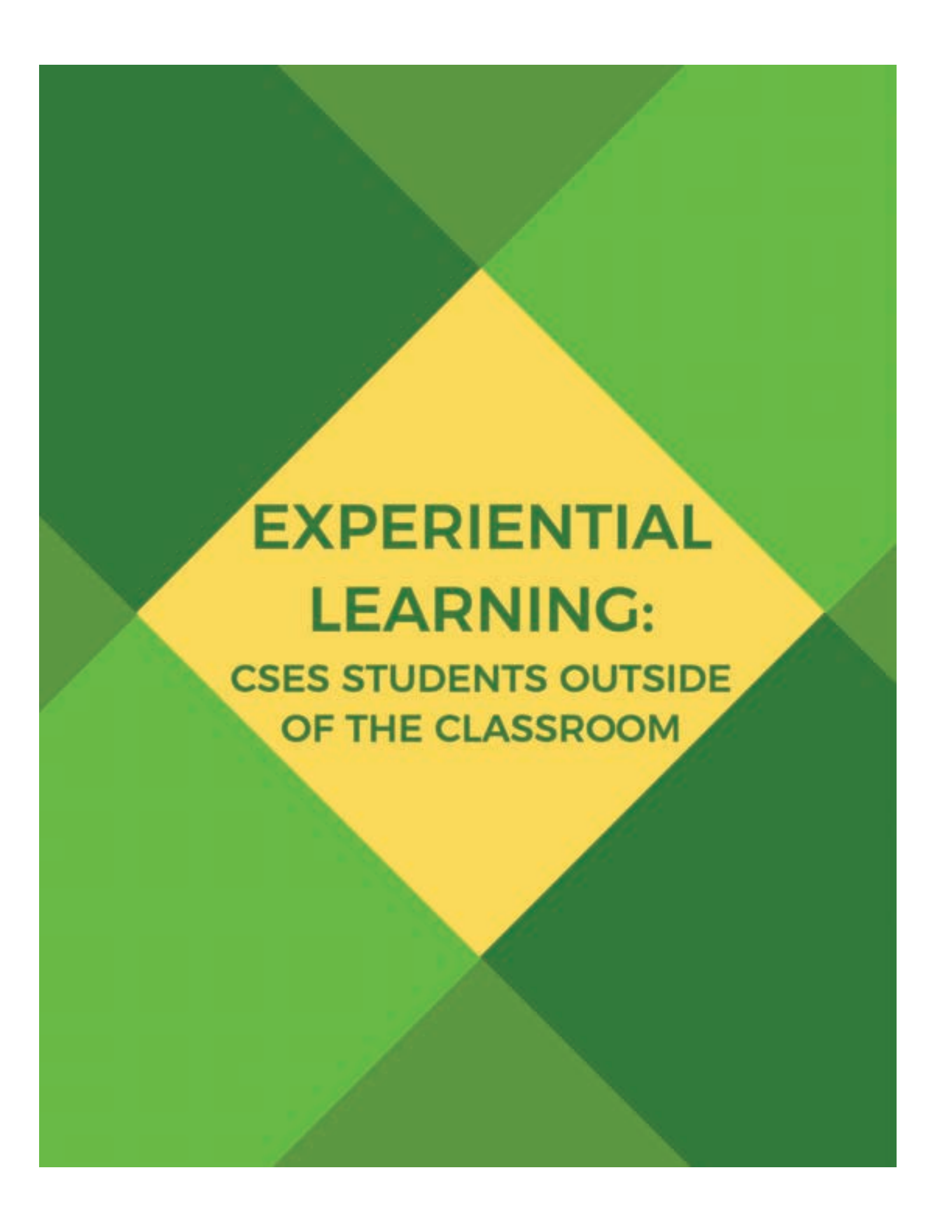
I'm like rereading ours. I'm so struck by

how much feeling we have

in ours.

In this interactive discussion, participants collectively defined student mental health, diagnosed their collective unwellness, and explored how structures of care might help us nurture the kind of mental health we want and need. The discussion then went on to cover unwellness at the intersections of ableism, and the university and explored new approaches to building collective care.





**EXPERIENTIAL  
LEARNING:  
CSES STUDENTS OUTSIDE  
OF THE CLASSROOM**



# CSES Students Travel to Belize: Discuss Indigeneity, Food Justice, and Sustainability



To kick off the next section of the CSES 2023 Year-End Review titled “Experiential Learning” we will be sharing the incredible experiences from the Indigeneity, Sustainability, and Food Trip to Belize. The field trip took place from May 6th- May 14th, 2023, and was an interdisciplinary study in collaboration with the Centre for Engaged Learning Abroad.

The trip was coordinated by Dr. Filiberto Penados and supervised by Dr. Stanley Doyle-Wood in Belize whilst Dr. June Larkin supervised in Toronto. A diverse group of students from African Studies, Human Biology, Indigenous Studies, Critical Studies in Equity and Solidarity, and Caribbean Studies embarked on a transformative adventure.




The itinerary was filled with enriching experiences and the students learned valuable lessons about sustainable living and food practices. The trip was largely separated into three sections which were determined by the different regions in Belize.

In Succotz, Cayo students visited the Xuanantunich Mayan Site and learnt more about the health system and health issues of Belize. In the same region, students learned about farming, agriculture, and issues of food security through local Mayan farmers and paid a visit to the Ministry of Agriculture for a talk on food security and policies to address food security in Belize.





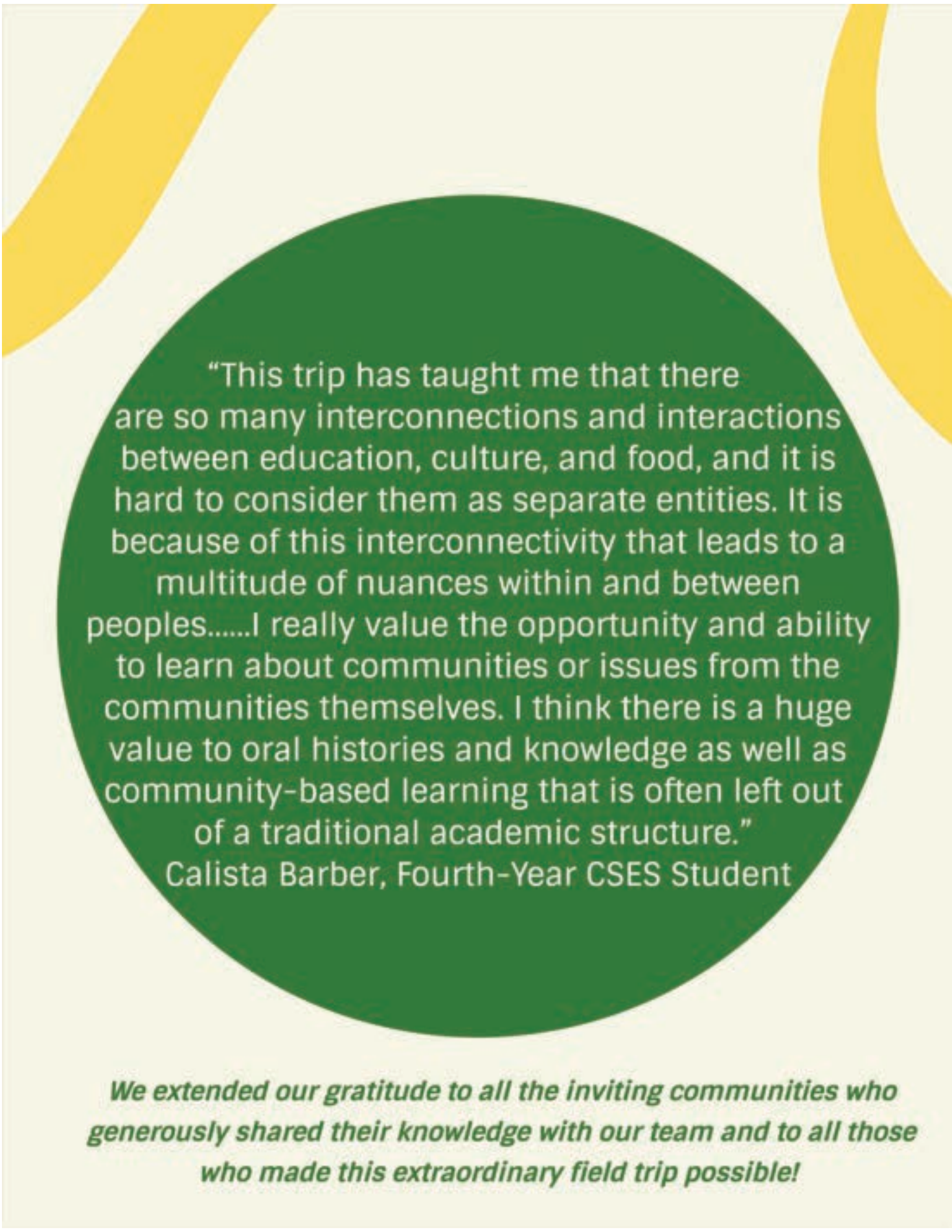


In Hopkins, Stann Creek, students visited the Garifuna communities to learn more about spirituality, fishing, farming, and tourism from Garifuna locals. The team even had the opportunity to visit a school focused on maintaining and celebrating Garifuna culture and language.

The last region was Laguna, Toledo where students learned about Mayan spirituality and traditional healing. The team visited the Tumul Kin Center of Learning where they learned more about the specific school structure and curriculum that empowers young Mayans and prepares them for future careers while maintaining crucial aspects of their culture.







“This trip has taught me that there are so many interconnections and interactions between education, culture, and food, and it is hard to consider them as separate entities. It is because of this interconnectivity that leads to a multitude of nuances within and between peoples.....I really value the opportunity and ability to learn about communities or issues from the communities themselves. I think there is a huge value to oral histories and knowledge as well as community-based learning that is often left out of a traditional academic structure.”

Calista Barber, Fourth-Year CSES Student

*We extended our gratitude to all the inviting communities who generously shared their knowledge with our team and to all those who made this extraordinary field trip possible!*

# A Visit to Black Creek Community Farm

In March 2023, students in CSE342: Theory and Praxis in Food Security visited Black Creek Community Farm to learn more about how food equity and justice theory can translate into practice in local communities and contexts.





Black Creek Community Farm is an urban agricultural center that engages, educates, and empowers diverse communities through sustainable food. The community farm increases access to healthy food in the community through programming and food distribution projects. Their programs ensure that food security is a central element along with food literacy and food skills as key components. Situated on an eight-acre property, the community farm inspires the next generations by providing leadership in food justice and supporting social ecosystems.



Having spent time dissecting and reflecting on Black Creek Community Farm's mission, it was only right that students engage with the farm and its community first-hand. Students got the opportunity to engage with the intersections and applications of sustainable farming, food justice, and food security in a local context.



# CAMH Historic Wall Field Trip

In the fall term of 2022, CSE349: Mad Studies and CSE241: Intro to Disability Studies went on a field trip to Toronto's Center for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) to learn about local histories of madness, eugenics, and psychiatric incarceration.

Anonymous 10mo

## Architecture and carceral space



walls to the east of CAMH buildings with two trees in front

From the architectural design and landscape choices I could see they tried to incorporate and merge the walls into the current architectural space of the CAMH buildings and surrounding the neighbourhood in a way that erases the walls of some of their historical importance and suffering of psychiatric patients present and past. The walls almost looked adorned with all the pedestrian and vehicle openings. To the north side of the Queen West St, the nice shops, restaurants, bars, and cafes cast a very different tone from the CAMH buildings.

The buildings are littered with modern surveillance technology as multiple surveillance cameras and a warning system can be seen just from a small barn located south to the CAMH buildings. They are similar to the infrastructure in prisons which further reminded me of the carceral

Anonymous 10mo

## Labor and Disability

The implications for labor and marginalized peoples has always been of interest for me-- particularly when unpaid. For example, the domestic labor performed by women, largely, or the 13th amendment in the US that permits prisoners -- who are disproportionately people of color -- to act as functional slaves under the condition of their conviction. Seeing the way that labor and disability interact in this case, where people at the asylum were forced, without compensation, to work under the guise of it being their treatment complicates the dynamic of disabled people and the conception of their competency/productivity, or, as is often characterized, "ability to contribute to society."

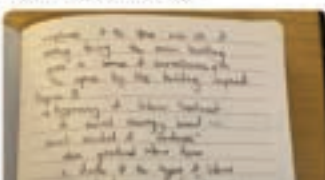
-Ayda

1

Add comment

Anonymous 10mo

## Wall Tour Notes 2



Anonymous 10mo



The backyard behind the building near Plaque 6 with piles of bricks

1

Add comment

Anonymous 10mo



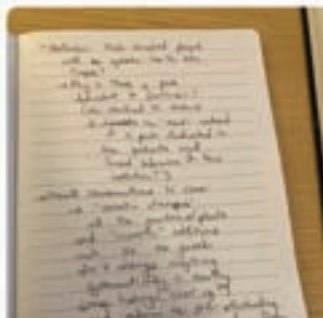
The symbolic message found on the bricks of the building near Plaque 4 that say "VISITOR"

1

Add comment

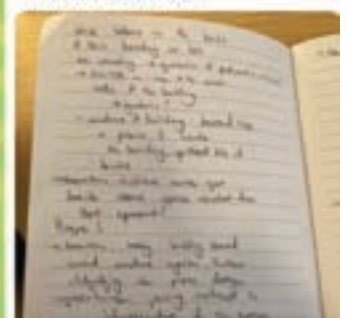
Anonymous 10mo

## Wall Tour Notes 4



Anonymous 10mo

## Wall Tour Notes 3







In 1851, the CAMH (which was then known as the Provincial Lunatic Asylum), was surrounded by a 10-foot wall made of brick, stone foundation, and capped piers. The south side was added in 1861. The wall was built by the inmates residing at the institution, as hard labour was understood, at the time, to be a key part of their (moral) therapy.

Students in CSE349 and CSE241 listened to a podcast about local histories of madness and psychiatry while exploring the physical built site. This tour was an extension of the work and research conducted by members of the PSAT (Psychiatric Survivors Archives of Toronto) and Dr. Geoffrey Reaume at York University, who, for many years, led these tours here in Toronto.

# A Visit to Tangled Arts + Disability Gallery



On January 31st, 2023 students from CSE241: Introduction to Critical Disability Studies visited The Tangled Art + Disability Gallery. The intention behind the field trip was to explore crip art and learn more about disability representation. The class visited the exhibit "Avere Cura" which disrupts the conventional norms of the Western art world, focusing on the ideology of curation as care. Rooted in the Latin term "to take care," the show challenges the pervasive influence of a predominantly white, heterosexist, and ableist art history that continues to shape and promote dominant ideologies.





The exhibit showcased the work of six diverse artists including Susan Aydan Abbott, Olivia Brouwer, BI Garneau, Kit Trytten, seeley quest, and Carla Sierra Suarez. These artists represent voices that often exist outside the traditional art world categories, such as BIPOC, Queer and Trans, mentally ill, neurodivergent, or disabled individuals. The exhibition reminded visitors to recognize and honor the humanity of artists, prompting deeper engagement with their creations by considering the artists' lived experiences as integral to their art.



**NOTABLE  
AWARDS &  
HONOURS**

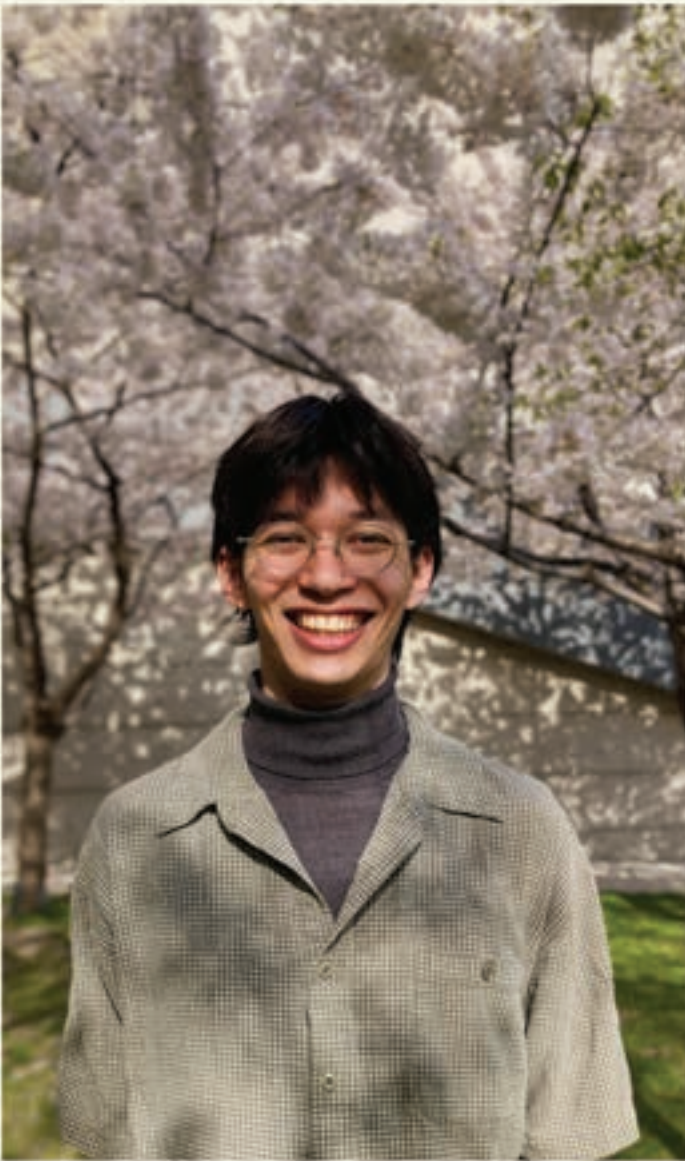


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# David Clandfield Scholarship in Scholarly Activism

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## Boomba Nishikawa



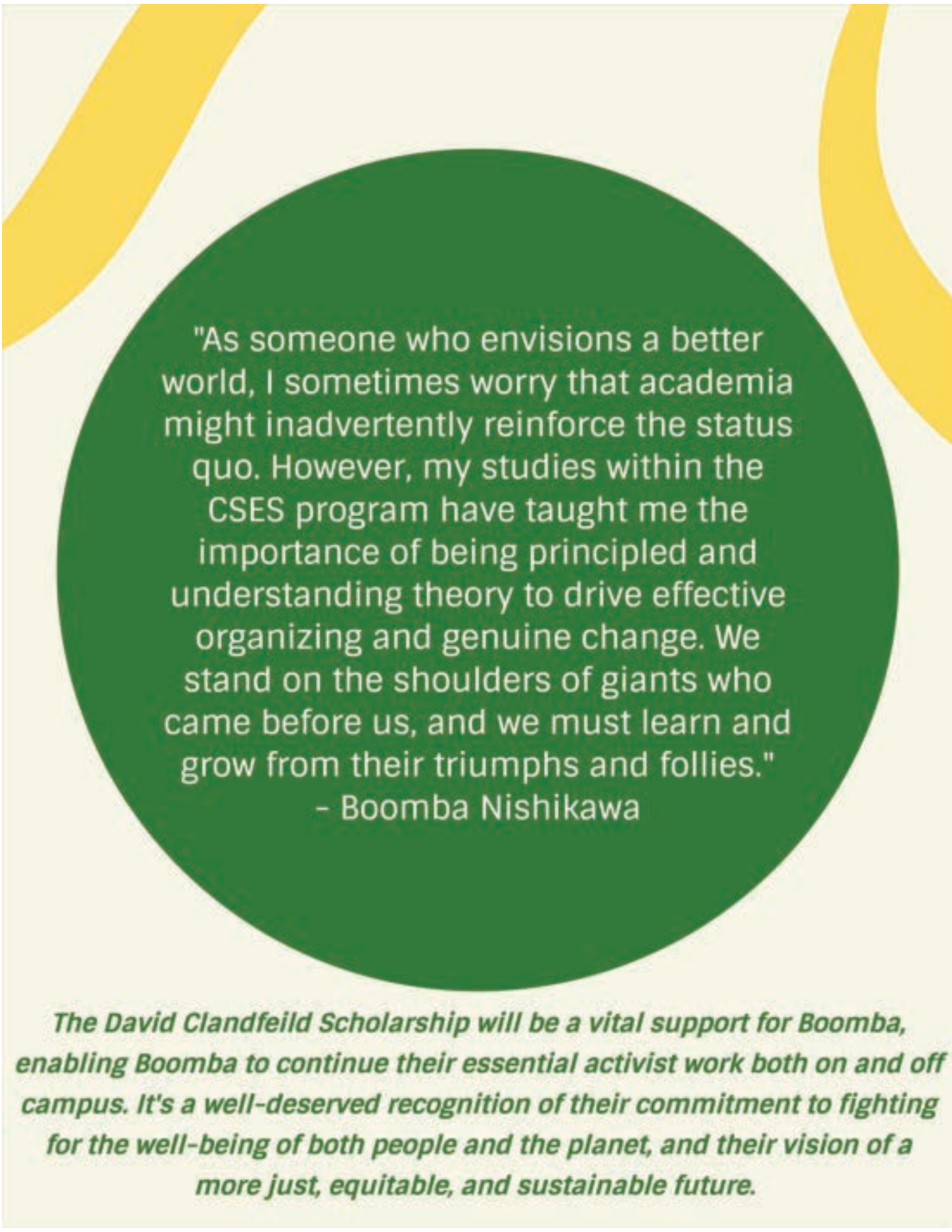
We are thrilled to share that Boomba Nishikawa, a dedicated advocate for climate justice and a passionate student at the University of Toronto, has been awarded the 2023 David Clandfield Scholarship in Scholarly Activism. Their academic journey has been tightly intertwined with their activism, as they have tirelessly campaigned for climate issues both on and off campus.





Boomba is currently in their 4th year of undergraduate studies, pursuing a major in Ethics, Society, and Law, along with Critical Studies in Equity and Solidarity, and a minor in Asian Canadian Studies. Within the university, Boomba has been actively involved with Climate Justice University of Toronto (CJ UofT). Their efforts have included organizing banner drops, marshaling rallies, and leading meetings to call on the university to cut ties with the fossil fuel industry and address the urgent climate crisis. Boomba's dedication and leadership culminated in the successful occupation of Victoria University—one of the three federated colleges that did not divest when the university as a whole did in 2021. This action led to the college divesting its endowment from fossil fuel holdings.





"As someone who envisions a better world, I sometimes worry that academia might inadvertently reinforce the status quo. However, my studies within the CSES program have taught me the importance of being principled and understanding theory to drive effective organizing and genuine change. We stand on the shoulders of giants who came before us, and we must learn and grow from their triumphs and follies."

- Boomba Nishikawa

*The David Clandfeild Scholarship will be a vital support for Boomba, enabling Boomba to continue their essential activist work both on and off campus. It's a well-deserved recognition of their commitment to fighting for the well-being of both people and the planet, and their vision of a more just, equitable, and sustainable future.*

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# **Dr. Loree Erickson Receives Kathleen O'Connell Teaching Excellence Award**

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Dr. Loree Erickson, a sessional instructor at CSES, has been honoured for her outstanding teaching and embodiment of the core values of the Kathleen O'Connell Teaching Excellence Award.

Named after Dr. Kathleen O'Connell, who taught courses on Rabindranath Tagore and Satyajit Ray at New College for two decades, the award celebrates New College's commitment to socially engaged education and pedagogical innovation. Dr.

Erickson's teaching and pedagogy exemplify this very  
commitment.

Dr. Erickson is a white, queer, disabled, femme from a mixed-class background who grew up in rural northern Virginia. She was part of the first group of students to complete the Critical Disability Studies Master's at York University in 2005 and completed a Ph.D. in Environmental Studies. She was an Ethel Louise Armstrong postdoctoral fellow at Toronto Metropolitan University's School of Disability Studies.





Dr. Erickson's research in disability studies – and more specifically her work on collective access and community care practices – deeply informs her teaching. Moving beyond the common understanding that access is a personal or individual matter, Dr. Erickson innovatively frames access as a kind of pedagogical practice, a founding frame that underpins all aspects of her course design and delivery. Her research and teaching interests include disability justice, counter-public media, transformative justice, prison abolition, porn studies, cultures of un/desirability, queercrip porn, marginalized communities strategies for surviving and flourishing including but not limited to care collectives. She is a forerunner in theorizing and thriving through care collectives having met the majority of her care needs through her community for more than 20 years. Congratulations!

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# **Tania Ruiz Chapman Shortlisted for UofT's Prestigious TATP Teaching Award**

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Tania Ruiz Chapman, a Ph.D. student in Social Justice Education at OISE, has been shortlisted for the prestigious Teaching Assistants' Training Program (TATP) TA Teaching Excellence Award in 2023. As a teaching assistant at CSES, this recognition highlights Tania's exceptional teaching abilities and the impact she has made on her students.



2023 Teaching Assistants'  
Training Program (TATP)

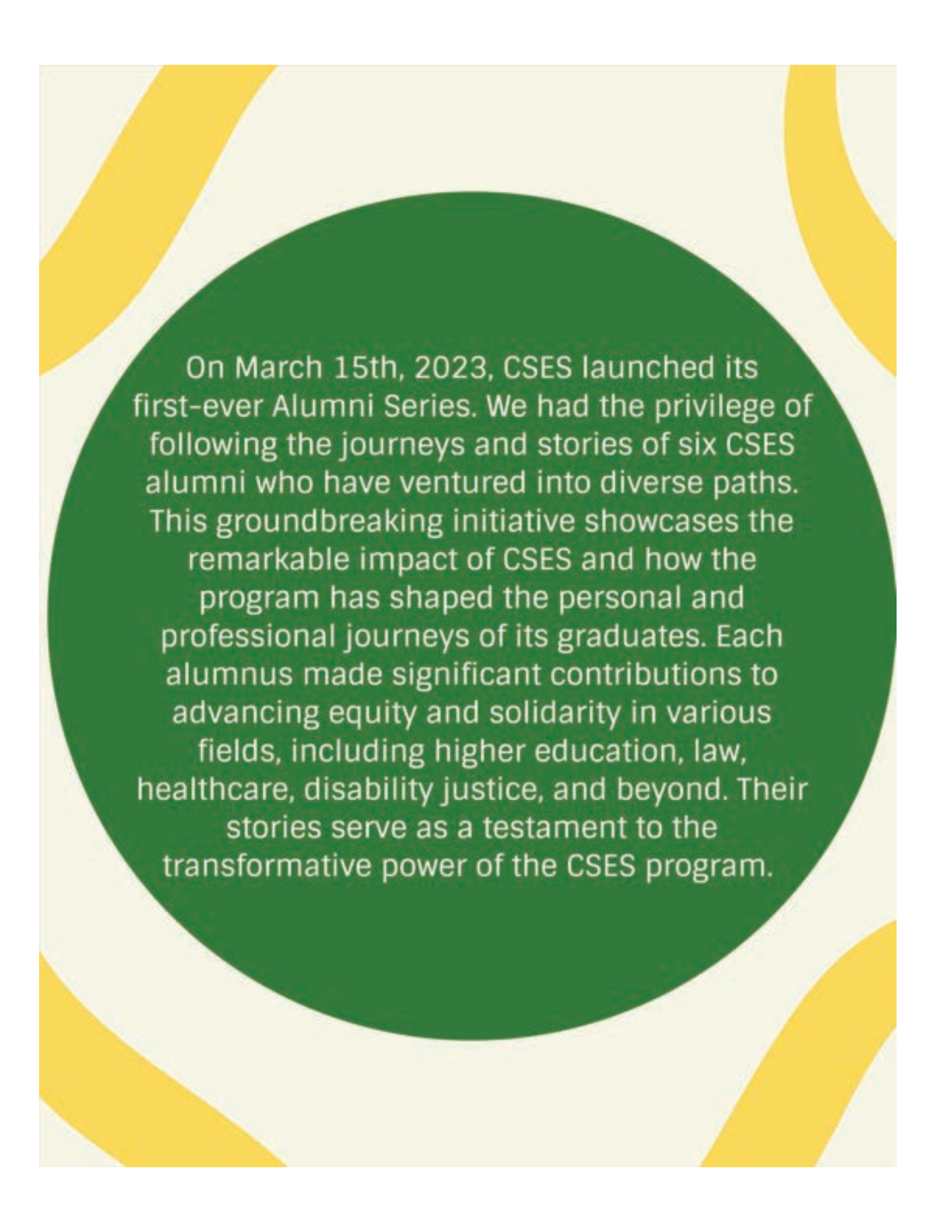
# TA Teaching Excellence Award

Out of a large pool of applicants from various divisions within the School of Graduate Studies, Tania was selected as one of only 14 candidates to be shortlisted for the award. In her many nominations, Tania was praised for her skill, organization, and passion for teaching. Her expertise shines through in her accessible, engaging, and critically-oriented lectures. She also excels at coordinating and leading smaller discussion-based tutorial groups and offers valuable mentorship, supervision, and support to undergraduate student researchers. We are incredibly proud of Tania's accomplishment and her commitment to supporting CSES student learning and fostering accessible, engaging, and critically oriented lectures and discussions!



**THE LAUNCH  
OF THE CSES  
ALUMNI  
SERIES**





On March 15th, 2023, CSES launched its first-ever Alumni Series. We had the privilege of following the journeys and stories of six CSES alumni who have ventured into diverse paths. This groundbreaking initiative showcases the remarkable impact of CSES and how the program has shaped the personal and professional journeys of its graduates. Each alumnus made significant contributions to advancing equity and solidarity in various fields, including higher education, law, healthcare, disability justice, and beyond. Their stories serve as a testament to the transformative power of the CSES program.



**Nwadiogo Ejiogu**

Anesthesiologist and Assistant  
Professor of Anesthesiology  
and Critical Care at UPENN



**Yuvraj Joshi**

Assistant Professor at the  
University of British Columbia  
Allard School of Law



**Yadesha Satheaswaran**

Second-year associate at  
Stockwoods LLP





## Jenn Boulay

Graduate student at Concordia University researching the gaps/absence of disability theatre in Eastern Canada



## Mónica Espailat Lizardo

Ph.D. Candidate at UofT,  
Instructor at Arizona State University



## Jandell-Jamela Nicholas

Fourth-year Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Geography and Planning at the University of Toronto



The interviews were conducted by Dina Mahafza, a 4th-year CSES Work Study student who delved into discussions about what initially drew the alumni to CSES and the impactful work they are currently engaged in. The stories highlighted in the series underscore the true essence of interdisciplinary education at CSES. Our graduates pursue a wide range of careers, all deeply rooted in their commitment to equity, justice, and solidarity. The richness of their experiences and accomplishments exemplifies the multifaceted impact of CSES on individuals and communities. We invite you to explore these compelling interviews on our website.





**CSES SENIOR  
DOCTORAL  
FELLOWS  
2022-2023**

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# Introducing our Senior Doctoral Fellows

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Hannah Quinn



Hazal Halavut

Senior Doctoral Fellows play a crucial role in New College's intellectual life, mentoring undergraduate students, conducting academic seminars, and participating in various college events. This academic year, 2022-2023, Hannah Quinn and Hazal Halavut were the CSES Senior Doctoral Fellows. The fellowships offered by New College provide dedicated space, a small stipend, and networking opportunities with esteemed faculty members, further supporting our graduate students in their academic pursuits.



As SDFs, Hannah and Hazal were panelists at the 'Going to Grad School' Event on October 11th, 2022. Our panelists, Hannah and Hazal, provided CSES students with advice and support in preparing applications for graduate school. They also helped students answer many questions which included: How do I decide if I want to go to graduate school? How do I choose a graduate school? What should a research or personal statement look like?



Hannah Quinn also participated in a Senior Doctoral Fellow Interview conducted by CSES Work Study Student, Dina Mahafza. During the interview published on December 1st, 2022, Hannah shared insights about her doctoral research, thesis, and postdoctoral research goals. As a 5th-year Ph.D. Candidate and Vanier Scholar in Anthropology and Sexual Diversity Studies, Hannah delved into her work with intellectually disabled adults in Montréal, Québec, and how through her work she aims to build consent cultures and challenge ableism. Her research focuses on theories of consent and the complex dynamics within cultures of consent and coercion, and she seeks to understand how notions of 'capacity to consent' reinforce ableist structures.



During the interview, Hannah also discussed her aspirations to connect with CSES undergraduate students, which she successfully did when hosting a lecture in CSE241: Introduction to Critical Disability Studies on February 28th, 2023. Hannah's talk was part of the lecture on "Consent, Coercion, and the 'Problem' of Sexuality" which she titled "Dreaming & Doing Anti-Abelist Consent Culture". The full Senior Doctoral Fellows Interview with Hannah Quinn can be found on our website.






**COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT**

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# Comrades: Work and Community

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On March 29th, 2023 a gathering of critical comrades from within CSES took place at Wilson Hall. Led and organized by Dr. Stanley Doyle-Wood as part of the CSE270: Foundations of Community Dis/Engagement and Solidarity, the event's purpose was to foster a community between students and professors to have an honest body talk. The event was an opportunity for attendees to explore the intricate connections between their scholarly work, personal lives, and community engagement. Dr. Doyle-Wood's vision was to "delve into the lives of who we are, how we live, and how we understand our presence in the world, that is to say how we struggle, fight, and resist oppression in all its forms".







The event invited scholars from CSES including Dr. Anne McGuire, Dr. Chandni Desai, Dr. Kevin Edmonds, and Dr. Chris Ramsaroop to share their incredible insights and experiences. They delved into discussions on the interconnections between critical scholarship and activism but most importantly how these elements shape their identities and understandings of the world. The event created an inspirational environment that centered on the exchange of ideas. Comrades: Work and Community left an undeniable mark and reaffirmed the power of community engagement and collectivity in driving positive change.



# Nelson Mandela Park School Students Visit UofT



CSES Professor Dr. Doyle-Wood organized a special field trip with Nelson Mandela Park School for their Grade 5 and Grade 6 students to visit the University of Toronto. The collaboration was also supported by New College and the Transitional Year Programme. Dr. Doyle-Wood has been working with the students for two years as part of the Protege Panther Project for Self-Defense. The project centers around Black Panther Party pedagogy and educational methods as implemented in their liberation schools and the Oakland Community Learning Center in California.





During their visit, students participated in a classroom teach-in at Wilson Hall, where they engaged in educational activities. Additionally, the collaboration with Nelson Mandela Park School gave the students the opportunity to attend the talk by Elaine Brown during her virtual visit to UofT.

The Grade 5 and Grade 6 students had a fun and interactive experience in William Doo and New College's student life services, where games and food were organized for them. The students expressed their enthusiasm and gratitude, declaring it the "best school trip ever." The event received praise from parents and families of the participating students for providing this enriching opportunity.



**STUDENT  
INITIATIVES**



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# ESSU (Equity Studies Student Union)

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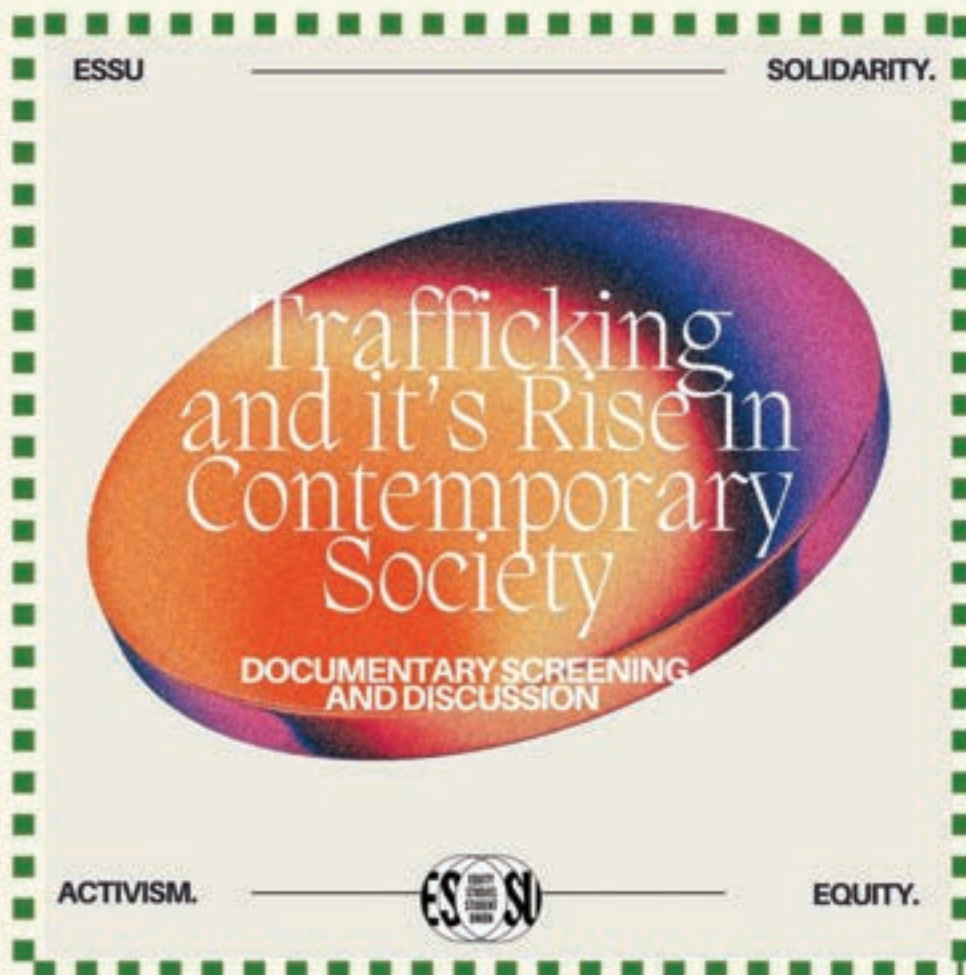


The Equity Studies Student Union (ESSU) is a student-run course union that represents the Critical Studies in Equity and Solidarity program, supporting students in exploring course concepts while dealing with world issues.

ESSU functions to promote the program as well as provide a voice and resource for membership, individually and as a collective. Throughout the 2022-2023 academic year ESSU hosted a few notable events and a program social earlier in the year.



ESSU's "Trafficking and its Rise in Contemporary Society" Documentary Screening and Discussion took place on January 30th, 2023 at Robarts Media Room. The union discussed the prevalence of sex trafficking in the modern day and wrapped up the discussion by dissecting how social media has created a pipeline for predators to gain direct access to youth. The event particularly posed the question: What does trafficking look like during the age of tech?







The ESSU “Annual General Meeting” took place on March 2nd, 2023 at Wilson Hall. The general meeting was composed of a vote on approving a proposed constitution, giving union updates, and creating a space for CSES students to ask questions and make suggestions for the union.

ESSU

SOLIDARITY.

Join us  
AT OUR ANNUAL  
GENERAL  
MEETING

ACTIVISM.

EQUITY.



Lastly, ESSU hosted an Academic Seminar on “State Governed Violence in Peru”. ESSU invited School of Cities Fellow Andrea Roman Alfaro to lead a 30-minute session on the policing of marginalized communities and how governments implement violence-management policies. Toward the end of the event, CSES students had the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the intersections between the academic seminar and some of the current course concepts.





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# KNOTS, Issue 7

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knots

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UNIVERSITY OF  
TORONTO

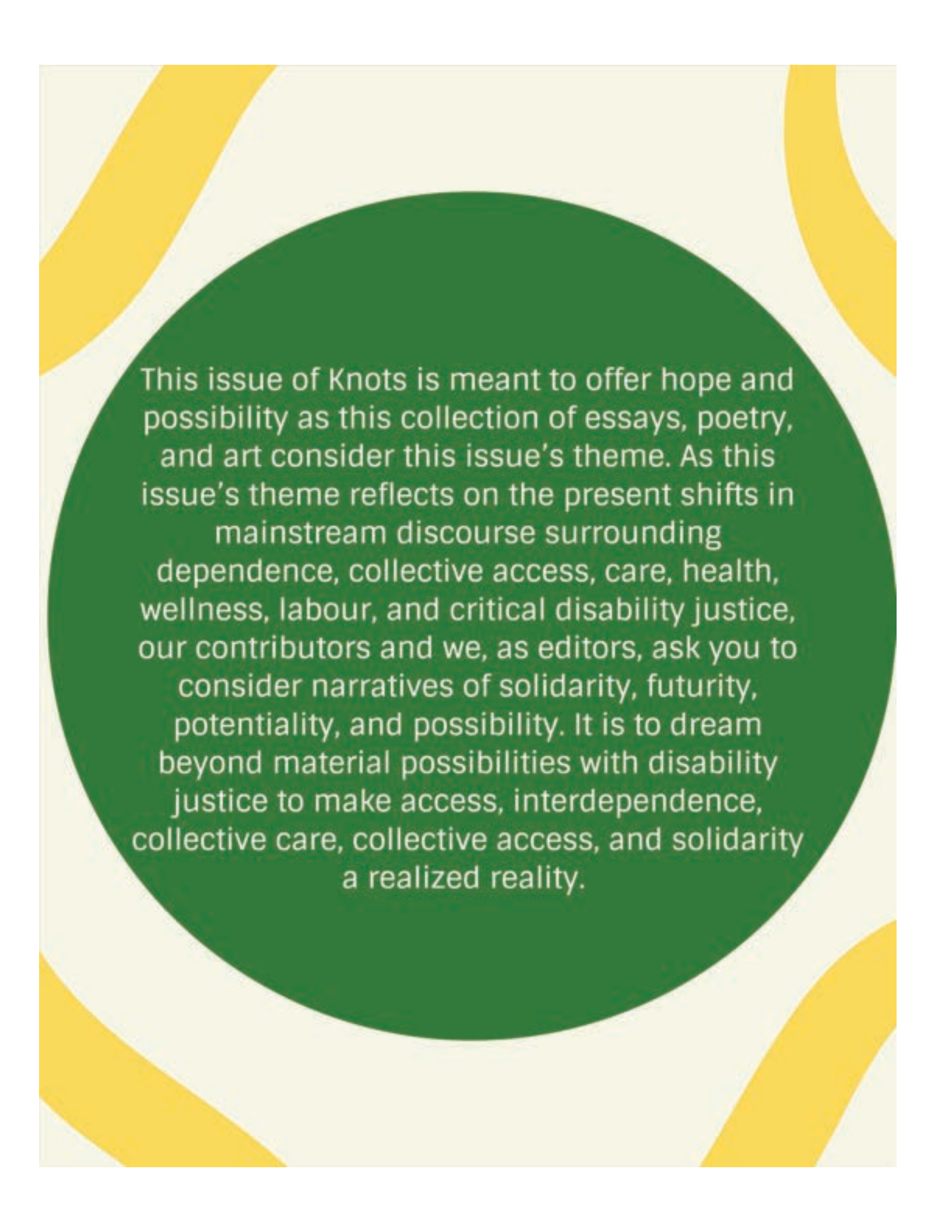
Knots is an undergraduate Journal of Disability Studies at the University of Toronto which is edited and compiled by a team of students and faculty advisors in the CSES Disability Studies Stream. Knots works to challenge normative conceptions of disability and embodiment while contributing new and innovative knowledge to the field of disability studies. The undergraduate journal highlights original and unpublished work by disability studies students in CSES. This issue's theme was (Inter)dependence, Collective Care, and Access.

# Issue 7, Cover

**knots** An Undergraduate Journal  
of Disability Studies







This issue of Knots is meant to offer hope and possibility as this collection of essays, poetry, and art consider this issue's theme. As this issue's theme reflects on the present shifts in mainstream discourse surrounding dependence, collective access, care, health, wellness, labour, and critical disability justice, our contributors and we, as editors, ask you to consider narratives of solidarity, futurity, potentiality, and possibility. It is to dream beyond material possibilities with disability justice to make access, interdependence, collective care, collective access, and solidarity a realized reality.



**CSES HOSTS &  
SUPPORTS**



# Guest Lecture by Dr. Hicham Safideeine “The Anti-Colonial Intellectual”



On April 5th, 2023 Dr. Chandni Desai organized a guest lecture by Dr. Hicham Safieddine. Dr. Safieddine is an Assistant Professor of History at the University of British Columbia and a prominent scholar in political economy and intellectual history (19th and 20th centuries) with an emphasis on the Middle East and North Africa.

The lecture focused on the life and work of Mahdi Amel (1936-1987), a highly esteemed Arab Marxist thinker during the era of National Liberation. Dr. Safieddine is the author of *Banking on the State: The Financial Foundations of Lebanon* (SUP, 20219) and more. In addition to his academic research and teaching, he is the co-founder of e-zines *Al-Akhbar English* and *The Legal Agenda's English Edition*. His press writings have appeared in *The Toronto Star*, *Al-Jazeera English*, *The Monthly Review*, and so forth.



# THE ANTI-COLONIAL INTELLECTUAL



Lecture by:

**Hicham  
Safieddine**

**Assistant Professor of History, UBC**

The guest lecture took place at the Willam Doo where Dr. Safieddine delved into Mahdi Amel's contributions to national liberation, emphasizing his application of class analysis to develop theories and practices that countered reactionary ideologies on local, regional, and global levels. Amel's anti-colonial approach was contrasted with contemporary readings of leftist histories that were postmodern, Eurocentric, or even reactionary. The lecture provided a comprehensive exploration of Amel's life and work as a means of understanding the essence of an anti-colonial intellectual. The themes discussed in the lecture included the colonial mode of production, sectarianism, hegemony, and political Islam, shedding light on the complexities of anti-colonial thought and its relevance in today's context. The event served as a platform to explore the ideas and legacy of Mahdi Amel, contributing to a deeper understanding of anti-colonial intellectualism and its relevance in the modern world.



# A Visit from Author and Activist Leah Lakshmi Piepzna Samarasinha



In the winter semester, students in CSE449 (Contemporary Theories in Critical Disability Studies) were paid an online visit from disability justice activist and author of 'The Future is Disabled and Care Works' author, Leah Lakshmi Piepzna Samarasinha.

Leah Lakshmi Piepzna  
Samarasinha centers their  
writing and performance art  
around the narratives of  
queer and trans people of  
colour, survivors of abuse,  
individuals with mixed-race  
heritage, and South Asian  
and Sri Lankan communities  
living in the diaspora.  
Throughout the term,  
students in the course read  
Leah's book: *The Future is  
Disabled* (Arsenal Pulp Press,  
2022). For their last class,  
Leah joined the students  
online to not only discuss  
the book but dream disability  
futures together. The image  
of the Post-it notes are some  
of the students' reflections  
from the visit.






# Psych Murders: A Turtle Disco Offering with Stephanie Heit



On January 26th, 2023, in collaboration with CSES, "PSYCH MURDERS: A Turtle Disco" offered an hour of community connection and creative exploration at the William Doo Auditorium. Led by the talented Stephanie Heit, co-director of Turtle Disco, the queer disabled poet, dancer, and teacher shared her work from the thought-provoking book "PSYCH MURDERS". This unique hybrid memoir poem took participants on a profound journey inside psychiatric wards, shock treatments, and the realm of suicidal ideation, while also exploring new futures of care.

The CSES event was hosted by Turtle Disco, the somatic writing space co-directed by Stephanie Heit and Petra Koppers since 2017. Based on their living room in Anishinaabe land in Michigan and accessible through Zoom, Turtle Disco is an inclusive and supportive environment that encourages disability culture experimentation, creative self-care, communal inquiry, and connection. The event provided a welcoming and supportive environment at the William Doo rooted in a crip/mad/queer-led ethos.

Stephanie's contribution to the arts and activism continues to inspire many as it inspired us on January 26th, 2023. We extend our gratitude to Stephanie Heit for sharing her powerful work and to Turtle Disco for creating a space of inclusivity and empowerment on our campus. Together, we embrace the importance of community care as we navigate our unique journeys.





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# Disability Justice Network of Ontario Panel Discussion

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This year, CSES brought together three activists and community organizers from 'The Disability Justice Network of Ontario' to host a panel discussion for CSE241: Introduction to Critical Disability Studies. The event highlighted the importance of disability justice work and emphasized the intersectionality of solidarity and disability justice in Ontario.



**Sarah Jama**

The Executive Director and co-founder of the DJNO. Sarah, who has cerebral palsy, holds a Social Sciences degree from McMaster University and is a prominent community organizer from Hamilton. Her work extends beyond disability justice and encompasses combating anti-black racism, addressing issues related to policing, and advocating for housing security.



**Yasmine Gray**

Yasmine is a Toronto-based writer, artist, researcher, educator, and public speaker. Yasmine is an experienced facilitator specializing in creating educational materials to make social justice education accessible to various audiences.



**Megan Linton**

Megan is a disabled deinstitutionalization researcher, writer, and advocate based in Unceded Algonquin Territory. Her research and advocacy focus on contemporary forms of institutionalization and the possibilities of abolition. She is the creator and host of the Invisible Institutions podcast.

The panelists demonstrated that a commitment to disability justice is a commitment toward racial justice, abolition, mad activism, and so forth. The panel discussion highlighted how the Disability Justice Network of Ontario builds capacity in disabled organizers to tackle systemic ableism and challenge ableist structures locally, provincially, and nationally.




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# Balochistan Human Rights Extractivism Liberation

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On March 21st, 2023, the event, "Balochistan" Testimonies of the Disappeared Extractives & the Struggle for Liberation, took place as part of the CSE341 course: Theorizing Settler Colonialism, Capitalism, and Race. The event honored the memory of Karima Baloch and shed light on the experiences of the Balochi people. The evening commenced with a gripping documentary screening that portrayed the challenges faced by the Balochi community. Professor Chandni Desai later invited Lateef Johar, a human rights defender, and Sameer Mehrab Baloch, co-founder of Balochistan Times.







The event fostered critical dialogue and reflection on the intersectional nature of settler colonialism, capitalism, and race. Attendees engaged in thought-provoking discussions, exploring the complexities of these interconnected systems of oppression. The testimonies and discussions inspired a commitment to social justice and deepened understanding among the participants. The event was also a testament to the power of storytelling and the importance of creating spaces for marginalized voices to be heard. It served as a call to action, urging attendees to reflect on the issues discussed and apply the insights gained to their studies, conversations, and actions.



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# Critical Conversations: Detention and Disablement

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On May 25th, 2023, CSES organized a virtual event as part of the Critical Conversation series hosted by the Centre for Global Disability Studies at the University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC).

The event, titled "Detention and Disablement: The Politics of Indefinite Detention in Canada," explored the intersections of disability and disablement within undocumented communities facing indefinite detention in Canada. The panel consisted of individuals who brought diverse perspectives to the discussion. Tania Ruiz Chapman, a Ph.D. student at the University of Toronto, served as the event organizer and panelist. Tania was joined by Kyon Ferril, Julia Sande, and Lou Tam.

This particular event sought to uphold the values of the CGDS by promoting accessibility in academic conversations, fostering interdisciplinary community, and supporting anti-ableist scholarship and activism that advances anti-colonial and transnational perspectives.





**Kyon Ferril**

Prisoner justice community  
organizer and educator



**Julia Sande**

Legal Expert from  
Amnesty International

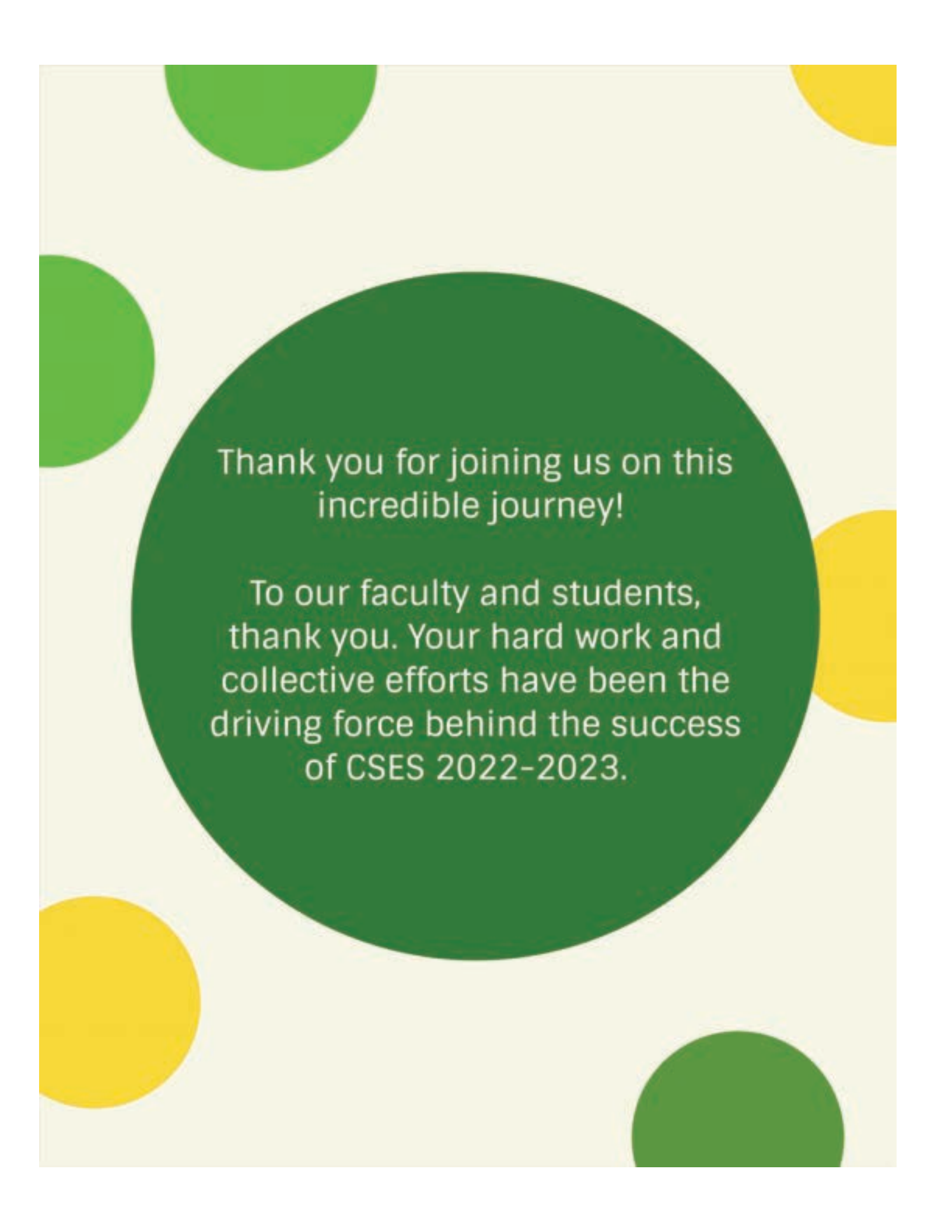


**Lou Tam**

Postdoctoral associate and  
prisoner justice organizer

The panel discussion delved into the intricate dynamics that place undocumented communities at a heightened risk of acquiring disability while in detention. By bringing together academic analysis, lived experiences, and legal expertise, the panelists shed light on the historical context and personal narratives associated with indefinite detention.





Thank you for joining us on this  
incredible journey!

To our faculty and students,  
thank you. Your hard work and  
collective efforts have been the  
driving force behind the success  
of CSES 2022-2023.







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