



**EQUITY STUDIES
STUDENT UNION**



**UNIVERSITY
OF TORONTO**

A Year In Review **2017-2018**

Welcome!

The Equity Studies Students' Union (ESSU) is a student organization at the University of Toronto that advocates for the interests of those affiliated with the Equity Studies program. We aim to support our members in their attempts to critically deconstruct and (re)construct knowledge, communities, and institutions.

In order to meaningfully work towards this, ESSU strives to:

- create events, resources, and communities that enrich students' understandings of concepts relevant to Equity Studies
- connect students with peers, professors, and opportunities linked to Equity Studies
- collaborate with grassroots organizers and organizations on as well as off campus
- stand in solidarity with all marginalized peoples and communities

How do I get involved?

You are reading this at the most exciting time of the year: when we are just beginning to solidify our upcoming vision and projects! Examples of projects from previous years as well as from our new executive's preliminary discussions include:

- reinstating and re-envisioning our annual conference (previously known as "Decolonizing Our Minds")
- creating events that raise awareness around topical issues (e.g. the opioid crisis)
- improving our course evaluations and other key academic resources

During the University's fall and winter semesters, ESSU also holds weekly meetings which all equity-seeking students are encouraged to attend.

How do I get in touch?

Email: uoft.essu@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/uoftessu/

In solidarity,

Equity Studies Students' Union Executive 2018-2019

Table of Contents

Welcome	2
Table of Contents	3
Unsettling Normalcy Working Group	4-5
Youth, Activism, and Community Initiative	6-7
150 For Whom, Canada? Conference	8
Knots Journal Launch	9
Book Launch: Critical inquiries for Social Justice in Mental Health	10
The Belize Program on Food and Indignity	11
Book Launch for Professor George Dei	12
Holocaust Education Week	13
Linked Oppressions panel	14
NEW469: Senior Research Project Presentations Conference in Hawaii	15
International Student Program in Ghana	16
Awards	17
Student Awards	18-19
Equity Studies Program Information	20

Unsettling Normalcy Working Group

Launched at Congress in May 2017, Unsettling Normalcy is a disability studies (DS) working group at University of Toronto that includes faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, as well as local and international guests. The aim of the working group is to nurture a cultural studies version of DS at UofT. The Unsettling Normalcy working group continues to develop disability studies' critical relation to white settler colonial projects of knowledge production that typically take the category of disability as that which marks a naturally degraded existence. The group critiques the use of disability as a way to justify exploitation and control of traditionally marginalized peoples. The working group aims to support faculty and student interests in working at the intersection of power and knowledge so as to take into account the history of colonialism, slavery and capitalism from which modern conceptions of disability have sprung. This year, the working group contributed to organizing three public events.

Negotiating Violence: Evidence and Erasure

As part of the New College Disability Studies Speaker Series, co-sponsored by the Department of Social Justice Education at OISE/UT, Equity Studies was pleased to host Dr. Eunjung Kim and Dr. Mark Gill from Syracuse University in New York. The event on Oct 26, 2018, was organized by members of the Unsettling Normalcy working group with refreshments provided by Coffee Shed. The talks were organized around the theme of Negotiating Violence: Evidence and Erasure. Dr. Kim spoke about the ways narratives of curing disabled bodies are often used in the media to represent themes of national unity and healing. She explained that this usage is problematic because it promotes ableist notions of completeness and makes disability disappear. Drawing from his book on the life of Elsie Lacks, daughter of Henrietta Lacks, Dr. Gill described how violence enacted by the state and the carceral system on disabled people is often erased. In the question and answer period people took the opportunity to connect the topics of the talks to current events at U of T, such as the proposed University-Mandated Leave of Absence Policy for students dealing with serious mental health issues.

The New College Disability Studies Speaker Series
with Social Justice Education, UofT presents:

NEGOTIATING VIOLENCE: ERASURE AND EVIDENCE

Dr. Eunjung Kim
*Curative Violence: Representing
Military Violence and Trauma*

Dr. Mike Gill
*The Absent Presence of Elsie Lacks:
Intersections of Race, Class, Gender,
and Disability (Co-written with
Dr. Nirmala Erelles)*



**Thursday,
October 26th**
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.



OISE Library
252 Bloor St. W. Toronto
(Above St. George Subway Stop)

Refreshments
Wheelchair accessible
ASL + access copies available

For accessibility or additional
information, please contact
uoftdisabilitylistserv@gmail.com

Sponsors:

  UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
OISE - ONTARIO INSTITUTE
OF PAW & STUDIES IN EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE EDUCATION

 Social Sciences and
Humanities Research
Council of Canada
 Canada
Conseil de recherches
en sciences humaines
du Canada

Disability Speaker Series: Sona Kazemi

The Unsettling Normalcy Working Group invited Sona Kazemi from OISE's Adult Education and Community Development program to speak about her research on November 30, 2017. Sona's work focuses on imperialism, nationalism, and the acquisition of disability due to violence. Through her life as a war-survivor and experience of teaching and activism with other Middle Eastern immigrant and refugee women, she has built a valuable critical perspective that underlies her scholarship and activism. In this talk, she shared part of her thesis which centred around the Iraqi chemical attack on Iran during the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s. Coming from the perspective of a survivor. Sona analyzed how war creates disability and how disabled bodies are then read in the global capitalist context.



Hey! What's Going On? Reclaiming Disability Studies

On February 20, 2018, the Unsettling Normalcy Working Group hosted a panel discussion to reassert the place of disability in critical inquiry. The topic was designed to help clarify and define the field of disability studies and affirm the place of disabled scholars and activists within that field. The first speaker was UofT's own Rod Michalko, who spoke on reclaiming blindness. The working group also welcomed two visiting scholars from the UK: Dan Goodley from Sheffield University spoke about reclaiming theory, bringing in a critique of the medical model and the othering of disabled subjects; and Rebecca Lawthom from Manchester Metropolitan University spoke about reclaiming research and pushing back against research rating metrics in the UK. Following the presentations by the panelists, the audience had the chance to engage in a question and answer session. There was also an after-party at the

**hey!
what's
going on?**

Reclaiming Disability Studies

Tuesday, Feb 20th
6-8:30 p.m.

OISE
Main floor Library,
252 Bloor St. West

Please join us in this discussion led by the provocations of the following topics & speakers:

Whose Blindness is this?
Rod Michalko, Writer

Whose Theory is this?
Dan Goodley, Sheffield University, UK

Whose Research is this?
Rebecca Lawthom, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK

Q&A Discussion session to follow.

Above St. George Subway; Accessible Washrooms;
ASL and/or scripts provided, FREE.

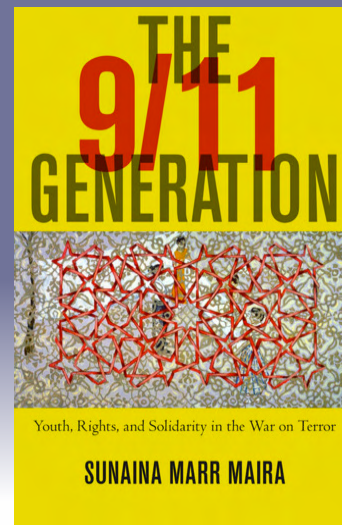
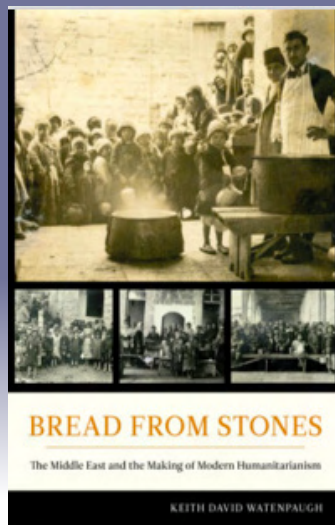
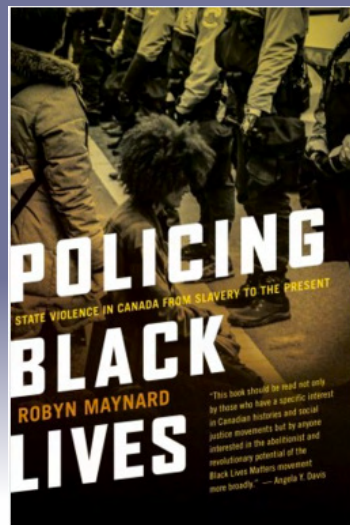
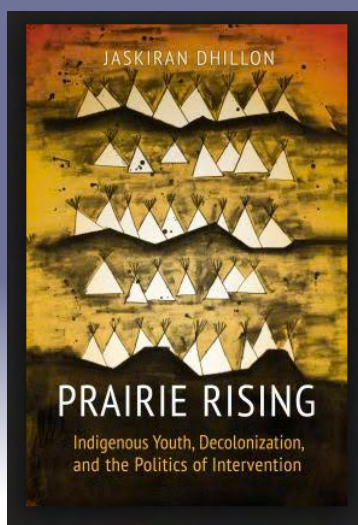
To RSVP or for access questions please contact
unsettlingnormalcy@gmail.com

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Social Sciences and
Humanities Research
Council of Canada
Conseil de recherches
en sciences humaines
et sociales

Canada

Youth, Activism, and Community (YAC) Initiative: Reading Group and Events



The Youth, Activism and Community Initiative takes an interdisciplinary approach to study youth experience and modes of learning, struggle, and resistance in diverse communities across local, diasporic, and transnational sites. YAC includes a variety of activities designed to examine and document the issues that inform youth activism; the social, economic and political contexts in which youth activists operate; and the expression of youth activism through diverse art forms. The overall goal of YAC is to promote and support youth activism and the activist strategies young people use for social justice purposes. One of the main activities of the initiative was an ongoing reading group over the course of the year to discuss the above books. The reading group was coordinated by Professor Chandni Desai.

NEW340: Freedom Making Course Presentations

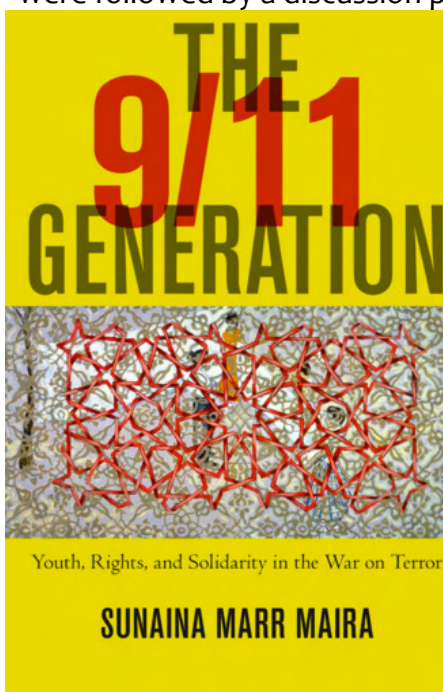
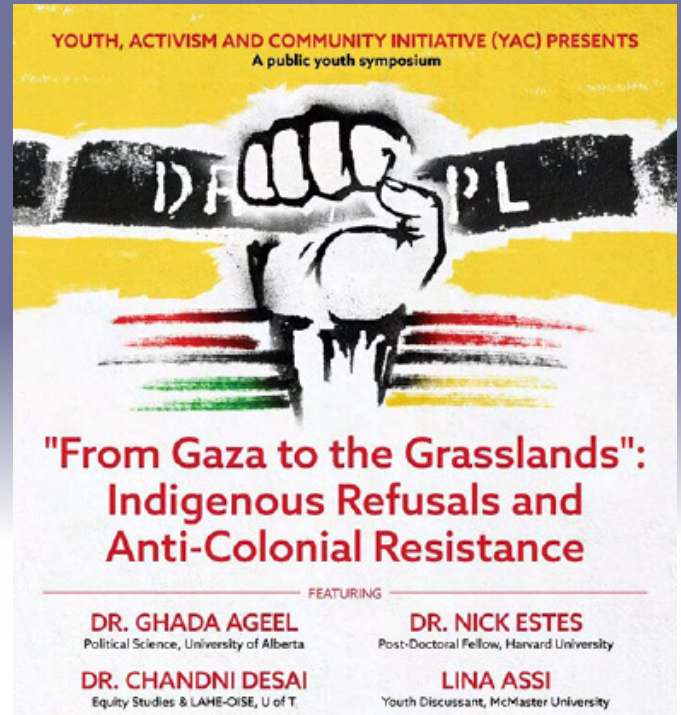
As part of the Youth, Activism, and Community Initiative, students had the opportunity to take the course NEW340H: Freedom Making: Youth, Activism, and Social Change, taught by Professor Chandni Desai. On Dec 5, 2017, students from the course presented the research they conducted over the semester. Dr. Desai introduced the event, explaining the theoretical foundations of the course and the basis for student research. Throughout the term, students had critically interrogated the intersections of colonialism, capitalism, patriarchy, orientalism, and other systems of oppression. With this understanding, they turned to study examples of youth participation in contemporary social movements. In addition to the course materials, students worked in groups to investigate current issues that they found to be important.

The first group focused on the barriers that refugee and non-status youth face in Toronto, including issues in areas such as job opportunities, housing, education, healthcare, citizenship, and community. Based on their findings, they decided to take a step to protecting the Transitional Year Program by writing a letter to President Gertler about the value of the program. The second group studied the dynamics of colonialism and considered their responsibilities as settler people in Toronto. For their action item, they at first wanted to remove colonial statues on campus in line with the Rhodes Must Fall movement in South Africa, but eventually decided that it would be more meaningful to create a video documenting the Indigenous histories of the land on which UofT sits. The third group addressed issues of fascism on campus, specifically the transphobia instigated by Professor Jordan Peterson. They advocated for more support for queer and trans student groups on campus, and particularly people of colour within these groups, as well as the dismissal of Professor Peterson.

From Gaza to the Grasslands: Indigenous Refusals and Anticolonial Resistance

As the keynote event of Israeli Apartheid Week, the Boycott, Divest, and Sanction Ad Hoc Committee of the GSU and the YAC Initiative partnered to host a panel discussion on March 8, 2018. The panel featured three speakers. Dr. Ghada Ageel is a visiting professor from the University of Alberta whose research interests focus on rights-based approaches to forced migration, Palestinian refugees in comparative perspective, oral history, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the permanent status issues involved in the Middle East peace process. She spoke on the history of Israeli occupation of Palestine and the current oppression that people face, without access to medicines or freedom of movement. Dr. Nick Estes is Kul Wicasa from the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe and co-founded The Red Nation, an organization dedicated to Native liberation. He spoke about the history of solidarity between Palestinians and Indigenous people across Turtle Island, from the UN to on-the-ground activism, and the similarities between the settler colonial contexts.

He also brought in considerations of solidarity with Black activists and lessons learned from South African anti-apartheid work. Professor Chandni Desai is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto and the coordinator of the Youth, Activism and Community Initiative. In addition to her academic work and publications, she has been a grassroots organizer involved in social movements globally for over a decade. She spoke about how the murders of youths in Palestine and Turtle Island are connected to racism and settler state violence. She especially focused on how capitalism influences discourses of peace in apartheid states and land theft, linking this to the BDS movement. The presentations were followed by a discussion period.



Symposium: *The 9/11 Generation* with Dr. Sunaina Maira

In *The 9/11 Generation*, Maira uses extensive ethnography to understand the meaning of political subjecthood and mobilization for Arab, South Asian, and Afghan American youth. Maira explores how young people from communities targeted in the War on Terror engage with the “political,” forging coalitions based on new racial and ethnic categories, even while they are under constant scrutiny and surveillance, and organizing around notions of civil rights and human rights. *The 9/11 Generation* explores the possibilities and pitfalls of rights-based organizing at a moment when the vocabulary of rights and democracy has been used to justify imperial interventions, such as the U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Maira further reconsiders political solidarity in cross-racial and interfaith alliances at a time when U.S. nationalism is understood as not just multicultural but also post-racial. At the symposium, youth activists also spoke about their related work, and there was a spoken word performance.

150 For Whom, Canada? Conference

This all-day conference on November 11, 2017, invited participants to reflect on questions of nationhood and colonialism in the context of Canada's 150th anniversary of confederation. One year after the inaugural Decolonizing Conference hosted by Equity Studies and the Centre for Integrative Anti-Racism Studies (CIARS) at OISE/UT, this event continued and deepened the important conversations from last year with a set of interactive workshops. Looking critically at the past in order to learn about the structures of settler-colonial occupation, conference attendees participated in discussions about shaping a better future for communities that are oppressed by colonialism. The day started with a panel moderated by Dr. Alicia Trotz, featuring Dr. George Elliot Clarke, Dr. Eve Haque, Sandy Hudson, Dr. Jennifer Mills, and Coty Zarchariah. Following the opening panel, participants could choose to take part in the Quiet Space for writing, or join the all-day artistic workshop focusing on Latinx identity and positionality with Paola Gomez Restrepo and Alexander Usquiano from Sick Muse Art Projects with the help of some youth facilitators. They could also attend the following workshops:



150 FOR WHOM, CANADA?

COLONIALISM & INDIGENEITY ACROSS LANDS
2017 CIARS WORKSHOP SYMPOSIUM

NOVEMBER 11, 2017 | 9 AM - 8:30 PM | OISE - 252 BLOOR ST W.



COTY ZACHARIAH

DR. JENNIFER MILLS

SANDY HUDSON

DR. EVE HAQUE

DR. GEORGE ELLIOTT CLARKE

MODERATOR:
DR. ALISSA TROTZ
CARIBBEAN STUDIES PROGRAM
AND WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES



REGISTRATION OPEN: <https://goo.gl/FupiRm>
TICKETS \$35 (PWYC)

Questions: centreforIARS@gmail.com



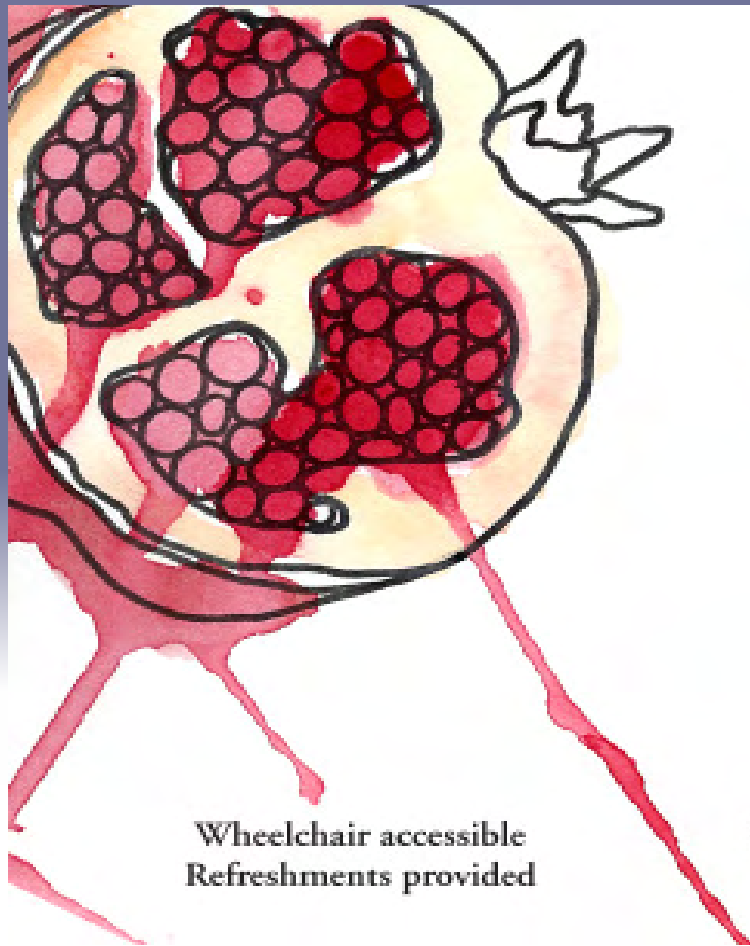
Creating Space for Self Within the Education System, facilitated by Dr. Njoki Wane and Dr. Alana Butler focused on resistance to anti-Black racism in schools.

Indigeneity and Black Identity: Resistance Movement, facilitated by Sandy Hudson and Coty Zachariah, explored potential areas for solidarity activism.

Dynamics of Islamophobia, facilitated by Dr. Jasmin Zine and Dr. Zabeda Nazim, featured discussions of how to counter orientalism through anti-colonial public pedagogies and the arts.

Not in the Syllabus: Graduate Student Mental Health, facilitated by Freyelle Mehari and Renee Bursery.

Deconstructing White Nationalism: Reflection, Resistance, and Healing, led by Dr. Stan Doyle Wood and Equity Studies students Nichole Leveck, Nourhan Hesham Moustafa, Jandell-Jamela Nicholas, Cristina Jaimungal, Dionisio Nyaga, and Cailyn Stewart provided space for conversations about anti-racist work within the academy and its personal effects.



Wheelchair accessible
Refreshments provided

Join us for the launch
of the third issue of

knots

AN UNDERGRADUATE JOURNAL
OF DISABILITY STUDIES

November 1st | 6–8 p.m.

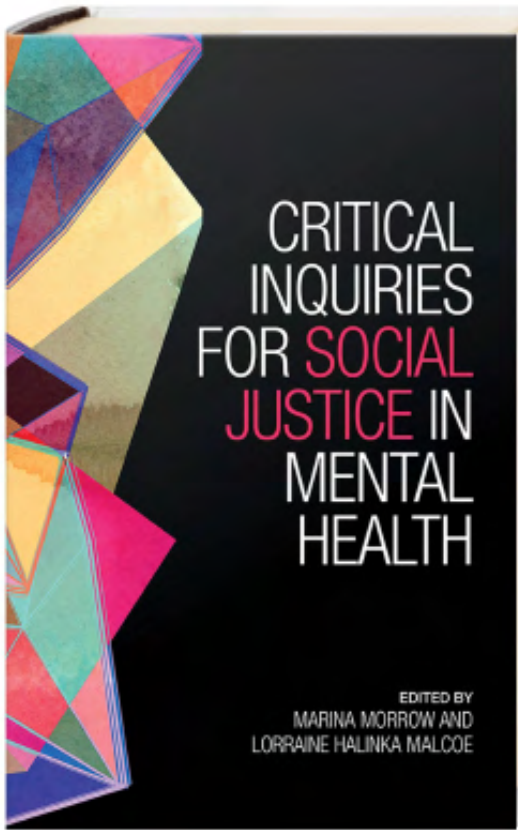
D.G. Ivey Library,
New College, U of T
40 Willcocks St.

For accessibility or additional information,
please contact knots.contact@gmail.com

Launch of *Knots: An Undergraduate Journal of Disability Studies*

The evening of November 1, 2018 marked the launch of the third edition of the *Knots Undergraduate Journal of Disability Studies*. The event opened with words on the history of *Knots* from Professor Anne McGuire. Editors Caleigh Inman and Aysha Natsheh then explained how the selections for this third issue are organized around the theme of interdependency, to counter the myth of independence that is central to the ideal of the neoliberal citizen and to highlight the relationality between people. Several contributors to the journal shared their work with the audience. Mika Howard talked about her art piece and explained how it represents the complex nexus of disability, allowing for liminal space and voluntary participation. Jac White (Ryerson) read from her paper on how disability art can be an intervention in public space. Meg Power (Ryerson) spoke to the importance of lived experience of disability for curators of disability art. Aysha Natsheh read from her own article about how the marketing of normative child development technologies exists in relationship to disability. At the end of the event, the editors introduced Alex Napier, who will be joining Caleigh as an editor of next year's fourth issue on the theme of refusal, and the limits and possibilities which it affords. The journal can be found at the Ivey Library or online at [<http://jps.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/knots/issue/view/1948>].

Book Launch: *Critical Inquiries for Social Justice in Mental Health*




You are invited to the launch of
Critical Inquiries For Social Justice In Mental Health
Edited by **Marina Morrow & Lorraine Halinka Malcoe**

This new collection applies a range of critical theories and methodologies to reimagine mental health research in ways that counter the dominance of biomedicine, foster self-determination among people who experience mental distress, and produce knowledge for socially-just mental health praxis.

Thursday, September 28th • 6-9pm
Ontario Institute for Studies in Education
252 Bloor Street West • 12th Floor Nexus Lounge
Wheelchair Accessible • ASL is provided

Catering provided by **Out of This World**



As part of a commitment to fostering critical work in the area of disability studies, on September 28, 2018, Equity Studies co-sponsored the book launch for *Critical Inquiries for Social Justice in Mental Health*, with co-editors Marina Morrow and Lorraine Halinka Malcoe. The book includes chapters by several leading disability scholars, some of whom were speakers at the event. Tanya Titchkosky spoke on the chapter that she co-authored with Katie Aubrecht entitled ‘One in Five’: *The Prevalence Problematic in Mental Illness*. Attendees were also privileged to hear Sabina Chatterjee talk about the piece that she and Ruby Paterson contributed, *Dancing with Complexity: Decolonization and Social Justice Dialogues*. Finally, Indrani Margolin spoke about the chapter *Using Arts-Based Methods to Create Spaces That Encourage Meaningful Dialogue* on behalf of a collection of co-authors. While enjoying refreshments provided by Out of this World Café, attendees were challenged to think critically about current paradigms of disability and mental health. The book is available online and at the UofT Bookstore.

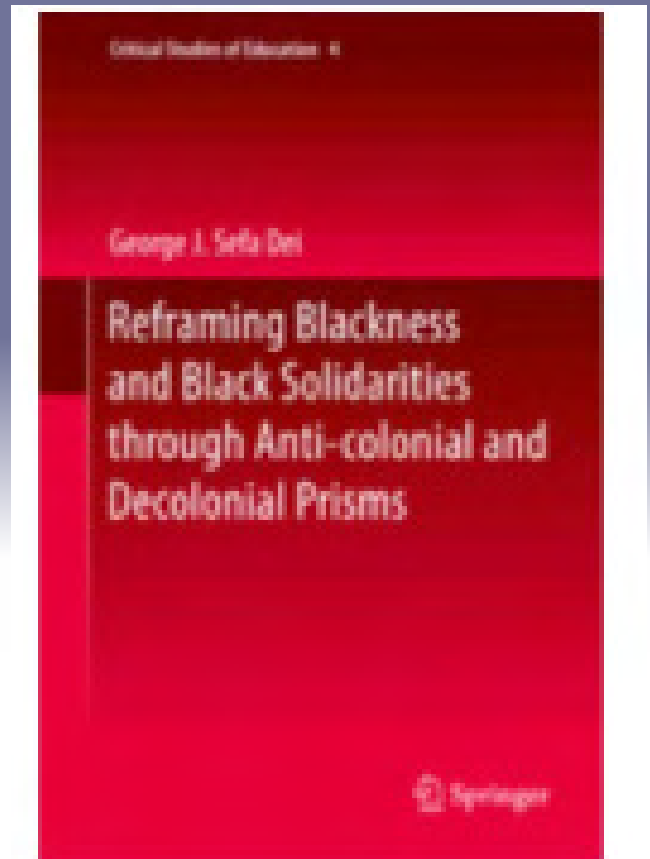
The Belize Program on Food and Indigeneity



Every year, New College sends a group of students to Belize for a week to study Indigenous food sovereignty under the guidance of Dr. Filiberto Penados at the Center for Engaged Learning Abroad (CELA). During World Food Day week, the cohort which includes Equity Studies students, comes back together to do a presentation on their Belize experience. On Oct 12, 2017, after being treated to sustainable, artisan chocolate courtesy of ChocoSol, students in NEW240: Introduction to Equity Studies, had the opportunity to hear from Dr. Penados, who opened the World Food day event. He spoke briefly on the importance of foodways and traditions in providing a foothold for resisting coloniality, as well as the Maya people's successful land claim and how that provides space for them to envision decolonial futurities. He then turned it over to the Belize group, who shared their learning from the trip on everything from the medicinal and nutritional knowledge of the Indigenous peoples of Belize to the importance of valuing one's own foodways and heritage. The presentations sparked questions from the audience regarding the decolonial change happening in Belize and the impact of this immersive learning experience on the students who had the opportunity to go. Most importantly, it inspired the next cohort of students to apply for the Belize trip, continuing the valuable relationship between the department and CELA. Students from the 2018 Belize program (pictured above) will share what they learned on the trip at the World Food Day event in the NEW240 class in October 2018.

Book Launch for Professor George Dei

On Oct 27, 2018, Equity Studies teamed up with the Center for Integrative Anti-Racism Studies (CIARS) and the Department of Social Justice Education, OISE/UT, to host the launch for Professor George J. Sefa Dei's new book, *Reframing Blackness and Black Solidarities through Anti-colonial and Decolonial Prisms*. The event was hosted by A Different Booklist Cultural Centre. Professor Dei's book addresses important questions about Black identity and community in the face of oppression and anti-Black racism. It offers pathways forward for Black communities to engage in solidarity and resistance, especially in regards to the school system. The book is available from A Different Booklist Cultural Centre and online.



Holocaust Education Week

This year marked the 37th annual Holocaust Education Week (Nov 2 – Nov 9) organized by the Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre. The theme for this year was the pivotal moments in the aftermath of the Holocaust that have shaped popular understandings of the genocide and its political context. Equity Studies was proud to be a community partner in this year's programming, co-hosting two events.

Disclosure, Denial, & Demands for Justice

NEUBERGER HEW 2017
HOLOCAUST EDUCATION WEEK



Disclosure, Denial & Demands for Justice: Pivotal Moments Following the Asia-Pacific War



Thurs. Nov. 2, 2017 12:00pm - 2:00pm
University of Toronto - New College, William Doo Auditorium
45 Willcocks St. Toronto, ON M5S 2H3

FEATURING:

- Clips from **"The Apology"** (documentary following the lives of 3 former 'comfort women')
- Testimonies by **Hak-Sun Kim** (1st 'comfort woman' to break the silence of military sexual slavery experience)
- **Revisionist narratives** in comparison to holocaust denials
- **Students' findings** from archival research



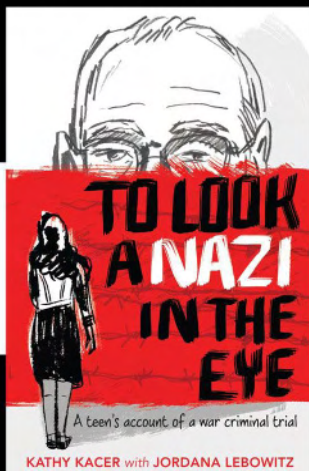
RSVP by email: michelle.montenegro@alphaeducation.org
RSVP by phone: 416-299-0111
More info: www.alphaeducation.org



Sarah and Chaim Neuberger
Holocaust Education Centre
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

NEUBERGER HEW 2017
HOLOCAUST EDUCATION WEEK
Pivotal Moments November 1-9, 2017

A NEUBERGER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION WEEK EVENT 2017



Please join us for the launch of

To Look a Nazi in the Eye:

A teen's account of a war criminal trial

by Kathy Kacer with Jordana Lebowitz

Award-winning author Kathy Kacer launches her new book with Jordana Lebowitz, the determined young woman who, while still a teenager, went to Germany in 2015 to witness a pivotal moment in history – the trial of Nazi prison guard Oskar Groening, known as the "bookkeeper of Auschwitz". Joining them will be Holocaust survivor Max Eisen, who was a witness to the trial.

Tuesday, November 7th. 7:00PM
William Doo Auditorium, New College,
University of Toronto
45 Willcocks Street, Toronto

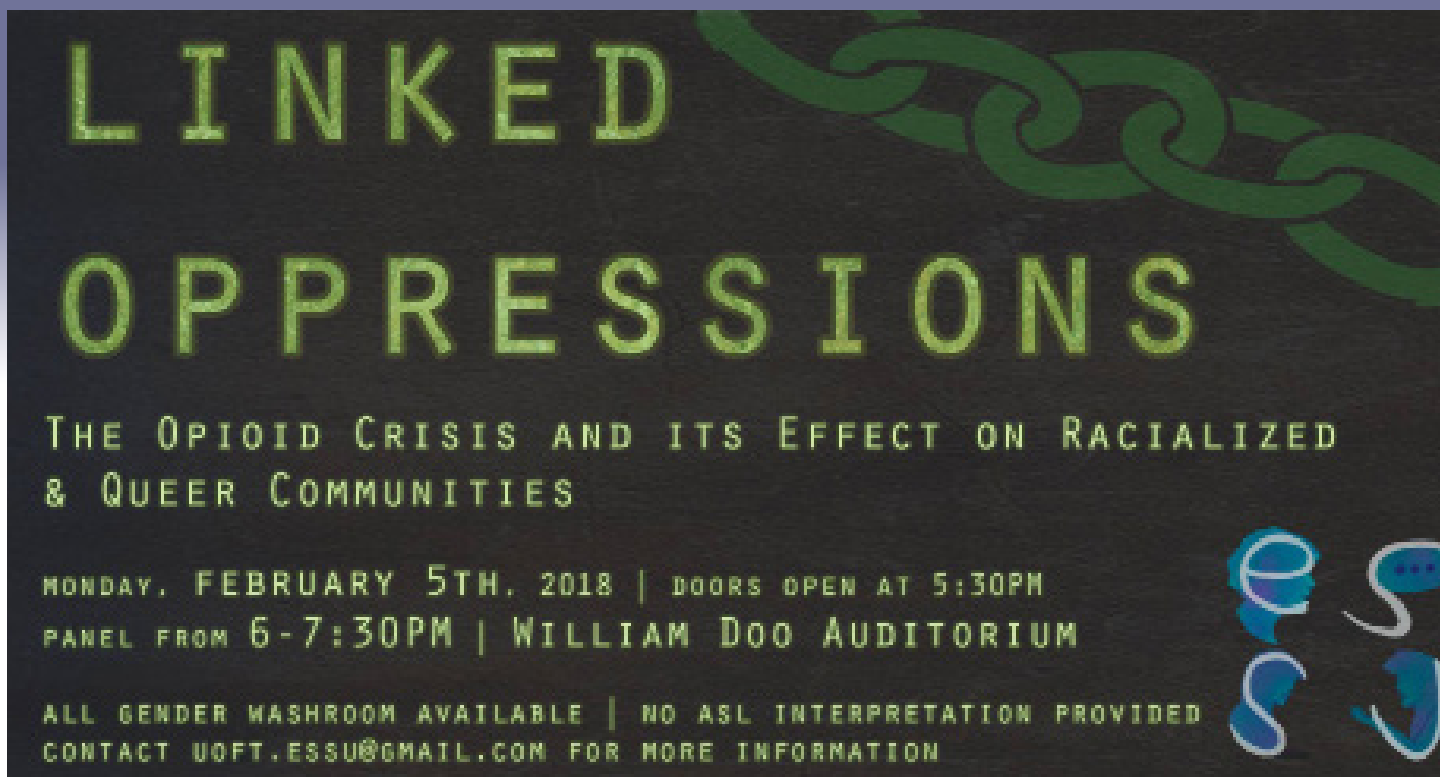
Co-presented by: Facing History and Ourselves, March of the Living Canada, Second Story Press,
and the Equity Studies Program, New College, University of Toronto

Along with ALPHA Education, Equity Studies co-sponsored a discussion on the history of the elements of World War II in the Asia-Pacific. In line with the week's theme of pivotal moments, the event focused on the disclosures and recovered testimonies which have shaped modern views of the events. The afternoon included excerpts from the documentary *The Apology* (2016) as well as testimony from Hak-Sun Kim, the first "comfort woman" to come forward about her experience of military sexual slavery. Additionally, Judy Cho and Sarah-Lynn Kleeb from ALPHA presented their research on comfort women and revisionist narratives, respectively. They were joined by UofT students Yuqiao (Una) Wei and Milton Chow, who presented the research they did on the Japanese human experimentation facility Unit 731 as part of an internship with ALPHA.

Book Launch: *To Look a Nazi in the Eye*

The department worked with Facing History and Ourselves and Second Story Press to host a book launch for award-winning author Kathy Kacer. Her newly-published work, *To Look a Nazi in the Eye: A Teen's Account of the War Criminal Trial of Oskar Gröning*, follows the account of Jordana Lebowitz, a granddaughter of Holocaust survivors who, as a teenager, went to observe the trial of "the bookkeeper of Auschwitz". Gröning was responsible for processing prisoners and their belongings as they arrived at Auschwitz, and at the trial he was found guilty of facilitating mass murder. Accompanying Kacer and Lebowitz in speaking at the event was Max Eisen, a survivor of the camp, who gave testimony at Gröning's trial.

Equity Studies Student Union (ESSU) Panel Discussion: Linked Oppressions



On February 5, 2018, the Equity Studies Students Union hosted a panel discussion to explore the impacts of opioids on racialized and queer communities. ESSU notes that between the criminalization and stigmatization of drug users and the existing barriers to accessing care, it is the most marginalized communities in the city that are hit hardest. The panel featured two speakers who work on the frontlines of the opioid crisis saving lives in their communities: Nenookaasi, a 2spirit Indigenous, Jamaican, Ukrainian activist who currently works at Taibu Community Health Centre as an Indigenous outreach and case management worker; and Akia Munga, a Black Queer harm reduction worker at Pieces to Pathways and at Parkdale Queen West Community Health Center. Panelists were invited to share their thoughts on the impact of stigma and state violence, among other topics, and took questions from the audience. Both speakers emphasized the importance of maintaining an environment where people have agency and access to what they need to heal. Donations were collected at the event to benefit the Moss Park Overdose Prevention Site.

NEW469 Research Symposium

April 3rd, 12-3PM, WI2008

Double Acts in the Autobiography of Doria
Sharia by Nourhan Moustafa

Investigating Colonial Discourse on the Geographies
of "Black Murder" by the Capitalist Press by Jandell-
Jamela Nicholas

"Choose Your Character!": Customization, Representations,
and Storytelling via Video Games by Dany Ko

Racial Discrimination: How Historical Social Policies Remain
Relevant in Contemporary Society by Ana Chiguichon

Feminizing Youth Homelessness - an
Anticolonial Critique: Unlocking the Doors to
Transitional Shelters for Self-Identified Girls
by Janis Watson

NEW469Y: Senior Research Project Course

This course allows students in the final year of their Equity Studies degree to pursue a research project in an area that interests them. Students attended a seminar class to present their ongoing research and discuss the research project. The course was supervised by Dr. Stan Doyle-Wood. At the end of the year, students presented their research projects in a public symposium. The above poster illustrates the final research thesis titles above the names of student authors. Congratulations to Nourhan Moustafa, Jandell-Jamela Nicholas, Dany Ko, Ana Chiguichon and Janis Watson for their excellent work!

Sariling Gawa Conference in Hawaii

The Sariling Gawa Youth Council based in Oahu, Hawai'i is a non-profit organization that strives to promote Filipinx cultural awareness and pride with the goal of providing youth the ability to develop leadership abilities. This year two Equity Studies students Glyn Narca and Hilary Naluz, travelled in March to attend as delegates. Below is what they had to say about their experiences:

"Being surrounded by so many incredible successful Filipinos in Hawai'i has ignited the slow burning ember in me. I realized that although there is a lot of work to be done for the Filipino community in Toronto to establish itself in the same level as in Hawai'i, we are building important foundations for the future. - Glyn Narca

"Sariling Gawa translates to "Our Own Work" from Tagalog. Our mentors, Geordan Arenal and Reynold Lana Fernandez, gave us space to discuss our identity as Filipino/a/x youths, what that meant in the context in our contemporary society, and how similar identities face different experiences in different spaces. " - Hilary Naluz



NEW398: Research Excursion to Ghana with Professor George Dei



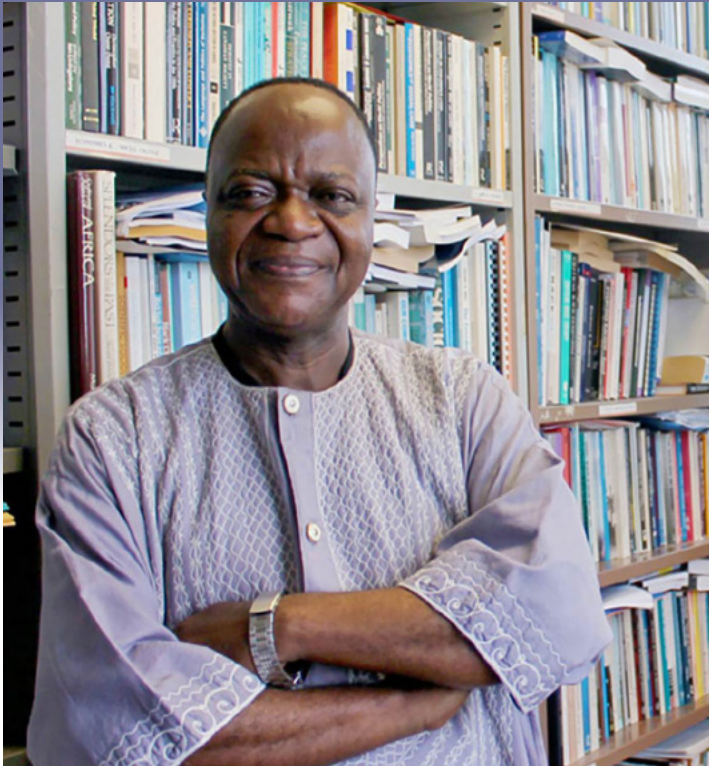
From left to right: Maia Kachan, Helena Mauti, Professor George Dei and Jessica Vassiliou

In June 2017, Equity Studies students Maia Kachan, Helena Mauti, Jessica Vassilou and Professor George Dei travelled to Ghana for an intensive four-week field study. The 399Y course, Social Justice, Equity and Inclusive Education in African Contexts, was a knowledge exchange between Equity Studies students at the University of Toronto and students at the University of Education, Winneba, Ghana. The students participated in seminars and workshops to gain knowledge on ways to develop curricula using African ways of knowing (e.g. proverbs, folktales, riddles, cultural songs and stories) to promote inclusive schooling. They visited schools to observe African ways on knowing in practice and engaged in discussions with local educators on teaching and implementing Indigenous knowledges in local curriculum. Canadian and Ghanaian students then teamed up to lead /conduct workshops and deliver talks/seminars on what they learned in the course.

The Equity Studies students returned to Canada with a grounding in Indigenous knowledge rooted in African epistemes and philosophies that provides the basis for the conceptualization and operationalization of new visions of schooling and education. In learning how to articulate “Indigeneity as an International Category” through African Indigenous cultural framings, the students have been able to apply this knowledge to Indigenous peoples’ on Turtle Island in the context of the Canadian settler state and the global diaspora arena.

AWARDS

George Dei Elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada



Dr. George Dei, a cherished member of the New College community, has been appointed a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. Professor Dei is an expert in anti-racism and Indigenous philosophies at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), and also teaches in the Equity Studies program at New College with funding from the Provosts's Undergraduate Course Development Fund. Professor Dei makes additional contributions that enrich the New college community by working with student researchers, giving guest lectures and running a month-long international course for students in Ghana. We congratulate Professor Dei on his well-deserved honour!

Equity Studies Senior Doctoral Fellow: Udbi Ali

Muna-Udbi Abdulkadir Ali is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning, with a focus on Comparative, International and Development Education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE/UT). Udbi's research interests include transnational sexualities, Black diaspora studies, critical race theory, postcolonial theory, intersectionality, cultural studies, public pedagogy and social policy. Her doctoral research interrogates issues of gender, race, class, criminality, surveillance and citizenship as they manifested for Somali communities in Canada during the 1990s.



STUDENT AWARDS

The David Clandfield Scholarship

The David Clandfield Scholarship is awarded based on academic achievement to an Equity Studies student who demonstrates the potential to contribute to social justice issues. This year it was awarded to Andrea Bermudez, a Latinx student who will be completing her fourth year in Equity Studies and History next year. She is a student activist who primarily works with LGBTQ2S+ youth and various equity-seeking organizations both on and off campus. As a prospective law student, she hopes to continue applying the anti-oppressive frameworks learned in the classroom to all aspects of her work and support the marginalized communities consistently neglected by the Canadian justice system.



Jackman Humanities Institute Undergraduate Fellow



This year, one of our Equity Studies students was awarded an undergraduate fellowship at the Jackman Humanities Institute. Lila Asher received the Dr. Jan Blumenstein Undergraduate Award in the Humanities, and completed a Senior Thesis as part of the fellowship program. Her research interests center around Indigenous food sovereignty, decolonial solidarity, and urban gardening. Her thesis, which has been submitted for publication, is titled *Barriers to Decolonial Solidarity among Non-White Food Activists*.

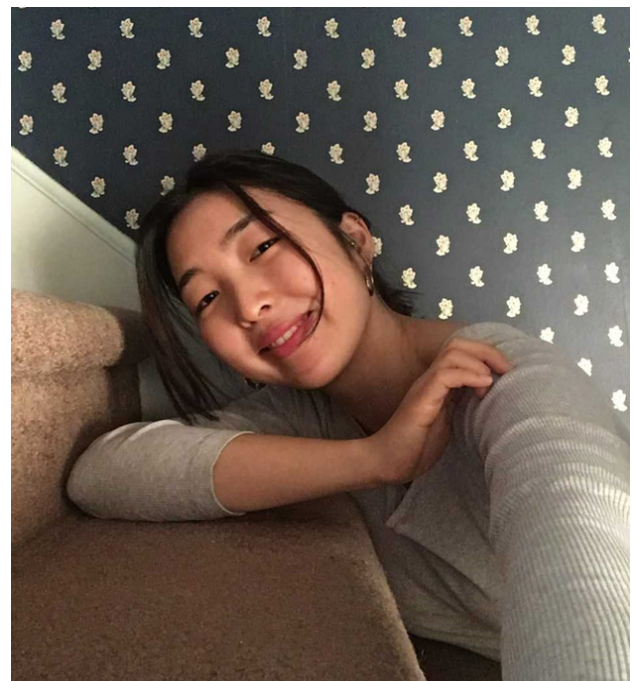
The Janet Lambert Book Prize & New Leaders Gold Scholarship Award



Caleigh Inman is the winner of both the New Leaders Gold Leader Scholarship and the Janet Lambert Book Prize in Equity Studies. The New Leaders Gold Leader Scholarship is presented to a New College student who is in their final year of undergraduate studies and demonstrates excellent academic performance and leadership within the university community. The Janet Lambert Book Prize is awarded to a fourth year, or graduating student, who has excelled, and made a contribution to the Equity Studies Program. Caleigh Inman recently graduated from the Equity Studies program with minors in Women and Gender Studies and Human Geography. Caleigh has been a co-editor of *Knots Undergraduate Journal of Disability Studies* for the previous two issues, and is currently finishing issue four. In the fall, Caleigh will be attending McMaster University for a master's program in occupational therapy.

William Whit Prize in Food Studies

pruneah Kim was awarded the 2018 William Whit Prize from the Association for the Study of Food and Society (ASFS) for the paper *Complicating Food Rescue: The Dangers of the 'Feed the Needy Rhetoric'* that she wrote for the course, NEW442H: Food Systems and the Politics of Resistance. Professor Jennifer Sumner is the course instructor. Named by her grandma, pruneah is a Korean Canadian critical food scholar, activist and artist who attempts to archive the ways in which food becomes one of the most intimate sites of oppression as well as resistance, love and hope. pruneah hopes to spend her lifetime centering the lived narratives of diasporic communities, especially within food studies and food movements.



Equity Studies is an undergraduate program that focuses on social justice theory and practice in a variety of local and global contexts. The program cuts across a spectrum of academic disciplines by uniquely combining classroom based learning with community and activist work. Equity Studies strives to provide students with tools they can use to build equitable social change within and beyond the university walls.

The program offers courses focused on disability, social advocacy and global food equity, in addition to requiring completion of equity related courses across the university in the subjects of race, creed, ethnicity, sexual diversities and gender.

With a vibrant student body, diverse range of community partners, and a strong curriculum, Equity Studies at New College is a leading center for social justice education in Canada.

For information about the Equity Studies program see:

<http://www.newcollege.utoronto.ca/academics/new-college-academic-programs/equity-studies/>

Professor Shahrzad Mojab, Director, Equity Studies Program
New College, 20 Willcocks Street Toronto, ON M5S 1C6 Canada
Email: shahrzad.mojab@utoronto.ca