



IS|CS 2021

**March 12 & 13, 2021**

York University & Ryerson University  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

# Futurities 2021

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Intersections  
Cross-sections Graduate  
Conference and Art Exhibition





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Cross-sections  
2021**

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## ABOUT US

**Intersections | Cross-sections acknowledges its presence on the traditional territory of multiple Indigenous Nations.**

Toronto is in the Dish with One Spoon Territory. In acknowledgment of the land treaties of this territory, we recognize and thank the Anishinaabe, Mississaugas, Métis and Haudenosaunee Nations. We also recognize the treaties' spirit to protect and care for the Great Lakes Region.

### **Intersections | Cross-Sections (IS|CS)**

is a two-day interdisciplinary conference and exhibition organized by students in the and for graduate student scholars, artists and activists. We aim to provide a platform for meaningful exchange across disciplines and borders to foster intellectual development between undergraduate students, graduate students and faculty members, and the community beyond.

### **Futurities is the 2021 IS|CS theme year's theme.**

Contributors engage with thoughts on our present realities and what we project into our futures and will also reflect on histories and their continuity into a 'now'. We understand futurities in all its multiplicity and in its most boundary breaking forms, going beyond and actively protesting the hegemonic and dominant systems currently in place.

### **The 2021 IS|CS Team**

#### **Abstract Review Co-Chairs:**

Stephen J. Neville & Sabrina Ward-Kimola

#### **Conference Chairs:**

Océane Ingrid Nyela & Iris Verschuren

#### **Cross-Sections Curator:**

Fizza Mir

#### **Finance Chair:**

Victoria Fleming

#### **Hospitality Chair:**

Sabrina Ward-Kimola

#### **Keynote Chair:**

Mariam Vakani

#### **Media, Design, Communications & P.R. Co-Chairs:**

Emily Blyth & Stephanie Mackenzie-Smith

#### **Scheduling Chair:**

Perrye-Delphine Seraphin

#### **Volunteer Chair & Curatorial Assistant:**

Dhvani Ramanujam

#### **Volunteers:**

Patrick Dawson, Maura Hanley, Selena Jodha, Dayo Kefentse, Nikole MacGregor, Ruvimbo Musiyiwa, Pauline Nguyen, Danielle Rudnicka-Lavoie, Katie Walsh

#### **Contact Us:**

[iscs.conference@gmail.com](mailto:iscs.conference@gmail.com)

[www.iscs-conference.com](http://www.iscs-conference.com)

#ISCS2021 @comcultiscs



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## OUR SPONSORS



**Joint Graduate  
Program in  
Communication  
and Culture**



**Grad**



**Faculty  
of Arts**

As a student run conference, IS|CS wouldn't be possible without the generous support of our sponsors.

**Thank you!**



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**FACULTY KEYNOTE**  
**DR. CHERYL**  
**THOMPSON**  
**TOWARDS A BLACK**  
**FUTURITY: MOVING**  
**BEYOND AESTHETICS**  
**IN MEDIA CULTURE**

**FRIDAY – MARCH 12**



Dr. Cheryl Thompson is an Assistant Professor at Ryerson University in the School of Creative Industries. Her first book, *Beauty in a Box: Detangling the Roots of Canada's Black Beauty Culture*, was published in 2019 by Wilfrid Laurier Press. Her second, *Uncle: Race, Nostalgia, and the Politics of Loyalty* was published this year by Coach House Books. The book details the history and role of Uncle Tom, a persistent figure in Black political thought and discourse.

Dr. Thompson is currently researching Canada's history of blackface performance funded through a SSHRC-Insight Development Grant, and a SSHRC-Connection Grant, in collaboration with Pink Moon Studio, and is co-producing a feature documentary film based on her research. In addition to her academic writing, Dr. Thompson is a columnist with *Herizons*, Canada's leading feminist magazine and is also a frequent contributor to *The Conversation*, *Spacing* and *Zoomer*, with recent works appearing in the *New York Times*.



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# CROSS-SECTIONS KEYNOTE

## ADRIENNE MATHEUSZIK & VANESSA GODDEN

### IN CONVERSATION WITH DIASPORIC FUTURISMS

FRIDAY – MARCH 12



Original art by [Karla Monterrosa](#).

*Diasporic Futurisms* is a collaborative curatorial team comprised of Adrienne Matheuszik and Vanessa Godden. This collaborative curatorial endeavor works to create space for Indigenous, Black and racialized peoples whose artworks are based in the genre of diasporic futurisms.

Matheuszik and Godden define diasporic futurisms as the presentation of alternative perspectives of the present, predictions of the future, and creative approaches to reimagining the past. Within the movement of diasporic futurisms, the destabilization of white-supremacy, colonisation, and capitalism in relation to the lives of diasporic peoples are a primary concern. In diasporic futurisms, these concerns are materialized through the genres of Fantasy, Magical Realism, Science Fiction, Speculative Fiction, and related subgenres.





## FUTURITIES CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION SCHEDULE – MARCH 12

10:00 AM	<a href="#">Ryerson Link</a>	Opening Remarks IS CS Co-Chairs
10:15 AM – 11:30 AM	<a href="#">Ryerson Link</a>	<b>KEYNOTE</b> 'Towards a Black Futurity: Moving Beyond Aesthetics in Media Culture' <i>Dr. Cheryl Thompson</i>
11:45 AM – 12:45 PM	<a href="#">Ryerson Link</a>	<b>PANEL 1 NEW MEDIA FORMS AND FACTICITY</b> Postjournalism and the Death of Newspapers. The Media after Trump: Manufacturing Anger and Polarization <i>Andrey Miroshnichenko</i>  Aural (re)visions of Technological Pasts and their Present-day Circumstances <i>Jeff Donison</i>
	<a href="#">York Link</a>	<b>PANEL 2 TENSIONS BETWEEN CITIZENSHIP AND STATE</b> The Future is Not Bleak: Pakistani Women and the Continued Resistance Against Public Policy <b>CW:</b> gendered violence <i>Sadia Uddin</i>  Futures without Police Violence: What the research says and what we know to be true <b>CW:</b> police brutality and violence <i>Emily Rose Blyth</i>
12:45 PM – 1:45 PM		<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>
1:45 PM – 2:45 PM	<a href="#">Ryerson Link</a>	<b>PANEL 3 CLIMATE CRISIS AND RUPTURE</b> Atmospheric Resistance in Climate Change Reform <i>Keah Hansen</i>  Marxism and Class Struggle in the Anthropocene <i>Mauricio Collao</i>
	<a href="#">York Link</a>	<b>PANEL 4 CROSS-SECTIONS</b>



		Juice: Re-Imagining South Asian Brown Identities through Digital Art-Based Methods <i>Anushray Singh</i>  Welcome_Alien <i>Nikole McGregor &amp; Carlos McGregor</i>  Ghostling <i>Kalina Nedelcheva</i>
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	<a href="#">Ryerson Link</a>	<b>PANEL 5 DATABASING THE FUTURE: THE DILEMMAS AND BECOMINGS OF A DATA-SUBJECT</b> <i>Nicholas Fazio &amp; Anthony Glyn Burton</i>
	<a href="#">York Link</a>	<b>PANEL 6 AESTHETICS IN POPULAR CULTURE</b> US Hegemonic Views Towards Things Japanese <i>Esther Sampson</i>  Little Bear, Big Data: Cuteness as Camouflage within the Internet of Toys <i>Mathew Iantorno</i>
4:15 PM – 5:15 PM	<a href="#">Ryerson Link</a>	<b>PANEL 7 IMAGE, PRESENCE AND AURA</b> In the Defense of the Simple Image <i>Elyse Longair</i>  Digitally Reproduced Artwork: Materiality, Affect and Context <i>Jackson Ainsworth</i>  Using Arts-Based Reflection to Build Sense of Place: Artistic Practice in Outdoor Education <i>Ryan Kasperowitsch</i>
	<a href="#">York Link</a>	<b>PANEL 8 SPACE AND THE MEDIATION OF TORONTO'S URBAN FUTURE</b> <i>Fergus Maxwell, Sam Shaftoe &amp; Victoria Fleming</i>
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM	<a href="#">Ryerson Link</a>	<b>CROSS-SECTIONS KEYNOTE</b> <i>In Conversation with Diasporic Futurisms</i> <i>Adrienne Matheuszik and Vanessa Godden</i>





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**STUDENT KEYNOTE  
LAUREN DWYER  
ISOLATED CIRCUITS:  
DESIGNING COMPANION  
ROBOTS FOR THE FUTURE  
OF LONELINESS**

**SATURDAY - MARCH 13**

Isolated Circuits: Designing Companion Robots for the Future of Loneliness will focus on the histories of and future relationships between loneliness, user-centred design, and social robotics. It will then explore and evaluate the potential for the role of technology in loneliness as a growing public health issue.

Lauren Dwyer is a 3rd year PhD Candidate in the Communication and Culture program. Her research focuses on the intersection between loneliness, communication studies and companion robots in a time of increased isolation. She previously completed her Masters in Professional Communication with Ryerson, and her BSc Hons in Psychology at Memorial University of Newfoundland. Lauren is an active member of student government and is currently serving as the Doctoral Representative on the YSGS Council.



## FUTURITIES CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION SCHEDULE – MARCH 13

10:00 AM	<a href="#">Ryerson Link</a>	Opening Remarks IS CS Co-Chairs
10:15 AM – 11:30 AM	<a href="#">Ryerson Link</a>	<b>Student Keynote</b> Isolated Circuits: Designing Companion Robots for the Future of Loneliness <i>Lauren Dwyer</i>
11:45 AM – 12:45 PM	<a href="#">Ryerson Link</a>	<b>PANEL 9 MAKING HEADWAY: PAST AND PERIPHERAL ENVISIONMENT</b> <i>Lucía Barrenetxea Lopez, Louise Warberg, Pietro Francesco Pingitore, Ray A-J, Jimi Clee &amp; Yumi Maes</i>
	<a href="#">York Link</a>	<b>PANEL 10 NEW MEDIA TEMPORALITY</b> Vigilance Vectors: Affectively Sculpting Futurities of Crisis and Consumerism <i>Quinn MacNeil</i>  Microsoft's Cortana: Disruption of the Antropomorphized Virtual Assistant <i>Enna Kim</i>  Google Stadia's Negative Latency: What Video Games Streaming Could mean for the Future of Predictive Analytics <i>Patrick Timothy Dawson</i>
12:45 PM – 1:45 PM		<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>
1:45 PM – 2:45 PM	<a href="#">Ryerson Link</a>	<b>PANEL 11 BODIES</b> CANCELED
	<a href="#">York Link</a>	<b>PANEL 12 AURAL IMAGINARIES AND POSSIBLE FUTURES</b> “If I had a Voice I would Sing”: Inhumanisms, Plasticity, and Pop Music <i>Alex Borkowski</i>  Intersectional Ink: The Future of Fashionable Tattooing in the 21st Century <i>Ketzia Sherman</i>



		How Marvel's Nostalgia for its Own Cinematic Universe Makes Space for its Cinematic Future <i>Renee LeBlanc Proctor</i>
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	<a href="#">Ryerson Link</a>	<b>PANEL 13 IMMERSION AND SIMULATION</b> Hypervolution: Our Sacrifice of Choice <i>Jevonne Peters</i>  The Empty Stadium, the Empty Spectacle: Technological Imaginaries in Sport During COVID-19 <i>Andreea Hlusu</i>
	<a href="#">York Link</a>	<b>PANEL 14 CROSS-SECTIONS</b> When Music and Art Collide: An Interdisciplinary Reimagining of the Concert Programme <i>Heather Macdonald</i>  Aftermath <i>Chelsea McBride</i>  (Re)worlding Creative Futures <i>Elyse Longair</i>
4:15 PM – 5:15 PM	<a href="#">Ryerson Link</a>	<b>PANEL 15 COUNTER-HEGEMONIC EPISTEMOLOGIES</b> Interrogating Rest as an act of Black resistance <i>Oyindamola Esho</i>  Commoning Futurity: Queer and Indigenous Ontologies <i>Rhiannon Cobb</i>
	<a href="#">York Link</a>	<b>PANEL 16 CROSS-SECTIONS</b> Dogs, Gods and City Hall <i>Cyrus Sundar Singh</i>





## CONFERENCE CODE OF CONDUCT

Intersections | Cross-sections (IS|CS) 2021 provides a virtual space for attendees to receive continuing education, collaborate with colleagues, and build professional networks. To provide all participants – members, attendees, speakers, exhibitors, staff, and volunteers – the opportunity to benefit from this event, we are committed to providing a harassment-free and accessible environment for everyone regardless of gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, disability, appearance, ethnicity, religion, or other group identity.

The IS|CS Committee seeks to provide a virtual space in which diverse participants may learn, network, and enjoy the exchange of ideas with colleagues in an environment of mutual respect. We recognize the shared responsibility to create and hold this environment for the benefit of all. Some behaviours are, therefore, specifically prohibited. Conducting in any of the following will result in the immediate removal of the individual in question from the conference Zoom rooms:

- Harassment or intimidation based on race, religion, language, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, disability, appearance, ethnicity, or other group status.
- Sexual harassment or intimidation, including unwelcome sexual attention, stalking (physical or virtual), or any unsolicited online exchange of a sexual nature
- Yelling at, demeaning, or threatening speakers or other IS|CS attendees (verbally or through the Zoom chat)

All participants are expected to observe these rules and behaviours in all virtual conference venues. If you are being harassed, notice that someone else is being harassed, or have any other concerns, please contact a member of the conference team immediately. Members of the team will be happy to assist those experiencing harassment to feel safe for the duration of the conference. We value your attendance.

Conference participants seek to learn, network, and have fun. While the conference has scheduled breaks, we empower all participants to feel welcome to turn off their video, step away from the computer for a break or to stretch, and to use the space as they need throughout. Closed-captioning will be provided through live and auto-generated sources.

If you are having trouble accessing closed captioning, need to report an indecent, or need anything else throughout the conference please contact us via:

1. Private Zoom message by reaching out to someone with “ISCS” in their display name
2. Email at: [iscs.conference@gmail.com](mailto:iscs.conference@gmail.com)

In the case of a serious incident where yours or the safety of others is in danger, please contact 911 or follow your community safety plan to seek aid.





**THANK YOU AND STAY SAFE!**

On behalf of IS|CS 2021, we thank you for your participation in our first ever virtual conference. We hope to see you next year.

IS|CS 2021 Team