becoming
youth

The
Creative
School
Catalyst

11.03.2023

becoming youth

Table of Contents

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 acknowledgement of the land treaties of this territory, we recognize and thank the Anishnaaabe, Missisaugas, 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 an interdisciplinary conference and exhibition organized by 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 and graduate students, faculty members, and the community beyond.

Becoming You(th) is the theme of IS|CS 2023
This year, our conference and symposium revolve around questions of youth culture, identity play and creative expression in times of precarity. Following cultural theorist Lawrence Grossberg, we call for inquiry into *"the relations between youth as a chronological and generational marker, a measure of historical differences, and an affective state or attitude."*

The 2023 IS|CS Team

Conference Chairs:
Griffin Martell, Kaede Ashizawa

Abstract Review Chairs:
Chelsea Russell, Christiane Tarantino

Communications, Media, and Design Chairs:
Antara Dey, Whitney-Ann Patrick, Priya Saha

Finance Chair:
Jenisse Minott

Logistics and Hospitality Chair:
Isabela Solis Lozano

Volunteers:
Anneka Bosse, Alexandra Gillie-Hardy, Kacie Hopkins, Gregory Urbanczyck, Samira Soltani, Sarah Yahyaei

Contact Us:
iscs.conference@gmail.com
www.iscs-conference.com
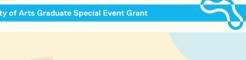#ISCS2023 #BYU2023 @comcultiscs

Our Sponsors

YORK U
UNIVERSITÉ
UNIVERSITY

Joint Graduate Program in Communication and Culture

Toronto Metropolitan University

Toronto Metropolitan University — Faculty of Arts
Faculty of Arts Graduate Special Event Grant

YORK UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
YUGSA
UNITY IN OUR VOICE
YUGSA.CA
CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS - LOCAL 84

Toronto Metropolitan University Student Life & Learning Support
Student Initiatives Fund

The Creative School
Catalyst

Toronto Metropolitan University **Yeates School of Graduate Studies**

ACC CCA
Canadian Communication
Association canadienne
de communication

Toronto Metropolitan University **Digital Media Experience Lab**

As a student-run conference, IS|CS wouldn't be possible without the
generous support from our sponsors.
Thank you!

Intersections Keynote

Dr. Miranda Campbell

Professor Miranda Campbell is an Associate Professor in the School of Creative Industries at Toronto Metropolitan University, where she teaches courses in creative collaboration, diversity, equity, and inclusion, and care ethics. Her research focuses on creative employment, youth culture, and small-scale and emerging forms of cultural production. Her involvement with creative communities includes coordination and board of director roles with Rock Camp for Girls Montreal, a summer camp dedicated to empowerment for girls through music education, and with Whippersnapper Gallery, an artist-run centre focusing on emerging artists in Toronto. Most recently, she is the author of Reimagining the Creative Industries: Youth Creative Work, Communities of Care (Routledge, 2022).
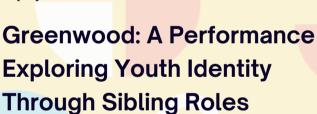
Youth and Emergence, Research and Care Ethics

Given the challenges of the creative industries work environment, what pathways are emerging from youth cultural producers? What forms of care are materializing, and what does it mean to research with care? In this keynote lecture and workshop, Dr. Miranda Campbell will share her research trajectory with youth and creative work and offer activities to develop research practice attuned to emergence with care.

Cross-Sections Keynote

Elisha Cooper

Elisha Cooper is an emerging singer, songwriter, and producer living in Toronto, Ontario. Growing up on Vancouver Island, she cherished time alone by the ocean and under the thick canopies of West Coast rainforests as safe places to reflect and ground herself. These moments of respite inspire the textures of her music, blending lo-fi, soothing beats with rich and dream-like harmonies. Combining this light sound with honest lyrics, Cooper explores the depth and complexity of the human experience. As a developing artist she aspires to be a champion of hopefulness, empathy, and equity.

Greenwood: A Performance Exploring Youth Identity Through Sibling Roles

"Greenwood" is an original song expressing personal experiences as an older sibling being unable to protect younger siblings from an abusive adult in the household. The theme touches on the role of eldest siblings as defenders, particularly when the adults are unable to fill this function, and how that role inherently creates a degree of separation between themselves and their younger siblings that can carry into adulthood. It also touches on the lasting impact of perceived role failures in children.

Becoming You(th) Schedule

Intersections

Opening Remarks: 9:00-9:15 AM

Keynote Presentation and Workshop: 9:15-10:00 AM
Youth and Emergence, Research and Care Ethics with **Dr. Miranda Campbell**

Coffee + Breakfast Break: 10:00-10:20 AM

Panel 1: 10:20-11:40 AM
Intersectional Approaches to Intergenerational Relations: Art & Design Practice as Community Research moderated by Samira Soltani

- **Understanding the Impact of Community-Based Performing Arts Programs on BIPOC Children and Youth: A Narrative Review of Underlying Processes** by Danielle Lim

- **Panjabi-Centered Design: An Empirical Study of the Panjabi Diaspora to Understand the Effects Socio-Cultural Factors and Existing Translation models have on the Accessibility of Healthcare and Welfare Information** by Imroze Singh Deol

- **Learning Traditional Craft in Contemporary Online Communities** by Bronte Cronsberry

- **Exhibiting Girlhood: Feminist Methodologies of Fan Archiving in Sarah Ramos' Autograph Hound** by Jamie Hoholuk

Lunch Break: 11:40-12:40 PM

Panel 2: 12:40-2:00 PM
Precarity in the Platform Economy: Youth Political Resistance and the Social Implictions of Digital Labour moderated by Gregory Urbanczyck

- **The Affective Army and the Risk Absorber: Neoliberal Governmentality in Chinese Fandom** by Siyun Pan

- **Searching for Meaning: The Figurative Internet Languages and Internet Censorship in China** by Caleb Tao

- **"Does the Algorithm Think I'm Sexy?" Social Media, Self-Replication, and Plastic Surgery** by Bracy Appeikumoh

- **Next Generation Employment: The Gig-Economy of Sex Work** by Aurelia Wilson

- **Dark Azure Age: The Development of Korean Young Adult Studies from 2008 to Present** by Dongwook Song

Becoming You(th) Schedule

Intersections Cont'd

Panel 3: 2:00 - 3:20 PM
Glocal Perspectives on Youth Activism, Citizenship and Cultural Identity moderated by Kacie Hopkins

- **Anthropogenic Youth: A Study of Youth Geo-Doc Presented at COP 27** by Dylan Alsop

- **Tween Girls' Activism: Challenging Notions of the Frivolous, Carefree Tween and Honouring the Tween GIrl Citizen** by Alexe Bernier

- **Indigenous Language Reclamation and Non-Human Assistance for Indigenous Youth** by Mykelle Pacquing

- **A Lifestyle Edit: (Post) Colonial Identity Negotiations Amidst the Rhetoric of Climate Change in Tommy Pico's Nature Poem** by Ruchini Abyakoon

Panel 4: 3:20 - 4:40 PM
Subcultural Youth? Critical Explorations at the Margins of Popular Culture moderated by Anneka Bosse

- **Wednesday's Child is Full of Woe: The Netflix-ification of the "Weird Kid" and How Society Treats Misfits** by Kristen Tollan

- **"Your Stories Will Always Remain, As Will Your Valiant Hearts": The Power of Emotive Narrative-Based Videogames in Discussion of Queerness, of Death, and Lives of Young People** by Myra Hannett

- **Reparative Raving** by Emily Murphy

- **Meditations on the Temporal Position of Youth and Their Unique Forms of Affect** by Matty Peters

Closing Remarks: 4:40 - 4:45 PM

becoming
youth

Becoming You(th) Schedule

Cross-sections

Doors Open - 5:30 PM

Free-roaming Art Symposium + Social Mixer: 5:30-8:00 PM
Light snacks & refreshments served throughout the event!

Featuring:

- **Fledgling** (*Short Film*) by W Chung

- **My Brilliant Friend** (*2-Part Shadow Box Print Piece*) by Danzhu Hu

- **Oblivion** (*Photobook)* by Jasper Lam

- **Student-Created Board Games as a Medium to Teach Critical Media Literacy: Employing McLuhan's Laws of Media** (*Research-Creation*) by Julianna Kowlessar

- **Pandemonium** (*5-Piece Streetwear Collection*) by Jonathan Lee

- **Blue** (*Audio-Visual Experience*) by Toyako

Keynote Performance: 7:30-7:50 PM

- **Greenwood & Other Original Songs** (*Live Audio-Visual Performance*) by Elisha Cooper

Presenter Biographies

Danielle Lim

Danielle Lim (she/her) is a PhD student in Clinical Psychology at Toronto Metropolitan University. Her research and clinical interests broadly encompass risk and protective factors for mental health among children, youth, and families, particularly those who embody multiple marginalized identities. Her current graduate work specifically investigates the influence of neighbourhood physical conditions on maternal parenting and infant biopsychosocial development, alongside community-based strategies to build family resilience. She is passionate about understanding, applying, and advancing culturally-responsive approaches to mental health care.

Presentation: *Understanding the impact of community-based performing arts programs on BIPOC children and youth: A narrative review of underlying processes*

Imroze Singh Deol

Imroze Singh Deol (he/him) is a design researcher, strategist, and educator. He is currently finishing his master of inclusive design at OCAD U. His research is at the intersection of exploring socio-cultural, accessibility, and its relationship to emerging communities around the world. Imroze's current research is focused on developing Panjabi-Centred Design; a framework solution for healthcare accessibility. He is a Product Designer at Assent and also, serves as a digital literacy and translation guidelines consultant for UBC DigEM and Sheridan College.

Presentation: *Panjabi-Centred Design: an empirical study of the Panjabi diaspora to understand the effects of socio-cultural factors and existing translation models have on the accessibility of healthcare and welfare information*

Presenter Biographies

Bronte Cronsberry

Bronte Cronsberry (they/them) is an emerging scholar and writer currently completing an MFA in Criticism and Curatorial Practice at OCAD University. Their work considers the political theory of Hannah Arendt in relation to online Maker communities as alternate sites of discussion and education that exist beyond the academy. Bronte's less academic musing can be found online at www.thingdone.blog.

Presentation: *Learning Traditional Craft in Contemporary Online Communities*

Jamie Hoholuk

Jamie Hoholuk (she/her/hers) is a second-year MA student with the School of Communication at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, British Columbia. Her research interests include youth cultures, media literacy, girlhood studies, and feminist methodologies.

Presentation: *Exhibiting girlhood: feminist methodologies of fan archiving in Sarah Ramos's Autograph Hound*

Siyun Pan

Siyun Pan is an MA student of East Asian Studies interested in contemporary Chinese media, popular culture, & fandom. She is interested in exploring the many practices adopted by the colossal fandom of celebrities on major social media platforms such as Weibo & Douban. Using the ethnographical approach, she conducts in-depth interviews with fans from different online communities, & locates the surprisingly well-organized internal structure with the overwhelming narrative of neoliberal governmentality in China today. She is also seeking to localize & materialize fan culture in China, particularly how fandom & celebrity culture mediates the reimagination & visualization of the urban landscape in China.

Presentation: *The Affective Army & the Risk Absorber: Neoliberal Govermentality in Chinese Fandom*

Presenter Biographies

Caleb Tao

Caleb Tao is a researcher and an independent musician in the Communication and Culture program at Toronto Metropolitan University. Tao's current research interests focus on digital labour, digital platforms, and live stream selling as a cultural phenomenon in China. His music works to explore the socio-cultural phenomenon concerning problems of identity, social equality, and politics.

Presentation: *Searching for Meaning: The Figurative Internet Languages & Internet Censorship in China*

Bracy Appeikumoh

Bracy Appeikumoh is a mixed media artist and writer based in Toronto, Ontario. She writes about scopophilia, queerness, internet culture, and fandom.

Presentation: *"Does the Algorithm Think I'm Sexy?" Social Media, Self-replication, and Plastic Surgery*

Aurelia Wilson

Aurelia Wilson (she/her), Toronto Metropolitan University (Communication and Culture), Research Interests: digital culture, political economy, philosophy of technology, gender and sexuality, labour studies

Presentation: *Next Generation Employment: The Gig-Economy of Sex Work*

Presenter Biographies

Dongwook Song

Dongwook Song is a PhD student majoring in communication at Simon Fraser University. His research interest is widely concerned with media and cultural studies, focusing on ideology and discourse theories and Korean youth studies.

Presentation: *Dark Azure Age: The development of Korean young adult studies from 2008 to present*

Dylan Alsop

YorkU Comcult student (He/They). Youth climate change media.

Presentation: *Anthropogenic Youth: A Study of Youth Geo-Doc Presented at COP27*

Alexe Bernier

Alexe Bernier (she/her) is a PhD Candidate in the School of Social Work at McMaster University. Rooted in critical childhood perspectives and intersectional feminist theory, her doctoral research works to honour the activist practices of tweenhood-aged girls.

Presentation: *Tween Girls' Activism: Challenging Notions of the Frivolous, Carefree Tween and Honoring the Tween Girl Citizen*

Mykelle Pacquing

Institutional Affiliation: Toronto Metropolitan University & York University
Research Interests: Anishinaabemowin, Indigenous language reclamation, Indigenous language reclamation, artificial intelligence, natural language processing, human-robot interaction.

Presentation: *Indigenous Language Reclamation and Non-Human Assistance for Indigenous Youth*

Presenter Biographies

Ruchini Abayakoon

Ruchini Abayakoon (she/her) is a Sri Lankan-Canadian PhD student at the Department of English and Cultural Studies at McMaster University. Her research falls on the intersection of South Asian Studies, Environmental Humanities and De/Postcolonial Thought. She is also an earring-maker, painter and people-watcher.

Presentation: *A Lifestyle Edit: (Post)Colonial Identity Negotiations Amidst the Rhetoric of Climate Change in Tommy Pico's Nature Poem*

Kristen Tollan

Kristen Tollan (she/her) is a second-year doctoral student in the Communication and Culture program at York University (joint with Toronto Metropolitan University). Her dissertation research focuses on the use of social media by disabled youth for building community. She also likes to explore the areas of fan studies, queer experience and media representations of marginalized communities, as well as research creation. Kristen is a teaching and research assistant in the departments of Social Science at York and Early Childhood Studies at TMU. She is fuelled by delivery Starbucks and when she's not studying, she is adding to her list of novels to read, or drawing. She lives in the Greater Toronto Area with her study buddies, Smudge, Rory and Sailor.

Presentation: *Wednesday's Child is Full of Woe: The Netflixification of the "Weird Kid" and How Society Treat Misfits*

Myra Hannett

(She/They). Brock University. Strong interest in studying thanatology, queer theory, and ludology.

Presentation: *"Your Stories will Always Remain, As Will Your Valiant Hearts": The Power of Emotive Narrative-Based Videogames in Discussion of Queerness, of Death, and the lives of Young People*

Intersections Cross-Sections
Graduate Conference & Art Exhibition

becoming
youth

Presenter Biographies

Emily Murphy

Emily Murphy (she/her) is a PhD student in Child and Youth Studies at Brock University where she studies the affective remains queer childhoods She is also a DJ, dance floor regular, and co-founder of Toronto-based party collectives SOAK and Combo Breaker.

Presentation: *Reparative Raving*

Matty Peters

(They/Them). York University, Social and Political Thought Graduate Program. Interests: Affect, Temporality, and Power

Presentation: *Meditations on the Temporal Position of Youth and Their Unique Forms of Affect*

W Chung

W (he/him) is a 2D/3D animator who has always been eager to learn different storytelling techniques. W has been making his own animation shorts and films and has been part of many others over the years. W enters the animation industry as a fledgling 3D artist and hopes to continue making independent films on the side. And yes, his name is W, just like the letter.

Presented work: *Fledgling* (short film)

Toyako

Toyako (he/him) is a musician based in Vancouver, Canada. Born to a Japanese family, Toyako's musical background is rooted in both Japanese and English cultures, which has influenced the unique style of his music. He blends traditional Japanese music with contemporary English sounds, resulting in a sound that is both familiar and fresh.

Presentation: *Blue* (audio-visual performance)

Presenter Biographies

Elisha Cooper

Cooper (she/her) is an emerging singer, songwriter, and producer living in Toronto, Ontario. Her formative upbringing on Vancouver Island inspires the textures of her music, blending lo-fi, soothing beats with rich and dream-like harmonies. Combining this light sound with honest lyrics, she explores the depth and complexity of the human experience. As a developing artist, she aspires to be a champion of hopefulness, empathy, and equity.

Presented work: *Greenwood* + live keynote audio-visual performance

Danzhu Hu

Hu (she/her) is an award-winning visual storyteller, currently specializing in illustration and fine art painting. After graduating with a B.E. degree, she received her master's degree at the Fashion Institute of Technology, MFA Illustration program. Hu's work is whimsically melancholic with a touch of surrealism, where loose lines and vibrant colours prevail. Through her practice, Hu wishes to create a visual world where the most cryptic, subtle, and complicated emotions can be captured, translated, and cherished.

Presented work: *My Brilliant Friend* (2-frame shadowbox print)

Jasper Lam

Lam (he/him) offers autographic image representations that chronicle the many facets of life and its encumbrances relating to race, sexuality, and interpersonal relationships. Using a snapshot approach, he documents the people, places, and things in his proximity. Through photography, Lam expresses and transmutes his feelings, addressing his own complexities, sentiments, and values beyond the surface of what is captured in a photograph.

Presentation: *Oblivion* (photo series)

Presenter Biographies

Julianna Kowlessar

Julianna Kowlessar is a second-year MA student in the joint Communication & Culture program at York and Toronto Metropolitan Universities. She holds two undergraduate degrees, an Honours Bachelor of Science in Psychology and an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies, summa cum laude, both from York University. The research Julianna is currently conducting for her master's thesis explores how pre-service teachers understand and approach the subject of critical media literacy to discover practical and unique methods of teaching it to their future students. Julianna is an avid sports fan and enjoys baking and engaging in challenging new activities in her free time.

Presentation: *Student-Created Board Games as a Medium to Teach Critical Media Literacy: Employing McLuhan's Laws of Media* (research-creation)

Jonathan Lee

Jonathan (he/him) is a first-year student in the MA Fashion program at TMU, a fashion designer, and a tarot card reader. Having graduated from the Undergraduate Fashion Design program at TMU, Jonathan continues his pursuit of academic crave from a theoretical approach to fashion. He explores East Asian fashion studies through the lens of Decolonialism and Cultural Studies with directional research on the ethnocultural identity and diaspora of Hongkongers, and how it relates to the city's fashion system.

Presentation: *Pandemonium: Floating Down the Stream of Pandemonium* (5-piece streetwear collection)

Code of Conduct

Intersections|Cross-sections (IS|CS) 2023 provides a 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 identities,

The IS|CS Committee seeks to host a 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 any of the following will result in our action to remove the individual in question from our event:

- 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, or any unsolicited exchange of sexual nature
- Yelling at, demeaning, or threatening speakers or other IS|CS attendees and team members

All participants are expected to observe these rules and behaviours in our venue space and interactions. 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 step aside from the presentation space in our allocated resting areas and/or reach out to IS|CS Team members for any form of assistance. ASL interpretation will be provided through live interpreters for the Intersections presentations.

For any questions or concerns, please contact
Email: iscs.conference@gmail.com or reach out to IS|CS Team Members.

becoming youth

Thank You and Have Fun!

On behalf of IS|CS 2023, we thank you for your participation in our first in-person conference and art symposium in 2 years. We hope to deliver a memorable experience for everyone involved!

IS|CS 2023 Team

P.S. Tag us on your social media posts and stories @comcultiscs !