Presents
Canadian Career Symposium for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows
October 18th - 21st, 2021

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#GPDNCareers21
Land Acknowledgement

The Network, formerly known as the Consortium, grew from a community of professionals who work, practice, and advocate, in the land currently known as Canada. We acknowledge that these are the traditional ancestral lands of many First Nations, Inuit, and Metis peoples. Further we acknowledge the impact that settlement and colonization has had, and continues to have, on the people and the land. We call on everyone hearing or reading this statement to learn more about the lands and water they are on.

'Canada' is a word derived from the word 'kanata' of the Huron-Iroquois language, and it means village, settlement, or community. The Network considers itself to be a community. Through our vision, values, and strategic plan, we commit to reconciliation as defined in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.
Organising Committee

Jacqui Brinkman, MSc
Director of Graduate Student Professional Development, Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, University of British Columbia

Corinne Bossé
Learning Designer, Faculty of Graduate Studies, Athabasca University

Mabel Ho, PhD
Director, Professional Development and Student Engagement, Faculty of Graduate Studies, Dalhousie University

Catherine Maybrey, PhD
Coordinator, Postdoctoral Affairs and Research Training, School of Graduate Studies, McMaster University

Colette Steer
Manager Recruitment & Events, School of Graduate Studies, Queen's University
Thank you to the following institutions for their support!

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University of Toronto  
University of Waterloo  
University of Windsor  
Western University  
York University

Thank you to other members of the GPDN, Anne-Marie Rivard, for French translation and to Ian Wereley from CAGS for his continued support!
Schedule is in Eastern Daylight Time
Molly Grisham is recognized as a courageous and passionate communicator, Molly’s work is rooted in experiential learning and designed to inspire and set people in motion. She is passionate about building teams, developing leaders, creating custom workshops, and utilizing personality assessments for personal growth and professional development.

She brings the experience of 20 years of athletic coaching, an entrepreneurial spirit of a successful business builder, communication skills of an author and storyteller, and 10+ years as an adjunct communication professor to every client engagement. For more information about Molly, visit her website, or you can follow her on Twitter, Instagram, or LinkedIn.

**Monday, October 18th**

1:00 – 1:05pm  Welcome by the GPDN Committee

1:05 – 2:15pm  Lead Your Life

**Presenter:**  Molly Grisham, Influence LLC

**Host:**  Melissa Dalgleish, GPDN President

In this keynote, Molly shares her personal journey of learning to lead her own life. Her path includes leaving a safe and predictable career in higher education to risk the unknown of starting a now thriving business from scratch. Through her talk, Molly shares observations that she calls Lightbulb Moments, that she has experienced. She'll share the value of tapping into your personal and professional networks during times of uncertainty, change, and growth, as well as remaining open to the possibility that your future life may be one you have yet to imagine. She'll also highlight how your limiting beliefs can impact your ability to see the path in front of you, and she'll address some of the cultural differences, challenges, and constraints that you may be facing. Investing in your personal and professional growth will allow you to bring your full and most authentic self to the leadership of your life, and to move from where you are to where you want to be.

**Molly Grisham** is recognized as a courageous and passionate communicator, Molly’s work is rooted in experiential learning and designed to inspire and set people in motion. She is passionate about building teams, developing leaders, creating custom workshops, and utilizing personality assessments for personal growth and professional development.

2:15 – 2:30pm  Break
2:30 – 3:45pm  Planning with Purpose: The IDP Explained

Presenters:  Lorna MacEachern, McGill University & Emmanuelle Arnaud, University of Guelph

Host:  Mabel Ho, Dalhousie University

Goal setting is an important predictor of wellbeing and success in graduate school and can help you transition into your chosen career. The IDP (Individual Development Plan) is a tool designed to help you articulate and plan your goals. Think of your IDP as a tailored roadmap that guides you from where you are now to where you want to be. The purpose of an IDP is not to "lock" you into a set of goals, but rather to help you approach your work and life with more intention, and to adapt your plan when new challenges and opportunities arise. In this session, we will discuss what is involved in creating an IDP and how you can use it to create a meaningful plan that will help you to stay focused on your priorities and track your progress.

Lorna MacEachern (she/her). For over 15 years Lorna has been helping graduate students and postdoctoral scholars in a wide variety of disciplines to plan their goals and transition into meaningful careers. After obtaining her MA in Counselling Psychology, Lorna began her career at McGill University as a Career Counselor for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars. She then joined the Office for Postdoctoral Affairs at Yale University, where she established a new career service for postdocs. Currently, she is the Program Manager for myPath: a network of tools and programming to help students and postdocs to create an Individual Development Plan (IDP) at McGill University.

Emmanuelle Arnaud (she/her) is a University of Guelph professor, whose field-based research focuses on glacial geology in the context of groundwater resources management. As a Graduate Program Coordinator in the School of Environmental Sciences, she collaborated with Sarah Cahill and the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies at Guelph to incorporate the use of IDPs in graduate programs. The IDP was initially piloted as a requirement within the course based Masters program in Environmental Sciences and has since expanded to other programs within the school and across campus. This work led to ongoing collaborative research on the graduate student's perceptions of the effectiveness of IDP using surveys and focus groups. She is currently the OAC Assistant Dean (Graduate Programs) where she is focusing on new graduate program development such as course-based Master's programs for international students as well as exploring the use of microcredentials. She continues to be a champion of including professional development in graduate programs in her current role as OAC Assistant Dean.
3:45 – 4:00pm  Break

4:00 – 5:15pm  Work Your Career: How to Strategically Position Yourself for Career Success

Presenters:  Loleen Berdahl, University of Saskatchewan & Jonathan Malloy, Carleton University

Host:  Jacqui Brinkman, University of British Columbia

If you are a graduate student or postdoc who has wondered how you begin preparing for your future career, this interactive session is for you! In this session, Jonathan Malloy and Loleen Berdahl will show you how to identify your current career competencies and networks, and to create an action plan to increase your career competitiveness. Note: this session draws upon the book, Work Your Career: Get What You Want From Your Social Sciences or Humanities PhD (2018, University of Toronto Press), available at many libraries and university career centres.

Loleen Berdahl, PhD (she/her) is an award-winning university instructor, the Executive Director of the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy (Universities of Saskatchewan and Regina), and Professor and former Head of Political Studies, University of Saskatchewan. Since 2016, Loleen has spoken about student skills training and academic professional development at conferences and university campuses across Canada. Her research on these topics is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Insight Grant program, and she is the author of University Affairs’ The Skills Agenda column. Loleen’s most recent books include Work Your Career: Get What You Want from Your Social Sciences or Humanities PhD (University of Toronto Press; with Jonathan Malloy) and Explorations: Conducting Empirical Research in Canadian Political Science (Oxford University Press; now in its 4th edition with Jason Roy). Loleen is also the author of the popular Academia Made Easier blog/newsletter, which provides easy tips for teaching, productivity, and work-life balance in academia. She lives in Saskatoon with her husband, twin teenage daughters, and two cats.

Jonathan Malloy (he/him) is professor of political science at Carleton University and currently serves as Associate Dean (Research and International) in the Faculty of Public Affairs. He previously served two terms as chair of his department and has held other administrative roles. With Loleen Berdahl, he is co-author of Work Your Career: Get What You Want From Your Social Sciences or Humanities PhD. His research and teaching focus on Canadian political institutions and he holds the Bell Chair in Canadian Parliamentary Democracy at Carleton. He lives in Ottawa with his family and spends a lot of time outdoors in Ottawa’s many green spaces. But he has neither a newsletter nor cats.
Faced with discouraging information about the job market, it is easy for post-docs and graduate students to think that any job they can get is good enough. But by focusing on finding a career that makes one happy, people can find a sustainable, rewarding career where they can truly thrive. This presentation will offer evidence for the value of focusing on happiness, drawing on the major thinkers in the fields of positive psychology and career development, and practical strategies to use during career exploration and the job search.

Melissa Dalgleish (she/her) is the Program Manager for the Research Training Centre at the SickKids Research Institute and the President of the GPDN. She began her career as a PhD student trying to figure out how to make a fulfilling career for herself outside the professoriate and parlayed that search into a vocation helping other PhDs do the same with the support of their institutions. When she’s not thinking about or working on grad and postdoc development projects, she’s probably sewing, playing with her three year old, or snuggling a cat.

Matthew Geddes (he/him) is a Career Specialist at the University of Calgary. Here, he supports graduate students with achieving their career aspirations through collaborative individual consultations and interactive workshops. As a lifelong learner, he is passionate about bringing new resources and research-based practices to support individuals. He is particularly interested in the intersection of positive psychology and career development.
2:30 – 3:45pm  Getting Your Foot In the Door

Presenter:  Charlotte Ong’ang’a, University of Calgary & Jonathan Turner, University of Toronto

Host:  Mabel Ho, Dalhousie University

In this session you will hear from two career experts about career planning for getting an opportunity and making the most of it. The session will combine career theories and practical examples and provide opportunities for active learning that leverage the experiences you may already have managing and planning your career.

By the end of the session, you will be able to:

- Identify career planning and management strategies,
- Reach out to potential contacts for informational interviews,
- Research possibilities through labor market information tools,
- Articulate a career interest, and
- Advocate for yourself and others as a component of career management.

Charlotte Anyango Ong’ang’a (she/her) is a Linguist, Career Development Specialist and Leadership Trainer with a Ph.D. in Linguistics. She has been an educator in many countries, for many years with experience in teaching, workshop facilitation and coaching learners of different ages and levels. Her areas of research interest in Linguistics include Discourse Analysis, Semantics & Pragmatics, Corpus Linguistics, Morphology and Language Revitalization. Charlotte uses linguistic approaches in career development strategies. Currently she holds a contract position at the University of Calgary as the Career Development Specialist for Ph.D. students.

Jonathan Turner (he/him) has held a number of staff positions at the University of Toronto, including Career Educator, Manager of Graduate Completion and Postdoctoral Services, Institutional Strategic Initiatives Officer, and Professional and Graduate Skills Specialist. He is a co-founder and former executive of the Graduate and Postdoctoral Development Network. Jonathan holds a PhD in the history of science and technology and has previously published on defence research and science policy in Cold War Canada.

3:45 – 4:00pm  Break
4:00 – 5:15pm  What is Labour Market Information (LMI) and How To Use It In Your Career Exploration

Presenter:  Dinuka Gunaratne, University of Waterloo, Ketan Marballi, Ryerson University & Lorena Camargo and Liz Betsis, Labour Market Information Council (LMIC)

Host:  Corinne Bossé, Athabasca University

Conducting Labour Market Information (LMI) research is essential in career exploration. However, it is hard to find and not easy to understand.

In this session you will learn what LMI is, where to find it, and how to make sense of it to support your career development next steps. You will also hear from representatives from the Labour Market Information Council (LMIC) about some of the new developments in LMI research and tools, and their own experiences as graduate students navigating the world of LMI.

**Dinuka Gunaratne** (he/him)
Manager, Career Education Strategy and Communications, University of Waterloo

Dinuka Gunaratne is a former international student from Sri Lanka and studied Zoology and Neuroscience at the University of Guelph. Dinuka has worked at five postsecondary institutions in Canada and for four years, served as the Career Education Coordinator (Graduate Students) at the University of Alberta. In this role, he supported the career development of Master's and Ph.D. students through high-touch career education programs. Most recently, he joined the University of Waterloo as Manager, Career Education Strategy and Communications within the Centre for Career Action.

**Ketan Marballi PhD** (he/him)
Career Education Specialist – Faculty of Science, Ryerson University

Dr. Ketan Marballi is a cell and molecular biologist by training and currently works as a career education specialist for graduate students in the faculty of science at Ryerson University. He has written articles on career development and organized career and professional development events on academic and non-academic careers for graduate and postdoctoral trainees for the science non-profit STEMPeers. He co-facilitates a community of practice discussing coaching graduate students. He aims to use his lived experience as an international graduate student and postdoctoral trainee to help trainees transition into fulfilling careers.
Lorena Camargo (she/her)
Principal Researcher, Labour Market Information Council (LMIC)

Lorena Camargo contributes to ongoing and forward-looking research projects related to labour market issues in Canada. She brings expertise in innovation policy and global markets. Lorena brings a variety of interdisciplinary skills and lenses to her research from having worked internationally with different levels of government and the private sector. Prior to joining LMIC, she worked as a research assistant at the Munk School of Global Affairs and co-wrote a whitepaper centered around economic development and innovation policy.

Liz Betsis (she/her)
Economist, Labour Market Information Council (LMIC)

Liz Betsis contributes to conceptual as well as applied research projects at LMIC, primarily focused on the future of work and the provision of labor market information among different groups in the labour force. Liz has spent the last several years working with entrepreneurs as a consultant, public relations associate, and publicist. Prior to joining LMIC, she completed her Master's of Economics with a focus on labour and education issues.
Wednesday, October 20th

1:00 – 2:15pm  Effectively Sharing Your Research & Advancing Your Career

Presenters:  Andrew Churchill, McGill University & Catherine Maybrey, McMaster University
Host:  Jacqui Brinkman, University of British Columbia

This session introduces you to tips for effectively communicating your research and career story. Whether you are staying in academia, or moving beyond campus, these strategies will help you to share your research and abilities with people inside and outside of your discipline.

Catherine Maybrey PhD CDP (she/her)
Coordinator, Postdoctoral Affairs and Research Training, McMaster University

With a PhD, Career Development Practitioner (CDP) diploma, and over 10 years’ experience in higher education, Catherine understands the career concerns of students, postdoctoral fellows and faculty members, and how to effectively plan for next steps. She has been published in University Affairs and the Academica Forum, and she has been featured in The Globe and Mail and The Muse. You can find her on Twitter, LinkedIn, and on her website cmcoachingservices.com.

Andrew Churchill (he/him)
Andrew Churchill is the Presentation Skills Training Manager at Teaching and Learning Services at McGill University where he has been helping researchers present better since 2015. He also works with emerging start-ups competing for non-dilutive funding.

2:15 – 2:30pm  Break
2:30 – 4:00pm  Panel: Transitioning Your Graduate Degree To The Workforce

Panelists:  Felix Böck, PhD, Linda Grussani, PhD candidate, Kathleen Mifflin, MA, Jennifer Major, PhD

Moderator:  Corinne Bossé, Athabasca University

This panel will showcase career diversity outside of academia

Felix Böck (he/him) founded the ChopValue Microfactory franchise concept where he developed an innovative closed-loop engineered material. Motivated to create a global impact in the bamboo industry, he has gained experience by working on projects supporting companies of all stages in over 20 countries with his firm CrossLink Technologies. Under Felix’s leadership, his team at ChopValue has discovered a powerful way to connect the circular economy to his expertise in wood and bamboo composite materials while he completed his PhD in a collaboration with UBC/MIT/Cambridge. He believes that leading by example with innovation and resilience will inspire others to rethink resource efficiency and reshape the future of urbanization.

Linda Grussani (Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg/Italian ancestry) is a curator and art historian, born and raised on Anishinabe Aki in the Ottawa area. Currently, she is a PhD Candidate in the Cultural Studies program at Queen’s University. Over the last decade, Linda has held the position of Curator, Aboriginal Art at the Canadian Museum of History; Director, Indigenous Art Centre for Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada and has worked in the Indigenous art department at the National Gallery of Canada. Linda currently sits on the Inuit Art Foundation’s Board of Directors, the Indigenous Education Council for OCAD University, the Indigenous Collections Symposium Working Group for the Ontario Museums Association and is a collaborator with the North American Cultural Diplomacy Initiative and the Norval Morrisseau Project 1955-1985.
Kathleen Mifflin, graduated from the Master of Environmental Studies program at Dalhousie University in 2019. Using skills gained in her degree, she spent a year working at Mitacs facilitating research projects as well as building intersectoral relationships to drive successful research outcomes. Kathleen now works as a Project Manager at the Offshore Energy Research Association, where she oversees the completion of research projects that help to create knowledge and build capacity in Atlantic Canada to support the region’s transition to net-zero emissions.

Jennifer Major graduated from the University of Ottawa in 2017 with a PhD in Cellular and Molecular Medicine and continued her studies as a CIHR postdoctoral fellow at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical campus. During her time at Anschutz she became heavily involved in volunteering for groups supporting postdoctoral fellows, diversity in science, and science outreach. She is now a Grants Facilitation Officer at Memorial University where she supports Faculty members in Science to obtain funding, develop partnerships, and incorporate best EDI practices in their grant applications.
Thursday, October 21st

1:00 – 2:30pm  How To Build a Publicly-engaged Project with a Non-academic Partner

Presenters:  Letitia Henville & Carolyn Veldstra, University of British Columbia

Panelists:  James Hillman (Queen's), Chelsea Barranger (McMaster), Ezgi Ozyonum (Concordia), Tanya Singh (Concordia)

Host/Moderator:  Catherine Maybrey, McMaster University

This workshop is targeted at graduate students who would like to pursue a publicly engaged project in collaboration with a non-academic organization, but who don’t know how to start on that path.

Following the presentation you will hear from grad students who have participated in their Institutions community research partnerships to showcase community engaged learning.

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Letitia Henville (she/her), PhD, runs the UBC Arts Co-op program’s PhD co-op option as well as the Faculty-wide professional development initiative, the Arts Amplifier (amplifier.arts.ubc.ca). She lives and works on the traditional, ancestral, unceded, and stolen territory of the Səl̓ílwətaʔ and xʷməθkwəy̓əm people. She is an accomplished bricklayer and can be found on Twitter @shortishard

Carolyn Veldstra (she/her), PhD, is the Grants Coordinator for the UBC Arts Amplifier, which means she helps secure (non-academic) funding for graduate students who want to pursue professional development projects and community partners who otherwise wouldn’t be able to hire graduate students. She lives and works on the traditional, ancestral, unceded, and stolen territory of the Skwxwú7mesh, səllílwətaʔ and xʷməθkwəy̓əm people. She is an amateur birder who tweets infrequently @carolynveldstra (pun intended).
James Hillman is a Ph.D. candidate in Social Psychology at Queen's University. His research covers three broad topics: group affiliation, interpersonal communication, and change and growth. His interest in group affiliation focuses on how people interface with those around them and use their group as a source of information. This ranges from people's need for belongingness to their need for the validation of their subjective reality. His work in interpersonal communication assesses how people communicate with others and interpret others' communications. Further, how communication leads to conflict, conflict resolution, and forgiveness. Lastly, his work on change and growth focusses on the way in which people perceive change. His research assesses what change people believe is typical, how these beliefs affect their expectations for themselves and others, and how these expectations vary with culture.

Chelsea Barranger holds a PhD in Canadian History from McMaster University (2019), where she wrote a dissertation about the postwar settlement and adaptation of British war brides in Ontario and Quebec. She has worked in the postsecondary sector for several years, as a researcher, instructor, and team lead for several community research projects through the McMaster University Office for Community Engagement. She is currently employed as a Policy Analyst with the Council of Ontario Universities.

Ezgi Ozyonum is a PhD candidate in Education at Concordia University. She obtained her bachelor's degree from Bilkent University and completed her master's degree at Middle East Technical University. Ezgi has taught at the department of Education, Concordia University, and has delivered workshops for Concordia's Centre for Teaching and Learning and GradProSkills. Ezgi's research brings critical and decolonial perspectives to the study and practice of internationalization and decolonization in higher education. Through her work, she seeks to interrupt common colonial patterns of education engagement. She presented her research at many national and international academic conferences including Comparative & International Education Society (CIES), American Educational Research Association (AERA), and Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education (CSSHE). Her research findings could move Canadian Universities towards a more equitable and inclusive future.

Tanya Singh is a doctoral candidate in Marketing at the John Molson School of Business at Concordia University. Tanya holds a PhD in Evolutionary Biology from the University of Pennsylvania and a Bachelor’s in Engineering in Biotechnology. Prior to starting her PhD in marketing, she carried out research in genetics. Tanya leverages her interdisciplinary background to study consumer decision making. She examines the consequences of putting off choices on consumer behavior. Her dissertation examines how putting off decisions can have significant impact on subsequent consumer decisions. She is the recipient of the Howard Webster Award for Graduate Excellence. She is also involved in developing and delivering a data analysis workshop targeted towards graduate students at Concordia University.
3:00 – 4:30pm  Student Panel: Work-Integrated Learning & Experiences

Panelists:  Eya Affes (Mitacs), M. Medhi Afsar (University of Calgary), Angelo Serrentino (Waterloo), Bruno de Souza (University of Montreal), Carrie Proctor (University of Toronto)

Host/Moderator:  Tara Chr, University of Calgary

What is work-integrated learning? Hear from graduate students and postdoctoral fellows on how they got their experience by seeking out opportunities.

Eya Affes, An Engineering graduate student at Université de Moncton, New Brunswick, Eya conducts her research in the Robotics, Electronics, and Industry 4.0 (REI 4.0) laboratory as an industrial robotics research assistant. Since 2021, she joined New Brunswick Innovation Foundation (NBIF) as a Research Development Officer intern. She obtained her Engineering degree in Automation and Industrial Computing in 2019 from the National Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology (INSAT), Tunisia. Eya was internationally selected for Mitacs Globalink Research Program to design a Humanoid assistive robot dedicated to the elderly during summer of 2019. She was then awarded by Mitacs with a Graduate Fellowship to pursue her Master's degree in Canada. She is passionate about Industrial robotics and Automation, Industry 4.0 technology integration, and Manufacturing process innovation. Her interests also include AI platform design, Humanoid robots, and Human-Machine interactions.

M. Mehdi Afsar is currently a research intern at Mila, Quebec AI Institute and a PhD candidate at the University of Calgary, Canada. His research interests include Machine Learning, Recommender Systems, and Internet of Things, and has been supported by several scholarships and awards at the University of Calgary. He was a visiting professor at Mount Royal University, Canada and has served as a scientific committee member in several journals and conferences.
**Bruno de Souza** has a PhD in Visual Neurosciences from the University of Montreal. Currently, he is a postdoctoral research fellow in the Mitacs Elevate program at University of Montreal and Labeo Technologies Inc.

In his current role at the Ontario Ministry of Finance, Angelo provides evidence-based policy advice to senior management on a variety of issues, primarily Raw Leaf Tobacco regulatory oversight, underground economy, and business identification. The work integrated learning experience offered by the University of Waterloo has been instrumental in allowing Angelo to pursue his interests in public policy, as well as his passion for wanting to make a positive impact on the lives of others.

**Angelo Serrentino**, works at the Ontario Ministry of Finance as a Policy Co-op Student, a placement he secured while pursuing a Master of Public Service (MPS) degree at the University of Waterloo. He is also in the process of completing a Graduate Diploma in Computational Analytics for the Social Sciences and Humanities at the University of Waterloo. Angelo holds an Hons. B.A. in Renaissance Studies from the University of Toronto, and has previously worked at a corporate Bay Street law firm.

**Carrie Proctor** is a student life professional at the University of Toronto. Holding a Masters of Education Adult Education and Community Development from OISE, Carrie currently works to develop a work-integrated learning program for Arts and Science students at U of T. Carrie is passionate about experiential learning, and credits her WIL experiences with her career pathway today. Previously, Carrie worked in student life as an undergraduate student through multiple WIL roles, and more recently Carrie completed a practicum through OISE, developing a new curriculum for adult learners with the Sustainability Office at U of T.
Thank you for participating.

Keep the conversation going on LinkedIn
https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8992609/

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