

CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH

Warm Greetings from CIER

We hope these greetings find you and your loved ones warm and well as the days get shorter and the weather gets colder. It is hard to believe that winter is already upon us, with the new year around the corner! It has been another challenging few months for many, as we continue to engage in online learning and working through the ongoing pandemic restrictions. We hope that you have been keeping safe and healthy, and we continue to look ahead to brighter times when we can gather together in-person.

This term, the Centre has been pleased to continue its work in coordinating events, developing activities, and connecting with various students, faculty, and community members. We are so pleased you can join us as we continue working towards holding space and providing opportunities for your work, research, and experiences to be shared. We were delighted to have the Indigenous Artist-in-Residence, Ange Loft, sharing her work, DISH DANCES, with students, faculty, and the wider OISE community. We are sad to see her residency come to an end this term, but are grateful for her creativity, wisdom, and warmth in sharing her art and knowledge with all of us. We also had the pleasure of hosting Dr. George Dei for the 2021-22 Faculty Speaker Series, as he presented his work on African Elders and Eldership. This was a thought-provoking talk with far-reaching implications for anti-colonial and Indigenous education and research. Many thanks to all who joined these events!

Looking ahead to the next term, we are excited to be hosting Dr. Jennifer Brant for her Faculty Speaker talk on Indigenous Methodologies in Educational Research. We also have an exciting line-up of students who will be presenting their research in the Winter 2022 Student Speaker Series. Additionally, we are looking forward to the unveiling of the 10th floor interactive space at OISE, the launch of the Deepening Knowledge Project website and social media, and the announcement of student awards in the new year. Make sure to look out for CIER OISE emails next term with these important updates.

Finally, if you have any ideas for events or activities with the Centre, we welcome your input and participation. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us at cier.oise@utoronto.ca. We can't wait to connect with you soon!

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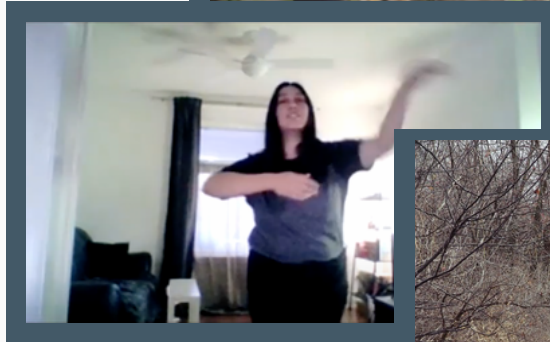
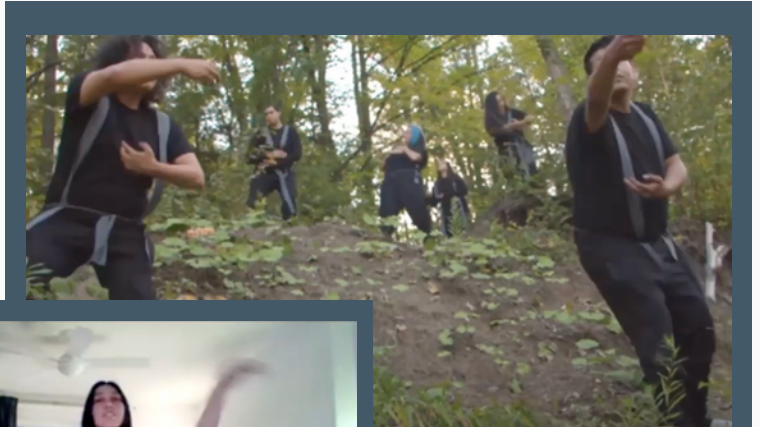


DISH DANCES by Indigenous Artist-in-Residence, Ange Loft

This term we were very pleased to work with Indigenous Artist-in-Residence and lead artist of Talking Treaties, [Ange Loft](#), who developed and shared her movement education activity DISH DANCES at OISE. She worked with a group of choreographers to put together a video series exploring the symbols, embodied gestures and land-based

knowledge held in the Dish With One Spoon agreement. This series was on display on the TV screen in the OISE lobby during Treaty Recognition Week. If you missed it, no worries! You can catch this series on our YouTube channel, CIER OISE, [here](#).

Ange also presented the project history and a sample movement facilitation from the Dish Dances movement education initiative to students in seven different OISE classes. She offered an extra session just for MT students in the Indigenous Experiences of Racism and Settler Colonialism course this term too. The workshop included an overview of the project's goals, arts-based research process, and activation with a team of Indigenous choreographers, Centre for Indigenous Theatre students, and Amplified Opera, and it was complemented by a low-stakes, individual movement activity. You can find a recording of the workshop [here](#). The outcome of this project will be featured in the upcoming Toronto Biennial of Art (March 26-June 5 2022). Find out more and keep an eye out for updates on where you can catch Ange's work at the [Toronto Biennial event page](#).



ABOUT ANGE: Ange Loft is an interdisciplinary performing artist and initiator from Kahnawà:ke Kanien'kehá:ka Territory, working in Tsi Tkarón:to. She is an ardent collaborator, consultant, and facilitator working in arts based research, wearable sculpture, theatrical co-creation and Haudenosaunee history. She also teaches Story Creation at Centre For Indigenous Theatre (2021) and is the director of the Talking Treaties initiative with Jumblies Theatre + Arts.

Find out more at her website: angeloft.ca



Faculty Speaker Series

The Faculty Speaker Series is back for a second year! This term, we had the pleasure of hosting Dr. George Dei for his talk on African Elders and Eldership (featured below), and we are looking forward to hosting Dr. Jennifer Brant in the upcoming winter term. Make sure to register for her talk on February 16th, 2022.

African Elders and Eldership - George J. Sefa Dei



On November 26th, George Dei joined the CIER to present his research on African Elders and Eldership. Using findings from an on-going SSHRC Insight Grant study examining Elders' teachings relating to community, social responsibility, environment, Land, social justice, equity, youth leadership, respect, and mutual interdependence, Prof. Dei engaged African Elders and the concept of 'Eldership' through an anti-colonial lens. The session focused on a discursive engagement of Elders'

cultural knowledge pointing to critical understandings of the relationships of knowledge, identity, subjectivity, history, culture and politics. In particular, Dei's analysis is attentive to Land-based epistemologies and ontologies and critical place inquiry for anti-colonial praxis. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session. The recording of this event is available [here](#).

"African Elders' cultural knowledges instruct us on how Indigeneity, decolonization, and anti-coloniality are linked; claiming Elders' knowledge and its teachings allows us to "write back" to the imperial and colonial narrative, to uphold teachings of Land, life and place."
- George Dei



Responding to DISH DANCES...

"It was a pleasure to have Ange Loft visit both my classes this Fall. Her perspective on community engagement and embodied learning from an Indigenous artistic practice was innovative and challenging. Students enjoyed her visit and were inspired to think deeply about relationships, place and responsibility, all of which are relevant when thinking about Reconciliation and Indigenous Knowledge Systems."

- Dr. Jennifer Wemigwans, LHAЕ

"My applied theatre students and I really enjoyed hosting Ange Loft. We learned a lot and enjoyed the movement and storytelling very much.

- Dr. Kathleen Gallagher, CTL

"I found the session to be engaging in a way I didn't expect. Ange's discussion concerning wampums as an understanding of how to be when entering a space, as well as the Oneida sign were important takeaways for me."

- Tabitha Doney, MT Student

Resource Spotlight



"This second edition of Research as Resistance builds upon the resistance-based methods featured in the first edition and contributes to the recent resurgence of marginalized knowledges in social science research, drawing from Indigenous, feminist, and critical race scholarship. Bringing together the theory and practice of anti-oppressive research, this text emphasizes the importance of critical reflexivity and participatory methods. The contributors to this volume, including both emerging and established scholars, write from marginalized perspectives, explore a variety of methodologies, and address current theoretical issues in social justice research, discussing ontological and epistemological considerations within the field."

Find it at canadianscholars.ca

Indigenous Methodologies in Educational Research - Dr. Jennifer Brant

We are also looking forward to another exciting faculty talk with Dr. Jennifer Brant, coming up on [February 16th, 2022, from 12-1PM.](#)

Jennifer Brant (she/her) belongs to the Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk Nation) with family ties to Six Nations of the Grand River Territory and Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory. She is currently an Assistant Professor at OISE, University of Toronto. Her work positions Indigenous literatures as educational tools to move students beyond passive empathy and compassion, inspire healing and wellness, and foster socio-political action. Jennifer is the co-editor of "Forever Loved: Exposing the Hidden Crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada" and writes to call for an immediate and effective response to racialized and sexualized violence. Through her community work, teaching, research, and writing, Jennifer is dedicated to encouraging teacher candidates to engage in the TRC's 94 Calls to Action & the 231 Calls for Justice released in the final report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.



Find out more and register for this talk at facultyspeakers.eventbrite.ca/

Updates from Tu Cho

Some may recall that in March 2021, we had a very special event with Kaska Aunties, Land Defenders, and Advocates, titled Tea, Tu Cho & Teachings. This event was coordinated by Yukon Community Advocate and Ed.D student at OISE, Amanda Buffalo. We are looking forward to having Amanda, the Aunties, and Advocates back in the winter term for another session of listening and learning. In this second session, they will share more about their ongoing work. One exciting update is that the Liard Aboriginal Women's Society recently received an award from the Google Impact Challenge for Women and Girls! Make sure to join in for tea to learn more about this award, and more about their upcoming projects. Look for details about this event in your email inbox in the coming weeks!

If you would like to watch last term's recording, you can find it [here.](#)



Upcoming: Student Speaker Series

The CIER is also excited to announce that the "Student Speaker Series" is returning in Winter 2022. This is a series of Zoom events showcasing the work of BIPOC student researchers at OISE. After a great first year with a total of nine different student speakers and eight events, we look forward to hosting another round of student researchers in the upcoming Winter semester. We hope to see you at these events! Read on to find the full schedule, and to learn more about some of the upcoming speakers and their research. Make sure to register for these events at cierstudents.eventbrite.ca

Event Schedule

Make sure to jot these dates down in your calendar now!

JANUARY

Tues. Jan. 18th, 12-1PM

[Wambui Karanja:](#)

Who Owns the Land: Centering Indigenous Conceptions of Land in Africa: The Case of Kenya

Wed. Jan. 26th, 12-1PM

[Kaitlind Peters:](#)

Youth Participatory Action (YPAR) Research as a pedagogy for advancing Indigenous education

FEBRUARY

Wed. Feb. 2nd, 12-1PM

[Kayla Webber:](#)

Title TBA

Wed. Feb. 9th, 6-7PM

[Kimberly Lorraine Todd:](#)

The Decolonial Potentialities Inherent in Dreaming for the Teacher and the Classroom: Reawakening the Dreamer



MARCH

Mon. March 7th, 6-7PM - [Daniela Bascuñan:](#)

Title TBA

Wed. March 16th, 12-1PM - [Harriet Akanmori:](#)
Research on Indigenous Ghanaian/African Cultural Knowledges and the rehabilitation of systems-involved Black youth

Wed. March 23rd, 12-1PM - [Michelle Bailey:](#)

Title TBA

Wed. March 30th, 12-1PM - [Marycarmen Lara-Villanueva:](#) Title TBA

To register & find more information:

[**cierstudents.eventbrite.ca**](https://cierstudents.eventbrite.ca)

Check back frequently for updates!



Featured Upcoming Speakers:

Wambui Karanja is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Social Justice Education, OISE/UofT. Her research interests are in decolonizing theories of Land and education, Indigeneity, Indigenous pedagogies and Land rights, modernization, globalization and feminist theorizing grounded in decolonial, anti-colonial, anti-racist and Afrocentric frameworks.



Kaitlind Peters is a member of Aamjiwnaang First Nation. She is a fourth year Doctoral Candidate in Curriculum and Pedagogy at OISE and her research focuses on Indigenous and reconciliatory education. In this discussion, Kaitlind will discuss her thesis work around Youth Participatory Action (YPAR) Research as a pedagogy for advancing Indigenous education. Kaitlind will talk about how Indigenous youth understand and make sense of their participation in YPAR projects and the impact of YPAR on Indigenous self-determination, resurgence, and self-understandings of educational success.

Kimberly L. Todd is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Social Justice Education at University of Toronto. Her area of study is teacher praxis, dreaming and decolonization. She has over a decade's worth of experience in the field of education. Kimberly is an educator, researcher, and curricular resource designer. She has worked as an ESL teacher in South Korea, an elementary educator in the United Arab Emirates and in a First Nations Community in Saskatchewan. She has also designed curricular resources for NGOs. She is currently working on a SSHRC funded research project as a research assistant at U of T and as part time Professor at Seneca College.



We have more exciting events in the works, so make sure to keep an eye out for announcements in the upcoming months. We look forward to seeing you in the new year!

If you have any questions or suggestions for events or activities, please do not hesitate to contact us at cier.oise@utoronto.ca.