

# President's Advisory Committee on Human Rights, Equity and Decolonization

2025-2026 Orientation



# Land Acknowledgement

By Nadia Ganesh

Painting by Chief Lady Bird

Chippewa | Potawatomi | Eagle clan |  
Artist | Illustrator | Councillor for Rama  
First Nation

<https://teaandbannock.com/2017/02/20/featured-artist-chief-lady-bird/>



# **Welcome to PACHRED!**

**Faculty Co-Chair: Margot Francis (she/her)**

**Staff Co-Chair: Andrew Bassingthwaite (he/him)**

**Student Co-Chair: Nadia Ganesh (she/her)**

**Research Assistant: Anmol Rughani (they/he)**

## **Administrative Support:**

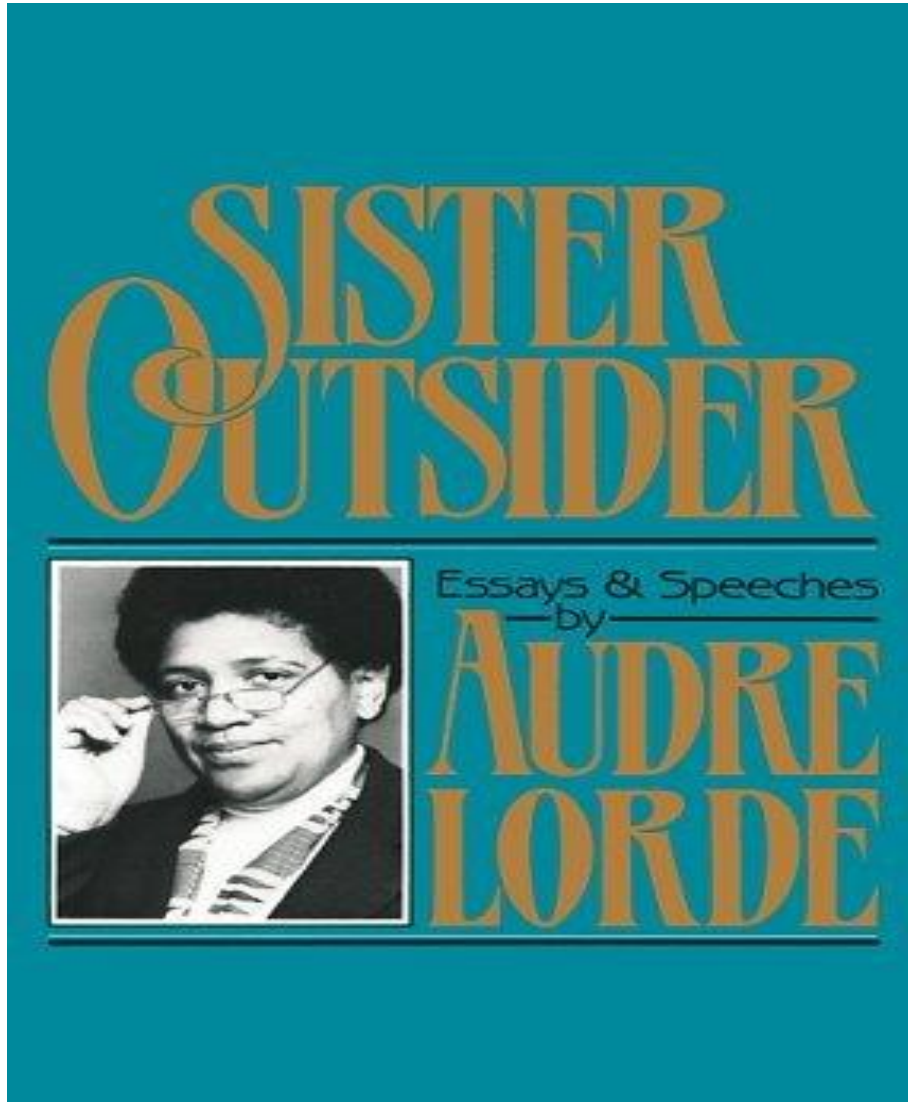
**Zhane Hamilton (she/her) Human Rights and Equity**

# Agenda

- 11am** Welcome, land acknowledgement
- 11:05** Overview of PACHRED structure & accomplishments in 2024-25
- 11: 15** Introductions/Safer spaces
- 11: 25** Overview, Strategic Directions 2025-26
- 11:40** Introduction of EDI Leadership team  
and Working Group Leads
- 12:50** Wrap-up & announcements



# Guiding principal for PACHRED's work: 2023-2026



**“There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives.”**

- (Sister Outsider, 138)

# Overview of PACHRED structure/accomplishments in 2024-25

- **PACHRED origin is in student protest**
- **Most working groups were established prior to PACHRED & have an activist history**
- **PACHRED's mandate: to provide support, funding, and solidarity for social justice organizing on campus**
- **Four-tier structure:**
  - ❖ **Large 'umbrella' meetings happen several times per year with representatives from all working groups, students, staff, and faculty; and from HREO**
  - ❖ **Seven working groups meet regularly – establishing their own schedule & educational/policy priorities**
  - ❖ **Co-ordinating Group with representation from all working groups meets once per month**
  - ❖ **Executive meets weekly or bi-weekly to oversee larger educational events, budget, and to respond to current events**

**PACHRED provides recommendations to the Brock president, Lesley Rigg, through an annual report.**

**President Rigg attends PACHRED and Coordinating Group meetings at least once per year.**

# **PACHRED accomplishments for 2024-2025**

## **Key Achievements**

**Establishment of a new International Student Working Group with a mandate grounded in anti-racism and decolonization.**

**Cross-sector collaboration on high-profile events addressing settler colonial violence in Palestine, international student exploitation, Indigenous justice, and queer inclusion.**

**Foundational work for long-term projects including the Q-Commons, employment equity reform, equity gaps in policies & staffing, and a new PACHRED website.**

# Responding to the increasing racism/xenophobia facing international students...

The President's Advisory Committee on Human Rights, Equity, and Decolonization (PACHRED) Presents:

## Challenging the Racism & Xenophobia Targeting International Students:

Law, Media & Activist Resistance

 **SPEAKERS**

**VASANTHI VENKATESH, PhD**  
Chair, Transnational Law & Racial Justice Network  
Faculty of Law, Windsor University

**NAVJOT SALARIA**  
International Student Alumni, York University  
Naujawan Support Network

**STUDENT & ALUMNI RESPONDENTS**  
Tiffany Muhindi (Brock University)  
Kaho Nishibu (Brock University)

Thursday, January 30th, 2025  
4PM - 6PM  
Sankey Chambers,  
Brock University

**REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED!**


Co-hosted by: the Anti Racism Committee, the Social Justice & Equity Studies MA, Social Justice Research Institute, and the Centre for Women's & Gender Studies

## International Student Working Group TOR

Co-chaired by Gökbörü Sarp Tanyildiz, Chana Pacharn, Aryan Purkayastha & Noah Xiao

- ❖ To address systemic racism, xenophobia, and the structural marginalization of international students across policy, service delivery, and campus culture.
- ❖ To strengthen equity-informed, trauma-responsive, and culturally accessible supports for international students navigating challenges related to immigration, work exploitation, legal precarity, and social isolation.
- ❖ To center intersectional and decolonial frameworks in understanding the specific and compounding challenges faced by international students, including racialized, queer/trans, and low-income migrants.
- ❖ To act as a collaborative hub that brings together students, staff, faculty, and community members in identifying needs, developing programs for international student equity.

# Responding to Residential School Denialism being given a platform at Brock

**Brock University**

## NARRATIVES OF HEALING, RESILIENCE, AND HOPE

### Residential School Stories and Impacts

OUR PANELISTS

DR. LYN TRUDEAU MATTHEW MACKENZIE DR. SHEILA COTE-MEEK DR. JOSH MANITOWABI

THIS PANEL EVENT WILL HOLD SPACE FOR NARRATIVES OF RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS AND HOW THIS IMPACTS INDIGENOUS FACULTY AS WELL AS HOW THIS INFORMS THEIR WORK AND PRACTICES

**06 MARCH 2025** **4:00PM-6:00PM**

**PLAZA 600F**

More Information  
SIGN UP VIA EXPERIENCEBU

PACHRED responded to the inaugural Tomáš Hudlický Memorial Lecture for Academic Freedom which invited Dr. Frances Widdowson as their inaugural speaker.

Widdowson's work represents less academic analysis than a targeted attack on Indigenous peoples and knowledges, in ways that contribute towards a hostile and inflammatory work environment for Indigenous faculty.

- Under the leadership the Decolonization Working Group this panel highlighted the continuing importance of acknowledging the impacts of residential schools, through faculty reflections on how this legacy informs their work and teaching practice.
- <https://beyond.ubc.ca/8-ways-to-confront-residential-school-denialism/>

# Educational & solidarity events on Israel/Palestine



**FILM SCREENING**  
**VIRTUAL Q&A WITH CO-DIRECTOR SAM EILERTSEN**

**TUESDAY, NOV. 19, 2024 5:30-8:30 PM**  
 MARILYN I. WALKER THEATRE, 15 ARTISTS' COMMON, ST. CATHARINES, ON, L2R 4H5

FREE ADMISSION

PALESTINIAN BUFFET

Register through ExperienceBU, Kinema, or at the door. For more information, contact: [israelismniagara@gmail.com](mailto:israelismniagara@gmail.com)

For Brock University members, scan QR code to register for event or visit [experiencebu.brocku.ca/event/276410](https://experiencebu.brocku.ca/event/276410)



For information on parking or to register on Kinema, scan QR code or visit [kinema.com/events/israelism-ot4jeb](https://kinema.com/events/israelism-ot4jeb)



CO-SPONSORED/ENDORSED BY:



Brock University Centre for Women's and Gender Studies; Faculty for Palestine; Indigenous Educational Studies; President's Advisory Committee for Human Rights, Equity, and Decolonization; Social Justice and Equity Studies MA Program; Social Justice Research Institute

\*Read FACHRED's statement at [brocku.ca/recorded/qaahred/](https://brocku.ca/recorded/qaahred/)

President's Advisory Committee on Human Rights, Equity, and Decolonization Presents:

## Letter to My Tribe Directed by b.h. Yael



**Monday March 10, 1-4pm**  
**Sankey Chambers, Brock University**  
 Lunch available

*Letter To My Tribe* addresses a question: Why don't more Jews and Israelis speak out about Palestine? Over many years my mother and I have had numerous arguments which form the backbone of this video essay. Interviews with journalists, activists and a rabbi are interwoven with documentation of actions in the West Bank, family histories and journeys to Iraq and to Poland.

co-hosted by:

The Centre for Women's & Gender Studies, Social Justice Research Institute, Social Justice & Equity Studies MA



# International Women's Day

- March 7, 2025
- Exploring sexism & racism in the brewing industry
- Sexual Violence Prevention Committee, WGST, PACHRED

## WHAT ALES US?

A FILM SCREENING, PANEL & DISCUSSION  
ON SEXISM & RACISM IN CANADA'S  
BREWING INDUSTRY

**FEATURING:**

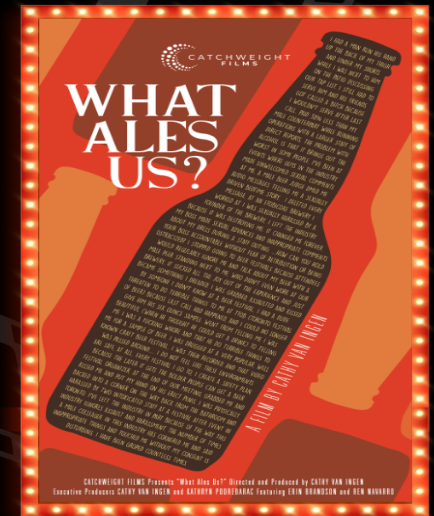
Cathy van Ingen  
*Director & Producer*

Ren Navarro  
*B Diversity Group*

Erin Brandson

**FRIDAY, MARCH 7**  
12:30 - 2 PM

**Welsh Hall - Room 204**  
*Lunch Buffet Provided!*



International Women's Day

International Women's Day Event co-sponsored by: the President's Advisory Committee on Human Rights, Equity and Decolonization (PACHRED), the Sexual Violence Prevention Committee, the Centre for Women's and Gender Studies.

**Brock**  
University

**CATCHWEIGHT**  
FILMS

# Accountability and Safer Spaces

Andrew Bassingthwaite

- An inclusive, welcoming space, guided by respect for the dignity of others and their experiences
- People feel supported and also affirmed
- People feel accepted and also valued
- Describes an academic environment where:
  - Varying opinions are accepted;
  - Members acknowledge and discuss situations that impact the emotional well-being of another;
  - There is always an option to step up in and out of challenging conversations;
  - Members respect each other and do not intentionally hurt each other.

- Brian Arao and Kristi Clemens (2013) "From Safe Spaces to Brave Spaces" in *The Art of Effective Facilitation: Reflections From Social Justice Educators*.

# Accountability and Safer Spaces

- Strive for intellectual humility. Be willing to grapple with challenging ideas.
- Differentiate between opinion (which everyone has) and informed knowledge.
- Let go of personal anecdotal evidence and look at broader group-level patterns.
- Differentiate between safety and comfort. **Accept discomfort as necessary for personal growth.**
- Notice your own defensive reactions and attempt to use these reactions as entry points for gaining deeper self-knowledge, rather than as a rationale for closing off.
- **Recognize how your own social positional**ity (e.g., race, class, gender, sexuality, ability, etc.) informs your perspectives and reactions.
- **Identify where your learning edge is and push it.**

- Challenging the Common Guidelines in Social Justice Education:

<https://democracyeducationjournal.org/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1138&context=home>

# **Strategic Directions, upcoming events for 2025-2026**

- **Critiquing the Neoliberalization of Higher Education – 10,000 staff laid off in colleges and austerity measures across universities**
- **Mobilizing solidarity/education to critique the genocide in Gaza**
- **Yosif Al-Hasnawi Memorial Lecture with Janelle Joseph: promoting racial justice in healthcare**
- **Solidarity and support for all working groups, with attention to the:**
  - **New International Student Working Group**
  - **Issue of Residential School Denialism**

# Neoliberalization of higher education (Winter 2026)



- Collaboration emerged from Employment Equity Working Group
- Event will be co-sponsored by BUFA and (we hope) all other unions on campus
- Jim Stanford is a labour economist and director of the Centre for the Future of Work
- Has spoken extensively about the importance of challenging austerity & investing in higher education as these institutions are drivers in local economies across Canada

# Mobilizing solidarity against the genocide in Gaza

## Antisemitism: Law, Justice & Decolonization in a Time of Genocide

- **Thursday, Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>, 5-7pm**
- **Sankey Chambers**
- **Hospitality: Palestinian supper**

- **Speakers:**
- **Sheryl Nestel: Author of 'The use and misuse of antisemitism statistics in Canada'**
- **Jillian Rogin: Professor in Faculty of Law, Windsor University**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> speaker TBA**
- **Co-sponsors: SJRI & WGST**

# The systemic destruction of the health system in Gaza: A conversation with Dr. Tarek Loubani



- Physician & associate professor at the Schulich Medicine at Western University
- Founder of the Glia Project, which provides low-cost medical supplies in conflict zones
- Has worked in Gaza for the past decade training medical staff
- Worked in the Nasser Hospital in Gaza this summer, returning Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Has a long history of speaking on the systemic violence enabling the genocide in Gaza
- Tentatively: Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>
- Co-sponsors: SJRI & WGST

# Introduction to Leadership Team

- **Chelsea Takalo** - Associate Vice President, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- **Brad Clarke** – Associate Vice President, Students
- **Sheila Cote-Meek** – Director, Indigenous Education Studies, Faculty of Education
- **Human Rights and Equity Office**

# Working Group Leads:

- **Anti-Ableism & Mental Health: Maureen Connolly**
- **2S&LGBTQ+ Working Group: Cath Van Ingen & Pauli Gardner**
- **Anti-Racism Committee: Janelle Joseph & Marla Portfilio**
- **Decolonization Working Group: Lyn Trudeau**
- **Employment Equity Working Group: Mary Montgomery**
- **International Student Working Group: Gökbörü Tanyildiz, Chana Pacharn, Aryan Purkayastha & Noah Xiao**
- **Sexual Violence Prevention Committee: Julie Fennell & Katie Keays and Angela Book:**
- **Visiting:** Check out working groups that might be of interest!

**Next PACHRED Meeting – we invite you to join us for:**

***Antisemitism: Law, Justice & Decolonization in a Time of Genocide***

- **Thursday, Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>, 5-7pm**
- **Sankey Chambers**
- **Hospitality: Palestinian supper**
- **Further information coming in early October**

# Rebellious Daughters in Black Immigrant Fiction in the United States with Dr. Asha Jeffers

In this talk, Dr. Asha Jeffers will discuss what the literary depictions of the rebellious daughters of Black immigrants in the United States can tell us about complex relationship between race, gender, and migration. In particular, she will explain how the social justice consciousness of African and Afro-Caribbean daughters of immigrants can be shaped by a resistance to both repressive familial and communal pressures and the racism and misogyny they encounter in mainstream society. These women are at the intersection of respectability politics and model minority positionality, offering the ideal opportunity to consider how these two concepts are more related than they may seem. Dr. Jeffers uses the word "against" as a key framework for understanding the intimacy and the distance with which the daughter of immigrants characters she explores try to navigate the oppressive forces directed towards her from either within the family or from the wider society.

## **Social Justice and Immigration:**

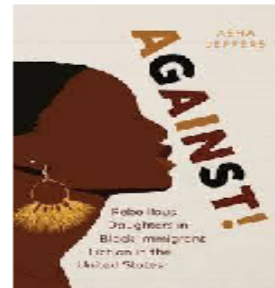
***Against! Rebellious Daughters in Black Immigrant Fiction in the United States***

**Date: Wednesday, 24 September 2025**  
**Venue: Rankin Family Pavilion (RFP) 214-215**  
**Time: 4pm-6pm**

**Free Event, All are Welcome**



## Social Justice Research Institute



# Walk with Brock to take steps towards reconciliation



- **Tuesday, September 23, at 12:00 - 1PM**
- **Residence 8**
- **Take steps towards reconciliation by joining Hadiya'dagénhahs First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Centre with the wider Brock community for the Walk with Brock on Tuesday September 23rd from 12- 1pm!**
- **Beginning outside Residence 8, following the main roads to the Niagara Regional Headquarters, and ending back outside Residence 8.**