

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

2024.25 Orientation



Land Acknowledgement



Agenda

- 11am Welcome, land acknowledgement
- 11:05 Overview of PACHRED structure & accomplishments in 2023-24
- 11: 15 Introductions/Accountability/Safer spaces
- 11: 25 Overview, Strategic Directions 2024-2025
- 11:40 Introduction of EDI Leadership team
- 12 noon BREAK

- 12: 10 Introductions of Working Group Leads
- 12:25 Visiting in Working Groups
- 12:40 Orientation to October Meeting
- 12:50 Wrap-up



Welcome to PACHRED!

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

Staff Co-Chair: Andrew Bassingthwaighte (he/him)

Student Co-Chairs: Tiffany Muhindi (she/her) and
Noah Xiao (he/him)

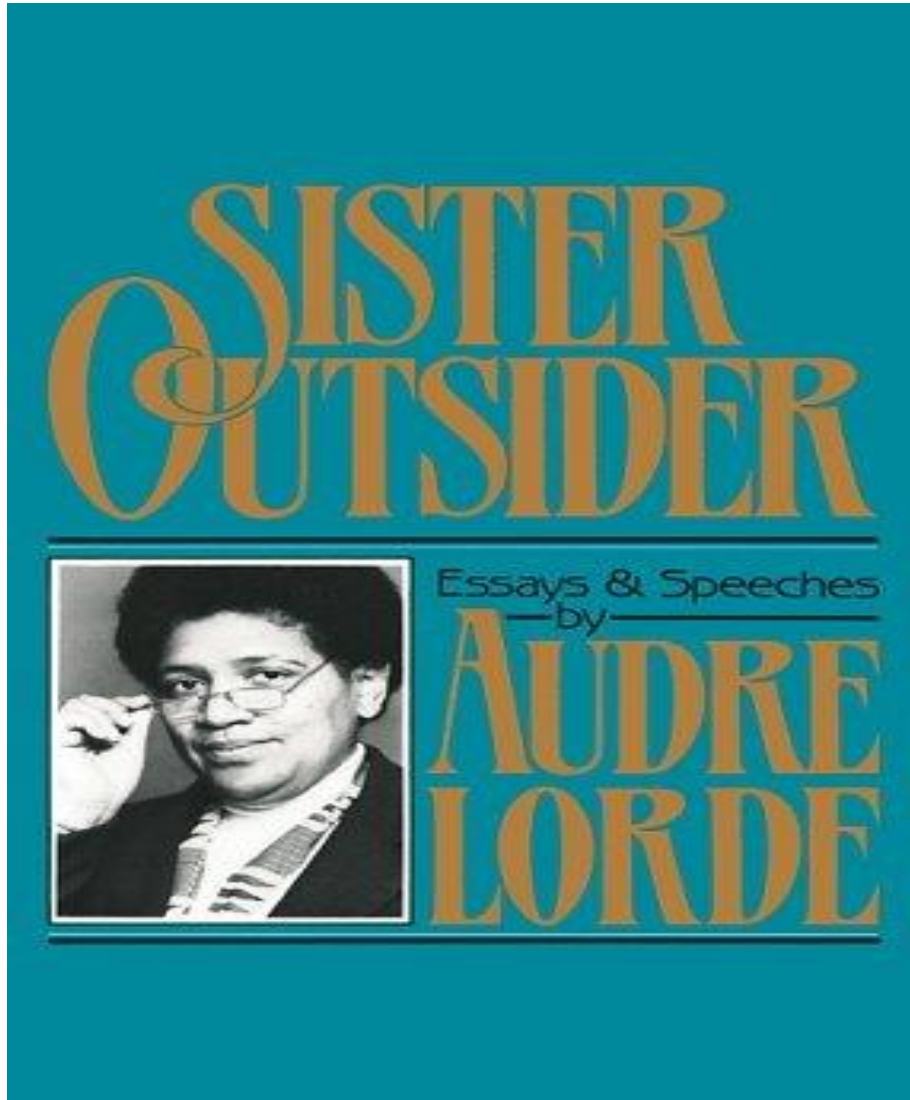
Administrative Support:

Zhane Hamilton – Human Rights and Equity Office

Recognizing Achievements in 2023-24



Guiding principal for PACHRED's work: 2023-2026



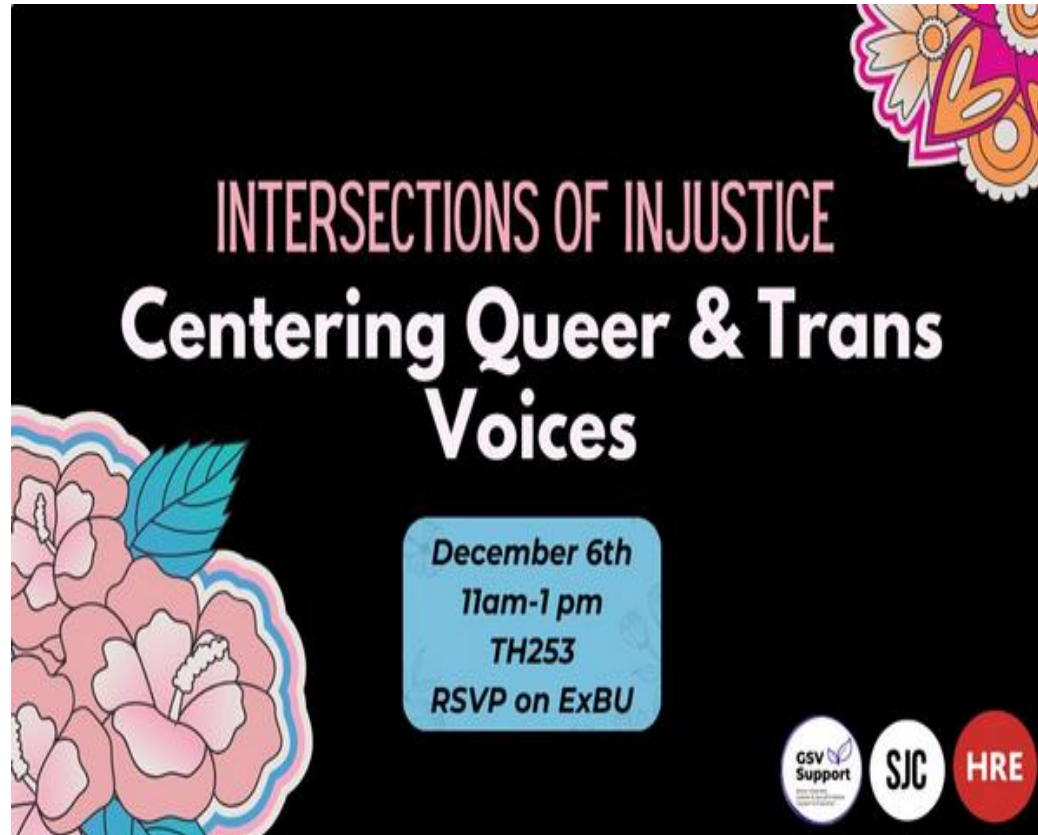
- In a talk at Harvard University for Black History Month (1982), Audre Lorde noted that:

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

- (Sister Outsider, 138).

1. Responding to misogyny & transphobia in the aftermath of the Waterloo attack and One Million March 4 Children

Rabia Choudhary – student co-chair of PACHRED 2023/4



October: Student Speak-out on the impacts of transphobia on QTBIPOC students; outcome changes in SWAC.

December: Intersections of Injustice panel with:

- d'bi young – Black scholar, playwright and dub poet
- Summeiya Khamissa – founder: Queer Muslim Network
- Meech Mfoafo-M'Carthy - Student Justice Advocate for 2S&LGBTQ+ issues
- Chance Rashid – President of Brock Pride
- Moderated by - Sherri Vansickle is from the Onondaga Nation, Six Nations of the Grand River Territory and Assistant Professor in Indigenous Educational Studies

2. Educational events on Israel/Palestine

Margot Francis

A PANEL ON PALESTINE:

Decolonization, International Law, Gender, Media and Solidarity

STARTING WITH OUR COMMITMENT TO DECOLONIZATION, THIS PANEL PRESENTS EXPERTS WORKING IN A VARIETY OF AREAS TO ANALYZE THE ROOTS OF THE CURRENT CRISIS



DR. ABIGAIL BAKAN

A Professor in the Department of Social Justice Education (SJE) at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, cross-appointed to the Department of Political Science, and an affiliate with the Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies. Her recent book, *Israel, Palestine and the Politics of Race* (co-authored with Yasmeen Abu-Laban) explores questions of race, identity and power.



PATTY KRAWEC

An Anishinaabe/Ukrainian writer and speaker belonging to Lac Seul First Nation in Treaty 3 territory, and the author of *Becoming Kin: An Indigenous Call to Unforgetting the Past and Reimagining Our Future*. She is the cohost of the *Medicine for the Resistance* podcast and in November 2021, and cofounded the Nii'kinaaganaa Foundation with journalist Nora Loreto and Blackfoot activist Terri Tailfeathers.



MICHAEL LYNK

An Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law, Western University, who has taught courses in labour, human rights, disability, and constitutional and administrative law. In March 2016, the United Nations Human Rights Council appointed him as the 7th Special Rapporteur for the human rights situation in Palestinian. He writes on international law with respect to the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory.



SHREE PARADKAR

A social and racial justice columnist for the Toronto Star, where she writes on issues of oppression, including race, gender and Israel-Palestine. The country's first internal ombud in a newsroom, she is the winner of two Amnesty Awards for Human Rights reporting and the Racial Justice in Media award by the Urban Alliance of Race Relations. She has been a journalist in Toronto, Singapore, Bangalore, and Mumbai.

NOV. 27TH | 7:30-9:30 PM | TH 325

Hosted by the President's Advisory Committee on Human Rights, Equity and Decolonization, and co-sponsored by the MA in Social Justice and Equity Studies, the PhD in Interdisciplinary Humanities, the Social Justice Research Institute, and the Centre for Women's and Gender Studies. With thanks to the Human Rights and Equity Office

WE WELCOME THE BROCK AND NIAGARA COMMUNITY. SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER ON EXPERIENCEBU







Decolonizing International Women's Day

FROM TURTLE ISLAND TO GAZA

This event brings into conversation the "political intimacies" between Indigenous & Palestinian struggles (Lowe, 2015). Through global/local perspectives, we name how settler violence is enacted and the possibilities for decolonial feminist insights to sustain new solidarities.

GUEST SPEAKERS



KATSI'TSAKWAS ELLEN GABRIEL

Artist, Human Rights & Environmental Activist



NAHLA ABDO

Chancellor's Professor, Department of Sociology, Carleton University

MODERATED BY | Samah Sabra, PhD

Alumni, Brock University & Carleton University

FRIDAY, 8TH MAR. 2024

7:30PM

GOODMAN ATRIUM

Local Voices, Local Impact

a conversational circle, will take place after the speaker's presentations

CO-SPONSORED BY

- President's Advisory Committee on Human Rights, Equity, and Decolonization (PACHRED)●
- Indigenous Educational Studies Programs ● Social Justice Research Institute ●
- Social Justice & Equity Studies, MA ● Centre for Women's & Gender Studies ●
- Niagara Palestine Coalition ● Independent Jewish Voices, Hamilton ●
- CUPE 4207 Political Action & International Solidarity Committee ●

3. Against inequitable cuts to grad student funding

Alli Rolle and Sarah Pierson

FGSPDA proposed cuts to Major Research Paper's (MRP) so domestic students no longer eligible for the Graduate Fellowship (worth \$9,000 per year); and international students who do MRP's or MRP's with Co-op would lose their fellowship funding of approximately \$7000 per term (which corresponds to their much higher tuition fees).

Most graduate programs in the FoSS, FoH, & FoE offered popular MRP options. No programs in the FAHS offer MRPs; GSB do course-based MAs, and in FMS most do a thesis. *Cut to MRP funding only impacted FOSS, FoE, and FoH, so three faculties were being asked to bear the burden of all major cuts to graduate studies.*

PACHRED joined with student activists from SJES and Political Science to protest cuts. We wrote to President Rigg; presented to the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, Senate, the Board of Trustee's etc.

Update: the FGSPDA withdrew its proposal of cuts to MRP's summer 2024

Next step: Graduate Funding Task Force being established now

Accountability and Safer Spaces

Andrew Bassingthwaighte

- 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>

Introductions – 5-7 minutes

In pairs, or groups of three or four, please introduce yourselves!

- Your name
- Your pronouns
- Your role(s) at Brock
- Your role in PACHRED or in Working Groups
- What draws you to the work of PACHRED?

Introduction to Leadership Team

- **Brad Clarke** – Associate Vice President, Students; Interim AVP EDI
- **Melissa Wilson** - Director, Human Rights and Equity
- **Sheila Cote-Meek** – Director, Indigenous Education Studies, Faculty of Education
- **Human Rights and Equity Office**

Time for a Break



Support referendum for Black Student Success Center & 2S&LGBTQIA+ Student Center & funding for QTBIPOC mental health

Alli Rolle



- Peer and community support critical to Black and 2S&LGBTQIA+ student wellbeing
- Campus climate can often feel isolating or hostile
- Critical to increase peer spaces for Black and 2S&LGBTQIA+ students to build social inclusion
- Also critical to increase the mental health and wellness supports for QTBIPOC students

Priority One:

- Collaborate with BUSU to develop educational campaign for referendum

Educational work on Israel/Palestine: contextualizing the crisis

Margot Francis



- Crisis in Israel/Palestine one of the defining issues of our time
- PACHRED mandate is to promote 'equity, human rights/decolonization'
- Collaborate @ university/community groups to promote decolonial approach to this crisis
- Collaborating Independent Jewish Voices/Jewish Faculty Network
- November 19th Israelism screening at MIW & discussion with director
- Film made by young Jewish activists about US Jews relationship to Israel

International students: challenging xenophobia and racism in public policy and discourse

Margot Francis



- For decades international students have faced systemic racism and xenophobia
- The new federal gov't reductions on international students *falsely blames them* for Canada's longstanding housing and health-care problems
- We will host an educational panel with perspectives from scholars and international students themselves
- Aim: to challenge this legacy of scapegoating and promote decolonial approaches to newcomer engagement in higher education

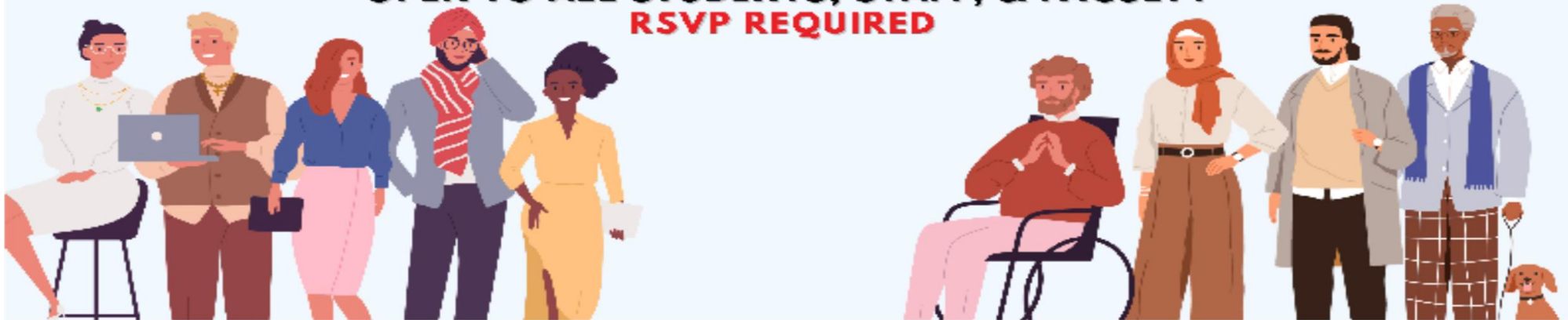
Working Group Leads:

- **Maureen Connolly: Anti-Ableism & Mental Health (Andrew)**
- **Alli Rolle and Pauli Gardner: 2S&LGBTQ+ Working Group**
- **Richard Ndayizigamiye, Marla Portfilio and Syna Thakur: Anti-Racism Committee**
- **Lyn Trudeau: Decolonization Working Group**
- **Alana Lowe: Employment Equity Working Group**
- **Katie Keays and Angela Book: Sexual Violence Prevention Committee**
- **Visiting:** Check out working groups that might be of interest!

**President's Advisory Committee for Human Rights, Equity and Decolonization
(PACHRED)**

**ANTI-RACISM COMMITTEE
WELCOME EVENT**

**OCT 3, 2024, 12-2 PM
RANKIN FAMILY PAVILION 214/215
LUNCH PROVIDED
OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS, STAFF, & FACULTY
RSVP REQUIRED**



Next PACHRED Meeting

Tuesday, October 22nd

11:00am – 1:00pm, Sankey Chamber

PACHRED consultation regarding Student Referendum

- **Alli Rolle (SJES student; PACHRED RA) on environmental scan re. QTBIPOC centers at other universities in the region**
- **Allison Drew-Hassling, Executive Director, Student Wellness & Accessibility: environmental scan on QTBIPOC counselling and health resources at universities in region**

Discussion of student outreach, marketing, events and timeline for a successful referendum

Final Thoughts – Announcements

