



KPU's Second Annual Anti-Racism Symposium: Programme

Hosted by the Office of Equity and Inclusive Communities (OEIC)

Registration is required; Please ensure you have [registered](#).

March 21, 2024

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Conference Centre, KPU Surrey Cedar Building

Doors open at 8:30 – light breakfast served at 9:00.

MC: Andhra Goundrey, Dean, Wilson School of Design

9:30 Blessings: Elder-in-Residence: Lekeyten

9:35 Welcome and Opening Remarks, President Alan Davis

9:40 Welcome and Opening Remarks: VP EIC Dr. Asma Sayed

9:45 Introduce PS Elmore – Randall Heidt, VP External

9:47 Remarks by the Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism, Mable Elmore

10:00 Introduce MLA Hon. Raj Chouhan – Randall Heidt, VP External

10:02 Remarks by MLA Hon. Raj Chouhan

10:15. Health Break

10:25 Introduce the keynote speaker: Dr. Asma Sayed

10:30 Keynote – Dr. Jasmin Zine - followed by Q&A

12:00 Networking and lunch

Afternoon: Academic Panel: Presentations by KPU students and employees

1:00 Introduce the panelists, Dr. Diane Purvey, Provost and VP Academic

1:05 Presentations panel - Part 1

1:50 Health break

2:00 Presentations panel - Part 2 and Q&A

3:00 Adjournment – networking until 4:00 p.m.

Keynote Address

Under Siege: Islamophobia and the 9/11 Generation

By Dr. Jasmin Zine

The 9/11 attacks in the United States and the subsequent global “war on terror” along with domestic security policies in western nations has impacted the lives of young Muslims whose identities and experiences have been shaped within and against these conditions. The generation of Muslim youth who have come of age during these turbulent times have a unique legacy because they have not known a world before the aftermath and backlash surrounding these events. Millennial Muslim youth have been cast as potential “radicals” and “jihadists” who pose a threat to national security and western democratic societies. Dr. Jasmin Zine will discuss her book *Under Siege: Islamophobia and the 9/11 Generation* (McGill-Queens University Press, 2022) that explores the experiences of the ‘9/11 generation’ of Canadian Muslim youth as they navigate these fraught times of heightened Islamophobia and anti-Muslim racism.

Dr. Jasmin Zine is a Professor of Sociology and Religion & Culture at Wilfrid Laurier University. Her recent book *Under Siege: Islamophobia and the 9/11 Generation* was named on the Hill Times List of 100 Best Books in Canada in 2022.

Presentations - Part 1

Chair: Trina Prince, Manager, Culture and Well-being, OEIC

Honouring Indigenous Healing Principles and Practices within Counselling Services

By Natasha Pellatt and Dr. Lynda Beveridge

Counselling Services, in collaboration with Indigenous Services, is embracing Indigenous healing principles and evolving the department’s support to Indigenous and marginalized students in new and purposeful ways. Starting in Sept 2023, KPU’s first Indigenous Counsellor, Natasha Pellatt, joined KPU bringing a depth of experience and cultural knowledge to the service of Indigenous students at KPU. We will share the journey of transforming practice during these first six months of offering this vital service. As well, we will share some thoughts about how we can continue to grow and evolve our service.

Natasha Pellatt is in the role of Indigenous Counsellor with the Counselling Services. Natasha has 11 years of experience working in the K – 12 system, specifically within the alternate education system. She was acting Head Teacher for the last 7 years of her tenure, where she developed outdoor educational programs, outdoor learning spaces, community partnerships, and developing Indigenous approaches to learning and healing. Additionally, Natasha runs a private practice and contracts with First Nations’ Health Authority and the Worksafe Crisis Team.

Dr. Lynda Beveridge is the Director of Counselling and Accessibility Services at KPU. She has over 24 years of service in post-secondary institutions in faculty and leadership roles in both Canada and the UK where she has made it a personal mission to advocate for inclusivity and social justice. Lynda is a Registered Clinical Counsellor and teaches counselling theory and practice part-time for a Master of Counselling program in BC.

My Journey of Self-Discovery: The Importance of Community for Black Wellbeing By Eliana McFarlane

In a culture that appropriates, and harmfully portrays Blackness, this presentation aims to identify the needs for and benefits of safely curated and maintained spaces for the Black community – by the Black community – by drawing upon literary sources and personal experiences with the African Friendship Society.

Eliana McFarlane is a Sociology student in her final year of study at Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU). She has had the opportunity to engage in critical work as a Research Assistant across the Anthropology, Educational Studies, and Sociology departments at KPU. Eliana is a passionate member of the Black Community in the Lower Mainland and strives to spread awareness and educate allies of the intersectional and interconnected importance of contextual history and culture via her academic endeavors. When Eliana is not at on campus, she is an active member of the Black Dance Community in Vancouver (Ketch Di Vybz, Vancouver Soca Experience, & African Friendship Society); curating spaces to encourage joy, respect and emancipation through the art of movement.

Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: Moving Students Beyond Compliance by Dr. Leland Harper

This presentation will focus on an interdisciplinary, humanities-based, Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion certificate established with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The certificate provides degree-seeking post-secondary students with a deeper understanding of, among other things, antiracism, and equips them with tools so they can create a society where justice is more equally enjoyed by all.

Dr. Leland Harper is a Canadian philosopher working on topics in philosophy of race. He teaches in the Philosophy department at KPU. He is most interested in exploring the terms we use to describe race-based situations and their implications on broader societal structures.

Presentations - Part 2

Decolonizing Work: KPU History and the Process of Decolonization By Dr. Maddie Knickerbocker and Kari North

This presentation will discuss work that the History Department has been doing since 2020 to decolonize our processes and practices. We hope that our talk will appeal to people, both at KPU and in the broader community, who are taking on—or considering taking on—similar processes. One of the goals of the presentation is to start a dialogue about specific, grounded practices towards decolonization, especially in light of the recent publication of xé?ell KPU Pathway to Systemic Transformation.

Dr. Maddie Knickerbocker is a white settler scholar with ancestry from the British Isles, Germany, and the Netherlands. She is part of the fourth generation of her family to live on the unceded and untreated lands of Xwelmeḡw Peoples in southwestern BC. Her research and teaching at KPU focus on Indigenous-settler relations, decolonization, and gender and sexuality.

Kari North has been a member of the History Department at Kwantlen for the past three years. Her research focuses on the diplomatic history of the medieval Mediterranean. In particular, she is interested in the movement of people, goods, and ideas. She teaches a mix of European and global history courses and she loves to use original documents in her classes whenever possible.

Casting for Change: Embracing Diversity in North American Films By Joanna Kim Le

Films have a unique way of allowing audience members to leave feeling happy, sad, angry, scared, shocked, and sometimes disgusted. Actors who portray themselves as the protagonist, antagonist, or a minor character can impact how we can connect with them, how we view them, and can also leave us feeling detached. However, how does having a racially diverse cast impact North America's Film Industry and does it matter? Using the literature review method, I will provide data on the current state of diversity in the film industry and the impact of racially diverse casting on representation in film. Emphasizing a racially diverse cast is essential not only for representation but also for presenting a more authentic reflection of our society as well as facilitate a connection between audience members and characters from various backgrounds.

Joanna Kim Le is in her final semester pursuing Sociology Major & Counselling Minor at KPU. She is planning to pursue a master's in social work. Her passions include advocating for reproductive rights and justice, as well as indulging in films and the great outdoors.

Question and Answers with the panelists