

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL

SUMMER INSTITUTE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT



The Early Years:
In, about, and for the
Environment

Monday, May 30, 2022

to

Thursday, June 2, 2022

ONLINE EVENT





ABOUT THE
**18th ANNUAL
SUMMER
INSTITUTE**

Climate change continues to impact young children around the world both in terms of their access to the outdoors, as well as their social and emotional well-being. It is vital that environmental sustainability is embedded in every aspect of the early years - from the environments children learn in, to the education young children receive about the importance of climate action and sustainability.

Join us online as experts in climate action, land-based learning, urban planning for sustainability, and incorporating environmental sustainability in the early years share their expertise and knowledge.

about

welcome

ADDRESS



JENNIFER JENKINS, PH.D. C. PSYCH

Professor

Director, Atkinson Centre for Society and Child Development
Ontario Institute for Studies in Education University of Toronto

opening

REMARKS

Dr. Fearon is the President of George Brown College. He previously served as the President and Vice-Chancellor at Brock University and at Brandon University. He has also held numerous progressive roles in post-secondary education, including Vice-President, Academic, at Brandon University; Dean of the G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education at Ryerson University; Associate Dean at York University's Atkinson Faculty of Liberal and Professional Studies; Visiting Scholar at the University of Washington; and as an Associate Professor at York University.

His career also includes serving as the Executive Assistant to the Deputy Minister at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and a Senior Analyst at the Treasury Board, Ontario Ministry of Finance. He has also served on numerous community boards, including Ontario Trillium Foundation, Brandon Urban Aboriginal Peoples' Council, United Way Niagara, Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce, and the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto. He was also Co-Chair of the Niagara Region's Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Committee, Chair of the Budget and Audit Committee of Council of Ontario Universities, and President of Tropicana Community Services.

Gervan was a co-founder of the Canada Caribbean Institute, along with Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice-Chancellor, The University of the West Indies. Gervan is a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal (2013), The Michaëlle Jean Foundation Influencer Award (2017), The University of the West Indies Vice-Chancellor's Award (2020) and several other awards of recognition.

He holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Western Ontario and received his master's and bachelor's of science degrees in agricultural economics from the University of Guelph. He holds a Chartered Professional Accountant designation (CPA, CGA) and Institute of Corporate Directors designation (ICD.D).



DR. GERVAN FEARON, PHD

President
George Brown College
Toronto Canada



DAY one

MAY 30
10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**MODERATOR:
GAIL HUNTER**

Professor and Program Coordinator
Early Childhood Leadership Degree Program
School of Early Childhood
George Brown College

ADVOCATING: IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE EARLY YEARS

Day one of the institute focuses on climate change advocacy and activism within the early years from varying perspectives and approaches. Join us as our expert panel discuss the importance of incorporating sustainability into the early years.



WILLIAM GAGNON, BENG., LEED AP BD+C, LEED AP ND.

Cornell Fellow

William lives on Chief Drygeese Territory (Yellowknife, NT) where he witnesses the climate emergency on a daily basis: thawing permafrost, higher precipitations leading to buildings collapse, thinner ice shelf, erratic fish population, and more. A building engineer (Concordia University '17), advocate and campaigner for climate (Cornell, '19), he specializes in green buildings and decarbonization of the building sector (Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, '18). He likes working at the intersection of design, engineering, climate advocacy, sustainability and research.

William's research interests currently lie in climate mitigation, biochar, pyrogenic carbon capture and storage, hydrogen energy storage, green buildings, renewable energy production, decarbonization, decolonization and energy storage solutions for northern locations.

Action feels better than anxiety; William spends most of his time working or volunteering around climate.



CHÚK ODENIGBO

Founding Director and Director of Ancestral Services, Future Ancestors Services

Proudly Franco-Albertan, Chúk is passionate about the ways in which the environment impacts human health and the role of justice in our understanding of how our societies function. As a result of this passion, Chúk is very active in changemaking spaces in both Canada and at an international scale. His educational background centres the domains of environment science, chemistry, public health and medical geography. In his work as one of the founding directors of Future Ancestors Services, he focuses on environmental and climate justice, and outside of this work, he is involved in several boards, committees, conferences and movements to reimagine and recreate societal structures and systems for the well-being of all of our kin. Human and non-human.



CHLOE DRAGON SMITH

Beb(a)ski - for the Land consulting and services

Chloe Dragon Smith is a young woman born and raised in Somba K'é (Yellowknife), Denendeh (NWT). Of German, Dēnesųliné, Métis, and French heritage, she grew up close to her Indigenous cultural values and learned traditional skills for living on the land. Her mother is Brenda Dragon, and her father is Leonard Smith, and her grandmother is Jane Dragon. The women and men of her maternal lineage lived, harvested, ate, shared, struggled, loved, and died on the Land in the boreal forests of northern Canada.

Chloe cares about revitalizing Indigenous systems – self-determined systems of living, learning, management, economies, and governance. As a mixed blood person, she feels a constant responsibility to bridge barriers and help create balance however she can. She is the co-founder of an outdoor learning initiative called Bushkids, located in Yellowknife. She now lives on the Land full-time with her partner in Wood Buffalo National Park, where they are full-time harvesters and co-owners of a small business: Beb(a)ski - for the Land consulting and services.



DAY two

May 31
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

MODERATOR:
DR. EMIS AKBARI, PH.D.

Professor and Program Coordinators
School of Early Childhood
George Brown College

Adjunct Professor
Department of Applied Psychology and Human
Development

Senior Policy Fellow
Atkinson Centre for Society and Child Development
Ontario Institute for Studies in Education
University of Toronto

RESEARCH: IN, ABOUT, AND FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

What does the research say? Day two of the institute highlights key areas of research: the impact of climate change on children and how to incorporate climate change and land-based knowledge into early years programs.



DR. AMIRA AKER, PH.D.

Postdoctoral Fellow
Université Laval
Centre de recherche du CHU de
Québec

Dr. Aker is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Université Laval and the Centre de recherche du CHU de Québec. She is an environmental epidemiologist and her research centers around protecting systematically and structurally excluded populations from contaminants of emerging concern, with a particular interest in Arctic communities. She is currently studying the exposure sources of perfluoroalkyl substances and their health effects on cardiometabolic outcomes and immunological function in Inuit communities in Nunavik. Dr. Aker received her PhD in Environmental Health Sciences from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Toronto Scarborough focused on chronic disease.



LOUISE ZIMANYI (SHE/HER)

Professor of Early Childhood Education, Inclusive & Responsive Education -
Child & Adult, Faculty of Health Sciences and Wellness
Humber College

As a settler in Tkaronto and through her work and research on land-based play, Louise is walking together with Indigenous communities as part of a co-learning journey that engages the early childhood field in more political, ethical and decolonized learning and transformative pedagogy and practice.

LYNN SHORT (SHE/HER)

Environmental Stewardship Coordinator. Humber College

Of mixed Ojibwe, Irish and English heritage, Lynn completed her Indigenous Knowledge Certificate under Onaubinosay (Elder Jim Dumont) and continued to work with him, co-teaching for 4 years. In her current role as the Environmental Stewardship Coordinator for the Humber Arboretum and the Indigenous Curriculum Specialist for Land and Culture Based Programs at Humber College, Lynn maintains strong connections to the Land. Louise Zimanyi and Lynn Short are co-leads on a Two-Eyed Seeing Approach to Land-Based Play and Co-Learning in Early Learning and Child Care Systems at Humber College. Supported by the Lawson Foundation's Outdoor Play Strategy the works is looking to enact systemic change by using the guiding principles of Etuaptmumk (Two-Eyed Seeing in the Mi'maq language) to support land-based play and co-learning through Indigenous and non-Indigenous ways of being, knowing, relating and doing. The research team includes ECE faculty members, Bora Kim and Lyndsay Macdonald supported by Maamaawisiwin Education Research Centre. We are currently exploring how the new Two-Eyed Land-Based Play and Co-Learning course: 1) engages the spiritual, emotional, intellectual, and physical realities of learners and faculty in post-secondary education and; 2) helps learners action their personal and collective responsibilities to all beings and related to seven generations of sustainability.



JULIA L. GINSBURG

PhD Candidate, Individualized Program
Applied Human Sciences, Concordia
University

Julia L. Ginsburg is doctoral candidate in the Individualized Program at Concordia University in Montreal, Quebec, supervised by Dr. Natasha Blanchet-Cohen in Applied Human Sciences. Julia received her Master of Arts in Teaching from Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts during her co-teaching fellowship in early childhood and elementary education. Her research examines early childhood pedagogy and whether teachers include sustainability within their nature-based curricula, including issues of race and class in nature-based preschool programs. Julia is currently working on her doctoral dissertation study on how youth involved the climate movement perceive of their experiences within the collectives in which they advocate for intersectional justice. She is also interested in how children conceptualize their relationship with the more-than-human world as well as how to help children develop eco-resilient ecocultural identities within settings that reinforce anthropocentrism. In her free time, Julia loves hiking, baking, and walking her dogs.



DAY three

June 1
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

MODERATOR:
DR. SHAWNEE HARDWARE, PH.D.

Professor
School of Early Childhood
George Brown College
Antiracism Consultant
Shawnee Hardware Consultancy Inc.

LESSONS TO LEARN: FROM THE ENVIRONMENT INTO THE EARLY YEARS

On day three, our expert panelists will discuss lessons from the environment into the early years. What can we learn from the land and how can we incorporate these lessons into the early years?



DR. MONICA MCGLYNN-STEWART, PHD, OCT, RECE

Professor
School of Early Childhood
George Brown College

Monica McGlynn-Stewart is a professor in the School of Early Childhood at George Brown College, Toronto, Ontario. She teaches courses in curriculum, education policy, and research methods. She is a former elementary teacher, principal, and consultant. She was the Principal Investigator on the SSHRC funded research project, Toys or Tools? Using Tablet Applications for Open-Ended Literacy Learning (2015-2019), and the Helderliegh Foundation funded research project, A Sensory Approach to Food Literacy (2019-2020), and is currently the Principal Investigator on the SSHRC funded research project, Designing and implementing environmental inquiry strategies in urban early years programs in Canada (2020-2023).



CLAIRE STEVENSON-BLYTHE, MSCPI, RPP

Urban Planner
Toronto, Canada

Claire is a Registered Professional Planner at Fotenn Planning + Design in Toronto who brings curiosity and empathy to complex urban issues. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Environment and Urban Sustainability from Ryerson University and a Masters of Science in Planning from the University of Toronto. She has worked on a range of public, private and non-profit projects in the GTA, including age-friendly neighbourhood built-form audits, policy development, and affordable and zero net energy housing developments. Claire is increasingly interested in the intersection of climate change and urban planning, specifically how public policy can inform and implement environmental change. She conducts research in partnership with the University of Toronto and University of British Columbia in the governance and legal frameworks of public spaces in Toronto and Vancouver.



KEITH MCCRADY

Executive Director
2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations

Keith McCrady is an Ojibway and Cree from the Bear Clan who has worked with Indigenous families for over thirty years. Born in Thunder Bay and raised traditionally by both parents in Blinjitwaabik Zaaging Aaishinaabek (formerly Rocky Bay First Nation), Keith says that becoming a leader in his community was an integral part of his journey. As the Executive Director of the 2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations, Keith's goal is to walk alongside the 2-Spirited, Indigenous 2SLGBTQ+ community and provide them with the education and support to reclaim our place in the Circle.



**JENNIFER GALLO-FOX, MSED,
PH.D.**

Associate Professor
Department of Human Development and Family
Sciences in the Early Childhood Education Program
University of Delaware

Dr. Gallo-Fox specializes in early childhood curriculum and instruction, science education, and teacher learning, and the role of lab schools in educator development. She works closely with the Lab School at the University of Delaware on research collaborations, to support the early educator learning and science education, and actively supported the program throughout the COVID-19 pandemic



**DORIT RADNAI-GRIFFIN, MS,
PH.D.**

Director of the University of Delaware Lab School

Dr. Radnai-Griffin is responsible for leadership in program development and maintaining high-quality programming for children, families, and UD students in clinical experiences. She ensures that the day-to-day operations at the Lab School demonstrate current best practices in curriculum and teaching. She provides leadership and oversight of research activities and supervision and evaluation of the staff. Dorit also oversees enrollment and financial operations.



KATIE POLLOCK, MS

Master Teacher of the Nature Preschool
University of Delaware Lab School

Katie has been at the Lab School for the past 17 years. Katie completed the Delaware Nature Society Naturalist Training and is a certified naturalist. Creek explorations, woods, walks, and trail adventures became a bigger part of her curriculum. Katie loves watching the children soak up the peace, energy, and wonder that comes from being outside. She earned an MS in Literacy from Wilmington University and a BS in Early Childhood Education from the University of Delaware. Katie is also an undergraduate instructor and clinical educator at the University of Delaware.

DAY **four**

June 2
10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**OPENING REMARKS:
ISABELLE VINET, M.SC.**

Executive Director, Centre of Excellence for Early
Childhood Development/Centre de Psycho-
Éducation du Québec

**MODERATOR:
BERNICE CIPPARRONE-MCLEOD,
RECE**

Professor
School of Early Childhood
George Brown College



BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS AND CAPACITIES FOR CHANGE

The final day of the institute focuses on building partnerships and capacities for change. Our expert panel will discuss the importance of building bridges and networks in the fight against climate change and how these can be incorporated into all aspects of the early years, from urban planning to the spaces children play in.

special

GUEST

Lisa Wolff is Director, Policy and Research at UNICEF Canada, with a mission to advance the rights of Canada's children to develop to their fullest potential, consistent with international human rights standards. Collaborating with government, institutions, civil society, researchers and private sector partners, Lisa works across issues and sectors to advocate for and with children and youth. Lisa received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal from the Governor-General of Canada in 2012.



LISA WOLFF

Director, Policy and Research at UNICEF Canada



NAYSÁN SAHBA, MA

Manager, Engagement and Partnerships
World Bank Group

Naysán serves as Manager, Engagement and Partnerships, at the World Bank Group. Before joining the Bank in Washington, DC, in January 2020, he was the UN Environment Programme's global Communication Director for six years, based in Kenya. Prior to that, he held various roles with UNICEF and WHO, beginning as a consultant and communication officer with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in the Horn of Africa and India, then working on communication for development programmes at the state and national levels for UNICEF India, and finally as Chief of Communication, Advocacy, Participation, and Partnerships at UNICEF Mozambique. He began his career in Toronto setting up and running Bishárât Media Development Associates, a development communication non-profit that worked with indigenous community radio stations in Latin America and produced content about innovative approaches to sustainable development. Naysán holds a BA in English Literature from UBC and an MA in International Development and English Studies from the University of Guelph.



IAN MOSTERT, BSCECON, MA

Project leader
Child and Nature at IVN, Education

Ian Mostert is project leader of Child and Nature at IVN Nature, Education. Connections are made between children and nature where they learn about nature, their own physical possibilities, cooperation, and imagination. His involvement in the support of child development has made Ian active in many initiatives allowing children to play, learn, exercise, meet, and relax outdoors.

He was involved in the development of many natural school playgrounds in Rotterdam. In 2014 Ian developed the current concept of green-blue schoolyards in Rotterdam, which evolves every year and is strengthened and expanded with an entire program team and experts within the network. As a youth health worker, Ian discovered the importance of space as an essential part for both children and parents to grow up in more urbanized cities. Both physical and mental space is needed to develop more freely and to enable a sustainable future.

In the green-blue schoolyards, children and the neighborhood find themselves in an environment that is beneficial for climate and biodiversity. In this way the participants can explore their environment more consciously and develop positive attitudes and behaviors towards climate and biodiversity.



DR. DEBBY WILSON DANARD **PHD, MED, BED**

Traditional Knowledge Practitioner & Life Promotion
Ambassador

Postdoctoral Fellow Dalla Lana School of Public
Health University of Toronto

Union Star Consulting Life Teachings Lodge

Dr. Debby Wilson Danard is Anishinaabekwe traditional knowledge practitioner, visual and performance artist, lecturer, writer, water protector, life promotion ambassador and sturgeon clan member from Rainy River First Nation. Growing up, she was raised with her grandmother's love and commitment to sharing traditional Anishinaabek teachings and way of life.

She has actively advanced traditional knowledge, Indigenous research and land as pedagogy, sovereignty and autonomy working with many urban (Friendship Centres, MNO, COO, BANAC) and on-reserve (Zhingwaako Za-iganing, Mnjinkaning, Mkwá Mnissing) communities and organizations, and several post-secondary

institutions. The focus of her community work is often youth specific for strengthening knowledge and understanding water, land and life teachings.

Debby is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at Dalla Lana School of Public Health with Dr. Angela-Mashford Pringle supporting the New Respect Cultural Safety Training. In 2019-2021 she was awarded a University of Toronto Provost Postdoctoral Fellows for Black and Indigenous Scholars to expand the work of her original doctoral research, "Medicine Wheel Surviving Suicide-Strengthening Life Bundle" (2016) that focuses on traditional knowledge as a way tried and true (evidence informed practice) to mobilize life promotion community bundles.

While working as a Suicide Prevention Coach at the Ontario Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health, she co-founded the Simcoe Muskoka District Feather Carriers: Leadership for Life Promotion (2015) an aspiring national wise (suicide prevention) practice. Debby has authored several reports on good governance, life promotion and water teachings for Temagami First Nation, Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres, Chiefs of Ontario, and the Barrie Area Native Advisory Circle.

As a leader for change, Debby strengthens life from the heart of Indigenous identity, sovereignty and autonomy as an evolving, creative, and living continuum of knowing and being.



Presented by

FAY LIM-LAMBIE

Dean, Centre for Health Sciences and Centre for Community Services and Early Childhood,
George Brown College, Toronto

Fay has extensive experience in the hospital, government and social services sectors, as well as demonstrated leadership in post-secondary education. The former Dean of Health, Wellness and Sciences at Georgian College, Fay has held practice and education leadership oversight of health disciplines in nursing, oral health, social work, therapeutic recreation, occupational therapy and assistants, physiotherapy and assistants, paramedics, personal support workers, pharmacy and pharmacy technicians.

A leader in interprofessional and interdisciplinary collaboration, Fay was formerly Executive Director of Health Disciplines Professional Practice & Education, Ambulatory Care Clinics Clinical Support Services at Baycrest Health Sciences and the past Treasurer of the Ontario Association of Social Workers.

Award of Excellence

acknowledgements

PLEASE JOIN US IN RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JULIE COMAY, DOUG ANDERSON, AND LORRAINE CHIAROTTO; AUTHORS OF *NATURAL CURIOSITY*



JULIE COMAY
Co-Author of *Natural Curiosity* 2nd Edition

Julie Comay was a classroom teacher at the Lab School and in Toronto public schools for over 20 years and currently works with graduate education

students at the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute for Child Study. In 2009, she received a PhD from OISE/UT for research focused on the growth of narrative skill and social understanding in young children. As a researcher and practitioner with a strong interest in children's play, Julie has collaborated with teachers, academic researchers, and community members to design and implement engaging literacy and math programs in Ontario elementary schools. The opportunity to work in First Nation communities in northwest Ontario with the Robertson Program for Inquiry-Based Teaching in Mathematics and Science kindled her interest in Indigenous education. She was honoured to participate in writing this new edition of *Natural Curiosity*.



DOUG ANDERSON
Author of the *Indigenous Lens* on *Natural Curiosity*

Doug (Métis) is the Creative and Strategic Director at Invert Media. He has consulted extensively on education and program

development for Aboriginal communities across Canada for over 20 years. Since 2001, he has devoted much of his energy to research and writing on Indigenous histories and cultures, and translating them to contemporary education systems and media. He enjoys the challenge of designing and building new platforms for representing Indigenous knowledge, and is committed to preserving these forms of knowledge and presenting them as models for thinking and problem solving in the 21st century. Mr. Anderson worked at both the government and community levels for many years in the development and evaluation of learning programs, and has many years of front line experience in building learning and training opportunities for community members of all ages and levels of learning.



LORRAINE CHIAROTTO
Author of *Natural Curiosity*

Lorraine Chiarotto is a guest on Turtle Island and author of *Natural Curiosity* (first edition, 2011). She is grateful to everyone who has participated in

the growth and dissemination of *Natural Curiosity* for over a decade now. She accepts the Atkinson Centre's award with humility and gratitude to all contributors of *Natural Curiosity's* second edition for doing the deeply important work of enriching the original with Indigenous ways of knowing.

closing

REMARKS

PATRICIA CHORNEY RUBIN

Director

School of Early Childhood George Brown College



general

INQUIRIES

For further information about this event, please contact:

George Brown College, School of Early Childhood

T: 416.415.5000 ext.2310

Email: jsantino@georgebrown.ca

Summer Institute 2022 Information:

https://www.oise.utoronto.ca/atkinson/Events/2022_Events/Summer_Institute_2022/index.html

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ONLINE ZOOM EVENT

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

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CITY: _____ PROVINCE: _____

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Full Conference: \$35

The HST Registration Number is 108082868RTR0001. Advance payment is required to register. **Space is limited.**

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