OCAD U 2022 Academic Year Welcome | Keynote Panel

DECOLONIZING AND ANTI-RACIST PRACTICE THROUGH LINGUISTIC JUSTICE

Wednesday, August 31, 2022

11:00am – 12:30pm EDT

Online via Zoom

PANELISTS:

- **Shirley Williams**
  Professor Emeritus, Trent University

- **Sheila Batacharya**
  Assistant Professor, University of Toronto Mississauga

- **Shahriar Mirshahidi**
  English Language Learning Specialist, OCAD University

Panel Moderator: Emilie Brancato
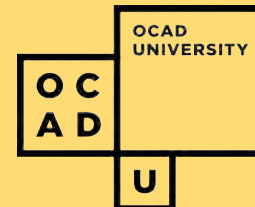Manager, English Language Learning, Writing & Learning Centre, OCAD U

ASL interpretation will be provided by Canadian Hearing Services.

Shirley Williams

Sheila Batacharya

Shahriar Mirshahidi

OCAD UNIVERSITY

DECOLONIZING AND ANTI-RACIST PRACTICE THROUGH LINGUISTIC JUSTICE

DESCRIPTION

Join us as we explore how our commitments to decolonize education necessitate **linguistic justice** and the implications this has for OCAD U as an institution and for all members of the community.

A panel of three diverse Ontario-based teachers and language scholars will share their stories, explore strategies for incorporating linguistic justice into the process of decolonizing education and invite us to take up these ideas in the new academic year.
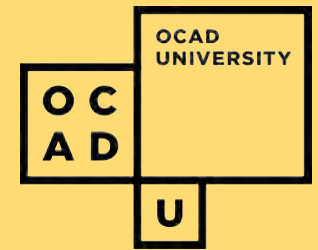
Shirley Williams

Trent University

Shirley Williams is a highly celebrated and cherished Elder who is deeply passionate about Indigenous knowledge and language revitalization. She is a member of the Bird Clan and is of the Ojibway and Odawa First Nations of Canada. Her Anishinaabe name is Migizi ow Kwe, meaning Eagle Woman. She was born and raised at Wikwemikong, Manitoulin Island and attended St. Joseph's Residential School in Spanish, Ontario as a child. She received her BA in Native Studies at Trent University and her Native Language Instructors Program diploma from Lakehead University in Thunder Bay. In addition, Shirley received her Master's Degree from York University in Environmental Studies. In June of 2004, Shirley retired from the Indigenous Studies Department at Trent and now holds the title, Professor Emeritus.
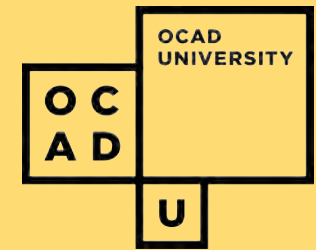
Sheila Batacharya

University of Toronto Mississauga

Sheila has been teaching university and college courses since 2007, and this experience inspired her to specialize in English language learning and teaching. Sheila became a certified member of TESL Ontario in 2018 and completed a Master of Arts degree in Applied Linguistics at York University in 2020. She holds a Ph.D. in Adult Education and Community Development from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), University of Toronto. Sheila is currently a full-time Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream at the Institute for the Study of University Pedagogy (ISUP), University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM). Recently, she co-chaired the ISUP Colloquium 2022: Race, Linguistic Justice, and Critical Approaches to Communicative Competence.
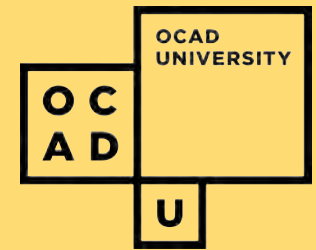
Shahriar Mirshahidi

OCAD University

As an applied linguist and language educator, Shahriar's research and pedagogy focus on translingual approaches to meaning-making and transcultural dispositions. He strives for decolonizing language education through pushing against regimes of normativity which have dominated our conceptualization of academic communication. At OCAD University, Shahriar works with the English for Art & Design (EAD) Program where he and his colleagues support multilingual students to engage critically with their creative practice. Prior to joining OCAD U, he served as Postdoctoral Research Scholar at the Pennsylvania State University. He holds a doctoral degree from Oklahoma State University in Applied Linguistics.