NeXus 2026 Interdisciplinary Conference

Imagination in Action for Our Shared Future

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Presenter Biographies

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Dr. Ali Abidi is an experienced educator, instructional designer, and training consultant with expertise in curriculum development, adult learning, and project management. Currently, he is serving as a full-time faculty member. Dr. Abidi delivers engaging, innovative courses to undergraduate students, emphasizing authentic learning, student engagement, and the application of course content in real-world contexts. With a strong background in learning technologies and e-learning development, Dr. Abidi has created and facilitated a range of learning experiences across multiple modalities, including in-person, hybrid, and online formats. His experience in working with learning management systems (e.g., Canvas, D2L, Moodle) and e-learning authoring tools enables him to create dynamic, accessible instructional materials and training programs. In addition to teaching, Dr. Abidi has worked on numerous SSHRC and Teaching and Learning funded projects, where he collaborated with multidisciplinary teams to design and implement effective educational conferences, workshops and interventions. His expertise also extends to organizational change management, where he contributes to process improvements by developing and delivering tailored training solutions. Passionate about enhancing student learning and supporting professional development, Dr. Abidi brings a learner-centered approach to his work, ensuring that educational initiatives align with broader institutional goals and drive sustained success.

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Miss Adedoyin Ikeoluwa Adeagbo is a postgraduate student in the Department of Architecture at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Established in 1948, the University of Ibadan is Nigeria's oldest degree-awarding university and a leading institution of higher learning and research. Miss Adeagbo is pursuing advanced studies in architecture within an academic environment that emphasizes critical thinking, scholarly inquiry, and intellectual development.

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Jason Andrews is a post-secondary educator, instructional designer, and applied researcher, specializing in TESOL leadership, culturally responsive pedagogy, and equity-based curriculum development. He has worked as an English for Specific Purposes (ESP)

instructor at Bow Valley College, developing and teaching courses to enhance newcomers' language and workplace integration skills. He has collaborated on a national microcredential project with Colleges and Institutes Canada; supported faculty development initiatives through committee roles and conference presentations; and actively endeavored to integrate Universal Design for Learning (UDL) into postsecondary education, presenting on UDL as well as engaging in professional communities of practice. Jason has a Master of Education, focusing on authentic leadership theory applied to EAL leadership and is currently pursuing his Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership at the University of British Columbia. He has presented at the Alberta Colleges and Institutes Faculties Association (ACIFA) Conference, Portage College, ATESL, and a BCTEAL Leadership Series.

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Dr. Sneha Sushil Arora holds a Doctor of Business Administration and a Master of Business Administration in Project Management from City University of Seattle, where she was recognized as a Dean's List honouree. Her professional experience spans software engineering, project management, business development, and educational technology. She has served as a Senior Software Test Engineer at Tech Mahindra, a Project Manager at Dynamic Technologies, and a Scrum Master across multiple organizations. As a Graduate Assistant and Project Manager at City University of Seattle, she contributed to the design and development of learning management systems supporting academic curriculum delivery. A BNY Mellon Fellow, Dr. Arora also brings experience in fundraising and nonprofit organizational management. Her interdisciplinary expertise reflects a commitment to innovation, agile leadership, technological advancement, and organizational effectiveness.

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Millie Batta is a Registered Clinical Counsellor practicing in British Columbia, where she has established a part-time counselling practice. She also works as a part-time Associate Faculty member at City University. She completed her Master of Education in Counselling Psychology at the University of Lethbridge. Her thesis research explored the experiences of emergency remote learning among autistic youth during the COVID-19 pandemic. Millie's research interests include neurodiversity, gender issues, and the mental health of racialized groups. She has co-published and co-presented a wide range of work focused on racialized populations, including women, graduate students, and Black communities. Millie is the recipient of the Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Millie will begin her PhD in Counselling Psychology at the University of Alberta in Fall 2026.

Brennick, M.
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Michelle Brennick is a proud native of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, a proud mother of twins and a delighted grandmother of four grandchildren. Michelle's first teaching position, following graduation from St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, brought

her further east to Newfoundland where she taught for two years. A return move to her home province was short-lived, as she and her husband had a yearning to move west to experience the wonders of Alberta. In November 1986 Michelle, her husband Pierre and their 4 year old twin children moved to Northern Alberta. After living in the wonderful village of Donnelly for five years, Michelle and family moved to the Calgary area where she was a teacher and administrator for 15 years in two different school divisions – Rocky View School Division and Calgary Catholic School District. Since 2006, Michelle has been serving Northern Gateway Public Schools (NGPS), the last 9 years in the role of Deputy Superintendent. Working out of the Central Office in Whitecourt, Alberta, Michelle works with NGPS personnel along the three hundred and fifty kilometre corridor from Alberta Beach to the two Hutterite colonies north of Valleyview. Her Bachelor degrees in Science and Secondary Education and her Master of Arts in Administration and Supervision degree, combined with 20+ years teaching and school administrative experience, provide her with an ideal background in her Division Office position responsible for Human Resources, Learning Services and School support, and Payroll Services. In her 'spare time' Michelle is active in exercise Bootcamps, running, cycling, swimming, yoga and training for half marathons and tri-athlons. In July 2016 Michelle completed her first Half-Ironman. Additionally, Michelle and her husband are active grandparents, participating in the lives of their grandchildren whenever time and opportunity permit. Michelle is looking forward to another learning and growing opportunity as she undertakes a part-time sessional instructor role with City University with the Whitecourt Cohort.

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Meredith Crough is a clinical counsellor with over a decade practicing in the profession. She is currently the Program Coordinator for a Stopping The Violence women's trauma therapy clinic where she treats survivors of violence across the lifespan and supervises a clinical practicum program. She is also faculty in the City University of Seattle MACP program teaching courses in The Psychology of Grief and Loss, Professional Ethics and the Law, and Practicum. She specializes in the areas of complex trauma, ambiguous grief beyond death loss, recovery from high control group experiences, ethics, and supervision.

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Dr. Kristen Curry is an Assistant Professor in the Clinical Counselling program at Alliant International University, where she teaches graduate counselling courses and mentors future behavioural health professionals. A licensed Professional Clinical Counsellor and Approved Clinical Supervisor, Dr. Curry is a passionate advocate for the counselling profession, social justice, and expanding access to high-quality behavioural healthcare. Dr. Curry earned her PhD in Counsellor Education and Supervision with a specialization in Advanced Research Methods. Her scholarship explores refugee and transmigration experiences, intergenerational trauma, multicultural counselling, women's studies, race relations, and public policy. She is also the co-founder and CEO of UnseenXS, a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing counsellor development, social justice, and global

community impact. In addition to her clinical, teaching, and research roles, Dr. Curry serves on Alliant University's Generative AI Committee, where she collaborates on the responsible integration of artificial intelligence into higher education, clinical training, and academic practice. Her work bridges innovation, ethics, and interdisciplinary collaboration to prepare future professionals for an evolving healthcare and educational landscape.

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Ibrahim "Ba" Dembele is a Doctor of Business Administration candidate at City University of Seattle, where his research examines resource nationalism and managerial decision-making in West Africa's extractive sector. He serves as Treasury Director and Interim Controller at the Washington State Employment Security Department, leading a 35-person finance team overseeing multibillion-dollar trust funds and federal grants. A Malian national fluent in English, French, Bambara, and Dioula, he is also Executive Director of Women's Dignity School, a nonprofit serving immigrant families in Washington State, and serves on nonprofit and utility advisory boards. His work bridges public finance, governance, and international business across the Pacific Northwest and West Africa.

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Dr. Berhanu Demeke is an educator, researcher, and scholar-practitioner whose work explores the intersections of education, human development, belonging, and social transformation. He holds a PhD in Education, with research focused on immigrant experiences, informal learning, and the relationship between institutions and diverse communities. Dr. Demeke currently works in immigrant settlement within the education sector, supporting newcomer students and families as they navigate educational and social systems. He also serves as a Research Coordinator at City University of Edmonton, supporting initiatives that connect research, evidence-informed practice, and the development of future counselling professionals. His interdisciplinary interests include culturally responsive education, human flourishing, mental health and belonging, and the evolving relationship between technology, identity, and the purposes of education. His current work examines how societies can reimagine human development and flourishing in a rapidly changing world.

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Giovanni Di Grezia is a multidisciplinary professor, researcher, and financial expert with extensive experience in international finance, strategic management, and corporate law. Currently, he serves as a professor at the USAC University Studies Abroad Consortium and the GBSB Global Business School, while acting as a visiting professor at the Mongolia International University. His pedagogical expertise spans subjects ranging from International Finance and Corporate Strategy to Digital Transformation and Change Management.

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Dr. Sandra Dixon is a registered psychologist in Alberta, a Certified Professional Life Coach, an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Lethbridge, and Associate Faculty at City University (Calgary Campus, virtual). Her research program explores the intersections of spirituality and religion, class, race, and gender, with a focus on the experiences of racialized women in academia, racial trauma, anti-Black racism, social justice, immigration, and culturally responsive counselling. She currently serves on boards such as Lethbridge Family Services and the Alberta Network of Immigrant Women. Dr. Dixon's work has been recognized through numerous awards, including the University of Lethbridge Black Students Association (ULBSA) Academic Excellence Award; the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association (CCPA) Research Award; the CCPA Lorne Flavelle Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service; the Psychologists' Association of Alberta (PAA) John G. Paterson Media Award; the PAA Juanita Chambers Excellence in Community Service Award; the PAA Excellence in Teaching Psychology Award; the EDI Scholar Award; and the Alberta Black Therapists Network People's Choice Award—reflecting her sustained commitment to equity, inclusion, and social justice.

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Sinan Doğan is a socioeconomic specialist. My scholarly work focuses on cultural history, the mind and mind management, education, and the arts. I have published more than 100 scientific articles on these subjects.

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Miss Ariyo Falade is a postgraduate student in the Department of Architecture at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Established in 1948, the University of Ibadan is Nigeria's oldest degree-awarding university and a distinguished centre of higher education and research. Miss Falade is pursuing advanced studies in architecture within an academic environment that fosters critical thinking, scholarly inquiry, creativity, and innovation.

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Dr. Hafiza Golandaz is a Mumbai based accomplished multidisciplinary academic, researcher, author, and Executive Director of the International Leadership and Management Alliance, bringing decaes of expertise in governance, public policy, and institutional transformation. Previously, she spent nine years as Professor and Director at the Regional Center for Urban and Environmental Studies, directing capacity-building for 500+ Indian municipal bodies. A pioneer in academic leadership, she coined the concept of Humanocracy and has published extensively on governance, creativity, and spirituality in leadership. Dr. Golandaz possesses deep cross-cultural competence as a multi-linguist. Her global profile includes engagements in 27 countries, serving as Convener for the UN-Habitat II National Plan of Action, and recognition as a Fellow of the US International Visitors Program (IVLP)

and an alumna-facilitator of the United Nations University International Leadership Academy (UNU-ILA). She holds a Ph.D. in Public Administration along with a Master's degree decorated with two Gold Medals for academic excellence.

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Dr. Stephen Guy is a Continuing Faculty member and Academic Writing Coordinator at City University in Canada, where he has supported students through the Canadian Academic Writing Centre since 2025. With over 15 years of experience in post-secondary education, his scholarly interests include academic writing, generative AI, adult education, literature, and digital communities. He views teaching as an act of leadership, emphasizing critical inquiry, intellectual independence, and self-directed learning. His educational philosophy centres on empowering students to develop the confidence, curiosity, and skills necessary for lifelong learning. Based in Calgary, he enjoys reading, writing, cycling, and skiing.

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Dr. Peter Hall is a Registered Psychotherapist and core faculty member in the Master of Counselling program at City University in Canada's Virtual Campus. He currently serves as Weekend Cohort Stream Coordinator and Capstone Coordinator, providing academic leadership and guidance across these key areas. With over 15 years of post-secondary teaching experience, Dr. Hall is committed to promoting academic excellence, fostering professional identity development, and supporting student success. His teaching emphasizes a student-centred, inclusive approach that bridges theory with practice, with expertise spanning developmental psychology, systemic theory, ethics, and cognitive-behavioural approaches.

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Niluka Hettige is recognized as Sri Lanka's first Positive Psychologist and a pioneering researcher and practitioner in human flourishing, resilience, and well-being. With over two decades of leadership and coaching experience, she is currently pursuing doctoral research exploring the transformative power of love in optimal human functioning. She is the creator of LUVORA, a Positive Psychology framework promoting personal and organizational transformation, and founder of the Institute of Positive Transformation in Sri Lanka and LUVORA Limited in the United Kingdom. Holding an MSc in Applied Positive Psychology and Coaching Psychology and an MBA, Nilu is an international speaker and researcher whose forthcoming book, *The Alchemy of Love: Awakening the Heart Beyond Romance*, explores love as a catalyst for psychological well-being and human flourishing.

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Essa Jamili holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics, specializing in Finance and Banking, from Kawun University in Afghanistan. He has professional experience in financial management, accounting, project finance, and customer relations. His research interests include public financial management, economic development, sustainable agriculture, and evidence-based policymaking. He has published research on the role of accounting information systems in improving financial management in public organizations. He has also completed online training offered by international organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNICEF, and the World Bank Group. He aims to contribute to sustainable development and economic resilience through research, financial accountability, and effective public policy.

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Dr. Marcin Pawel Jarzebski is a Project Associate Professor at the Sustainable Society Design Center, Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, The University of Tokyo. His research focuses on social-ecological systems, resilience, food systems, aging societies, sustainable resource management, and climate change adaptation. He holds a PhD in Sustainability Science from The University of Tokyo. His work examines how interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches can support sustainability, including food–water–environment linkages, nature management in aging and shrinking societies, and long-term sustainability scenarios. His research aims to connect academic knowledge with policy-making and practical solutions for sustainable futures.

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Dr. Michael Kariwo holds a PhD in Education Policy. He is an instructor, researcher and administrator at City University ibn Edmonton. He teaches research methods courses, both qualitative and quantitative. As an administrator he is one of the coordinators at the Alberta Research Hub (ARH). He has published widely in the area of immigrant research in Canada as well higher education. His lates book is titled "Decolonizing Epistemologies and Worldviews in Education: New ways of knowing". He has a keen interest in social justice issues and enjoys working in interdisciplinary teams.

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Phu Pwint Ko is a doctoral student in International Chinese Language Education at Yunnan Normal University in Kunming, China. Her research focuses on comparative linguistics, language education, translation studies, and intercultural communication, particularly between Chinese and Burmese. Her doctoral research examines the pragmatic and interpersonal functions of mood particles in Chinese and Burmese, contributing to cross-linguistic understanding and language teaching. Beyond her academic research, she has contributed to language and cultural projects, including the NAVER Korean-Burmese Dictionary, the bilingual publication Stories of Chinese Artisans, and the Burmese translation of Lu Xun's Wild Grass. Her broader interests encompass audiovisual translation,

cultural representation, and technology-enhanced language learning. Through her research, publications, and translation work, she aims to strengthen linguistic scholarship and promote cultural exchange between China, Myanmar, and other Asian communities.

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Dr. Jacqui Linder is a licensed psychologist in Alberta and Ontario, as well as a certified Clinical Traumatologist. Her doctoral research explored soul loss in survivors of childhood sexual abuse (CSA). She is an experienced facilitator who has trained over 16,000 professionals in the effects of psychological trauma. She has also treated a wide range of trauma populations including survivors of sexual abuse/exploitation, domestic battery, war rape, first responders, and military personnel. She is trained in cognitive, psychodynamic, attachment, exposure, transpersonal, and expressive arts therapy, as well as EMDR, and ritual healing. Dr. Linder is an internationally recognized expert in the psychological profiling of survivors of human trafficking. She has lectured for the Canadian Police College, Interpol, and the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC). As a sought after speaker, she has presented across Canada, the USA, France, Egypt, Greece, Italy, Hungary, the UK, Guyana, and the Czech Republic. Dr. Linder founded the Chrysalis Anti-Human Trafficking Network in 2010 and Canada's National Roundtable on Human Trafficking the following year. In 2011, she co-founded Freedom Relay Canada, an annual education and fundraising initiative for survivors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. In 2013, she developed and launched Canada's first national human trafficking investigators forum, an initiative designed to connect law enforcement personnel nationally and internationally. Later that year, she established the SAFENET project, creating access to a network of safe houses for survivors of human trafficking across Canada. In 2014, she became the founding Clinical Director of a treatment centre for sexually abused children. She was also a founding co-chair of EUROTAS' international trauma and disaster relief task force. Dr. Linder's research focuses on the mental health impact of sexual abuse and human trafficking. Her professional affiliations include the College of Alberta Psychologists, the Psychological Association of Alberta, the College of Psychologists of Ontario, the American Psychological Association, the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, and the European Society for Trauma and Dissociation.

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Dr. Ron Manley is a registered Psychologist who has worked for over four decades in Vancouver, including eleven years as Clinical Director of a specialized eating disorders program for children and adolescents. He is a Continuing Faculty at City University of Seattle, Vancouver campus, where he has taught a course on Trauma and Interpersonal Violence since 2017. He also teaches The Psychology of Grief and Loss, Capstone, Practicum, and Counselling Psychology Theory. He has a particular interest in the integration of somatically-oriented psychotherapy with cognitive, attachment, and mindfulness approaches. His current interests include human potential generally, and the interface

between psychotherapy and spirituality. He has recently completed an End-of-Life Doula course.

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Lucas Heiki Matsunaga is a Postdoctoral Fellow at Tokyo College, The University of Tokyo. His research focuses on behavioural public policy, environmental psychology, social psychology, crisis management, governance, and conflict. He examines global challenges such as misinformation, environmental crises, and social polarization through social and behavioural perspectives. He holds Master's and PhD degrees from Tohoku University's Global Governance and Sustainable Development program and has also been affiliated with the International Joint Graduate Program in Resilience and Safety Studies. His work contributes to interdisciplinary research on human behavior, governance, social justice, and crisis management.

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Dr. Amber McCart currently serves as the clinical program manager for mental health services at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. She served for many years as the clinical director of regional child and youth mental health services, working to improve access for children and families. As a lifelong learner, she has also completed graduate studies in law and philosophy. Her current research explores the development of the therapist's capacity for the use of self, integrating insights from global concepts of the self. Her current passion is supporting the development of an "Improv for Social Anxiety" group for university students.

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Dr. Christine Hellen Mhina is the Associate Program Director (Research), Master of Counselling, at City University of Seattle. She obtained her PhD in International and Intercultural studies at the University of Alberta. She joined the City U in Edmonton to teach in the Master of Counselling Program since 2008 and began her role as an Associate Program Director – Research Coordination in February 2018. In her role, Christine brings her experience of collaborating with diverse learners, advocating for marginalized social groups, participatory mentorship, and teaching. She teaches Qualitative Research Methods in Counselling Psychology, and Research Methods and Statistics. Christine has experience in integrating diverse perspectives to bring about social change. Her current research interests include the topics of collaborative approaches to address mental health, Community resilience, Tacit knowledge, Indigenous ways of knowing, and Participatory research methods. She has published book chapters that appear in Indigenous Knowledge and Learning in Asia/Pacific and Africa: Perspectives on Development Education and Culture (2010); Participatory Action Research, and Social Change (2009), Global Perspectives on Adult Education (2009), and in Canadian Journal of University Continuing Education and Higher Education Perspectives.

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Dr. Laila Mahmoud Montaser is a Professor of Clinical Pathology. Chair, Stem Cell, Regenerative Medicine, Nanotechnology and Tissue Engineering Group. She served as the Chair, Founder leader of Clinical Pathology Department at Menoufia Faculty of Medicine. She supervised 47 M. Sc. theses and 13 Doctoral theses. She has 241 International publications in world journals and global conferences and has given 100 Plenary/keynote presentations on four continents. In the COVID-19 era, she was awarded fifty-eight certificates of appreciation for successfully presenting sixty-one Global Webinars from her home office. She has made the Menoufia Faculty of Medicine a beacon on the global stage.

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Dr. Hawwa Shiuna Musthafa is Associate Program Director for the Master of Counselling Program at City University of Seattle's Vancouver campus and an interdisciplinary scholar, educator, and academic leader. Her interdisciplinary research spans educational effectiveness, leadership and workplace dynamics, research ethics, and wellbeing. With more than 15 years of experience across higher education, and multidisciplinary research, she is committed to scholarship that challenges harmful practices and creates meaningful change in people's lives. She is a recipient of the Maldives President's Award for academic achievement. She also teaches graduate research and capstone courses at Adler University and has contributed to international initiatives involving UNICEF and UNDP Maldives.

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Leticia Naqvi is a Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) candidate in Strategy and Innovation at City University. She is a People Analytics Research Manager with expertise in workforce analytics, organizational transformation, immigration analytics, and data-driven decision-making. Her current doctoral research focuses on evaluating organizational readiness for artificial intelligence (AI) adoption within technology firms, with particular emphasis on leadership commitment, governance, data maturity, employee trust, and innovation culture. Her professional experience includes leading strategic analytics initiatives that support organizational effectiveness and workforce decision-making in global technology environments.

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Sana Naz is a doctoral candidate in Psychology at the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, specializing in moral psychology, cyberpsychology, and AI-related social impacts in South Asian and global contexts. She is the originator of the concept of "collective moral self-interest," which explores how communities negotiate shared responsibility, ethics, and self-interest in technology-saturated societies. She serves on the Executive Board of the Association for Psychological Science in Communication and Marketing, contributing to digital science communication and global outreach. Her current research examines

AI-driven perceptual and generational disparities, focusing on how different age groups experience and interpret AI and digital environments.

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Bình Nghiêm-Phú is an Associate Professor at the School of Economics and Management and Graduate School of Social Sciences, University of Hyōgo, Japan. His research aims to understand thoughts, emotions, and behavior, as well as the internal and external factors that shape them. He applies psychology theories to management, particularly in marketing and logistics, from the commercial, social, and personal perspectives.

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Dr. Kate O'Neill is a counsellor and Associate Director in the Master of Education in School Counselling program at City University. Her work explores self-awareness, nervous system regulation, and resourcing, with a particular interest in supporting counsellors to cultivate sustainable, reflective, and embodied therapeutic practice.

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Dr. Timothy Oluseyi Odeyale is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Architecture, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, and holds a PhD in Architecture from the Lincoln School of Architecture, University of Lincoln, England. He has extensive experience as a course tutor, researcher, and practitioner, with research interests in the historical and cultural contexts of city-making, theories of space and place, urban design, and qualitative approaches to the study of the built environment, particularly in African cities.

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Ms. Sonal Navnath Pardhi is a Research Scholar at the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), New Delhi. Her research interests include tribal education, mother tongue-based multilingual education, primary education, language policy, and curriculum development. Her doctoral research investigates the relationship between mother tongue education and students' participation in primary schools in the Amravati region of Maharashtra. She has conducted research on teachers' perspectives regarding teaching-learning processes in tribal schools, worked as an ethnographic researcher with Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), and contributed to the development of a mother tongue-based multilingual curriculum for the Rathwi tribal language in Gujarat. Her work focuses on promoting equitable and culturally responsive education for tribal communities.

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Dawn Percher has been living and working in Chilliwack, BC, and the surrounding communities in the Fraser Valley for 25 years. She has been working in the mental health

and addictions field since 2006 with youth and adults in a variety of settings and is a Registered Clinical Counsellor (RCC) with the BCACC and a Certified Canadian Counsellor (CCC) with the CCPA. She provides individual counselling services for issues related to mental illness of all kinds, trauma, addictions, and grief. She is experienced with specialized counselling of Residential School Survivors, intergenerational trauma, early complex childhood trauma, and physical and sexual abuse survivors and perpetrators. She provides clinical supervision for counsellors and support workers in mental health and addictions. She is currently Term Faculty and Associate Program Director of the full-time program at City University in Vancouver in the Masters in Counselling program, teaching Psychopathology & Psychopharmacology, Introduction to Counselling Psychology, Child and Adolescent Counselling, Addictions, Trauma, Family Systems, and Research Methods. She teaches in the Internship Seminars and is a Capstone advisor. She is also currently pursuing a Doctorate in Counselling and Psychotherapy.

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Dr. Lisa Porter (DCP, CCC, CCS) is an Associate Director and faculty member in City University's MEd in School Counselling program. Prior to working in higher education, Lisa was a secondary school counsellor. Other research interests include: mental health impacts of social media use in youth, collaborative leadership in higher education, enhancing childism in counselling ethics, and the harmonization of scholar and practitioner models in post-secondary learning. Lisa is co-author and co-editor of School Counselling in Canada: A Comprehensive Guide.

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Dr. Lisa Power teaches marketing and management at Saint Martin's University and graduate-level leadership for Washington State University. She also teaches in City University of Seattle's Executive MBA program, delivered in partnership with the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing, China. In addition to teaching, she writes and creates content on business topics. Her current research focuses on Authentic-Servant Leadership (ASL), an emerging framework examining how leaders create the relational conditions where trust can develop in complex organizations. Earlier in her career, Lisa worked for technology startups and media companies, building expertise in eCommerce and digital marketing. She earned an M.S. in Advertising from Syracuse University, an MBA from Western Governors University, and a Ph.D. in Leadership Studies from Gonzaga University. Her doctoral research identified opportunities for leaders within complex adaptive systems to address persistent problems through resource-dependent collaboration. Her first book, International Business Essentials, is available online.

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Greg Price, Ed.D., serves as Professor and Senior Director of Graduate Business Programs at City University of Seattle, where he provides leadership and oversight for the institution's

doctoral and master's degree programs. Prior to assuming this role, he served as Associate Dean of the School of Applied Leadership. His teaching portfolio spans Social and Environmental Leadership, Marketing, Strategy, Communications, and Leadership. Dr. Price holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics, a Master of Business Administration, and a Doctor of Education. His academic career is complemented by substantial professional experience: he spent 28 years as co-owner and Vice President of a Seattle-based outdoor recreation publishing company and served for six years as Director of a corporate training organization in Tokyo, Japan.

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Dr. Dana-Marie Ramjit is a Professor of Political Science and Policy. Dr. Ramjit's work examines how authority and policy systems evolve in complex, multilevel environments. Her research advances frameworks in heterarchical governance, with particular attention to legitimacy, institutional change, and cross-border coordination in a fragmented global order.

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Pressley Rankin IV, Ph.D., is a Professor and Program Director for the Doctor of Education in Leadership program at City University of Seattle. He holds a PhD in Leadership from the University of San Diego and an MS in Counselling from San Diego State University. With expertise in doctoral education, dissertation development, and academic program administration, Pressley is committed to developing adaptive, ethical leaders equipped to drive meaningful organizational change, including exploring how AI can be thoughtfully integrated to support faculty and strengthen scholarly rigor without replacing the human judgment at the heart of doctoral mentorship.

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H. G. Madhushani Dominicta Rathnayake, an early-career academic affiliated with the Department of Psychology and Counselling, Faculty of Health Sciences, The Open University of Sri Lanka. I hold a BSc (Hons) in Psychology and am reading for my Mphill . I have established an emerging research profile at the intersection of neuropsychology, artificial intelligence, digital cognition, and human–technology interaction. My work also explores nature-based sensory interventions, cognitive adaptation, and innovative approaches to psychological well-being. I have presented research at national and international conferences and have received recognition for excellence in scholarly presentation, including the Best Presenter Award. I have authored and co-authored several peer-reviewed publications and continue to develop original theoretical frameworks that integrate neuroscience, psychology, and emerging technologies. My current research focuses on advancing interdisciplinary neuropsychological models that contribute to understanding human cognition and designing evidence-informed solutions for the future of health, education, and human–AI collaboration.

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Ranjith Ravichandran is a PhD scholar at the International School of Management Excellence (ISME) in Bengaluru, India. Established in 2006, ISME is a private business school recognized for its commitment to management education, research, and international academic collaboration. The institution offers undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programs in business and management, with an emphasis on academic excellence, innovation, and industry engagement. Through partnerships with universities and institutions across North America, Europe, Asia, and Australia, ISME fosters international research collaboration, faculty engagement, and global learning opportunities. Its doctoral programs support advanced scholarship and research addressing contemporary challenges in business, leadership, and organizational management.

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Dr. Anna Rissanen holds a PhD in Neuroscience from the University of Eastern Finland, a Masters in Education specializing in Postsecondary Education from Memorial University, an International Certificate in Educational Leadership from the University of British Columbia, and a Master in Counselling from City University of Seattle. With her dedication to higher education, she continues to explore best practices in teaching innovation and research, focusing now on student well-being and academic success with particular emphasis on advancing student mental health and cultivating trauma-informed educational practices.

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Kristin Robinson (she/her) is a registered social worker and counsellor for post-secondary students at Thompson Rivers University. She specializes in supporting survivors of sexual violence, relationships and relationship loss, anxiety, and trauma. Her background is in community mental health, student affairs, and sexual violence response and support.

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Dr. Josephine Torrel-Brown is an Assistant Professor at the University of Trinidad and Tobago, where she lectures in the Master of Arts in Carnival Studies programme. A distinguished scholar and practitioner in Cultural Studies, Education, the Visual and Performing Arts, and Tourism Research, she holds a Ph.D. in Cultural Studies from UTT, alongside degrees in Cultural Studies and Musical Arts from the University of the West Indies, and a Teacher's Diploma from Valsayn Teachers' College. Her career includes leadership at the Ministry of Education, where she pioneered Arts-based initiatives and institutionalized the steelpan in schools through the Pan in the Classroom Programme. A published author and experienced adjudicator of numerous cultural competitions, Dr. Torrel-Brown advocates for decolonial approaches to education that center cultural relevancy, Indigenous knowledge systems, and creative praxis. Her work emphasizes the transformative role of the Arts in curriculum reform, identity formation, and empowered learning.

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Orit Wolf, Chevalière de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (France, 2025), is a concert pianist, composer, poet, and multidisciplinary scholar, currently serving as an Associate Professor of Creative Arts at the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology. Her academic and artistic work focuses on the intersections between music, art, science, and interdisciplinary knowledge production, with particular emphasis on music communication as a model for meaning-making and knowledge transfer across domains. She joined the academic staff of the Technion following her appointment as Artist in Residence by the President of the

Technion in 2022, and is currently enrolled in the Department of Humanities and Arts. Her work advances a conceptual framework positioning music not as a peripheral cultural practice, but as an epistemic and communicative necessity within contemporary academic and technological environments. Professor Wolf is the founder and curator of several interdisciplinary initiatives, including the series Music, Science and Inspiration, which brings together scientists, artists, and audiences to explore shared modes of inquiry, creativity, and interpretation. Alongside her academic work, she maintains an active international career as a performing artist, curating and presenting concert-lecture series at major cultural venues, including the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, as well as other leading venues in Israel. Her professional activities include serving as a jury member in music competitions worldwide and delivering masterclasses and lectures at leading academic institutions. She was selected to represent Israel as a TED speaker, presenting on the theme of leaving a personal mark. Her contributions have been recognized through multiple awards, including the Rosenblum Prize, the Kahn Award, and the ARAM Prize. In 2010, she was named one of Israel's "100 Most Influential People" by The Marker Magazine. She is engaged in mentoring, interdisciplinary collaboration, and the development of new models for integrating the arts within science- and technology-oriented environments.

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