NeXus 2026 Interdisciplinary Conference

Imagination in Action for Our Shared Future

November 20–22, 2026

Day 1 – November 20, 2026 (UTC–6)

8:00 – 8:05 a.m. — Welcome — Dr. Jacqui Linder (Conference Chair, CityU Edmonton, Canada)
Dr. Berhanu Demeke & Dr. Michael Kariwo (Co-Chairs; CityU Edmonton, Canada)
Dr. Joel Domingo & Dr. Abigail Nubla-Kung (Co-Chairs; CityU Seattle, USA)

Session 1 – Pedagogical, Cultural, and Creative Imagination (Moderator: Dr. Jacqui Linder)

Host Time (UTC–6)	Presentation Details
8:05 – 8:25 a.m.	*Imagination in Education: Catalyzing Transformative Learning for a Shared Global Future* Hafiza Golandaz — Mumbai, India
8:25 – 8:45 a.m.	*Multilingual Education and Pedagogical Imagination: A Comparative Study of Good Practice Models in Gujarat and Maharashtra* *Sonal Navnath Pardhi — New Delhi, India
8:45 – 9:05 a.m.	*Imagining Shared Futures: Migration, Recognition, and Belonging in The Namesake and Homebound* Gaurav Sood — Rampur Bushahr, India (RESCHEDULED)
9:05 – 9:25 a.m.	*Imagination in Action for Humanities' Shared Future* Aniruddha Subhashchandra Rumale — Nashik, India
	9:25 – 9:45 a.m. — Q & A
	9:45 – 10:15 a.m. — Morning Break

Session 2 – Imagining Shared Worlds: Creativity, Transformation, and Meaning (Moderator: Dr. Jacqui Linder)

Host Time (UTC–6)	Presentation Details
10:15 – 10:35 a.m.	*The Courage to Imagine: How Live Musical Encounters Cultivate Inner and Shared Worlds* Orit Wolf — Haifa, Israel
10:35 – 10:55 a.m.	*Imagination in Action: Universal Love as an Interdisciplinary Framework for Human Flourishing and Our Shared Future* Niluka Hettige — Kent, United Kingdom
10:55 – 11:15 a.m.	*Beyond the Glass Façade: Imaginative Neo-Vernacular Design as Resistance to Urban Homogenization in Ibadan* Tim Odeyale, Ariyo Oluwatosin Falade & Adedoyin Ikeoluwa Adeagbo — Lagos, Nigeria

Host Time (UTC–6)	Presentation Details
11:15 – 11:35 a.m.	*Imagination as a Catalyst for Change: Organizational Hindrance Stressors and Their Influence on Nurses' Work-Life Balance During the COVID-19 Pandemic* Sneha Sushil Arora — Seattle, USA
	11:35 – 11:55 a.m. — Q & A
	11:55 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. — Lunch

Session 3 – Reimagining the Future of Higher Education and AI (Moderator: Dr. Joel Domingo)

Host Time (UTC–6)	Presentation Details
12:45 – 1:05 p.m.	*Reimagining Higher Education and Counselling* Michael Kariwo — Edmonton, Canada
1:05 – 1:25 p.m.	*Reimagining Counselor Education: Artificial Intelligence, Therapeutic Imagination, and Clinical Skill Development* Kristen M. Curry — California, USA
1:25 – 1:45 p.m.	*Imagination, Authority, and AI Governance: Who Governs an AI System When Key Decisions Are Made Outside the University* *Dana-Marie Ramjit — Calgary, Canada
1:45 – 2:05 p.m.	*Imagination in Action: Building AI-Powered Evaluation Systems for Doctoral Dissertation Artifacts* Pressley Rankin & Greg Price — Seattle, USA
	2:05 – 2:25 p.m. — Q & A
	2:25 – 2:55 p.m. — Afternoon Break

Session 4 – Reimagining Connection, Education, and Innovation (Moderator: Dr. Joel Domingo)

Host Time (UTC–6)	Presentation Details
2:55 – 3:15 p.m.	*The Importance of Human Connection in the Age of Artificial Intelligence and Imagination* Mark Zhang & Kristin Robinson — Kamloops, Canada
3:15 – 3:35 p.m.	*Cultivating Civic Imagination: International Students, Leadership Education, and Public Participation* Jason Andrews & Michelle Brennick — Calgary, Canada
3:35 – 3:55 p.m.	*Academic Entitlement and the Pedagogical Imagination: An Exploratory Framework for Shared Responsibility in Higher Education* Peter Hall — Toronto, Canada

Host Time (UTC–6)	Presentation Details
3:55 – 4:15 p.m.	*Evaluating Organizational Readiness for AI Adoption Within Technology Firms: From Imagination to Implementation* Leticia Naqvi — Austin, USA
	4:15 – 4:35 p.m. — Q & A
	4:35 – 4:40 p.m. — Wrap-Up

Day 2 – November 21, 2026 (UTC–6)

8:00 – 8:05 a.m. — Opening Remarks

Session 5 – Reimagining Human Wellbeing, Care, and Cognitive Adaptation (Moderator: Dr. Abigail Nubla-Kung)

Host Time (UTC–6)	Presentation Details
8:05 – 8:25 a.m.	*Reimagining Imagination: Algorithmic Cognitive Restructuring as a Neuropsychological Framework for Human–AI Cognitive Adaptation* *H. G. Madhushani Dominicta Rathnayake — Nawala, Sri Lanka
8:25 – 8:45 a.m.	*Tacit Knowing and Imagination: Applicability in Counselling* Christine Hellen Mhina — Edmonton, Canada
8:45 – 9:05 a.m.	*Imagination in Action: Reimagining Psychological First Aid Through Compassion-Based Community Care—Insights from a Narrative Literature Review* *Vishaka Samarasekara — Colombo, Sri Lanka
9:05 – 9:25 a.m.	*Imagination for Advanced Patient-Derived Organoids* *Montaser, L. M. — Shebin ElKom, Egypt
	9:25 – 9:45 a.m. — Q & A
	9:45 – 10:15 a.m. — Morning Break

Session 6 – Imagination as a Catalyst for Healing, Transformation, and Leadership (Moderator: Dr. Abigail Nubla-Kung)

Host Time (UTC–6)	Presentation Details
10:15 – 10:35 a.m.	*The Healing Power of Imagination in Psychotherapy: An Interpersonal Neurobiological Framework* Ron Manley, Dawn Percher & Meredith Crough — Vancouver, Canada

Host Time (UTC–6)	Presentation Details
10:35 – 10:55 a.m.	*Imagination as a Clinical Resource: Self-Energy and Counselling Presence* Kate O'Neill — Ottawa, Canada
10:55 – 11:15 a.m.	*Restoring Imagination: Challenging Hubristic Leadership—The Descent into Organizational Mediocrity* *Hawwa Shiuna Musthafa — Vancouver, Canada
	11:15 – 11:35 a.m. — Q & A
	11:35 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. — Lunch

Session 7 – Imaginal Pathways to Trauma Healing and Emerging Therapies (Moderator: Dr. Berhanu Demeke)

Host Time (UTC–6)	Presentation Details
12:45 – 1:10 p.m.	*The Imaginal Life: A Pathway Out of Trauma* Jacqui Linder — Edmonton, AB, Canada
1:10 – 1:35 p.m.	*Reimagining Treatment After Workplace Violence: Holding on to Hope for the Client and for Change* Renee J. Schmidt — Edmonton, Canada
1:35 – 1:45 p.m.	*Effectiveness of Psychedelic-Assisted Psychotherapy: Imagining Future Therapies* *Anna Rissanen — Edmonton, Canada
	1:45 – 2:15 p.m. — Q & A
	2:15 – 2:55 p.m. — Afternoon Break

Session 8 – Resources, Restrictions, and Reimagined Learning (Moderator: Dr. Berhanu Demeke)

Host Time (UTC–6)	Presentation Details
2:55 – 3:15 p.m.	*Imagination Under Pressure: Senior Managers' Lived Experience of the Barrick–Mali Resource Nationalism Dispute* Ibrahim Dembele — Washington, USA
3:15 – 3:35 p.m.	*Reimagining Credit Access through Climate Adaptation: A Signalling and Credit-Rationing Framework for Indian Borrowers* *Ranjith Ravichandran — Bangalore, India
3:35 – 3:55 p.m	*Internships as a Bridge or a Bottleneck? Evaluating Professional Integration for International Graduate Leadership Interns in Canada* Ali Ahmad Abidi — Calgary, Canada

Host Time (UTC–6)	Presentation Details
.3:55 – 4:15 p.m	*Beyond the Lecture: Embodying Imagination Through Creative Andragogy* Josephine Torrel-Brown — Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago
	4:15 – 4:35 p.m. — Q & A
	4:35 – 4:40 p.m. — Wrap-Up

Day 3 – November 22, 2026 (UTC–6)

8:00 – 8:05 a.m. — Opening Remarks

Session 9 – Reimagining Morality, Power, and Social Transformation (Moderator: Dr. Michael Kariwo)

Host Time (UTC–6)	Presentation Details
8:05 – 8:25 a.m.	*Why Do We Forgive Our Own but Condemn Others? Collective Moral Self-Interest, Imagination, and the Preservation of Moral Selves* *Sana Naz — Colombo, Sri Lanka
8:25 – 8:45 a.m.	*Imagination as Intervention: Reimagining Consent and Domestic Violence through Pink and Thappad* Priyanka Thakur — Kullu, India
8:45 – 9:05 a.m.	*Re-Imagining Governance: "Constructive Insubordination" as a Strategic Imperative for Multi-Agent Systems in Firms* Giovanni Di Grezia — Cagliari, Italy
9:05 – 9:25 a.m.	*Imagining the Future of European Agriculture: Generational Renewal, Farm-Manager Age, and Economic Size — An Updated Evidence Synthesis and Reproducible Analysis, 2010–2023* *Essa Jamili — Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan
	9:25 – 9:45 a.m. — Q & A
	9:45 – 10:15 a.m. — Morning Break

Session 10 – Reimagining the Human Experience: Worth, Belonging, and Collective Potential (Moderator: Dr. Michael Kariwo)

Host Time (UTC–6)	Presentation Details
10:15 – 10:35 a.m.	*Beyond Work: AI, Human Worth, and the Future of Flourishing* Berhanu Demeke — Edmonton, Canada

Host Time (UTC–6)	Presentation Details
10:35 – 10:55 a.m.	*Imagination, Trust, and Human Potential: Creating Relational Conditions for Collective Intelligence* Elisabeth Power — Olympia, USA
10:55 – 11:15 a.m.	*Imagining Shared Futures: Migration, Recognition, and Belonging in The Namesake and Homebound* Gaurav Sood — Rampur Bushahr, India
11:15 – 11:35 a.m.	*Stephen Guy, Author of "Pierre Menard, Author of the Quixote:" Borgesian Failures of the Imagination* Stephen Guy — Calgary, Canada
	11:35 – 11:55 a.m. — Q & A
	11:55 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. — Lunch

Session 11 – Imagined Possibilities: Healing, Transitions, and Evolving Practice (Moderator: Dr. Jacqui Linder)

Host Time (UTC–6)	Presentation Details
12:45 – 1:05 p.m.	*The Imagination of Reducing the Prevalence of Binge Eating Disorder Among Black Populations* Brenda Woods-Goudie — Oakley, USA
1:05 – 1:25 p.m.	*Crafting a Creative Retirement: Finding the Next Dream* Jasmin B. Tahmaseb McConatha — Philadelphia, USA
1:25 – 1:45 p.m.	*From Imagination to a Common Future: A Conceptual Approach to the Development of the Superconscious in Mind Management* *Sinan Doğan — Ankara, Türkiye
1:45 – 2:05 p.m	*Imagination in Action: AI Use in Counselling and Psychotherapy* Lisa Porter & Amber McCart — Vancouver & Kingston, Canada
	2:05 – 2:25 p.m. — Q & A
	2:25 – 2:55 p.m. — Afternoon Break

Session 12 – Imagination in Society, Digital Culture, and Leadership (Moderator: Dr. Jacqui Linder)

Host Time (UTC–6)	Presentation Details
2:55 – 3:15 p.m.	*Introducing the PSEC Model for Reimagining Customer Attitude* *Bình Nghiêm-Phú — Kobe, Japan

Host Time (UTC–6)	**Presentation Details**
3:15 – 3:35 p.m.	*Imagination for Sustainable Community Futures: Aging, Nature Management, and Technology in Japan* *Marcin Pawel Jarzebski & Lucas Heiki Matsunaga — Tokyo, Japan
3:35 – 3:55 p.m.	*Cultural Imagination and Cross-cultural Communication Pathways in Genshin Impact* *Phu Pwint Ko — Kunming, China
3:55 – 4:15 p.m.	*Imagination as a Catalyst for Transformative Academic Leadership: A Social Constructivist Pathway for Indigenous, Black, and Racialized Academic Women* *Sandra Dixon & Millie Batta — Calgary & Lethbridge, Canada
	4:15 – 4:40 p.m. — Q & A
	4:40 – 4:45 p.m. —Wrap Up