

Event Schedule & Presentation List

Excellence in Graduate Research Symposium

DAY 1: Wednesday, November 4, 2026

9:00 am

Participant Registration Opens (Sessions A & B)

Lobby, Halpern Centre

- EGRS Participants check in in the GSS Lobby
- A/V Check: Session A presenters may test projection equipment in Room 108
- Poster set-up time for Session B

Coffee & Tea

Side Project

- Free coffee & tea will be available until 10:30am

9:30 am

Territorial Acknowledgement & Opening Remarks

Grad House

- GSS Directors of Student Life & Internal/University Relations
- Dr. Rhonda McEwen, President
- Dr. John Dower, FGS Associate Dean
- Dr. Matt Huculak, UVic Libraries

10:00 am

Sessions A & B begin

Grad House & Room 108

- Presentation Session A - Room 108 (15min presentations)
- Poster Session B - Grad House

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Lunch Break for Session A Presenters; Registration Opens (Session C)

GSS Lobby / Grad House

- EGRS Participants check in in the GSS Lobby
- A/V Check: Session C presenters may test projection equipment in room 108

12:30 pm - 1:00 pm

Session B Poster Take-Down; Registration Opens (Session D)

Grad House, Room 108

- EGRS Participants check in in the GSS Lobby
- Poster set-up time for Session D

- 1:00 pm **Session C & D begin**
Grad House & Room 108
- Presentation Session C - Room 108 (15min presentations)
 - Poster Session D - Grad House
- 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm **Registration Opens (Session E)**
- EGRS Participants check in in the GSS Lobby
 - A/V Check: Session E presenters may test projection equipment in room 108 from 3pm - 3:20pm
- 3:30 pm **Session E begins**
Room 108
- Presentation Session E (5min presentations)
- 5:00 pm **Research Wrap-Up for Day 1 of EGRS!**

*The 2026 Excellence in Graduate Research Symposium is hosted by
the UVic Graduate Students' Society*

in partnership with

*the Faculty of Graduate Studies
& UVic Libraries*

The GSS respectfully acknowledges and thanks the many generations of stewards of the unceded land on which we are situated that gives us life, and the air we breathe, from the Lək'wəŋən (Songhees and Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Lək'wəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day. We commit ourselves to truth, reconciliation, and decolonization.

DAY 1: Presentors List

Presentation Session A

Held in Room 108

Presentations are 15 minutes followed by a 5 minute question period.

Please allow for adjustments to the times listed here.

Please consult the Abstract Booklet for further reading on each presentation.

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|---------------|--|
| 10:00 - 10:20 | MODERN MODULATORS: USING COMPUTATIONAL CHEMISTRY IN MATERIAL MODELLING
Kyla Younger
<i>Chemistry</i> |
| 10:20 - 10:40 | TRENDS AND DRIVERS OF FIRE RECOVERY ACROSS THE CANADIAN TUNDRA
Spenser Morouney
<i>Environmental Studies</i> |
| 10:40 - 11:00 | BEHAVIOURAL RESPONSES OF NEOTROPICAL MONKEYS TO PERCEIVED PREDATION RISK
Emma Downie
<i>Anthropology</i> |
| 11:00 - 11:20 | WHERE DOES MY CALL GO? ANALYZING AND OPTIMIZING VIDEO CONFERENCING LATENCY OVER STARLINK
Kousar Malekinasab
<i>Computer Science</i> |
| 11:20 - 11:40 | EXPLORING HOW PRIOR KNOWLEDGE BIASES MEMORY ACROSS THE LIFESPAN
Anna Lawrance
<i>Psychology</i> |
| 11:40 - 12:00 | FRIENDS, FOES, AND FUNGI AMONG WESTERN REDCEDAR ROOTS
Sydney Houston
<i>Biology</i> |

Poster Session B

*Poster Session Presenters are ordered alphabetically by last name.
Their poster can be found at the accordingly numbered board in the Grad House.
Please consult the Abstract Booklet for further reading on each presentation.*

- 1 INDIGENOUS METHODOLOGIES IN PRACTICE: A GLOBAL REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH
Lauren Burton *Environmental Studies*
- 2 WHOSE KNOWLEDGE COUNTS? SPORT SCIENCE AND COACHING PRACTICE
Kuan Ju Chu *School of Exercise Science, Physical & Health Education*
- 3 THE NOTION OF 'PERFECT VICTIMS' IN GUERRILLA CONFLICT: EXAMINING RATIONALE FOR US-INFLECTED RAPE ONTO VIETNAMESE WOMEN AND GIRLS
Coco Cunningham *Political Science*
- 4 HUMAN SYSTEMS ENGINEERING AND INFORMATICS FOR HEALTHCARE
Joti Dhillon *Health Information Science*
- 5 A RE-EVALUATION OF THE MISSION FLATS LATE PLEISTOCENE RECORD, KAMLOOPS, BRITISH COLUMBIA: STRATIGRAPHY, TEPHROCHRONOLOGY, AND GEOCHRONOLOGY
Rachel Higgins *Geography*
- 6 A PRELIMINARY SURVEY OF SOUTH ASIAN YOUTH PERSPECTIVES ON COMMUNITY SERVICES & SURVEILLANCE IN SURREY, BC
Jshandeep Jassal *Child and Youth Care*
- 7 COMMUNITY MAPPING AS A TOOL FOR ECOLOGICAL CORRIDOR MODELLING IN SOUTHERN VANCOUVER ISLAND
Sierra Lilly Lecanu-Fayet *Geography*
- 8 EXPERIENCE AND IMAGINATION: UNCOVERING THE ROLE OF CREATIVITY IN TRANS+ EXPERIENCES OF REPRESENTATION
Khalilah Luchs *Sociology*
- 9 VISIONS FOR ENERGY FUTURES: EXPLORING COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES AMIDST INDUSTRIAL DECLINE IN THE CENTRAL CARIBOO
Megan MacDonald *Geography*

- 10 PATHWAYS TO RECOVERY FOLLOWING SERVICE-RELATED SEXUAL TRAUMA: LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR EXPLORING HELPING AND HINDERING EXPERIENCES IN THE THERAPEUTIC ENACTMENT COURSE
Anzhelika Mostovshchikova *Counselling Psychology*
- 11 'S' IS FOR SCÉALTA: EXPLORING THE POWER OF COMMUNITY-BASED NARRATIVES AND STORYTELLING FOR CREATING HOLISTIC, CREATIVE, AND MEANINGFUL EARLY CHILDHOOD CURRICULA
Courtney Neidig *C&I - Art Education*
- 12 ACTIVE FAULTING ON THE WEST COAST OF VANCOUVER ISLAND: A NEW SOURCE OF SHAKING AND TSUNAMI HAZARD
Tayn Neligan *Geography*
- 13 UNDERSTANDING LONELINESS AND SOLITUDE IN ADULthood
Ava Grace Smith *Psychology*
- 14 NEURO-IMMUNE RESPONSE DYNAMICS FOLLOWING CORNEAL DAMAGE
Owen Smith *Biology*
- 15 AIDS, THE COLD WAR, AND THE FAILURE OF LANGUAGE
Megan Sundberg *English*
- 16 ARTS-BASED ACTIVITIES AS SOCIAL PRESCRIBING: EVIDENCE ON QUALITY OF LIFE AND WELLBEING OF OLDER ADULTS AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA. A SCOPING REVIEW.
Karen Terra *Public Health and Social Policy - Social Dimensions of Health*
- 17 HARNESSING COMPLETE MITOCHONDRIAL GENOMES AND AIRBORNE EDNA TO RESOLVE PHYLOGENETIC COMPLEXITIES IN BC MYOTIS BAT SPECIES
Sarah Trilesky *Biochemistry & Microbiology*
- 18 HOW DO BACTERIAL INDUCED CHANGES IN HOST MEMBRANE LIPID COMPOSITION AFFECT INFLUENZA REPLICATION?
Megan VanderWal *Molecular Life Sciences*
- 19 MODELING LOGGING ROAD LANDSLIDE HAZARDS UNDER CHANGING ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS
Sebastian Yerex *Geography*
- 20 REIMAGINING FEMALE HEROISM: MARRIAGE AND NARRATIVE CHANGE IN CONTEMPORARY ADAPTATIONS OF FENGSHEN YANYI
Xi Zhang *Pacific and Asian Studies*

Presentation Session C

Held in Room 108

Presentations are 15 minutes followed by a 5 minute question period.

Please allow for adjustments to the times listed here.

Please consult the Abstract Booklet for further reading on each presentation.

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| 1:00 - 1:20 | RESTORATION, RECONNECTION, AND RENEWAL: COMMUNITY MAPPING IN THE CROWNEST PASS AND ELK VALLEY REGIONS, CANADA
Sonia Voicescu
<i>Environmental Studies</i> |
| 1:20 - 1:40 | READING INDIGENIZATION AND INTERNATIONALIZATION TOGETHER: A DECOLONIAL FEMINIST INQUIRY INTO SETTLER COLONIALISM AND EPISTEMIC JUSTICE IN THE CANADIAN UNIVERSITY
Asma Noureen
<i>Educational Psychology & Leadership Studies</i> |
| 1:40 - 2:00 | UNDERSTANDING THE ORIGIN OF KEY ELEMENTS FOR HABITABLE PLANETS
Joshua Issa
<i>Physics and Astronomy</i> |
| 2:00 - 2:20 | EVIDENCE THAT THE COMPLEMENT PATHWAY IS A PREDOMINANT IMMUNE MECHANISM IN OVARIAN CANCER
Megan Dyck
<i>Biochemistry & Microbiology / Molecular Life Sciences</i> |
| 2:20 - 2:40 | “CUTTING OFF THE POSSIBILITIES FOR CHANGE”: HUMAN NATURE IN WESTERN THOUGHT, TECHNO-OPTIMISM, AND THE POLITICS OF EXCLUSION
Olivia Labelle
<i>Political Science</i> |
| 2:40 - 3:00 | PAINTING THE FRONTLINE: B CELLS, ANTIBODIES, AND A BODY-WIDE FIGHT AGAINST OVARIAN CANCER
Victor Negrea Puskas
<i>Biochemistry & Microbiology</i> |

Poster Session D

*Poster Session Presenters are ordered alphabetically by last name.
Their poster can be found at the accordingly numbered board in the Grad House.
Please consult the Abstract Booklet for further reading on each presentation.*

- 1 TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND CERTIFICATION PATHWAYS FOR INTERNATIONALLY EDUCATED TEACHERS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA. A DOCUMENT ANALYSIS OF POLICY REFORMS, 2022 - 2026
Moyinoluwa Amos *Curriculum and Instruction*
- 2 HUL'QUMI'NUM TATTOOING RE-INDIGENIZATION: UPHOLDING SNUW'UYULH (LAWS/TEACHINGS) AND 'A'LHUT TUTE ET SULHWEEN (HONOURING AND RESPECTING THE ANCESTORS)
Phoenix Charlie *History*
- 3 INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES FOR MEETING DIVERSE NEEDS: APPROACHES AND CLASSROOM CHALLENGES IN ADVANCED RUSSIAN-AS-AN-ADDITIONAL-LANGUAGE CONTEXTS
Tegan M. Clarke *School of Languages, Linguistics & Cultures*
- 4 LOVE AND SEX IN MID-19TH CENTURY CANADA: WHO WERE THE 'MOTHERS' OF CONFEDERATION?
Moira Dann *History*
- 5 THE PERFECT BOYFRIEND, THE PROBLEMATIC SPORT: COLLEGE HOCKEY ROMANCE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE
Olivia Druxerman *English*
- 6 FOREVER CHEMICALS MAKE "LEAKY" MEMBRANES; EFFECTS OF PFOA USING DIBS
Annabel Flint *Chemistry*
- 7 L1 ACQUISITION OF INFINITIVE EMBEDDED CLAUSES IN ENGLISH: A DIARY STUDY ANALYSIS FROM AGES 1;6 TO 3;6
Keona Gingras *School of Languages, Linguistics & Cultures*
- 8 NOT QUITE ASPECT AND NOT QUITE PLURALITY: THE SYNTAX OF VERB STEM ALTERNATION IN TSOVA-TUSH
Caleb Gordon *School of Languages, Linguistics & Cultures*

- 9 SITUATING CREATIVE CONFIDENCE IN THE AGE OF GENAI
Adrian Granchelli *Curriculum & Instruction*
- 10 NEURO-IMMUNE RESPONSE DYNAMICS FOLLOWING CORNEAL DAMAGE
Angela Jackson *Biology*
- 11 FROM CONTACT TO CONNECTION: EXAMINING THE IMPACT OF A DIVERSITY-BASED COURSE ON EMPATHY, PERSPECTIVE TAKING, AND TOLERANCE
Barbie Jain *Psychology*
- 12 EXPLORING THE WELLNESS OF NEW TEACHERS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA
Linnea Leist *Educational Psychology & Leadership Studies*
- 13 THE CHEMICAL EVOLUTION OF GALAXIES FOLLOWING MERGERS
Maria Lourdes Balane *Physics and Astronomy*
- 14 FROM MANDATE TO MEANING
Eleanor Martin *Curriculum and Instruction*
- 15 “GREAT SHOALS IN ENDLESS QUANTITY”: MIXED METHODS IN HISTORICAL ECOLOGY REVEAL SHIFTED BASELINES FOR PACIFIC HERRING
Kai Muir *Environmental Studies*
- 16 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH ENGAGEMENT FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHERS
Guy Oved *School of Languages, Linguistics & Cultures*
- 17 LOVING AND LIBERATING YOUNG PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS: FOUNDATIONS FOR BUILDING NEW WORLDS
Emma Rai *School of Child and Youth Care*
- 18 EXPLORING HOST RESPONSES TO STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS IN A PATIENT COHORT AND AN IN VITRO MODEL
Arseni Revoy *Molecular Life Sciences*
- 19 MIND-ALTERING MICROGLIA: EXPLORING THE MICROGLIAL RESPONSE TO REPEATED PSILOCYBIN ADMINISTRATION IN MICE
Cameo Volk *Neuroscience, School of Medical Sciences*
- 20 FOOD ASSET MAPPING AND SCENARIO ANALYSIS IN THE CITY OF LANGLEY
Elvia Willyono *Public Administration*

Presentation Session E

Held in Room 108

Presentations are 5 minutes, with no question period.

Please allow for variance to the times listed here.

Please consult the Abstract Booklet for further reading on each presentation.

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| 3:30 - 3:35 | THE ROLE OF ART EXPERTISE IN MEMORY AMONG OLDER ADULTS
Jenna Sonoski
<i>Psychology</i> |
| 3:35-3:40 | DEMYSTIFYING METHODOLOGY AND EMBRACING THE POSSIBILITIES
Makayla Madill
<i>Theatre</i> |
| 3:40-3:45 | SEEKING INCLUSIVE SEX EDUCATION
Margaret Cummings
<i>Education Studies</i> |
| 3:45-3:50 | CONSIDERING PARTICIPANTS: RECIPROCITY IN THE RESEARCH WITH IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE COMMUNITIES
Mariah Madill
<i>Theatre</i> |
| 3:50-3:55 | DEVELOPING A SPATIAL IMAGING WORKFLOW TO DECIPHER IMMUNE CELL POSITIONING IN GENETICALLY DISTINCT PROSTATE CANCER BONE METASTASES
Oscar Grainger
<i>Molecular Life Sciences</i> |
| 3:55-4:00 | BEYOND DIAGNOSIS: NEURODIVERSITY-AFFIRMING CARE FOR LATE-DIAGNOSED AUTISTIC ADULTS (MONTOKA & LAWRENCE, 2026)
Valeria Montoya
<i>Educational Psychology & Leadership Studies</i> |
| 4:00-4:05 | MULTI-EVENT DYNAMIC CAPTURE-RECOGNITION MODEL: MODELLING THE COVID-19 IMPACT ON AGE AND GENDER IN BRITISH COLUMBIA
Wenlin Xu
<i>Mathematics and Statistics</i> |
| 4:05-4:10 | SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO? MODELLING MOTHER-CALF MOVEMENT IN SVALBARD REINDEER
Akina Kuperus
<i>Interdisciplinary: Mathematics & Biology</i> |
| 4:10-4:15 | THREE BIOLOGICAL MODELS TREATED WITH GOLD NANOPARTICLES, DOCETAXEL, AND RADIATION
Madison Blatchford
<i>Physics & Astronomy</i> |

- 4:15-4:20 EXPLORING THE NARRATIVES OF BLACK WOMEN LEADERS' EXPERIENCES IN MENTORSHIP AND MENTORING IN TANZANIAN HIGHER LEARNING INSTITUTIONS
Tabitha Rutonda *Educational Psychology & Leadership Studies*
- 4:20-4:25 THE FRAGMENTED BODY: ERO GURO NANSEN AND VIOLENCE IN EDOGAWA RANPO'S EARLY CRIME STORIES
Sinem Koçarslan *Pacific and Asian Studies*
- 4:25-4:30 AN INVESTIGATION OF THE NEUROINFLAMMATORY CONSEQUENCES OF THE PUTATIVE RAPID-ACTING ANTIDEPRESSANT, REELIN
Ciara Halvorson *Medical Sciences*
- 4:30-4:35 FUNCTIONAL BRAIN DIFFERENCES IN OLDER ADULTS WITH SUPERIOR MEMORY ABILITIES
Haley Keenan *Psychology*
- 4:35-4:40 WALK-AND-TALK THERAPY: A SCOPING REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS AND OUTCOMES
Lara Vaziri *Psychology*
- 4:40-4:45 CO-CAPTAINS OF THE HARDSHIP: INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND ACCOMPANYING PARTNERS' EXPERIENCES OVERCOMING SHARED CHALLENGES IN ADJUSTMENT
Morgan Begg *Counselling Psychology*
- 4:45-4:50 THE VALOR OF LIGNIN: FROM PULP WASTE TO ANTI-CORROSION ARMOUR
Savannah Dam *Mechanical Engineering*
- 4:50-4:55 ENDOMETRIOSIS AND PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH: METHODOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR EXAMINING PERCEIVED BODY FUNCTIONALITY AS A PROTECTIVE FACTOR AGAINST THE PSYCHOSOCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF ILLNESS
Hannah Valihora *Counselling Psychology*
- 4:55-5:00 UNDERSTANDING TURBIDITY RESPONSES TO STORM EVENTS IN A DRINKING WATER SUPPLY WATERSHED
Beata Plutova *Department of Geography*

Event Schedule & Presentation List

Excellence in Graduate Research Symposium

DAY 2: Thursday, November 5, 2026

9:00 am

Participant Registration Opens (Session F)

Lobby, Halpern Centre

- EGRS Participants check in in the GSS Lobby
- A/V Check: Session A presenters may test projection equipment in Room 108 until 9:45 am

10:00 am

Session F begins

Room 108

- Presentation Session F - Room 108 (15min presentations)

12:45 pm

Registration Opens (Session G)

GSS Lobby / Grad House

- EGRS Participants check in in the GSS Lobby
- A/V Check: Session C presenters may test projection equipment in room 108 until 1 pm, or after 1:45 pm

1:00 pm - 1:45 pm

FGS Funding and Awards Information Session

Room 108

- Funding & Awards Info Session hosted by **Alexis Ramsdale**, FGS Scholarship Officer
- Open to all; no registration required

2:00 pm

Session G begins

Room 108

- Presentation Session G - Room 108 (15min presentations)

4:00 pm

Closing Remarks, Awards, & Post-EGRS Social begins

Grad House

- Closing remarks from the GSS Director of Student Life
- EGRS award winners announced for Presentation sessions, Poster sessions, and Kula: Library Futures Academy multidisciplinary award
- Join us for the post-EGRS Social and enjoy free appetizers in the Grad House (while quantities last)!

DAY 2: Presentors List

Presentation Session F

Held in Room 108

Presentations are 15 minutes followed by a 5 minute question period.

Please allow for adjustments to the times listed here.

Please consult the Abstract Booklet for further reading on each presentation.

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| 10:00 - 10:20 | RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS OF AGE-SPECIFIC NON-PHARMACEUTICAL INTERVENTIONS ON WILD-TYPE SARS-COV-2 IN CANADA
Tanya Philippsen
<i>Interdisciplinary Studies</i> |
| 10:20 - 10:40 | ELECTRODE STRUCTURE IN A ZINC-IRON REDOX FLOW BATTERY
Erwin Li
<i>Mechanical Engineering</i> |
| 10:40 - 11:00 | HOW SEX AND ESTROGEN SHAPE THE BRAIN'S IMMUNE RESPONSE TO SMALL BRAIN BLEEDS
Dhwani Sura
<i>Neuroscience</i> |
| 11:00 - 11:20 | MODEL MISSPECIFICATION IN SEMI-COMPETING RISKS: THE CASE OF DEMENTIA AND DEATH
Harini Kapali
<i>Mathematics and Statistics</i> |
| 11:20 - 11:40 | COMPETENCY WITHOUT HIERARCHY: REIMAGINING DEMOCRATIC RELATIONS IN CURRICULUM
Sean Creighton
<i>Education</i> |
| 11:40 - 12:00 | DECODING TIME IN THE DEEP: A METHYLATION CLOCK FOR AGE ESTIMATION IN ROCKFISH
Kinga Kotulska
<i>Biology</i> |

Presentation Session G

Held in Room 108

Presentations are 15 minutes followed by a 5 minute question period.

Please allow for adjustments to the times listed here.

Please consult the Abstract Booklet for further reading on each presentation.

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| 2:00 - 2:20 | MATERIALIZING RESEARCH: THE ARTISTS' BOOK AS ESSAY
Autumn de León
<i>English</i> |
| 2:20 - 2:40 | RELIGIOUS POPULISM: A CRISIS INTERNAL TO LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC TIME
Lily Polenchuk
<i>Political Science</i> |
| 2:40 - 3:00 | TAŠII?AKQIN ?UYAQHMISUKQIN (OUR JOURNEY, OUR STORY):
HUU-AY-AHT GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVES ON MODERN TREATY
IMPLEMENTATION
Brenda Jimenez-Gonzalez
<i>Public Administration</i> |
| 3:00 - 3:20 | AN ADAPTIVE SIMULTANEOUS UPDATE METHOD TO CALIBRATE THE
SMCM
Diego Pena Palma
<i>Mathematics and Statistics</i> |
| 3:20 - 3:40 | INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES ON COGNITIVE AGING
TRAJECTORIES
Heather Kwan
<i>Clinical Psychology</i> |