

APRIL 24, 2026

# EGSA Newsletter



A big thank you to everyone who joined our Spring Social on April 10. It was wonderful connecting with you! EGSA is planning another social event for the summer, and we would love your input. Please let us know what activities you would like to see by completing this [survey](#).

This summer also brings several upcoming events and opportunities, including online writing retreats. It is also election season! Read on for information on how to get involved.

Starting with this issue, we have also introduced a Wellness Corner and a Wisdom of the Month section to support your well-being and encourage reflection.

## Newsletter Highlights

Summer Online Writing Retreats | Research Cafe | MPed Alumni Career Conversations  
MA Room | CSA Event | ICRC Events | Mentorship Program | Wellness Corner  
Wisdom of the Month | Indigenous Resources

APRIL 24, 2026



## UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

### SUMMER ONLINE WRITING RETREATS

Struggling to carve out focused time for writing?  
Hoping to make progress this summer?  
Looking for a supportive, structured space to stay motivated?

If so, we invite you to join EGSA and ICRC for a series of online Writing Retreats! These retreats offer uninterrupted writing time, gentle accountability, and optional one-on-one writing support.

#### May Session

**Date:** Wednesday, May 13

**Time:** 9:30am-11:30am & 1:30pm-3:30pm (ET)

**Format:** Online

**Writing Support:** Dr Zheng Zhang and Chuan Liu from ICRC will be available for individual consultations in breakout rooms.

#### June Session

**Date:** Thursday, June 11

**Time:** 10:00am-12:00pm & 1:30pm-3:30pm (ET)

**Format:** Online

**Writing Support:** Chuan Liu from ICRC will be available for individual consultations in breakout rooms.

**Registration Link:** <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/zvaxTG4icT>

Zoom links will be shared with registrants prior to each session.

### STAY IN TOUCH



[egsa@uwo.ca](mailto:egsa@uwo.ca)



[EGSA Western University](#)



[Education Graduate Student Association \(EGSA\)](#)



[westernegsa](#)



[westernegsa](#)



[westernegsa](#)

APRIL 24, 2026



## UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

### RESEARCH CAFÉ

Looking for a supportive space to talk about your research? Join us at the Research Café, an informal, student-driven gathering where graduate students can share research ideas at any stage—or simply listen and learn from peers.

**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2026

**Time:** 3:00pm-4:00pm (ET)

**Location:** EDU-FEB-1044-AlumniRoom

**Registration Link:** <https://forms.gle/85eagXHtRazWhgMt9>

### MPED ALUMNI CAREER CONVERSATIONS

This series features conversations with MPed (and related programs) alumni who share their experiences after graduation, including job search strategies, career development, and living and working in Canada.

Through these conversations, one common theme stands out: while career paths may look different, having a clear direction and focusing on the next step can make the process more manageable over time. It is also important to stay open and actively seek out the resources and opportunities available to you along the way.

We have already invited several alumni to participate and will be sharing their stories soon.

If you are an MPed or Education graduate and would like to take part, or if you know someone who might be interested, please feel free to reach out at [slian226@uwo.ca](mailto:slian226@uwo.ca).

### MA ROOM

MA students, are you looking for a workspace? Room 1111 in the Faculty of Education Building is designated for MA students. The room has computers available for use, as well as tables and chairs if you would like to bring your own device. Need the access code? Please reach out to EGSA or the Graduate Office ([graded@uwo.ca](mailto:graded@uwo.ca)).

APRIL 24, 2026



CSA EVENT

## UPCOMING WEBINAR – RESEARCH WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Malvika Agarwal, Ph.D. Candidate, CSSAL, will be presenting as part of the Canadian Sociological Association's Sociology of Childhood and Youth Research Cluster in a panel focused on research with children and youth. The session brings together scholars working across diverse methodological and conceptual approaches to engaging with children's lives and participation.

Malvika's contribution draws from her research project, *Children Co-Designing Cities of the Anthropocene*, which explores children's participation, more-than-human relations, and ecological justice.

Event details and registration:

<https://www.csa-scs.ca/news/exploring-research-with-children-and-youth-perspectives-and-practices>

## GET INVOLVED & SHARE YOUR VOICE!

We welcome contributions from graduate students for upcoming issues of the newsletter.

You are invited to share:

- Academic or personal milestones
- Cultural food recipes
- Exciting news, celebrations, or accomplishments

Your stories help strengthen our community and highlight the diverse experiences within EGSA. Submit your content to [egsa@uwo.ca](mailto:egsa@uwo.ca).

# From Reflection to Diffraction

*A Sociomaterial Approach to AI, Criticality, and Agency  
in Teaching and Learning*

ZOOM  
MEETING ID: 915 6310 4520  
PASSCODE: 924281

FRI, MAY 8, 2026  
2:30-3:30 PM, EDT

REGISTRATION LINK:  
[HTTPS://FORMS.OFFICE.COM/R/AUV2LFMZGQ](https://forms.office.com/R/AUV2LFMZGQ)



## Dr. Ling Lei

Instructional Designer  
Faculty of Education, Western University

The Interdisciplinary Centre for Research in Curriculum as a Social Practice

This workshop foregrounds a research-informed approach to AI in teaching and learning practices. Participants are invited to engage in a diffractive exploration of the entanglement of AI and its effects on teaching and learning. Discussions will be informed by scholarship on sociomaterialism in education and the sociomateriality of AI. Drawing on rich conceptual resources in sociomaterialism, participants will take part in activities to diffractively critique prevailing framings of AI and explore possibilities for reconfiguring critical creative agency in our teaching and learning practices.

### Guest Speaker:

Dr. Ling Lei is an instructional designer in the Faculty of Education, Western University. She received her PhD in Educational Research (Adult Learning) from the University of Calgary and currently serves as an Associate Editor for the *Canadian Journal for the Study of Adult Education*. Dr. Lei has drawn on her research on practice-based learning theories to inform her instructional and learning design work in professional education programs. Her current research and practice focus on the intersections of technology, learning, and agency.

Registration Link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/aUv2LfmZgQ>

## WHOSE OBJECTS? WHOSE STORIES? (WOWS)

An interdisciplinary, collaborative research and development project

ZOOM  
MEETING ID: 916 3091 1452  
PASSCODE: 435040

MAY. 19 (TUE.)  
10:00-11:00 AM (EST)



**DR. EMMA COOPER**

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN  
LITERACY EDUCATION  
(FACULTY OF EDUCATION,  
UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE)



**DR. KATE NOBLE**

ASSISTANT RESEARCH  
PROFESSOR MUSEUM  
PARTICIPATION AND  
PRACTICE (FITZWILLIAM  
MUSEUM, UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE)



**DR. ALISON TWINER**

SENIOR RESEARCH  
ASSOCIATE WITH CAMTREE  
(CAMBRIDGE TEACHER  
RESEARCH EXCHANGE)  
(UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE) AND BY-  
FELLOW AT HUGHES HALL

The Interdisciplinary Centre for Research in Curriculum as a Social Practice

The Whose Objects? Whose Stories? (WOWS) research project seeks to explore how learning about legacies of the past can inspire thinking about more equitable and inclusive futures. As noted in the literature, museum collections increasingly face questions about ownership, provenance, and whose stories they tell (Giblin et al., 2019; Hicks, 2020; Soares & Witcomb, 2023) and are important sites of learning for discussing contemporary multicultural identity and the legacies of British colonialism (Habib, 2021). There is an urgent need therefore for learners to have opportunities to engage with complex issues, but educators may lack confidence in facilitating conversations (Evans & Noble, 2024; Gandolfi et al., 2023). A further area of relative paucity in the literature is that whilst there is a substantial body of research exploring educational dialogue in terms of talk (e.g. Alexander, 2018; Howe, et al., 2019), there is much less addressing a

multimodal dialogue frame – to understand how learners and teachers use objects, spaces and their own physical embodiment to think and learn together. WOWS thus seeks to address critical gaps in research by examining how museum-based outreach programmes support young learners (aged 12-13) and educators to talk about complex issues, and how multimodal approaches enable learners to ‘show’ as well as ‘tell’ evolving understandings. This presentation will begin by exploring findings from a pilot research and professional development project that served as the foundation/pilot for WOWS, led by Drs Noble and Twiner, "Talking Objects". These findings will be used to examine and introduce WOWS' impetus for documenting learner's sustained multimodal engagement with objects within object-based dialogue sessions (Deal et al, 2026; Morrison et al, 2025; Noble, 2025).

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The Interdisciplinary Centre for Research in Curriculum as a Social Practice

**Dr Emma Cooper** is Assistant Professor in Literacy Education (Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge) and Fellow (Robinson College, University of Cambridge). Emma co-leads the multimodal dialogue strand of the Faculty of Education's Cambridge Educational Dialogue Research Group (CEDiR). Her research interests include curriculum studies, multimodal literacies, and social semiotics, with a particular interest in research that fosters inclusive meaning making opportunities for children through the transformation of literacy curricula and pedagogies. Recent publications focus on agency and rights in childhood and reading and equity in teacher education.

**Dr Kate Noble** is Assistant Research Professor Museum Participation and Practice (Fitzwilliam Museum, University of Cambridge). She is the strategic lead on research relating to learning and participation and co-lead of the Museums Participation, Practice and Co-creation Research Community. She is an educator and practitioner researcher, whose work focuses on visual literacy, creative pedagogies, museum learning and community participation. She is fascinated by how art and objects can help people to connect, learn and think critically, and how museums can function as dynamic spaces for creativity, dialogue and collaboration.

**Dr Alison Twiner** is Senior Research Associate with Camtree (Cambridge Teacher Research Exchange) (Hughes Hall, University of Cambridge) and By-Fellow at Hughes Hall. Also a Research Associate in the Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge, Alison co-leads the multimodal dialogue strand of the Faculty of Education's Cambridge Educational Dialogue Research Group (CEDiR). She has keen research and development interests in how we support effective communication and understanding in educational interactions, particularly from a multimodal and mediated lens; and supporting educators' professional development particularly through practitioner inquiry. Recent publications explore the practicalities of supporting educational dialogue, and ethical challenges and approaches to conducting and sharing practitioner inquiry.

Registration Link: <https://forms.office.com/r/Y4a8a9Tsr2>

APRIL 24, 2026

# EGSA MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

*Connect. Learn. Grow.*



*The EGSA Mentorship Program connects new graduate students with experienced upper-year mentors who share insights, answer questions, and help mentees navigate graduate life. These mentor-mentee connections foster peer support, helping students build confidence and feel more connected within the graduate community.*

*Join the EGSA Mentorship Program as a Mentor or Mantee by scanning the QR code or using the link: [signup](#)*

## Wellness Corner

*As the term comes to an end, take time to pause and reflect on your progress. Acknowledge your efforts, no matter how small, and allow yourself time to rest and recharge.*

*Recovery is an important part of growth.*

## Wisdom of the Month

*Progress is not about doing more - it's about doing what matters most with intention.*

*Reflection: What is one meaningful action you can focus on this week?*

## INDIGENOUS RESOURCES

### EXTERNAL RESOURCES

The Ndakimnaan Healing Lodge Program at Atlohsa invites young Indigenous women (ages 18 to 29) to join our Young Women's Healing Camp! This is a safe and supportive space to heal from addictions and traumas, connect with the land, and reclaim your identity.

All young Indigenous women are welcome, provided you are able to safely endure a substance-free camp. There is no cost to attend this program, and transportation will be provided.

Pearce Williams Camp: 8809 Homestead Road, Fingal, ON

What to expect:

- Fun Activities and Creative Workshops
- Teachings from Knowledge Keepers & Elders
- Land-Based Healing & Learning
- Reconnecting with Culture
- Non-Religious, Substance-Free Programming

May 4th to May 15th  
2-Week Overnight Camp

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 28th, 2026

To register or make any inquiries, contact Lois at: [lwalker@atlohsa.com](mailto:lwalker@atlohsa.com) | 382-577-3059



**Young Women's Healing Camp**

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 <b>YOUNG WOMEN'S 2-WEEK CAMP</b> RUNNING FROM MAY 4 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup>	 <b>HEALING ADDICTION &amp; TRAUMA LAND-BASED CAMP</b> ACTIVITIES & TEACHINGS NON-RELIGIOUS
 <b>HOW TO JOIN: CONTACT LOIS</b> <a href="mailto:lwalker@atlohsa.com">LWALKER@ATLOHSA.COM</a> 382-577-3059	 <b>PEARCE WILLIAMS CAMP</b> FINGAL, ONTARIO LOCATED AT 8809 HOMESTEAD ROAD

registration required by  
**April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

### CULTURE NIGHTS AT THE WAMPUM LEARNING LODGE

Bi-weekly on Wednesday evenings, the Wampum Learning Lodge opens our doors to bring both our Western and local communities together for three different cultural programs for crafting, fitness, and drumming!

These events are open to students as well as any local community members who wish to attend, not only those currently affiliated with Western University. See full program descriptions and dates below. Please note that the Craft Circle and Drum Practice are designated spaces for Indigenous people, while the Fitness Class is open to everyone to engage with.

# Culture Nights at the Wampum Learning Lodge



## Winter Semester Dates

January 21

February 18

March 18

April 15

February 4

March 4

April 1

April 29

**Dinner included for attendees!**

## Indigenous Community Crafting Circle

4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Audience: Indigenous Students and Indigenous community members

The Indigenous Community Crafting Circle invites all interested Indigenous artists, creators, and learners to visit & create together in a community setting. Bring your current project or start something new with the art supplies we provide at the WLL.



## Pow Wow Fitness Class

6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Audience: Everyone (Indigenous & non-Indigenous)

Hosted by Lisa Hill from Moccasin Flow, we move our bodies and spirits, marching to the beat of the Big Drum, incorporating steps and Zumba moves to get the energy flowing!

This fitness class is open to ALL, so bring your friends!

## Young Men's Pow Wow Singing Practice

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Audience: Young Indigenous men (Students and Community Members)

Hosted by Ray Deleary, this program is for young Indigenous men interested in learning how to sing and drum competition pow wow style with a focus on developing technical skills. Participants will be guided on proper form, drum beat, rhythm, vocal range, tone, technical components of a song and learning song types and purposes.

No experience is necessary!

**Please contact us with any questions: [wampumlearninglodge@uwo.ca](mailto:wampumlearninglodge@uwo.ca)**

