



Royal Roads
UNIVERSITY

3RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON COMMUNICATION ETHICS

February 22 & 23, 2023

This event aims to challenge, clarify and expand our ethical capacities as communicators.

Join us as we explore the following themes:

- Indigenous Professional Communication
- Restoring Humanity in Turbulent Times
- Creating Community After the Pandemic
- Poetry and the Language of Decolonization
- AI and Post-Secondary Education
- Why Local News Matters
- Socially Engaged Theatre

FREE 2-DAY
VIRTUAL EVENT



DAY ONE | WED, FEB 22

8:45AM

Traditional Welcome

Elder Butch Dick

9:00AM

The Power of Place, the Role of Traditional Knowledge and the Significance of Storying, as a Means of Connection to Our Collective Humanity

Elder Butch Dick and Russell Johnston

10:00AM

Restoring Humanity in Turbulent Times

Naheed Nenshi

11:00AM

Poetry & the Language of Decolonization

Dr. Sarah de Leeuw

1:00PM

Why Local News Matters

Robert Remington (moderator) with Dawn Walton, Rob Germain, Dave Obee and Bhupinder S. Hundal

2:00PM

Ethical QuestionING [EQ] and Socially Engaged Theatre: Processes & Procedures

Dr. Taiwo Afolabi

DAY TWO | THU, FEB 23

9:00AM

Restoring Humanity in the Classroom

Dr. Lauren Halcomb-Smith and Ken Jeffery

10:00AM

Indigenous Professional Communication

Alison Tedford Seaweed, Juli Holloway, Dr. Wayne Clark and Timothy Kenny

11:00AM

'Iran protests didn't happen': Defenseless Women Amid Western Hypocrisy

Dr. Yasser Abdelrahim

1:00PM

Re(Story)ing Our Humanity: How Are We Going to Be Together in the Times Ahead?

Dr. Veronica Thompson, Raaj Chandran, Dr. Hilary Leighton and April Kuramoto

2:00PM

A Conversation with ChatGPT

Dr. Aiden Buckland, Tyler Nagel and Megan Reimer

The Power of Place, the Role of Traditional Knowledge and the Significance of Storying, as a Means of Connection to our Collective Humanity

Elder Butch Dick and Russell Johnston

Join Elder Butch Dick (Yux'wey'lupton), artist, community educator, and Russell Johnston (Sungilawakan), Director, Indigenous Education, to explore the power of place, the role of traditional knowledge and the significance of storying, as a means of connection to our collective humanity.

9:00 AM Pacific Time | 12:00 PM Eastern Time

Restoring Humanity in Turbulent Times

Naheed Nenshi

Join former Mayor Naheed Nenshi as he presents a “big picture view” on the importance of restoring humanity. Mayor Nenshi is known for his innovative approach to governance and community development. He will share his views on where politics, social relations, and community building go in the near future, and rebuilding a sense of common purpose.

10:00 AM Pacific Time | 1:00 PM Eastern Time

Poetry & the Language of Decolonization

Dr. Sarah de Leeuw

So-called Canada and British Columbia are extraordinary examples of sustained coloniality. Exploring historical and contemporary (white) colonial violence risks, drawing from M. Nourbese Philip, “doing a second violence.” Anchored in highly narrativized geographies of Haida Gwaii, this poem/paper contributes to ongoing conversations about unsettling Euro-white supremacy. The presentation tackles the impossibility of either leaving parts of oneself (early girlhood) to specific times or places or, as a white settler, relegating colonial violence to someone other than self. Reading from *Lot* provides insight into feminist anticolonial geopoetics that pushes against logic, predictability, or orderliness – in other words, against the trappings of coloniality itself.

11:00 AM Pacific Time | 2:00 PM Eastern Time

WATCH

**What is the role of
ETHICS
in communication?**



**How can ethical
communication help to
'Restore Humanity'?**



Why Local News Matters

Robert Remington (moderator) with Dawn Walton,
Rob Germain, Dave Obee and Bhupinder S. Hundal

"Local news is the oxygen of democracy, the most trusted source for the most essential information." - Washington Post, Dec. 27, 2022.

In an era of disinformation, rampant conspiracy theory, and accusations of “fake news,” local media outlets remain a reliable space for credible information. Local media organizations are the closest to the people. They collectively raise millions for charity, hold public officials accountable, connect community, and help create a shared community culture. Yet local news is not without challenges. Dying newsrooms damage communities. In the absence of strong local media outlets, extreme voices are amplified on social media. This panel of experienced journalists share their thoughts on the successes and challenges they face.

1:00 PM Pacific Time | 4:00 PM Eastern Time

Ethical QuestionING [EQ] and Socially Engaged Theatre: Processes & Procedures

Dr. Taiwo Afolabi

In this session, Taiwo will share the ways ethical questionING [EQ] can offer researchers and practitioners within diverse contexts (particularly research and community engagement) the opportunity to reflect-before-in-on-actions. Taiwo will highlight processes and procedures of engaging EQ through some Socially Engaged Theatre projects in Canada and elsewhere. Framed within the lens of reflexivity, social justice, equity, and praxis, ethical questioning calls for a shift of ethics from a morality debate to a political act.

2:00 PM Pacific Time | 5:00 PM Eastern Time

DAY TWO SESSIONS | THURSDAY, FEB. 23

Restoring Humanity in the Classroom

Dr. Lauren Halcomb-Smith and Ken Jeffery

In this session, we will share insights and reflections from our holistic perspectives as instructional designers, associate faculty, and education researchers. We will ask: is it enough to “restore” humanity in the classroom, or are there opportunities to remake our way of teaching in this new landscape of higher education? Drawing on themes from engaged pedagogies, critical pedagogy, and the ideas of thought leaders such as bell hooks and Paulo Freire, we will argue for a compassionate social-justice oriented approach. We will conclude the session with practical ideas for implementing this approach and opportunities for discussion and sharing back.

9:00 AM Pacific Time | 12:00 PM Eastern Time

Indigenous Professional Communication

**Alison Tedford Seaweed, Juli Holloway,
Dr. Wayne Clark and Timothy Kenny**

When considering the indigenization of professional communication, it is important that practitioners first understand decolonizing principles to reinforce Indigenous ways of knowing of being. Therefore, decolonization as a grounded approach will be conveyed as a framework. We will also discuss aspects of defragmenting organizational strategies in consideration of Indigenous voices that integrate values of respect, reciprocity, and renewal. Consideration will be given to Indigenous engagement and partnerships in the achievement of these goals, and the relevance of an ongoing relationship for maintaining trust and authenticity. Finally, a case example will be shared to demonstrate how an organization has incorporated these elements into a corporate communication strategy in a good way.

10:00 AM Pacific Time | 1:00 PM Eastern Time

'Iran Protests Didn't Happen': Defenseless Women amid Western Hypocrisy

Dr. Yasser Abdelrahim

This talk focuses on Western media coverage of the protests in Iran that erupted after the death of the 22-year-old Iranian woman Mahsa Amini in September 2022. Probably picturing protests and counting the death toll in Iran, Western media coverage not only lacks an understanding of the gravity of the situation in Iran but overlooks that some Western governments maintain trade and investments with the Iranian regime. This talk sheds light on the difference between current protests in Iran and the 'White Revolution' that led to the change in the Iranian regime in 1978, explains how current protests may not necessarily help Iranian women obtain more civil rights, and indicates how Western media could gradually contribute to a processual change of the social order in Iran.

11:00 AM Pacific Time | 2:00 PM Eastern Time

Re(story)ing Our Humanity: How are we Going to be Together in the Times Ahead?

**Dr. Veronica Thompson, Raaj Chandran,
Dr. Hilary Leighton and April Kuramoto**

A sleight-of-hand rewording of the conference title invites a storied approach to this 45-minute panel conversation exploring what narrates our lives, our leadership, our research, and teaching, as we consider a plurality of ideas of what it means to be fully human at this moment of unparalleled planetary change in a world fraught with polarities and increasing divisiveness. Join us for a lively dialogic inquiry of how we might be together in the times ahead and in particular, what regenerative stories we might be summoned to tell and to live into the world now.

1:00 PM Pacific Time | 4:00 PM Eastern Time

A Conversation with ChatGPT

Dr. Aiden Buckland, Tyler Nagel and Megan Reimer

Join ChatGPT as it answers your questions about its role in higher education. This session is interactive and informal, with the hope that you will gain a sense of the capacity for AI to generate text, but that you will also gain an appreciation of how it may be both useful and disruptive to post-secondary and professional communications.

2:00 PM Pacific Time | 5:00 PM Eastern Time

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION & CULTURE

The School of Communication & Culture at Royal Roads University hosts its 3rd Annual Conference on Communication Ethics, and this year, we will dive into the question: How can ethical communication help to restore humanity?

While the conference aims to inspire practitioners, students and academics to take real and meaningful steps to become more ethical communicators, the topic will appeal to many others as well.



"The conference is an opportunity for people interested in how meaning is created and distributed within society to consider ethical components of perhaps what makes humans most unique, our ability to communicate." (Chasten Remillard, Associate Professor and Program Head, MA Professional Communication)

At RRU, our communication programs are specifically designed to help you influence positive outcomes in your organization and the world.

Our Programs:

- [Master of Arts in Intercultural and International Communication](#)
- [Master of Arts in Professional Communication](#)
- [Graduate Certificate in Professional Communication Management](#)
- [Graduate Certificate in Strategic Global Communication](#)
- [Bachelor of Arts in Professional Communication](#)



This educational investment in myself
has already paid dividends.

Jane Zatylny

Graduate Certificate in Professional Communication Management





Elder Butch Dick

Butch (Yux'wey'lupton) is from the Lekwungen community, better known today as the Songhees First Nation, his family roots extend into the Xw'chalth'lap community, today known as Tsartlip First Nations, and his Grandma on his paternal side was from Ditidaht, which is part of the Nuu'cha'nulth speaking communities. Butch Dick taught First Nations Art and Cultural Awareness in the Victoria School District 61 for over 25 years. He played a vital role in co-developing much of the First Nations art curriculum for students from kindergarten to grade 12, as well as adorning many schools with his original works which either reflected the school spirit or local traditional landmarks. As an established Master Carver and internationally renowned Lekwungen Artist his artwork is scattered throughout Victoria, British Columbia and the world. His cultural works assist in building bridges of understanding around the Lekwungen peoples past and present.



Russell Johnston

Russell (Sungilwakan) has been a guest on the traditional lands of the Xwsepsum and Lekwungen families for six years. Hailing from Neyaashiinigmiing (Cape Croker unceded First Nation) via the traditional territories of the Mississaugas of the Anishnaabeg, Russ' background includes work in Indigenous community research, entrepreneurial consulting, sustainable economic development and cultural protocol education. Russ holds a diploma in Foundations of Indigenous Learning, a Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous Studies/History and a Master of Indigenous Governance. His scholarly work navigates the intersection of emotional cognizance and traditional knowledge systems rooted in personal, familial and communal well-being.



Naheed Nenshi

Naheed Nenshi served as Mayor of Calgary, Canada for three consecutive terms from 2010-2021. He is also an accomplished business professional and a community leader with a solid track record of getting things done. He's run a large non-profit, he's been a trusted advisor to corporate leaders in Canada and the US, and he literally wrote the book on Canadian cities. Naheed spent many years at the international business consulting firm, McKinsey & Co., where he advised large telecommunications, banking, retail and oil and gas companies in corporate strategy. After leaving McKinsey, Naheed formed his own business, the Ascend Group, a consultancy that assists public, private, and non-profit organizations to grow. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree (with distinction) from the University of Calgary and a Masters in Public Policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.



Dr. Sarah de Leeuw

An award-winning researcher and creative writer whose work focuses broadly on marginalized peoples and geographies, Sarah de Leeuw grew up and has spent most of her life in Northern British Columbia, including Haida Gwaii and Terrace. She is the Research Director of the Health Arts Research Centre and teaches in the areas of Indigenous peoples well-being and health humanities.



Robert Remington

Robert Remington is an award-winning journalist and best-selling author with a professional career spanning four decades in Canadian journalism. His varied career includes roles as a beat reporter, columnist, critic, correspondent, editor, documentary TV host, radio host and television commentator. He was nominated for a National Newspaper Award and is a recipient of a Michener Award citation for public service journalism. His co-authored book about Canada's youngest multiple killer, *Runaway Devil*, was seven weeks on the Globe and Mail's bestseller list.



Dawn Walton

Dawn Walton is managing editor of CTV News Calgary. Prior to that, she was The Globe and Mail's national correspondent based in Calgary, and Toronto. She has also written for CNN, Yahoo!Finance Canada, Maclean's Magazine, the Toronto Star, The Canadian Press, Canadian Business Magazine, the Ottawa Citizen and the Kingston Whig-Standard. She is a five-time National Newspaper Award nominee; two-time winner and was twice nominated for the Michener Award. She has a journalism degree from Carleton University and holds a law degree from Queen's University.



Rob Germain

Rob Germain is the CEO (Chief Employee-Owner) at CHEK Media Group in Victoria, BC. Germain has been in broadcasting for 30+ years. He was a producer at BCTV (now Global BC) for six years (1989-1995). Germain came to CHEK as Assignment Editor in 1995. He was appointed News Director at CHEK in 2002 - a position he held for 17 years. In 2009, Germain was instrumental in helping to save CHEK, bringing together employees, the union, and community-minded investors in a successful bid to take over the station. CHEK is now the only employee-owned TV station in North America. Germain received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the RTDNA in 2019, and was a co-recipient of the Webster Foundation Bill Good Award in 2022. Since becoming its CEO, CHEK has been recognized as Greater Victoria Business of the Year (2021). Germain also serves as President of the British Columbia Association of Broadcasters.



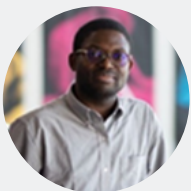
Dave Obee

Dave has been a journalist for half a century, starting as a sports reporter in Kamloops and working at five other daily newspapers in British Columbia and Alberta before joining the Times Colonist in 1997. In 2012, Dave was awarded an honorary doctorate of laws by the University of Victoria for his work as a historian, genealogist and journalist. In 2017, he received the Bill Good award for making a significant difference in journalism and the community at large.



Bhupinder S. Hundal

As News Director and Station Manager at Global BC, Bhupinder oversees one of the largest newsrooms in Canada. Prior to joining Global News, Bhupinder was a Senior Producer at CBC News Vancouver. Prior to that, he founded Cross Connect Media, creating media solutions designed to enhance the profile of mainstream news organizations in ethnic communities. From 2014 to 2018, Bhupinder was one of the voices of Hockey Night in Canada in Punjabi, and behind the scenes developed the strategy propelling the broadcast to international acclaim. Bhupinder also had a successful tenure as the News Manager of OMNI Television (Rogers Media Inc.) in BC, overseeing the station's Mandarin, Cantonese, and Punjabi newscasts.



Dr. Taiwo Afolabi

Dr. Taiwo Afolabi is a theatre-maker, scholar, theatre manager and entrepreneur. His interest is in amplifying voices and experiences, and re-centering governance models, strategies and systems on the margin through the lens of decolonization, equity and anti-oppressive approaches. His experience in over a dozen countries across four continents in a variety of contexts focused on socially engaged and community-based creative practice for transformational change. Through storytelling and devised theatre, he works with communities on social issues pertinent to them and his research continues to advance broad-minded thinking within the art and culture sector. Dr. Afolabi is the Canada Research Chair in Socially Engaged Theatre and serves as the Director of the Centre for Socially Engaged Theatre (C-SET) at the University of Regina. He is a Senior Research Associate at the University of Johannesburg in South Africa and the founding director of Theatre Emissary International (TEMi) in Nigeria and Canada. Dr. Afolabi has co-edited three books and published articles in various books and reputable journals.



Timothy Kenny

Timothy (Tim) is a mixed-race, non-status, Indigiqueer man who grew up in community housing projects in Edmonton, Alberta. His maternal Indigenous lineage comes from the Jean Baptiste Gambler #183 First Nation in Calling Lake, Alberta. Tim has worked on various Indigenous communications initiatives such as National Indigenous Peoples Day campaigns, Indigenous Reads, Words Matter, and the award-winning Protect Our Elders Campaign. He also participated as a former member/past co-chair of CIRNAC Communication Branch's Indigenous Advisory Circle. Before accepting his current role as a Senior Communications Advisor for Women and Gender Equality, Tim worked in the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Secretariat at CIRNAC, where he was lead support for the 2SLGBTQIA+ Sub Working Group and their contribution to the recently launched MMIWG National Action Plan.



Dr. Yasser Abdelrahim

Yasser Abdelrahim is an assistant professor of visual communication and currently teaches for Master of Arts in Intercultural and International Communication. His published research focused on visual framing, visual discourse, and media representation, and social media. In 2017, he was granted \$16,000 by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science for his research about Sustaining the Competitive Identity of Kuwait: The Role of Elites and Social Media Users. His current research examines the photographic framing of Arabs during World War II, and the visual representation of gender protests in Lebanon. Yasser's passion for visual communication was inspired by his early work in 1993 as a publication designer and his study of journalism at Cairo University. He worked for the Supreme Council of the Press in Egypt between 1993 and 1995 and was the art director of the Egyptian Armed Forces newspaper between 1996-2000. After completing his doctoral degree in Communication Studies from McGill University in 2006, he taught at several universities in Egypt and later in Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, and Kuwait. In 2016, he completed a Social Media for Business program at Algonquin College, Ottawa. Before joining the School of Communication Culture, he was a sessional instructor at the Northern Lights College, BC.



Dr. Veronica Thompson

Dr. Veronica Thompson has served in a variety of academic and administrative positions at the University of Calgary, Mount Royal College, Red Deer College and Athabasca University, which she joined in 2003. She was Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS) and associate professor of English at Athabasca University, where she also held the role of Chair of the Centre for Language and Literature. Thompson has led a number of initiatives at Athabasca University including internal restructuring, and the development of the faculty's inaugural strategic plan, and has contributed to strategic institutional initiatives including MSCHE accreditation and Strategic Enrolment Management. Dr. Thompson holds a Ph.D. in English from the University of Queensland (2002) and attended the University of Calgary where she completed a Master of Arts in English (1991) and a Bachelor of Arts in English (1985).



Raaj Chandran

Raaj Chandran holds an MBA from Ohio State University and an MA in mass communication from University of Florida. He has two decades of communication management, public relations, advertising and marketing experience in Canada, the United States and Singapore, with exposure to 17 countries across Europe, Southeast Asia and the Middle East. Beyond teaching at Royal Roads University, he has also taught at the National University of Singapore and Purdue University in the United States. Raaj is currently completing his PhD from Colorado University, his research interests include strategic communication in an era of world citizenship, cultural sensitivity in international communication and a humanist approach to communication.



Dr. Hilary Leighton

A lifelong apprentice to nature and psyche, Dr. Hilary Leighton is Associate Professor, Psychotherapist and Registered Clinical Counsellor in private practice. Drawing upon the wisdom of ecopsychology, depth psychology, general systems theory, and embodied, nature-and arts-based practices, her scholarly research and teaching seek ways to: extend the notion of the individual psyche to a world ensouled; inspire a whole-human, ecologically intelligent epistemology; and cultivate reconnection with a sentient Earth. She examines and reflects the ethical dilemma, suffering and loss of our relationships with wildness and contemplates learning as an initiatory journey toward maturation, regeneration and a more soulful way of belonging.



April Kuramoto

April Kuramoto works in a First Nations community as a writer and story listener. Previously, she served many families as a birth doula. April completed her Master's Degree at Royal Roads University as an Environmental Educator, with a focus on feminist research rooted in stories of connection to the land. Her interests include: culture, ceremony, books and plants. A mother and activist, April is passionate about holding equitable space for emergent conversations. It could be said that all these paths have been in service to the Mother.



Dr. Aiden Buckland

Dr. Aiden Buckland's research has focused on online communities. His Master's research explored the interplay between mainstream media and blogging in the early 2000s and his doctoral research focused on how the practices of professional gaming change the way people play video games. Buckland served as the Managing Editor for the Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication from 2011 to 2014. He co-edited the conference proceedings from the technology and emerging media track of the Canadian Communication Association in 2014. He has presented his research at conferences for the Canadian Communication Association, Popular Culture Association, Canadian Game Studies Association, the Calgary Comics and Entertainment Expo and Techstock 2016 Let's Talk Gaming event.



Tyler Nagel

Tyler Nagel is a communications scholar with a focus on journalism. Teaching a variety of courses ranging from technical journalistic skills, to social media techniques, online storytelling, and portfolio development, he strives to blend traditional journalistic practice into contemporary online media. Nagel strongly believes in student-focused learning and employs teaching techniques that emphasize mentorship and collaboration over traditional lecture. As well as his teaching duties, Nagel has an active research program that includes community media, social media, fake news, misinformation and disinformation. Nagel has taught post-secondary communications students for more than fifteen years. His work as a communications educator and scholar has roots in community newspapers in Alberta and the Northwest Territories, where he developed a respect for the news reporter and the vital societal role of local media. He is currently pursuing a PhD at the University of Groningen, where his research examines the emergence of news deserts in Canada – communities that no longer have news media of any sort.



Megan Reimer

Megan Reimer is a graduate of RRU's MAPC program, with a BA in communication studies and an editing certificate. She completed a Governor General's Gold award-nominated thesis on mental health conditions and the noise they create in interpersonal and intrapersonal communication flows. Megan runs her own communications, change management, and editing business offering heart-led, empathetic, human-first consulting services to purpose-led entrepreneurs, and small and large businesses, and supports RRU as a teaching and research assistant. While she is a Vancouver-islander at heart, Megan and her dog, Brimley, live just outside Calgary, AB, and enjoy climbing mountains and playing in the river.