

The 4th Annual
**People Around the World
Conference**

A two-day, online event | February 2 & 3, 2021



Global to local for the goals: *Harnessing the power of collaboration to re-emerge stronger and together*



Adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At the heart of this agenda are the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#), an urgent call for action by all countries — poor, rich and middle-income — to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection.¹

COVID-19 is spreading human suffering, destabilizing the global economy, and upending the lives of billions of people around the globe. The pandemic is an unprecedented wake-up call, laying bare deep inequalities and exposing precisely the failures that are addressed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Leveraging this moment of crisis, when usual policies and social norms have been disrupted, bold steps can steer the world back on track towards the Sustainable Development Goals. This is the time for change, for a profound systemic shift to a more sustainable economy that works for both people and the planet.

The Sustainable Development Goals are vital for a recovery that leads to greener, more inclusive economies, and stronger, more resilient societies.²

The [Sustainable Development Report 2020](#) presents the SDG Index and Dashboards for all UN member states and frames the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in terms of six broad transformations. It was prepared by teams of independent experts at the [Sustainable Development Solutions Network \(SDSN\)](#) and the Bertelsmann Stiftung.

The thematic sessions explored at the PAW 2021 conference have been inspired by the *Six Transformations Framework for the SDGs* of the Sustainable Development Report 2020.



¹ <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

² <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sdgs-framework-for-covid-19-recovery/>

Welcome to PAW 2021

Greetings from the University of Saskatchewan International Office

It brings me great pleasure to welcome everyone to the 4th annual People Around the World Conference!

Since 2018, the University of Saskatchewan (USask) International Office has hosted the PAW conference as a platform for global cooperation on the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) and as an opportunity to highlight cross-cutting international research and global projects undertaken by USask researchers and international partners.

The need to strengthen cooperative efforts around the world became alarmingly evident last year as the COVID-19 pandemic forced individuals, communities, businesses, academic institutions, and entire governments to reassess priorities and share resources to “flatten the curve.” As such, PAW 2021 organizers were compelled to bring together expert research, applied knowledge, and lived experiences to create the path forward for stronger, more resilient societies in the wake of COVID-19, and on the way to meeting the SDGs in 2030.

Under the overarching theme “Global to local for the goals: Harnessing the power of collaboration to re-emerge stronger and together,” we are excited to engage with academics, the higher education community, governments and municipalities, industry, and non-governmental organizations to share innovative ideas, strategies, and collaborative efforts to address the [Decade of Action](#).

The PAW conference exists to address global challenges and support the wellbeing of communities around the world thanks to funding through the University of Saskatchewan internationalization plan—the [International Blueprint for Action 2025](#). This plan fosters initiatives that internationalize learning experiences, diversify our university community, strengthen our global impact through discovery, and grow our global citizenship and international community service.

Inequities that lead to disparities can be minimized and science can be conducted with transformative action in mind by building bridges between local, regional, and global disciplines, initiatives, actors, and communities. As a connector for engagement with other higher education institutions, international education agencies, and sustainability networks, the USask International Office plays a unique role in the implementation of the SDGs through its research, partnerships, and funding initiatives.

On behalf of the PAW 2021 organizing committee and the University of Saskatchewan International Office, I would like to sincerely thank all of our conference partners, presenters, sponsors, and attendees. This event would not be possible without your generous support and enthusiasm. I would also like to thank our exclusive platinum sponsor, the [Global Institute for Water Security \(GIWS\)](#), the top water resources research institute in Canada and one of the most advanced hydrology research centres in the world.

By working together and taking part in this profound and powerful movement toward creating a better future and planet, we hope to provide a learning opportunity that supports the power of research and education—based on mutual trust, respect and understanding—with and from people around the world.

Thank you for being part of PAW 2021.



Dr. Meghna Ramaswamy (PhD)
Director, International Office,
University of Saskatchewan

PAW 2021 program

Day One: Tuesday, February 2, 2021

Emcee: Dr. Meghna Ramaswamy (PhD) | Director, International Office, University of Saskatchewan

All program times are in Central Standard Time (CST): https://www.worldtimeserver.com/current_time_in_CA-SK.aspx

8–8:55 AM

DAY ONE OPENING REMARKS

Introductory remarks and housekeeping

Dr. Meghna Ramaswamy (PhD)

Prayer and greetings

Elder Roland Duquette

National Anthem

Ms. Kiela Caudillo Ruiz — International partnerships specialist, International Office, University of Saskatchewan

Welcome remarks

Dr. Peter Stoicheff (PhD) — President, University of Saskatchewan

Greetings from the City of Saskatoon

Charlie Clark — Mayor, City of Saskatoon

8:55–9:45 AM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The nexus of human rights, education, and research: facilitating collaboration at the edge of the horizon

The Honourable Judge David Arnot — Chief Commissioner for the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission

Q&A moderator

Dr. Meghna Ramaswamy (PhD)

9:45–10 AM

BREAK

10–11:20 AM

THEMATIC SESSION — HEALTH AND WELLBEING

COVID-19 research at Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO)

Dr. Volker Gerds (PhD, DVM) — Director and chief executive officer, Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization; Professor, Department of Veterinary Microbiology, University of Saskatchewan

Mozambique-Canada Maternal Health Project — progress and prospects during a pandemic

Dr. Nazeem Muhajarine (PhD) — Professor, Community Health and Epidemiology, College of Medicine; Principal investigator, Mozambique-Canada Maternal Health Project, University of Saskatchewan

Dr. Jessie Forsyth (PhD) — Project director, Mozambique-Canada Maternal Health Project, Mozambique

Developing Indigenous-centric indicators for meaningful evaluation of Indigenous health research: a first look at the NEIHR networks' approach

Dr. Simon Lambert (PhD) — Associate professor, Indigenous Studies, College of Arts and Science, University of Saskatchewan; Executive director, Network Environments for Indigenous Health Research (NEIHR) National Coordinating Centre; tribal member of Tuhoe/Ngāti Ruapani (Aotearoa, NZ)

Session and Q&A moderator

Dr. Marek Radomski (MD, PhD, DSc) — Vice-dean research, College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

PAW 2021 program

Day One: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 (cont'd)

11:20–11:25 AM BREAK

11:25 AM–12 PM KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy in the COVID-19 world

The Honourable Minister Karina Gould — Minister, International Development, Government of Canada

Q&A moderator

Moderated by Dr. Steven R. Webb (PhD) — Chief executive officer, Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS), University of Saskatchewan

12–12:30 PM SPECIAL VIDEO PRESENTATION

Culinary demonstration

Chef Dale MacKay — Award-winning culinary artist and celebrated restaurateur; Canada's first Top Chef winner

[Download the recipe "Ricotta gnocchi with tomato butter sauce"](#)

12:30–1 PM LUNCH BREAK

1–1:10 PM UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

Dr. Irena Creed (PhD) — Associate vice-president research, University of Saskatchewan; Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada

1:10–2:30 PM THEMATIC SESSION — FOOD, LAND, WATER (SECURITY AND SOVEREIGNTY)

Enabling sustainable development in Bangladesh through bilateral collaboration and partnership

Mr. Stephen Visscher (CBE) — Director of strategic partnerships and chief operating officer, Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS), University of Saskatchewan

Exploring the role of youth in community-based resource management and conservation

Dr. Jim Robson (PhD) — Assistant professor, School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS); UNESCO Co-chair in Biocultural Diversity, Sustainability, Reconciliation and Renewal, University of Saskatchewan

Dr. Marlene Soriano (PhD) — Program director, Bolivian Institute of Forest Research (IBIF), Bolivia

Three initiatives to promote equitable sustainability and share successes

Dr. Corinne Schuster-Wallace (PhD) — Associate professor, Geography and Planning, College of Arts and Science; Associate director, Global Water Futures, University of Saskatchewan

Session and Q&A moderator

Dr. Irena Creed (PhD)

2:30–2:45 PM SPECIAL LIVE PRESENTATION

Energizing yoga

Ms. Amanda Plante — Research ethics specialist (animal), Research Excellence and Innovation, University of Saskatchewan

PAW 2021 program

Day One: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 (cont'd)

2:45–3 PM

BREAK

3–4:45 PM

THEMATIC SESSION — EDUCATION, GENDER AND INEQUALITY

An international perspective of teachers' beliefs about inclusion: implication for inclusive education in Canada

Dr. Pei-Ying Lin (PhD) — Associate professor, Educational Psychology and Special Education, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan

Alliances as a key element to promote sustainable education

Ambassador Miguel Ruiz Cabañas Izquierdo — Director of the SDGs Initiative at Tecnológico de Monterrey; Co-chair of the Mexican chapter of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN Mexico)

Rediscovering English for academic purposes in the context of the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Ms. Sally Abu Sabaa — Manager, English for Academic Purposes, York University

Using design thinking and Facebook to solve a plastic pollution problem in the Mediterranean Sea

Dr. Diane Pruneau (PhD) — Director of the Littoral et vie Research Group, Université de Moncton

Session and Q&A moderator

Dr. Dawn Wallin (PhD) — Associate dean (undergraduate programs, partnerships, and research), College of Education, University of Saskatchewan

4:45–5:30 PM

SPECIAL VIDEO PRESENTATION

Visiting professors at the University of Saskatchewan

5:30 PM

DAY ONE WRAP-UP

Closing remarks

Dr. Meghna Ramaswamy (PhD)

END OF DAY ONE



"As the international community, regional organizations, and countries plan the post-COVID-19 recovery, it will be important to put the SDGs at the heart of policymaking. COVID-19 does not resolve the climate and biodiversity crises and is gravely amplifying income inequalities and other forms of inequalities. It also demonstrates that countries will only be able to protect themselves from global pandemics if health systems are strengthened in every country. The SDR2020 shows that significant progress was achieved in many regions and on many goals over the past five years."

— [Sustainable Development Report 2020 \(SDR2020\)](#)



PAW 2021 program

Day Two: Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Emcee: Professor Jay Famiglietti (PhD) | Canada 150 Research Chair in Hydrology and Remote Sensing; Executive director, Global Institute for Water Security (GIWS), University of Saskatchewan

8:30–8:55 AM	DAY TWO OPENING REMARKS
	Introductory remarks and housekeeping <i>Dr. Jay Famiglietti (PhD)</i>
	Welcome remarks <i>Dr. Baljit Singh (PhD)</i> — Vice-president research, University of Saskatchewan
8:55–9:45 AM	KEYNOTE ADDRESS
	Pathways to Sustainable Development <i>Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs (PhD)</i> — Professor, Columbia University; President, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)
	Q&A moderator <i>Dr. Jay Famiglietti (PhD)</i>
9:45–10 AM	BREAK
10–11:20 AM	THEMATIC SESSION — SUSTAINABLE, EQUITABLE, AND DIVERSE COMMUNITIES
	Can money buy health? The nuts and bolts of a family income generation project <i>Dr. Ronald Siemens (MD, FRCP)</i> — Assistant professor, Division of Pediatric Emergency, College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan
	Responding to challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic through gender and cultural-sensitive development programs in northern Luzon, Philippines <i>Dr. Marlowe Aquino (PhD)</i> — Professor and core faculty member, Graduate School of Mariano Marcos State University; Adjunct professor, Benguet State University, Philippines
	Principles for transdisciplinary sustainability scholarship with Indigenous and Rural Peoples <i>Dr. Maureen Reed (PhD)</i> — Professor, School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS); UNESCO Co-chair Biocultural Diversity, Sustainability, Reconciliation and Renewal, University of Saskatchewan
	Session and Q&A moderator <i>Dr. Michelle Aihina Inkinsh Holhpokunna Johnson-Jennings (PhD)</i> — Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Community-Engaged Research; Associate professor, Indigenous Studies, College of Arts and Science, University of Saskatchewan; tribal member of Choctaw Nation
11:20–11:25 AM	BREAK
11:25 AM–12 PM	KEYNOTE ADDRESS
	Moving forward a provincial approach to International Education <i>Ms. Livia Castellanos</i> Executive Lead, International Education and Jurisdictional Initiatives, Ministry of Advanced Education, Government of Saskatchewan
	Q&A moderator <i>Dr. Jay Famiglietti (PhD)</i>

PAW 2021 program

Day Two: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 (cont'd)

12–12:30 PM	SPECIAL PRESENTATION Collaborative learning, internationally <i>Ms. Aditi Garg</i> — Education development specialist, Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching and Learning, University of Saskatchewan <i>Dr. David Parkinson (PhD)</i> — Professor, English, College of Arts and Science, University of Saskatchewan
12:30–1 PM	LUNCH BREAK
1–2:30 PM	TRAINEE RESEARCH COMPETITION Opening remarks and prayer <i>Elder Roland Duquette</i> Review the abstracts and presentation schedule Join Room 1 Join Room 2
2:30–2:45 PM	SPECIAL VIDEO PRESENTATION Bhangra dance: energize yourself by joining a traditional Punjab dance <i>Mr. Gurdeep Pandher</i>
2:45–4:10 PM	THEMATIC SESSION — CLIMATE ACTION AND ENERGY Climate change, agriculture, land and sustainable development <i>Dr. Margot Hurlbert (PhD)</i> — Professor and Canada Research Chair, Climate Change Energy and Sustainability Policy, Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Regina Three C's: climate action through capacity building in community renewable energy <i>Dr. Andrea Kraj (PhD, P.Eng)</i> — Assistant professor, School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS), University of Saskatchewan Sustainable clean energy production from biomass <i>Dr. Ajay Dalai (PhD)</i> — Distinguished professor, Chemical and Biological Engineering and Canada Research Chair, Bioenergy and Environmentally Friendly Chemical Processing, College of Engineering, University of Saskatchewan Session and Q&A moderator <i>Dr. Karsten Liber (PhD)</i> — Interim executive director and distinguished professor, School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS), University of Saskatchewan
4:10–4:40 PM	AWARDS CEREMONY University of Saskatchewan Internationalization Recognition Awards PAW 2021 Trainee Research Competition Awards <i>Presented by Dr. Meghna Ramaswamy (PhD)</i> — Director, International Office, University of Saskatchewan

PAW 2021 program

Day Two: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 (cont'd)

4:40–5:30 PM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Technologies to help Canada meet net-zero emissions by 2050

Dr. Phil De Luna (PhD) — Director, National Research Council Canada (NRC); Member, Canadian Commission for UNESCO Working Group on AI Ethics and the Sustainable Development Goals

Q&A moderator

Kirsten Marcia (P. Geo) — Director, president and chief executive officer, Deep Earth Energy Production (DEEP)

5:30–5:35 PM

CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

Closing remarks

Dr. Jay Famiglietti (PhD)

5:35–6 PM

VIRTUAL CONCERT WITH JAY MAILLET

END OF DAY TWO

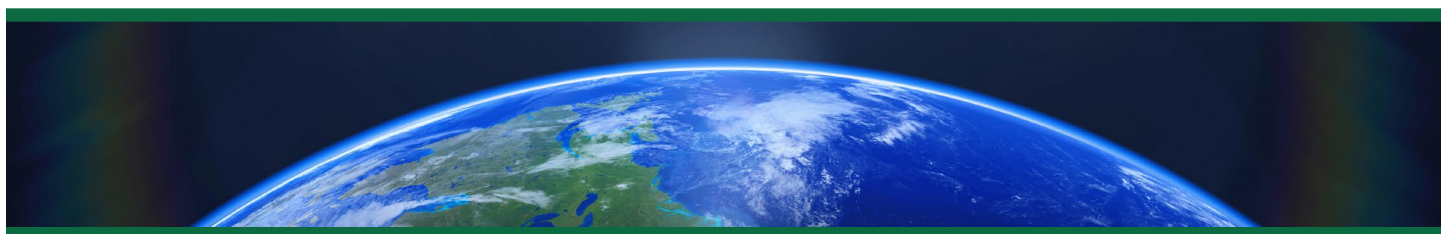
The International Blueprint for Action 2025

A vision for a globally significant university

CONNECTING WITH THE WORLD

Global problems cannot be solved by only thinking and acting locally. Moreover, the world is evolving, and so is the University of Saskatchewan. The University of Saskatchewan is well-positioned to contribute to the global needs of our society, and we will prepare our students, faculty and staff to appreciate, ask and then address society's most important challenges. Our academic excellence, partnered with international engagement and activity, will secure our global presence and enhance the university's impact in the world in which we live and share.

The [University Plan 2025](#) highlights the importance of interdisciplinary and collaborative approaches to discovery, Indigenization, teaching and learning, and community engagement. [The International Blueprint for Action 2025](#) amplifies the university plan by focusing and enhancing our efforts across these same themes through an internationalization strategy and goals distinctive of a truly world-class university.



Keynote speakers

Learn more about the distinguished experts at PAW 2021



THE HONOURABLE JUDGE DAVID ARNOT

David Arnot attended the University of Saskatchewan and received his LL.B. Degree in 1975. In 1978, he became a Senior Crown Prosecutor. He was appointed a Judge of the Provincial Court of Saskatchewan in 1981. In September of 1994, Judge Arnot was seconded to the Federal Department of Justice as Director General of the Aboriginal Justice. In May 1996, Judge Arnot was promoted to the position of Special Advisor to the Deputy Minister of Justice for Canada.

On January 1, 1997, he was seconded by the Federal Government to be the Treaty Commissioner for the Province of Saskatchewan for a 10 year period. Judge Arnot's work on the "Teaching Treaties in the Classroom Project" was specifically cited as a model for Canada by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Racism in his report presented in March 2004.

In October 2005, the Office of the Treaty Commission was selected by the Canadian Race Relations Foundation to receive its biennial Award of Excellence for education programs in the public and government sector. Judge Arnot introduced the phrase "We are all Treaty people" to capture the nature of the Treaty relationship in Canada.

Judge Arnot has produced and directed a number of video education projects. He has been involved in education for the Judiciary through the National Judicial Institute, the Western Judicial Education Centre, the Canadian Association of Provincial Court Judges, and the American Judges Association.

Judge Arnot was honoured by the Canadian Bar Association Saskatchewan Branch as a recipient of the "Distinguished Service Award" for 2007.

Judge Arnot has been seconded from the Provincial Court of Saskatchewan to be Chief Commissioner for the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission since January 15, 2009.



THE HONOURABLE KARINA GOULD

The Honourable Karina Gould, Minister of International Development, was first elected as the Member of Parliament for Burlington in 2015.

A graduate of McGill University and the University of Oxford, Minister Gould is passionate about public service and international development. Before her election as the Member of Parliament for Burlington, she worked as a trade and investment specialist for the Mexican Trade Commission in Toronto, a consultant for the Migration and Development Program at the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C., and spent a year volunteering at an orphanage in Mexico.

Minister Gould has deep roots in her hometown of Burlington, Ontario, and is an active member of the community and an advocate for women's issues and affordable housing.

Keynote speakers (cont'd)

Learn more about the distinguished experts at PAW 2021

She has volunteered with and actively supports the Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club, the Burlington chapter of the Canadian Federation of University Women, the Mississauga Furniture Bank, Halton Women's Place, and other local organizations.

Minister Gould lives in Burlington with her husband Alberto and son Oliver. With the birth of Oliver, Minister Gould became the first federal cabinet minister to have a baby while holding office. She is passionate about breaking down barriers for women, youth, and underrepresented groups.



PROFESSOR JEFFREY D. SACHS

Jeffrey D. Sachs is a world-renowned economics professor, bestselling author, innovative educator, and global leader in sustainable development. He is widely recognized for bold and effective strategies to address complex challenges including debt crises, hyperinflations, the transition from central planning to market economies, the control of AIDS, malaria, and other diseases, the escape from extreme poverty, and the battle against human-induced climate change.

Sachs serves as the Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, where he holds the rank of University Professor, the university's highest academic rank. Sachs held the position of Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University from 2002 to 2016. He is President of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, a commissioner of the UN Broadband Commission for Development, and an SDG Advocate for UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres. From 2001-18, Sachs served as Special Advisor to UN Secretaries-General Kofi Annan (2001-7), Ban Ki-moon (2008-16), and António Guterres (2017-18).

Sachs has authored and edited numerous books, including three *New York Times* bestsellers: *The End of Poverty* (2005), *Common Wealth: Economics for a Crowded Planet* (2008), and *The Price of Civilization* (2011). Other books include *To Move the World: JFK's Quest for Peace* (2013), *The Age of Sustainable Development* (2015), *Building the New American Economy: Smart, Fair & Sustainable* (2017), *A New Foreign Policy: Beyond American Exceptionalism* (2018), and most recently,

**CRITICAL PATH TO
SUSTAINABILITY**

The University of Saskatchewan's draft Sustainability Strategy (2021-2030) recognizes that sustainability isn't merely another problem to be tackled or solved, rather, it is a culture that must pervade all decisions within our institution.

Brought to life by the UN Sustainable Development Goals, our Strategy is meant to position our community to be unapologetically ambitious and appropriately impatient in our actions towards sustainability.

READ THE DRAFT STRATEGY

<https://sustainability.usask.ca/about-us/policies-and-plans.php>

The graphic features a background image of a historic building with a clock tower, partially obscured by a semi-transparent white box containing text. The title 'CRITICAL PATH TO SUSTAINABILITY' is in large, bold, white capital letters. Below it, a paragraph of text explains the strategy's focus on sustainability as a culture. Another paragraph mentions the UN Sustainable Development Goals. At the bottom, there is a call to action to 'READ THE DRAFT STRATEGY' with a link to the strategy document.

Keynote speakers (cont'd)

Learn more about the distinguished experts at PAW 2021

The Ages of Globalization: Geography, Technology, and Institutions (2020).

Sachs was the co-recipient of the 2015 Blue Planet Prize, the leading global prize for environmental leadership. He was twice named among *Time* magazine's 100 most influential world leaders and has received 35 honorary degrees. The *New York Times* called Sachs "probably the most important economist in the world," and *Time* magazine called Sachs "the world's best-known economist." A survey by *The Economist* ranked Sachs as among the three most influential living economists.

Prior to joining Columbia, Sachs spent over twenty years as a professor at Harvard University, most recently as the Galen L. Stone Professor of International Trade. A native of Detroit, Michigan, Sachs received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees at Harvard.



LIVIA CASTELLANOS

With over twenty years of experience in the field of International Education, Livia E. Castellanos is currently on secondment from the University of Regina, where she serves as the Associate Vice-President (International), to the Ministry of Advanced Education, Government of Saskatchewan. In her role as the Executive Lead for International Education and Jurisdictional Initiatives within the Ministry of Advanced Education, Ms. Castellanos will lead with a focus on elevating Saskatchewan's profile on a global front by championing the important work required to reinforce Saskatchewan Growth Plan priorities. Within this new portfolio her primary responsibilities will be: **a)** policy related to international education both in the provincial advanced education sector and from a national and global perspective; **b)** advancing Saskatchewan student study abroad efforts including re-attracting students back to Saskatchewan with global competencies to support population labour force targets, **c)** articulation of provincial positioning on federal-provincial relations with respect to international education, international partnerships, the Council of Ministers of Education Canada (CMEC); and **d)** lead policy development and implementation processes on the Ministry's Francophone affairs file.

During the last decade, Ms. Castellanos has been responsible for leading, managing and spearheading all international initiatives at the University of Regina. She is the creator of UR International, a centralized operation of six departments that manages all things international at the University of Regina. Ms. Castellanos led the successful formation of the Saskatchewan

The University the World Needs

The University of Saskatchewan is one of the top research-intensive, medical doctoral universities in Canada, and is home to [world-leading research](#) in areas of global importance, such as water and food security and infectious diseases. Study and discovery is enhanced by our outstanding facilities, including the [Canadian Light Source](#) synchrotron, [VIDO](#), the [Global Institute for Food Security](#), the [Global Institute for Water Security](#) and the [Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation](#).

Learn more at usask.ca



Keynote speakers (cont'd)

Learn more about the distinguished experts at PAW 2021

Education Alliance, an alliance that works towards the internationalization of higher education in the Province of Saskatchewan, and was the catalyst for the prestigious Confucius Institute at the University of Regina.

Prior to coming to the University of Regina, Ms. Castellanos served as the Director of Enrolment and Institutional Relations at the University of Winnipeg and an International Relations Officer at University of Alberta International.

Ms. Castellanos has served as the Executive Secretariat for Canada in the Inter-American Organization of Higher Education (IOHE), a board member and Chair of the Membership Relations Committee for the Canadian Bureau of International Education (CBIE), and a member of various provincial international education boards. She has consulted for several universities and higher education organizations across North America and written articles published by the European International Association of Education.

Ms. Castellanos has been recognized for her contribution to the field of International Education. She has been honoured by receiving the United States Government State Department's premier award of the 2016 International Visitor Leadership Program for foreign emerging leaders, the 2017 Intercultural Dialogue Institute's Saskatchewan Multicultural Education Award, the 2017 Consortium for North American Higher Education Collaboration's (CONAHEC) Award of Distinction for exemplary leadership, and many others.

Livia E. Castellanos, born and raised in Mexico, came to Canada during the late nineties as an international student. She is a lawyer by training, is married, and is a mom to a 13-year-old son.



DR. PHIL DE LUNA, PHD

Phil De Luna is currently leading a world-class, seven-year, \$57M collaborative research program on Canada-made clean energy technology as a Program Director at the National Research Council of Canada. His mandate is to develop transformative technologies to help Canada achieve net-zero GHG emissions by 2050. His moonshot is to make renewable fuels and chemicals from air and water.

De Luna is a pioneering carbontech expert with experience spanning cutting-edge topics such as carbon capture and conversion technologies, clean hydrogen, and artificial intelligence for materials discovery. His research has been published in high-impact journals such as *Nature* and *Science* (>5000 citations in 5 years) and has been covered by mainstream media such as *Newsweek*, *CBC*, *Forbes*, *Popular Science*, etc.

Phil was named to the 2019 *Forbes* Top 30 Under 30 – Energy list and was a finalist (1 of 10 worldwide) in the \$20M Carbon XPRIZE. He holds a PhD from the University of Toronto in Materials Science & Engineering where he was a Governor General Gold Medalist. He is Vice-Chair of the board of directors of CMC Research Institutes, a carbontech non-profit, a member of the OECD Advanced Materials steering committee, and a member of the Working Group on AI Ethics and Sustainable Development Goals at the Canadian Commission for UNESCO. He is also a Mission Innovation Champion for Canada, an Action Canada Fellow, and a Creative Destruction Lab Mentor.

PAW 2021 emcees

Meet the masters of ceremony for each day of the conference



DR. MEGHNA RAMASWAMY (PHD)

Day one emcee

Dr. Meghna Ramaswamy (PhD) is the director of the International Office at the University of Saskatchewan, where she leads a team to advance the implementation of the university's internationalization plan known as the [International Blueprint for Action 2025](#).

Meghna has a special interest in the United Nations' (UN) [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) and serves as an executive committee member, and co-chair of several subcommittees at the Commission of International Initiatives at the Association of Public Land Universities. As a steering committee member of the International Relations Learning Community at the Canadian Bureau of International Education, and the Association of Commonwealth Universities Higher Education and SDGs Network, she advances global cooperation and dialogue on the SDGs. In 2020, she contributed to [Accelerating education for the SDGs in universities](#) — a guide from the [Sustainable Development Solutions Network \(SDSN\)](#).

Dr. Ramaswamy is a member of the International Education Strategy group of the SaskAlliance, and chairs the SaskAlliance International Research, Development and SDGs Table at the Ministry of Advanced Education, Government of Saskatchewan. She is a member of the global SDG Research Consortium hosted by the Centre for Sustainable Development at Columbia University and provides input to the Education and Academia Stakeholder Group anchored to the United Nations (2013 Resolution A/RES/67/290) to address the UN SDGs on [SDG 4: Quality Education](#).

Prior to joining the University of Saskatchewan, Meghna led the UK Centre for AIDS Reagents and served as an expert advisor to the World Health Organization, the European Commission and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. She chaired the External Advisory Board for the European Research Infrastructures for Poverty Related Diseases, and received over \$19 million in grant funding.

Meghna earned her BSc in microbiology from Kings College London, UK; MSc in virology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK, and PhD in clinical infection from University College London, UK.



PROFESSOR JAY FAMIGLIETTI (PHD)

Day two emcee

Jay Famiglietti is the executive director of the [Global Institute for Water Security](#) at the University of Saskatchewan (USask), where he holds the Canada 150 Research Chair in Hydrology and Remote Sensing, and a faculty appointment in the [School of Environment and Sustainability \(SENS\)](#). Before moving to USask, Famiglietti served as the Senior Water Scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. His research group uses satellites and develops advanced computer models to track how freshwater availability is changing around the globe.

A fellow of the American Geophysical Union and the Geological Society of America, Famiglietti is a regular advisor to state, provincial, and federal government officials on water security issues.

Thematic session speakers

Learn more about the research and topics being explored at PAW 2021

Health and wellbeing Feb. 2, 2021 | 10 – 11:20 am

DR. VOLKER GERDTS (PHD, DVM)

Director and chief executive officer, Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization; Professor, Department of Veterinary Microbiology, University of Saskatchewan

Dr. Volker Gerdts is the director and CEO of the [Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization](#) (VIDO), located at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, Canada. He previously served as associate director of research of VIDO from 2007 until 2018. Dr. Gerdts is also a professor for veterinary immunology in the Department of Veterinary Microbiology at the [Western College of Veterinary Medicine](#) at the University of Saskatchewan.

He received a DVM in 1994 from Hanover Veterinary School and a German PhD equivalent from the Federal Research Institute for Animal Health, Island of Riems and Hanover Veterinary School, Germany in 1997. He has served in various administrative roles and served on various editorial boards and national and international scientific review panels including NIH, CEPI, STAR-IDAZ, CIHR, CFI, NSERC, the Gairdner Foundation, etc.

Presentation: *COVID-19 research at Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO)*

Abstract: *The University of Saskatchewan's Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO) is a research centre on campus focused on infectious diseases of humans and animals. With more than 160 staff, the organization currently operates Canada's largest high containment laboratory. VIDO has > 45 years of experience in the human-animal interface and specifically focuses on emerging diseases and zoonotics. VIDO was the first in Canada to isolate the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the first in Canada to have an animal model established, and*

the first university in Canada to have a vaccine for COVID-19 in human clinical trials. In addition, VIDO currently works with > 80 companies on solutions for COVID-19 ranging from vaccines, to antivirals and therapeutics. The presentation will provide an overview of the ongoing COVID-19 research activities at VIDO and our vision to become Canada's Centre for Pandemic Research.

DR. NAZEEM MUHAJARINE (PHD)

Professor, Community Health and Epidemiology, College of Medicine; Principal investigator, Mozambique-Canada Maternal Health Project, University of Saskatchewan

Dr. Nazeem Muhajarine (PhD) leads the Mozambique-Canada Maternal Health Project, a gender-focused international development project to empower and enhance agency in women in their family and community context as an approach to reduce maternal mortality and enhance newborn health. He is a professor, an epidemiologist, mentor, father of two, and has been settled in Saskatoon since 1990. Born in Sri Lanka to a Malay family, he completed two of his three post-secondary degrees in the United States.

DR. JESSIE FORSYTH (PHD)

Project director, Mozambique-Canada Maternal Health Project, Mozambique

Dr. Jessie Forsyth (PhD) is the director of the Mozambique-Canada Maternal Health Project. She has over 10 years' experience working in Mozambique on community-based health and women's rights projects and holds a doctorate from McMaster University in English and cultural studies with a graduate diploma in gender studies and feminist research. Her academic work has included comparative analysis of post-apartheid South African women's literature and Indigenous women's literature in Canada. Jessie works in both English and Portuguese as it relates to this project.

Thematic session speakers (cont'd)

Learn more about the research and topics being explored at PAW 2021

Presentation: *Mozambique-Canada Maternal Health Project — progress and prospects during a pandemic*

Abstract: *Funded by Global Affairs Canada, Mozambique-Canada Maternal Health Project operates in 20 rural communities within five of the most populous districts in Inhambane, Mozambique, to empower women in their families and communities, increase access to health care services, increase gender-sensitive management and leadership capacity in the health care system, provide human-centered professional education for practitioners, build infrastructure (maternal clinics, maternal waiting homes), and enhance the use of research-based information in decision-making.*

Building on 20 years of continuous resource-based partnership with Mozambican colleagues, current project partners include the Inhambane provincial health directorate, Mozambique Ministry of Health, Mozambique Planning and Cooperation, and two health training centres in Massinga and Inhambane city. We also partner with the NGO, Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA), to support the gender perspective.

All of the project activities and outputs are directed at achieving "SDG 3: Health and Wellbeing" for mothers, girls, and newborns. Our aim is to reduce maternal mortality by 10% over the five years of the project, reduce newborn deaths as well as improve birth outcomes and newborn health. By identifying, supporting, and nurturing women as leaders in their communities, particularly in matters related to health, we aim to advance towards SDGs 5 and 10. Our "micro-projects," community-initiated, women-led and sustained economic development projects, will aid women to be less financially reliant on their male partners, and, in doing so, will help them support children and themselves and attain a degree of independence and agency.

Advances are made towards achieving SDG 17 by the collection of new data, ensuring the quality and completeness of data, and using these data (via indicators) to monitor and account for achieving project goals and intermediate outcomes. We work

towards building capacity in the use of data and management and performance systems in our partner organizations and foster policy discussions for the rest of Mozambique and globally.

DR. SIMON LAMBERT (PHD)

Associate professor, Indigenous Studies, College of Arts and Science, University of Saskatchewan; Executive director, Network Environments for Indigenous Health Research (NEIHR) National Coordinating Centre; Tribal member of Tuhoe/Ngāti Ruapani (Aotearoa, NZ)

Dr. Lambert is a Māori researcher from Aotearoa, New Zealand (Tuhoe and Ngāti Ruapani tribes), and faculty in Indigenous Studies at USask. He is a principal investigator in the First Nations and Métis Health Research Network, Saskatchewan's CIHR-funded NEIHR (Network Environments for Indigenous Health Research), and executive director, [NEIHR National Coordinating Centre](#). His research interests focus on Indigenous disaster and emergency management, and Indigenous environmental management with a particular focus on the biosecurity of traditional biological heritages. Through his NEIHR work, he is now revisiting his master's research topic which looked at indicators and the integration of Indigenous approaches.

Presentation: *Developing Indigenous-centric indicators for meaningful evaluation of Indigenous health research: a first look at the NEIHR networks' approach*

Abstract: *The Canadian Institutes of Health Research has made a \$100.8M investment over 16 years in its Network Environments for Indigenous Health Research (NEIHR) Program, funding nine networks across Canada and a National Coordinating Centre. The coordinating centre supports national and international research collaborations, and evaluation of the individual networks, and the NEIHR networks as a whole. Since launching in spring 2020, researchers and staff from these nine*

Thematic session speakers (cont'd)

Learn more about the research and topics being explored at PAW 2021

networks have been collaborating with an external evaluator to develop an evaluation framework, starting by identifying and articulating our collective values: responsiveness; revitalization; mentorship; self-determination; transformation; relationships; respect; and sustainability.

We are at the early stages in developing authentic Indigenous methods of evaluation that are grounded in our communities and reflect their priorities and needs. Not only do we need to create values that reflect diverse First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities across Canada, we need to reflect the involvement of our Indigenous partners internationally. We also need to connect with, and inform others involved in evaluation research in Canada and elsewhere, which we have started through the Canadian Evaluation Society and the New Zealand Evaluation Association. We expect this work to be transformative for the health research landscape in Canada and elsewhere.

**Food, land, water
(security and sovereignty)**
Feb. 2, 2021 | 1:10 – 2:30 pm

MR. STEPHEN VISSCHER (CBE)

Director of strategic partnerships and chief operating officer, Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS), University of Saskatchewan

Stephen Visscher (CBE) joined the [Global Institute for Food Security \(GIFS\)](#) in 2018. A career in research policy and funding led to forging innovative partnerships at national and international levels and strengthening the involvement of science in diplomacy. His contribution to supporting UK research was recognized in the Queen's honours in 2013.

Presentation: *Enabling sustainable development in Bangladesh through bilateral collaboration and partnership*

Abstract: *The presenter will outline the development of a long-term strategic partnership between GIFS and partners across the University of Saskatchewan campus, and internationally, with the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council, the National Agricultural Research Institutes and the leading agricultural research university in Bangladesh. The purpose of the partnership is to establish, develop and promote an ambitious sequence of research, development, training and technology transfer programs focusing on sustainable food security in Bangladesh. The goals include enhancing farmer incomes, addressing the effects of climate change, and enabling delivery of SDGs. A major element is focused on the transfer and application of new technologies and building capacity and capability for the widespread application of such approaches. The framework for a new overarching Agricultural Technology Centre, with four major themes and cross-cutting elements, will be summarized. The funding model and connectivity to wider bilateral trade and other cooperation will also be described. This initiative is promoting economic, environment and social sustainability and will provide a particular focus on SDGs 1 (no poverty), 2 (zero hunger), 3 (gender equality), 12 (food waste and loss), 13 (climate action) and 17 (partnerships).*

DR. JIM ROBSON (PHD)

Assistant professor, School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS); UNESCO Co-chair in Biocultural Diversity, Sustainability, Reconciliation and Renewal, University of Saskatchewan

Jim Robson is an environmental social scientist with over 15 years of experience working with Indigenous and local communities in Latin America on natural resource and land management issues. His SSHRC Connection Grant, "Knowledge Mobilization on the Future of Forest Work and Communities," built capacity to engage with youth in research and bridge community-practitioner-scholar audiences. That work has provided the foundation for current project, "Youth engagement in community forestry in Bolivia," in which he collaborates closely

Thematic session speakers (cont'd)

Learn more about the research and topics being explored at PAW 2021

with the Instituto Boliviano de Investigación Forestal (IBIF), supported by a USask International Research Partnership Fund.

DR. MARLENE SORIANO (PHD)

Program director, Bolivian Institute of Forest Research (IBIF), Bolivia

Marlene Soriano is program director (Integral Development of Socio-Ecological Projects) at IBIF. She has a PhD in forest ecology and forest management from Wageningen University. Her work at IBIF is built around developing more inclusive and just forest business relations via multi-stakeholder platforms, in which youth and gender are mainstreaming themes. Her (and IBIF's) work with the UNESCO Chair is centred around building relations with partner communities in Bolivia, implementing project meetings/workshops and outputs, and expanding opportunities for effective knowledge mobilization.

Presentation: *Exploring the role of youth in community-based resource management and conservation*

Abstract: *The UNESCO Chair in Biocultural Diversity, Sustainability, Reconciliation, and Renewal was established in 2018, and brings together academic, practitioner, and community partners to collaborate on community-based, participatory action research and knowledge exchange. In doing this, the chair works to promote productive and biodiverse landscapes and territories, emphasizing effective governance, and securing livelihood and equitable decision-making opportunities, particularly for women and youth. In this presentation, we draw on collaborations with chair partners in Mexico and Bolivia, where we have been working with youth from forest-dependent communities to learn about their work, study and life aspirations, and their (actual and prospective) roles as local land managers and environmental stewards. We discuss what we (and our partners) have learnt to date; for communities, the realisation that engaging and empowering*

youth to feel a part of (and invested in) community life and governance is critical to securing vibrant and sustainable futures, and, for researchers, the need to consider and involve youth as key constituents in community-focused research. With regards the latter, we discuss some of our methods for engaging youth, both in the context of working in situ and remotely. Finally, in maintaining a strong focus on enhancing equity, diversity, and inclusion in community and territorial governance, particularly of and among youth, our work has the potential to contribute to several SDGs. We look at these particular goals and their targets to consider how real or nebulous these connections and contributions are.

DR. CORINNE SCHUSTER-WALLACE (PHD)

Associate professor, Geography and Planning, College of Arts and Science; Associate director, Global Water Futures, University of Saskatchewan

Dr. Corinne Schuster-Wallace focuses on coupled systems approaches to water-health challenges. This includes environmental change impacts and the linkages between local water security and wellbeing in rural, remote, and marginalised communities.

Presentation: *Three initiatives to promote equitable sustainability and share successes*

Abstract: *This presentation will centre on the launch of three initiatives designed to contribute to sustainable development in Canada, as a precursor to international engagement. These are: enhancing equity, diversity, and inclusion in water networks and water-related research; achieving the water-related sustainable development goals and advancing the UN Decade of Action in Canada; and, promoting One Planet university campuses. These multi-partner initiatives provide blueprints for action and opportunities for engagement and knowledge sharing. Knowledge is power and it is intended that participants will increase their knowledge of resources to act, ideas to act, and places to share their actions. Ultimately, the objectives are*

Thematic session speakers (cont'd)

Learn more about the research and topics being explored at PAW 2021

for everyone to act to reduce inequities, improve health and wellbeing, and contribute to a sustainable planet.

These initiatives collectively address elements of several SDGs, including SDG 3 (health), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 6 (water), SDG 11 (sustainable communities), and SDG 13 (climate action). Together, we can start to build a better, healthier, more equitable and sustainable society. These initiatives provide tools and platforms for individuals, universities, and water-related research to both harness the SDGs and contribute to them.

Education, gender and inequality Feb. 2, 2021 | 3 – 4:45 pm

DR. PEI-YING LIN (PHD)

Associate professor, Educational Psychology and Special Education, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan

Dr. Pei-Ying Lin is an associate professor at the [Department of Educational Psychology and Special Education of the University of Saskatchewan](#), and has worked with diverse populations of children, youth, parents, in-service and pre-service teachers, university faculty members and staff, and a number of testing agencies over the years.

Her research interests include the use of varied research methods—quantitative, qualitative, and experimental approaches—for studying instructional and assessment practices and policies for students with special needs (e.g., learning disabilities, intellectual disabilities, emotional or behavioural exceptionalities, autism spectrum disorders, etc.) and English language learners. She has continued working on an array of research projects since completing her PhD at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto.

Presentation: *An international perspective of teachers' beliefs about inclusion: implication for inclusive education in Canada*

Abstract: *This presentation will begin by reviewing inclusive education in the Canadian and international contexts. I will then present the results of a teacher survey completed by a group of preservice teachers recruited from concurrent B.Ed. programs in public universities in a southern county of Taiwan and a southern state of the U.S. (n = 75 and n = 56, respectively). The survey was developed for the present study to research teacher candidates' beliefs about inclusive education for students with varied disabilities in two countries. This survey consists of ten questions regarding what respondents think with respect to educating students with special needs in the general education classroom (e.g., "Do you think students with learning disabilities can be educated in general education classrooms?"). Each of the ten statements addresses one particular student population, including learning disabilities (LD), emotional and behavioural disorders (EBD), hearing impairments (HI), visual impairments (VI), intellectual disabilities (ID), physical (mobility) disabilities (MD), HIV/AIDS, neurological disorders (ND), developmental disabilities (DD), and speech language impairments (SLI). Implications for teacher education programs in Canada will also be discussed in the presentation.*

AMBASSADOR MIGUEL RUIZ CABAÑAS IZQUIERDO

Director, SDGs Initiative, Tecnológico de Monterrey; Co-chair of the Mexican chapter of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN Mexico)

Ambassador Miguel Ruiz Cabañas Izquierdo is the director of the SDGs Initiative at Tec de Monterrey and a co-chair of the Mexican chapter of the [Sustainable Development Solutions Network \(SDSN Mexico\)](#). He is a career diplomat and was appointed Ambassador in 1998. He has served as Mexico's Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States

Thematic session speakers (cont'd)

Learn more about the research and topics being explored at PAW 2021

(OAS). Subsequently, he was appointed Ambassador of Mexico to Japan (2004-2011), and, in 2011, he was appointed Ambassador of Mexico to Italy and Permanent Representative to the International Organizations based in Rome (FAO, IFAD and WFP) (2011-2015). In 2015, he was appointed Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, a position he held until November 2018. He has been professor at Universidad Iberoamericana, Tecnológico de Monterrey and the College of National Defense.

Presentation: *Alliances as a key element to promote sustainable education*

Abstract: *This talk will reiterate the importance of multi-stakeholder alliances and international cooperation to strengthen sustainable education (SDG 4.7), as well as governmental actions at all levels to contribute to the implementation of all 17 SDGs in Mexico. The presenter will share with the attendees some actions that Tecnológico de Monterrey is carrying out in promoting sustainable education and how universities can contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Examples will highlight the multi-sectorial alliances and collaborations that Tec de Monterrey has established in order to have a positive impact in the generation of sustainable development solutions and the promotion of sustainable education.*

MS. SALLY ABU SABAA

Manager, English for Academic Purposes, York University

Ms. Sally Abu Sabaa is a passionate educator and a researcher in PSE for over 20 years. She is also an English for Academic Purposes (EAP) manager and a PhD candidate at York University. In both contexts, she is mainly concerned with raising consciousness in education and integrating the SDGs to prepare global active citizens for the future.

Presentation: *Rediscovering English for academic purposes in the context of the UN Sustainable Development Goals*

Abstract: *In an attempt to use education as a way of raising a socially responsible and engaged global citizen, the YU-Bridge program, the largest and fastest pathway program of its kind in North America, has embarked on the journey of integrating general themes from the UN's Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDGs) in its English for Academic Purposes (EAP) curriculum. The purpose of this initiative was to redefine the general philosophy of ESL education in the middle of a pandemic and align with York University's University Academic Plan that was released in summer 2020 framed around the SDGs. Accordingly, a community of knowledge exchange was spontaneously created and facilitated by management. The SDGs became the solid pillars upon which we, academics and administrators of the YU-Bridge program, could build a new curriculum and shift our perspective from simply ESL education to language education with moral and ethical goals. In addition, experiences and reactions of students are being shared and measured through a thorough survey measuring the opportunities and challenges with the integration of the SDGs in EAP. The outcome of the survey led to a discussion about the importance of weaving in the SDGs in all disciplines to raise global engaged citizens.*

Students also participated in several on campus experiential learning activities based on the SDGs and initiated student led-webinar series. This project is supported by the UNESCO Chair in Reorienting Education towards Sustainability at York University. Examples of the student work will be displayed as part of the presentation along with the outcome of the detailed survey of the students.



"We need to turn the recovery into a real opportunity to do things right for the future."

— UN Secretary-General António Guterres



Thematic session speakers (cont'd)

Learn more about the research and topics being explored at PAW 2021

DR. DIANE PRUNEAU (PHD)

Director of the Littoral et vie Research Group, Université de Moncton

Dr. Diane Pruneau (PhD) is a professor at the Université de Moncton, in Canada. Specialized in environmental education, she is the director of the Littoral et Vie Research Group that conducts research projects and pedagogical interventions in environmental education. Dr. Pruneau's national and international research programs have dealt with understanding the link people have with their environment; healthy cities education; climate change education; the development of sustainability competencies and the use of design thinking in environmental problem solving.

Presentation: *Using design thinking and Facebook to solve a plastic pollution problem in the Mediterranean Sea*

Abstract: *Moroccan craftswomen worked together to solve a problem of plastic pollution in the Mediterranean Sea. In workshops and on a Facebook group, the project followed the stages of design thinking: observation, synthesis, ideation, prototyping, testing, and communication. During the COVID-19 confinement, on the Facebook group, the craftswomen and the researchers shared, assessed, and improved prototypes of solutions that could decrease the local use of plastics or make marketable items from plastic waste. The challenge was to find new ideas to make something pretty and worthy from an environmental point of view. When the women were confined in their village, they could not buy the necessary material for building their prototypes. The researchers were unable to send crafts specialists or scientists to help them. However, the researchers used positive assessment often in order to encourage them.*

During the first months, the researchers noticed that some prototypes of plastic reuse products, designed by the participants, despite their relevance, lacked aesthetics and would be difficult to sell. However, over the next few months,

the women invented better techniques for reusing plastics and improving their products aesthetically and environmentally. After nine months, 11 judges (from Canada and Morocco) were asked to comment and to provide scores on 35 prototypes of the craftswomen. Creativity criteria were used to assess the prototypes: elaboration, fluidity, novelty, environmental value, and adaptation. The evaluators' comments and scores were then sent to the women. Design thinking, assisted every day by a Facebook group, helped with some aspects of the resolution of the plastic problem. The craftswomen's prototypes scored high on fluidity and novelty. The environmental value of the new products was fairly good but the prototypes still needed improvement with the elaboration and adaptation criteria. The craftswomen are now improving the most promising prototypes and trying to sell their reuse products.

Sustainable, equitable and diverse communities

Feb. 3, 2021 | 10 – 11:20 am

DR. RONALD SIEMENS (MD, FRCP)

Assistant professor, Division of Pediatric Emergency, College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

Dr. Ron Siemens is a pediatric emergency medicine physician with long term experience in global health. He has worked in Nepal, Ethiopia, Pakistan, New Zealand, Haiti, and Bermuda as well as New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island here in Canada. For the last 13 years, he has focused his work in Mozambique. As Canadian Co-PI, he has just completed a five-year IDRC/CHIR/Global Affairs Canada funded project in Nampula, Mozambique. The object of the highly successful, Alert Community Prepared Hospital Project was to work closely with the community to decrease maternal and newborn mortality using a system wide approach. The strong partnerships developed over these years in the community and with

Thematic session speakers (cont'd)

Learn more about the research and topics being explored at PAW 2021

many public groups have directly led to Project Frango which will be discussed today.

Presentation: *Can money buy health? The nuts and bolts of a family income generation project*

Abstract: *This presentation will break down all the aspects of developing a private/public partnership in a low resource rural setting to provide a long term, well resourced, resilient family income generation project. It will review the process of building community consensus, involving local partners, accounting for climate change, ensuring gender equity, and building in a strong research component. It will outline how to incorporate the Sustainable Development Goals in a project. It will share the joys and challenges of Project Frango in Northern Mozambique. The participants will have the opportunity to review the template of activities that have led to a vibrant, growing community engagement partnership and hopefully be able to incorporate some of these activities and ideas in their own communities and their own work.*

DR. MARLOWE AQUINO (PHD)

Professor and core faculty member, Graduate School of Mariano Marcos State University; Adjunct professor, Benguet State University, Philippines

Dr. Marlowe U. Aquino is a full-time professor and core faculty member of the Graduate School of the Mariano Marcos State University, Philippines, and an adjunct professor of the Benguet State University – Open University in research, education, agriculture, and handling development courses. He is also the managing director of the FRAMES Development Program that enhances the education and sports development of the youth.

He is a strong advocate and researcher, as well as a sought-after technical expert and lecturer on food, culture, gender and cultural sensitivity, agriculture

and rural sociology, health and nutrition, environment management, and sustainable community development. He also provides technical mentoring with emphasis on socio-cultural, techno-economic, and environmental dimensions in the Philippines and abroad.

He has worked with and served communities through various national and international projects of the United Nations — International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), UNDP-ESCAP, Asian Productivity Organization, IRRI, and ICRISAT, and Philippine Departments of Agriculture, Science and Technology, Education, Labor and Employment, and the Commission of Higher Education's Institutions.

Presentation: *Responding to challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic through gender and cultural-sensitive development programs in northern Luzon, Philippines*

Abstract: *The global rise of the effects brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic dramatically changed the socio-cultural and techno-economic landscape of all communities including Northern Luzon, Philippines, which is considered the next development hub by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority. Through the Mariano Marcos State University, significant development initiatives were intensified to address the challenges faced by its clientele and stakeholders. Geared towards a more balanced implementation, these programs focused and continuously emphasize education-based gender equality, cultural sensitivity, and community-based interventions as the driving force in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

Strategic development actions were initiated in partnership with the local government units, private sector, regional and national government agencies including other participating stakeholders in providing technical and financial support to people and communities. The process of synergistic planning and programming complemented by responsive leadership

Thematic session speakers (cont'd)

Learn more about the research and topics being explored at PAW 2021

management and participatory implementation intensified these development interventions in combating the effects of the health crisis.

Towards this continuous effort of localized public-private partnership, the communities were served, ensured and empowered to be responsive and resilient in maintaining and sustaining healthier and safer environment for all.

DR. MAUREEN REED (PHD)

Professor, School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS); UNESCO Co-chair Biocultural Diversity, Sustainability, Reconciliation and Renewal, University of Saskatchewan

Dr. Maureen G. Reed is a distinguished professor and UNESCO Chair in Biocultural Diversity, Sustainability, Reconciliation and Renewal at the graduate [School of Environment and Sustainability](#), University of Saskatchewan. She and her students work primarily with rural and Indigenous communities on issues related to conservation and adaptation in a changing climate.

Presentation: *Principles for transdisciplinary sustainability scholarship with Indigenous and Rural Peoples*

Abstract: *This presentation by Maureen Reed reflects the work of many people who participate in the work of the UNESCO Chair. Our collaborators and partners can be found here: <https://research-groups.usask.ca/unesco-biocultural/index.php>*

Researchers of sustainability, among others, now advocate a transdisciplinary approach to scholarship — defined here as a collaborative and reflexive research approach where academics and societal actors determine questions, learn and produce knowledge together to advance societal goals. Funding agencies and universities are also nudging researchers to engage Indigenous and community partners in ways that avoid replicating colonial and exploitive research relationships of the past.

We draw on insights from diverse partners in Canada, Mexico, Bolivia, and Argentina and on other research to describe a set of principles to guide transdisciplinary sustainability scholarship. While we recognize that specific protocols may exist in research sites, these principles are designed to be durable across cultural and geographic differences, including work with rural communities more broadly. We have articulated five principles to guide researchers, communities, practitioners, and even funders:

- 1. Honour Indigenous self-determination and nationhood*
- 2. Commit to reciprocal relationships*
- 3. Approach research in a good way*
- 4. Collaborate holistically throughout the research process*
- 5. Benefit communities*

In this presentation, we will describe the rationale for developing this approach, explain how each principle might apply in practice, consider individual and institutional constraints to acting on these principles, and reflect on opportunities and challenges posed by taking a principled approach to transdisciplinary scholarship. Our approach is intended to offer practical guidance about how to engage partners in meaningful transdisciplinary sustainability practices and can be used to help monitor and gauge success of researchers in maintaining relationships and conducting reliable, respectful, and responsible research.



"We're at a unique time in the history of post-secondary institutions. We cannot become out of touch — we need to stay connected, to understand the larger needs of the communities we serve: the city, province, country and globe, and to contribute to them. We must practise connectivity."

**— University of Saskatchewan President
Dr. Peter Stoicheff (PhD)**



Thematic session speakers (cont'd)

Learn more about the research and topics being explored at PAW 2021

Climate action and energy Feb. 3, 2021 | 2:45 – 4:10 pm

DR. MARGOT HURLBERT (PHD)

Professor and Canada Research Chair, Climate Change Energy and Sustainability Policy, Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Regina

Dr. Hurlbert is a Canada Research Chair in Climate Change, Energy and Sustainability Policy. She researches climate change, energy, water, and agriculture with a specific focus on drylands and vulnerable people. She is the coordinating lead author of the IPCC *Land and Climate Report* (2019) and an author of IPCC's *Sixth Assessment Report* (AR6) as well as a member of the task force on Transformations for Future Earth.

Presentation: *Climate change, agriculture, land and sustainable development*

Abstract: *The UNFCCC and the IPCC are important institutions in achieving SDG 13. However, COVID has resulted in a cancellation of the 2020 COP and a delay of the IPCC's work. The window of opportunity is still open for addressing GHG emissions and tackling the wicked problem of climate change. However, focusing on one aspect of the problem such as mitigation or sectoral reductions is no longer sustainable. A holistic consideration of land, climate change, water, sustainable consumption, and food is important. Agriculture and its interconnection with water and food, or sustainable consumptions, SDG 12, is a key nexus in addressing climate change. Agriculture is a significant emitter of GHGs, but also an important part of the solution. This sector is very topical as it hasn't received significant focus surrounding mitigation, and synergies with adaptation. Holistic considerations of this sector as well as the policy mixes and sequencing of policy in the context of climate change, droughts and floods is necessary. This presentation focuses on climate change and the Canadian Prairies.*

DR. ANDREA KRAJ (PHD, P.ENG)

Assistant professor, School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS), University of Saskatchewan

Dr. Andrea Kraj is an assistant professor at the [School of Environment and Sustainability](#) at the University of Saskatchewan. She is a professional engineer.

Dr. Kraj is a computational engineer with expertise developing algorithms to predict and optimize renewable energy systems in remote community applications for enhanced energy security. Her research areas include: 1) developing analytical methods to predict, investigate and optimize energy generation and storage for remote communities; 2) remote and rural community power; and 3) smart microgrids and communities.

Dr. Kraj completed her undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering with aerospace specialization, her MSc in mechanical engineering on icing mitigation of wind turbines in cold climates, and her PhD in mechanical engineering in intelligent computational infrastructures for optimized autonomous distributed energy generation in remote communities at the University of Manitoba.

Dr. Kraj set precedent in Manitoba with her work in utility scale community owned wind farm development, helping rural farming communities characterize their resources, establish community cooperative businesses models for their energy projects and create feasible 150-300 MW wind energy projects. Her foundational work in energy policy for community power projects enabled communities to retain ownership through project development and lead other communities to do the same. Her vision in community energy policy and microgrid technology is leading northern remote communities to employ the community power model for empowering themselves with the appropriate energy technology at their location using smart microgrids.

Thematic session speakers (cont'd)

Learn more about the research and topics being explored at PAW 2021

Dr. Kraj additionally advises on design innovation in business and founded CORE Renewable Energy Inc., a company dedicated to empowering community orientated renewable energy worldwide through accurate, intelligent and affordable power modelling and operations. She is also an accomplished author and speaker (TEDx).

Presentation: *Three C's: climate action through capacity building in community renewable energy*

Abstract: *The global energy transition is reshaping the electricity sector. This transition opens new opportunities to meet UN SDGs. Remote, rural, and Indigenous communities and businesses are striving to negotiate their way into the electricity sector to enhance their own energy security and to create new streams of wealth generation. Yet, there are important challenges to realizing the full economic and social benefits that renewable energy brings to small communities, especially capacity building for community energy planning at remote and rural communities.*

The University of Saskatchewan is at the forefront, globally addressing these challenges through research and capacity building. To address the capacity building needs of community energy planning in remote, Northern and Indigenous communities, the School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS) has successfully launched a [Master of Sustainability in Energy Security](#) designed to provide training to students living in remote communities, working full-time with family responsibilities.

This distance-delivered program covers topics from renewable energy technology to project finance to community energy planning. Because the program was designed for distance delivery from the outset, COVID-19 has had little impact on the success of the program. Moreover, Indigenous and remote students thousands of kilometers from one another across Canada and around the world are able to access the programming.

DR. AJAY DALAI (PHD)

Distinguished professor, Chemical and Biological Engineering and Canada Research Chair, Bioenergy and Environmentally Friendly Chemical Processing, College of Engineering, University of Saskatchewan

Dr. Ajay Dalai is a leading international expert in renewable energy, heavy oil and gas processing, green and catalytic reaction engineering, and environmental pollution control. His innovative research has resulted in numerous patents for the processes and catalysts he has developed and has had significant impact on the Canadian petroleum and bioenergy industry. He has authored 550+ research papers (with citations over 28,000 and H-index of 78), presented 500+ papers in addition to 135+ invited seminars at conferences and institutions. He was awarded many international and national honours, such as the Fulbright Fellowship (2012), DAAD fellowship (2010), and JSPS Fellowship. Dr. Dalai is a Fellow of RSC (Canada), RSC (UK), CIC, CAE, EIC, AIChE, IChE, and IAAM. He has received CSCHE R.S. Jane Memorial Award, RSC's Miraslow Romanowski Medal for outstanding contributions to environmental science, and the University of Saskatchewan J.W. George Ivany Internationalization Award.

Presentation: *Sustainable clean energy production from biomass*

Abstract: *The Paris accord has allowed Canada to commit in the reduction of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions. This presentation will remind participants of our available tools towards this commitment. Professor Ajay Dalai is quite proactive in achieving some of these goals through his international collaboration with multi-sectoral partners, recruitment, joint conference organizations, and high-quality publications and presentations.*

This presentation will highlight the candidacy of a variety of bioprocessing technologies for a wide range of waste feedstocks

Thematic session speakers (cont'd)

Learn more about the research and topics being explored at PAW 2021

such as lignocellulosic biomass (e.g., agricultural crop residues and woody biomass), energy crops, sewage sludge, municipal solid waste, food waste, waste cooking oil, waste tires as well as petroleum residues (e.g., heavy/light gas oils, bitumen, asphaltene and petroleum coke) to produce clean sustainable energy production. Although these waste residues are available in considerable amounts worldwide, their potential for resource

recovery is least realized. This presentation will highlight some notable research studies conducted in the Catalysis and Chemical Reaction Engineering Laboratories (CCREL) over the past 25+ years at the University of Saskatchewan on biomass-to-gas (BTG) and biomass-to-liquid (BTL) conversion technologies to produce synthetic transportation fuels and carbon-rich solid products.

PAW 2021 moderators

Meet the keynote and thematic session moderators

DR. MAREK RADOMSKI (MD, PHD, DSC)

Vice-dean research, College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

Dr. Marek Radomski (MD, PhD, DSc) has had an extensive career in both academia and the pharmaceutical industry. Radomski trained at the Copernicus Academy of Medicine in Krakow, Poland, earning his MD in 1978, followed by his PhD in pharmacology in 1983. He earned his DSc from the Medical Research Centre, Polish Academy of Sciences in 1990. In 1994, he moved to Canada and worked as an Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research scholar and as a scientist of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. In 2005, he was named a Fellow of the World Innovation Foundation and, in 2008, he received an honorary degree from the Complutense University of Madrid.

With over 21,900 citations by Google Scholar, Dr. Radomski is a highly-cited pharmacologist who has worked in Poland, the UK, Spain, Canada, the United States, and Ireland. He has mentored PhD students and postdoctoral fellows and serves as a reviewer and editor for multiple scientific journals including *Nature*, *The Lancet*, *PNAS*, *Nanomedicine (Lond.)* and *International*

Journal of Nanomedicine. His research focuses on pharmacology, nanomedicine, nanopharmacology, and nanodiagnostics of cardiovascular diseases and cancer.

Most recently, Dr. Radomski was elected as a 2020 Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. He is a strong leader in the [University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine](#) and, in his role as [vice-dean research](#), he has provided vision and leadership while implementing several successful initiatives to support faculty in reaching their potential.

DR. STEVEN R. WEBB (PHD)

Chief executive officer, Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS), University of Saskatchewan

Dr. Steven Webb (PhD) joined the [Global Institute for Food Security \(GIFS\)](#) in 2019, following a 23-year career with Corteva Agriscience (formerly Dow AgroSciences) in Indianapolis, Indiana, United States. In most recent role at Corteva (research and development director of external technology), he led many research collaborations with private sector companies, research institutes, and universities around the globe. He also developed and

PAW 2021 moderators (cont'd)

Meet the keynote and thematic session moderators

deployed Corteva's external innovation partnership process for driving new products and technologies to accelerate innovation across the seed, crop protection, and digital platforms.

Previously, Dr. Webb served as a member of the research and development leadership team and the Seeds Global Business team of Dow AgroSciences, where he was responsible for external technology, intellectual property development, and early-stage commercial assessment activities. He was also actively engaged in the regulatory and approval process for the Dow:DuPont merger and subsequent establishment of Corteva Agriscience.

Dr. Webb has over two decades of expertise in developing and managing multidisciplinary enterprises and new business opportunities. He earned a PhD in immunochemistry (1998), a master's degree in biochemistry (1992) and a Bachelor of Science degree in microbiology (1990) from the University of Guelph.

DR. IRENA CREED (PHD)

Associate vice-president research, special advisor to the president on sustainability, professor, School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS), University of Saskatchewan; Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada

Irena Frances Creed earned her bachelor of science, master's, and PhD degrees at the University of Toronto. Prior to coming to the University of Saskatchewan in September of 2017, she was a professor and Canada Research Chair at Western University. As an ecosystem scientist, her wide-ranging research interests include planetary health, climate change, ecology, hydrology, biogeochemistry, sustainability, communities-at-risk, and the science-policy interface. She has researched environmental issues across Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America.

Dr. Creed has co-authored six national and international reports and 150 peer-reviewed publications, including recent publications in top journals such as *Nature Geoscience*, *Nature Sustainability*, the *Proceedings of the Natural Academy of Sciences*, *Global Change Biology*, and *Frontiers in Environmental Science and Ecology*. In addition, she has contributed to two international peer-reviewed reports on the state-of-science — one for the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and the other for the Global Forest Expert Panel and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations based in Austria. She has delivered over 40 invited, plenary, and keynote addresses in the last five years alone.

Dr. Creed currently holds adjunct positions at Western University and at the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health. She has been recognized with many awards and honours, including an honorary doctorate from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Uppsala, Sweden, and induction as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 2019. She was also awarded the Royal Society of Canada's 2020 Bancroft Award and is only the second woman to receive this honour since the awards were initiated in 1968 to recognize outstanding contributions to earth sciences.

DR. DAWN WALLIN (PHD)

Associate dean, (undergraduate programs, partnerships, and research), College of Education, University of Saskatchewan

Dr. Dawn C. Wallin's areas of scholarship include educational leadership, rural education and governance, gender and equity issues in education, and teacher education in both K-12 and post-secondary education contexts. Dr. Wallin has held a number of formal and informal leadership/administrative positions over the course of her career, and she has worked to design effective educational programming opportunities for students in K-12 and post-secondary contexts. She

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has consulted or partnered with organizations that represent a variety of interests, including ministries of education, educational organizations, regional colleges, and university faculties. She has also held executive positions for the Canadian Association for Educational Administration, the Canadian Association for Women in Education, and the Canadian Society for the Study of Education.

DR. MICHELLE AIHINA INKINSH HOLHPOKUNNA JOHNSON-JENNINGS (PHD)

Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Community-Engaged Research; Associate professor, Indigenous Studies, College of Arts and Science, University of Saskatchewan; Tribal member of Choctaw Nation

As an integrated primary care psychologist, Dr. Michelle Johnson-Jennings has focused on bridging the cultural gap between western trained providers and Indigenous patients — especially in regard to health beliefs; as well as historical trauma, discrimination, and other stressors leading to chronic diseases. In partnerships with tribal entities (e.g., tribal health clinics, tribal organizations, and Indigenous communities), she has developed land-based healing interventions to encourage a renewed commitment to health and revitalization of wise practices surrounding food and leisure time activity. Her work further focuses encouraging narrative transformations of trauma and reconnecting with ancestral love.



“Universities have a critical and unique role in helping society address the SDGs.”

— **Accelerating Education for the SDGs in Universities**



DR. KARSTEN LIBER (PHD)

Interim executive director and distinguished professor, School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS), University of Saskatchewan

Dr. Karsten Liber (PhD) is the interim executive director of the [School of Environment and Sustainability \(SENS\)](#) at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) and former director of the USask Toxicology Centre (1996-2009, 2012-2019). He built the Toxicology Centre to become Canada’s largest and most renowned university-based environmental toxicology research and training centre and, later, lead the creation of the USask Water Research Group which, in 2011, evolved into the [Global Institute for Water Security](#).

Outside of USask, Professor Liber has served on many Canadian government science panels and advisory boards, primarily under Environment and Climate Change Canada and Health Canada. He has also been actively involved in international research, especially in China where he holds the title of Concurrent Distinguished Professor at Shanxi University. Dr. Liber served as president of SETAC-North America in 2015-16 and was on the SETAC Board of Directors from 2012 to 2017.

KIRSTEN MARCIA (P. GEO)

Director, president and chief executive officer, Deep Earth Energy Production (DEEP)

Kirsten Marcia is the founder, president and chief executive officer of DEEP Earth Energy Production (DEEP). DEEP is a private company focussed on developing geothermal resources to meet Saskatchewan’s increasing energy needs with sustainable, baseload renewable power, and industrial heating applications. Ms. Marcia is a geology graduate from the University of Saskatchewan and a professional geoscientist registered in the province of Saskatchewan. She has worked in the resource

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exploration industry for more than 20 years, exploring for renewable energy, diamonds, gold, base metals, coal, and petroleum.

Ms. Marcia considers herself a resource entrepreneur who has participated in the formation and early-stage development of several Saskatchewan resource companies. Kirsten uses experience gained from

developing traditional resources to develop an entirely new, clean energy resource for the province.

In her free time, Kirsten can be found camping and fishing or happily working on yard projects at the acreage she shares with her husband and teenage daughter. When not in a global pandemic, she loves hosting dinner gatherings with friends.

Additional conference contributors

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Prayer and greetings

ELDER ROLAND DUQUETTE

Elder Roland Duquette is an Elder from Mistawasis First Nation in Treaty 6 territory in Saskatchewan. Elder Duquette works for the Parole Board of Canada, facilitating Elder-Assisted Hearings for Aboriginal men and women in the Saskatchewan federal prison system.

He also works in an Elder capacity for other organizations in Saskatoon including the University of Saskatchewan, Wanuskewin Heritage Park, and the Meewasin Valley Authority.

In his personal time, Elder Duquette enjoys spending time with his wife, his son, his many cats, and his dog TooToo, who bring much love, joy, and happiness to his life. He also enjoys meeting and talking to people and catching up by telephone with family and friends.

Culinary presentation

CHEF DALE MACKAY

Award-winning culinary artist and celebrated restaurateur; Canada's first Top Chef winner

Canada's first *Top Chef* winner, and award-winning culinary artist, Chef Dale MacKay had been a protégé to world renowned Chef Gordon Ramsay at his restaurants in Tokyo, London, and New York and was executive chef at Lumière in Vancouver, British Columbia, managed by world renowned Chef Daniel Boulud.

Dale MacKay had been the culinary tour de force in the well-praised Lumière kitchen when he arrived from New York City in the fall of 2007. Under Dale's direction, Lumière built on its unbroken tradition of Relais & Châteaux class cuisine and service standards and was awarded the Grand Chef title at age 27 which made him the youngest in the world at the time. Other awards to his credit were AAA's Five Diamond, Mobil's Four Stars and Traditions et Qualite's highest honours.

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Dale MacKay was born in Saskatchewan, Canada, and, like most great chefs, knew at an early age that he was destined for the kitchen. Before working under Chef Gordon Ramsay and Chef Daniel Boulud, Dale spent time as a private chef in Rome and in the Queen Charlotte Islands at the elite West Coast Fishing Club.

After winning *Top Chef Canada*, Dale had formed a team to move back to his hometown of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, in 2013 to open up Ayden Kitchen and Bar, named after his son Ayden. Ayden Kitchen and Bar has accumulated some prestigious awards including *enRoute*'s top 10 best new restaurants in Canada, People's Choice winner in best new restaurant, top 10 best restaurants in Canada through Vacay.ca and listed in the top 100 best restaurants in Canada through *Maclean's* magazine.

In 2015, Dale MacKay opened his second restaurant called Little Grouse on the Prairie. A modern Italian restaurant focusing on Alla Familia, barrel-aged cocktails and an intimate dining experience. Little Grouse on the Prairie has also been listed in the *enRoute* top 30 best new restaurants in Canada and in the top 100 best restaurants in Canada through *Maclean's*.

In 2016, Dale MacKay opened his third restaurant called Sticks and Stones. A non-traditional Korean and Japanese restaurant focusing on ramen, sushi, and izakaya style cuisine. Sticks and Stones was also listed in the top 100 best restaurants in Canada through *Maclean's*.

Most recently, Dale Mackay opened his fourth restaurant in 2018 in Regina, Saskatchewan. Avenue Restaurant focuses on global cuisine using world flavors with a heavy French influence on the menu. Avenue has been named top 10 best new restaurant through *enRoute* magazine and continues to achieve multiple success and awards for its opening.

Energizing yoga

MS. AMANDA PLANTE

Research ethics specialist (animal), Research Excellence and Innovation, University of Saskatchewan

Amanda Plante has a BSc (Biology) from the University of Windsor, as well as a Business Administration Certificate (BAC) and MSc (Toxicology) from the University of Saskatchewan (USask). Amanda has been employed at USask since 1998. She currently works in the Office of Animal Care & Research Support, Research Excellence and Innovation, where she serves as the university's animal care coordinator — a position she has held for the past 15 years. Amanda has also been practicing and teaching yoga for the last decade at the university's Physical Activity Complex (PAC) and other yoga studios in Saskatoon. She has completed over 1,000 hours of various yoga teacher trainings including yin, hot yoga, kids yoga, prenatal yoga, Let Your Yoga Dance, Thai massage, and yoga nidra.

Collaborative learning, internationally

MS. ADITI GARG

Education development specialist, Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching and Learning, University of Saskatchewan

Ms. Aditi Garg is an educational development specialist in assessment, inclusive and responsive learning, and education for sustainable development. Her background is in secondary education in French, mathematics, and outdoor education. In the past, she has consulted the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education on curriculum development, resource evaluation, and exam validation. At the Gwenna Moss Centre, she also helps instructors

Additional conference contributors (cont'd)

Meet the people behind special content presented at PAW 2021

with curricular alignment and the internationalization of teaching and learning.

DR. DAVID J. PARKINSON (PHD)

Professor, English, College of Arts and Science, University of Saskatchewan

Dr. David J. Parkinson is a professor of English at the University of Saskatchewan who will retire at the end of the 2020/21 academic year. Returning to regular faculty duties after the completion of an administrative term, he was encouraged to participate in teaching initiatives connecting first-year courses at USask with their counterparts elsewhere (China, India, the UK, Spain, Ethiopia, Nigeria, and the US). These initiatives tended to focus on student research. Contributing to USask's FYRE initiative led to course pairings (Ahmedabad University, IIT Delhi) and then the development of a student research conference that is approaching its fourth iteration. Guided by Aditi Garg, Parkinson is now participating in [Collaborative Online International Learning \(COIL\)](#), in a project connecting undergraduate courses at USask and CEU San Pablo in Madrid.

Abstract: *How might we bring valuable international experience and connection into the classroom? Aditi Garg will share how Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL), an intercultural virtual exchange process, helps students develop sought-after transversal skills and master course objectives. COIL offers USask students the opportunity to "Be What the World Needs," while still at home.*

David Parkinson will share insights from many years of instructor collaboration and student engagement around the world within class and beyond. In his words, collaboration doesn't have to be novel strategies or require enormous resources.

What matters most is to broaden the way of thinking and slightly reorganize who contributes to instructing and guiding students.

Bhangra dance

GURDEEP PANDHER

Author and dancer

Gurdeep Pandher was born into a farming family, in a simple village called Siahar in Punjab. At their farm, his family would grow many kinds of crops, vegetables, and beans, and raise cows and buffalo that provided milk. He was fortunate to grow up eating home-grown and organic meals. Living on a farm fostered a passion for nature. Living on the land embedded in him a respect for "Air (as Guru), Waters (as Father), and Earth (as Mother)"!

Gurdeep was in grade 6 when he wrote his first poem. By grade 10, he had written numerous creative literature compositions, including poetry, prose, a full novel, hundreds of stories and a play. By the age of 23, he became a published author of two books. In Punjabi, Gurdeep's first book is titled *Mitti De Ghar*. His second book, entitled *Among the Stars*, is based on the life of Kalpana Chawla, the first woman of Indian origin to go to space.

He moved to Canada in 2006 and has lived in many great Canadian cities, including Squamish, Vancouver, Abbotsford, Saskatoon, Edmonton, North Battleford, Turtleford, Lloydminster, Yellowknife, and now, Whitehorse. Through road trips, Gurdeep has had the opportunity to travel through, and extensively explore, Canada. In 2011, he became a Canadian citizen.

Due to his humble upbringing, he developed a strong appreciation for small, tight-knit communities. He was especially captivated by wheat farms in Saskatchewan. He would sit by the roadside and watch the prairie-land farmers harvest the wheat crop for hours and reminisce about his similar experience at his family's farm in Punjab.

Additional conference contributors (cont'd)

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As a part of Punjabi-Sikh culture, Gurdeep was born into the world of Bhangra. In his youth, at the age of 17, he began taking professional Bhangra classes in Ludhiana, Punjab. This allowed him to learn to dance from the heart and adopt dance as a part of his lifestyle. Since his days in Punjab, his love for dance has continued to grow and evolve. After moving to the Yukon in 2012, Gurdeep pursued his passion for dance, providing Bhangra lessons at many locations in Canada. Gurdeep began posting Bhangra dance videos filmed in the beautiful landscapes of the Yukon. Over time, his posts went viral and his work has been featured on *CBC Yukon*, *CBC National*, *CTV National News*, *Buzzfeed*, *The Huffington Post*, *SBS Australia*, and many other platforms. Even Canadian embassies abroad shared his works to showcase the wonderful side of multiculturalism that is currently present in Canada.



"Discipline and optimism are the lifeblood of research, scholarship and artistic creation. All are rooted in knowledge, skill, technique, rigour — and all derive purpose and energy from a spirit of curiosity, a willingness to test boundaries, a belief in humanity's potential to shape the future. It is for this reason that research, scholarship and artistic creation have always been central to the mission and accomplishments of the University of Saskatchewan."

— [Discovery the World Needs: the University of Saskatchewan's Strategic Research Plan](#)



Virtual concert

JAY MAILLET

Musician

In October 2016, Saskatchewan musician Jay Maillet began hosting a [series of carbonless concerts](#) using solar-powered generators to power all audio equipment and lighting. In addition to promoting local musicians and sustainability in the community, Jay views the events as a way of leading by example, engaging his community in sustainability discussions, and demonstrating the potential of solar energy on a small scale.

Jay completed his PhD from the University of Saskatchewan School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS) and is currently teaching in the university's College of Agriculture and Bioresources. His folk/folk-rock style of music is inspired by singer-songwriter performers such as Neil Young and Gregory Alan Izakov.

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Thank you!

Special thanks to our University of Saskatchewan PAW 2021 organizers

The PAW organizing committee is comprised of University of Saskatchewan volunteers from diverse backgrounds, disciplines, and units to spur dialogue and mobilize multidisciplinary partnerships from different sectors, communities and countries.

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