

# KULE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY 2020-2021 Annual Report

Arts Building & Convocation Hall



**KIAS** | Kule Institute  
for Advanced Study

## **The Kule Institute for Advanced Study (KIAS)**

is a major endowed research institute based at the University of Alberta, in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. KIAS supports research in the Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts, focusing on research with the potential for national or international recognition.





## **KIAS VISION**

To fund in perpetuity an interdisciplinary and comparative research institute that fosters an innovative intellectual environment for the study of major modern and historical, political, social, economic, and cultural issues and, therein, advances society and global polity in a manner consistent with the high humanitarian ideals of the founding benefactors.

## **KIAS MISSION**

To facilitate transformational interdisciplinary and comparative research at the highest level nationally and internationally, guided by the ideals of Peter and Doris Kule, the legacies of Ukrainian history, and the purpose of research and learning at the University of Alberta, as articulated by President Henry Marshall Tory in 1908: “the Uplifting of the Whole People.”

## **KIAS GOAL**

To establish KIAS as a globally recognized institute of interdisciplinary and comparative research excellence within five years of inauguration, by linking University of Alberta undergraduate and graduate student researchers and professors, and distinguished visiting researchers from around the world, in and across disciplines so as to stimulate original ways of thinking, initiate new lines of inquiry, and incubate innovative ideas for the advancement of humanities and the lifting of the human spirit.



**Kule Directors from Top to Bottom:**  
Dr. Geoffrey Rockwell - 2012 - Present  
Dr. Natalie Loveless - Jan to July 2020  
Dr. Patricia Demers - Jan to July 2016  
Dr. Jerry Varsava - 2010 - 2012

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

As the Kule Institute celebrates its 10th year it's important to recognize the people who have helped shape the institute from its conception. Jerry Varsava was the first KIAS director and his vision helped launch the institute and develop the initial programs upon which we have built. Patricia Demers served as interim director during my first term from January to June 2016 and Natalie Loveless during my second term from January to June 2020. Their leadership and unique perspectives were essential in refining the existing programs and kick-starting new initiatives.

While the directors shape the overall vision of the institute we have had outstanding administrative support keeping operations on track. Gillian Edwards (2010-2012) was our first coordinator, followed by Oliver Rossier (2012-2015) who currently runs the Arts Collaboration Enterprise on campus. Adam Dombovari (2015-2020), our longest serving Program Coordinator, left last year for a position in Boston; he was replaced in January 2020 by Casey Germain.

The 10th year of KIAS has been probably it's most challenging, as the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to rethink the sorts of activities we can organize. We had to shift away from in person activities like our Kule Connect Cafés or annual celebration of research to online workshops and events. The pandemic also changed how we manage the operations of the institute. I'm happy to say that we were prepared for the sudden move to online environments as we had been experimenting with econferences since 2013. The sudden move to online environments for research and conferences forced us to rethink the support we offer researchers themselves affected by the pandemic. We have tried to find ways to fit the emergent needs building on the expertise that we developed through our virtual Around the World conferences.

While the pandemic has impacted research, our core programs continue to thrive; in the 2020-2021 year we have supported 17 Dialogue grants, 9 Research Team grants, and 2 Cluster grants. KIAS awarded over \$500,000 in research funding to over a dozen different departments in areas including but not limited to Ukraine, EDI (Equity, Diversity, & Inclusivity), and Indigenous studies. We continue to partner with units across the university and beyond to support research. These include the:

AI4Society & Energy Systems Signature Areas,  
Faculty of Education and Alberta Teachers Association,  
Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies,  
Universities of Calgary and Saskatchewan and  
Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation.

We can do our work because KIAS is supported by colleagues who contribute to our committees. We thank all those who have served and continue to serve on our committees. In particular we grieve the passing of Bohdan Medwidsky who served for many years on the Advisory Council helping connect KIAS to other centers on campus. I would often run into him in the hallway of Old Arts and he was always willing to stop and talk through things.

We continue to recognize the philanthropy of Drs. Peter and Doris Kule in endowing KIAS and providing us with our vision and mission. The Symposium of Community Engagement: Ukrainian Studies & the Legacy of Peter & Doris Kule that we organized in April of 2021 explored how institutes like KIAS can engage communities appropriately.

Finally, I hope that if you have ideas for a research project in the Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities, you will come and talk to us. We always appreciate connecting with colleagues and learning from you.

## PETER KULE'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

On January 6, 2021 we celebrated the 100th birthday of Peter Kule who along with his wife Doris endowed the Kule Institute for Advanced Study. He is one of Canada's leading educational philanthropists.

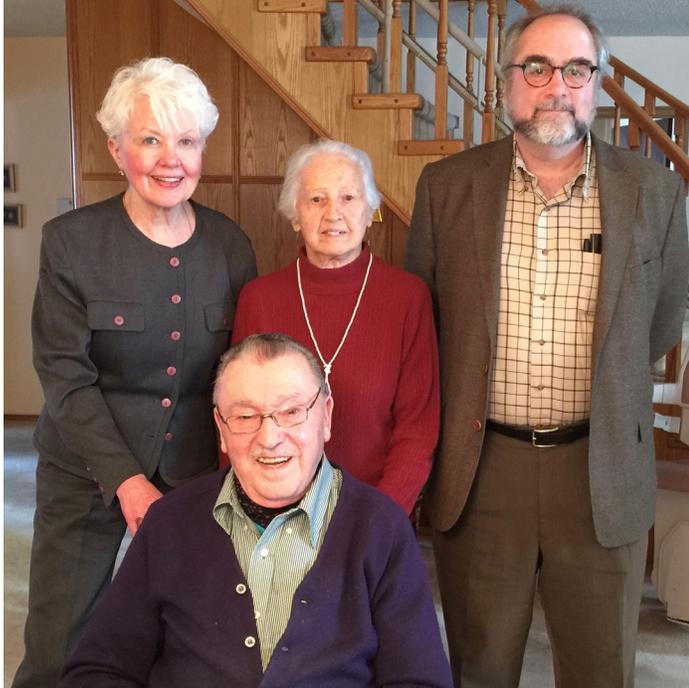
Peter and Doris focused much of their philanthropy on helping to celebrate Ukrainian Canadian culture; they've donated \$17 million towards post-secondary institutions across the country, including the University of Alberta, MacEwan University, the University of Ottawa, and the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies.

On April 14, 2021 a symposium was held to reflect on community engagement and KIAS, the lives of our founding donors, the directions of other centers at the University of Alberta, and community engaged research in general. Over 70 people from across Canada joined us to hear about the impact that Peter and Doris have had on research and community.

At the end of our symposium we shared a video documentary on the life of Peter Kule that was created as part of a joint effort between the Kule Institute for Advanced Study, the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, the Kule Folklore Centre, and the Ukrainian Resource Development Centre at MacEwan University.

We continue to be inspired by the mission laid out by Peter and Doris to stimulate original ways of thinking, initiate new lines of inquiry, and incubate innovative ideas for the advancement of humanities and the lifting of the human spirit.

We look forward to celebrating many more birthdays with Peter.



Patricia Demers, Peter & Doris Kule,  
Geoffrey Rockwell



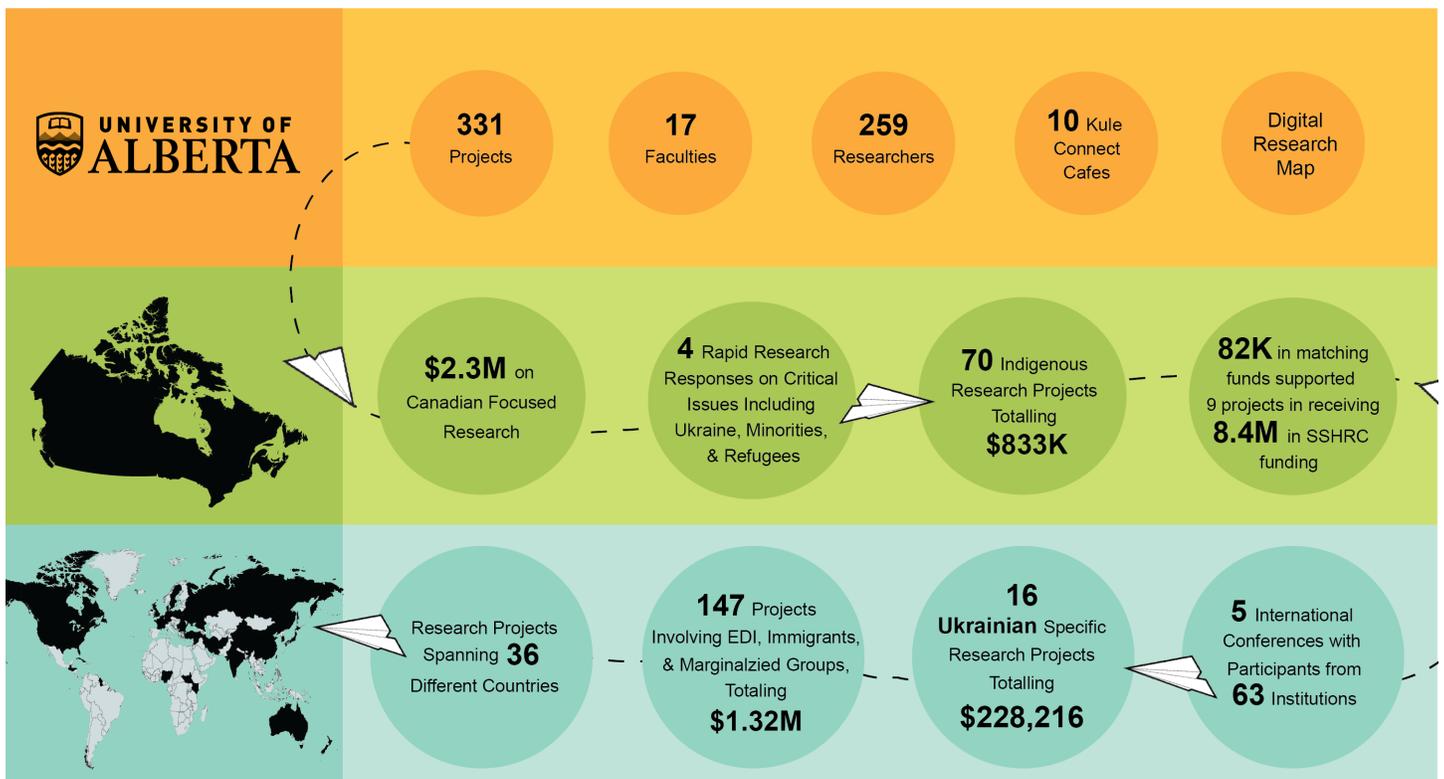
Peter Kule and University of Alberta  
President (1995 - 2005) Rod Fraser



Heather McCaw, Peter & Doris Kule,  
and University of Alberta President  
(2015 - 2020) Dave Turpin

# 10 YEAR OF KIAS IMPACT

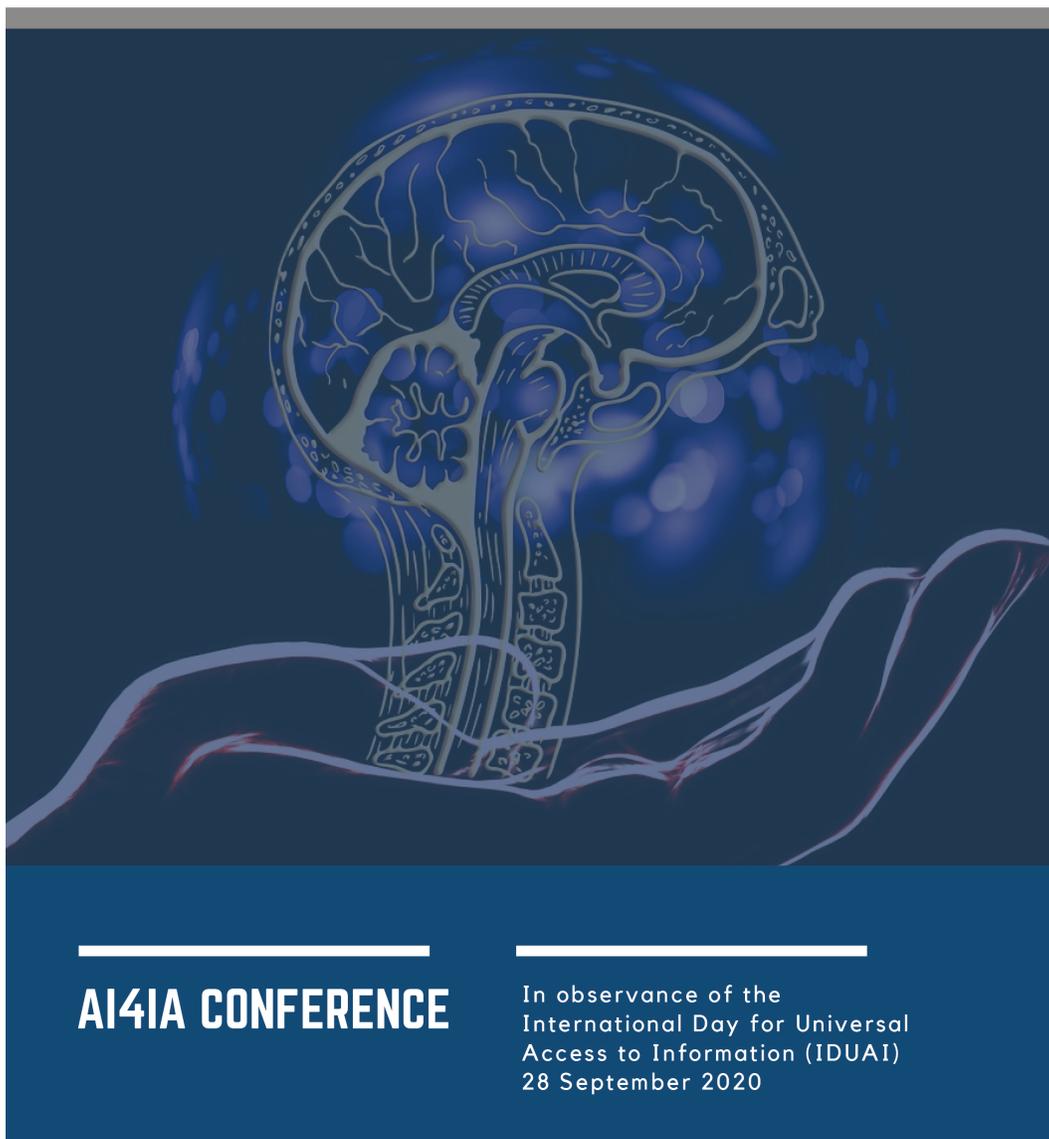
Founded in 2010 with a generous endowment from **Drs. PETER & DORIS KULE**, KIAS has provided **\$2,963,846** in research funding over the past 10 years to continue our mission of enhancing understanding through interdisciplinary research in the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Fine Arts.



## AI4SOCIETY

One of the areas of focus for the Kule Institute has been studying the social and ethical impacts of artificial intelligence (AI). On September 8, 2020 we worked with the University of Alberta signature area AI4Society, the International Center for Information Ethics, and the UNESCO Information for All Programme (IFAP) Working Group on Information Accessibility (WIGA) to host an international conference on the theme of Inclusive AI with topics addressing information accessibility.

This conference was focused on promoting, but also understanding the barriers to inclusive artificial intelligence. We provided a platform for open discourse involving participants from academia, civil society, private sector, and government.



## KULE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The program is designed to support and reward research excellence in the social sciences, humanities, and arts at the University of Alberta. The Kule Scholars program brings together select researchers from different disciplinary backgrounds and methodological approaches for a 3-year non-renewable term to focus on a research theme aligned with KIAS research priorities.

### 2020 - 2023 COHORT - Climate Resilience in the 21st Century



**Dr. Natalie Loveless**  
Associate Professor  
Faculty of Arts, Department of Art & Design  
(Convener)



**Dr. Selena Couture**  
Assistant Professor  
Faculty of Arts, Department of Drama



**Dr. Sourayan Mookerjee**  
Associate Professor  
Faculty of Arts, Department of Sociology



**Dr. Sherilee Harper**  
Associate Professor  
School of Public Health



**Dr. Fiona Nicoll**  
Professor  
Faculty of Arts, Department of Political Science

Over the course of the 2020-2021 academic year, the Scholars responded to pandemic conditions, meeting regularly via zoom, and engaging in public virtual programming.

Our primary goal this past year was to develop robust interdisciplinary and collaborative relations with each other. Next year our aim is to extend out from this basis to the UofA community more broadly, strengthening scholarly relations *across campus*. Our third and final year will then extend from the UofA to *develop national and international conversations* related to this cohort's theme, while mentoring the incoming cohort.

We have participated in several talks and workshops held by the Sustainability Council, working as interlocutors. In addition to Sustainability Council events we were involved in organizing and supporting a number of other events linked to the theme of Climate Resilience, including:

**Selena Couture** coordinated a U of A sponsored PuSh festival online performance of Njo Kong Kie's "I Swallowed a Moon Made of Iron" and an artist talk in which Kong Kie gave background to his performative interpretation of the poetry of Xu Lizhi who toiled in a factory in Shenzhen, China, where he, along with hundreds of thousands of others who were unseen and ignored, manufactured the digital devices we use every day.

**Natalie Loveless** organized the SSHRC-funded and CoLAB hosted speaker and workshop series Art, Activism, and Global Crisis, Sept 2020-May 2021. The series featured talks and workshops by artists and scholars interested in "modest" ephemeral performance forms that work to engender political consciousness (specifically with regard to climate justice). Speakers/conveners included Marilyn Arsem, Dylan Robinson, Stephanie Loveless, J.R. Carpenter, and Amanda Gutierrez

**COPhack** (Kule Scholars + Future Energy Systems event)

Our major event this first year was The COPhack student event, organized and led by Kule Scholars **Sourayan Mookerjea** and **Sherilee Harper**. COPhack was held on May 12th, 2021 and consisted of two formal talks, given by high school student Malaika Collette and Kule Scholar Sourayan Mookerjea, as well as three workshops (by Sourayan Mookerjea), one workshop by Sherilee Harper, one workshop by Amina Hussein, and one workshop by Bill Kilgannon. 70 students attended this event representing 10 Faculties.

Building upon our successes this past year we are excited to expand the reach of the Kule Scholars program for the upcoming 2021 - 2022 academic year, including part 2 of our COPhack event, stay tuned....

## RAPID RESEARCH RESPONSE

A Rapid Research Response (RRR) has become a digital tool/technique to reach out to people and groups as rapidly as possible on an urgent topic. Often this takes the form of an online compository of research on an issue and sharing information with communities.

KIAS has developed a model where we pick a current event for which we have local research knowledge that can be leveraged quickly to showcase the breadth and depth of UAlberta expertise around a particular research theme to enable critical dialogue and engagement with current events.

Some benefits of these types of projects can include laying the groundwork for SSHRC applications, building community outreach opportunities through events and sharing of information, and international collaboration leading to the project and university being the “go to” site globally for timely scholarly responses to current events.



KIAS supported Dr. Andy Knight on a Rapid Research Response project on conversations around race. This has led to the creation of a podcast series titled “BlackTalk”. Launched on May 25, 2021 this podcast provides a unique take on the Black experience to help people of all backgrounds reflect and challenge their thinking. Blacktalk.ca brings together scholars from around the world for five episodes to bring new perspectives about anti-Black racism and Black achievement.

Episode 1 - Sir Hilary Beckles - University of the West Indies

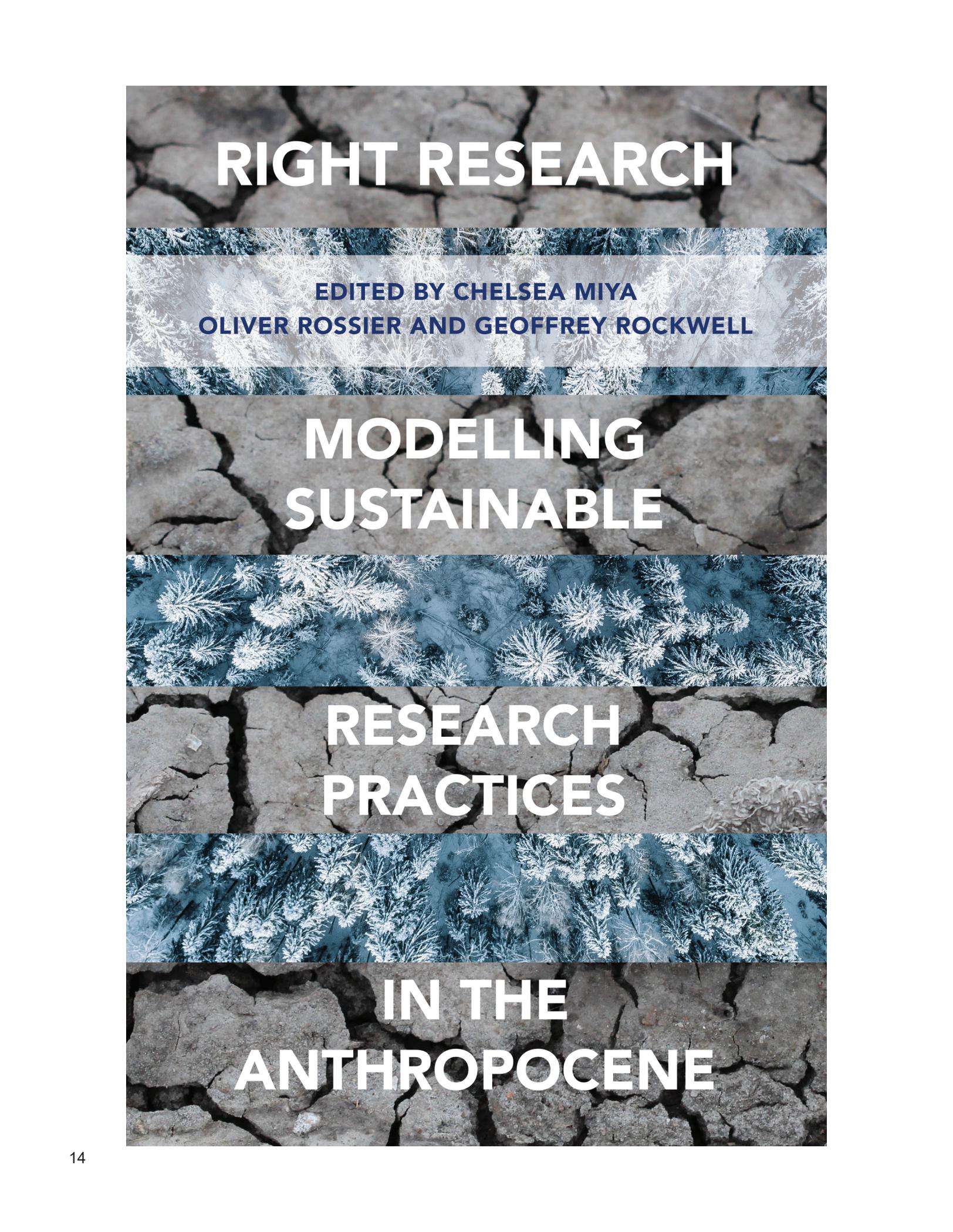
Episode 2 - Cecil Foster - University of Buffalo

Episode 3 - Bukola Salami - University of Alberta

Episode 4 - Celina Caesar-Chavannes - Former MP & Parliamentary Secretary

Episode 5 - Ivelaw Griffith - Center for Strategic and International Studies

Each episode is about the personal experiences of Black experts and Black Canadians contextualized within the historical experience of being Black.



# RIGHT RESEARCH

EDITED BY CHELSEA MIYA  
OLIVER ROSSIER AND GEOFFREY ROCKWELL

## MODELLING SUSTAINABLE

## RESEARCH PRACTICES

## IN THE ANTHROPOCENE

## RIGHT RESEARCH

Edited by Chelsea Miya, Oliver Rossier, and Geoffrey Rockwell, *Right Research* is a bold invitation to the academic community to rigorous self-reflection on what their research looks like, how it is conducted, and how it might be developed so as to increase accessibility and sustainability, and decrease carbon footprint. The volume came out of the *Around the World* experiments in sustainable online research conferences and follows a three-part structure that bridges conceptual and practical concerns: the first section challenges our assumptions about how sustainability is defined, measured and practiced; the second section showcases artist-researchers whose work engages with the impact of humans on our environment; while the third section investigates how academic spaces can model eco-conscious behaviour.

This timely volume responds to an increased demand for environmentally sustainable research, and is outstanding not only in its interdisciplinarity, but its embrace of non-traditional formats, spanning academic articles, creative acts, personal reflections and dialogues. *Right Research* will be a valuable resource for educators and researchers interested in developing and hybridizing their scholarly communication formats in the face of the current climate crisis.

## RESEARCH CLUSTERS GRANTS

Kule Research Cluster Grants support sustained activities of interdisciplinary research teams in the social sciences, humanities, and arts that have the potential to be recognized as excellent at the national or international level.

Grants are awarded up to **\$100,000** over 3 years to build an interdisciplinary research team.

As part of our 10th Anniversary we have highlighted our most recent cluster recipients along with a selection of cluster projects from the past 10 years.



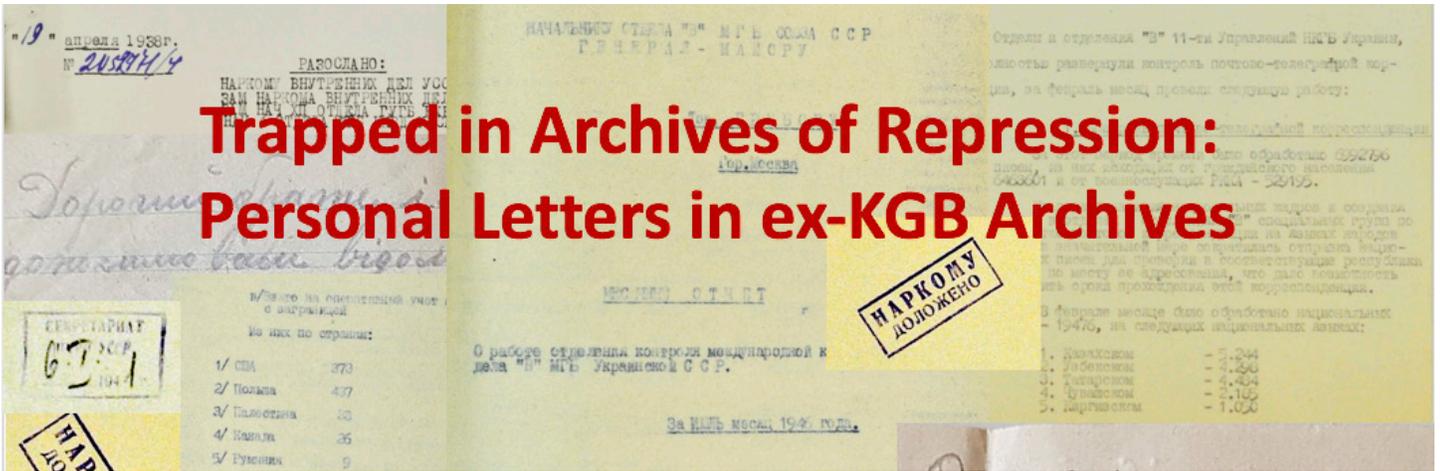
**2021**

**Forced Sterilization and Coerced Contraception: Towards a Multi-National Agenda**

**Principle Investigator:** Dr. Denise Spitzer

**Project Description:**

Nonconsensual control over women’s reproduction comprises a continuum of practices including forced sterilization and coerced contraception (FSCC), where women are rendered unable to permanently or temporarily procreate. FSCC underscores the notion that some people, most often Indigenous, migrant, and rural poor women, are less deserving of bearing children than others. Our team, composed of researchers, advocates, and health practitioners in Canada, Indonesia, and Peru, is engaging survivors, researchers, advocates, and health professionals to learn more about FSCC in these three countries. Starting with multi-lingual web-based discussions with health professionals, advocates, and survivors to determine how to ethically and sensitively approach this topic, we will engage survivors using arts-based methods to learn more of their stories of FSCC. These artistic expressions and discussions will anchor a summit with survivors, advocates, and researchers to generate a comparative multi-national research agenda on FSCC led by survivors and grounded in local contexts.



2021

**Trapped in Archives of Repression: Personal Letters in ex-KGB Archives**

**Principle Investigator:** Dr. Jelena Pogosjan

**Project Description:**

The collapse of the communist regime in Central and Eastern Europe, and the opening of its secret service archives resulted in the deluge of new archival data into the field of Slavic studies. For these archival sources to be accessible and useful for analytical purposes, much of this data requires further systemic procession and comprehensive management. This is especially the case with personal correspondence abroad once intercepted and retained by Soviet Secret Service, or KGB, in the Soviet Ukraine. To address the challenge of analytical accessibility to the extensive and understudied corpus of personal letters, the Kule Centre for Ukrainian and Canadian Folklore and the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta partnered with the Sectoral State Archive of the Security Service of Ukraine to develop a trial research database to serve researchers in and outside of Ukraine. The core practical goal of the proposed project is to develop, formulate and test-drive a trial database and a bilingual searchable corpus of personal letters once confiscated by KGB. In particular, the proposed corpus will focus on correspondence between Ukrainian immigrants in Canada and their families and friends left behind in the Soviet Union.



**2017**

**Land-based Learning in Teetl'it Zheh: A Teetl't Gwich'in-University of Alberta Partnership**

**Principle Investigator:** Dr. Adam Gaudry

**Project Description:**

From 2017-2020, we will establish a youth-focused community bush camp as a site for Gwich'in land-based practice. This bush camp school will provide a critical land-based education for Gwich'in youth. Immersing them in a transformative experience, guided by elders in a camp whose decision-making process, curriculum, and activities will be structured by traditional Gwich'in governance processes.

Youth will be given the opportunity to learn summer-based bush skills like fishing and moose hide tanning, along with the running of a camp—set-up, cooking, eating, cleaning, camp management, etc.—in ways that differ from life in town. While a significant part of the bush camp experience is elder-centered practical education, youth will also be exposed to critical Indigenous studies scholarship, Gwich'in history and governance, and decolonial pedagogy. Through this immersive process, students will be able to renew Gwich'in governance practices, build land-based knowledge and skills, and situate this within a larger narrative of colonization and resistance.

By connecting the knowledge of community leaders, knowledge holders, & University researchers, this project will explore Gwich'in land-based knowledge skills related to bush camp life, Gwich'in governance processes, & intergenerational knowledge transmission.



**2017**

### **Research at the Intersections of Gender**

**Principle Investigator:** Dr. Susanne Luhmann

#### **Project Description:**

The KIAS research cluster grant has been pivotal to the success and impact of “Building Research at the Intersections (RIG)” at the University of Alberta. The grant enabled us to develop the successful proposal that had Intersections of Gender (IG - as it is now called) selected from over 57 initial proposals to become the third of only five signature areas of research and teaching at the University of Alberta.

Since the official launch of IG in April 2019, the grant has consistently facilitated the further building of this signature area and enabled us to promote intersectional type research locally, nationally, and internationally. The urgency for intersectional approaches to research has become even more apparent over the last year. Under the conditions of the pandemic, the differential effects of COVID 19 on different populations have come into clear view. Nearly all aspects of the pandemic require research that considers the difference sex/gender, age, Indigeneity, race, ethnicity, disability (etc.) make so as to develop strategies to successfully combat the virus and its wider medical, economic, and social effects.

Over the course of the grant, we have utilized the KIAS research cluster to fund many of IG’s most important initiatives, including but not limited to: the First Working the Intersections of Gender conference in 2019, innovative methodology workshops and talks, grant writing support, incubating new intersectional type research collaborations, a new graduate course in Intersectional Theory and Methodology that will become the centre piece for a graduate certificate in intersectional methodologies, and a new database that connects researchers and showcases IG related research to an academic and wider public, locally, nationally, and internationally. In keeping with the spirit of our KIAS grant proposal, we have devoted significant resources in particular to developing the database project that will serve to connect researchers across campus. And in keeping with our dedication to intersection analysis, we have also recently developed video programming on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, which has connected IG and the University of Alberta to Indigenous communities locally, nationally, and internationally. This program, launched at Congress 2021, will be a research and teaching archive for all to access via the IG web portal. The KIAS grant has, in short, been instrumental to establishing IG’s presence and reach as a University of Alberta Signature Area.



**2015**

**Sanctuary: The Spiritual Heritage Documentation Project**

**Principle Investigator:** Dr. Natalie Kononenko

**Project Description:**

We began the Sanctuary Project because prairie churches, a most important part of Ukrainian life, are rapidly closing and many are being destroyed. Churches were among the first buildings constructed by early immigrants, the Ukrainian Pioneers, and they are ubiquitous, dotting the prairie landscape, serving as its iconic feature. Yet the churches are now closing because of migration to urban areas, the mechanization of farming, and, most important, the purchase of large tracts of prairie land by corporations that farm from a distance and do not have the connection to neighbors, the land, and to local churches. The goal of our team was documentation of churches and Ukrainian sacral culture before it disappeared. My personal objective is also to give voice to the little guy, the Ukrainian prairie farmer who feeds us all but, far too often, gets overlooked.

This work produced a popular website <https://livingclutures.ualberta.ca/sanctuary> along with a book about the Sanctuary Project. We hope that our work gives proper recognition to the accomplishments of prairie Ukrainian Canadians.

## RESEARCH TEAM GRANTS

Kule Research Team Grants support the formation of interdisciplinary research teams that have the potential to achieve national or international research recognition.

Grants are awarded up to **\$7,500** to build an interdisciplinary research team.

NAME	PROJECT TITLE	FACULTY
Xavier Guitierrez	Task-Based Language Teaching Online Community of Practice	Arts
Olenka Bilash	Impact of Multiculturalism on Public Education	Education
Yasmeen Abu-Laban	The Charter & Rights at 40 (From Isolation to Inclusion: navigating the post-COVID world)	Arts
Lisa Claypool	EcoART China	Arts
Temitope Oriola	Race, Gender, and Student Security: The School Resource Office (RSO) Program in Edmonton	Arts
Laurier Fagnan	The Effects of Singing on the Dispersion of Aerosols and Droplets: A Study on the Likelihood of Group Singing Being a High-Risk Activity in the Transmission of COVID-19	Campus Saint-Jean
Chris Reynolds	Beyond the Two Solitudes in the World of Canadian Comics	Arts
Lin Snelling	A Sounding Line / Think Tank	Arts
Sandra Bucerius	Carceral Relationships in the Time of COVID	Arts

## DIALOGUE GRANTS

Kule Dialogue Grants support research meetings, networking, outreach, and conferences to help researchers organize, present, or disseminate research.

Grants are awarded up to **\$2,000** to support the dissemination of research.

NAME	PROJECT TITLE	FACULTY
Marilene Oliver	Your Data Body VR Artwork	Arts
Marilene Oliver	Dyscorpia 3	Arts
Stephanie Oliver	Battle River Watershed Alliance	Arts
Christine Stewart	Treaty Politics and Literacy	Arts
Natasha Hurley	Reimagining Justice: A Series on Gender, Sexuality, Law, and the Colonial Carceral State	Arts
Yasmeen Abu-Laban	Black History Month Speaker Series - Cecil Foster	Arts
Joshua St. Pierre	University Design for Learning	Arts
David Marples	The Campaign of the Fighting Women: The Belarus Election of 2020 and its Aftermath	Arts
Maggie Spivey-Kaulkner	Mvskoke Language Working Group	Arts
Michael Litwack	You can Start Everywhere: Dialogues in Research and the Arts of Community	Arts
Julie Rak	Teaching Life Writing: A conference on NonFiction and Pedagogy	Arts
Kyle Whitfield	Dialogue About Factors Affecting Older Adults as the Community Changemakers	Extension
Philomina Okeke-Ihejirka	Applying a Gendered Lens to the COVID-19 Pandemic	Arts
Madeline Toubiana	COVID-19 and Entrepreneurship in Alberta	Business
Rebecca Hudson-Breen	The Strengths of Open and Resources Program for School Mental Health	Education

## KULE COLLABORATIONS

### **KIAS-CIH ALBERTA HUMANITIES RESEARCH GRANT:**

The Kule Institute for Advanced Study (KIAS) and the Calgary Institute for the Humanities (CIH) sponsor a joint research team from the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary. This opportunity is designed to encourage humanities collaborations between researchers from both institutions.

#### **Cary Brown (Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, University of Alberta) & Eloise Carr (Faculty of Nursing, University of Calgary)**

*Determining Older Women's Experiences of Companion Animal Death, and impacts on well being and aging-in-place.*

Grief over spousal, parental or child death has well known gendered aspects and successful interventions/supports. This project considers the implications of companion animal (CA) death and the impact that CA grief can have on older women's ability to age-in-place.

### **ALBERTA-SASKATCHEWAN HUMANITIES RESEARCH GRANT:**

The Kule Institute for Advanced Study (KIAS) at the University of Alberta together with the College of Arts and Science at the University of Saskatchewan sponsor a joint research team building grant opportunity. This opportunity is designed to encourage the formation of research teams spanning both universities.

#### **Cindy Gaudet (Campus Saint-Jean, University of Alberta) & Cheryl Troupe (Department of History, University of Saskatchewan)**

*Métis Women's Sovereignty in the South Saskatchewan River Region.*

This project explores the significance of women's sovereignty as it was practiced in South Saskatchewan River Métis families and communities during the 1885 Resistance, and how it continues to exist and is practiced today.

## **ALBERTA-ATA SIGNATURE RESEARCH COLLABORATION GRANT:**

The Kule Institute for Advanced Study (KIAS) and the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta, in partnership with the Alberta Teachers Association sponsor a grant program to encourage the co-development of research collaborations between the University of Alberta faculty and certified Alberta Teachers.

**Cindy Gaudet (Campus Saint-Jean, University of Alberta) & Trudy Cardinal (Faculty of Education, University of Alberta), Mona Markwart (Teacher Investigator), Carrie Armstrong (Teacher Investigator)**

*Mamâhtâwihew: Returning to Métis and Cree Aunties' and Kokum's wisdom in response*

This gendered research project will explore the ways in which the Indigenous students and Indigenous educators together inform and uplift Indigenous women's ways of knowing, doing, and being in alignment to our kinship roles and responsibilities - *wahkohtowin* and the sacredness of our womanhood.

**Jared Wesley (Faculty of Arts, University of Alberta) & Lynete Shultz (Faculty of Education, University of Alberta), Wade Leduc (Teacher Investigator), Nonso Morah (Teacher Investigator)**

*Becoming Albertan: Youth Political Identity Formation*

When do youth learn what it means to "be Albertan"? This personification exercise helps uncover the foundations of the province's political culture - the underlying values that guide its politics, and the myths we tell to unify our communities. This study will engage youth in a similar activity, helping to determine how, when, and where young people absorb common conceptions of what it means to "be Albertan".

**George Georgiou (Faculty of Education, University of Alberta) & Lesly Wade-Woolley (Faculty of Education, University of Alberta), Heather Wilson (Teacher Investigator), Kristy Dunn (Teacher Investigator)**

*Joining forces to tackle reading difficulties caused by COVID-19*

Evidence collected in fall 2020 throughout Alberta shows that school closures due to COVID-19 have increased reading difficulties, particularly among Grade 1 to 3 who are in the early stages of reading development. How can we address the impact of reading difficulties before it is too late? Studies have established that reading difficulties have pervasive effects on children's lives and can affect the well being of any society.

## GOVERNANCE

KIAS is guided by a strong governance model consisting of a Research Committee, Advisory Council and Administrative Board. We are deeply indebted to the wonderful people who serve on our committees.

### RESEARCH COMMITTEE

- Dr. Natalie Loveless, Associate Professor, Art & Design
- Dr. Philomina Okeke-Ihejirika, Professor, Women & Gender Studies
- Dr. Sally Rice, Professor, Linguistics
- Dr. Sheena Wilson, Associate Professor, Campus Saint-Jean
- Dr. Geoffrey Rockwell (Chair), KIAS Director and Professor, Philosophy and Humanities Computing, ex officio
- Casey Germain, KIAS Program Coordinator, ex officio

## ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

- Dr. Randy Goebel (Chair), Associate Vice-President (Academic) and Associate Vice-President (Research), and Professor, Computing Science
- Dr. Dale Askey, Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian (non-voting observer)
- Dr. Brooke Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and Professor
- Dr. Natalia Khanenko-Friesen - Director, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies
- Dr. Pierre-Yves Mocuquais, Dean, Campus Saint-Jean
- Dr. Lesley Cormack, Dean of Arts, and Professor, History and Classics
- Dr. Sarah Krtoz, Interim-Director, Canadian Literature Center
- Dr. Alla Nedashkivska, Professor, Modern Languages and Cultural Studies
- Dr. Geoffrey Rockwell, KIAS Director, and Professor, Philosophy and Humanities Computing, ex officio (non-voting)
- Casey Germain, KIAS Program Coordinator, ex officio (non-voting)

## ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Dr. Dale Askey (Chair), Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian
- Dr. Olenka Bilash, Professor, Secondary Education
- Dr. Andy Knight, Professor, Political Science
- Dr. Rick Szostak, Professor, Economics
- Mr. Andrew Hladyshevsky, Q.C., Partner, Dentons Canada LLP
- Dr. Marta Dyczok, Professor, Political Science, Western University
- Dr. Svitlana Krys, Kule Chair in Ukrainian Studies and Assistant Professor of English, MacEwan University
- Dr. David Marples, Chair and Distinguished University Professor, History and Classics
- Dr. Bohdan Medwidsky, Professor Emeritus, Modern Languages and Cultural Studies
- Dr. Steve Patten, Dean of Arts, and Professor, Political Science
- Most Reverend David Motiuk, Eparchy of Edmonton
- Dr. Jelena Pogosjan, Director, Kule Folklore Centre, and Professor, MLCS
- Dr. Marta Dyczok, Professor, Political Science, Western University
- Dr. Geoffrey Rockwell, KIAS Director, and Professor, Philosophy and Humanities Computing, ex officio (non-voting)
- Casey Germain, KIAS Program Coordinator, ex officio (non-voting)



**KIAS** | Kule Institute  
for Advanced Study