



CANSEE 2023

BY DESIGN NOT DISASTER

Grounding Economies
During Uncertain Times

York University | Oct 11-13

DIVERSIFYING & DECOLONISING INSTITUTIONS

Perin Ruttonsha and Chaya Kapoor with
Lila Bruyere and Jessica Keeshig-Martin



OCT 13, 15:30 ET

TSL SERIES

Caring
ECONOMIES

Summary

Conventional research and practice have been instigated, to a large extent, through the lens of Westernised and industrialised worldviews. Not only has this resulted in the exclusion of certain aspects of history, culture, and ecology from scholarship, or deemed particular types of knowledge as less scientific; arguably, it can also perpetuate invisible biases and inequalities, under the guise of rationality. In this workshop, we will discuss (i) the dominance of Western worldviews in academia and industry (or what Dr. Vandana Shiva [2014] has referred to as monocultures of the mind); (ii) how diverse ways of knowing can be part of the formula for sustainability and equality; and, (iii) the types of social, cultural, economic, and political processes that are essential to the revitalisation, resurgence, and sovereignty for voices and traditions that have been historically overshadowed. This session will include guest presentations by residential school survivor Lila Bruyere, along with Indigenous scholar, activist, and political leader Jessica Keeshig-Martin.

Biographies

Lila Bruyere

Lila Bruyere is a residential school survivor, from St. Margaret's school in Fort Frances, Ontario, Treaty #3 area. She attended residential school from the ages of six to fourteen years old. Lila earned her Bachelor of Social Work from Carleton University, in 1998, and her Master's in social work, in 2014. She has been speaking about her experiences in the residential school system for over 30 years, to universities, colleges, and elementary schools, highlighting her resiliency and accomplishments today as an Elder. From 2017-2019, she had the privilege of being part of the Elder's Circle through the Truth & Reconciliation Commission, learning from other survivors. Her future plans include developing a documentary entitled *I Am Water*, which would capture her own healing journey. Lila's motto is *don't forget to live*.

Jessica Keeshig-Martin

Jessica is motivated by the Indigenous Peoples' movement toward self-determination. Her goal is to make contributions to this journey through the roles she takes on in her personal and professional ventures. She is deeply connected to the Nation, lands, and waters of her Anishinaabe ancestry, and is always mindful of Those that are yet to come. Jessica's knowledge and perspective has been profoundly shaped by the teachings of Elders and Knowledge Keepers from her home community, Anishinaabe territory, and Turtle Island.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in sociology and Indigenous studies, Jessica began a deepened engagement with Indigenous communities through her work in law, politics, culture, and education. Upon realising the significant personal impact of her educational journey and experience with Indigenous issues, Jessica decided to complete graduate work in education. She is now a PhD student at York University, where her doctoral research will explore Anishnaabe philosophies as part of the movement to revitalise our Earth caretaking systems. Jessica honourably carries the name Biidaabinokwe, which means 'Morning Woman'. She is of the wolf clan, and a member of the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation.

Transformative Social Learning (TSL)

Introduced this year by Perin Ruttonsha, as a new CANSEE conference programme format, transformative social learning (TSL) sessions extend the conventions of participatory engagement, to emphasise critical reflection by which to enable deeper understanding of complex challenges. Through inclusive and interactive forums, these sessions examine the social, economic, and political barriers that continue to entrench inequality, injustice, and environmental decline, while also exploring diverse human experiences of systems change. These conference sessions expanded on topics presented during keynote panels, and were intended to frame and predicate opportunities for collective shifts in perspectives, beliefs, behaviours, and power dynamics.

Works Cited

Shiva, V. (2014). *The Vandana Shiva reader*. The University Press of Kentucky.