4th Annual Digital Humanities Conference

Award Winners

**Best Undergraduate Poster Award:** Bisma Ali

*Access to Healthcare for Rural Women in Canada and the Contemplation of Digital Solutions*

This poster presentation examines the barriers that rural women in Canada are subject to when attempting to access healthcare, including: SDOH, cultural barriers, economic barriers, and intersectional concerns. After this analysis, I will contemplate the viability of digital solutions in order to address these issues, and what next steps need to be taken in order to provide greater accessibility to digitized healthcare. In this poster, I will also be sharing my current project, where I am developing a website for women in rural communities to access health services.

*Bisma Ali* is a 5th year student at UTSC who is completing her degree in Health Studies. She is also pursuing a minor in Biomedical Ethics. Bisma is passionate about women’s health, and is pursuing research and advocacy about access issues in healthcare faced by women in Ontario.

**Best Graduate Poster Award:** Shehroze and Shehryar (Shay) Saharan

*The Matilda Project – Inequality and Gender Bias towards Women in Science*

The Matilda Effect – a term coined by historian Margaret Rossiter – is a phenomenon used to describe women scientists who have been ignored, forgotten, or denied credit due to sex-linked biases. The unfortunate reality is that the Matilda Effect is still prevalent today as women are not given due credit for their scientific achievements. Our proposal, The Matilda Project, is strategically placed to address this issue. The Matilda Project involves the creation of an educational video and website; the video will provide a brief overview of the topic in question while the website will serve as a comprehensive archive of historical & contemporary women scientists who share one thing in common – the Matilda Effect. The Matilda Project is intended for a wide range of audiences including the general public and academic community. Ultimately, we hope that this project will raise awareness of inequality and gender bias towards women in science.
Shehroze Saharan is a Master of Information Candidate at the Faculty of Information at the University of Toronto. He is focusing his academics on Information System Design (ISD) and Knowledge Management & Information Management (KMIM). Previously, Shehroze completed a bachelor’s at the University of Guelph in Bio-Medical Science with a Minor in Media Studies & Cinema. He hopes to combine his passion and love for health science and communication with information to carve out a distinct career for himself. Shehroze has also volunteered his time to numerous different organizations such as the Canadian Association for Research in Regenerative Medicine, the Experiential Learning Hub and co-founded and co-chaired a new organization called Students Supporting Seniors. In his free time, he enjoys watching movies, reading books, and eating chocolate.

Shehryar (Shay) Saharan is a scientific communicator and designer based in Toronto, Ontario. He uses visual media and design to communicate complex scientific concepts and build interactive, educational and memorable experiences. He is currently in the Masters of Science in Biomedical Communications at the University of Toronto. Here, he focuses on the creation & evaluation of visual media including scientific illustration, UI/UX design, 2D/3D animation, and virtual simulations. His undergraduate degree was in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Guelph. During this time, he focused on the development of medical technologies for the improvement of human health.

Best Graduate Paper Award: Shenella Charles, Autumn Epple, Carlie Manners, and Sheila Wheesk (with Heidi Bohaker and Cara Krmpotich)

Rethinking Digital Research Infrastructures: Mobilizing the Great Lakes Research Alliance’s Knowledge Sharing Database for the 21st Century

The Great Lakes Research Alliance for the Study of Aboriginal Arts & Cultures (GRASAC) is a vibrant multi-disciplinary research network whose 500+ members have been researching Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, and Huron-Wendat cultures of the Great Lakes region of Turtle Island since 2005. GRASAC researchers from Indigenous communities, universities, museums, and archives have worked together to locate, study, and create deeper understandings of Great Lakes arts, languages, identities, territoriality, and governance. GRASAC is two related things: a network of people and a database that digitally reunites Great Lakes materials from around the world, putting heritage items back into relationships with each other and with community members, teachers, researchers, and heritage staff.

This presentation discusses the significant DH challenges we have faced working with different ontologies, trying to reimagine how Eurocentric database structures can effectively care for Indigenous knowledges across multiple different cultures, languages and sovereignties. The different insights and perspectives shared by our team members are a critical praxis for our new database. In this presentation, our RAs will each share a story of the issues and questions raised by their work on the database revitalization project, and the important ethical and pedagogical transformations that occur when we stop thinking of data as objects, but rather as aspects of our
relatives to whom we owe a duty of care. Indigenizing the Record involves both a technological reframing and a clear ethical stance, grounded in the treaty and alliance law which lives in the lands and waters of the Great Lakes region.

Shenella Charles is a PhD candidate in the Department of History. Lokono herself, she is researching the history of Lokono struggles for land rights and autonomy in Guyana post-Independence (1966 to the present).

Autumn Epple is an M.A. student in the Department of History. Autumn, whose home community is the Mohawks of Akwesasne, recently completed her Major Research Paper, “A Kanien’kehá:ka Call to Arms in ‘the Land Where the Partridge Drums’: Akwesasne in the Second World War.” She has a strong research interest in the use of material culture as a source of history. Autumn begins her PhD in history at York University this fall.

Carlie Manners’s doctoral research explores Afro-Caribbean religious and spiritual practices in the nineteenth-century Anglo-Atlantic world. Her project investigates the role of ritual objects and other forms of religious material culture in syncretic ritual practioning, and the discourses of primitivism used to identify such objects in colonial institutions.

Sheila Wheesk is an M.A. student in the Department of History. Sheila, who is from Taykwa Tagamou First Nation, researches the role of women in Omushkegowuk governance before and after the signing of Treaty No. 9. She uses material culture, particularly women’s beadwork, as a source to investigate how women continued to take up their responsibilities in the face of state legislation (the Indian Act) which marginalized them.