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Call for proposals

We eagerly await your proposal for SERG sessions at the 2026 CSSE Annual Conference, which will take place at the **University of Winnipeg in Winnipeg, Manitoba** as part of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences that will take place **Saturday, May 30** (preconference day) to **Wednesday, June 3, 2026**.

The call for proposals can be found at:
<https://www.csse-scee.ca/conference-2026/>

Submissions are due Wednesday, October 8, 2025 (23h59 Eastern)

Congress has waived fees for self-identified Black and Indigenous students.
Contact Anila Asghar and Latika Raisinghani for your unique registration link.

In addition to SERG general sessions, we welcome presentations in two special categories:

1. **Anti-racist Science Education, Decolonizing Science Education, and Culturally Responsive Science Education.** These presentations generate understandings and discourses around the possibilities that science education must promote social and ecological justice, and to decolonize the practices and discourses of science education.
2. **Methods and Strategies in Science Teacher Education.** These presentations aim to share innovative ideas related to science methods courses.

Note: Presenters may submit to be a lead author in these special categories *in addition to their submission* as a lead author in one other SERG session. **Please indicate the corresponding “Special 1” or “Special 2” tag in the title of your proposal.**

* Dependent on the number of submissions, multiple sessions in these special themes may be offered or submissions may be included in the regular program.

When submitting your proposal online please:

- Renew your CSSE and SERG memberships.
- Select SERG as the destination for your proposals.
- Indicate the type of session you have in mind for your proposal.
- Update your profile information with your current affiliation and email address. This is critical to ensure accurate and timely communication.
- Be sure to check off the box indicating you are willing to be a proposal reviewer.

Please share this invitation widely with faculty, staff, and graduate students in your networks. We look forward to receiving your proposals soon!

Meet the Executive

Elizabeth Vergis, President, evergis@ualberta.ca (she/her)

I am a Lecturer at the University of Alberta. My research interests include the role of Procedural Knowledge (especially Concepts of Evidence) in science teaching and Indigenous science; the role of gender, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status on the understanding of Procedural Knowledge; the decolonization of Concepts of Evidence; approaches to evidence in watershed management; equity, diversity, and inclusion in science education; and sustainability and environmental education. I am delighted to serve as the SERG President!



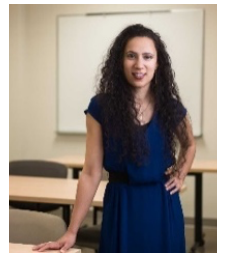
Anila Asghar, Vice-President & Conference Co-Chair, anila.asghar@mcgill.ca

I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Integrated Studies in Education at McGill University. My research and teaching encompass several interconnected areas: interactions between Islam, science, culture and education; science and integrated STEM education; equity, diversity, and inclusion in science pedagogy; and supporting learners with learning difficulties. Currently, I am collaborating with Indigenous scholars to integrate Indigenous epistemologies and practices related to environmental sustainability into science and mathematics education. I am honored to serve the SERG community as Vice-President and Conference Co-Chair.



Diandra Singh, Past President, diandra.singh@crandallu.ca

As an Assistant Professor of Education at Crandall University, I teach Science Education, Assessment, Feedback, and Reporting, Diversity and Multiculturalism, and Addressing the Needs of Struggling Learners in Mathematics. Congruent to the courses I teach, my research focuses on educational programs/methods that redress issues that marginalized youth encounter in schooling with an emphasis on science subjects and informal science programs. In addition, I love supporting our school community by hosting mentoring groups, leading robotics club, and cheering on our Chargers! I am delighted to serve as the SERG Past President.



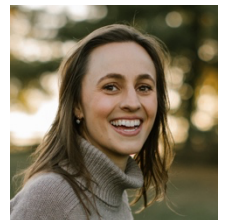
Latika Raisinghani, Conference Co-Chair, l.raisinghani@uwinnipeg.ca (she/her)

I am an Assistant Professor with the University of Winnipeg, where I teach courses related to science education, pedagogy and praxis. My transdisciplinary research engages with K-12 teachers and school leaders to explore their perspectives regarding students' cultural diversity and culturally responsive education, and strives to invite socially and ecologically just, (trans-multi)culturally responsive educational understandings. I am delighted to continue serving the SERG community as Conference Co-Chair.



Selina Greco, Secretary, selgreco@yorku.ca (she/her)

I am a PhD Candidate in Science Education at York University and a current Graduate Teaching Assistant with the Faculty of Education. In earlier years, I was a Secondary Chemistry and Mathematics Teacher with the Toronto District School Board. My doctoral research investigates the relevance of dramatic arts in Chemistry education, where students explore an ecofeminist knowledge-making practice while engaging in topics related to climate change. I am delighted to serve as the SERG Secretary for the 2025-2026 academic year.



Sarah Ragoub, Francophone Rep, umragoub@myumanitoba.ca (she/her)

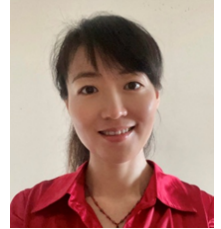
I am a PhD student and sessional instructor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Manitoba. My research interests include culturally responsive science education, social linguistics and belonging. I look forward to continuing to build a supportive network of SERG members alongside all of you this year.



Meet the Executive (continued)

Raine Yuan, Graduate Student Rep, ruigang.yuan@mail.mcgill.ca

I am currently a PhD student in the Faculty of Education at Queen's University, with a strong interest in children's development and youth STEM education. I am excited about the opportunity to collaborate with SERG graduate students and contribute to the SERG community.



Kenza Ousrir, Francophone Graduate Student Rep, kenza.ousrir@umontreal.ca

I am a Master's student in Psychopedagogy and Andragogy at the Université de Montréal. I hold a Bachelor's in Microbiology and Immunology from McGill University and a D.E.S.S. in Higher Education Teaching from the Université de Montréal. My academic interest is centered around teaching and learning practices in STEM higher education, with particular attention to student engagement, teachers' practices, and technopedagogical didactic tools. I am delighted to serve as the Francophone Graduate Student Representative on the SERG Executive and to contribute to strengthening connections within the francophone graduate student community.



Carolina Cruz-Vinaccia, Communications Officer, carolina.cruzvinaccia@mail.mcgill.ca (she/her)

I am currently a first-year PhD student in the Department of Integrated Studies in Education at McGill University. I have an interdisciplinary background (Law & Environmental Studies) and I came to Science Education after working in informal STEM education in Physics and Astronomy for almost a decade. I have also been actively involved in equity and justice work in STEM since 2017. My research interests include equity and justice in STEM education, science identity, informal science learning, and inclusive science communication. I'm excited to be a part of the SERG Executive and to find ways to communicate and amplify the work everyone in the SERG community is doing!



Message from the President



A hearty welcome to both new and continuing members of SERG.

As the outgoing Vice-President and Conference Co-Chair, I extend a heartfelt thank you for navigating successfully all changes to the 2025 conference, and making it a success. Thank you!

I am even more honored to serve as President for the 2025-2026 term. The SERG Special Interest Group (SIG) serves to support and connect members of the science education community from across Canada and beyond. It is interesting to see the continued desire of SERG members to connect and share their important work. A big thank you to all of you who presented your research during the last SERG conference at George Brown College, Toronto. We will count on you again to help us prepare for the 2026 conference at the University of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

It is my pleasure to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the SERG Executive past and present. First and foremost, a big thank you to Diandra Singh (Past-President), and Latika Raisinghani (2023-2024 SERG President) who continues to serve SERG as Conference Co-Chair. Sarah Ragoub (Graduate Student Representative) continues in the role of Francophone Representative, while Raine Yuan serves on as the Graduate Student Representative. I would like to thank Carol Brown (Secretary), Tasha Richardson (Conference Co-Chair), Neerusha Baurhoo-Gokool (Communications Officer), and Sarah El-Halwany (Francophone Representative) for their valuable contributions as they served on the executive from 2024-2025. I would also like to thank Ellen Watson (2022-2023 SERG President) for guidance offered to SERG executive. A special thank you to Sarah and Raine for developing sessions for our graduate students to connect during the year!

This year we have new members joining our executive. We heartily welcome Dr. Anila Asghar (McGill University), who joins us as Vice-President and Conference Co-Chair. We are delighted to have Selina Greco (York University) as the Secretary, Carolina Cruz-Vinaccia (McGill University) as the Communications Officer, and Kenza Ousrir (University of Montreal) as the Francophone Graduate Student Representative.

I hope to see you online at our virtual events. We are excited to see you at our upcoming in-person conference at University of Winnipeg in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in 2026. The SERG Online Session day will be on May 19, 2026.

With the deadline for conference proposals fast approaching, I want to remind members of the SERG community to renew their CSSE membership, and to also opt into the SERG SIG. This is the best way to keep in touch with us, learn about opportunities for networking, and engage in the ongoing evolution of the SERG association. I look forward to working with the SERG executive team to continue serving the SERG community during 2025-2026.

Thank you!

Elizabeth Vergis
2025-2026 SERG President

2025 SERG AGM Highlights

The 2025 AGM included reports on SERG's operations, an awards ceremony, and the announcement of the new executive.

Reports involved: reviewing our financial standing; recapping our events; and discussing the challenges associated with not knowing the details on the location of the 2026 conference. Thank you to all who attended the AGM and contributed to our discussions.

A highlight of the AGM is awarding academic excellence through the SERG Dissertation/Thesis Award and the SERG Graduate Paper Award. It is also our privilege to award travel bursaries from SERG to deserving graduate student recipients and to announce the SERG members who received the EDI travel bursaries from CSSE. Congratulations to the following 2025 Award recipients:

SERG Thesis Award: Sarah Ragoub (University of Manitoba)

SERG Graduate Paper Award: Carol Brown (University of Alberta)

Graduate Student Travel Bursary: Carolina Cruz-Vinaccia (McGill University); Joshua Mogyoros (University of Toronto)

Finally, we announced the SERG Executive of 2025-2026, and expressed our excitement for the upcoming year!



Conference Report 2025

Thank you to everyone who submitted, reviewed, presented, and attended the SERG 2025 Conference! A special thanks goes to Michael Holden and Nabila Kazmi (CSSE Conference Chairs), who responded to countless emails to answer all our questions to ensure the conference ran smoothly at George Brown College this past June.

This year's conference featured two outstanding keynote addresses. The first was delivered by the founder of SERG/GRES, Professor Emeritus Anthony Bartley, titled "Reflections on Seven Decades in Science Education"—complete with toys! A key theme of his talk was the joy that comes from wonder while learning science.

The second keynote address was given by Professor Erminia Pedretti, entitled "T. Kuhn Meets T. Rex Revisited: Towards Fourth Generation Science Museums." Dr. Pedretti guided us through key insights and inspired us to reflect on where the future of science education might lead. Thank you to both of our keynote speakers for their unforgettable and inspiring presentations!

We were thrilled to see a significant increase in the number of SERG sessions this year, with nearly double the number of submissions compared to 2024. In 2025, 51 proposals were accepted, which focused on themes including Indigenous ways of knowing, decolonizing science education, climate change, robotics, equity in STEM, physics, and math, preservice teacher education, the nature of science, and the role of creativity in science learning.

Specifically, the program included 5 poster sessions, 12 roundtables, 1 symposium, and 33 paper presentations. We also appreciate the flexibility of presenters who agreed to adjust their presentation formats when requested—thank you.

The SERG Dinner was well attended. Both our Keynote speakers graced the occasion that proved to be a great time for networking and making connections, as well as for having some good laughs.

SERG/GRES hosted a post-conference event from the University of Oxford in collaboration with the United Nations Human Rights: "Right Here, Right Now: International University Climate & Human Rights Watch" for researchers, educators, and students.

The SERG Annual General Meeting had strong attendance, and we hope to see even more of you in 2026 at the next conference, hosted by the University of Winnipeg in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

We deeply appreciate everyone who contributed to the success of this year's conference. Events like this are only possible because of the dedication and active participation of our members. As we look ahead to the 2026 review process, we encourage you to remain engaged and continue lending your valuable support.

Thank you!

Elizabeth Vergis and Tasha Richardson
2025 Conference Co-Chairs

2025 SERG Graduate Student Awards

2025 SERG Dissertation Award

Sarah Ragoub, PhD Student
University of Manitoba

Dissertation Title: Affordances and Constraints of the Science Curriculum for Developing Culturally Diverse Science-Literate Identities

Travel Bursary Awards

Joshua Mogyoros (University of Toronto)
Carolina Cruz-Vinaccia (McGill University)

2025 SERG Graduate Student Paper Award

Carol Brown, PhD Student
University of Alberta

Paper Title: Science and Health Misinformation in Alberta's Public Libraries: Surveying Staff Experiences

Graduate Blurb

We're thrilled to introduce ourselves as your SERG graduate student representatives: Raine Yuan and Kenza Ousrir. It's an honour to continue serving and contributing to the vibrant SERG graduate community. Below you'll find this year's theme along with exciting initiatives we have planned. We hope our professional network fosters a strong sense of togetherness, understanding, and support throughout your academic journey. Keep an eye on your inbox for updates and details about upcoming events—we can't wait to connect with you!

Togetherness and Support in Grad School

The SERG graduate community is committed to fostering a sense of togetherness, mutual understanding, and unwavering support. As graduate students, we recognize that our shared passion for scientific inquiry has guided us into the dynamic world of graduate studies. This journey is filled with both challenges and triumphs, and that's entirely normal. Our commitment is to continue nurturing connections within our community as one of this year's fundamental objectives. Please stay engaged for more information. Within our community, you'll always find a welcoming space to seek guidance, share ideas, and receive feedback—especially as you prepare your proposals for this year's CSSE-SERG conference.

Over the past three years, SERG graduate student representatives have facilitated a mentorship initiative that pairs interested graduate student presenters with experienced SERG members. This program offers valuable support in preparing proposals and other scholarly work and has consistently proven to be a meaningful experience for participants. In alignment with this year's conference updates, we're excited to continue offering these matching opportunities. More details will be shared soon!

Last year's events, both at the CSSE conference and online, provided graduate students with opportunities to connect, network, and build community. The togetherness helped foster lasting connections and meaningful exchanges. We're thrilled to announce that similar events will be held at the CSSE 2026 conference in Winnipeg. Be sure to watch your inbox for updates and details as the conference approaches!



Fireside Chats

The SERG graduate student team will continue to host virtual fireside chats, one in November 2025 and one in April 2026, under the theme of:

"Togetherness in Grad School"

1) Presenting at the SERG Sessions:

A guide to preparing for and presenting at the SERG sessions in the CSSE conference.

2) Academic Network for Grad Students:

The strategies for grad students to expand their network.

If you would like to be part of the panels or know anyone who would be a great fit for these Fireside Chats, please contact Raine Yuan or Kenza Ousrir.

Keep an eye on your emails for more information about these events in the coming months.

Thank you!

*Raine Yuan and Kenza Ousrir
Graduate Student Representatives*

SERG Student Awards

There are two categories of awards available for graduate students who are members of SERG:

- Dissertation/Thesis Award**
- Graduate Student Paper Awards**

Graduate Student Paper Awards

SERG sponsors graduate student paper awards to support registration for CSSE. The award will cover the CSSE and Congress registration costs for each of the winners. These one-time awards will be adjudicated on the basis of the comments and ranking generated by the SERG review process. All first authors self-identified as graduate students, whose proposals are accepted for a SERG paper, roundtable, or poster presentation will be considered for the award.

Proposals in either English or French are encouraged.

Final decisions on paper awards will be adjudicated by the SERG executive, and awards will be presented at the SERG AGM at CSSE 2026.

Dissertation / Thesis Award

SERG annually sponsors the SERG Dissertation/ Thesis Award for the best doctoral dissertation or master's thesis on science education in Canada. The winner of the SERG Dissertation/ Thesis Award will receive a certificate of recognition and be invited to present their paper at the 2026 CSSE conference. Conference expenses will be covered, in part, by SERG.

Eligibility

To be considered for the 2026 SERG Dissertation/Thesis award the dissertation/thesis must be in the area of science education, and must be defended at a Canadian university between December 1, 2024 and November 30, 2025.

Criteria

A panel of three experienced researchers in science education at Canadian universities, who are members of SERG, will adjudicate the submissions. General criteria for evaluation will include overall quality, substance, distinctiveness, and significance of the work. Specifically, reviewers will use the following criteria to identify outstanding dissertations/theses:

- Significance of the research problem,
- Conceptualization, design, and execution of the study,
- Potential for theory development, further research, and improved practice, and
- Relevance to the field of science education in Canada.

Submission Requirements and Process

Interested applicants or their supervisors should submit the following, via email, as separate Word files by **December 31, 2025**:

1. A cover page providing the following information:
 - applicant's name, current address, phone, and e-mail,*
 - the name of the university where the study was completed,*
 - the name of the supervisor(s) and the external examiner,*
 - the defense date*
2. A summary of the dissertation/thesis, between 1500 – 2000 words, which includes the full title and a brief description of the intent, design, and results of the inquiry, conforming to the criteria listed above.
3. A letter of support from the Faculty Supervisor, which includes a statement regarding the outcome of the defense.

The top three applicants will be notified by mid-January 2026 and will be required to submit their full dissertation / thesis by January 31, 2026.

Please send all applications electronically to Elizabeth Vergis, evergis@ualberta.ca

Incomplete submissions and hard copies will not be considered.

Call for Reviewers

Dear SERG members,

We will request each submitting author to review at least two proposals for SERG CSSE this year in the hope of keeping the number of proposals each person is asked to review to a minimum. If you can review more than two proposals, please contact **Anila Asghar** at anila.asghar@mcgill.ca and indicate the following:

- 1) How many proposals you would be willing to review,
- 2) If you can review proposals in English, French or both, and
- 3) Your areas of interest so that you can be matched with related proposals where possible.

The deadline for submitting reviews will be **November 30, 2025**. This year we will once again be using the CSSE online system for reviews.

Important Dates and Deadlines

CSSE/SERG proposal deadline	October 8
Dissertation Award Application deadline	December 31
CSSE/SERG Peer Proposal Review	Oct 10 – Nov 30
CSSE/SERG Proposal Decisions	January 30 (tentative)
Draft CSSE/SERG Program	March 6 (tentative)
Deadline for minor program corrections	March 20
CSSE Early Registration deadline	March 31
Final CSSE/SERG Program	April 30 (tentative)
CSSE/SERG Pre-conference Day	May 30
CSSE/SERG (University of Winnipeg)	June 1 – 3
CSSE/SERG Online Session Day	May 19