

Science Education Research Group |
Groupe de recherche sur l'éducation des sciencesINSIDE THIS ISSUE | DANS
CE BULLETIN

- CSSE Call for Proposals
- Meet the Executive
- Message from the President
- 2026 AGM Highlights
- Graduate Student Awards
- 2026 Conference Report
- Graduate Student Events
- Nominations for Graduate Student Awards
- CSSE Call for Reviewers
- Important Dates & Deadlines



The 55th CSSE Annual Conference is taking place at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon Saskatchewan. The SERG team eagerly awaits the submission of your proposal for the upcoming conference. The conference is taking place on **Saturday, June 5th (preconference day)** to **Wednesday, June 9th, 2027**. An online-only day for presentations will also be confirmed at a later date on the conference website.

The call for proposals can be found at:

<https://csse-scee.ca/conference-2027/>

Submissions are due **Wednesday, October 14, 2026**
(23h59 central time)

This year CSSE is using the conference management platform called Fourwaves. This means that any prior login for CSSE conference proposals is **no longer relevant**. We recommend submitting your proposal early to prevent any submission delays due to the new conference system.

To support the adoption of Fourwaves CSSE has developed a submission guide video which can be found here: (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2s3pDcvi3Ms>)

When submitting your proposal online please:

- ☐ Renew your CSSE and SERG memberships (<https://www.assocsrv.ca/csse/index.asp?lang=e>)
- ☐ Continue to Fourwaves proposal submission portal
- ☐ When filling out submitter information makes sure to use the same email as your membership to help with account verification
- ☐ Select SERG as the group for reviewing proposals
- ☐ Select SERG as the Conference Track
- ☐ Select the Proposal Type (i.e. multipaper, poster etc.) and Medium (online or in person)
- ☐ Add additional authors and proposal information (note this does not save)
- ☐ Create your fourwaves account from your submission email (this will be used for conference registration as well)

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

Sarah El Halwany and Ellen Watson, 2026 SERG Conference Co-Chairs

Meet the Executive

Anila Asghar, President, 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 President.



Sarah El Halwany, Vice-President & Conference Co-Chair, sarah.elhalwany@uontario.ca

Sarah El Halwany is the Vice-President and Program Co-Chair for SERG this year. She is an Assistant Professor at the Université de l'Ontario français, where she teaches in the Bachelor of Education program. She is interested in relational, affective, and material approaches to teaching and learning in science education contexts, with a focus on socio-ecological justice.



Elizabeth Vergis, Past 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 Past President!



Ellen Watson, Conference Co-Chair, watsone@brandonu.ca

Ellen Watson is an Associate Professor at Brandon University who has served SERG in many roles in the past. This year, she will be supporting Dr. El Halwany as we put together our SERG Annual Conference Program as Program Co-Director. She teaches courses on science education, curriculum, and pedagogy and her research focuses on teachers' beliefs about the epistemic aspects of science.



Shauna Schechtel, Secretary, shauna.schechtel@alumni.ucalgary.ca (she/her)

I am a recent PhD graduate, from the Department of Chemistry at Queen's University. The focus of my chemistry education PhD is on the affective experiences of students in teaching laboratories. My research interests include chemistry education, teaching laboratories, student voice, affective experiences. Outside of research I enjoy engaging in science outreach creating science escape rooms, science shows and interactive science activities. I look forward to being apart of the executive team and supporting the SERG community.



Pascale Saint-Denis, Francophone Rep, pascale.saint-denis@mail.mcgill.ca (they/them)

I'm a PhD student in Educational Studies at McGill University. I hold a bachelor's degree in International Development and an MA in Science and Technology Studies. My research interests relate to inclusive pedagogies and youths' diverse epistemologies in informal science learning contexts.



Meet the Executive (continued)

Josh Mogyoros, Graduate Student Rep, j.mogyoros@mail.utoronto.ca

I am a PhD candidate in Curriculum and Pedagogy at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. My research focuses on how science teachers critically reflect on the ways their assumptions, positionality, and experiences shape their teaching beliefs. Alongside my research, I work as an occasional teacher with the Toronto District School Board and I serve as a board member for the Science Writers and Communicators of Canada. I am looking forward to supporting the SERG community as a graduate student representative!



Asia Majeed, Graduate Student Rep, asia.majeed@mail.utoronto.ca

I am a PhD candidate in Curriculum and Pedagogy at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), University of Toronto. My research interests center on mathematics and numeracy education in postsecondary settings, with particular attention to financial numeracy, mathematical reasoning, and the connections between mathematics education and everyday, workplace, and civic life. I am also interested in mathematics teaching and learning, curriculum development, and the meaningful integration of digital technologies in mathematics education. I am delighted to serve as a Graduate Student Representative on the SERG Executive and to contribute to building a supportive and connected community for graduate students.



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

I am a 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 8 years of working in informal STEM education in Physics and Astronomy. 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



It is a distinct honour and privilege to begin my term as President of the Science Education Research Group (SERG) 2026–2027. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve this vibrant community of educators, researchers, scholars, educational leaders, and students who are dedicated to advancing science education research and practice across Canada and beyond. Together, we foster meaningful conversations, collaborations, and initiatives that strengthen science education and contribute to its continued growth, both nationally and internationally.

I would like to thank everyone who attended the CSSE Conference in Winnipeg in 2026. Your presence, thoughtful participation, and valuable contributions helped make our program meaningful and successful. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to connect with you in Winnipeg. I truly appreciated the conversations, the exchange of ideas, and the sense of community that we continue to build together.

Our next conference will be held in person from June 5–9, 2027, at the College of Education, University of Saskatchewan, in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The Call for Proposals is now open. We invite you to submit a proposal and share your research, ideas, work, and experiences with our community. Submissions are welcome in either English or French. The conference will also include an online-only day for those unable to attend in person. The date will be announced soon.

Please renew your CSSE membership and select the SERG SIG as part of your membership. SERG provides a valuable platform for engaging with the history of science education in Canada, connecting with colleagues, exploring professional opportunities, staying informed about upcoming initiatives, and actively contributing to our community.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our Past President, Dr. Elizabeth Vergis, for her outstanding leadership and steadfast commitment to SERG. Her efforts, guidance, and thoughtful contributions to the CSSE Conference and the Executive Committee have been invaluable. I would also like to acknowledge and express my appreciation for Dr. Latika Raisinghani's leadership, insight, and hard work as Conference Co-Chair in 2025–2026. I truly valued the opportunity to work alongside her as Co-Chair and learn from her experience.

A heartfelt thank you to the members of the SERG Executive Committee for their dedication, commitment, and meaningful contributions to SERG throughout their 2025–2026 term of service. We extend our sincere appreciation to the following members: Dr. Sara El Halwany (Francophone Representative), Sarah Ragoub (Graduate Student and Francophone Representative), Raine Yuan (Graduate Student Representative), Kenza Ousrir (Francophone Graduate Student Representative), Communications Officer Carolina Cruz-Vinaccia (Communications Officer), and Selina Greco (Secretary).

I look forward to collaborating with all of you as we continue to support research, scholarship, and meaningful dialogue in our SERG community.

Cordially,

Anila Asghar
Associate Professor
Department of Integrated Studies in Science
McGill University

Conference Report 2026

Thank you to everyone who submitted, reviewed, presented, and attended the SERG 2026 Conference! A special thanks goes to Nabila Kazmi (CSSE Conference Manger), who responded to countless emails to answer all our conference questions. Thank you to the University of Winnipeg staff and the numerous volunteers that helped the conference run smoothly.



This year's conference featured outstanding keynote addresses. The first was delivered by, Gregory P. Thomas entitled "The Future of Science Education: Contemplations from Between a Rock and the Deep Blue Sea". Dr. Thomas shared reflections on his past experiences in to help us navigate the current challenges in science education and have conversations about the future.

The second keynote address was given by Professor Dawn L. Sutherland, titled "Equity and Justice in Science and Technology Education: A Canadian Perspective". A key theme of the talk was helping the audience consider the intersection between equity, science and technology. Thank you to both speakers for their excellent presentations.

In 2026, 51 proposals were accepted, which focused on themes including Indigenous perspectives, ecological justice, science identity, emerging technology, multiliteracies, community engagement, teacher self-efficacy, philosophical inquiry, scientific argumentation and geoehtics education.

Specifically, the program included 7 online presentations, 2 poster presentations, 8 roundtables, 1 symposium, and 34 paper presentations. We also appreciate the hard work everyone put into crafting their presentations and creating discussion during the sessions.

There were four social events that occurred over the course of the conference. Three graduate student meet and greets after both key notes and during the pre-conference. During these meet-ups connections were built over snacks and coffee. The SERG Dinner at Peasant Cookery was well attended. This event sparked up excellent conversations, laughs and proved to be a great time for re-connecting and making new connections.

The SERG Annual General Meeting had strong attendance, and we hope to see even more of you in 2027 at the next conference, hosted by the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

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.

Anila Asghar and Latika Raisinghani
2026 Conference Co-Chairs

2026 SERG AGM Highlights

The 2026 Annual General meeting included reports on SERG's operations, an awards ceremony, and the announcement of the new executive.

As part of our discussion of SERG's operations Carolina our continuing communications officer announced the creation of an official website for SERG. Throughout the year we will use the website to share news and events beyond information communicated by email and through the newsletters. The website can be accessed through the link and the QR code below.

Website Link: <https://serg-gres.ca/>



The executive committee members provided reports reviewing our financial standing, recapping SERG events and discussions about the 2027 conference location and logistics. Thank you to all who attended the AGM and contributed to our discussions. Finally, we announced the SERG Executive of 2026-2027, and expressed our excitement for the upcoming year!

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.

2026 SERG Graduate Student Awards

2026 SERG Dissertation Award

Dr. Thelma Akyea (University of Toronto)

Dissertation Title: Black Women's Educational Experiences in Canadian Post-Secondary Physics and Astronomy

2026 SERG Graduate Paper Award

Peiki Loay (University of Manitoba)

Paper Title: Becoming~ Belonging with Land: Entangled Stories of Science Education and Decolonial Pedagogical Transformation

Graduate Student Travel Bursary Awards

Jun Li (University of Alberta)

Kenza Ousrir (Université de Montréal)

Graduate Student Corner

Welcome! We are Asia Majeed and Josh Mogyoros, and we are your SERG graduate student representatives. Our goal is to continue building a community that can support you as you navigate your degree. Graduate school is a journey of intellectual growth, professional development, and personal discovery. We believe that these experiences are strengthened when graduate students have a supportive community around them.

Throughout the year, we hope to create spaces where SERG graduate students can connect with peers and experienced scholars to exchange ideas, seek guidance and develop professionally.

Fireside Chats

We will continue the tradition of hosting virtual Fireside Chats under our theme **Connecting, Growing, and Thriving in Graduate School**:

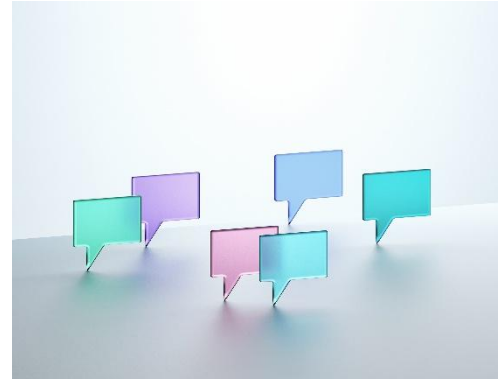
Fireside Chat 1: From Proposal to Presentation (November 2026)

This session will support graduate students who are preparing to participate in the SERG sessions at the 2027 CSSE conference. Potential topics include developing a strong conference proposal, communicating research clearly, preparing an effective presentation, and making the most of the conference experience.



Fireside Chat 2: Building Your Academic and Professional Community (February 2027)

This conversation will explore practical ways graduate students can develop meaningful academic and professional relationships. Topics may include connecting with researchers with similar interests, developing collaborations, participating in research communities, and maintaining professional relationships beyond graduate school.



We also plan to host several workshops throughout the year. Potential topics include using data analysis software (e.g., NVivo, SPSS), preparing a teaching dossier, and writing an academic CV. To make sure these sessions are as useful as possible, we would love to hear from you! Please share your suggestions with us at our emails j.mogyoros@mail.utoronto.ca & asia.majeed@mail.utoronto.ca.

Additionally, we welcome SERG members and graduate students who would be interested in contributing to these conversations to reach out.

Please watch your inbox for future event details—we are looking forward to connecting with you soon!

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

Thank you!

Asia Majeed and Josh Mogyoros

Graduate Student Representatives
Science Education Research Group (SERG)

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.

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 2027 CSSE conference. Conference expenses will be covered, in part, by SERG.

Eligibility

To be considered for the 2027 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, 2025 and November 30, 2026.

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, 2026:

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 2027 and will be required to submit their full dissertation / thesis by January 31, 2027.

Please send all applications electronically to Anila Asghar
anila.asghar@mcgill.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 **Sarah EL Halwany** at sarah.elhalwany@uontario.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, 2026**. This year we will once again be using the CSSE online system for reviews.

Important Dates and Deadlines

CSSE/SERG proposal deadline	October 14
Dissertation Award Application deadline	December 31
CSSE/SERG Peer Proposal Review	Oct 15 – Nov 30
CSSE/SERG Proposal Decisions	January 30 (tentative)
Draft CSSE/SERG Program	March 8 (tentative)
Deadline for minor program corrections	March 30
CSSE Early Registration deadline	March 31
Final CSSE/SERG Program	April 30 (tentative)
CSSE/SERG Online Session Day	May 25 th (tentative)
CSSE/SERG Pre-conference Day	June 5 th
CSSE/SERG (University of Saskatchewan)	June 6 – 9