



Thursday, May 1st, 2025 | 9: 30 AM | CUI 317

SUSTAINABLE CAMPUSES: PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS FOR A CHANGING CLIMATE

ANNUAL PHD SYMPOSIUM

**Toronto
Metropolitan
University**



**EnSciMan
Sustainable Campus
PhD Symposium 2025**

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

9:30 – 10:00AM **REGISTRATION AND COFFEE CHAT**

10:00 – 10:10AM **INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

10:10 – 10:30AM **DR. GERVAN FEARON**

10:35 – 10:55AM **BRENDA WEBSTER**

10:55 – 11:10AM **COFFEE BREAK**

11:15 – 11:35AM **SARAH BRIGEL**

11:40 – 12:00PM **DR. KATE WHALEN**

12:05 – 12:25PM **DR. SHASHI KANT**

12:25– 2:00PM **LUNCH**

2:15-3:15PM **ROUNDTABLE PANEL SESSION**

3:15PM **CLOSING REMARKS**

SESSION OVERVIEW

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

SPEAKER 1: DR. GERVAN FEARON

SPEAKER 2: SARAH BRIGEL

SPEAKER 3: BRENDA WEBSTER

SPEAKER 4: DR. KATE WHALEN

SPEAKER 5: DR. SHASHI KANT

ROUNDTABLE PANEL SESSION:

Sarah Brigel, Brenda Webster, Dr. Kate Whalen, Dr. Shashi Kant, Dr. Chris De Sousa, & Chelsea Dalton

POSTER SESSION:

Dynamic space where research comes to life through visual presentations and one-on-one discussions. This is an opportunity to explore cutting-edge work, connect with presenters, and engage in meaningful conversations about emerging ideas and innovations.

S P E A K E R S

SPEAKER 1: DR. GERVAN FEARON - PRESIDENT GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE



Dr. Gervan Fearon is the President of George Brown College and formerly led Brock and Brandon Universities. Committed to expanding the transformative power of education, he has also held roles in government and finance, including at the Ontario Ministry of Finance and Chase Econometrics. Dr. Fearon sits on several boards, such as Ingenium, Colleges Ontario, the ROM, and the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, and co-founded the Canada Caribbean Institute. His many honors include the Order of Ontario (2023), the 2024 Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Award, and the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Medals. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Western University, degrees in Agricultural Economics from the University of Guelph, and CPA (CGA) and ICD.D designations.

SPEAKER 2: SARAH BRIGEL - TMU ALUMNUS SOCIAL VENTURES ZONE

Sarah Brigel is the Programs Manager at the Social Ventures Zone (SVZ), where she coordinates and leads programming that supports student and community led social enterprises. In her day to day, she helps startups strategize around sustainable business growth and development, working across a variety of social issues. She is graduating with her MBA in June 2025, which she hopes leads her into an impact finance career in the future. Sarah graduated from Toronto Metropolitan University in 2016 from the Environment and Urban Sustainability program and holds a certificate in Community Engagement, Leadership and Development from the Chang School. She has worked in the urban agriculture space, coordinating markets and community gardens to increase local food access. Sarah is passionate about social justice and leading with values to sustain a healthy planet for all.



S P E A K E R S

SPEAKER 3: BRENDA WEBSTER - ARCHITECT AND SUSTAINABILITY ADVOCATE



Brenda Webster, FRAIC is a champion for a sponge city approach to urban regeneration. Webster is a City Building Strategist who practiced Architecture in both London and Berlin, and is most recently an alumnus of both Waterfront Toronto and Stantec's Urban Places. She partners closely with infrastructure, financial, and government teams to deliver cities to nature. At Waterfront Toronto she transformed the vision for the Lower Don Lands Development to a fully funded master plan. It is currently Canada's largest Sponge City Project whose enduring mission statement is 'River as Agent for Urbansim.

SPEAKER 4: DR. KATE WHALEN - ADJUNCT ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, MCMASTER UNIVERSITY

Dr. Kate Whalen is an award-winning leader with more than 16 years of experience developing high-performing individuals and leading cross-functional teams across diverse industries and sectors to navigate complexity and deliver sustainable, high-impact solutions. As a coach and consultant, Dr. Whalen brings entrepreneurial creativity to help high-performing leaders and teams to ignite their creativity, uncover transformative insights, and action their most ambitious goals. Dr. Whalen is a lifelong learner who believes that action and experience are the best forms of education. Through her past experience, Dr. Whalen obtained my Masters and PhD while concurrently developing McMaster University's first-ever Office of Sustainability and then first-of-its-kind Academic Sustainability department - two departments receiving national acclaim for their impact and innovation.



S P E A K E R S

SPEAKER 5: DR. SHASHI KANT MSCSM FOUNDER AND FORMER PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Dr. Shashi Kant is the founder and former Director of the Master of Science in Sustainability Management (MScSM) Program, and Professor of Forest Resource Economics and Management at the University of Toronto. His research has been focused on extending the boundaries of forest economics beyond the economics of timber. He has published five books and more than 100 refereed journal articles and book chapters. He is leading a Global Think Tank called New Frontiers of Forest Economics (NEFFE), and is editor-in-chief of a book series, Sustainability, Economics and Natural Resources, published by Springer. He served as Associate Editor of the Canadian Journal of Forest Research, is currently serving as Associate Editor for the Journal of Forest Economics, and has guest-edited five special volumes of Forest Policy and Economics. He is the Coordinator of IUFRO Research Group on Forest Economics. He is also the recipient of many awards: Order of Ontario (2017), Queen's Award for Forestry (2008), the Scientific Achievement Award of Canadian Institute of Forestry (2007), the Scientific Achievement Award of the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO) (2005), and the Ontario's Premier Research Excellence Award (2004) for his research. He has also received the International Students Excellence Award, City of Toronto, (2012).

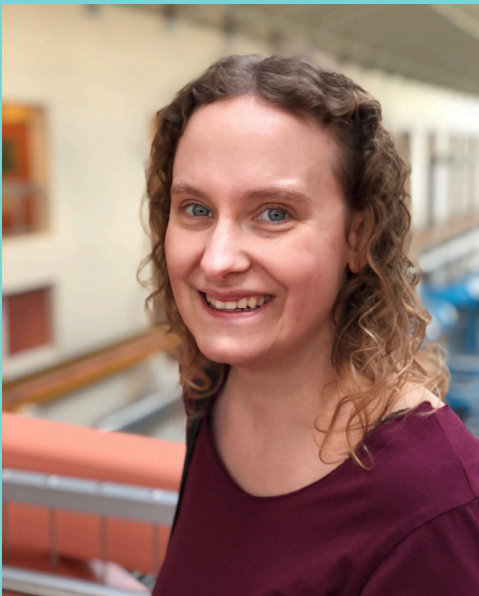
ROUNDTABLE PANELISTS

SPEAKER 6: DR. CHRIS DE SOUSA

Dr. Christopher De Sousa is a professor in the School of Urban and Regional Planning at Toronto Metropolitan University and has served as both school director (2011 to 2018) and associate director (undergraduate programs, 2022 to 2024). He received his BA in Environment and Resource Management, his MSc in Planning, and his PhD in Geography all from the University of Toronto. He is a Registered Professional Planner and a member of the Ontario Professional Planners Institute and the Canadian Institute of Planners. Dr. De Sousa's research activities focus on various aspects of brownfield redevelopment, urban environmental management, park planning, and sustainability in Canada and the United States. He was the proud recipient of Canada's Brownfielder of the Year award in 2018.



SPEAKER 7: CHELSEA DALTON



Chelsea is responsible for managing and implementing projects at the University of Toronto Sustainability Office. Chelsea works collaboratively across a broad range of departments and with multiple stakeholders to strengthen the Sustainability Office's projects and programs. Chelsea was previously with the Facilities Management & Planning at University of Toronto Mississauga, where she has over 10 years experience working in the Sustainability Office. She has worked extensively on outreach, engagement, program management, and sustainability assessment in higher education. Chelsea holds an Honours BSc in Environmental Science from the University of Toronto Mississauga. She is a passionate advocate for sustainability in higher education and throughout the world at large.

E V E N T T E A M

REBECCA SCENNA

WILL SNYDER

TEAGAN SONI

ERIC FRIES

WYATT WEATHERSON

SARAH WANG

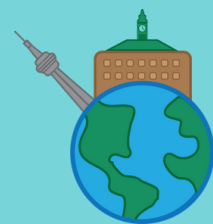
DIMA BALAA

CAROL SUTHERLAND

AARON MCQUAID



**Environmental Applied Science
& Management**
Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies



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