

Symposium Program

10:00am

I. Welcome

Land Acknowledgement

Masters of Ceremony: Nate Clark & Shaun Tyler

10:15am

2. Introductions & Keynote

Reflections of Environmental Work “On the Front-Lines”

Speaker: Jonas Spring

Moderator: Justin Miron

11:00am

Break

11:15am

3. Breakout Sessions

Breakout 1:

Navigating Barriers in Research

Speakers: Amber Grant and

Julie Robertson

Moderator: Jenelle Regnier-Davies

Breakout 2:

Opportunities & Innovations

Speakers: Dr. Phillip Walsh and

Dr. Rafiuddin Ahmed

Moderator: Estee Barin

12:00pm

Break

12:10pm

4. Panel Discussion

Diverging Perspectives, Insights and Responses Regarding Environmental & Pandemic Crises

Speakers: Kanchan Maharaj; Dr. Andrew Millward; and Dr. Rachel Dodds

Moderators: Justin Miron & Muhammad Alam

12:55pm

5. Closing

Masters of Ceremony: Nate Clark & Shaun Tyler

A New Era in Environmental Science, Management, Research & Industry

Session Overview

1. Welcome

Masters of Ceremony, Nate Clark and Shaun Tyler welcome attendees to the **12th Annual Environmental Applied Science & Management Graduate Symposium**. This year's Symposium examines and reflects on the impacts of a global pandemic and environmental crises on the sciences, research and industry and takes an optimistic look at the innovations and opportunities that lay ahead. We will first acknowledge the Indigenous land that we find ourselves upon with Ryerson University's Land Acknowledgement.

2. Introductions & Keynote

Reflections on Environmental Work “On the Front Lines”: In this plenary session, our Keynote speaker, Jonas Spring, reflects on his experience as an environmental designer working on the “front-lines”. Jonas explains how the landscape and response to environmental crises have changed in his lifetime, sharing his optimism and encouragement to other “front-line” workers taking the reins.

3. Breakout Sessions

Breakout 1 Navigating Barriers in Research: Join this informal conversation geared to engage emerging scholars in their academic journey in a time of crisis. The session asks: What are the ways research has changed in the past year; what challenges have been experienced in your academic journey; and what strategies have you developed to stay on track?

Breakout 2 Opportunities, Adaptations and Innovations in a Time of Crisis: This conversation focuses on opportunities emerging in this era of crisis and adaptations developed in light of environmental concerns. This session explores the alternative and novel ways industry and research leaders have adjusted to market and regulatory change.

4. Panel Discussion

Diverging Perspectives, Insights and Responses Regarding Environmental & Pandemic Crises: This panel discussion explores diverse experiences, viewpoints and responses to the array of global crises we currently witness. The panel will explore questions such as: How has the pandemic or other evolving concerns such as climate change altered or influenced your outlook, priorities, or efforts? Are the current priorities the right ones? What are the opportunities to do things differently?

5. Closing

Closing remarks with Masters of Ceremony Nate Clark and Shaun Tyler. Join us in thanking our speakers, event organizers and department for their efforts in delivering a successful and engaging 12th Annual Graduate Symposium.

Speaker Biographies

Jonas Spring (he/his/him): Jonas is the person you'd pay to walk around a green space with. In the Toronto region, he operates a successful landscape design and construction business that works to enhance and increase green space through proactive and thoughtful ecological design. Urban, rural or in-between, his interests, eye and enthusiasm illuminate nature's possibilities. Jonas draws on over fifteen years of experience helping people and projects get the most from their green space. Currently, he is President of Landscape Ontario - Toronto Chapter and he is a leading member of Design Climate Action (DCA), a group of designers who commit to educate, advocate and design for a socially just transition to a carbon neutral economy. Jonas holds a BSc in Agroecology from the University of British Columbia.

Amber Grant (she/they): Amber is a PhD Candidate in the Environmental Applied Science & Management program at Ryerson University. Her research focuses on examining environmental justice in urban forest management and decision-making in the United States. Amber is a CGS-MSFSS recipient; this program supports Canadian graduate students in building global linkages and international networks through research at other recognized universities and research centres internationally. As part of this program, Amber has been working in Philadelphia, PA with Dr. Lara Roman at the U.S. Forest Service, an agency part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to investigate how environmental justice is being pursued and implemented in community tree-planting programs and practice.

Julie Robertson (she/her): After a career in merchandise management it was time for a change. Julie made the decision to follow a love of geography and began the Geographic Analysis program at Ryerson University in 2008. Following, Julie did a Masters in Environmental Applied Science & Management (EnSciMan) on the use of GIS and traditional Inuit caribou knowledge. She is currently completing her PhD in the EnSciMan program. Before the pandemic, her research was on food security and the social and economic impact of a greenhouse in Arviat, Nunavut. However, the global Covid-19 crisis had delayed, and has now cancelled, the greenhouse project for the foreseeable future. Julie has pivoted her research to how Covid has impacted food security in the community.

Dr. Phillip Walsh (he/him): With over 38 years of experience in the North American and European mining and energy industry, Dr. Walsh is currently an Associate Professor, Entrepreneurship & Strategy. His early career included working as a petroleum geologist/geophysicist and managing the geological operations of a major natural gas utility. Subsequently he founded a consultancy to provide economic, technical and strategic management services for energy companies, governmental agencies, municipalities and energy consumer organizations. Dr. Walsh holds a B.Sc. in Geological Sciences from Queen's University at Kingston, an MBA from the Ivey Business School, Western University and a PhD in Strategic Management from the University of Bradford in the United Kingdom. His teaching and research focuses on strategy, sustainability and innovation and he is a frequent contributor to TRSM's Executive Education program. In addition, he supervises research and teaches on Ryerson's Environmental Applied Science and Management graduate program and co-ordinates the Entrepreneurship and Small Business certificate program at the Chang School of Continuing Education.

Speaker Biographies

Dr. Rafiuddin Ahmed (he/his/him): is currently serving as an Associate Professor in the Department of Marketing, Faculty of Business Studies, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. He is a lead researcher in e-learning, innovation and digital entrepreneurship and has a keen interest in the impact of technology on the environment. COVID-19 has demonstrated that there is a need for more sustainable and innovative solutions to safeguard technological advances. Being an e-learning strategist, Dr. Rafiuddin has a dream to change the education system, and believes “School in the Cloud” is the future. He is also a seasoned scholar in the social business and digital marketing area and presented research in Australia, France, Japan, and Thailand.

Kanchan Maharaj, P.Eng (she/her): is the Sr Engineer in the Cycling & Pedestrian Projects unit at the City of Toronto. She is responsible for several of the unit’s infrastructure delivery and maintenance contracts, initiatives and projects and was involved in the design and accelerated construction of many of the COVID -related ActiveTO walking/cycling projects over the past year. She has over 25yrs of Canadian and international engineering, construction, policy and planning experience in the public and private sector and has volunteered and worked with many equity-focused advocacy organizations in the GTA throughout her career. She has been with the Cycling unit for almost 7 years.

Andrew Millward (he/him/his): Professor Millward’s scholarly, research and creative work has consistently upheld the goal of protecting and enhancing the urban forest through innovation, collaboration and excellence in engaging stakeholders on all levels, including students, the public, private organizations, nonprofits and all levels of government. His research group was the inaugural recipient of the 2019 Ryerson University Innovation Circle Discovery Prize, and he was the 2015 university-wide research award winner for Social Innovation and Action. Dr. Millward is principal investigator for Ryerson University’s Urban Forest Research and Ecological Disturbance (UFRED) Group. Dr. Millward is a graduate of Environmental Science and Geography from the University of Guelph, and holds a Ph.D. in Geography from University of Waterloo. After receiving his doctorate, he worked in the United States where he held a Fulbright research fellowship in the Natural Resources Department at Cornell University and an assistant professorship at the George Washington University in Washington, DC. He has been a professor at Ryerson University since 2006.

Rachel Dodds (she/her): Dr. Rachel Dodds is a Professor as well as past Director of the Hospitality and Tourism Research Institute at Ryerson University. Rachel has over 20 years of tourism experience working with tour operators, destination management companies, accommodation facilities, festivals and non profit organizations and still works actively with industry in her role as a consultant to help the tourism industry more sustainable. Her recent research examines sustainable tourism, environmental management, festivals, marketing and tourist motivations. Prior research has focused on corporate social responsibility, islands and tourism policy.

Event Team

Nate Clark (he/him): is a 3rd year PhD student at Ryerson University in the Environmental Applied Science & Management Program. Nate's research focuses on employing novel disinfection strategies to eliminate water borne pathogens.

Shaun Tyler (he/him): is a 1st year PhD student at Ryerson University in the Environmental Applied Science & Management Program. His research interests are focused on environmental consumer behaviour and sustainable motivational drivers within the hospitality and tourism industry.

Jenelle Regnier-Davies (she/her): is a 1st year PhD student at Ryerson University in the Environmental Applied Science & Management Program. Jenelle's research is centred around food security and food policy in Canada. Her current research is examining the impacts of COVID-19 on food security and governance around future policy and planning.

Estee Barin (she/her): is a 1st year PhD student at Ryerson in the Environmental Applied Science & Management Program. Her research is focused on commercialization, innovation and sustainability of iceberg water harvesting.

Justin Miron (he/him/his): Justin is a first year PhD student at Ryerson University in the Environmental Applied Science & Management Program. His research is focused on the design of hardware and software to enhance the detection of sub-surface tree roots using Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR).

Muhammad Alam (he/him): Muhammad Alam is a first year PhD student at the Environmental Applied Science & Management Program of Ryerson University. His research interest is focused on the adoption of eco-friendly products by the new immigrants in Canada and environmental sustainability.

Ryerson University's Land Acknowledgement

Toronto is in the 'Dish With One Spoon Territory'. The Dish With One Spoon is a treaty between the Anishinaabe, Mississaugas and Haudenosaunee that bound them to share the territory and protect the land. Subsequent Indigenous Nations and peoples, Europeans and all newcomers have been invited into this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship and respect." The "Dish", or sometimes it is called the "Bowl", represents what is now southern Ontario, from the Great Lakes to Quebec and from Lake Simcoe into the United States. *We all eat out of the Dish, all of us that share this territory, with only one spoon. That means we have to share the responsibility of ensuring the dish is never empty, which includes taking care of the land and the creatures we share it with. Importantly, there are no knives at the table, representing that we must keep the peace. The dish is graphically represented by the wampum pictured below. This was a treaty made between the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee after the French and Indian War. Newcomers were then incorporated into it over the years, notably in 1764 with The Royal Proclamation/The Treaty of Niagara.

