

# Fall Perspectives on Teaching Conference

Thursday, September 12, 2021

Online

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## 9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Welcoming Remarks

*Candace Brunette-Debassige, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Education*

*Aisha Haque, Director, Centre for Teaching and Learning*

## 9:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Keynote Session

### Setting the stage for those difficult conversations: Building Indigenous-centred pedagogical spaces in Post-Secondary Institutions

*Kahente Horn-Miller, Assistant Vice President, Indigenous Initiatives, Carleton University*

*Moderator: Candace Brunette-Debassige, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Education*

It has been said time and again that the university as an institution is an inhospitable place not only for Indigenous students or faculty but also for Indigenous worldviews and philosophies because they do not conform to the dominant western thought and its intellectual practice. We see at many universities the efforts to come to grips with the history of their colonial relations. (Re)conciliation in the university necessitates considering Indigenous knowledge as indispensable to the process of pursuing knowledge. Difficult conversations need to take place in order for this to become a reality. Indigenous knowledge can inform all disciplines in ways that bring the theory and knowledge forward. Yet, the inclusion of Indigenous issues in curriculum and pedagogical practice will continue to be problematic if the frameworks of interpretation, analysis and delivery remain unchanged. This talk challenges us to take up the work of building those Indigenous-centred spaces at Western.



**Dr. Kahente Horn-Miller** (Kahente means “she walks ahead”) (Kanien:keha’ka/Mohawk) received her doctorate in 2009. She is a mother to four daughters and Aksotha (grandmother). Currently she is an Associate Professor in the School of Indigenous and is the inaugural Assistant Vice-President, Indigenous Initiatives. She was recently awarded the Provost Fellowship in Teaching Award and is designated as a Carleton University Teaching Fellow.

Dr. Horn-Miller research and teaching is centred in the development of Haudenosaunee-specific research and pedagogical practices. Her research interests include Indigenous methodologies, Indigenous women, identity politics, colonization, Indigenous governance, and consensus-based decision making. Her governance work and community-based research involves interpreting Haudenosaunee culture and bringing new life to old traditions. Her performance piece *We are Her and She is Us*, is a modern telling of the Haudenosaunee story of creation that centres on Sky Woman and her fall to earth.

She Co-Chaired the Carleton University Strategic Indigenous Initiatives Committee which resulted in *Kinàmàgawin*, Carleton’s revitalized Indigenous strategy. In 2018 she initiated the Indigenous Collaborative Learning Bundles project which is successfully increasing Indigenous content in classrooms across disciplines.

**11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Panel: Indigenous Students' Perspectives on Curriculum**

*Moderator: Erik Mandawe, Surgical Resident Doctor, Nova Scotia Health Authority (and a Western alum)*

*Panelists: Riley Kennedy, Serena Mendizabel*

In this session, a panel of Indigenous undergraduate students will discuss their experiences navigating post-secondary curriculum, sharing examples of effective and culturally informed learning practices. They will also discuss how the Western community can decolonize and work with Indigenous Peoples to Indigenize, addressing the challenges inherent in this work.

**12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch Break**

**1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Workshop: Unsettling the Classroom**

*Sara Mai Chitty, Curriculum & Pedagogy Advisor*

In this session, Sara Mai Chitty, Curriculum and Pedagogy Advisor in Western's Office of Indigenous Initiatives, will give a brief introduction to Indigenous pedagogical approaches to curriculum, and appropriate ways to engage with Indigenous ways of knowing and being in the classroom. Participants will also explore tools for interrogating "unlearning" opportunities in their syllabi and curriculum, using a decolonial lens.

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Registration is free. Please register at [teaching.uwo.ca](https://teaching.uwo.ca)

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