



Canadian Association  
for Graduate Studies

Association canadienne  
pour les études supérieures

## **CAGS 55th ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**QUEBEC CITY, NOVEMBER 7-9, 2017**

### **PROPOSED SESSIONS**

**November 7 – 15:45**

**Pre-Con Meetings for Deans, Administrators and Students**

**November 8 - 9:00 (*Jean-Pierre Gaboury Lecture*)**

**Occupational Integration and Overqualification of University Graduates: The Situation in Canada**

Brahim Boudarbat, Université de Montréal / Mircea Vultur, INRS

*This conference will highlight subjects reflecting the value of university diplomas in terms of the occupational integration of graduates and the overqualification phenomenon. Speakers will present: a) the dynamics of university graduate growth over the past twenty years b) indicators respecting the integration of this category of workforce on the labour market within a diachronic perspective and c) a polygraphy of this overqualification that will highlight the extent, the determinants and the consequences and impacts of this phenomenon, within a social and individual context.*

**November 8 – 10:45**

**1) Graduate Professional Development: Towards a National Strategy  
(in conjunction with the CCGSPDA)**

*The reports from the two phases of the study, will be presented at CAGS' conference. During Phase 1, CAGS created a catalogue of skills development offerings available in Canada. And a report based on the survey results. Phase 2 initiated a process to assess the effectiveness of existing professional skills development programs for graduates with a view to laying the groundwork for further activity in this area.*

**2) Building Support for the Changing PhD**

Alysha Crocker, CIHR / Theresa Rogers, UBC / Crystal Tremblay, University of Victoria

*This panel will focus on some of the critical environmental factors (including faculty reward systems, research funding policies, and supervision pedagogies) that can either support or hinder the development of new approaches to doctoral education. Challenges and potential ways forward will be reviewed.*



### **3) Admissions and Invisible Biases**

Julie Posselt, AssistUniversity of Southern California

*Dr. Posselt's research examines institutionalized inequalities in selective sectors of higher education, especially graduate education, elite colleges and universities, STEM fields, and the professoriate. She will also discuss an ethnographic comparative study of faculty decision making in doctoral admissions.*

**November 8 – 14:00**

### **Deep Diversity: Uncovering Biases and Blind Spots in Higher Education**

Shakil Choudhury, Co-founder, Anima Leadership

*Shakil Choudhury is an award-winning educator and consultant with more than 20 years experience in the field of diversity, equity and inclusion. He has trained senior leaders across sectors and developed measurement tools for organizations, helping improve their diversity outcomes.*

**November 8 – 15:45**

### **CAGS Report & Consultation on the Dissertation and the Comprehensive/Candidacy Exams Projects**

*The alignment of the dissertation and the CE in terms of preparing students as researchers in today's environment or for innovative work outside the academy is in question. The purposes and structures of these basic PhD components have not changed significantly since the origin of the modern PhD, which was developed primarily as a vocational degree for the professoriate. With the support of two working groups This CAGS report has focused respectively on the dissertation and the CE and their purposes, forms, and assessment. The report contributed to an environmental scan of the current variations of the dissertation and CE and facilitated extensive consultations, with a view to helping the groups identify and recommend innovations and models which promote the development of competencies relevant to academic and non-academic careers. A summary of these consultations and analyses will be presented.*

**November 8 – 16:45**

### **1) Universal Design: An Approach to Addressing Student Challenges/Landscape of Accessibility and Accommodation**

Mahadeo Sukhai, NEADS

*Description to follow...*



**2) Implications of Politics and Policies on Diversity and Inclusivity in Graduate Study**

Suzanne Ortega, President of CGS / Joséphine Nalbantoglu, McGill University and one other panelist (TBA)

*Description to follow...*

**3) Is Anyone Asking This? Examining PhD Professional Development Through a Disciplinary Lens**

Loleen Berdahl, University of Saskatchewan / Jonathan Malloy, Carleton University

*Graduate faculties devote considerable resources to developing PhD career mentorship resources, but the engagement of individual units can be variable. Focusing on a single discipline allows consideration of the grassroots issues and challenges to institutionalizing PhD career mentoring and development in individual departments. This session examines the role of departments in PhD professional development through a focus on the political science discipline.*

**November 9 – 9:00**

**We, the “Academic Elite”, Need to Reach Out**

Martha Crago, McGill University

*Professor Crago will argue that for the citizenry to elect politicians who are dedicated to the cause of university education and research, the academy needs to make its work, ideas and campuses accessible and meaningful to all, not just students and themselves.*

**November 9 – 10:45**

**1) Skills, Trends & Needs**

Robert Beauregard, Université Laval / Noreen Golfman, Memorial University / Matthew McKean, Conference Board of Canada

*Description to follow...*



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## **2) PhDs - Where are they now? Results and Methodologies**

Susan Porter, UBC / Reinhart Reithmeier, University of Toronto / Paul Yachnin, McGill University/ one or two more panelists (TBA)

*Over the past few years several institutions have begun to pay attention to doctoral student outcomes. The presenters on this panel will discuss their findings and the challenges of conducting this type of research.*

## **3) Questions Surrounding the Supervision and Coaching of Doctoral Study Students – Results of the Research Conducted by Université de Sherbrooke / Choosing a Career Outside the University Walls.**

Constance Denis, Christelle Lison, Sonia Morin, Université de Sherbrooke / 3 students, members of the Intersectoral Student Committee (Comité Intersectoriel étudiant (CIÉ))

*Speakers from Université de Sherbrooke, looked into the matter of supervision and coaching of doctoral students. Within the framework of the doctoral thesis, they delved into the building of doctoral supervision as represented in literature. They also questioned several main players and stakeholders, i.e., PhD students and research leaders that came from seven different faculties, from a Québec university, within a framework of understanding from the inside, the doctoral supervisory and coaching dynamics. Representatives of the Intersectoral Student Committee will consider the key highlights of their 2017 consultation on “student researchers and careers outside the university walls” as well as the special issue on emerging professionals which was published in the Fall in the magazine Découvrir published by the Association pour le savoir. This presentation will shed light on the needs and coaching support necessary for student researchers.*

**November 9 – Noon (Lunch)**

**2017 GSE Award Winner Presentation**

**November 9 – 13:00**

**CAGS Annual General Meeting**

**November 9 – 14:00**

**1) Hot Topics for Administrators**

**2) Town Hall Meeting with Students**



**November 9 – 15:45**

**1) Report from the Tri-Council**

**2) Supporting Graduate Students by Supporting Faculty: A Professional Development Program in Graduate Supervision**

Melanie Greene and Aimée Surprenant, Memorial University of Newfoundland

*The relationship between student and supervisor is one of the most important factors influencing graduate student retention, persistence and success, yet support services for faculty on effective supervision are limited. In working to fill that gap, and recognizing a need for professional development opportunities for faculty on effective supervision practices, Memorial University's Centre for Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CITL), in collaboration with its School of Graduate Studies, began offering a Program in Graduate Student Supervision (PGSS) as part of several new initiatives for faculty members to ensure the best possible experience for graduate students.*

**3) Report on the 2017 Global Summit on Education, Alaska**

*CAGS members will report back on the 2017 Global Summit on Education which took place in Alaska, September 10-12. The 2017 Summit theme, "Graduate Education 2030: Imagining the Future," revisited an earlier CGS project, Graduate Education 2020, which challenged leading scholars to consider technological, demographic, and global trends shaping graduate education around the world, and to use the best evidence available to predict what the future of graduate education might look like. Looking even farther ahead, to 2030, Global Summit participants were invited to describe the global forces transforming graduate education in their countries and regions: How does the nature of graduate education in 2030 differ from what is available in 2017?*

**\*A Welcome Reception and Dinner is scheduled for November 7 at 17:30. The 2017 3MT and MT180 winners will be honoured. The 2017 GSE winner will receive an award during the November 8<sup>th</sup> breakfast. The 2017 DDA winners will be presented during the lunch on November 8.**