

## ***Cross-Pollinations Conference Schedule***

June 16-20, 2026 | **University of Alberta Law Centre** (& North Saskatchewan River Valley)

### **Day One: Tuesday, June 16**

#### Afternoon

- 1:15 PM                      Conference Check-in Begins  
Location: Law Centre Foyer
- 2:00 PM                      Welcome: Sarah Krotz (CLC)  
Location: David Percy Lounge
- Conference-opening River Valley Walk led by Dwayne Donald,  
with readings by poet Mackenzie Ground  
(Kinsmen / Emily Murphy Park)  
[Event open only to presenting conference attendees]

### **Day Two: Wednesday, June 17**

#### Morning

- 8:45 AM                      Conference Check-in Opens  
Coffee, tea, baked goods, etc. provided  
Location: Law Centre Foyer
- 9:15 AM                      Welcome Remarks  
Location: LC 237/231
- 9:30 - 11:00 AM              PLENARY ROUNDTABLE of CLC Director and ALECC  
Presidents: *Looking Back and Forward in Canadian Ecocriticism*  
Chair and discussant: Jenny Kerber (ALECC / Wilfrid Laurier U)  
Location: LC 237/231
- Discussants: Sarah Krotz (CLC / UAlberta), Pamela Banting  
(ALECC / UCalgary), and Catriona Sandilands (ALECC / YorkU)
- 11:15 AM - 12:30 PM        **Session 1**
- 1A: Cross-Pollinations in Art and Science*  
Chair: Sarah Krotz (UAlberta)  
Location: LC 105

Gavin Bradley (UAlberta), Two Sides of the Same Coin: Balancing  
Careers in Science and Literature

Justine Karst (UAlberta), Walking Disciplinary Lines: Where Does  
Science End and Art Begin?

Ariel Gordon (Winnipeg) and Amanda Schutz (Edmonton), Fungal  
Folktales: A Collaborative Folktale Week WiP

*1B: Workshop: Teaching in Times of Crisis*

Adam Carlson (AUArts) and Brent Ryan Bellamy (TrentU)

Location: LC 237

*1C: Poetics of Gathering*

Chair: Anita Girvan (UVictoria)

Location: LC 101

Matthew Cormier (UMoncton), Dialect of Cross-Pollination: Chiac  
as Queer Poetics in the Work of Acadian Xénia Gould

Michael Barnholden (Edmonton), Louis Riel's Political Poetry:  
Tracing Falcon, Frechette and Hugo

Molly Pearce (McGill), Watershed Poetics: Gary Snyder and the  
*Planet/Drum Bundles*

#### Afternoon

12:30 - 1:30 PM

LUNCH

Location: David Percy Lounge

Film Screening: Michał Krawczyk, *The Forms of Landscape*

Location: LC 101

1:30 - 3:00 PM

#### **Session 2**

*2A: Workshop: Pedagogies of Visiting: Ecological Thinking with  
Habitat Studies, Research-Creation, and the Sun*

Location: LC main entrance meeting point—workshop will take  
place outside

Deborah Schamuhn Kirk (UAlberta), Charis St. Pierre (UAlberta),  
Emily Hoven (UAlberta), and Jason Purcell (UAlberta)

*2B: Decolonial Ecologies: Literature & Practice*

Chair: Susie O'Brien (McMaster)

Location: LC 101

Tania Aguila-Way (UToronto), Seed-Saving as Decolonial  
Allyship: Reflections from a Diasporic Mexican Scholar  
Living in Haudenosaunee Territory

Anita Girvan (UVictoria), Cassava Coalitions: Reading Racialized  
Ecologies With/Against Anthropocentric Colonial  
Conquest

Anna Butler-Koo (UToronto), "to return here": Larissa Lai's *Tiger  
Flu* and Rita Wong and Fred Wah's *beholden*

*2C: Burning Questions*

Chair: Adam Carlson (AUArts)

Location: LC 105

Mark Simpson (UAlberta), Wildfire Aesthesis

Neil Surkan (Vancouver Island U), *Empties*: Poems on the Brink(s)

Jolene Armstrong (Athabasca U) & Monique Tschofen (Toronto  
Metropolitan U), Sounding the Crisis: Reframing Listening  
as an Act of Accountability and Ecological Care

COFFEE BREAK

3:15 - 4:30 PM

**Session 3**

*3A: Literary Walk I*

Hosted by Ariel Gordon, featuring Angela Waldie, Ken Wilson,  
and Jason Purcell

\* This walk will focus on trails in Kinsmen Park, ending at the 109  
Street bridge, otherwise known as the High Level Bridge, which is  
close to Metro Cinema and dinner spots

*3B: Reading for Change*

Chair: Mark Simpson (UAlberta)

Location: LC 101

Kennedy Dragt (UCLouvain), Reading Religiously Beyond the  
Anthropocene

Jennifer McDougall (UCalgary), *Below the Surface: Research Creation, Petrofiction and the Struggle to Move Alberta Energy's Corporate Mindset*

Mohadeseh Mousazadeh Miandehi (Arizona State U),  
*Cross-Pollinating Futures: Speculative Fiction, Feminist Ecologies, and Transnational Environmental Justice*

*3C: Sounding it Out*

Chair: Kit Dobson (UCalgary)

Location: LC 105

Meaghan Sych (UAlberta), *Walk Out and Listen: A Sonic Habitat Study*

Shirley Roburn (YorkU), *Resonant Readings: The Sonic Stories of Delgamuukw v. the Queen*

Evening

6:30 - 8:50 PM

Film Screening at the Metro Cinema: *Singing Back the Buffalo*  
(Q&A with filmmaker Tasha Hubbard and producer Jason Ryle,  
hosted by Jordan Kinder)

**Day Three: Thursday, June 18**

Morning

8:30 AM

Conference Check-in Opens  
Coffee, tea, baked goods, etc. provided

9:00 - 10:30 AM

PLENARY ROUNDTABLE: *Racialized Ecologies: Methods and Approaches*

Chair: Susie O'Brien (McMaster)

Location: LC 237/231

Discussants: Tania Aguila-Way (UToronto), Susie O'Brien, and  
Anita Girvan (UVictoria)

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM

**Session 4**

*4A: Literary Walk II*

Hosted by Tanis Macdonald, featuring Elee Kraljii Gardiner, Lisa  
Martin, and SaraSwoti Lamichhane

\* This walk will take place in River Valley clearing below the Humanities Centre

*4B: Indigenous-Settler Relations*

Chair: Susie O'Brien (McMaster)

Location: LC 105

Jordyn Sheldon (YorkU), Harm Reduction as Ecological Method:

Cross-Pollinating Climate Justice and Drug Policy

Kalina Wolska-Chaney (UCalgary), Indigi-Present Ecocritical

Writing: A Cross-Pollinatory Approach for Crafting

Non-Indigenous Anthropocene Literatures in Canada

Paul Huebener (Athabasca U), "*Oh my*

*Geaaaaaaaaaaaaawwwd!*": A Canada Day Tug of War

Between Stephen Leacock and Richard Van Camp

Rebeca Ávila García (UAlberta), Climate Fiction in the

Anthropocene: an Environmental Ethics of Indigenous

Storytelling

*4C: More-than-Human Natures*

Chair: Tathagata Som (UCalgary)

Location: LC 101

Raquel Mendes (York U), Cross-Pollinations and

Cross-Contaminations: Exploring Urban More-than-Human

Reciprocity Through Research-Creation

Tathagata Som, Learning from Animal Intelligences in the Age of

GenAI

Shashikumar Jayaramappa (UAlberta), The Shattered Ladder:

Literary Ecology, Anthropocentrism, and the Poetics of

Interconnection in Adam Dickinson's "Great Chain of

Being"

Lu Yu (Nanjing Normal U/UAlberta), From Fukushima to Cortes

Island: Nuclear Writing and Ecological Entanglements in *A*

*Tale for the Time Being*

Afternoon

12:15 - 1:15 PM

LUNCH

David Percy Lounge

## MENTOR LUNCH

Location: LC 101

Keighlagh Donovan (UAlberta) and Kaitlyn Purcell (UCalgary),  
Birds of a Feather: On Mentorship, Mothering, and  
Becoming Teachers in Academia

1:15 - 2:45 PM

### Session 5

#### 5A: *On Ice*

Chair: Dianne Chisholm (UAlberta)

Location: LC 105

Yvonne Blomer (Victoria) and contributing poets: Launch of  
*Sublime: Poems for Vanishing Ice* (selected poems from  
this collection will be read in between the following talks)

Emma Rath (Laurentian U), We Build to Break: Architectural and  
Archival Ways of Knowing Sea Ice

Jessica Turner (Queen's U), Art and Affect: A Mixed-Methods  
Analysis of Climate Communication in *Contemplating  
Glaciers*

Brennan McCracken (Concordia U), Ice as form: A Speculative  
Genealogy

#### 5B: *Becomings*

Chair: Meaghan Sych (UAlberta)

Location: LC 101

Emma Ferrett (Queen's U), "What took you so long?":  
Plant-Becoming in John Elizabeth Stintzi's *My Volcano*

Jason Wiens (UCalgary) & Annie Murray (UCalgary), Nature  
Runs Its Course: Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* in  
Controlled and Uncontrolled Climates

Ken Wilson (URegina), "Dirty Nature Writing" in Recent  
Canadian Creative Nonfiction

L. Camille van der Marel (MacEwan U), "there may be stories left  
near the shore": The Early Career Work of Re-Placing  
Ourselves

## COFFEE BREAK

3:00 - 4:30 PM

**Session 6**

*6A: Ecological Metaphors in Poetry, Fiction, and Literary Studies*

Chair: Nicholas Bradley (UVictoria)

Location: LC 237

Jenny Kerber (Wilfrid Laurier U), Writing the Botanical in  
Contemporary African American Sports Poetry

Nicholas Bradley, Ecological Metaphors for Literary Studies  
(Especially in Canada)

Robert McGill (UToronto), Speculative Fiction, Metaphor, and  
Integrated Systems Thinking

*6B: Water II*

Chair: Pamela Banting (UCalgary)

Location: LC 101

Allison Hargreaves (UBC-Okanagan), “alone & small, you look &  
listen for others”: water, relationality, and world-building in  
*perpetual*

Shannon Stunden Bower (UAlberta), Forestalling Failure: The  
Multipurpose Concept within Water Resources  
Management in mid-20th Century Saskatchewan

Brandon Kerfoot (UAlberta), Dancing in Water: Building  
Inter-worldly Relationships through Pollen, Water, and  
Vision

*6C: Creating Change: Book Talks*

Chair: Neil Surkan (Vancouver Island U)

Location: LC 105

Angela Waldie (Mount Royal U), *A Single Syllable of Wild*: Poetry  
as Research

Elee Kraljii Gardiner (Vancouver), *sometimes, forest* (book reading  
and discussion)

Evening

4:45 - 6:00 PM

*Prairie Pollinations: New Prose and Poetry on the Ecological and  
Built Environment from Prairie Publishers*

Location: Henderson Hall, Rutherford Library South 1-17

Join prairie publishers U of Alberta Press, AU Press, U Calgary Press, and U Regina Press in celebrating new literary titles. Featured readings by Dianne Chisholm, Kyle Flemmer, Lisa Martin, Alice Major, Kim Trainor, Ken Wilson, and Ken Carriere.

Light snacks and soft drinks to be served.

## **Day Four: Friday, June 19**

### Morning

9:00 AM

Conference Check-in Opens  
Coffee, tea, baked goods, etc. provided

9:30 - 10:30 AM

KEYNOTE: Sonnet L'Abbé (Vancouver Island U), "I sound brown where breath most breathes, and intervene in the green mouths of men": ecocritical stakes of understanding voice as embodied sense  
Location: LC 237/231

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM

### **Session 7**

*7A: Cross-Pollinating Visual and Textual Collaborations*  
Chair: Laura Moss (UBC)  
Location: LC 101

Erin Wunker (Dalhousie U), *Future Howl: On Sue Goyette's Feminist Ars Poetica*  
Laura Moss, Haida Manga: Cross-Pollinating Comic Traditions  
Lily Cho (YorkU), Chinatowns: Cross-Pollinations of Literature and Photography  
Veronica Austen (St. Jerome's U), "More than a Scape": Roy Kiyooka, Image-making, and Belonging

*7B: Speculative Pasts, Presents, and Futures*  
Chair: Terri Tomskey (UAlberta)  
Location: LC 237

Babak Ashrafxhani Limoudehi (UVictoria), The Anthropocene and Post-Pastoral Landscapes in J.G. Ballard's *The Day of Creation*

Alex Blais (UCalgary), Yardsticks of Collapse: The Skyscraper as  
 Hauntological Motif in Contemporary Climate Fiction  
 Ben Berman Ghan (UCalgary), Beckett on Bodies, Ecologies, and  
 Time  
 Karen McFayden (UAlberta), “Bees who Pollinate Cut Flowers”:  
 Contamination Ecology in Douglas Coupland's *Girlfriend  
 in a Coma*

*7C: Indigenous Creative Ecological Engagement and Relationality*  
 Chair: Erin Sutherland (UAlberta)  
 Location: LC 105

Avelina Rathbone (UAlberta), Examining Post-Consumer Waste in  
 Indigenous Art  
 Becca Taylor (MacEwan U), Gathering in the Garden: Land-Based  
 Creative Action in kamâmak nihtâwikihcikan  
 Erin Sutherland, Indigenous Women’s Land-Based Performance  
 Art  
 Stephanie Oliver (UAlberta-Augustana), “There is...the scent of  
 roses”: Deixis as Literary Landsensing in Jordan Abel’s  
*Empty Spaces*

#### Afternoon

12:15 - 1:15 PM

LUNCH

Location: David Percy Lounge

1:15 - 2:45 PM

#### **Session 8**

*8B: More-than-Human Intelligences*  
 Chair: Deborah Schamuhn Kirk (UAlberta)  
 Location: LC 101

Emily Zepick (USaskatchewan), Teaching Youth to Listen to the  
 Stars: Land-Based Educational and Bibliographic  
 Approaches to the Poetry of Jane Johnston Schoolcraft  
 (Bamewawagezhikaquay)  
 Peri Dworatzek (York U), Socio-economic change from a single  
 person’s witness statement? Assessing the impactfulness of  
 the documentary film, *David Attenborough: A Life on Our  
 Planet*

Margaryta Golovchenko (AUArts), *The Captive Speaks: Bear Tales from Within the Zoo*

Richard Costa (UAlberta), *Communing with Corvids: Literary Ecology, Habitat Studies, and Corvid Omnivory*

*8C: Re-Storying the Prairies*

Chair: Sarah Krotz (UAlberta)

Location: LC 105

Tanis MacDonald (Wilfrid Laurier), *Bisoning: Biopower, Tallgrass Prairie, and Resurgence*

Leilei Chen (UAlberta), *Carrying Meaning Across Languages: Translating A Bird in the House*

Nora Foster Stovel (UAlberta), *Celebrating the Centenary of Margaret Laurence's Manawaka Saga through Cross-Pollinations*

Rachel Burlock (UAlberta), *Dry prairie stereotypes and wet prairie stories*

#### COFFEE BREAK

2:45 - 5:20 PM

Audreys Books

This local bookseller will be on site with copies of books for sale by writers featured at the conference.

Location: LC 191

3:00 - 4:30 PM

#### **Session 9**

*9A: Literary Walk III*

Hosted by Yvonne Blomer, featuring Kelly Shepherd, Kaitlyn Purcell, and Tanis MacDonald

\* This walk will focus on trails in Kinsmen Park, from the Edmonton Forest School toward the Dudley B. Menzies Bridge

*9B: Methods of Saving the Earth: Writing for Wider Audiences*

Chair and Discussant: Ariel Gordon (Winnipeg)

Location: LC 105

Trish Audette-Longo (Carleton U), Embodied Climate Journalism  
and the Environmental Humanities: Interrogating  
Methodological Approaches

Erna Buffie (Winnipeg), *Out on A Limb: Saving the Urban Forest*

4:45 - 5:45 PM

ALECC Annual General Meeting

Location: LC 101

Evening

6:00 PM

CLOSING DINNER & BONDAR PRIZE at Room at the Top  
(Dinner served at 6:30 PM)

Location: Students' Union Building (SUB), 7th Floor

**Day Five: Saturday, June 20**

Morning

Field Trip Options

Sign-up required:

Muttart Conservatory Tour (limited to graduate students)

Public Art Walking Tours: Tawatinâ Bridge (limited to 8 spaces)

Self-organized:

Old Strathcona Farmers' Market & Downtown Farmers' Market

Fort Edmonton Park

Art Gallery of Alberta

Elk Island National Park