

Department of Italian, Spanish, Portuguese & Latin American Studies, University of Toronto
Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici, Università per Stranieri di Siena
Christ Church College, University of Oxford

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CONFERENCE PROGRAM

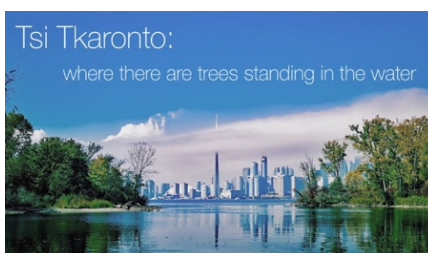
Queer Kinship: Migrations, Diasporas, Communities

Queer Kinship: Migrazioni, Diaspore, Comunità

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University of Toronto, St. George Campus, 16-17 October 2026



University of Toronto Libraries X, National Indigenous People's Day

Keynote Addresses



“Is this Body Bodying?” | Oct. 16th at 10:00 in Charbonnel Lounge, SMC

Joseph M. Pierce (ᑕᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦ ᑕᑭᑦᑭᑦ, Cherokee Nation citizen) is Professor of Hispanic Languages and Literature and Founding Director of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Initiative at Stony Brook University. He is the author of *Speculative Relations: Indigenous Worlding and Repair* (Duke UP, 2025), winner of the 2026 Best Subsequent Book in Native American and Indigenous Studies Prize (Native American and Indigenous Studies Association) and recipient of an Honorable Mention for the 2026 American Studies Association John Hope Franklin Prize, and *Argentine Intimacies: Queer Kinship in the Age of Splendor, 1890–1910* (SUNY Press, 2019). His work brings Indigenous studies, queer studies, Latin American studies, and contemporary Indigenous art into conversation.



“Poetry in Time: Queer Italian-Canadian Heritage as Kinship” | Oct. 17th
at 9:30 in Charbonnel Lounge, SMC

Liana Cusmano (Luca/BiCurious George) is a writer, poet, spoken word artist, filmmaker, and arts educator. They are a three-time Montreal Slam Champion and 2019 Canadian Individual Poetry Slam Championship runner-up. Liana has presented their work in English, French, and Italian in North America, Europe, and Asia. Their novel *Catch & Release* (2022) was published by Guernica Editions. They are also a two-time finalist for the QWF Spoken Word Prize and winner of the 2024 Society Pages Poetry Contest.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM | October 16th

9:00-9:30 | Registration, Coffee and Baked Goods in Charbonnel Lounge

9:30-9:45 | Opening Remarks in Charbonnel Lounge

10:00-11:30 | Keynote Address by **Joseph M. Pierce** (Stony Brook University)

“Is This Body Bodying?”

Discussant: **Kai Recllet** (University of Toronto)

Charbonnel Lounge

PARALLEL SESSIONS 1 (11:45-13:15)

11:45-13:15 | **Session 1A: Queer & Trans Kinship, Indigeneity, Colonialism** in Carr Hall 403

Chair: **Rita M. Palacios** (Conestoga College)

Andrew Wiebe (University of Toronto), “Diasporic Infrastructures: Two-Spirit Migration, Memory, and Urban Land-Relations”

Agnes Nmabila Azalimah (London School of Economics and Political Science), “The Imported Closet: Colonial Inheritance and the Criminalization of Sexuality in Anglophone Africa”

Rita M. Palacios (Conestoga College), “Maya Queerness and Queer Play in Manuel Tzoc’s Poetry and Performance”

Luis Sanchez Diaz (University of Toronto), “Decolonizing Sexuality: The Post-Abrahamic Legacy and Erosion of Queer Epistemologies in North America”

11:45-13:15 | **Session 1B: Queer & Trans Kinship in the City** in Carr Hall 404

Chair: TBD

Pepe Sánchez-Molero (Dublin City University), “‘People Are My Space’: Ephemeral Placemaking by Trans and Queer Adults with Migrant Backgrounds in Köln/Cologne and Baile Átha Cliath/Dublin”

Juan Outón (Visual Artist, Independent Researcher), “Don’t Mind the Gap: A Choreographic Analysis of Cruising in Mexico City’s Last Subway Car”

Jaquelyn Byul Hahn (Researcher, Organizer, Educator), “Seoul’s Queer Nightlife: Critical Discourses of Space in the Globalised Neoliberal City”

Adriana Marcela Pérez Rodríguez (University of Toronto), **Paola Vargas Moreno** (Andes University), **Tyler Valiquette** (University College London), “Sanctuaries of Hope: Bogotá’s LGBT Houses as Sites of Joy and Resistance”

11:45-13:15 | **Session 1C: Queer Displacements, Otherwise Kinships** in Carr Hall 406

Chair: **James Huynh** (University of Michigan)

Katherine Funes (University of California, Irvine), “Terrains of Dis/Em/Placement: Mapping the LGBTIQ+ Refugee within El Salvador”

Adrian Beyer (University of Wisconsin-Madison), “Paradise Found: Transgender Migration to Thailand and Possibilities for Global Trans Solidarities”

Justin Quang Nguyễn Phan (University of Illinois Chicago), “Otherwise Surrogacy: Against the Romance of Intergenerational Healing in the Vietnamese Refugee Memoir”

Edward Kenneth Lazaro Nadurata (California State University Northridge), “Beyond Abandonment: Queer Aging and Relations of Carefulness in the Philippines”

13:15-14:30 | **LUNCH** (not provided)

14:00-14:20 | **Breathwork and Meditation Break** with Christina Vani in Charbonnel Lounge

PARALLEL SESSIONS 2 (14:30-16:00)

14:30-16:00 | Session 2A: *Queer & Trans Kinship through Care* in Carr Hall 403

Chair: TBD

Steff J. Mendolia (York University): "Listening for Queer Kinship in Motion: Trans Oral Histories of Work, Care, and Sonic Counter-Archives in (Im)migrant 'Canada'"

Sydney Paluch (Dartmouth University), "Binding Blackness: Harnessing Care for Kinky Kin"

Ludger Viefhues-Bailey (LeMoyne College), "Tending in a Crowded Present: Queer Kinship Beyond Futurity in an AIDS Hospice Functioning as Diaspora"

14:30-16:00 | Session 2B: *Queer & Trans Literary Kinships* in Carr Hall 404

Chair: **Juan Carlos Rocha Osornio** (University of Toronto)

Mariana Rodríguez Castañeda (University of Sydney), "Tracing *Cuir* Diasporas: Latin American Queer Literature in Australia"

Brenda Zhang (Wellesley College), "Speaking the Unspeakable: Speculative Memory and Queer Collectivity in Franny Choi's *The World Keeps Ending, and the World Goes On* (2022)"

Paulo Henrique de Sá Júnior (State University of Rio de Janeiro and University of Alberta), "Black British Queer Bildungsroman as Transatlantic Kinship: Diasporic Care Between Hackney, Nigeria, and the Caribbean"

14:30-16:00 | Session 2C: *Queer & Trans Migrant Community-Building* in Carr Hall 406

Chair: **Julie Moreau** (University of Toronto)

Marbella Carlos (Concordia University), "Cabaret Splendeur: Queer Asian Counterspaces and Diasporic Belonging"

Bingzhang Wang (University of São Paulo), "From Absence to Making Kin: Queer Kinship and the Right Not to Appear Among Chinese Queer Migrants in Brazil"

Ishika Goswami (Interdisciplinary Artist, Independent Researcher): "Cultural Infrastructures and the Transmission of Queer Kinship in South Asian Communities"

Dmitri Hui Ken Chong (University of Westminster), **Tyler Valiquette** (University College London), "Queer(y)ing Asylum: Kinship, Resistance, and Organising in Hostile Times"

PARALLEL SESSIONS 3 (16:45-18:15)

16:45-18:15 | Session 3A: *Queer Kinships/Afinidades Cuir en Contextos latinoamericanos y latinx* en Carr Hall 403 [Mesa redonda en español / Roundtable in Spanish]

Juan Carlos Mezo González (Organizer and Chair, Mount Royal University)

Sam Dolores Sanchinel (University of Toronto Mississauga)

David Fernández (University of Toronto Libraries)

Carina Guzmán (University of Toronto Scarborough)

16:45-18:15 | Session 3B: *Intergenerational Queer Kinship in Italy* in Carr Hall 404

Alice Parrinello (Organizer and Chair, University of Cambridge), "Looking for Kinship: Queer and Transnational Genealogies in the Works of Louis Fratino and Summer Minerva"

Irene Villa (University of Toronto), "Making Queer Kin Through Archiving: Genealogies of Belonging in Contemporary Italy"

Alessandra Montalbano (University of Alabama), "'Person with a Uterus' in Italy: A Genealogy"

Session 3C on next page

16:45-18:15 | **Session 3C: *Queer & Trans Digital Kinship*** in Carr Hall 406

Chair: **Elliott Tilleczek** (University of Toronto)

Biagio Mazzella (Brown University), “A Microhistory of Grindr, or How Gay Men Fell In and Out of Love with Technology”

Smriti Asha (University of Hyderabad), “Queering Diaspora Online: Appraisal, Digital Activism, and the Construction of Transnational Kinship among South Asian Queer and Trans Collectives on Instagram”

18:30-19:00 | **Breathwork and Meditation Session** with Christina Vani in Charbonnel Lounge

CONFERENCE PROGRAM | October 17th

8:45-9:15 | Registration, Coffee and Baked Goods in Charbonnel Lounge

9:15-9:30 | Opening Remarks in Charbonnel Lounge

9:30-11:00 | Keynote Address by **Liana Cusmano** (Accenti Magazine, Association of Italian-Canadian Writers, The Writers' Union of Canada)

“Poetry in Time: Queer Italian-Canadian Heritage as Kinship”

Discussant: **Paolo Frascà** (University of Toronto)
Charbonnel Lounge

PARALLEL SESSIONS 4 (11:15-12:45)

11:15-12:45 | **Session 4A: *Queer & Trans Kinship through Artistic Practice*** in Carr Hall 403

Chair: **Ryan Persadie** (University of Toronto and Brock University)

Azka Ahmed (Artist, Researcher, Community Health Worker), “Witnessing as World-Building: Queer/Trans Diasporic Kinship Across Art and Advocacy”

Elio Iannacci (Author, Reporter, Independent Researcher), “Sisters in Glitz: Queer-Diva Collaboration in the Work of Bob Mackie, Ray Aghayan, and Cher”

Gian Marco Visconti (Poet), “Assembling Hybrid Identity from the Materiality of Loss: An Interlinguistic Presentation of Poetry and Collage Art Exploring Queer Diasporic Experience”

11:15-12:45 | **Session 4B: *Queer & Trans Kinship: Home and Family*** in Carr Hall 404

Chair: **Rumi Handen** (University of Toronto)

Jo Hemlatha (Writer-Activist, Ethnographer), **J. Daniel Luther** (Curator, Cultural Theorist, Author), “Standing on the Ruins of Bad Heterosexual Marriages: Affective Disruption and Queer Kinship Ties”

Jamie Lee (Aero) (University of Helsinki), “Building Family from Scratch: Stories from the Ballroom Scene in Finland”

Maple Xiang (University of Toronto), “Stretched Kinship: (Re)negotiating Family and Identity Among Queer and Trans East Asian Diaspora”

11:15-12:45 | **Session 4C: *Queer-Crafting Palestine: Threading Diasporic Futures from Turtle Island*** in Carr Hall 406 [Roundtable]

Liam Hilton (Organizer and Chair, Universities of Exeter and Bristol)

Micaela Kaibni Raen (Creator, Activist)

Mama Ganuush (Artist, Community Organizer)

Hamoudi Ahmad (Journalist, Poet)

Nina Rafique (Researcher, Curator)

Izzy (Poet, Community Organizer)

12:45-13:45 | **LUNCH** (provided in Carr Hall, second floor)

13:15-13:35 | **Breathwork and Meditation Break** with Christina Vani in Charbonnel Lounge



13:45-14:45 | Special Guest Talk (*virtual*) by **Saif Ur Rehman Raja** (Author of *Hijra* [Fandango, 2024], Scholar, Educator, Activist), On Writing Pakistani-Italian Queer Experiences and Educational Activism in Italy
Discussant: **Angelica Pesarini** (University of Toronto)
Charbonnel Lounge

PARALLEL SESSIONS 5 (15:00-16:30)

15:00-16:30 | **Session 5A: Queering Italian Identity** [Roundtable] in Carr Hall 403

Angelica Pesarini (Organizer and Chair, University of Toronto)

Matthew Molinaro (University of Toronto)

Nahrain Yousefian (Scientist, Interdisciplinary Artist)

Ariana Magliocco (Writer, Researcher, Visual Artist)

15:00-16:30 | **Session 5B: Queer & Trans Kinship: Beyond Limitations and Recognition** in Carr Hall 404

Chair: **Rajorshi Das** (University of Toronto)

Areeba Iftikhar (Psychotherapist, Scholar-Practitioner, Artist), “No Safe Ground on Either Side: Auto-Ethnographic Reflections on Double Diaspora, Unrecognizable Bodies, and the Limits of Queer Kinship”

Alba Grazioli (University of Bari ‘Aldo Moro’), “From Displacement to Queer Re-Orientation: ‘Spatriamento’ and Kinship in *Tangerinn* and *Spatriati*”

Anita Borella (University of Bari ‘Aldo Moro’), “Caring Beyond Sameness: Queer Imaginaries of Community in Giannacchini and Vasallo”

15:00-16:30 | **Session 5C: Queer & Trans Kinship: Emerging and Future Relationalities** in Carr Hall 406

Chair: TBD

Mary Bunch (York University), “Queer Kinship and the Ecstasy of the People-to-Come”

Kshitija Chavan (Northwestern University), “Reading Against the Current: Anti-Caste Kinship in *Samskara* and *Cobalt Blue*”

Kara Laurene Pernicano (Queensborough Community College CUNY), “‘You Go Crazy’: Mad, Trans Storytelling in Michiko Wild’s *To Whoever Even Listen*”

PARALLEL SESSIONS 6 (16:45-18:15)

16:45-18:15 | **Session 6A: Dewson House, Black Queer Life/lines and the Remaking of Radical Queer Diasporic Kinship in Toronto** in Carr Hall 403

Chair: **Ronald Cummings** (McMaster University)

Jarrod Williams (York University), “Practicing Kinship: Douglas Stewart and the Radical Work of Black Queer Care”

Maddi Chan (McMaster University), “Sister Vision Press, Children’s Picture Books and Queer Worlding”

Linzey Corridon (Toronto Metropolitan University), “All the Names Spoken: Sister Vision Press and the Anthology as Community-making and Political Resistance”

16:45-18:15 | **Session 6B: Queer & Trans Kinship: Diaspora and Transnationalism** in Carr Hall 404

Chair: **Dmitri Hui Ken Chong** (University of Westminster)

Marudan Sivagurunathan (Presenter, Dalhousie University), **Hazal Goktas** (Co-author, York University), **Roya Haghiri-Vijeh** (Co-author, York University), **Todd Coleman** (Co-author, Wilfrid Laurier University), “Migration Status, Sexual Orientation, and Sense of Belonging Among 2SLGBTQ+ People in Canada”

Thomas Tri (York University), “‘You’re Allowed to Just Be’: Arts-Based Explorations of Joy and Queer Kinship Among LGBTQIA+ Migrant Youth”

Sarosh Alya Shivji-Wahed (Universities of Calgary and du Québec à Montréal), **Tonya D. Callaghan** (University of Calgary), “Making the Earth Sweeter: Identity, Community and Support for Sexual and Gender Diverse Newcomers”

16:45-18:15 | **Session 6C: Queer & Trans Kinship in Fictional and Life Writing** in Carr Hall 406

Chair: **Elena Basile** (University of Toronto and York University)

Ariel Dela Cruz (University of Toronto), “Carl’s Close Friendship: Tomboy and Trans Kinships in Jake Zyrus’ *I Am Jake*”

Decio Cusmano (University of Toronto), “Weaving Between Identities: An Ethnography of Belonging and Resilience Among Queer Italian Canadians”

Florian Lützelberger (University of Bamberg), “‘Queerizar, torcer, tortillear, de atravesar, redefinir, cuestionar ese ideal de ‘maternidad’ que nos encorseta y agobia’: Narrating (Non-)Motherhood, Miscarriage and Abortion as a Form of Queer Kinship in Contemporary Hispanic Literature”

18:20-18:45 | **Closing Reflections** in Charbonnel Lounge

Thank you for joining us!