

TRENT CENTRE FOR AGING & SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

FEATURED ARTICLES:

**2025 Groundbreaking
for non-profit LTC
Home**

**Drs. Amanda Grenier &
Stephen Katz on
Precarity, Aging & Risk in
Later Life**

**Tabytha Wells at the
CIHR Summer Program
in Aging**

**Aging Creatively: Dr.
Suzanne Bailey**

Alice Olsen Williams

TCAS Student Awardees



TRENT CENTRE FOR AGING & SOCIETY

Innovations in Aging

*Elevating local and global perspectives,
research, and scholarship in
interdisciplinary aging studies*

We respectfully acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the Michi Saagig Anishinaabeg. We offer our gratitude to the First Nations for their stewardship of the land and their teachings. May we honour these teachings, recognizing the importance of intergenerational knowledge and the sacredness of growing old/aging. We acknowledge the harms of settler colonialism and commit to Truth and Reconciliation.

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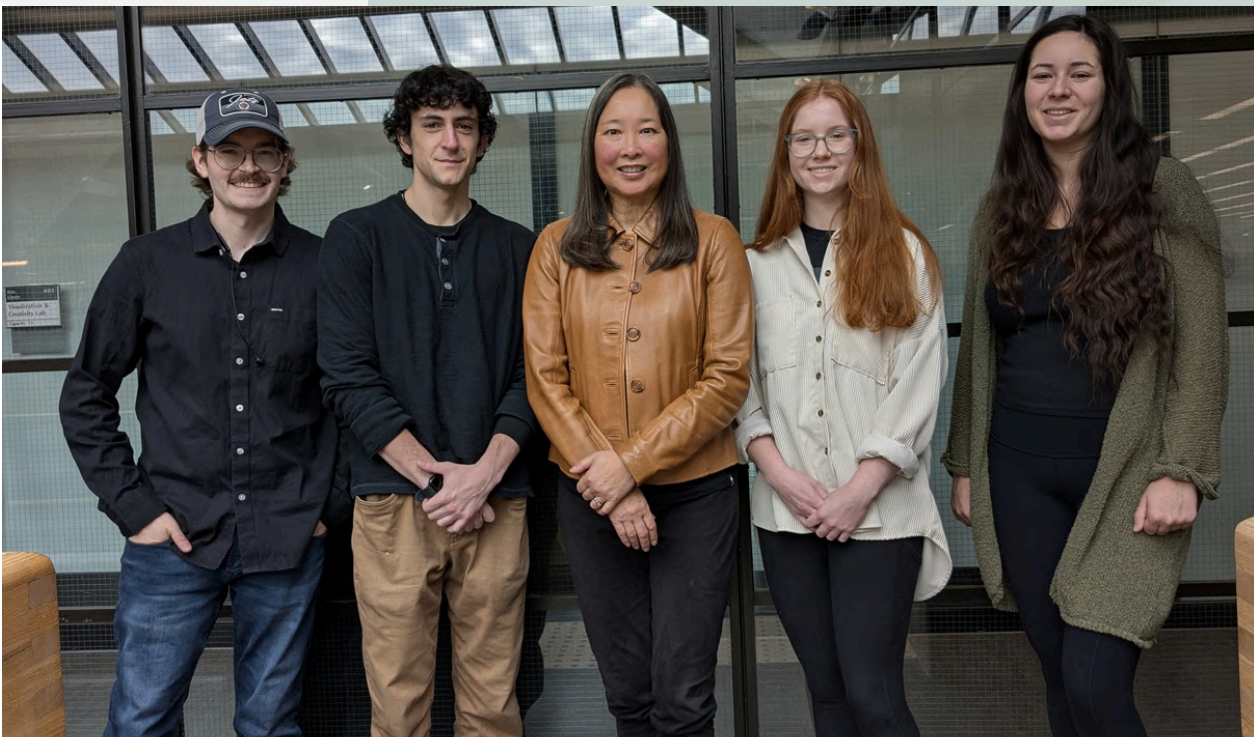
Avery Hinchcliffe & Agostina Prigioni

PHOTOGRAPHY

Agostina Prigioni, Matthew Dishaw, Nadine Changfoot

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TCAS Newsletter Team (L-R): Matt Dishaw (black shirt, baseball cap), Taylor Reilly-Smith (dark curly hair, dark shirt), Nadine Changfoot (dark hair, brown jacket), Isabelle Row (red hair, white shirt) & Lauren Briand (dark hair, green jacket)

Director's Letter

TCAS is the heart and hub of aging studies at Trent.

Starting my term this past July, it is wonderful to amplify the important research undertaken by TCAS faculty, fellows, graduate and undergraduate students, and community associates. Research in aging and society is a signature focus of Trent and will grow in exciting directions especially with the future non-profit Long-Term Care home which is moving ahead with construction in Spring 2025. A summer meeting between TCAS faculty and peopleCare Communities revealed and strengthened shared values of aging and vision of what caring community means and much anticipation for the endless research and teaching opportunities, plus 90+ student placements. This past Fall TCAS hosted Distinguished Professors Drs. Amanda Grenier and Stephen Katz for their moving seminar titled Precarity, Aging and Risk in Later Life. There was also a visit to TCAS by our Peterborough-Kawartha MP, Michelle Ferreri and Anna Roberts (Shadow Minister for Seniors) both strong advocates for older adults. In partnership with Anishinaabeg of the Williams Treaties, TCAS is very excited to host, "Anishinaabe Indigenous Intergenerational Growing Old/Aging Gathering (AllGO) on January 15, 2025. Please see inside for more information and registration. Lastly, I am so very grateful to TCAS Staff for everything you do!

My very best wishes for the Holiday Season and 2025!

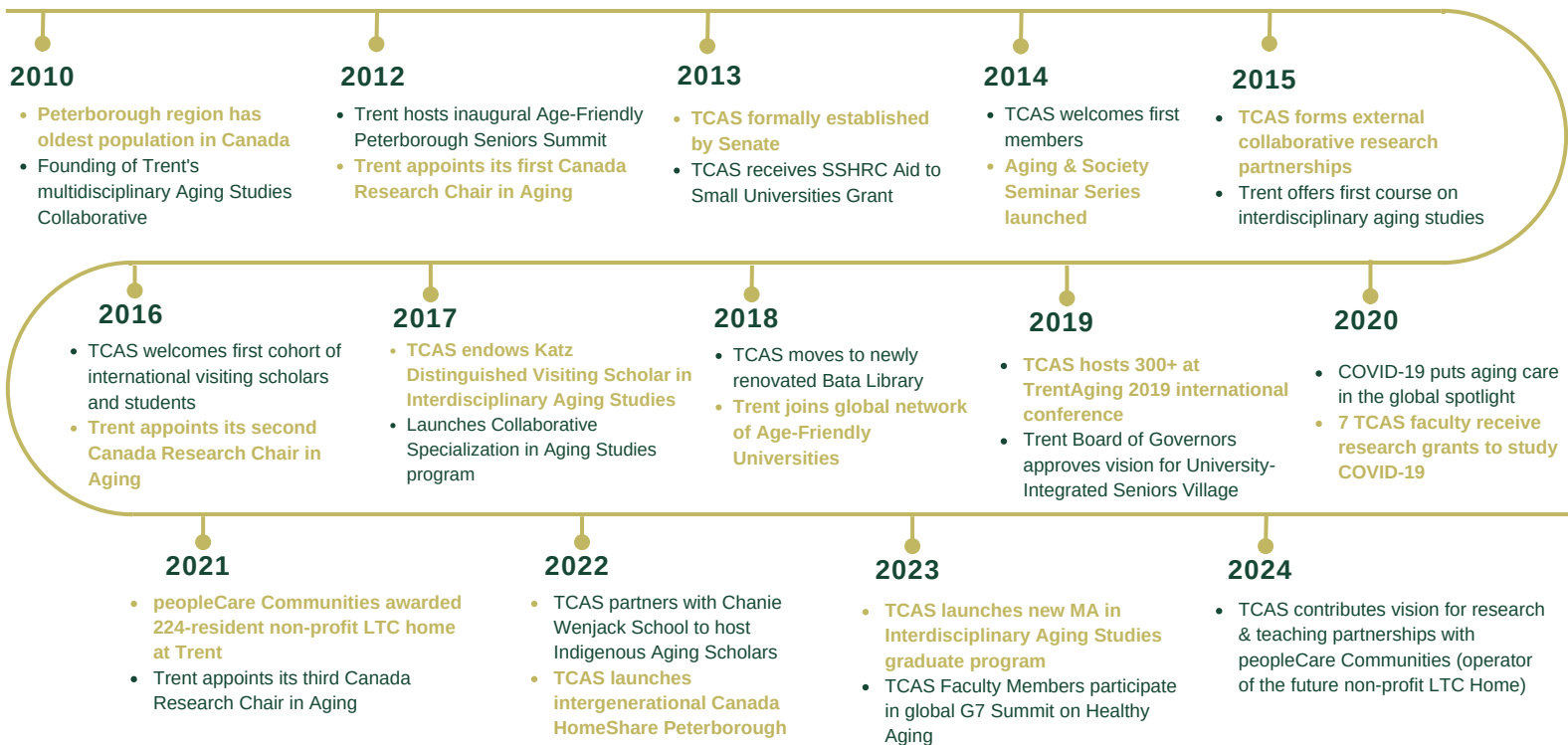
Nadine Changfoot, Ph.D.

Acting Director (2024-25), Trent Centre for Aging & Society



Nadine Changfoot (dark hair, smiling,)

TCAS Timeline



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TRENT CENTRE FOR AGING & SOCIETY



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Digital Newsletter

Top to Bottom: Dr. Amanda Grenier, Adebayo Makanju; Dr. Sally Chivers, Sara Hashempour,, Leah Steinke; Drs. Rachel Herron, Mark Skinner, Rachel Bar; Dr. Suzanne Bailey; Dr. Nadine Changfoot, Aimée Ancil, Alice Olsen Williams.

University-Integrated Seniors Village Update

Groundbreaking for the non-profit Long-Term Care Home will occur in Spring 2025!

The Seniors Village is moving forward!

Latest Updates

- In Spring 2025, ground will be broken for the building of the non-profit Long-Term Care Home which will be operated by peopleCare Communities. Stay tuned for the announcement and groundbreaking date.
- Below is a link to the exciting podcast by the [Ontario Long Term Care Association](#) where host **Donna Duncan** is joined by **Dr. Cathy Bruce**, President and Vice-Chancellor of Trent University, and **Megan Allen-Lamb**, President of [peopleCare Communities](#), envisioning the Senior's Village being built right on the university's campus.

Project Overview

- The site for the Seniors Village is located at the north-west corner of Water Street and Woodland Drive. This is an ideal location, as it is connected to both transit routes, municipal services, and it is situated in close proximity to the Symons Campus.
- There will be exciting research and teaching opportunities with 90+ student placements..
- A report series about this project, authored by TCAS member **Dr. Laura Poulin**, is available on [our website](#).



Interdisciplinary Seminar in Aging Studies: Precarity, Aging and Risk in Later Life Seminar

By Isabelle Row



Dr. Katz (right, dark gray hair and black jacket), speaks with TCAS Administrative Assistant Taylor Reilly-Smith (left, dark curly hair and white shirt) after the seminar.

TCAS was thrilled to welcome **Drs. Amanda Grenier** and **Stephen Katz** to lead a seminar discussing **Precarity, Aging and Risk in Later Life** on Tuesday, October 29th. Dr. Grenier is the **Professor Norman and Honey Schipper Chair in Gerontological Social Work** at the University of Toronto and Baycrest. She discussed the politics of insecure aging, specifically relating to older adults experiencing frailty, homelessness, and urban poverty. Her talk was complemented by Dr. Katz's discussion of risk created by threats to livability throughout the life course. Dr. Katz is **Professor Emeritus of Sociology** at Trent and has received **Trent's Distinguished Research Award**.

Dr. Grenier drew attention to how **precarity can be used as a lens to understand unequal access to care**, as we face diminishing community and social support for older adults. Grenier politicized the concept of precarity by emphasizing that it is created by political choices to act or not act. She pursues this research to bring to light diverse experiences of aging, often impacted by structural inequality, and precipitated by decreases in social protections.

On the same theme, Dr. Katz explored **embodied crises as figures of experience at various life stages**, including mid-life crisis, and older adults' experience of cognitive decline. As a society, we/ individuals are influenced to work to be resilient, rather than questioning the systemic forces that have us confront these positions of crises and risk. For him, researching precarity creates an inclusive vision of reciprocal care that recognizes all beings as living precariously.

Following Amanda and Stephen's presentations, there was a highly participatory discussion among all the attendees (community members, undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty) on how crises and risk can be altered, indeed refused, at different scales (locally, nationally, transnationally) emphasizing that change is a choice and question of politics. All in attendance were moved by the seminar.



Dr. Katz (centre, dark grey hair) speaks with Dr. Grenier (left, brown shoulder-length hair) & Luka Stojanovic (right, short brown hair)

Dr. Sally Chivers' AGNG-5000H: Foundations in Interdisciplinary Aging Studies

Dr. Sally Chivers' graduate-level course, **AGNG 5000H**, offers students an introduction to Aging Studies, highlighting its unique perspectives in contrast to traditional gerontology. A core objective of the course is to **showcase aging's relevance across various disciplines and aspects of daily life**, fostering a critical, interdisciplinary understanding among students from diverse backgrounds. Together, students and Dr. Chivers explore how dominant contemporary values—like individualism and profit motives—shape policies and societal attitudes toward aging. This approach encourages students to examine aging in a context-sensitive, culturally aware manner, which equips them with valuable skills for careers in teaching, research, and beyond.

A key highlight of AGNG 5000H is its **collaborative and imaginative approach to knowledge mobilization**. Through hands-on projects, students apply course theories to real-world scenarios, including presentations to stakeholders in age tech, podcasts, and workshops on ageism and care solutions.



Dr. Sally Chivers (dark hair, wearing mask) discusses knowledge mobilization with her class (L-R Liam Korchuk, Sara Hashempour, and Leah Steinke)



(L-R) Dr. Sally Chivers (dark hair, wearing medical mask) laughing with her students Liam Korchuk (Grey shirt and baseball hat), Sara Hashempour (Patterned Sweater and curly brown hair) and Leah Steinke (Grey Jacket, white turtleneck and hair in ponytail)

Role-playing in these projects allows students to step into diverse perspectives—from nursing home managers to healthcare staff—enabling them to express ideas freely and test them in practical settings. These dynamic exercises also inspire thesis ideas and future professional endeavors, giving students a toolkit that goes beyond traditional academic skills.

"AGNG 5000 with Dr. Sally Chivers has been a truly eye-opening course. It has guided me through an exploration of aging from multiple perspectives. Additionally, it has enhanced my research by helping me challenge and unlearn the unconscious ageist stereotypes that are pervasive in our society."

– Leah Steinke, MSc in Psych Candidate

Dr. Chivers notes that this approach has transformed her view of university learning. As generative AI reshapes scholarly landscapes, AGNG 5000H emphasizes a broader skillset, demonstrating that while essay writing is crucial, it is only one of many essential skills in the evolving field of Aging Studies.

CIHR: Sharing Dance Older Adults

By Agostina Prigioni

A team of researchers, including TCAS Executives **Drs. Bharati Sethi** and **Mark Skinner**, TCAS Fellows **Drs. Rachel Bar**, **Pia Kontos**, and **Rachel Herron**, and **Nadine Changfoot** (TCAS Acting Director) and Graduate Associate **An Kosurko**, received one of the **CIHR Institute of Aging's Implementation Science Team Grants**. This funding was granted for their project with **Canada's National Ballet: Sharing Dance Older Adults**. Funding will be used to expand and evaluate the program.

This program, Sharing Dance Older Adults, was **designed to support physical, social, and emotional well-being of older adults**. Individual older adults or organizations may take part in this program through in-person courses or through a variety of virtual options. Classes are designed to be physically and cognitively accessible, and modifications are offered for both seated and standing dancing.

Through this grant, the research team aims to expand this impactful arts-based program to historically excluded Black, Chinese, and South Asian communities in the Toronto area and to evaluate the program itself.

It is wonderful to celebrate the success of this research team, including many TCAS members, as they continue their interdisciplinary aging research!



(L-R) Dr. Rachel Herron (dark hair, red jacket), Former TCAS Director Dr. Mark Skinner (red hair, black jacket), and Dr. Rachel Bar (dark hair, glasses) visit Canada's National Ballet School.



Participants in Sharing Dance With Older Adults follow along to dance steps with their online instructors
Photo credit: Canada's National Ballet School

Tabytha Wells Attends the 2024 CIHR Summer Program in Aging in Vancouver, BC



Tabytha Wells (glasses, blonde and brown hair, arm tattoos) smiling in front of the TCAS office.

This year's **CIHR Summer Program in Aging (SPA)** was a transformative experience for **Tabytha Wells**, a second-year Master of Science in Psychology student at Trent University. With an academic focus on social psychology and aging, Wells was awarded prestigious CIHR funding to attend the SPA which provided a foundational understanding of ageism and left a much deeper appreciation for its widespread effects on healthcare and older adults' quality of life.

The program theme, **Ageism and Health Research, Delivery, and Outcomes in Older Adults**, offered Tabytha – and her fellow attendees – both inspiration and new perspectives that she is eager to incorporate into her work.

Reflecting on her time at the SPA, Wells found the event “inspiring and eye-opening,” especially in understanding the wide-ranging consequences of ageism.

"Listening to the ways healthcare professionals and other researchers are actively working to address ageism was truly inspiring," she said, adding that the discussions strengthened her commitment to creating positive change in this field.

“Coming from a psychology background, I had a general understanding of how ageism can impact health, but the SPA really emphasized the magnitude of these effects.”

- Tabytha Wells, MSc Psych Student

Wells noted that the link between ageism, chronic illness, and healthcare costs underscored the importance of addressing ageist attitudes to improve both physical and mental well-being for older adults.

Tabytha Wells Attends the 2024 CIHR Summer Program in Aging in Vancouver, BC

One session that stood out to Tabytha focused on how researchers **can engage older adults as active collaborators throughout the research process**. Instead of limiting their role to participants, the approach encourages involving them in research planning, data collection, analysis, and dissemination. "This session made me reevaluate the way I think about research and who can be a 'researcher,'" Wells shared.

Recognizing the value of active engagement, she now plans to apply these principles to her own work, ensuring her research aligns more closely with the needs and perspectives of older adults. She hopes to make her research relevant to the communities she studies, providing meaningful insights that can enhance aging experiences.

For Tabytha, the SPA also offered valuable connections with other graduate students who share her commitment to changing common narratives of aging. She emphasizes the importance of these networks as she attended the **Canadian Association on Gerontology Conference** with **Dr. Elizabeth Russell** (TCAS Executive, Tabytha's supervisor), where she reconnected with peers and continued the discussions sparked at SPA.

"It was an invaluable experience that I will carry with me through the rest of my academic career,"

- Tabytha Wells

Not only did she leave with new ideas but also a community of like-minded researchers focused on challenging ageist norms and fostering an inclusive future for older adults.



Dr. Elizabeth Russell (left, blue dress and brown hair) & Tabytha Wells (right, green dress, blonde and brown hair, arm tattoos)

With her master's degree nearing completion, Wells is already planning the next phase of her career. She intends to pursue a PhD in Psychology, where she will continue to **explore and implement anti-ageism interventions and sustainable intergenerational programming**. "Aging is something to be celebrated," Wells reflects, and she is determined to address the negative attitudes toward older adults to make aging a positive, fulfilling experience for everyone.

Tabytha shared her knowledge with future CIHR SPA applicants in a November mentor/info session.

Towards Just Care: Coalition-Building for Home Care Transformation in Ontario

By Agostina Prigioni

This past June, TCAS hosted a well-attended seminar, in which we heard about the **Towards Just Care Project** (SSHRC funded, in partnership with the **Disability Justice Network of Ontario**) from project lead **Dr. Mary Jean Hande** (Assistant Professor, Trent University), Advisory Council member **Danielle Turpin** (Founder and President, **Home Care Workers' Cooperative**) and research assistant **Alana Hart** (MA student in Interdisciplinary Aging Studies).

The project focuses on reimagining more “just” home care systems through grassroots coalition-building. Through the seminar, attendees learned about innovative approaches to building solidarity between older home care receivers and workers through social justice frameworks, “power mapping” existing home care systems, and innovative cooperative models for improving the conditions of work and care.

Dr. Hande began the seminar by highlighting the sad reality of Canadian care homes; a failing system that pits care workers and receivers against one another. She also emphasized that care workers are severely devalued. Consisting predominantly of immigrant women, there is very little data on this largely non-unionized private sector. In this context, the important work of the Disability Justice Network of Ontario and its intersection with migrant justice illuminates hope for future reform.

She proceeded to showcase **Alana’s** work on the project of Power Mapping, a strategy which **identifies the connections between the home care systems in Ontario and the profiteers at play.**



(L-R) Danielle Turpin (Tan Jacket) and Dr. Mary Jean Hande (Blue Jacket) take questions from the audience. Seated attendee (brown hair, brown top).

We then heard from **Danielle Turpin**, an **experienced PSW** with lived experience of the challenges faced by home care workers and receivers in our current systems. Her experience in the industry led her to establish the **Home Care Workers Cooperative**. This organization provides tools, support, and resources to PSWs in an empowering environment which respects both receivers and workers. This model involves better pay, more say for workers (also member-owners in the co-op model) and allows workers to succeed in their work with respect and support, resulting in better care.

Learning about **Mary Jean’s** research program, supported by **Alana**, and **Danielle’s** visionary work left seminar attendees hopeful for the future of home care in Ontario. Thank you, Mary Jean, Danielle, and Alana, for sharing your work and inspiring us!

Aging Creatively: Dr. Suzanne Bailey's Exploration of Aging, Art & Gerotranscendence

Dr. Suzanne Bailey, TCAS Executive and Professor of English Literature at Trent, has been researching the intersections of creativity, aging, and lifelong learning for over 20 years. Central to her work is the concept of **gerotranscendence**, a term with origins in nursing and social work, which describes a shift in perspective that often occurs in older adults and fosters a deeper connection to life experiences, community, and acceptance of mortality. This concept is a major focus of her research and is explored in her article, **"P.K. Page, Late Style, and Gerotranscendence: The 'Here/There' of Aging."** Suzanne first learned about gerotranscendence from fellow TCAS member **Dr. Beryl Cable-Williams** (Emerita, Trent Nursing).

In her SSHRC project, ***Lines: Atelier 17, the Art of the Print, and Canadian Modernism***, Dr. Bailey examines how Canadian artists in the 20th century studied printmaking at S.W. Hayter's Studio 17 in Paris and how modernist engraving as a form of artistic expression can reveal the unconscious mind and the world of dreams. Suzanne has also published on **The Later Career of Robert Browning** (SSHRC-funded), exploring the evolution of Browning's work as he aged.

Additionally, her project analyzing the poetry of W.B. Yeats and Margaret Avison connects gerotranscendence to the artistic expression of older adults. By considering how poets address themes of aging in their later works, Dr. Bailey's research challenges stereotypes that portray older individuals as stagnant.

Instead, she emphasizes that creativity remains vibrant and relevant, encouraging a view of older adults as active contributors to cultural dialogue.

Dr. Bailey's research also revisits historical perspectives on aging through the ***Life History Album (1884)***, revealing the significant yet underappreciated contributions of figures like Dr. Frederick Akbar Mahomed (internationally renowned 19th-century British physician) in advancing our understanding of health in later life.

As a member of TCAS, Suzanne says she **benefits from a collaborative environment that fosters interdisciplinary dialogue**. Her work not only enriches our understanding of aging but also demonstrates the valuable insights that older adults, particularly artists and writers, continue to provide.



Dr. Suzanne Bailey (blonde hair, glasses) on the bank of the Otonabee River

"I would not have come across the concept of gerotranscendence if it weren't for my interactions at TCAS with Beryl Cable-Williams, a faculty member in Nursing, and would not have pursued my project on the *Life History Album* without the encouragement of other TCAS members." - Dr. Suzanne Bailey

By Avery Hinchcliffe

This past summer, I had the pleasure of getting to know **Minaajimo-Kwe** (woman who tells good stories)/**Alice Olsen Williams**. Alice invited me into her home, in **Wshkiigmong/ Curve Lake**, and shared with me stories of her life and art.

As a child, Alice lived about 32 miles “into the bush”, as she calls it, north-east of Red Lake in North-Western Ontario. Her family lived in a small two-room cabin. When she was a young girl, Alice’s mother Sarah Keesic, would teach Alice and her sister Helen to sew doll clothes. Pondering these memories of sewing with her mother, Alice reflects that this was when she developed her love of fabrics.

Alice then went on to become a schoolteacher, and she taught in several schools across Ontario in Thunder Bay and Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg (Pic Mobert First Nation). **Though she learned to sew as a young girl, Alice did not take up quilting until a while later.**

She recalls that a friend of hers wanted to take a quilting class but did not want to go alone. Alice didn't want to go to this quilting class, as quilting represented stereotypical women's work to her. However, she knew that if she didn't go, her friend would not go, so she thought to herself, “Well, it's not going to kill me,” and she joined her friend at the quilting class.

When she arrived at the class, **Alice remembers seeing a plastic bag of fabrics and a quilt pattern, and memories of sewing with her mother and her love of fabric struck her.** She had never been drawn to making clothing, or tablecloths, or runners, but she felt that quilting would be a good way to pursue her love for fabric.



Alice Olsen Williams: dark hair, smiling

Since then, Alice has become internationally recognized for her work, which was recently featured in the [Artspace](#) exhibit ***ininige / s/he holds*** (June 7 - August 10) and in the [Royal Ontario Museum \(ROM\)](#) exhibit ***Quilts: Made in Canada*** (June 29 – November 17, which is now a travelling exhibit). When asked if she ever imagined becoming an internationally acclaimed artist, Alice shared that she did not envision this, but she did think to herself:

“If I could be really good at this, I want people to know that an Anishinaabe woman made it. That is what is important for me, that people know an Anishinaabe woman made it.”

Alice's work is known by her specific style of **using quilt blocks around the edge of her quilts, and then featuring Anishinaabe designs in the center**. This style honours her double heritage, as her mother was Anishinaabe and her father was European.

While she is both a teacher and an artist, Alice is also an activist and advocate for women and Indigenous peoples. She shared that these roles have always felt tied together for her. Much like the seeds of her art, the seeds of her activism began early. While she was in school, Alice felt that she was more accepted than many of her cousins because of her European heritage. While her cousins attended residential schools where they were treated horribly, Alice attended the 'white' schools. She reflected that:

"the teachers must have seen that we weren't stupid like the books say we are or backwards or anything."



The Tree of Peace Saves the Earth

This quilt (above) depicts a tree growing up in the middle of the Parliament buildings, specifically the Peace Tower. It grows on top of a turtle's back signifying creation and Turtle Island, and it has four roots for the four colours of human beings. An Eagle sits atop the tree watching over Creation. The sun and sky depict time of day to be just before noon, signifying the 11th hour. Under the tree, implements of war are buried. Alice created this quilt to illustrate that the Peace Tower has never brought anybody peace. This quilt was created as a tribute to the 1990 Kaneshatake Resistance (Oka Crisis).



"Bear & Strawberry Medicines"



"Clearing Up"



"Starblanket and Fires"

Later, when she presented her quilts, Alice's close friend Susan Macphail shared that she always delivered presentations with a political punch: "it always had a strong political analysis, always not what people expected."

When asked what message she would like to share with her art in quilting and to the viewers of her art, Alice said: **"We want our Land back,"** despite the corruption of the Land ensued by white settlers, and that **"We are valuable to this Land."**

I feel honored to learn from Alice, as she shared her wise and poignant words with me. You can view Alice's work at the ROM, in the [Giizhigaatig \(Cedar\) Room](#) in the Bata Library at Trent, and many other places across Canada. Alice is a Trent 1969 alumna of the formerly titled Native Studies and Sociology Program, and the Recipient of the **2023 Spirit of Trent Award**. Thank you, Alice, for sharing stories and teachings and for inviting me into your home!



Photo of Alice (right) showing her Seven Generations Quilt with (left) Susan Macphail

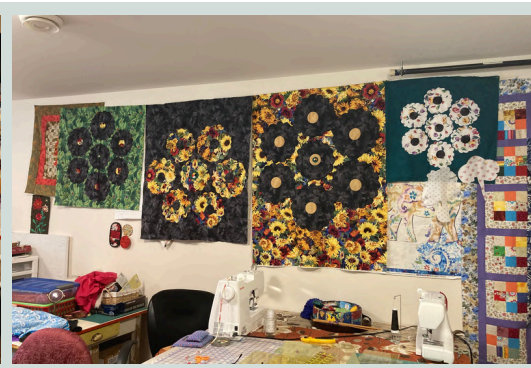


Photo of Alice's studio and Seven Generation Quilts.



Alice at the opening of her ROM exhibit with her The Tree of Peace Saves the Earth

"And now I rail against dominant culture, ideology, values and all of that."

Seven Generations
On the left (above) is a quilt Alice created using pieces of fabric she found in her mother's collection after she passed. From the back cut-outs of this quilt she made another (pictured on the right) and she did that again with 3 more quilts. Her goal is to create seven quilts in this method, to represent seven generations of her family; the first quilt being her mother's generation, the second being Alice's, the third being Alice's children, and so on.

Alice Olsen Williams was featured on [TVQ](#) (Nov 21). Watch here: [Two Indigenous Artists Keeping Traditions Alive](#)

About the Author:



Avery Hinchcliffe graduated with her B.Sc (Hons) in Psychology from Trent in Spring 2024. In the winter semester

of 2024, she was the TCAS Knowledge Mobilization Hub assistant. Her role included connecting with the community and promoting research outputs. Through this position, Avery has had the opportunity to meet many wonderful community members and work with the wonderful team at TCAS.

We hope you enjoy this series!

Students Experience the Deep Wisdom and Beauty of Over 50 Years of Art Practice

By Lauren Briand

Artspace PTBO, an artist-run centre in downtown Peterborough, is celebrating its 50th anniversary with the exhibition, ***From the Ground Up: Artists in Practice for 50 Years*** (Sept 11 to Nov 16), curated by **Peg Town** and **Jillian Ackert**, featuring six Canadian artists, all of whom have been practicing art for over 50 years.

"There is a feeling of balance that flows through the work... Earthy palette with some eye-popping colour."

- Olive Beyer

Artists **Wayne Cardinalli**, **Faye Jacobs**, **Dorothy Caldwell**, **Frances Dorsey**, **Brian Nichols**, and **Jeanne McRight** display several different themes and materials, while the exhibition itself shines a new light on aging and older artists, an often overlooked and marginalized group. The artworks explore the impact of time on our connections, interdependence, and relationships with places, people, and the non-human world. The variety of mediums, including textile, ceramic, painting, and more, exemplify the vibrant diversity that exists across the overarching themes of the exhibition and within aging itself. The closing ceremony took place on November 16th. Students in **POST-CUST 3571H "Arts and Culture Enacting Social Change"** visited at the beginning of Fall Term..

"They all overlap. The works are placed 'shoulder to shoulder' while still having their own space."

-Puffin Davison



A group of six students from Dr. Nadine Changfoot's course "Arts and Culture Enacting Social Change" at Artspace, smiling with artwork by Faye Jacobs in the foreground. Left to right: Olive, Puffin, Lauren, Mwema, Hannah, and Harper.

As an artist-run centre, **Artspace prioritizes accessibility and community involvement through various initiatives**. Their entrance and the main part of the space is entirely wheelchair accessible, and membership is open to non-artists as part of an effort to include the broader community in their work. Further measures to increase accessibility and community involvement include art-making workshops (e.g. **Texty Tuesdays**) which are free and open to the public, as well as the provision of art-related tools and equipment to their members.

TCAS Proudly Features Student Associates

Luka Stojanovic, second-year Ph.D. student in Canadian Studies, is conducting innovative research titled ***From Silence to Empowerment: Restorying Experiences of Chronic Pain Among Older Adults in Ontario***. Supervised by **Dr. Nadine Changfoot**, Luka's work bridges aging and disability studies, focusing on knowledge mobilization strategies to combat misconceptions about chronic pain, encourage open dialogue, and connect people with resources. Luka values networking with scholars across aging studies through initiatives supported by TCAS. Luka has been recognized with prestigious awards, including being named **Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation Scholar (2024-2027)** and **SSHRC PhD Canada Graduate Scholar (2024-2027)**. (They respectfully declined the Ontario Graduate Scholarship and Mackenzie King Scholarship).



Luka Stojanovic (brown hair with white shirt)



Isabelle Row (red hair, blue shirt surrounded by green and yellow plants)

Isabelle Row is a Political Studies and Economics student at Trent, currently serving as a research assistant to **Dr. Nadine Changfoot**. Isabelle has earned several prestigious awards, including the **Trent Special Admissions Scholarship** for outstanding academic and extracurricular achievement (\$15,000 from 2021-2025). She also received the **Top Second-Year Paper Award** from the Journal of Undergraduate Studies at Trent (\$500 prize), and the **Maurice J. Booted Scholarship**, awarded to the top economics student entering fourth year. Isabelle's academic excellence and dedication make her a standout student at Trent. She has made the Dean's Honour Roll every year.

Jazmine Raine, third-year PhD student in Interdisciplinary Social Research, is committed to advancing the experiences of older 2SLGBTQIA+ adults in Ontario through their research project, ***Navigating Identities and Empowering Futures: Understanding the Experiences of Older 2SLGBTQIA+ Adults in Ontario for Policy Advancements and Clinical Training Innovations***. Supervised by **Dr. Nadine Changfoot**, Jazmine's work focuses on improving trans-specific clinical education in Ontario medical schools. They aim to collaborate with older Queer and Trans adults to develop policy recommendations for systemic change. A recipient of the **Ontario Graduate Scholarship (2022-24)** and **SSHRC PhD Canada Graduate Scholarship (2024-27)**, Jazmine says that as TCAS Undergraduate and now Graduate Associate, they gain valuable insights into community-engaged aging research and arts-based methods.



Jazmine Raine (brown hair, green jacket with arms crossed)

TCAS Student Associate Features

Collin Henning, a third-year Psychology PhD student, is conducting research supervised by **Dr. James D. A. Parker**, titled ***Predicting Successful Ageing in Older Adults: The Role of Emotional Intelligence***. Collin is a **SSHRC PhD Canada Graduate Scholar (2023-2026)**.

"My PhD thesis research aims to improve our understanding of the factors that predict successful aging," Collin explains, focusing on emotional intelligence and ADHD in older couples. He seeks to explore how these factors impact relationship satisfaction, an area traditionally studied in younger couples. He hopes this research will help ensure that people age "successfully, through living healthy, satisfying, and fulfilling lives." Collin enjoys his time at TCAS, attending events like the "TCAS Aging and Society Seminar Series on Aging and Dementia Research." He aspires to continue in academia, using his research to support the well-being of older adults. To participate in his research, feel free to fill out the online survey for the study at <https://trent-ehrl.com/>



Collin Henning (dark hair and glasses) poses in a garden



Uzma Danish (dark hair and orange shirt) smiling at camera

Uzma Danish, a 4th-year Interdisciplinary Social Research PhD candidate, is conducting research supervised by **Dr. David Firang**, titled ***South Asian Older Adult Participation at Senior Community Centres in Durham Region: A Life Course and Critical Race Theory Perspective***.

This research explores the factors influencing South Asian older adult participation at local senior community centres (SCCs) in Durham Region. Uzma aims to understand the needs of this population and the challenges SCCs face regarding equity, diversity, and inclusion in service provision. She envisions more inclusive SCCs to reduce social isolation and foster belonging. "Taking care of all aging individuals is 'our' common responsibility."

Uzma has received several awards, including the **Trent Graduate Student Association Community Leadership Award** and the **Ontario Graduate Scholarship**, both in **2023-2024**.

TCAS Member Updates

As part of their SSHRC and CIHR-funded research on aging and digital technology, TCAS Members **Drs. Barb Marshall** (PI), **Stephen Katz, Nicole Dalmer, Kirsten Ellison**, and **Megan Graham** created three animated videos called ***Aging and Digital Culture Explained***. The videos explore 3 key topics: **1) What is Aging?** **2) What is Quantified Aging?** and **3) Who is the Digital Ager?**

TCAS members, **Ann MacLeod, Adebayo Makanju**, and **Dr. Beryl Cable-Williams**, attended the 2024 IG Wealth Management Walk for Alzheimer's.

TCAS members **Drs. Bharati Sethi, Mark Skinner, Rachel Bar, Rachel Herron, Pia Kontos, Nadine Changfoot** and Graduate Associate **An Kosurko** received an Implementation Science Team Grant from the CIHR Institute of Aging, to expand and evaluate Canada's National Ballet School's *Sharing Dance Older Adults* program to Black, Chinese, and South Asian communities in the Toronto area.

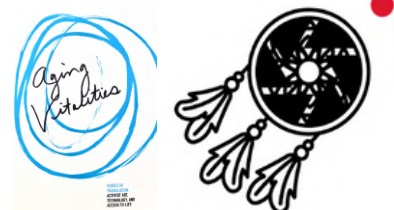
Dr. Elizabeth Russell (TCAS Executive) and **Tabytha Wells** (Graduate Associate) have a new publication in the Canadian Journal on Aging: **"I've Got a Lot of Other Things I Do: The Nuances of Digital Engagement among Older People"** – this article is based on Tabytha's honours thesis research (supervised by Elizabeth). They were also featured in a Trent news story, ***Intergenerational Classroom: A New Approach to Addressing Ageism***, that profiles their Intergenerational Classroom project.

TCAS hosted a well-attended seminar in June, discussing the *Towards Just Care Project* (SSHRC funded, in partnership with the Disability Justice Network of Ontario) worked on by TCAS members **Dr. Mary Jean Hande** (project lead) and **Alana Hart** (research assistant). Mary Jeane also developed ***Just Care Dreams: A Toolkit for Building More Just Care Systems***.

TCAS Graduate Associate **Tabytha Wells** was 1 of only 45 trainees chosen from across the country to present at the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Summer Program in Aging in Vancouver. Tabytha shared her knowledge with future applicants in a TCAS mentor/info session in November.

Dr. Bharati Sethi, TCAS Executive, Associate Professor in Political Studies, Canada Research Chair in Care Work, Ethnicity & Aging, and TCAS Executive, was featured in Trent News to share her research on international students' perspectives of how climate change affects the health and well-being of individuals and societies.

Stories/short films from **Dr. Nadine Changfoot's** (TCAS Acting Director) projects, ***Aging Vitalities*** and ***Wshkiigmong Dibaajmownan/Curve Lake Storytelling***, were screened at NIFF (Nogojiwanong Indigenous Fringe Festival) at Nozhem Theatre, Trent University on June 21 and 22.



(Logos of *Aging Vitalities* and *Wshkiigmong Dibaajmownan*)

TCAS Member Updates

Dr. Kim Bergeron, TCAS faculty member, facilitated a workshop at the [2024 World Homeshare Congress](#) in Italy this September. The session focused on creating equitable, inclusive home-sharing programs, drawing on insights from the [Home Share Loyalist](#) project. This initiative promotes intergenerational living between college students and older adults in Ontario.

TCAS Executives and Graduate Associates were well represented at the [Canadian Association of Gerontology \(CAG\) Conference](#) in Edmonton. **Dr. Elizabeth Russell** and **Tabytha Wells**, and **Dr. Raheleh Saryazdi** shared the findings of their research, along with **Dr. Bharati Sethi**, who received a standing ovation for her keynote presentation on her work ***PSW's Voice Matters: Dismantling Racism and Fostering 'Belonging'***.

Dr. Raheleh Saryazdi (TCAS Executive) received the **Early Career Rising Star in AgeTech Award** and attended the AGE-WELL Annual Conference in October where she delivered a presentation titled, ***Using VR to Examine the Effects of Smell on Memory in Younger and Older Adults***.

Dr. Sally Chivers (TCAS Executive) has released Episode 14 of [Wrinkle Radio](#): ***My Stove Isn't My Stove Anymore***, featuring **Dr. Kim Sawchuk** (Concordia University). Together, they explore the challenges of aging in a digital world.

On October 15, **Seniors Coordinator Kelli Lackey** invited **Dr. Nadine Changfoot, Acting Director of TCAS**, to Seniors Day in the Elders Room at the [L.I.F.E. Services Centre](#) in [Hiawatha First Nation](#).

TCAS fellow **Dr. Albert Banerjee** co-developed **The Mortal Method** and **The Mortality Collective** which examines what it means to: **a)** be mortal & **b)** to do academic work that acknowledges and honours our mortality. They also offer a [30-day apprenticeship](#) with mortality: a guided practice, marked by curated daily reflection prompts and resources delivered to your email inbox.

TCAS member **Dr. Molly-Claire Gillett** hosted the virtual seminar: ***Crafting Communities-Place, Care and Identity in Rural Irish and Canadian Women's Lives*** on October 17 based on her postdoctoral research project of the same name. It traces the craft-related activities of the [Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario \(FWIO\)](#) and [Irish Countrywomen's Association \(ICA\)](#).

On October 29, **Drs. Amanda Grenier** and TCAS Co-Founder/Executive **Stephen Katz** gave a highly engaging and thought-provoking seminar on ***Precarity, Aging and Risk in Later Life*** at Trent University.

TCAS warmly welcomes **Dr. Sebastian Paquette** as Faculty Member and **Aimée Anctil** as Community Associate!

TCAS Member Updates

TCAS Community Associate and Osgoode Hall Law student **Aimée Anctil** received the **Robert W.F. Stephenson Prize for Excellence in Student Governance** at the TUAA Alumni Awards Gala on November 21. Aimée is recognized for her leadership in promoting socioeconomic justice, including efforts in anti-racism, housing, mental health, and food security.

Dr. Nadine Changfoot (TCAS Acting Director) is pleased to announce the reprint (book) of her *Social Sciences* special issue: **Rethinking Artful Politics: Bodies of Difference Remaking Body Worlds (2024)**. This volume of 12 chapters will be of interest to those engaged in arts-based methodology, culture, and politics, who orient to non-normative agency as creating and transforming livable futures/futurities. “Beyond Utterances: **“Embodied Creativity and Compliance in Dance and Dementia”** by **An Kosurko** (TCAS Graduate Associate) and **“Crip Time and Radical Care in/as Artful Politics”** by **Dr. May Chazan** (TCAS Faculty member) are included.

On September 9, **Dr. Nadine Changfoot** met with local **MP Michelle Ferreri** (Shadow Minister for Families, Children and Social Development), and **MP Anna Roberts**, (Shadow Minister for Seniors). They expressed strong support for the University-Integrated Seniors Village, including housing geared to income, accessible trails, and welcoming design in the non-profit Long-Term Care Home. They also recognized the value of the teaching, outreach opportunities, and research contributions by TCAS Graduate and Undergraduate Associates.

Dr. Stephen Katz (TCAS Executive) made significant contributions to aging studies this fall. He delivered 3 presentations in November:

- **“Designing for Later Life: Socio-Gerontological Insights in Conversations with Age-Tech Experts”** at The Gerontological Society of America Annual Scientific Meeting in Seattle, WA.
- **“The ‘Epidemic’ of Older Adult Loneliness: Problems of Diagnostic Intervention and Critical Sociological Theory”** at the same conference.
- **“From Demography to Kinship: The Crisis of Population Aging”** seminar presentation at The Simpson Center for the Humanities, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

He was also featured in an interview with **Lucy Schiller** in the Columbia Journalism Review on July 18, discussing **Joe Biden and the Semiotics of Old Age**, and published the thought-provoking, **“Aging Together-With: The Growing Older of Humans, Non-Humans, and More-Than-Humans,”** in the Journal of Aging Studies (Vol. 71, 2024).



(L-R) local MP Michelle Ferreri (Blonde hair, red dress) shows off her Trent scarf in a meeting with Acting TCAS Director Nadine Changfoot (dark hair, brown jacket) and MP Anna Roberts (blonde hair, black dress)

Anishinaabe Indigenous Intergenerational Growing Old/Aging (AIIGO)



MORNING KEYNOTE PANEL:

Learn from **Anne Taylor & Bailey Taylor** (Curve Lake) and **Sandra Moore** (Hiawatha) of their visions and teachings of growing old in their communities.

AFTERNOON KEYNOTE:

Dr. Sean Hillier, Mi'kmaw scholar, Qualipu First Nation, York University

GRADUATE RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS:

Angela Easby and Heidi Burns

Peterborough Public Library, Friends of the Library Room

**January 15th
8:30 AM – 3:30 PM
Free In-Person or Zoom
Attendance**

**Please Register
with QR Code**



CHALLENGE THE WAY YOU THINK



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