

The 11th Annual Women in Science Symposium will take place between October 2nd and October 6th, 2023.

Please find the list of confirmed speakers below. Most presentations will take place in the STEM Centre (D-301). However, some presentations will also occur virtually (synchronously) or in B-223.

If you are interested in attending a presentation during this week, please contact Brandee Diner (dinerb@vaniercollege.qc.ca) or Jess Lang (langj@vaniercollege.qc.ca). As space is limited, please send us an estimated class size that you hope to bring, and we will do our best to accommodate the request.

We look forward to seeing you all in a few weeks!

Monday, October 2nd, 12:00 – 13:00 (Amphitheatre, B-223)

Northern Canada: understanding the North in the face of shifting landscapes

Samantha Darling, Executive Director for the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies (ACUNS)

Description: Northern Canada is a vast land area that is sparsely populated, creating both opportunities and challenges for sustainable development. Tackling these complex problems requires at least a broad understanding of the different definitions of "the North", as well as the evolution of development that has happened regionally. Grounded in the unique environmental and cultural contexts across the North, this talk compares the state of regionally distinct conversations around conventional science, traditional knowledge, and the impacts of development, as well as the need, as scientists, to shift our worldviews towards inclusivity.

Monday, October 2nd, 14:30 – 16:00 (STEM Centre, D-301)

Fadia Ounissi, M.Sc. Student, Concordia University

Description: Fadia will be present on her education and experiences while pursuing a career in the field of mathematics. In addition, her talk will also discuss her current research, which examines surface area inequalities for objects in 3D. *A description and title for the presentation will be provided in the coming days.*

Tuesday, October 3rd, 10:15 – 11:15 (Virtual; Streaming in STEM Centre, D-301)

The many aspects of environmental impact assessment

Dr. Erin C. McCance, Senior Compliance Officer for Regulation and Policy (Fisheries and Oceans Canada)

Description: Erin holds a Bachelor of Science Degree, a Master of Environment Degree, and a Ph.D. from the University of Manitoba. She is a Professional Biologist with the Alberta Society of Professional Biologists, an Environmental Professional with EcoCanada, and a Fellow with The Wildlife Society. Erin is currently employed as a Senior Compliance Officer for Regulation and Policy with Fisheries and Oceans Canada in the Ontario & Prairie Region and the Arctic Region. Prior to this role, Erin worked in natural resources criminal intelligence with the National Fisheries Intelligence Service assessing entity compliance with respect to habitat use, species at risk, resource use and harvest, invasive species, and

illegal trade. Before moving her career to the Federal Government, Erin worked for well over 10 years in the consulting world as a Project Manager and Senior Wildlife Ecologist, with a specific focus on terrestrial mammals, namely boreal woodland caribou, moose, bears, and wolves. Her work concentrated on researching baseline conditions and conducting effects assessments on various landscape change/development projects. In addition to her 'day job', Erin has been a sessional instructor at the University of Manitoba for the last fourteen years, teaching a wide variety of courses including Biogeography, Ecosystem Management, Environmental Issues, Environmental Assessment, Sustainable Manitoba, Environment and the law, and Green Building and Planning, among others. During her presentation, she will discuss the importance of environmental impact assessments.

[Tuesday, October 3rd, 13:00 – 14:00 \(STEM Centre, D-301\)](#)
Family Medicine in Indigenous Communities within Canada

Dr. Sonali Srivastava

Dr Sonali Srivastava is a Vanier College Alumni who also came back to work here years ago coordinating international projects! She graduated from McGill and is a family doctor working with indigenous communities in Northern Quebec, Ontario, and Northwest Territories. She also worked with the Maori in Northern New Zealand during COVID. She is the proud caretaker of a cat that she adopted from one of the communities and enjoys her time thinking about what new medical project is around the corner.

[Tuesday, October 3rd, 14:00 – 15:00 \(STEM Centre, D-301\)](#)
Connecting and protecting land, Indigenous rights and public health

Amanda Sheedy

Description: A well-respected change agent, Amanda is recognized for her collaborative style and ability to work with a diversity of people, organizations and opinions to get things done. She has over 20 years of experience in network development and management, research and community engagement. She contributed to establishing Food Secure Canada as a national advocacy organization as well as numerous projects and coalitions. Currently working as an independent consultant, most of Amanda's work supports collaboration and planning with Indigenous Nations and governments, falling at the intersections between public health, conservation, and reconciliation. She recently co-authored *Beyond Conservation: A Toolkit for Respectful Collaboration with Indigenous Peoples* (2023). Amanda's approach to her work is informed by a solid academic foundation including a Master's in Public Health (University of Toronto, 2013), a graduate diploma in Community Economic Development (Concordia University, 2004), and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Health (McGill University, 2001).

[Tuesday, October 3rd, 15:00 – 16:00 \(STEM Centre, D-301\)](#)
[Think Globally, Act Locally: Tackling Eco-Anxiety using Indigenous Approaches](#)

Kailey Nicholas

Kailey Karahkwehtha Nicholas is a graduate of the Environmental & Wildlife Management program at Vanier College. Kailey is an advocate for two-eyed seeing and bridging the gap between Western science and traditional Indigenous knowledge. This presentation will explore the unique ways in which Indigenous peoples are impacted by climate change and the necessity of cultural revitalization in climate action.

[Wednesday, October 4th, 10:00 – 12:00 \(Virtual; Streaming in STEM Centre, D-301\)](#)
Panel discussion: Women in international conservation

Vanessa Kilburn (Executive Director of Toucan Ridge Ecology and Education Society), Becky Johnson (International Cheetah Studbook Assistant at Cheetah Conservation Foundation), Nadja LeRoux (Project Coordinator at Kalahari African Wild Dog Conservation Project) and Florian Blot (Co-founder and Specialized Elephant Zookeeper at Stand Up 4 Elephants)

This international panel will feature women working on wildlife conservation projects in a variety of locations outside of Canada. The panel will be an open discussion on the opportunities and challenges presented by doing conservation work in places including Belize, Namibia and Nepal, including politics, culture, reduced resources and materials, as well as trailblazing. Come hear from women who have dedicated their professional lives to protecting species and spaces and learn about the passion and rigour they devote to their work.

Wednesday, October 4th, 14:00 – 16:00 (STEM Centre, D-301)

Panel discussion: Early-career professionals in environmental science

Sara Pancheri (GIS Analyst with ESRI Canada), Serena Duperron (Zoologist at the Ecomuseum), Taylor Patterson (Biologist at Hydro Québec), Maegan Bushell (Biological Technician at Parc des Rapides du Mille Isles)

This panel discussion will feature women in the early stages of their careers in a variety of environmental fields. All of them have graduated from the Environmental and Wildlife Management Program at Vanier College and have distinguished themselves through the jobs they have selected shortly after graduation. These resourceful women will share their professional journeys from college studies through to their current positions and discuss the choices they made along the way. Learn about the challenges they faced, the obstacles they have overcome, the lessons they have learned and the reasons behind why they chose to be Women in Science.

Thursday, October 5th, 8:30 – 10:00 (STEM Centre, D-301)

Unmasking online food & nutrition misinformation - The Food Truth Project.

Veronica Jaramillo, McGill University Undergraduate Student

Description: The pervasive influence of social media exposes students of all ages to misleading narratives about food and nutrition, often accompanied by unsupported health claims. These narratives can detrimentally shape short-term and long-term perspectives on eating habits, food ingredients, and overall well-being, especially in the younger generations. Welcome to the Food Truth Project - a collaborative workshop given by prospective food scientists in efforts to identify, debunk, and clarify misinformation surrounding food and nutrition. Our interactive workshops are designed to equip students with vital critical thinking skills for navigating the digital landscape, particularly when it comes to food and health-related information. We will explore topics such as nutritional labeling, fad diets, the distinction between artificial and natural foods, and the scrutiny of food additives. Ultimately, we aim to empower students to discern and evaluate the information they encounter concerning food and health.

Friday, October 6th, 8:30 – 10:00 (STEM Centre, D-301)

Fantastic planets and how to find them

Dr. Lisa Dang, Banting Postdoctoral Fellow at the Institute for Research on Exoplanets at Université de Montréal

Description: Exoplanet science has been growing rapidly as a field since the first discovery of a planet orbiting a Sun-like star in 1995. Since then, developments in technology and theory have allowed us to expand the focus of the field from finding exoplanets to trying to figure out what these planets are really like. In this talk, Dr. Dang will give an overview of how we find and study planets around other stars, as well as a peek into cutting-edge exoplanet research projects.

Friday, October 6th, 13:00 – 13:45 (STEM Centre, D-301)

Video games in STEM classrooms: A distraction or a techno-pedagogical tool for meaningful learning?

Dr. Neerusha Baurhoo, Université de Montréal

Description: In this talk, the discussion will be focused on the effects of video games on the brain. Specifically, the impacts of video games on executive functions, working memory, and processing speed will be discussed. Drawing on research, the effects of video games on learning, engagement, and motivation among CEGEP students in STEM education will be explored. This talk is meaningful for individuals interested in understanding the impact of technology on learning and brain functioning.

Friday, October 6th, 13:45 – 14:30 (STEM Centre, D-301)

Tracking Wildlife: What two decades of data can tell us about a single animal population

Nathalie Jreidini, PhD Candidate, McGill University

Description: From the smallest ant to the largest whale, ecologists strive to understand animal movement patterns and how diverse species use the space that surrounds them. Movement patterns not only help us understand how environmental change will impact species distributions but also allow us to gain knowledge about the orientation and navigation capacities of animals. For her PhD, Nathalie has been using two decades of data on a single animal population to uncover the causes of movement at varying temporal scales, from individuals' daily commutes to their lifelong dispersive movements.

Women in Science Symposium 2023

	Monday Oct 2	Tuesday Oct 3	Wednesday Oct 4	Thursday Oct 5	Friday Oct 6
8:30 – 10:00				Veronica Jaramillo STEM Centre, D-301	Dr. Lisa Dang STEM Centre, D-301
10:00 – 11:30		Dr. Erin McCance Virtual and STEM Centre, D-301	Panel Discussion: Women in International Conservation 10:00 – 12:00		
11:30 – 13:00			Virtual and STEM Centre, D-301		
	Samantha Darling 12:00 – 13:00 B-223 (Amphitheatre)				
13:00 – 14:30		Dr. Sonali Srivastava 13:00 – 14:00 STEM Centre, D-301			Dr. Neerusha Baurhoo 13:00 – 13:45 STEM Centre, D-301
		Amanda Sheedy 14:00 – 15:00 STEM Centre, D-301	Panel Discussion: Early-Career Professionals in Environmental Sciences 14:00 – 16:00		Nathalie Jreidini 13:45 – 14:30 STEM Centre, D-301
14:30 – 16:00	Fadia Ounissi STEM Centre, D-301	Kailey Nicholas 15:00 – 16:00 STEM Centre, D-301	STEM Centre, D-301		