

TLCU 2025 program (as of May 21)
Please note that all sessions are MDT and will be on Zoom.
Register here [2025 TLCU Eventbrite](#) before the end of May,
and we will send registrants the login information in June.

DAY 1: Thursday June 12, 2025

8:30-9:00 Welcome!

Opening remarks: Sheila McManus.

Blessing: Francis First Charger, Ninnaisipistoo (Owl Chief)

9:00-10:15 Panel 1 The northern edges of the Indian subcontinent

Chair: Angela Brooks, M.A. (Music), University of Lethbridge

Dr. Arjun Chapagain, PhD in Public and International Studies at City University of Hong Kong.
“Impact of COVID-19 on the Nepal-Tibet Border: Disrupting Trade, Tourism, and Cultural Exchange.”

Tsering Dawa, PhD candidate in Chinese Studies at the School of International Studies, Centre for East Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. “Trans-Himalayan Relevance and Resistance: Geopolitical Dynamics and Local Impacts Along the Sino-Indian Border in Ladakh.”

Dr. Neha Meena, Assistant Professor at the Department of Sociology, University of Delhi.
“Negotiations of Migration and Citizenship Practices: Analyzing lived experiences of Pakistani Hindu migrants in western Rajasthan.”

10:15-10:30: Break

10:30-12:00 Keynote Address Petra Molnar, Associate Director, Refugee Law Lab, York University. “The Walls Have Eyes: Surviving Migration in the Age of Artificial Intelligence”

12:00-1:00: Lunch Break

1:00-2:15: Panel 2 Migrating through a hostile world

Chair: A K M Iftekhhar Khalid, PhD Candidate in Cultural Social and Political Thought (English), and Research Assistant in the Humanities Innovation Lab, University of Lethbridge

Jessica Chandrashekar, immigration detention staff lawyer and PhD candidate at Osgoode Hall Law School, Tkaronto. “Living a bordered life: migration control and carcerality in the community.”

Emmanuel Desbordes, PhD candidate in the Population Studies and Health, University of Lethbridge, and Dr. Peter Kellett, RN., Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Lethbridge. “Precarious Migration Status as a Social Determinant of Health: African Immigrants Living with Precarious Migration Status in Southern Alberta”

Dr. Tyler Correia, School of Culture, Media and Society at the University of the Fraser Valley. “Theorizing the Cosmopolitan Public Sphere in the Coming Age of Border Enforcement.”

2:15-2:30: Break

2:30-3:30: Panel 3 Kaleidoscopic Identities, Reveries and Warriors: Indigenous Gender, Queerness, and Masculinity within Virtual Imaginaries of Southern Alberta Borderlands

Chair: Yvonne Tiger, PhD Candidate in Cultural Social and Political Thought, University of Lethbridge, and Assistant Professor, MacEwan University

Blair Many Fingers (Researcher in Residence), Kaiya Healy (Research Intern), Dr. Miguelzinta C. Solís (Adjunct Professor, University of Lethbridge; Director, CIART Lab), Nayan Velaskar (Artist Researcher), and Walker English (Artist in Residence). Centre for Indigenous Art, Research and Technology (CIART Lab), Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Lethbridge.

DAY 2: Friday June 13, 2025

8:30-9:30: Panel 4 When the border is a river

Chair: Brendan Cummins, PhD candidate in Cultural Social and Political Thought, and Instructor in the School of Liberal Education, University of Lethbridge

Ritapriya Nandy, PhD candidate at the Center for Regional Studies, University of Hyderabad. “Between Land and Water: Territoriality and Char Realities at the India-Bangladesh Border.”

0930-0945: Break

09:45-11 Panel 5 Refugees and asylum seekers

Chair: Janelle Marietta, PhD candidate in Cultural Social and Political Thought, and Instructor in the Dhillon School of Business, University of Lethbridge

Dr Bernard Sama Nde, Chair of the Asylum Seekers Support Trust. “Addressing Psychological and Mental Health Harms in New Zealand RSD (refugee and protection status determination) System: Therapeutic Jurisprudence Perspective.”

Bushra Ali Khan, Guest Member at the Women in Refugee Law think tank at the University of Sussex and a Research Fellow supported by the Asia Foundation and IMPRI. “Genocide Denial as Soft Power: ASEAN’s Stance on the Rohingya Crisis.”

Mirco Stella, PhD candidate in Education and Graduate Research Fellow at the Center for Refugee Studies, York University. "On borders in borderless education: Challenges and reflections emerging from the authentication of conferred Canadian University degrees abroad."

Harini Sivalingam, Equality Program Director at the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, and PhD candidate at York University, and Aaden Pearson, Trans Rights Legal Fellow at the Canadian Civil Liberties Association. “Challenges for Trans Asylum Seekers in an Era of Anti-Trans Hostility.”

11:00 – 11:15 Break

11:15 – 12:30 Panel 6 Culture(s) as resistance

Chair: Rebeca Spencer, MA (Anthropology) University of Lethbridge

Melike Seker, Research Assistant (PhD, Department of Sociology, Munzur University. “The Effect of Capital Accumulation Process on the Formation of Ethnic Groups: Kurds in the Border Region between Türkiye and Iran.”

Usman Muhammad, PhD candidate, University of Heidelberg. “Wagah Border: A Symbolic Dance of Ambivalence.”

Amy Cran, MA student in Social Anthropology, Dalhousie University. “Build Kinships, not Fences: Rejecting a Bare Life in Alberta’s Recovery Turn.”

Ana Sandoval, PhD candidate at Rutgers-Newark. “Concepts from the Margins: Reimagining Governance and Belonging Through Border Children’s Lived Experiences.”

12:30-1: Lunch Break

1:00-2:15 Panel 7 Securitization and militarization

Chair: Janelle Marietta, PhD candidate in Cultural Social and Political Thought, and Instructor in the Dhillon School of Business, University of Lethbridge

Lio Ando-Bourget, PhD candidate in Geography at the Université Paris-Cité. “Coloniality and humanitarianism in the Sonoran Desert militarised borderlands.”

Kyla Simone Piccin, PhD candidate in the Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Cambridge. “Securing the Woods at Ada’itsx/Fairy Creek: An Analysis of Carceral Power at the Frontiers of BC Forestry.”

Rahul Balasundaram, MA in Immigration and Settlement Studies, Toronto Metropolitan University. “Climate Coloniality, Border Securitization and Climate Justice: A Critique of Canada’s Approach to Global Climate Displacement.”

Dr. Maira E. Alvarez, Adjunct Professor, Department of History, St. Mary’s University. “Fronteriza Narratives: Documenting the Militarization of US/Mexico Border[lands].”

2:15-2:30: Break

2:30-3:00: Panel 8 Pamela Dodds, Independent Visual Artist, Toronto. “**Documenting Border Barriers: An Artist's Approach**”

Chair: Darcy Tamayose, PhD candidate in Cultural, Social, and Political Thought (History), University of Lethbridge.

3:00-4:00 Book Launch roundtable for [*Challenging Borders, Contingencies and Consequences*](#). This anthology came out of our first 2019 border studies conference, and the roundtable will feature authors Marilyn James and Lori Barkley, Ramon Resendiz, and Claudia Donoso as well as the three co-editors.

4:00-4:30 Closing Remarks: Paul McKenzie Jones