

Friday, March 28 – Saturday, March 29, 2025

eighteenth annual

# UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

March 28+29, 2025

Nipissing University, North Bay



**Keynote Speaker – Dr. Kirsten Greer**

## **“Why Geography Matters: Place-Based Reparative Research”**



**Dr. Greer explores repatriation and repair-work through exhibitions, online collections, and museum research through a First Nation-university-museum partnership. She will discuss ‘Why Geography Matters,’ via three international projects with the Chicago Field Museum, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, and University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.**

Dr. Kirsten Greer, Associate Professor at Nipissing University and Canada Research Chair in Global Environmental Histories and Geographies, specializes in reparative environmental histories. She has collaborated with Dokis First Nation, Nipissing First Nation, and the North Bay Museum on a First Nation-university-museum partnership while integrating humanities and geophysical sciences, to address global environmental challenges.

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Greetings!

I am delighted to welcome you to the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Undergraduate Research Conference at Nipissing University. This event is a showcase of the exceptional research, scholarly, and creative activities produced by students, in collaboration with their faculty mentors. Each year, I am impressed by the high calibre of the presentations and the insightful discussions they generate. It is truly a testament to our students' curiosity, creativity, determination, and dedication.

This year's program offers diverse and timely presentations. The keynote address will be delivered by Dr. Kirsten Greer, Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair in Global Environmental Histories and Geographies at Nipissing University and promises to be a thought-provoking exploration of the role of research in repatriation. Students will share their work via art installations, poetry readings, posters, and panel presentations. It is exciting to see topics from the humanities, arts, sciences, social sciences, and professional programs all within the same two-day program!

The UGRC wouldn't be possible without the dedication and efforts of our organizing committee. Our faculty volunteers – Dean Hay, Laurie Kruk, Dana Murphy, and Laura Peturson – have collaborated alongside staff from the Office of Research and Innovation to create a wonderful celebration of our student's work. Please join me in expressing gratitude to the full committee for their efforts.

I hope that you enjoy this year's conference and encourage you to step outside your own comfort zone to engage with a wide range of topics and presenters. Whether you are a student, staff member, faculty, alumni, Board member, or visitor to our campus, we are excited to welcome you to this wonderful event. Thank you for supporting and celebrating the accomplishments of student scholars.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Barbi Law'.

Barbi Law, PhD

Associate Vice-President, Research, Innovation, & Graduate Studies

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The UGRC Committee would like to thank the following for their support:

### Judges and Moderators:

David Borman	Todd Horton	Dana Murphy	Katrina Srigley
Rob Breton	Stephen Kariuki	James Murton	Nancy Stevens
Natalya Brown	Kristina Karvinen	Grace O'Neill	Tyson Stewart
Robin Gendron	Laurie Kruk	Laura Peturson	David Tabachnick
Kirsten Greer	Stacey Mayhall	Gyllian Phillips	Richard Wenghofer
Geoff Hartley	Gillian McCann	Meredith Schertzinger	Sarah Winters
Dean Hay			

### Departments:

Advancement	Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic
External Relations	Office of Research, Innovation & Graduate Studies
Facility Services	Print Plus
Marketing & Communications	University Technology Services
Office of the President	

### Student Assistants:

MacKenzie Boldt	Elizabeth Primeau
Katelyn Macintosh	Madison Small

### Supporting Faculty Members:

Thank you to all the faculty members who involved students in your research, encouraged them to apply to the conference, put together panels, and promoted free inquiry as an essential element of the university.

### NUSU:

The conference organizers would also like to thank the Nipissing University Student Union (NUSU), whose support helped make the conference possible.





# UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

## PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

### FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2025

Time	Program	Location
4:00-6:00 PM	<b>Conference Registration</b>	Main NU Building: Foyer
6:00-6:30 PM	<b>Opening Remarks</b> Nathan Kozuskanich, Faculty Representative Ann-Barbara Graff, Provost & VP, Academic	NU Theatre (F213)
6:30-7:15 PM	<b>Keynote Address</b> Dr. Kirsten Greer, "Why Geography Matters: Place-Based Reparative Research"	NU Theatre (F213)
7:45-9:30 PM	<b>Poster Session</b>	NUSU Centre: Foyer
7:45-9:30 PM	<b>Art Exhibition</b>	NUSU Centre: Gallery
7:45-9:30 PM	<b>Poetry &amp; Spoken Word Presentations</b>	NUSU Gallery & Window Room
7:45-10:00 PM	<b>Reception</b>	NUSU Centre: Foyer

### SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025

Time	Program	Location
8:30-9:30 AM	<b>Conference Registration</b> Coffee, tea and pastries	Small Cafeteria (A246)
9:00-10:30 AM	<b>Concurrent Panels: Session 1</b>	Main NU Building
10:30-10:45 AM	<b>Break</b>	Small Cafeteria (A246)
10:45-12:15 PM	<b>Concurrent Panels: Session 2</b>	Main NU Building
12:15-1:15 PM	<b>Lunch &amp; Closing Ceremony</b> Kevin Wamsley, President & Vice-Chancellor Barbi Law, Associate Vice-President, Research, Innovation & Graduate Studies	Small Cafeteria (A246)

## PROGRAM: FRIDAY, MARCH 28

**4:00-6:00 PM**                      **Registration**                      **Main NU Building: Foyer**

**6:00-6:30 PM**                      **Opening Remarks**                      **NU Theatre (F213)**

Nathan Kozuskanich, Faculty Representative  
Ann-Barbara Graff, Provost & Vice-President Academic

**6:30-7:15 PM**                      **Keynote Address**                      **NU Theatre (F213)**

Dr. Kirsten Greer, Canada Research Chair in Global Environmental Histories & Geographies  
"Why Geography Matters: Place-Based Reparative Research"

**7:45-9:30 PM**                      **Poster Presentations**                      **NUSU Centre: Foyer**

Moderator: Dana Murphy

### Group 1: Health

Judge: Grace O'Neill

Emma Peever	Perceived influencers on teacher-coach engagement in school-based physical activity opportunities: A rural, Northern Ontario perspective
Taylor Williams, Isabelle Lebel	Illuminating Social Exclusion as a determinant of health among military spouses
Hayden Lloyd	Key Mechanisms in Building Successful Community-Based Initiatives for People affected by Rare Dementia
Schyler Daniw	Current Landscape of Support for Indigenous Families Affected by Rare and Young Onset Dementia
Isabelle Lebel	Health care experiences for Francophone Families Affected by Rare and Young Onset Dementia

### Group 2: Environment & Sustainability

Judge: Geoff Hartley

Khyatiben Chaudhari	Change detection project
Honey Sharma	Analysing the change in the Satluj river in the Northern India water level during summer 2019 and 2024
Aldrin Mascarenhas	Change in infrastructure due to large scale projects
Josh Landry	Determining Forest Fire Impact of Temagami-North Bay 069 Using Multispectral Aerial Imagery from 2016 and 2021
Gokul Krishna Chandana Parambath	Flooding of Coastal Wetland in Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary, Tamilnadu, India due to Dilapidated Checkdam using Sentinel 2 Data (2020-24)

### Group 3: Natural & Environmental Sciences

Judge: Stephen Kariuki

Christina Belowos	Assessing the land cover changes associated with a new solar farm constructed in Capreol, ON, Canada, using Landsat 8 and 9 satellite Imagery dated 2013 and 2024
Eve Schroeder	The hydro physical properties of regenerated Sphagnum moss in metal contaminated peatlands
Sierra Russel	Aldol-type condensation between isatin and indole-2-thione: An interesting building block for the synthesis of complex organic molecules
Rayna Landis	Analysis of glutathione synthetase deficiency inhibition in Drosophila melanogaster as a model for glutathione synthetase deficiency in humans

### Group 4: Psychology

Judge: Meredith Schertzinger

Tess Matthews	Language Proficiency and Lie Detection
Paige Armstrong, Rebecca Landry	The Bilingual Disadvantage for an Advantage in Implicit Memory
Brandon Mayer	Emotional Speech and Distractibility: Age-Related Differences in Cognitive Task Performance
Julia Tichbourne	Does Emotional Intelligence Moderate the Relationship Between Testosterone and Aggression?

### Group 5: Psychology & Archaeology

Judge: Dean Hay

Diljan Sidhu, Yusuf Khan	Investigating the Social Transmission of Face Preferences using Eyetracking and Functional Near-Infrared Spectroscopy
Ella Shantz	The effects of temporal delay on auditory integration in older and younger adults
Sadiya Parsons	Age Differences in Visual Processing: Investigating Reaction Time and Binocular Suppression in Younger and Older Adults
Gabrielle LeBoeuf	New Perspectives on Ancient History: Experiential Learning through the Study of Material Culture



**7:45-9:30 PM**

**Art Exhibition**

**NUSU Centre: Gallery**

Judges: Natalya Brown, David Borman, and Sarah Winters

**Group 1: Identity**

Madalyn Bujas	"Self Reflection"
Vanessa Joseph	"Innu-aimun mak Innu-aitun (Innu language and way of life)"
Emma Bryan	"My Friends"
Hannah Leighton	"Dark Side of My Mind/ Invisible"
Dakota Corbeil	"Expiration (Birth)Date"

**Group 2: The Environment**

Meaghan Fraser	"Turning the Page toward Extinction"
Ross Kozuskanich	"Sundown Scrap Pier (Look Around)"
JD Dixon	"Gone"
Erin Jenner	"Croaking Shadow"
Rebekah Stoddart	"Monkeybars and Climber"

**Group 3: Interrogating Social Structures**

Emily Maville	"War Burger"
Anna Johnstone	"Me Too 'Bronze'," "The Patches Sisters"
Katelyn Adams	"Alongside Nature and Time"
Emma Derochie	"Must be the Hysteria," "Catastrophize with Flair Darling," "In all Her Glory"
Jessica Christie	"The Rise and Fall of Mona Lisa"
Aylea Teel	"To be consumed (After Hoch)"

**Off-Campus Exhibition**

The Bachelor of Fine Arts Graduate Exhibition is currently at the W.K.P. Kennedy Gallery at 150 Main Street East, North Bay. You are invited to view the following juried work by:

Emma Derochie	Hannah Leighton	Jordyn Quayle	Aylea Teel
Meaghan Fraser	Emily Maville	Rebekah Stoddart	

**Exhibition dates:** March 21 – April 4, 2025

**Gallery hours:** Tues-Sat, 12:00-4:00 PM

<b>7:45-9:30 PM</b>	<b>Poetry &amp; Spoken Word Presentations</b>	<b>NUSU Centre</b>
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<b>Poetry Group 1</b>	<b>NUSU-Window Room</b>
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Moderator: Gillian McCann	Judge: Trevor Smith
Anna Johnstone	"The Old Bottle Dump"
Sarwanjeet Kaur	"Authenticity of the Deceptive Paradise"
Kylie Lenihan	"Anger," "Paralyzed," "Healing," and "Recovery"
Noah Miles	"The Myth of Endless Growth"
Amaya Ojeda-Bustamante	"The Cage"
Indulekha Thaimadathil Venu	"The Memory You Can't Erase; A Poem"

<b>Poetry Group 2</b>	<b>NUSU-Gallery</b>
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Moderator: Laurie Kruk	Judge: Gyllian Phillips
Emily Sanders	"Eve"
Emma Nason	"Sight Seekers"
Lyric Arcand	"I am The River"
Gregory Decaire	"Paris Syndrome"
Simon DellAquila	"Elegy to Sisyphus"
Mackenzie Heath	"John 15:13"
Zaphrin Hodgins	"The Space Between Branch and Root Belongs to You"

<b>7:45-10:00 PM</b>	<b>Reception</b>	<b>NUSU Centre: Foyer</b>
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<b>PROGRAM: SATURDAY, MARCH 29</b>
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<b>8:30-9:30 AM</b>	<b>Conference Registration</b>	<b>Small Cafeteria (A246)</b>
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Coffee, Tea & Pastries

<b>9:00-10:30 AM</b>	<b>Concurrent Panels: Session 1</b>
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<b>#1 Challenges in Public Health</b>	<b>Room A224</b>
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Moderator: Stacey Mayhall	Judge: Kristina Karvinen
Caitlyn Aasman	The Social Determinants of Health and Addiction: Examining Substance Use as a Public Health Issue Rather Than a Moral Failing

Darwin Parkes	The Industry of Incarceration and the Construction of Crime
Ella Michaud	The Utilization of Respite Services and Perceived Mental Health of Informal Caregivers in Canada
Pamela Forest	Addressing Gender Based Violence Support Needs for Indigenous Women with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities
Sophia Shelley	Type One Diabetes Connections: Global Networks from Beta Cells to Looping

## #2 Creative Responses

Room A226

Moderator: Sarah Winters

Judge: Todd Horton

Jessica Dowless	An Alternate Perspective: "The Gardener" as a Creative Response to Frances Hodgson Burnett's <i>The Secret Garden</i>
Kaelin Dewar	"This Cup" as a Reflection of Gethsemane
McKenna McFatridge	Talking 'bout the Midnight Rambler: Reflections on "The Stranger" as a Response to Charles Perrault's "Little Red Riding Hood"

## #3 Literature, Existentialism, and Memory

Room B211

Moderator: Gyllian Phillips

Judge: Tyson Stewart

Emma Bezeau	Remember Who You Are: The Use of Memory in <i>The Sense of An Ending</i> and <i>Clifford</i> to Create Personal Meaning
Emily Sanders	Essence and Self-Loathing: Existentialism in The Sense of an Ending and Krapp's Last Tape
Jonah Horsman	Memory, Nostalgia, and Forgetfulness: Nietzsche's Analysis of Time and Amor Fati

## #4 Politics, Economics, and Religion

Sandbox

Moderator: David Tabachnick

Judge: Robin Gendron

Breanna Boissonneault	Symptomatic Capitalism - Marx's analysis of capitalism; Critiques, Shortcomings, Revolution, Utopia
Kennedy Bond	Reforming the Olympics: A Review of Current Problems and Remediation Strategies
Kydmen Brown	Unending History: Nostalgia For When the World Was Colder
Mitchell Dean	The Religious Marketplace: The Role of Discourse in the Emergence of Christianity

**#5 Quantitative Methods of Analysis****Room A122**

Moderator: Kirsten Greer

Judge: Dean Hay

Desiree Paczay Analyzing Short Texts using Wordscores

Josiah-Deren Dixon Paradox of Hydroelectric Dams: Environmental and Geographical Analysis of the James Bay Hydroelectric Project

Prisha Vyas The Influence of Communication Mode on Deception Strategies

**10:30-10:45 AM****BREAK****Small Cafeteria (A246)****10:45-12:15 PM****Concurrent Panels: Session 2****#6 Braiding Towards *Mno Bmaadziwin*****Room A224**

Moderator: Nancy Stevens

Judge: Tyson Stewart

Atlas Gifford Beyond the Status Quo: A Grassroots Community Organizing Toolkit for Northern Ontario

Anna Johnstone Ojibwe Spirit Ponies: The Spirits of Hope

Cheyenne Sego (Re)Matrifying Leadership: Healing Our Relations and Addressing Lateral Violence Among Indigenous Women

Sarwanjeet Kaur Exiled from Belonging: A Journey into Homelessness

**#7 Magic, Realism, and Fantasy****Room A226**

Moderator: Rob Breton

Judge: Richard Wenghofer

Blaze Cucksey Deafening Silence as Heard Through Magic: Trauma Response in *The House of the Spirits* and *Encanto*Noah Miles Irrational, Nonlinear, Contradictory: Magic Realism and Trauma in *Encanto* and "The Faery Handbag"

Raleigh Darling "What Have I Done?": Shame and Guilt in The Lord of the Rings

Zaphrin Hodgins The Rule of the Ring: Exploring Desire and the One Ring in J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Lord of The Rings*

**#8 Narrative and Memory: Monuments and Non-Monuments****Room B211**

Moderator: Todd Horton

Judge: Kristina Karvinen

Darwin Parkes	Where Oh Where Did the Elders Go: Queer Erasure and the AIDs Crisis
Greg Hornby	The Politics of Memory: Colonialism, Archaeology, and the Nipissing Feast of the Dead
Hilda Danquah Konadu	Discrimination

**#9 Round Table: The Legacy of the Nipissing Homemakers Club****Sandbox**

Moderator: Katrina Srigley

Panelists:	A. Bousfield	J. Rushston	M. Taylor
	A. Gonneau	K. McLellan	M. Wade
	A. Mercer	D. Parr	

**#10 Understanding Culture Through Art****Room A122**

Moderator: James Murton

Judge: Dean Hay

Ames McMaster	Spirited Away: Examining the Intersections of Youth Exploitation Through Film
Katelyn Adams	Exposed and Erased: The Politics of Censorship and the Reclamation of Sexual Autonomy in Feminist Art.
Rebekah Stoddart	These Are Not Distinct

**12:15-1:15 PM****Lunch & Closing Ceremony****Small Cafeteria (A246)**

Barbi Law, Associate Vice-President, Research, Innovation & Graduate Studies  
Kevin Wamsley, President & Vice-Chancellor

**Abstracts**

Check out the abstracts and artist statements for each presentation at [www.nipissingu.ca/ugrc](http://www.nipissingu.ca/ugrc) or via the QR code to the right.



## NOTES





**3MT<sup>®</sup> THREE MINUTE THESIS**  
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discover  
research

**Tues. April 1**  
**3:00pm**  
**Small Caf (A246)**

**BFA  
GRADUATE  
EXHIBITION**

EMMA DEROCHIE  
MEAGHAN FRASER  
HANNAH LEIGHTON  
EMILY MAVILLE  
JORDYN QUAYLE  
REBEKAH STODDART  
AYLEA TEEL

**March 21 - April 4, 2025**  
**Opening Reception: March 21, 6 - 8PM**  
**WKP Kennedy Gallery**  
**150 Main St. E. North Bay**  
Gallery Hours:  
Tuesday - Saturday 12-4pm

[www.nipissingu.ca/ugrc](http://www.nipissingu.ca/ugrc)

#ugrc2025



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