

# 9th Annual Contract Faculty Colloquium Program

## Friday, May 3rd

10:45 Introduction & Welcome: Sarika Bose and Contract Faculty Committee

### 11:00-12:00 Panel: A Discussion on Academic Labour and Contract Faculty

11:00 - 11:15 Sarika Bose (Lecturer, EL&L): Overview

11:15 - 11:25 Charmaine Gorrie (Lecturer, AMNE)  
"Precarity and Mental Health"

11:25 - 11:35 Meredith Beales (Lecturer, JWAM)  
"Precarious Presence in a Scholarly Landscape"

11:35 - 11:45 Carellin Brooks (Lecturer, Wood Science)  
"The Effect of Student Opinion Surveys on Teaching"

11:45 - 12:00 Questions and Discussion

### 12:00 - 12:40 LUNCH BREAK

12:45 - 1:00 Angela Andersen (Sessional Lecturer, Creative Studies)  
"Architectural Responses from the Margins: Buildings as Activism"

1:05 - 1:20 Suzanne James (Lecturer, EL&L)  
"Subversive Fictions for Young Adult Readers by Indigenous Writers: Drew Hayden Taylor's  
The Night Wanderer and Cherie Dimaline's The Marrow Thieves"

1:25 - 1:45 Isabel Machado (Lecturer, GRSJ)  
"Queens and Kings of the South(s): Joy as Defiance"

1:50 - 2:05 Meredith Beales (Lecturer, JWAM)  
"The "Perfect Criminal:" Iago, Naïve Reading, and Agatha Christie's Curtain: Poirot's Last  
Case"

2:10 - 2:25 Arianna Dagnino (Sessional Lecturer, FHIS)  
"Who Should Write War Poetry in the 21st Century?"

### 2:25 - 2:40 COFFEE BREAK

2:45 - 3:00 Paul Lusina (Lecturer, ECE)  
"Teaching Community Engagement Using the Social Impact Lab Toolkit"

3:05 - 3:20 Azita Madadi Noei (Lecturer, LFS) & Anahita Noee (Sessional Lecturer, LFS)  
"Exploring Academic Disparities and Equity in an Introductory Science Course: A Three-  
Year Study"

3:25 - 3:45 Sarbjit Sarkaria (Sessional Lecturer, ECE)  
"Generative AI: What's new since ChatGPT?"

3:45 - 4:00 Closing Remarks

# Speaker Profiles

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### **Angela Andersen (Sessional Lecturer, Creative Studies)**

Angela Andersen teaches Art History courses for the faculty of Creative Studies at UBCO that explore both contemporary and historical art and architecture. Her research engages the inter- and intra-religious interactions that take place via the built environment in Muslim contexts, with a focus on the architecture of minority and marginalized groups. She also works with not-for-profit organizations, museums, and educational institutions to focus on the role of architecture in human rights and community wellbeing. Her publications examine the development and use of ceremonial settings, the social and legal ramifications of the oppression of religious sites, and the collection and analysis of oral history and verse as tools for examining the meaning of religious architecture. Andersen is an Associate Editor with the International Journal of Islamic Architecture, and the Program Coordinator of the Epidemic Urbanism Initiative. She also runs an after-school programme for children focused on ideas related to creating and learning about architecture.

### **Suzanne James (Lecturer, English)**

Suzanne James has been teaching in the English department at UBC since 2006, first as a sessional and more recently as a contract lecturer. She oversees the department's First-year Program and has been Chair of the African Studies Minor program for the last five years. Although her PhD is in 19th century Canadian literature, most of her teaching involves contemporary fiction, African literature and Children's literature. This presentation is a condensed version of a paper delivered at a conference in Boston in March of this year.

### **Isabel Machado (Lecturer, GRSSJ)**

Dr. Isabel Machado is a cultural historian whose work often crosses national and disciplinary boundaries. She specializes in the fields of Gender and Sexuality Studies and Celebration Studies. Her first book, *Carnival in Alabama: Marked Bodies and Invented Traditions in Mobile* (2023), uses Mardi Gras as a vehicle to understand

social and cultural changes in Mobile in the second half of the 20th century. For the ongoing oral history project, *Queens of the South*, she is interviewing performers who defy gender normativity in different parts of the globe. She is a Lecturer in the Institute for Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice and serves as co-editor-in-chief for the "Journal of Festival Studies". Her work has been published in "Study the South, Oral History, O Olho da História, and Journal of Festive Studies".

### **Meredith Beales (Lecturer, Journalism, Writing and Media)**

Meredith Beales has been teaching at UBC in the WRDS program since 2016, shortly after she received her PhD in English literature from Washington University in St. Louis. She has been a lecturer since 2020. Her teaching focus has been on academic writing and the first-year experience, but her scholarly background is in English Renaissance literature. She has previously published chapters and performance reviews on Shakespeare, history, and ballet. The paper you will hear today was part of the "Criminal Shakespeares" seminar at the Shakespeare Association of America Conference in April 2024.

### **Arianna Dagnino (Sessional Lecturer, FHIS)**

Arianna Dagnino holds a PhD in Comparative Literature from the University of South Australia and currently teaches in the Italian Studies program at the University of British Columbia. She conducts research on transcultural writing and literary self-translation, for which she was awarded a SSHRC postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Ottawa. Her scholarly publications include the monography "Transcultural Writers and Novels in the Age of Global Mobility" (Purdue UP, 2015). Her academic background also informs her creative work. She is the author of the post-apartheid novel *The Afrikaner* (Guernica, 2019) and of two poetry collections, "Seaborn Eyes" (Ekstasis, 2021) and "Love Scores" (in press) – [www.ariannadagnino.com](http://www.ariannadagnino.com)

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### **Paul Lusina (Lecturer, Electrical and Computer Engineering)**

Paul's role in UBC's Electrical Engineering department began in 2010 as a research project manager. This position soon led to a role developing the 4th year Capstone Engineering Design course. In 2016 Paul was appointed 12-month lecturer in the department where he enjoys experimenting with emerging best practices in teaching such as team-based learning and learning with technology. Paul earned his PhD in Ulm, Germany, in the area of communications technology. He is a Professional Engineer with the Engineering and Geoscientists of B.C., a member of the Canadian Engineering Education Association, and director with the Pacific Energy Innovation Association.

### **Azita Madadi Noei (Lecturer, Food Nutrition and Health)**

Azita Madadi Noei is a lecturer and academic advisor within the faculty of Land and Food Systems at UBC. She obtained her PhD in Food Science from UBC, specializing in dairy chemistry and microbiology. Azita has undergone extensive industrial training in various food processing facilities, which has enriched her understanding of practical applications within the field. With over 25 years of experience in teaching and academia, Azita's current emphasis is on the pedagogical aspects of Food Science, reflecting her commitment to fostering effective learning environments within her discipline. Her dedication to student-centred approach has earned her the Open Education Resources (OER) champion title in 2023.

### **Anahita Madadi-Noee (Sessional Lecturer, Food Nutrition and Health)**

Anahita (Ana) Madadi-Noee holds an MSc. in Chemical Engineering with a specialization in Food Engineering and biotechnology. She is teaching food science courses in the faculty of Land and Food systems at UBC. With over 20 years of combined experience in academia and industry, Ana has developed a deep understanding of effective learning methodologies and program development. Currently pursuing her Doctor of Education degree in Distance Education, Ana's focus lies in leveraging learning technologies to enhance distance education. This blend of technical expertise in food engineering coupled with a pedagogical focus highlights Ana's multidisciplinary approach towards education.

### **Sarbjit Sarkaria (Sessional Lecturer, Electrical and Computer Engineering)**

Sarbjit Sarkaria has enjoyed teaching CPEN 502 as a sessional lecturer since 1994. He is a member of the Engineers and Geoscientists of BC, received his Ph.D. in Neural Computing from Aston University, UK in 1991 and is a passionate follower of the latest advancements in deep neural networks and artificial intelligence. His recent publications address the application of reinforcement learning to optimal decision making in disaster response scenarios. Outside of UBC, Sarbjit

works for ProCogia, a local high-tech data consultancy firm. His past employers include Finning, Motorola, Nokia and UBC founded MacDonald Dettwiler & Associates.

### **Carellin Brooks (Lecturer, Wood Science)**

Carellin Brooks teaches scholarly writing and communication courses for the Department of Wood Science and Faculty of Forestry. Her pedagogical interests include creativity in the writing classroom, student engagement strategies, classroom climate, and effective writing assessment and feedback. She has a PhD from Oxford University in Modern Foreign Languages and has written four books, including an academic monograph on the subject of the phallic woman in twentieth-century texts. Her fifth book and first book of poetry, *Learned*, is forthcoming from Book\*hug Press.

### **Charmaine Gorrie (Lecturer, AMNES)**

Charmaine Gorrie is a communications strategies specialist and lecturer in the department of Wood Science, Faculty of Forestry. She worked at UBC as a sessional instructor for two decades and has also taught at other institutions including Douglas, Kwantlen, Emily Carr, and Fairleigh Dickinson. She has written six books.

### **Your Host:**

### **Sarika Bose, Chair, UBC Faculty Association Contract Faculty Committee (Lecturer, English)**

Sarika Bose (PhD, B'ham, U.K.) has been a contract faculty member at UBC since 1999. She is currently a Lecturer in the Department of English Language and Literatures, teaching Victorian and Children's literature. Since 2014, she has been serving as the Chair of the UBC Faculty Association's Contract Faculty Committee. She also served as the Chair of the national Contract Academic Staff Committee from 2017-2021, and currently serves on the International Board of the Coalition for Contingent Academic Labour. Her publications include *Steps to Writing Well*, (Nelson), *The Octoroon* (Broadview), and "Marginalization, Invisibility and Precariousness in the Academy" (U of T Press). Her latest conference papers have been "Citizenship and Statelessness in the Academy: The Case of the Academic Adjunct" (ATINER, Athens 2023) and "The State of Governance in the University: Contract Faculty" (CUFABC, Vancouver 2024).

