

Interdisciplinary Studies Conference Winter 2019

# Rooted in Place

## The City of Edmonton

Amiskwaciwâskahikan  
Treaty 6 Territory



# January 23–24, 2019

FEATURING

**Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat  
and Dr. Brian Walsh**



#ISwinter19

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THE  
**KING'S**  
UNIVERSITY

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

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## Wednesday, January 23

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8:30	Welcome table and coffee in gym breezeway	
9:00	Opening	
9:30	Jerusalem Dreams, Babylon Nightmares: A Christian Urban Vision <i>Dr. Brian Walsh</i>	Gym
10:30	Break	
10:45–12:00	Breakout Sessions	
12:00–1:15	Lunch	
1:15–2:15	Large-Group Sessions (see list and descriptions on pages 4–6)	
2:30–3:30	Meet with faculty markers for paper assignment or discussion (see lists at registration table for room assignment)	

### EVENING PUBLIC LECTURE

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7:00	Romans Disarmed: Putting Romans in Its Place <i>Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat and Dr. Brian Walsh</i>	N102
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## Thursday, January 24

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9:00	Opening	
9:30	Embodying Lament, Sowing Hope: Embracing the City in the Face of Climate Catastrophe <i>Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat</i>	Gym
10:30	Break	
10:45–12:00	Breakout Sessions	
12:00–1:15	Lunch	
1:15–2:00	Rooted in Place <i>Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat, Dr. Brian Walsh, Dr. Neal DeRoo</i>	Gym
2:00–2:15	Closing	
2:30–3:30	Discussion Sessions (for students in INST 300/310 and 400/410)	

Cover photo by current King's student Christopher Wood.

# BREAKOUT SESSIONS

For full session descriptions see pages 7–11.

<b>1</b>	<b>Stones and City Bones: Teaching in the City</b>	
	<i>Mackenzie Ground</i>	<i>N111</i>
<b>2</b>	<b>Lessons on Community from Edmonton's Inner City</b>	
	<i>Carissa Halton</i>	<i>N109</i>
<b>3</b>	<b>Belly of the Beast: Fighting for Climate Justice in the Heart of Alberta</b>	
	<i>Gabrielle Gelderman</i>	<i>N108</i>
<b>4</b>	<b>Whose "Ribbon of Green"? Edmonton's River Valley Parks System</b>	
	<i>Dr. William Van Arragon</i>	<i>N102</i>
<b>5</b>	<b>Pre-Arrival, Migration, and Settlement: Experiences of Newcomers to Edmonton</b>	
	<i>Rispah Tremplay and Eun Jin Kim</i>	<i>N209</i>
<b>6</b>	<b>City and World</b>	
	<i>Alice Major</i>	<i>N210</i>
<b>7</b>	<b>Homelessness, Housing, and Poverty in Edmonton: One Agency's Point of View</b>	
	<i>Murray Soroka and Liam Faucher</i>	<i>The Level</i>
<b>8</b>	<b>Healthy Neighbourhoods, Healthy Cities</b>	
	<i>Howard Lawrence and Julie Elford</i>	<i>N208</i>
<b>9</b>	<b>Edmonton Area Land Trust</b>	<b>Wednesday only</b>
	<i>Rebecca Ellis</i>	<i>N118</i>
<b>10</b>	<b>Watershed Discipleship: Caring for Our Place</b>	<b>Thursday only</b>
	<i>Dr. Joanne Moyer</i>	<i>N118</i>
<b>11</b>	<b>Going on a Treasure Hunt: Social Enterprises in Edmonton</b>	
	<i>Anna Bubel</i>	<i>N219</i>
<b>12</b>	<b>Alberta as Home: An Exploration of What This Place Is For and How to Indwell It</b>	
	<i>Dr. Vern Peter</i>	<i>L116</i>
<b>13</b>	<b>Looking Ahead to the City Plan</b>	<b>Thursday only</b>
	<i>Councillor Michael Walters</i>	<i>N101</i>

# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**Dr. Sylvia C. Keesmaat** is an adjunct professor at Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges at the University of Toronto. She is the co-author of *Colossians Remixed: Subverting the Empire* and *Romans Disarmed: Resisting Empire/Demanding Justice* (both with Brian Walsh). Dr. Keesmaat speaks frequently on issues related to biblical faith and creation care, sustainable living, and radical discipleship. She earned her Permaculture Design Certificate in 2014 and lives on an organic solar-powered farm with her husband, Brian Walsh, and a fluctuating number of people and animals.



**Dr. Brian J. Walsh** is the pastor of the Wine Before Breakfast community and a Christian Reformed campus minister at the University of Toronto. He will be speaking on themes around a biblical theology of the city and the epistle to the Romans. He is the co-author (with Steve Bouma-Prediger) of *Beyond Homelessness: Christian Faith in a Culture of Displacement*, and (with Sylvia Keesmaat) *Colossians Remixed: Subverting the Empire* and *Romans Disarmed: Resisting Empire/Demanding Justice* (forthcoming, spring 2019).

## LARGE-GROUP SESSIONS

### Secret Alberta: The Amber Valley Settlement

L116

Just north of Edmonton, the community of Amber Valley was established in 1909 by Black settlers fleeing racism in the United States. Learn more about this historic community from a descendant of the original settlers.



**Myrna Wisdom** is the granddaughter of original Black Pioneers who settled in Amber Valley, and has been an advocate for its restoration and commemoration. A member of the East Athabasca History Book Society, she has compiled stories and photographs of those who lived in and attended school in various districts, including Toles School in Amber Valley, into a book, *Land of Dreams*. Myrna is currently a member of the Amber Valley Community Association.

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### Holistic Approaches to Life and Living

Gym

This presentation will focus on understanding life and living in relation to holistic teachings.

**Dr. Dwayne Donald** is a descendent of the amiskwaciyiniwak and the Papaschase Cree and an associate professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta. His work

# LARGE-GROUP SESSIONS

focuses on ways in which Indigenous philosophies can shape our understandings of curriculum and pedagogy. (Pictured below with Elder Bob Cardinal.)



**Elder Bob Cardinal** is a member of Maskekosihk Enoch Cree Nation and an Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta. He worked for close to 20 years as a Cultural Advisor in Alberta Health Services, Spiritual Care Services at the Royal Alexandra Hospital.

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## Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board: How Cities Work with Rural Partners

**The Level**

Cities are not islands unto themselves; they need to find creative ways to partner with their rural neighbours. The Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board, which just celebrated its 10th anniversary, is an example of the benefits of cooperation and connection. Learn about their work and the challenges facing this region with two of the board's leaders.



**Dr. Jodi L. Abbott** is the President and CEO of NorQuest College. She has just completed her term as CEO of the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board, where she played an integral role in facilitating progress on the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Growth Plan with 13 Mayors in the region. She was also named as one of the Top 100 Most Powerful Women by the Women's Executive Network in 2015 and 2018, received the first-ever District 99 Toastmaster Award in Leadership and Communication, and was named a Global Woman of Vision.



**Karen Wichuk** is the new CEO of Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board. She has more than a decade of leadership experience in the public and post-secondary sectors, including Executive Lead for Health City, a multi-stakeholder economic development initiative launched by Mayor Iveson in April 2016. In addition to her M.A. and law degree, Karen completed the Harvard Business School Executive Education Program for Leadership Development.

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## Livable Cities: Writing in Place

**N102**

What makes a livable city, a place where all people and all aspects of the natural world can thrive? This session will explore what makes a city livable and the role of place in writing with three prestigious authors who all explore aspects of living in Edmonton in their works.



**Mackenzie Ground** is a writer from Enoch Cree Nation and Edmonton, Alberta. She is a Ph.D. student in the Department of English at Simon Fraser University. Her writing has appeared in the *Glass Buffalo* and *The Capilano Review*.

# LARGE-GROUP SESSIONS



**Carissa Halton** is an award-winning writer and author of *Little Yellow House: Finding Community in a Changing Neighbourhood*. She has won an Alberta and National Magazine Award and her writing has appeared in *Today's Parent*, *Alberta Venture*, *Eighteen Bridges*, and the anthologies *In This Together* and *Broadview Anthology of Expository Prose*. She can often be heard on CBC's Edmonton AM.



**Alice Major** has published 11 books of poetry and a book of essays, *Intersecting Sets: A Poet Looks at Science*. Her latest collection is *Welcome to the Anthropocene*, poems that explore the comedy and tragedy of this particular time in human history. She served as the city of Edmonton's first poet laureate, and received the 2017 Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Distinguished Artist Award.

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## City Council 101: Making Your Voice Heard

## Knoppers Hall

It has been said that the most important meeting you can attend as a citizen is the meeting of your City Council, yet many people have no idea how it works. This session will introduce you to ways that you can make your own voice heard, and what the path to politics looked like for one King's alum.



**William Choy** was first elected to Stony Plain Town Council in 2007, and elected to the Office of Mayor in 2012 (re-elected in 2017). During his time as Mayor, many new initiatives have been launched, making the community stronger and local government more transparent. Mayor Choy is proud of Stony Plain's reputation among municipalities in Alberta of working exceptionally well together.



**Jane Purvis** has been a public engagement advisor with the City of Edmonton since 2013. In her work, Jane aims to help citizens feel connected and that they've made meaningful contributions to decision-making. She has a master's in planning and environmental studies from York University and a certificate in public participation from the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2).



**Lyndsay Ward** has been a public engagement advisor with the City of Edmonton since 2014. She has over 12 years of experience working with municipal governments of various sizes. Lyndsay has a bachelor's of applied science in communications from Simon Fraser University, and diploma in public relations from University of Victoria.

# BREAKOUT SESSIONS

## 1. Stones and City Bones: Teaching in the City

N111

In this breakout session, we will talk about rocks and concrete. In my thesis, I thought about human relationships with rocks, particularly with the role of rocks in concrete and in cities and in nehiyaw, Plains Cree, ceremony and law. What is a city that is open to Indigenous citizenry and the more-than-human-life living there? This session will end with a reading from my project.

**Mackenzie Ground** is a writer and Ph.D. student. (See full bio on page 5.)

## 2. Lessons on Community from Edmonton's Inner City

N109

Our oldest neighbourhoods and their diverse residents spanning class and culture have much to teach us about our society's greatest weaknesses and strengths. In this talk, you will be inspired to take a more active and compassionate role in making your communities safe, just, and inclusive.

**Carissa Halton** is an award-winning writer. (See full bio on opposite page.)

## 3. Belly of the Beast: Fighting for Climate Justice in the Heart of Alberta

N108

Join members of Climate Justice Edmonton as they talk about what climate justice can look like here in Edmonton/Treaty 6 territory. The interactive breakout session will include a discussion of how climate activism intersects with movements for economic and social justice and some of the ways you can get involved in local climate justice work.



**Climate Justice Edmonton** is a collective committed to social, environmental, and climate justice. We seek to empower individuals and communities to take action on climate change, support Indigenous resistance, and challenge harmful corporate and political practices.

## 4. Whose "Ribbon of Green"? Edmonton's River Valley Parks System

N102

In this session we'll consider the history of Edmonton's "Ribbon of Green," the river valley parks that comprises North America's largest urban parkland system. Edmontonians are often very proud of the river valley—but how did Edmonton create such a large public parks system, and who is it for?



**Will Van Arragon** teaches history at King's. He is married to the Director of Interdisciplinary Studies at King's.

# BREAKOUT SESSIONS

## 5. Pre-Arrival, Migration, and Settlement: Experiences of Newcomers to Edmonton

N209

Each migration journey is a unique story. Some leave their birth country by choice and with enough resources and support to start a new life. Others flee because of natural disasters, fear of persecution, armed conflicts or civil unrest. Despite all the different individual journeys, the common thread that connects all the stories is the hope for a better future.



**Rispah Tremblay** works at the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers (EMCN) as the Manager of Settlement Services. She has worked in the field of Newcomer Supports for over ten years. Rispah is passionate and committed to supporting and improving the lives of new immigrants and refugees to Canada through her work with EMCN and other community initiatives.



**Eun-Jin Kim** has been supporting newcomers at the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers (EMCN) for ten years. She is currently working as the site manager at the Welcome Centre for Immigrants (WCI) and the West End Community Connections (WECC). She is also managing a women's program "Immigrant Women's Integration Network (I-WIN)."

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## 6. City and World

N210

Poets and scientists observe the world in order to understand it—and understanding the world means starting right where we are. Edmonton has its own particular geology, biology, climate, and history that make it unique. Yet this place is inextricably linked to the planet; paying attention here can be a lens on the whole. Join this talk/discussion with Alice Major, a poet inspired by science and by this city.

**Alice Major** has published 11 books of poetry and a book of essays, *Intersecting Sets: A Poet Looks at Science*. (See her full bio on page 6.)

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## 7. Homelessness, Housing, and Poverty in Edmonton: One Agency's Point of View

The Level

It's been ten years since Edmonton implemented its plan to end homelessness. Come and hear about one agency's journey—the Jasper Place Wellness Centre—and what grew out of their experience in the last ten years.



**Murray Soroka** is the founder and CEO of the Jasper Place Wellness Centre (JPWC), the first agency to operate a Housing First team in Edmonton. The agency began as an emergency support, but soon transitioned into helping people experiencing homelessness find permanent housing. JPWC continues to serve



# BREAKOUT SESSIONS

vulnerable populations with its 30-unit supportive housing complex, a social enterprise called Redemptive Developments, a medical clinic, and a unique food security initiative called Food4Good.



**Liam Faucher** moved to Edmonton in 2013 to attend Mount Carmel Bible School. He worked at Hope Mission before moving on to the Jasper Place Wellness Center, helping to facilitate housing opportunities for people experiencing homelessness. Liam is a student of The King's University.

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## 8. Healthy Neighbourhoods, Healthy Cities

**N208**

A connected and caring city starts with connected and caring neighbourhoods. The City of Edmonton has developed and launched a framework to support neighbours connecting at the block and neighbourhood level. Come and learn about Abundant Community Edmonton, why neighbouring is important and how you can be involved at the block, neighbourhood, and municipal level.



**Howard Lawrence** has consulted on neighbourhood health across North America and is currently working for the City of Edmonton and Abundant Community Edmonton (ACE). Howard has a passion for grassroots neighbourhood engagement and continues to work collaboratively with his Highlands neighbourhood, ABCD Institute, Tamarack Canada and others, to find ways to enable people to build neighbourly relationships and increase their local collective capacity.



**Julie Elford** has a passion for grassroots community development, and serves as a coordinator for Abundant Community Edmonton (ACE) with the City of Edmonton. She collaborates at the local level to support neighbourhood engagement and neighbourhood health by tapping into the strengths that already exist.

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## 9. Edmonton Area Land Trust

**N118 (Wednesday only)**

How can we possibly protect enough land and habitat for species to survive in a landscape that is already so impacted by human activity, and so fragmented? While national parks, provincial recreation areas, and other spaces protected by any level of government are key to conserving land in its natural state, private land conservation through land trusts, such as the Edmonton and Area Land Trust (EALT), also plays an important role. We will discuss how private land conservation works, what challenges lie in the way, and how you can be part of local conservation.



**Rebecca Ellis** has been working for the Edmonton and Area Land Trust (EALT) as its Conservation Manager since 2012. She manages EALT's conservation lands, as well as other monitoring and outreach programs. She received her B.Sc. in envi-

# BREAKOUT SESSIONS

ronmental studies from The King's University and her master's of environmental management from the University of Queensland, Australia. For more information about EALT, visit [www.ealt.ca](http://www.ealt.ca).

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## 10. Watershed Discipleship: Caring for Our Place N118 (Thursday only)

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Watershed discipleship is a creation care approach rooted in our local context. It encourages developing an intimate knowledge of and connection to our bioregion, ensuring its wellbeing and adapting our needs to what our watershed can provide. Using watershed discipleship principles, participants in this workshop will explore aspects of Edmonton's watershed and consider how we can live faithfully within this context.



**Joanne Moyer** is an assistant professor of environmental studies and geography at The King's University. Her recent research explores faith-based organizations engaged in environmental work in Kenya and Canada. She has worked with the Mennonite Central Committee and currently serves as a council member for the Mennonite Creation Care Network.

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## 11. Going on a Treasure Hunt: Social Enterprises in Edmonton N219

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What social enterprises operate in Edmonton and how do they achieve their financial and social impacts? This session will explore a vision of economic development rooted in business involvement in the community, and will discuss the saving and renovation of an historic Art Deco building in the heart of McCauley as one example of social enterprise.



**Anna Bubel** is a social entrepreneur who runs Another Way consulting firm, which has worked with a wide range of community programs. She has master's degrees in business administration, community economic development, and environmental design. Anna has developed numerous social enterprises and community development initiatives. She has also taught courses at The King's University.

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## 12. Alberta as Home: An Exploration of What This Place Is For and How to Indwell It L116

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This session will take you on a visual field trip that starts in Edmonton, but that extends across prairies, forests, and mountains, to give a perspective on the unique story of creation that has unfolded beneath our feet. To do this, we'll travel back in time, and witness how Christian faith animates the processes of fire and flood that do our Creator's bidding. In doing so, we'll tell a story of creation that challenges us to re-envision our home, who that home is for, and how to indwell it.

# BREAKOUT SESSIONS



**Vern Peters** has never had a boring job. Past jobs involved canoeing to work, counting flowers, fleeing fires, and feeding more mosquitoes than he ever intended. He has served as a provincial and federal research scientist, and is currently professor of ecology at The King's University; his kids say that means he's a doctor of trees and animals. Vern delights in teaching "from the creation," and helping young people to know the places in which God has planted them.

## 13. Looking Ahead to the City Plan

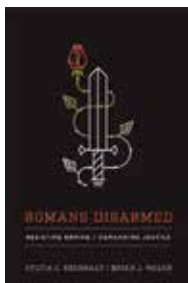
**N101 (Thursday only)**

Join a currently-serving city councillor for this critical look at the City of Edmonton's new City Plan and how it affects our future.

**Councillor Michael Walters** was first elected to Edmonton City Council in 2013 and recently re-elected to his second term on October 16, 2017. Prior to entering public office, Michael spent two decades working as a community organizer and public policy leader, committed to helping people and organizations across Alberta. Michael's vision for Edmonton and Alberta is to build vibrant and affordable neighbourhoods that can fill us with joy, an amazing city and province where we can raise healthy and resilient families, and strong community networks that enable people to work together to make the world a better place.



# SPECIAL EVENTS



## Romans Disarmed

*with Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat and Dr. Brian Walsh*

### Putting Romans in Its Place

PUBLIC LECTURE

**January 23, 2019**  
**7 p.m. in N102**

### Reading Romans from Below

GATHERING FOR LOCAL CLERGY

**January 25, 2019**  
**12 p.m.–2 p.m. in N101**

# ASSIGNMENT FOR KING'S STUDENTS

If you participated in a discussion section (most students in INST 300/310 and 400/410), then you are finished. Students in INST 200/210 should complete the paper assignment as noted below.

You will receive your paper assignment from your faculty marker at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday during the conference. (Check the IS Moodle page as well as the lists at the welcome table by the gym to find out who your marker is and what room to meet.) Your markers will tell you whether they prefer that you submit a hard copy to grade (submit via the front reception desk so the date/time is stamped), or whether they prefer you to upload your paper to Moodle (see below). Either way, your paper assignment is due on **Friday, February 8, at NOON.**

To access the Moodle page:

- ▶ Go to **<http://moodle.kingsu.ca>**
- ▶ Log in with your **six-digit student ID** and your **network/email password**. (See IT in A139 if you encounter any problems.)
- ▶ Click **“My Courses”** on the left side of the screen, and then click **“IS Conference Winter 2018-19.”**

If you have special circumstances or concerns, you must fill out the **Exception Form** on Moodle and submit with appropriate documentation (*before* the assignment is due) to:  
**REBECCA WARREN, Director of Interdisciplinary Studies**  
**[rebecca.warren@kingsu.ca](mailto:rebecca.warren@kingsu.ca) • A222 • 780.465.8332**

## Mission

**THE KING'S UNIVERSITY** exists to provide university education that inspires and equips learners to bring renewal and reconciliation to every walk of life as followers of Jesus Christ, the Servant-King.

## Vision

Our vision is to be widely known as a Christian university serving to build a more humane, just, and sustainable world.



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