

AM & PM Breakout Sessions

AM-1: 10:30 A.M. – 11:45 A.M. & PM-1: 1:00 P.M. – 2:15 P.M.

AM-1 & PM-1

The Power of Storytelling: Amplifying BIPOC Voices

PRESENTER: DR. IZZEDDIN HAWAMDA



Dr. Izzeddin Hawamda was born and raised in a rural village just outside of Nablus in the West Bank, Palestine. He currently serves as the Anti-Racist Education Professional Learning Initiative Coordinator with Louis Riel, River East Transcona, and Winnipeg School Divisions.

Izzeddin has recently completed his PhD in Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Manitoba. Izzeddin has been actively speaking about the power of dialogue and the importance of sharing, listening, and respecting diverse perspectives and narratives. Izzeddin has been telling stories of Palestine publicly using storytelling as an approach to bring communities together.

Through the creation of the “Unbounded Stories” series, Izzeddin aims at connecting the Canadian public with the human face of the Palestinian story. Izzeddin has used Palestinian traditional methods such as Sulha- to promote conflict Resolution, forgiveness and reconciliation. Izzeddin is dedicated to creating opportunities for different communities to share spaces and stories, fostering connections and breaking down barriers. Additionally, he is a member of the CRRIC board and the Countering Radicalization to Violence in Manitoba Schools, and he has been selected to join the inaugural CBC Manitoba Community Advisory Board. Izzeddin is currently teaching Indigenous Languages: Culture, Rights and conflict at the Global College-University of Winnipeg. Izzeddin believes in the transformative power of storytelling, which opens spaces for humanization and building empathy.

This session delves into the transformative impact of storytelling as a means of amplifying perspectives and experiences of racialized people. Participants will explore how storytelling can serve as a catalyst for activism, a pathway for healing historical and personal traumas, and a bridge for fostering understanding and unity across diverse communities.

Key themes will include:

- The role of storytelling in challenging systemic inequities and inspiring social change.
- How creative expression can preserve cultural heritage and resilience.
- Strategies for creating inclusive narratives that honor the richness of BIPOC experiences.

AM-2 & PM-2

Global Solidarity and Diaspora Connections

PRESENTER: DANIEL HIDALGO



Daniel is an action therapist, where his focus is on the advocacy and support of indigenous kids in care. He has always been employed in the human/social services field. He was also briefly a fire paramedic for the city of Winnipeg and has been actively involved in many of

our cities altruistic group in a leadership capacity as a volunteer captain/medic. These groups include Mama Bear Clan, OPK, and Drag the Red. Very recently Daniel created his own grassroots non-profit volunteer group called “CommUNITY204”. The group is composed almost entirely of youth and adults that have been, or currently are in CFS.

Discuss the power of global BIPOC solidarity, looking at the shared struggles, alliances, and movements among different BIPOC communities across borders.

AM-3 & PM-3

Cultural Preservation and Innovation: Honoring Traditions, Shaping the Future

PRESENTER: MTS STAFF

This participatory discussion session will explore the intersection of cultural preservation and innovation. Together, we will highlight efforts to celebrate and safeguard cultural traditions, languages, and practices, while also embracing contemporary expressions of BIPOC cultures in our ways of being and in our activism. This session will offer a space to share stories, strategies, and ideas that honor the past while shaping a dynamic and thriving future.

Whether you’re preserving ancestral knowledge or creating new pathways for expression, your voice matters in this collective conversation.

A leadership symposium for
racialized people by racialized people

Colour of Courage

LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM

April 11 & 12, 2025

Theme: Inspiration

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TEACHERS'
SOCIETY

Program of Events

Friday, April 11, 2025

6:00 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.	Registration
6:30 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.	Opening Remarks and Dinner
7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.	Student Panel Discussion – Student Perspectives: Success, Navigating White Spaces, and the Impact of Racialized Leadership Featuring: Future Leaders
8:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.	Hospitality and Networking

Saturday, April 12, 2025

8:30 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.	Coffee and Refreshments
9:00 A.M. – 10:15 A.M.	Opening Keynote – Racialized Leadership and Political Power Presenter: Isha Khan
10:15 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.	Break
10:30 A.M. – 11:45 A.M.	AM Breakout Sessions AM-1. Dr. Izzeddin Hawamda - The Power of Storytelling: Amplifying BIPOC Voices AM-2. Daniel Hidalgo - Global Solidarity and Diaspora Connections AM-3. MTS Staff - Cultural Preservation and Innovation: Honoring Traditions, Shaping the Future
11:45 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.	Lunch
1:00 P.M. – 2:15 P.M.	PM Breakout Sessions PM-1. Dr. Izzeddin Hawamda - The Power of Storytelling: Amplifying BIPOC Voices PM-2. Daniel Hidalgo - Global Solidarity and Diaspora Connections PM-3. MTS Staff - Cultural Preservation and Innovation: Honoring Traditions, Shaping the Future
2:15 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.	Break
2:30 P.M. – 3:45 P.M.	Closing Keynote – Healing and Resilience in BIPOC Communities Presenter: Dr. Tina Chen

Opening Keynote

ISHA KHAN

Racialized Leadership and Political Power

9:00 A.M. – 10:15 A.M.



Isha Khan (she/her) is a lawyer, educator and community leader dedicated to building a culture of human rights in Canada and beyond. Her professional experience includes her tenure as Executive Director and Senior Counsel of the Manitoba Human

Rights Commission, where she advanced several important rights-based initiatives and public education campaigns. She is also a dedicated community volunteer who serves as Board Chair of United Way Winnipeg. In August of 2020, she began her role as CEO of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

Throughout her life, Khan has helped build communities where everyone is respected and empowered to reach their full potential. She continues that work at the Museum, engaging people around the world in a growing movement for hope and human rights.

This keynote will explore racialized leadership in politics, advocacy, and social movements, and discuss the importance of increasing political representation and participation to create meaningful policy change. Racialized leaders bring critical perspectives shaped by lived experiences of systemic inequities, enabling them to champion inclusive policies. Yet, they face unique challenges, including institutional barriers, tokenism, heightened scrutiny, and the dual burden of representing marginalized communities while addressing broader societal needs. Despite these hurdles, their presence disrupts governance homogeneity and amplifies marginalized voices. This keynote will highlight strategies for overcoming barriers and thriving in leadership roles. Expanding racialized political representation isn't just about equity—it's essential for crafting policies that reflect our society's full diversity and ensuring all voices shape our collective future.

Closing Keynote

DR. TINA CHEN

Healing and Resilience in BIPOC Communities

2:30 P.M. – 3:45 P.M.



An internationally recognized scholar, Dr. Chen's research and teaching focuses on feminism, anti-colonial solidarities, anti-racist activism, and alternative political imaginaries in modern Chinese, Asian and World history. She served as the Department

Head of History from 2013-2020 and has been involved in collegial governance as a long time representative on Senate Executive (2014-2023) and Senate (2011-2023). Dr. Chen is a committed activist and advocate for equity, anti-oppression, and social justice at the University of Manitoba, with local and national community organizations, and within sport organizations. Her work has been recognized through various awards, including WXN Top 100 Women (2021), University of Manitoba Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Campbell Outreach Award (2020), and Canada Race Relations Community Champion Award (2018).

In January 2022, the celebrated historian and social justice activist became the inaugural Executive Lead (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) at UM. In that capacity, Dr. Chen has provided leadership to initiatives that advance equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI). During her term, she has provided support to unit-level EDIA committees and established the EDI-Action Network and the EDI-CAT (Centralized Approval Team) to build on-going opportunities for institution-wide networking, dialogue and information sharing on EDI efforts. She has been actively involved in education and training for students, staff and faculty, delivering a variety of workshops on taking action for equity, anti-racism, diversity and inclusion.

Join us at the end of the day to listen to Dr. Chen's journey in the DEI work.