

2021-2022 Faculty Fellow Biographies

Maria Assif, Associate Professor of English (Teaching Stream), Coordinator of English A02 (Critical Writing about Literature), Faculty Advisor of the UTSC/OISE joint Program

Proposed CEL/CER course: English C02 (Writing for Social Change and Community Engagement)

Maria Assif (she/her)'s research, teaching and writing focus primarily on writing studies, Arab women writers, and undergraduate students as partners (SaP). Her experience with CEL started when she was a graduate student course instructor at Case Western Reserve University, supervising community-based projects for engineers in ENGL 398 (Professional Communication for Engineers) then at Truman College, where she supervised the teaching placements of Loyola University Masters students in English. At UTSC, she piloted in 2020-2021 the first UTSC year-long CEL course, English D02Y (Teaching Academic Writing: Theories, Methods and Community-Based Learning). It explores the theories and practices of teaching academic writing and provides student educators with the practical opportunities to apply their classroom studies and theory to an educational setting through a 60-hour placement component. As a Community-Engaged Teaching Faculty Fellow, she will be developing a new CEL course, English C02 (Writing for Social Change and Community Engagement). During its first half, the class will rhetorically analyze the strategies and ethics of selected activists and public intellectuals who use their writing as a form of social critique and to effect social change. During its second half and through a 20-hour community-engaged placement, students will develop, negotiate, revise, and assess their own writing strategies and ethics as they write on social change issues relevant to the non-profit organization they have partnered with. Equally invaluable to this fellowship experience is her collaboration with a cohort of like-minded colleagues who are invested in community-engaged teaching, learning and research. Having worked with other multi-disciplinary communities of practice in the past, Maria finds the informal exchanges among the group members, regular meetings, candid feedback, resource sharing, and embedded co-mentorship—all within a comprehensive, supportive, and structured framework—highly motivating and often inspirational.

Leanne R. De Souza-Kenney, Assistant Professor (Teaching Stream), Human Biology Program and Health Studies Program, University College. Cross-appointed to the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, UTSG

Proposed CEL/CER course: AIDS: A Global Perspective

Dr. Leanne De Souza-Kenney (she/her) earned her PhD from the Institute of Medical Science at U of T and her MSc from the Department of Nutritional Sciences at U of T. She is an Assistant Professor in the Human Biology Program and Health Studies Program, University College at U of T and is Cross-appointed to the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work at U of T. Leanne's research focuses on chronic disease prevention and examines antecedents to health outcome disparities in marginalized populations. She is the inaugural Fulbright Research Chair in Race and Health Policy at the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, University of Memphis, Tennessee.

Leanne has over 15 years of teaching experience and has received teaching awards and funding for her pedagogical research, including Experiential Learning Funding from UTM for a series of CEL videos that bring experiential learning into the virtual classroom. She has also received funding from U of T Student Life to create a series of Equity workshops for BIPOC students and she is the lead in a longitudinal mixed-methods, pedagogical study about learning and teaching experiences of students and faculty during the pandemic. In a broader step toward innovation, she has also received Global Classroom funding from the Office of Vice-President International, U of T, for two of her courses that will collaborate with partners in Hong Kong and Nigeria. Leanne currently teaches two experiential learning courses: HMB443: Global Hidden Hunger, Human Biology Program and a capstone course at UTM Department of Biology- BIO434: Social and Developmental Determinants of Health. Leanne's passion for pedagogical and health equity research intersects on the impact of the social determinants of health- including education- on upward mobility and health outcomes.

Katherine Entigar, Assistant Professor (Teaching Stream), OISE, UTSG

Proposed CEL/CER course: Community Development: Innovative Methods

Katherine (Katie) Entigar (they + she) received a PhD in Urban Education at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York in 2021 and a MA in Applied Linguistics at University of Massachusetts Boston in 2013. Before joining the Adult Education and Community Development program in the department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education at University of Toronto, they worked as an adult EAL/ESL teacher in nonprofit and for-profit contexts and an adjunct professor teaching courses in bilingual education, second language acquisition, teaching in multicultural contexts, and teaching and research methods. As an immigrant rights worker, Katie contributed to legal empowerment clinics and mutual aid projects supporting asylum seekers and

undocumented residents of New York City for several years. Her research agenda focuses on nonprofit education with.of.by.for adult

immigrants and critically explores and reconceptualises contribution, silence, inclusion, and coalition in educational research and practice. Katie's goals in the CEL Fellowship program are to reimagine a core course, Community Development: Innovative Methods, in the Adult Education and Community Development by interrogating the traditional researcher/researched power dynamics that often dominates the ways academics (including grad students) and community partners interact. Thus, a priority will be to explore learning opportunities based on flexible, relationship-based project development with community partners in precarious and difficult times as an emergent and coalition-minded process. As a newcomer to Toronto, Katie is excited to learn as a CEL Fellow and support colleagues in their work as well.

David Jorjani, Sessional Lecturer, Department of Computer Science, UTSG

Proposed CEL/CER course: CSC301- Introduction to Software Engineering

David Jorjani (he/him) is a Sessional Lecturer at the Department of Computer Science at the University of Toronto where he started teaching CSC301 "Introduction to Software Engineering" in 2017. He has also taught other courses at the Department for Computer Science including Communication for Computer Scientists and Technical Entrepreneurship. David holds a Master of Information degree from the Faculty of Information at the University of Toronto. He has developed and taught "Storytelling with Data" where he teaches graduate students data analysis and visualization and presentation of compelling stories.

David has years of experience in Toronto's tech scene where he has been building engineering teams and products. He brings his technical expertise and leadership experience from the industry to academia to help students learn by working on real-life problems. He believes in the power of experiential learning in making a difference and has teamed up with community partners since 2018 to help provide students with real and meaningful problems to solve.

Over the years, the community partnership program has engaged over a hundred partners. Former partners include universities, research labs, non-profits, social ventures, and startups. David applies his entrepreneurial experience and Agile thinking to teaching. His goal is to redevelop the curriculum to improve student learning, help students work better with community partners, and streamline the process to reduce the workload for the teaching team so that more students can benefit from community engagements.

Kris Sanghyun Kim, Assistant Professor (Teaching Stream), Department of Physical & Environmental Science, UTSC

Proposed CEL/CER course: Techniques in Analytical Chemistry (CHMB16)

Kris Kim (he/him) completed his PhD in Chemistry at the University of Toronto St. George campus, during which his research focused on studying phenomena at the nanoscale across a variety of material and biological interfaces. As part of his work, he collaborated with the aquaculture industry to address challenges related to biofouling and sea lice infestations. Through these projects, he got to participate first-hand in applying lessons learned in the traditional classroom to solving real-world challenges faced by various communities. As an educator, he's had a strong interest in bringing these stories into the classroom, while also normalizing conversations around failure and fostering a sense of support and community within his classes. Upon completing his graduate studies, he worked as a Learning Strategies Specialist in Student Life. Through this role, he collaborated with student-facing staff to support the overall wellbeing of students and helped them adapt healthy study habits. Since joining the Department of Physical & Environmental Sciences in 2019, he has taught first-year chemistry, as well as second-year analytical chemistry. As a Community-Engaged Teaching Fellow, Kris plans to connect students in his second-year analytical chemistry course with local organizations and companies and encourage students to collaborate and apply concepts from lectures and labs to help address challenges faced by community partners.

Teresa Lobalsamo, Associate Professor (Teaching Stream), Undergraduate Coordinator of Italian Studies at the Department of Language Studies, UTM

Proposed CEL/CER course: ITA235H5 Cucina Italiana: Italian History and Culture Through Food

Teresa Lobalsamo (she/her), PhD, is Associate Professor (Teaching Stream) and Undergraduate Coordinator of Italian Studies at the Department of Language Studies, University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM). In 2018, she was recognized as the recipient of UTM's Teaching Excellence Award for Junior Faculty.

Professor Lobalsamo teaches language, cinema, and culture courses, and always aims to create meaningful academic experiences for her students, inside and outside of the classroom.

She directs Italian theatre productions, leads study abroad opportunities, supervises undergraduate grant-funded research projects, and organizes internship placements and undergraduate conferences.

Most recently, Professor Lobalsamo and her students are mapping the history of Italian food and foodways in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area, from the 1900s to present-day. The culinary artifacts (menus, photos, interviews) that the team is collecting will be digitized and

preserved on a university-based website (“Italian-Canadian Foodways in the GTHA”) dedicated to highlighting the contributions of the Italian diaspora.

Professor Lobalsamo is proudly affiliated with the Culinaria Research Centre (University of Toronto Scarborough) and the Institute for the Study of University Pedagogy (UTM). She also serves as the American Association of Teachers of Italian (AATI) Regional Representative for Canada and as a member of the editorial board of *Quaderni d’Italianistica*.