



# TCAS GRADUATE & UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATES

2025



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# ABOUT

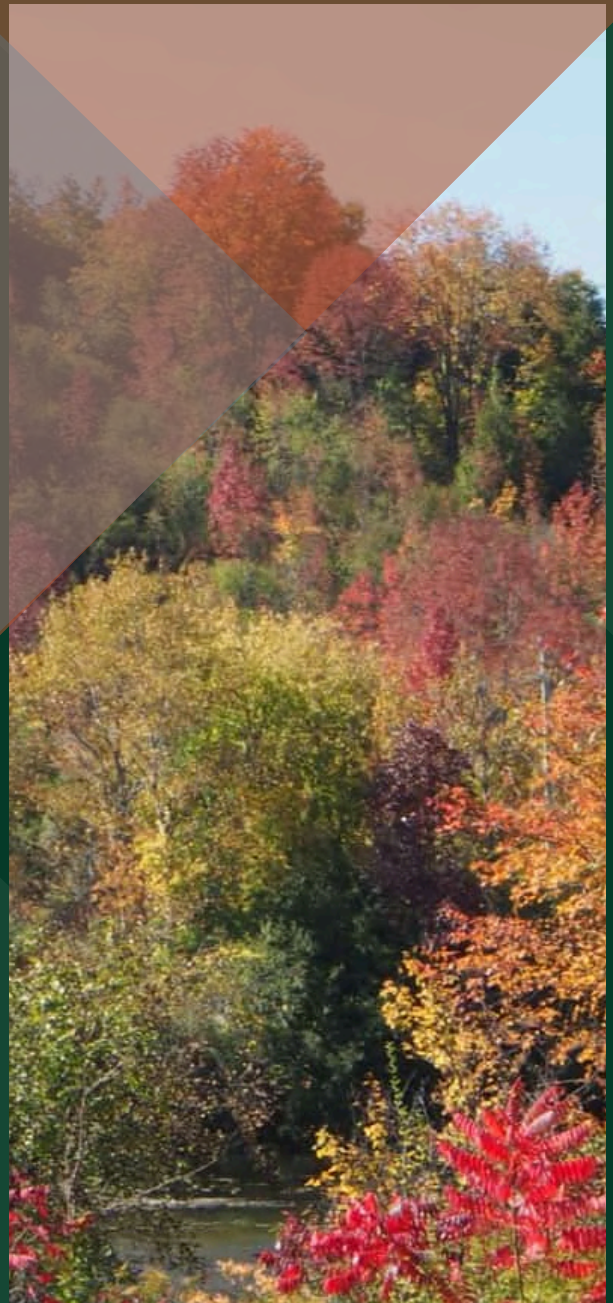
The Trent Centre for Aging & Society is a research centre dedicated to supporting the important work being done in the field of aging. Our location in Bata Library 404 on Trent University's Symons campus has positioned us to connect with undergraduate and graduate students who are pursuing their passion for aging-related research. As such, TCAS is well informed on the current aging-related projects that Trent University students have undertaken.

This booklet highlights some of the amazing work that TCAS Student Associates have completed or are in the process of completing. Students were sent a survey, and these survey questions as well as their answers will be shown. We hope that this document can provide communities with more information about the work that TCAS Student Associates are pursuing.

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# Adebayo Makanju, PhD

(He/Him)



*“An individual's viewpoint is grounded in the village where you belong and the wisdom shared around your fire.”*

## Future Plans

In the future, Adebayo plans to secure post-doctoral funding, i.e. Banting Awards, and continue towards academic tenureship.

Adebayo is in his 4th year of PhD studies in the Interdisciplinary Social Research program at Trent University. He holds a BSc in Economics, an MSc in Development Studies, and an MSc in Population Geography. Adebayo also serves as a Graduate Teaching Assistant at Trent University.

## Research

Adebayo is currently serving as the Lead Investigator on a project titled ‘The Interplay of the Social Determinants of Health and Post-Stroke Outcomes Among Older Adults Living in Nigerian Urban Spaces: A Quantitative Study on Resilience and Health Equity’. He is being supervised by Dr. Kirsten Woodend.

Adebayo seeks to address the problem of stroke care inequity by assessing the impact of the social determinants of health on post-stroke care intervention and outcomes among the aging population in urban Nigeria. Long-term, Adebayo wishes to bridge the gap between research and global impact, promoting healthy living for all ages in sub-Saharan Africa.

# Colin Henning, PhD

(He/Him)



Colin is in his 3rd year of PhD studies in the Psychology program at Trent University. He holds a BAH in Psychology and an MSc in Applied Modelling & Quantitative Methods. At Trent University, Colin is also a course instructor and workshop leader in the Applied Modelling and Quantitative Methods program.

## Research

Colin is currently a Graduate Research Assistant and PhD Thesis Student on a project titled: 'Predicting Successful Ageing in Older Adults: The Role of Emotional Intelligence' under the supervision of Dr. James D. A. Parker.

Colin's PhD thesis research aims to improve our understanding of the factors that predict successful aging, with a focus on relationship satisfaction in couples of varied ages and the roles that emotional intelligence and symptoms of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) play in these romantic relationships.

*"Older adults have so much to teach us, all we have to do is ask questions and listen."*

## Future Plans

In the future, Colin hopes to complete his PhD and continue on in academia as a professor teaching at a university and doing research that helps us better understand the ways older adults maintain and improve their health and well-being as we age.

# Jazmine Raine, PhD

(They/Them)



Jazmine is in their third year of Ph.D. studies in the Gender and Social Justice department at Trent University. They hold a Diploma in Law and Justice, a BAH in Political Studies, and an MA in Social Theory. Jazmine previously served as the Equity Commissioner of the Trent Graduate Students' Association and is now its President.

## Research

Jazmine is currently conducting research as a PhD student for the project: 'Navigating Identities and Empowering Futures: Understanding the Experiences of Older 2SLGBTQIA+ Adults in Ontario for Policy Advancements and Clinical Training Innovations'. They are being supervised by Dr. Nadine Changfoot.

Jazmine's PhD thesis research aims to work in partnership with older queer and trans individuals in Ontario to develop recommendations for the improvement of trans-specific clinical education in Ontario medical schools.

*"I am deeply committed to working in partnership with the communities that I claim, and that claim me, to find ways to co-create the conditions for caring learning spaces".*

## Future Plans

In the future, Jazmine will complete their PhD, and hopes to continue learning and collaborating in academic spaces and in community organizations. They are always open to collaboration, and are very interested in arts-based research and community partnership.



# Luka Stojanovic, PhD

(He/They)



Luka is in their second year of PhD studies in the Canadian Studies program at Trent University. He holds a BAH with a Specialization in Philosophy, MPhil in Film and Screen Studies, and an MA in Canadian Studies.

## Research

Luka is the lead PhD student conducting research for a project titled: 'From Silence To Empowerment: Restorying Experiences Of Chronic Pain Among Older Adults In Ontario' with Dr. Nadine Changfoot as his supervisor.

Luka's PhD thesis research strives to expand thought and consideration at the intersection of aging and disability studies. In particular, they intend to develop knowledge mobilization strategies and initiatives aimed at people living with chronic pain and the wider community to address misconceptions, encourage open dialogue, and connect people to resources and support.

*"[My research] aims to develop knowledge mobilization strategies and initiatives aimed at people living with chronic pain and the wider community to address misconceptions, encourage open dialogue, and connect people to resources/support."*

## Future Plans

Luka is looking forward to beginning their second comprehensive exam and working towards completing their PhD.

# Md Nazmul Alam, PhD

(He/Him)



*“I hope to bring attention to the overlooked aging experiences of marginalized populations and individuals, and advocate for their rightful inclusion in healthcare and policy, ensuring dignity and support as they age.”*

## Future Plans

Nazmul would like to continue his research work on elderly people in Bangladesh, especially the impact of structural change of urban and rural families and the healthcare context that are frequently ignored in his country.

Nazmul is in his fourth year of PhD studies in the Interdisciplinary Social Research program at Trent University. He holds a Bachelor of Social Science (Sociology), a Master of Social Science (Sociology), and a Master of Public Health.

## Research

Nazmul is currently the Principal Investigator for a project titled: ‘Aging into Precarity? An Inquiry into the Aging Experience and Healthcare Service Encounters of Elderly Hijra in Bangladesh’. He is being supervised by Dr. Momin Rahman.

Nazmul’s research explores the aging and healthcare experiences of elderly hijra individuals in Bangladesh, a neglected area of study. It addresses the lack of attention to aging issues among sexual and gender minorities, aiming to highlight their inclusion in health systems and the challenges they face in later life.



# Samantha Teichman, PhD

(She/her)



Samantha is in her fourth year of PhD studies in the Gerontology program at Simon Fraser University. She currently holds a Bachelor of Sociology & Women and Gender Studies and a Master's of Sociology. Samantha previously served as the Social Media Coordinator for TCAS.

## Research

Samantha is the Principal Investigator for a project titled: 'Reimagining Bereavement'. She is currently being supervised by Dr. Barbara Mitchell.

*"My work is deeply personal, as I have experienced significant grief in my own life. This research serves as a method of meaning-making for me, and I find it profoundly powerful and beautiful to connect with my participants on such an intimate topic."*

## Future Plans

Samantha plans to pursue teaching in the future, as she is deeply passionate about mentorship. Having been shaped by the guidance of professors and colleagues, she wishes to give back by supporting students in their academic journeys.

Samantha's research explores bereavement experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic, and more specifically, how societal systems such as the funeral industry shape the bereavement experiences of aging families and older adults. She is collecting interview data from community-dwelling older adults to capture their insights on loss and survey data from funeral directors to understand their strategies, particularly during COVID-19. By integrating both perspectives, this research seeks to uncover challenges and promote systemic improvements to better support grieving individuals and enhance care for aging populations.

# Uzma Danish, PhD

(She/Her)



Uzma is in her fourth year of PhD studies in the Interdisciplinary Social Research program at Trent University. She holds both a Bachelor's and a Master's in Social Work. Uzma also serves as a CUPE Course Instructor, Research Coordinator, Seminar Leader, and TGSA Equity Commissioner.

## Research

Uzma is the Principal Investigator on a project titled: 'South Asian older adult participation at Senior Community Centres in Durham Region: A life course and critical race theory perspective'. She is currently supervised by Dr. David Friang.

Uzma's research aims to understand what factors influence Durham Region's culturally and linguistically unique South Asian older adult participation at the local senior community centres (SCCs). Since this is the first time for such research, the hope is that the findings will help to understand the needs of this population, understand SCC's challenges with equity, diversity and inclusion in service provision and make recommendations for services that are inclusive of all older adults.

*"Because taking care of all aging individuals is 'our' common responsibility."*

## Future Plans

Uzma plans to achieve her candidacy and start her research in 2025.

# Yusi Chang, PhD

(She/Her)



*“Growing old is an existential journey, and an intensification of our human vulnerability”.*

## Future Plans

Yusi hopes to continue working in education that fosters intergenerational communication and challenges stereotypes about older adults.

Yusi is currently in her second year of PhD studies in the Cultural Studies program at Trent University. She currently holds a Bachelor's of Teaching Chinese to Speakers of Other Languages and a Master's in Theatre, Film and Television Studies.

## Research

Yusi is a researcher on a project titled: 'Imagining Aging in Chinese Cinema: A Spiritual Quest for Meaning,' being supervised by Dr. Sally Chivers.

Yusi's research aims to challenge the dominant cultural narratives of old age and explore how Chinese films from the year 2000 onwards portray Chinese spirituality and the complex narratives they construct, contributing to an understanding of existential gerontology.



# Alana Hart, MA

(She/Her)



In April 2025, Alana defended her Master's in the Interdisciplinary Aging Studies program at Trent University. She is the first to defend in this program! She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology.

## Research

Alana's Master's research is titled: "Imagining the Possibilities of Care in Old Age: Perspectives of Older Filipino Care Workers." She is being supervised by Dr. Mary Jean Hande.

Alana's research seeks to understand how the lived experiences of older Filipino care workers influence how they imagine care in ways that often challenge dominant models of eldercare. This work emphasizes the voices of immigrant care workers who have spent much of their working lives supporting the needs of older adults. The research found that older Filipino immigrant care workers dream of care in three ways: (1) aging-across-place; (2) through their networks of care; and (3) aging elsewhere.

*"I recognize that immigrant domestic workers play a critical role in the care economy, yet have few opportunities to share their experiences and ideas."*

## Future Plans

Alana begins her PhD program in Sociology at York University in Fall 2025

# Daniel Katey, MA

(He/Him)



*“Recognizing and supporting the contributions of older volunteers and volunteer-based programs in hospitals is essential.”*

## Future Plans

Daniel looks forward to continuing research on older adult voluntarism during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In May 2025, Daniel defended his Master's in the Interdisciplinary Aging Studies program at Trent University. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Geography and Rural Development .

## Research

Daniel's Master's research is titled: “Exploring the pandemic and post-pandemic challenges of older voluntarism in a regional health centre. He was supervised by Dr. Mark Skinner.

Daniel's research findings demonstrate that sustaining a robust volunteer program post-pandemic requires recognizing volunteers' contributions while also addressing their evolving (technological) needs, ensuring workplace safety, and actively involving them in decision-making processes. His MA explored older hospital volunteers experiences during and post-pandemic, how digital technologies shape older voluntarism, and the challenges and sustainability of older adult volunteer programs in hospitals.

# Tabytha Wells, MSc

(She/Her)



Tabytha is in her second year of Master's studies in the Psychology program at Trent University. She holds a Bachelor's in Psychology (Hons). Tabytha previously served as the Administrative Assistant at TCAS.

## Research

Tabytha's Master's research is titled: 'Ageism, Intergenerational Learning, and Age-Conscious Development'. She is being supervised by Dr. Elizabeth Russell.

*"We envision an intergenerational Trent University where people of all ages are welcomed and celebrated, and the intergenerational classroom is just one step toward this goal. I am confident that universities can play a role in addressing ageism."*

## Future Plans

Tabytha hopes to expand upon her master's research as she pursues a PhD in psychology, evaluating sustainable programs that can reduce ageism among people of all ages.

Tabytha's research aims to implement and evaluate an intergenerational classroom model that supports connections between Trent students and older community members. Overall, the findings support the development of future university-based intergenerational learning opportunities, as an intergenerational classroom can be a transformational way to address ageism and humanize people of all ages.



# Elenor Marano, LLB & BAH

(She/Her)



*“The law can be incredibly dense and feels very exclusive; yet it operates in and around us our entire lives - and even thereafter.*

*Knowing our rights and responsibilities ensures more resilient futures, which is why addressing access to justice is so critical for everyone - no matter what their age is.”*

## Future Plans

Elenor is working towards her qualifications to be a lawyer; she hopes to complete the Bar exam and her articles as soon as she can. It is her hope that the work she continues to do will focus on estates law, but will continue pro bono where and when possible once she can.

Elenor recently completed an honours bachelor's in Political Studies at Trent University. She holds a Bachelor's of Law from Swansea University. In her final year at Trent, she served as a Knowledge Mobilization Assistant for TCAS and completed a policy placement with TCAS.

## Work

Elenor's work is centred around a public legal education project known as Street Law. It seeks to address the access to justice gap by empowering members of the community to build legal literacy and capabilities through interactive and engaging workshops.

Her most recent session—developed with TCAS—is titled Trent's first: 'Street Law: Creating a Lasting Legacy through Estates Planning.' It served as a building block for members of the community to know the law on wills and powers of attorney. Her hope is to develop a long-term program in Peterborough to continue to build capabilities - particularly among vulnerable groups.

# Isabelle Row, BAH

(She/Her)



Isabelle is in her 4th year of undergraduate studies in the Political Science & Economics programs at Trent University. She also serves as a Student Ambassador for Lady Eaton College.

## Research

Isabelle's undergraduate research is titled: 'Anishinaabe, Indigenous, Intergenerational Growing Old/Aging, and Critical Methodologies in Dementia Studies'.

*"Working with TCAS has supported me to deepen my understanding and interest in diverse experiences of aging."*

## Future Plans

After completing her undergraduate degree, Isabelle is pursuing a MA in public policy, where she will be able to apply her knowledge and make real-world impacts.

Isabelle served as an undergraduate research assistant to Dr. Nadine Changfoot. Her research amplifies under-represented world views relating to aging and supports TCAS's partnerships with Indigenous community members. It also allows her to support Indigenous voices by ensuring they are meaningfully included in projects, such as the edited collection Critical Methodologies in Dementia Studies.



# Leighla Foster, BAH

(She/They)



*"I believe that with patience, compassion, and a willingness to learn, we will overcome our differences. If we work together against systems that serve the interests of the few, we can build a future that is more equitable and joyful."*

## Future Plans

After completing their undergraduate degree along with a thesis, Leighla will apply to grad school with the goal of becoming a professor. They are interested in arts-based research and queer theory and hope to facilitate older queer storytelling and strengthen intergenerational relationships in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

Leighla is in her fourth year of the Gender & Social Justice Co-op program at Trent University. As an undergraduate associate of TCAS, she has worked as a Knowledge Mobilization Assistant and is fulfilling her third and final co-op placement as a Research Assistant to Dr. Nadine Changfoot.

## Research

Leighla is supporting the preparation of *Critical Methods in Dementia Studies* (Routledge) under the guidance of Dr. Changfoot, co-editor of the collection.

In addition to assisting with academic publications, Leighla is exploring topics like Indigenous aging, arts-based research, and news coverage of politics to develop updates and new content for Dr. Changfoot's Political Studies, Canadian Studies, and Gender & Social Justice courses.





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