

# Research THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

DR. LAUREN HILL  
Assistant Professor  
[lauhill@trentu.ca](mailto:lauhill@trentu.ca)



## MY RESEARCH

My research program engages two intersecting themes: arts-based environmental education and the arts as a vehicle for equity, sustainability, and decolonization. These areas are connected through a shared commitment to using the arts not only as a method of inquiry, but also as a transformative force for imagining and enacting more just, sustainable, and relational futures. This work aligns closely with the School of Education conceptual framework, particularly in its emphasis on equity, sustainability, Indigenous knowledges, and creative and critical engagement.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Hill, L. (2024). Gatekeeping at faculties of music: Ontario music teachers discuss equity, diversity, and inclusion in the university audition process. *The Recorder*, 66(2).

Hill, L. (2024). Humility and the hoop dance: A teacher's reflections on Indigenous knowledge and power sharing in the classroom. *The Canadian Journal of Action Research*, 24(1), 22-37.

## COLLABORATORS

Anne Corkery, School of Education, Trent University  
Dr. Kelly Young, School of Education, Trent University  
Dr. Karleen Pendleton Jimémez, School of Education, Trent University  
Dr. Denise Handlarski, School of Education, Trent University

### What are you currently working on?

Over the next five years, these research themes will be increasingly united by the central belief underpinning my work: that the arts support youth well-being in times of global crisis and offer creative, critical pathways for social and ecological transformation.

### What has given you the most joy in your research?

I find joy in witnessing new knowledge emerge through creative practice - whether with children, youth, or teacher candidates. In those moments, we glimpse fresh ways of understanding the world, and this is inspiring.

### What's next?

I will continue to explore how creative practices foster resilience, community, and critical hope in the face of climate and social challenges - while mentoring graduate students to lead the next generation of research.