

# Re-entry Conference: *What Now?*

Ryerson University, University of Toronto and York University  
in partnership with Verge

September 24, 2017, Sunday @ 10h00 – 14h00

Room 250, Podium Building, Ryerson University, 350 Victoria Street, Downtown Toronto

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## PROFILES OF SPEAKERS & MODERATORS *(per panel)*

### WELCOME

- **Helen Balderama, Associate Director, International Partnerships and Programs, York International, York University**

Helen has more than 15 years in the international education (IE) field. She holds a BA Philosophy (Cum Laude) from the University of the Philippines, a Post Graduate Diploma on Cultural Projects for Development from the International Training Centre of International Labour Organization in Torino, Italy and an MA Public Administration from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. Helen started her career as Development Officer for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO, Manila) and then moved to Singapore as Program Manager & Special Advisor to the Education Section of the [Asia-Europe Foundation](#). Before joining York, Helen was at the University of Manitoba, first as International Partnership Officer at the UM International Office and then Int'l Programs Coordinator in the UM Division of Extended Education. Helen volunteers for *NAFSA: Association of International Educators* as International Outreach Coordinator (2017-2018).

- **Laura Morello, Student Mobility Officer, Ryerson International, Ryerson University.**

Laura is passionate about international education and helping students make the most of their international experiences. She has studied abroad in France, Italy and the United Kingdom and holds a Master of Arts in Cross-Cultural Communication and Education from Newcastle University. After her studies, Laura embarked on a career in international student mobility and has worked in international offices at universities in Canada and the United Kingdom.

- **Loraine Au Tham is the Manager of the International Student Exchange Program and Global Initiatives, Centre for International Experience, at the University of Toronto.** Her own experience as an international transfer student from India sparked an interest in global learning. With over 10 years of experience working at U of T, she continues to seek out innovative international programs that enrich students' academic experiences.

## KEYNOTE

- **David Common, Host, CBC World Report, York Alumnus and Former Exchange Student at Stockholm University, Sweden**

David wakes up every morning at "Dark o'Clock" to host World Report, the morning national newscast with more than a million listeners. He also remains a Correspondent with CBC News, and has become quite good at moving, with postings to New York, Paris, Toronto, Fredericton, Winnipeg and Regina.

Born in Winnipeg, David grew up in Toronto, went to York University in Toronto and Stockholm University in Sweden. He started with CBC as an intern at our London, England bureau in 1998.

David knows travel - he's reported from more than 50 countries, from the beaches of the Seychelles Islands to eight separate trips to Afghanistan. He helped cover the 2003 invasion of Iraq, toured the Arctic on a Canadian icebreaker, covered the devastating earthquake in Haiti, the tsunami in Japan, elections in the US, and once interviewed Elmo from Sesame Street.

David has received several awards, nominated for a Gemini twice - winning once under the Best Reportage category. He's also one of the CBC's multi-skilled journalists, able to shoot and edit his own stories as needed. He currently lives in Toronto with his wife and two daughters.

## PANEL 1: WHEW, I AM BACK!

- **Dr. Marilyn Lambert-Drache, Associate Professor and Associate Vice-President International**

Since Marilyn was appointed AVP International in 2012, she has shaped York International as the focal point of York University's global engagement. On her watch, Marilyn expanded student supports to international students. She launched the *Go Global Campaign* to increase awareness of international education and promote global citizenship among York students. Marilyn has also contributed to the University Academic Plan (2015-2020) where York's global community engagement was identified as a major priority for the university. Marilyn has a Ph.D in applied and theoretical linguistics from the University of Aix-Marseille in France. She loves languages and is a true polyglot.

- **Arne Kislenko, Associate Professor of History and Faculty Adviser, Ryerson's Alternative Spring Break (ASB), Ryerson University**

Arne is the founder of ASB and has served as its Faculty Adviser since 2006. An avid traveler, Arne has accumulated an array of tales from nearly 30 years trekking much of the globe. He believes that travel is one of the best educational mediums that exist. In addition to teaching History at Ryerson, Arne is also an instructor in the International Relations Program at Trinity College and the Munk School of Global Affairs (U of T). Arne has won numerous teaching awards including the prestigious 3M National Teaching Fellowship (2011), Ryerson's first President's Award for Teaching Excellence (2007) and the inaugural Province of Ontario Leadership in Faculty Teaching (LIFT) Award (2007).

- **Arif Abu, Coordinator, International Student Support Office, Ryerson University**  
 Arif is responsible for managing, developing and implementing all ISS services to enhance and support the academic and personal success of over 2000 international students at Ryerson. In 2013, Arif was awarded prestigious North Star Emerging Leader in International Education by the Canadian Bureau of International Education. Arif Co-Chairs the Internationalization of Student Affairs CoP of CACUSS and founder of INTL a professional network of CBIE dedicated in building next generation of international educators. He has presented numerous papers and workshops on international students' mental health, professional development of international educators and international student support services, and supports to non-traditional students in various conferences including OAIE, BCCIE, CBIE, CICMH and CACUSS.
- **Larissa Crawford** is on her 5<sup>th</sup> year of a double major in International Development and Communication Studies (Liberal Arts and Professional Studies). In her second year, Larissa did a two-semester exchange to study and volunteer in Istanbul, Turkey. Since 2015, and with this experience, Larissa received over \$50K in scholarships; has traveled to both Hong Kong and Thailand with the United Nations through York International; and is currently a Go Global Ambassador at York University. Larissa uses her knowledge in scholarship and funding acquisition to be an independently-funded student, mother, and ambassador of students going global! Larissa now also works as the Aboriginal Special Initiatives and Project Coordinator at York University and is currently pursuing a legal career in Indigenous Law.
- **Rija Saleem** is a 4<sup>th</sup> year undergraduate student studying History, Sociology and Education at the University of Toronto. Rija participated in a 6-month exchange in Seoul, Korea, backpacked around South East Asia (Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Thailand), and independently taught 7 classes in Beijing, China. Rija is interested in education, and aspires to be a teacher.
- **Sausen Jessa** is a 3<sup>rd</sup> year mechanical engineering student, with a passion for robotics. This past summer I had the opportunity to work on a research project in Sweden, and I learnt a lot about myself and the world we live in throughout my adventures abroad.

## **PANEL 2: GLOBAL COMPETENCES: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR FUTURE WORK, RESEARCH AND STUDY OPPORTUNITIES?**

- **Lia De Cicco-Remu, Director, Education Strategy, Teacher Engagement, Microsoft Canada**  
 Lia's main focus is to support, celebrate and promote excellence in Canadian teaching and learning and help to transform schools for 21<sup>st</sup> century learning. As a teacher, with many years of experience in the IT sector, Lia is passionate about creating strong partnerships to ensure all students can be their best selves and achieve their fullest potential.

- **Amelia Merrick, Director, Student Career Exploration & Education.**  
 Amelia spent 15 years working in International Development for a child focused organization on programs that covered primary health, education, civil society, children rights, advocacy and disaster response. She has traveled to 40 countries, worked throughout Asia, lived in Indonesia for 6 years and Laos for 3.5 years. Amelia boasts of emergency response experience for countless floods, volcano and earthquakes. She was an on the ground early responder to the Tsunami, in Indonesia. One of the things I was most proud of was advocating for more maxi pads for women in the rations! Amelia holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from York University, Masters in Organizational Leadership, currently a PhD student at OISE.
- **Hani El Masry, Global Learning Assistant, York International, York University**  
 Hani's foray into international education started during his time as an intern at the High Commission of Canada to India. He has since worked in the education abroad as well as the international student and scholar services areas. Hani holds degrees in International Studies (York University) and International Law (University of Edinburgh).
- **Alamgir Khandwala**  
 Alam recently graduated from York University with a degree in Administrative Studies. He is the recipient of the 2017 [Murray G. Ross Award](#), one of York's greatest honors for a graduating student. Alam was awarded 'for his academic strengths, professional accomplishments, and unconditional generosity when it comes to serving fellow students and the University.' Alam is now a Staff Accountant at Deloitte and plans to pursue his Chartered Professional Accountants designation while working.
- **Seemi Qaiser** completed Bachelor's of Science at the University of Toronto in Global Health. Seemi is very interested in the topic of international work, having written an academic paper on the subject. He is also currently working on a documentary film on the subject.
- **Shahrukh Siddiqui**  
 Shahrukh is a Ryerson alumnus currently working as an Account Director at an Edtech company called Top Hat. Shahrukh completed an international exchange in Australia at Queensland University of Technology. His international experiences truly shaped him personally and professionally. He continues to look for international opportunities to gain an international outlook and perspectives.