

Keynote Session

Friday, June 4, 2021

Adult Education in Global Times

In this keynote session, panelists will reflect on their work as adult educators and discuss some of the main issues and challenges they see facing adult educators today. From their geographical and cultural contexts, panelists will share examples of how these issues and challenges are being addressed and what more should be done.

Panelists

- Chief Shawn 'Ah up wa eek' Atleo, Co-Founder, Atleo Centre for Compassionate Leadership, Canada
- Heather 'Ya'ak chumat axa' Atleo, Co-Founder, Atleo Centre for Compassionate Leadership, Canada
- Stephen Brookfield, PhD, Distinguished Scholar, Antioch University, USA
- Shalini Singh, PhD, guest researcher and lecturer, Helmut Schmidt University, Germany

Panel Moderator

- Susie M. Brigham, PhD, Mount Saint Vincent University, Canada

Biographical Notes



Chief Shawn 'Ah-up-wa-eek' Atleo has 30 years of leadership experience including elected leadership. Shawn is a Hereditary Chief from the Ahousaht First Nation in British Columbia (part of Nuuchahnulth) and former twice-elected National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations. He was first elected in 2009 and re-elected in 2012. The National Chief is elected by the over 633 First Nations from across Canada and serves as the lead advocate representing First Nations in Canada and globally. Shawn held this role after back-to-back terms serving the 203 First Nations in BC as Regional Chief in 2003 and then in 2006. It was in this role

that he helped found the BC First Nations Leadership Council, which brought together senior First Nations leadership organizations to work collaboratively.

Heather ‘Ya’ak chumat axa’ Atleo is of Blackfoot ancestry and is an experienced leader in the areas of conflict resolution, negotiation, mediation, senior strategic analysis, and facilitation working with First Nation leaders, academic institutions, non-profit organizations, federal/provincial leadership at the Premier/Prime Minister and Ministerial level, and Industry CEOs. She has an extensive background in transformative leadership and change management, strategic partnerships, engagement, communications, and policy analysis and development. Heather has spent the majority of the last 20 years in the political environment supporting and working with/for First Nations and First Nations leaders locally, regionally, provincially, and nationally, and has supported successful negotiations of large-scale agreements. She is also extremely passionate and has decades of expertise in the area of health and wellness leadership and mental health advocacy. ***Shawn and Heather** are partners in life and work, and engage in a full co-leadership approach in a variety of intersecting streams including education, business, and politics, while always connecting in mental and emotional health and well-being.



Stephen Brookfield has, since beginning his educational career in 1970, worked in England, Canada, and the United States, teaching and consulting in a variety of adult, community, organizational and higher education settings. His overall project is to help people learn to think critically about the dominant ideologies they have internalized and how these can be challenged. He is particularly interested in methodologies of critical thinking, discussion and dialog, critical reflection, leadership, and the exploration of power dynamics, particularly around racial identity and white supremacy. He is currently Antioch University Distinguished Scholar, Adjunct

Professor at Teachers College, Columbia University (New York) and Emeritus Professor at the University of St. Thomas (Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota).



Shalini Singh is a guest researcher and lecturer at Helmut Schmidt University, Hamburg, Germany. She works as a policy analyst for the Centre of Policy Analysis, Patna, India and as a Senior Consultant for PLC Advocates, a law firm in New Delhi, India. She is a volunteer, assisting victims of workplace sexual harassment and is affiliated as a Senior Researcher with the International Institute of Adult & Lifelong Education, also in New Delhi. Apart from other teaching-research environments, she has been primarily engaged in research and teaching at Aarhus University, Denmark; University of Würzburg, Germany; University of Ljubljana, Slovenia; and at Jawaharlal Nehru University and

University of Delhi, both in New Delhi. Her areas of interest currently include employability, international large-scale assessments, adult learning, education policies of international organisations, policy analysis, comparative studies, education for development and development education.



Susie M. Brigham is a professor in the Faculty of Education, Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada and immediate past-president of the Canadian Association for the Study of Adult Education.