



January is a month of new beginnings – with positive hopes and expectations for what the new year has in store for us. Well, there are some new additions to the department this year. We welcome the incoming Graduate Academic Assistants (GAAs), Jafar Iqbal and Eva Crowson to the team as Peer Advisors. We also extend a very warm welcome to Edrees Kakar as EDST’s Administrative Manager (interim). You can read more about their profiles in the announcements section.

Well, some things will continue during Year 2023, such as our co-working sessions to help you complete your assignments and tasks in a supportive environment. In addition, watch out for Research Day announcements to be made soon. We will also be seeking nominations for the GAAs Recognition and Appreciation Awards for Exemplary Service to Students’ in 2023 . We look forward to your active participation and engagement in these important EDST student events and activities.

Have a splendid year everyone!

- Announcements -

EDST Outgoing and Incoming GAAs

Outgoing

[Catalina Bobadilla \(Peer Advisor\)](#)



We take this opportunity to thank our outgoing GAA, Catalina Bobadilla, who recently completed her MA successfully. We thank her for her unlimited positive energy, creative ideas, strong dedication and commitment to her work, professional ethics, and excellent team spirit! We appreciate her outstanding contributions as a GAA. We will miss you, Cata, and wish you all the very best in life!

[Siyi Cheng \(Peer Advisor\)](#)



We want to give a shout out to our outgoing GAA Siyi Cheng, who started a new position, and thank her for all of her work for the GAA team. Siyi has contributed much enthusiasm, diligent work and a sense of comradery and friendship. It was a pleasure to work with you, Siyi, and we wish you all the best in your academic and professional path!

Incoming



[Jafar Iqbal \(Peer Advisor\)](#)

Hello, my name is Jafar Iqbal, a doctoral student in the Department of Educational Studies, at the University of British Columbia. Prior to UBC, I did a master's in labor rights in the global economy at the Pennsylvania State University. I am originally from Bangladesh, interested in the decoloniality of the 'social justice regime' in the apparel supply chain, the pedagogy of the labor movement, and theories of resistance. I am here to serve as a GAA this year, excited to interreact, collaborate, and learn from you all in any setting- socializing on campus/hallway or coffee shop or in virtual meetings.

[Eva Crowson \(Peer Advisor\)](#)



Hi! I'm Eva Crowson (she/her) and I joined the EDST PhD program in 2021. I was born and raised in the UK, so I'm still very new to Vancouver and Canada! I know that grad school can be a super lonely and challenging time and I would love to build a sense of community in the department. Please don't be afraid to reach out to me if you need any advice, resources, or just a listening ear 😊

Edrees Kakar - EDST's Administrative Manager (interim)

Edrees has a diverse professional experience while working in different industries such as banking, mining, and higher education. With UBC Hiring solutions he has successfully completed several CUPE-2950 and M&P assignments for departments across UBC Vancouver campus. Edrees is an enthusiast of computer technologies. He communicates in four languages (English, Persian, Pashto, Urdu) and loves playing and discussing soccer. Edrees completed his MBA degree at Simon Fraser University in October 2021.

EDST Student Representatives' Lunch Gathering, December 2022

The department hosted a welcome lunch on December 05, 2023 at Sage Biestro to acknowledge and honor contributions of the EDST student representatives to the department and students' life. The lunch gathering included students representatives on various committees, the GAAs, faculty, staff and head of the department. In recognition of student leaders' involvement and engagement, certificates and gifts were distributed as tokens of appreciation. We would like to take this space to also thank our student reps for their significant contributions and the department for creating such spaces for student engagement as well as their generous acknowledgement of student efforts.



Reach out to your GAAs

[The GAA team is here for you!](#)

We want to emphasize that we are here to listen, advocate, and support you through your learning experience. If you want to get in touch, send us an email to edst.gaa@ubc.ca.

**Save the date: 20th Annual Indigenous Graduate Student Symposium (IGSS),
March 17-18, 2023.**

Indigenous graduate students from any discipline & program are invited to submit proposals to present at the **20th Annual Indigenous Graduate Student Symposium (IGSS) at UBC Vancouver, in person & virtually, March 17-18, 2023**. The theme is "**Honouring Research, Honouring Community.**"



Students are asked to submit proposals related to any of the sub-themes:

- A) Centring Indigenous Paradigms, Knowledges & Research Practices;
- B) Renewing & Reimagining Knowledge Transmission: Past, Present, Future;
- C) Nurturing the Relationship Between Community & Research.

Deadline to apply: January 24.

Link to submit a proposal: <https://forms.gle/LxkFdJEBSo8avhNh6>

Presentation abstracts may be published in a peer-reviewed abstract journal following the symposium. IGSS is organized by Supporting Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement [SAGE], UBC, and SFU, and provides a culturally relevant & supportive community for Indigenous graduate students to network in & present their work.

For more info email: grad.sage@ubc.ca or visit the website: www.gradsage.com

EDST Blog: New Post on Public-facing scholarship

A new blog post from Itamar Manoff, "[On Public Facing Scholarship](#)," is available on [the EDST blog](#). This post offers some tips and ideas on how to get your work out there and how to translate your research into prose that is public-facing and accessible. This is the second instalment of the blog's *Writing Series*; be sure to check out the first post in the series ("[On Academic Blogging](#)"), and keep an eye out next month for the blog's call for submissions.

- Events -

Co-working sessions this month

What are co-working sessions?

Co-working sessions are casual drop-in work sessions hosted in person at EDST Multipurpose Room (MPR), where you can work alongside your peers and meet your goals. Sessions begin with a check-in to share our goals for the day, followed by focused working blocks and short breaks to check-in with each other. Whether you need a bit of motivation to get some work done, or just want to say hello to EDST classmates, co-working is for you!

JANUARY SCHEDULE

RSVP here: https://ubc.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b3kweJLpNakpR1

Day	Time (PST)	Host
Thursday, January 19	2:00 – 6:00	Itamar
Friday, January 27	2:00 – 6:00	Roshni

Contact us!

Email: edst.gaa@ubc.ca	GAA Blog
Twitter	Facebook Student Community