

# Reflecting on 100 Years of the Chinese Exclusion Act (Chinese Immigration Act)



## One Hundred Years of Solidarity: Unpacking Moments of Ruptures and Unity

**Tuesday, November 21, 2023 | 6:30-8:30 PM (Eastern Time)**

This is a ZOOM event co-organized by the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library and the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), University of Toronto.

Please RSVP via scanning the QR code or clicking the URL on the right side. For inquiries, please send an email to [eal.events@utoronto.ca](mailto:eal.events@utoronto.ca).



Registration:

<https://forms.gle/t1daFNRx6spTm13X7>

### PANEL CHAIR

**Dr. Mary Reid**

Associate Professor

OISE, University of Toronto

### PANELISTS

**Dr. Ardavan Eizadirad**

Assistant Professor

Faculty of Education,  
Wilfrid Laurier University

**Sandy Yep**

President

Asian Canadian Educators Network

**Elaine Yu**

Ph.D. Student

OISE, University of Toronto

Join us at the University of Toronto to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Chinese Immigration Act, also known as the Chinese Exclusion Act in Canada. This act was one of several discriminatory policies that manifested the pervasive racism directed towards Chinese immigrants in Canada since their arrival in the mid-19th century.

In 2023, we will reflect on a century since the implementation of this legislation, and our panel discussion will provide valuable insights into its historical significance in restricting Chinese immigration to Canada. This event offers a meaningful opportunity to critically examine the colonial mindset that underpinned this law and work towards dismantling various forms of oppression.

# The Panel

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## Panel Chair



### Dr. Mary Reid

**Dr. Mary Reid** (she/her pronouns) is an Associate Professor at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), University of Toronto (U of T). Mary is a first-generation settler on Turtle Island of Hakka Chinese descent. In 2020, Mary founded OISE's Asian Student Alliance (ASA) because she saw a need to offer community and healing spaces for Asian students where they can authentically share their lived experiences with others who have similar backgrounds. Mary also served on U of T's Anti-Asian Racism Working Group, which is committed to dismantling barriers and discrimination faced by Asian members across the institution. Her research and work promote a call to action for solidarity and unity against all forms of oppression by raising awareness on how and why oppression impacts different marginalized groups in unique ways. In 2022, Mary won OISE's prestigious Award for Excellence in Educational Leadership for her outstanding service in leading OISE's Asian alliances.

## Panelist



### Dr. Ardavan Eizadirad

**Dr. Ardavan Eizadirad** is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Education at Wilfrid Laurier University. He is also a community activist and Executive Director of non-profit organization Youth Association for Academics, Athletics, and Character Education (YAAACE) in the Jane and Finch community in Toronto. He was an educator with the Toronto District School Board and a member of the Race and Identity-Based Data Collection Community Advisory Panel with the Toronto Police Service. Dr. Eizadirad is the author of *Decolonizing Educational Assessment: Ontario Elementary Students and the EQAO* (2019), and co-editor of *Equity as Praxis in Early Childhood Education and Care* (2021 with Drs. Zuhra Abawi & Rachel Berman), *Counternarratives of Pain and Suffering as Critical Pedagogy: Disrupting Oppression in Educational Contexts* (2022 with Drs. Andrew Campbell & Steve Sider), *The Power of Oral Culture in Education: Theorizing Proverbs, Idioms, and Folklore Tales* (2023 with Dr. Njoki Wane), *Enacting Anti-racism and Activist Pedagogies in Teacher Education: Canadian Perspectives* (2023 with Drs. Zuhra Abawi & Andrew Campbell). Dr. Eizadirad is also the founder and Director of EDication Consulting ([www.edication.org](http://www.edication.org)), offering equity, diversity, and inclusion training to organizations. His research interests include equity, restorative practices, standardized testing, oral culture, community engagement, youth violence prevention and intervention, anti-oppressive practices, critical pedagogy, social justice education, resistance, and decolonization.

## Panelist



### Sandy Yep

Sandy Yep is a life-long educator and learner. He is the current President of the Asian Canadian Educators Network. Previously, he was the Education Director with the Canadian Race Relations Foundation. He has a long history of working on human rights, equity and anti-racism education at the community, municipal, provincial and federal levels. He has devoted a lifetime of volunteer and leadership work with nonprofits, sports teams and clubs. As a fourth generation Quebecois-Chinois, his recent passion is to work on heritage development, protection and revitalization of Chinatowns including Montreal which he calls his "Ancestral Village". In his spare time, you will find him trail running or skiing mountains.

## Panelist



### Elaine Yu

Elaine Yu (she/her) is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in the Department of Social Justice Education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. As an international student from China and a Federal Skilled Worker, Elaine's academic and personal interests are focused on exploring the complexities of Chinese identities through the lens of transnational feminism, decolonization, and anti-racism frameworks. Elaine dedicates her time to community organizing, including advocating against anti-Asian racism and creating programs for Asian youth, elders, and teachers through her service roles at the Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter (CCNCTO) and Asian Canadian Educators Network (ACENet).