

TESNI ELLIS

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EDUCATION

- 2021 – Present **PhD Candidate, Language, Culture and Teaching**
Faculty of Education, York University, Toronto
Dissertation Title: “Drawing Towards Each Other in Study”
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- 2012 – 2014 **Master of Arts, Communication and Culture**
Faculty of Graduate Studies, York University, Toronto
Joint with Interdisciplinary Programs at the Yeates School of Graduate
and Postdoctoral Studies, Toronto Metropolitan University
MA Thesis Title: “Media-Making at Youville Centre: Voicing Young
Mothers’ Agency Through Digital Storytelling in the Alternative
Classroom”
-
- 2008 – 2012 **Bachelor of Arts Honours, Communication Studies**
School of Journalism and Communication
Minor in Film Studies, School for Studies in Arts and Culture
Carleton University, Ottawa

RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- June 2026 **Facilitator, Drawing-Based Conversations**
Public Education Exchange Network “Conversations about Education
Privatization: Drawing (from) Experience” Preconference Event
Winnipeg, Manitoba
- June 2024–
June 2025 **Conference Coordinator (Elected Student Leadership Position)**
York Graduate Students in Education
Faculty of Education, York University
-
- August 2024–
May 2025 **Research Assistant: Zine Conversation Series**
Early Childhood Pedagogies Collaboratory
-
- April 2022–
August 2022 **Research Consultant**
Possibility Seeds Research and Advocacy
-
- October 2021–
October 2022 **Editor & Digital Media Developer, Open Educational Resources**
Academic Success, University of Toronto
-
- January 2021–
May 2021 **Virtual Student Symposium Facilitator**, Global Learning
Toronto Metropolitan University

October 2020–
June 2021 **Research and Engagement Facilitator**, Office of Social Innovation
Toronto Metropolitan University

July 2019 **Independent Consultant: Strategic Review**
Dalhousie University Student Affairs Communications

April 2018–
September 2020 **Creator, Student Experience Research Team**
Student Affairs Storytelling, Toronto Metropolitan University

April 2016–
September 2020 **Manager**, Student Affairs Storytelling
Toronto Metropolitan University

July 2014–
April 2016 **Digital Community Facilitator**, Student Affairs Storytelling Toronto
Metropolitan University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Spring & Fall
2023–Present **Instructor**, Business Communications
Northern Lakes College, Alberta

Fall/Winter
2022–2025 **Teaching Assistant (Tutorial Leader)**, Foundations of
Education/Theory into Practice
Faculty of Education, York University

Winter 2022 **Teaching Assistant**, Research into Practice
Faculty of Education, York University

Fall 2021 **Teaching Assistant (Tutorial Leader)**, Child Development & Health
Faculty of Education, York University

Winter 2020 **Instructor**, Promotional Writing Workshop
G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education, Toronto
Metropolitan University

Winter 2019
Fall 2019
Winter 2020
Winter 2021 **Instructor**, Academic Success Foundations, Spanning the Gaps
G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education, Toronto
Metropolitan University

Fall/Winter
2013-2014 **Writing Tutor**, Writing Centre
Toronto Metropolitan University

HONOURS AND AWARDS

\$23,500 2025-2026	<p>Susan Mann Dissertation Scholarship York University Awarded to assist outstanding doctoral students in their final year of doctoral study.</p>
Honour	<p>Distinguished Graduate Student Paper Award 2023 Annual Conference on Curriculum Theory and Classroom Practice, Journal of Curriculum Theorizing (peer reviewed), October 14, 2023</p>
\$40,000/year (Years 3+4) \$20,000/year (Years 1+2)	<p>Doctoral Fellowship Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada 2022-2026</p>
\$10,000	<p>Vernon Oliver Stong Graduate Scholarship Faculty of Education, York University, Spring 2022</p>
\$15,000	<p>Ontario Graduate Scholarship (declined) 2022-2023</p>
\$6,000/year	<p>York Doctoral Fellowship Faculty of Graduate Studies, York University 2021-2026</p>
Honour	<p>Make Your Mark Staff Award for Innovation Toronto Metropolitan University, 2019</p>
Honour	<p>Innovation Award Canadian Association of College and Universities Student Services, 2017</p>
\$17,500	<p>Joseph-Armand Bombardier Graduate Scholarship Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada 2013-2014</p>
\$10,000	<p>Ontario Graduate Scholarship (declined) 2013-2014</p>
\$6,000	<p>York Graduate Scholarship Faculty of Graduate Studies, York University 2012-2013</p>
Honour	<p>Senate Medal for Outstanding Academic Achievement Carleton University, Spring 2012 Convocation Ceremonies</p>

\$900 **Rogers Communications Award for Communication Studies**
Carleton University, Spring 2012

\$4,000/year **Academic Scholarship**, Carleton University
2008-2012 (Four Academic Years)

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Books, Book Reviews, and Book Chapters (2)

Book Review (Author): Ellis, T. (2026). Review of The Figure of the Teacher in Comics: A Psychoanalytic Study of Immaterial and Fragmented Education. *Philosophical Inquiry in Education*, 33(1), 117-120.

<https://pie.journals.publicknowledgeproject.org/index.php/pie/article/view/2063>.

Edited Book Chapter (Author): Ellis, T. (2024). What drawing can lead us to see: Drawing cartoons with student researchers in J. Dehart & P. Hash (Eds.) *Arts-based research across visual media in education (Vol. 1)* (pp. 43-57). Routledge.

<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003294658-4>

Peer-Reviewed Articles (3)

Article (Co-Author): Ellis, T. & Downey, A. M. (2025). Re-listening to Alexisonfire: Duo-currere, adolescence, and the forms of study therewithin. *Currere and Praxis*, 2(1), 13-30.

<https://journals.symphonypub.com/index.php/cp/article/view/69/39>

Article (Author): Ellis, T. (2024). Somewhere between currere and ficto-currere, with my teacher The Near-Sighted Monkey. *Journal of Curriculum Theorizing*, 39(4), 26-37.

<https://journal.jctonline.org/index.php/jct/issue/view/127>

Article (Co-Author): Hannah, J. and Ellis, T. (2018). The student as artist. *About Campus: Enriching the Student Learning Experience*, 23(2), 11-18.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/1086482218785876>

Other Publications (7)

Zine (Author): Ellis, T. (2025). Supposed to see. *Early Childhood Pedagogies Collaboratory: Zine Conversation Series*.

<https://www.earlychildhoodcollaboratory.net/about-the-zine-conversation-series>.

Magazine Article (Author): Ellis, T. (2023). Fire and floods in our own backyards: Examining climate change displacement and internal migration in Canada, *Climate Change Research Month* (pp. 34-36). York University Centre for Feminist Research. <https://shorturl.at/BorWg>.

Zine (Co-Author): Ellis, T. & Z. Martin. (2022). A research-creation co-created zine manifesto. *SORCE Collective*.
<https://www.sorcecollective.ca/2023/11/08/a-research-creation-co-created-zine-manifesto/>

Magazine Article (Co-Author): Frankowski, A., Johnston, L., D'Andrea, J. & Ellis, T. (2022, October) Returning to RE:. *Pedagogists Network of Ontario*, October 2022,
<https://pedagogistnetworkontario.com/returning-to-re>

Open Educational Resource (E-Book Editor): Ali, Y., Bhat, R., Xu, W., Hannah, J. & Ellis, T. (2022). International Students: Stories and Strategies for Academic Success in Postsecondary Education. Academic Success, Division of Student Life, University of Toronto.
<https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/academicresilience/>.

Zine (Contributor): Various authors. *Flip the Switch Zine*. (2021). Office of Social Innovation, Toronto Metropolitan University.
<https://www.torontomu.ca/social-innovation/initiatives/projects/zine/>

Interview (Author): Ellis, T. & Courneya, J. (2021, May 11). "Disrupting traditional research methods." Office of Social Innovation. Toronto Metropolitan University.
<https://www.torontomu.ca/social-innovation/news/spotlights/2021/05/ser-t-osi/>

SELECT CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Conference Papers (23)

Paper (Co-Author): Ellis, T. & Van Berkel, E. (2026, June 3). *Drawing and the Challenging Practice of Staying in Dialogue, Through a Friendly Sketchbook Exchange*. [Conference Paper]. Canadian Society for Studies in Education 2026 Conference at Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. University of Winnipeg, Winnipeg, MB.

Workshop (Facilitator): Ellis, T. (2026, May 9). *Drawing Out the Shared Shape of Hiraeth*. [Colloquium Workshop]. Trent Arts Research Group (TARG) Annual Colloquium. Trent University, Peterborough, ON.

Paper (Author): Ellis, T. (2025, June 4). *Emerging insights from drawing groups with post-secondary students (or, beginning notes on the images that appeared between us, one spring day)*. [Conference Paper]. Canadian Society for Studies in Education 2025 Conference at Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. George Brown College, Toronto, ON.

Workshop (Facilitator): Ellis, T. (2025, May 31). *Drawing out our practice*. [Workshop]. Arts Researchers and Teachers Society Pre-Conference CSSE 2025. Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, ON.

Workshop (Co-Facilitator): Ellis, T., Veselka, M. & Tesfaye, Y. (2025, February 19). *Drawn to the Waves: Introducing con-currents*. [Workshop]. 21st Annual York Graduate Students in Education Conference. The Tranzac Club, Toronto, ON.

Paper on Panel (Author): Ellis, T. (2024, October 17). Meetings with objects of affection in the amateur drawing group. In T. Ellis, t. martin, H. Stuart-Hitchcox & J. D'Andrea (Authors) *The world – where we meet and act and speak with each other* [Paper on panel]. 44th Annual JCT Conference on Curriculum Theory and Classroom Practice. Dayton, Ohio, USA.

Paper on Panel (Author): Ellis, T. (2024, April 26). Drawing with the medium between us. In K. Sandlos, T. Ellis, L. S. Duss & B. Casemore (Authors) *On the generative possibilities of limits in art and curriculum* [Paper on panel]. American Association for Advancement of Curriculum Studies (AAACS) 3rd Annual Online Conference. Virtual.

Paper (Author): Ellis, T. (2023, October 13). *Somewhere between currere and ficto-currere with my teacher The Near-Sighted Monkey*. [Conference paper]. 43rd Annual JCT Conference on Curriculum Theory and Classroom Practice. Dayton, Ohio, USA.

Paper (Author): Ellis, T. (2023, May 28). *Seeing 'study' in cartoon self-portraits by undergraduate researchers*. [Conference paper]. 51st Annual Canadian Society for Studies in Education Conference. Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences. York University, Toronto, ON.

Paper (Author): Ellis, T. (2023, May 30). Confessions of a former student affairs professional. In F. Amarasingh, T. Ellis, H. Stuart-Hitchcox & M. Di Paolantonio (Authors) *Pedagogies of Attention* [Paper on panel]. 51st Annual Canadian Society for Studies in Education Conference. Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences. York University, Toronto, ON.

Paper (Author): Ellis, T. (2023, March 25). *An invitation to 'pass time' together in study: The psychedelic syllabus*. [Conference paper]. 10th Biennale Provoking Curriculum Conference. University of Western Ontario, London, ON.

Workshop (Co-Facilitator): Ellis, T. & Martin, Z. (2022, November 10). *Zine-making in research-creation*. [Workshop]. SORCE Collective Unconference. Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, ON.

Paper (Author): Ellis, T. (2022, March 24). *Seeing 'me as a student': Cartoon self-portraits of "study" by undergraduate research assistants*. [Conference paper]. 18th Annual York Graduate Students in Education Conference. York University, Toronto, ON (Virtual).

Presentation (Co-Presenter): Ellis, T., Machado, J. & Idrees, A. (2021, May). *How an alternative field placement offered students new approaches to social work practice through arts-informed teaching and research methods.* [Conference presentation]. Learning and Teaching Conference. Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, ON (Virtual).

Presentation (Co-Presenter): Ellis, T., Hannah, J., Wright, M., Adjei-Manu, E., Lowenstein, C., McIntosh, D., & Webb, G. (2020, June 8). *Inside the student experience research team: Engaging Undergraduates in meaningful Student Affairs scholarship.* [Conference presentation]. Canadian Association of College and University Student Services Annual Conference. Virtual.

Installation (Co-Presenter): Ellis, T., Hannah, J., Adjei-Manu, E., Bakroun, Z., Churilla, C., Mawdsley, R., & Tulloch, M. (2019, March). *Interactive gallery by the Student Experience Research Team.* [Interactive installation and presentation]. Faculty of Arts ARTeries Undergraduate Research Conference. Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, ON.

Workshop (Co-Facilitator): Ellis, T. & Msosa, Y. (2018, June). *Feminist Hour comes to CACUSS/ARUCC.* [Workshop]. Canadian Association of College and University Student Services Annual Conference. Charlottetown, PEI.

Workshop (Co-Facilitator): Ellis, T., Parnell, B., D'Souza, L., Wickiam, V., Willis, D., & Hannah, J. (2017, June). *Design Thinking in Student Affairs: A new way to frame our practice.* [Conference workshop]. Canadian Association of College and University Student Services Annual Conference. Winnipeg, MB.

Presentation (Co-Presenter): Ellis, T., Parnell, B., & D'Souza, L. (2017, February). *Design thinking in student affairs.* [Conference presentation]. 15th Annual Student Affairs Conference at NYU. New York University, New York City, NY.

Short Film Screening (Artist): Ellis, T. (2014, Spring). *(No)Words.* [Short film screening]. Thinking|Feeling, Graduate Program in Communication and Culture Annual Conference, York University and Toronto Metropolitan University. Toronto, ON.

Paper (Author): Ellis, T. (2014, Spring). *Thinking, feeling, Media-making at Youville Centre.* [Conference paper]. Thinking|Feeling, Graduate Program in Communication and Culture Annual Conference, York University and Toronto Metropolitan University. Toronto, ON.

Paper (Author): Ellis, T. (2014, Spring). *Future communications and Media-making at Youville Centre.* [Conference paper]. Annual Future Communications Conference, York University, Toronto, ON.

Paper (Author): Ellis, T. (2014, Spring). *Media-making at Youville Centre.* [Conference paper]. Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Annual Conference. Chicago, IL, USA.

Guest Lectures and Public Talks (4)

Panelist: (2025, June 5). Teaching Roundtable Discussion on “Inspiring Hope: Education as a Catalyst for Change in Tumultuous Times” at York University Faculty of Education Year End Celebration. Toronto, ON.

Invited Guest Lecture: (2022, March 22). *Digital Storytelling: Personal Narrative as Anti-Oppressive Practice*. [Guest Lecture for SK8214 with S. Wehbi]. School of Social Work, Toronto Metropolitan University.

Invited Guest Lecture: (2022, March 21). *Digital Storytelling: Personal Narrative as Anti-Oppressive Practice*. [Guest Lecture for SK8214 with S. Wehbi]. School of Social Work, Toronto Metropolitan University.

Invited Public Talk: (2018, August 28). *6 Ideas in 60 Minutes: Storytelling with Tesni Ellis*. [Public Talk on Panel for RU Leadership]. Orientation Week, Toronto Metropolitan University.

Research Reports (4)

Report (Co-Author): Wright, E., Larocque, S., & Ellis, T. (2021). *Equity, Access and Inclusion in Global Learning Abroad: Student-Centred Insights Towards Ensuring Increased Participation and Quality Experiences*. [Research report]. Toronto Metropolitan University. Funded by the Government of Canada’s Outbound Mobility Pilot Program.

Report (Co-Author and Editor): Ellis, T. and the 2021 Student Experience Research Team (2021). *Student stories from the Degrees of Debt: Considering the impact of debt on engagement and well-being through an arts-informed, student-led inquiry*. Student Affairs Storytelling.

Report (Co-Author and Editor): Ellis, T. and the 2019-20 Student Experience Research Team. (2020). *Continuums and Conundrums of Student Engagement, Person to Person: Introducing Academic “Desirability” to Narratives of Belonging*. Student Affairs Storytelling.

Report (Co-Author and Editor): Hannah, J., Ellis, T., and 2018-19 Student Experience Research Team (2019). *Stuck Narratives and the Student Experience at Ryerson University: Undergraduate Student Expectations and Lived Realities of Post-Secondary Education as Explored Through an Arts-Based Research Design*. Student Affairs Storytelling.

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

2026-Present	Board Member: Ah! Arts And Heritage Centre Of Warkworth
2023-Present	Association Member: Trent Arts Research Group (TARG), Trent University
2023-Present	Association Member: Canadian Society for Studies in Education; Canadian Association for Curriculum Studies; Canadian Association for Foundations of Education; Arts Researchers and Teachers Society
2024-2025	Conference Coordinator, York Graduate Students in Education, Faculty of Education, York University
2023-2024	Mentor, Grad Mentorship Program, Faculty of Education, York University
2022-2023	Reviewer, Arts-Based Research Across Visual Media in Education, 2024, Routledge
2021-2022	CopyEditor, Vol 1, No. 1 <i>YU-Write</i> , Journal of Graduate Student Research in Education, York University
2021-2022	Digital Gallery Creator Conference Organizing Committee Member, York Graduate Students in Education, Faculty of Education, York University
2017-2018	Professional Development Committee Co-Chair, Student Affairs, Toronto Metropolitan University
2015-2017	Professional Development Committee Member, Student Affairs, Toronto Metropolitan University
2016-2018	Co-Creator, Feminist Hour, Consent Comes First and Student Affairs Storytelling, Toronto Metropolitan University