

2020-21 ACADEMIC YEAR

EGSC ANNUAL REPORT



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EGSC Organizer 2020-21

About the Collective

The Education Graduate Students of Colour (EGSC) is a collective in the Anglophone sector of the Faculty Education at the University of Ottawa. Our collective uses a consensus-based decision-making model and a non-hierarchical framework, to refuse and resist traditional approaches within the academy. In that manner, we aim to think critically and radically about anticolonialism and antiracism through a lens that addresses, challenges, and abolishes oppression in all forms. More specifically, the EGSC examines and interrogates different forms of racism and their intersections within the field of education, including but not limited to the experiences of students within our own faculty.

Financial Report

Coming into its first year, the EGSC worked with a budget of \$2,000 provided through the Special Funds for Enhancing Student Experience at the Faculty of Education, in addition to \$150 from the Education Graduate Students Association (EGSA) for one session in January and \$107 from CUPE 2626 for another session in the same month. Most of the expenses included paying honorariums for the sessions/workshops and for graduate students who participated in the *Counter-Narratives* publication. Outside of that, the EGSC incurred an expense of \$206.95 for the domain and website and then an expense of \$83.94 for the Zoom webinar feature used in January. At the end of the year academic year, the EGSC had a balance of \$9.11 remaining.

Year-in-Review

The EGSC started off the year with the Fall 2020 Institute, a series focused on serving as a primer on antiracism in education. Dr. Saba Alvi (University of Ottawa) was the keynote speaker along with sessions across the rest of Reading Week by Linzey Corridon (McMaster University), Rebeca Mahadeo (University of Toronto-Mississauga), and Shyam Patel (University of Ottawa). Dr. Alvi's keynote drew in one of our largest audiences, with over 80 people in attendance. The other sessions also fared well, in terms of reach, with 45-60 attendees. This success would not have been possible without the support of professors and students within the Faculty of Education. A special thank you goes to Dr. Diane Watt, Dr. Francis Bangou, and Dr. Nicholas Ng-a-Fook for actively supporting the EGSC with its promotions within and beyond the Faculty of Education, and for putting out the word around the collective's work in its first year of planning and organizing.

After the Fall 2020 Institute, the focus shifted to the *Counter-Narratives* student-run journal for which the EGSC received eight abstract submissions around the theme of Antiracism and Racism in Education. This work would not have been possible without the support of Aisha Maula Bux and Hoda Ahmed in terms of the editing work and organizing all the pieces.

In November 2020, the Teacher Candidates of Colour (TCC) Collective facilitated and lead a session with Dr. Vidya Shah (York University) in collaboration with the EGSC. This session specifically focused on Navigating Racism in Academia, and while open to everyone, had been a

way to support Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) in Teacher Education and graduate studies. It was also the second time we worked with Dr. Shah, who has been a strong pillar of support for both the EGSC and the TCC Collective.

In the Winter 2021 semester, with the collaboration of the TCC Collective, the EGSC held two webinars in January, one with Molly Swain (University of Alberta) on Decolonizing Education and another with Dr. Tasha Ausman (University of Ottawa) on Cultural Appropriation in the Classroom. Both webinars had 30-35 attendees, ranging from teacher candidates to graduate students to educators from the school boards in Gatineau and Ottawa.

In February 2021, the EGSC engaged in supporting the series on *Black History Month: Past, Present, and Future* under the Vice-Dean of Governance and Student Affairs, Dr. Francis Bangou's office, as a part of the Student Associations Collective (SAC). The co-leads on this series were Asmaa Hagi and Shyam Patel. The series was highlighted with Dr. Marie-Carène Pierre René as the keynote speaker along with community members and students who facilitated sessions/workshops.

For its first year, the EGSC had a strong year, especially in terms of supporting the work of alternative education and for building a presence within the faculty and beyond. However, this would not have been possible without the EGSC's partners. A special thank you to Dr. Francis Bangou's office for funding made available through the Special Projects Fund. As well, thank you to the EGSA for all its communication and organization in supporting the EGSC with its many initiatives and projects.

Looking Forward

In 2021, the EGSC will have three co-organizers: Hoda Ahmed, Shyam Patel, and Yeti Mallavi. Along with focusing on the Fall 2021 Institute and the second volume of *Counter-Narratives*, the EGSC will be focusing on having one collaborative project with the TCC Collective, which for 2021-22 will be the Educators for #FreePalestine sessions/workshops. The co-organizers will also be involved in working on internal documents around the consensus-decision making model and recruitment policies, in addition an external document around the collective's mandate and by-laws.

In terms of the Student Associations Collective, Yeti Mallavi will be sitting as the EGSC representative, and she will be co-leading the series on Black History Month with the TCC Collective representative, Eric Assaad. The tentative theme of the series is B(I)ack to the Future.