Dr Olga Shugurova

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Award-winning educator and academic leader with a PhD in Education and Educational Leadership from Nipissing University, Ontario, Canada, passionate for creating and co-creating inclusive, interdisciplinary educational experiences and motivational learning ecosystems for all learners and faculty members. Published educational researcher with an area of expertise in authentic educational leadership as well as a novel integration of AI in learning to develop students' motivation, authorial agency, and mental wellbeing. Committed to promoting equity, diversity, and student success through innovative and evidence-based approaches. Nominated for the Teaching Excellence Award by the Faculty of Arts at the University of Manitoba (2023-2024) for my interdisciplinary courses. Received a research 2-year grant for an interdisciplinary qualitative study on gender and learning development at York University (2007).

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Education (Ph.D.)
• Educational Leadership, Learning Development
• Nipissing University, Schulich School of Education, 2017
• Dissertation: Learning, local knowledge and place

Master of Cultural Studies (MES)
• Culture and Education, Interdisciplinary Social Sciences,
• York University, Faculty of Interdisciplinary, Environmental Studies 2009

Bachelor of Environmental Studies (BES.), Cultural Studies
• York University, Faculty of Environmental Studies, 2007

RESEARCH FOCUS
• Curriculum development for non-traditional learners with dialogic pedagogy and AI
• Recruitment, retention, and graduation strategies for non-traditional students: a sociocultural paradigm for student success, mental well-being, and career skills building
• High-impact teaching practices in Interdisciplinary Studies in hybrid classroom settings

UNIVERSITY COURSES TAUGHT (20+)
• Research Projects
• Leadership: An Interdisciplinary Approach
• Career Development Strategies
• Workforce Readiness Skills
• Families and Diversity
• Contested Spaces in Education
• Cross-Cultural Education

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Visiting Assistant Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies, School of Lifelong Learning and Human Development
Jackson State University, January 2025-present
• Teach undergraduate courses in Interdisciplinary Studies and Research Projects
• Design and deliver engaging coursework utilizing innovative, instructional AI-powered methods and educational technologies via Canvas Learning Management System (LMS)
• Build a customized AI for my course «Special Field Research Projects»
• Program revisions, service, research

Interdisciplinary Instructor, Faculty of Arts
University of Manitoba, January 2015-May 2025
• Taught undergraduate and graduate courses in Leadership: An Interdisciplinary approach
• Designed and delivered engaging coursework utilizing innovative instructional methods and educational technologies leading to 150 % increase in enrolment and 90 % retention rates
• Served on curriculum development committees and contributed to program revisions
• Mentored and advised students, providing guidance on academic and career pathways.
• Conducted research and published scholarly articles in peer-reviewed journals such as Dialogic Pedagogy, Inquiry in Education, Contemporary Education Dialogue
• Average teaching Score is 90 % of student satisfaction with learning and instruction

Course Developer
University of Manitoba, 2018- 2022
• Utilized the latest research on inclusive pedagogy for digital learning environments to create a dialogic and engaging student-centered educational ecosystems leading to increased enrolments up to 150% per term
• Integrated AI models, such as Dall-E and LLMs, for enhanced learning comprehension and visualization of instructional content as well as self-directed leadership training leading to 90% of student satisfaction with their learning experience
• Revised and redeveloped an online asynchronous self-paced course undergraduate course, «Leadership: An Interdisciplinary Approach,» for the Faculty of Arts

Deputy-Editor-in-Chief,
Dialogic Pedagogy, August 2015-Present
• Manage a diverse team of editors and contributors, increasing journal submissions by 40% and improving publication quality, as evidenced by a 20% increase in citation rates
• Enhance collaborative projects with educational institutions, leading to a series of co-published research articles that expanded the journal's reputation and readership.

Coordinator/Manager, Work-Integrated Learning Department
Queens College, January 2022 - January 2025
• Lead a team of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs), instructional designers and faculty developers in creating and delivering professional development opportunities for students and staff
• Oversee the development and implementation of pedagogical and technological training programs, including workshops, learning communities, and micro-credentials leading to increase in enrolment by 80 %

- Collaborate with academic divisions to align faculty support initiatives with institutional strategic goals and priorities leading to exceptional audit performance and reports exceeding standards with 90 % rate
- Foster cross-campus partnerships and facilitate communities of practice focused on teaching excellence and student success through networking, industry events and shadowing
- Develop and implement evidence-based strategies to promote inclusive and equitable teaching practices
- Designed, developed and implemented an AI-based administrative workflow system to improve organizational efficiency leading to an increase in 80% productivity

Part-Time Faculty Member, Faculty of Education
Nipissing University, 2021-2022
- Taught undergraduate courses in the Faculty of Education «Diversity and Inclusion»
- Developed, designed and delivered asynchronous modules, activities, wrote content leading to 100 retention rates and 95 % student success rate with 85 % of student satisfaction with my teaching, instructional design and content

Lecturer, Faculty of Education
University of Prince Edward Island, 2018
- Taught a teacher education course «Arts and Social Transformations»
- Designed and developed educational resources and onsite learning materials
- Conducted grounded theory research to understand and explore students' learning development

School Principal
Harmonie School, 2013
- Managed comprehensive school operations, leading to a 50% increase in student enrollment through strategic marketing and community engagement initiatives, while maintaining a 95% parent satisfaction rate
- Oversaw the development and implementation of an innovative, inclusive curriculum that boosted student learning outcomes by 25%, as evidenced by standardized testing and portfolio assessments
- Successfully managed the school's budget, achieving a 15% cost reduction through efficient resource allocation
- Led a fundraising campaign that secured $100K+ in grants for school improvement projects, enhancing educational resources and facilities

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CERTIFICATIONS

- Certificate of Completion, Latasha Norman Center for Counseling Services: Resources and Training Course, *Jackson State University*, February 2025
- *Certificate of Accessibility in Online Teaching and Learning,* University of Manitoba, 2024
- Build Your Own GPTs, *Project Management Institute*, August 2024
- Intelligent Automation Certificate, *National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA)*, 2024
- Mental Health First Aid Provider for Students, *Mental Health Commission of Canada*, 2023
- Making Educators Partners in Youth Suicide Prevention, *SPTS University, Society for the Prevention of Teen Suicide*, 2019

- Working Together: The Ontario Human Rights Code and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, *Ontario Human Rights Commission*, 2021
- Sexual Violence Awareness, *University of Manitoba*, 2017
- Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Certification, *University of Manitoba*, 2019
- Teaching Circles Pedagogy, Indigenous Studies, *Native Canadian Centre*, 2012
- Registered Educational Counsellor, *Ontario Association of Mental Health Professionals* (OAMHP; Former OACCPP), 2011-2025

SKILLS
- Dialogic pedagogy, instructional design, curriculum development, project-based teaching
- Proficient in learning management systems (e.g., Canvas, Moodle Blackboard) and educational technologies such as Large Language Models (LLMs) and AI
- Strong leadership, project management, and change management abilities
- Excellent communication, facilitation, and interpersonal skills

SERVICE TO UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSION

- Committee Member, Elevate Magazine, School of Lifelong Learning, *Jackson State University,* January 2025-present
- Conference Organization Committee Member, AI Symposium and Research Cooperation, *Jackson State University,* February 2025-present
- Symposium Review Committee Member, *The European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction (EARLI)*, Graz, Austria, 2024-present
- Committee Member, Artificial Intelligence in Education Technology Conference, *Springer Nature*, Munich, 2025-present
- Chair, Moderator of the Public Educational Event Women in Public Leadership in the Faculty of Arts, *University of Manitoba*, 2015
- Presenter on behalf of the University of Manitoba at Informational Sessions for High School Students, 2015, 2016
- Guest Speaker on Doctoral Educational Research for the Critical Conversations in Educational Research summer residency course at *Nipissing University,* 2018-present
- External Reviewer, Interchange, *Springer Nature*, 2024-present
- External Reviewer for *Journal of Multicultural Education*, 2017-present
- External Reviewer for *Journal of Leadership Education*, 2018-present
- External Reviewer for *Environmental Education Research*, 2019-present
- Peer Reviewer for *Journal of Unschooling and Alternative Education*, 2014-2019
- Assistant Editor for *Journal of Unschooling and Alternative Education*, 2019-2020
- Managing Editor for *Dialogic Pedagogy: An International Online Journa*l, 2015-present

SELECTED PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS AND REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

1. Shugurova, O. (2025, March 6). Practicing democratic education with a course-based Custom GPT and dialogic prompts. *The University of Windsor's Open Education Week Conference*
2. Matusov, E., Smith, M., & Shugurova, O. (Forthcoming, 2025). Development. *Encyclopedia of cultural psychology*. Edward Elgar Publishing

3. Shugurova, O. (2025). Exploration of AI-Induced Emotions (AIIE) in students' learning experiences. *The European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction (EARLI) Conference,* University of Graz, Austria, August 25-29

4. Shugurova, O. (Forthcoming, Accepted for Publication, 2025). Reflective writing inquiry in work-integrated learning through students' voices and dialogic feedback. *International Journal of Work-Integrated Learning*

5. Shugurova, O. (In review). «It's thrilling and liberating but I worry.» *Culture & Psychology.*

6. Shugurova, O. (Revisions in review). Becoming a doctoral candidate through a poetic methodology of transgression as a feminist, ontological stance of self-authorship and freedom. *The Qualitative Report (TQR)*

7. Shugurova, O. (2024, November). Emergent feelings of a cyborg: Explorations of AI-induced emotions from a dialogical philosophical perspective. *Annual Conference and Symposium of the Society for the Philosophical Study of Education*

8. Shugurova, O. (2024, November). Reimagining classroom as Agora: Open social spaces of democratic education. *Annual Conference and Symposium of the Society for the Philosophical Study of Education*

9. Shugurova, O. (2024). Integrating Large Language Models (LLMs) in education: Impact on students' mental health and learning experience. *3rd International Congress on Pedagogical Mediation: Cultural Sensitivity and Technological Innovation. Universidad Nacional Abierta y a Distancia.*

10. Matusov, E., Smith, M., & Shugurova, O. (2024). Dialogic self and ChatGPT4. 1*2th International Conference on Dialogic Self,* Tallinn, Estonia, June 2024.

11. Shugurova, O. (2024). Walking with a/r/tographic oil pastels in field research. In R. Irwin et al. (Ed.), *Pedagogical propositions: Walking with a/r/tography* InSEA.

12. Matusov, E., GPT, C., Smith, M. P., & Shugurova, O. (2023). Does ChatGPT4 have a dialogical self?: A Bakhtinian perspective. *Culture & Psychology*, 0(0). https://doi.org/10.1177/1354067X231219454

13. Shugurova, O (Chair of Symposium), Matusov, E., & Marjanovic-Shane, A. (2022). Dialogue, diversity, and interdisciplinarity in the field of learning and instruction. *The European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction, EARLI SIG 10* Conference, September 7-9, Belgrade, Serbia.

14. Shugurova, O., Matusov, E., & Marjanovic-Shane, A. (2022). The University of Students: A place for joint self-education. *Dialogic Pedagogy: An International Online Journal, 10,* E1-E42 https://doi.org/10.5195/dpj.2022.497

15. Shugurova, O. (2023). Searching for a more-than-human dialogic pedagogy. *i.e.: inquiry in education, 15*(3), 1-22.

16. Shugurova, O. (2021). Transformative, intercultural learning from the indigenous teaching circle. *Journal of Unschooling and Alternative Learning, 13*(29).

17. Shugurova, O. (2020). Co-constructing a learner-centred, democratic syllabus with teacher candidates. *i.e.: inquiry in education, 12*(2)

18. Shugurova, O. (2020). Exploration of students' thoughts about their right to freedom of education. *Dialogic Pedagogy: An International Online Journal,* 8, SF50-SF58, https://doi.org/10.5195/dpj.2020.345

19. Shugurova, O. (2019). Teaching teacher candidates about social transformations through arts and place.*i.e.: inquiry in education, 11*(1), 1-19.

20. Shugurova, O. (2019). A/r/tographic memoir of my ideological becoming. *International Journal of Education and the Arts, 20*(17), 1-22

21. Shugurova, O. (2021). Feminist dialogic pedagogical spaces in teacher education: Practical inclusivity, eye-opening, and social change. C*ontemporary Education Dialogue,18*(1), 29-57, https://doi.org/10.1177/0973184920969338

22. Shugurova, O. (2018, May 16-19). On my praxis of becoming a/r/tography: The ontological standpoint against technical skills, political standards, and mechanical rationality in arts-based research. *14th International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*, Illinois, US

23. Shugurova, O. (2018, May 16-19). Questioning new questions through a visual poetics of place: Rhizomatic possibilities of becoming in a/r/tography, *14th International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

24. Staragina, I., Matusov, E.,Marjanovic-Shane, A., Shugurova, O., & Chen, L. (2017). Dialogic pedagogy and cultural practices. Taking a 360° view of the landscape of cultural-historical activity research: The state of our scholarship in practice, *5th International ISCAR (The International Society of Cultural-historical Activity Research) Congress*. August 28th, Quebec, Canada

25. Shugurova, O. (2018). A/r/tography of life learning. *Journal of Unschooling and Alternative Learning (JUAL), 12*(23), 19-55.

26. Shugurova, O. (2013). Time and place of ecopsychology in cultural pedagogy: The context of holistic well-being and learning. Well-Being for Children and Youth: *2nd Interdisciplinary Conference on Educating for Sustainable Well- Being*. University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, November 16