

## SOPHIA THRAYA

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### EDUCATIONAL HISTORY

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Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)  
Educational Research in Learning  
Sciences  
Expected Completion: June 2027

**University of Calgary, Werklund School of Education**  
(Supervisor: Dr. Miwa Aoki Takeuchi)

- Recipient of President's Doctoral Recruitment  
Scholarship in Transdisciplinary Research

Master of Arts (M.A.) Educational  
Research in Learning Sciences  
June 2023

**University of Calgary, Werklund School of Education**  
(Supervisor: Dr. Miwa Aoki Takeuchi)

- Thesis: Thraya, S. (2023). Translanguaging on and with the  
land: anti-coloniality, (re)connection and learning with  
refugee learners (Master's thesis, University of Calgary,  
Calgary, Canada).  
<https://dx.doi.org/10.11575/PRISM/41581>
  - Awarded Network of the Learning Sciences in  
Canada Masters Thesis Award for Excellence for  
the 2022-23 academic year.

Bachelor of Education, Elementary  
English as an Additional Language  
(EAL) Education  
May 2021

**University of Calgary, Werklund School of Education**

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)  
Sociology with Distinction  
May 2021

**University of Calgary**

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### PUBLICATIONS

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#### Invited, Refereed Journal Articles

- 1) Thraya, S., Takeuchi, M., & Rahm, J. (in press). Translanguaging to (Re)Connect: Heterogenous Scientific Knowing Grounded in Land-based Learning Spaces with Refugee Children. Journal of Research in Science Teaching Special Issue, co-edited by Suárez, Enrique; Pérez (Tufts), Greses; González-Howard, María.

#### In Preparation Publication

- 1) Thraya, S. (in preparation). Reenvisioning *the 'silent period'*: Unsilencing through a translanguaging stance.

### Invited, Refereed Book Chapters

- 1) Takeuchi, M., Thraya, S., Wang, X., (in press). "Can the Plants Talk?": Linguistic Queering to Unveil the Hidden with Programming. In Proctor, Chris; Semel, Beth; Suárez, Enrique; Vogel, Sara. Learning Machines: *Sociology of Language Perspectives on Digitally Mediated Learning*. Contributions to the Sociology of Language.
- 2) Kopparla, M., Takeuchi, M.A., Yuen, J., Thraya, S., & Chowdhury, A. (in press). Play, joy, and creativity in land-based STEM learning: Reconnecting with intergenerational knowledge for refugee learners. In J. Adams, & C. Siry (Eds.). *Wondering sciences: Creativity, imagination and future thinking in sciences education*. New York: Springer.
- 3) Banerjee, P., Coakley, A., Narula, B., Saheb Javaher, N., Theodore, R., Thraya, S. (2020). Gender and resettlement of Yazidi refugee families in Calgary: A deep dive in the resettlement, health, carework and education processes. Metropolis Conference Ebook.

### Refereed Conference Proceedings

- 1) Takeuchi, M., Thraya, S., Mambo, T. (2024) Learning to See Beyond Anthropocentric Views on Bodies through Transdisciplinary Soil-Centered Pedagogy. In The 18<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Learning Sciences 2024 proceedings. Buffalo, USA: International Society of the Learning Sciences.
- 2) Thraya, S., Takeuchi, M.A., Kopparla, M., & Chowdhury, A. (2023). Co-Fostering Translanguaging Spaces Through Design for Embodied (Re)Connection. In The 17th International Conference of the Learning Sciences 2023 proceedings. Montreal, Canada: International Society of the Learning Sciences.
  - This paper was nominated for the ISLS Outstanding Student Paper Award.
- 3) Chowdhury, A., Takeuchi, M.A., Kopparla, M., & Thraya, S. (2023). Arts as Critical Transdisciplinary Pedagogy: Awakening Relationality Through the Anti-Opressive Facilitation of Soil Painting on the Land. In The 17th International Conference of the Learning Sciences 2023 proceedings. Montreal, Canada: International Society of the Learning Sciences.
- 4) Vadeboncoeur, J., Takeuchi, M., Rahm, J., Marin, A., Curnow, J., Chowdhury, A., Kopparla, M., Thraya, S., Czuy, K., El Halwany, S., Turner, K., Qureshi, N., Marlow, S., Edino, R., & Adams, J., (2023) Reimagining Learning Research in "Canada" as "Road Making": Opportunities to Move Toward Equity Through Walking Methodologies. In The 17th International Conference of the Learning Sciences 2023 proceedings. Montreal, Canada: International Society of the Learning Sciences.
- 5) Thraya, S., & Takeuchi, M.A. (2022). Translanguaging as a tool to (re)connect: Co-designing land-based learning environments with refugee children. In C. Chinn, E. Tan, C. Chan, & Y. Kali (Eds.), The 16th International Conference of the Learning Sciences

### Non-Refereed Reports

- 1) Takeuchi, M.A., Chowdhury, A., Kopparla, M., Thraya, S., Yuen, J., Czuy, K., Mambo, T., Olson, R., Sobh, H., & Fakih, A. (2021). *Soil camp: Learning with the land toward refugee integration, diversity and sustainability through community partnerships 2020–21*. University of Calgary. <http://hdl.handle.net/1880/113973>

- 2) Banerjee, Pallavi; Saheb Javaher, Negin; Thraya, Sophia; Karsha, Souzan; Short, Tanner. (2021). *Resettling Yazidi Refugee Families in Calgary by Calgary Catholic Immigration Society (CCIS): A Home Assessment Qualitative Report 2020-21*. University of Calgary. <https://prism.ucalgary.ca/handle/1880/114530>

## Media

- Linguistic Relativity & Implications for Refugees in the Pandemic, TCD: World in Perspective Podcast (2021)

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS, PAPERS, AND POSTERS

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### Refereed Conference Presentations

1. Thraya, S., Kopparla, M., Takeuchi, M.A. (2024, June). *Care as Anti-Colonial Relationality: Translanguaging in a Land-Based STEM Program for Refugee Children and Youth*. In J. Adams & S. El Halwany (Chairs), *Speculative Science Education Toward Socioecological Care* [Symposium]. Canadian Society for the Study of Education Conference (CSSE), Montreal, Canada.
2. Takeuchi, M., Thraya, S., Mambo, T. (2024, June). *Learning to See Beyond Anthropocentric Views on Bodies through Transdisciplinary Soil-Centered Pedagogy*. Paper submitted for the International Society of the Learning Sciences Annual Meeting Buffalo, USA: International Society of the Learning Sciences.
3. Dadkhahfard, S., Kopparla, M., Takeuchi, M.A., Thraya, S. (2024, April). *Collective Illustrating of Socioecological Care Toward Pluriversal Speculations*. In T. Jen (Chair), *Speculative Science Education Toward Socioecological Care* [Structured Poster Presentation]. American Educational Research Association's Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA.
4. Thraya, S., Takeuchi, M.A., Kopparla, M., & Chowdhury, A. (2023, June). *Co-Fostering Translanguaging Spaces Through Design for Embodied (Re)Connection*. Paper submitted for the International Society of the Learning Sciences Annual Meeting. Montreal, Canada: International Society of the Learning Sciences.
5. Chowdhury, A., Takeuchi, M.A., Kopparla, M., & Thraya, S. (2023, June). *Arts as Critical Transdisciplinary Pedagogy: Awakening Relationality Through the Anti-Oppressive Facilitation of Soil Painting on the Land*. Paper submitted for the International Society of the Learning Sciences Annual Meeting. Montreal, Canada: International Society of the Learning Sciences.
6. Vadeboncoeur, J., Takeuchi, M., Rahm, J., Marin, A., Curnow, J., Chowdhury, A., Kopparla, M., Thraya, S., Czuy, K., El Halwany, S., Turner, K., Qureshi, N., Marlow, S., Edino, R., & Adams, J., (2023, June) *Reimagining Learning Research in "Canada" as "Road Making": Opportunities to Move Toward Equity Through Walking Methodologies*. Symposium submitted for the International Society of the Learning Sciences Annual Meeting. Montreal, Canada: International Society of the Learning Sciences.
7. Kopparla, M., Thraya, S., Takeuchi, M.A., Haroon, A., Chowdhury, A., Panaguiton, R. (2023, April). *Designing Anti-Colonial, Land-Based and Culturally Sustaining STEM Learning*. In J. Adams (Chair), *Re-engaging (with) Care in Equity-based STEM Research* [Structured Poster Presentation]. American Educational Research Association's Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, USA.
8. Banerjee, P., Nasiri, P., Lognon, R., Bahliby, N., Graham, V., Hussein, R., Narvaez, F., Sengupta, P., Cutler, M., Dutta, S., Helvasi Özacar, B., Thraya, S., Borzoo, S., Khandelwal, C., Sanyal, M. (2023,

March). *Newcomer Youth and Anti-Racism Integration: A Community-Based Research Initiative* [Workshop]. 25th Metropolis Canada Conference, Ottawa, Canada.

9. Chowdhury, A., Edworthy, S., Takeuchi, M.A., & Thraya, S. (2023, February). Soil camp: Land-based pedagogy for equity, diversity, and anti-oppression. Session presented at the Calgary City Teachers' Convention, Calgary.
10. Muscat, L., Wang, X., Thraya, S., & Takeuchi, M. (2022, April). *Linguistic queering to disrupt normative STEM disciplinary practices in a Kindergarten classroom*. In B. Daniel & N. De Lucca (Chairs), *Interaction as a Site for Ideological Negotiation and Transformation in Science Teachers' Learning* [Symposium]. American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, USA.
11. Thraya, S., & Takeuchi, M.A. (2022, June). *Translanguaging as a tool to (re)connect: Co-designing land-based learning environments with refugee children*. Paper presented at International Society of the Learning Sciences Annual Meeting. Hiroshima, Japan.
12. Thraya, S. (2022, August). *Redefining the Silent Period from Silent to Silenced: A Translanguaging Stance*. presented at Language Policy and Planning 2022 Conference: The Multidisciplinary Approaches in Language Policy and Planning Conference. Montreal, Quebec.

### Invited Talks

- 1) Panelist, Students' Voices for Fostering the Learning Sciences Communities in Canada, Network of Learning Sciences in Canada (2023)
- 2) Moderator, Decolonial methodologies for living land-based systems: A collective imagining given by Dr. Tatiana Becerra-Posada and Dr. Christian Ehret, Network of the Learning Sciences in Canada Learning Symposium (2023)
- 3) Invited Speaker, Concept Mapping as an Engagement Tool led by Dr. Elisa Lacerda-Vandenborn. Werklund School of Education Teaching and Learning event. University of Calgary, Calgary, AB, Canada. (2022)
- 4) Guest Lecturer, Field During the Pandemic. Werklund School of Education in the course EDUC 460.01 - Specialization I Elementary Early Childhood Education, Calgary, Canada (2021)
- 5) Moderator, Finding the Common Denominator in Health, The Common Denominator Club, University of Calgary (2021)
- 6) Speaker, The Voices and Lived Experiences of the Unheard, The Common Denominator Event, University of Calgary (2021)
- 7) Presenter, Education and Refugeehood: A Gender Analysis of the Lived Educational Experiences of School-Aged Yazidi Refugee Children in Calgary, Alberta. University of Calgary Graduate Research Symposium (2020)
- 8) Moderator, Rerearning Parenting: A Process Analysis of Deskillling of Yazidi Refugees as Parents Dealing with Trauma given by Dr. Pallavi Banerjee. O'Brien Institute for Public Health (2020)
- 9) Presenter, Implementing Reading Interventions. Celebrating Student Excellence, Werklund School of Education (2018)

- 10) Presenter, My Service-Learning Experience. Celebrating Student Excellence, Werklund School of Education (2017)

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

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- April 2023 – Current      **Creating Public Methodologies for Reimagining Histories: Toward Justice and a Transformative View of the Possible in Education**  
Conference Logistical Support
- May 2021 – Current      **Werklund School of Education, University of Calgary**  
Graduate Research Assistant  
Project(s): Learning with the Land and Understanding the Soil Toward Refugee Integration and Diversity (sponsored by SSHRC Partnership Development Grant); Mobilizing Immigrant and Refugee Families' Funds of Knowledge Toward Food/Environmental Justice (sponsored by the STEM Equity and Diversity Grant)  
Skills: Program co-design, data collection and analysis, literature review, co-authoring publications and conference presentations, assisting in external grant application (in the area of literature review)
- May 2021 – Current      **Soil Camp**  
Researcher, Facilitator, Co-coordinator, Pedagogy and Design Collaborator
- September 2022 – Current      **Department of Sociology, University of Calgary**  
Graduate Research Assistant  
Project: YARI Collective, Reaffirming Social Justice, Equity, Anti-Racist Research: Impact on BIPOC Youth (sponsored by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC))
- April 2018 – September 2022      **Department of Sociology, University of Calgary**  
Research Coordinator  
Project: Resettlement of Syrian Refugee Families in Canada and Rohingya Refugee Families in Canada and the US (sponsored by SSHRC Insight Development Grant)

## COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

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- April 2021 – Current      **Ramadan Iftar Meal Volunteer, Ahmed Abbas Foundation & Islamic Information Society of Calgary**  
As a volunteer with Ahmed Abbas Foundation in partnership with Islamic Information Society of Calgary we prepared and distributed hundreds of iftar (breaking of the fast) meals to community members and families in need during Ramadan. As part of this initiative, I helped organize, collect, and deliver meals to members of the community who are affected by food insecurity.
- April 2019 – Current      **Community Garden Volunteer, Land of Dreams**  
As a member of the Land of Dreams community I volunteer assisting with gardening work around the urban farm. The farm provides space

for refugee and immigrant families to put down new roots through community gardening.

September 2014 – Current

**Youth Leadership Counsellor, Ahmed Abbas Foundation**

I volunteer for a weekend each year as a youth leadership counselor for the annual Camp Ahmed Abbas for Girls. This camp is run by a charitable foundation and is centered on the empowerment of young Muslim woman and girls from minority populations through land and faith-based programming.

September 2019 – December 2021

**Vice President/Senior Advisor, The Common Denominator**

## TEACHING & MENTORING

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April 2022 – Current

**Preservice Teacher Mentor, Soil Camp**

April 2018 – January 2024

**The Estelle Siebens Community Services, Foothills Academy Society**

Read/Write Instructor

Offered customized Orton-Gillingham evidence-based literacy instruction to students of all ages diagnosed with a Learning Disability (such as Dyslexia) in reading or writing or suspected of a Learning Disability.

September 2019 – March 2020

**Classroom Volunteer, Connaught School, Calgary Board of Education**

Prior to the pandemic, I volunteered in a grade 3/4 classroom to help the classroom teacher carry out support and enrichment activities in small group and one-on-one instructional settings.

January 2017 – March 2018

**Program Facilitator, Integrated Services in Education, University of Calgary**

Delivered small group literacy interventions focusing on developing decoding skills and improving reading fluency. The program is grounded in theory and research concerning the foundational elements of successful reading and reading instruction.

September 2017 – December 2017

**English Language Learner (ELL) Mentor, St. Anne Academic Centre (Number of Mentees: 15)**

Applied leadership, teaching, and community engagement skills as part of the St. Anne Academic Centre's Mentoring English Language Learners program. Mentored as an ELL Mentor in a classroom of students aged 16-19 in literacy and learning strategies. During this time, I worked alongside Calgary Catholic School Division staff to implement the program, enhancing students' learning experience.

September 2016 – December 2016

**School Wee Read Volunteer, Wee Reads**

Applied teaching and student engagement skills as part of the Wee Read read-aloud program, delivered in Calgary schools to students in Kindergarten and Grade 1. This program focused on strengthening

students' literacy skills, contributing to improved confidence, enjoyment, and competency in young readers.

### K-12 Classroom Teaching

- Field 1 Placements—Fall 2019
  - Rundle College Jr/Sr High School, Calgary AB
  - Olympic Heights School – Calgary Board of Education, Calgary AB
- Field 3 Placement—Fall 2020
  - Jennie Elliott School – Calgary Board of Education, Calgary AB
    - Teaching grade 1 under the supervision of Corrie Gosse
- Field 4 Placement—Winter 2020
  - Jennie Elliott School – Calgary Board of Education, Calgary AB
    - Teaching grade 1 under the supervision of Corrie Gosse

### Invited Guest Lectures

Course: EDUC 460.01 - Specialization I Elementary Early Childhood Education (by Dr. Miwa Takeuchi)  
*Werklund School of Education, University of Calgary*

- Conducted a guest lecture on field experience during the COVID-19 pandemic to pre-service educators.

### Teacher Professional Development Facilitation

2023	Co-presented at the Education Students' Association Professional Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Session Title: Land-based pedagogy for equity, diversity, and anti-oppression.</li> <li>• Presented with Anita Chowdhury (University of Calgary), and Jenny Yuen (Palliser School Division)</li> <li>• For 50 teacher candidates at the University of Calgary</li> </ul>
2023	Co-presented at the Calgary City Teachers' Convention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Session title: Soil Camp: Land-based Pedagogy for Equity, Diversity and Anti-Oppression</li> <li>• Presented with Dr. Miwa Takeuchi (University of Calgary), Anita Chowdhury (University of Calgary), Son Edworthy (Calgary Board of Education), and Anika Haroon (Calgary Public Library)</li> <li>• Offered a round table on Translanguaging and shared my prepared teaching and learning resources based upon my research</li> </ul>
2022	Co-hosted with Education Students' Association, University of Calgary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Anti-Racist and Anti-Homophobic Public Pedagogy for Food and Environmental Justice: A Panel Discussion”             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For 50 teacher candidates at the University of Calgary</li> <li>• I was one of the panelists to speak at the event</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### Professional Development Courses and Certificates

*Alberta Interim Professional Teaching Certificate*

*Issued August 2021, valid until August 2024*

*Child Protection: Children's Rights in Theory and Practice Certificate*

*May to September 2020 (96 hours), HarvardX*

*Inside Learning Disabilities for Educators Certificate*

*July to September 2020 (40 hours), Foothills Academy Society*

## ACADEMIC AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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1. Network of the Learning Sciences in Canada Master's Thesis Award for Excellence (2022-23 academic year)

**Total Amount: \$48,840**

### **External [Total: \$20,000]**

- Canada Graduate Scholarships-Master's Program - 17,500 (Canadian dollar), Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, 04/2022
- Alexander Rutherford: Alberta Scholarship Program - 2,500 (Canadian dollar) Government of Alberta

### **Internal [Total: \$28,840]**

- President's Doctoral Recruitment Scholarship in Transdisciplinary Research - \$12000 (Canadian dollar), The University of Calgary, 09/2023
- Jane S. Jamison Bursary in Education - 3,900 (Canadian dollar), The University of Calgary, 01/2020
- Catherine Hainer McMartin Bursary - 1,390 (Canadian dollar), The University of Calgary, 01/2020
- Elizabeth and James McKenzie Andrews Bursary - 6,150 (Canadian dollar), The University of Calgary, 01/2019
- Student Peer Assistance Undergraduate Bursary - 600 (Canadian dollar), The University of Calgary, 01/2017-01/2019
- Jason Lang Scholarship - 4,000 (Canadian dollar), The University of Calgary, 01/2017-01/2020
- Denise M. Gerwing Memorial Bursary in Education - 800 (Canadian dollar), The University of Calgary, 01/2017
- Dean's List, The University of Calgary Distinction, 9/2016-5/2021

## ACADEMIC SERVICES

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### **UCalgary Transdisciplinary Graduate Student Advisory Committee Member**

#### **Book Reviewer**

- Wondering science: Creativity, imagination and future thinking in science education. New York: Springer, 2022

#### **Conference Reviewer**

- ICLS Program, Annual Meeting of the International Society of the Learning Sciences, 2024
- ICLS Program, Annual Meeting of the International Society of the Learning Sciences, 2023
- ICLS Program, Annual Meeting of the International Society of the Learning Sciences, 2022

## CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS

UCalgary Transdisciplinary Graduate Student Advisory Committee

UCalgary President's Circle

Network of the Learning Sciences in Canada

International Society of the Learning Sciences

American Educational Research Association

Critical Gender, Intersectionality & Migration Sociology Research Group (Affiliate Researcher)

The Alberta Teachers' Association

The University of Calgary Graduate Student Association



## The Common Denominator