



# 2023 Commencement Ceremony

Sunday, November 19  
Orpheum, Vancouver, British Columbia



Adler University continues the pioneering work of the first community psychologist, Alfred Adler, by graduating socially responsible practitioners, engaging communities, and advancing social justice.

Alfred Adler began community psychology by articulating the constructs of Gemeinschaftsgefühl (social interest or the connection between individual and community well-being) and systemic community intervention, such as preventative public health measures.

As a higher education institution, Adler University furthers Alfred Adler's vision today by producing the three outcomes specified in its mission:

### **Socially Responsible Practitioners**

Socially responsible practitioners are educated to be effective personal and social change agents in the pursuit of justice.

### **Community Engagement**

Community engagement is collaborative partnership that strengthens communities, provides service, and prepares students.

### **Social Justice**

Social justice refers to the equitable distribution of economic, political, civil, cultural, social, and other resources and opportunities in society in order to promote the optimal development of persons and communities.

Not for ourselves  
alone but for all.

# **2023 Commencement Ceremony**

November 19, 2023 | 2 p.m. | The Orpheum

## **Processional**

### **Traditional Squamish Greeting**

Bob Baker

Elder, Squamish First Nation

### **Welcome**

Bradley O'Hara, Ph.D.

Executive Dean, Vancouver Campus

Raymond E. Crossman, Ph.D.

President

### **Graduate Address**

*Introduced by Jeannine Diddle Uzzi, Ph.D. Vice President, Academic Affairs*

Alison McCleary

Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology

### **Commencement Address**

*Introduced by Jeannine Diddle Uzzi, Ph.D. Vice President, Academic Affairs*

Danny Ramadan

Author and LGBTQ+ Refugee Advocate

### **Presentation of Graduates**

Raymond E. Crossman, Ph.D.

President

Bradley O'Hara, Ph.D.

Executive Dean, Vancouver Campus

Sandra Song, Ph.D.

Program Director, Public Policy and Administration

Jason Walker, Ph.D.

Program Director, Applied Psychology and Industrial and Organizational Psychology

Keturah Welton, Ph.D.

Program Director, Counselling Psychology: Art Therapy

Asa-Sophia Maglio, Ph.D.

Program Director, Counselling Psychology

Maléka Ingram, D.Sc.

Executive Dean, Online Campus

Tricia Mazurowski, Ph.D.

Program Director, Applied Psychology, Online Campus

Manal Guirguis-Younger, Ph.D.

Program Director, Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology

### **Closing Remarks**

Raymond E. Crossman, Ph.D.

President

## **Recessional**

## REGALIA

The tradition of wearing academic regalia in the United States and Canada dates back to the first universities in Europe, founded in the 12th and 13th centuries. Academic robes, hoods, and caps have evolved over time.

In the United States, caps and gowns have been used since colonial times. In 1885, a widespread student movement in America pushed to wear caps and gowns at commencement ceremonies. In British Columbia, academic dress began to be adopted in the mid-19th century and, over time, a full range of gowns, hoods, and headdresses was prescribed and worn by officers and graduates of higher learning.

By 1894, colleges and universities across North America began standardizing the style and colours of robes and hoods. All robes were black and the lining and border colour of the hood differentiated faculties and academic institutions.

## ACADEMIC COSTUME

An academic costume describes the academic origin and accomplishments of the wearer. Holders of bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees are recognizable by their costume, and the trained eye may identify the university that conferred the degree, as well as the individual's field of learning.

The shape and decorations of the gown designate the highest degree earned by an individual. The master's gown has an oblong sleeve, open at the wrist or upper arm; the rear part of its oblong shape is square cut. The doctoral gown may be readily identified by the velvet facing down its front and by three velvet bars on each sleeve.

Master's degree holders wear mortarboards with a tassel noting the year of their graduation. The tassel may also be colour-coded according to the degree program. Doctoral degree holders can wear tams (as worn by our Chicago Campus graduates) or befeater caps (as worn by our Vancouver Campus graduates).

The hood is an important and distinctive feature of academic pageantry. The master's hood is three feet long with a three-inch edge. The doctoral hood is four feet long with a five-inch edge. The colour of the hood's velvet edge represents the field in which the wearer earned his or her degree and the inner lining showcases the official academic colours of the institution that conferred the degree. Adler University graduates from the Chicago and Online campuses, for example, wear linings that are burgundy and gold. Graduates from the Vancouver Campus wear linings that are orange, green, and brown.

## **GRADUATE SPEAKER: ALISON MCCLEARY, PSY.D.**

Alison McCleary, Psy.D., was born and raised in northern British Columbia, which she credits for her distinct passion for serving rural communities. Prior to pursuing her Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology, Dr. McCleary completed her Master of Counselling Psychology at the Vancouver Campus and, for several years, ran a counselling practice in her hometown. Those experiences expanded her skills by directly serving the residents of her community and supervising other graduate students from Adler.

To further her goals in serving rural areas, Dr. McCleary returned to Vancouver to earn her doctorate. Dr. McCleary has a long-term dream of developing a doctoral internship site that provides treatment and assessment services to historically underserved areas in northern B.C. She also secretly hopes she can use the beautiful scenery, small-town living, and unique professional opportunities to entice psychologists and other mental health professionals to stay in the north.

In addition to her clinical work, Dr. McCleary co-hosts the podcast “Edge of the Couch.” The program allows Dr. McCleary to practice creativity and lean into another of her passions — working with students and emerging therapists.

When Dr. McCleary isn’t working or studying, she enjoys spending time with her three pets, exploring the outdoors, and reading historical fiction.

## **COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER: DANNY RAMADAN**

Danny Ramadan is a Syrian-Canadian author, public speaker, and advocate for LGBTQ+ refugees.

Prior to coming to Canada in 2014 as a refugee, Ramadan conducted underground work to support and provide housing to other queer Syrians. He has continued that effort in Vancouver by creating An Evening in Damascus, an annual fundraiser that aims to assist other LGBTQ+ Syrian refugees and offer them a safe and dignified passage to a new home in Canada. Since 2015, it has raised over \$300,000 for Rainbow Refugee Society, which aids in the safe arrival of refugees from across the Middle East and North Africa region.

For his activism, Ramadan was named among the Top Immigrants to Canada in 2017, and he received the Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Award for Excellency. He was also sainted by the Vancouver Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence and given the title Saint Guiding Light to Sanctuary, New Home and Safety.

In addition to his advocacy work, Ramadan is an award-winning author whose latest novel, *The Foghorn Echoes*, recently won the Lambda Award for Gay Fiction. His 2017 novel, *The Clothesline Swing*, has been translated into multiple languages. He is known for his TED Talk, *The Refugee Tree*, which was filmed in Vancouver in 2016. In it, he shares his intimate experience of uprooting himself from his homeland to flee from homophobia and the challenges of arriving in a new country as a refugee.

## CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

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#### **Master of Public Policy and Administration: Concentration in International Justice Studies**

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Shefali Lakhani  
Olayide Wuraola Ogundele  
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Harminder Kaur Punj  
Moumita Sarker  
Neha Sharma  
Pamela Kaye Azarcon Tuazon

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Divya  
Harpreet Kaur  
Riya  
Priyanka Bansal  
Varun Bansal  
Sahar Behbahani  
Laurianne Bérénice da Cruz  
Khan MD Mahbubul Hassan  
Amanpreet Kaur Jawanda  
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Kamalpreet Kaur  
Manpreet Kaur  
Ramandeep Kaur  
Supreet Kaur  
Taranpreet Kaur  
Jins Mathew  
Priya Ranjit Nair  
Alireza Narimani Zamanabadi  
Madan Shrestha  
Satinder Singh

#### **Master of Arts in Organizational Psychology**

Brandon DeRiggs

#### **Master of Arts in Industrial and Organizational Psychology**

Chelsea Danielle Coombes  
Ruveen Kaur Dhaliwal  
Ropafadzo Humanikwa  
Shivicka Jain  
Celeste Dominique Lundy  
Guilherme Gabriel Paternostre Toledo

#### **Master of Industrial and Organizational Psychology**

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Michela Rosanna Cascioli  
Laura Cheah  
Fatemeh Farazmand  
Ameika Gillispie-Angus  
Maria Juliana Jimenez-Perez  
Anahita Khanmohammadi  
Thea Lowey  
Sawri Madkaikar  
Harshveer Singh  
Maria Teresa Miguel Turibio

#### **Master of Counselling Psychology: Art Therapy**

Gabrielle Aragones Benzon  
Katherine Burden  
Jay Castro  
Ramanjeet Kaur Cheema  
Amarpreet Singh Chhina  
Nargess Jalali Delia  
Sierra Ellis  
Ghazal Fakhr  
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Xinjie Adele Zhao



## **Master of Counselling Psychology: Concentration in School and Youth**

Elisabeth Noelle Avery  
Ash dela Cruz Yip  
Deanna Gestrin  
Kimberly Jade Yamada  
Paola Zorrilla Steenbock

## **Master of Counselling Psychology**

Angela M Adler  
Sarah Al Kaati  
Robert Bal  
Jiten Beairsto  
Julie Sheree Anne Beauregard  
Micah Benjamin Berlow  
Maria Fernanda Borja  
Rebecca Bradley  
Kirsten Buch  
Michelle Yan-Hei Cheng  
Michelle Cooper  
Shawna L Dash  
Alexandra Denno  
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Carli du Toit  
Irmak Erdal  
Chantal Esperanza  
Brittney Fehr  
Deborah Irene Friesen  
Graydon Galloway  
Pavanjit Goraya  
Maitri Gupta  
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Courtney A Handja  
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Cristine Torok  
Mandeep Virk  
Lilian Lan Wang  
Andrew Wilkins

## CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

### Online Campus

**Master of Arts in Psychology:  
Concentration in Child and  
Adolescent Development**

Oluwatoyin O Oloruntoba

**Master of Arts in Psychology**

Laura Louis

**Master of Arts in Industrial &  
Organizational Psychology:  
Concentration in Data Science**

Natasha Hillier

**Master of Arts in Industrial &  
Organizational Psychology:  
Concentration in Training  
and Development**

Wahaj Awad  
Rossah Mubaya

**Master of Arts in Industrial &  
Organizational Psychology**

Cherry Anne N. Fedalizo

## Vancouver Campus

### DOCTOR OF PSYCHOLOGY IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

#### Christopher Brown

*Dissertation Title:* "Towards a more Holistic Approach to Training Professional Psychologists: Rationale for and Introduction to the Vancouver Model."

*Dissertation Committee Chair:*  
Manal Guirguis-Younger, Ph.D.

#### Heather Burke

*Dissertation Title:* "Job Control, Job Demand, Quality of Life, Job Satisfaction, Depression, and Anticipated Turnover: A Study of Long-Term Care Nurses in Ontario, Canada."

*Dissertation Committee Chair:*  
Christian Maile, Ph.D.

#### Esha Chakraborti

*Dissertation Title:* "Caring for Individuals with Mental Illness: Qualitative Study on Financial Costs and Coping Strategies of Family Caregivers."

*Dissertation Committee Chair:*  
Manal Guirguis-Younger, Ph.D.

#### Charlotte Cordy

*Dissertation Title:* "The Global Prevalence of Common Mental Disorder Symptoms during the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis."

*Dissertation Committee Chair:*  
Amir A. Sepehry, Ph.D.

#### Vanessa Renée Epp

*Dissertation Title:* "The Effects of Offence Severity and Victim Age on Canadian Attitudes Towards Individuals who Sexually Offend."

*Dissertation Committee Chair:*  
Jordan Maile, Ph.D.

#### Naomi Siobhan Giberson

*Dissertation Title:* "Understanding Therapists' Rationale for Using Alternative Mental Health Interventions That Fall Outside the Canadian Psychological Association's Definition of Evidence-Based Practice."

*Dissertation Committee Chair:*  
Jordan Maile, Ph.D.

#### Alyssa Leyba

*Dissertation Title:* "Exploring the Role of Family in Career Development and the Vocational Barriers for Second Generation Indo-Canadian Women Working in the Social Sciences Field."

*Dissertation Committee Chair:*  
Johnson Ma, Ph.D.

#### Alessia Marie Lista

*Dissertation Title:* "Adult ADHD: A Survey of Current Practices in Psychology."

*Dissertation Committee Chair:*  
Manal Guirguis-Younger, Ph.D.

#### Alison McCleary

*Dissertation Title:* "Identifying the Barriers to Accessing Mental Health Care for the People of Terrace, British Columbia and Surrounding Areas."

*Dissertation Committee Chair:*  
Manal Guirguis-Younger, Ph.D.

#### Mary Patricia Morris

*Dissertation Title:* "Identity Development and Self-Conscious Emotions in Minor Attracted Persons."

*Dissertation Committee Chair:*  
Michael Sheppard, Ph.D.

#### Chloë N. Powell

*Dissertation Title:* "'We're missing the Jedi Master': Examining Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) practitioners' use of evidence-based practices and the case for the inclusion of Clinical Psychologists."

*Dissertation Committee Chair:*  
Johnson Ma, Ph.D.

#### Janelle Nicole Steckley

*Dissertation Title:* "The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Couples' Relationships."

*Dissertation Committee Chair:*  
Christian Maile, Ph.D.

#### Villeena Sharmila Villantheran

*Dissertation Title:* "Predictors of Treatment Outcomes in Anorexia Nervosa: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis."

*Dissertation Committee Chair:*  
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## Special thanks to our event partners.

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**Mike Chisholm**

Event Photographer

**Jerald Walliser**

Florist

**Gloria Cheung, Flower Factory**

Livestream

**Proshow Audiovisual**

Processional

**Spakwus Stolem/Eagle Song Dancers**

Regalia

**Minerva Mesana, Gaspard**

## Special thanks to Adler University faculty, staff, and students who made this event possible.

Sri Guna Reddy Abbadi

Gina Abernathy

Mark Branson

Brodie Camara

Cellene Concepcion

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Rhiannon Fancett

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Tara Romanella

Alexander Perez

Jackie Quadros

Brianna Savage

Kimber Solana

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Jeremiah Stevens

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Rena Stewart

Marina Tanaka

Chris Toft

# Welcome to the Adler University Alumni Association

Adler University is pleased to welcome the Class of 2023 to our ranks of more than 7,000 alums committed to advancing social justice globally. Today marks your first step into a larger world – one where you are uniquely qualified to address the health inequities and social injustices affecting marginalized communities. Your time at Adler has prepared you to meet these challenges as highly qualified and compassionate agents of change.

We invite you to continue your partnership with Adler University as a valued member of your ongoing journey. The University provides opportunities for alums to engage in educational and professional programs and is working to offer more benefits in the months ahead.

You are now a member of a vibrant community of individuals that work together to transform communities. We hope that you will take full advantage of it.

Non nobis solum sed omnibus.  
Not for ourselves alone but for all.

Congratulations!

*P.S. To stay connected and receive news about your fellow alums and upcoming events, please send your mailing address and email updates to [alumni@adler.edu](mailto:alumni@adler.edu).*

The Board of Trustees, Cabinet, faculty, staff, and alum of Adler University warmly congratulate the members of the graduating class of 2023. Today's commencement ceremony marks the beginning of your chosen professional life. We wish you well as you celebrate this special day and continue your journey as alum of Adler University.



### **Vancouver Campus**

520 Seymour St.

Vancouver, BC V6B 3Jf

**adler.edu**

Adler University's Vancouver Campus is located on the unceded and traditional territory of the Coast Salish peoples, including the territory xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Selilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.