



University
of Manitoba

Faculty of Education

**Undergraduate Research Award (URA)
Opportunities:
Researchers' Projects
2026**

Name: **Dr. Lucy Delgado**

Email: Lucy.Delgado@umanitoba.ca

Title: **Indigenous and Two-Spirit/Indigiqueer Representation in Manitoba Classrooms**

Description: This research project, in partnership with Manitoba Teachers' Society and Indigenous Excellence (Province of Manitoba), will examine the representation of Indigenous peoples within classrooms across the province through the distribution of a survey. The survey is being developed with Indigenous (including Two-Spirit/Indigiqueer) community partners.

Name: **Dr. Amir Michalovich**

Email: amir.michalovich@umanitoba.ca

Title: **Live Podcasting in Teacher Education: Amplifying Engagement, Dialogue, and Multimodal Literacies**

Description: This qualitative case study, a UM Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Seed Project, explores the extent to which live podcasting in class can cultivate engaging, dialogic, and multimodal classroom discussions for students in teacher education. As a URA, you will contribute to the qualitative analysis of data (e.g., interviews, reflections) and can expect to gain valuable research skills and pedagogical knowledge.

Name: **Dr. Xiaoxiao Du**

Email: Xiaoxiao.Du@umanitoba.ca

Title: **Multiliteracies Learning and Teaching in Manitoba: Perceptions and Practices**

Description: Dr. Xiaoxiao Du is investigating multiliteracies in Manitoba, with a focus on teachers' perspectives and classroom practices. Her research explores questions such as: *How do teachers understand multiliteracies?* and *How do they support students' multiliteracies learning in school?* She is seeking an applicant with a strong interest in language and literacy who can assist with survey and interview research.

Dr. Xiaoxiao Du serves as the Manitoba Co-Director of the Canadian Association for Young Children and as Associate Editor of *Language & Literacy (L&L)*—a Canadian e-journal. She advocates for asset-based literacy pedagogies and promotes multiple ways of being, learning, and teaching. She actively supports and collaborates with her undergraduate and graduate students on conference presentations and publications. She not only values relationality but also enacts it through her work in higher education.

Name: **Dr. Michelle Honeyford & Dr. Jennifer Watt**

Email: michelle.honeyford@umanitoba.ca, jennifer.watt@umanitoba.ca

Title: **Ripple Effects Place Projects: A Collaborative Inquiry into Relational Pedagogies of Walking, Writing, & Water (In)Justice**

Description: In this research project, we are exploring with teachers their experiences teaching about water and issues of water (in)justice in their schools and communities through more relational pedagogies, including going outside, a walking curriculum, and multimodal writing.

The study was designed to follow up with educators who participated in a two-week, intensive Summer Writing Institute (SWI) we taught in July 2025. The educators in the course all created "[Ripple Effects Place Projects](#)" identifying an aspect of water (in)justice that was significant to their communities, and creating an inquiry incorporating the three key elements of a [Ripple](#)

[Effects](#) project: photography, writing, and publication or circulation. Over the Winter term, we will be conducting one-time focus groups and a sustained inquiry group with educators who volunteer to participate in the study, learning more together about: a) incorporating issues of water and water (in)justice in the curriculum, b) engaging in elements of a walking curriculum, c) experimenting with photography and multimodal writing, and d) taking more relational and anti-oppressive approaches, particularly in K-12 teaching.

We would welcome an Undergraduate Research Assistant to support the project in Summer 2026. Teacher candidates with interests and/or experience in: 1) interdisciplinary teaching and research related to issues of water, water (in)justice, climate, and ecological issues; and 2) writing, photography, and forms of digital publication, may be particularly interested in this project. Our goals for the Summer are to analyze the data and develop several knowledge mobilization strategies. These could include: research briefs, teaching resources, a website, and a physical and digital gallery/installation of Ripple Effects photos. The research will also include contributing to an updated literature review and elements of grant development.
