WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE GI?

TL;DR

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SIDE QUEST

RESEARCH UPDATES

DISCORD DIGEST
[ANNOUNCEMENTS_sound]:
1. **F21 GI Town Hall** happening on Thursday, September 30th @10AM! It is mandatory for all GI members. Please monitor your emails for upcoming details.
2. Deadline for self-nominations to join the [Gi's Anti-Racism, Decolonization, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee](#) is **October 14th**. Submit self-nominations to [Gi-ADE@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:Gi-ADE@uwaterloo.ca).
3. We are now welcoming GI members into the GI! Please review the Health and Safety Update section below for information about GI entry.
4. The GI is hiring for an Operations Coordinator for the W22 co-op term. Any interested parties must use WaterlooWorks to apply.
5. Feminist Thinktank is happening every first Tuesday of the month! If you would like to join please join the slack channel #lobby-feministthinktank or reach out to Hannah Delamere ([hdelamere@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:hdelamere@uwaterloo.ca)).

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1. Check out the virtual events happening this month!
The beginning of the year can be a difficult time due to the change from working and learning in a virtual environment to an in-person environment. Here are some resources from the Sexual Violence Prevention & Response Office at the University of Waterloo.

**Resources List:**
- Sexual Violence Resources
- Independent Legal Advice for Sexual Assault Victims
- UW Events for Sexual Violence Prevention & Response
- Supporting Your Return to Campus
- Grow Your Wellness

On September 30th, we will commemorate the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation which coincides with Orange Shirt Day, a day when we recognize and honour the Indigenous children who were sent away to residential schools in Canada. We encourage you all to participate.

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**Virtual Tour of Mohawk Residential School**
- **Tuesday, September 21st @ 2PM**
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• Thursday, September 30th @ 10AM
○ Healing of The Seven Generations is hosting a community walk to spread awareness of and reflect on the tragedies experienced by Indigenous peoples across Turtle Island as a result of the country’s former residential school system.
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Current TL;DR Health and Safety Rules at the GI include:

1. The facility is only open from 9AM to 5PM, Monday to Friday.
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4. Fridge clean-up is now daily at 4:30 pm. As was the norm, unlabeled food and science experiments will be thrown out container and all!
5. All dishes and non-perishable food items must be stored at your pod.
   a. If you are a resident, lunch must be eaten at your pod. If you are a member, we will allow you to eat in the Collaboration space. Otherwise, please do not eat in public "study" sections.
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c. Masks are required on campus at all times, however, if you are safely 2M distancing or in your assigned pod, you may remove them.

If you have any accessibility concerns or accommodations, please reach out to GI Staff immediately.

![EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS](image)

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2. **GI ADE Committee - Call for Members – September 15, 2021**

   The Games Institute’s Anti-Racism, Decolonization, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (GI ADE Committee) invites self-nominations from members of the GI community for up to 5 positions on the Committee. Students are particularly encouraged to apply.

   The Committee is made up of GI faculty, students, and staff with lived experience and scholarly expertise with racialization and other forms of marginalization, as well as allies and accomplices willing to use their privilege to help. The committee provides leadership for the GI on issues of anti-racism, decolonization, equity, diversity, and inclusion with initiatives and policy recommendations created in collaboration of members. Please see the newly adopted **Terms of Reference** for more details about the Committee, its operating procedures, and the nomination process.

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6. RESEARCH ASSISTANT POSITION – Dr. Daniel Harley

Hi all, I’m looking to hire one or two Research Assistants at the MA or PhD level this term. Please see the attached job description for how to apply, and hang onto it if you want to apply next semester. The project is about VR in the home, but you don’t necessarily need to know anything about VR to apply. I recommend checking in with your supervisor before applying, as different faculties will have different funding models and expectations. If you’re interested, please contact Dr. Daniel Harley (daniel.harley@uwaterloo.ca).

[EVENTS]

**UW Events**

**W3+ Research Talk Panel: Invisible Stories, Sound(Mapping) Inequality, and Responsible Representation**

***Wednesday, September 29th @ 12PM - free***

- Join W3+ for a research talk titled *Invisible Stories, Sound(Mapping), and Responsible Representation* with panelists Lai-Tze Fan, Jessica Thompson, and Jin Sol Kim.
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Hi everyone! I'm back again for another term and I look forward to hopefully meeting you in person! You can find me at the Ops desk in the GI or virtually on Slack, Discord and the GI email 🤗
The beginning of the year can be a difficult time, here are some resources from the Sexual Violence Prevention & Response Office at the University of Waterloo.

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   In this study, you will take part in an online survey of about 10 minutes. The questionnaire concerns the following topics: 1) gaming habits, 2) birth year and gender, 3) evaluation of a game. This information can help game user researchers and designers understand how different games compare to each other.

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Email w3plus@uwaterloo.ca to request a calendar invite if you aren't in the Microsoft Team Group.

**Other Virtual Events**

**Puncturing Stereotypes and Their Impact on Identity**

**Wednesday, September 15th @ 4PM – free**

- Stereotypes are damaging not just because they're wrong, but because they actually impact the people that they portray.
- How do we puncture a stereotype? What can be done to get past stereotype threat? Claude Steele, who coined the term stereotype threat and who has researched this phenomenon extensively, joins us to answer these and other provocative and important questions.
- Register via Eventbrite.

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Aathani Raveendran
She/Her
Operations Coordinator
The Games Institute, EC1 1332D,
University of Waterloo
200 University Avenue West
Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1

I would like to acknowledge that the land on which we work and live today is the land traditionally used by the Attawandaron (Neutral), Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples. I recognize that the University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes ten kilometers on each side of the Grand River. I also acknowledge the enduring presence and deep traditional knowledge, laws and philosophies of the Indigenous Peoples with whom we share this land today.
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6. Increase in malicious emails. Suspected malicious emails should be reported to the Security Operations Centre at **soc@uwaterloo.ca**. Reports of successful fraud should be directed to the University of Waterloo Special Constable Service at **uwpolice@uwaterloo.ca**.

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We celebrated Pam’s birthday yesterday (which was actually last Thursday)! 😊🎂聿 She’d like you all to know that this photo was taken against her will 🙀 and that she finally feels her age (which means quarter...
life crisis 😊
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1. **For continual or one-time entry into the GI, you must sign the GI Operational Safety Plan.** If you have not received the plan through pod renewals, please email Aathani.
2. If you would like to apply to enter the GI on continual basis please fill out this [form](#).
3. For one-time entry (non-residents), please email Aathani.
4. For lab usage, you will need to go through the room booking process as has been the norm. During this process, Aathani will send you the lab safety plan to sign before use. If you want to book the lab for human participant testing, please note the TL;DR below.

Current TL;DR Health and Safety Rules for the **GI General Space** are:

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Current TL;DR Health and Safety Rules for the **Gi Labs** are:

1. Each GI Lab has its own Safety Plan; each plan must be read and signed separately if access is requested.
2. Lab Safety Plans are tied to the GI operating Safety Plan – you will need to sign both to be approved for access to any of the labs.
3. These plans are unique in that they are for general access and individual research use (more info on this during the Town Hall).
4. In the case of studies with participants, the GI Lab Safety Plans act as a *skeleton* with instructions for what parts of the plan individual researchers must fill out.
   a. Once completed with details for specific studies, these project safety plans must be submitted *separately* to Office of Research via the Return to Research process and to the GI (email).
   b. Both parties must approve the project-specific plans prior to access approval.
5. Much like with the pods, the Collaboration Space and the Presentation Room, Labs for general and individual study usage must be booked in advance through the Operations Coordinator (cced, as per the usual process).
6. Sanitization of surfaces in the Labs is the responsibility of individuals who use them. Cleaning supplies and sign-off sheets are provided.
7. You can check the availability of the GI Labs, Collaboration Space and the Presentation Room via shared Outlook calendars. See list below.

Games Institute EC1-1237 – Presentation Room
Games Institute EC1-1249 – Living Room Lab
Games Institute EC1-1303 – Haptic Experience Lab
Games Institute EC1-1307 – VR Story Lab
Games Institute EC1-1318 – Immersion Room Lab
Games Institute EC1-1323 – Collaboration Space

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How do I know if an email I received is an imposter email?

- **Initial message is very brief** - The first message from the attacker is usually one line (e.g., "I need a quick favour")
- **Look at the sender email address** - click on the sender or hold your finger on the name of the sender. If it's external and you don't recognize it, then it's likely a scam.
- **Verify with the real source** - if you receive a suspicious email supposedly sent by your manager or another department, find their actual contact information and reach out to them directly. Do not reply to the original message.

Learn more about cyber security best practices: https://uwaterloo.ca/cyber-awareness/

Questions or concerns? Contact the IST Service Desk, helpdesk@uwaterloo.ca or ext. 44357.

6. **Student Mental Health Research Conference 2021 - Call for Presentations**

The conference invites presentations by graduate students, faculty members, and staff. The call for abstracts is now open, and submissions for presentations can be submitted until 11:59pm EDT on October 12, 2021. More details on this year’s key themes and the link to the abstract submission form can be found on the Thrive website.

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- Join directly [here](#).

Student Mental Health Research Conference 2021

*Wednesday, November 10th @ 9:00AM*

- The conference aims to bring together members of our campus community to share knowledge, connect researchers, and promote mental wellness through presentations and interactive Q&A sessions.
- Registration link forthcoming.

**Other Virtual Events**

CFE In Conversation: The Problem of Anti-Racist Discourse in Canada & US

*Tuesday, October 5th @ 4:00PM*

- Anthony Stewart in conversation with Vershawn Young explores the lack of a recognizable Black anti-racist discourse in Canada and why Canada's lack of expression and commitment to Black anti-racism led him to give up his full professorship at Dalhousie University to move to a small college in the USA.
- Join directly using [Zoom](#).
Hello, all,
While this is mostly irrelevant to my day job at the GI, I have the honour of serving on the UW Staff Association Board of Directors. So, courtesy of the UW Staff Association, I am happy to share a recording from an event from last week during which Dr. Kelly Grindrod, faculty member in the School of Pharmacy, explored a number of questions raised around the COVID-19 vaccines as well as the associated data that is emerging as the vaccination efforts are continuing.

If you or anyone you know has questions regarding the C19 vaccines, I strongly encourage you to view the recording. It is posted publicly so please feel free to distribute the recording as you see fit. Dr. Grindrod's presentation has also been provided.

As a reminder, UW has set October 17 as the deadline for compliance with the vaccination requirement for UW employees and students.

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PS. Don't forget that Thanksgiving is on Monday, October 11 and so, I will also take this opportunity to wish you all a restful and safe long weekend. 🎉

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We are now welcoming GI members into the GI General Space and Labs are finally open!

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List of GI Resources:

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[ANNOUNCEMENTS]:

1. **If you missed our Fall 2021 Town Hall, you can watch the recording [here](#) until October 28th.**

2. **GI ADE Committee - Call for Members – September 15, 2021**

   The Games Institute’s Anti-Racism, Decolonization, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (GI ADE Committee) invites self-nominations from members of the GI community for up to 5 positions on the Committee. Students are particularly encouraged to apply.

   The Committee is made up of GI faculty, students, and staff with lived experience and scholarly expertise with racialization and other forms of marginalization, as well as allies and accomplices willing to use their privilege to help. The committee provides leadership for the GI on issues of anti-racism, decolonization, equity, diversity, and inclusion with initiatives and policy recommendations created in collaboration of members. Please see the newly adopted [Terms of Reference](#) for more details about the Committee, it’s operating procedures, and the nomination process.

   Self-nominations should be sent to GI-ADE@uwaterloo.ca by **October 14, 2021**. Nominations should consist of a brief statement of interest and a short bio statement (no more than 500 words total). The Committee will evaluate nominations and reply to potential members by November 1.

   Questions can be addressed directly to the Committee Chair, Gerald Voorhees (gvoorhees@uwaterloo.ca).

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4. **The Catalyst Anti-Racism Newsletter** showcases anti-racist work across campus and also includes research spotlights! Sign up [here](#).
5. **Student Mental Health Research Conference 2021 - Call for Presentations**

The conference invites presentations by graduate students, faculty members, and staff. The call for abstracts is now open, and submissions for presentations can be submitted until 11:59pm EDT on October 12, 2021. More details on this year’s key themes and the link to the abstract submission form can be found on the [Thrive website](#).

6. Feminist Thinktank is happening every first Tuesday of the month! If you would like to join please join the slack channel #lobby-feministthinktank or reach out to Hannah Delamere (hdelamere@uwaterloo.ca).

7. The GI server has been added to the UW discord hub! We encourage you to interact with the newcomers joining our server!

8. **RESEARCH ASSISTANT POSITION – Dr. Daniel Harley**

Hi all, I’m looking to hire one or two Research Assistants at the MA or PhD level this term. Please see the attached job description for how to apply, and hang onto it if you want to apply next semester. The project is about VR in the home, but you don’t necessarily need to know anything about VR to apply. I recommend checking in with your supervisor before applying, as different faculties will have different funding models and expectations. If you’re interested, please contact Dr. Daniel Harley (daniel.harley@uwaterloo.ca).

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**[EVENTS](#):**

### UW Events

**Games Institute & UW Women's Centre Collaboration Panel**

*Wednesday, November 10th @2:00PM*

- Save the date! The UW Women’s Centre, in collaboration with the UW Games Institute, is seeking to host an educational panel surrounding misogyny in games and gaming culture.

### UWSA Vaccine Q&A

- The event answers vaccine-related questions. With so much information - and misinformation - out there, Dr. Kelly Grindrod has agreed to help answer these questions.
- Watch the event [here](#).

### United Way Campus-wide Events

Stay red throughout the campaign by participating in our unique events that are purposefully linked to each of the United Way’s focus areas:

- **Houseplants 101**
  - *Wednesday, October 13 @12PM*
  - Join Bryan Dobson of Gold Leaf Botanicals for a lunch and learn on plant care and get answers to your questions about all things houseplants.
  - Register [here](#).

- **Live Cooking Show**
  - *Thursday, October 28th @ 5PM*
  - We’ve brought back our wildly popular cooking show, this time making polenta. Get ready to get your hands dirty (and bellies full).
  - Register [here](#).
Re-Storying the Medicine Line as Indigenous Land Guardianship

Friday, November 12th @ 7:30PM

• Native spiritual practices have always been about land. The revitalization of land guardianship roles and practices is often characterized as protecting the medicines of the land so that they can continue to give life to all of creation. This movement is a claim to territorial and spiritual sovereignty.
• Join directly here.

Student Mental Health Research Conference 2021

Wednesday, November 10th @ 9:00AM

• The conference aims to bring together members of our campus community to share knowledge, connect researchers, and promote mental wellness through presentations and interactive Q&A sessions.
• Register here.

Other Virtual Events

CFE In Conversation: The Problem of Anti-Racist Discourse in Canada & US

Tuesday, October 5th @ 4:00PM

• Anthony Stewart in conversation with Vershawn Young explores the lack of a recognizable Black anti-racist discourse in Canada and why Canada's lack of expression and commitment to Black anti-racism led him to give up his full professorship at Dalhousie University to move to a small college in the USA.
• Join directly using Zoom.
Hello, all,
While this is mostly irrelevant to my day job at the GI, I have the honour of serving on the UW Staff Association Board of Directors. So, courtesy of the UW Staff Association, I am happy to share a recording from an event from last week during which Dr. Kelly Grindrod, faculty member in the School of Pharmacy, explored a number of questions raised around the COVID-19 vaccines as well as the associated data that is emerging as the vaccination efforts are continuing.

If you or anyone you know has questions regarding the C19 vaccines, I strongly encourage you to view the recording. It is posted publicly so please feel free to distribute the recording as you see fit. Dr. Grindrod’s presentation has also been provided.

As a reminder, UW has set October 17 as the deadline for compliance with the vaccination requirement for UW employees and students.

A

PS. Don't forget that Thanksgiving is on Monday, October 11 and so, I will also take this opportunity to wish you all a restful and safe long weekend. 🍂
If you missed our Fall 2021 Town Hall, you can watch the recording until October 28th!

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1. There may be a delay in staff support this week due to the Keeping Well at Work conference GI staff are attending.
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4. The fob system has now been updated to allow front and back door entry to the EC1 lobby!
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1. Check out the virtual events happening this month! Inner Critic & Self Compassion with Jungle Flower is a survivor-focused virtual workshop where Jungle Flower will lead writing exercises to help participants identify the negative commentary of the inner critic and practice self-compassion.

After 2 and a half years, the constant beeping of the alarm has finally been fixed at the GI! Our ears thank IST for updating the system and changing the batteries.

The month of October is recognized as Mental Health Awareness Month. Furthermore, on October 10th, we celebrated World Mental Health Day which is dedicated to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world. Here are some resources from the Sexual Violence Prevention & Response Office at the University of Waterloo.

Resources List:
- Sexual Violence Resources
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**UW Events**
UWSA Vaccine Q&A
- The event answers vaccine-related questions. With so much information and misinformation out there, Dr. Kelly Grindrod has agreed to help answer these questions.
- Watch the event here.

Indigenous Initiatives
- **2021 Benjamin Eby Lecture**
  - Thursday, October 21 @ 7:30 PM
  - Composing Louis Riel’s Dream: Exploring the history of the Red River Settlement through family stories and music
  - This year’s Benjamin Eby Lecture will be presented by Associate Professor of Music, Karen Sunabacka.
  - Register here.
Re-Storying the Medicine Line as Indigenous Land Guardianship  
- Friday, November 12th @ 7:30PM  
  - Native spiritual practices have always been about land. The revitalization of land guardianship roles and practices is often characterized as protecting the medicines of the land so that they can continue to give life to all of creation. This movement is a claim to territorial and spiritual sovereignty. 
- Join directly [here](#).

**Sexual Violence Prevention & Response**  
- Inner Critic & Self Compassion with Jungle Flower  
  - Wednesday, October 27th @ 6:00 PM  
  - In this survivor-focused workshop, Jungle Flower will lead writing exercises to help participants identify the negative commentary of the inner critic and practice self-compassion, which is said to be the antidote to shame.  
- Register [here](#).

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Happy Tuesday GI members,

It’s my pleasure to introduce you to our new members who joined us this Fall term! We asked our new members questions to get to know them better about the relatable stuff and the stuff that might not come out casually in conversation. In alphabetical order, please join me in welcoming...

Alexander Glover (he/him)
Alexander Glover is a Systems Design Engineering MASc candidate. His focus is on Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI), particularly how improving explainable AI could impact game creators and players. Reach out to Alexander if you want to talk about game concepts, game jam ideas, dev questions, successes, cool ideas or any ideas about increasing diversity/ethnicity in the game industry. All are encouraged! He’ll be in Monday/Thursday for now so feel free to stop by and say hi (Moo Moo Meadows).

Emily Shiu (she/her)
Emily Shiu (BA in Psychology and MASc in Developmental and Communication Sciences) is a PhD candidate in the Department of Psychology. Her main research work looks at adult bilingualism, particularly how social cues or contexts may affect a bilingual’s language processing. She is currently collaborating on a research project aiming to build an artificial knee to be used as a learning tool for remote education. She is also interested in projects involving haptic technology and language processing.

Hannah Delamere (she/they)
Hannah Delamere is currently Dr. Shana MacDonald's research assistant. They are researching the connections between second-wave feminism (1960s) to fourth-wave feminism (present), as well as planning to make their own collection to archive feminism in social media. Reach out to Hannah if you want to talk about reading/books (and all that comes with it, fan art, characters fandoms or criticism, etc) and all things activism!

Luka Ugaya Mazza (they/them)
Luka Ugaya Mazza graduated with a bachelor's degree in graphic design from the Federal University of Parana, Brazil. There, they conducted research on serious games as tools to teach medical practitioners. Currently, they are a MSc student in Public Health and Health Systems. Their interests include: data visualization, information design, information design systems, serious games, and games for mental health. Reach out to Luka if you want to talk, especially about cartoons, drawings, musicals, rock-climbing, and media analysis. Also, if you just want to chat and hang out for a while, they would love to keep you company and just listen to stories.

Mel Lim (she/her)
Melanie Lim is an MA student in Recreation and Leisure Studies. She is currently exploring questions of Korean and gendered existences in the context of lived experiences within a Eurocentric society.

Sumeet Sandhu (he/him)
Sumeet Sandhu is a co-op student who is working as a Full Stack Developer with Professor Randy Harris. He is working on the development of the Rhetoricon website and GoFigure game.

Veen Wong (she/her)
Wing Lam (Veen) Wong is a PhD student in the School of Public Health Sciences at the University of Waterloo and is supervised by Dr. James Wallace. A registered social worker with over a decade of social work experience, Veen has worked in a range of sectors including gender-based violence, mental health and health promotion, substance use and harm reduction. Her research interests include health equity, gender-based violence, technology, games, health informatics, and arts-based research.
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7. The GI Wi-Fi is now available! The network name is GI-Research and the password is GIUwaterloo2021!

[EVENTS]

1. Check out the virtual events happening this month! [Inner Critic & Self Compassion with Jungle Flower](#) is a survivor-focused virtual workshop where Jungle Flower will lead writing exercises to help participants identify the negative commentary of the inner critic and practice self-compassion.

Congratulations to Linlin and Jim Wallace who welcomed a new member into their family: Emmett Li Wallace! ✨ Emmett’s Mom is doing well having delivered her lovely load at 7 lbs 12 oz and Emmett himself is getting along great with his big brother, Richard.

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7. The GI Wi-Fi is now available! The network name is GI-Research and the password is GIUwaterloo2021!

8. The GI server has been added to the UW discord hub! We encourage you to interact with the newcomers joining our server!

**EVENTS**:

| GI Events | Games Institute & UW Women's Centre Collaboration Panel  
Wednesday, November 10th @2:00PM  
- Save the date! The UW Women's Centre, in collaboration with the UW Games Institute, is seeking to host an educational panel surrounding misogyny in games and gaming culture. |
| Feminist Thinktank | 
- Happens every first Tuesday of the month! If you would like to join please join the slack channel #lobby-feministthinktank or reach out to Hannah Delamere (hdelamere@uwaterloo.ca). |
| UW Events | Kaiser Permanente Q&A  
The event answers vaccine-related questions. With so much information - and misinformation - out there, Dr. Kelly Grindrod has agreed to help answer these questions.  
- Watch the event here. |
| | Gender/Intersectionality and Coastal Lands  
Wednesday, October 27th @12:00PM EST  
- Understanding the “margins” in coastal areas and islands: reflection on intersectional research in Dominica, Brazil and Sri Lanka.  
- In this panel, we will discuss “people in the margins” in the context of environmental governance and highlight the place- and context-dependency of human identities within coastal areas and islands. |
| | Indigenous Initiatives  
- **2021 Benjamin Eby Lecture**  
  - Thursday, October 21 @7:30 PM  
  - Composing Louis Riel’s Dream: Exploring the history of the Red River Settlement through family stories and music  
  - This year’s Benjamin Eby Lecture will be presented by Associate Professor of Music, Karen Sunabacka.  
  - Register here. |
| |  
- **Re-Storying the Medicine Line as Indigenous Land Guardianship**  
  - Friday, November 12th @7:30PM  
  - Native spiritual practices have always been about land. The revitalization of land guardianship roles and practices is often characterized as protecting the medicines of the land so that they can continue to give life to all of creation. This movement is a claim to territorial and spiritual sovereignty.  
  - Join directly here. |
| | Sexual Violence Prevention & Response  
- **Inner Critic & Self Compassion with Jungle Flower**  
  - Wednesday, October 27th @6:00PM  
  - In this survivor-focused workshop, Jungle Flower will lead writing exercises to help participants identify the negative commentary of the inner critic and practice self-compassion, which is said to be the antidote to shame.  
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| | United Way Campus-wide Events  
Stay red throughout the campaign by participating in our unique events that are purposefully linked to each of the United Way’s focus areas:  
- **Live Cooking Show** |
Thursday, October 28th @5:00PM

- We’ve brought back our wildly popular cooking show, this time making polenta. Get ready to get your hands dirty (and bellies full).
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Student Mental Health Research Conference 2021
Wednesday, November 10th @9:00AM

- The conference aims to bring together members of our campus community to share knowledge, connect researchers, and promote mental wellness through presentations and interactive Q&A sessions.
- Register here.
Hi, everyone.

For those not familiar with Instant Replay, it’s our GI activity summary that we publish once each semester, looking back at the most recently completed semester. The purpose is to highlight, summarize, showcase, and collect the various threads that went on during that semester among GI faculty, students, and staff, to communicate to the GI, its members and partners, the university, and the world out there, we’ve been up to. Because we do a lot, and much of it is interesting to numerous audiences, this approach serves us especially well.

From this Thurs., Instant Replay for the Spring 2021 semester is attached. Please give it a look – it’s enlightening and, I think, satisfying. And thanks to all of you for making Spring 2021, despite its huge limitations due to the pandemic, yet another GI semester worth showcasing.

My especial thanks to Pam Schmidt, who did a massive amount of work pulling this material together and formatting in a highly pleasing way. Pam got help from others, of course, including Aathan Raveendran, Grace van Dam, and Jenn Rickert, but this is very much Pam’s work. Pam, thank you. Oh yeah, and apparently Agata was there as well, I’m told.

Thanks hugely!
Neil Randall
Executive Director

[ANNOUNCEMENTS]:
1. If you missed our Fall 2021 Town Hall, you can watch the recording here until this Thursday!
2. Wondering how to support trans/nonbinary students? See the document attached.
3. CHI Play took place from October 18th-October 21! Check it out here.
4. A research study on virtual reality in the home is currently recruiting participants. Study information is attached. If you have any questions or are interested in signing up, please send an email to rtwfik@uwaterloo.ca.
5. The University is planning to resume University-approved international travel and will await further guidance from the province for the roadmap to reopen. More information is attached.
6. The GI Wi-Fi is now available, the network name is GI-Research and the password is GIUwaterloo2021.

[EVENTS]:
1. Join us this Thursday afternoon for Halloween fun and games, whether in person or online!

Feeling excited about an idea? Are you on the fence about something? Whatever it is you’re feeling, there’s a button for it in the Collaboration Space!
We have also updated our Valheim server to fit the spooky season, with plenty of Jack-o-Turnips to light your way through the stormy nights. Should you need to warm up, we also have a hot tub installed at the top of the Viking Collaboration Space.

The month of October is recognized as Mental Health Awareness Month. Furthermore, on October 10th, we celebrated World Mental Health Day which is dedicated to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world. Here are some resources from the Sexual Violence Prevention & Response Office at the University of Waterloo.

Resources List:
- Sexual Violence Resources
- Independent Legal Advice for Sexual Assault Victims
- UW Events for Sexual Violence Prevention & Response
- Supporting Your Return to Campus
- Grow Your Wellness
During the month of October, we would like to commemorate the following important dates:

- **Month**
  - Women’s History Month  
  - LGBT2QIA+ History Month
- **Day**
  - October 11th, 2021: National Coming Out Day  
  - October 11th, 2021: International Day of the Girl  
  - October 26th, 2021: Intersex Awareness Day

We are now welcoming GI members into the GI General Space and Labs are finally open!

If you are a GI resident, you would have received information in your pod renewal entries. If you are a member without residency status, you are welcome to use the Collaboration Space or the Presentation Room on a one-time entry status.

**1. For continual or one-time entry into the GI, you must sign the GI Operational Safety Plan.** If you have not received the plan through pod renewals, please email Aathani.

**2. If you would like to schedule to enter the GI on continual basis please fill out this form.**

**3. For one-time entry (non-residents), please email Aathani.**

**4. For lab usage, you will need to go through the room booking process as has been the norm. During this process, Aathani will send you the lab safety plan to sign before use. If you want to book the lab for human participant testing, please note the TL;DR below.**

**Current TL;DR Health and Safety Rules for the GI General Space are:**

1. The facility is only open from 9AM to 5PM, Monday to Friday.
2. Meetings are still prohibited on site and must be virtual. Even if your entire lab group is at the GI, you must hold the meeting virtually from your respective pods/offices.
3. You must complete campus check in daily. When connected to eduroam, you will receive an email to your uwaterloo account asking you to check-in. If you do not receive the email, you can check-in here.
4. Fridge clean-up is now daily at 4:30 pm. As was the norm, unlabeled food and science experiments will be thrown out container and all!
5. All dishes and non-perishable food items must be stored at your pod.
6. If you are a resident, lunch must be eaten at your pod. If you are a member, we will allow you to eat in the Collaboration space. Otherwise, please do not eat in public “study” sections.
7. Staff will sanitize high-touch points at mid-day and before the GI closes. Custodial services will do deep cleans after hours and periodically throughout the day.
8. Masks are required on campus at all times, however, if you are safely 2M distancing or in your assigned pod, you may remove them.

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1. Each GI Lab has its own Safety Plan; **each plan must be read and signed separately** if access is requested.
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6. Both parties must approve the project-specific plans prior to access approval.
7. Much like with the pods, the Collaboration Space and the Presentation Room, Labs for general and individual study usage must be booked in advance through the Operations Coordinator (cced, as per the usual process).
8. Sanitization of surfaces in the Labs is the responsibility of individuals who use them. Cleaning supplies and sign-off sheets are provided.
9. You can check the availability of the GI Labs, Collaboration Space and the Presentation Room via shared Outlook calendars. See list below.
   - a. Games Institute EC1-1237 – Presentation Room
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List of GI Resources:
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- Events at the GI Form
- GI Entry Schedule Form
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  - Network Name: GI-Research
  - Password: GIUwaterloo2021!

COVID-19 Resources:
- University of Waterloo Staff Association Vaccine Q&A

Anti-Racism Resources:
- The Catalyst Anti-Racism Newsletter showcases anti-racist work across campus and also includes research spotlights! Sign up here.

Intersex Resources:
- Intersex Day

[ANNOUNCEMENTS]:

1. If you missed our Fall 2021 Town Hall, you can watch the recording until October 28th.

2. Wondering how to support trans/nonbinary students? See the document attached.

3. CHI Play took place from October 18th-October 21! Check it out here.

4. A research study on virtual reality in the home is currently recruiting participants. Please find attached the study information and eligibility criteria. If you have any questions or are interested in signing up, please send an email to rtawfik@uwaterloo.ca.

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[EVENTS][3]:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>GI Events</th>
<th>Halloween Haunt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, October 28th @12PM</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>In-Person 12-5pm (Drop-in)</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Whether it’s your “day” at the GI or not, costume up and join us any time between 12-5pm on Thursday for candy comas, festive films, and creative crafting.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>- We’ll have individual popcorn, candy bags, and drinks on hand ready for you to relax and enjoy some time spent in our first hybrid event since returning to campus!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- We will also have supplies on hand to create some Halloween decorations, including teaching members how to use the cricut! We welcome members to donate their creations to the GI collection so that we can continue to be haunted by your memory every year 😈</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Online (12:30pm, 3:30pm &amp; asynchronous)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- We will also be celebrating the spirit of the holiday with those who won’t be able to attend in-person on Thursday! All movies will be live-streamed during the event via our Discord.</td>
<td></td>
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server's The Save Point channel! We also encourage you to dress up, tell us your plans, or share your holiday traditions via social media using the hashtag #GIHaunt.

- We have also updated our Valheim server to fit the spooky season, with plenty of Jack-o-Turnips to light your way through the stormy nights. Should you need to warm up, we also have a hot tub installed at the top of the Viking Collaboration Space (authenticity be damned).
- Finally, just because you can't be with us in person, doesn't mean you can't decorate too! We'll be including copies of the same frames your fellow members will be using in-person in our online package so you can decorate them to your liking and either send them along for us to print and display or keep for your own!

- No matter which way you choose to celebrate with us, we're just excited to be able to dust off some of the cobwebs and invite you back into the GI lair. We also encourage you not only in this event, but in upcoming ones, to help make them your own. Our legacy is your legacy and we want the GI to represent and support its members, in research and in respite. We also want to have more of your cool works on our walls... There's so much wall space....
- All residents will receive a candy bag, even if they are unable to make it on Thursday. Please let us know of any allergies you may have. If you receive a bag that you would prefer to swap out for one of alternatives, sealed candy bags will be exchangeable up to one week after the event.

Games Institute & UW Women's Centre Collaboration Panel

Wednesday, November 10th @2:00PM

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- Happens every first Tuesday of the month! If you would like to join please join the slack channel #lobby-feministthinktank or reach out to Hannah Delamere (hdelamere@uwaterloo.ca).

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- The event answers vaccine-related questions. With so much information - and misinformation - out there, Dr. Kelly Grindrod has agreed to help answer these questions.
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Wednesday, October 27th @12:00PM EST

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- In this panel, we will discuss “people in the margins” in the context of environmental governance and highlight the place- and context-dependency of human identities within coastal areas and islands

**Indigenous Initiatives**

- **Bridge: Honouring the Lives of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit People**
  - Wednesday, November 3rd @12:00AM - Friday, November 19th @11:59PM
  - Everyone is welcome to participate in the Bridge installation Opening Ceremony and Fire on Wednesday, November 3 at 1:00 pm at the bridge between Environment 3 and St. Paul’s University College. The closing ceremony will be held on Friday, November 19 at 1:00 pm.

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  - Friday, November 12th @7:30PM
  - Native spiritual practices have always been about land. The revitalization of land guardianship roles and practices is often characterized as protecting the medicines of the land so that they can continue to give life to all of creation. This movement is a claim to territorial and spiritual sovereignty.
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**Live Cooking Show**
- **Thursday, October 28th @5:00PM**
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- **Wednesday, November 10th @9:00AM**
  - The conference aims to bring together members of our campus community to share knowledge, connect researchers, and promote mental wellness through presentations and interactive Q&A sessions.
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## Other Virtual Events

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<th>Lift Your Spirits: Uncovering Spooky Tales of Waterloo</th>
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<td><strong>Saturday, October 30th @8:00PM</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Think you know Waterloo? Think again! Social historian Joanna Rickert-Hall’s, virtual ghost walk through the forgotten realms of Waterloo will send shivers down the spine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Bolster your courage this scary evening with a Halloween themed drink experience. Enjoy a group cocktail class lead by the creative folks at Waterloo’s White Rabbit Restaurant. Participants 19+ will learn to make and decorate a themed creepy cocktail. Each ticket will include cocktail supplies for 2 participants.</td>
</tr>
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Hi, everyone,

Today is the **Day of the Dead**. This holiday is a time of celebration and remembrance of loved ones who have passed away. Traditionally, an altar is built to showcase photos, food, flowers and special items to help families remember their loved ones. It is believed that loved ones come back and spend a night with their families, so, an altar is built with their favorite things for them to enjoy on their visit.

All GI Members are encouraged to bring in photos of loved ones to add to the altar; photos can also be sent via email (aldiazde@uwaterloo.ca) and will be added to the display. The Day of the Dead altar will remain in place until November 15th.

---

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**:

1. Congratulations to **Dr. John Yoon** for successfully defending his PhD dissertation! 🎉🎓🎉
2. Wondering how to support trans/nonbinary students? See the document attached.
3. A research study on **virtual reality in the home** is currently recruiting participants. Study information is attached. If you have any questions or are interested in signing up, please send an email to rtafik@uwaterloo.ca.
4. The University is planning to resume University-approved international travel and will await further guidance from the Province for the roadmap to reopen. More information is attached.
1. Join us next Wednesday for a Panel on Misogyny in Games and Gaming Culture.

The GI hosted our first hybrid event since returning to campus! It was a day filled with films 😎, crafting ☝️ and candy 🍭!

The month of October is recognized as Mental Health Awareness Month. Furthermore, on October 10th, we celebrated World Mental Health Day which is dedicated to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world. Here are some resources from the Sexual Violence Prevention & Response Office at the University of Waterloo.

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During the month of November, we would like to commemorate the following important dates:

Day
- November 2nd, 2021: Day of the Dead
- November 8th, 2021: Intersex Day of Solidarity
- November 11th, 2021: Remembrance Day
November 20th, 2021
○ Transgender Day of Remembrance
○ National Child Day
○ November 25th, 2021: International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

Week
○ November 5th, 2021 - November 11th, 2021: Veteran’s Week
○ November 20th, 2021 - November 26th, 2021: Canada History Week
○ November 25th, 2021 - December 10th, 2021: 16 days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

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*If you have any accessibility concerns or accommodations, please reach out to GI Staff immediately.*

---

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  - Native spiritual practices have always been about land. The revitalization of land guardianship roles and practices is often characterized as protecting the medicines of the land so that they can continue to give life to all of creation. This movement is a claim to territorial and spiritual sovereignty.
  - Join directly here.

Indigenous Speaker Series presents Jean Teillet
- Thursday, December 2nd, 2021 @12:00PM
  - Jean Teillet is Senior Counsel with Pape Salter Teillet LLP who has long been engaged in negotiations and litigation with provincial and federal governments concerning Métis and First Nation land rights, harvesting rights and self-government.
  - Jean will share stories from the process of writing The North-West is Our Mother; and will discuss who the Métis people are, where they are, and what is happening in the community today and into the future. Jean's talk will be followed by a moderated Q and A.
  - Click here for information about registration.

Critical Tech Talk 1: Nicole Aschoff – The digital frontier and its limits
- Monday, November 8th @5:00PM
  - Nicole Aschoff is an editor, writer and public sociologist focused on technology, labour, politics, feminism, the economy, and the environment. Her recent book is The Smartphone Society: Technology, Power, and Resistance in the New Gilded Age.
  - Register here.

Student Mental Health Research Conference 2021
- Wednesday, November 10th @9:00AM
  - The conference aims to bring together members of our campus community to share knowledge, connect researchers, and promote mental wellness through presentations and interactive Q&A sessions.
  - Register here.
Hello, GI members,
It is my honour and pleasure (mixed with a healthy dose of relief) that I am introducing our newest staff member... drumroll, please... Dr. Emma Vossen who is joining us as Research Communications Writer.

Emma is a writer, researcher, editor and educator who completed her PhD in UW’s English department. She is the proud representative of GI’s very first generation of students who were brave enough to move into our space while we were still assembling furniture, painting walls and setting up, well, pretty much everything. Emma also served as the editor-in-chief of GI’s flagship online publication - First Person Scholar, was the founding member of GI Janes, a community of female-identifying and non-binary gamers, and - rumour has it - even took classes taught by our Executive Director. (@Emma, there is a peer support group for Neil’s former students, should you wish to join; just sayin’...)

Emma’s academic work has explored the political and socioeconomic values found within games, play, and games culture and the exclusion and gatekeeping of marginalized players. Her publications include a co-edited volume Feminism in Play (we have it!) and the upcoming book Historiographies of Game Studies (we have it!). She also stirred up a bit of a media thing calling out the alt-right crowd at the height of the so-called gamergate. Also, also, she currently teaches in the Game Design and Development program at Wilfrid Laurier University.

Emma will be taking up all research communications writing for the GI and so, do expect her name in your inboxes, communicators and lab meetings. Please welcome her to our community and flood her with information about your awesome work. Emma can be reached on Teams, Discord, Slack and via email evossen@uwaterloo.ca.

On behalf of the GI, welcome aboard (again), Emma!

[ANNOUNCEMENTS]

1. The Games Institute hosted the visit of Minister Kaleed Rasheed, Associate Minister of Digital Government for Ontario today. We were excited to be able to showcase the physical space once again! Thank you to everyone who participated!
2. All GI Members are encouraged to bring in photos of loved ones to add to the Day of the Dead altar; photos can also be sent via email (aldiazde@uwaterloo.ca) and will be added to the display. The altar will remain in place until November 15th.
3. A research study on virtual reality in the home is currently recruiting participants. Study information is attached. If you have any questions or are interested in signing up, please send an email to rtawfik@uwaterloo.ca.
4. Proposal submissions for the International Conference on Games and Narrative are due on February 1st, 2022 via email (icgan.submissions@uwaterloo.ca). See the document attached.

[EVENTS]

1. Join us tomorrow, @2PM for a Panel on Misogyny in Games and Gaming Culture. [Register on Tickets!]

[END]
Pam and I finally finished WCMS 3.0! For those of you that don't know, learning UWaterloo’s new website creation tool was the bane of our existence and we’re finally done! 😅arious 😘

Here are some resources from the Sexual Violence Prevention & Response Office at the University of Waterloo.

Resources List:
- Sexual Violence Resources
- Independent Legal Advice for Sexual Assault Victims
- UW Events for Sexual Violence Prevention & Response
- Supporting Your Return to Campus
- Grow Your Wellness

During the month of November, we would like to commemorate the following important dates:
Day
○ November 2nd, 2021: Day of the Dead
○ November 4th, 2021: Diwali
○ November 8th, 2021: Intersex Day of Solidarity
○ November 11th, 2021: Remembrance Day
○ November 20th, 2021
  ○ Transgender Day of Remembrance
  ○ National Child Day
○ November 25th, 2021: International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

Week
○ November 5th, 2021 - November 11th, 2021: Veteran’s Week
○ November 20th, 2021 - November 26th, 2021: Canada History Week
○ November 25th, 2021 - December 10th, 2021: 16 days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

We are now welcoming GI members into the GI General Space and Labs are finally open!

If you are a GI resident, you would have received information in your pod renewal entries. If you are a member without residency status, you are welcome to use the Collaboration Space or the Presentation Room on a one-time entry status.

1. For continual or one-time entry into the GI, you must sign the GI Operational Safety Plan. If you have not received the plan through pod renewals, please email Aathani.
2. If you would like to schedule to enter the GI on continual basis please fill out this form.
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4. For lab usage, you will need to go through the room booking process as has been the norm. During this process, Aathani will send you the lab safety plan to sign before use. If you want to book the lab for human participant testing, please note the TL;DR below.

Current TL;DR Health and Safety Rules for the **GI General Space** are:

1. The facility is only open from 9AM to 5PM, Monday to Friday.
2. Meetings are still prohibited on site and must be virtual. Even if your entire lab group is at the GI, you must hold the meeting virtually from your respective pods/offices.
3. You must complete campus check in daily. When connected to eduroam, you will receive an email to your uwaterloo account asking you to check-in. If you do not receive the email, you can check-in here.
4. Fridge clean-up is now daily at 4:30 pm. As was the norm, unlabeled food and science experiments will be thrown out container and all!
5. All dishes and non-perishable food items must be stored at your pod.
6. If you are a resident, lunch must be eaten at your pod. If you are a member, we will allow you to eat in the Collaboration space. Otherwise, please do not eat in public "study" sections.
7. Staff will sanitize high-touch points at mid-day and before the GI closes. Custodial services will do deep cleans after hours and periodically throughout the day.
8. Masks are required on campus at all times, however, if you are safely 2M distancing or in your assigned pod, you may remove them.

Current TL;DR Health and Safety Rules for the **GI Labs** are:

1. Each GI Lab has its own Safety Plan; each plan must be read and signed separately if access is requested.
2. Lab Safety Plans are tied to the GI operating Safety Plan – you will need to sign both to be approved for access to any of the labs.
3. These plans are unique in that they are for general access and individual research use (more info on this during the Town Hall).
4. In the case of studies with participants, the GI Lab Safety Plans act as a skeleton with instructions for what parts of the plan individual researchers must fill out.
5. Once completed with details for specific studies, these project safety plans must be submitted separately to Office of Research via the Return to Research process and to the GI (email).
6. Both parties must approve the project-specific plans prior to access approval.
7. Much like with the pods, the Collaboration Space and the Presentation Room, Labs for general and individual study usage must be booked in advance through the Operations Coordinator (cced, as per the usual process).
8. Sanitization of surfaces in the Labs is the responsibility of individuals who use them. Cleaning supplies and sign-off sheets are provided.
9. You can check the availability of the GI Labs, Collaboration Space and the Presentation Room via shared Outlook calendars. See list below.
   a. Games Institute EC1-1237 – Presentation Room
   b. Games Institute EC1-1249 – Living Room Lab
c. Games Institute EC1-1303 – Haptic Experience Lab
  d. Games Institute EC1-1307 – VR Story Lab
  e. Games Institute EC1-1318 – Immersion Room Lab
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If you have any accessibility concerns or accommodations, please reach out to GI Staff immediately.

List of GI Resources:
- GI Equipment/Room Booking Form
- Events at the GI Form
- GI Entry Schedule Form
- GI Wi-Fi
  - Network Name: GI-Research
  - Password: GIUwaterloo2021!

COVID-19 Resources:
- University of Waterloo Staff Association Vaccine Q&A

Anti-Racism Resources:
- The Catalyst Anti-Racism Newsletter showcases anti-racist work across campus and also includes research spotlights! Sign up here.

Trans/Non-Binary Resources:
- See the document attached

[ANNOUNCEMENTS]

1. All GI Members are encouraged to bring in photos of loved ones to add to the Day of the Dead altar; photos can also be sent via email (aldiazde@uwaterloo.ca) and will be added to the display. The altar will remain in place until November 15th.

2. A research study on virtual reality in the home is currently recruiting participants. Please find attached the study information and eligibility criteria. If you have any questions or are interested in signing up, please send an email to rtawfik@uwaterloo.ca.

3. Proposal submissions for the International Conference on Games and Narrative is due on February 1st, 2020 via email (icgan.submissions@uwaterloo.ca). See the document attached.

4. The University is planning to resume University-approved international travel and will await further guidance from the province for the roadmap to reopen. Please see the attached file for more information.

5. The GI server has been added to the UW discord hub. We encourage you to interact with the newcomers joining our server!

[EVENTS]

GI Events
- Panel on Misogyny in Games and Gaming Culture
  Wednesday, November 10th @2:00PM
  - The UW Women’s Centre, in collaboration with Games Institute, is hosting an educational panel surrounding misogyny in games and gaming culture as part of the Women’s Centre’s annual “Love Your Body” week.
  - The purpose of the event is to draw on women and queer students who study gender in relation to tech, online community building, and gaming to talk about these spaces, their experiences in them, and the overall impact this has on women and queer folks.
  - Register on Ticketfly.

Feminist Thinktank
- Happens every first Tuesday of the month! If you would like to join please join the slack channel #lobby-feministthinktank or reach out to Hannah Delamere
Data Jam - Feminist Thinktank Presents: Everything but the Kitchen Sink
Thursday, November 25th @1:00PM
- This is a fun opportunity to learn more about data in a safe space! Any degree of understanding of data is welcome!
- In this Data Jam we will be collecting everything but the kitchen sink on your phone (of course with your permission) this will entail all things social media. Saved posts, screenshots, or liked content, from Instagram to TikTok to Twitter.
- This is a great chance to enter the world of data visualization! We will be going through and tagging posts while coming up with hypotheses'.
- Join the Data Jam through Discord.

GI Game Jam: Fall 2021
Wednesday, November 24th @5:00PM to Sunday, November 28th @3:00PM
- The GI Game Jam is a thrice-annual, multi-day event hosted by The Games Institute (GI) at the University of Waterloo where playful people gather to create original games together.
- The entire event is online and we hope to use this opportunity to support remote teams and spend more time mentoring newcomers.
- Register here.

UW Events

UWSA Vaccine Q&A
- The event answers vaccine-related questions. With so much information - and misinformation - out there, Dr. Kelly Grindrod has agreed to help answer these questions.
- Watch the event here.

Indigenous Initiatives

Bridge: Honouring the Lives of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit People
- Wednesday, November 3rd @12:00AM - Friday, November 19th @11:59PM
  - Everyone is welcome to participate in the Bridge installation.
  - Opening Ceremony and Fire on Wednesday, November 3 at 1:00 pm at the bridge between Environment 3 and St. Paul’s University College.
  - The closing ceremony will be held on Friday, November 19 at 1:00 pm.

Re-Storying the Medicine Line as Indigenous Land Guardianship
- Friday, November 12th @7:30PM
  - Native spiritual practices have always been about land. The revitalization of land guardianship roles and practices is often characterized as protecting the medicines of the land so that they can continue to give life to all of creation. This movement is a claim to territorial and spiritual sovereignty.
  - Join directly here.

Indigenous Speaker Series presents Jean Teillet
- Thursday, December 2nd, 2021 @12:00PM
  - Jean Teillet is Senior Counsel with Pape Salter Teillet LLP who has long been engaged in negotiations and litigation with provincial and federal governments concerning Métis and First Nation land rights, harvesting rights and self-government.
  - Jean will share stories from the process of writing The North-West is Our Mother; and will discuss who the Métis people are, where they are, and what is happening in the community today and into the future. Jean's talk will be followed by a moderated Q and A.
  - Click here for information about registration.

Critical Tech Talk 1: Nicole Aschoff – The digital frontier and its limits
Monday, November 8th @5:00PM
- Nicole Aschoff is an editor, writer and public sociologist focused on technology, labour, politics, feminism, the economy, and the environment. Her recent book is The Smartphone Society: Technology, Power, and Resistance in the New Gilded Age.
- Register here.

Student Mental Health Research Conference 2021
Wednesday, November 10th @9:00AM
- The conference aims to bring together members of our campus community to share knowledge, connect researchers, and promote mental wellness through presentations and interactive Q&A sessions.
- Register here.
Hello, GI members,

It is my honour and pleasure (mixed with a healthy dose of relief) that I am introducing our newest staff member . . . drumroll 🥁, please . . . Dr. Emma Vossen who is joining us as Research Communications Writer.

Emma is a writer, researcher, editor and educator who completed her PhD in UW’s English department. She is the proud representative of GI’s very first generation of students who were brave enough to move into our space while we were still assembling furniture, painting walls and setting up, well, pretty much everything. Emma also served as the editor-in-chief of GI’s flagship online publication - First Person Scholar, was the founding member of GI Janes, a community of female-identifying and non-binary gamers, and - rumour has it - even took classes taught by our Executive Director. (@Emma, there is a peer support group for Neil’s former students, should you wish to join; just sayin’ . . .)

Emma’s academic work has explored the political and socioeconomic values found within games, play, and games culture and the exclusion and gatekeeping of marginalized players. Her publications include a co-edited volume Feminism in Play (we have it!) and the upcoming book Historiographies of Game Studies (we will have it!). She also stirred up a bit of a media thing calling out the alt-right crowd at the height of the so-called #gamergate. Also, also, she currently teaches in the Game Design and Development program at Wilfrid Laurier University.

Emma will be taking up all research communications writing for the GI and so, do expect her name in your inboxes, communicators and lab meetings. Please welcome her to our community and flood her with information about your awesome work. Emma can be reached on Teams, Discord, Slack and via email evossen@uwaterloo.ca.

On behalf of the GI, welcome aboard (again), Emma!
Good news, everyone!

With the holiday season approaching and case numbers remaining low, the University is approaching the end of 2021 and beginning of 2022 with more optimism and flexibility and has announced that, effective immediately, some restrictions on gatherings are being lifted. Although these guidelines are in the context of celebrating the holidays with teams and hosting events, they can, however, also be used for meetings.

Please consult the updated Health and Safety Section of the newsletter for full details, however the TL;DR is:

1. For workplace (on-campus) events:
   a. Anything that involves eating or drinking (e.g. potluck or catering) requires that individuals maintain 2m physical distancing.
   b. All events must adhere to occupancy space limits.
   c. If 2m physical distancing is not possible, face coverings must be worn.
   d. Gatherings must be limited to 25 people indoors, and 100 people outdoors.

If you are wanting to host meetings at the GI please make sure to follow booking protocols for rooms through Aathani as has been the norm.

[ANNOUNCEMENTS]

1. The closing ceremony for the Bridge: Honouring the Lives of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit People will be held on Friday, November 19 at 1:00PM at the bridge between Environment 3 and St. Paul’s University College.
2. The University of Waterloo will join 40 other institutions of higher learning in signing the Scarborough Charter on Anti-Black Racism and Black Inclusion in Canadian Higher Education at a virtual ceremony on Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 3PM EST.
3. A research study on virtual reality in the home is currently recruiting participants. Study information is attached. If you have any questions or are interested in signing up, please send an email to rtawfik@uwaterloo.ca.
4. Proposal submissions for the International Conference on Games and Narrative are due on February 1st, 2022 via email (icgan.submissions@uwaterloo.ca). See the document attached.
5. Beginning in fall 2022, “Black Studies” and “Fundamentals of Anti-Racist Communication” will be offered as diplomas open to degree students from all faculties, as well as non-degree and post-degree students. Read more here.

[EVENTS]

1. Join us next Wednesday @6PM for the Fall 2021 Game Jam!
2. Join us next Thursday @1PM for the Data Jam by Feminist Thinktank!
Here are some resources from the Sexual Violence Prevention & Response Office at the University of Waterloo.

Resources List:

- Sexual Violence Resources
- Independent Legal Advice for Sexual Assault Victims
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- November 20th, 2021
  - Transgender Day of Remembrance
  - National Child Day
- November 25th, 2021: International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

**Week**
- November 5th, 2021 - November 11th, 2021: Veteran’s Week
- November 20th, 2021 - November 26th, 2021: Canada History Week
- November 25th, 2021 - December 10th, 2021: 16 days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

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**Meetings and Events on Campus:**

- **Dining out:** events at Federation Hall or restaurants are permitted, and employees will be required to follow the venue’s safety protocols and [Ontario proof of vaccination](https://www.ontario.ca/page/proof-vaccination) requirements. Please note: that Ontario proof of vaccination rules do not allow for religious/creed exemptions, and therefore individuals with that type of internal workplace accommodation will not be permitted to enter.

- **Workplace events and meetings:**
  - Any event that is held in the workplace and involves eating or drinking (e.g. potluck or catering) requires that employees maintain 2m physical distancing while doing so.
  - All events must adhere to occupancy limits of the space, with employees wearing a face covering if physical distancing is not maintained.
  - Gatherings must be limited to 25 people if held indoors, and 100 if held outdoors
  - Rooms for meetings must be booked in advance through the GI Operations Coordinator.

- **Private dwellings:** Ontario proof of vaccination is not required, and social gatherings must be limited to 25 people indoors and 100 outdoors. Face coverings are encouraged in indoor environments.
  - Other activities must adhere to public health requirements for social gathering limits, and the applicable [Reopening Ontario Act](https://www.ontario.ca/page/reopening-ontario-act) regulations that may pertain to a specific venue.

If you have any accessibility concerns or accommodations, please reach out to GI Staff immediately.

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- GI Entry Schedule Form
- GI Wi-Fi
  - Network Name: GI-Research
  - Password: GIUwaterloo2021!

**COVID-19 Resources:**

- University of Waterloo Staff Association [Vaccine Q&A](https://staffassociates.uwaterloo.ca/Page/34918)
- A 5-minute game to protect you against COVID-19 misinformation

**Anti-Racism Resources:**

- The Catalyst Anti-Racism Newsletter showcases anti-racist work across campus and also includes research spotlights! [Sign up here.](https://www.ontario.ca/page/proof-vaccination)

**Trans/Non-Binary Resources:**
• See the document attached

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5. The GI server has been added to the UW discord hub. We encourage you to interact with the newcomers joining our server!

[EVENTS]

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- Happens every first Tuesday of the month! If you would like to join please join the slack channel #lobby-feministthinktank or reach out to Hannah Delamere (hdelamere@uwaterloo.ca).

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Thursday, November 25th @1:00PM
- This is a fun opportunity to learn more about data in a safe space! Any degree of understanding of data is welcome!
- In this Data Jam we will be collecting everything but the kitchen sink on your phone (of course with your permission) this will entail all things social media. Saved posts, screenshots, or liked content, from Instagram to TikTok to Twitter.
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- The entire event is online and we hope to use this opportunity to support remote teams and spend more time mentoring newcomers.
  - Register here.

Building XR Devices to Sense Mind and Body
Wednesday, December 1st @12:00PM
- This panel will be moderated by Dr. John Muñoz, and it explores how three different companies have been embedding physiological sensors into HMDs for virtual and augmented reality in order to connect mind and body and create more natural interfaces for XR applications.
- This panel will have three key industry players that are creating the new generation of HMDs in XR, integrating sensing technologies such as eye-tracking, electrencephalography (EEG) and facial electromyography (EMG) as well as developing novel algorithms to deconstruct the physiological information and create more humanized technologies.
  - Register here.

UW Events
Bridge: Honouring the Lives of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit People
- Wednesday, November 3rd @12:00AM - Friday, November 19th @11:59PM
  - Everyone is welcome to participate in the Bridge installation.
Bridge: Honouring the Lives of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit People

Wednesday, November 3rd @12:00AM - Friday, November 19th @11:59PM

Everyone is welcome to participate in the Bridge installation.

The closing ceremony will be held on Friday, November 19 at 1:00 pm at the bridge between Environment 3 and St. Paul's University College.

Profs Present: Players’ Arousal and Reward Signatures to Loot Boxes: “If it Looks Like a Duck, Quacks like a Duck and Walks Like a Duck, It’s a Form of Gambling”

Wednesday, November 24th @12:10PM

Loot boxes are a purchasable video-game feature consisting of randomly determined, in-game virtual items. Due to their chance-based nature, there is much debate as to whether they constitute a form of gambling. We sought to address this issue by examining whether players treat virtual loot box rewards in a way that parallels established reward reactivity for monetary rewards in slots play.

Speaker: Mike Dixon is a Full Professor of Psychology at the University of Waterloo where he has twice served as Chair of the Department. He is Director of the Research Stream at the Waterloo Gambling Research Laboratory.

Register here.

Indigenous Speaker Series presents Jean Teillet

Thursday, December 2nd, 2021 @12:00PM

Jean Teillet is Senior Counsel with Pape Salter Teillet LLP who has long been engaged in negotiations and litigation with provincial and federal governments concerning Métis and First Nation land rights, harvesting rights and self-government.

Jean will share stories from the process of writing The North-West is Our Mother; and will discuss who the Métis people are, where they are, and what is happening in the community today and into the future. Jean’s talk will be followed by a moderated Q and A.

Join directly here.

UWIA Vaccine Q&A

The event answers vaccine-related questions. With so much information - and misinformation - out there, Dr. Kelly Grindrod has agreed to help answer these questions.

Watch the event here.

Other Virtual Events

Black Stand-Up Comedy as Cultural Critique

Tuesday, November 16th @4:00PM

Richard Pryor definitively ripped off the mask of African American humor in front of white audiences, making it difficult for them to remain passive and uncritical and forcing them to confront the continuing legacy of racial oppression. Dave Chappelle continues that tradition. Join Terrence Tucker and Vershawn Young as they explore this comic rage and its role in fighting racism.

Join directly here.
To celebrate the end of 2021 and our first term (mostly) back together since the onslaught of the COVID-19 epic storyline, we’re holding Winter Fest 2021 on December 16th from 2-4pm in actual-person, in the actual collaboration space at the actual G, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, North America, Earth!

The Schedule for Winter Fest is as follows:

1. Asynchronous Donation Drive (December 6th – 16th)
2. Asynchronous Decoration Kits and Goodie Bags for Residents (December 10th – 16th)
3. Synchronous Potluck (December 16th from 2PM – 4PM)

We need volunteers to help with various tasks, please get in contact with Jenn (jrickert@uwaterloo.ca; on Slack, or on Discord) if you would like to help.

Proposal submissions for the W3+ Circle are due on Wednesday, December 1st, 2021. Read the background and call for proposals here.

Based on the province’s most recent reopening plans and management of COVID-19 for the long term, the University of Waterloo is further adjusting our review and approval of human participant research activity. See the email attached and check out the updated Health and Safety section of this newsletter.

A research study on virtual reality in the home is currently recruiting participants. Study information is attached. If you have any questions or are interested in signing up, please send an email to rtwafk@uwaterloo.ca.

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Join us tomorrow @6PM for the Fall 2021 Game Jam!
16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence begins on November 25 with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and concludes on December 10, International Human Rights Day. In Canada, 16 Days includes the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women on December 6.

Resources List:

- Resources for those who are or who know someone is seeking help
- Read and Watch List
  - Your Must Read and Watch List for 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence
- UW Events
  - My Restorative Rights with Jungle Flower
    - Wednesday, November 24th @6:00PM
      - In this survivor-focused workshop led by Jungle Flower, participants will explore setting boundaries after trauma and become clear on what rights are important for them to reclaim for their healing and restoration.
      - Register for the workshop.
  - Responding to Disclosures of Sexual Violence | Two-part Workshop
    - Part 1: Tuesday, December 7th @2:00PM, Part 2: Thursday, December 9th @2:00PM
      - In this interactive 3-hour workshop, divided over two days, attendees will develop tools, strategies, and resources to respond effectively to disclosures of sexual violence.
      - Register for the workshop.

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Week
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8. Masks are required on campus at all times, however, if you are safely 2M distancing or in your assigned pod, you may remove them.

Current TL;DR Health and Safety Rules for the **GI Labs** are:

1. Each GI Lab has its own Safety Plan; each plan must be read and signed separately if access is requested.
2. Lab Safety Plans are tied to the GI operating Safety Plan – you will need to sign both to be approved for access to any of the labs.
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   c. Games Institute EC1-1303 – Haptic Experience Lab
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   f. Games Institute EC1-1323 – Collaboration Space

 compra**Morning** to Human Participant Testing (NEW) **Morning**

1. PI downloads and completes the human participant safety plan from Safety Office website under “Tools.”
2. PI orient research team to the plan and all team members acknowledge plan with a signature.
3. PI seeks Executive Director, Dr. Neil Randall’s signature.
4. PI provides a signed copy to Departmental Safety Officer, Pamela Maria Schmidt, for ongoing monitoring and oversight of safety protocols.
5. PI posts safety plan in laboratory for on-campus studies or electronically in shared drive for off-campus studies.

Ethics application submission is no longer conditional on approved request and safety plan Human participant research (on and off campus) participant research (on and off campus). For more information, please see the email attached or reach out to GI staff.

**Meetings and Events on Campus:**

- **Dining out:** events at Federation Hall or restaurants are permitted, and employees will be required to follow the venue’s safety protocols and **Ontario proof of vaccination** requirements. Please note: that Ontario proof of vaccination rules do not allow for religious/creed exemptions, and therefore individuals with that type of internal workplace accommodation will not be permitted to enter.

- **Workplace events and meetings:**
  - Any event that is held in the workplace and involves eating or drinking (e.g. potluck or catering) requires that employees maintain 2m physical distancing while doing so.
  - All events must adhere to occupancy limits of the space, with employees wearing a face covering if physical distancing is not maintained.
  - Gatherings must be limited to 25 people if held indoors, and 100 if held outdoors
Rooms for meetings must be booked in advance through the GI Operations Coordinator.

- Private dwellings: Ontario proof of vaccination is not required, and social gatherings must be limited to 25 people indoors and 100 outdoors. Face coverings are encouraged in indoor environments.
- Other activities must adhere to public health requirements for social gathering limits, and the applicable Reopening Ontario Act regulations that may pertain to a specific venue.

If you have any accessibility concerns or accommodations, please reach out to GI Staff immediately.

List of GI Resources:
- GI Equipment/Room Booking Form
- Events at the GI Form
- GI Entry Schedule Form
- GI Wi-Fi
  - Network Name: GI-Research
  - Password: GIUwaterloo2021!
- Prayer mat

COVID-19 Resources:
- University of Waterloo Staff Association Vaccine Q&A
- A 5-minute game to protect you against COVID-19 misinformation

Anti-Racism Resources:
- The Catalyst Anti-Racism Newsletter showcases anti-racist work across campus and also includes research spotlights! Sign up here.

Trans/Non-Binary Resources:
- See the document attached

[ANNOUNCEMENTS]

Winter Fest 2021
Can you believe it’s almost the end of the term? We’ve all nearly completed our return-to-campus quest and are ready to reap the sweet rewards of a journey well met.

To celebrate the end of 2021 and our first term (mostly) back together since the onslaught of the COVID-19 epic storyline, we’re hosting Winter Fest 2021 which will include some asynchronous portions, as well as a potluck in the actual collaboration space!

The Schedule for Winter Fest is as follows:

1. Asynchronous Donation Drive (December 6th - 16th)
2. Asynchronous Decoration Kits and Goodie Bags for Residents (December 10th - 16th)
3. Synchronous Potluck (December 16th from 2PM - 4PM)

Quest objectives:

Call for Adventurers (Volunteers)
- We need volunteers to help with various tasks (no berry gathering or boar teeth to gather, we assure you!) for the event
- Please get in touch with Jenn (jrickert@uwaterloo.ca; on Slack, or on Discord) if you have the talent points allocated for:
  - Glamours and illusion magicks (decorating the GI space) - Week of December 2nd
  - Reverse-pickpocketing (packing care packages for GI residents) - Week of December 9th
  - Creation or Destruction magicks (set up/tear down for the Potluck) - Day of event

Giving-back to the village
- We’ll have two donation boxes ready for adventurers to turn in extra rations, equipment, or playful trinkets for those in need within our community. Details will follow, but we hope to have both an in-person drop box, as well as the ability to donate/purchase from a wishlist available online as well for those adventurers who are questing in other regions this season.
- The donation drive will run from December 6th-December 16th; donations will be delivered to the corresponding guilds as of the 17th.
Light up dark snowy days with decorations

- Resident adventurers will receive a winter creation kit, which will include materials for a decoration craftable as well as some secret mission rewards.
  - Craftables can be kept or donated to the GI for our growing resident-inspired and created decoration collection; if you choose to donate, please follow the instructions included in the kit for how to do so!
- Resident packages will be ready for residents from December 10th until the event on December 16th!

Potluck-style feast

- Bring your holiday foods of choice to share with fellow adventurers; please include a list of ingredients for those with food-sensitive character traits.
- We also encourage you to bring your own food-tools to cut back on waste; however, the GI will have napkins and some other supplies available for those unable.

This event will not have a virtual synchronous or asynchronous component; however, that does not mean we do not want to celebrate our distant adventurers in kind.

We welcome participation and connection with the GI and its larger community via Discord, Social Media (#GWIWinterFest), or via stories, traditions, or experiences shared with Jenn (jrickert@uwaterloo.ca) to be included in our holiday collections.

Bonus Quest

Adventurers who may wish to organize a formal online gathering for the community for the holidays, outside of Winter Fest, are encouraged to take advantage of Discord's (@sesh) bot or Events system, or get in touch with Jenn to collaborate.

1. W3+ Circle - February 23rd, 2022

A day-long schedule of sessions for W3+ to come together in, well, circles of various kinds. We are now accepting proposals and welcome ideas that centre circle as the format through which to connect and unite people. Any topic is welcome that demonstrates how the circle format is useful in bringing people together. Read the background and call for proposals here.

Deadline: Wednesday, December 1st, 2021

2. Based on the province's most recent reopening plans and management of COVID-19 for the long term, the University of Waterloo is further adjusting our review and approval of human participant research activity. See the document attached.

3. A research study on virtual reality in the home is currently recruiting participants. Please find attached the study information and eligibility criteria. If you have any questions or are interested in signing up, please send an email to rtawfik@uwaterloo.ca.

4. Proposal submissions for the International Conference on Games and Narrative is due on February 1st, 2020 via email (icgan.submissions@uwaterloo.ca). See the document attached.

5. Beginning in fall 2022, "Black Studies" and "Fundamentals of Anti-Racist Communication" will be offered as diplomas open to degree students from all faculties, as well as non-degree and post-degree students. Read more here.

6. The GI server has been added to the UW discord hub. We encourage you to interact with the newcomers joining our server!

EVENTS:

Feminist Thinktank

- Happens every first Tuesday of the month! If you would like to join please join the slack channel #lobby-feministthinktank or reach out to Hannah Delamere (hdelamere@uwaterloo.ca).

GI Game Jam: Fall 2021

Wednesday, November 24th @5:00PM to Sunday, November 28th @3:00PM

- The GI Game Jam is a thrice-annual, multi-day event hosted by The Games Institute (GI) at the University of Waterloo where playful people gather to create original games together.
- The entire event is online and we hope to use this opportunity to support remote teams and spend more time mentoring newcomers.
- Register here.

Data Jam - Feminist Thinktank Presents: Everything but the Kitchen Sink

Thursday, November 25th @1:00PM on Discord

- This is a fun opportunity to learn more about data in a safe space! Any degree of understanding of data is welcome!
- In this Data Jam we will be collecting everything but the kitchen sink on your phone (of course with your permission) this will entail all things social media. Saved posts, screenshots, or liked content, from Instagram to TikTok to Twitter.
- This is a great chance to enter the world of data visualization! We will be going through and tagging posts while coming up with hypotheses'.

WH@GI Page 65
Building XR Devices to Sense Mind and Body
Wednesday, December 1st @12:00PM

- This panel will be moderated by Dr. John Muñoz, and it explores how three different companies have been embedding physiological sensors into HMDs for virtual and augmented reality in order to connect mind and body and create more natural interfaces for XR applications.
- This panel will have three key industry players that are creating the new generation of HMDs in XR, integrating sensing technologies such as eye-tracking, electroencephalography (EEG) and facial electromyography (EMG) as well as developing novel algorithms to deconstruct the physiological information and create more humanized technologies.

ADE Committee Meet-and-Greet
Friday, December 10th @1:00PM

- Please join us in the ADE Honeycomb Hangout on Discord for a Meet and Greet with the Anti-racism, Decolonization, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (ADE) Committee. Meet other GI members interested in ADE and join a casual conversation about how the committee can better advocate for a more just community.

Winterfest 2021
Thursday, December 16th @1:00PM

- Can you believe it’s almost the end of the term? We’ve all nearly completed our return-to-campus quest and are ready to reap the sweet rewards of a journey well met.
- To celebrate our end of 2021 and our first term (mostly) back together since the onslaught of the COVID-19 epic storyline, we’re holding Winter Fest 2021 on December 16th from 2-4pm in the actual collaboration space!

The Schedule for Winter Fest is as follows:
1. Asynchronous Donation Drive (December 6th - 16th)
2. Asynchronous Decoration Kits and Goodie Bags for Residents (December 10th-16th)
3. Synchronous Potluck (December 16th from 2PM-4PM)

UW Events

Profs Present: Players’ Arousal and Reward Signatures to Loot Boxes: “If it Looks Like a Duck, Quacks like a Duck and Walks Like a Duck, It’s a Form of Gambling”
Wednesday, November 24th @12:10PM

- Loot boxes are a purchasable video-game feature consisting of randomly determined, in-game virtual items. Due to their chance-based nature, there is much debate as to whether they constitute a form of gambling. We sought to address this issue by examining whether players treat virtual loot box rewards in a way that parallels established reward reactivity for monetary rewards in slots play.
- **Speaker**: Mike Dixon is a Full Professor of Psychology at the University of Waterloo where he has twice served as Chair of the Department. He is Director of the Research Stream at the Waterloo Gambling Research Laboratory.
- Register here.

Indigenous Speaker Series presents Jean Teillet
Thursday, December 2nd, 2021 @12:00PM

- Jean Teillet is Senior Counsel with Pape Salter Teillet LLP who has long been engaged in negotiations and litigation with provincial and federal governments concerning Métis and First Nation land rights, harvesting rights and self-government.
- Jean will share stories from the process of writing The North-West is Our Mother; and will discuss who the Métis people are, where they are, and what is happening in the community today and into the future. Jean’s talk will be followed by a moderated Q and A.
- Join directly here.
Message from Dr. Gerald Voorhees, Chair of the GI’s ADE Committee

Please join us in the ADE Honeycomb Hangout on Discord on Friday December 10 (1-2 PM) for a Meet and Greet with the Anti-racism, Decolonization, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (ADE) Committee. Meet other GI members interested in ADE and join a casual conversation about how the committee can better advocate for a more just community.

[ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. We need adventurers (volunteers) to help with various tasks for Winter Fest 2021 on December 16th from 2-4pm. Please get in contact with Jenn (jricket@uwaterloo.ca; on Slack, or on Discord) if you would like to help.
2. Based on the province’s most recent reopening plans and management of COVID-19 for the long term, the University of Waterloo is further adjusting our review and approval of human participant research activity. See the email attached and check out the updated Health and Safety section of this newsletter.

[EVENTS:

1. Register for tomorrow’s panel with industry experts on Building XR Devices to Sense Mind and Body; moderated by John Muñoz.
2. Join us this Thursday @1:30PM for Prof. Matt Parker’s Guest Talk & Carbon Collector game play.
3. Join us on Friday, December 10th @1PM for the ADE Committee’s Meet-and-Greet.
4. Join us on Wednesday, December 8th @1PM for another Data Jam hosted by Feminist Think Tank.

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence begins on November 25 with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and concludes on December 10, International Human Rights Day. In Canada, 16 Days includes the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women on December 6.

Resources List:
- Resources for those who are or who know someone is seeking help
- Read and Watch List
- Responding to Disclosures of Sexual Violence | Two-part Workshop
- UW Events

Can we anchor sections in an email?

We would have to bookmark sections in Outlook in order to link the appropriate sections. e.g. Bookmark the events section, then, link the events in TLDR to the events bookmark.

Move the Health and Safety to very last section - check with Pam - maybe omit it for next week.

New processes...
VR Study Recruitment...
How to best supp...
ICGaN CFP-2022
During the month of December, we would like to commemorate the following important dates:

**Day**
- December 3rd: International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- December 6th: National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
- December 10th: International Human Rights Day
- December 25th: Christmas

**Week**
- November 25th - December 10th: 16 days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence
- November 28th - December 6th: Hanukkah
- December 26th - January 1st: Kwanzaa

**List of GI Resources:**
- GI Equipment/Room Booking Form
- Events at the GI Form
- GI Entry Schedule Form
- GI Wi-Fi
  - Network Name: GI-Research
  - Password: GIUwaterloo2021!
- Prayer mat in Agata’s office for those who need it

**COVID-19 Resources:**
- A 5-minute game to protect you against COVID-19 misinformation

If you are a GI resident, you would have received information in your pod renewal entries. If you are a member without residency status, you are welcome to use the Collaboration Space or the Presentation Room on a one-time entry status.

1. **For continual or one-time entry into the GI, you must sign the GI Operational Safety Plan.** If you have not received the plan through pod renewals, please email Aathani.
2. If you would like to schedule to enter the GI on continual basis please fill out this form.
3. For one-time entry (non-residents), please email Aathani.
4. For lab usage, you will need to go through the room booking process as has been the norm. During this process, Aathani will send you the lab safety plan to sign before use. If you want to book the lab for human participant testing, please note the TL;DR below.

Current TL;DR Health and Safety Rules for the **GI General Space** are:

1. The facility is only open from 9AM to 5PM, Monday to Friday.
2. Meetings are still prohibited on site and must be virtual. Even if your entire lab group is at the GI, you must hold the meeting virtually from your respective pods/offices.
3. You must complete campus check in daily. When connected to eduroam, you will receive an email to your uwaterloo account asking you to check-in. If you do not receive the email, you can check-in here.
4. Fridge clean-up is now daily at 4:30 pm. As was the norm, unlabeled food and science experiments will be thrown out container and all!
5. All dishes and non-perishable food items must be stored at your pod.
6. If you are a resident, lunch must be eaten at your pod. If you are a member, we will allow you to eat in the Collaboration space. Otherwise, please do not eat in public “study” sections.
7. Staff will sanitize high-touch points at mid-day and before the GI closes. Custodial services will do deep cleans after hours and periodically throughout the day.
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**Updates to Human Participant Testing (NEW)**

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  - Register here.

Prof. Matt Parker - Guest Talk & Carbon Collector game play ☞
Thursday, December 2nd @1:30PM

- This informal talk will discuss Professor Parker’s journey as an artist and activist, what led him to co-founding the OpenAir Collective, and why games are an effective way to communicate concepts that are sometimes difficult to grasp through non-interactive media.
- Attendees will also get an opportunity to play Carbon Collector and provide input on feedback. Given its success at COP26, OpenAir would like to modify Carbon Collector from a game meant for a conference atmosphere to a web based experience and would love the audience to join in a free flowing exchange of ideas on what would be helpful for a web-based version of the game.
  - Join directly here.

Covid Winter Follies 🌾
Wednesday, December 8th @1:00PM

- If Big Data was Godzilla and Small Data was King Kong who do you think would win??
  - Whether you are on team Godzilla or team Kong, come to join Feminist Think Tank (FTT) for our final Data Jam of 2021. We will be sharing our collection of Covid digital ephemera (memes, hashtag threads, APIs) and making a game of it to see if we can make sense of this hot mess of collection of misinformation, dark humour, and lulu!
- If you have never ever worked with data or are a data analyst of the highest order - all are welcome to come play with data (there will also be prizes)!!

ADE Committee Meet-and-Greet 🌟
Friday, December 10th @1:00PM

- Please join us in the ADE Honeycomb Hangout on Discord for a Meet and Greet with the Anti-racism, Decolonization, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (ADE) Committee. Meet other GI members interested in ADE and join a casual conversation about how the committee can better advocate for a more just community.

Winter Fest 2021 🎄
Thursday, December 16th @2:00PM

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UW Events

Indigenous Speaker Series presents Jean Teillet
Thursday, December 2nd @12:00PM

- Jean Teillet is Senior Counsel with Pape Salter Teillet LLP who has long been engaged in negotiations and litigation with provincial and federal governments concerning Métis and First Nation land rights, harvesting rights and self-government.
- Jean will share stories from the process of writing The North-West is Our Mother; and will discuss who the Métis people are, where they are, and what is happening in the community today and into the future. Jean’s talk will be followed by a moderated Q and A.
  - Join directly here.

National Day of Remembrance Ceremony
Monday, December 6th @10:30AM

- UW and the Canadian Federation of University of Women Kitchener-Waterloo are hosting a ceremony to virtually come together as a community to recognize the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.
  - Register here.

UW HFES Student Chapter: Professor Lecture Series - Dr. Lisa Aultman-Hall
**Wednesday, December 8th @4:00PM**
- Professor Aultman-Hall will give a talk on her research interests, sharing insights into the field and its applications.
- She focuses on transportation systems, especially methods to collect unique databases for modeling and analysis of long-distance intercity travel, transportation sector emissions, network resiliency, streetscape design, and non-motorized transportation.
- [Register here.](#)

**Recurring Events**
- **Feminist Thinktank**
  - Happens every first Tuesday of the month! If you would like to join please join the slack channel #lobby-feministthinktank or reach out to Hannah Delamere (hdelamere@uwaterloo.ca).
ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. There have been many updates and loosening of restrictions on Campus. Please consult our Health and Safety section for the latest.

We need adventurers (volunteers) to help with various tasks for Winter Fest 2021 on December 16th from 2-4pm. Please get into contact with Jenn (jrickert@uwaterloo.ca; on Slack, or on Discord) if you would like to help.

EVENTS:

1. Join us this Friday @1PM for the ADE Committee’s Meet-and-Greet.
2. Join us tomorrow @1PM for another Data Jam hosted by Feminist Think Tank.
3. Join us on Thursday, December 16th @2PM for Winter Fest!

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence begins on November 25 with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and concludes on December 10, International Human Rights Day. In Canada, 16 Days includes the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women on December 6.

Resources List:

- Resources for those who are or who know someone is seeking help
- Read and Watch List
  - Your Must Read and Watch List for 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence
- UW Events
  - Responding to Disclosures of Sexual Violence | Two-part Workshop
    - Part 1: Tuesday, December 7th @2:00PM, Part 2: Thursday, December 9th @2:00PM
    - In this interactive 3-hour workshop, divided over two-days, attendees will develop tools, strategies, and resources to respond effectively to disclosures of sexual violence.
    - Register for the workshop.

During the month of December, we would like to commemorate the following important dates:

Day
- December 10th: International Human Rights Day
- December 25th: Christmas

Week
- November 25th - December 10th: 16 days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence
- December 26th - January 1st: Kwanzaa
List of GI Resources:
- GI Equipment/Room Booking Form
- Events at the GI Form
- GI Entry Schedule Form
- GI Wi-Fi
  - Network Name: GI-Research
  - Password: GIUwaterloo2021!
- Prayer mat in Agata’s office for those who need it

COVID-19 Resources:
- A 5-minute game to protect you against COVID-19 misinformation

[ANNOUNCEMENTS]

1. There have been many updates and loosening of restrictions on Campus. Please consult our Health and Safety section for the latest.

2. We need adventurers (volunteers) 🗻 to help with various tasks for Winter Fest 2021 🎅 on December 16th from 2-4pm. Please get in contact with Jenn (jrickert@uwaterloo.ca; on Slack, or on Discord) if you would like to help.

3. Proposal submissions for the International Conference on Games and Narrative is due on February 1st, 2020 via email (igan.submissions@uwaterloo.ca). See the document attached.

[EVENTS]

GI Events

Covid Winter Follies 🎅
Wednesday, December 8th @1:00PM

- If Big Data was Godzilla and Small Data was King Kong who do you think would win??
  - Whether you are on team Godzilla or team Kong, come to join Feminist Think Tank (FTT) for our final Data Jam of 2021. We will be sharing our collection of Covid digital ephemera (memes, hashtag threads, APIs) and making a game of it to see if we can make sense of this hot mess of collection of misinformation, dark humour, and lulz!
- If you have never ever worked with data or are a data analyst of the highest order - all are welcome to come play with data (there will also be prizes)!!

ADE Committee Meet-and-Greet 🌼
Friday, December 10th @1:00PM

- Please join us in the ADE Honeycomb Hangout on Discord for a Meet and Greet with the Anti-racism, Decolonization, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (ADE) Committee. Meet other GI members interested in ADE and join a casual conversation about how the committee can better advocate for a more just community.

Winter Fest 2021 🎅
Thursday, December 16th @2:00PM

- To celebrate our end of 2021 and our first term (mostly) back together since the onslaught of the COVID-19 epic storyline, we’re holding Winter Fest 2021 on December 16th from 2-4pm in the actual collaboration space!

The Schedule for Winter Fest is as follows:
1. Asynchronous Donation Drive (December 6th - 16th)
2. Asynchronous Decoration Kits and Goodie Bags for Residents (December 10th - 16th)
3. Synchronous Potluck (December 16th from 2PM - 4PM)

UW Events

UW HFES Student Chapter: Professor Lecture Series - Dr. Lisa Aultman-Hall
Wednesday, December 8th @4:00PM

- Professor Aultman-Hall will give a talk on her research interests, sharing insights into the field and its applications.
- She focuses on transportation systems, especially methods to collect unique databases for modeling and analysis of long-distance intercity travel, transportation sector emissions, network resiliency, streetscape design, and non-motorized transportation.
- Register here.

Recurring Events

Feminist Thinktank

- Happens every first Tuesday of the month! If you would like to join please join the slack channel #lobby-feministthinktank or reach out to Hannah Delamere

Instructions for Outlook Desktop App

1. Open your calendar in the Outlook Desktop App.
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(NEW) Most Recent Changes:

1. The campus-wide mask mandate enables us now to relax rules around meetings at the GI.
   a. This means that if social distancing is possible (2m diameter distance from others or sitting at individual pods) masks may be removed.
   b. If social distancing is not possible, masks must be on.
2. Due to these capacity restrictions being removed, GI residents no longer need to fill out the GI scheduling form.
3. The Collaboration space returns to its drop-in model unless specifically booked for other purposes; the other GI spaces still have to be booked via GI Operations Coordinator as has been the norm.
4. Meetings are now, generally speaking, allowed at the GI with the caveats above.

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4. We still encourage GI residents to eat at their pods. If groups would like to eat in the collaboration space, please make sure you are sitting in the dead square areas before removing masks to ensure safe distance.
5. GI members can bring guests (UW or otherwise affiliated) to the GI, however, they must sign in at the GI Ops desk for contact tracing.
6. Every time you come to campus, you must sign in with the Campus Check-in screening feature (once connected to eduroam, you will automatically receive an email).
   a. For those bringing guests, please ensure the guests also complete Campus Check-in manually.
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7. Fridge clean-up is now daily at 4:30 pm. As was the norm, unlabeled food and science experiments will be thrown out container and all!
8. All dishes and non-perishable food items must be stored at your pod.
9. Staff will sanitize high-touch points at mid-day and before the GI closes. Custodial services will do deep cleans after hours and during weekends.
10. Meetings are still encouraged to be held virtually. If you would like to host them in person, please email games.institute@uwaterloo.ca to go through the room booking process, as has been the norm.

GI Labs

1. Each GI Lab has its own Safety Plan; each plan must be read and signed separately if access is requested.
   a. Lab Safety Plans are tied to the GI operating Safety Plan – you will need to sign both to be approved for access to any of the labs.
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Human Participant Testing

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2. PI orients research team to the plan and all team members acknowledge plan with a signature.
3. PI seeks Executive Director, Dr. Neil Randall's signature.
4. PI provides a signed copy to Departmental Safety Officer, Pamela Maria Schmidt, for ongoing monitoring and oversight of safety protocols.
5. PI posts safety plan in laboratory for on-campus studies or electronically in shared drive for off-campus studies.
6. These plans are for studies only. Regular lab and the Ops plan still apply.

Ethics application submission is no longer conditional on approved resume request and safety plan Human participant research (on and off campus) participant research (on and off campus). For more information, please see the email attached or reach out to GI staff.

*If you have any accessibility concerns or accommodations, please reach out to GI Staff immediately.*
***MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hello, everyone.

Many of you have undoubtedly seen that Waterloo Region’s top doctor, Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang, recommended on Friday that workplaces cancel or minimize in-person holiday gatherings as medical professionals look to an increase in outbreaks and hospitalizations in the coming weeks. While the University has not changed its current guidelines as yet, I have decided, with sadness, to cancel the GI potluck scheduled for Thursday, 2-4pm.

It would appear that 2021 thought we were having too much fun.

With Dr. Wang’s advice in mind, I will also ask that you please reconsider any lab/research group-based holiday gatherings that you may have been planning (if any). I’m referring here to holiday get-togethers; current guidelines for lab use, meetings, etc., remain in place until we’re told otherwise.

Please note that the toy/food drive are still in place and you are invited to donate items to either/both as of this afternoon. We have also prepared modest goodie bags for our residents which will be available for pick-up soon; please look to the GI newsletter for details on that.

Again, the above does not impact any of the other health and safety guidelines/rules on the premises.

With my wishes of good health to all of you, your loved ones, and your associates for the holidays.

Neil Randall
Executive Director

[ANNOUNCEMENTS]:

1. There have been updates to work on Campus from the UW President. Please note the attached for details.
   a. The President is requesting that we return to online meetings wherever possible and that we consider cancelling any end of year social engagements.
2. The GI facilities and the current safety and health guidelines/rules remain unchanged until the university releases any new requirements for us to follow.

[EVENTS]:

1. This Thursday’s Winter Fest potluck has been cancelled. Join us this week to donate to our food/toy drive!
a. The goodie bags for residents can be picked up from the GI as of Thursday at noon.

The GI now has a ✨PS5✨! A big, big thank you to Ahmed Anwar for finding it and braving public transportation to visit Best Buy! 😊 Regular booking rules apply for anyone who wishes to take it for a spin.

During the month of December, we would like to commemorate the following important dates:

**Day**
- December 25th: Christmas

**Week**
- December 26th - January 1st: Kwanzaa

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COVID-19 Resources:
- A 5-minute game to protect you against COVID-19 misinformation

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[EVEN[31]]:

GI Events  Winter Fest 2021 🎅
This Thursday’s Winter Fest potluck has been cancelled.

The schedule is as follow:
1. Asynchronous Donation Drive (December 6th - 20th)
2. Asynchronous Decoration Kits and Goodie Bags for Residents (pickup from the GI as of this Thursday at noon)

Recurring Events  Feminist Thinktank
- Happens every first Tuesday of the month! If you would like to join please join the slack channel #lobby-feministthinktank or reach out to Hannah Delamere (hdelamere@uwaterloo.ca).

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   a. These areas **MUST** be sanitized by the individuals using them with cleaning products provided after use. Individuals must also use the cleaning sheets provided in each space to note that they have cleaned the space.
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7. Fridge clean-up is now daily at 4:30 pm. As was the norm, unlabeled food and science experiments will be thrown out container and all.
8. All dishes and non-perishable food items must be stored at your pod.
9. Staff will sanitize high-touch points at mid-day and before the GI closes. Custodial services will do deep cleans after hours and during weekends.
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   a. The President is requesting that we return to online meetings wherever possible and that we consider cancelling any end of year social engagements.
3. Beyond the announcement about meetings, the GI facilities and the current safety and health guidelines/rules remain otherwise unchanged.
4. If you need some holiday "reading", tune into our recent podcast episodes featuring GI Members, Cayley MacArthur and Lindsay Meaning.

Hi, everyone! I'm wrapping up my last week at the GI as the Operations Coordinator and I've had a great time working with all of you both in-person and virtually. Congrats on the end of term and I hope you have a lovely, safe, and restful break! 🎉

Aathani Raveendran
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[ANNOUNCEMENTS](#): [What's Happening at the GI?](#) [TL;DR](#) [Side Quest](#) [January Things of Note](#)
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You may need to tell the University if you believe you have COVID-19

You can [check the flow charts in our health and safety guide](#) to help you make decisions about what to do if you think you have been exposed. If you are, you may need to let the University know.

**Employees**

If you work on campus:

- you must promptly notify Occupational Health if you develop COVID-19 symptoms, are told you need to self-isolate, or test positive for COVID-19 on a rapid test or PCR. This might include self-isolation because you live with someone who has symptoms and is self-isolating.
- University of Waterloo Occupational Health (OH) can be reached at 519-888-4567 extension 40538 or 40551 or at occupationalhealth@uwaterloo.ca.
- if you are not sick but are required to isolate, and cannot work from home, please inform your supervisor and Occupational Health, to determine whether you should continue to be paid during isolation.

If you are working remotely:

- you do not need to inform Occupational Health if you develop symptoms, are told you need to self-isolate, or test positive for COVID-19.
- if you need to be off work due to COVID-19 related illness, please notify your supervisor and record any sick days in Workday.

**Students**

If you live in residences:

- you must contact reslifeteam@uwaterloo.ca for help if you are experiencing symptoms, are concerned about exposure, have been identified as a high-risk contact, or have received advice to self-isolate. We are here to help you.

If you think you will miss classes, due dates or exams due to COVID:

- contact your course instructor(s) before or within 48 hours of a test, exam, or due date.
- complete the illness self-declaration form in the Personal Information section of Quest. Learn more on [how to self-declare an illness](#).

**Vaccine appointments are available at Health Services**

Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect you against severe disease for those with healthy immune systems. Three doses of a COVID-19 vaccine provide more protection from getting and transmitting the
Omicron variant than two doses. All Ontarians aged over 18 are eligible for a third booster dose 84 days after their second dose.

If you need to book a booster dose you can do so with Health Services and there are many online resources to help you find available shots, such as Vaccine Ontario or Vaccine Hunters.

If you are an international student and have questions about vaccines, please reach out to ise@uwaterloo.ca.

(NEW) Most Recent Changes:

First and foremost, the GI is open. However, staff, faculty, and students are highly encouraged to work from home until the end of January.

1. Screen yourself for Covid-19 symptoms before arriving to campus. If you have any cold and flu symptoms, regardless of how mild, please stay at home.
2. Capacity restrictions will return to lab spaces as well as common areas (the Collaboration Space and the Presentation Room),
3. There will be NO capacity restrictions or scheduling for GI residents seeking to use their pods or shared faculty offices.
4. At the GI, continue to wear face coverings when in common areas of buildings or in any work area where physical distancing cannot be maintained. If 2m can be maintained, face coverings do not need to be worn while working at a stationary workstation (i.e., pods).
5. For labs, if 2m cannot be maintained with occupancy limits, PPE must be worn.
6. Meetings, if deemed necessary, can still occur on campus but capacity restrictions apply for the room being used. If 2m distancing cannot be accommodated for all meeting participants, it must be hosted
online. Masks are required for all meeting attendees when not seated.
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Pods

2. Masks can be removed if 2m diameter of social distancing is in place.
3. GI residents must eat at their pods.
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1. All in-person human participant research with vulnerable populations is paused at least until January 27, 2022. Rare exceptions can be made – principal investigators are encouraged to reach out to the Office of Research with queries through researchqueries@uwaterloo.ca.
2. We strongly encourage principal investigators to review their protocols for all other in-person human participant research and consider pausing until at least until January 27, 2022.

**COVID-19 Resources:**
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- Q and A with the experts: COVID variants

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Health and Safety Update

January 7, 2022
11:46 AM

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From <https://teams.microsoft.com/multi-window?agent=electron&version=21110108730>

Amongst the University changing rules and encouraging all employees (staff, faculty, and students) to work from home until the end of January, there have been no changes to research activities on campus. What this means is that the GI is largely running as it was with minor changes in place.

Here are the changes:

• For those who have signed the GI operational safety plan, please re-familiarize yourself with it.
• Screen yourself for Covid-19 symptoms before arriving to campus. If you have any cold and flu symptoms, regardless of how mild, please stay at home.
• Capacity restrictions will return to lab spaces as well as common areas (the Collaboration Space and the Presentation Room), however, there will be no capacity restrictions or scheduling for GI residents seeking to use their pods or shared faculty offices.
• At the GI, continue to wear face coverings when in common areas of buildings or in any work area where physical distancing cannot be maintained. If 2m can be maintained, face coverings do not need to be worn while working at a stationary workstation (i.e., pods).
• For labs, if 2m cannot be maintained with occupancy limits, PPE must be worn.
• Meetings, if deemed necessary, can still occur on campus but capacity restrictions apply for the room being used. If 2m distancing cannot be accommodated for all meeting participants, it must be hosted online. Masks are required for all meeting attendees when not seated.

A more comprehensive breakdown will be in next week’s What’s Happening at the GI newsletter. In addition, the updated rules from the Safety Office highly encourages supervisors to take an active role when deciding what is best for their students and lab groups.

As such, faculty members please talk to your students, and:

• Acknowledge that returning to campus will require an adjustment which may temporarily impact productivity and extend support to those who may struggle with the change.
• Establish appropriate schedules that enable students to maintain appropriate physical distance if necessary (when in meetings or in labs).
• Reinforce the need for completing daily self-assessments for symptoms of illness.
• Encourage students to wash hands regularly, wear masks appropriately, and to sanitize their workstations after use.
• Encourage open dialogue to address concerns and reinforce expectations within lab groups as well as with GI staff. Also, remind students to follow University of Waterloo procedures for disclosing Covid-19 symptoms.
• Decide if personal protective equipment (PPE) is necessary for work done in lab spaces or for studies. Before PPE is considered, every effort should be taken to plan out and implement the other controls in the hierarchy as much as possible. The following diagram outlines the hierarchy of controls for Covid-19.

You may need to tell the University if you believe you have COVID-19

You can check the flow charts in our health and safety guide to help you make decisions about what to do if you think you have been exposed. If you are, you may need to let the University know.

Employees

If you work on campus:

• you must promptly notify Occupational Health if you develop Covid-19 symptoms; are told you need to self-isolate, or test positive for COVID-19 on a rapid test or PCR. This might include self-isolation because you live with someone who has symptoms and is self-isolating.
• University of Waterloo Occupational Health (OH) can be reached at 519-888-4567 extension 40538 or 40551 or at occupationalhealth@uwaterloo.ca.
• if you are not sick but are required to isolate, and cannot work from home, please inform your supervisor and Occupational Health, to determine whether you should continue to be paid during isolation.

If you are working remotely:

• you do not need to inform Occupational Health if you develop symptoms, are told you need to self-isolate, or test positive for COVID-19.
• if you need to be off work due to COVID-19 related illness, please notify your supervisor and record any sick days in Workday.

Students

If you live in residences:

• you must contact reslifeemail@uwaterloo.ca for help if you are experiencing symptoms, are concerned about exposure, have been identified as a high-risk contact, or have received advice to self-isolate. We are here to help you.

If you think you will miss classes, due dates or exams due to COVID:

• contact your course instructor(s) before or within 48 hours of a test, exam, or due date.
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Vaccine appointments are available at Health Services

Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect you against severe disease for those with healthy immune systems. Three doses of a COVID-19 vaccine provide more protection from getting and transmitting the Omicron variant than two doses. All Ontarians aged over 18 are eligible for a third booster dose 84 days after their second dose.

If you need to book a booster dose you can do so with Health Services and there are many online resources to help you find available shots, such as Vaccine Ontario or Vaccine Hunters.

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From <https://outlook.office.com/mail/inbox/id/AAG9bADyMWMwZDIKLTU0ODhhMGUyZ 6DUrnW3W5vAwCwL3xWrnAAtAAAe/822DCdAD92Ad8Wz8B7pyE8>
Happy New Year, everyone!

Since Agata has whisked herself away to the tropics until next week, (while we all freeze burn in the winter tundra hellscape), and Neil is in his grant writing cave (actively avoiding said hellscape), the task of writing an introduction has unfortunately fallen to me (sorry for those who were looking forward to Agata’s witty zingers and confusing stories).

A few things to note. Neil sent out a communication last week regarding current Health and Safety updates to the Games Institute. They are also described in the Health and Safety section of this newsletter. Please familiarize yourself with them, **but in short, the GI is open.** As always, if you have any questions about Health and Safety please don’t hesitate to reach out and ask me either through email or DM.

**Otherwise, please join in me in virtually welcoming this term’s new Operations Coordinator, Sophie! 🦫 🌟**

Sophie hails from the tropics of Singapore and this is her first ever winter! We’ve tried to give her some “this-is-how-you-stay-warm” tips but so far, she seems to be fairing the weather just fine 😊 I’ve been asking her daily how many layers she’s wearing; it’s been slowly upgrading by +1 so I’m curious to see what her final layer count will be by the end of the season. Sophie is majoring in Environment and Business (ENBUS program) with a minor in English who has already taken the Harry Potter course designed by Neil. She’s a huge Minecraft and Mario Kart fan, the latter of which she played so much she would literally have dreams of the racetracks (honestly, dreaming about Rainbow Road seems more like nightmare fuel that sweet dreams to me but hey) and I would love to see her race some members one day to see who the ultimate Mario Kart player is.

As a side, and for no important reason whatsoever, a fact about Sophie is that she is taller than Aathani, but not taller than me (and for those of you who don’t know, I am a giant, and Aathani was pretty tall in the first place). Neil has already commented that: “this is not allowed. She needs to leave.” But tall women supremacy seems to be a growing trend around the GI staff and I am here for it.

-Pam
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1. New Covid-19 regulations in effect; consult Health and Safety section
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Shana MacDonald and Brianna Wiens' new book *Networked Feminisms: Activist Assemblies and Digital Practices* is now out! 📚 Come by the GI to read through our copy of it! 📘
January 14th is Dress Up Your Pet Day! 🐾 Give them the makeover they deserve, and show us how much they hated loved it 📸❤️
During the month of January, we would like to commemorate the following important dates:

Day:
- January 14th: Orthodox Christmas Day
- January 17th: Tu B'Shevat (Arbor Day)

List of GI Resources:
- GI Equipment/Room Booking Form
- Events at the GI Form
- GI Entry Schedule Form
- GI Wi-Fi
  - Network Name: GI-Research
  - Password: GIUwaterloo2021!
- Prayer mat in Agata's office for those who need it

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[EVENTS]:

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<tr>
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(NEW) Most Recent Changes:

First and foremost, the GI is open. However, staff, faculty, and students are highly encouraged to work from home until the end of January.
1. Screen yourself for Covid-19 symptoms before arriving to campus. If you have any cold and flu symptoms, regardless of how mild, please stay at home.

2. **Capacity restrictions will return to lab** spaces as well as common areas (the Collaboration Space and the Presentation Room),

3. There will be NO capacity restrictions or scheduling for GI residents seeking to use their pods or shared faculty offices.

4. At the GI, **continue to wear face coverings when in common areas of buildings or in any work area where physical distancing cannot be maintained**. If 2m can be maintained, face coverings do not need to be worn while working at a stationary workstation (i.e., pods).

5. For labs, if 2m cannot be maintained with occupancy limits, PPE must be worn.

6. Meetings, if deemed necessary, can still occur on campus but capacity restrictions apply for the room being used. If 2m distancing cannot be accommodated for all meeting participants, it must be hosted online. Masks are required for all meeting attendees when not seated.

7. The Collaboration space returns to its drop-in model unless specifically booked for other purposes; the other GI spaces still have to be booked via GI Operations Coordinator as has been the norm.

**General Space**

1. **The facility is open from 9am to 5pm Monday-Friday.** In order to stay on campus after hours, you must apply for special permissions.

2. You must screen yourself for symptoms before you arrive to campus.

3. Every time you come to campus, you must sign in with the Campus Check-in screening feature (once connected to eduroam, you will automatically receive an email).

4. For those bringing guests, please ensure the guests also complete Campus Check-in manually. If you do not receive the email, you can check-in here.

5. Masks **MUST** be worn at all times.

6. All GI members must sign the GI Operational Safety Plan to enter the facility. Only once the plan has been signed, fob access will be reactivated.

7. GI members, who are not residents are free to use the collaboration room or presentation room as a study area on casual basis (if the rooms have not been booked).
   a. These areas **MUST** be sanitized by the individuals using them with cleaning products provided after use. Individuals must also use the cleaning sheets provided in each space to note that they have cleaned the space.

8. GI members can bring guests (UW or otherwise affiliated) to the GI, however, they must sign in at the GI Ops desk for contact tracing.

1. Staff will sanitize high-touch points at mid-day and before the GI closes. Custodial services will do deep cleans after hours and during weekends.

**Pods**

2. Masks can be removed if 2m diameter of social distancing is in place.

3. GI residents must eat at their pods.

4. All dishes and non-perishable food items must be stored at your pod.

**GI Labs**

1. **Each GI Lab has its own Safety Plan; each plan must be read and signed separately** if access is requested.
   a. Lab Safety Plans are tied to the GI operating Safety Plan – you will need to sign both to be approved for access to any of the labs.
2. In the case of studies with participants, the GI Lab Safety Plans act as a skeleton with instructions for what parts of the plan individual researchers must fill out. Please see participant section for more details.

3. Sanitization of surfaces in the Labs is the responsibility of individuals who use them. Cleaning supplies and sign-off sheets are provided.

4. If 2m cannot be maintained with occupancy limits, PPE must be worn.

5. You can check the availability of the GI Labs, Collaboration Space and the Presentation Room via shared Outlook calendars. See list below.
   a. Games Institute EC1-1237 – Presentation Room
   b. Games Institute EC1-1249 – Living Room Lab
   c. Games Institute EC1-1303 – Haptic Experience Lab
   d. Games Institute EC1-1307 – VR Story Lab
   e. Games Institute EC1-1318 – Immersion Room Lab
   f. Games Institute EC1-1323 – Collaboration Space

To add these calendars to your Outlook app:

1. Open your calendar in the Outlook Desktop App.
2. Right-click beside "My Calendar".
3. Hover over "Add Calendar" and select "From Room List" to view availability.

Human Participant Testing

1. All in-person human participant research with vulnerable populations is paused at least until January 27, 2022. Rare exceptions can be made – principal investigators are encouraged to reach out to the Office of Research with queries through researchqueries@uwaterloo.ca.
2. We strongly encourage principal investigators to review their protocols for all other in-person human participant research and consider pausing until at least until January 27, 2022.

COVID-19 Resources:

- A 5-minute game to protect you against COVID-19 misinformation
- Q and A with the experts: COVID variants

If you have any accessibility concerns or accommodations, please reach out to GI Staff immediately.
Happy Tuesday GI members,

It's my pleasure to introduce you to our new members who joined us this Winter term! 😊 We asked our new members questions 😊 to get to know them better about the relatable stuff 😊 and the stuff that might not come out casually in conversation 😊. In alphabetical order, please join me in welcoming...

**Amerald Fang (he/him)**

Amerald is currently a Geomatics undergraduate. He'll be spending his time researching the use of game engines for scientific visualization, analysis, and knowledge mobilization under Derek Robinson. Have a chat with Amerald if you are interested in proposing a scientific use for game engines, an educational concept that can be explored through game mechanics, or want to learn to use a new engine and study its theoretical and practical applications outside of the commercial gaming industry with him.

**Eliana Hill-Zeesman (she/her)**

Eliana is a third-year Legal Studies Honours student. She is currently on her co-op term working with Shana MacDonald and Brianna Wiens as a research assistant on the topic of vaccine hesitancy. Her top three areas of research include gender issues, arts and culture, and communication.

**Fiona Yang (she/her)**

Fiona is pursuing her Bachelor's in Psychology, with a special interest in the intersection of haptics accessibility and social justice. She is currently a research assistant for Oliver Schneider, researching AR/VR and accessible storytelling. Reach out to Fiona, especially if it's to talk about rock climbing!

**Sahand Ajami (he/him)**

Sahand is a Mechanical Engineering MASc candidate. His research focuses on upper-limb rehabilitation with wearable robots and haptic feedback. His top three areas of research include haptic feedback, VR, and Human-Computer Interactions.

**Sydney McAffer (she/her)**

Sydney is currently an undergraduate working towards her Bachelor's in Psychology, along with minors in Biology and Cognitive Science. She is excited to be working with Dr. Mark Hancock as an undergraduate research assistant, and eager to gain firsthand research experience. Sydney is interested in anything to do with human behavior, specifically concerning measurement of qualitative factors such as emotional displays. Her favorite games include solitaire and sudoku. Have a chat with Sydney about psychology, or anything in general!

**Thuvaraka Mahenthiran (she/her)**

Thuvaraka is a Bachelor’s student majoring in Psychology. She will be joining the GI on her co-op term as a research assistant for Shana MacDonald, working on the Feminist Digital Media project. Thuvaraka loves playing any type of board games, and you should reach out to her if you want any recommendations for shows or dramas.

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**SIDE QUEST**:  
Clear your driveway after the snowstorm 😊😊
Tell Neil what games you are playing; he’s excited and wants to know! 🎮

I don’t need any more board games this year.

Hey! Look! A new board game!

Day:
- January 27: International Holocaust Remembrance Day
- February 1st: Chinese New Year

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4. Proposal submissions for the International Conference on Games and Narrative is due on February 1st, 2022 via email (igcan.submissions@uwaterloo.ca). See the document attached.

5. Initial abstract submissions for the special issue of the Journal of Electronic Gaming and Esports about Diversity and Sustainability in Electronic Gaming and Esports are due on March 1st, 2022. Send your abstracts via email to jege.si.das@gmail.com. Email Emma Vossen (evossen@uwaterloo.ca) if you have any questions.

6. The HCI Games Group has developed a Knowledge Translation Game with the Waterloo Institute of Nanotechnology.

[EVENTS]

GI Events

W22 Town Hall
Wednesday, January 26 @10:00am-12:00pm

• The GI staff will be giving members updates about the term, including the latest health and safety changes at the GI. It is mandatory for all new GI members!

U/W Events

Conceptual Frameworks for Networked Feminisms
Thursday, January 27 @11:00am

• Feminist Think Tank is hosting a speaker series exploring how feminists employ online platforms, practices, and tools to create spaces of solidarity and articulate a critical politics. This particular session approaches to exploring networking feminisms.
• Speakers include Melissa Brown, Tara L. Conley, and Helena Suárez Val. Hosts include Shana MacDonald and Brianna L. Wiens.

Water Innovation Challenge Information Session
Thursday, January 27 @12:30pm

• The Water Institute is partnering with BlackBerry to challenging professors and students in proposing research and development projects that advance BlackBerry technology as well as water-related challenges or opportunities.
• The Information Session will provide information on the proposal process.
• Register here!

Political Identity in Palestinian Youth Subcultures
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Pandora’s Box: Lifting the Lid on Menstruation
Thursday, January 27 @4:30pm

• The Gender and Social Justice program is hosting a virtual live film screening of Pandora’s Box: Lifting the Lid on Menstruation. The film examines period poverty, menstrual inequity and the need for accessible and affordable menstrual care products.
• All attendees will be entered in a draw for door prizes.
## President's Forum Event
Wednesday, 2nd February @ 1:30pm
- Experts from across the Waterloo campus will be sharing information on the return to in-person experiences.
- [Register here](#)

## Critical Tech Talk 2: Wendy Chun - Discriminating Data
Thursday, February 10 @ 6:00pm
- Wendy Chun is the Canada 150 Research Chair in New Median in the School of Communication at Simon Fraser University.
- Wendy will be discussing the issues of big data and machine learning, and how these elements encode discrimination to create agitated clusters of comforting rage. The talk will be moderated by Marcel O’Gorman, with Brie Wiens and Queenie Wu.
- [Register here](#)

### Recurring Events
- Feminist Think Tank
  - Happens every first Wednesday of the month! If you would like to join please join the slack channel #lobby-feministthinktank or reach out to Sid Heeg. (syheeg@uwaterloo.ca).

### Other Virtual Events
- Driving Growth in the Hybrid Era
  - Wednesday, January 26th @ 10:00pm
  - Adobe is hosting a live session about key digital workflow topics, from e-signature integrations and AI, to extensibility and identity.
  - Speakers include Ian Peacock (Sr. Manager, Adobe), Holly Muscolino (Research Vice President, IDC), and Mahrya Dakubu (Solutions Consulting Manager, Adobe).
  - [Register here](#)

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   a. Lab Safety Plans are tied to the GI operating Safety Plan — you will need to sign both to be approved for access to any of the labs.
2. In the case of studies with participants, the GI Lab Safety Plans act as a skeleton with instructions for what parts of the plan individual researchers must fill out. Please see participant section for more details.
3. Sanitization of surfaces in the Labs is the responsibility of individuals who use them. Cleaning supplies and sign-off sheets are provided.
4. If 2m cannot be maintained with occupancy limits, PPE must be worn.
5. You can check the availability of the GI Labs, Collaboration Space and the Presentation Room via shared Outlook calendars. See list below.
   a. Games Institute EC1-1237 – Presentation Room
   b. Games Institute EC1-1249 – Living Room Lab
   c. Games Institute EC1-1303 – Haptic Experience Lab
   d. Games Institute EC1-1307 – VR Story Lab
   e. Games Institute EC1-1318 – Immersion Room Lab
   f. Games Institute EC1-1323 – Collaboration Space

To add these calendars to your Outlook app:

1. Open your calendar in the Outlook Desktop App.
2. Right-click beside “My Calendar”.
3. Hover over “Add Calendar” and select “From Room List” to view availability.

Human Participant Testing

1. All in-person human participant research with vulnerable populations is paused at least until January 27, 2022. Rare exceptions can be made — principal investigators are encouraged to reach out to the Office of Research with queries through researchqueries@uwaterloo.ca.
2. We strongly encourage principal investigators to review their protocols for all other in-person human participant research and consider pausing until at least until January 27, 2022.

COVID-19 Resources:
• A 5-minute game to protect you against COVID-19 misinformation
• Q and A with the experts: COVID variants

If you have any accessibility concerns or accommodations, please reach out to GI Staff immediately.