

SONALI (ALYY) PATEL

Vancouver, Canada 
alyy.patel@gmail.com 
Linkedin.com/in/alyypatel 
www.alyypatel.com 

RESEARCH PROFILE

RESEARCH DISCIPLINES

- Sociology
- Social Sciences

FIELDS OF APPLICATION

- Program Evaluation
- Culture & Organizations

AREAS OF RESEARCH

- Family
- Gender & Sexuality
- Intersectionality
- Immigration
- Social Movements

RESEARCH SPECIALIZATIONS

- Immigrant Families
- LGBTQ+
- Qualitative Methods
- Queer South Asian Women
- Parent-Child Ties

EDUCATION

2022—Present	Doctor of Philosophy , University of British Columbia (SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship) <i>Sociology</i> • Dissertation: Anti-Brown Racism in Lesbian Communities • Supervisor: Dr. Neda Maghbouleh • Cumulative GPA: 4.25/4.33
2018—2021	Master of Arts , University of Ottawa (Entrance Scholarship) <i>Sociology</i> • Thesis: <i>Understanding the Invisibilization of Queer South Asian Women in Pride Toronto™</i> • Supervisor: Dr. Kathleen Rodgers • Cumulative GPA: 3.95/4.0
2014—2018	Honours Bachelor of Arts with Distinction , University of Toronto <i>Double Major: Sociology & Sexual Diversity Studies, Minor: Women Studies</i> • Thesis: <i>"Brown Girls Can't Be Gay": Racism Experienced by Queer South Asian Women in the Toronto LGBTQ Community</i> • Supervisor: Dr. Tori Smith • Cumulative GPA: 3.41/4.0

AWARDS AND HONORS

ACADEMIC:

2024	Best Student Paper Award Canadian Sociology Association
2022-2024	President's Academic Excellence Initiative PhD Award University of British Columbia
2021	Best Graduate Thesis: Nomination University of Ottawa
2020	SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship

	Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)
2019	Inclusive Research Scholarship University of Ottawa, Graduate Students' Association
2018—2019	Entrance Scholarship University of Ottawa
2016—2018	Brookfield Peter F. Bronfman Scholarship University of Toronto
LEADERSHIP:	
2026	Canadian Leaders to Be Proud Of: Leaders to Watch For Start Proud and TD Bank
2023	Top Seven South Asians in Canada (<i>Systemic Changemaker</i>) Council for Agencies Serving South Asians (CASSA)
2021	January Marie Lapuz LGBTQ+ Youth Leadership Award: 2nd Runner Up SHER Vancouver
2021	Top Ten Queer South Asian Advocates SHER Vancouver
2021	Federal Delegate for Oakville Riding Daughters of the Vote: Equal Voice
2020	Twenty Noteworthy Queers SHER Vancouver
2020	January Marie Lapuz LGBTQ+ Youth Leadership Award: Honorable Mention SHER Vancouver
2018	Gordon Cressy UofT Student Leadership Award University of Toronto
2018	Woodsworth Cup: Outstanding Student Leadership Contributions University of Toronto
2016	J.S. Woodsworth Service Award University of Toronto
2014	June Callwood Harmony Scholarship for Promoting Diversity Across Canada Harmony Movement Canada
SUSTAINABILITY:	
2018	Green Ribbon Award: Outstanding Achievement in Campus Sustainability University of Toronto

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2022—2023	Teaching Assistant , Sociology Department, University of British Columbia • Courses: Introduction to Sociology (SOCI100); Crime and Society (SOCI250); Sociology of Natural Resources (SOCI360); Social Inequality (SOCI361); Human Sexuality (FMST316); Family Context of Human Development (FMST210); Parent-Child Interactions (FMST312). • Evaluation: Evaluated exams and assignments. • Facilitation: Designed and facilitated weekly tutorial workshops to teach students how to conduct a research study and write a research paper. Co-taught lectures in FMST210 and FMST312.
2018—2020	Teaching Assistant , Sociology & Anthropology Department, University of Ottawa

- **Courses:** Sociology of Culture (SOC3304); Introduction to Deviance and Social Problems (SOC2106); Introduction to Sociology (SOC1101)
- **Evaluation:** Evaluated exams and assignments. Input grades (data) into Excel.
- **Facilitation:** Designed and led an interactive exam review game for students.

2015—Present

Diversity & Intersectionality Consultant and Speaker, Independent

- **Facilitation:** Developed a novel empathy and mindfulness-based approach to EDI training, which has succeeded in eliminating barriers to allyship. Facilitate workshops on topics such as (i) Intersectionality, (ii) Cultural Sensitivity, (iii) Inclusive Workplace Culture, (iv) Power & Privilege, and (v) Unconscious Bias.
- **Consult:** Conduct consultations, policy reviews, program evaluations, and provide compelling evidence-based recommendations to C-Suite executives.
- **Public Speaking:** Utilize a story-telling approach to deliver captivating keynote and motivational speeches to schools and corporations on topics such as authenticity, empathy, allyship, and more.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2026—Present

Assistant Editor, Mobilization Journal

- **Administrative:** Designed a dashboard to track reviewers for article submissions. Find subject-expert reviewers for each article submission.
- **Editing:** Copyedit articles post-peer review for grammar, spelling, and formatting to ensure they align with Mobilization's guidelines.

2023

Research Assistant, Physical & Health Education Canada

- **Knowledge Synthesis:** Synthesized scholarly literature and research results from focus groups to develop a digestible resource guide for educators on Newcomer inclusion in sports and physical activities.

2019—2021

Master's Thesis, University of Ottawa

- **Research Design:** Independently designed a critical ethnographic study that mirrored program evaluation research to investigate the invisibility of queer South Asian women in Pride Toronto.
- **Data Collection:** Developed performance tracking metrics to measure the effectiveness of DEI initiatives for multiply marginalized groups in Pride Toronto.
- **Findings:** Made novel research discoveries about the discrimination against LGBTQ+ South Asian women.
- **Research Mobilization:** Analyzed the data to make compelling evidence-based recommendations for inclusive programs and practices in LGBTQ+ organizations.

2020—2021

Research Assistant and Co-Facilitator, Physical & Health Education Canada

- **Data Collection:** Facilitated focus groups with LGBTQ+ students and educators across Canada. Developed and facilitated interactive DesignLab workshops to

- identify barriers to participation for queer and trans youth in school sports. Guided students to design school-specific inclusive physical activity programs.
 - **Knowledge Synthesis:** Developed a digestible resource guide for educators using the research findings on LGBTQ+ inclusion in sports and physical activities.
- 2019 **Contract Researcher**, Department of Words and Deeds
 - **Research:** Conducted an extensive literature review on approaches to monuments to inform decision-making for the National LGBT Purge Historic Monument Project.
- 2019 **Research Assistant**, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ottawa
 - **Quantitative Research:** Gather statistical data and web scraping.
 - **Administrative:** Complete paperwork, assist with participant recruitment, and other duties as requested.
- 2018, 2019 **Policy & Programs Assistant**, Ministry of Children, Social and Community Services, *Effective Programming and Evaluation Unit, Youth Justice Division*
 - **Gap Analysis:** Identified a gap in youth justice programming in 2018. I was rehired in 2019 to bridge this gap by developing an evidence-based model for family engagement in the Ontario Youth Justice System.
 - **Program Design:** Conducted extensive research (i.e. jurisdictional scan, literature reviews) to design effective programming models (e.g. public health-informed model for youth gun violence reduction).
 - **Evidence-Based Programming:** Developed evidence-based guiding definitions of effective programming strategies in the Youth Justice System. Gathered data to make a compelling business case for stakeholders to adapt a novel 'desistance' approach to youth delinquency.
 - **Public Speaking:** Presented a summary of my findings to policymakers and stakeholders in the broader Youth Justice division at the end of both summer work terms.
- 2017—2018 **Undergraduate Thesis**, University of Toronto
 - **Independent Research:** Conducted a qualitative narrative-based research study in Toronto. Pioneered research on queer South Asian women in Canada upon publication.
- 2016—2017 **Research Assistant**, Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto
 - **Communications:** Coordinated participant recruitment CRUISELab on social media platforms and posted updates about lab-related research.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

- 2019 **Project Coordinator**, Sociology & Anthropology Grad Student Orientation, uOttawa
 - **Program Development:** Spearheaded the Department's first program Orientation for incoming students.
- 2017 **Project Coordinator**, Tri-Campus Orientation Week, University of Toronto
 - **Event Coordination:** Developed a week of programming for over 16,000 students. Liaised with University administration, vendors, Toronto Police Services, and City of Toronto to successfully execute four large-scale events.

Acquired permits, developed a detailed logistics manual with contingency and risk-mitigation plans.

- **Human Resources:** Hired and led a team of 11 paid staff and 50 volunteers. Drafted employee and corporate sponsorship contracts. Designed job-specific training. Coordinated shift scheduling.
- **Finance:** Operated a \$200,000 budget, maintained an accurate record of finances, developed a new Orientation Bursary initiative for low-income students, and successfully maintained a large profit margin.
- **Sponsorship:** Managed a client base of 50+ corporate sponsors and earned over \$140,000.
- **Stakeholder Liaison:** Regularly presented progress reports to stakeholders.

2016

Project Coordinator, Woodsworth's Orientation Coordinator, Univ of Toronto

- **Event Coordination:** Developed a week of intensive programming for 750+ first-year students, liaised with various vendors, obtained city permits, and planned large-scale events. Developed a facilitation manual with detailed logistics, setup floor plans, contingency, and risk-mitigation plans.
- **Human Resources:** Hired and trained a team of 12 executives and 178 leaders, designed portfolio-specific training documents, drafted employment contracts, and coordinated complex scheduling.
- **Finance:** Operated a \$100,000 budget. Successfully increased the profit margin from previous years with a higher quality of events (measured by participant feedback).
- **Stakeholder Liaison:** Provided monthly reports to stakeholders.

COMMUNITY & NON-PROFIT EXPERIENCE

2019 – Present

Founder & Executive Director, Queer South Asian Women's (QSAW) Network

- **Project Coordination:** Solely developed and spearhead the first organization for queer South Asian women in North America. Direct the organizational strategy, external partnerships, and determining the projects undertaken. Responsible for all final decision-making of the organization.
- **Human Resources:** Responsible for hiring, onboarding, and leading a team that assists in coordinating community relations and programming.
- **Operations and Finance:** Responsible for writing the organization's policies, directing internal operations, and managing the budget and banking.
- **Public Relations:** Design the branding, logo, website, and all marketing products. Manage all social media platforms. Draft all official communications on behalf of the organization.

2015—2018

Event Coordinator, Halton Region LGBTQ Pride, Positive Space Network

- **Project Coordination:** Developed a strategic plan and liaised with community partners to successfully execute the first LGBTQ+ pride event in Halton Region, and annually thereafter.
- **Volunteer Coordination:** Recruited upwards of 80 volunteers, developed and facilitated anti-oppression and event management training for volunteers, and coordinated shift scheduling.
- **Logistical Coordination:** Developed a logistics manual detailing exact tasks, locations, and other relevant information specific to each volunteer per day.

- **Graphic Design and Marketing:** Designed all event posters and social media graphics for Halton Pride, while developing and implementing a strategic outreach plan to advertise the events.

ACADEMIC & ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

2025—2026	Grad Student Rep, Collective Behavior & Social Movements Section Council, American Sociological Association
2022—2026	President, Graduate Student Council of Sociology, University of British Columbia • Relationship Management: Liaise with the department administration. Attend monthly department meetings. • Event Management: Organized and introduced a new event series, <i>Hot Takes</i>, spotlighting faculty members each month.
2023—2024	Student Rep, Distinguished Speaker Series Committee, University of British Columbia • Recruitment: Recruited students to introduce the distinguished speakers at the Department's monthly events. • Facilitation: Hosted a graduate student talk with the distinguished speaker.
2021	Conference Session Organizer, Canadian Sociology Association • Session Title: Experiences of Asian Diaspora in Canada. • Facilitation: Reviewed abstracts of paper submissions to organize a panel of speakers. Introduced the speakers during the conference session.
2018—2019	VP Social Affairs, Sociology & Anthropology Grad Student Association, uOttawa • Event Coordination: Organized professional events for students.
2017—2018	Founder, Woodsworth Racialized Students' Collective, University of Toronto • Policy Development: Wrote the policies and by-laws of the organization. • Operational Management: Coordinated organizational operations while leading an executive team.
2017—2018	Vice President of Finance, Undergraduate Sociology Students' Union, UofT • Financial Management: Managed financial operations, liaised with the bank manager, and acted as the official signing authority of the union.
2017—2018	Team Lead, You Decide Campaign, University of Toronto • Volunteer Coordination: Led a team to execute a petition-based campaign advocating for a democratic voting process for students.
2016—2017	Associate Vice President Internal & Services, Univ of Toronto Students' Union • Administrative: Performed data entry, utilized MailChimp, prepared documentation, transcribed and typed minutes of the Union's board and committee meetings, coordinated volunteer and outreach schedules, and synthesized information into monthly reports for public release. • Bursary and Grant Coordination: Trusted with confidential information to review bursary and grant applications, determine financial need, and allocate appropriate funds to applicants. • Policy Analysis: Revised policy documentation, researched operational policies of other organizations, and offered policy recommendations to increase efficiency of the union and engagement of its board.

2015—2017	President, Woodsworth Inclusive (LGBTQ Organization), University of Toronto • Chaired Board: Facilitated general meetings in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order. Prepared meeting agendas, maintained financial records, drafted annual reports, and responsible for all fiscal and logistical decisions of the organization. Awarded Club of the Year in both terms as President. • Campaign Development: Designed and led Woodsworth College’s first Anti-Sexual Violence and Anti-Racism Campaigns. Successfully spearheaded the gender-neutral washroom campaign. • Policy Development: Re-wrote the operating policies to better integrate intersectionality. • Event Coordination: Organized bi-weekly LGBTQ+ advocacy, social, or academic events. • Outreach: Significantly expanded student base, launched monthly newsletters to increase communication, and as a result, became one of the largest LGBTQ+ organizations on campus.
2016	Associate Vice President Equity, University of Toronto Students’ Union • Campaign Development: Designed UofT’s #U4Consent anti-sexual violence campaign and eXpression Against Oppression (XAO) week with a manual detailing programming and outreach plans for each. • Event Management: Coordinated equity-focused events on campus while liaising with Equity Offices and external groups and coordinated UofT’s involvement in Toronto Pride 2016.

MEMBERSHIPS

2025	Member , British Sociological Association
2023—Present	Member , American Sociological Association
2021—Present	Co-Founder , Queer Gujarati Parivaar
2019—Present	Member , Canadian Sociological Association
2019—2020	Member , <i>Gender & Sexuality Research Cluster</i> , Canadian Sociology Association
2017—2018	Chair , <i>Social Sciences Semi-Formal</i> , University of Toronto
2017—2018	Chair , <i>Consent is BAE: LGBTQ+ Anti-Sexual Violence Campaign</i> , U of Toronto
2017	Hiring Committee Member , Reach Out Centre for Kids (ROCK, Halton Region)
2017	Chair , <i>DiverCITY: Mental Health Conference</i> , University of Toronto
2016	Chair , <i>Woodsworth’s Got PRIDE</i> , University of Toronto
2016—2018	Co-Chair , <i>End the Blood Ban Campaign</i> , University of Toronto
2015—2017	Mentor , <i>Dean’s Office Mentorship Program</i> , Woodsworth College at UofT
2015—2017	Event Co-Organizer , University of Toronto’s LGBTQ+ Pride Picnic Committee

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

Patel, S. (2025). Re-theorizing the Sexual Minority Closet: Evidence from Queer South Asian Women. *Canadian Review of Sociology*.

Patel, S. (2024). Theorizing A Denial Reaction to Coming Out: Revising Goffman's Stigma through a Sexual Identity Process Model. *Sociology Compass*, 18(7).

Patel, S. (2019). "Brown Girls Can't Be Gay": Racism Experienced by Queer South Asian Women in the Toronto LGBTQ Community. *Journal of Lesbian Studies*, 23(3), 410-423.

↳ 7th most cited article in the *Journal of Lesbian Studies* in 2019

SCHOLARLY REPORTS

Patel, S. & Travers, A. (2021). (rep.). 2LGBTQ+ Inclusion in School-Based Physical Activity Programs. Ottawa, Ontario: Physical Health Education Canada.

BOOKS

Patel, S. (2022). Don't Tell My Parents: Queer Diasporic Truths. Friesen Press: Toronto, Canada. *In Press*.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Patel, S. (2021). Not All Lesbians Are White: The Suffering and Survival of a Queer South Asian Woman. In Mann, S. (Ed). *I Feel Love: An Anthology of Queer Joy*.

OP-EDS

Alyy Patel. (2023). [Stop Telling Queer South Asian Women to Come Out of the Closet](#). The Ubyyssey.

Alyy Patel (2022). [The Invisibility of Queer South Asian-Canadians](#). The Rabble.

ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Patel, S. (2026). The Limits of Intersectional Practice: Evidence from Queer South Asian Women's Invisibility in Pride Toronto. Paper presented at the **American Sociology Conference**, New York City, New York.

Patel, S. (2026). Theorizing A Denial Reaction to Coming Out: Revising Goffman's Stigma through a Sexual Identity Process Model. Paper presented at the **Canadian Sociology Conference**, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Patel, S. (2025). Re-Theorizing the Sexual Minority Closet: Evidence from Queer South Asian Women. Paper presented at the **British Sociology Conference**, Manchester, United Kingdom.

Patel, S. (2025). Brown Girls Can't Be Gay: Racism Experienced by Queer South Asian Women in Toronto's LGBTQ Community. Paper presented at the **British Sociology Conference**, Manchester, United Kingdom.

Patel, S. (2024). Re-Theorizing the Sexual Minority Closet: Evidence from Queer South Asian Women. Paper presented at the **American Sociology Conference**, Montreal, Quebec.

Patel, S. (2024). Re-Theorizing the Sexual Minority Closet: Evidence from Queer South Asian Women. Paper presented at the **Canadian Sociology Conference**, Montreal, Quebec.

↳ Awarded Best Student Paper by the Canadian Sociology Association

Patel, S. (2021). "Cut Your Turban Off to Look Like A Canadian": A Case Study of South Asian Participation in the 43rd Federal Election of Canada. Paper presented at the **Canadian Sociology Conference**, Edmonton, Alberta.

Patel, S. (2021). The Politics of (Not) Giving A Sh*t: Understanding the Invisibilization of Queer South Asian Women in Pride Toronto™. Paper presented at the **Canadian Sociology Conference**, Edmonton, Alberta.

Patel, S. (2020). Brown Girls Can't Be Gay: Racism Experienced by Queer South Asian Women in Toronto's LGBTQ Community. Paper presented at **Intersections | Cross-Sections Conference**, Toronto, Ontario.

Patel, S. (2019). Brown Girls Can't Be Gay: Racism Experienced by Queer South Asian Women in Toronto's LGBTQ Community. Paper presented at the **Canadian Sociology Conference**, Vancouver, British Columbia.

- Patel, S. (2019). Understanding the Invisibilization of Queer South Asian Women in the LGBT Community. Paper presented at the **Sociology and Anthropology Graduate Conference on Political Activism**, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario.
- Patel, S. (2018). *Racism Towards South Asian Lesbians in the Lesbian Community*. Paper presented at the **Arts and Science Undergraduate Research Conference**, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
- Patel, S. (2016). *It's More than Putting Up the Positive Space Poster: LGBTQ+ Youth and Mental Health*. Presentation on the Closing Plenary Panel of the **Rainbow Health Ontario's National LGBTQ+ Health Conference**, London, Ontario, Canada.

GUEST LECTURES

- Patel, S. (2026, April). *Parent-Queer Child Interactions in Collectivist Culture Families*. Lecture presented at FMST312: Parent-Child Interactions at the **University of British Columbia**, Canada.
- Patel, S. (2026, March 23). *Gender and Sexuality: Intersectional Identities and Erasure*. Lecture presented at SOCI2109: Social Psychology at the **University of Ottawa**, Canada.
- Patel, S. (2026, March 6). *Stigmatized Identities & Collectivist Cultures*. Lecture presented at SOCI1104: Big Ideas in Sociology at the **University of Ottawa**, Canada.
- Patel, S. (2025, November). *"Brown Girls Can't Be Gay": Queer South Asian Women's Experiences of Unaccepting Family and Racism in LGBTQ+ Communities*. Lecture presented at the **National Autonomous University of Mexico**, Mexico City.
- Patel, S. (2025, October 3). *Queer Disclosure in Collectivist Families*. Lecture presented at SOCI200: Sociology of Family at the **University of British Columbia**, Canada.
- Patel, S. (2025, October 3). *Queer Disclosure in Collectivist Families*. Lecture presented at FMST316 Human Sexuality at the **University of British Columbia**, Canada.
- Patel, S. (2025, March 17). *LGBTQ+ Social Movements*. Lecture presented at SOCI464: Social Movements at the **University of British Columbia**, Canada.
- Patel, S. (2024, November 15). *Sexual Identity Management: Stigma, Coming Out, and Denial*. Lecture presented at SOCI2109: Social Psychology at the **University of Ottawa**, Canada.
- Patel, S. (2024, November 12). *Gender and Sexuality: Intersectional Identities and Erasure*. Lecture presented at SOCI2109: Social Psychology at the **University of Ottawa**, Canada.
- Patel, S. (2024, February 12). *Qualitative Coding: Intro to NVIVO and Team-Based Analysis in Word*. Lecture presented at SOCI3306: Qualitative Analysis at the **University of Ottawa**, Canada.
- Patel, S. (2023, March 21). *Social Inequality in Disaster Risk*. Lecture presented at SOCI360: Sociology of Natural Resources at the **University of British Columbia**, Canada.
- Patel, S. (2023, March 8). *The Problem of Invisibility in the LGBTQ+ Community*. Lecture presented at SOCI3306: Social Structures and Relations Between the Sexes at the **University of Ottawa**, Canada.
- Patel, S. (2019, November 4). *Sexuality*. Lecture presented at SOC1101: Principles of Sociology at the **University of Ottawa**, Canada.

GIVEN TALKS

Patel, S. (2026). *Being Queer and South Asian: Experiences and Allyship*. **Keynote Speaker** at [Enerpac](#). Milwaukee, Wisconsin, United States.

Patel, S. (2026). *Dual Exile: Being Queer and South Asian*. **Keynote Speaker** at [Intact Financial](#). Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Patel, S. (2026). *Intersectional LGBTQ+ Belonging*. **Keynote Speaker** at [Municipal Property Assessment Corporation](#). Pickering, Ontario, Canada.

Patel, S. (2026). *Dual Exile: Being Queer and South Asian*. **Keynote Speaker** at [Signal49](#) (formerly Canadian Conference Board). Virtual.

Patel, S. (2025). *LGBTQ+ Representation in Academic Publishing*. **Keynote Speaker** at [University of Toronto Press](#). Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Patel, S. (2025). *Dual Exile: Being Queer and South Asian*. **Keynote Speaker** at [IntouchCX](#). Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Patel, S. (2025). *ABCs of Gender Diversity*. **Keynote Speaker** at [Axonify](#). Waterloo, Ontario, Canada.

Patel, S. (2025). *Dual Exile: Being Queer and South Asian*. **Keynote Speaker** at [Niagara Pride](#). Niagara, Ontario, Canada.

Patel, S. (2024). *Dual Exile: Being Queer and South Asian*. **Keynote Speaker** at the [South Asian Bar Association of North America](#). Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Patel, S. (2024). *Dual Exile: Being Queer and South Asian*. **Keynote Speaker** at the [S&P Global](#). Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Patel, S. (2024). *Respecting South Asian Lesbian Existence in LGBTQ+ Spaces*. **Keynote Speaker** at [Pride Toronto's Dyke Rally](#). Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Patel, S. (2024). *Dual Exile: Being Queer and South Asian*. **Keynote Speaker** at the [Payments Canada](#). Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Patel, S. (2024). *Dual Exile: Being Queer and South Asian*. **Keynote Speaker** at the [Acrisure Re](#). Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Patel, S. (2024). *Dual Exile: Being Queer and South Asian*. **Keynote Speaker** at the [Ontario Public Service](#). Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Patel, S. (2023). *Being Queer and South Asian*. **Keynote Speaker** at the [Greenwood College](#). Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Patel, S. (2023). *Queer South Asian Mental Health Concerns*. **Keynote Speaker** at the [University of Toronto: Tamil Students' Conference](#). Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Patel, S. (2023). *The Transformative Power of Emotions*. **Keynote Speaker** at the [Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity's](#) Queer ARTivism Conference, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Patel, S. (2022). *Queer South Asian Perspectives on Pride*. **Speaker** at the [Ontario Government's Pride Flag Raising Ceremony](#), Queens Park, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Patel, S. (2022). *Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion*. **Speaker** at [View Eye Care](#), Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Patel, S. (2022). *Supporting LGBTQ+ South Asians*. **Speaker** at [Everymind](#), Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Patel, S. (2022). *Being A Trailblazer*. **Speaker** at [Wattpad](#), Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Patel, S. (2022). *LGBTQ+ Allyship and Inclusion*. **Speaker** at [Vena Solutions](#), Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Patel, S. (2022). *Intersectional Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion*. **Speaker** at [LOFT Community Services](#), Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Patel, S. (2022). *Being Queer and South Asian*. **Keynote Speaker** at **Sandalwood Heights Secondary School**, Brampton, Ontario, Canada.

Patel, S. (2021). *Empathic and Authentic LGBTQ+ Allyship in the Workplace*: Global Pride Summit. **Keynote Speaker** at **Marvell Technology Inc.**, North America; Europe, Middle East, and Africa; Asia-Pacific.

Patel, S. (2021). *LGBTQ+ Allyship: Performative versus Authentic*. **Keynote Speaker** at **LOFT Community Services**, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Patel, S. (2021). *LGBTQ+ Desi Pride*. **Keynote Speaker** at the **University of Toronto's First Desi Pride**, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Patel, S. (2021). *Authenticity, Empathy, and Hope*. **Keynote Speaker** at **Westmount High School**, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Patel, S. (2020). *Love is Love is Love*. **Keynote Speaker** at the **International Film Festival of South Asia**, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Patel, S. (2020). *Queer South Asian Women in the LGBTQ+ Community*. **Speaker** at the **Pride Toronto™ Dyke March**, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Patel, S. (2020). *Sexuality and Womanhood in South Asian Culture*. **Keynote Speaker** at the **ISS' Conference for International Women's Day**, University of Toronto, Ontario.

Patel, S. (2019). *Level Up with Social Media*. **Keynote Speaker** at the **Girls' Empowerment Movement Conference on Levelling Up with Tech**, Brampton, Ontario.

Patel, S. (2018). *Becoming Boundless: An Intersectional Approach to Student Leadership*. **Keynote Speaker** at the **Canadian Conference on Student Leadership**, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Patel, S. (2018). *Anti-Oppression and Fostering Safer Spaces*. **Speaker** at the **Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity's High School LGBTQ+ Conference**, Milton, Ontario, Canada.

Patel, S. (2017). *Navigating Societal Institutions as a LGBTQ+ Youth Transitioning into Adulthood*. **Speaker** at the **Halton District School Board LGBTQ+ Conference**, Burlington, Ontario, Canada.

Patel, S. (2016). *Equity 102: Intersectionality*. **Speaker** at the **Halton District School Board LGBTQ+ Conference**, Milton, Ontario, Canada.

PANEL PARTICIPATION

2026/03	Queer South Asian Films , University of British Columbia Centre for Engaged Learning
2025/11	LGBTQ+ South Asians in Canada , ARC Foundation
2022/02	The Intersectional Nature of Systemic Inequity , International Development Week
2021/08	Love is Love is Love , International Film Festival of South Asia
2021/02	LGBTQ Intersectionality , Los Angeles County Psychologists' Association
2020/08	LGBTQQIAP2S+ Racialized Identities , Ontario Mosaic Institute
2020/08	South Asian LGBTQ+ Family Acceptance and Mental Health , Desi Rainbow Parents
2018/04	Student Leadership Experiences on Campus , Woodsworth College UofT
2018/03	Racialized Student Experiences , Woodsworth Racialized Students' Collective UofT
2017/03	Queer Mental Health and Addictions , Woodsworth Inclusive UofT
2016/03	One Girl Five Queers , Woodsworth Inclusive UofT
2015/10	Equity and Intersectionality on Campus , Equity Studies Students' Union UofT

BROADCAST INTERVIEWS & PODCASTS

2024/07	Decolonizing Queerness: South Asian Representation , Queer Story Time Podcast
2024/06	Queer South Asian Women's Network at Pride Toronto , City Pulse 24 News (CP24)
2023/05	Don't Tell My Parents: Queer Diasporic Truths , Girl on Girl Podcast
2022/11	LGBTQ+ South Asian Women's Reproductive Health , Brown Women Health Podcast
2022/09	Don't Tell My Parents: Queer Diasporic Truths , OMNI Television
2022/06	Queer Icon Panel , Girl on Girl Podcast (Live)
2022/06	Queer South Asian Women's struggles , OMNI Television
2022/03	Meet Ayy Patel: A Queer South Asian Trailblazer , Girl on Girl Podcast
2021/01	Being Queer is Okay , Spreading Smiles Podcast
2021/01	Queer and South Asian , Manifest Equity Podcast
2020/04	Desi Diasporic Perspectives on Womxnhood , Devi Podcast
2020/02	Queer and South Asian , The Lady Pista Show
2019/08	Being Queer and South Asian , The Nth Dimension Podcast
2016/06	Youth Friendly Burlington , Burlington Matters, Cogeco TV
2016	Bridging LGBTQ+ Gaps: Families Love Each Other (Documentary)

PRESS COVERAGE

2025/12	Why Queer Spaces Often Fail South Asian Women , Uncloseted Media
2023/06	Navigating Identity: A Pride Month Conversation with Ayy Patel , Friesenpress
2021/06	Feature Friday with Founder of the QSAW Network, Ayy Patel , Queers for a Cause
2020/08	Meet Ayy Patel, Founder of QSAW Network: BUST Interview , BUST Magazine
2020/06	Queer, Desi and Killing It – Introducing Ayy Patel , 50 Shades of Gay
2020/02	Valentine's Pride: Praanee and Ayy – "We're Desi, Gender-fluid," Urban Asian
2017/02	Ayy Patel: Equity Heroine , HER Campus
2016/11	Extraordinary Student of the Month: Ayy Patel , The Varsity UofT
2015/08	Halton Pride event in Burlington Day of Celebration , Halton Insider

CERTIFICATIONS

2017	SafeTALK (Suicide Alertness) , LivingWorks
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Current as of August 2026