

SONALI (ALYY) PATEL

Toronto & Vancouver, Canada 🏠

alyy.patel@gmail.com ✉

Linkedin.com/in/alyypatel in

http://www.alyypatel.com/ 🌐

PROFILE

Sonali (Alyy) Patel is a trailblazing LGBTQ+ activist, award-winning researcher, and speaker on diversity and intersectionality. She is one of Canada's most prominent activists for Queer South Asian Women in North America. At age 22, Alyy founded the Queer South Asian Women's Network, a thriving national non-profit, and went on to pioneer Canadian research on anti-South Asian racism in lesbian communities. Alyy is an empathic and solution-oriented leader with over a decade of experience in public speaking, consulting, project management, and research. Alyy's top strengths include knowledge mobilization, communication, social media, and teamwork. Alyy is also the author of *Don't Tell My Parents: Queer Diasporic Truths*.

EDUCATION

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

2022—Present

Sociology (GPA: 4.25/4.33)

- **Dissertation:** Anti-Brown Racism in Lesbian Communities
- **Supervisor:** Dr. Neda Maghbouleh
- Recipient of the SSHRC doctoral fellowship

MASTER OF ARTS, UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA (Full Scholarship)

2018—2021

Sociology (GPA: 3.95/4.0)

- **Thesis:** Understanding the Invisibilization of Queer South Asian Women in Pride Toronto™ (nominated for the Best Graduate Thesis Prize)
- **Supervisor:** Dr. Kathleen Rodgers

HONOURS BACHELOR OF ARTS WITH DISTINCTION, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

2014—2018

Double Major: Sociology & Sexual Diversity Studies | Minor: Women Studies (GPA: 3.41/4.0)

- **Thesis:** "Brown Girls Can't Be Gay": Racism Experienced by Queer South Asian Women in the Toronto LGBTQ Community
- **Supervisor:** Dr. Tori Smith

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, QUEER SOUTH ASIAN WOMEN'S (QSAW) NETWORK

2019 – Present

- **Project Management:** Solely developed the first organization for queer South Asian women in North America. Direct the organizational strategy, external partnerships, and all programming. Responsible for all decision-making. Successfully surpassed two-year goals for growth and outreach within one year.
- **Operations and Finance:** Developed the organization's policies and bylaws, direct HR and internal operations, hire and lead an executive team, manage the budget, and coordinate bank-related matters.
- **Event Coordination:** Organize monthly programs, recruit facilitators, and manage online registration.
- **Performance Metrics:** Developed metrics to track organizational performance, measure success, and identify areas for improvement. Report performance statistics to our funder at the end of each fiscal year.

- **Public Relations:** Design the branding, logo, website, and all marketing products. Manage all social media platforms and develop social media content. Successfully grew Instagram following by 2179% in two years.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION CONSULTANT AND SPEAKER, INDEPENDENT

2015—Present

- **Educate:** 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.
- **Major Clients:** Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario, Marvell Technology Inc., LOFT Community Services, International Film Festival of South Asia, Halton District School Board, View Eye Care, Evolve Wellness Clinic. Other clients include schools (elementary, high school, post-secondary).

POLICY & PROGRAMS ASSISTANT, MINISTRY OF CHILDREN, SOCIAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES

2018, 2019

Effective Programming and Evaluation Unit, Youth Justice Division, Government of Ontario

- **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.

HALTON REGION LGBTQ PRIDE COORDINATOR, POSITIVE SPACE NETWORK

2015—2018

- **Project Management:** Developed a strategic plan to successfully execute the first LGBTQ+ Pride event in Halton Region, and annually thereafter. Developed a logistics manual detailing exact tasks, locations, and other relevant information specific to each volunteer.
- **Volunteer Coordination:** Recruited 80 volunteers. Designed and facilitated anti-oppression training for volunteers. Coordinated volunteer shift scheduling.
- **Graphic Design:** Designed all event posters for Halton Pride.

PROJECT COORDINATOR, TRI-CAMPUS ORIENTATION WEEK, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

2017

- **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.

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT INTERNAL & SERVICES, UNIV OF TORONTO STUDENTS' UNION

2016—2017

- **Administrative:** Utilized MailChimp to send newsletters, transcribed minutes of Board meetings, coordinated volunteer and outreach schedules, and synthesized information into monthly reports for public release.
- **Bursary and Grant Coordination:** Trusted with confidential information, reviewed bursary and grant applications, determined the dollar amount per applicant, and allocated funds to applicants.
- **Policy Recommendations:** Gathered research to make compelling policy recommendations to increase efficiency of the union and engagement of its Board of Directors.

- PROJECT COORDINATOR, WOODSWORTH COLLEGE ORIENTATION WEEK, UNIV OF TORONTO** 2016
- **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.
- ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT EQUITY, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO STUDENTS' UNION** 2016
- **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.

RESEARCH & TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- ASSISTANT EDITOR, MOBILIZATION JOURNAL** 2026–Present
- **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.
- RESEARCH ASSISTANT, PHYSICAL & HEALTH EDUCATION CANADA** 2023
- **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.
- RESEARCH ASSISTANT & CO-FACILITATOR, PHYSICAL & HEALTH EDUCATION CANADA** 2020—2021
- **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.
- MASTER'S THESIS, UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA** 2019—2021
- **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.
- TEACHING ASSISTANT, SOCIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA** 2022—Present
- **Courses:** Introduction to Sociology (SOC100); Crime and Society (SOC1250); Sociology of Natural Resources (SOC1360); Sociology of Culture and Interaction (SOC101); Social Inequality (SOC1361); 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.
- TEACHING ASSISTANT, SOCIOLOGY & ANTHROPOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA** 2018—2020

- **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.

RESEARCHER, DEPARTMENT OF WORDS AND DEEDS

2019

- **Research:** Conducted an extensive literature review to make compelling recommendations for the National LGBT Purge Historic Monument Project.

LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

2025—2026	Grad Student Rep , <i>Collective Behavior & Social Movements Section Council</i> , ASA
2022—Present	President , <i>Graduate Student Council for Sociology</i> , University of British Columbia
2022	Co-Chair , <i>Vag2Vag Campaign for Queer Women's Sexual Health Awareness</i> , Canada
2021—Present	Co-Founder & Co-Chair , <i>Queer Gujarati Parivaar</i> , North America & United Kingdom
2021	Conference Session Organizer , Canadian Sociology Association
2021	Federal Delegate for Oakville Riding , <i>Daughters of the Vote</i> , Equal Voice Canada
2019	Event Coordinator , <i>Sociology & Anthropology Grad Student Orientation</i> , uOttawa
2018—2019	Vice President Social Affairs , <i>Sociology & Anthropology Grad Student Association</i> , uO
2017—2018	Vice President Finance , <i>Undergraduate Sociology Students' Union</i> , U of Toronto
2017—2018	Team Lead , <i>YouDecide Campaign</i> , University of Toronto Students' Union
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> , University of Toronto
2017—2018	Founder , <i>Woodsworth Racialized Students' Collective</i> , University of Toronto
2016	Event Coordinator , <i>Woodsworth College Orientation Week</i> , University of Toronto
2016—2018	Co-Chair , <i>End the Blood Ban Campaign</i> , University of Toronto
2017	Chair , <i>DiverCITY: Mental Health Conference</i> , University of Toronto
2016	Chair , <i>Woodsworth's Got PRIDE</i> , University of Toronto
2015—2017	President , <i>Woodsworth Inclusive (LGBTQ+ Organization)</i> , University of Toronto
2015—2017	Event Co-Organizer , <i>LGBTQ+ Pride Picnic Committee</i> , University of Toronto
2014—2018	Chair , <i>Gender Neutral Washroom Campaign</i> , Woodsworth College at U of Toronto

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.

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

THESES

- Patel, S. (2021). The Politics of Not Giving a Sh*t: Understanding the Invisibilization of Queer South Asian Women in Pride Toronto. Master's Thesis, University of Ottawa.

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.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Patel, S. (2022). 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 Ubysey.

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

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's 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 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). *Queering Sexual Health Education*. Keynote Speaker at the **University of Toronto's Women of South Asian Heritage Collective**, Toronto, 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. (2017). *Engaging in Diversity and Inclusion Advocacy*. Speaker at the **Burlington Public Library**, Burlington, Ontario, Canada.

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

- Patel, S. (2016). *Life as a LGBTQ+ Person*. Speaker at **Falgarwood Public School**, Oakville, Ontario, Canada.
- Patel, S. (2016). *Equity, Diversity, and Intersectionality*. Keynote Speaker at **St. Mildred's Lightbourn School**, Oakville, Ontario, Canada.
- Patel, S. (2015). *LGBTQ+ Inclusion*. Keynote Speaker at **St. Mildred's Lightbourn School**, Oakville, 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 uO
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

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.

RESEARCH 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.

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 Alyy 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 Alyy Patel , Friesenpress
2021/06	Feature Friday with Founder of the QSAW Network, Alyy Patel , Queers for a Cause
2020/08	Meet Alyy Patel, Founder of QSAW Network: BUST Interview , BUST Magazine
2020/06	Queer, Desi and Killing It – Introducing Alyy Patel , 50 Shades of Gay
2020/02	Valentine’s Pride: Praanee and Alyy – “We’re Desi, Gender-fluid,” Urban Asian
2017/02	Alyy Patel: Equity Heroine , HER Campus
2016/11	Extraordinary Student of the Month: Alyy Patel , The Varsity UofT
2015/08	Halton Pride event in Burlington Day of Celebration , Halton Insider

AWARDS AND HONORS

ACADEMIC:

2024	Best Student Paper Award Canadian Sociology Association
2022-2023	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** (*Systemic Changemaker*)
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

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

MEMBERSHIPS

2023—Present **Member**, American Sociology Association

2019 **Member**, *Gender & Sexuality Research Cluster*, Canadian Sociology Association

2019—Present **Member**, Canadian Sociology Association

2017 **Hiring Committee Member**, Reach Out Centre for Kids (ROCK, Halton Region)

CERTIFICATIONS

2017 **SafeTALK (Suicide Alertness)**, LivingWorks

MAJOR SPONSORSHIPS

2024 **Peela Case**

2023 **Amazon Prime Video: Not Just for Show**, Pride Campaign

2023 **Apathy is Boring**

2023 **Taimi Dating App**

2023
2020

The Saree Room
Sheertex Tights



Current as of August 2026