Keith L. Cheng

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EDUCATION

York University & Toronto Metropolitan University 2026-2030
Doctor of Philosophy, Communication & Culture

University of Michigan, Taubman College of Architecture and Planning 2025 - 2026
Doctoral coursework (20 credit hours) in Urban and Regional Planning

University of Toronto, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education 2023-2025
Master of Arts, Adult Education and Community Development

Thesis: Prototyping Liberatory Futures: Using Digital Humanities to Support Students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities

Activities and Societies: FLOURISH Research Collective, Queer and Trans Research Lab

University of Toronto, Faculty of Information 2021-2022
Graduate Coursework (24 credit hours) in UX Design

Activities and Societies: STREET (Socio-technical Resistance and Ethical Technologies) Lab, Faculty of Information Programs Committee, Faculty of Information Masters and Recruitment Admissions Committee, Faculty of Information Faculty Council, Faculty of Information Indigenous Action and Anti-Colonialism Committee

University of Toronto, Victoria College 2016-2021
Honours Bachelor of Arts with High Distinction, Art History & Sexual Diversity Studies

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Co-Director, Black Digital Humanities Research Lab
Jackson State University 2022 - 2025

- Worked with Dr. Brittany Myburgh, Assistant Professor at JSU Department of Art & Theatre, and team of undergraduate students to produce both scholarly and design-based outputs focused on highlighting local histories
- Worked with six undergraduate research assistants students to conceptualize and develop student-led digital humanities projects, mentoring them through the processes of both academic and UX methods of research and design
- Prepared presentations around a variety of topics including qualitative research methods, data analysis, and digital humanities for research assistants, as needed
- Organized the inaugural Black Digital Humanities Symposium, bringing together a community of 172 registered attendees and 25 academic and community-based speakers to discuss existing work within and future imaginaries of the field
- The success of the project has led to institution-specific offshoots, including the Africana Digital Humanities Lab at Jackson State University, which launched in 2025

Research Coordinator, Building Sustainable Community Arts-Wellness Programmingfor Scarborough's 2SLGBTQ+ Youth
FLOURISH Collective, University of Toronto Scarborough September 2023 - June 2025

- Under supervision of Dr. Dirk J. Rodricks (OISE) and Dr. Andrea Charise (UTSC), conducted focus group, one-on-one interviews, and auto-ethnographic research with and alongside a group of queer youth (aged 18-30) participants from Scarborough, ON as part of a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) funded

research project exploring how arts-based programming can support the social and mental wellness of 2SLGBTQ+ youth
- Managed administrative duties, including setting up team meetings, collecting consent forms from participants, and preparing outreach and knowledge mobilization materials
- Prepared presentations for youth facilitators around interview skills, queer of colour critique, research ethics, and researcher positionality

Co-PI, Archiving Queer Scarborough Project
Queer and Trans Research Lab, University of Toronto January 2024 - June 2025
- Awarded a $25,000 grant from the Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies to support the two-year development of an archive of queer Scarborough, exploring the complexities that come with documenting and recording queer of colour histories
- Managed a team consisting of three community peer researchers and one undergraduate research assistant, overseeing the successful completion of tasks related to the project (e.g. contacting speakers; designing outreach material; conducting a literature review)
- Connected with Scarborough-based queer of colour artists to organize a speaker/workshop series that invites members of the local community to explore through creative engagements what a queer vision of Scarborough's future would look like

Research Assistant
International Partnership for Queer Youth Resilience (INQYR) 2023 - 2025
- Conducted literature reviews around a range of topics related to LGBTQIA+ youth wellness in relation to digital technology use for papers-in-process
- Contributed to the writing process for the results paper related to the lab's LEVELUp! study, a large-scale, international study exploring the role of gaming in LGBTQIA+ youth's wellbeing

PI Assistant/Research Manager, Supporting Black Information Professionals
Faculty of Information, University of Toronto May 2022 - December 2022
- Worked with a faculty member and a team of student research assistants to design a research project focused on understanding the barriers that exist for Black students in information studies and potential educational interventions that can be implemented at the iSchool
- Served as liaison between the research team and the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Unit at the Faculty of Information, ensuring that any potential harm was considered and mitigated
- Managed administrative matters related to the project, including setting up meetings, preparing agendas, corresponding with the team of research assistants, and organizing project-related files on a shared Google Drive

Lead Research Assistant
Graduate Art History, University of Toronto March 2021-April 2021
- Compiled academic literature and other resources pertaining to diversity in art history into a bibliographical database of art historical scholarship relating to diversity, equity, and inclusion, intended to encourage scholars of art history to engage with more diverse readings in both their research and teaching
- Employed design thinking to critically assess the information architecture and usability of the platform, exploring how things like metadata and classification schemes can further reinforce colonial ideas of non-Western cultures

RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS

Refereed Publications

- Thomson, C.R., Crisotomo, A., **Cheng, K.**, Rodricks, D.J. (2026) An Academic Borderland: Deconstructing University Hierarchies through an Arts-Based Professor-Student Research Collective. Proceedings of CASAE/ACÉÉA-AERC Joint Conference: Crossing Borders, Building Bridges: Adult Education in Times of Transformation.
- Rodricks, D.J., Crisostomo, A., **Cheng, K**., & Thomson, C. (2026). A Methodology of (Un/Re)Making: A Kitchen Table Conversation with an Early Career Scholar-Educator-Practitioner Collective. Research in Drama Education (RiDE) 2067: The Futures of Drama Education and Applied Theatre and Performance 30(3). 10.1080/13569783.2025.2525978
- Petterson, A., **Cheng, K.**, Chandra, P. (2023). "Playing with Power Tools: Design Toolkits and the Framing of Equity," Proceedings of the 2023 CHI Conference. doi.org/10.1145/3544548.3581490.

Forthcoming Contributions

- Rodricks, D.J., **Cheng, K.**, & Charise, A. (Forthcoming). Queering on Paper: Papercraft as a Method for Social Wellness with Racialized 2SLGBTQ+ Youth in Eastern Toronto, Canada. In E. Fitzpatrick, R. Reilly, & Y. Wang (Eds.), *The scholarship of making: Craft as method, as knowing, as decolonisation and connecting*. [Accepted, Awaiting Publication]

Under-Review

- Rodricks, D., **Cheng, K.**, Li, L., Weaver, T., Zhang, Z., & Charise, A. "That isn't therapy talk": Reimagining Social Wellness Through Community Arts Engagement Among Racialized 2SLGBTQ+ Youth in Scarborough, Canada.

Refereed Conference Presentations

- Rodricks, D., **Cheng, K**., Li, L., Weaver, T., Zhang, Z., & Charise, A. (Forthcoming). Queer Voices Beyond Downtown: Arts-Wellness Practices with 2SLGBTQ+ Youth of Colour in Scarborough. INQYR: Beyond Limits. Toronto, ON, Canada.
- Thomson, C., Crisostomo, A., **Cheng, K.**, & Rodricks, D.J. (2026, May 26). An Academic Borderland: Deconstructing University Hierarchies through an Arts-Based Professor-Student Research Collective. 2026 CASAE-AERC Joint Conference: Crossing Borders, Building Bridges. Adult Education in Times of Transformation. Vancouver, B.C., Canada.
- Myburgh, B., **Cheng, K.**, & Roberts, D. (2025, November 14). Navigating Critical Conversations: Advancing Global Learning through Digital Literacy, Dialogue, and Place-Based Collaboration. 2025 AAC&U Conference on Global Learning.
- Charise, A., **Cheng, K.**, & Rodricks, D.J. (2025, April 5). Exploring Arts-based Social Wellness with Queer of Colour Youth in Scarborough, Ontario, Canada: A Mixed-Methods Study. Health Humanities Consortium Conference 2025. Philadelphia, PA., United States of America.
- **Cheng, K.** & Rodricks, D.J. (2024, November 22). (Out)side The Downtown Core: A Mixed-Methods Study of Community Arts-Wellness Programming for 2SLGBTQ+ Youth of Colour in Scarborough, Ontario. Community-Based Research Summit 2024. Vancouver, B.C., Canada.
- Myburgh, B., **Cheng, K.**, & Stiff, A. (2024, August 9). Digital Dialogues: Exploring Digital Humanities in HBCUs Through a Kitchen-Table Talk Approach. DH2024: Reinvention and Responsibility, Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations, Washington, D.C., United States of America.
- **Cheng, K.** (2024, June 17). Power to the People: Digital Humanities for/as Community Development. [Conference presentation]. #OTESSA2024: Sustaining Shared Futures. Montreal, QC, Canada.

- **Cheng, K.** (2023, May 12) Afro-Asian Solidarities: Designing Tools for Solidarity. OISE Asian Heritage Month Symposium 2023. Toronto, ON, Canada.

Poster Presentations
- Li, L., **Cheng, K.**, Weaver, T. Zhang, Z., Rodricks, D., & Charise A. (Forthcoming). On Paper, In Practice: Archiving Queer Scarborough. INQYR: Beyond Limits. Toronto, ON, Canada.
- Li, L., Charise, A., Weaver, T., Zhang, Z., **Cheng, K.**, & Rodricks, D.J. (2026, April 21). On Paper: Building Sustainable Community Arts-Wellness Programming for 2SLGBTQ+ Youth. Creating Space 16: The Impact of Identities on Health and Well-being. Canadian Association of Health Humanities. Ottawa, ON, Canada.

Invited Talks & Workshops
- **Cheng, K.,** (2025, August 24) Zine-Making Workshop for In Friendship We Roar Exhibit. Unit 270 Gallery, Toronto, ON, Canada.
- **Cheng, K.**, Rodricks, D., & Charise, A. (2025, April 4). Queer Scarborough 'On Paper': Toward a Queer of Colour Archival Practice [Invited Talk]. Queer and Trans Research Lab, Toronto, ON, Canada.
- **Cheng, K.** (2023, December 14). Re-imagining a Community: Our Third Place: Zine Workshop [Public talk/workshop], Faculty of Information, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada.
- **Cheng, K.** (2023, June 8). The Activist-Academic: Resistance in/of the University [Public lecture]. INQYR Rainbow Rendezvous: Queer Research Mixer, Toronto, ON, Canada.

DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP & RESEARCH-CREATION

Digital Scholarship
- Craig, S. L. (2026). The nuts and bolts of affirmative CBT with sexual and gender diverse populations. Oxford University Press. https://doi.org/10.1093/acprof:9780197778623.001.0001
    - Contribution: Diagram and figure production
- DEEDS Project (Documents of Early England Data Set). Directed by M. Gervers, University of Toronto.
    - Contribution: Digital Restoration & Map/Diagram Design

Research Creation
- Stiff, A., Osman, A., **Cheng, K.** (2024). Encoded Quilts: Weaving Future Directions [Digital Interactive Quilt & Case Study]. Black Digital Humanities Lab. https://blackdigitalhumanities.com/case-studies/encoded-quilts-weaving-future-directions/
- **Cheng, K.** (2022). Gaze: A Museum App for Anti-Racist Education [UX Prototype]. Black Digital Humanities Lab. https://blackdigitalhumanities.com/case-studies/gaze/.
- **Cheng, K.** (2022). A Living Archive of Student Activism [Digital Archive]. Studio for Media Activism and Critical Thought. Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, ON, Canada. https://studioformediaactivism.com/archive/.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistantships

CMDS1630: Video Gaming and Society Fall 2026
York University, Department of Communication & Media Studies

UT201: Change-Making in Cities Winter 2026
University of Michigan, Taubman College for Architecture & Urban Planning
- Co-instructed the course alongside Professor of Practice Clarinda Barnett-Harrison

- Delivered independent lectures on topics of happy cities, informal urbanism, and social infrastructures
- Led a smaller weekly discussion session with 18 students, developing lesson plans and weekly discussion questions that expand upon the contents of the lecture
- Responsible for grading, holding office hours, and being an accessible resource for the 65 undergraduate students enrolled in the course

Guest Lectures

- **Cheng, K.**, Li, L. Weaver, T., & Zhang, Z. (2026, March 16). Loving Scarborough as Method: Queer of Colour Research Methods [Guest lecture], SDS256: Methods in Queer and Trans Studies, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
- **Cheng K.** (2026, March 9). Planning Sideways: Engaging Queer of Color Youth through Play [Guest lecture], URP 611: Radical Planning, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, United States.
- **Cheng K.** (2023, October 18). UX Research Design & Methods [Guest lecture], ART 340: Special Topics in Art and Design (Digital Humanities), Jackson State University, Jackson, MS, United States.
- **Cheng K.** (2023, October 11). Intro to UX and Black Digital Humanities [Guest lecture], ART 340: Special Topics in Art and Design (Digital Humanities), Jackson State University, Jackson, MS, United States.
- **Cheng K.** (2023, March 23). Resistant Archives/Resisting the Archive: Zine Making as Anarchive [Guest lecture], RTA893: Social Justice Media, Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, ON, Canada.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Website and Communications Assistant January 2024 - Present
International Partnership for Queer Youth Resilience (INQYR)

- Worked under the supervision of Dr. Shelley Craig and Dr. Ashley Brooks to manage the INQYR website
- Involved in a variety of tasks related to knowledge mobilization, including, but not limited to, the creation of infographics, network mapping, and other forms of data visualization to highlight the impact of the partnership

Communications and Events Coordinator September 2023 - June 2025
Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies, University of Toronto

- Managed all aspects of the centre's digital presence, including running all social media platforms (Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn) and maintaining the department's website
- Corresponded with affiliated departments and all other relevant stakeholders regarding the department's communications and events; built and maintained positive relationships on behalf of the department
- Organized all logistical aspects related to our department's programming, including booking rooms, ordering catering, managing technology, and creating and running outreach campaigns
- Designed all visual material related to the department (posters, brochures, banners, etc.)

Project Manager/Archival Research Assistant January 2023 - August 2023
Studio for Media Activism and Critical Thought (SMACT), Toronto Metropolitan University

- Organized the Reclaim the University Speaker Series with director Dr. Marusya Bociurkiw, corresponding with speakers, preparing contracts, designing promotional material, managing outreach campaigns, and supervising student volunteers
- Redesigned SMACT's website (studioformediaactivism.com), with emphasis placed on record-keeping and recovering the history of the studio for future reference

- Worked with the Toronto Metropolitan University Archives to produce a Canadian student protest archive; liaising with former student activists and the university archivists to explore how to document student activism in a way that accurately captures the political significance of these material objects and has utility for future student resistance

Archival Assistant September 2021 - May 2023
Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library
- Processed archival material and created finding aids in accordance with the Canadian Rules for Archival Description (RAD)
- Provided reference services to library patrons in person, on the phone, and through e-mail correspondence

Digital Archival Research Assistant October 2020 - April 2025
University of Toronto Scarborough
- Digitally restored photographs of Ethiopian art and architecture from the Deeds Treasury of Ethiopian Images (deeds.library.utoronto.ca), conducting art historical research to ensure that restoration is historically accurate
- Prepared visual material for publication, ensuring that all files are to print standard

Archival Assistant September 2019 - May 2020
Sexual Representations Collection, University College
- Processed archival material and created finding aids for new collections
- Digitized print material within the collection for the Internet Archive

Archival Intern September 2019 - March 2020
The ArQuives
- Worked on developing an Omeka digital exhibition that explores queer spaces in Toronto that highlights the ways that mainstream queer institutions like *Xtra* and the ArQuives itself have historically excluded queer communities of colour, highlighting that minoritized communities often find creative ways to build space in the absence of formal infrastructure
- Conducted an archival analysis of material produced by queer of colour groups in Toronto (Blackness Yes!; Gay Asians Toronto) to understand what types of counter-spaces were created
- Part of coursework for SDS490Y: Engaging Our Communities

Creative Director/Design Lead 2017-2019
The Varsity
- Managed a visual team consisting of graphic designers, illustrators, and photographers to produce visual content for the weekly print issue and the bi-annual magazine
- Advocated for the diversification of both coverage and hiring practices, leading to the eventual release of an equity guide

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Chair
The Diversity Working Group May 2022 - September 2023
- Organized event programming for LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC students
- Fostered relationships with other equity-seeking student groups and organizations
- Acted as a liaison between students and faculty regarding equity-based concerns, being a voice for (QT)BIPOC students by channelling any major issues regarding (in)equity at the iSchool to the EDI office, including sitting on the hiring committee for the hiring of the “EDIU Program Coordinator.”

Vice-President, Academic Affairs
Master of Information Student Council September 2022 - March 2023

- Served as the Master of Information student representative at the Programs Committee, Master's and Recruitment Admissions Committee, Faculty Council, Committee on Standing, and Indigenous Action and Anti-Colonialism Committee
- Acted as a liaison between students and faculty and was a key point of contact for students' academic concerns, directing them to the relevant resources and bringing their issues up to faculty during the aforementioned meetings

Co-Coordinator
iSchool Peer Mentoring Program May 2022 - March 2023

- Recruited and matched first-year mentees with upper-year interests based on their goals, interests, and other criteria
- Organized professional development events like a Portfolio Workshop Series for UX students

AWARDS & GRANTS

Awarded

- Canada Graduate Scholarships–Master's (CGS-M) - $27,000 2024
- QTRL Emerging Projects Grant - $25,000 2024–2026
- FLOURISH Graduate Research Award - $1,500 2025
- University of Toronto School of Cities Small Grant - $1,000 2024
- UofT Faculty of Information EDI Student Initiative Fund - $500 2023
- Hardy & Mildred Wright Hill Scholarship, Victoria College - $1,000 2019

CERTIFICATIONS/TRAININGS

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion

- Certificate of Completion, International Student Training Network (ISTN)
- Centering Black Youth Wellbeing, Youth Research and Evaluation eXchange (YouthREX) – Credential ID d9ziwrx4g8
- Indigenous Canada, University of Alberta Coursera

Research Ethics

- TCPS 2: CORE (Course on Research Ethics), Government of Canada – Credential ID 0000782832
- PEERRS: Human Subjects Protections, University of Michigan
- Research Security Training, University of Michigan
- PEERRS: Responsible Conduct of Research and Scholarship (RCRS) Training, University of Michigan

Teaching & Curriculum Development

- Graduate Student Instructor Training, University of Michigan
- Community Engaged Course Design Workshop, Ginsberg Center for Community Service and Learning, University of Michigan

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- Peer Reviewer: Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services, Open/Technology in Education, Society, and Scholarship Association

LANGUAGES

- English
- Cantonese

- French (Reading)