

2021 SMART FREIGHT SYMPOSIUM

November 19 & 26, 2021

SPEAKERS' BIOS

Shitiz Agarwal Being passionate about Electricity, Shitiz Agarwal joined Schneider Electric in 2005. For past 15 years, he is dedicated to give his customers exposure to new technology and help manage their business evolution through these ever-changing times. Obsessed to provide top customer experience, he's a firm believer in providing tailored solution to customer and help them become more sustainable and digital. He was instrumental in accelerating Schneider Electric business by leading sales and marketing functions and saturating channel during his tenure in Asia and Middle East. He has been in NAM region since last 5 years. As a member of the executive team in Canada, Shitiz's mission has been to transform Schneider Electric coverage model and help create competitive edge for customer by accelerating their journey on sustainability and digitization.

Alma Arzate is a Director, Global Supply Chain Logistics at Apotex Inc., where she leads a diverse team of 140 supply professionals. Alma is a global supply chain and operations leader with over two decades of experience in the Automotive, Electronics, Medical Devices, CPG and Pharma industries. Despite her sometimes hectic work and family schedule, Alma volunteers extensively as a keynote speaker and panelist for many Universities, Colleges, Associations, and Canadian Immigrant Settlement Organizations. Alma's story was shared on the cover of the April 2020 edition of Canadian Immigrant magazine, as part of their "Immigrant Women of Inspiration" special. In March 2021, Alma was named as one of the Top 100 Women in Supply Chain globally by IBM and Supply Chain Digital magazine, and in October 2021, as one of the 100 Most Influential Women in Supply Chain by B2G Consulting.

Brian Bellino has worked for a variety of different service providers over the past 24 years. He has held roles in management for dedicated asset-based transportation suppliers and non-asset based freight forwarders, as well as a consultant for a logistics engineering firm. He has a proven track record of leading teams which meet and / or exceed financial, productivity, safety, & service metrics. He has also been fortunate enough to assist in the development of a number of outstanding professionals many of whom are enjoying successful careers via promotion. He earned his MBA at Central Michigan University in 2013.

Steve Bogie currently holds the position of Vice President, Flight Operations and Technology with Drone Delivery Canada and has overall responsibility for Information Technology, Safety, Regulatory Compliance, Operational Quality as well as Technical Documentation and Program Management. Drone Delivery Canada is a publicly traded, disruptive, pioneering, technology company focused on designing, developing, and implementing commercially viable, drone-based logistics systems for government, commercial, industrial & retail customers globally. In addition to his responsibilities at Drone Delivery Canada, Steve holds Advisory Board positions with two technology startup companies. Prior to joining DDC, Steve worked as Executive Consultant specializing in venture capital opportunities and held the position of Managing Director, IT Business Partner with Air Canada where he had responsibility for the organization's IT systems, including the strategic vision and evolution these systems. In addition to alignment with the overall business and corporate strategies, Steve was responsible to lead the delivery and implementation of this strategy and the engagement of key strategic business partners. In addition to these positions Mr. Bogie has held numerous senior roles in Corporate Strategy, Airline Operations, Customer Service and Community Relations as well as operating his own Aviation consulting business. Steve has over 30 years in Aviation, mostly with commercial Airline operators from regional carriers to a major international carrier. Mr. Bogie undertook his Business Administration studies at Kwantlen University College prior to entering the MBA program at Edinburgh Business School.

Matthieu Bureau has 18 years of experience in energy management and automation at Schneider Electric, holding increasing progressive roles in sales, business development, project management and engineering before coming VP Power Systems. Having worked in four countries including France, Netherlands, Slovakia and now in Canada since 2020, Matthieu brings a wealth of international experience and a unique perspective to leading organizations and helping customers through their digital transformation journeys. He has worked across diverse sectors including datacenters, buildings, electro-intensive industries and utilities, and also helped lead acquisitions and partnerships with a goal to accelerate offerings in energy efficiency. In his current role, Matthieu's mission is to grow market share of the power systems business as well as focus on key customers segments to position Schneider Electric as the trusted digital partner in their journey to sustainability and efficiency in the new electric world.

Nazzareno Capano is the Manager of Transportation Policy and Innovation in Transportation Services with the City of Toronto. He has over 30 years of experience in areas focused on infrastructure asset management, traffic and road operations, and transportation policy development. Naz has guided a variety of strategic initiatives for the City, which most recently includes Toronto's Curbside Management and Freight and Goods Movement Strategies.

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Laura Cocuzzi is a value driven industry thought leader with a passion for taking organizations and people to the next level and creating necessary social impacts for inclusive environments. Laura’s 20+ years of experience within a Provincial Crown Corporation and Regional governments, including her current role as Manager, Procurement Planning and Performance at the Region of Peel. As a Lecturer with the Humber Institute of Technology & Advanced Learning, University of Toronto Mississauga Campus Council member and Board Director with Supply Chain Canada, Ontario Institute, Laura passionately contributes to both student growth and those in various levels of their career through participation in mentor programs, networking and speaking events.

Lauren Crawford is a professional engineer with over 25 years of experience managing transit/transportation infrastructure in the public and private sectors. She is currently the Manager of Transportation Long-Term Planning at York Region with responsibility for transportation planning studies, capital plan prioritizing and programming, travel demand forecasting and modelling. Prior to joining the Region, Lauren spent over 15 years in the private sector most recently as a senior transportation consultant leading traveller information system projects.

Bilal Farooq is Canada Research Chair in Disruptive Transportation Technologies and Services. He is an Associate Professor in Transportation Engineering at Ryerson University and the Director of the Laboratory on Innovations in Transportation (LiTrans). Dr. Farooq received the Early Career Researcher Awards in Québec (2014) and Ontario (2018).

Khaled Hassanein is a Professor of Information Systems and Dean at the DeGroote School of Business, McMaster University. His interdisciplinary research interests span the areas of digital transformation, data analytics, human-computer interaction, neuro-information systems, decision support systems, and e-Health. His research is supported through funding from federal, provincial and private sector sources in Canada. He has published over 130 peer-reviewed articles in leading conferences and journals. He is a joint holder of several U.S. patents, a senior member of the IEEE and a designated Professional Engineer in Ontario

Elkafi Hassini is a professor and chair of Operations Management at the DeGroote School of Business, McMaster University. He is also Chair of the Smart Freight Centre, and Research Director for Supply Chain Analytics at the MiSCAN Lab, and an associate faculty member of the School of Computational Science & Engineering, and the eHealth program. He currently serves as outgoing Editor-in-Chief of the journal INFOR: Information Systems and Operational Research, the flagship journal of the Canadian Operational Research Society (CORS). Among his current research projects are big data optimization in supply chains and last mile freight distribution and warehouse management.

Elham Heydari-Gharaei is a Ph.D. candidate at the Civil Engineering Department of York University, Toronto, Canada. She received her B.Sc. and M.Sc. from the Industrial Engineering Department of Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran. Her research focuses on Parking Management under the supervision of Dr. Mehdi Nourinejad.

Polina Hristeva is the Director Multimodal Performance and Economic Analysis in the Policy group of Transport Canada. She is leading a team focused on monitoring, analyzing, and reporting on the performance and utilization of the strategic multimodal transportation system. Her current work is focused on economic impact assessments and supply chain resilience to address bottlenecks and advance traffic management/optimization and investment planning. She joined Transport Canada more than 10 years and has been leading the development and implementation of various policies, initiatives and projects aimed at enhancing the competitiveness of the national transportation system supporting international commerce.

Nando Iannicca was appointed Chair and Chief Executive Officer of the Region of Peel in December 2018 by Regional Council. Prior to his position as Regional Chair, he was a Councillor for the City of Mississauga and the Region of Peel for 30 years. Chair Iannicca represents the Region in dealing with other levels of government, presides over meetings of Regional Council and ensures its decisions are implemented. He also serves as the Chair of the Peel Police Services Board. During his career, the Chair has served on numerous boards, such as the Police Commission Board, Enersource/Hydro Board and Credit Valley Conservation Board. Chair Iannicca has also volunteered with the Trillium Hospital Foundation, Red Cross, Symphony Board, Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal, and Mississauga Food Bank. He is a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee recipient for 25 years of volunteer services.

Matthew Judd is currently Nestlé Canada’s Domestic Transportation Manager. Before joining Nestlé, Matt had graduated from McMaster University’s Commerce program with a focus in Operations Management and minor in Transportation Geography. Matt is a certified logistics professional (CITT’s CCLP), and has held various functional roles within Nestlé’s Physical Logistics team and a Third Party Logistics firm. Matt is passionate about sustainability and actively participates in many industry/academia programs (Smart Freight Centre, NSERC Student Research programs with McMaster University, FHCP, etc.)

Amir Khataie, PhD, is a technical leader with an extensive background in strategic supply chain management. He has a solid portfolio of success driving and leading operation changes and process optimization at public and private courier business environments. He is currently working as a VP of Logistics at Chit-Chats Express, helping Canadian entrepreneurs live their dreams.

Yaser (Mostafa) Kouchakzadeh holds MASc from the University of Toronto, where he worked under the supervision of Professor Matthew Roorda, analyzing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on traffic congestion and commercial vehicle travel patterns within the GTHA. Yaser is currently a member of the data analytics team at HDR. He employs data analytics and data visualization techniques to find the right solutions for each challenge at hand.

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Lani Lindsay is a Supply Chain and Technology Executive with extensive experience in the retail industry. She has been with Walmart Canada for 11 years, currently serving at Vice-President of Supply Chain -Replenishment & Imports supporting both stores and ecommerce. She has her master’s in supply chain management & logistics and is a graduate of Harvard Business School. Lani is active in the community having served as Chair & Director of the Supply Chain Canada, Ontario Institute Board of Directors, Board Director for Breakfast for Learning, PC Children’s Charity and recently recognized as one of the Top 100 Global Women in Supply Chain. She recently received the FSCMP (Fellowship) award from Supply Chain Canada. Prior to Walmart, she was with Loblaws for 15 years in progressive roles across Supply Chain and Technology.

Si Liu is a 3rd-year Ph.D. candidate in Management Science at DeGroot School of Business, McMaster University. His research interests include last-mile freight transportation deliveries using public transit systems, operation management with big data, supply chain management based on shared mobility, humanitarian relief with novel transportation methods, etc. He also serves as the President of the DeGroot Doctoral Students Association.

Yunfei Ma graduated from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a bachelor’s degree major in Math and Statistics. He is now a first-year master student in Computational Science and Engineering at McMaster University. His research focuses on telematics with a focus on origin-destination visualization.

Traci McIntyre, Academic Program Manager, Kinaxis. As the Academic Program Manager at Kinaxis, Traci leads the efforts to develop classroom offerings, engages in outreach to leading university programs and cultivates relationships with academic experts in areas aligned with Kinaxis. She’s excited to play a critical role in helping to shape a future generation of supply chain professionals. Traci joined Kinaxis in 2017 with 15+ years in high tech marketing, communications and program management.

Seyed Mehdi Meshkani received his B.Sc. degree (2010) from the University of Sistan & Baluchestan, Iran, and M.Sc. degree (2013) in Roads and Transportation Engineering from Tarbiat Modares University, Iran. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Transportation Engineering at Ryerson. His research focuses on designing on-demand shared mobility services utilizing simulation and optimization.

Kianoush Mousavi is a Ph.D. Candidate in transportation planning at the University of Toronto. He is doing his Ph.D. thesis on mathematical modelling of crowd-shipping business models for improving last-mile delivery with a focus on strategic and real-time decision-making under uncertainty. Kianoush is also the project manager for the GTHA off-peak delivery project at Smart Freight Centre.

David Ornelas is a MASc Civil Engineering student at York University. He obtained his Bachelor of Civil Engineering from York University in 2020. His research interests mainly include parking management, traffic modelling, microsimulation, and transportation planning. David hopes to contribute to the development of more efficient transportation systems.

Peter Park, P.Eng., is an Associate Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at the Lassonde School of Engineering (LSE), York University since 2015. He serves as the Vice Chair for the Smart Freight Centre. His expertise includes transportation safety and security, intelligent transportation systems, transportation planning and advanced statistical analysis. Before joining LSE, he was a faculty member of the Department of Civil and Geological Engineering at the University of Saskatchewan (2008 to 2015). In addition to his academic experience, he has ten years of experience in national and international consulting as a transportation engineer and planner. Dr. Park serves as an Editorial Board Member for a few prestigious transportation journals including Accident Analysis and Prevention and Analytic Methods in Accident Research.

Anne Robinson is Chief Strategy Officer, responsible for accelerating Kinaxis strategy development to add further value to customers. She and her team collaborate closely with customers, external stakeholders and the rest of the senior executive team to drive the strategic roadmap, thought leadership and identify emerging technologies and new industry opportunities. A proven leader in analytics and digital transformation, with expertise in operations, supply chain, and strategy, Anne has extensive experience in managing supply chains for complex, global organizations. As Executive Director, Global Supply Chain Strategy, Analytics and Systems at Verizon, Anne was responsible for the strategic vision of the company’s global end-to-end supply chain, driving excellence through world-class data-analytics, process innovation and employee empowerment. Before Verizon, Anne spent several years at Cisco where she was responsible for managing advanced analytics, business intelligence and performance management teams. Anne is a past president of INFORMS (the Institute for Operations Research and Management Sciences), a seasoned industry speaker and has served on several advisory boards. Originally from St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador, Anne has a BSCh from Acadia University, MASc from the University of Waterloo and an MSc and PhD in Industrial Engineering from Stanford University.

Matthew Roorda is a Professor of Civil Engineering, has been faculty at the University of Toronto since 2005, and has worked in the transportation engineering profession since 1998. He is the Canada Research Chair in Freight Transportation and Logistics and leads the scientific advisory committee of the Smart Freight Centre. Dr. Roorda’s research interests include urban freight transportation, freight planning and operations, freight and passenger travel survey methods, city logistics, agent-based simulation, parking and curbside management, emissions analysis, activity-based travel demand modelling, and firm behaviour.

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Saba Sabet is a first-year Ph.D. candidate in Transportation Engineering at Ryerson University under the supervision of Dr. Bilal Farooq. She received her B.Sc. in Civil Engineering from Amirkabir University of Technology, and M.Sc. in Road and Transportation Engineering from Sharif University of Technology, both in Iran. Her research focuses on Energy-Smart Solutions in Transportation Engineering.

Ucchas Saha is a 2nd year MAsC Civil Engineering student at York University and recently served as Treasurer of ITE YorkU. He obtained a Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) in 2018 and has previous work experience with Public-Private Partnership infrastructure projects in Dhaka.

Sabbir Saiyed, Ph.D., is currently a Manager of Transportation System Planning at the Regional Municipality of Peel and one of founding members of Smart Freight Centre. He has over 25 years of experience in progressively responsible positions in civil engineering, transportation and management. Apart from the Regional Municipality of Peel, He has enjoyed productive careers at the City of Markham, Regional Municipality of York, Royal Military College of Canada, Kingston and the City of Ottawa. He has a Ph.D. from Royal Military College of Canada, Kingston, Ontario and Master’s degree in Civil Engineering from Carleton University. He is also a Registered Professional Engineer in the Province of Ontario. Dr. Sabbir Saiyed is currently the National Chair of Integrated Climate Change Committee and Vice Chair of TAC’s Connected and Automated Vehicle Task Force at Transportation Association of Canada. He is also the Past Chair of Mobility Council and Transportation Planning Committee.

Gurpreet Singh Dhillon is the Regional Councillor for Brampton's Wards 9 & 10, and represents approximately 160,000 residents at both the City of Brampton and Peel Region councils. With a significant number of Brampton's 11,000 truck drivers residing in his wards, Councillor Dhillon has been a staunch proponent for the transportation industry. Councillor Dhillon has been consistently advocating for better working conditions for these individuals since first taking office. He actively works for the community, businesses and residents in order to make Peel a “community for life” and supports its local economy. After hearing from the residents he serves, Councillor Dhillon took on the role of working diligently with the Peel Goods Movement Task Force to ensure safe and efficient movement of goods and people within Brampton.

Sophia Sniegowski Begidzhanov has over 10 years of experience in the private, public and non-profit sectors. Sophia has been a champion for the initiatives she’s lead providing positive influence and change for Canadians today. She has been a big proponent for drawing attention to the transportation industry bringing forward proposals and innovative strategies for new standards and methodologies. Sophia is currently the Corporate Communications Officer for The Musket Transport Ltd. and Commercial Heavy Equipment Training Ltd. - CHET

Angela Splinter leads Trucking HR Canada, a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to addressing the human resources challenges and opportunities in the trucking and logistics sector. Before entering the trucking industry, Angela served in various senior management roles, and provided HR management consulting services to numerous industries. She is a frequent speaker at industry events in Canada and has also spoken internationally sharing industry best practices in HR. She works closely with various associations, government departments and industry representatives to ensure employers have the skilled workforce needed for today and in the future.

Susan Tighe is the Provost and Vice President Academic and a Professor of Civil Engineering at McMaster University. She is a member of the New College of Scholars of the Royal Society of Canada, Fellow in the Canadian Academy of Engineering (FCAE), Fellow of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineering (FCSCE) and is the Past President of the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering (CSCE). She was named one of Canada’s Top 40 Under 40 in 2006. Dr Tighe joined McMaster University after more than two decades at the University of Waterloo where she was the Deputy Provost and Associate Vice-President Integrated Planning and Budgeting, the Norman W. McLeod Professor in Sustainable Pavement Engineering, Canada Research Chair, Past Director of the Centre for Pavement and Transportation Technology and a Professor of Civil Engineering. Dr. Tighe received her BAsC in Chemical Engineering from Queens University, her MAsC and PhD in Civil Engineering from the University of Waterloo. She is author of over 400 technical publications and has completed over 80 graduate students. During sabbaticals she spent time in Australia working for in the private sector and has received academic Fellowships including: the Erskine Fellowship at the University of Canterbury New Zealand, the U.K. Royal Academy of Engineering University of Nottingham in England and the Queensland Pavement Center located at University of the Sunshine Coast Australia.

Iain Tyrrell, MANAGER AND SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR, TRANSPORT CANADA. Iain provides leadership on urban mobility performance and supply chain visibility within the Transportation Economic Analysis branch. Since joining Transport Canada in 2009, his main areas of focus have been supply chains and railways. He holds an MA from the University of Waterloo and BSc from Trent University, and is a Chartered Member of the Institute of Logistics and Transportation.

Roderick Zhang is currently a Masters student at Dr. Bilal Farooq’s LiTrans group in Ryerson University. He comes from a Physics background from the University of Toronto. His research interests include different dimensions of Smart Cities such as Air Quality, Sensor Technology, Connected Mobility, and Information Safety.

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Shang Zhang is a Master of Applied Science student at the University of Toronto Department of Civil & Mineral Engineering working under the supervision of Professor Matthew J. Roorda. His main research interest centres on analyzing the travel behaviour of crowd-shippers and how to improve crowd-shipping operation. He is also keen on developing efficient optimization solutions for novel city logistics practices, such as autonomous vehicles and physical internet.

Yanling Zhuang is a fourth-year Ph.D. student in Management Science at Dalian University of Technology. She visited DeGroote School of Business, McMaster University during 2019-2021. Her primary research interests are in the fields of e-commerce and logistics management, especially the optimization in robotic mobile fulfillment systems.