

Katia Dilkina (she/her) – Candidate Statement

I am originally from Bulgaria, a small country in Eastern Europe. After completing the International Baccalaureate at the [United World College of the Adriatic](#) in Italy in 2000, I came to Canada with a full academic scholarship for my undergraduate interdisciplinary degree in [Cognitive Science](#) at [Simon Fraser University](#). I graduated with First Class Honours and was awarded the Dean's Convocation medal in 2004. I then continued my academic journey in the States, receiving my Ph.D. in [Cognitive Psychology](#) from the [Centre for the Neural Basis of Cognition](#) at [Carnegie Mellon University](#) in 2009.



After a range of research-focused and consultant positions, I became a sessional instructor in the Psychology Department at the [University of Victoria](#). I joined Open Learning at Thompson Rivers University in the spring of 2022 and have been increasingly more involved with the work and the community since then. I currently have four Psychology courses at TRU-OL and have been actively involved in course design and maintenance, as well as the creation of [an Open Education Resource](#). I have been a member of the OLFM Advisory Committee, the TRUOLFA AI committee, and a TRUOLFA representative at the [Human Rights and International Solidarity FPSE committee](#). I have been an active member of [the Senate](#) and the [Planning Council for Open Learning \(PCOL\)](#) for the past three years, and a member of [the Budget Committee of Senate \(BCOS\)](#) for over two years.

In addition to being a dedicated academic and educator, I am also the lucky and devoted parent of two thoughtful and kind teens, who are great fun to be around! I spend much of my off-work time solving puzzles and playing strategy boardgames with my son and supporting my daughter's creative and artistic interests.

Statement of intent:

The philosophy of Open Learning deeply resonates with me, and on a practical level I believe interest in this format of learning and education will only continue to grow. As a quality higher education institution, we need to strive to provide the flexible, accessible, and excellent learning experience that people seek. Continuing to grow and improve what TRU offers is my main motivation in wanting to continue as an Open Learning Teaching Staff representative for the Senate and the Planning Council for Open Learning.

I look forward to hearing your vision for TRU and working together to make it happen!