



Annual Report 2022-2023

Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology
Graduate Students' Association

<https://reessa.ualberta.ca/>

REESSA is a representative body of all graduate students in the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology. A crucial function of the REESSA is to increase student participation in department policy making. REESSA members elect a Board who are charged with the responsibility of holding regular meetings and maintaining financial records. At regular REESSA meetings, all members are invited to communicate student opinion on various matters regarding the Department, plan social events for graduate students, faculty, and staff, and elect members-at-large for various Department and University committees.

The main function of REESSA is to provide a framework that will allow organized administration of academic, political, and social interests of graduate students in the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology. Through this organization we hope to facilitate interactions between faculty, and graduate students, and enhance the quality of academic life. As such, the mandate of REESSA is three-fold:

1. To provide official representation for graduate students within and outside the department.
2. To promote the general welfare of graduate students.
3. To serve and further the intellectual, cultural, social, and recreational activities of graduate students.

REESSA operates at the University of Alberta, subject to University of Alberta policies and procedures. All graduate students are automatically considered members of the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) and are subject to the bylaws and regulations of the GSA. Each graduate department can elect one departmental councillor and appoint an alternate to the GSA. REESSA is expected to renew Student Group Services registration through Bearsden by the end of May each year. This group will also comply with all local, provincial, and federal laws and procedures.

Executive Board 2022–2023

Chair:	Julia Poissant
Vice-Chair/VP Sports:	Vaibhav Manawat
VP Finance:	Kamola Abdurasulova
VP Academic:	Michael Olufemi
VP Communications:	Ella Kim Marriott
VP External:	Innocent Katulunga
VP Social:	Abdul-Hamid Mohammed
Members at Large:	Jerico Fiesta Flores, Nimanthika Lokuge, Andu Berha, Muhammad Ibrahim Shah

Our Activities

Incoming Student Mentorship – July 15, 2022

The Graduate Chair, Brent Swallow sent out a message to incoming students to get in touch with REESSA if they would like to be partnered with a mentor to answer questions as they prepare to enter the program. We received 12 requests from students and paired them with members of REESSA. We shared the Guides to Edmonton and to REES and Grad School, as well as a new document focused on priorities for the First Week as a New Graduate Student.

Bevvies 1 – July 28, 2022

Continuing with the practice of meeting online, Bevvies was hosted on the REESSA Discord in the Bevvies voice channel. Students enjoyed a beverage of choice and discussed starting their thesis research.

Edmonton Heritage Festival – July 30, 2022

REESSA went to HeritageFest, the celebration of history, song, dance, and especially food of the many Alberta Based cultural groups. Split into 2 teams, the Missteaks and Weirdoughs, REES students competed in a photo scavenger hunt and tried lots of delicious delicacies.



Huan Chen, Julia Poissant, Abdul-Hamid Mohammed, and Nimanthika Lokuge eating whole fish from the Nigerian stall.



Hotaka Kobori, Marina Giannitsos, and Vaibhav Manawat eating pemmican.



Orientation – August 30, 2022

There is lots of information to transmit to new students. Besides letting them know about REESSA itself, Kamola also organized presentations from the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR), the Graduate Students' Association (GSA), the ALES Librarian, and the ALES Grad Team. She also booked the ALES Atrium for our pizza lunch, and then we went on a campus tour to the buildings where REES classes would be held.



REES Orientation Day 2022

Professors vs. Students Softball Game – September 2, 2022

What better way to get to know your new department than a bit of friendly competition? There were two softball teams:

Team 1: Sarah Brackett, John Parkins, Henry An, Brent Swallow, Marina Giannitsos

Team 2: Francis Wu, Julia Poissant, Hotaka Kobori, Vaibhav Manawat, and Michael Sydora

Team 2 won 13 - 12. They pulled ahead in the last inning thanks to an amazing catch by Vaibhav. In a rare and exciting change of pace, our team of students beat the team of professors! Go us!! Can you tell that it was one of the hottest days of the year at over 30°C?



Fall Volleyball Intramurals – September – December 2022

Team REES' Pieces made its return! REESSA covered 50% of the team registration cost as we believe in the connection between physical activity, mental wellbeing, and teamwork. How did the team do? They had fun and that's what counts!

Mentor-Mentee Meet-Up – September 21, 2022

As we start getting more comfortable with in-person events after Covid restrictions, we wanted to check in with our mentees and see how they are settling in. It was great to see so many new faces and get a dialogue going.

Bevvies 2 – September 29, 2022

Our last online Bevvies on Discord. Despite lots of interest, only a couple students joined in, so we knew that everyone now wanted in-person.

Halloween/Fall Bake Sale – November 2 & 3, 2022

A part of our events budget comes from the profit we get from bake sales. Setting up a table in the Agri/Forestry Building, we had vegan brownies and cookies, oreo rice krispies, croissants, bacon scones, and lemon meringue cupcakes. The first day unfortunately coincided with the first large snowfall of the year, but then we sold out on the second day!

Bevvies 3 – November 9, 2022

Right in the middle of Fall Reading Week, REESSA finally got together for in-person Bevvies at The Pint on Whyte. Over half price wings, we engaged in some lively discussion. It was nice to brave the cold and share some food and drinks!



REES Students at The Pint on Whyte: Julia Poissant, Kamola Abdurasulova, Vaibhav Manawat, Michael Sydora, Michael Huang, Abdul-Hamid Mohammed, Ella Kim Marriott, Sarah Brackett, Innocent Katulunga, Andu Berha.

REESearch Mingle – November 23, 2022

Back by popular demand, REESearch Mingle gets students and professors together to talk about research interests and upcoming projects. Michael reached out to students to pair them with professors in breakout rooms for three 15-minute rounds on Zoom. It goes by fast, but this is just to get the conversation started.

REES Heritage Night – November 26, 2022

This was THE event of the season! Not seen since 2019, we restated this REES tradition of celebrating the diversity and cultural heritage of the students of REES who come from all parts of the globe. It took months of planning and needed all REESSA members on board to pull it off. We met at the Strathcona Community League Hall for a potluck dinner,

drinks, and trivia. Prizes for trivia teams and the food popular vote were provided by the UAlberta Bookstore, Campus and Community Recreation, Healing Waters Spa, Sorellina Coffee, and the MLA for Edmonton-Riverview Lori Sigurdson. REESSA also presented awards to the faculty who attended.



Bevvies 4 – February 10, 2023

What better way to end a week than with fellow REES students at RATT? The view from the top is stunning, especially as the sun sets. Too bad that their Shirley Temples don't come with a cherry!



Valentine's Day Bake Sale – February 13 & 14, 2023

Time to rustle up some funds again. But this time we also supported the Pride Centre of Edmonton with 50% of our proceeds. We made a little bit more at this bake sale as we now have a Square terminal. This time we sold vegan cookies, cream puffs, Nutella cupcakes, Timmy's donuts, and hidden heart citrus loaf.

Moving into Second Year – March 9, 2023

Responding to the needs of the student body is what REESSA does! Many students had expressed anxiety and uncertainty over transitioning into the research portion of their studies. We held an info session in GSB 550 to walk through the steps and give advice.

Visiting Speaker Seminar: Dr. Emily Kennedy - March 24, 2023

Each year REESSA holds a vote to decide who our research seminar guest speakers will be. This year we also included faculty to be able to vote, although nominations still come directly from students. For sociology, we had REES alumna Dr. Emily Kennedy give a talk about her new book “Eco-types: Five Ways of Caring About the Environment”. This generated lively discussion during the seminar and at drinks after at the University Club.

Still To Come

End of Year Movie and Potluck– May 1, 2023

With so many eco-engaged students in our department, REESSA will mark the occasion of Earth Day and May Day with a documentary viewing of “Intelligent Trees” This will also be a potluck celebration to mark the end of exams. That is definitely a great reason to have a party!

Visiting Speaker Seminar: Dr. Katherine Wagner – May 19, 2023

For the economics guest seminar, Dr. Katherine Wagner from the University of British Columbia will present her research on "Technology Lock-In and Optimal Carbon Pricing".

Thank you for the amazing year!