



Tuesday March 23

10:00-11:30
Panel on Levinas and the Ethics of Care
Room 5B.16

Bettina Bergo, John Hunting, Anna Cook

Panel Abstract. In recent years health professionals have appealed to the ethics of care as a way of understanding what they do. Even more recently health professionals and ethical theorists have linked the ethics of care to the philosophy of the French philosopher Emmanuel Levinas. This panel looks at the ethics of care as a way of rethinking notions of justice and it looks at the fundamental change of perspective that Levinas' ethical theory might bring to this discussion. (Bettina Bergo is a philosophy professor at the Université de Montréal; John Hunting teaches Humanities at Dawson College; Anna Cook is a third year philosophy student at McGill University).

11:30-1:00
Soldiering in Kandahar, a Philosopher's Perspective
Room 5B.16

Derrick Farnham

Abstract. Explaining what goes on in a theatre of war is not easy, but not impossible. Understanding the explanation given is more difficult. Overcoming this near incommensurability will be achieved by giving those who seek to understand an appreciation of the difficulties of understanding. The task of being understood, and of appreciating the difficulties of understanding, will be attempted by concentrating on one single term, that of "school," and then of generalizing to others, such as hospital, "road", "government", "democracy", "war lord", "corruption," which are all conceived of in very different ways by Afghans and Canadians. (Derrick Farnham is currently serving as a Captain in the Canadian Armed Forces).

Tuesday, March 23

11:30-1:00
Thinking Critically about Global Militarism and the Appeal of Military Power
Room 5B.16

Pat Romano

Abstract. This talk will examine the nature of today's militarized world, and argues that any real effort towards demilitarization requires us to critically reflect on our emotionally-laden views about violence and the value of military power. The costs of our current militarized world are immense. However, we continue to have much faith in the effectiveness of military power to ensure our security. This belief rests in part on the view that there is no better alternative, but it is also rooted in our continued fascination with weapons and war. (Pat Romano teaches Humanities at Dawson College).

1:00-2:15
Music in Society: Songs of People, Protest and Progress
Room 5B.16

Beverly Sing and Leanne Bennett

Abstract. Folksong can be found in connection with many social movements. This paper will examine two of these: (1) Throughout the more than 40 year anti-apartheid struggle music played an important role in sustaining Black South Africans. (2) The "Singing Revolution" of Estonia. The Estonian folk song festival Laulupidu used music and poetry as an expression for self-determination between 1987 and 1991, when Estonians sought to free themselves from decades of Soviet occupation using non-violent means. (Leanne Bennett is chair of the Humanities/Philosophy Department at Dawson College. Beverly Sing is the coordinator of the Liberal Arts program at Dawson College).

Reproducing music, Producing Publics
Room 5B.16

Julie Cumming

Abstract. This paper will look at how new ways of preserving music have simultaneously produced new publics for music and new kinds of music. For example, music printing of polyphonic music (which began in 1501) made possible multiple new publics for music, most notably groups of amateur singers and players, who did not have the skills to copy music or the money to buy manuscripts. I will focus on developments in late medieval and early Renaissance music, but I will also look back at the origins of music notation and forward to the twentieth and twenty-first century technologies of recorded sound. (Julie E. Cumming teaches at McGill University where she is currently director of graduate studies for the Schulich School of Music).

2:30-3:45

Flora: Looking at Gardens with a Humanist's Eye
Room 5B.16

Susan Bayley

Abstract. This illustrated talk is a humanist's look at some of the gardens designed for the International Garden Festival (FLORA) held at the Old Port in Montreal in 2006. The designs were inspired by themes, which are the stock in trade of Humanities teachers, e.g., the past, present and future of the human condition; the cultivation of the spirit; the search for harmony and equilibrium; and the expression and appreciation of beauty. (Dr. Susan Bayley has recently retired from the Humanities Department at Dawson College).

The Russian Revolution of 1917:
Only of 'Academic' Interest?

Room 5B.16

Lars Lih

Abstract. The Russian revolution of 1917 led to the creation of a political regime that ended almost twenty years ago. While the Soviet Union existed and was perceived as the principal enemy of Western freedom, there was little argument about the usefulness and relevance of research into the events of 1917. Can we make the same claim today? There are two sets of reasons why the Russian revolution is still of more than academic interest. The first set is practical. The Russian revolution saw the birth of communism, one of the defining features of the twentieth century. The other set of reasons is more philosophical. A political regime that sets out to achieve utopia will inevitably lead to political tyranny. How valid is this lesson? (Lars T. Lih received his Ph.D. in Politics from Princeton University in 1984 and has published extensively on the early Soviet period).

4:00-5:15

Panel on Difference, equality, and the public in non-normative sexuality and gender experiences in North America and the Pacific.
Room 5B.16

Elisabeth L. Engebretsen, Anna Cook, Curtis Murphy, Kristin Flemons

Abstract. This panel presents perspectives on the study of non-normative sexuality and gender in contemporary societies, by way of presenting the final papers of three undergraduate students who took the class Queer Cultures: Sexual Meanings and Gender systems in a modern, global world at McGill's Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies (IGSF). Elisabeth L. Engebretsen, IGSF lecturer, chairs the panel and gives an introduction. Film Screening. Following this panel there will be a screening of the short film Hear me Out: as a Coming of Age: Stories for Schools and Equity and Inclusion produced by Anna Cook for COPA (centre ontarien de prévention des agressions) and the OTF (Ontario Teacher's Federation).

Wednesday, March 24

10:00-11:15
Panel on Place(s) and Space(s):
Who we were and who we become.
Room 5B.16

• What's the Point? Taking History Public

Jessica Mills

Abstract. Using my current research on Point Saint Charles, I'll address the ways that public history impacts people's understanding of place, memory, identity and community. This paper will look at some of the common forms of public history outside of museums (walking/bus tours, public commemorative events, films, etc.) and some of the new and exciting web-based forms of taking history out of academia. (Jessica J. Mills is a Master's student at Concordia).

• The Danube and the Devil's Wall - A Glimpse at the Roman Frontier in Bavaria and Austria.

Catherine Leisser

Abstract. Borders and 'walls' such as the Great Wall of China and Hadrian's Wall in Great Britain are symbols of frontiers known to most of the population. Archaeological and historical research on these famous monuments has contributed to a better understanding of the societies and events of the past. Less known to the general public is the Roman frontier boundary that existed in Bavaria and Austria. Research done on the boundary area in Bavaria and in Austria has revealed a great deal about Roman frontier history, politics, culture and daily life and its effects on the world since. (Catherine Leisser is currently enrolled in Classics (B.A. Honours - Classical Civilization) at Concordia University).

• Childhood'd Hidden Curriculum:
The Role of the School?

Frederika Eilers

Abstract. There is no universal childhood. There is no separating childhood from other post-modern themes of race, class, and family background. The educational system is a unifying conforming, cultural, (or sub-cultural) experience. It creates desirable qualities and attributes in the next generation of society. In this paper, I discuss how the built environment of a school portrays these qualities. (Frederika Eilers is a Master's Student at McGill University and an architect who has been doing research on children in public spaces).

11:30-1:00
Economics without Ecocide
Peter Brown (McGill University)

Peter Brown will challenge the foundations of the current economic order by showing that it cannot answer five simple questions: 1) What is the economy for? 2) How does it work? 3) How big should it be? 4) What is fair? And 5) How should it be governed? He will propose better answers based on the concept of "right relationship."

1:00-2:15

Rethinking Individualism: Conceptions of the Self

Room 5B.16

Susan-Judith Hoffmann

The Self Too Tight in its Skin

Bettina Bergo

(Bettina Bergo is a philosophy professor at the University of Montreal)

In this presentation I show how the notion of the self, as kernel of the personality, evolves from a religious notion of a detachable essence or soul, toward the idea of free rational deliberation and how this concept was contested in the 1930s by Emmanuel Levinas. Levinas addresses the problem of how to achieve a balance between self and community, without having the community, worse, the State, become the end and telos of the activities of our selves.

2:30-4:00

Shakespeare's Publics/Public Shakespeares

The Hamlet Effect:

How Shakespeare Made Modern Public Life.

Room 5B.16

Paul Yachnin. Respondents: Amanda Cockburn, Matt

Bergbusch, Greg McSweeney.

(Dr. Yachnin is the Tomlinson Professor of Shakespeare Studies in the McGill University Department of English. He is team leader of the McGill University Shakespeare and Performance Research Team and a founding member of the McGill Shakespeare Moot Court. Dr. Yachnin has published widely on subjects relating to Shakespeare and early modern public life).

4:00-5:15

When Scholars Speak Up:

from "Ivory Tower" to "Cult Wars":

The Dilemmas of Social Justice, Research Ethics and

Efficacy in a Controversial Field

Room 5B.16

Susan J. Palmer

Abstract. This paper addresses the question of whether academics in the controversial field of new religious movements should attempt to influence public attitudes towards/treatment of religious minorities. The paper is based on the personal experiences of this researcher as well as on case histories communicated by fellow researchers who have worked with lawyers, the FBI, Scotland Yard, and with the French and Chinese governments on cases involving various groups. These include Scientology, The Family, l'Ordre du Temple Solaire, Aum Shinrikyo, Satanic "cults", Falun Gong, Montana Freeman and the Branch Davidians of Waco. (Dr. Susan Palmer teaches in the Department of Religion at Dawson College and in the Religious Studies Department at Concordia University. Dr. Palmer has published extensively on the topic of new religions).

6:00-7:30

The Senses and Culture Boardroom

David Howes

After two exciting, packed-house talks on the Senses and the Arts and the Senses and the Sciences, SPACE is pleased to welcome Concordia professor and anthropologist of the senses David Howes to give the third and final talk in our series, this time on the theme of the Senses and Culture. The SPACE Talks, like all SPACE publications and events, are designed to be accessible and engaging to an general audience, so whatever your program or passion, come re-discover your Senses for the first time. SPACE also thanks the Humanities and Public Life conference for coordinating with this event. (David Howes is a Professor of Anthropology and Sociology and Concordia, and Director of the Concordia Sensoria Research Team (CONCERT). He teaches courses on law, commerce, aesthetics and the senses in cross-cultural perspective.)

Refreshments will be served.

SPACE's exploration of the Senses will continue with our Interdisciplinary Conference on Wednesday, April 7. For more information or to register, please visit SPACE through the Dawson homepage or at space.dawsoncollege.qc.ca

Thursday, March 25

10:00-11:15

Panel on Democracy, Religion and Public Life in

Contemporary Indonesia

Room 5B.16

• **Living Dangerously? Maybe Not:**

Democracy, Development and Terrorism in

Contemporary Indonesia.

Michael Wood

Ten years ago the news out of Indonesia was grim. Many spoke of the "break-up of Indonesia," and a future of religious radicalism. But today things look considerably brighter, with above average economic growth rates, a marked decrease in political violence and even some tentative, but real, attempts to tackle the endemic problem of corruption. Dr. Wood will examine the transition of Indonesia from its status a decade ago, as the next failed state, to the world's third largest democracy and one of Asia's economic success stories (Michael Wood is a faculty member of the Department of Humanities of Dawson College and is also currently teaching in the Department of Political Science of McGill University).

• **Freedom, Happiness, and Faith: My Indonesian Odyssey**

Daniel Goldsmith

Abstract. This presentation will focus on my personal interaction with Indonesia's religious traditions during my work with the McGill-Indonesia Social Equity Project in 2007. From a funeral where revelers slaughtered 25 water buffalos while praising Jesus, to a Hindu shaman who led me to a temple deep inside a mangrove, I will reflect on the persistence of animist beliefs in contemporary Indonesian religion. (Daniel Goldsmith teaches Humanities at Dawson College).

• **The nature of "religiosity" in Indonesia**

Philip Buckley

Abstract. Indonesia can be seen as an example of a country with a culture that remains deeply religious but is not (generally) opposed to modernity and not (generally) dogmatic. To understand "public life" in Indonesia you have to understand something about the concept and role of religion in that part of the world. (Philip Buckley is a Professor of Philosophy at McGill and is currently the head of the McGill Indonesia Project).

11:30-12:45

Does Intellectual Property Law Matter?

Room 5B.16

Tina Piper

Abstract. This presentation will consider the how groups and individuals create, share and get rewarded for their ideas and expression. It will consider how these intellectual property norms, practices and laws are changing with new technologies, encompassing commons licensing initiatives like Creative Commons that are transforming creative industries and endeavour. (Tina Piper is an Assistant Professor at McGill's Faculty of Law and Research Director of the Centre for Intellectual Property Policy).

1:00-2:15

Speaking the Commonwealth: Oratory and

Conversation as Competing Models of Public Life in the

America of Emerson, Whitman, and Melville

Room 5B.16

Peter Gibian

Abstract. In mid-nineteenth-century America, ambitious writers in the line of Emerson envisioned the ideal "poet" not as an isolated voice at the margins of society but as a central public figure doing crucial cultural work. The "poet" was imagined as a para-political "representative," and "poetry" was seen as politics by other means-not only reflecting collective life but bringing it into being, embodying its possibilities. Seeking to develop a new, revitalized literature to serve as a representative expression of their emerging culture, many aspiring authors hoped to tap into the powerful dynamics of two modes of spoken verbal expression and oral performance that had become pervasive in the era's public life and popular culture: oratory and conversation. (Peter Gibian is Associate Professor in the English Department at McGill University).

2:30-3:45

Panel on Justice and Punishment in Popular Culture

Room 5B.16

Yaëll Emerich, Desmond Manderson, Leigh Yetter

Abstract. How are ideas of law and justice expressed beyond the courtroom? How do literature and language help us understand law and popular culture? Can law be understood through literature? What is 'popular culture' and how does the relationship between popular culture and law inform our understanding of these two forms of authority? The presentations for this panel address the articulation of ideas of law and justice, and the representation of crime and punishment through contemporary art, literature, and other media from the seventeenth century to the present. (Yaëll Emerich is Assistant Professor in the McGill Faculty of Law. Desmond Manderson is a Professor and Associate Dean in the McGill Faculty of Law. Leigh Yetter is Associate Director of the Institute for the Public Life of Arts and Ideas also at McGill University).

4:00-5:15

Documents of the Dead:

"Reality Horror," Crisis and Archival Anxiety

Room 5B.16

Kristopher Woofter

Abstract. This study looks at a tendency in recent horror films to employ documentary aesthetics to manifest a frenzied spectator overwhelmed by the urge to capture reality as a visual document. The "archival anxiety" I describe in this study is a submission to spectacle that defines a contemporary subject lost in a virtual reality-a contemporary phantasmagoria that threatens to engulf the subjects struggling to make sense of it. I will discuss how contemporary horror cinema has meshed documentary styles with the gothic and fantastic-with its attendant ambivalence to, and disruption of, the "real"-to respond to an uncanny sense of millennial crisis with respect to a burgeoning digital archive. (Kristopher Woofter currently teaches in the English Department at Dawson College, and is working on his Ph.D. in Film and Moving Image Studies at Concordia University).

Dawson Student Panel: American Gothic Subjectivity:

Spectral Natives, Caribbean Zombies and the Haunted

Nation.

Room 5B.16

Amber Conchatre, Nicholas Nadeau,

Melanie Josepovici, Stacey Yunger

Abstract. This session is made up of students from Kris Woofter's Fall 2009 English course on the American Gothic. The panel takes a critical look at the concepts of "home" and "nation" in literature, television and film from the United States and literature from the Caribbean. The four student presenters take a postcolonial perspective in exploring the idea of American subjectivity as essentially "haunted" and disturbed by the uncanny sense of their shaky claims to "stolen" land. The session will be moderated by Kris Woofter.