

HUMANITIES & PUBLIC LIFE CONFERENCE **Reconsiderations**

September 18-22, 2017 Dawson College

All sessions in 5B.16 unless otherwise indicated

Monday, September 8th

8:30–9:45 a.m.

Education or Entertainment: Assessing the Data on Learning

Mariam Sambe, Humanities Department, Dawson College

A growing number of teachers are incorporating entertainment in their classrooms in the goal of increasing students' attention, motivation, and achievement. Several studies have illustrated that the use of entertainment increases students' interest and motivation to participate, but when it comes to the actual interest to learn—not just to play—and more specifically, the outcome in students' learning, there are still some debates. This paper is a systematic review using a meta-analysis approach with the objective of addressing the effectiveness of edutainment (also known as educational entertainment) on students' learning. It reports on the results of 13 selected studies that compared edutainment to traditional education. The findings of this meta-analysis will be presented at the conference, as well as recommendations for further research on edutainment.

Mariam Sambe is a youth worker and educator, with a special focus on critical pedagogy and AIDS education. She has been involved in the field of education for about 15 years and has worked in all levels from preschool to university. She has managed several educational programs and services in Ethiopia, France, the United States and Canada. Currently she is a PhD Candidate in Educational Studies at Concordia University and a Humanities Professor at Dawson College. Mariam has dedicated most of her life to humanitarian and charitable organizations; particularly those benefiting children and youth, and that promote education. In 1999, she was the co-founder and president of an association named *Welfare by Teenagers* that assisted orphans and homeless youths. In 2007, she launched *Sponsor Ethiopia* to support underprivileged children with needs such as shelter, food, clothing and education. Mariam is also the Founder and Chair of *Academy of Bright Africans*, a holistic school that is set to be launched this year.



Monday, September 18th

10:00–11:15 a.m.

Ending Modern Day Slavery at a Local Level

**Stéphanie Ricard (Executive, Juvenile Prostitution Intervention Project),
Dwane Connors (En Marche! Subject Matter Expert), Jennifer Dellar, (Project Coordinator for En Marche!)**

While pathways to Freedom are subtle and tend to be riddled with pitfalls, Modern Slavery comes in many guises and remains hidden in plain sight. So how can we stop this madness? Can the private sector, governments and civil society work together on effecting lasting change? Defined in nature and scope, the magnitude and footprint of this invisible plague will be exposed within a perspective that encourages us to 'Think globally, Act locally' - providing a few tips on some important elements to re-consider when choosing to put an end to Modern Slavery.

Stéphanie Ricard is an Executive for the PlaMP, which stands for Projet d'intervention auprès des mineur(e)s prostitué(e)s [Juvenile Prostitution Intervention Project]. She is a trained technician in Delinquency Response, also acknowledged for her professional experience in Special Education, with Marie-Victorin College. Ms. Ricard has been working on the frontlines of street intervention for 15 years with populations experiencing addictions and involved with prostitution, such as the homeless, street gangs and youth. She devotes her attention to maximizing empowerment, respect, and dignity for the marginalized. In addition to her intervention efforts with PlaMP colleagues on the territory, the team is also called to provide guidance and support to a variety of stakeholders throughout Greater Montreal. Stephanie considers her outreach to be more than just a job; she views her humanistic approach as an invaluable tool for considering each individual as they truly are, while helping them make their own choices.

Dwane Connors is a forensic criminologist with 29 years' experience with service in the military, police, and the United Nations, most notably with the International War Crimes Tribunal and The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. He holds a Master of Science Degree in Criminology from the University of Leicester in the United Kingdom and a Master of Science Degree equivalency in Criminal Justice from the University of Toronto. Mr. Connors is also certified in criminal intelligence analysis with the RCMP. His areas of expertise include organised crime and human trafficking, security management and counter terrorism, as well as police reform and anti-corruption. He has served in the former Yugoslavia, throughout the African continent, and more recently in Afghanistan. Mr. Connors has led a team of investigators and research experts who wrote an investigative report for the South African National Prosecuting Authority on human trafficking syndicates and victim profiling in the Southern African Development Community.

Jennifer Dellar is the project coordinator for En Marche! As one of several facilitators of the Freedom Relay Canada in Montreal since its inception in 2011, she continues to help establish collaboration between various stakeholders in the field. Jennifer's education in Environmental Sciences and International Cooperation provides for the sustainability lens essential to the organization's long-term objectives.

Monday, September 18th

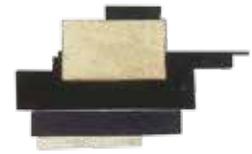
12:00–12:45 p.m.

S.P.A.C.E: Reconsidering Entropy

Andrew Katz, English Department, Dawson College

While ENTROPY—the measure of disorder in a system—begins as a concept in physics, it is also a powerful framework of interpretation across the disciplines. S.P.A.C.E. (Sciences Participating with Arts and Culture in Education) will discuss how its 2017-2018 theme ENTROPY invites reconsiderations in a broad range of contexts: social, political, cultural, psychological, economic, ecological, aesthetic, creative, and scientific, among others, and will outline ways students can experiment with ideas and share their work through S.P.A.C.E. in the year ahead.

Andrew Katz teaches in the English and Creative Writing Department at Dawson and has been a coordinator for S.P.A.C.E. for the past eight years.



Monday, September 18th

1:00–2:15 p.m.

Indigenous world views for a better understanding of the Sacred Balance

**Nadine St-Louis, Sacred Fire Productions and Ashukan Cultural Space,
Presentation cosponsored with Dawson Peace Week**

How we can reconsider the idea of Sustainable Peace as something that is an ideal that can be made real through thinking outside the traditional western capitalist perspective? How can Indigenous perspectives help make Sustainable Peace a reality? This presentation will explore issues of Sustainable Peace and development through an Indigenous lens.

Nadine St-Louis is an Aboriginal Entrepreneur of Mi'kmaq and Acadian heritage. She has over 25 years of business experience in management, community development and governance and has been an important leader in the development of Aboriginal economy through arts and culture in Quebec, Canada and abroad through cultural productions and innovative business models.

Entrepreneur, speaker and workshop facilitator, Nadine St-Louis is the founder and Executive Director of Sacred Fire Productions, a non-profit Aboriginal Arts Organization (2012) and has launched the ASHUKAN Cultural Space, a cultural incubator for active inclusion of Aboriginal arts and culture located in Old Montreal.

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Monday, September 18th

2:30–3:45 p.m.

Slasher Theory—Reassessing an Undervalued Subgenre

Chair/Provocateur: Kristopher Woofter, Dawson College, Miskatonic Institute of Horror Studies

This panel of five presenters from Montréal's Miskatonic Institute of Horror Studies rethinks the Slasher film—a source of moral panic in the UK, and perpetually snubbed as exploitative trash everywhere else—through new theoretical approaches. Working with Alfred Hitchcock's 1960 masterpiece, *Psycho*, as an urtext, each instructor will briefly trace a Slasher genealogy extending from *Psycho*'s monstrous feminine(s) through a host of the subgenres most influential (or notorious) entries. **Kristopher Woofter** situates the hugely underrated *Friday the 13th, Part 2* (1981), within the folkloric traditions and the monstrous feminine constructs that inspired it; **Cory Legassic** re-examines the universally reviled *A Nightmare on Elm Street 2: Freddy's Revenge* (1985) from the perspective of queer theory; and **Jay Shea** negotiates new critical territory for the notoriously trans-phobic *Sleepaway Camp* (1983) with a focus on liminality.

All three presenters are CEGEP instructors from John Abbott and Dawson Colleges. The Miskatonic Institute of Horror Studies in Montreal is a non-profit, community-based curriculum through which established horror writers, directors, scholars and programmers/curators celebrate horror history and culture while helping enthusiastic fans of the genre to gain a critical perspective.



Monday, September 18th

4:00–5:15 p.m.

The shape of your skull: The rise and decline of scientific racism

Eliza Wood, Humanities Department, Dawson College

Samuel Morton, a 19th century Philadelphia physician, had a personal collection of over 1,000 human skulls. He maintained this collection in an attempt to prove that the races are separate and unequal species. Morton was far from alone. The science of phrenology, or measuring of the head, was once widely used to determine intelligence, personality, likelihood of criminal behaviour, morality, and many other character traits. “Scientists” (or more accurately, pseudoscientists) conducted questionable experiments and came to a number of wild conclusions about the so-called races of the world. While they often disagreed over the particulars, they agreed on one conclusion: the white race was superior. Slaveowners and empire builders used these conclusions to justify their oppression. “Science” absolved them of their role in the brutal, gut-wrenching, human misery they inflicted. Instead, racial hierarchy was mandated by nature. Science had justified racism. Today, we know these scientists came to disastrously incorrect conclusions. We have seen the results of the Human Genome Project which categorically disprove the existence of separate and distinct races, stating instead that we are far more alike than we are different. Despite the reconsideration of the validity of scientific racism, there are many who are still convinced by its conclusions. In this talk we will explore the rise and decline of scientific racism and examine its survival today.

Eliza Wood is a teacher in the Dawson College Humanities Department. Raised in the United States, she came to Montreal to obtain undergraduate and graduate degrees from McGill University in history and political science with focuses on 20th-century international relations, the Second World War, and early American history. She currently teaches courses on equality and race, communist world views, and the ethics of resistance.

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Tuesday, September 19th

10:00–11:15 a.m.

Ethical Consumerism

Nikki Schiebel, Presentation cosponsored with Dawson Peace Week

Almost every day, each one of us is faced with choices that can have an impact on the environment. Do I buy a new phone? Should I take a trip? What will I eat today? This workshop will examine how our own choices affect the environment, as well as the people living in those local environments. What role does each of us have in making responsible choices that mitigate the impact on the planet and cultures? What choices might we make instead if we were conscious of what was happening elsewhere? This workshop will explore some of the alternative consumption options available (fair trade, bulk buying, swaps, etc). We will cover easy habits that one can adopt to reduce one’s impact on the planet (composting, carbon credits, etc). And we will learn to ask ourselves, “is that item needed, or is it just a passing fancy that will be discarded”. It is possible to live an informed, guilty-free, happy life while still having most of the material things that we want!



Nikki Schiebel became interested in the environment after completing her studies in fashion design, having realized just how wasteful the fashion industry can be. She took some time off from studying to work in the Department of First Nations & Inuit Education at McGill University, first as a secretary and ultimately as an academic advisor. After taking time to reassess her career goals, she reduced her work hours at McGill and attended the University as a mature student, obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Biology, a journey which taught her about environmental issues. Determined to positively influence people's behavior towards the environment, she pursued a master's degree in Environmental Education. As part of her coursework, she developed a volunteer environmental education program that helps students at the McGill School of the Environment gain classroom experience.

In May 2007, she became the Coordinator of the Éco-quartier NDG. Nikki is drawn to this work because it gives her the opportunity to teach aspects of the environment and to discuss these aspects with the citizens of NDG. She feels that she learns a lot from them, too! This work is rewarding to her because she gets to see firsthand the changes that residents make in their lives to affect their environment in a positive way. She also feels privileged to work with all of the volunteers who give their time to the cause.

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Tuesday, September 19th

11:30–12:45 p.m.

The Evolution of Mental Health Services: Challenges, Experiences and Opportunities

Collective Community Services

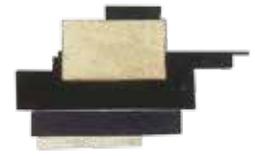
Join us for a discussion panel on the evolution of mental health services at the community-based, hospital, and institution level. This panel will give a history of how mental health services have changed over the years, and what that means for individuals seeking help. It will also discuss how to eliminate mental health stigma in school and the workplace. The panel will be composed of a community-based mental health organization, service user, and representative from the public health institution, providing a diverse viewpoint on mental health care. This panel also hopes to provide a networking opportunity and information session for students looking to pursue careers in this sector, as the panelists will be able to describe what it is like to work in mental health care.

Angela Murphy Coordinator for Projet Pal, a community-based mental health support service offering drop in programming, supported housing and advocacy for people living with mental illness. Projet Pal is based in Verdun and primarily serves patients of the Douglas hospital. Angela has been working in the community for many years and has a unique perspective: she will be presenting the topic of reconsidering mental health services: Past, Present and Future examining the implications of the deinstitutionalisation of people with mental illness led to the development of community-based services and how inconsistent funding leads to challenges in providing consistent services for vulnerable people.

Robert Felick has been an administrator on the Board of directors of Projet P.A.L. for seven years and president for the past five. He is also a participant member (client) of the organization. Robert has lived with a mental health challenge since the age of 16. He had a successful career in sales until he had a mental health breakdown in 2000. He was hospitalized at the Douglas institute for five months and eventually moved to Projet P.A.L.'s transition home. Upon his recovery Robert began to volunteer at Projet P.A.L. and eventually joined the Board of Directors. He is a stalwart spokesperson for alternative practices in community mental health and recovery.

Jason Finucan is a professional business speaker, consultant and expert on the stigma surrounding mental illness. He developed his innovative, 3-tier *stigmaZERO Workplace Program* in order to help clients reduce the cost of workplace mental illness and improve productivity – all while working towards a future without stigma. Jason founded *stigmaZERO* to open people's minds up to the reality of stigma. Having experienced both a major physical and mental illness, he has first-hand experience of how negative – and truly unnecessary – stigma could be. Jason's hope is to empower employers to overcome this challenge, which is the key to better managing mental illness and ultimately reducing the associated lost productivity.

Kelly Boutilier is project coordinator for Collective Community Services. Presently, we are partnered with McGill on a project aimed at retaining bilingual professionals in mental health services.



Tuesday, September 19th

1:00–2:15 p.m.

Art, Love, and the Russian Revolution: A Novelist's Perspective

Jocelyn Parr, History Department, Dawson College

This panel will focus on Jocelyn Parr's new novel, *Uncertain Weights and Measures*, the story of two lovers, Sasha and Tatiana, set in the aftermath of the Russian Revolution. The 1920s were an era of unparalleled freedom for artists, thinkers, and scientists; a freedom that would disappear before the end of the decade. The book captures the tension and excitement of the era, in both its imaginative expansiveness and a sense of foreboding that never seemed to go away. Sasha and Tatiana move through this time cognizant of the fact that they are living in history, yet their interpretations of it couldn't be more different.

In this session, Jocelyn Parr will read a few short sections of the book, and will discuss the process of writing historical fiction. She will talk about her sources, about what she felt she could safely invent, and how she thinks that all writing, even writing about the past, is really about the era in which it is written. With Trump's election and the surge of right-wing politics in Europe, the fear of a renewed era of fascism came upon us just as she was writing Stalin into power. In this sense, her book about proto-fascist USSR is infused with the anxieties we feel about the political landscape today.

Jocelyn Parr was born in New Zealand, but grew up on Canada's West Coast. Her writing has been published in France, Germany, and Canada and in magazines such as *Matrix*, *Grain*, and *Brick Magazine*. She now lives in Montreal, where she teaches history at Dawson College.

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Tuesday, September 19th

2:30–3:45 p.m.

U.S. Foreign Relations in a World of Jazz and Hip Hop

Shanon Fitzpatrick, Department of History, McGill University

Over the last twenty years, the study of international relations, once the domain of diplomatic historians and political scientists, has been transformed by a focus on popular culture. This presentation explores how the global popularity of African American music, especially jazz and hip hop, has forced historians to reconsider the relationship between U.S. power in the world and American mass cultural forms. Drawing on examples from the 1920s, the early Cold War, and the post-September 11th era, it analyzes how travelling African American performers used their international popularity to reconfigure American politics and influence U.S. foreign relations.

Shanon Fitzpatrick is an Assistant Professor of History at McGill University. Her research focuses on mass media and the relationship between the United States and the World in the twentieth century.



Tuesday, September 19th

4:00–5:15 p.m.

Arabic for Beginners: Israel-Palestine, Motherhood, and the Ethics of Writing Fiction

Ariela Freedman, Liberal Arts College, Concordia University

When Hannah accompanies her husband and small children to Jerusalem for the year, she becomes fascinated with a group of expat women at her son's daycare, as well as a young Palestinian woman named Jenna. As she grows close to Jenna she starts to question her own marriage and her relationship to Israel. A novel of domestic and political ambivalence, *Arabic for Beginners* is about marriage, motherhood, friendship, nation, and the complicated ways we think of home. In this session, Ariela Freedman will discuss the development of this work; one that author Heather O'Neill calls "A quiet and exquisite portrait of a group of mothers in Israel. Freedman brilliantly captures the existential and alienated state that mothers of young children inhabit."

Ariela Freedman was born in Brooklyn and has lived in Jerusalem, New York, Calgary, London, and Montreal. Her reviews and poems have appeared in *Vallum*, *carte blanche*, *The Cincinnati Review* and other publications, and she was selected to participate in the Quebec Writers' Federation's 2014 Mentorship Program. She has a Ph.D. from New York University and teaches literature at Concordia's Liberal Arts College in Montreal, where she lives with her husband and two sons. *Arabic for Beginners* is her first novel.

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Tuesday, September 19th

7:00–9:00 p.m.

New School presents University of the Streets: Local Successes and Big Picture Shifts: How will we know when change has happened?

Moderator: Susan Edey, Speakers: Eric Abitbol, Tatiana Fraser

Please note that this session takes place in the 8B lounge

Sustained commitments progressively lead to new ways of being in the world yet few of us will see our individual actions yield to large-scale shifts. In relation to this, how do we (can we) name impact in our work? How do questions of scale (and scalability) matter when we attempt to promote social transformation? This conversation will consider our relationship to change and we reconcile our individual commitments to positive impact, to a broader frame of reference. Is it enough to lead a life well-led?

Susan Edey puts her skills in organizing, connecting and communicating to work in her role as Community Relations Coordinator for the Office of Community Engagement at Concordia.

Dr. Eric Abitbol is a conflict transformation, sustainability, dialogue and evaluation practitioner, theorist and innovator with more than 20 years of experience. He specializes in environmental peacebuilding assessment, conflict sensitivity analysis and Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment (PCIA), strategic and participatory planning, and multi-sectoral process design, facilitation and mediation. Dr. Abitbol has been involved in environmental peacebuilding initiatives throughout much of his career. He has extensive knowledge of, and experience in water development, management and governance as a strategy, practice and tool of peacebuilding. A passionate methodologist, he also has notable expertise in the areas of youth and armed conflict, food security, energy, tourism, civil society, and the cultivation of Communities of Practice.



Tatiana Fraser is creating change by transforming the way citizen organizations work with girls and young women to be more effective and impactful. Tatiana empowers young women to face the challenges in their lives by building on their strengths, giving them the tools, space, and encouragement they need to contribute their knowledge and skills to their communities. Through her national network, she is reaching girls in remote, urban and Northern communities, and increasing social actions led by them.

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Wednesday, September 20th

8:30–9:45 a.m.

Right-Wing Populism in Transition: From Thatcher to Trump

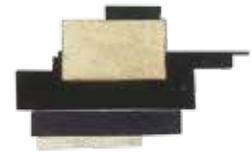
Sean Elliott, Humanities Department, Dawson College; Paul Sahni, Sociology Department, Dawson College

Culture theorist Stuart Hall, with some controversy, described U.K. prime minister Margaret Thatcher as an authoritarian populist. It was 1980s; the dawn of the neo-liberal phase of globalization. Britain was in a long term economic decline, and Thatcher's authoritarian populism, which we can define as a discursive practice instead of an ideology, ruptured traditional political alliances and significantly changed the political and ideological landscape. Since then, visible practitioners of AP have included Ronald Reagan, and more recently in Canada, Rob Ford and Stephen Harper. The purpose of this presentation is to establish whether the practice of authoritarian populism can be used to understand Donald Trump and his rise to power in the 2016 American election. We will as well examine whether authoritarian populism has been adapted to challenge the neo-liberal phase of globalization and possibly usher in an entirely new phase in our global narrative.

The populist upsurge and demagoguery behind Donald Trump's presidential ascension are examined in light of Max Weber's perennial and unparalleled theory of charisma. More specifically, this paper examines how the latter's concomitant conceptions are both undermined and extended by the case at hand. Looking beyond Weber's well-known – but limited precisely owing to its facile popularity – notion of a 'personal gift of grace', his lesser known but, in the present context, more significant notions of the charisma of reason and oration are developed, as is his paramount yet lamentably under-examined reference to the reigning social situation. Special attention is therefore given to the somatic and rhetorical dimensions of Trump's performativity.

Paul Sahni was born and raised in Montreal to Indian and Dutch immigrants. Went to Vanier College, this very poor student eventually graduated in general studies. Still by far more interested in skateboarding than anything else, I entered Concordia's sociology program, as it was the only one that would accept me. It would not be long, however, before I fell in love with a discipline that excluded nothing. This eventually led me to do my PhD on German sociology at McGill and teach at Concordia and The University of New Brunswick before coming to Dawson.

Sean Elliott joined the Dawson Team in 2001. Born in Montreal, and raised in Kingston, Sean was addicted to the blues and spent more time with his guitar than his studies as a high school student. Thanks to his amazing parents, friends and encouraging professors at Queen's, he pursued political studies at Queen's and Carleton, with a keen interest in theories of development and history, ideology and political economy. He has presented papers & published in Hungary and Turkey. Before joining Dawson, Sean taught ESL and lived the life of a blues guitarist, playing gigs and residing in Toronto, South Korea, Kingston and Montreal. He spends his free time playing the blues, cooking, reading and fly-fishing. Sean loves teaching at Dawson College because of the perfect balance between having stimulating colleagues and having energetic students who are spreading their wings and discovering the world.



Wednesday, September 20th

10:00–11:15 a.m.

Queer Media Database Film and Video Screening

Queer Media Database Canada-Québec

This panel will present a program of short film and video works from the Canadian, Québec, and First Nations corpus that speak to realities of LGBT2Q history, transgender and Two Spirit identities, as well as the experiences of queer people of colour (QPOC). Our selection includes material by queer video artists such as Jason Lem, Mirha-Soleil Ross, Nancy Nicol, Deanna Bowen, Thirza Cuthand, 2fik, and exciting new works by First Nations youth produced by Wapikoni Mobile. The screening will be followed by a Q&A and open discussion about the artists, themes, and social impact behind these artworks.

The goal of the **Queer Media Database Canada-Québec** Project is to maintain a dynamic and interactive online catalogue of LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer) Canadian film, video and digital works, their makers, and related institutions. Our website, MEDIAQUEER.CA is a bilingual online research and curatorial tool that provides free access to researchers, students, artists, academics, curators, cinephiles, critics, and community members to a rich array of art historical and biographical information about queer moving image works from the 1930s to today looking to program, enjoy, and explore hundreds of works from this diverse encyclopedia. Based on Thomas Waugh's *The Romance of Transgression* (McGill-Queens, 2006), the database is the result of years of research, much of which is referenced on this site. We work with colleges and festivals in Canada and around the world to research works, artists, and entities to be added to the Database, as part of our mission to continually update this research resource as a tool for curation, exhibition, enjoyment, and knowledge dissemination about this significant heritage.

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Wednesday, September 20th

11:30–12:45 p.m.

“People talking without speaking”: Reconsidering Silence in the Cambodian Diaspora in Canada

Pharo Sok, Department of History, Dawson College; PhD student, Concordia University

In studies about the Cambodian diaspora in Canada and the United States, scholars often highlight the prevalence of silence within the family unit, particularly when it comes to the Khmer Rouge years, and often point to trauma as the root cause. Meanwhile, mass violence, victimization, and *The Killing Fields* (1984) dominate mainstream portrayals of Cambodia and Cambodians in North America. Against the backdrop of a “loud” image of the Khmer refugee in the public imagination and seemingly quiet family and community members, this presentation explores storytelling and intergenerational transmission amongst Cambodian Montrealers to reveal the limits and possibilities of silence as an analytical frame of analysis. Using my own experience of delving into my family’s past in Cambodia as a narrative thread, I examine the potentials offered by oral history interviewing, the use of graffiti as a mode of memory-making, and the stories that we make in the presence of silence.

Pharo Sok is a PhD student in History at Concordia University and teacher in Dawson College’s History Department. His research examines how Cambodian Montrealers have remembered a broad range of lived experiences through oral history interviews, community activities, and cultural and artistic practices. Furthermore, it also investigates how they have been remembered by Canadians and Quebecois in political debates surrounding refugees, national and provincial histories, and popular culture in both official languages. By exploring these multiple discourses produced from individual to state levels, he hopes to reveal new ways of understanding Cambodian Canadian histories that simultaneously encompass past experiences of genocide under the Khmer Rouge, and future aspirations for the diasporic population.



Wednesday, September 20th

1:00–2:15 p.m.

Beyond Words: Reconciliation in Practice

Waneek Horn-Miller, Olympian, Storyboot Project, and APTN

Waneek Horn-Miller works and travels extensively throughout the Indigenous world. Through her work as a sports commentator for CBC and APTN, Waneek has become a community advocate for sport, fitness and wellness. She also has traveled extensively throughout North America as a motivational speaker. As one of Canada's few Indigenous Olympians, Waneek has used her passion and experiences in sport to influence Indigenous and non-indigenous leadership towards making Sport and Wellness a community building priority. Waneek is currently working as the brand ambassador for the Indigenous owned footwear company Manitobah Mukluks, and is the director of the Storyboot Project, a program that supports traditional artist by selling their work for art prices world wide, and the running of storyboot schools, where the art of mukluks and moccasin making is passed onto the next generation. She is Creator and host of Working it Out Together on APTN.

• • • • • KEYNOTE PRESENTATION • • • • •

Wednesday, September 20th

2:30–4:00 p.m.

Women's Sport and the Politics of Veiling in the Islamic Republic of Iran and FIFA/IOC

Homa Hoodfar, Department of Anthropology, Concordia University

The recent revisions of required dresscodes for women's sportswear by major international sport organizations particularly International Federation of Football Association (FIFA), allowing the use of the veil and other modifications to competitive sportswear to accommodate pious Muslim women's demands, have been celebrated as a victory for 'multiculturalism' and in particular for Muslim women. There was a vibrant buzz amongst Muslim communities in Europe and North America, even among those who had never used Islam and religion as the markers of their identity or engaged in sport. However many in the North America and Europe were astonished at the news that many women from Muslim majority societies particularly Iranian were only half-heartedly celebrating these victories that they had fought so hard to secure. The paper, by reviewing the debates in Iran—the major bastion of campaigns for these reforms and where sport has emerged as a vociferous contestation arena where public/gender politics is played on—presents some of the complexity that has escaped the transnational public and proponents of democratization of international sport.

Homa Hoodfar is Professor of Anthropology at Concordia University, Montreal. Her primary research and expertise lies in legal and political anthropology. She examines the intersection of political economy; gender and citizenship rights; women's formal and informal politics, gender and public sphere in Muslim contexts. She has extensively studied survival and empowerment strategies in those communities marginalised by legal constraints particularly in the area of family law and citizenship in Egypt, Iran, Afghanistan, and in Canada's Muslim community. Dr. Hoodfar has also been actively involved in the Women Living Under Muslim Laws Network since the 1980s. Her publications include: *Sexuality in Muslim Contexts: Restrictions and Resistance* (Edited). London: Zed Books (2012) (with Anissa Helie); *Electoral Politics: Making Quotas work for women* (with Mona Tajali). London: Women Living Under Muslim Laws (2011); *The Muslim Veil in North America: issues and debates* (Edited) with Sajida Alvi, and Sheila McDonough, Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press (2003). *Between Marriage and the Market*, Berkeley: University of California Press (1997); and numerous articles based on her different research projects.



Wednesday, September 20th

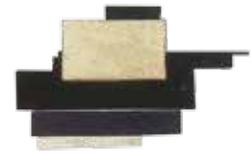
4:00-5:15 p.m.

Are You a Moral Vegetarian, a Vegan, an Ethical Meat Eater, or None?

Nadia Khouri, Humanities Department, Dawson College

The past 50 years have seen heated debates between vegetarians and meat eaters. Strict vegetarianism, a diet where no use is made of animal products has grown in popularity in the West since animal welfare activist Ruth Harrison wrote *Animal Machines* in 1964, and utilitarian philosopher Peter Singer published his best seller *Animal Liberation* in 1975. Both were inspired by 18th century philosopher Jeremy Bentham who argued that animals are *sentient* beings with the ability to feel, suffer and perceive things. Therefore we owe them moral and even legal consideration. There are different types of vegetarians, both moral and non-moral: there are health vegetarians, religious vegetarians, economic vegetarians, ecological vegetarians, vegans, fruitarians, ovo-vegetarians, lacto-vegetarians, ovo-lacto-vegetarians, and semi-vegetarians some of whom are flexitarians, pesco-vegetarians and pollo-vegetarians. Ethical meat eaters agree with moral vegetarians that animal welfare must be taken into consideration, but they disagree with them that animal suffering is a sufficient reason to warrant a ban on meat eating or restriction of animal consumption to some animals only. They focus on organic farming and the painless culling of animals. They call on veterinarians to ensure laws against cruelty to animals are systematically applied, and they even collaborate with vegetarians in tracking the environmental impact on meat production. The result has been an interesting cross-pollination of the various positions, as many vegetarians switched to meat eating and many meat eaters became vegetarians, with the largest group adopting a flexitarian diet. Are we witnessing a paradigm shift in farming, agriculture, food production and eating habits? Or do the old guiltless ways of binge animal eating die hard?

Nadia Khouri, Ph.D. McGill, is a freshly retired Humanities teacher who taught Ethics for many years but still contributes to the academic life of Dawson. She's a foodie but she won't tell you if she's a vegetarian foodie or a meat-eating one.



Wednesday, September 20th

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Survivor Stories

It Happens Here Initiative, Dawson College

Please note that this panel takes place at OLIVER's (2C.17) and contains frank discussion of sexual assault

We strongly believe that sexual assault stories need to be heard. By ending the silence, we force ourselves to witness the harms that result from sexual violence in our communities, and we remind survivors that they are not alone. Without such open discussion, there can be little hope for change. Students and staff from Dawson College have submitted their stories of sexual assault through the *It Happens Here* initiative. We have invited those willing to share their stories through a public reading to the conference today. Some will read their own stories, others will have it read by another, and multimedia and/or anonymous submissions will be published on our website for your future consultation. Please note, this panel will include difficult subject matter.

Kim Simard is at once a filmmaker, teacher, artist and community activist. With a Master's degree in Film Production from Concordia University, Kim has worked and volunteered all over the world and is committed to using media as a tool for community development and empowerment. Her films have been screened internationally, and her engagement with community development has lead her to work in collaboration with national and international NGOs, educational institutions and grassroots initiatives. She currently teaches in the Cinema-Communications Profile at Dawson college where she also coordinates the Women's/Gender Studies Certificate.

Pat Romano has a Master's in political science, with a specialization in international relations. She has taught courses in humanities and political science at Dawson since 1991, and is now a full-time member of the Humanities/Philosophy Department, offering courses dealing with war and peace issues, gender and violence, and ethics. She was the co-coordinator of the Dawson College/ACCC 2011 Conference, *Youth and Violence: The Role of Education*, and is the founder of *Inspire Solutions*, a unique, college-wide peace and nonviolence project.

Kim and Pat are currently co-teaching a unique learning community course, *Imaging Violence and Nonviolence*, that pairs a Humanities world views course with a Cin-Com complementary.



Thursday, September 21st

8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Navigating late-19th century Victorian media; or, A Guide to YouTube Stardom

Stephan Pigeon, Department of History, McGill University

Please note this event will take place in the 3C Cafeteria

The late-nineteenth century Victorian press was filled with controversy: Proprietors faced expensive legal battles over libel claims and copyright infringement; editors debated what constituted 'news' and who could report it; tensions grew among journalists for better wages and trade unions to organize their labour. Meanwhile, thousands of publications clamoured for readership. Where some promised sophisticated or specialized content, others offered humour, prizes, and dramatics to lure subscribers. It was a world of big personalities and bitter rivalries. Today, YouTube's video-sharing platform is undergoing similar obstacles. As the platform works to define itself as a media organization, the challenges faced by 'content creators' and the techniques they use to develop subscribers and their internet persona are not entirely dissimilar to the late-Victorian press. This lecture revisits the world of Victorian periodicals to better understand contemporary media. I show that through understanding the transformations the Victorian press underwent in the late-nineteenth century, audiences can become savvier and better equipped to understand YouTube's content, controversy, and creators.

Stephan Pigeon is a PhD candidate in History at McGill University. His dissertation, "Textual Circulation and Exchange", explores journalistic labour, the history of reading, and how texts change in shape and meaning when used in different local, provincial, and national contexts. Grounded in cultural history, Stephan's research focuses on the commercial, intellectual, and legal aspects of the periodical press in 19th-century Britain with attention towards transatlantic circulation. He has recently published an article on this subject in the *Journal of Victorian Culture* entitled, "Steal it, Change it, Print it: Transatlantic Scissors-and-Paste Journalism in the Ladies' Treasury, 1857-95."



Thursday, September 21st

10:00–11:15 a.m.

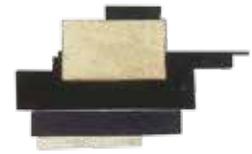
Reconsidérer: transformer son expérience en connaissance

Djemaa Maazouzi, French Department, Dawson College

Please note this event will take place in the 3C Cafeteria

«Reconsidérer» c'est faire œuvre de réflexivité. C'est certes revenir sur une action, sur une réaction, revenir sur une position pour l'examiner à nouveau. Mais c'est aussi faire retour sur une considération première et, tout en même temps, prendre acte des changements opérés en soi. C'est utiliser son expérience pour la transformer en connaissance en intégrant dans les données de la situation (problème à affronter, relation à (dés)engager, sujet à étudier, etc.) son propre rapport à la situation. Parce que démonstration réflexive bien ordonnée commencerait d'abord par soi, nous verrons comment il est possible de reconsidérer un objet d'étude quand on a toujours considéré cet objet trop proche de soi pour l'étudier (par exemple, travailler sur la guerre, la torture, le racisme, le colonialisme quand son histoire familiale y est liée). Après ce bref détour préalable, nous examinerons deux situations sociohistoriques où Germaine Tillon, femme d'exception, a magistralement fait coïncider réflexivité et engagement. Nous nous demanderons, d'une part, comment, la définition d'un camp de concentration a pu être reconsidérée alors que c'est à partir de l'expérience vécue et étudiée de Ravensbrück que l'historienne des camps a posé les spécificités de ce type d'internement? Et, d'autre part, comment l'ethnologue qui n'était pas anticolonialiste, a pu reconsidérer la cause indépendantiste algérienne comme Résistance.

Djemaa Maazouzi's field of study has in general been French-language literature of the 20th and 21st centuries and her research focuses on colonial and independence-era literature in both the colonies and the home country. Her work takes its methodology from both literary sociocriticism and intermedial studies and questions the links between history, politics and literature. Djemaa Maazouzi's latest publications include a book: *Le Partage des mémoires. La guerre d'Algérie en littérature, au cinéma et sur le web*, Paris, (Classiques Garnier, 2015) and a journal issue: Djemaa Maazouzi et Nelly Wolf (dir.), en collaboration avec Dominique Viart, «La France des solidarités (mai 1968 – mai 1981)», *Revue des Sciences Humaines* n°320, octobre-décembre 2015.



Thursday, September 21st

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Marx's Inferno: Rereading Capital as Political Theory

William Clare Roberts, Department of Political Science, McGill University

Please note this event will take place in the 3C Cafeteria

Karl Marx's *Capital* celebrates its 150th birthday this year. The book is widely taken to be a work of economics. Socialists have read it that way, as the economic bible of the workers' movement. Liberals and conservatives have read it that way, too, as a confused attempt to replace Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations*. I want to reconsider *Capital* as a work of political theory. It was Marx's attempt to settle arguments among 19th century socialists about what, exactly, they were trying to change about the world. But it also says something of lasting importance about the challenges to – and possibilities for – freedom in the modern world. And it does so by updating the scheme of Dante's *Inferno*, leading the reader through the modern "social Hell" of capitalist production. My talk will draw out the parallels between Marx's project and Dante's, and highlight the distinctiveness of Marx's argument.

William Clare Roberts is Assistant Professor of Political Science at McGill University, where he teaches the history of political theory, with a special focus on Marx and Marxism.

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Thursday, September 21st

1:00 – 2:15 p.m.

Environmentalism, Big Business, and Political Change

Alex Tyrell, Leader, Quebec Green Party, Presentation cosponsored with Dawson Peace Week

Long-term policy changes need be made in order to ensure that future generations are not faced with environmental collapse, food and water shortages and pollution induced health problems. Some of those issues include climate change and air pollution but also things like the nuclear waste storage dump proposed for the shore of the Ottawa River. In addition, we need to balance the long-term environmental impact of policies that favour the widespread deployment of electric vehicles which will come with a new set of environmental challenges such as the extraction of rare earth metals to build the batteries and spills of battery chemicals during accidents with our need to move away from fossil fuels. Stronger more thoughtful long term environmental policy is crucial in conflict management in many communities in Quebec.

Alex Tyrell is a Montreal activist elected as the leader of the Green Party of Quebec. He became the youngest party leader on the political scene in Quebec and Canada. Alex is involved in politics with the desire to bring about positive changes in Quebec society. He is currently pursuing studies in environmental sciences at Concordia University, identifies himself as an eco-socialist and advocates for the protection of the environment. He has positioned himself as an advocate of the public health system, free education, taxation of the rich and large corporations, regional autonomy and the inclusion of minorities and cultural communities in Quebec.



Thursday, September 21st

2:30–4:00 p.m.

Reconsidering Religious Literacy

Daniel Goldsmith, Humanities Department, Dawson College

Our society devotes massive resources to ensure that everyone has a chance to develop basic reading and writing skills. While lacking these basic skills is undoubtedly problematic, I would argue that Quebec is plagued with another troublesome (but less visible) form of ignorance: religious illiteracy. Lacking understanding and familiarity with the basic tenants of religious traditions isn't a problem solely confined to an atheist fringe, but is often found in religious practitioners themselves. In this presentation, I will describe how I became aware of my own religious illiteracy. I was forced to admit that, although I had strong feelings about religion, I really didn't know all that much about it. Through personal practice and study over many years, however, I have come to appreciate for the power and beauty that all religious traditions hold. Through a few simple examples taken from different traditions, I will demonstrate how what we think we know about fundamental religious stories isn't always so. I will present several ways that we could, for example, reconsider Jesus' resurrection and the Buddha's enlightenment. I do this in the hopes that reinterpreting these events will inspire us to actualize greater wisdom, gratitude, and compassion within ourselves. This, as I have come to discover, is one of the main goals of religious practice.

Daniel Goldsmith teaches in the Humanities Department at Dawson College, and is the author of *Choose Your Metaphor: Walking the One Path That Goes by Many Names*. When he's not running after his energetic four year old boy, Daniel can be found roaming the Quebec countryside with a book of philosophy and a yoga mat in his backpack.

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Thursday, September 21st

4:00-5:15 p.m.

Our contradictory relationship with animals – and how we can change it

Alanna Devine, Director of Animal Advocacy, SPCA Montreal

The Montreal SPCA cares for and speaks on behalf of all animals, including animals exploited for food. During this talk, we will explore our complex, and often contradictory relationship with animals. We will briefly review the legislative protections (or lack thereof) provided to animals in Quebec and the rest of Canada – and explore how our indirect interaction with certain animals (farm animals) does not necessarily reflect the beliefs that the majority of us have about animals. Finally, we will briefly explore how we can help people see that the line we draw between animals we call friends and animals we call food is arbitrary – and that we can make personal and professional choices to help reduce the suffering of all animals.

Alanna Devine (B.A., B.C.L., LL.B.) is a lawyer that has worked at the Montreal SPCA for over nine years and has dedicated her life to protecting animals. Before the SPCA, Alanna clerked at the Supreme Court of Canada and obtained degrees in civil and common law from the McGill University Faculty of Law after completing a bachelor's degree in Criminology. As Director of Animal Advocacy, she oversees the Investigations and Inspections Department, the Advocacy Department and works primarily on improving the protection of animals on a municipal, provincial and federal level as well as leading awareness campaigns on important animal issues. This year, she is co-teaching an Animal Law class at the McGill Faculty of Law. Alanna is also an avid vegan baker and shares her life with a visually impaired dog adopted from the Montreal SPCA.



Friday, September 22nd

10:00 – 11:15 a.m.

From a 50-Year Guerrilla War Toward Peace in Colombia: History and Prospects

Catherine LeGrand, Department of History, McGill University

Colombia has been wracked by war since the mid-1960s, when FARC, the oldest and largest guerrilla movement ever seen in Latin America took form. From the 1980s on, the armed struggle escalated into a conflict of guerrilla groups against private paramilitaries and the government, fueled by the new, lucrative cocaine economy. After several failed efforts at peace negotiations, finally a year ago the government and FARC came to agreement on an innovative peace accord that resulted in the Nobel Peace Prize of 2016 being awarded to Colombia president Juan Manuel Santos. Why peace now? Why has the accord been so controversial (50.2% of Colombians rejected it in a plebiscite held in October 2016)? And what next? This talk will shed light on the Colombian conflict and provide insight into why, even when the political will exists, peace-building is so tremendously difficult.

Catherine LeGrand has studied Colombia for more than thirty years and has lived there for extensive periods of time. Professor of Latin American history at McGill University, she wrote her dissertation, published in English and in Spanish in Bogotá, on frontier expansion and peasant protest in Colombia. She has closely followed the Colombian peace process through multiple trips there since 2015.

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Friday, September 22nd

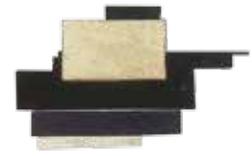
11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Americans, Be Ye Not Perfect: How Protestant Tribalism Still Hurts the United States

J.M. Opal, Department of History, McGill University

In Matthew 5:48, Jesus exhorted his follower: "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." The radical Puritans of 17th century England and the equally radical Presbyterians of 18th century Ireland took Jesus at his word. They combined this call to perfection with a selected reading of the Old Testament, creating a master narrative of themselves as godly settlers in heathen lands and fallen times. These ideas came together in the so-called "civil religion" of the new United States, and because they serve so many powerful economic interests, they remain vivid to the present day. And this feeds a particular kind of anti-government nationalism, one that ultimately hates *society* more than the state and prevents the American people from imagining a better, easier life for themselves.

J.M. Opal is Associate Professor of History at McGill University and the author of *Avenging the People: Andrew Jackson, the Rule of Law, and the American Nation* (Oxford press, 2017) and *Beyond the Farm: National Ambitions in Rural New England* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2008). His essays have recently appeared in *Time*, the *New York Daily News*, and *Jacobin*.



Friday, September 22nd

1:00–2:15 p.m.

What would you grab if your house were burning? Fear, Anxiety, and Psychoanalysis

Erica Harris, Humanities Department, Dawson College

For centuries, philosophers had a simple explanation for the difference between fear and anxiety. Fear, they said, was fear of something in particular, such as a hungry bear thumping around your tent in the woods. Anxiety, on the other hand, is a kind of nameless dread; when you are overwhelmed with anxiety you know that *something* is wrong, but you cannot, for the life of you, say what it is. In philosophical language: fear has an object, but anxiety does not. This standard philosophical explanation of the difference between fear and anxiety is, however, being reconsidered, thanks, in part, to psychoanalysis. In 1963, the famous analyst and philosopher, Jacques Lacan, enigmatically argued that “anxiety [was] not without an object”. Anxiety, Lacan explains, does have an object, but it is an object unlike most others. Lacan calls this object “*objet a.*” This presentation will attempt to make sense of *objet a* by locating it amongst the objects you would rescue if your house were on fire.

Erica Harris is an instructor in the Humanities Department at Dawson College. She has a PhD in philosophy from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium. She specializes in twentieth century French philosophy and psychoanalysis. Her research topics include: the phenomenology of anxiety, pornography and desire, and the imaginary.