



ALL EVENTS WILL TAKE PLACE IN 5B.16

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9		TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10		WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11		THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12	
8:30	Class, the State, and the City Fred Burrill	8:30	Sixty-two Years of Anti-Chinese Legislation Wasn't Enough: the Witch Hunt for Chinese Spies May Chiu	8:30	Exhibition as Fieldwork: Art History in the World, Not Just the Classroom Alice Ming Wai Jim	8:30	Eco-cities built from scratch: Illusions of progress? Sarah Moser
10:00	Carrying Patterns: Dawson Site Ange Loft	10:00	Feed-Work, Dream-Work: A TikTok Phenomenology Samuele Collu	10:00	Why Mental Health Looks Different Around the World: Cultural Concepts of Distress Andrew Ryder	10:00	The Health Implications of Genocide: The Case of Palestine Baijayanta Mukhopadhyay, Nada Dabbagh
11:30	Creating Gender and Sexuality Affirming Education and Health Care Ada Sinacore	11:30	Solidarity not Exclusion: Confronting Carney's Agenda of Austerity, War and Attacks on Migrants Mostafa Henaway	11:30	The Stone that the Builders Rejected: Race Prejudice and the Global Order Wendell Adjeteay	11:30	Sense of Belonging & Code-Switching Khan Bouba-Dalambaye
1:00	Resilience Amidst War: Scholasticide and the Food Crisis in Gaza Dr. Ahmad Abu Shaban	1:00	Art and activism across movements Stefan Christoff	1:00	Panel: Producing the Podcast "Small Little Foot Soldiers: A People's History of the Canadian Anti-Apartheid Movement" Gwendolyn Schulman, Doug Miller & Pierre Loiselle	1:00	1, 2 Step Masterclass Kayin Queeley (Montreal Steppers)
2:30	Krishna Confidence: Becoming and Remaining Hindu in Post-Mao China Marc Lagace	2:30	Breaking Social Isolation, Building Futures: Supporting Racialized Women Through Education and Community/ Navigating Barriers, Creating Opportunities Victoria Jahesh (Afghan Women's Centre)	2:30	Panel: Youth Activism and Political Organizing Danna Noor Ballantyne, Victoria Ormiston & Gwendolyn Schulman	2:30	Harvesting Freedom: The Struggles of Migrant Workers in Canada Gabriel Allahdua & Edward Dunsworth
4:00	The Realities of Migrant Women Workers – The Perspective of PINAY, Filipino Women's Organization in Quebec Jasmin de la Calzada (PINAY)	4:00	How the Internet is Teaching Boys What It Means to Be a Man Jillian Sunderland	4:00	Laïcité and the Racial Contract: Islamophobia in Quebec's National Project Zeinab Diab & Leila Bdeir	4:00	An Image, A Voice, A Story: Working Through the Creative Practices of Oral History Kelann Currie-Williams
6:30	Screening: <i>Israelism</i> , followed by conversation with Noah Brender and Nadia Moss	6:30	Screening: <i>Sudan, Remember Us</i> , followed by discussion with Duha Elmardi	6:30	Screening: <i>No Other Land</i> , followed by discussion with Zahia El-Masri	6:30	Screening, <i>Your Turn</i> , followed by discussion with Nadia Hausfather and Rushdia Mehreen

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9

MONDAY - 8:30-9:45

Class, the State, and the City

Fred Burrill • (he/him)

Everyone knows that finding -- and keeping -- stable housing is no joke. But is there a "housing crisis"? This presentation will explore the capitalist roots of the current upside-down world of shelter in Montreal, arguing that the solution is to be found not so much in policy but a reinvestment in grassroots class struggle.

Fred Burrill is a longterm community organizer around housing rights and gentrification in Montreal, and currently teaches history at the University of New Brunswick.

MONDAY - 10:00-11:15

Carrying Patterns: Dawson Site

Ange Loft • (she/her)

This presentation will explore a series of arts based research activities investigating the Indigenous context of the city circa 1500 alongside contemporary considerations in archeology and architecture. This interdisciplinary look at the archeological and visual legacy of the island, focuses on Dawson Site, near to Peel and de Maisonneuve, using the linework of pottery shards to guide collective explorations on paper, as design prompt, and as graphic musical score. The audience will become familiar with patterns from the tops of pots and the rich conversations, cultural context building and current artistic efforts that support them.



Ange Loft is Kanien'kehá:ka from Kahnawà:ke, living and working across disciplines in Toronto. Her extensive history of theatrical co-creation, Indigenous context generation, wearable sculpture and experimental music merge toward performances that are image first and rhythm forward. She writes, directs, and co-designs large scale, multi-form projects, creating workshops, installations, art films, and publications in tandem with her work, including the *Talking Treaties* suite (Jumblies Theatre + Arts). 1400-1700

pottery patterns are at the heart of her new work *Carrying Patterns* and related productions she's directed including *Stone and Bone Spectacular* (Centaur Theatre), *Visibly Iroquoian* (Canadian Centre for Architecture), as curator of the *Highland Creek Mural* (Street Art Toronto), and as generative content at Concordia Theatre.

MONDAY - 11:30-12:45

CREATING GENDER AND SEXUALITY AFFIRMING EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE

Ada Sinacore • (she/her)

Gender and sexuality affirming education and health care is an emerging discussion in psychology and health care. However, in recent years, there has been a great deal of controversy over providing gender and sexuality affirming education in schools, as well as gender affirming care to youth. The focus of these debates has been predominately on trans and gender-diverse individuals, rather

than recognizing that gender and sexuality affirming education and care benefits all people across the lifespan. Nonetheless, although gender and sexuality affirming education and care is beneficial, it is important to recognize that this type of education and care is essential for members of 2SLGBTQI+ communities.

Members of these communities are at risk for high levels of physical, emotional, and sexual violence. For example, trans and gender-diverse individuals (e.g., genderqueer, gender nonbinary) experience significantly higher levels of physical and sexual violence compared to cisgender people. Additionally, they experience systemic discrimination and oppression in a range of areas, such as education, employment, housing, and health care. Cisnormative discrimination and stigma result in minority stress and poor mental health outcomes, such as suicidality.

Systemic discrimination faced by 2SLGBTQI+ individuals and communities is well documented and on the rise. As well, much of popular media is fraught with misinformation about these populations. Gender and sexuality affirming education and care can



serve to address this discrimination and misinformation. The goal of this presentation will be to define, demystify, and contextualize gender and sexuality affirming education and care. Implications for research and teaching will be discussed.

Ada Sinacore is an associate professor in McGill University's Counselling Psychology Program and Director of the Social Justice and Diversity Research Lab. A past-president of the Canadian Psychological Association, they also serve on the board of

the International Council of Psychologists and contribute to global human-rights initiatives through the UN Psychology Coalition and the Global Network of Psychologists for Human Rights. With over 25 years of international experience, Dr. Sinacore is widely recognized for their scholarship, teaching, and activism on social justice, educational inequities, and mental health disparities. They have received numerous honors, including the Oliva Espin Award, the CPA Distinguished Member Award, and McGill's Awards for Distinguished Teaching, Distinguished Supervision, and Equity and Community Building. Dr. Sinacore has served as a visiting scholar globally and has collaborated internationally to address gender-based violence and promote institutional change.

MONDAY - 1:00-2:15

Krishna Confidence: Becoming and Remaining Hindu in Post-Mao China

Marc Lodge Andrew Lagace

Drawing upon both recent fieldwork and neglected Chinese-language sources, this presentation explores how and why various citizens of the People's Republic of China have come to embrace lives of devotion centered on the Hindu deity Krishna. It also considers how, despite the social and political challenges they face as religious actors in China, devotees are managing to maintain and even strengthen their faiths. In grappling with the former, the presentation identifies a combination of factors which facilitate the conversion of Chinese citizens to Hinduism. In dealing with the latter, it expands upon anthropologist Tanya Luhrmann's theory of "real-making," arguing that practitioners can become more certain of Krishna's existence through, among other things, affective synchronization.



Marc Lodge Andrew Lagace holds a BA (Hons.) in Religious Traditions from the University of Saskatchewan, an MA in East Asian Studies from the University of Toronto, and a PhD in Religious Studies from McMaster. His first monograph, *Hare Krishna in China*, is scheduled to be released later this year.

MONDAY - 2:30- 3:45

Resilience Amidst War: Scholasticide and the Food Crisis in Gaza

Ahmed Abu Shaban • (he/him)

This presentation explores the dual destruction of education and food systems in Gaza as intertwined dimensions of war: the concept of scholasticide—the systematic dismantling of learning institutions and future knowledge systems—parallels the collapse of the food system amid conflict. The latest IPC assessment confirms famine (Phase 5) in the Gaza Governorate and projects its spread across the territory, with over half a million people already facing catastrophic hunger and acute malnutrition.

Drawing on recent food-system assessments and educational disruption data, this talk highlights how disrupted agriculture, market breakdowns, and destroyed campuses converge to erode both food sovereignty and knowledge capacity. It also foregrounds the

resilience of Gazan communities—student collectives pivoting to remote learning, women-led kitchens, community seed banks—that sustain life and learning in defiance of erasure. The talk concludes by urging renewed international support to safeguard both nourishment and education in Gaza's recovery.

Dr. Ahmed Abu Shaban is a Visiting Professor, Faculty of Environmental & Urban Change and the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, York University; Associate Professor & Dean, Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine at Al Azhar University, Gaza

MONDAY - 4:00-5:15

The Realities of Migrant Women Workers – The Perspective of PINAY, Filipino Women's Organization in Quebec

Jasmin de la Calzada • (she/her)
PINAY

This presentation highlights the experiences and struggles of Filipino migrant women workers in Quebec, drawing on more than three decades of advocacy by PINAY Quebec, a migrant workers' organization. Founded in 1991 at the inception of the federal Live-in Caregiver Program, PINAY Quebec has been a central voice for migrant women in Quebec. PINAY works largely with current and former caregivers in Montréal and surrounding areas.

Over the years, PINAY Quebec has spearheaded significant campaigns that led to the inclusion of “domestic work” and “live-in caregivers” in Quebec’s labour standards, the extension of workplace health and safety insurance to live-in caregivers, and collective resistance against the harmful impacts of Bill 9 on migrant workers in 2018–2019. These victories were achieved through broad alliances with unions and migrant rights organizations, demonstrating the power of collective action.

The presentation will also address the current realities of Filipino migrant workers in Quebec. Amidst Canada’s economic and housing crisis, migrants and refugees are increasingly scapegoated for systemic problems they did not create. Looking forward, new federal legislation such as Bill C-2 threatens to further marginalize migrant workers, deepening their precarity. By situating the struggles of migrant women within broader political and economic contexts, this presentation calls for solidarity across communities, labour movements, and migrant justice organizations to defend and advance the rights of women workers who continue to sustain Canadian and Quebec society.



Jasmin de la Calzada is the president of PINAY Quebec, a Quebec organization advocating for Filipino migrant and immigrant women. A longtime activist, she leads PINAY Quebec with a dedicated team fighting systemic injustices faced by caregivers, domestic workers, and other marginalized Filipinos.

Her activism began in the Montreal Coalition of Filipino Students, shaping her commitment to social justice. As part of

PINAY Quebec, she helped lead a major campaign in 2019 that helped nearly 100 Live-in Caregiver Program workers regain access to Quebec Selection Certificates through broad collaboration with community groups, politicians, and allies.

In addition to her community work, Jasmin is a mother of two children and works as a patient care attendant in a hospital. Her personal experience as a worker and immigrant fuels her desire for solidarity and social transformation to improve the living conditions of Filipinos, both here and elsewhere.

MONDAY - 6:30

Film screening: *Israelism*

With Noah Brender • (he/him) & Nadia Moss (they/them)

When two young American Jews raised to unconditionally love Israel witness the brutal way Israel treats Palestinians, their lives take sharp left turns. They join a movement of young American Jews battling the old guard to redefine Judaism's relationship with Israel, revealing a deepening generational divide over modern Jewish identity.

The film will be followed by a discussion with **Noah Brender** and **Nadia Moss**. Nadia is an artist, parent, and educator. Noah is a Jewish Montrealer who graduated from Dawson in 2001. Both Nadia and Noah are teachers here at Dawson College, Nadia teaches in the Fine Arts Program and Noah teaches in the Humanities Department.

Here is the [trailer](#) for this 2023 film.

TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY
10

TUESDAY - 8:30-9:45

Sixty-two Years of Anti-Chinese Legislation Wasn't Enough: the Witch Hunt for Chinese Spies

May Chiu • (she/her)

Canada has been founded on genocide and settler colonialism. Chinese migrant workers were unwittingly brought here to help consolidate land theft. As white supremacy deemed them unworthy of even being settlers, the first Chinese head tax kicked in as soon as the CPR was completed. Sixty-two years later, the end of the Second World War finally resulted in the abolition of racist anti-Chinese immigration laws. As a plethora of racist provincial and municipal anti-Chinese laws were slowly removed in the ensuing decades, the community began to thrive and rebuild across the country. However, sinophobia has never ended, as we saw with the resurgence of anti-Asian hate during the Covid-19 pandemic. Just as we thought we had turned the corner, a new mechanism has appeared to ensure that Canadians of Chinese descent are deprived of civil liberties under the pretext of the hunt against foreign interference. We will learn how anti-Chinese racism has taken a toll in Montreal's Chinese community.

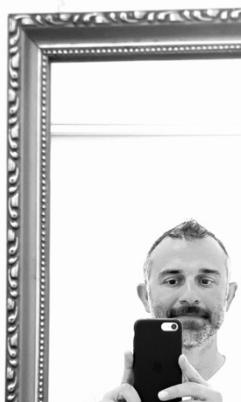
May Chiu is an activist who participates in numerous human rights struggles. Professionally, she is the coordinator of the Chinatown Round Table and a family attorney. Her work in Chinatown requires an approach to social justice which demands that she work within the system, learning to bend existing structures in order to obtain material gains for her community. However, there are limits to working within the system and a transformative approach demands politics which exposes the need to overturn systems and build new ones. How to do this has been her life-long passion.

TUESDAY - 10:00-11:15

Feed-Work, Dream-Work: A TikTok Phenomenology

Samuele Collu

For the past three years at McGill's Scrolling Societies Lab, we have studied the psychic impact that TikTok scrolling has on college students. Our multimodal ethnographic research centers on collective sessions of feed-analysis, in which participants are re-immersed in their own feeds—recorded through affective computing, eye-tracking, and screen-capture technologies. In these sessions, participants and researchers approach the recorded feed as if it were a dream-sequence, following the associative trails it provokes much like an analyst invites a patient to free-associate around a dream. This talk offers a performative immersion into fragments from these sessions to explore what we are calling *feed-work*: the way an algorithmic feed takes up tasks once associated with dreaming—condensation, displacement, or symbolization—while also producing new forms of psychic overload, moments where after-images accumulate faster than they can be metabolized.



Samuele Collu is an Assistant Professor of Medical and Psychological Anthropology at McGill University. His research examines the entanglement between psychic life, therapeutic practices, and digital devices. His first book, *Into the Loop: An Ethnography of Compulsive Repetition*, is forthcoming with Duke University Press (2026). He is currently completing *Dreams I Scroll Through*, an experimental ethnography immersing the reader in a social media binge-scroll.

TUESDAY - 11:30-1:00

Solidarity not Exclusion: Confronting Carney's agenda of austerity, war and attacks on migrants

Mostafa Henaway • (he/him)

Across Canada, we are living through a coordinated attack on workers, migrants, and the public services our communities depend on. The Carney government's nationalist messaging—framing migrants as “burdens,” public spending as “irresponsible,” and privatization as “necessary”—is not about protecting Canadians. It is about dividing us. This lecture explores how nationalism is being weaponized to justify exploitation in workplaces, cuts to services, and the erosion of rights. But it also highlights the growing resistance: migrant organizing, labour struggles, and community campaigns that refuse to let nationalism dictate who deserves dignity. Together, we will map pathways toward real solidarity and a shared future grounded in care, justice, and collective power.

Mostafa Henaway is a community organizer at the Immigrant Workers Centre since 2007 organizing for migrant and labour justice. He is also an author and researcher. His book *Essential Work, Disposable Workers: Migration, Capitalism and Class* won the Errol Sharpe book award in 2024, and honorable mention for the Canadian Association of Work and Labour Studies book award 2024. He is currently a PhD Candidate at Concordia University in Geography Planning and Environmental Studies, researching labour conditions inside Amazon's warehouses in Quebec.

TUESDAY - 1:00-2:30

Art and Activism across Movements

Stefan Christoff • (he/him)

This workshop will highlight the intersecting importance of creative expression within social movement organizing in Montreal and beyond. The focus will be on Palestine solidarity work, local housing justice struggles and building independent media.



Podcasts). Stefan makes music with many people globally, including Anarchist Mountains, Aidan Baker, Adriana Camancho, Aidan Girt, Lori Goldston, Nicolás Jaar and Sessa. Stefan is on the board of the Immigrant Workers Centre in the Côte-des-Neiges district of Montreal, organizes with Cinema Politica Network and is a regular contributor to Radio AlHara in Palestine. Stefan works with the Social Justice Centre and is also a graduate student in history at Concordia University in Montreal.

Stefan Christoff is a media maker, community activist and artist living in Montréal. Stefan hosts the radio program Free City Radio, broadcasting weekly on nine community stations in Canada and shared globally as a podcast (Spotify + Apple

Podcasts). Stefan makes music with many people globally, including Anarchist Mountains, Aidan Baker, Adriana Camancho, Aidan Girt, Lori Goldston, Nicolás Jaar and Sessa. Stefan is on the board of the Immigrant Workers Centre in the Côte-des-Neiges district of Montreal, organizes with Cinema Politica Network and is a regular contributor to Radio AlHara in Palestine. Stefan works with the Social Justice Centre and is also a graduate student in history at Concordia University in Montreal.

TUESDAY - 2:30-3:45

Breaking Social Isolation, Building Futures: Supporting Racialized Women Through Education and Community/ Navigating Barriers, Creating Opportunities

Victoria Jahesh • (she/her)

Afghan Women's Centre

Racialized newcomer women often face intersecting barriers that limit their social and economic integration. Despite high levels of education and professional experience, many encounter obstacles such as non-recognition of foreign credentials, limited employment access, discriminatory hiring practices, and profound social isolation. These challenges impact mental well-being, financial stability, and long-term empowerment.

This presentation examines how community-based, trauma-informed initiatives can reduce these barriers and create meaningful pathways toward participation and success. Drawing on the work of the Afghan Women's Centre of Montreal (AWCM), we highlight programs that combine language education, cultural orientation, arts-based engagement, and peer mentorship to build confidence, community connection, and practical skills.

We also showcase The Flavour of Integration, a theatre project that transforms personal narratives of migration and resilience into collective performance. This model demonstrates how creative expression can strengthen agency, foster social cohesion, and challenge stereotypes about racialized women.

By centering lived experience and collaborative learning, our approach illustrates how targeted support can turn barriers into

opportunities and help women build futures rooted in dignity, belonging, and economic participation.



empowering women to build confidence, independence, and leadership.

Victoria has contributed to numerous community programs, cultural initiatives, and advocacy efforts addressing systemic barriers that disproportionately affect women, particularly newcomers and Afghan women who face challenges related to language, economic insecurity, and social exclusion. Her commitment is rooted in the belief that every woman deserves dignity, safety, opportunity, and a voice. She uses her platform to highlight injustices, amplify lived experiences, and promote equity across all areas of society. Victoria continues to engage in public speaking, awareness campaigns, and community education, encouraging young people, institutions, and policymakers to take meaningful action in advancing social justice and gender equality.

Victoria Jahesh is a dedicated community advocate and a strong voice for women's rights and social justice. As a chief executive officer at the Afghan Women's Centre of Montreal (AWCM), she works closely with vulnerable populations, including racialized women, seniors, newcomers, and marginalized communities. Through her work, she focuses on reducing social isolation, supporting and

TUESDAY - 4:00-5:15

How the Internet is Teaching Boys What It Means to Be a Man

Jillian Sunderland

From YouTube to TikTok, the internet has become a classroom for masculinity. Every day, millions of young men watch influencers like Andrew Tate, Jordan Peterson, or Sneako explain how to be "strong," "successful," or "high value." But beneath the catchy slogans and viral clips, these messages are shaping how a generation of boys understand gender, relationships, and power.

This talk explores how social media platforms have become the new teachers of masculinity—rewarding anger, competition, and control over empathy, connection, and care. Drawing on my research on masculinity and online culture, I'll unpack why this content spreads so fast, what emotional needs it speaks to, and how it connects to wider cultural fears about men "losing their place" in society.

Together, we'll look at how to think critically about what we see online, why media literacy matters, and what alternative visions of masculinity we might imagine.

Jillian Sunderland is a sociology PhD candidate at the University of Toronto who studies masculinity, digital culture, and how online spaces shape young people's ideas about gender. Her research has been supported by the SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship and recognized with the university's Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award. She has published in leading journals and shared her work through CBC, TVO, and The Toronto Star.

TUESDAY - 6:30

Film Screening: *Sudan, Remember Us*

With special guest Duha Elmardi

Sudan, Remember Us is a powerful portrait of a generation that chose poetry over silence and imagination over fear. Shajane, Maha, Muzamil, Khatab, and the voice of poet Chaikhoon form a cinematic chorus—young, politically defiant, and artistically fearless. In their twenties, they stand at the front lines of a revolution, confronting a corrupted army and paramilitary militias responsible for brutal war crimes in Darfur, Kordofan, and Blue Nile. They could have lost hope before they even began. Instead, through chants, poems, and dreams, they built a movement that helped topple a regime. Blending intimate storytelling with sweeping political urgency, *Sudan, Remember Us* captures the uneven struggle between the fire of militias and the unbreakable voices of the people. It's a tribute to the power of words—and a reminder that freedom is a fight born first in the imagination.

This film will be followed by a discussion with **Duha El Mardi**, a Sudanese organizer currently based in Tiohtiàke/Montreal. She is a member of the Sudan Solidarity Collective and supports a number of groups and organizations working towards social and climate justice.

Here's a [trailer](#) for the 2024 film.

WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY
11

WEDNESDAY - 8:30-9:45

**Exhibition as Fieldwork: Art History in the World,
Not Just the Classroom**

Alice Ming Wai Jim • (she/her)

How can we study art history not only from slides, but through exhibitions themselves? In this talk, I share how I use “exhibition as fieldwork” in my teaching: visiting museums, galleries, and artist-run centres in Montreal and treating each exhibition as a site of fieldwork research. We look at concrete examples such as Kent Monkman’s large-scale history paintings at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts and Concordia alum Joyce Joumaa’s video installation *Bêtise humaine* as part of *In Praise of the Missing Image* – MOMENTA Biennale at the Montreal Museum of Contemporary Art, and ask how choices about what is collected, how works are displayed, and how spaces are designed shape what visitors see and feel. Along the way, we touch on what scholars call critical race museology (how race and power work in museums) and on ethnic and Indigenous futurisms (artists imagining otherwise possibilities for the future). I ask how artists, curators, and students together imagine different cultural futures—and what it means to practice art history as world-making.

Alice Ming Wai Jim is a Professor of Contemporary Art History at Concordia University, where she also holds the Concordia University Research Chair in Critical Curatorial Studies and Decolonizing Art Institutions. She teaches courses on migration, diasporas, media arts, critical race museology, and global contemporary art histories, and works closely with students through the Ethnocultural Art Histories Research group and international research partnerships. Alice is Editor-in-Chief of *Asian Diasporic Visual Cultures and the Americas*, a scholarly journal published by Brill. She has published widely, curated exhibitions, and collaborates with artists and cultural workers in

Canada and abroad. What excites her most is helping students discover how art history connects to real places, real communities, and real social questions—and how learning to read exhibitions and museums critically can change how you see the world.

WEDNESDAY - 10:00-11:15

Why Mental Health Looks Different Around the World: Cultural Concepts of Distress

Andrew Ryder • (he/him)

In this presentation, I will discuss what the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5th Edition* (DSM-5) calls *cultural concepts of distress*—that is, culturally patterned ways people experience, express, and make sense of psychological suffering. I will explain how this idea represents an important shift away from the older notion of “culture-bound syndromes,” which wrongly suggested that culture mainly affects people outside Western societies. Instead, cultural concepts of distress help us see how culture shapes mental health everywhere, including in contexts that are often treated as culturally neutral. I will compare cultural concepts of distress with standard DSM diagnoses to show how similar forms of distress can look quite different depending on cultural meanings and expectations. Drawing briefly on research from cultural psychiatry and cultural psychology, I will then go a step further by introducing the ideas of cultural models and looping effects. These concepts help explain how shared beliefs about distress can shape people’s experiences, the reactions they receive from others, and their paths toward recovery over time. Together, these perspectives highlight why culture matters for understanding both mental health problems and healing.



Andrew Ryder is a full professor in the Department of Psychology at Concordia University, where he is currently the department chair. He received his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of British Columbia in 2005 and is now a licensed clinical psychologist in Quebec. Although he did all of his coursework and practical training in clinical psychology, most of his research training was in cultural psychology. He has dedicated the

last 20 years in Montreal to bringing these two fields closer together. In recognition of these efforts, he has received awards from the Concordia University Faculty of Arts and Science, the Canadian Psychological Association, and the International Association of Cross-Cultural Psychology.

WEDNESDAY - 11:30-12:45

The Stone that the Builders Rejected: Race Prejudice and the Global Order

Wendell Adjetey

This lecture will explore how the settler-colonial, racial underpinnings of North America undermine democracy and the rule of law, making Black liberation incongruous with social change. The presentation spans the seventeenth century to the twentieth, scrutinizing the ebb and flow of integrated Black struggle in Canada,

the United States, the Caribbean, and Africa. Challenging historiographical and academic orthodoxy of Black progress, this lecture will illustrate the ways that triumphalist interpretations of the past not only undermine Black liberation, but also obscure the role that elites and the state plays in constraining Black self-determination.



Wendell Nii Laryea Adjetey (Nii Laryea Osabu I, Atrékor Wé Nòyaa Mantsè) is William Dawson Associate Professor of post-Reconstruction U.S. and African Diaspora history at McGill University. His

book, *Cross-Border Cosmopolitans: The Making of a Pan-African North America* (UNC Press, 2023), is the first to receive concomitant commendations in United States, African American, African and African Diaspora, and Canadian history, including The Governor General's History Award for Scholarly Research in 2024. Dr. Adjetey earned his Ph.D. from Yale University, completing his predoctoral and postdoctoral fellowships at MIT and Harvard University, respectively.

WEDNESDAY - 1:00-2:15

Producing the Podcast *Small Little Foot Soldiers: A People's History of the Canadian Anti- Apartheid Movement*

Gwendolyn Schulman • (she/her), Doug Miller & Pierre Loiselle • (he/him)

With the death of Nelson Mandela we realized that all the wrong people were taking (and receiving) credit for the Canadian anti-apartheid movement. We decided to set the record straight by interviewing former anti-apartheid activists from across the country. Their stories and strategies are so compelling, we decided to capture them in a 5-part podcast series.

Gwendolyn Schulman produced *Amandla!*, a one-hour African current affairs radio show on CKUT 90.3 FM for close to 3 decades. It was created in the late '80s to counter mainstream media misinformation about what was going on in South Africa during apartheid. Over the years, the show expanded to the entire continent, busting down the myths around famine, corruption and violence in Africa, through interviews of Africans on the frontline of struggles and historical context. The show retired a few years ago and some of the team members are now working full-steam on a podcast: "Small Little Foot Soldiers: A People's History of the Canadian Anti-Apartheid Movement."



Doug Miller became dedicated to fighting for social justice and against racism at university in the 1960s. He taught English in Malawi from 1968 to 1972 where he met and married his life partner, Nellie Saka. For the next two decades, he remained a committed activist supporting the struggle of the liberation

movements in Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. From 1997 to 2023 he co-hosted "Amandla! Radio" a weekly show about African affairs on CKUT which has morphed into a collective producing a podcast series about the Canadian anti-apartheid struggle of the 1970s, eighties and nineties. He retired from his work as an educator at Vanier College in 2008 and began a family and friend based organization to promote sustainable development in and around Nellie's village in rural Malawi. Retired from that project, he enjoys his life with his nine grandchildren and one great-grand-daughter.

Pierre Loiselle is an independent radio and podcast producer with 35 years of broadcasting experience, including a decade at the CBC/Radio-Canada. He co-produces and syndicates Electronic Intifada Radio and the Electronic Intifada Newscast broadcasting weekly on over 50 radio stations internationally. He also currently works with the Amandla! Radio Collective as the producer for "Small Little Foot Soldiers."

WEDNESDAY - 2:30-3:45

Panel on Youth Activism and Political Organizing

Victoria Ormiston • (she/her), Danna Noor Ballantyne • (she/her), and Gwendolyn Schulman • (she/her)

This panel will explore student movements intergenerationally, from climate justice to Palestinian liberation to the anti-apartheid movement of the 1980s. Students in Montreal have always been engaged in political organizing that aims to shift public understanding of global issues.

Through the lived experiences of a Palestinian student activist and union leader, an activist speaking out against apartheid in South Africa, and a youth climate justice organizer, this panel will consider how student organizers across local campuses have mobilized for justice across multiple global struggles and campaigns. It will also look at the forms of institutional, academic, and social repression these students have faced in the process, ranging from disciplinary threats to media distortion and identity-based discrimination. Based on colonial history and personal experience, the talk highlights the resilience of student activists, the challenges of speaking out in Canadian academic institutions, and practical strategies for building stronger, safer, and more effective movements moving forward, all while offering future university students context on what to expect should they choose to fight for a more free and just world.

Victoria Ormiston is a recent graduate from the Social Change and Solidarity program. She is also the former VP Academics and Advocacy at the Dawson Student Union. Today, she is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts at McGill University in International Development and Gender Studies. Aside from her studies she is currently

organizing the re-implementation of the Gender Studies student association and popular organizing around McGill.

Danna Noor-Ballantyne is a 23 year old Scottish-Palestinian activist and Deans List student studying Child Studies at Concordia University with a specialization in Diversity and Inclusive Practices in Early Childhood. She has been actively involved as an organizer in Montreal's movement for Palestine since 2021, with several years of experience as an Executive member of SPHR Concordia and volunteer with the Palestinian Youth Movement's Montreal chapter; Danna is currently serving her second term as the Concordia Student Union's External and Mobilization Coordinator.

Gwendolyn Schulman produced *Amandla!*, a one-hour African current affairs radio show on CKUT 90.3 FM for close to 3 decades. It was created in the late '80s to counter mainstream media misinformation about what was going on in South Africa during apartheid. Over the years, the show expanded to the entire continent, busting down the myths around famine, corruption and violence in Africa, through interviews of Africans on the frontline of struggles and historical context. The show retired a few years ago and some of the team members are now working full-steam on a podcast: "Small Little Foot Soldiers: A People's History of the Canadian Anti-Apartheid Movement."

WEDNESDAY - 4:00-5:15

Laïcité and the Racial Contract: Islamophobia in Quebec's National Project

Zeinab Diab & Leila Bdeir • (she/her)

In this talk, Zeinab Diab will be in conversation with Leila Bdeir to examine Quebec's secularism laws, especially Law 21, and how they create both visible and invisible boundaries shaping who belongs to Quebec society. Drawing on the concept of the racial contract, Diab argues that Law 21 is not about secularism, but about whiteness. It defines who is included and who is seen as "other," using religion, race, and gender to mark exclusion.

Through the stories of Muslim women affected by Law 21, Diab illustrates how the law shapes daily life and affects physical, psychological, professional, and financial security. Their bodies and presence are made both highly visible and ignored, leading to a form of social death where their identity and rights are marginalized. The discussion highlights how Law 21 reinforces gendered islamophobia in Quebec.



Zeinab Diab earned her PhD in Religious Studies from the University of Montreal. Her research focuses on Quebec's Law 21 and its effects on Muslim women, situating her work within the broader field of Critical Muslim Studies. She served as an expert for the National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM) on a major research initiative titled Social Discord and Second-Class Citizenship,

exploring the implications of Law 21. Her most recent publication appears in *Secularism, Race, and the Politics of Islamophobia* (University of Alberta Press, 2025). Zeinab's work offers a critical, engaged, and embodied perspective on secularism, belonging, and gendered Islamophobia in Quebec.



Leila Bdeir teaches at Vanier College in the Humanities department as well as within the Women's and Gender Studies program. She has been organizing in Montreal since 1999 around issues of critical feminism, anti-racism and islamophobia as well as against APR.

inequality between them: Basel, living under a brutal military occupation, and Yuval, unrestricted and free. This film, by a Palestinian-Israeli collective of four young activists, was co-created during the darkest, most terrifying times in the region, as an act of creative resistance to Apartheid and a search for a path towards equality and justice. This film won the Best Documentary Feature award at the Academy Awards in 2025.

This film will be followed by a discussion with **Zahia El-Masri**. Zahia, born a Palestinian refugee in Lebanon, has lived in Tiohtià:ke for 35 years. She holds a Master's in Political Science and a diploma in Theology, Ethics, and Religion. A feminist, human rights advocate, trainer, and speaker, she has worked in social housing and newcomer integration, and she ran for office as an NDP candidate in 2009 and 2019.

Here's a [trailer](#) for this 2024 film.

WEDNESDAY - 6:30

Screening: *No Other Land*

Basel Adra, a young Palestinian activist from Masafer Yatta, has been fighting his community's mass expulsion by the Israeli occupation since childhood. Basel documents the gradual erasure of Masafer Yatta, as soldiers destroy the homes of families - the largest single act of forced transfer ever carried out in the occupied West Bank. He crosses paths with Yuval, an Israeli journalist who joins his struggle, and for over half a decade they fight against the expulsion while growing closer. Their complex bond is haunted by the extreme

THURSDAY,
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THURSDAY - 8:30-9:45

Eco-cities built from scratch: Illusions of progress?

Sarah Moser • (she/her)

Over the past several decades, there is a global trend of new cities being built from scratch, with around 200 new cities in over 50 countries. This presentation focuses on new city projects that claim to be 'eco-cities', 'green', or climate change solutions. Builders of eco-city projects circulate beautiful images of green utopias and make bold claims about being 'carbon neutral' or being 'cities of the future'. The presentation analyzes these claims and points to alternative ways of building that are less dazzling but more effective in reducing carbon emissions than building from scratch.



Sarah Moser is an urban geographer who studies new cities being built from scratch in Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Nigeria, Morocco, Egypt, and Mongolia. She won a teaching award last year at McGill and teaches the only course in the world that focuses on new cities. Prof. Moser believes we all need to have a degree of 'urban literacy' in order to assess how our cities can be as sustainable as possible. In her free time, she likes to ride her bike, explore cities, and draw.

THURSDAY - 10:00-11:15

The health implications of genocide: the case of Palestine

Baijayanta Mukhopadhyay • (he/they), Nada Dabbagh • (she/her)

This conversation will highlight the health implications of genocide, and why liberation is a health intervention, based on the experience of Palestine.

Baijayanta (Baj) Mukhopadhyay is a family doctor who has worked in Montreal, across Indigenous communities in northern Canada, and abroad as well. An assistant clinical professor at McGill University's Department of Family Medicine, he writes on medical ethics and history, and is involved in multiple social movements around health justice both locally and globally. He supported an internal medicine team at Al-Aqsa Hospital in Gaza in June 2025.

Nada Dabbagh is a health worker and practicing hospital pharmacist based in Montréal. Raised in Gaza until the age of twelve, she carries with her vivid and affectionate memories of her homeland. Her personal history has shaped her lifelong commitment to advocating for Palestinian freedom, dignity, and self-determination. Through her professional work in healthcare and her community engagement, Nada strives to uplift, inform, and inspire others while centering humanity and justice in everything she does.

THURSDAY - 11:30-12:45

Sense of Belonging & Code-Switching

Khan Bouba-Dalambaye • (he/him)

My presentation explains what sense of belonging is, how it varies across different communities, and its relationship & impact on our well-being. The presentation also explores how individuals may respond when their sense of belonging is reduced (code-switching).



Khan Bouba-Dalambaye, a member of l'Ordre des Conseillers et Conseillères d'Orientation du Québec (OCCOQ), earned his Master's Degree in Counselling Psychology from McGill University in 2010. With almost a decade of experience as a high school guidance counsellor and coach, a counselor at McGill University's Wellness Hub, and a psychology instructor at the CEGEP level, Khan specializes in supporting teens and young adults. He has also worked extensively with Employee Assistance Programs, offering intake and crisis counseling, and

has dedicated part of his practice to supporting Montreal's Black and BIPOC communities. Khan's clinical focus includes interpersonal relationships, bullying, self-esteem, motivation, general anxiety, and career and academic counseling. He emphasizes creating a safe and comfortable environment for his clients to establish a strong therapeutic relationship. Additionally, Khan is a mental health and

DEI consultant, offering workshops, trainings, and consultations on providing appropriate care and support when working with the Black community.

THURSDAY - 1:00 – 2:30

1, 2 Step Masterclass

Kayin Queeley • (he/him)

Stepping or step is the art form of creating music with one's body through claps and stomps. Participants explore the basics of step choreography—claps, stomps, and chants—while experiencing the success of working as a team, and discover the power of using your body as an instrument to create beats, sounds and rhythms. This session also explores the origins of step, offering a cultural and historical foundation.

Montreal Steppers is a performance collective and non-profit organization committed to the art form of step – a Black diasporic dance that uses the body as an instrument to create rhythms and beats, through stomps, claps, and chants.

Founded in 2019, the collective has used stepping to influence dialogue around the importance of Black art, Black lives, and Black history in Canada, by way of workshops and performances. Montreal Steppers have offered educational workshops to over 21,000 participants. They have written and produced several original productions which have toured across Canada in Halifax, Ottawa, Toronto and Edmonton. Their work has expanded to South Africa through the launch of their cultural exchange initiatives.

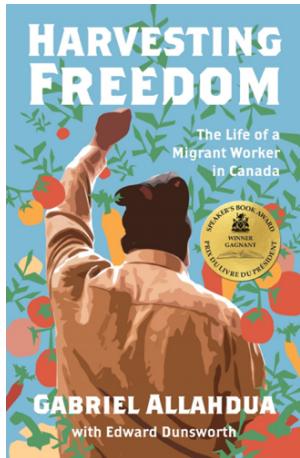
Montreal Steppers have a strong commitment to their community. Since its inception, the organisation has demonstrated success in using Black diasporic art forms to build community and promote cultural understanding.

THURSDAY - 2:30-3:45

Harvesting Freedom: The Struggles of Migrant Workers in Canada

Gabriel Allahdua • (he/him), Edward Dunsworth • (he/him)

When Gabriel Allahdua applied to the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program in Canada, he thought he would be leaving his home in St. Lucia to work in a country with a sterling human rights reputation and commitment to multiculturalism. Instead, breakneck quotas and a culture of fear dominated his four years in a mega-greenhouse in Ontario. Gabriel took the rare step of speaking out against these injustices, becoming in the years since a leading activist in the migrant justice movement in Canada. He has led protests across the country, testified before a Parliamentary committee, and spoken to thousands of Canadians about the migrant farm labour system. In 2023, he teamed up with historian Edward Dunsworth to write his memoir. In this presentation, Gabriel and Edward will explain what farm labour in Canada looks like, how it came to be, and how it might change.



Gabriel Allahdua is originally from Saint Lucia. He worked as a migrant agricultural worker under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program for four years, from 2012 to 2015. Today, he is a prominent voice and leader in the movement for migrant justice. Allahdua is an organizer with Justicia for Migrant Workers; The Neighbourhood Organization, which provides services to migrant workers throughout southwestern Ontario; and the Association for the Rights of Household and Farm Workers in Montreal.

Edward Dunsworth is a historian of labour, migration, and the left and professor at McGill University.

THURSDAY - 4:00-5:15

An Image, A Voice, A Story: Working Through the Creative Practices of Oral History

Kelann Currie-Williams • (she/her/they/them)

This presentation will focus on the interdisciplinarity of oral history (as a field and a practice) in relation to Black oral traditions and community-oriented photography histories within Montreal's Black communities. By presenting a range of creative interviewing approaches available to oral historians such as photo-interviews, mobile interviews, and memory mapping, students will learn about experimental methods of working with memory, voice, and image across oral history, photography studies, and Black studies. This

presentation expands on Kelann's publication "Makers and Keepers: Two Lives, Through Photographs."

Kelann Currie-Williams is a writer, visual culture scholar, and oral historian based in Tiohtià:ke/Montreal. They are currently a PhD candidate in the Humanities Program at Concordia University's Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture, working at the intersections of Visual Culture Studies, History, Black Studies, and Cultural Studies. Kelann's research focuses on the histories and socio-cultural functions of image-making and the photographic preservation practices of the Afro-Caribbean diaspora in Canada during the twentieth century. They are a core member and student affiliate of the Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling (COHDS), an affiliate of the Access in the Making (AIM) lab, as well as the Kitchen Table Collective. Kelann's writings has appeared in Urban History Review, the Canadian Journal of History, Topia: Canadian Journal of Cultural Studies, and Philosophy of Photography.

THURSDAY - 6:30

Film Screening: *Your Turn*

When Brazil's economic and social crisis worsened in 2013, an uprising of students led to the occupation of hundreds of schools to demand better public education. *Your Turn* is a documentary depicting the Brazilian student movement from the protests of 2013, up until the 2018 election of the new president, Jair Bolsonaro. Inspired by the collective voice of the movement itself, the film is narrated by three high school students. The narrators' jostling for space and time exposes the movement's conflicts as well as its complexity.

This film will be followed by a discussion with **Nadia Hausfather** and **Rushdia Mehreen**. Nadia completed her PhD in Humanities at Concordia University. Her dissertation was entitled “Ghosts in our corridors: Emotional experiences of participants in Québec’s general unlimited student strike campaigns (2005 – 2012).” She now works at Project Genesis, an anti-poverty community organization in Montreal. Rushdia is a grassroots organizer based in Tiohtià:ke/Montreal. For over a decade she has been involved in various social justice struggles, including Palestine/anti-colonial solidarity, the Quebec student movement, migrant justice, collective care and anti-racist organizing. Rushdia is a teacher here at Dawson College in the Humanities Department.

Here's a [trailer](#) for this 2019 film

THANK YOUS

We had so much help organizing Social Science Week 2026. In terms of programming, we are so grateful for Elizabeth Kirkland's work organizing the Thursday afternoon sessions with Ed Dunsworth and Gabriel Allahdua, and with Kelann Currie-Williams. Many of the talks were sponsored by the Social Science Program, as well as Campus Life, Sustainability and the Student Success Action Plan. Special thanks to the Certificate of Decolonization and Indigenization Studies for the support it offered this year. Thanks also to Living Campus for your care of this place and for hydrating us and our speakers. Debbie, David, Sarah, Mylene, Tommy, Maeve and Christina, your help behind the scenes was essential. Additional thanks to Shaun de Rooy from the University of Manitoba for producing this year's promotional image.

Above all, we owe an enormous debt to the original titleholders of this land, the Kanien'kehá:ka and the many Indigenous nations who have gathered and continue to gather here for millennia to trade, share ideas, and be in community. Wherever Indigenous people are protecting and reasserting control over their territories today, they are at the frontline of our collective struggle to protect and steward our planet.