

SOCIAL SCIENCE WEEK 2024

ALL TALKS WILL TAKE PLACE IN 5B.16

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

8:30	<p>Coronā Devī has Entered the Chat: Online Media Discourse and South Asian Goddesses Associated with Covid-19</p> <p>Thomas Seibel <i>*Sponsored by Social Science</i></p>
10:00	<p>"We made the Church our relative": Métis Religion and Relationality</p> <p>Ellen Dobrowolski <i>*Sponsored by Social Science</i></p>
11:30	<p>GAY 4 DATA: The Questions we ask reveal what we value</p> <p>Sarah Mangle <i>*Sponsored by Social Science</i></p>
1:00	<p>Teaching in Community-Pedagogies for Social Change and Solidarity</p> <p>Tesfa Peterson</p>
2:30	<p>Social Media and Polarization</p> <p>Brian Redekopp, Joseph Rosen, Jennifer Sigouin, Susan Finch</p>
4:00	<p>The Fungal Imaginary: Monster Mushrooms in Contemporary Media</p> <p>Elliot Mason <i>*Sponsored by Social Science</i></p>
6:30	<p>Cinema Politica Screening: <i>Invasion</i> and <i>The Klabona Keepers</i> followed by conversation with Tamo Campos, director of <i>The Klabona Keepers</i></p>

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

8:30	<p>No Reconciliation before Truth: Learning the Colonial History of Dawson College</p> <p>Ben Lander</p>
10:00	<p>Afro-Bubble Gum: Rest is Radical</p> <p>Ash Marshall <i>* Sponsored by Living Campus</i></p>
12:00	<p>Overview of the World Bank institutions and how they work</p> <p>Juliette d' Hollander</p>
2:30	<p>Canada as a Refuge: Immigration and Multiculturalism in twentieth century Canada</p> <p>James Volemsky</p>
4:00	<p><i>A Measure of UNCERTAINTY</i></p> <p>Andrew Katz and Joel Trudeau from S.P.A.C.E.</p>
6:30	<p>Cinema Politica Screening: <i>Our Bodies are your Battlefields</i> - followed by Q&A with Anaïs Zeledon Montenegro</p>

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

8:30	<p>Cities as Systems of Diversity: Why Jane Jacobs Matters for the Future Economy</p> <p>Charles-Albert Ramsay</p>
10:00	<p>Designing Streets: Safety, Universal Accessibility & Sustainability</p> <p>Bartek Komorowski</p>
11:30	<p>A Reading from Edward Said's <i>Culture and Resistance</i></p> <p>Abeer Esber <i>*Sponsored by Social Science</i></p>
1:00	<p>The Pathways and Protocols of Indigenous Storytelling</p> <p>Roxann Whitebean <i>* Sponsored by Living Campus</i></p>
2:30	<p>Stella 101</p> <p>Stella, l'amie de Maimie <i>*Sponsored by Social Science</i></p>
4:00	<p>Eco-Anxiety</p> <p>Cristina Cugliandro, Imago Theatre <i>*Sponsored by Social Science</i></p>
6:30	<p>Cinema Politica Screening: <i>5 Broken Cameras</i> with Oula Hajjar as guest speaker</p>

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

8:30	<p>Religion and Genocide in Rwanda in the early 1990s</p> <p>Spyridon (Spiros) Loumakis</p>
10:00	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL SEMINAR Making Change in the Food System: The George Brown College Honours Bachelor of Food Studies</p> <p>Lori Stahlbrand</p>
11:30	<p>The Global Challenge of Electronics: a perspective</p> <p>Pierre-Jean Alarco</p>
1:00	<p>Land and Relations Through the Art of Norval Morrisseau</p> <p>Carmen Robertson <i>* Sponsored by Living Campus</i></p>
2:30	<p>Psychedelics for the treatment of psychological disorders</p> <p>Rajesh Malik</p>
4:00	<p>Jazz, Art, and the Second World War in Montreal</p> <p>Sean Mills <i>*Sponsored by the Montreal History Group</i></p>
6:30	<p>Cinema Politica Screening: <i>We are Guardians</i> followed by a Q&A with Carlee Loft <i>* Sponsored by Living Campus</i></p>

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

1 – 2:30

Peace & Self Panel, Panelists Susan Finch, Lisa Steffen and Amanda Beattie

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

MONDAY, 8:30-9:45

Coronā Devī has Entered the Chat: Online Media Discourse and South Asian Goddesses Associated with Covid-19

Thomas Seibel He/Him

Between June 2020 and September 2021, news reports from India detailing ritual practice devoted to goddesses associated with the novel coronavirus were published by both domestic and international media houses. This talk presents an analysis of discourses located within English-language media reports and online comments about these deities, associated practices, and devotees. It considers how questions of ‘authority’ and ‘authenticity’ vis-à-vis Hinduism are discursively constructed, how labels relating to ‘superstition’ are differentially mobilized against groups and actors, and how participants’ reported narratives and ritual practices reflect these concerns. Online criticism of coronavirus-related deities and ritual participants is found to be situated within two broad and antagonistic discourses: Hindu nationalist discourses concerned with defending ‘true’ Hinduism from outside critique and secular rationalist discourses. Meanwhile, participant narratives situate practices both within preexisting traditions of goddesses associated with disease and as responses to novel challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic. Additionally, themes of economic insecurity, relationships between religion and science, and expressions of collective concern are reflected by both critics and participants in various ways.



Thomas Seibel is a first year PhD student in the Department of Religions and Cultures at Concordia University. His current research-in-development is interested in the afterlives of Covid-19 in North India. He holds a BA in Anthropology and Philosophy and an MA in Political Studies from the University of Saskatchewan, and an MA in Religious Studies from Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador.

MONDAY, 10:00-11:15

"We made the Church our relative": Métis Religion and Relationality

Ellen Dobrowolski (she/her)

Historically, mainstream studies of Indigenous religions have been based on an assumption of inherent incompatibility between Christian and Indigenous religious traditions. The adherence by scholars to this binarized view of religion is particularly problematic in studies of Indigenous Christianities, with complex religious traditions being reduced to superficially syncretic variations of pre-existing colonial religions, and with Indigenous Christians being portrayed as abandoning their “authentic” religious traditions. An Indigenous group whose religious traditions have been largely misrepresented in mainstream media is the Métis, with Métis forms of religion often being disregarded as lesser versions of French or French-Canadian forms of Catholicism, and Métis practices of ceremony being framed as either non-existent or appropriation of other, more “legitimate” Indigenous nations’ practices. This



presentation will explore how Métis Catholicism has been misrepresented in whitestream academia as either not a “legitimate” form of religion in its own right, or as a religious tradition defined by its inherent “ambivalence” due to its perceived contradictory nature. By using case studies of Métis religious practices such as historic religious practices of the Métis community at Île-à-la-Crosse, including the community and missionary work of Sara Riel, one of the first Métis Grey Nuns, this presentation will explore Métis conceptions of relatedness and relationality which make up the foundations of Métis experiences of Catholicism.

Ellen Dobrowolski is a member of the Métis Nation BC, Northeast Region. She is currently in her second year of study as a PhD student in the Department of Religions and Cultures. Ellen completed her Bachelor of Arts in First Nations and Indigenous Studies at the University of British Columbia and studied for two years in the Master’s of Indigenous Studies program at UiT- The Arctic University of Norway before switching gears and pivoting into the Master of Arts in Religions and Cultures at Concordia University. Ellen has always been interested in studying Indigenous religions as sites of Indigenous sovereignty and, as a member of the Métis nation, has a particular interest in exploring and celebrating the diverse religious traditions practiced by her community.

Recommended (but not required) Reading:

2021 Welcome from Rev. Garry LaBoucane, OMI.” (2021) YouTube, The Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton, 21 July 2021, <https://youtu.be/0w6DZ9UEDV4>.

Gareau, Paul L. “Mary and the Métis: Religion as a Site for New Insight in Métis Studies.” *A People and a Nation: New Directions in Contemporary Métis Studies*, edited by Jennifer Adese and Chris Andersen, 188–212. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2021.

MONDAY, 11:30-12:45

GAY 4 DATA: The Questions we ask Reveal What we Value

Sarah Mangle (She/her)

This lecture will present three of my interconnected projects that examine the history of research of LGBTQIA2S people by LGBTQIA2S people themselves, researchers and psychologists from the late 1800s and today and the specific history of surveys used to conduct this research. I will also speak about my own survey research work. I will speak about LGBTQIA2S construct/category creation as it is linked to the HIV AIDS crisis, racism within white gay organizing and bisexual organizing. In my own survey work collected responses from 770 Canadians to the questionnaire I developed after conducting a scoping review of prominent questionnaires used to study sexual orientation. Findings identified how 2SLGBTQ+ people conceptualize and self-report their identities when given response options that are more inclusive and representative, including in ways that do not force them to choose between mutually exclusive categories or dichotomize categories on a single dimension. I will speak about my approach to historical research, and current public health research, and also tell the story of how I faced my math fears to be able to do the work I currently do.

Sarah Mangle is a researcher, artist and graduate student at the Université de Montreal. She is interested in the performative, ethical, scientific, psychometric, historical and cultural dimensions of psychological and public health measurement. She is specifically focused on the development and use of research methods designed to study LGBTQIA2S people. Sarah also holds a BA in psychology, a BFA in studio art and a diploma in early childhood education. She is the creator of Gay 4 Data t-shirts.

Recommended (but not required) Reading:

Bisexuality and the Challenge to Lesbian Politics by Paula Rust <https://nyupress.org/9780814774441/bisexuality-and-the-challenge-to-lesbian-politics/>

The Mismeasure of Man by Stephen Jay Gould https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Mismeasure_of_Man

Flag Wars https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_Wars

Richard Goldstein's Interview with James Baldwin <http://www.richardgoldsteinonline.com/uploads/2/5/3/2/25321994/richardgoldstein-jamesbaldwininterview.pdf>

MONDAY, 1:00-2:15

Teaching in Community-Pedagogies for Social Change and Solidarity

Tesfa Peterson she/her

Mobilizing Walter Rodney's concept of "The Groundings," this talk will think about how Tesfa's work in communities in Grenada and Montreal informs her pedagogical approach in institutional spaces like Dawson. Her PhD research project, called "Community Groundings through Diasporic Reverberations" is grounded in grassroots community activism that foregrounds collective transformation through education. Since early 2020, Tesfa has been collaborating with the community of LaDigue in Grenada alongside the Institute for People's Enlightenment to support their mandate to honor, document and preserve the legacy of their Grenadian foremother, Helen Louise Langdon Little. Her research brings together communities, and formal institutional spaces in a shared commitment to transformation through grounded community education and activism. Tesfa wants us to explore together the ways that community pedagogies can potentially impact on formal classroom practices through a relational approach like, "The Groundings."

Tesfa Peterson is currently a PhD student in the Humanities department at Concordia University, and a teacher in Dawson College's Geography Department and a teacher in the Social Change and Solidarity Profile. Her current work, tentatively titled "Diaspora Reverberations and Community Groundings", engages a praxis of grassroots community transformation through education, as espoused in the work of Caribbean intellectual Walter Rodney. She is currently working in her home communities of LaDigue, Chantimelle in Grenada and in Montreal to develop a diasporic project that incorporates oralities and heritage preservation as the basis of community education and transformation. Tesfa has worked for many

years in community education, and activism both in Montreal and in Grenada and believes passionately in the importance of community collaboration as a critical feature of intellectual life.

MONDAY, 2:30- 3:45

Social Media and Polarization

Brian Redekopp in conversation with Susan Finch, Jennifer Sigouin, and Joseph Rosen

This panel discussion will address issues of polarization and the media, particularly as it relates to the different worlds of social media versus traditional media. How do different media facilitate or interrupt understandings of conflict, and in what ways do they participate in conflicts as they happen?

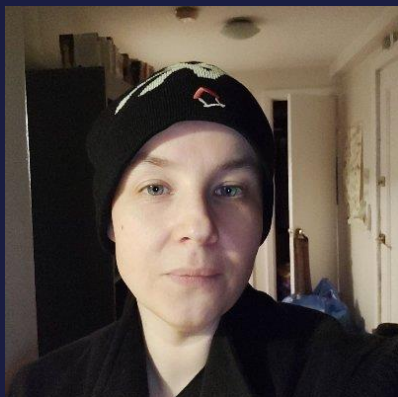
Brian Redekopp holds a Ph.D. in philosophy from McGill and has been teaching philosophy courses in Social Science, ALC, and Liberal Arts at Dawson since 2011. Currently facilitator of the new Society and Technology profile in Social Science, he is broadly interested in how to help students develop a more critical and empowered understanding of the technology shaping their lives, communication technologies in particular.

Joseph Rosen teaches at Dawson College in Montreal, and has written for publications including *The Globe & Mail*, *Walrus Magazine*, *Maisonneuve*, the *Montreal Gazette*, and *Shtetl Montreal*. He has a PhD in how messed up the world is, but you can't believe everything you read.

Jennifer Sigouin teaches in the sociology department at Dawson College and Susan Finch is in psychology.

MONDAY, 4:00-5:15

The Fungal Imaginary: Monster Mushrooms in Contemporary Media



Elliot Mason (He/him)

This presentation will discuss the contemporary explosion of mushroom and fungal monsters in our contemporary fiction (film, literature, video games, and art). The proliferation (or sporification) of such works participates in what I have called “the fungal imaginary.” This constellation of texts uses a renewed popular interest in fungi and in the mycelial networks that undergird our ecosystems as the inspiration for the design of a new wave of monsters. Mushroom-headed zombies, mold-infected lycanthropes, and mind-controlling spores fruit from contemporary videogames, visual art, cinema, television, and literature. From Japanese videogames like *Resident Evil: Village* (2021) to the South African movie *Gaia* (2021), American artist Kathleen Ryan’s sculptural exhibit “Bad Fruit” (2020), and British author Aliya Whiteley’s queer feminist horror novella, *The Beauty* (2014), mutated fungal bodies have permeated our culture with the voracity of the mold in our refrigerators. These texts offer not simply a slew of new monsters to haunt our nightmares, but operate on the assumption that there lies a thin line between the grotesque and the beautiful. These works challenge

audiences to experience a loveliness in decay and embrace a new vision of the relationship between humans and our environments. Many of the artists listed explicitly cite concerns over climate change and global warming as inspirations for their work, and in these texts the mushroom monster is often positioned as a salvific figure that represents both the destruction of human civilization as we know it, as well as our only means of survival.

Elliot Mason (he/him) is a PhD candidate in Concordia University's Department of Religions and Cultures where he is supervised by Dr. Lorenzo DiTommaso. His research focuses on monsters and the monstrous, and he has published chapters on disability and the monstrous in the Resident Evil video game franchise, as well as an article on the fungal imaginary as part of Bloomsbury's Cultural History of Monsters project. His current research focuses on marginalized reclamations of monster characters, but he has a background in history and in particular is passionate about Late Antiquity. He has taught courses on the history of Satan, religion and its monsters, and witchcraft. He has frequently guest lectured on the role of angels and demons in the biblical tradition. He has a secret identity as an author of fantasy and horror fiction under the pen name Steve Hugh Westenra.

Recommended (but not required) Reading:

Cohen, Jeffrey Jerome. "Monster Culture (Seven Theses)." *Monster Theory: Reading Culture*. Edited by Jeffrey Jerome Cohen. University of Minnesota Press, 1996, pp. 3-25.

Weinstock, Jeffrey Andrew. "Introduction: Monsters are the Most Interesting People," in *The Ashgate Encyclopedia of Literary and Cinematic Monsters*. London: Routledge, 2016.

MONDAY, 6:30

Cinema Politica Screening – *Invasion* and *The Klabona Keepers*

This screening will feature one short film, *Invasion*, and one longer film, *The Klabona Keepers*.

Invasion, directed by Michael Toledano and Sam Vinal, examines the Unist'ot'en Camp, an indigenous re-occupation of Wet'suwet'en land, and its determined peoples as they encounter armed police raids and fight to prevent 13 pipelines from crossing their land.

Directed by Tamo Campos and Jasper Snow-Rosen, *The Klabona Keepers* is an award-winning documentary offering a portrait of an Indigenous community that successfully protected the Sacred Headwaters, known as the Klabona, from industrial activities in northwest British Columbia. The film, spanning 15 years of matriarch-led resistance, follows a group of elders in the village of Iskut as they push back against law enforcement, the government, and multinational companies all while healing from the wounds of colonization.

Followed by virtual Q & A with Tamo Campos

Tamo Campos, co-director of *The Klabona Keepers* (2022), is also behind several other documentaries, including *Ru-Tsu* (2020), *The Radicals* (2018), and *A Last Stand for Lelu* (2016). Campos is not only an award-winning documentarian; he's a noted environmentalist, professional snowboarder, and core member of Beyond Boarding, a humanitarian initiative.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

TUESDAY, 8:30-9:45

No Reconciliation before Truth: Learning the Colonial History of Dawson College

Ben Lander (he/him)

Inspired by work around the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and other requests by First Nations communities and Indigenous organizations for settlers to face the truth of their history, this presentation will look at the colonial history of the land that Dawson College sits on. It will focus on the individuals, organizations and related processes that led to the dispossession of the island of Montreal from its original inhabitants, to some of the earliest forms of residential schools just down the street from the college, and finally to the construction and use of this building as a school, first by the Congregation of Notre Dame and then as Dawson College.

Ben Lander has been teaching History and Social Science at Dawson College since 2010. He is the co-founder of the Dawson Oral History Project and the learning community Counting the Cost: Social Justice in Canada? and is currently the coordinator of the Decolonization and Indigenization Studies certificate.

TUESDAY, 10:00-11:15

Afro-Bubble Gum: Rest is Radical

Ash Marshall (she/they)



There is a legacy of using Black people for free labour, a foundation of the current design of race-based capitalism. My presentation outlines movements, momentum, and permission away from internalizing these beliefs about Black productivity. Relying on theory, and pulling from examples in the natural environment, this presentation seeks to inspire QTBIPOC students to mobilize around play, rest, community, and liberation that does not put us on the front lines of trauma and danger.

Ashley Marshall is an aquarius, abolitionist, artist, activist, anti-respectability advocate whose research critiques how power, economics, and politics influence social change, while advocating for imagination and creativity as alternatives to neoliberal market logics. Her/their work does not perceive the city as a blank canvas upon which we can experiment, but rather, aims to use collaborative measures to dissect and render visible the various social and material flows that both (re)produce hegemonic power structures and dismantle them, with a focus on place-based pedagogy.

Recommended (but not required) Reading:

<https://halmagazine.wordpress.com/the-latest-issue>

The Black Mundane is Radical: resting, after a history of being worked to death, is liberation.

TUESDAY, 12:00-2:00

Overview of the World Bank institutions and how they work

Juliette d' Hollander

Overview of the World Bank institutions and how they work, with a focus on one of the institutions, the International Finance Corporation.

Juliette d'Hollander is an in-house counsel at the International Finance Corporation, part of the World Bank Group. Before joining the World Bank Group, she worked as a lawyer in a Montreal law firm and then as in-house counsel in a financial institution.

TUESDAY, 2:30-3:45

Canada as a Refuge: Immigration and Multiculturalism in twentieth century Canada

James Volemsky



In the years following the Second World War, Canada experienced an influx of immigrants and refugees from Europe who brought with them their own languages, cultures, and customs. Here, these newly arrived immigrants had to navigate assimilation into the dominant bilingual and bicultural society while maintaining their distinct ethnic identities. These interactions prompted Canadian society to rethink its identity, ultimately resulting in the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism of 1963, the Multiculturalism Act of 1988, and the Canada we know today. Using the Russian community of Montréal as a case study and relying on archival sources and oral history interviews, this talk will examine the role of ideologies of multiculturalism on the maintenance of hyphenated identity in Canada, and what this means for Canada in a contemporary world of transregional migration and globalization.

James Volmensky hails from California, where he completed a BA in History and Psychology at California State University, Sacramento in 2014. Upon completion of his undergraduate education, he pursued an MA in History at McGill University, receiving his degree in 2016. He is currently a PhD Candidate in the Department of History and Classical Studies at McGill University. His research interests are North American immigration history, the history of the Cold War, and the history of the United States. His dissertation, *The Russian Soul in Exile*, focuses on identity formation in the Russian diaspora, using the Russian community of Montréal as a case study to understand how White Russian émigrés and their descendants developed and maintained links to their homeland in multicultural Canada.

TUESDAY, 4:00-5:15

A Measure of UNCERTAINTY

Andrew Katz and Joel Trudeau

This presentation aims toward a critical and creative exploration of the 2023-2024 SPACE theme: UNCERTAINTY. What do we mean by uncertainty? How do we understand it, measure it, apply it? And how can a better appreciation of uncertainty impact our lives and world? These questions will be presented as part of a design-based methodology where students across the disciplines will be guided through scenarios for discussion and to generate project ideas around the theme of UNCERTAINTY.

Joel Trudeau has taught in the Physics Department at Dawson College since 2004. His background is in Theoretical Cosmology but his interests and activities involve ideas across a range of knowledge domains. In 2007 he founded SPACE (Sciences Participating with Arts and Culture in Education), an initiative that seeks to expand academic discussion and collaboration across and within disciplines at Dawson College and beyond. He is also the project lead of the Dawson AI Artificial Intelligence initiative, part of a team building the infrastructure and curriculum needed to implement a comprehensive plan for AI education. His work lies in the domain where sciences, arts and technology overlap. Over the years he has been involved with Physics and Science Education research with a special focus on design-based, active and experiential learning. With colleagues at Dawson, he is involved in the enterprise of creating next gen curriculum that develops the critical technical and transversal skills needed for solving the pressing, emerging and potential future problems we all share.

Andrew Katz grew up in Montreal. After graduating from McGill medical school he went on to complete his Masters in English and Creative Writing at Concordia, and since 2006 he has been teaching English and Creative Writing at Dawson College, where in 2013 he won the Director General's Award for Teaching Excellence. He has been involved as a SPACE coordinator and fellow since 2008, and he uses his background in both the sciences and the arts to help students across the disciplines explore connections within and beyond their primary fields of study. He is also a published picture book author; his first picture book, *How to Catch a Bear Who Loves to Read* (2018), published simultaneously in French as *Comment attraper un ours qui aime lire*, was nominated for the 2020 Prix Peuplier, an Ontario Library Association Forest of Reading award. His second picture book, *I Just Want To Be Super!* (*Je suis Super Nino!*) was published in both English and French in 2020 and won an Independent Press Distinguished Favorites Award. His next picture book, *A Starlit Trip to the Library* (*Voyage de nuit à la bibli*) will be published in Fall 2022.

TUESDAY, 6:30

Cinema Politica Film Screening – Documentary, *Our Bodies are your Battlefields*

Our Bodies are your Battlefields, a 2021 documentary, examines an Argentina divided between a deep conservatism and an unprecedented momentum in feminism, the film delves into the political journey and intimate lives of Claudia and Violeta. The fight they lead with their comrades against patriarchal violence is visceral and embodied. Convinced of their role at the center of an ongoing revolution that intersects with so many struggles, and in defiance of the old world, they dedicate their energy to invent a new present, to love and stay alive.

Followed by discussion with **Anaïs Zeledon Montenegro**: Anaïs Zeledon Montenegro is a community worker at ASTTeQ (Action santé travesti(e)s et transsexuel(le)s du Québec) who is generously providing a discussion on how *Our Bodies are your Battlefields* relates to the local context of Montreal and fielding questions and from the audience after the screening.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

WEDNESDAY, 8:30-9:45 AM

Cities as Systems of Diversity: Why Jane Jacobs Matters for the Future Economy

Charles-Albert Ramsay (he/him)

Jane Jacobs' economic theory is very useful in understanding the systemic role cities play in developing more complex economies. Such development, using Systems Analysis, is important to city growth, and explains why cities are more diverse economies than other regions. Diversity brings virtuous cycles of innovation, trade, and problem-solving, which are much needed today when we think of the major challenges our economies are facing. Cities are based on the paradox of diversity, and we owe our understanding of this to Jane Jacobs, a very interesting woman.

Charles-Albert Ramsay teaches economics at Dawson College. He is the author of a recently published book: *Cities Matter, A Montrealer's Ode to Jane Jacobs, Economist*. His research interests include urban economics, systems analysis, and Indigenous economic development.

Recommended (but not required) Reading:

Ikeda, S. (2023). *A City Cannot Be a Work of Art, Learning Economics and Social Theory From Jane Jacobs*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Jacobs, J. (1969). *The Economy of Cities*. New York: Vintage.

WEDNESDAY, 10:00-11:15 AM

Designing Streets: Safety, Universal Accessibility & Sustainability

Bartek Komorowski (he/him)

This presentation will provide students with an overview of basic concepts underlying the planning and design of streets. Streets will be presented not only as infrastructure for the movement of people and goods but also as public spaces and as green infrastructure providing ecological services. Three themes will be addressed in depth: safety and Vision Zero principles; universal design principles to enable accessibility and use by people of all ages and abilities; and sustainability and the ecological role of streets in the context of climate change. At the end of the presentation, students will be introduced to the different stakeholders and professions that contribute to shaping our streets and provided with a list of sources to learn about the subject.



Bartek Komorowski is an urban planner by training and has worked in the field of active mobility for 15 years. He holds degrees in Cognitive Science (B.Sc.) and Urban Planning (M.U.P.) from McGill University. He is currently a team leader in the City of Montreal's Urban Planning and Mobility Department. His team is responsible for developing design guidelines for Montreal's streets. Prior to joining the City, Bartek spent 7 years as a Project Leader in the Research and Consulting department at Vélo Québec, Canada's largest cycling advocacy organization. He is a coauthor of Vélo Québec's 2020 design manual, *Aménager pour les piétons et les cyclistes* (Planning and Designing for Pedestrians and Cyclists). Bartek is also a board member of the Winter Cycling Federation, which organizes the annual international Winter Cycling Congress.

For Classroom Readings See Also:

Global Street Design Guide (free download - <https://globaldesigningcities.org/publication/global-street-design-guide/>)

Designing Streets for Kids (free download - <https://globaldesigningcities.org/publication/designing-streets-for-kids/>)

Aménager pour les piétons et les cyclistes (paper only - <https://www.velo.qc.ca/publications-techniques/amenager-pour-les-pietons-et-les-cyclistes/>)

WEDNESDAY, 11:30-12:45

A Reading from Edward Said's Culture and Resistance

Abeer Esber (she/her)

Born in Damascus in 1974, **Abeer Esber** is a writer and filmmaker. She read English literature at Damascus University, worked as a literary critic for eight years, and has published four novels: Lulu, Manazil al-Ghiyyab (House of Absence), Qasqis Waraq (Cutting Paper) and Suqout Hurr (Free Fall), published in Arabic in Beirut in 2019. She has written and directed documentaries, fiction short films, and TV series. She lives in Montreal.

WEDNESDAY, 1:00-2:15

The Pathways and Protocols of Indigenous Storytelling

Roxann Whitebean (she/her)

In this talk, Roxann will speak about the protocols of Indigenous storytelling for artists and allies, followed by a screening of her recent short film, *Rose* (28 mins). She will share the trajectory of her career, including how to manage such decisions as when you should consider signing with a literacy agent.

Roxann Karonhiarokwas Whitebean is a media artist who hails from the Mohawk Territories of Kahnawà:ke and Akwesasne. Her work can be seen on the CBC, Paramount +, CBS, APTN, TVO Kids and PBS, as well as at film festivals around the world. Roxann's latest projects as a writer and director are the short film *Rose* and the docuseries *Pulse*. Her work as a television writer includes *SkyMed* and season four of *Diggstown*. She won Main Film's International Indigenous Filmmaker Award and is a recipient of the REVAL Indigenous Arts Award. She has been nominated for Canadian Screen Awards and Hot Docs' Lindalee Tracey Award. Her short film, *Rose*, won numerous awards, including ImagineNATIVE's live-action short award.

Recommended (but not required) Reading:

Weston, Judith. *The Film Director's Intuition, Script Analysis and Rehearsal Techniques*. Michael Wiese Productions, 2003.

WEDNESDAY, 2:30-3:45

Stella 101

Stella, l'amie de Maimie

Q&A Moderation by Sabrina (Thien) Yo, Senior Hive coordinator (she/her)

This presentation will introduce an organization run by and for sex workers in Montreal, Stella, l'amie de Maimie. The presenters will provide an introduction to sex work, the realities for sex workers in our community, and the services and advocacy that they do at Stella. The presentation will also touch lightly on the legislative context and the stigma and discrimination around sex work.

Stella, l'amie de Maimie has been serving sex workers in Montreal and surrounding areas since 1995. We are an organization run by and for female-identified sex workers who work on the street, indoors, in massage parlours and strip clubs. Our goals are to create empowering spaces for sex workers to live and work in health and safety, free from stigma, discrimination, and violence.

Recommended (but not required) Reading:

<https://chezstella.org/en/publications-2/stella-info-sheet-allies/>

WEDNESDAY, 4:00-5:15

Eco-Anxiety: Four Plays on Climate Change

Cristina Cugliandro, Imago Theatre

A video screening of a series of short plays about our fraught relationship with the planet. Eco-Anxiety features four short plays written by award-winning international playwrights and showcases the work of 12 Montreal artists. At times funny, at times moving, all four plays use different storytelling techniques as they explore the realities of the global climate crisis.

Cristina Cugliandro, an artist associated with Imago Theatre, will be present to field a Q&A.

WEDNESDAY, 6:30

Cinema Politica Screening - 5 Broken Cameras

5 Broken Cameras, is an intimate portrayal of life in the West Bank village of Bil'in where Emad Burnat, a Palestinian farmer, documents the struggles and resistances of his community against the Israeli occupation using five different cameras, each of which is damaged or destroyed during various confrontations.

Post-screening discussion with **Oula Hajjar**: Oula Hajjar, a community organizer and activist, has worked on several campaigns for social justice in the Middle East as a member of the Montreal-based solidarity group Tadamon! Recently, she has worked directly supporting Syrian refugees in Berlin and Montreal. She is currently doing her PhD in Social Work at McGill university focusing on social transformations in rural Lebanon and how ordinary people contribute to social change.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

THURSDAY, 8:30-9:45

Religion and Genocide in Rwanda in the early 1990s

Spyridon (Spiros) Loumakis

This presentation will explore Christianity in Rwanda before, during and after the 1994 genocide, as a religious phenomenon interwoven with political discourse, state ideology and popular beliefs. It aims to explore how Rwanda moved from a state-dominated, conservative Catholic Church that supported a racist ethnocratic regime, into a biblically-sanctioned genocidal ideology that ruled from 1990 to 1994. The presentation will be based on various sources referring to the relevant period (state and judicial archives, magazines, newspapers, public speeches, scientific treatises, radio broadcasts, and NGO reports), a considerable portion of which was originally produced in French. Whenever necessary, sources originally written in Kinyarwanda, will be used, and officially translated into French and English by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). A goal of this presentation is to show the complicated, diverse, and dynamic religious landscape of Rwanda, in the turbulent period of civil war between rebel Tutsi groups in exile in English-speaking Uganda (the inkotanyi) and the French-supported Hutu-dominated government in Rwandan homeland sliding towards ethnic racism and political extremism (1990-1994). Secondly, this presentation will showcase the danger of hate speech and violent vocabulary once unapologetically entering public speech.



Spyridon Loumakis holds a B.A. and Masters in History and Archaeology from the University of Athens, Greece, and Masters in History and Philosophy of Religions from Concordia University, funded by the "Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation." He is currently a PhD candidate at Concordia University, where he has also worked for four years as part-time lecturer. His PhD thesis, funded by both the SSHRC and FRQS, is related to the fields of genocide

studies. In the diverse and stimulating environment of Concordia University, he decided to switch from the study of the ancient world to the study of the 1994 Rwandan Genocide. He has already contributed in volumes published by major international publishing houses, related to religion and violence. He currently works as on-line teacher at the US-based platform "OutSchool", where he offers courses on ancient Greek, Roman, and Mesopotamian mythology, literature and history.

Recommended (but not required) Reading:

Loumakis, Spyridon, "Inciting genocide in Rwanda and the reception of the Bible: 'When the Lord your God delivers it into your hand, put to the sword all the men in it' " in Religion and Violence in Western Traditions, Routledge 2021

THURSDAY, 10:00-11:15

Environmental Seminar

Making Change in the Food System: The George Brown College Honours Bachelor of Food Studies

Lori Stahlbrand



This talk will address the issues and opportunities in food policy from the perspective of an expert in Toronto who served as the lead for the Toronto Food Policy Council. It will also focus on educational opportunities for students interested in critical food studies. In 2021, George Brown College in Toronto launched the first Honours Bachelor of Food Studies in Canada. Students graduating from the program earn the equivalent of a two-year Culinary Diploma from one of the most prestigious chef schools in Canada while completing a Bachelor's Degree that focuses on sustainability and equity in the food system. According to the UN, one-third of GHG emissions are connected to food. So, as part of this degree program, students try their hand at making positive food system change in an era of climate chaos. Last year, students helped the Chef School becomes the first Gold Organic Designated Campus in Canada. This year, they're turning their hand to eliminating single use take-out containers on campus. If you're interested in sustainability and love food, you'll want to learn more about this unique program.

Lori Stahlbrand is an award-winning Professor at George Brown College, where she co-developed and leads the first Honours Bachelor's Degree in Food Studies in Canada. Lori has wide-ranging experience in the food sector, as a food policy specialist, a non-profit leader and an academic. Prior to joining George Brown, Lori worked for the City of Toronto, responsible for the Toronto Food Policy Council. She was also a well-known CBC broadcaster for many years.

THURSDAY, 11:30-12:45

The Global Challenge of Electronics: a perspective

Pierre-Jean Alarco (He/Him)



The digital revolution made commonplace concepts, such as home offices, virtual meeting rooms and online training. These are now essentially inescapable, through necessity the pandemic imposed on the world. 5G, now AI promise in turn a better future, increased prosperity. This may indeed prove to be true. However, our increasing reliance on these tools come at a cost: electronics and the data centers and energy, required to operate them also increases – at an alarming rate. Combined with the market models relying on planned obsolescence (be it hardware or software), these trends are the root cause of the dramatic increase in global Waste Electric and Electronic Equipment (e-waste). If e-wastes are a global problem they do not impact populations equally, with low- and medium-income countries taking the brunt of the harmful environmental and health effects, on their populations. This presentation will suggest meaningful paths to mitigate the electronics waste crisis, that include sustainable and eco-designed electronics while recognizing the limitations of certain available tools. We will see some relevant paradigm shifts that need to occur for the digital revolution’s benefits to outweigh its drawbacks, most important of which are its present unsustainable growth. These shifts need to occur on intersectoral, intersectional, and intergenerational dimensions to alleviate the heavily asymmetrical environmental impact (Global-North vs Global-South) e-waste have.

Pierre-Jean (him/he) is a chemist in training. In 2011, he joins Polytechnique's Research Grant Office. There, he contributes to the strategic positioning of initiatives from various faculty and facilitates the writing of targeted grants. In 2013, he is responsible for NSERC'S Collaborative Research and Training Experience program (CREATE), which focuses on innovative training program development for graduate students. Between 2013 and 2019, he facilitated successfully four CREATE awards, including the CREATE in Sustainable Electronics and Eco-Design (CREATE-SEED). SEED focuses on mitigating the unsustainability of our current electronic and digital sector. Since the end of 2018, he is responsible for structuring the Knowledge Mobilization and Community engagement institutional strategies. Pierre-Jean received the Canadian Association of Research Administrators Project Management Award in May 2023.

THURSDAY, 1:00 – 2:30

Land and Relations Through the Art of Norval Morriseau

Carmen Robertson

Anishinaabe artist Norval Morriseau (1933-2007) is considered the Mishomis or Grandfather of contemporary Indigenous art because he created a new visual language based on storytelling. Morriseau's art continues to offer viewers new ways of understanding deep relationships with land and water. This presentation will share a number of works created by Copper Thunderbird during his forty-year career as an artist that viewers offer important lessons on how to better understand our place on the land through visual stories.



Dr. Carmen Robertson is the Tier I Canada Research Chair in North American Indigenous Visual and Material Culture at Carleton University in Ottawa. She is a Scots-Lakhota woman from Treaty Four territory in Saskatchewan and leads the Morriseau Project: 1955-1985, with a team of twelve researchers conducting an exhaustive study of the first thirty years of the artistic practice of Anishinaabe artist Norval Morriseau.

Recommended (but not required) Reading:

Carmen wrote a free online e-book about the art of Norval Morriseau that is aimed at first-year art history students. Find it here: <https://www.aci-iac.ca/art-books/norval-morriseau/>

Carmen Robertson next to Norval Morriseau, "Pikangikum Woman" (1972). Westerkirk Works of Art. Permissions granted from the Norval

Morriseau Estate Ltd, Official Morriseau.com [photo by Sarah Wood-Gagnon]

THURSDAY, 2:30-3:45

Psychedelics for the treatment of psychological disorders

Rajesh Malik

This talk will discuss recent studies on the effectiveness of psilocybin as well as MDA to treat major depression and posttraumatic stress disorder. The potential and limitations of these substances will be highlighted.

Rajesh Malik teaches in the Psychology department at Dawson and has a doctorate degree from Concordia University. His topics of interest in the field have included various states of consciousness including sleep and dreams, drug-induced alterations, hypnosis etc. He has taught the course Abnormal Psychology at the college more than any other courses our department offers.

THURSDAY, 4:00-5:15

Jazz, Art, and the Second World War in Montreal

Sean Mills (he/him)

**Sponsored by the Montreal History Group*

Q&A Moderated by Liz Kirkland (she/her)

This talk will discuss how the Second World War and its aftermath transformed Montreal, and in particular its musical and artistic worlds. The period is most often remembered for the publication of the 'Refus global' manifesto in 1948, when Paul-Émile Borduas and 15 co-signatories denounced the conservative nature of their society, an event often seen as a precursor to the Quiet Revolution. By reading this development alongside the simultaneous transformation of the city's jazz scene, this talk will explore how artists and musicians engaged in debates about racial justice, democracy, and internationalism, and reshaped the city's cultural life in the process.

Sean Mills is professor and Canada Research Chair in Canadian and Transnational History at the University of Toronto. He is the author of *The Empire Within: Postcolonial Thought and Political Activism in Sixties Montreal*, and *A Place in the Sun: Haiti, Haitians, and the Remaking of Quebec*. Most recently, Mills is the co-editor (with Eric Fillion and Désirée Rochat) of a major collection of writings by and about jazz pianist Lou Hooper, entitled *Statesman of the Piano: Jazz, Race, and History in the Life of Lou Hooper* (2023). Mills is a Member of the College of New Scholars, Artists, and Scientists of the Royal Society of Canada.

THURSDAY, 6:30

Cinema Politica Film Screening – Film, *We are Guardians*

We are Guardians is a rich, intimate journey meeting the many people who are living an intricate daily balance in the Amazon basin, one of the world's most disrupted and threatened regions. Through intimate, character focused storytelling, the film reveals the many intertwined social and economic issues driving this complicated landscape. This is a powerful film that explores the role of violence in the Indigenous defense of Amazonian rainforests under threat from global neoliberal capitalism, while also depicting the economic logics that drive illegal loggers to engage in poaching these vital forests. We will have someone from the Mohawk Youth Climate Collective join us for a post-screening discussion to link some of what we are seeing in the film to the local work being done to defend the land.

Post-screening discussion led by Carlee Loft: Carlee is the Environmental Projects Coordinator for the Kahnawà:ke Environmental Protection Office. She believes strongly in the importance of culture and creativity in restoring our relationship with the natural world. She has an educational background in psychology and is passionate about community organizing. She brings this perspective to her role at KEPO, where her objective is to work with the community to explore what environmental policy could look like for Kahnawà:ke.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

FRIDAY, 1-2:30 PM

Panel: Peace & Self

Panelists: Lisa Steffen, History; Susan Finch, Psychology; Amanda Beattie, Fine Arts

This panel, features three professors who will discuss how their disciplines shape their perspectives on the topic of Peace & Self. This is the first of three Peace Panels, the other two relating to Peace & Other and Peace & Nature, which are presented as part of the inter-disciplinary Peace 365 course.

THANK YOUS

We had so much help putting on Social Science Week 2024. In terms of programming, we wouldn't have gotten anywhere without Mark Beauchamp's work on the Cinema Politica Screenings, and Elizabeth Kirkland's work organizing Sean Mill's talk on Jazz. Brian Redekopp and Ivan Freud organized the two excellent panel discussions. Many of the talks were sponsored by the Social Science Programme, and Living Campus and the Student Success Action Plan sponsored several others. Thanks to Living Campus for your care of this place and for hydrating us and our speakers. Debbie, David, Mylene, Ron 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 programme and promotional image. Above all, we owe an enormous debt to the original titleholders of this land, the Kanienke:ha and the many Indigenous nations who have gathered and continue to gather here for millenia to trade, share ideas, and be in community. Wherever Indigenous people are protecting and reasserting control over their territories today, they are at the front line of our collective struggle to protect and steward our planet.