

Sessions will be held in the Multipurpose Room, 5B-16

***Except Feb 8th 1:00 PM in the Theatre**

***Monday to Thursday Continuing Education Sessions - Location 5B.16**

Dawson College Social Science Week February 4th to 8th, 2019

Monday, February 4th

8:30 am

Digital Distraction

PANELISTS:

- *Cyndy Borden, Coordinator of Educational Technologies, St. George's High School*
- *Lisa Courte, Counsellor, Dawson College*
- *Dianne Hawryluck, Academic Advisor, Dawson College (intro/moderator)*
- *Rafael Scapin, Coordinator, Educational Technologies, Dawson College*

The concept of digital distraction has been garnering attention in recent years, particularly since members of Generation Z or iGen (a term coined by Sociologist Dr. Jean Twenge for those born in 1995 or later) have arrived on college campuses. The purpose of the panel is to present research showing evidence that smart phones and tablet computers may be addictive, and about digital distraction in general. The presentation will address the physiological effects of this addiction (stemming from the release of dopamine or cortisol, depending on whether the device is being used or usage is unwillingly curtailed). In addition, attention will be given to the impact of extensive screen time on students' social skills and social life, mental health, and academics. In particular, we will examine how excessive screen time impedes the development of factors promoting resilience (by promoting instead social isolation, depression and social anxiety, and by diminishing our capacities for empathy and for relational interactions in general). Tools and strategies for monitoring and managing screen time will also be explored.

- Dianne: Intro and brief summary of academic issues relating to inability to manage screen time, and the myth of successful multi-tasking
- Cyndy: Overview of research of Dr. Jean Twenge, and Tristan Harris
- Lisa: Feelings of isolation, anxiety and depression relating to extended screen time, examination of how young people appear to be invested in the immediacy of companionship (offered by social media) without the complexities [and possible satisfactions] of friendship
- Rafael: Re: apps or other ways to help manage screen time.

10:00 am

Big Law: Fact v. Fiction

Simon Finch, Lawyer and Senior Banking Partner with the Law Firm of Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP

**Sponsored by the Psychology Profile*

For those interested in a career in law (or just looking for greater insights into glamorized media portrayals), Simon Finch will be speaking about the realities of a Bay Street legal practice. Specifically, he will brief the audience on what it takes to be successful in this unique and demanding environment. These musings from the corner office are the stuff that they don't tell you when you write the LSAT or apply to law school. Simon Finch is the leading pioneer in Canadian cannabis financings.

11:30 am

Canada's Youth Homelessness Crisis: Education within a Human Rights Response

Jayne Malenfant, McGill University

Naomi Nichols, McGill University

Dave Dumouchel, Dans la Rue

**Sponsored by S.P.A.C.E.*

Malenfant's research contributes to a growing body of knowledge on approaches to learning that encourage innovative and equitable participation in the future global economy, though is unique in its specific focus on how to effectively prepare Canada's precariously housed youth for these shifts. Youth who are or have experienced homelessness are less likely to graduate high school or enrol in post-secondary studies, making them extraordinarily vulnerable to employment precarity. Her project will provide an empirical investigation – conducted from the embodied standpoints of precariously housed youth – of the policy and institutional factors which enable/constrain their educational participation. This research seeks to address young people's fundamental human rights to housing, education and work through an analysis of the systemic and structural barriers youth face across these intersecting domains.

1:00 pm

On Writing Literary Historical Fiction

Jocelyn Parr, Dawson History Professor and Author of the novel “Uncertain Weights and Measures” shortlisted for the Governor General's Literary Award Canada Adult Fiction.

What makes a book literary? What makes it historical? While it might seem easy to answer the second question at least, this lecture will address the complexity of writing historical fiction while also striving for the elements that make a piece of writing “literary”—psychologically complex characters, a narrative that goes far beyond the machinations of plot, and a thoughtful exploration of ideas, philosophy, even. No one seems to know for sure whether Mark Twain once said that “history doesn’t repeat itself, but it often rhymes” but the idea itself points to another complexity of writing historical fiction: how does the purported period of the book relate to its period of writing? How, for example, did the heady days following the Russian revolution rhyme with the Trump years and how does interest in the latter show up in the story of the former? These and other questions relating to the writing of Jocelyn Parr’s *Uncertain Weights and Measures* will be the focus of this talk.

2:30 pm

How Can We prevent Radicalization Leading to Violence? The CPRLV’s “What if I was wrong, When we talk, we learn” Awareness Campaign

*Roxanne Martel-Perron, CPRLV
Aurélie Girard, CPRLV*

The Centre for the Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence’s presentation will allow participants to learn about the different facets of radicalization leading to violence, context of emergence, radicalization processes, types of radicalization along with some examples of radicalized groups, vulnerability and protecting factors for individuals.

The CPRLV will present the awareness campaign ‘*What if I was wrong? When we talk, we learn*’ that aims to raise awareness about issues related to radicalization leading to violence among young people aged between 13 and 35 by encouraging resilience and critical thinking skills as protective factors.

4:00 pm

The Complexities of Youth Protection: Intervention, Law, and Care

Effie Vardatsikos, Batshaw Department of Youth Protection-Child Services

The presentation will focus on how a social worker intervenes with families-children who have been signaled in youth protection. A basic overview of the youth protection act and how we work under the law will be presented. The different articles under the youth protection act and how we must intervene differently based on the needs and issues of the children. For example, physical and sexual abuse cases often require multi disciplinary ententes in collaboration with the police. As for neglect cases, this can be in conjunction with medical professionals. The presentation will also showcase the different departments and phases that a family will go through should they

require youth protection services. And finally I will share some examples (ensuring confidentiality) to give a deeper perspective as to what a social worker's job looks like on a day to day basis.

6:30 pm (*Continuing Education Session)

Birth of a Family - Film Screening (79 Minutes)

Director Tasha Hubbard (2016)

Organized by the Dawson College First Peoples' Initiative and Cinema Politica

Three sisters and a brother, adopted as infants into separate families across North America, meet together for the first time in this deeply moving documentary by director Tasha Hubbard.

Removed from their young Dene mother's care as part of Canada's infamous Sixties Scoop, Betty Ann, Esther, Rosalie and Ben were four of the 20,000 Indigenous children taken from their families between 1955 and 1985, to be either adopted into white families or to live in foster care. Now all in middle age, each has grown up in different circumstances, with different family cultures, different values and no shared memories. ***Birth of a Family*** follows them through the challenges, trepidations and joys of their first steps towards forming their family.

Meeting all together for the first time, they spend a week in Banff, Alberta, sharing what they know about their mother and stories about their lives and the struggles they went through as foster kids and adoptees. As the four siblings piece together their shared history, their connection deepens, bringing laughter with it, and their family begins to take shape.

Tuesday, February 5th

8:30 am

Black Popular Culture

Andy Williams, Educator and Artist

**Sponsored by the Peace Centre*

Black Popular Culture will cover issues from essentialism to sexuality, which are discourses on a broad range of cultural issues and critical theory. The discussion will draw on topics from urban planning to popular culture and literature. The narratives will be reflecting upon the definitions and diversities of black popular culture, the differences within the black community, and between the Americas and Britain's perspective on race. I will choose social commentaries from contributors that are well known in scholarship who have been contested in many educational arenas of critique such as Houston A. Baker Jr., Angela Davis, Stuart Hall, Henry Louis Gates Jr., bell hooks, Isaac Julien, Manning Marable, Trica Rose, Greg Tate, Cornel West and Judith Wilson just to name a few.

The listeners should keep in mind that culturally it involves all people of African descent globally. Often 'Black America' remains symbolic in representation in black culture and their customs and beliefs are exported throughout the entire world. The black experiences, black expressivity and black counter-narratives should be drawn to the forefront of the discussion. We see differences also in black culture through objects, events and the arts where the diaspora displays the richness, which will be discussed in my presentation. Also keep in mind pertaining to black narratives, the theological aspects, cultural struggle, and the different style of communication, commercialization, along with stereotyping universally.

10:00 am

Together, Let's Change the World

Balarama Holness, Human Rights Activist, Social Entrepreneur, Educator

This presentation will highlight a grassroots movement started by Balarama Holness that addresses issues related to systemic discrimination in Montreal. As a social entrepreneur, Balarama will discuss how he was able to mobilize over 50 community leaders to collect 20 000 signatures to force the city to hold public consultations on the matter. Additionally, Balarama will detail his personal story to frame his key message: active societal engagement of youth change-makers is critical to ensure that current local and global challenges are adequately addressed. This presentation will serve to inspire a new generation of young leaders to take action and positively contribute to our global community.

11:30 am

Healthy Relationships and Demystifying Intimate Partner Abuse

Tegan Webster and Alison Henderson, Shalom Women's Shelter

“I should have left him sooner”. “Why does he do that?” “He is just really stressed out right now”. These are examples of the types of things we hear from women who seek our services at Auberge Shalom. Intimate partner violence or abuse, also known as conjugal or domestic violence does not discriminate. It affects women of all cultural, religious and socio-economic backgrounds and women of all ages. In our presentation we will speak about:

- - What domestic violence is.
- - Demystifying myths around domestic violence.
- - Guiding principles for a healthy relationship.
- - Warning signs of an abusive partner.
- - Statistics about the prevalence of domestic violence.

1:00 pm

Regulations in the Workplace Related to Sexual Harassment and the #MeToo Movement

Marriane Plamondon, Lawyer Specializing in Labour and Employment Law, Particularly in Psychological Harassment, Pay equity, and Human Rights.

The #Metoo Movement has reminded us to take all necessary measures to prevent or put a stop to any form of harassment, especially in the workplace. Although the Labour Standards Act already provided the psychological harassment recourse that included sexual harassment, such recourses were not sufficient to prevent the numerous allegations and accusations of sexual harassment in the workplace. The government has recently amended the Labour Standards Act to better prevent such issues. Is it sufficient? What are the best practices an employer can put in place to prevent harassment in the workplace?

2.30 pm

B.R.A.W.L (Black Revolutionary Activists Women List)

Overture with the Arts (OWTA)

**Sponsored by Campus Life and Leadership*

As the title suggests, B.R.A.W.L will enlighten students about the many heroic contributions black women have made in the struggle for black liberation throughout history, from slave plantations, all the way through present day. Using OWTA's trademark edutainment style that combines education, Slam Poetry, Hip Hop, stand up comedy, and audience participation/ interaction, B.R.A.W.L will address the far too often neglected sacrifices made by black women.

The Black History Month conversation in Canadian schools too often focuses solely on some of the towering figures of the civil rights movement in the United States of America. Therefore, it is of vital importance to us that students celebrate the sacrifices our own countrywomen have made throughout history.

Potential B.R.A.W.L subjects include:

Trail Blazers:

Harriet Tubman 1822-1913 & Mary Ann Shadd 1823-1893

Disrupters:

Rosa Parks 1913-2005 & Viola Desmond 1914-1965

Inside Operatives:

Carrie Best 1903- 2001 & Jean Augustine 1937 - Present

Revolutionaries:

Angela Davis 1944 - Present & Anne Cools 1944 - Present

New Radicals:

Janaya Kahn (Founder of Black Lives Matter Canada) & Alicia Garza,
Patrisse Cullors, Opal Tometti (Founders of Black Lives Matter)

4:00 pm

Borders, Walls and Fences: State of Insecurity

Mathilde Bourgeon, Researcher, Observatoire de géopolitique, U.Q.A.M

Thalia D'Aragon-Giguère, Researcher, Observatoire de géopolitique, U.Q.A.M

“In recent years, the wall has been given renewed vigour in North America, particularly along the U.S.-Mexico border, and in Israel-Palestine. But the success of these new walls in the development of friendly and orderly relations between nations (or indeed, within nations) remains unclear. What role does the wall play in the development of security and insecurity? Do walls contribute to a sense of insecurity as much as they assuage fears and create a sense of security for those 'behind the line'? Exactly what kind of security is associated with border walls?” These are some of the questions that will be addressed in this presentation.

<https://dandurand.uqam.ca/publication/borders-fences-walls-state-insecurity-2/>

6:30 pm (*Continuing Education Session)

Sacred Water: Standing Rock Part 1 - Film Screening (44 min)

Red Power: Standing Rock Part 2 – Film Screening (66 min)

Director Michelle Latimer (2017)

Organized by Dawson College's First People's Initiative and Cinema Politica

The people of the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation of North and South Dakota are fighting to stop a pipeline from being built on their ancestral homeland. The Dakota Access Pipeline would snake its way across four states, bisecting sacred Indigenous sites and burial grounds along the route. The tribe fears that a leak could contaminate the Missouri River and spell disaster for the Great Sioux Nation. But water protectors are standing up in unprecedented numbers to preserve their way of life for future generations and to defend their sacred water.

SACRED WATER is part of a compelling 8 part documentary series called RISE for Viceland showcasing the global Indigenous movement across the Americas which are rising up to protect their ancestral homelands and the environment. A timely look at Indigenous activism and the impacts of colonization, SACRED WATER showcases candid interviews, historical context, and a moving soundtrack. This film delivers profound insight into the struggles around protecting sacred lands and waters which are happening in many places today.

Wednesday, February 6th

8:30 am

A New Deal for Refugees

Denise Otis (UNHCR), Protection Officer, Protection Office

UNHCR and the international community have been working on a new deal for refugees known as the global compact on refugees aiming to improve the international response to new and existing refugee situations, with a vision for a more comprehensive response to these crises. Notably, it calls for greater support to refugees and the countries that host them, often among the poorest in the world, and also aims to help refugees become more self-reliant so that they can contribute more to their own future and to that of the host community. What does new deal mean in the context of the global refugee crisis and what are the repercussions on our continent.

10:00 am

Counternarratives of 1990

Donna Goodleaf, PhD, Centre for Teaching and Learning at Concordia

Isabelle St Amand, PhD

**Sponsored by Dawson College First People's Centre and the Peace Centre*

This event is a part of Onkwaká:rá - a yearlong collaborative storytelling series that forefronts Indigenous, Métis and Inuit story-tellers.

Every historical event has many sides to the story. Most frequently it is not only the victors who write the history afterwards, but modern day media frame the narrative during and afterwards. The so-called "Oka-Crisis" is the perfect example of how Canadians were given a particular story that was framed by the media and the government that latter defined the collective memory of Quebecers and Canadians, as well as how it is written about. However, for the Mohawk and their allies 1990 was another instantiation of settler colonial violence, violation, racism sanctioned by the government and propagated by the media. Dr. Donna Goodleaf and Isabelle St Amand will explore the counternarratives of 1990, as well as dissecting the ways in which settler colonial Canadian media framed the conflict.

11:30 am

The Problem with Pursuing Happiness and What You Really Need to Know About Creating a Good Life

Melanie Doyle, Dawson Psychology Professor

It has taken me a LONG time to learn about happiness, or maybe more accurately, meaningfulness. As you go forth into the world, with an abundance of opportunity at your feet, it becomes scarily easy to get caught in the “I’ll be happy when...” trap. But what is ‘happiness,’ and does chasing it actually make us less happy? With historic highs of mental illness and rapidly increasing suicide rates, our states of being, how we exist in our time and space, how that impacts us, and those around us, needs to be discussed. This talk will address a few myths as well as provide some practical suggestions & tools you can use to create a good, and maybe even happy, life.

1:00 pm

“I was Born Four Times”

Leslie Vertes, Holocaust Survivor, Governor General Caring Award (2015), YMCA Peace Medal (2015), Author of "Can You Stop the Wing"(Concordia University 2001), Author of the Memoir "Alone In the Storm", published by the Azrieli Foundation in 2015.

**Sponsored by the Psychology Profile*

My name is Leslie Vertes, a 95 years old Hungarian Holocaust Survivor. I am a regular speaker in the Montreal Holocaust Museum.

Before the War I had lots of anti-Jewish discrimination, could not finish my High School education or go into a good trade. When Germany occupied Hungary I was called into the Force Labour camp, designed for Jewish people. I spent six hard and difficult months in this camp in Budapest. I escaped with nine others, hiding with a false ID in the next three months, facing a firing squad and death many times.

Eight hours after the Red Army liberated Budapest, I was not lucky, they took me as a POW to a gulag. Hard work, sick and dying, after two and a half years, I was shipped back to Hungary.

As a volunteer in 2004 I decided that I will start to talk mostly for the young people. During the last 14 years, I have done more than **135 Testimonies** to reach about 20.000 students, in Montreal, in St-Lambert (12 times), and schools from Quebec and other provinces.

Because of my age and my health situation I do less Testimonies and select the most important ones.

During and after the question period I will talk about hate, discrimination in schools, in life and the responsibility of the future generations.

2:30 pm

Cannabis, Establishing the Safety for Clinical Use

Dr. Graham Wood, PhD, Chief R&D Officer, Altasciences Clinical Research

**Sponsored by the Psychology Profile*

Cannabis is viewed as either a safe wonder drug or a harmful drug that can lead users to even more dangerous drugs. Unfortunately, both sides of the argument were based on very little direct research. Luckily, that is now changing and research sites in Canada have been leading the charge in conducting the clinical studies. The presentation will cover the therapeutic areas that cannabis is showing promise in, such as pain, insomnia, PTSD and epilepsy. We will also review some of the data from first-in-human studies on new cannabis products, that were conducted here in Montreal. Finally, we will cover some of the adverse effects that are seen with cannabis, such as cognitive impairment, and how these need to be addressed, not only in the pharmaceutical use of cannabis but recreational use as well.

4:00 pm

Reminiscences, Ideas and Discoveries

Dr. Steven Pinker, Harvard University, Dawson Alumni, Author

Steven Pinker, a Professor of Psychology at Harvard University and one of Time magazine's "100 Most Influential People in the World Today", is among Dawson College's most famous alumni. He will offer some reminiscences about his time at Dawson from 1971 to 1973, and explain some of the ideas and discoveries he's written about in the 45 years since, including the nature of language, how the mind works, the psychology and history of violence, and the reality of human progress.

6:30 pm (*Continuing Education Session)

You Are on Indian Land - Film Screening (37 minutes)

Director Michael Kanentakeron Mitchell (1969)

Organized by Dawson College's First People's Initiative and Cinema Politica

Released in 1969, this short documentary was one of the most influential and widely distributed productions made by the Indian Film Crew (IFC), the first all-Indigenous unit at the NFB. It documents a 1969 protest by the Kanien'kéhaka (Mohawk) of Akwesasne, a territory that straddles the Canada-U.S. border. When Canadian authorities prohibited the duty-free cross-border passage of personal purchases—a right established by the Jay Treaty of 1794—

Kanien'kéhaka protesters blocked the international bridge between Ontario and New York State. Director Michael Kanentakeron Mitchell later became Grand Chief of Akwesasne. The film was formally credited to him in 2017. *You Are on Indian Land* screened extensively across the continent, helping to mobilize a new wave of Indigenous activism. It notably was shown at the 1970 occupation of Alcatraz.

Incident at Restigouche – Film Screening (45 minutes)

Director Alanis Obomsawin (1984)

Organized by Dawson College's First People's Initiative and Cinema Politica

In INCIDENT AT RESTIGOUCHE, filmmaker Alanis Obomsawin delves into the history behind the Quebec Provincial Police (QPP) raids on the Restigouche Reserve on June 11 and 20, 1981. The Quebec government had decided to restrict fishing, resulting in anger among the Mi'kmaq population as salmon was traditionally an important source of food and income. Using a combination of documents, news clips, photographs and interviews, this powerful film provides an in-depth investigation into the history-making raids that put justice on trial.

Thursday, February 7th

8:30 am *ROOM: Theatre

Theatre as a Catalyst for Social Change

Imago Theatre

**Sponsored by S.P.A.C.E*

We are living in a polarized, challenging and evolving society rife with complexity and contradiction. We are witnessing the decline of political and social systems that governed our society. What are the paradigms and structures that mediate our lives? Our thoughts? How do we continue to think critically in The Age of Information? How do we understand ourselves and each other in an increasingly globalized world?

Our purpose at Imago Theatre is to engage with feminist stories that act as a catalyst for conversation around urgent social issues.

We are interested in questions like: How do structures of oppression limit our lives and our capacity to learn and heal? How are we capable of both enormous compassion and murderous rage? Through our work we do not shy away from the dissection of the human condition. We explore the relationships and conditions inherent to human choices; their dysfunction and their beauty.

As artists we believe the importance of theatre lives in discussion, liveness, and connection. Our purpose is to awaken thoughts and feelings that lead us towards empathy and knowledge. Once you know, you can no longer “unknow.” This shifts the landscape by eliminating the bystander. Through this shift, brought about by storytelling, apathy ceases to be an option. The diversity of lived experiences we witness motivates us to want to change the world.

10:00 am *ROOM: Theatre

Climate, Health and Gender: Truth and Consequences

Fiona Hanley, Dawson Professor and Chair of Nursing Department

**Sponsored by the Environmental Studies Profile*

This presentation will discuss past and present attitudes to environmental exploitation and domination as instrumental in the development of today’s climate crisis. We will explore these issue from the perspective of nature as object to be mastered or plundered, to an ecofeminist perspective of preservation and protection of nature as a living entity, to “nostalgia” or ecological grief at the loss of planetary health and sustenance. We will also look at the importance of hope and the rise of climate action in response to this, the most profound existential crisis of our era.

11:30 am *ROOM: Theatre

Survivors on the Main: Starting Over After the Holocaust

Mr Ted Bolgar, Holocaust Survivor

Stacey Zembrzycki, Dawson History Professor

In the postwar WWII period, Montreal became home to the third-largest community of Holocaust survivors outside of Europe. Ted Bolgar is one of the survivors who arrived in Montreal in 1948 as part of the Canadian War Orphans Project. In this presentation Mr. Bolgar will share his memories of rebuilding his life in the then predominantly Jewish neighborhood along St. Laurent Boulevard, also known as the Main. It was in those first few years living in that neighborhood that Mr. Bolgar formed relationships and became part of a community that would help shape his life for decades to come.

Survivors on the Main is a SSHRC funded project, led by Stacey Zembrzycki (Dawson College), that has collected narratives of orphaned Holocaust survivors who arrived and settled along the Main in the post war period. The project will culminate in a downloadable audio tour which will showcase the stories and voices of the survivors.

1:00 pm

Take Care of Your Self: Transforming Trauma through Art

Sundus Abdul Hadi, Radio Show Host, Multimedia Artist, Author, Co-founder of The Medium

Take Care of Your Self. How many times a week do we hear or say these words in passing? If we all took the time to care for our selves, how much stronger will we be? More importantly, how much stronger will our communities be?

Part book reading, part artist talk, Sundus Abdul Hadi will take you through the process of creating art for empowerment and safe spaces for healing.

Through “care-full” art and curation, the heavy subjects of trauma, loss and displacement can transform into opportunities for healing and empowerment, foregrounding the politicized concept of self-care at the forefront of the discourse on struggle.

“Shams”, her forthcoming illustrated book, is about a little girl made of glass, who one fateful day, breaks into a million pieces. It was the foundation of the exhibit “Take Care of Your Self”, a pop-up exhibition and series of events featuring the works of 27 artists of colour whose work deals with the intersections of self-care and struggle.

2:30 pm

How to Build Bridges, Combat Intolerance, and Make Friends in the Process: The Story of Outremont's Friends of Hutchison

Leila Marshy, Journalist, Writer, Author of the novel "The Philistine", and Founding Member of Friends of Hutchison

Mindy Pollak, Outremont Borough Councillor for Projet Montreal, Founding Member of Friends of Hutchison

Diane Shea, History Dept, Member of Friends of Hutchison

A good place to start bringing positive change to the world can be in your very own neighbourhood. A quarter of the residents of Outremont are Hasidic Jews, but when the borough's municipal council continued to pass bylaw after bylaw in an effort to constrain the movements and celebrations of this community, Leila Marshy was the first non-Hasidic person to take action and say enough is enough. A Montrealer of Palestinian descent, she approached her neighbour Mindy Pollak and together they began Friends of Hutchison, the very first community group to bring Hasidim and non-Hasidim together for dialogue and action. A couple of years later, Mindy Pollak dared run for office and, with Leila as her campaign manager, she won! Friends of Hutchison has grown over the years and has even inspired other groups. These organizations show that when people get fed up with intolerance and harassment, change is indeed possible.

4:00 pm

Young Professionals at the United Nations

Organized by Chris Bourne, Coordinator of the Law Society and Justice Profile and Coordinator of the Model United Nations

**Sponsored by Model United Nations*

This panel will convene 3-4 young professionals who have worked for various UN agencies and international organizations. They will discuss the work of their organizations, as well as how their education and other professional experiences prepared them for the roles. This panel will of particular interest to students considering international careers, and will be moderated by Political Science faculty Christopher Bourne.

6:30 pm (*Continuing Education Session)

Angry Inuk) Film Screening – (85 Minutes)

Director Alethea Arnaquq-Baril (2016)

Organized by the Dawson College First Peoples' Initiative and Cinema Politica

Seal meat is a staple food for Inuit, and many of the pelts are sold to offset the extraordinary cost of hunting. Inuit are spread across extensive lands and waters, and their tiny population is faced with a disproportionate responsibility for protecting the environment. They are pushing for a sustainable way to take part in the global economy, but in opposition stands an army of well-funded activists and well-meaning celebrities.

Arnaquq-Baril and her cameras travel through the Canadian Arctic, giving voice to the people the animal activists rarely bother to meet: the hunters, the craftspeople, the families for whom the seal hunt is a critical part of their livelihood and survival. She follows a group of students to Europe, where they plead the Inuit case before a European Union panel.

The film interweaves the reality of Inuit life with the story of their challenge to both the anti-sealing industry and those nations that mine resources on Inuit lands while simultaneously destroying the main sustainable economy available to the people who live there. As one student said, “We need to stop the cultural prejudice that is imposed on us by not being allowed to benefit from our natural surroundings without having to drill into the ground. And that’s really all we want as a people.”

Friday, February 8th

8:30 am

The Statistics of Cannabis, How Statistics Canada Measures and Analyzes the Cannabis Economy.

Samuel Dupéré, Statistics Canada

**Sponsored by The International Business Profile*

How much cannabis was produced in Canada last year? What are the going prices? How did legalization and state supply affect the underground cannabis economy? How does the Canadian government collect data on this market, to answer these questions? Meet Samuel Dupéré, data analyst at the Montreal Data Service Centre, Statistics Canada. His talk will explain that usually, underground economies are hard to measure properly since, being illegal, they are not taxed, and no one volunteers information related to these activities. However, in planning the legalization of cannabis in Canada, our statistical agency has developed tools and methods to collect data to assess the impacts of legal cannabis on the economy.

10:00 am

On Death and Dying – A Forensic Pathology Perspective

Kona Williams, Forensic Pathologist and coroner at the Northeastern Forensic Pathology Unit in Sudbury Ontario, First Nations Liaison for the Ontario Forensic Pathology Service.

**Sponsored by the Peace Centre*

Death is mysterious in our society. I am a medical doctor who deals with death – I perform autopsies. As a forensic pathologist, my duty is to determine how people die. This can be very simple, or very complicated. I will give a snapshot into my world, my work and my life. I will show you how we approach the death investigation of the 21st century, how we see death and disease, and what changes are on the horizon for aspiring scientists (especially those with an interest in forensics!).

11:30 am

Community, Peace and Sustainability: Leveraging Institutional Positionality to Affect Local and System Change

Diana Rice, Coordinator of the Dawson College Peace Center

In October 2018, the IPCC published a predictable, but no less grim, report on where 'we' are situated vis a vis climate change and what is yet to unfold. Despite over a hundred years of scientific concern from scientists on the human effects of industrialization and globalization, we now face out of control wildfires, drought, desertification, intensity and frequency of hurricanes and catastrophic flooding. The report clearly outlines what experts have emphasized for years; there is no one strategy that will prevail in order to stave off impending planet-wide economic, social and environmental disaster. We need strategies that work with the institutionalized systems currently in place and organizations operating at the community level. International, national, or regional policy is not sufficient without community level buy in. Community level organizing is

rarely sufficient to cement system-wide change. The bridge between institutional systems and community is education. Changing our educational institutions should be one of the primary strategies to tackle climate change. Post-secondary educational institutions are currently one of the best-placed bridges between governments and communities because they wield power with and within community and government systems while simultaneously balancing the tension between these two groups. Educational institutions are both firmly within and of the system and yet are firmly embedded in and creators of community. This presentation will introduce the work done in this vein at Dawson College and their network of institutional and community partners that aim to connect and model solutions based on interconnecting community, institutions and sustainability.

1:00 pm

Peace 365 - Peace and Self - - Panel Discussion - theatre

Daniel Goldsmith, Philosophy Dawson College

Ahmad Banki, Economics Dawson College

Selma Hamdani, Psychology Dawson College

Moderated by Ivan Freud, Religion Dawson College

This panel discussion, although included Social Science Week is also part of the Peace 365 complementary course taught by Ivan Freud from the Religion Department. The course fosters an inter-disciplinary approach to the exploration of both peace practices and peace studies. Different professors will share their disciplinary perspectives on peace. This session focuses on Peace and self from the perspectives of Philosophy, Economics and Psychology as discussed by the above authors. Everyone is welcome.

The other two aspects of peace will be presented later in the semester as part of the Peace 365 course. Future panels discussions cover topics Peace & Other on Friday the 8th of March and on Peace & Nature on Friday the 12th of April!

Closure