Sessions will be in the Multipurpose Room, 5B-16 (Except, Feb.11: 8:30 – 1:00; in Theatre.)

Dawson College Social Science Week
February 8th to 12th, 2016

Monday, February 8th

8:30 am

**Z’Isle: Creating Diversity in Media**

Lateef Martin, Transmedia Artist, Miscellaneum Studios

Lateef Martin will be discussing the creation of the Z’Isle brand from concept to finished product, while staying mindful of the necessity for diversity in media both on screen and behind the scenes. In a transmedia context, he will discuss his approach to maintaining consistency from comic book, social media, events, the video game and live action shorts. His goal is to deliver great entertainment while representing people of color, women the LGBTQAI community and other marginalized communities in a non-stereotypical manner.

Lateef Martin is a graduate from the Illustration & Design program at Dawson College. He is a multi-disciplinary artist, from music production, cosplaying and graphic design. At the core of it, he is an illustrator with a taste for video games, comics, sci-fi and 80s Saturday morning cartoons. He founded Miscellaneum Studios in 2013. The first project is called Z’Isle, a comic book series set in Montreal 7 years after a zombie apocalypse.

(Part of Black History Month – sponsored by Dawson Student Services)

10:00 am

**The Current State of the Environment, War and Peace Triangle**

Adan Suazo, Loyola Sustainability Research Centre (Concordia University)

Much debate has been generated around the causal links between environmental variables and the incidences of war. While this debate remains an important component of the peace and conflict research canon, not enough attention has been devoted to the effects that environmental variables may have on peace processes irrespective of the causal links these variables may have with the materialization of war. To foster a better understanding of how environmental variables affect the likelihood of war and peace, this talk will explore each relationship separately, by providing a thorough analysis of the latest research. Specific focus will be given to the causal relationship between environment variables and peace, focusing on two indicators: land degradation and water scarcity. This talk will conclude that peace processes in countries most affected by water scarcity and land degradation are more prone to fail than in those jurisdictions where scarcity is not as acute.
11:30 am

**After the Paris Climate Talks: Ambitious Climate Goals Require Ambitious Emissions Targets**

**Damon Matthews**, Research Chair, (Climate Science and Sustainability) Geography planning and Environment, Concordia University

The Paris climate agreement has left the world with a significant challenge: to limit global temperature increases to not more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and to pursue efforts to limit global temperature increases to 1.5°C. This is an extremely ambitious global target that will require rapid and sustained emissions cuts from all countries and economic sectors over the coming decades. In this talk, the speaker will outline what levels of global emissions are consistent with these climate targets, and show a range of emissions scenarios that would keep the world below these potentially dangerous climate thresholds. He will also discuss how these overall allowable emissions could be divided among countries, and make some suggestions for national emissions targets that would be consistent with the level of ambition present in the Paris agreement.

1:00 pm

**New Relationships: Trudeau and Indigenous Peoples**

**Karl Hele**, Associate Professor and Director of First Peoples Studies, School of Community and Public Affairs, Concordia University. Member of the Garden River First Nation community of the Anishinaabeg people.

**Nakuset**, Executive Director at Native Women’s Shelter of Montreal; Creator/Host/Producer at Indigenous Power; Co-Chair at The Montreal Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy Network. Member of the Cree nation.

**Elizabeth Fast**, Assistant Professor, Applied Human Science, Concordia University. Member of the Métis nation.

**Michael Duckett**, History

With the tabling of the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 2015 and the increasing prominence of Indigenous issues in the media, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has said that "[it] is time for a renewed, nation-to-nation relationship with First Nations peoples, one that understands that the constitutionally guaranteed rights of First Nations in Canada are not an inconvenience but rather a sacred obligation." This panel will discuss what is involved in forging a new relationship and working toward reconciliation with First Peoples. Why is the concept of nation-to-nation relationships so important, and what does this mean for all people living in this country?
Starting over: Syrian Refugee Resettlement and the Community Organizations Leading this Effort

Paul Clarke, Executive Director, Action Refugees
Narod Odabasiyan, Director, Hay Doun Organization
Nayiri Tavlian, Board President, Hay Doun Organization
A recent Syrian newcomer

Action Refugees is a non-profit organization seeking justice for asylum-seekers and refugees in Montréal and beyond. Their work promotes partnerships among people in refugee and faith communities and society at large for mutual empowerment. Paul Clarke, Executive Director, will present on Action Refugee’s work with asylum seekers in Montreal.

Hay Doun is a non-profit organization founded in 2007 when members of Montreal’s Armenian community decided, among other causes, to help bring Iraqi refugees fleeing war to Quebec. Hay Doun’s efforts were among the first to help resettle Syrians in Canada and they have sponsored more Syrians than any other organization in the country. Narod Odabasiyan, director, and Nayiri Tavlian, president of the board, will present on Hay Doun’s efforts to meet the increasing requests for Syrian refugee sponsorship as well as the needs of recently arriving refugees, especially in the context of the Liberal government’s pledge to bring 25000 refugees by the end of February 2016.

In addition, a recently arrived Syrian newcomer will share their experience of reestablishing and starting over as a refugee in Montreal.

Reforming Canada's Democracy

Chris Bourne, Political Science

Justin Trudeau has promised to make 2015 the last Federal election contested under the current First Past the Post electoral system, a system that many Canadians consider to be unfair, one that distorts the will of the electorate. A variety of alternatives are under consideration, any of which have the potential to dramatically reshape the way Canadians elect their government. In this presentation, Chris Bourne, will help clarify the somewhat arcane but significantly important topic of electoral reform in Canada, and will pose questions about just what we want from our democracy.
Tuesday, February 9th

8:30 am

Who Owns the Internet: Cyber-Geography and the New Places Where we Spend Most of our Time

Jeffrey Barnes, Geography

Cyberspace is a new frontier where students arguably spend most of their waking hours in this 'virtual' space. But what are the borders of cyberspace? Who owns the Internet? What is cyber-trespassing, and can we be held accountable for our online actions? Jeffrey Barnes will explore these questions, and more, about this virtually unmapped and sparsely theorized frontier – cyberspace.

10:00 am

Systemic Pressure: Schools and Prisons in Documentary Film

Samara Chadwick, Filmmaker
Nika Khanjani, Filmmaker

Join this special screening and discussion of contemporary documentary film with two Montreal filmmakers, Nika Khanjani and Samara Chadwick. Join them for a discussion of the process of filmmaking and what it means to make films about real life. Chadwick will share clips from a film she is currently filming, a film that takes place in her hometown of Moncton where a spate of suicides in her last year at school forced her to leave. In this NFB film, Chadwick returns to talk to those who experienced this time with her, it is a meditation on memory, but also on loss, and music, and the people who stay with us as we age. Khanjani’s film, Free World Pens, is about family and solitary confinement. The film takes shape through letters from a man incarcerated in Texas, whose words echo in the mind of his sister as she walks freely through Montreal. The film forces viewers to rethink the idea of who is prisoner and who is free.
11:30 am

**It Happens Here: Sexual Assault and the Law**

**Joanne St. Lewis,** Law Professor, University of Ottawa

*Inspire Solutions* and the *Women’s/Gender Studies Certificate* is launching a new project, *It Happens Here,* to remind us that the creation of peaceful communities, at Dawson and beyond, require us to take sexual assault seriously. Sexual assault directly affects 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men in Quebec. Eminent Law Professor Joanne St-Lewis, from the University of Ottawa, will unveil the new project with a talk on the history of laws related to rape and sexual assault and the evolving institutional responses to the problem. The panel will end with an invitation to participate in *It Happens Here,* a unique multi-faceted peace project that seeks to promote awareness, provide support, develop solutions and create change in a problem that affects us all.

Among her many accomplishments Joanne St-Lewis is an advisor to Canadian Lawyers for International Human Rights and the Center Research-Action Race Relations. She is also the first and only Black woman to be elected as a Bencher of the Law Society of Upper Canada, the governing body for over 41,000 Ontario lawyers. Her current research interests include digital defamation and social justice communities; art, culture and the law; and the equality rights of African/Canadian women and girls.

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1:00 pm

**Careers in Mental Health: Counseling, Psychology, & Social Work**

**Erin Hall,** Clinical Psychologist  
**Danny Natanblut,** Social Worker, Batshaw  
**Amanda Luterman,** Psychotherapist specialized in sexuality

In this presentation, three mental health professionals will tell you about their careers. They will talk about their training and field of study, their path in choosing their career, what their job entails, and what it takes to succeed in their line of work. Come, ask questions, and be inspired.
2.30 pm

**Attachment Politics and the Rights of the Trans Child**

Kimberley Manning, Principal of the Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Concordia University

In this talk, Kimberly Manning draws upon the framework of “attachment politics,” or the gendered enactment of familial ties in political struggle, to shed light on the rapid progress being made to protect Canadian children and youth whose gender identity and/or expression does not fit the social binary. Based on in-depth interviews with over twenty parent advocates of transgender children and close study of the organizational and legal initiatives underway in Canada today, she argues that the highly personal nature of parental rights claims has enabled these parents and their children to make rapid progress in three inter-linked domains: the right for parents to affirm the gender nonconformity of their children; the right to safe and accepting educational environments; and the right to change gender identity documentation.

4:00 pm

**The Consumer Price Index**

Gwenaël Cartier, Regional Advisor, Statistics Canada

Every month, Statistics Canada disseminates the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The CPI provides a measure of the rate of price change for goods and services bought by Canadians consumers. This index is among the most timely and important measures related to the Canadian economy. The CPI directly or indirectly affects nearly all Canadians. A good example is the periodical adjustments of Old Age Security pensions, Canada Pension Plan payments, and other forms of social and welfare payments using the CPI. The CPI is relevant to all those who earn and spend money. When prices rise, the purchasing power of money drops. When prices drop, it means the purchasing power of money increases. The CPI is frequently used to estimate the extent to which this purchasing power of money changes in Canada.
Wednesday, February 10th

8:30 am

Hollywood and History: Take 3! – The Question of Historical Accuracy

Catherine Braithwaite, History
Isabelle Carrier, Assistant Dean SSBT
Lisa Steffen, History

Should we care that films have manipulated, distorted or completely altered historical events or people so as to make the story more exciting, romantic or fun for the viewer? After all, shouldn’t historical movies be entitled to give us a break from the realism of life; can we not permit them some historical license for the simple pleasure of entertainment? Unless a film is specifically designated a ‘documentary’ aren’t Hollywood feature films intended to be viewed as stories, without the weight of ‘historical accuracy’ to spoil the excitement of their story and our viewing pleasure? To what point should a historical movie be accurate, factual and based on reality? This session will examine the “good, the bad, and the ugly” of historical movies in a quest to arrive at some conclusions about the place of ‘historical accuracy’ in Hollywood movies.

10:00 am

Falling Fuel Prices and its Impact on the Environment

Jean Duclos Alegue Fuego, Economics

This talk presents the supply chain of fossil fuel and environmental externalities associated with the different stages of supply. It goes on to analyze the reasons behind the present crash in fuel prices from a geopolitical and macroeconomic perspective, arguing that changes in demand and supply are the main cause. It then postulates that low prices will be around for a couple of years, but will eventually rise in the long run due to a fall in supply. It finally argues that environmental externalities are presently rising and will rise in the short run, but will eventually fall due to a decrease in supply and the use of more efficient technology.
11:30am - 12:00pm – 1:00pm

(NOTE: This session will accommodate all three class times)

**Indigenous Resurgence in Media Arts**

Brittany LeBorgne, Actor and Director (Kanienkehaka)
Skawennati, Artist (Kanienkehaka)
Michelle Smith, Filmmaker, Media Artist, and Educator (Métis)

Meet three of Montreal’s cutting-edge media artists! Skawennati developed her machinima creation TimeTraveller™ at Concordia’s innovative AbTeC (Aboriginal Technologies in Cyberspace) to present Indigenous perspectives of the past and imagine an empowered Indigenous future. In her film *determiNATION songs*, Michelle Smith documented how Aboriginal artists, including acclaimed hip hop artist Samian, proudly reclaim their languages and cultural heritage through music. And Brittany LeBorgne stars as the adventurous Zoe in the wildly popular, award-winning TV series *Mohawk Girls*—and has just been nominated for a Canadian Screen Award as best leading actress in a TV comedy for the role!

2:30pm

**Annoying the Government 101: The Skills You Need to Do Battle In Politics, Win At Journalism, and Hold A Government to Account**

Justin Ling
VICE News, Parliamentary Correspondent
(Has worked for BBC, CNN, the Guardian, National Post, and other media outlets.)

Do you distrust authority? Dislike the way things are done in politics? Want to ferret out the truth from the guys in charge? Whether it's journalism, activism, or politics, there are a variety of tools at your disposal that can help you pry away information, force the government to confront hypocrisy, and highlight issues that matter. Justin Ling has written about why the government sells weapons to Saudi Arabia; how Ottawa tried to stop Palestine from being recognized by the United Nations; what Canada is doing to protect sexual minorities in Uganda; that time when Canadian spies spent a decade chasing a group of Quebec communists around for a crime they didn't commit; where the government buys its top-secret secure phone lines (spoiler: it's the NSA); and who was responsible for Stephen Harper's god-awful media relations strategy.
Wednesday, February 10th

4:00pm

**Human Trafficking: the Need for a Coordinated Response**

**Dwane Connors**, Forensic criminologist, formerly International War Crimes Tribunal and UN Office on Drugs and Crime  
**Melina Larriza**, Human Trafficking Awareness Coordinator, RCMP  
**Emmanuel Joncas**, Project Dialogue, YMCA

This panel will present three perspectives to help us reflect on our ability to respond as global citizens to this critical social problem: the domestic reality of sex trafficking in Montreal, the Canadian perspective based on cross-sectoral collaboration, and the global context observed during armed conflicts and in post-conflict areas. Although each perspective reflects a mix of various approaches, each relies on the Palermo Protocol to develop a more coordinated response. This talk encourages us to recognize our shared responsibility within this process.

Thursday, February 11th

(Note: Thursday morning sessions are in the Theatre.)

8:30 am  ROOM: **Theatre**

**Domestic Violence and Developmental Issues in Children and Adolescents**

**Abe Worenklein**, Psychology

Although in the past, the focus regarding the effects of domestic violence rested primarily on the direct victims of the violence, we recognize today that children who grow up exposed to such violence in the home learn, at a very young age, powerful lessons about utilizing violence in interpersonal relationships. In addition, there can, as a result, be significant developmental issues that can impact on the children’s and adolescents’ development. The presentation will deal with the impact of domestic violence on children/adolescents at different developmental stages, notwithstanding their being innocent bystanders.
(Note: Thursday morning sessions are in the Theatre.)

10:00 am ROOM : Theatre

**Transnational Environmental Crime Prevention and Global Justice**

**Peter Stoett**, Director - Loyola Sustainability Research Centre, Concordia University

The speaker will explore the significant increase in efforts to prevent and prosecute transnational environmental crime from a global governance and justice perspective. Organizations such as Interpol are dedicating substantive resources to this relatively new sector, which is a welcome and needed development; this could have fascinating implications for state sovereignty, human rights, conservation efforts, climate justice, and the governance of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

11:30 am ROOM : Theatre

**Student Anxiety**

**Lisa Linardatos**, Psychologist at Connecte, Montreal Psychology Group

As the media has highlighted lately, anxiety is especially high among students. Students face a multitude of challenges that can cause and exacerbate anxiety. In this presentation, I will discuss not only how to reduce anxiety, but also how we can make anxiety work for us. I'll focus on anxiety-provoking situations that are more relevant to students (e.g., test anxiety and social anxiety) and situations that everyone can relate to (e.g., situations in which we feel like we've failed). Specifically, I'll talk about how we can recognize anxiety, why we have anxiety in the first place, the different types of anxiety, how to manage anxiety, and how to accept and use anxiety to our advantage.
1:00 pm

**UN High Commission on Refugees and its Response to Current Refugee Issues**

Denise Otis, Legal Officer - UNHCR

Over the past year, UNHCR has been confronted with the reality of record numbers of refugees and displaced persons who have fled conflicts, violence, human rights abuses, extremism, and poor governance, which affected about 60 million people. Some of this displacement has been exacerbated by environmental degradation and climate change. We have seen, increasingly, forced movements of people across continents and through dangerous roads and seas, and traveling extraordinary distances. In spite of populist politics and toxic public debates and the climate of fear they engender, tainted by xenophobia and racism, there has been a remarkable outpouring of public compassion and support seen in a number of places around the world this year including in Canada.

2:30 pm

**Long-Distance Relationships and Education: Celebrating a Twenty-Year Anniversary for North South Studies**

Ovide Bastien, retired, Maria Fernanda Benavides, Spanish, Fred Jones, retired, Geoffrey Kloos, Dawson Communications Office, David Olesik, Economics, Diane Shea, History, and Jeffrey Barnes, (moderator) Geography

This roundtable discussion engages the current and past coordinators of North South Studies (NSS) in provocative questions about field-learning and the complexity of international academic programs. This year is the twentieth anniversary of NSS. Meanwhile a relationship has flourished between poor Nicaraguan pueblos and Dawson’s community - resulting in strong lasting bonds of friendship, solidarity, and exchange. Annually, NSS students visit Nicaraguan pueblos for a full month, as a way to learn about, and to maintain, relationships of solidarity.

4:00 pm

**The Recent Economic Activity in Canada**

Louise Pichette, Senior Representative (Economics), Bank of Canada

The speaker will discuss the recent economic activity in Canada. The performance of the Canadian economy has recently been weaker than was anticipated in the October Monetary Report, largely because of lower commodity prices. The declines in Canada’s terms of trade and in the value of the Canadian dollar over the past year and a half have set in motion complex adjustments, involving significant shifts in economic activity and a reallocation of labour and capital that will continue over the next several years.
Friday, February 12th

8:30 am

**Aboriginal Economics: Fresh Data on the Role of First Nations in Canada**

Charles-Albert Ramsay, Economics (Dawson) and Kiuna Institution (Cegep)

Fresh economic data on Aboriginal communities give us a new look on the true mosaic of economic, political and social situations of Aboriginals in Canada. Unemployment, revenues, and education data range from very low, to very high. The situation needs to be examined precisely, in order for Quebec City and Ottawa to implement the right policies in regards to economic development in Aboriginal Canada.

10:00 am

**A Journey From Philosophy and Business to Politics: Convincing Quebecers to Succeed as a Country**

Pierre Karl Peladeau  
Leader of the Parti Quebecois  
Leader of the Official Opposition in the National Assembly

After a successful career in business and involvement in philanthropic activities, Pierre Mark Peladeau has now taken on a new challenge, that of convincing Quebecers to succeed as a country in the concert of nations.

12:00 (Noon)

**Women and Politics**

Yolande James,  
Former Minister of Immigration and Cultural Communities and Family (Quebec Liberal Party), Host, Les EX – Radio Canada

Yolande James will talk about the importance of public service, and why the value of diversity matters, noting that women, minorities and young people are not sufficiently represented.

**Closure – Refreshments**