

**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

- **ICCS CONFERENCE 2010**
- **BECOMING A MEMBER of the ICCS**
- **TWO DAYS OF CANADA AT BROCK**
- **ELECTIONS 2010**

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**CSN-RÉC**

**Review**

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1



JUNE 2010

## Progress Since 2008

Written by: Lynda Mannik

In late November 2008, Canadian Studies graduate students, faculty, and programme directors from Canada and internationally met at Carleton University for a workshop entitled "Strengthening Networks in Canadian Studies." The objective was to explore the ways in which Canadian Studies is and can be taught as a space for interdisciplinary inquiry at the post-secondary level and to encourage connections between university-based Canadianists. The ultimate aim was to establish the infrastructure that could make on-going regular communications between Canadianists possible, including a web portal -- through which e-mails and other contact information as well as programme links and notices is maintained -- and a agreed upon five year schedule for regular meetings.

At the conclusion of the workshop, those present agreed to maintain a web portal and to meet on a regular basis, yearly. Meetings will be coupled with conferences on Canadian Studies being run by various Canadian institutions. In addition to academic papers, an administrative-type meeting of Canadianists would be scheduled to precede or follow the conference. A small continuing committee was struck to maintain momentum and organize these meetings. It was decided that members of this committee would take turns serving as "chair" according to the location of the Canadianist meetings. It was also noted that the ICCS was supportive of this development and would like to see Canadian Canadianists represented as a member of the ICCS again.

The second meeting of the new Canadian Studies Network took

place at Mount Allison University from Feb. 12 to 14, 2009. As planned, the CSN meeting was paired with a Canadian Studies conference organized by the host



### Our New Logo!

institution. The conference itself was designed to look at different facets of Canadian Studies scholarship and teaching and to "take stock," as it were, of the current status of interdisciplinary teaching, research, and publication on Canada. The final session of the conference was intended to provide and up-date the Canadian Studies Network developments and to solidify future directions. A schedule of four meetings to take place between 2009 and 2012 was confirmed. Membership fees were discussed and it was decided that Trent's Canadian Studies programme should serve as the receiver for membership fees. The November meeting, which was to be held at Trent, was scheduled to include a Network agenda (one-half or whole day) and sessions on teaching in an interdisciplinary context as well as matters related to Network development.

The third meeting of the new Canadian Studies Network took place at Trent University on November 13, 2009 in conjunction with the sixth annual Trent-Carleton Graduate

Student Conference. The goal of this meeting was to develop a cohesive plan for the creation of a constitution along with fundraising, networking and communication policies. There were 21 faculty members present representing Canadian Studies programs from across the country including: Brock University, Wilfrid Laurier University, the University of British Columbia, York University, the University of Toronto, Mount Allison University, Mount Saint Vincent University, the University of Ottawa, Trent University and Carleton University. There were 16 graduate students in attendance representing Trent University, Carleton University, Memorial University, McGill University, York University and McMaster University. As well, there were two undergraduate students from Mount Saint Vincent University. Guy Leclair, representing the International Council on Canadian Studies, was also present.

At this meeting a mission statement for the new organization, a membership fee schedule, the framework of a constitution, and a schedule of annual meetings until 2012, were adopted. A few months following the legal, technical, and administrative details for getting the CSN-REC up and running were executed and finalized. The CSN-REC's website went live in April 2010. The CSN-REC was also legally incorporated as non-profit organization that same month, and is now accepting both institutional and individual memberships. For the next three years its office will be located within the Frost Centre for Canadian Studies and Indigenous Studies at Trent University.



Canada and the Rest  
of the World

.....and  
the CSN/RÉC  
now has  
a formal,  
legal status.



We  
Need  
Members!

# Presentation to the ICCS

Written by Colin Coates

On Thursday 27 May, I attended the annual general meeting of the ICCS on behalf of the CSN/RÉC. I was given the opportunity to make a brief presentation concerning our organization. I indicated that we had made major strides in the previous year, and the CSN/RÉC now had a formal, legal status. We have an acting executive, with elections planned for later this year. The website is up and running, and we are accepting memberships.

I mentioned that our goals included promoting links between those who teach and study in the context of Canadian Studies programmes as well as Canadianists more broadly and that in particular we hoped to establish and enhance links between Canadian Studies programmes based in Canada and those located in other countries.

I discussed our intention to run annual research conferences and hold our business meetings in conjunction with these events, and specifically referred to the "Two Days of Canada" conference to be held at Brock University, 4-5 November 2010.

I communicated that our November meeting had passed a motion in favour of becoming an associate member of the ICCS as soon as practical, and I gave the formal notice of our intent to submit the application to the ICCS.

These comments were met with great warmth from the members of the ICCS. I was asked whether non-Canadians were allowed to join the CSN/RÉC, and I indi-

cated that our rules permitted that.

The President of the ICCS remarked that he had undertaken informal talks with the ACS/AÉC through intermediaries. We later talked privately, and the president is well aware of the ACS/AÉC launching of the International Association for the Study of Canada in 2009, which shares the same executive director as the ASC/AÉC. Indeed, this is one of the reasons why he has attempted to communicate with the executive director.

At the end of the day, the group broke up into regional clusters. I remained with the Europeans, because of my personal connections, and reiterated our desire to establish links with other national associations. I mentioned that one idea that had come up in our meetings was to pair an individual centre/programme with one national association. But I emphasized that this was merely one idea that had been raised, and it did not have the status of a formal motion by our meeting.

Finally, as you may know already, Guy Leclair has resigned from the ICCS to take up a new, challenging position with the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers. Guy has been a steadfast supporter of the ICCS and of our efforts to establish a scholarly Canadian Studies association in Canada. His energy and integrity will be greatly missed.

## Members Wanted

Help new members find us. Tell them about our website [www.csn-rec.ca](http://www.csn-rec.ca). The forms are all online!

Membership categories include: Regular, individual membership (**\$70.00**); low income, retired or graduate student membership (**\$30.00**); undergraduate student membership (**\$15.00**) and institutional membership, which includes 5 individual student memberships that can be allocated at the institution's discretion. (**\$125.00**)

There are many advantages to becoming a member of the Canadian Studies Network, including access to the "Members' Only" section of the website, where a wide array of information and resources about Canadian Studies programs in Canada is available. Check it out at [www.csn-rec.ca](http://www.csn-rec.ca)

# CSN-REC and Facebook



In November at the AGM several students said that they thought a Facebook site would be a nice compliment to the CSN-REC website. Now is the time to start that project.! Please let me know if you would be interested in taking up the challenge of creating a Facebook site?? Contact: Lynda

lmannik@cogeco.ca

*Looking for a  
President, Vice-  
President and  
Secretary-  
Treasurer plus  
two members at  
large...*

## Nov. 2010 Elections

The CSN-REC is looking forward to the election of its first fully formed Board of Directors. In August we will be asking for nominations for 6 positions: the President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer plus two members at large, one of whom shall be a graduate student and one of whom shall act as a liaison

with the International Council for Canadian Studies ("ICCS"). There will also be an ex officio director who shall serve as the Program Chair for the upcoming annual meeting of the members and be a member of the host University for such meeting. Nominees must be eighteen or more years of age and shall, at the time

of their election or within ten days thereafter and throughout the term of their office, be members in good standing of the CSN-REC. The elections will take place at our 4<sup>th</sup> AGM at Brock University in November.

## Our Membership

The CSN-RÉC currently has 43 members. This includes our four institutional members: The Centre for Canadian Studies at Mount Allison University; The Frost Centre at Trent and the Canadian Studies Department at Trent University as well as the Canadian Studies Program at Glendon College, York Univer-

sity. There are also 21 student members and 15 regular members. The universities represented include: Trent University; Mount Allison University; York University; Simon Fraser University; Brock University; University of Toronto; Dalhousie University; University of Ottawa; Concordia University;

Carleton University and the University of British Columbia. Several adjunct faculty members have joined. Some will hopefully make up the CSN-



# ICCS CONFERENCE 2010

Written by Caitlin Rhiannon



A COMMON CONCERN WAS THE FACT THAT, AS EARLIER GENERATIONS OF SCHOLARS RETIRE, THEIR FULL-TIME POSITIONS ARE OFTEN NOT BEING FILLED, BEING EITHER LOST ALTOGETHER OR AT LEAST TRANSFORMED INTO LIMITED TERM CONTRACT POSITIONS WITH LITTLE GUARANTEE OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY...

On the weekend of May 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, the International Council for Canadian Studies/ Conseil International d'Études Canadiennes (ICCS/CIEC) held an international conference at Concordia University, Montreal. The conference, *Ageing Societies: The Dynamics of Demographic Change in Canada/Le vieillissement des sociétés: la dynamique de l'évolution démographique au Canada*, covered a range of topics centred on this general theme. On Saturday afternoon, the conference hosted a round table on *Ageing and its Impact on Academia: The Case of Canadian Studies/Le vieillissement et son impact sur le monde universitaire: le cas des études canadiennes*. Chaired by Klaus-Dieter Ertler (ICCS president), the round table included panellists representing various organizations and international regional networks for Canadian Studies: Salvador Cervantes, Asociación Mexicana de Estudios sobre Canadá; Stewart Gill, Pacific Asia Network of Canadian Studies; Jean-Michel Lacroix, Association française d'études canadiennes; Miriam Richter, German Young Researchers' Forum; and Julia Harrison, Frost Centre for Canadian Studies and Indigenous Studies, Trent University. Following the round table, the Frost Centre for Canadian Studies and Indigenous Studies hosted an evening reception.

From one perspective, the round table discussion on ageing and the current state of Canadian Studies painted a rather gloomy picture of the future. Briefly, it reflected on the historical development of Canadian Studies internationally, highlighting the early existence of strong leadership and a motivated academic community, before pointing out the generation gap that followed this initial period of growth, and finally shifting to consider the present situation and prospects for the future. Inevitably, this latter part of the conversation quickly turned to address the many contemporary challenges now being faced in Canadian Studies.

Chief amongst these challenges is the in-

creasing lack of financial and other support for Canadian Studies, and indeed for academic work in the social sciences and humanities in general. With respect to the theme of ageing, the panellists focussed on what this lack of support means for the newest generations of Canadian Studies scholars. A common concern was the fact that, as earlier generations of scholars retire, their full-time positions are often not being filled, being either lost altogether or at least transformed into limited term contract positions with little guarantee of employment security and increasing expectations that candidates will fulfill administrative and other duties, in addition to teaching, publishing, and presenting their work in various forums. In other words, as resources and opportunities continue to dwindle, new scholars must work under increasing pressure to perform more for fewer rewards, requiring them to become more competitive and leading them, it was suggested, to be less willing to volunteer their time without some promise of compensation. The problems of an ageing academy were therefore seen as being less about whether there would be scholars to succeed the older generations, and more about whether there would be a place for the new generations to succeed in, or whether there would be enough incentive for them to even try to succeed.

If misery loves company, then, the round table discussion certainly provided people the dubious comfort of knowing that the challenges they face are not ones that they suffer alone. From a different perspective, however, the round table discussion also provided many reasons to encourage hope for the future. Despite all the challenges, new and exciting work is being done in Canadian Studies, young scholars *are* motivated to volunteer their time and energy for various purposes, and Canadian Studies as a field is still developing. While addressing the changed context in which scholars now must work, each of the panellists highlighted many examples of positive work being done in Canadian Studies today. Meanwhile Miriam Richter and Julia Harrison both stressed the enthusiastic work of many young scholars, particularly in relation to the work of the German

## ICCS CONFERENCE (continued)

Young Researchers Forum and of recent graduates and current students of the Frost Centre. Finally, Julia Harrison also discussed the important recent establishment in Canada of the Canadian Studies Network/Réseau d'études canadiennes. Focussing on all of these points, she suggested that rather than thinking of ageing, we should see Canadian Studies as undergoing a process of maturation.

At the same time, even the discussion of shared woes was not primarily an exercise in self-pity and despair, but rather, within the context of an international conference, provided the opportunity to strengthen and renew a sense of the need for solidarity and for action. Significantly, the reception following the round table provided the opportunity for this sentiment to be more practically realized, and it was the more optimistic side of the con-

versation that continued throughout it. The reception opened with a brief opening address by Julia Harrison and a few words said by The Honourable Diane Ablonczy (Minister of State for Seniors), who was in attendance. Afterwards, there were great opportunities for people to find out more about the Frost Centre through browsing a selection of recent faculty publications and speaking with both faculty and students from the M.A. and PhD programs, the latter of which will soon be celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Most importantly, there were also opportunities for everyone, both new scholars and those who have already contributed much to the field of Canadian Studies, both to renew connections with old acquaintances and to forge new relationships with others working in Canadian Studies throughout the world.

ICCS  
Conference  
(continued)

## “Two Days of Canada” at Brock

The 2010 CSN-RÉC Annual Meeting will take place in conjunction with the 24<sup>th</sup> annual “Two Days of Canada” conference on November 4-5, 2010. For more than two decades, the Two Days of Canada conference has been one of Canada’s premiere interdisciplinary gatherings. Each year, academics, graduate students, undergraduates, and community members representing a wide range of disciplines and interests meet to share knowledge and expertise about matters of importance to Canadians. The theme for the 24<sup>th</sup> annual conference is “THE SIXTIES, CANADIAN-STYLE: Where Have All the Sixties Gone?” The conference will be held at Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario.

The 1960s was a period of tremendous ferment that still captures our imagination today. From the rise of antiwar activism, to the emergence of nationalist movements and new nation-building projects, to calls for women’s and gay liberation, to the flowering of new musical, cinematic, and theatrical forms, the era ushered in profound social, political, and cultural changes not only in Canada but also around the world. This conference proposes to place Canada at the centre of this historic moment, allowing participants to explore how Canadians both contributed to and were influenced by the dramatic transformations that swept the globe during this tumultuous time.



Canada in the 1960s  
Lennon, Ono, and Trudeau

## CSN-RÉC

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Studies and Indigenous Studies,  
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[www.csnrec.ca](http://www.csnrec.ca)

### Our mission:

The Canadian Studies Network-Réseau d'études canadiennes is a bilingual organization dedicated to serving the purposes of scholars - including faculty, students, and independent researchers - involved in the study of Canada through Canadian Studies programs or within other disciplines at the post-secondary level in Canada. The CSN-REC's goal is to strengthen links, promote exchanges, and build new partnerships amongst Canadianists working in academic institutions in order to promote thriving Canadian Studies programs in Canada at both the undergraduate and graduate studies level, to facilitate professional connections with international Canadian Studies associations, and to foster critical teaching and research on Canada. In support of this mission, the CSN-REC will facilitate communication among Canadianists and hold an annual meeting to discuss issues of mutual concern and new developments in the field. We welcome individuals or institutions involved in Canadian Studies at the post-secondary level to participate in and/or join the Canadian Studies Network.



## Website Updates

Our website is critical in strengthening linkages with other departments and networking in general as well as in providing accurate and up-to-date information about Canadian Studies Programs, both graduate and undergraduate, across the country. We welcome any suggestions for improvements or additions to the website.

At the moment we are in the process of creating a new information area that will be part of the "members only" section. It will have a series of website

links organized according to interests related to Canadian Studies. For some examples: Canadian Public Policy; Labour History; Visual Culture; Canadian Arctic Studies. Please offer suggestions for themes or topics you would be personally interested in seeing

in this collection and also any suggestions for actual organizations or websites of interest. All ideas welcomed!!!

