

CSN/REC Newsletter

The Canadian Studies Network
Le Réseau d'études canadiennes

Fall 2011

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A word from the president

Colin Coates, York University

The Canadian Studies Network is off to a great start. We're a bit more than a year old but already we've building a new basis for Canadian Studies in Canada.

Welcome to the first Canadian Studies Network/Réseau d'études canadiennes newsletter. The CSN/REC is a new association whose goal is to forge links between scholars, both those working in Canada and those in other countries who take Canada as their scholarly field. Our first year has been a busy one. We have in place a constitution, executive, and advisory council. We've also helped organize an important conference on language in Canada, secured funding for graduate students attending international Canadian Studies conferences and established associate member status with the International Council of Canadian Studies (ICCS).

This connection to the ICCS is, perhaps, the most important thing we've done this year. For the last several years, Canada has lacked representation on the most important international body devoted to Canadian Studies. Because Canada was not represented on the ICCS, Canadians did not qualify for ICCS funding. With the CSN/REC's new associate membership status, this situation has been addressed and this marks, we feel, one important accomplishment for the CSN. We're looking forward to more in the coming year. The CSN will be able to nominate and support applications for funding, prizes, and scholarships. We believe that increased interchange with our colleagues in other countries will be a boon to Canadian Studies both at home and abroad.

Our Aims/Our Objectives

The CSN/REC is a new association 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.

To find out more:

www.csn-rec.ca



The Multi-Languages of Canadian Studies

Glendon College, York University
September 30 to October 1

Canada is a country of considerable linguistic diversity. Its bilingual character has been recognized for a generation, but today one fifth of all Canadians report a mother tongue other than French or English. The linguistic diversity of Canada ranges from aboriginal languages to heritage languages from around the world. The state of linguistic diversity in Canada, the social role of language, and the challenges and opportunities this affords for the future of Canada were the subjects discussed at the Canadian Studies Network conference "The Multi-Languages of Canadian Studies" held September 30 and October 1 at Glendon College, York University.

The highly successful "Multi-Languages of Canadian Studies" conference was organized by Canadian Studies at Glendon College, in conjunction with the Canadian Studies Network and the Robarts Centre for Canadian Studies at York University. It was also supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and the Glendon College Principal's Office.

Different speakers covered a broad range of topics including the vitality of heritage and aboriginal languages in Canada, bilingualism, pluri-linguistic capacity, and the use of official languages among heritage language speakers. The keynote address was given by noted British Canadianist Itesh Sachdev of the School for Oriental and African Studies, University of London. The general conclusion that can be drawn from the range of different presentations and the vibrant discussion is that Canada has entered a new stage in its linguistic development. Old debates about the character and scope of official languages bilingualism are being replaced by a more overt recognition of the vast linguistic diversity of Canada today. Once such diversity would have been seen as a problem, and it remains a problem for some Canadians today. But, Canadian Studies scholars feel that most Canadians will embrace this diversity and treat it as a sign of cultural vibrancy. Different languages, in other words, do not need to be seen as an impediment to communication but are instead the base of linguistic and cultural creativity.

Student Views: Why Canada? Why Canadian Studies?

James Onusko, Trent University

The multidisciplinary nature of Canadian Studies is its greatest strength. Because I research in the area of twentieth-century childhood studies in Canada, the fit has been perfect for me. We are not bounded theoretically or methodologically when undertaking our work. The opportunity to move seamlessly between the traditional disciplines allows us the creativity to make our research projects that much stronger. This, coupled with the inherent curiosity, openness and encouragement of Canadian Studies professors allows us, as PhD students, to be able to take our research into areas that might not be possible in more traditional disciplines.

Furthermore, because our field is in a relatively nascent stage, students have the opportunity to shape the direction of Canadian Studies in the coming years. Our particular institutions are learning from all of us as we have become key in the shaping of Canadian Studies in the joint-PhD program of

Carleton-Trent. All of this has meant that Canadian Studies draws an eclectic group of young scholars – people that are willing to open themselves, intellectually, in order to produce the best possible academic research. It is exciting to know that the field of Canadian Studies can become almost anything that its proponents want it to be in responding to the myriad questions that we pose.



Student Voices: Taking an undergraduate degree in Canadian Studies, Lisa Riley, Mount Allison University

Students often come to university with specific idea about what they want to do. I was no different and Canadian Studies was not going to be my major. But, after by taking an "intro" class purely to fulfill distribution requirement I was hooked. Having lived in Canada my whole I had never taken the opportunity to really appreciate how interesting this country actually is. Not only are our policies and history unique in the world, we have an interesting reputation. Canadian Studies provided the opportunity to study what others might have missed because Canadian Studies takes an inclusive approach to the country that ranges across and integrates social, historical, geography, and aboriginal issues among others. The constantly changing dynamics of Canada mean that there are always new issues to address. After taking the intro class I realized that while I grew up in Canada, I still had a lot to learn.

The Canadian Studies Network/Réseau d'études canadiennes

The Canadian Studies Network/Réseau d'études canadiennes is a new national organization committed to supporting and promoting inter and multidisciplinary study, teaching, and writing about Canada. Our aim is also to support interchange between Canadian and international scholars, particularly those working with and through the International Council for Canadian Studies. Welcome to our first newsletter!

The CSN/REC held its founding conference a year ago. At that time our current executive was elected, our constitution ratified, and the first steps taken to lay out a plan for regular yearly meetings. This year we met at Glendon College as part of a CSN co-organized conference on languages in Canada. Next year (2012) we'll meet in British Columbia and then we're back on the east coast at Mount Allison University in 2013.

This newsletter is intended to keep members and interested parties up-to-date on what we're doing. We hope you enjoy it and find it informative.

The CSN/REC Executive:

Dr. Colin Coates (York University), President
Dr. Andrew Nurse (Mount Allison University), Vice President
Dr. Christl Verduyn (Mount Allison University), ICCS Liaison
Dr. Julia Roberts (Trent University), Secretary
Lynda Mannik (Memorial), Executive Assistant
Meaghen Beaton (Trent), Student Representative

CSN Advisory Board

The CSN/REC Advisory Board is "will be a body for the Board to consult with when it deems necessary and the Advisory Board may also introduce recommendations on its own accord at the annual meeting of the members.

Advisory Board

Satwinder Bains, University of Fraser Valley, British Columbia, July 2011-2013

Ian Angus, Simon Fraser University, British Columbia, July 2011-2012

Roberta Lexier, Mount Royal University, Alberta, July 2011-2013

Raymond Blake, University of Regina, Saskatchewan, July 2011-2013

Jeff Ruhl, Carleton University, Ontario, July 2011-2013

Yves Frenette, University of Ottawa, Ontario, July 2011-2012

Rinaldo Walcott, OISE, University of Toronto, Ontario, July 2011-2013

Will Straw, McGill University, Quebec, July 2011-2012

Claire Campbell, Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia, July 2011-2012

Coming Events:

Wendat and Wyandot
Studies Conference
Wendake, June 13-16,
2012

Project Yawenda, the Huron-Wendat Nation and the Yawendowānenh Society are pleased to announce the first Wendat and Wyandot Studies Conference, in Wendake (Wendat Territory, Quebec, Canada), from June 13 to 16, 2012.

The theme of the congress will be: "Wendat and Wyandot Continuities". The conference aims at bringing together researchers and practitioners, from both native communities and academia, who are interested in the Wendat and Wyandot(te) peoples from Quebec, Oklahoma, Kansas, Michigan, and elsewhere. Special focus will be given to expressions of these nations' history, culture, language, society, as well as the assertion of their rights.

For the preliminary programme, see:

<http://www.ciera.ulaval.ca/PDF/Programme-prel-wendat.pdf>

Other information at:

http://www.ciera.ulaval.ca/animation/congres_wendat.htm or write:

yawenda@hotmail.com

Coming Events: Gender and Canadian Art History

Imagining History
3 – 5 May 2012,
Concordia University, Montreal
<http://cwahi.concordia.ca>

the range of issues, objects and practitioners open to art historical consideration. In Canada, research into this expanded field has produced both narrative overviews and analytic case studies. What are the strengths of this scholarship, and what remains to be achieved? What challenges are raised by the task of integrating existing knowledge into a broader synthetic framework, and what solutions can we imagine? Which stories are still to be told? What gaps and omissions would frame such a history from its margins?

The goal of this conference is to address these issues. For more information, please contact

Dr. Kristina Huneault, Department of Art History,
Concordia University huneault@alcor.concordia.ca 514.848.2424 ext. 4697

Diverse Spaces: Examining identity, community and citizenship within Canadian public culture

April 20-21, 2012

Frost Centre for Canadian Studies and Indigenous Studies
Trent University, Peterborough,

Identity, belonging and citizenship are established, contested and legitimized within sites and institutions of public culture, heritage and representation. In Canada, people from diverse cultural backgrounds seek to engage with cultural, historical and social knowledge in these spaces. While public museums have been primary sites of engagement, some people have sought to create alternative opportunities and institutional spaces to express and represent the complexities of their histories, identities, communities and places in both Canadian and global society. This conference brings together academics, professionals, community leaders and students to examine, analyze and theorize the dynamics of public cultural institutions in relation to the putative multicultural nation of Canada.

For more information, check the Frost Centre's web site at:

<http://www.trentu.ca/frostcentre/newsevents.php>

International Grad Student Funding: New Policy and Support from the CSN/REC

CSN-REC Policy on funding graduate students outside of Canada to attend Canadian conferences

Graduate students studying at universities outside of Canada can apply for funding to assist with the costs of participating in either:

Canadian Studies conferences or conferences deemed by the selection of the CSN-REC awards committee to have themes and content relevant to the study of Canada/furthering the field of Canadian Studies.

to be held in Canada. Contingent on available funds a maximum of \$1000 CAN can be awarded available to students to support travel (normally limited to economy airfare and ground transportation). Preference will be given to members national Canadian Studies Associations.

Applicants must do the following a minimum of 6 weeks in advance of their proposed departure date: (Applications received later than this timeframe will not be considered for support).

1. Send electronically an application (on institutional letterhead) that indicates the following
 - a. They have had a paper accepted at a relevant academic conference to be held in Canada.
 - b. The details of the conference to be attended and how their proposed paper/involvement links to the theme of the conference and contributes to the study of Canada/Canadian Studies.
 - c. The abstract of their proposed paper. If not presenting a paper, the exact nature of participation must be clearly detailed and supported with confirmation from the conference organizers.
 - d. A detailed budget of anticipated expenses and sources of other support being pursued/committed. A statement of the expenses being claimed, boarding passes and receipts must be submitted with any claim for travel.
 - e. They will be an active participant in all aspects of the conference. (Supported participants are required to be present for the full length of the conference.)
 - f. What stage they are at in their graduate studies and what their intended completion date is.
 - g. Detail (in about 100 words) what they see will be the benefits of their attendance at the conference for themselves AND furthering links between the Canadian Studies scholarly communities both within Canada and abroad, and how they intend to ensure that there will be concrete outcomes from their participation towards that goal.
2. Additional materials required:
 - a. A letter from their supervisor supporting their participation at this conference. Full contact details of the supervisor must be included in the letter. Pdf format is acceptable.
3. Supported students must submit a 500 to 800 word report in English or French on the conference and their participation in it. This report will be published in the next issue of the CSN-REC newsletter. Accompanying good quality photographs are encouraged. No reimbursement will be issued until the report, and a statement of expenses with all appropriate receipts are submitted. If these are not received within three months of the conference support will be withdrawn. Funds will be paid out in Canadian dollars.

Becoming a Member

Committed to Canadian Studies? Interested in becoming a member? You can find membership applications in French and English on our web site (<http://www.csn-rec.ca/membership/application-form>). Just download the form, fill it out, and send it in to the address that's already on the form. Or ... you can use the form included at the end of this newsletter.

Canadian Studies Network
(Make cheques payable to: CSN-REC)

Membership Categories:

Regular, individual membership (\$70.00)

Low income, retired, or graduate student membership (\$30.00)

Undergraduate student membership (\$15.00)

Institutional membership, includes 5 individual student memberships (\$125.00)



Contact Information REC/CSN

The Frost Centre for
Canadian Studies and
Indigenous Studies,
Trent University,
1600 West Bank Drive,
Peterborough, Ontario
K9J 7B8

Conference Report: People and Politics

Six years ago, the Centre for Canadian Studies at Mount Allison University began its "Alternatives" conference series designed to explore the shifting dynamics of public life in contemporary Canada. Beginning with a conference on social movements and democracy, followed by ones on North American political economy, archives and the national narrative, the state of the art of interdisciplinary studies of Canada, this series concluded with a student of the role of the citizen in public life. Entitled "People and Politics," this conference, like the others, drew both a national and international body of participants. Like the other conferences, as well, an edited collection of essays that includes the best work from the conference will be produced. The "People and Politics" volume will be edited by Drs. Roberta Lexier (formerly of Mount Allison and now at Mount Royal University) and Tamara Small (also formerly of Mount Allison and now at the University of Guelph).

The perspectives taken by various participants differed. The conference was notable for the broad range of subject areas addressed, including foreign policy, health and prisoner rights, bilingualism and federalism, First Peoples, and senior citizens and the state. The opening keynote address was given by CBC commentator and noted journalist and political observer Chantel Hébert. Ms. Hébert spoke on the changing dynamics of public life and the potential effects of alternative forms of political organization and protest. The politics of protest, she argued, particularly using alternative media have been successful in challenging the political status quo. She pointed to the successes of "dark horse" candidates in a range of recent provincial and municipal elections. However, whether or not this same approach to politics will leave lasting change was, she thought, another matter. A protest vote is one thing but if those protesting continue to stand outside the system, their voices will continue to be marginalized even while they experience periodic success.

The various papers presented at the "People and Politics" conference seem to support Ms. Hébert's conclusions. People can effect political change but this effect requires concerted action, determination, and a longer-term commitment. Depending on viewpoint, this conclusion might be

Share News about Canadian Studies

If you have some relevant news or want to highlight a noteworthy event or achievement relevant to Canadian Studies, CSN-RÉC welcomes your submissions. We will review all that is sent to us and will publish on our site any information that promotes the discipline of Canadian Studies.

How to submit an announcement:

If you would like to post an announcement and share your achievements on our website, please read this information carefully. This is a free service with no cost for posting announcements. If you are submitting an announcement, we ask that you provide a short descriptive statement (under 250 words) with relevant information. You may submit one quality photo (medium to high resolution) with your announcements. Please provide contact information including e-mail address and phone number.

Announcements should be submitted to Lynda Mannik, Communications Coordinator at

Off to Gronigen

The CSN/REC is pleased to announce that two Canadian Studies attended the Twentieth European Seminar for Graduate Studies in Canadian Studies this year. Meg Beaton, a doctoral student in Canadian Studies at Trent University, and Kelly Black, a doctoral student in Canadian Studies at Carleton received funding through the Canadian Studies Network with the support of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. Both will be presenting original research. Ms. Beaton will speak on "'A Call to Arms': The Community Improvement Program, and Canada's 1967 Centennial," which constitutes part of the work she is completing for her doctoral dissertation. Mr. Black will present work from one of his on-going research projects entitled "Enacting Settler Property, Advancing Indigenous Dispossession: The Coloniality of Property Relations on Southern Vancouver Island."

The CSN is happy to promote the interchange of Canadian and European Canadian Studies students. We hope this is the beginning of a more on-going and deeper interchange in which Canadian students will have the opportunity to present their work at international conferences. In exchange we hope to encourage students from other countries to attend Canadian Studies conferences in Canada. Such an interchange, we feel, benefits both students and Canadian Studies more generally.

Building Resources:

One of the services that the Canadian Studies Network promotes is the exchange of information on the interdisciplinary teaching of Canada. We are starting to build a resource relating to curriculum at this URL.

<http://www.csn-rec.ca/canadian-curriculum>

Feel free to take a look and contribute!



Canadian Studies Network/ Membership Application

Return to:

CSN/REC

The Frost Centre for Canadian Studies and Indigenous Studies, Trent University,
1600 West Bank Drive, Peterborough, Ontario K9J 7B8

Membership Application Form
(Make cheques payable to: CSN-REC)

Membership Categories:

Regular, individual membership (\$70.00) ☐

Low income, retired, or graduate student membership (\$30.00) ☐

Undergraduate student membership (\$15.00) ☐

Institutional membership, includes 5 individual student memberships (\$125.00) ☐

Personal/Institutional Information

Last Name _____

First name _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____ Province/State _____ Postal Code _____

e-mail : _____

University or College and department of affiliation:: _____

or Employer and department or service : _____

Professor ☐ Associate Professor ☐ Assistant Professor ☐ Researcher ☐ Consultant ☐ Other occupation ☐

Specialization – Interests: _____

Language skills: English, Français, Other _____

PLEASE READ THE WAIVER BELOW BEFORE SIGNING.

☐ I agree: "Until written notice is provided by the Corporation to the contrary, the undersigned hereby consents to the Canadian Studies Network - Réseau d'études canadiennes having all its financial statements going forward prepared on a notice to reader basis provided the Canadian Studies Network - Réseau d'études canadiennes annual income in any applicable financial year is less than \$100,000.00 pursuant to Section 96.1 of the Corporations Act (Ontario)."

Signature:
