

# BACS NEWSLETTER

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Copy deadline for Autumn Newsletter is 31 August  
Copy deadline for Spring Newsletter is 31 December  
Copy deadline for Summer Newsletter is 30 April  
Contributions by email to [newsletter@canadian-studies.net](mailto:newsletter@canadian-studies.net)

## EDITORIAL

The BACS Newsletter is now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year and, at the risk of tempting fate, a few changes are being made to its format which we hope you will like.

First of all, we now have a new, glossy cover which Jodie Robson has produced, complete with a shiny maple leaf emblem that may change in colour according to the season!

There is also a slightly different layout for the contents, with a particular topic being treated in some depth. The topic for this edition is, appropriately enough, the future development of Canadian Studies. A number of entries pursue this theme including a general overall discussion of Canadian Studies teaching in the UK written by Terry MacDonald and a case study on developments in Canadian Studies at Canterbury Christ Church University, which I have supplied. There is also a preliminary report on the BACS Sustained Studies project produced by Tim Rooth.

Finally, you have a new Editor as I have agreed (in a moment of weakness) to take on the role for one year, in the first instance.

I hope that future editions will also highlight an individual topic so if you have any suggestions, or any other comments (polite ones only, please) then do send them to me at my email address - [tkm2@canterbury.ac.uk](mailto:tkm2@canterbury.ac.uk) - and I will reply by return. Perhaps we could include a Letters page in future editions.

One major topic in the next Newsletter will be "Separatism in Canada" with a detailed report of the November conference in London organised by Phil Buckner.

My thanks are due to the previous Editor, Peter Freshwater, for his help and advice – he is a hard act to follow. Also to Itesh Sachdev, President of BACS, for his encouragement and support. And, last but not least, to Jodie Robson for producing the Newsletter – complete with glossy cover!

Tony McCulloch  
Head of History and American Studies  
Canterbury Christ Church University

## PEOPLE

### Professor Itesh Sachdev

Congratulations to Itesh Sachdev, President of BACS, on his appointment to a chair at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, from 1 October 2005. SOAS is just along the road from Birkbeck College where Itesh was Reader in the Social Psychology of Language and Groups so he has not had to move very far. His new title is Professor of Language and Communication and he is Head of the School of Languages at SOAS.

### Coral Howells

Coral's critical work on Margaret Atwood (second edition) was published by Palgrave Macmillan in May 2005. The book is a much revised and extended version of the first edition (1996) which won the Atwood Society Prize for the best book of the year. She was very grateful to Phil Buckner for arranging a launch party for the book at the Institute for Commonwealth Studies.

### **Danielle Fuller**

Danielle (American and Canadian Studies, University of Birmingham) was awarded the Gabrielle Roy Prize for the best book of English-language criticism published in 2004 for *Writing the Everyday: Women's Textual Communities in Atlantic Canada* (McGill-Queen's University Press). The prize is awarded each year by the Association for Canadian and Quebecois Literatures.

### **Michael Eamon**

After several years working at the National Archives of Canada (and now Library and Archives Canada) Michael has now retired and is pursuing doctoral studies on the colonial history of Canada. He sends his best wishes to all the people that he has enjoyed dealing with professionally and with whom he has shared a love of history and culture while at Library and Archives Canada.

### **Terry MacDonald**

Terry is attending the ACSUS Conference (Association for Canadian Studies in the United States) in St Louis from 16 to 20 November. As well as giving a paper on cricket he will be part of a round table discussion on Canadian Studies teaching outside the USA. A copy of his article on Canadian Studies teaching in Britain, (which appears on the LLAS website) is included in this Newsletter.

### **Rex Williams**

Rex, who is well known to attendees at the annual BACS conference for his marvellous book displays, continues to keep the Editor supplied with interesting news from Toronto. He recently reported on the sad closure of the Double Hook Bookstore in Montreal which had been such a reliable source of books on Canada. Rex will no doubt produce another excellent display of books from Canadian publishers at the Cambridge conference next April.

### **Christopher Dummit**

Christopher Dummit, who has joined the Institute for the Study of the Americas as a Lecturer in Canadian Studies, is now offering a Canadian Studies graduate course which is available to students both at ISA and at other UK universities (within commuting range of London). The title on the website is "Politics and Society in Modern Canada", aka "Canada in America: Past and Present." The purpose is to add to Canadian offerings in the UK, giving students more options for courses. There is a fairly simple fee-follows-the-student method of funding these courses and if anyone has questions, they are welcome to contact Chris directly. Details on the course are available at

[http://www.americas.sas.ac.uk/postgraduate\\_study/multidisciplinary.htm](http://www.americas.sas.ac.uk/postgraduate_study/multidisciplinary.htm) .

### **John Harries**

This summer past John Harries (University of Edinburgh) was invited to teach a summer course providing an intensive introduction to Canadian Studies to students at the new Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, British Columbia (previously the University College of the Cariboo). Whilst in Kamloops he also delivered a public lecture entitled "*No canoe could be discovered moving on its placid surface*": *haunted landscapes and*

*the imagining of the Beothuk in nineteenth-century Newfoundland.*" John would like to thank all the staff at Thompson Rivers University for their kindness and hospitality, with a particular thanks to Ginny Ratzoy and Martin Whittles who made the stay a real pleasure.

## BACS NEWS

### **Sustained Studies meeting Canada House 10 June 2005**

The prime purpose of the meeting was to contribute to the second phase of the project on Canadian Studies in the UK in taking stock of the state of Canadian Studies, to identify issues affecting teaching and research on Canada, and to discuss some of the opportunities and challenges in the foreseeable future. It was good to have such a wide spectrum of people, including diplomats, academics and administrators, and such a diversity of interests and specialisms.

This contributed greatly to a successful workshop, and from my perspective the meeting was extremely helpful. As I emphasised at the outset of the meeting, there have been some major achievements in building up Canadian Studies over the past 30 years, and it is very pleasing to know that the high quality of much of our current work is widely recognised and appreciated in the broader Canadian Studies community.

Many of the concerns raised at the meeting echo those expressed in older established centres both in other parts of Europe and elsewhere. There are relatively few Canadian Studies pathways at undergraduate level and at Masters' level. The 'fragility of the human factor', in Heather Norris Nicholson's phrase, is of immense importance, and there have been and are about to be retirements of people with Canadian interests who will be difficult to replace. This underlines the importance of making strategic alliances with colleagues in cognate areas of work, a point also made forcibly at a recent European Network for Canadian Studies meeting. Although numbers for North American Studies as a whole are declining it was emphasised that there are some fast expanding areas, notably in media and film studies, in urban studies and in psychology, which should provide opportunities for teaching about Canada.

Among areas identified for immediate action it was suggested that groups could be established in these fields. Other priorities identified and which are being followed up were the need for updating the Guide to Resources and for a Database of Canadianists (full-time, part-time and Pg students). For funding there was a reluctance to see money being too heavily concentrated; we need a balance between larger grants and appointments on the one hand and, on the other, smaller grants widely distributed for specific projects. Modest grants have often led to much more substantial projects. It was suggested it was high time the subsistence elements in the Faculty Awards Program were raised to take account of inflation since the 1980s! It was also suggested that there should be scope for funding conferences designed to plan research projects rather than simply disseminate the results of research.

These were some of the immediate results of the meeting. A further report will form part of the final stage of the sustained studies project in the coming year.

Tim Rooth  
University of Portsmouth

## Important Reminder: Contacting BACS

Please note that in the spring of 2005 the contact address for the BACS Office changed, and all emails should be addressed to [jodie.robson@canadian-studies.net](mailto:jodie.robson@canadian-studies.net), unless otherwise specified. The old address (ed.ac.uk) will not be used to send emails, and emails originating from that address should not be opened, since they may not have been sent by BACS. The ed.ac.uk address is still checked on an occasional basis for incoming mail, but will cease to function by the end of the year and should not be regarded as a reliable way to contact the office.

We apologise if this change has caused any inconvenience or difficulty in contacting BACS; the change is necessary because the old address has been “hi-jacked” from other people’s address books and used to send infected messages.

## ICCS NEWS

### Important message from the Academic Relations Division of Foreign Affairs Canada

“ACE’s reference level academic relations grant budget has been unexpectedly reduced. The solution which has been approved by higher management includes the suspension for the present fiscal year of some components of the Canadian Studies Program. These components are:

- Institutional Research Program
- Programs for International Research Linkages (PIRL)
- The Canada-Asia-Pacific Awards in Canadian Studies
- The Canada-Latin America and Caribbean Awards in Canadian Studies

We thank you for your understanding and usual cooperation.”

Jean Labrie, Head, Canadian Studies, International Academic Relations (ACE) Foreign Affairs Canada

### Canada from the outside in - Images, Perceptions, Comparisons

In Ottawa, between May 25 and 27, we had the privilege of listening to words from afar. As our 2005 Biennial conference ‘Canada from the Outside In’ took shape, we yielded the floor to some 60 Canadianists from around the world who had the opportunity to express — with words from both Canada and away — the multiplicity of viewpoints through which Canada is perceived, imagined and compared. This academic gathering attracted over 180 Canadianists from around the world who had the opportunity to hear the various intellectual and cultural vantage points offered and examine the many ways in which Canada is viewed, analyzed, studied and even criticized. Participants included Canadianists from over thirty countries and five continents.

Our working partnerships with the University of Ottawa and Carleton University were extremely rewarding. The following organizations also featured among our partners for the conference: Foreign Affairs Canada; Library and Archives Canada; Statistics Canada; Konica Minolta and the Canadian Museum of Civilization Corporation. The active participation of these and other partners contributed to the success of the conference.

## **Governor General's International Award for Canadian Studies**

The ICCS is pleased to announce the winner of the Governor General's International Award for Canadian Studies. Professor Serge Jaumain, Director of the Centre d'Études Canadiennes, Université Libre de Bruxelles received the Governor General's International Award for Canadian Studies on Sunday, May 29, 2005 during the annual banquet of the ICCS at the Museum of Civilization. Serge Jaumain's interest in Canada began in 1983 when he received a scholarship from the Government of Canada to study at the University of Ottawa and earned a Master's degree in Canadian History under the supervision of Professor Pierre Savard. In 1985 he returned to Belgium, completed a Doctorate in History (1992) and continued his career at the Université Libre de Bruxelles. Currently professor of Contemporary History at U.L.B., he teaches five courses, one of which focuses on the history of Canada. He became Director of the Centre d'Études Canadiennes in 1996 and since 2004, has also held the position of Social Sciences Research Advisor to the Rector. In addition, Serge Jaumain co-directs the Centre interdisciplinaire de recherche sur l'histoire de Bruxelles (the Interdisciplinary Centre for Research into the History of Brussels) (CIRHIBRU), which maintains ties with a number of Canadian historians. Some sixty scholars work at each of the two establishments. Serge Jaumain served as president of the International Council for Canadian Studies from 2001-2003 and in October 2005 will head the European Network of Canadian Studies. In addition to his management roles, Serge Jaumain has directed a variety of research projects that have included: a history of department stores; Belgian immigration to Canada; the image of Canada in the Belgian press; a comparative history of Brussels and Montréal; and a study on travel guides. He sits on the international committees of several Canadian academic journals and is at present working with the publisher Peter Lang to edit a collection of works in Canadian Studies. He has also authored or has supervised the editing of some fifteen books, most of which deal with Canada. He has helped organize three international symposia, whose proceedings are slated to be published over the coming months: *Mémoire de guerre et construction de la paix; Mentalités et choix politiques; Belgique-Europe-Canada; Regards croisés sur l'histoire et la littérature acadiennes; Vivre en ville. Bruxelles et Montréal aux XIXe et XXe siècles.* The Governor General's International Award for Canadian Studies is intended for a scholar who has made an outstanding contribution to scholarship and to the development of Canadian Studies internationally.

## **The ICCS Pierre Savard Awards**

The International Council for Canadian Studies is pleased to announce the winners of the Pierre Savard Awards. There are two categories: Book written in French or in English; and Book written in a language other than French or English. Exceptionally this year, the Pierre Savard Award, Book written in French or in English, was given *ex aequo* to two books. The winners are: *Past Futures. The Impossible Necessity of History*, by Ged Martin, published by University of Toronto Press, 2004, submitted by the Irish Association for Canadian Studies; and *Spying 101. The RCMP's Secret Activities at the Canadian Universities, 1917-1997*, by Steve Hewitt, published by University of Toronto Press, 2002, submitted by the British Association for Canadian Studies.

The winner of the Pierre Savard Award, Book written in a language other than French or English, is: *A feiteceira no imaginario ficional das Americas*, by Nubia Hanciau, published by Editora da FURG (Fundação Universidade Federal do Rio Grande), submitted by the Brazilian Association for Canadian Studies (ABECAN).

## **ICCS Best Doctoral Thesis in Canadian Studies Awardee**

The International Council for Canadian Studies is pleased to announce the winner of the Best Doctoral Thesis in Canadian Studies Award.

The ICCS Adjudication Committee has awarded the inaugural Best Doctoral Thesis in Canadian Studies to Sirma Bilge for her thesis "Communalisations ethniques post-migratoires : le cas des 'Turcs' de Montréal." The application was supported by the French Association for Canadian Studies. Sirma Bilge has been appointed, as of June 2005, Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at the Université de Montréal where she will teach among other subjects the sociology of ethnic relations and the sociology of gender relations.

The Committee also underlined a second thesis worthy of note and awarded an honorary mention to Elisabeth Hedler for her work "National Identity in Late-Nineteenth-Century English-Canadian Fiction". The application was supported by the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States.

The ICCS Best Doctoral Thesis Award is designed to recognize and promote each year an outstanding PhD thesis on a Canadian topic, written by a member (or one of his/her students) of a Canadian Studies Association or Associate Member, and which contributes to a better understanding of Canada. The award forms part of ICCS's strategy aimed at fostering a new generation of Canadianists, and underlines the value of their theses.

## **ICCS Database of Canadianists Now On-line**

The ICCS Database of Canadianists is now available on the ICCS web site, ([www.iccs-ciec.ca](http://www.iccs-ciec.ca)) with a convenient direct link from the ICCS front page.

The on-line database, providing selected information on some 4,000 individual Canadianists from around the world, is searchable by Name, Country, and Research Interest.

Each entry will include, where available, the following information:

- Surname, First Name, [gender] Country
- Department  
Organization  
Email
- Affiliation
- Research area(s)
- Specific research interest

The site also includes a PDF questionnaire for additions or corrections to the database. For further information, please contact Linda M. Jones at [ljones@iccs-ciec.ca](mailto:ljones@iccs-ciec.ca)

## **NEWS FROM ELSEWHERE**

### **UK's only Centre for Federal Studies launches with keynote lecture**

The new Centre for Federal Studies at the University of Kent was officially launched on Monday 10 October 2005.

To celebrate the establishment and launch of the Centre – the only one of its kind in the UK – Professor David Marquand, Visiting Fellow, Department of Politics, University of

Oxford and the former Principal of Mansfield College, delivered a keynote lecture titled Federalism and the British: anatomy of a neurosis.

Funded by the London-based James Madison Trust, the primary purpose of the Centre for Federal Studies is to promote an interest in and an opportunity to study all aspects of federal studies by means of undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, MA and doctoral research, the organisation of international conferences, regular contributions by distinguished visiting speakers and the development of a national research centre that is integrated into an international framework of centres for federal studies.

The focus of the Centre's activities is not only the established federations, such as the USA, Canada, Australia, Germany and Switzerland, but also those parts of the world where federal arrangements have the practical possibility of promoting peace, justice and stability. Consequently the scope of federal studies is broad and includes those who are interested in comparative federalism, federalism as political theory and philosophy, federalism as conflict management and federalism as constitutional democracy.

A new MA in Comparative Federalism, the first of its kind in the UK, was launched in September 2005.

## CANADIAN STUDIES TEACHING IN THE UK

### Abstract

An overview of the nature and content of Canadian Studies (including Québec Studies) teaching and research in British and Northern Irish universities, with sections on each designated centre, their specialist disciplines and the courses they offer. These are mainly in history, politics, literature, geography, film, and aboriginal studies, often as part of a comparative programme.

### Introduction

Canada has a reputation for being a worthy but dull country, living permanently in the shadow of the United States and with little to offer of its own other than a few iconic symbols such as Mounties' and beavers. That this image is manifestly false is shown by the healthy interest in Canadian Studies around the world, including the United Kingdom. Canada provides academics and students a breadth of disciplines comparable to many of the world's more populous and politically important countries with Geography, Literature and History being particularly well supported. Canadian Studies is unusual in that the Canadian government provides a certain amount of financial support for specialist centres and research activities. It also maintains a full time Academic Relations Officer and a Canadian Studies Project Officer, both based at the country's High Commission in Trafalgar Square, London. Their roles are to support the teaching of Canadian Studies in British universities, to encourage research on Canadian topics by British academics and to offer assistance for the holding of conferences and lectures.

### Canadian Studies in UK Higher Education

As an area for academic study in the UK, Canadian Studies began at Edinburgh University in 1974 although no British university currently offers degree courses devoted solely to Canadian Studies. There are examples of joint degrees with a strong Canadian content, such as Birmingham's B.A (Hons) in American and Canadian Studies whilst Canterbury Christ Church University College is introducing a joint honours degree in American Stud-

ies (USA and Canada) and another in USA , Latin American and Canadian Studies from 2006. In Canada there are, of course, many universities where single honours Canadian Studies degrees can be taken.

The mid 1970s saw two initiatives that were to sustain the growth of Canadian Studies in the United Kingdom . The first of these has already been mentioned and that was the establishment of the Academic Relations Unit at Canada House, and the second was the creation of the British Association for Canadian Studies (BACS) in 1975. The Association continues to flourish, with a membership of approximately four hundred and holds an annual conference which is attended by around 150 academics and postgraduate students from both sides of the Atlantic . It publishes the multidisciplinary British Journal of Canadian Studies which is peer reviewed and appears twice a year. It also produces the BACS Newsletter three times a year in order to keep the membership informed about forthcoming conferences, lectures and events. Within the Association, there are seven specialist groups that complement the interdisciplinary nature of its activities by providing a focus for specific interests. These groups are: Aboriginal Studies, Canadian Business and Economics , Canada /UK Architecture, Library and Resources, Literature, and UK/Canadian Legal Studies. The seventh group focuses on Québec and is the Keele based Groupe de Recherche et d'Etudes sur le Canada Francophone (GRECF).

Within the Canadian federation the province of Québec has always regarded itself as being different from the others, not least because the great majority of its population is French speaking and it has a number of institutions such as its legal system that are unique. The provincial government maintains a Delegation in London and, in 1997, helped establish the United Kingdom 's only Centre for Québec Studies at Leicester University . However, it is Leeds University 's Department of French that has a Professor of Québec Studies. There is also, as mentioned above, the group within BACS based upon researching and study French Canada.

There are six Universities in the United Kingdom that have formal Canadian Studies Centres and these are Nottingham, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Leeds and Queen's University, Belfast and Birkbeck College, University of London. These are the ones that have a formal commitment to Canada House to maintain and develop Canadian teaching, research and resources. In most, if not all of them, students can spend a year studying at a Canadian university although this usually means extending their studies into a fourth year.

There are several other universities where teaching and research include a Canadian dimension and these include Hull and Sussex , along with some regional groupings. In London, the Institute of Commonwealth Studies has a Canadian Studies programme and runs seminars and conferences and cooperates with Birkbeck and University College London as The London Conference for Canadian Studies. There is the Canadian Studies in Wales Group which consists of Aberystwyth, Bangor, Cardiff, Lampeter and Swansea . The South West Canadian Studies Group is Exeter based and there are many individual universities whose courses include some Canadian content, notably Cambridge, Central Lancashire, Glasgow, Glasgow Caledonian, Keele, Liverpool, Oxford, Reading, Sheffield and Sunderland.

## **Conclusion**

Whilst Canadian Studies seems destined to be permanently overshadowed by its US counterpart, it nevertheless thrives in a number of United Kingdom universities. Through the work of the British Association for Canadian Studies and the support of the Canadian High Commission, academics are able to develop units or modules about Canada and

Canadian topics which reflect their own particular interests and expertise. Students in many universities and colleges benefit from the existence of units or modules that have some Canadian content and which can develop their interest in the country. This may well lead to them progressing to postgraduate study and therefore continue to sustain Canadian Studies in the United Kingdom.

## **Resources**

Canadian Studies is fortunate in that there are a number of resources, both printed and electronic, to facilitate teaching and research about Canada in the United Kingdom and elsewhere. At a parochial level, BACS publishes a newsletter three times a year which provides a useful overview on current and future activities whilst the High Commission in London publishes Academic News Canada twice a year. This includes information on the Canadian Government funding available to British academics. There is also a newsletter entitled Can-Text published by the BACS Literature Group. The Ottawa-based International Council for Canadian Studies publishes The International Canadianist three times a year which provides information on events being planned, and books recently published on Canadian topics, in countries around the world. More formally, there are two previously mentioned academic journals published in Britain (one of them on-line) and also the American Review of Canadian Studies which is readily available in the United Kingdom.

There are many web-sites that provide information on Canada with 'Access Canada' [www.canadian-studies.net/accesscanada](http://www.canadian-studies.net/accesscanada) being particularly useful. It is readily and freely available and provides a one-stop gateway to information resources on Canada . The Canadian government's own web-sites (in English and French) can be accessed via the portal site, [www.canada.gc.ca](http://www.canada.gc.ca) whilst the province of Québec has [www.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.gouv.qc.ca) . The nearest thing that Canada has to a national newspaper, the Toronto Globe and Mail, can be found on [www.theglobeandmail.com](http://www.theglobeandmail.com). Another newspaper which plays an important role for Québec's English speakers (or Anglophones') is the Montreal Gazette at [www.montrealgazette.com](http://www.montrealgazette.com) whilst Canada's national broadcaster is the CBC, and [www.cbc.ca](http://www.cbc.ca) is its website.

## **Appendix: Canadian Studies programmes by institution**

### **Edinburgh University**

Edinburgh has the United Kingdom 's oldest Canadian Studies Centre and is still the British university with the highest profile among Canadianists around the world. It is the only British university with a teaching unit dedicated to Canadian Studies and although only one person is employed solely as a Canadian Studies specialist, sixteen members of staff from across the university are involved in teaching on the Centre's programmes. The range of disciplines is impressive, encompassing History, Literature, Law, Politics and Sociology, along with Scottish History. Edinburgh has 21 undergraduate and ten postgraduate courses which include Canadian-related modules. Thus first (or second) year students can take Canadian Studies 1, The Emergence of Canada as a Multicultural State and the Politics of Identity in Contemporary Canada.

Around 90 students took the Canadian Studies 1 option in 2002/3. In the honours years, much of the Canadian content is comparative and ranges from Constitutional Law ( UK , Canada and Spain ) or Contemporary Hunter Gatherers which includes Canadian examples, among others from all round the world, to An Introduction to the Anthropol-

ogy of Cultural Encounter which is almost entirely Canadian in content.

At postgraduate level, Edinburgh has ten taught Masters' courses that have a Canadian dimension, albeit mainly as a comparison with other countries. Gender and History in Postcolonial Space: Aspects of English-Canadian Textuality has a great deal of Canadian content. Other courses include Contemporary Issues in Nationalism and Gender Politics and the State, this latter course using Canada as a key case study. Edinburgh also has a tradition of students studying for research degrees (MLitt and PhD), mainly in History. The Centre hosts an annual conference and a public lecture on Canadian issues.

## **Birmingham University**

Birmingham's Centre of Canadian Studies dates from 1981 and specialises in Literature, Film and post-war History. Canadian Studies is part of the Department of American and Canadian Studies with four members of staff teaching Canadian subjects, two of them being full time Canadianists. Birmingham offers a range of undergraduate courses that have a Canadian minor' within them including American and Canadian Studies, plus several variants on this including with English', with History' and with Hispanic Studies.' First year students (66 of them in 2003/4) are able to take a multidisciplinary module entitled Introduction to Canadian Studies and there are modules available in the second and third years such as Contemporary Canadian Writing, a response to the many excellent Canadian writers to have emerged over the past three decades such as Carol Shields, Margaret Atwood and Aritha van Herk. Other modules include Anti-Americanism (which has 50% Canadian content) and North American Intelligence Services (20% Canadian). The university has an MA in Trans-Atlantic Studies (25% Canadian content) whilst research degrees (MPhil and PhD) are possible in a number of areas, particularly Canadian Literature, Culture and Cultural Politics, and United States-Canada Relations.

## **Leeds University**

At Leeds the Centre for Canadian Studies dates from 1992 but a regional centre, based at the university, had been established in 1979. Eleven members of staff are involved in teaching and researching on Canadian topics and there is particular interest in the Canadian North. Other areas include Canadian Literature, Geography, Environmental Studies, Aboriginal Peoples, and Québec Studies and Leeds has the United Kingdom's only Professor of Québec Studies. Modules taught on undergraduate degree courses include Recent Canadian Writing, Québec Society and Culture and Canada, America and the Cold War. At postgraduate level there is Canadian content in some courses, such as the MA in Modern History which has a module entitled Canada among the Powers, 1945-1968.

## **Nottingham University**

Nottingham's Centre of Canadian Studies was established in 1989 and whilst Canadian Literature forms the backbone of its activities, it also has a number of courses in other areas such as the study of Aboriginal peoples, Canadian and French Canadian Cultural Studies and Environmental History. Seven members of staff teach modules about Canada with one of them working full time on Canadian topics. The recent appointment of a Canadian academic in Film Studies will strengthen the Centre's work in that area.

Nottingham students are able to study for a degree in American Studies with Canadian Studies which is a multidisciplinary course and although the emphasis is on the United

States , one third of the course offers modules such as Canadian Cultural Studies, Canadian Film Cultures, Gender and Sexuality in Canadian Writing and North American Environmental History. A recent innovation is a degree course in French with Canadian Studies where, again, the Canadian content is around one third and modules are offered that are similar to those on the American Studies version. At postgraduate level there are individual Canadian modules on courses such as the MA Film Studies.

### **Queen's University, Belfast**

Queens' Centre of Canadian Studies was established in 1985 and specializes in the Canadian economy and society, community economic development, economic history, geography and fiction. Canadian modules are included in a range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses, especially those in Geography and Literature. Research at Queen's tends to focus on Atlantic Canada and comparisons between various Canadian regions and Northern Ireland. The Centre hosts an annual conference and also an annual lecture, usually given by a distinguished Canadian academic or public figures such as provincial premiers and members of the judiciary.

### **Leicester University**

The United Kingdom's only Centre for Québec Studies is based at Leicester and was designated as such in 1997 although staff within the university's Department of Modern Languages had been teaching and researching on Québec for about ten years prior to the Centre's inauguration. It is primarily a research centre with students studying for doctorates in aspects of Québec society or culture. At undergraduate level, students on the single honours BA in French can spend the third year in French Canada. The Centre holds an annual conference and a number of seminars on topics such as Québec cinema.

### **London University**

Canadian Studies in London is largely research-centred and its official' home is Birkbeck College, although University College London, the Institute for Commonwealth Studies and the Institute for the Study of the Americas are also involved. This last named institution is currently developing an MA in Comparative American Studies which will include Canadian topics although. Birkbeck has, in the past, offered an MA in Canadian Studies. This is currently in abeyance due to the retirement of the staff who taught on it. The Institute does continue to include some Canadian content on other programmes, such as those on North American literature, bilingualism, multiculturalism and film studies. These four London institutions, along with others in south-east England such as the University of Portsmouth, collectively form the London Conference for Canadian Studies. Two conferences are held each year, usually in London but they have also taken place in Southampton and Canterbury. There is a programme of seminars and the Conference publishes an on-line journal, The London Journal of Canadian Studies.

### **Canadian Studies at Other Universities**

There are many other universities in the United Kingdom where staff research interests allow the creation of optional Canadian' units on courses at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. Aberdeen, for example, offers units entitled The Scot in Canada and Emigrants and Immigrants on its History programme whilst at Cardiff there is an option in Canadian Literature on its MA programme. Well established Canadian Studies

programmes have been in existence at Hull and Sussex for a number of years, but both universities have seen staff leave to take up positions elsewhere. However, Canadian topics continue to be offered within the American Studies courses at Sussex and in Politics at Hull.

A promising development is at Christ Church Canterbury where, from 2006, a joint honours degree course in American Studies (USA and Canada) will be offered. Canadian topics will be taught in all three years of the course and will concentrate on the origins of modern Canada.

Also in Kent, at the University of Kent at Canterbury, a Centre for the Study of Federalism is being established and the Canadian federal system will be an integral part of its remit. At Cambridge the work of the Scott Polar Research Institute includes some Canadian content, particularly since the creation of the territory of Nunavut.

## **Bibliography**

Despite its first incarnation originating in 1969, Kenneth McNaught's *The Penguin History of Canada* is still the most accessible and comprehensive account of the country's history. Ged Martin's *Britain and the Origins of Canadian Confederation, 1837-1867* looks at the creation of the modern confederation whilst *Canadian Politics*, edited by Bickerton and Gagnon, provides a comprehensive introduction to the Canadian system. There are many books on individual provinces, with Québec and Newfoundland being particularly well represented. The Association for the Export of Canadian Books ([www.aecb.org](http://www.aecb.org)) provides an annual catalogue of selected Canadian Studies titles.

## **Related links**

The British Association for Canadian Studies

[www.canadian-studies.net](http://www.canadian-studies.net)

Canadian High Commission

[www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/london](http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/london)

University of Edinburgh, Canadian Studies Centre

[www.cst.ed.ac.uk](http://www.cst.ed.ac.uk)

Institute of Commonwealth Studies

[www.sas.ac.uk/commonwealthstudies](http://www.sas.ac.uk/commonwealthstudies)

University of Leeds

[www.leeds.ac.uk/canadian\\_studies](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/canadian_studies)

University of Leicester Centre for Québec Studies

[www.le.ac.uk/ml/quebec](http://www.le.ac.uk/ml/quebec)

Queen's University Belfast

[www.qub.ac.uk/ccs](http://www.qub.ac.uk/ccs)

Canadian Studies in Wales group

[www.swan.ac.uk/ebms/cswg](http://www.swan.ac.uk/ebms/cswg)

## CANADIAN STUDIES IN CANTERBURY – A CASE STUDY

September 2005 saw the introduction of a new undergraduate course at Canterbury Christ Church University, entitled “Uneasy Neighbours: the USA and Canada since 1867”. This is part of a Canadian Studies pathway that is being developed within the BA American Studies programme in Canterbury. This brief article explains how this new course, “Uneasy Neighbours”, came about and, more importantly, what its author has learned in the process about the teaching of Canadian Studies in Britain.

There were several motives behind my starting up Canadian Studies in Canterbury.

- 1) An interest in the subject dating back to my primary school days in South London when a young teacher by the name of Miss Biggs had described to a class of wide-eyed 10 year olds her recent trip across Canada, complete with colour slides. I particularly remember her explaining the origin of the town of Moose Jaw and thinking that it sounded like an interesting place to visit!
- 2) More recently I had developed a research interest in Canada, especially the career of William Lyon Mackenzie King, when I spent a very enjoyable month in Ottawa reading his papers at the National Archives for my thesis on Anglo-American relations in the 1930s. Of course, these papers are now available on-line.
- 3) There was also the happy coincidence that there were a number of staff at Canterbury Christ Church who had an interest and background in Canadian Studies, including Canadian geography, politics, literature, history and film.
- 4) My belief was that while the USA was bound to be the most important part of our American Studies degree, the programme should ideally include Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean as well.
- 5) My hope was that student recruitment would be increased by offering courses on Canada and the rest of the Americas.

I was given some staff development leave in 2003-04 that allowed me to spend the equivalent of one day per week researching Canadian Studies in Britain and devising potential new courses. With some outside help I drew up the outline of an ambitious half-degree programme in Canadian Studies that could be combined with American (ie United States) Studies to form a degree in North American Studies. This degree programme was to include the following:

### Year One

Canada Past and Present – a double course covering the early history of Canada up to 1867 and multi-disciplinary case studies exploring Canadian geography, politics, literature, society and film topics.

## **Year Two**

The Making of Modern Canada, 1867-1949

Canadian Literature and Culture, 1867-1960

## **Year Three**

The Canadian Mosaic: Canada since 1949

Canadian Literature and Culture since 1960

## **Individual Study**

However, it was apparent from the outset that student recruitment would not be sufficient to make such a programme economically viable. What we found from our market research was that there were a number of potential undergraduate students who were attracted by the study of Canada – perhaps 5-6 each year – and that these were often very committed applicants who had some personal interest in Canada such as a relative living there or having visited Canada at some point. But these students, not surprisingly, were a small fraction of those interested in the USA.

We also researched the reasons why not more students were interested in studying Canada, as compared with the United States, and again came up with fairly obvious answers. The main one was Canada's perceived lack of importance in world affairs and her generally low profile. While Canada as a country was regarded positively it was felt to lack the drama and significance of its southern neighbour. In fact, we found that too much emphasis on the study of Canada was as likely to deter students as to attract them to an American Studies degree!

These findings – which were not altogether surprising – led us to decide on a single pathway on Canada as part of a larger American Studies degree focusing predominantly on the USA. The pathway on Canada is one of eight open to our students, of which they can choose up to six, so they do not need to study Canada at all but can do so if they wish. The students are introduced to a small amount of Canadian history (pre-1867) in Year One and can then take "Uneasy Neighbours" in Year Two.

Market research amongst the students who joined our American Studies programme in September 2004 suggested that a Canadian course would be more attractive if it related in some way to the USA. Hence the "Uneasy Neighbours" course which consists not only of the history of relations between the two countries but also of a comparative study between them at various points. For example, issues such as immigration, the development of the West, the women's movement and prohibition are considered in relation to both the USA and Canada. The "French fact" is also explored in comparison with ethnic minority issues in the USA and the policy of Canadian multiculturalism is contrasted with the American "melting pot" idea. Interdisciplinary perspectives are employed throughout.

Ten students elected to take the "Uneasy Neighbours" course in September 2005, most of them single honours students in American Studies although there is also a student combining American Studies with French and another one combining it with History. They are a committed group who give every indication of having enjoyed the course so far. Amongst their favourite topics, they have said, was the Alaskan boundary dispute of 1903 partly because of the role of Theodore Roosevelt and the background of Anglo-American relations in the Caribbean and Latin America. In fact, the group has said that

its ideal would be to take a course on the USA and Canada and another course on the USA and Latin America.

Students are also able to choose an Individual Study in Year Three which can be on any topic within the broad field of American Studies, including, of course, Canada. This involves a dissertation of 8,000-10,000 words under the supervision of a member of staff. At least one student is already planning a Canadian dissertation and is interested in the Canadian contribution to Britain, military and otherwise, during the Great War. This topic would be tackled with particular reference to the Canadian army base at Shorncliffe, near Folkestone, Kent, and its impact on the local population.

To conclude, the process of introducing Canadian Studies at Canterbury Christ Church has shown that, while it can be done, the relatively low profile of Canada on the international stage obviously makes the marketing of purely Canadian courses to British undergraduates quite difficult. On the other hand, Canada's position vis a vis the USA and, to a lesser extent, Latin America has led us to believe that a pathway within American Studies is the best way to interest our students in Canadian Studies. Our experience suggests that once students have a clear rationale for spending some time studying Canada they are able to appreciate its historical and contemporary interest and significance and are more likely to want to study Canadian history, society and culture for their own sake.

Tony McCulloch  
Head of History and American Studies  
Canterbury Christ Church University

## CONFERENCE REPORTS

### **Report of the BACS Legal Studies Group Conference, 24 June 2005, Canada House**

The annual conference for the BACS Legal Studies Group this year chose to address the highly topical and challenging theme of 'Canada-UK Perspectives on Public International Law'. The eminent keynote speaker, Professor Stephen Toope of McGill University and the Trudeau Foundation, gave an engaging and dynamic comparative view of Canadian and British media perspectives on 'Public Commitments to International Law and the Use of Force.' He suggested that both British and Canadian newspapers presented superficial and misleading accounts of the legality of the recent Iraq war. Delegates responded very positively, and Professor Toope's insightful comments set the tone for the day's discussion which saw parallel panels address such diverse topics as security, HIV, human rights, International Criminal Court tribunals, gender and sexuality, corporate social responsibility, immigration law, and the Kyoto Protocol. There was a great balance of UK and Canadian speakers (and also notably American speakers, who brought valuable perspectives to the debate) and it was particularly pleasing to see representatives from law firms, government administration, NGO's and tribunals as well as from the academy, thus ensuring a complementary blend of theory and practice was present at the proceedings. Indeed, in an indicator of the high quality of the papers, selected conference papers will be published in an edited collection by Martinus Nijhoff. Assisted by the organisational talents of Chris Waters (Reading University) and a splendid lunch (thanks to Carlton Cuisine) the conference went without a hitch, and the Legal Studies group and delegates certainly enjoyed it.

We look forward to bringing you news of our next annual conference, which is to be on Anglo-Canadian perspectives on Contract and Unjust Enrichment/Restitution, when fuller details are available.

Bela Chatterjee, secretary, BACS Legal Studies Group

## **Transatlantic Studies Association, 11–14 July 2005, University of Nottingham**

The fourth annual conference of the Transatlantic Studies Association took place from 11 to 14 July 2005 and was organised by Dr Peter Boyle at the University of Nottingham. The TSA was founded in 2001 and is chaired by Professor Alan Dobson of the University of Dundee who is also the Editor of the *Journal of Transatlantic Studies*. The conference is a multi-disciplinary one although most of the papers tend to be on history, politics and international relations.

There was a significant Canadian presence at the Nottingham conference, with a number of Canadian scholars in attendance and at least half a dozen papers focusing on Canadian policy. These included a panel session on “Canada and the Anglo-American special relationship” chaired by Tony McCulloch of Canterbury Christ Church University. The three papers were as follows:

*The St Pierre and Miquelon crisis of 1941 and Canada-US-British wartime relations*, David Woolner (Marist College and the Roosevelt Institute, Hyde Park, NY)

*The North Atlantic Triangle and the North Atlantic Treaty: A Canadian Perspective on the ABC Security Conversations of March-April 1948*, Hector Mackenzie (Senior Historian, Department of Foreign Affairs, Ottawa)

*Relating to the Anglosphere: Canada, “Culture” and the Question of Military Intervention*, David Haglund (Queen’s University, Ontario).

The session was attended by about twenty people including Donald Watt, Emeritus Professor at the London School of Economics and a leading authority on 20<sup>th</sup> century international history, who said that it was one of the most interesting sessions of the entire conference. The papers ranged from the Second World War, through the Cold War to the war in Iraq and underlined the significant part that Canada has sometimes played in the international field because of its historical relationship with the USA and Britain.

Other papers with a strong Canadian content at the conference included:

*North America, Atlanticism and the Helsinki Process*, Michael Morgan (Yale University)

*Unsettled: A look at the migration and settlement of Canada West by fugitive slaves and free people of colour, 1815-1870*, Claudine Bonner (University of Western Ontario)

*A Peculiarly Canadian Politics: The Shifting Post-Colonial Perspective in Margaret Atwood’s Fiction*, Fiona Tolan (University of Durham)

*The North Atlantic Triangle, Strategic Relations and the Blockade, 1914-1916*, Greg Kennedy (Kings College London)

Papers are very welcome on Canadian topics at the next conference, 12–15 June 2006, at the University of Dundee, and it is intended to produce a special edition of the *Journal of Transatlantic Studies* in 2006-07 based on articles with a Canadian or Latin American perspective.

Tony McCulloch

## CONFERENCES UPCOMING

### ***The French Atlantic, Society for Francophone Postcolonial Studies (SFPS) Annual Conference, French Institute, 17 Queensberry Place, London SW7***

**2–3 December 2005**

In December 2005, SFPS will hold a two-day conference of invited Speakers at the French Institute on the theme of "The French Atlantic". The conference will be co-organised by SFPS and Professor Bill Marshall (University of Glasgow), and will coincide with the publication of Bill's groundbreaking *Encyclopedia of France and the Americas*. This major new work teases out the links between France, Africa, the Caribbean, North America and South America, and the conference should thus be of interest to a wide audience. The keynote speakers are: Bill Marshall (Glasgow); J. Michael Dash (NYU); Jocelyn Letourneau (Laval); Richard Watts (Tulane). There will also be panels on the following subjects: Staples; Places; People; Ideas/Theories; Culture. The provisional programme and the conference booking form are available from the SFPS website: [www.sfps.ac.uk](http://www.sfps.ac.uk)

For further information on the conference, contact the SFPS Conference Secretary, Dr Pierre-Philippe Fraiture: [pfraiture@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:pfraiture@brookes.ac.uk).

### ***Globalisation, a Very Canadian Perspective, Room LT122, Ashby Building, Stranmillis Road, Queen's University Belfast***

**8 December 2005**

4.00pm Tea & Coffee

4.10pm Welcome

4.15pm Professor Terry McGee (Professor Emeritus, Dept of Geography, University of British Columbia, Canada) *On the Hybridity of Urbanisation in China: Challenging the Power of Globalization*

5.00pm Dr Anthony Gristwood (Visiting Fellow in Geography, International Study Center, Queen's University KingstonCanada) *Critical Networks: Using the Internet in World Issues Curricula*

5.45pm Professor Walter Epp (Faculty of Education, Lakehead University, Ontario, Canada) *Globalisation: Education and Development?*

6.30pm Professor S. Neil MacFarlane (Lester B. Pearson Professor of International Relations, St. Anne's College, University of Oxford) *Canadian Perspectives on Globalisation*

7.30pm Close & Reception

### ***Gender and the City, The London Conference for Canadian Studies, Canada House, Trafalgar Square, London***

**24 February 2006**

Over the last several years scholars in Canada and elsewhere have increasingly become fascinated by the historical and contemporary relations between gender and the city. The two concepts are frequently twinned in everything from books and conference panels to university courses. Yet the Canadian story of gender and the city, the question of whether there is something distinctive to say about the relations between gender and urban life in Canada, has been almost wholly unexplored. Oddly for a sub-discipline so

focused on issues of space, the larger space in which scholars have studied, that of the nation, has been overlooked.

The London Conference for Canadian Studies and the Institute for the Study of the Americas at the University of London invite proposals for papers for a one-day conference which will take up this issue of the relation between gender and the city in Canada.

The organisers are open to papers in a variety of fields including history, geography, cultural studies and literature. Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Gender and urbanisation
- Gender in Canadian literature about the city
- The spatial dynamics of gender in Canadian cities
- Masculinity and/or femininity and the modern city
- Gender and architecture
- The urban and gender dynamics of Canadian politics and society
- Gender history of particular Canadian cities

Please send a half-page proposal and short curriculum vitae, by 5 December

2005, to: Dr Christopher Dummitt, Lecturer in Canadian Studies, Institute for the Study of the Americas University of London, School of Advanced Study, Senate House, Malet Street, WC1E 7HU. Email: [Christopher.Dummitt@sas.ac.uk](mailto:Christopher.Dummitt@sas.ac.uk)

***Migrations, British Association for Canadian Studies 31st Annual Conference, New Hall, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, Call for Papers***  
**19–21 April 2006**

The British Association for Canadian Studies (BACS) is pleased to announce that the 2006 annual conference will take place at the University of Cambridge, Cambridge (UK). Proposals for 20-minute papers, to be presented in either English or French, are invited from any single disciplinary or multidisciplinary perspective on the theme of 'Migrations'.

It is impossible to conceive of Canada without considering migration. The aim of this international conference is to explore the nature and complexity of the movement of peoples, cultures, ideas, objects, other living beings, and so on. The focus is on movements within, into, and from, Canada. Papers are invited on topics related to antecedents of migrations, what happens when such movements take place, what is transported, what is left behind, how the 'new' place does or does not become 'home', what is the relationship to place(s) of origin, and what the future holds. Migration processes are multidimensional and dynamic, involving a complex interplay of political, social, environmental, cultural and individual factors. This conference aims to draw together these complexities in lively, multi- and inter-disciplinary debate and discussion.

Enquiries and proposals by 30 November to: Jodie Robson, BACS. Email: [conference@canadian-studies.net](mailto:conference@canadian-studies.net)

***Migrations, Special Session: Travel and Translation, Call for Papers***

As Alison Blunt points out, the travel genre is highly autobiographical, being organised around a tension between a home and an away (Blunt 1994). One of the conventions of travel writing is that the traveller-narrator translates the landscape, that is, he or she

attempts to render the strange familiar to the readership at home. This undermines the sense of dislocation produced by the journey that, frequently, resurfaces elsewhere in an exoticisation of the Other. The last 10-20 years have seen increased popular interest in travel and travel literature, as well as in studies of these and of theories of mobility. The same period has seen a critical engagement with translation both literal and symbolic--as a process that gives rise to intercultural communication, as in the work of Sherry Simon and James Clifford. Proposals of 200-300 words for 20 minute papers on the themes of travel, translation, creative writing and dialogue should be submitted to Ceri Morgan at [c.m.morgan@lang.keele.ac.uk](mailto:c.m.morgan@lang.keele.ac.uk) by December 1, 2005.

### **Appel à communications: session thématique: traduire et voyager**

Comme le souligne Alison Blunt, le récit de voyage est marqué par des tendances fortement autobiographiques, étant construit autour d'une tension entre un 'chez soi' et un 'ailleurs' (Blunt 1994). L'une des conventions du récit de voyage est la tentative, de la part du voyageur/narrateur de traduire le paysage, c'est-à-dire, de rendre l'étrange familier au lecteur chez lui/elle. Cela efface l'effet de dépaysement produit par le voyage qui, souvent, réparaît plus tard dans 'l'exotisation' de l'Autre. Les 10-20 dernières années ont vu, simultanément, un intérêt grandissant pour les voyages et pour la littérature de voyage, ainsi qu'une attention plus grande aux critiques de la littérature de voyage, et aux théories de déplacement. Cela est allé de pair avec des études de la traduction--véritable et symbolique--en tant que processus provoquant la communication interculturelle, tels qu'ils sont proposés par Sherry Simon et James Clifford. Vous êtes prié(e)s d'adresser un résumé de 200-300 mots de vos communications d'une durée de 20 minutes et traitant des thèmes du voyage, de la traduction, de la création, et du dialogue à Ceri Morgan à [c.m.morgan@lang.keele.ac.uk](mailto:c.m.morgan@lang.keele.ac.uk) avant le 1er décembre, 2005.

### ***Media, Globalization, and Policymaking*, École nationale d'administration publique, Québec City, Call for Papers**

**May 11-13, 2006**

Media play a key role in our democracies. In fact, in a context where boundaries tend to disappear, media are at the center of the communication flows that characterize, to a large extent, globalization. But what is their exact role? Do media set the stage and have policy makers respond to what makes the news (CNN factor) or do policy makers set the agenda media report (indexing hypothesis)? Is their influence exercised on the decision makers or on the polity? Both explanations have their supporters, but, as of now, studies that have comparatively analyzed these hypotheses in different societies or in different issue areas are scarce.

The conference will try to fill this gap by analyzing issue areas such as health, environment, culture, and security. The conference will allow academics, policy makers, and media practitioners to debate their readings of the situation.

The conference will be conducted in English and in French.

If you are interested to present a paper to this conference, please send, **before January 30th** 2006, a 125 word abstract and a short biographical note to: Dr. Nelson Michaud Chair, Laboratoire d'études sur les politiques publiques et la mondialisation, École nationale d'administration publique, Québec, QC, Canada G1K 9E5 Fax : (+1) 418.641.3060 Email : [conferencemedia@enap.ca](mailto:conferencemedia@enap.ca)

**Le Groupe de recherches et d'études sur le Canada francophone (GRECF), Birkbeck College, University of London, University of Manchester, University of Glasgow**

**The local, the global, and interdisciplinary performance in the works of Robert Lepage/Proximité, ouverture et relations interdisciplinaires dans l'oeuvre de Robert Lepage**

### **Call for papers**

Papers are invited for the first international conference on Robert Lepage's work, to be held at Canada House, London, and Birkbeck College, University of London. The conference will be investigating the rich opus of Lepage's practice. The area of interest reflects the diversity and flexibility of Lepage's wide scope of engagements: from original projects to classic texts; from opera to film; from multimedia to new technology; as well as social, cultural and political interventions.

The proceedings of the conference will be published. Papers should be no longer than 20 pages (5000 words). The name of the author responsible for correspondence, mailing address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address should be included with submissions.

Dates: Opening June 1, 2006

Conference days June 1-3, 2006

Each participant will have 20 minutes followed by 10 minutes for discussion

Important deadlines:

Please send your abstracts (200-300 words) to Dr Aleksandar Dundjerovic (University of Manchester): [aleksandar.dundjerovic@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:aleksandar.dundjerovic@manchester.ac.uk)

Please include 'Conference: Lepage' in your subject line

Abstracts due: January 31, 2006

Responses: March 15, 2006

Final papers due: April 30, 2006

### **Appel à communications**

Nous vous invitons à nous adresser vos communications en vue du premier colloque international consacré à l'oeuvre de Robert Lepage qui se tiendra à Canada House à Londres ainsi qu'à Birbeck College à l'Université de Londres.

Le colloque portera plus particulièrement sur le riche opus des pratiques de Lepage.

Les centres d'intérêt à l'étude au cours de ce colloque devront refléter la diversité et la flexibilité du grand nombre d'engagements de Lepage. Cela va de projets originaux aux textes classiques, de l'opéra au film, du multimédia aux nouvelles technologies ou encore de l'intervention sociale, culturelle ou politique.

Les actes du colloque seront publiés. Les communications devront être d'une longueur de 20 pages maximum (5000 mots). Les auteurs devront s'assurer que les coordonnées utilisées pour transmettre leur communications sont correctes, y compris le nom de l'auteur, l'adresse, les numéros de telephone et de fax.

Date d'ouverture: 1er Juin 2006

Dates du colloque: du 1er au 3 Juin 2006

Chacun des participants disposera de vingt minutes suivies de dix minutes de discussion.

Dates limites à respecter:

Veuillez envoyer vos propositions de communication (200-300 mots) à Dr Aleksandar Dundjerovic (University of Manchester): [aleksandar.dundjerovic@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:aleksandar.dundjerovic@manchester.ac.uk)

Inscrivez 'Conférence: Lepage' dans la rubrique 'objet'.

Envoi des propositions de communication: 31 janvier 2006

Réponse: 15 mars 2006

Date limite d'envoi pour les communications sélectionnées: 30 avril 2006

## SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS COURSES ETC.

### ICS/ISA – London

This term the Canadian Studies programme jointly sponsored by the Institute of Commonwealth Studies (ICS) and the Institute for the Study of the Americas (ISA) at the University of London will be hosting the following event

Thursday, 8 December 2005, (Joint seminar with the Commonwealth Seminar at the ICS), 5 p.m. Menzies Room, Institute for Commonwealth Studies

Book launch of Phillip Buckner and R. Douglas Francis, eds., *Rediscovering the British World* (Calgary: University of Calgary Press, 2005). *Rediscovering the British World* consists of a selection of the papers given at the British World Conference in Calgary in the summer of 2003. There will be a round table discussion of the book beginning at 5 p.m. followed by a reception at 6:30. For more details contact Phillip Buckner at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies.

## RESOURCES, WEBSITES, PUBLICATIONS

### *Honour before Glory*

2005 has been designated as The Year of The Veteran. To commemorate this event the Public Broadcasting System of New York will be televising the award-winning film, *Honour Before Glory*. The film was produced by Anthony Sherwood Productions and is the story of Canada's one and only all-Black military battalion. The television broadcast airs Thursday, November 10th at 8:00 P.M. and is available in Toronto on Channel 61 through Buffalo WNED.

During the First World War, Blacks were refused enlistment into the Canadian military simply based on the colour of their skin. When the military finally allowed them to join, the Black soldiers were subjected to cruel racism. The film is based on the diary of Rev. William White who was the Chaplain for the black battalion. Poetic and eloquent descriptions from William White's diary provide an emotional narrative for the film. As the contents of the diary are revealed, we learn how Reverend White put his life and reputation on the line to fight for the rights of his men, and we learn how these Black

soldiers overcame immense obstacles of discrimination to become an important part of Canadian history. The film was produced, written and directed by Canadian actor Anthony Sherwood who is the great-nephew of William White. The film won a prestigious Gemini Award and won Second Prize at the Hollywood Black Film Festival in Los Angeles.

## **Beyond the Book: Mass Reading Events and Contemporary Cultures of Reading in the UK, USA and Canada**

The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) have awarded a Research Grant of £239,005 to Danielle Fuller (American & Canadian Studies, University of Birmingham) and DeNel Rehberg Sedo (Communications, Mount Saint Vincent University, Canada) for their interdisciplinary three-year project.

Among the myriad issues about shared reading in the twenty-first century, our key concerns can be summed up by these questions: Why do mass reading events cause people to come together to share reading? And, do these events attract marginalized communities, foster new reading practices, enable social change? Mass reading events, such as 'One Book, One Vancouver', 'Liverpool Reads,' 'Richard and Judy's Book Club', are a proliferating and popular cultural phenomenon. While aims and scale differ, as do the agencies involved, all projects use mass media to promote reader participation, foregrounding the location of fiction within a contemporary 'matrix of communication', supported by a combination of multinational corporations, publicly-funded organisations, independent capital and individual consumers. Our interdisciplinary comparative study combines empirical and textual methodologies to enable an investigation of the production, consumption and media representation of selected collective reading events in three nation-states. We aim to produce a trans-national analysis of contemporary shared reading practices, the formation of reading communities and the popular function of literary fiction in the UK, USA and Canada. Addressing a significant knowledge-gap in literary studies, cultural studies and the sociology of literature, our work will also incorporate practical guidelines of relevance to cultural policy makers, librarians and general readers. A multi-lingual website will host a questionnaire tool, news bulletins and articles, while a conference will be held in Birmingham in September 2007 as part of the three-year project. A full-time postdoctoral fellow will be hired to work on the project at Birmingham, alongside a part-time Administrative Assistant.

In sharing this exciting news about the project with BACS colleagues, I would like to take the opportunity to thank DFAIT and the Foundation for Canadian Studies in the UK for their support of my part in this collaborative research endeavour. The exploratory work for 'Beyond the Book' was funded by a DFAIT Faculty Research Award which enabled me to spend a month in Canada in July 2003 interviewing publishers of literary fiction in Toronto, meeting with the organizers of "One Book, One Community" in Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge, and using the newspaper resources at the Robarts Library. I then travelled east to spend a week working with DeNel: it's true enough to say that the large-scale version of this project was born on a sunny deck over-looking Fox Point Lake, Nova Scotia! That 2003 research trip helped us to win a British Academy International Joint Activities grant later that year which, in turn, facilitated our pilot study in Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge (fieldwork with readers) and Chicago (interviews with organising agencies) in September 2004. Two years' of grant-writing has culminated in a successful bid to the AHRC: but we could not have got this far without that first grant, given to me via the Faculty Research Award scheme.

Danielle Fuller, [D.Fuller@bham.ac.uk](mailto:D.Fuller@bham.ac.uk)

## **Nouvelles «vues» sur le cinéma québécois, No 4: *The Church, the State and Québec cinema*, Fall 2005, ISSN 1712-8242**

The fourth issue of *Nouvelles vues sur le cinéma québécois* [www.cinema-quebecois.net](http://www.cinema-quebecois.net) on the theme of *The Church, the State and Québec cinema* has now been published. Edited by Erin Manning ( [www.thesenselab.com](http://www.thesenselab.com)), this issue of the journal presents a collection of original essays suggesting various reflections articulated around the relationships between religion, politics and Québec cinema.

Contributors to this issue: Ian Lockerbie (University of Stirling), Martin Picard (Université de Montréal), Patrick Bossé (Concordia University), Etienne Beaulieu (CRI) and Erin Manning (Concordia University); in addition to book reviews by François-Xavier Tremblay (collectif Rizomer) and Jerry White (University of Alberta).

Communications: [redaction@cinema-quebecois.net](mailto:redaction@cinema-quebecois.net); [www.cinema-quebecois.net](http://www.cinema-quebecois.net)

### **2005 Governor General's Literary Awards**

On 16 November 2005 the Canada Council for the Arts announced the names of the winners of the 2005 Governor General's Literary Awards, in English and in French, in the categories of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, drama, children's literature (text and illustration) and translation. The winners include:

#### **Fiction**

David Gilmour, Toronto, for *A Perfect Night to Go to China*

(Thomas Allen Publishers, ISBN 0-88762-167-8)

*A Perfect Night to Go to China* is a melding of emotional power and narrative ingenuity. Written with the controlled technique of a mature artist, it is imbued with the tension of a suppressed sob.

Aki Shimazaki, Montreal, for *Hotaru*

(Leméac Éditeur / Actes Sud; distributed by Diffusion Prologue) (ISBN 2-7609-2430-0)

Two female figures, a young girl and her grandmother – like Russian dolls nested into one another – recount their lives in a dizzying play of generational selves.

#### **Nonfiction**

John Vaillant, Vancouver, for *The Golden Spruce: A True Story of Myth, Madness and Greed*

(Knopf Canada, ISBN 0-676-97645-X)

A stark and hypnotic story about a maverick logger and an iconic 300-year-old tree on the Queen Charlotte Islands, *The Golden Spruce* is a multi-layered tale that both rebukes and questions Canada's management of its forests.

Michel Bock, Ottawa, for *Quand la nation débordait les frontières : les minorités françaises dans la pensée de Lionel Groulx*

(Éditions Hurtubise HMH, ISBN 2-89428-707-0)

With forcefulness and intelligence, Michel Bock looks at the highly controversial Lionel Groulx, and returns to a subject that many thought had been exhausted: the question of French minorities in Canada.

## Poetry

Anne Compton, Rothesay (NB), for *Processional*

Jean-Marc Desgent, Longueuil (QC), for *Vingtièmes siècles*

## Translation

Fred A. Reed, Montreal, for *Truth or Death: The Quest for Immortality in the Western Narrative Tradition* (English translation of *Raconter et mourir : aux sources narratives de l'imaginaire occidental*, by Thierry Hentsch)

Rachel Martinez, *Quebec City*, for *Glenn Gould: une vie* (French translation of *Wondrous Strange: The Life and Art of Glenn Gould*, by Kevin Bazzana)

Further details at

[www.canadacouncil.ca/news/releases/2005/ri127760432070837324.htm](http://www.canadacouncil.ca/news/releases/2005/ri127760432070837324.htm)

## BOOKS FOR REVIEW

### British Journal of Canadian Studies Books Available for Review October 2005

*Please look through all the sections as some books are difficult to categorize.*

## History

Frank Parker Day, *The Autobiography of a Fisherman* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2005), 202 pp. Paper. \$21.95. £14. ISBN 0-8020-9393-0. [Memoir first published 1927. By the author of *Rockbound*]

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