

School of Canadian Studies 2024 Graduate Research Symposiumⁱ

In/And/Or “Canada”

Thursday, April 25th DT2017

Abstracts

9:30 – 10:25 AM Session 1: *Reimagining Place: Heritage and Social Justice*, PANEL CHAIR:
Professor Susan Ross

Maya Mills — “Practicing Under the New Paradigm: Advancing Social Justice Through Heritage Designation in Atlantic Canada”

Heritage designation is often used as a tool for the creation of national public narratives, or as Parks Canada explains “defining moments in Canada’s history,” meant to bring Canadians together through their mutual reflection and participation in hardships and challenges (Parks Canada Agency). Most heritage places are rooted in tragedy, difficulty, or other negative histories — it is rare to find a National Historic Site that does not acknowledge a somber place-based narrative of some sort (Mason 159). However, this narrative of national experience can fail to acknowledge the diverse histories of Canadians — overlooking the voices and perspectives of those who have been historically marginalized. This paper examines how the recognition of diverse histories in federal heritage designation can directly impact the pursuit of social justice in Atlantic Canada and suggests possibilities for increased social justice in Atlantic Canada through national historic designation of The Bog. Analyzing two Atlantic Canadian communities of similar origin but with separate histories I ask: How do shifting social values impact place-based relationships for historically marginalized communities? Can heritage designations help facilitate social justice, and if so, how?

Gyn Wylie — “Losing Place: Entrenching the Narrative of Terra Nullius and Invisibility of Indigenous Lands”

The creation of the St. Lawrence Seaway and Moses-Saunders Power Dam in 1959 resulted in the flooding of 1540 hectares of land and the dislocation of 9000 Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. A culture associated with the non-Indigenous communities developed, and through their actions, their memories and artifacts came to permeate the countryside, leading both domestic and foreign visitors to conclude their story is the only legitimate tale to be told. My findings demonstrate that the feelings associated with land attachment and subsequent loss of land were comparable between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities affected by the Seaway and Dam. However, the romanticization and nostalgic recollections of the non-Indigenous villagers have taken centre stage to the exclusion of the Mohawk perspective and memory. The villagers' story has contributed to the Canadian narrative of United Empire Loyalists bringing civilization to the wilderness. Heritage-making projects that identify only one group's

perspective harm others through misinformation. Recognizing the effects of omission in our local narratives underlines the importance of better inclusion and awareness.

10:40 AM – 12:15 PM Session 2: *In an Around the Law: Treaty Understandings, Charter Protections*, PANEL CHAIR: Professor Orly Lael Netzer

Sarah Daviau — “Settler and Mi’kmaw Understandings of the Peace and Friendship Treaties: Imagining a Decolonial Future for Treaty Relationships”

What can settler Canadians and the federal government learn from Indigenous understandings of historic treaties? More specifically, what lessons can be learned from Mi’kmaw understandings of the rights and responsibilities outlined in the Peace and Friendship Treaties? Drawing from historical documents as well as more contemporary secondary sources written by both Mi’kmaw and settler scholars, I analyze current treaty understandings and the treaty relationships between settler Canadians, Indigenous peoples, and the Canadian government, focussing on the Peace and Friendship Treaties and the 2020 dispute between Mi’kmaq and settler communities in Nova Scotia regarding the right to trap lobster. After exploring contemporary treaty understandings and relationships, I look towards the future of treaties in this region, and Canada as a whole. Placing an emphasis on suggestions made by Mi’kmaw organizations and leaders, I describe initiatives and ideas meant to improve and decolonize treaty understandings among settler Canadians in order to build stronger, more meaningful relationships with local Indigenous communities. I argue that treaty understandings and implementations require a process of reframing and decolonizing in order to build a better understanding of the position of settler Canadians as ‘treaty people.’

Julie-Ann Kirkpatrick — “Overcoming Interpretive Limitations of Section 7 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms”

Section 7 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms holds an embedded key to questions that will arise from climate change, adaptation, and migration. My doctoral research will explore how the guarantee of life, liberty and security of the person and, in particular, the protection of psychological integrity, might impact physical, social and structural determinants of health (basic income, housing, food security, air, water, the right to a sustainable future). A number of recent challenges brought by young people worldwide suggests the timeliness and importance of tying this derivative feature of section 7 to the global stage. My research will echo and carefully consider a wider discussion regarding the prescience and protection of human and environmental integrity as a constitutional imperative. A body of diverse case law across Canada addresses the “vexations and vicissitudes” of state involvement in the life of a citizen, and the circumstances under section 7 in which the psychological integrity of an individual must be guaranteed. I intend to document how lower courts and tribunals have found creative ways to frame and apply section 7 Charter principles to ensure that the law remains responsive and flexible. I further intend to explore the circumstances in which constitutionally guaranteed rights may be rendered

meaningless by administrative inefficiency, and a widespread lack of access to justice in an age of climate change and social upheaval.

Samantha Stevens — “Colonial Narratives and Anishinaabe Sovereignty: A Discursive Analysis of Settler Canadian Treaty Understandings”

My doctoral research embarks on a critical exploration of the settler colonial discourses surrounding Canadian treaties, focusing on the Robinson Huron Treaty. This research synthesizes insights from anthropology, Indigenous studies, and linguistics, using Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) to dissect legal texts, parliamentary debates, and news articles spanning over 168 years. Themes of reconciliation, patriarchal management, and Anishinaabe agency emerge but my research shows a shift from paternalism and dominance to recognizing Indigenous agency and self-determination, particularly in recent years. This shift is influenced by various factors, including Indigenous activism, legal and political developments, and media representation. Highlighting the ongoing struggle for Indigenous sovereignty, I critique the narrow, often colonial perspectives that often frame treaty discussions even as settlers, and related discourses, are changing in response to assertions of Indigenous agency. Increasingly, there are direct challenges to settler colonialism, holding space for Indigenous voices, and consideration of Anishinaabe laws as the authority on treaty relationships. My research underscores the importance of incorporating Indigenous perspectives and legal principles in contemporary discussions on relationality, responsibilities, treaties, and settler treaty rights and advocates for a transformative approach to reconciliation, emphasizing the need for genuine engagement with Indigenous communities and Indigenous knowledge systems.

1:15 – 2:45 PM Session 3: *Revisiting Feminist Activisms*, PANEL CHAIR: Professor Jody Mason

Theresa Benedict — “Mapping the journeys of female Haudenosaunee activists in the 60's and 70's”

I researched attempts to document the activism of Indigenous Women during the 1960's and 1970's in Canada, with a focus on Haudenosaunee women who took up the feminist movement in their fight against the Indian Act, and participated in the Indian Rights movement to assert Haudenosaunee sovereignty. While I was inspired by the level of detail and inclusion of various women in the Women of Impact interactive map by Women and Gender Equality Canada, it only features Mary Two-Axe Earley as one of two Haudenosaunee women profiled and as the only Mohawk from Kahnawake. The map also provides no depictions of the women's journeys nationally or internationally. I decided to develop my own map centered on Haudenosaunee women who were in the background in the Indigenous feminist movements. I wanted to expand on Mary's journey from her start as an activist to her death, and those who were outside of the mainstream movements, but who fought for Haudenosaunee sovereignty. Using the software Padlet, I plot the journey each woman took, in each location giving a description of what was happening, who else may have been involved, and the outcome. I profile Mary Two-Axe Earley:

Mohawk from Kahnawake, Yvonne Bedard: Onondaga from Six Nations of the Grand River, and Kahn-Tineta Horn: Mohawk from Kahnawake.

Terri Morrison — “The Women’s Place: Exploring the Rise and Fall of a Space for Women”

The Women’s Place was a grassroots community center in Toronto that operated from 1972-1975, through which the iconic Toronto Women’s Bookstore (1973-2012) later emerged. TWP was unique as it was designed to be a multi-functional community space. Its operation was also unique in that it attempted to function through a non-hierarchical, non-committal, donation-based system. It was inspired by the idea of a female heterotopia, and attempted to cultivate a strong sense of sisterhood in its patrons. Ultimately, TWP closed due to a lack of funding. My research seeks to firstly understand why TWP was created and why this form of operational structure was chosen. I will explore how grassroots organizations operated through secondary sources on the history of Canadian feminist spaces. I will then build upon Nora Ruck’s research into TWP through analysis of public-facing publications, focussing on tone in the context of broader historical change. I argue that TWP was based in a style of feminism that relied heavily on the concept of ‘sisterhood’ to maintain community, in the context of professionalizing feminism.

Amelia Parkhurst-Bartel — “The Failure of the Canadian Nation-State to Socialize Domestic Labour”

The 1960’s mark the beginning of the second wave feminist movement in Canada and abroad. Canadian women were speaking out about issues such as pay equity, employment equity, child care, birth control and abortion, and more. This paper will attempt to examine how the Canadian state responded to the women’s liberation movement in Canada and specifically its calls for the socialization of “domestic labour”, in terms of policies and programs. I ask whether this demand was met and in particular whether governments enabled the capitalist state’s agenda of keeping this labour in the private sphere. By examining provincial and federal policy and programs alongside changes to immigration policy in the period 1965-1985, I expect to show that while the welfare state may have seemed on a path to address women’s liberation groups’ demands, ultimately this capacity was eroded. I will analyze policies and program implemented at different levels through an intersectional lens to understand how they impacted women in Canada differently depending on intersecting systems of power, such as white supremacy, patriarchy, and heteronormativity. My research contributes to analysis of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program as a cheap solution allowing middle- and upper-class women to enter the labour force based upon the exploitation of non-citizen women of colour, and the deferral of the socialization of domestic labour.

3:00 - 3:55 PM Session 4: *Canada and the World: Global Relations, Representations, and Trade*, PANEL CHAIR: Professor David Carment

Samuel Lehtinen — “A Critical Approach to the Future of US-Canada Trade Amidst Internal US Politics”

The question I will be addressing is the impact of internal US politics on Canada-US trade negotiations, and how these intertwine with Canadian national security. Outlining the components of US-Canada trade, with a focus on the impacts of Trump’s 2016 presidency during which NAFTA was renegotiated and “America First” trade policies were pursued, I will look ahead to how a second Trump presidency could lead to further divides in US-Canada trade relations. My materials are the Chatham House report, “Canada Braces for the Possible Return of Donald Trump,” a Brookings commentary on NAFTA Renegotiations, and the Cambridge paper, “Democracy, Donald Trump and the Canada-US Security Community.” The Chatham House paper is used to speculate on Trump’s plans for future US-Canada trade in the event of his re-election, including his plan to add a 10% tariff on imports. The Brookings commentary explains the NAFTA renegotiations and their impact on the Canadian economy. The Cambridge paper allows me to address current impacts of Trump’s policies on US-Canada trade, with a focus on security concerns and how they intertwine with Canada’s economic security. This research is important in the context of the U.S.’s status as Canada’s largest trade partner, and the potential for a future Trump presidency to force Canada to look elsewhere for trade partners.

Zaynab A. — “Beyond Borders: Unveiling Diversity and Decision-Making Dynamics in Canada's Foreign Service”

My research explores the pivotal role of Foreign Service Officers (FSOs) and the nuanced nature of their decision-making processes in the face of complex geopolitical challenges. Recognizing the increasing importance of FSOs in shaping Canada's international relations, the research delves into the multifaceted factors influencing FSOs, spanning various contexts such as crisis situations, negotiations, and policy formulation. I address a critical gap in understanding the individuals shaping international relations decisions, emphasizing the need for unbiased information and fearless advice within the Canadian public service. My research particularly highlights the intersectionality of decision-making for equity-seeking members of FSO cadres, examining how diverse perspectives play a role in shaping policies and programs. It aims to uncover how FSOs navigate decision-making in different contexts and the implications of the gap between Canada's diversity and its representation within government organizations. The study also explores the potential impact of a more diverse foreign service on diplomatic effectiveness.

ⁱ Abstracts have been modified for consistency.