



**Carleton  
University**

**Canadian Studies**



## **The Fate and Future of Canadian Studies**

Writing in 2021, Munroe Eagles, then President of the International Council for Canadian Studies, [argued](#) for a reinvigorated repositioning of Canadian Studies programs in Canada and abroad. His proposed shift comes in response to criticisms of parochialism, methodological ambiguity and the formidable challenges of overcoming University level bureaucratic inertia at a time of significant budget cuts.

Eagles makes a strong case for reinvestment in international Canadian Studies networks, noting 40 years of Canadian Studies network development has generated an expansive list of Canadian Studies Journals and more than two dozen Canadian Studies programs in Universities around the world.

To date, Eagles' call for increased federal funding in support of a reinvigorated international Canadian Studies presence has yet to be realized. But that may soon change for two reasons. First, as government support for international students diminishes, Canadian Universities must find alternatives to participating in an increasingly complex and competitive world. One option is to create more opportunities for Canadian

university students to study, work and volunteer abroad.

Creating a new generation of “young ambassadors” is appealing in the same way that previous generations worked and volunteered around the world through federally funded initiatives such as World University Service of Canada(WUSC), Canadian University Students Overseas(CUSO) and the federal government’s Youth Internship Program (YIP).

However, efforts like this must be founded on the assumption that our students possess core competencies and fundamental knowledge about Canada, its peoples, its regional variations and its colonial-settler history. Chief among these competencies is understanding Quebec’s rightful place in Canadian Studies. As my colleague Anne Trépanier notes, an emphasis on domestic mono-linguism puts Canadian Studies between [a rock and a hard place](#).

A second answer emerges from the reality of Canada’s declining international influence and along with it our productivity, innovation and competitiveness. The study of Canada makes good economic and political sense from a problem solving perspective. To be sure, Canada’s material well-being is an issue that affects not only Canadian Studies programs but schools of international affairs, area studies and line departments as well.

That is because Canada's economic productivity and competitiveness are challenged on a number of fronts, including internal barriers to trade and rising global protectionism. An obsession with [domestic security](#) from our neighbour to the south detracts from our own leaders' capacity to achieve economic growth through immigration and trade. At the same time, Canada's domestic politics are increasingly sensitized to global issues as our factionalized provincial and federal leaders [confront seismic shifts](#) in [world politics that pull the country in different directions](#).

In brief, Canadian Studies is at a cross roads. Before us lay very distinct paths. The changing global order represents an important opportunity to strengthen Canadian Studies networks.

From a pedagogical perspective, how is it that, despite significant university level investments in research, teaching and advocacy, our defence, security and diplomatic institutions continue to be plagued by reputational and performance issues. Recently, Global Affairs Canada underwent a significant diplomatic review. Those who produce Canada’s future diplomats should also rethink their purpose, if not their core competencies. Defence and Security institutions have not fared much better. Despite the copious funding put into University-level defence and security research and advocacy, recruitment and morale within DND remain unmet challenges.

The absence of critical thinking and problem solving skills in combination with careerism run counter to making Canada matter on the world stage. Former CSIS officer, [Huda Mukbil](#) speaks about how she confronted and overcame the fundamental and long standing problem of systemic racism within Canada's Security and Intelligence institutions. Mukbil's [experience](#) shows that failing to [heed diverse and critical voices](#) has a direct impact on realizing Canadian interests in an increasingly competitive world.

The problem of not preparing for the future extends beyond professional programs looking outward. For example, lamenting funding cuts to Canadian history courses, one professor [notes](#) *"We won't have PhDs who specialize in Canadian economic, political and military history. This is a huge threat to national identity and, ultimately, national unity."*

Beyond the need for international networks, two more barriers to development and transformation must be addressed. The first is the diminished capacity for Canadian Studies programs to jointly share in the development of their research and teaching programs. Recently, The School of Canadian Studies at Carleton University dissolved its near 15- year joint PhD program with Trent University through mutual agreement. This joint program was unique within Canada. Innovations like it should not be forgotten.

Closer to home there is a need to overcome the pervasive hierarchy of teaching and research agendas that dominates Canadian Studies at many Universities including my own. Canadian Studies is not the sole domain of the humanities nor of social sciences. It is, by definition, interdisciplinary and independent of faculty and departmental agendas. Indeed inventories of Canadianists will show there are many commonalities that bridge research and teaching agendas across departments and across faculties. Opportunities for growth are there but remain unrealized. Success is possible. For example, the School's winning partnership with the School of Architecture in Heritage and Conservation Studies is the most important joint program of its kind in Canada. Our faculty's leadership in public history is innovative, timely and grounded.

For those at Carleton University who consider themselves "Canadianists," a stocktaking and sharing of ideas can make a significant contribution to the delivery of Carleton University's core strategic objectives. These objectives include: interdisciplinarity, inclusivity, entrepreneurialism, pedagogical innovation, problem-based learning and research, policy outreach, and serving the world and the community.

In sum, bridge building can come in three forms. It can reinvigorate international networks. It can establish functional partnerships across Canadian Universities. And it can

strengthen capacities within Universities to deliver core competencies among our students, including political, economic, environmental, legal, social, historical, and cultural literacy.

In this spirit, this year's Vickers-Verduyn Annual Lecture entitled [Canadian Studies in Turbulent Times: Challenges, Ideas and Opportunities](#) features four notable Canadians engaged in a conversation in the context of Canada's changing demography, culture and policies. Among the issues our esteemed panelists discuss are the impact of declining international student enrollment on research productivity; the long term impact of COVID on marginalized communities and student well being; the importance of inclusiveness and diversity in University environments amidst the rise of populism; and shifting Canadian attitudes in the context of disruptive events in Canada and elsewhere.

These issues all point to key challenges facing Canadian universities today. A key question is how do those who study Canada adapt to these challenges?

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***Research Talk - January 24th***  
***"Listening to Whiteness: Race, Space and Belonging on Parliament Hill"***

On January 24th, faculty and graduate students attended the first of our Winter 2024 **Research Talks**, presented by Canadian Studies PhD candidate Gale Franklin. The talk clearly drew a lot of interest, as it was the best-attended of our talks so far this year!

Gale described her exciting dissertation research, in which she is theorizing sound as a particular form for the expression of whiteness, a complex of identity and entitlement. She shared work from a dissertation chapter in which she is investigating whiteness as sonic violence in the context of the so-called "Freedom Convoy", which occupied central Ottawa in the Winter of 2022.

A productive discussion followed, with thoughtful engagement by all.

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### ***Graduate Student Event:***

On February 7th, Canadian Studies grad students attended the Ottawa Fringe Undercurrents Festival and saw the poetic circus performance of *Kimiko*.

*Kimiko* adopts a modern perspective on traditional Japanese arts to explore the history of Japanese-Canadians and discuss themes of self-discovery and reconciling generational trauma. Attending Undercurrents Festival was part of the cultural and social programming of the Canadian Studies Graduate Community; past events include attending performances of *Bear Grease* and *The Unplugging*.



**Canada Talks**  
**with Huda Mukbil - Feb 9**

During our first Canada Talk during the Winter term, Huda Mukbil discussed her journey from intelligence to politics, and how her dedication to challenging institutional racism and advocating for equitable representation in national security has shaped her career and life experiences.

[Listen to a podcast](#) of our Canada Talk



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**Grad "Coffee and Donuts"**

On Feb 15th, the School hosted graduate students and faculty for *Coffee and Donuts* where we enjoyed a bit of socializing - *and a sweet* - mid-term.





“**Art Life Archive**” is a new research network at Carleton which launched in February with a slow-looking workshop and tour of The Art of Faye HeavyShield at Carleton University's Art Gallery.

Collaboratively led by Canadian Studies’ Orly Lael Netzer with Azar Masoumi (Sociology), Malini Guha (Film), Menna Agha (Architecture) and Marie-Lise Drapeau-Bisson (FIST), Art Life Archive hosts creative research events, bringing together faculty, grad students, and research fellows working in the fields of public history, cultural memory, counter/commemoration and heritage.

Also in February, the **Ottawa Research Collaborative** hosted its second *unconference*, commencing the creation of a collaborative resource database on Ottawa/ the Ottawa Valley.

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## ***24 Sussex - from Residence to Reticence - Feb 21***

Our event was held at Carleton's Dominion Chalmers Centre with over 300 people attending both in person and virtually.

The panelists - Sheila Copps, Marc Denhez, Patricia Kell and Mark Brandt - with Moderator Andrew Cohen - were extremely pleased with the way the evening was organized. The quality of discussion was first rate and struck the right balance between informed debate, public consultation and innovative thinking. The discussants challenged the prevailing wisdom and debunked some core 24 Sussex 'myths'. The panelists covered a lot of ground from different vocational backgrounds including legal, architectural, political and governance perspectives.

The audience was enthusiastic and highly engaged from beginning to end. The event was a great success!

**Watch the YouTube recording [here](#). And follow [this link](#) to the CPAC Public Record.**

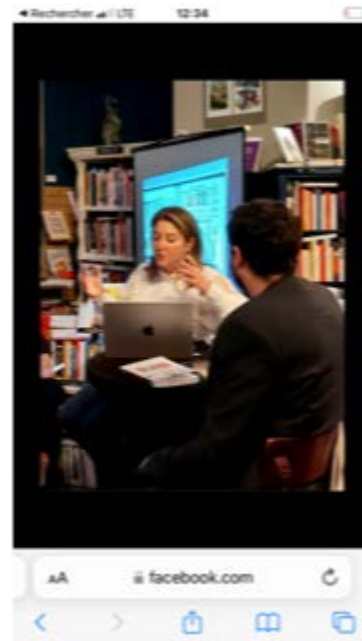
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**Research Talk - Feb 28th  
Representations of  
Confederation:  
Monsters and Forced  
Marriage?"**

Professor Anne Trépanier delivered the second of our Winter Research Talks to an audience of School members & faculty and students from other departments. The presentation analyzed recurring figures in the political cartoons and opinion journalism in English and French-language print literature in the decades prior to the Confederation of the four provinces, including the many-headed hydra, the forced marriage, and the illegitimate birth.

A rich discussion followed.



**Canada Talks - March 8**

The second Talk in our Winter 2024 series featured Jeremy Wildeman discussing **Canada, the Middle East, and a Multipolar World.**

A timely topic and a well attended Talk resulted in interesting discourse.

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***"La Francophonie in question: indigenous words from Quebec"***, was coordinated by Professor Anne Trépanier, with exceptional collaboration from Libreria Stendhal and the valuable support of the International Association of Quebec Studies (AIEQ) of the Quebec Delegation in Italy.

Taking place March 12-15, the daily meetings with readers and students represented valuable opportunities to deepen and discover the literature of the indigenous peoples of Quebec, with Maurizio Gatti (*Anthologie de la littérature autochtone du Québec*) and Emanuelle Dufour (“*C’est le Québec qui est né dans mon pays*”) and especially the Innu nation with Michel Jean and Naomi Fontaine.

The Quebec Studies network in Italy made it possible for each author to have a wonderful surprise and meet very special graduate students! Indeed, each author was able to discover a master's thesis devoted to their work! The translation of a novel: Michel Jean (student in Trento) Naomi Fontaine (student in Bologna and student in Naples) and a thesis inspired by their work as case studies, Maurizio Gatti and Emanuelle Dufour (student in Rome).

**LA FRANCOPHONIE EN QUESTION :**  
**PAROLES AUTOCHTONES DU QUÉBEC**

**DU 12 AU 15 MARS 2024**

**ÇA JASE EN TIGIDOU !** sous la direction d'Anne Trépanier  
 association des professeurs des écoles québécoises (Association Québécoise Enseignant-Employé)

**LES AUTEURS INVITÉS**

	<b>Emanuelle DUFOUR</b> Créatrice de <i>Qu'elles qu'on se dit</i> 2018		<b>Naomi FONTAINE</b> Bachelière en Littérature Méditerranéenne 2021		<b>Maurizio GATTI</b> Éditeur de <i>Anthologie de la littérature autochtone du Québec</i> 2018		<b>Michel JEAN</b> Écrivain Tulizian 2018
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**MARDI 12 MARS**  
**LIBRERIA STENDHAL**  
 19h / Coordonnée avec:  
 Emanuelle Dufour et Maurizio Gatti  
 organisée par Anne Trépanier **ROME**

**MERCREDI 13 MARS**  
**UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA**  
 19h-19h30 / Table-ronde des auteurs  
 Textes et rencontres avec les auteures  
 Conversation avec les auteures  
 Naomi Fontaine et Emanuelle Dufour  
 organisée par Anne Trépanier **BOLOGNE**

**JEUDI 14 MARS**  
**UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI INTERNAZIONALI DI ROMA-UNIINT**  
 19h30 Centre  
 19h / Table-ronde avec les auteurs invités  
 Rencontre interculturelle sur le territoire de la littérature québécoise  
 organisée par Anne Trépanier **ROME**

**LA SAPIENZA**  
 19h30 / Rencontre avec les auteurs invités  
 19h / Grande conférence de Michel Jean  
 L'histoire racontée : une conversation  
 l'événement autochtone au Québec  
 vol. 100 - organisé avec Anne Trépanier **ROME**

**VENDREDI 15 MARS**  
**IF CENTRE SAINT-LOUIS**  
 19h30 / Projection du film *Mezzogiorno* de  
 Marie-Monique (V.D.) sous l'égide de l'école  
 suivie d'une causerie et discussion avec la  
 coordinatrice Naomi Fontaine  
 organisée par Anne Trépanier **ROME**

**LIBRERIA STENDHAL**  
 19h / Coordonnée avec:  
 Naomi Fontaine et Michel Jean  
 organisée par Anne Trépanier **ROME**

**AVEC LE SOUTIEN DE**

**ET LA PARTICIPATION DE**

This recently released edition of [Canadian Foreign Policy Journal](#) profiles one of Carleton's sponsored *Scholars at Risk* - Iliia Kononov - whose home and university were destroyed during the battle of Bakhmut in Eastern Ukraine.

Other scholars featured in this edition are those who fled Ukraine into neighboring countries.

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***Canadian Studies in Turbulent Times:  
Challenges - - Ideas - - Opportunities***

***2024 Vickers-Verduyn Lecture in Canadian Studies***

Our conversation takes place amidst the challenges universities face including declining international student enrolment; student well-being and mental health; the importance of inclusiveness and diversity in University environments; the rise of populism; and shifting Canadian attitudes in the context of disruptive events both in Canada and elsewhere.

Join us for an evening of debate and discussion as four notable Canadians explore key aspects of their work in the context of Canada's changing demography, culture and policies.

**DATE: April 17, 2024**

**TIME: 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

**LOCATION: Teraanga (Residence) Commons  
Rooms 272-274**

**[For complete details and to REGISTER.](#)**

## Canadian Studies in Turbulent Times: Challenges - - Ideas - - Opportunities

The School of Canadian Studies is excited to announce that our Annual Vickers-Verduyn Lecture in Canadian Studies will feature four notable Canadians engaged in a conversation and a sharing of ideas with Carleton University Provost and moderator Pauline Rankin.

Join us for an evening of debate and discussion as our speakers explore key aspects of their work in the context of Canada's changing demography, culture and policies.



Adrian Harewood



Dr. Jane Philpott,



Senator Yuen Pau Woo



Frank Graves



Dr. Pauline Rankin

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### 2024 Graduate Research Symposium

In/And/Or "Canada": Positionings, Practices, Paradigms

When: Thursday April 25  
Time: 9:15 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Location: Dunton Tower Room 2017

Take a look at the exciting [Agenda](#) for this years' symposium.

[RSVP for lunch.](#)

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***Towards Reparative Futures: heritage conservation paradigms for social justice***

**16th Annual Heritage Conservation Symposium**

The **Heritage Conservation Symposium** is a one-day event organized by graduate students in the School of Canadian Studies and the Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism. This year, the Symposium is partnering with Carleton's Ottawa Research Collaborative. The event brings together students, academics and professionals in critical discussion on issues related to heritage studies and heritage conservation theory and practice.

The [Call for Submissions](#) for this year's Heritage Conservation Symposium is now Open!

**Save the Date: April 27th.** [Watch this space for updates!](#)

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Richard Nimijean is part of a summer team-taught COIL (collaborative online international learning) course, **Comprehending Canada**, offered by the Department of English and American Studies at Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic.

The team also includes Jeff Ayres (St. Michael's College (Burlington, USA), Magdalena Fiřtová (Charles University, Prague, Czech republic), Denisa Krásná (Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic), and Tomáš Pospíšil (Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic).

This is the fourth time that this course has been offered. Students from all across Europe at all degree levels enroll.

[Learn more about the course.](#)

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## Two Research Adjunct Professors have joined the School

We are excited to announce that [Trina Cooper-Bolam](#) and [Phil Henderson](#) join our ranks as Research Adjunct Professors.

**Welcome to the School!**

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