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Victimization and Redress: The Case of Ukrainian Canadian Internment during the First World War

Thursday, March 4, 2010
3:00 p.m.
Room D492 Loeb Building

In 2008 the federal government of Canada established a \$10 million endowment fund to "support projects that commemorate and recognize the experiences of all of the ethno-cultural communities affected by Canada's first national internment operations of 1914-1920." During the First World War, over 8,000 persons from various Eastern European countries were interned in concentrations camps in Canada. Over 5,000 of those interned were from what is present-day Ukraine. This paper situates this redress movement within the larger context of Ukrainian Canadian English language literature actively engaged in constructing a Ukrainian Canadian subject position around particular tropes of victimization.

Dr. Lindy Ledohowski completed her SSHRC-funded doctoral studies in the Department of English at the University of Toronto in 2008 and was a SSHRC-funded postdoctoral fellow in the Department of English at the University of Ottawa after that. Presently, she is an assistant professor in the Department of English at St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo. Lindy is a specialist in contemporary Canadian literature, and her research focuses specifically on the over fifty years' worth of English-language Ukrainian Canadian literature. She uses this literature as her case study to theorize what she sees as the "ethnic angst" of multigenerational, white, English-speaking Canadian subjectivities. She is currently working on a book, *The Baba and the Witch: Dead Female Bodies in Ukrainian Canadian Literature in English* that traces this "ethnic angst" through a recurring trope of the dead Ukrainian body. Her second book project (that her talk comes out of) looks at the politics of representation of victimization in the debates surrounding the case of internment and the ensuing redress movement.

**Co-hosted
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