Honouring Dr. Agnes Calliste, Symposium

by: first, accounting for Orientalism and the national and international implications of Anti-Arabs, anti-Muslims in Canada, a topic largely absent in race studies; and second, by bringing in the settler colonial state as the wider frame of reference for comprehending not only the different forms of racisms, but also the primary contradiction: settler colonialism and indigeneity. This analysis, I argue, helps recuperating what Wolfe and Coulthard term the “binarism” characteristic of the settler colonial state.

Amrita Hari: Workers, Families, and Households: Towards a Gendered, Raced, and Classed Understanding of Indian Transnationalism in Canada

Dr. Calliste revealed the problematic and discriminatory ideological relations, shaped by the intersections of race, class, and gender that structure Canadian nationhood to show the ways in which the state has restricted the entry of racialized settlers despite the persistent and urgent need for their labour. My comments will be on the long history of a different racialized group that was categorically denied entry and is now one of Canada’s top three immigrant-sending nations. Despite the prominence of Indians as transnational actors in Canada, newcomers are still subject to new iterations of Canada’s racist past. To demonstrate this, I will discuss the gendered, raced, and classed negotiations that occur within Indian newcomer households.

Xiaobei Chen: Racism, Culture, and Power in Children’s Books

This talk presents analyses that argue that children’s literature in Canada tends to practise depoliticized celebration of diversity that excludes a critical awareness of race-based injustice and inequalities, and that non-Western cultures are often represented as static and the binary Other of the West.

Jiyoung Lee-An: Reflection on feminist positionalities and the meaning of solidarity

In this presentation, I will engage with feminist positionalities and discuss my experiences as a racialized female student and contract instructor. Based on my experience, I will talk about what it means to be in solidarity with anti-racism feminist students and scholars.

Honouring Agnes Calliste

Innovative Critical Race and Intersectional Perspectives in Canadian Scholarship

Symposium Program

Friday, November 23rd, 2018
**PROGRAM**

**WELCOME**
8:45–9:15 – Continental Breakfast
9:15–10:15 – Welcome, Acknowledgments, & Introduction to the Symposium

- **Daiva Stasiulis:** Honouring the Scholarship of Agnes Calliste: Laying the Foundations of Critical Race and Intersectional Studies in Canada

**PANEL ONE**
10:15–11:45 – The Impossible Whiteness of Women, Immigration, and Social Citizenship

- **Chair:** Mikayla Sherry
- **Amina Mire:** Wellness in Whiteness: Biomedicalisation and the Promotion of Whiteness and Youth among Women
- **Alejandro Hernández:** Argentinian Whiteness as a Habitus: White Hysteresis in Canada’s White Settler Colonial Field
- **Warren Clarke:** African Caribbean Black Young Men & Their Ties to Canadian Social Citizenship

11:45-12:00 – Break

**PANEL TWO**
12:00–1:00 – Unsettling Canadian Whiteness & Settler Colonialism: Critical Race, Anti-Colonial, and Intersectional Perspectives

- **Chair:** Salina Abji
- **Nahla Abdo:** From anti-Racist to anti-Colonial Feminism: Extending the Conceptual Boundaries of Understanding Canada
- **Amrita Hari:** Workers, Families, and Households: Towards a Gendered, Raced, and Classed Understanding of Indian Transnationalism in Canada

1:00-2:00 – Lunch (provided)

**PANEL THREE**
2:00–3:00 – Critical Race Perspectives on Canadian Literature and Feminist Positionalities

- **Chair:** Gazel Manuel
- **Xiaobei Chen:** Racism, Culture, and Power in Children’s Books.
- **Jiyoung Lee-An:** Reflection on Feminist Positionalities and the Meaning of Solidarity

**ABSTRACTS**

**Daiva Stasiulis:** Honouring the Scholarship of Agnes Calliste: Laying the Foundations of Critical Race and Intersectional Studies in Canada

This talk provides a portrait and interpretation of Agnes Calliste as a foundational scholar of critical race and intersectional studies in Canada. It addresses her standpoint as rooted both in Grenada and the white settler colonialism of Canada, where she spent most of her academic life. Among her contributions were her searing analysis of the profound anti-Black racism of Canada’s 20th century immigration policies, her supple use of race-gender-class analysis in investigations of particular occupational niches and work cultures of African Canadian and Caribbean sleeping car porters, nurses and domestic workers, and her documentation of multiple sites and movements of anti-racist, working class and gendered forms of resistance and struggle.

**Amina Mire:** Wellness in Whiteness: Biomedicalisation and the Promotion of Whiteness and Youth among Women

The talk analyzes the social and ethical implications of the globalization of emerging skin-whitening and antiageing biotechnology. The promises of ‘ageless beauty’, ‘brightened’, youthful skin and solutions to ‘pigmentation problems’ for nonwhite women reveal the dynamics of racialization and biomedicalization at work, and the active participation of consumers in the biomedicalization of their own bodies.

**Alejandro Hernández:** Argentinian Whiteness as a Habitus: White Hysteresis in Canada’s White Settler Colonial Field.

In this talk, I propose the existence of a white Argentinian habitus as a product of substantial European immigration to Argentina, the genocide of indigenous peoples, the reduction of its Black population, and the imposition of enlightenment ideas by Argentinian elites in the 19th century. This white Argentinian habitus is sometimes transported, via migration, to a new context, that of Canada’s white settler colonial field. In this field, ‘white’, immigrant Argentines find themselves in a social disjuncture, since they are not recognized as ‘fully white’ and are thus located in a different ethnic/racial hierarchy.

**Warren Clarke:** African Caribbean Black Young Men & Their Ties to Canadian Social Citizenship

Despite notable interventions, scholarly inquiry into the experiences of young African Caribbean Black (ACB) men lacks sustained development and elaboration. In my presentation, I conceptualize how first and second generation Canadian born ACB male youth (ages 15-29) associate with Canadian citizenship. White settler Canada, which is rendered to be anti-Black, perceives ACB youth as being outside the bounds of the Canadian nation-state. I want to suggest, inferentially, that despite the paucity of sustained empirical data, young ACB men are loathed after in stigmatizing ways, which problematizes their social citizenship.

**Nahla Abdo:** From Anti-Racist to Anti-Colonial Feminism: Extending the Conceptual Boundaries of Understanding Canada

This presentation pays tribute to Agnes Calliste’s work and expands on her theorization of Anti-racist feminism. This will be accomplished