

CISSC Year in Review

2015-2016

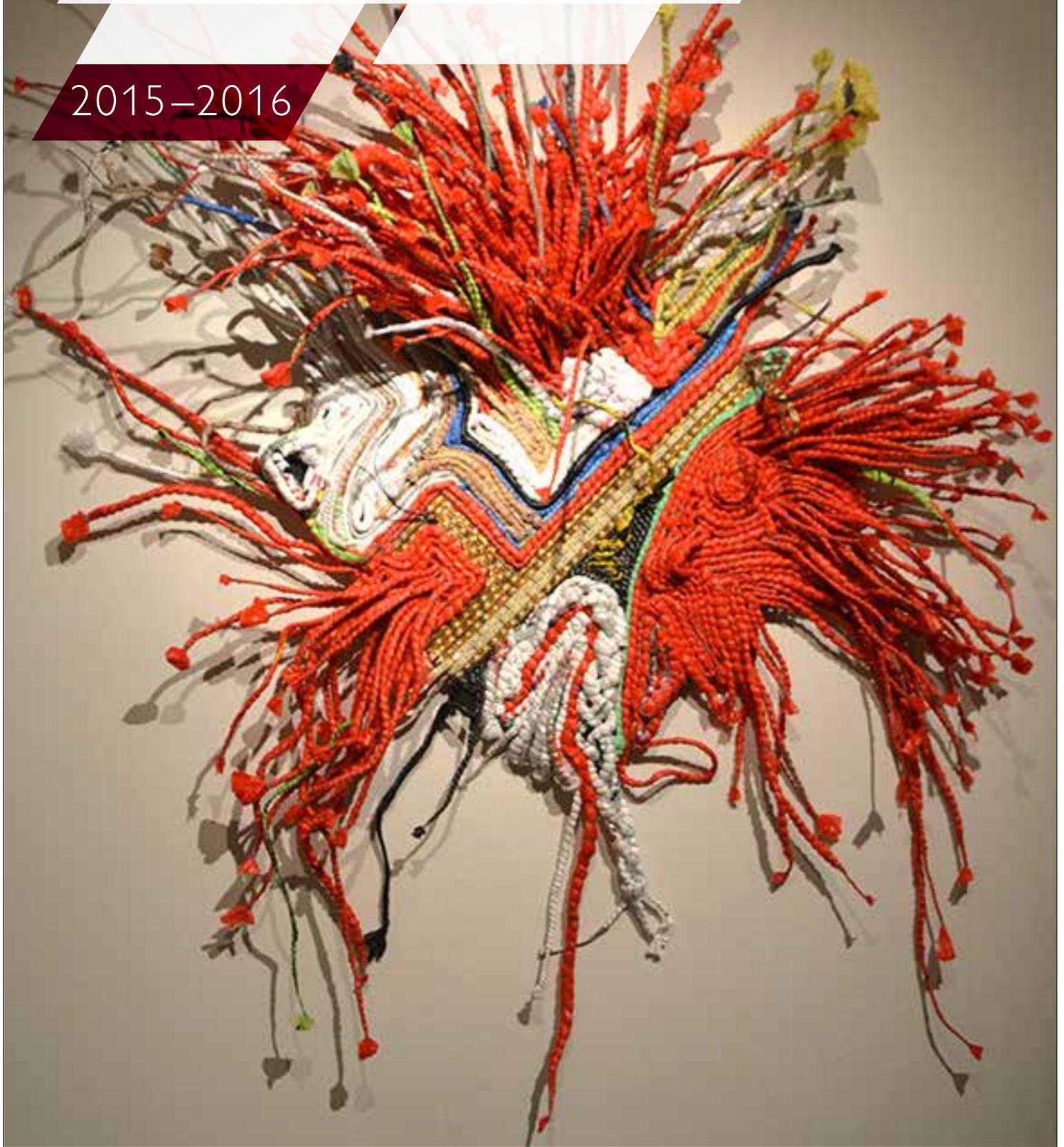


TABLE OF CONTENTS

About the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture	1
Letter from the Director	2
Public Lectures	2
Co-Sponsored Events	
Lectures	5
Conferences and Symposia	7
Working Groups	
Risk Research Working Group	8
Critical Disability Studies Working Group	9
Waters Lost Waters Found Working Group	10
Sustainability, Human Rights and Technology	11
Postdoctoral Fellows	12
Humanities Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program	13

Cover artwork by Ifeoma Anyaeji
Ph.D. Humanities Program, Year 3

Back cover artwork by Sofian Audry
Ph.D. Humanities Program, Year 6



About the Centre

The Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture (CISSC), founded in 2007, is a joint creation of the Faculty of Fine Arts and the Faculty of Arts and Science. It houses the Humanities Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program (HUMA) which was established in 1973.

David Howes is the third director of CISSC, succeeding Marcie Frank (English), whose term lasted from 2010-2015, and founding director, Maurice Charland (Communication Studies).

Bina Freiwald is the director of HUMA, taking over from John Potvin (Art History). She was also HUMA Director from 2008 to 2011.

Sharon Fitch is the Assistant to the Director of CISSC and is also the Coordinator of the HUMA program.

Members of the CISSC Board and PhD Humanities Committee for 2015-2016:

- Emilia Angelova, Philosophy
- David Howes, Sociology and Anthropology
- Bina Freiwald, English
- Danica Jojich, Sculpture / Studio Arts
- pk Langshaw, Design and Computation Arts
- Nicola Pezolet, Art History
- Sherry Simon, Etudes françaises

CISSC is a member of the

[Consortium of Humanities Centres and Institutes.](#)



Letter from the Director

Concordia University has a strong and growing culture of interdisciplinary research and teaching. The mission of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture is to foster this culture and serve as the institutional base for the Humanities Doctoral Program.

The Humanities Doctoral Program (HUMA) enables select students of exceptional caliber to design their own curriculum by proposing a program of study that integrates the insights of two or more disciplines in the Fine Arts, Humanities and/or Social Sciences in the exploration of a particular problem or topic. Of particular note is the strong emphasis on research-creation, with up to a third of the students in each incoming class specializing in this area. There is an air of excitement to all of the projects being pursued by HUMA students as they shape the future of knowledge through combining disciplines and extending the range of scholarship in innovative and challenging ways.

The Centre supports three major activities aimed to expand interdisciplinary inquiry. The first is the CISSC Public Lecture Series. Four public lectures were

sponsored by CISSC in 2015-2016. In addition, CISSC inaugurated a collaborative approach to the staging of research-related “happenings” (as we call them) by teaming up with research centres, working groups, and individual faculty members to sponsor a range of events. In all, these collaborative ventures resulted in 17 talks and 6 symposia or conferences.

The second is the Working Group Program. This program sponsors interdisciplinary discussions that lay the ground for new cross-departmental or cross-faculty collaborations. Four proposals for the creation or continuation of working groups were retained for 2015-2016. These include: the Risk Research Working Group, the Critical Disability Studies Working Group, the Waters Lost Waters Found Working Group and the Working Group on Sustainability, Human Rights and Technology.

The third involves hosting Postdoctoral Fellows who are working across disciplines. In 2015-2016, CISSC welcomed two postdoctoral fellows: Nadine Blumer, a graduate of Sociology at University of Toronto and Roberto Jaén Chacón, a graduate of International Film and T.V. School Cuba.

Three new ventures, inaugurated during the 2015-2016 academic year, also deserve mention:

It was resolved that CISSC will sponsor one major interdisciplinary research conference per year going forward. Thus, planning is under way for the 48th Annual Conference of the International Visual Literacy Association (IVLA). It will be held at Concordia from October 5-8, 2016. The conference is a co-production of the IVLA and CISSC, and also involves the collaboration of the Centre for Sensory Studies, the Department of Art Education and the Department of Design and Computation Art, as well as the Canadian Centre for Architecture and the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

Another new venture is the CISSC Diversity Research Travel Stipend program. Using money from a special endowment, four such stipends, of \$1,500 each, will be awarded annually. The monies are to be used by faculty members to engage in exploratory research in ethnic studies and social diversity (understood broadly). The recipients for 2016 include:

Cynthia Hammond (Art History)
Carolina Cambre (Education)
Shannon McSheffrey (History)
Mireille Paquette (Political Science)

Finally, the CISSC Director is spearheading the overhaul of the Research Currents webpage. This page identifies a range of areas of research concentration at Concordia (e.g. "performance studies," "cognitive science") and gives a brief description of the area as well as a list of faculty who participate in research in the current in question. The page is a way of publicizing the research expertise of Concordia faculty and attracting graduate students. It is also very helpful for prospective Humanities Ph.D. or Individualized Programs Ph.D. students wishing to put together a supervisory committee. The work of reviewing and expanding the list of 25 research currents (unchanged since 2011) will continue in 2016-2017. See www.concordia.ca/artsci/cissc/phd-humanities/research.html

CISSC is at the forefront of Concordia's drive to 'Mix it Up,' which is the fourth directive of Concordia's Strategic Directions plan. "Mixing it up," to us, involves blending research and creation, the scientific and the aesthetic, theory and practice, tradition and innovation, and the integration of the disciplines for the growth of understanding and communication.

A pall was cast over the work of the Centre, the mission of the University, and the advancement of knowledge generally this year when one of the Centre's most distinguished affiliate faculty members, Homa Hoodfar (Sociology and Anthropology), was arrested and imprisoned in Evin prison on unspecified charges by the Iranian government. Dr. Hoodfar was in Iran to visit family and conduct archival research. She has a long record of acclaimed scholarship on gender and the household economy in the Middle East, and was the principal supervisor of HUMA student Mona Tajali's award-winning doctoral thesis, entitled "Demanding a Seat at the Table: Iranian and Turkish Women's Organizing for Political Representation." Dr. Hoodfar is also a founding member of Women Living Under Muslim Law (WLUML), a nonprofit organization dedicated to the improvement of women's condition through the exchange of information and building a new consensus on women's rights across state boundaries in the Islamic world. This work jeopardized her life. The Centre supported the [FREE HOMA NOW](#) campaign. Then, on September 26, after 112 tension-filled days, Dr Hoodfar was released. We are all deeply grateful to have our cherished colleague back.



David Howes,
Director, Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture
Co-Director, Centre for Sensory Studies
Professor of Anthropology



1

**Reconnecting Montreal to its River:
What is at Stake?**

The *Waters Lost, Waters Found* research working group in conjunction with the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture (CISSC) extends an open invitation to a lecture and discussion with

Michèle Dagenais

Tuesday, November 24th at 18:00h

Concordia University SGW Campus – Research Center, EV11.705

Since the 1960s and 1970s claims have been made in Montreal favouring the cleaning and depolluting of the St. Lawrence River and the rehabilitation of its shorelines. Through these claims a new vision of the St. Lawrence developed where the river was no longer seen solely as an economic tool, but increasingly as a public space belonging to all. It is in this context that various projects (such as riverine parks, beaches, re-appropriation of wastelands) have been realized which aim to improve public access to the shores and the river. The objective of this talk is to discuss and shed light upon the environmental and social implications of these projects. We wish to illustrate that what is at stake is not so much to reconnect the city with its waters since this relationship has never been severed but to establish new articulations between them.

Michèle Dagenais is professor of history at the Université de Montréal. Specialist of urban and environmental history, she is the author of several books, including *Montréal et l'eau. Une histoire environnementale*, and co-editor of *Métropolitain Héritage. Environnement urbain de Montréal* (both published in 2011). Since then, she has continued her work on the history of the environment, encompassing the larger scale of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River system.

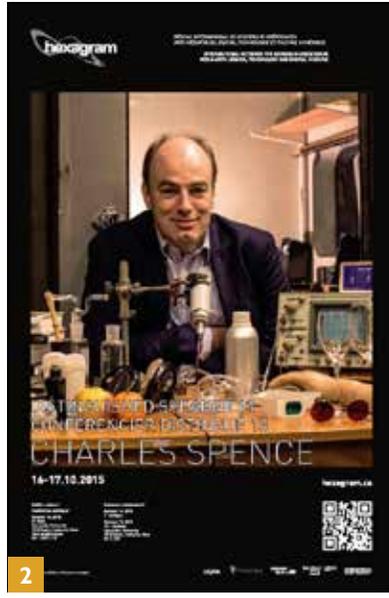
Enquiries about the event: kelly.thompson@concordia.ca
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/102815184747926/?ref=feed>

4

CO-SPONSORED EVENTS

Public Lectures

1 Deborah Lupton,
University of Canberra, Australia
“Theorizing Risk: Exploring Competing Epistemologies”
 November 4, 2015
 Co-sponsor: CISSC Risk Research Working Group
 Coordinator: Martin French, Sociology and Anthropology

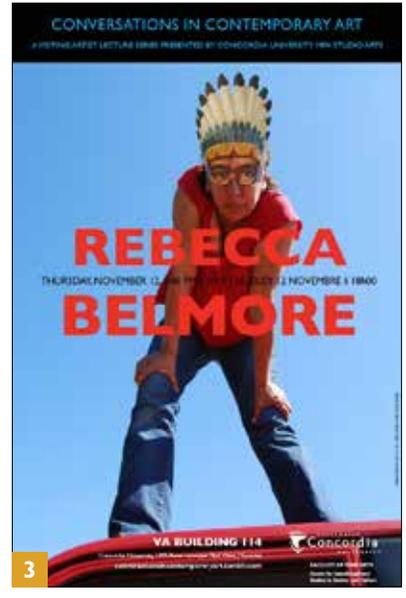


2



5

2 Charles Spence,
Cross-Modal Research Lab,
Oxford University
“Gastrophysics”
 16-17 October, 2015
 Co-sponsors: Hexagram Distinguished Speaker Series, Centre for Sensory Studies
 Coordinator: David Howes, Centre for Sensory Studies



3

3 Rebecca Belmore,
(Anishnaabe) Lac Seul First Nation
“Conversations in Contemporary Art Presents Rebecca Belmore”
 November 12, 2015
 Co-sponsor: Conversations in Contemporary Art, and Studio Arts
 Coordinator: Tammer El-Sheikh, Studio Arts

4 Michèle Dagenais,
Département d'histoire,
Université de Montréal
Reconnecting Montreal to its River: What is at Stake?
 November 24, 2015
 Co-sponsor: CISSC Water Lost, Water Found Working Group
 Coordinator: Cynthia Hammond, Art History and Kelly Thompson, Studio Arts

5 Rafael Lozano-Hemmer
“Conversations in Contemporary Art presents Rafael Lozano-Hemmer”
 The Miriam Roland Lecture
 January 14, 2016

Public events calendar:

Tuesday, Nov. 24, 6pm
 Dr. Michelle Desjardins
 Université de Montréal
"Reconnecting Montreal to its River: What is at Stake?"
 Concordia University
 Engineering Visual Arts Pavilion
 515 St-Catherine Ouest
 room EV 11.705

Monday, Feb. 8, 5:30pm
 Dr. Liz Miller
 Concordia University
"The Shoreline Project"
 Concordia University
 1400, boul. de Maisonneuve Ouest,
 LB-1902

Thursday, Jan. 21, 5:30pm
 Marlene Creates
 (Newfoundland)
"Art, walking, mapping water"
 Concordia University
 Visual Arts Visual Pavilion
 1395 St-Jacques Street
 room VA 222 (may change)

For regular updates, join the Waters Lost/Waters Found community via our [facebook group](#) and visit the [CISSC Working Group website](#)

6

MRI: The Material Religion Initiative presents

Images at Work: The Material Culture of Enchantment

a public lecture by
Dr. David Morgan

**Thursday, March 17
 5:30 PM
 Room 763
 Hall Building
 Sir George Williams Campus
 1455 de Maisonneuve W.
 Concordia University**



David Morgan (Religious Studies, Duke University) is a historian of Protestant visual culture and a leading figure in the theorization of religious visuality; his most recent book is *The Forge of Vision: A Visual History of Modern Christianity* (University of California Press, 2015).

10 It is sponsored by the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture, the Media History Research Lab, the Global Emergent Media Lab, the Departments of Religion and Communication Studies, and the Office of the Librarian, Research and Graduate Studies, Concordia University. For more information please contact Catherine Iyer at catherineiyer@gmail.com.

Co-sponsor: Conversations in Contemporary Art, and Studio Arts
 Coordinator: Tammer El-Sheikh, Studio Arts

6 Marlene Creates,
 Environmental artist and poet,
 Newfoundland
"Water, Weather and Walking"
 January 21, 2016
 Co-sponsor: CISSC Water Lost,
 Water Found Working Group
 Coordinator: Kathleen Vaughan, Art Education

The Shore Line Project
Elizabeth Miller
8:30pm, Monday, February 8th
LB-1902, 1400 de Maisonneuve Ouest



7

7 Liz Miller,
 Communication Studies, Concordia University
"The Shoreline Project"
 February 8, 2016
 Co-sponsor: CISSC Water Lost,
 Water Found Working Group
 Coordinator: M.J. Thompson, Art Education

8 Gisèle Trudel,
 École des arts visuels et médiatiques,
 UQAM
"Sensate Waste"
 Plenary address, Consumption and Detritus: Stories of Destruction and Reconstruction
 March 4, 2016
 Co-sponsor: HUMA Graduate Student Association
 Coordinators: Marie-José Blanchard, Cécile Martin, Annie Rollins

9 Marc Andrejevic,
 Professor, Media Studies, Pomona College
"On Drones"
 14 March 2016
 Co-sponsor: CISSC Risk Research Working Group
 Coordinator: Martin French, Sociology and Anthropology

Performative Talk, Gisèle Trudel
SENSATE WASTE

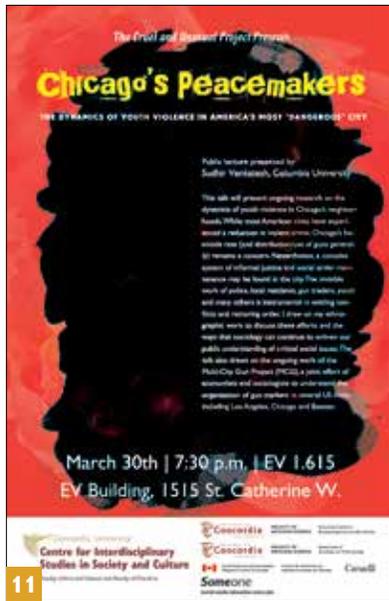


FRIDAY, March 4th @ 5pm
 811 Building, Concordia Downtown SOCC Campus
 1515 St. Catherine West // HEXAGRAM BLACKBOX // EV 503-844-845

8

10 David Morgan,
 Religious Studies, Duke University
"Images at Work: The Material Culture of Enchantment"
 17 March 2016
 Co-sponsor: Religion, Media and Material Culture Speakers Series
 Coordinator: Jeremy Stolow, Communication Studies

11 Sudhir Venkatesh,
 Sociology, Columbia University
Chicago's Peacemakers: The Dynamics of Youth Violence in America's Most "Dangerous" City
 30 March 2016
 Co-sponsor: Cruel and Unusual: Studies of Legal Violence
 Coordinator: Amy Swiffen, Sociology and Anthropology



11

12 Birgit Meyer, Religious Studies, Utrecht University

“Images, Image Wars, and the Study of Religion”

7 April 2016

Co-sponsor: Religion, Media and Material Culture Speakers Series

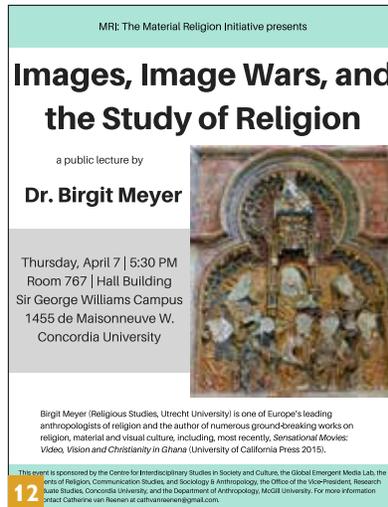
Coordinator: Jeremy Stollow, Communication Studies

13 Susanna Paasonen, Media Studies, University of Turku
“Sexual Play and the Ethics of the Frame”

April 8, 2016

Co-sponsor: Interdisciplinary Studies in Sexuality

Coordinator: Tom Waugh, Cinema



12

Conferences and Symposia

Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy

Coordinator: David Morris, Philosophy

29 – 31 October 2015

Sensing Risk: A Symposium on Risk in the Sensor Society

Coordinator: Martin French, Director, CISSC Risk Research Working Group

March 14, 2016

Cruel and Unusual: Studies of Legal Violence

Coordinator: Amy Swiffen, Sociology and Anthropology

March 30 – April 2, 2016



13

Inviting Movements: Emerging Critical Disability & Deaf Perspectives and Practices

Coordinator: Laurence Parent, Owen Chapman, Critical Disability Studies Working Group

May 4 – 5, 2016

Consumption and Detritus: Stories of Destruction and Reconstruction

Annual Humanities Graduate Conference

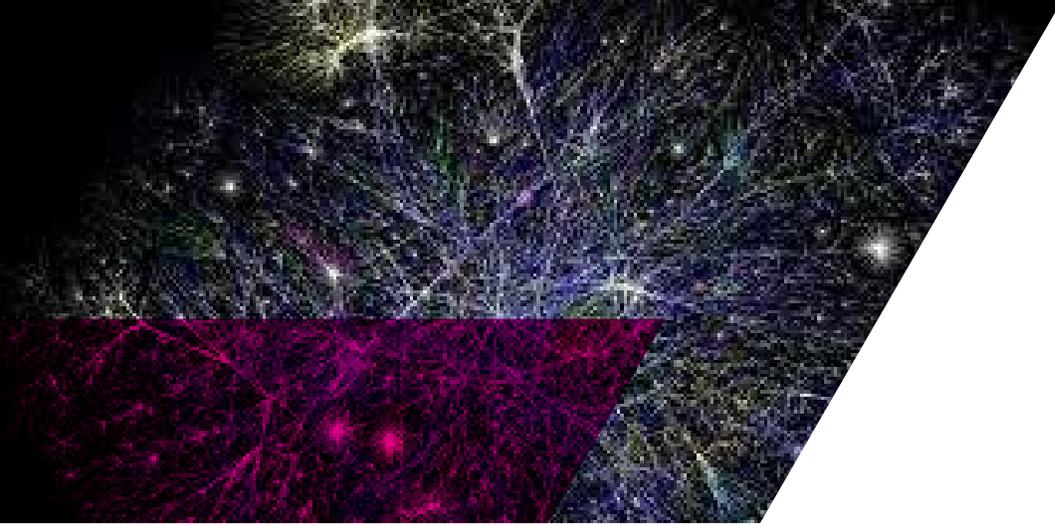
Coordinators: Marie-José Blanchard, Cécile Martin, Annie Rollins

March 4-5, 2016

Workshop on Teaching about Extremism, Terror and Trauma

Coordinators: Rosemarie Schade, Noelia Gravotta

April 15, 2016



WORKING GROUPS

Risk Research Working Group

Director: Martin French

The inaugural year of the CISSC Risk Research Working Group was eventful. Beginning in April 2015, Working Group Faculty Members convened for a planning meeting and mapped out events, as well as website format, for the 2015-2016 academic year. Working with Sharon Fitch, Assistant to the CISSC Director, we established the Working Group website in September 2015.

We held our inaugural meeting, entitled *Connections and Directions in Risk Research: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue 1*, on Friday, October 2, 2015. Our meeting featured presentations from Working Group Members Valérie de Courville Nicol, Jochen Jaeger, Marc Lafrance, as well as an introduction by Martin French.

Our next event took place during the week of November 2nd. Over the summer of 2015, Working Group Faculty Members had submitted a SSHRC Connections Grant application using our CISSC funding, along with match funding from the Concordia Research Chair on Gambling and from applicants. Our application was successful and we were awarded in October 2015 a sum of \$22,998. We used this funding to bring distinguished scholar, Professor Deborah Lupton, of the University of Canberra to Concordia. Professor Lupton gave a presentation to the CISSC Risk Research Working Group entitled *Theorizing Risk: Exploring Competing Epistemologies*. She also spoke at

affiliated events, including an event co-organized by the CISSC Risk Research Working Group and the Université de Montreal, a graduate student workshop on Digital Sociology, and an International Research Workshop on Big Data & Risk.

Our next event occurred during the winter semester. Over the fall term, and with additional match funding from CISSC, we applied for funding under Concordia University's Aid to Research Related Events program. We were again successful and were awarded \$1,200. We used this funding to bring distinguished scholar, Professor Mark Andrejevic, of Pomona College, to Concordia. Professor Andrejevic gave the keynote address at our *Sensing Risk Symposium*, which was held on March 14, 2016. The Symposium featured talks by Dr. Vincent Duclos (Post-doctoral Fellow, McGill University), Dr. Jennifer Reynolds (Researcher with Ontario's Responsible Gambling Council), and Kelly Thompson (Associate Professor, Faculty of Fine Arts, Concordia University). It was moderated by Martin French.

Our final event of the year, *Interdisciplinary Dialogue 2*, was held on April 27. Focused on HIV risk, this event involved screening the documentary "Ruins: Chronicle of an HIV Witch-Hunt," which presents the cases of HIV-positive women who were detained by Greek Police, forcibly tested, charged with felony crimes, imprisoned and publicly exposed. Group members discussed this film. Having been successful in our application to renew the Working Group in 2016-2017, we also started planning events that will take place during the 2016-2017 academic year.

Critical Disability Studies Working Group

Director: Owen Chapman



This was an important year for the working group, allowing us to build on our first year's successful events. Firstly, we held 3 full group meetings over the course of the year. These were open to all members of the working group and we discussed a variety of topics and informal presentations of work in progress.

There was a smaller executive group that met more regularly (at times weekly) to organize and coordinate our "marquis" event this year – the "Inviting Movements" symposium (May 4th and 5th), which included presentations from over 14 academics, activists and policy workers in the disability community and also the screening of Simi Linton and Christian Von Tippelskirtch's film *Invitation to Dance*. Linton and Von Tippelskirtch were present for the screening that included a Q and A. Linton also gave the keynote presentation during the symposium. In the end, the symposium had over 60 participants and audience members, and at certain points more than 100 online viewers of the live stream. This event was supported through CISSC working group funds, along with a budget of over \$20 000 leveraged through other sources, including a Concordia University Aid to Research Related Events grant, a Graduate Community Building Fund grant and support from Milieux, the Faculty of Arts and Science and individual researchers in the working group.

To sum up our other events, the academic year began with us moving into a space linked to the new Milieux Institute for Arts, Culture and Technology at Concordia as a key part of the Community and Differential Mobilities Cluster (CDMC). The space was used during the symposium and for all meetings. It also worked as

an office and meeting space for Banting Post Doctoral Fellow in Critical Disability Studies – Dr. Danielle Peers, who worked with our group throughout the year and was instrumental in helping coordinate the symposium.

Moving into a new space also allowed us to put on a small-scale event in recognition of the International Day for Persons with Disabilities (Dec 3rd) with a screening of the important Quebecois disability rights film *La Grande Sortie*. The evening included a panel discussion and drew an audience of 50+, many of whom appreciated the full accessibility of the CDMC space.

We also hosted sculptor David Johnson and exhibited a selection of his works in the CDMC space from March 1-3rd, with many visitors throughout the three days. Johnson will be returning to the space as part of an event organized by the Centre for Sensory Studies in October 2016.

Finally, on March 16th we hosted a 'New Digital Repertoires for Social Justice, Politics, and Culture? : Exploring Disability Activism & Mobile & Social Media' participatory & interactive workshop with Professor Gerard Goggin (Chair of the Media and Communications Department at the University of Sydney). This drew approximately twenty participants.

In terms of future objectives, we are planning to continue regular meetings as well as organizing one or two small events for next year and then a larger symposium for 2017/18 – which will be at the heart of a SSHRC Partnership Development Grant project, for which we submitted an application this past Fall.

Waters Lost, Waters Found Working Group

Director: Cynthia Hammond

The Waters Lost, Waters Found Working Group had a robust year of activities. Beginning in August 2015, Working Group members, professors Cynthia Hammond, Kelly Thompson, MJ Thompson and Kathleen Vaughan held an inaugural planning meeting on August 16th on the Lachine Canal, in a boat, in the company of canal expert (and Concordia professor emeritus) Dr Jean Bélisle. We used our funding to support a total of three public events, and two invitation-only events during our funding period, which ended March 31st 2016. Funds were also used to hire a research assistant, MA student Laura O'Brien, who compiled a bibliography and resource list on the subject of the relationship between art, water, urbanism, and environmental issues.

On Tuesday, October 16th our group met at the studio of WLWF members Kelly Thompson and Kathleen Vaughan, both of whom are engaged in water-related creative practice. Thompson shared her in-progress work on the international shipping industry. We discussed her series of digitally-woven textiles that incorporate images she took while on board a cargo ship en route to New Zealand in early 2015. Vaughan also shared in-progress work: a series of paintings based on photographs she took of human figures under water, digitally printed on canvas, and now being modified through the application of paint. The studio is located next to the Lachine Canal in St-Henri and provided, alongside the artists' work, inspiration for our discussion about the year's activities, and a course that MJ Thompson would be teaching in winter 2016.

Our first public event took place on Tuesday, November 24th. Urban geographer and Montreal expert, Dr Michèle Dagenais (Université de Montréal) gave the lecture, "Reconnecting Montreal to its River: What is at Stake?" in the EV building to an audience of about 25 people. Our second public event was a lecture by



Newfoundland artist, Marlene Creates, titled "Water, Weather, and Walking," which was held on Thursday, January 21st. We had standing room only in a room that seats 60. This talk was co-sponsored by Carmela Cucuzzella, the CURC in Sustainability and Design. Creates gave a followup lecture the following day in the context of FFAR 250, a required course for all Fine Arts majors, organized by MJ Thompson. Our final public event was a lecture and screening by award-winning documentarian, Liz Miller (Concordia) on Monday, February 8th, in collaboration with the Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling (COHDS). This event marked COHDS's 10-year anniversary and was very well attended; we had capacity in a room that accommodates 50 people. The talk and screening were followed by a reception.

In addition to these activities, I created a facebook page for our group, which has extended our membership to over 200 individuals, including other faculty and colleagues at neighbouring universities, students, and members of the general public. All the activity on this page attests to the deep interest in environmental issues, art, and climate change as specifically manifested through water.



Sustainability, Human Rights and Technology

Working Group

Co-Directors: Rosemarie Schade and Adeela Arshad-Ayaz

The aim of the Interdisciplinary Working Group on Sustainability, Human Rights and Technology is to provide a venue for the Concordia community (faculty, staff, and students), sometimes in conjunction with the wider community, to exchange ideas and make vital connections between sustainability-related issues and human rights at local, national and global levels. During the 2015-2016 year, the CISSC Working Group on Sustainability, Human Rights and Technology met three times and organized two events filled with action and excitement.

Beginning in September 2015, Working Group Faculty Members (Matt Barker, Raymond Paquin, Peter Stoett, pk Langshaw, Adeela Arshad-Ayaz, Satoshi Ikeda, Jim Grant, Rosemarie Schade, Adan E. Suazo, Phil Lynes and Moses Gashirabake) met to plan and map out events for the 2015-2016 academic year. During the initial meeting, the group decided there was a need for information and discussions to enhance general understanding of sustainability and human rights as multifaceted, complex and interlinked fields of study.

The second meeting between the Working Group Faculty Members took place in November 2015 to finalize the first event. The group members decided to invite a guest speaker for a lecture in December, and host two events during the 2015-2016 academic year. The team members mutually agreed that one of the events should be in the form of a public lecture, and the other event should be a workshop/panel discussion where members and participants will have an opportunity to engage with each other in small groups.

The first event organized by the Working Group took place on Thursday, January 14th, 2016, 4:00-6:00 pm, Room RF-110 at the Loyola Campus. Dr. Dalton Anthony Jones explored the connections between social justice, race and environmental disaster in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The event was co-sponsored by the Loyola College for Diversity and Sustainability and the Centre for the Interdisciplinary Studies In Society and Culture.

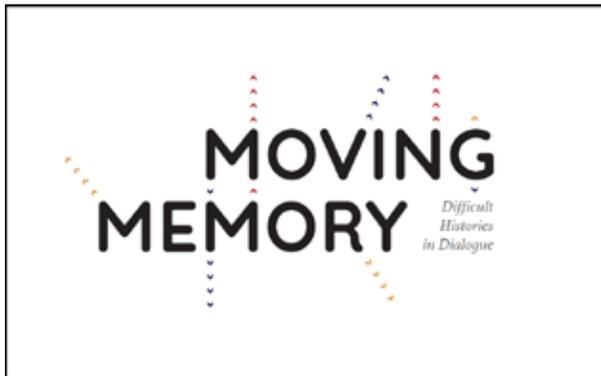
The third meeting between the Working Group Faculty Members took place in February 2016. The Working Group decided to take advantage of the yearly International Symposium on Teaching about Extremism, Terror, and Trauma (organized by Dr. Naseem and Arshad-Ayaz) and use this conference as a platform to conduct a workshop on Water, Environment, and Radicalization.

The Second event hosted by the Working Group took place as part of the Symposium on Teaching about Extremism, Terror and Trauma, on April 15, 2016, Room 11.655-EV Building, 11th Floor. This time, the Working Group, in collaboration with the Sustainability Action Fund, organized a panel discussion followed by a workshop to explore the connections between the idea of radicalization within the purview of environmental and student activism. Dr. Rosemarie Schade, Ms. Noelia Gravotta (Sustainability Action Fund and Divestment Concordia) and Mr. Alex Tyrrell (Leader of the Green Party of Quebec) designed the workshop. The event was very successful about 20 conference attendees in addition to Concordia professors, and students attended the workshop. As part of the event, a modest lunch was hosted for the participants.

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

Nadine Blumer

During my SSHRC postdoc at the Curating and Public Scholarship Lab (CaPSL/ formerly CEREV), and with an affiliation at CISSC, I began research on a new project, which led to a refereed journal publication (please see below), an op-ed in the *Ottawa Citizen*, and numerous speaking engagements (academic and non-academic). I was also able to continue developing my doctoral research project by carrying out some follow-up research, publishing a piece based on that research, and delivering a few conference presentations on the subject.



During the postdoc, I also developed and curated an exhibition, *Moving Memory: Difficult Histories in Dialogue* (<http://cerev.org/cerev/moving-memory>), which launched in early June 2016 as part of the Association of Critical Heritage Studies international conference, co-hosted by UQAM and Concordia universities. The content of this exhibition is based on the intersection of my postdoctoral and doctoral research. The funding for this exhibition came from a successful SSRHC Connection Grant that was awarded to myself and to my supervisor, Dr. Erica Lehrer (director of CaPSL). We were awarded the full amount requested, \$44,392, which provided ample resources for hiring Concordia students and other personnel in order to see the project through.

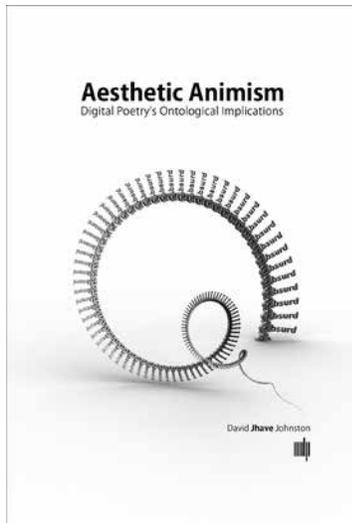
Single-authored publications during postdoc tenure:

- 2016. "Going Beyond the Pillars of the Memorial Site: Berlin's gallery of Romani art as 'counter-monument,'" *Espace Magazine* 112 (Winter), special issue on Monuments/ Counter-Monuments: 36-43.
- 2015. "Expanding Museum Spaces: A Networked Analysis of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights," *Review of Education, Pedagogy and Cultural Studies* 37(2-3): 125-146.
- 2015. "Memorials are built of public discussion as much as stone," Op-ed in *The Ottawa Citizen*, 8 May. <http://ottawacitizen.com/news/politics/nadine-blumer-memorials-arebuilt-of-public-discussion-as-much-as-stone>

Roberto Jaén Chacón

During my semester at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture, with the help of professor Marcie Frank, I undertook research on screenwriting, narrative, structure, genre and storytelling, with a particular focus on Serial Television in the 21st century, the so-called new golden age of television.

Based on this research, three academic articles were drafted though not finished. The first discusses the subversion of genre in "The Wire" and "True Detective", both of which broke the mould of the typical police procedural. A comparison of the two shows' first season was also made in order to further substantiate the argument on genre and how "The Wire" kept extending its narrative and subverting formulas even more while "True Detective" abided by the rules as the episodes went by. The other two articles concerned "Time," "Melodrama" and "Mad Men" and the structural advantages of *Orange is the New Black*. Due to work commitments the articles are not yet finished. I have yet to decide whether I will publish them in English and/or Spanish.



HUMANITIES DOCTORAL PROGRAM

Prepared by Bina Toledo Freiwald, Director

The Humanities Ph.D. Program (HUMA), a premier site for interdisciplinary doctoral research and research-creation at Concordia, has continued to evolve and flourish since its inception in 1973. The program, part of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture and jointly offered by the Faculty of Arts and Science and the Faculty of Fine Arts, currently has close to 100 students. Given the interdisciplinary nature of students' projects, each student works under the supervision and mentorship of an advisory committee consisting of a Major field supervisor and two Minor field advisors. Students' supervisors and minor field advisors come from the range of departments in the Faculties of Arts and Science and Fine Arts, and presently about two-thirds of program students have a Major field supervisor in Arts and Science, and one-third in Fine Arts.

Fall 2015 incoming Cohort

In September 2015 the program admitted 10 new students. The information below includes their doctoral project titles as well as the composition of their advisory committees.

Incoming Humanities PhD Students Fall 2015

STUDENT (FACULTY DESIGNATION) / PROJECT TITLE	MAJOR FIELD SUPERVISOR & MINOR FIELD ADVISORS
1. Kelly Arlene Grant (Fine Arts) "Every Girl's Crazy for a Sharp Dressed Man: Class stratification of Dress in 18thC New France and Nova Scotia."	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• John Potvin (Art History)• Ted McCormick (History & Irish Studies)• Kelly Thompson (Fibres & Material Practices)
2. Emilie St. Hilaire (Fine Arts) "Understanding Affect in New Media Through the Body"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chris Salter (Design & Computation Arts)• Tagny Duff (Communication Studies)• David Howes (Sociology & Anthropology)
3. Nicola Stepic (Fine Arts) "From <i>Flânerie</i> to Cruising: Uncovering the Queer City"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Catherine Russell (Film Studies)• Marcie Frank (English Literature)• John Potvin (Art History)
4. Travis Wysote (Fine Arts) "RISK YOUR LIFE ACCESSING THE MUSEUM: The Canadian Museum for Human Rights and the Question of Indigenous Genocide(s)"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heather Igloliorte (Art History)• Karl Hele (School of Community & Public Affairs)• Daniel Salée (Political Science)
5. Hilary Bergen (Arts & Science) "Spectacular Kinetic Technologies: Emergent Media and The Body in Motion"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Darren Wershler (English Literature & Digital Humanities)• M.J. Thompson (Art History)• Charles Acland (Communication Studies)
6. Alison Bowie (Arts & Science) "Breaking the Binary: Rediscovering Armand Leclaire, and an examination of the role of the artist in redefining cultural hierarchy in a post-colonial context"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Patrick Leroux (English Department & Département d'études françaises)• Sherry Simon (Département d'études françaises, Translation Studies)• Hervé Guay (Département de lettres et communication sociale, UQATR)
7. Kelly Norah Drukker (Arts & Science) "Naming the Traces: Irish Identity across Multiple Generations of Irish-Canadian Families"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Susan Cahill (School of Canadian Irish Studies)• Norman Ravvin (Religion)• Jane McGaughey (School of Canadian Irish Studies)
8. Sandra Huber (Arts & Science) "A Revival of Automatic Writing: Interface, Consciousness, Medium"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Darren Wershler (English Literature)• Lynn Hughes (Studio Arts)• Bart Simon (Sociology & Anthropology, Game Studies)
9. Cristina Plamadéala (Arts & Science) "Collaboration and Resistance between Church and State in Communist Romania"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lucian Turcescu (Theology)• Csaba Nikolenyi (Political Science)• Elena Razlogova (History)
10. Niki Lambros (Arts & Science) "Seamus Heaney: Poetry, Translation and the Peace Process"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manish Sharma, (English Literature)• Mary di Michele (Creative Writing, English Department)

All 10 students who entered the program in Fall 2015 received Concordia internal funding for their first three years in the program. In addition, from this cohort, 1 student was awarded both SSHRC and FRQSC doctoral scholarships, 1 student was awarded a SSHRC doctoral scholarship, and 1 student a FRQSC doctoral scholarship.

This coming year, following a very successful recruitment round for 2016-17, 13 students will be entering the Humanities program in Fall 2016, including 8 students designated Arts and Science and 5 designated Fine Arts. All will receive internal Concordia funding for their first three years, and of this incoming Fall 2016 cohort, 2 students have been awarded both SSHRC and FRQSC doctoral scholarships, and 1 student a SSHRC doctoral scholarship.

HUMA Courses 2015-16

The Humanities PhD program offered three courses in interdisciplinary theory, methods and special topics in 2015-2016. HUMA 888 and HUMA 889 are the two required core courses offered every year, and HUMA 887 was offered with support from the Provost's office. Below are the course descriptions.

Fall 2015

HUMA 888 Seminar in Interdisciplinary Studies I (3 credits)

Mess and Method "What Is A Media Lab?"

Thursdays, 1:15pm -4:30pm, LB 646

Professor Darren Wershler, Department of English

This course will introduce students to a range of contemporary critical and philosophical approaches to humanities research whose focus is contextual and discursive rather than textual and hermeneutic. The primary touchstones will be discursive analysis, Actor-Network Theory, theories of cultural techniques, everyday life theory and material media studies.

The job of "Mess and Method" is to encourage students to think about culture in terms of a set of interrelated concepts: controversies and messes, assemblages and networks, materiality, practices and techniques, and circulation. Many of the texts we'll be looking at consider some or all of these concepts simultaneously, but they each have their particular strengths.

The course will begin as a survey that will provide students with enough information to pursue particular trajectories of their own devising later in their studies. This year, our particular object of study will be the space in which interdisciplinary research increasingly takes place: media labs and humanities labs of all shapes, sizes and inclinations. As part of their term work, each student will locate and describe the activities of a lab in their field or another area of interest.

Like much contemporary scholarship, all writing for the course will take place in public, on a course-related research website. As Ian Bogost has noted, too many scholars write to have written rather than to be read. At the same time, though, we'll also be beginning from the axiom that writing is iterative. Rather than aiming to produce definitive work on our subjects, we will be approaching writing as part of the ongoing process of critical thinking.

Course Objectives

1. Expose participants to key texts in discourse analysis, Actor-Network Theory, articulation theory, materialities of communication, controversy mapping, circulation theory, etc.
2. Provide participants with the opportunity to develop an effective scholarly online writing style
3. Involve participants in the collaborative production of interdisciplinary knowledge
4. Give participants some basic training in textual markup and blogging practice
5. Encourage participants to think of themselves as active researchers

Winter 2016

HUMA 889 Seminar in Interdisciplinary Studies II (3 credits)

Constructing History

Mondays, 3:00pm - 5:30pm, LB 1014

Professor Ronald Rudin, Department of History

Imagine that you were given the responsibility for creating a marker (either a physical marker such as a monument or something more ephemeral such as a projection) in a public space to commemorate something from the past. In this course, we will reflect on questions of public memory and explore different forms that have been used to mark moments from the past. During the first weeks of the course, we will be discussing readings from a wide array of disciplines -- from history to geography, and from art history to anthropology; and we will be guided through the issues of public commemoration by reading the thought-provoking work of the art historian, Kirk Savage: *Monument Wars: Washington, D.C., the National Mall, and the Transformation of the Memorial Landscape* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2009).

In addition to class discussions, students will be engaged in the main project for the course in which they will select some person, event, or process from the past, read the relevant literature on the subject, and ultimately propose a marker to be created. Your job is to use your imagination to propose a commemorative project (as if you were writing to a potential funder), taking into account such matters as where the structure should be built; what story it should tell; what materials will be employed; what costs will be incurred and what sources of funding can be found. Prior to the submission of the final projects, we will discuss early versions in class, with the students paired off so that they will receive detailed feedback from one of their peers, in addition to the feedback from the seminar.

This course has been inspired by my involvement in directing the Lost Stories Project, so if you want to see my own interdisciplinary interests (in history, public art, and film), go to:

<http://loststories.ca>.



Artwork by Oli Sorenson

HUMA 887 Advanced Seminar in Special Topics in Interdisciplinary Studies (3 credits)
Research-Creation Methods
Thursdays, 1:00pm - 3:45pm, FB 620 SGW
Professor Mark Sussman, Department of Theatre

In a post-Enlightenment world dedicated to, in the words of Max Horkheimer, “the extirpation of animism,” the eternally recurring notion that objects have agency is deeply disturbing. Since Marx gave us the anthropomorphic image of the dancing table as an icon of the interchangeability of commodities and people, it has been increasingly clear that, to paraphrase Tim Morton, anthropocentrism, not anthropomorphism, is the problem. Artists, curators, and ethnographers both know and practice decentered distributions of agency very well, but the scholarly study of the agency of materials is still catching up with the deeper consequences of this orientation to the object world.

This seminar will examine how objects – from the everyday to the extraordinary – acquire and perform agency, and conversely how bodies perform in objectified ways. Machines, artifacts, souvenirs, toys, puppets, and automata all engage with agency and materiality, while dance and performance, by definition, objectifies the body. How, then, to build a research methodology that incorporates keen awareness of the materiality of experience lived through objects and bodies? This seminar will engage with critical theories of things and objects as they play across a variety of disciplines, including anthropology, art history, and cultural and performance studies. Classical works by Marx, Mauss, Benjamin, and Bataille will be read alongside contemporary texts by Agamben, Brown, Moten, Taussig, Boon, and Bennett (among others). The class will also involve exhibitions, screenings, and hands-on performance creation workshops as occasions for analysis and written response.

Interdisciplinary Events

In 2015-2016 the Humanities program sponsored two main student-organized events, further fostering the culture of interdisciplinarity at Concordia.

The Interdisciplinary Dialogues panel on *Music is the Body*, held on March 9, 2016, was organized by Humanities student Aurelio Meza and moderated by Dr. Ricardo Dal Farra (Department of Music). The dynamic presentations and performances offered an exploration of the materiality of sound and music and an overview of innovative research and creation projects pursued by Humanities students. The program featured:

Kate Bevan-Baker (HUMA), “Movement and Boundaries of Irish Music in Prince Edward Island: A Soundscape” (Presentation and performance)

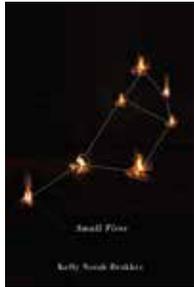
Aaron Finbloom (HUMA), “Question Animals” (Performance)

Skot Deeming (INDI), “Voices from the Tapes: EVP, Aetheric Sound, and Apocryphal (Aural) Technologies”
Hubert Gendron-Blais (HUMA), “*Perception et affectivité de la musique: Whitehead et la physique du son*”

The second event was the highly successful and innovative HUMA Graduate conference on **Consumption and Detritus: Stories of Destruction and Reconstruction**, held March 4-5, 2016. The conference featured presentations and workshops by graduate students from across Canada and the United States, and was book-ended by two highly stimulating and unorthodox keynote presentations. The conference opened with a **performative talk on “Sensate Waste” by Gisèle Trudel**, Professor at the École des arts visuels et médiatiques at UQAM and co-founder of Grupmuv, the research group for drawing and the moving image. The closing event of the conference was a memorable presentation – followed by edible insects tasting! – by Humanities student Laura Shine on **“Eating with (dis)gusto: Rethinking edible insects.”**

Students' accomplishments

Humanities students and graduates have a consistent record of excellence and success during their studies and beyond. As two recent examples among many, we wish to congratulate Humanities student Kelly Norah



Drukker on the publication of her book of poetry *Small Fires* (McGill Queen's UP, 2016), and Laurence Parent, Humanities student who is also member of Québec Accessible and the CISSC Critical Disability Studies Working Group, for the Tanis Doe Award she received from the Canadian Disability Studies Association in recognition of her years of activism and advocacy.

We wish to congratulate as well Humanities graduate Ioana Radu who won the Stand-Out Graduate Research Award in 2015, and more recently received the 2016 Concordia University Distinguished Doctoral Dissertation Prize in Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at the June 2016 convocation. Her interdisciplinary Ph.D. dissertation, entitled "*Miyupimaatsiium in Eeyou Istchee: Healing and Decolonization in Chisasibi*," was supervised by Dr. Daniel Salee (Political Science and School of Community and Public Affairs), Dr. Steven High, and Dr. Carole Lévesque.

Other Humanities graduates whose dissertations have garnered major awards in recent years include Mona Tajali, who won the 2015 American Political Science Association Award for Best Dissertation on Women and Politics for "*Demanding a Seat at the Table: Iranian and Turkish Women's Organizing for Political Representation*" written under the supervision of Dr. Homa Hoodfar; and, Myriam Suchet, whose dissertation "*Textes hétérolingues et textes traduits : de 'la langue' aux figures de l'énonciation. Pour une littérature comparée différentielle*"



– written as part of her co-tutelle studies (Concordia Humanities & l'Université Charles de Gaulle - Lille 3) under the supervision of Dr. Paul Bandia (Études françaises) and Dr. Jean-Marc Moura – was awarded the prestigious Governor General's Academic Gold Medal as well as the *Prix de thèse en cotutelle France-Québec* 2011. Dr. Suchet is currently head of the Centre d'Études Québécoises at Université Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris 3, and her dissertation has appeared as a book, *L'Imaginaire hétérolingue. Ce que nous apprennent les textes à la croisée des langues* (Paris, Classiques Garnier, 2014). Another outstanding recent book by a Humanities alumnus, based on his doctoral dissertation supervised by Dr. Chris Salter, is David Jhve Johnston's *Aesthetic Animism: Digital Poetry's Ontological Implications* (MIT Press, 2016).







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