

ASSAULTING CULTURAL HERITAGE

ISIS'S FIGHT TO DESTROY DIVERSITY IN IRAQ AND SYRIA AGENDA



Concordia University
Montreal

25-26 September 2016

"Assaulting Cultural Heritage: ISIS's Fight to Destroy Diversity in Iraq and Syria" is the theme of MIGS's academic conference designed to educate the public on the significance of assaults on pluralism in the Middle East and elsewhere, as well as the lessons learned from such assaults. The conference promotes greater community engagement and raises awareness of the threat to cultural pluralism posed by violent extremist movements such as ISIS and Al-Qaeda.

Agenda

Keynote address

Ambassador Robert Fowler: "Sleeping with Al Qaeda"

Sunday, September 25, 2016

DB Clarke Theatre, 1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. West

6:40 Welcoming Remarks: Dr. André Roy, Dean, Faculty of Arts & Science, Concordia University

6:45 Conference Introduction: Prof. Frank Chalk, Director, MIGS, Concordia University

6:50 Keynote address: Ambassador Robert Fowler, "Sleeping with Al Qaeda"

7:20 Interview of Ambassador Fowler, Prof. Frank Chalk

7:50 Q&A with the Audience

Assaulting Cultural Heritage:

ISIS's Fight to Destroy Diversity in Iraq and Syria Agenda

Monday, September 26, 2016

Room EV-1.605. 1515 Sainte-Catherine West

8:30 – 10:00

Panel 1: "ISIS and the Intellectual Roots of Assaulting Cultural Heritage."

"The Concept of Destroying Art and Ideas in Nazi Ideology"

Dr. Susanne Anna, Director, Stadtmuseum, Düsseldorf, Germany

"Violent Religious Extremism and the Search for A Perfect Future: Comparing Biblical and Extra-Biblical Traditions with ISIS's Extremism"

Prof. André Gagné, Department of Theological Studies, Concordia University

10:15 – 12:00

Panel 2: "Protecting Cultural Heritage: Lessons Learned."

"Many Islams: The Islam of the Idol Smashers versus Majority Islam"

Prof. Ahmed Fekry Ibrahim, Institute of Islamic Studies, McGill University

"Cultural Heritage Preservation and the Importance of Community Memory in Zones of Conflict"

Prof. Timothy Harrison, Chair, Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, University of Toronto; former President, American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR)

"The Middle East Cultural Heritage Crisis and the Urgency of Coordinated Large-Scale Data Collection and Analysis"

Dr. Stephen Batiuk, Senior Research Associate & Lecturer, Department of Near & Middle Eastern Civilizations, University of Toronto; Project Manager, Computational Research on the Ancient Near East (CRANE) Project

Monday, September 26, 2016

Room FB-804, MIGS Board Room, 1250 Guy St.

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Panel 3: "Educating for Intellectual Respect, Social Diversity and Inclusion: A Roundtable Discussion"

Prof. Peter Stoett, Department of Political Science & Director, Loyola Sustainability Research, Concordia University

Prof. Frank Chalk, Department of History and Director, Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies, Concordia University

Kyle Matthews, Senior Deputy Director, Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies, Concordia University

Dr. Susanne Anna, Director, Stadtmuseum, Düsseldorf, Germany

Speakers

Dr. Susanne Anna



Dr. Susanne Kristina Anna lives in Düsseldorf (Germany). She studied the history of art, archeology, and French at Johannes-Gutenberg-Universität Mainz (Ph.D. 1990). She served as curator of the Museum Morsbroich Leverkusen, 1989 – 1991; director, Städtische Kunstsammlungen Chemnitz, 1992 – 1995; director, Museum Morsbroich Leverkusen, 1995 – 1999; director, Museum für Angewandte Kunst Köln, 1999 – 2003; and, since September 2003, director of the Stadtmuseum Landeshauptstadt Düsseldorf. She is the curator of many exhibitions and the author of a host of lectures, projects, and publications in the fields of art, design, architecture, city, and fashion.

Dr. Stephen Batiuk



Dr. Stephen Batiuk is Senior Research Associate and Lecturer with the Department of Near & Middle Eastern Civilizations, University of Toronto, as well as Director of Excavations for the Tayinat Archaeological Project (Turkey) and the Project Manager for the Computational Research on the Ancient Near East (CRANE) Project. He holds his degrees from the University of Toronto (Ph.D.) and the University of Ottawa, and his areas of specialization include Near Eastern archaeology (particularly the Bronze and Irons Ages of Turkey,

Syria and the Caucasus), and the origins of viticulture and viniculture.

Prof. Frank Chalk



Professor Chalk of the Concordia University Department of History is the co-founder (1986) and director of MIGS. He has previously taught at Texas A & M University and was a Fulbright Professor at the University of Ibadan (Nigeria). In January and February 2001, he was a Fellow of the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. His research interests include the history of genocide and humanitarian intervention, radio broadcasting in the incitement and prevention of genocide, genocide and international law, modern American foreign policy, and the history of Africa. His publications include *The History and Sociology of Genocide: Analyses and Case Studies* (with Kurt Jonassohn), *Mobilizing the Will to Intervene: Leadership to Prevent Mass Atrocities* (with Roméo Dallaire, Kyle Matthews and others), as well as chapters in various books and articles in *The Canadian Journal of African Studies* and *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*. He is currently writing a book on radio broadcasting and genocide, articles on the origins and interpretations of the UK genocide act of 1969, and papers on American foreign policy and genocide prevention. Professor Chalk is a former president of the Canadian Association of African Studies and the International Association of Genocide Scholars. His awards include the 2012 Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal, for which he was nominated by Roméo Dallaire.

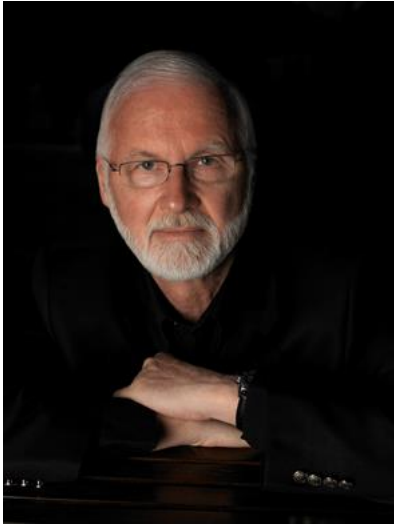
Prof. Ahmed Fekry Ibrahim



Ahmed Fekry Ibrahim is assistant professor of Islamic law at the McGill Institute of Islamic Studies in Montreal. He holds a BA from al-Azhar University and an MA from the American University in Cairo. He completed his PhD in Islamic Studies at Georgetown University in 2011. In 2011–12, he received a EUME postdoctoral fellowship from the Berlin research program “Europe in the Middle East—The Middle East in Europe,” organized by Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Fritz Thyssen Stiftung, and Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin. His teaching and research interests include the formation of Islamic law, Islamic legal practice in Ottoman courts, and the impact of socioeconomic and cultural changes on juristic discourse and judicial practice. Ibrahim, the author of *Pragmatism in Islamic Law: A Social and Intellectual History* (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2015), has recently finished a manuscript entitled *Child Custody in Islamic Law: The Best Interests of the Child in Theory and Practice, Egypt 1517-2014*. In this monograph, he offers a critique of Euro-American exceptionalism with respect to child law, contending that certain “strange parallels” to the modern concept of “the best interests of the child” thrived in Islamic juristic discourse and practice in

Ottoman Egypt. He is currently working on a new monograph on Islamic legal hermeneutics. His last two projects have been supported with research grants (2014–17) from the Fonds de recherche en Santé—Société et Culture (FRQSC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

Ambassador Robert Fowler O.C



In the course of more than 38 years of public service, Bob Fowler spent a dozen years in the Department of External Affairs, serving in Paris, at the UN, and at Headquarters in Ottawa, before being transferred to the Privy Council Office to become the Foreign Policy Advisor to Prime Ministers Trudeau, then Turner and then Mulroney (1980 - 86).

From 1986 to 1989, he was Assistant Deputy Minister (Policy) at the Department of National Defence, and then served as Deputy Minister of National Defence from 1989 to 1995. As Deputy Minister, he was responsible for 35,000 civilian employees, the administrative, materiel and support needs of 90,000 members of the Canadian Forces, a budget of \$13 billion, and for the elaboration of defence policy. Three White Papers on Canadian Defence Policy were produced during those years, reflecting the radically changing geo-strategic environment.

In January of 1995 he was named Ambassador to the United Nations (1995 - 2000), where he represented Canada on the Security Council in 1999 and 2000, and was Canada's longest serving UN Ambassador. As Chair of the Security Council's Angolan Sanctions Committee, he issued two ground-breaking reports which, by putting an end to the impunity of sanctions busters and severely limiting the UNITA rebels' access to world diamond markets and the arms bazaar, led to the end of the civil war that had ravaged Angola for 27 years.

From 2000 to 2006, Mr. Fowler was Canadian Ambassador to Italy, Albania, San Marino, the three Rome-based UN Food Agencies (FAO, WFP, and IFAD), and High Commissioner to Malta. Concurrently, he was appointed Sherpa for the Kananaskis G8 Summit in 2002 (chairing the creation of the Africa Action Plan, which laid a new foundation for the G8's relationship with Africa), and in 2005 he led Prime Minister Martin's Special Advisory Team on Sudan, which included Senators Roméo Dallaire and Mobina Jaffer. From 2001 to 2006, he was the Personal Representative for Africa of Prime Ministers Chrétien, Martin and, very briefly, Harper.

Mr. Fowler retired from the federal public service in the fall of 2006 and from the spring of 2007 to June 2015 was a Senior Fellow at the University of Ottawa's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. In July 2008, the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, appointed Mr. Fowler to be his Special Envoy to Niger, with the rank of Under-Secretary-General. While engaged in his UN mission, Mr. Fowler and his colleague, Louis Guay, were captured by Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) on 14 December 2008, and held hostage deep in the Sahara

Desert for nearly five months. In November 2011 HarperCollins (Canada) published his account of that experience entitled, "A Season in Hell: My 130 days in the Sahara with Al Qaeda", which was later published by Québec Amérique as "Ma Saison en Enfer."

Mr. Fowler was awarded honorary doctorates from the University of Ottawa in 2010 and from Queen's in 2011. In November 2011, he was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada.

Bob and Mary Fowler live in Ottawa and have four daughters and seven grandchildren.

Ottawa, January 2016

Prof. André Gagné



Prof. André Gagné's research and teaching is on early Christianity (New Testament and the Nag Hammadi Library), religion and violence, radicalization, atheism, religion and contemporary culture. There is a pressing need for academics to build a bridge between the university and the general public. Prof. Gagné understands his role not solely as that of a researcher in the confines of the "Ivory Tower", but also as a public intellectual (paid by the state!), with the responsibility of addressing issues related to the above-mentioned areas of research. In partly keeping with this purpose, Prof. Gagné co-hosts the "Inquisitive Minds Podcast", a podcast dedicated to

critical thinking on religion, history, culture and science.

Prof. Gagné has a B.Th. (2001) and M.A. (2003) from l'Université de Montréal. In 2008, he completed a conjoint PhD at l'Université catholique de Louvain (Belgium) and l'Université de Montréal. He is now a tenured Associate Professor in the Faculty of Arts and Science (Department of Theological Studies) at Concordia University in Montreal.

Prof. Timothy Harrison



Dr. Timothy P. Harrison is Professor of Near Eastern Archaeology in the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations at the University of Toronto, which he chairs. He earned his PhD in Near Eastern Archaeology from the University of Chicago in 1995, completing a dissertation on the Early Bronze Age in the Highlands of Central Jordan. He has directed excavations at the Bronze and Iron Age site of Tell Madaba, in Jordan, and currently is directing the Tayinat Archaeological Project on the Plain of Antioch in southeastern Turkey. In 2012, he launched the CRANE Project (Computational Research on the Ancient Near East), an international consortium of projects conducting research in the Orontes Watershed

(www.crane.utoronto.ca). He served as President of the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR), the leading international professional association dedicated to the study of the cultures and history of the Middle East, between 2008 and 2013.

Kyle Matthews



Kyle Matthews is the Senior Deputy Director of the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies at Concordia University and a Fellow at the Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute. His work focuses on human rights, international security, the Responsibility to Protect, global threats, and social media and technology. Kyle is the founder of the Digital Mass Atrocity Prevention Lab Project based at MIGS.

He previously worked for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, where he was posted to the Southern Caucasus (Tbilisi), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Kinshasa) and Switzerland (Geneva). Prior to that he worked for CARE Canada in Albania and later at its headquarters in Ottawa, where he managed various humanitarian response initiatives and peace-building projects in Afghanistan, Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East. In 2011 he joined the New Leaders program at the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs. He is a member the Canadian International Council, the Montreal Council on Foreign Relations and the Federal Idea. He blogs on international affairs for Global News and for OpenCanada.org. His op-eds have been published in the *Christian Science Monitor*, *The National Post*, *The Globe and Mail*, and *The Montreal Gazette*.

Prof. M. Ayaz Naseem (to be confirmed)



Dr. Naseem holds a Ph.D. in comparative and international education from McGill University. His research interests include peace education, social media, feminist theory and philosophy, post-structuralism, diversity in classroom, and democratic and citizenship education. Dr. Naseem has also taught at the Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan in the departments of International Relations and Defense & Strategic Studies.

Dr. Naseem holds the prestigious Georg Arnhold Research Professorship on Educating for Sustainable Peace (2013-14) at the Georg Eckert Institute in Braunschweig, Germany. He also the co-chairs the Peace Education Special Interest Group of the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES).

Prof. André Roy



André Roy has held the position of Dean at Concordia University's Faculty of Arts and Science since August 1, 2014. Prior to joining Concordia, Roy served as Dean of the Faculty of Environment at the University of Waterloo. While at Waterloo, he played a leading role in the rapid growth and increased research productivity of his Faculty. Previously, Roy was a professor at Université de Montréal from 1982 to 2011. He was chair of the Department of Geography from 1994 to 2000 and the interim Chair from 2004 to 2005, as well as Associate Dean of Research in the university's Faculty of Arts and Science from 2006 to 2008.

Roy has published over 150 papers in international journals, and remains an active member of the scientific community. He was the Canada Research Chair (Tier I) in fluvial dynamics at the Université de Montréal from 2003 to 2011. Awards include the 2012 Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal, the 2012 ACFAS Prix Michel Jurdant, and the 2008 Award for Scholarly Distinction in Geography from the Canadian Association of Geographers. He was also the recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Geography Award from the Canadian Association of Geographers in 1999, and the Excellence in Teaching Award from the Université de Montréal in 1996.

He served as President of the Canadian Association of Geographers from 2002 to 2004 and was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences from 2005 to 2008. He is currently a Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society and served as a Governor of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society for three years.

Roy holds an MA in Geography from the Université de Montréal and a PhD in Geography from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1982.

Prof. Peter Stoett



Dr. Peter J. Stoett (PhD Queen's, 1994) is Director of the Loyola Sustainability Research Centre and Professor in the Department of Political Science at Concordia University in Montreal. His main areas of expertise include international relations and law, global environmental

politics, and human rights. Dr. Stoett has written, co-written, and co-edited over ten books and over 50 peer reviewed articles, chapters in edited books, and occasional papers. He has conducted research in Europe (including the Balkans), eastern, southern and western Africa, central America, and Asia. From January-June, 2012 he was the Fulbright Visiting Research Chair in Canadian-American Relations at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars' Canada Institute, in Washington, D.C.; in 2013 he was an Erasmus Visiting Scholar at the International Institute for Social Studies in The Hague; in 2016 he was the Leverhulme Visiting Scholar in Climate Justice at the University of Reading in the UK. His latest book is *Global Ecopolitics: Crisis, Governance, and Justice* (University of Toronto Press). He is currently working on environmental crime and pollution issues.

He is also a Senior Research Fellow with the Europe-based Earth Systems Governance Project of the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP), a member of the Canadian Association of the Club of Rome, and an Expert Member of the Commission on Education and Communication of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

Information

Sunday, September 25, 6.30 PM – 8:15 PM

1) DB Clarke Theatre, 1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. West

Monday, September 26, 8.20 AM - 12 Noon

2) Room EV-1.605. 1515 Sainte-Catherine West

Monday, September 26, 1.30 PM - 3.30 PM

3) Room FB-804, MIGS Board Room, 1250 Guy St.

