

The Department of Sociology & Anthropology
presents a seminar with:

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G.H. Mead's Concept of Society: A Topological and Dialectical View

George Herbert Mead is widely known in sociology for his concept of the "Self," but much less for his concept of "Society," even though the two concepts are intimately connected in his thought. Indeed, it can be said that it is simply impossible to fully understand Mead's concept of Self without an appropriate understanding of his concept of Society. Accordingly, in this presentation, I will offer a comprehensive interpretation of Mead's concept of Society through a topological and dialectical view that will emphasize the set of relations involved. This, coupled with a discussion of Mead's views about the self-transformative nature of society and his political agenda geared toward progressive reformism, will enable us to look more productively at—and consider in a novel fashion the importance of—his significant contributions to sociological theory. Relying on the analysis developed in my recent book, *George Herbert Mead's Concept of Society: A Critical Reconstruction*, this presentation will then focus on implications of this reconsidered pragmatist view for contemporary society.

Wednesday, February 18th, 2014, 4:00 to 6:00pm
SGW Campus, Hall Building, Room 1120
1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd.



Jean-François Côté is full professor of sociology at Université du Québec à Montréal, where he has been since 1993. In addition to his recent book, *George Herbert Mead's Concept of Society: A Critical Reconstruction*, Professor Côté has recently edited and co-edited several volumes, including: *The Function of Contemporary Travel Narratives in the French, Anglo, and Latin Americas: Mixing and Expanding Cultural Identity* (2011); with Alain Deneault, *Georg Simmel et les sciences de la culture* (2010); with Frédéric Lesemann, *La construction des Amériques aujourd'hui. Regards croisés, transnationaux et transdisciplinaires* (2009); and with Anouk Bélanger, *Raymond Williams et les sciences de la culture* (forthcoming, 2015). He specializes in sociological theory and sociology of culture, with a focus on the Americas.