

## **Punishing participation:**

The “reputation” of Canadian mining companies, the rise of Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs) and Academic freedom

---

**Dr. Alain Deneault**

Department of Political Science  
Université de Montréal



Photo credit: Globe and Mail, Feb 22, 2012

**Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 1:30-2:30 PM**

**Sir George Williams Campus, Hall Building, Room H 1269**

Corporations increasingly use litigation to suppress criticism by citizens. Known as Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs), these lawsuits also target scholars. Drawing on the legal sociologies literature and the case of Canadian mining companies, this talk will examine the disciplining effect of SLAPPs on academic freedom and on democracy more broadly.

Dr. Deneault is the author of *Noir Canada: Pillage, corruption et criminalité en Afrique* (Écosociété, 2008) and is currently finishing another book: *Imperial Canada Inc.: Legal Haven of Choice for the World's Mining Industries*.

---

**Sponsored by the Special Individualized Program, and  
the Department of Geography, Planning and Environment**