



eSimone

CONNECTING TO
THE "FEMINIST" IN YOU...

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eSimone is Back!

Last year, the Simone de Beauvoir Institute (SdBI) chose to focus its resources on the 40th anniversary conference (see page 6). While this event was a remarkable success worthy of the workload that accompanied it, I regret not having found the time to publish the eSimone newsletter during our milestone year. As I pulled together the content for this issue, I was reminded of what a wonderful community platform this simple digital publication has become over the years.

The eSimone facilitates the sharing of current news amongst our constituents and friends, making it a valuable tool in building community and collectively celebrating the accomplishments of our students and scholars. With this in mind, I am pleased to introduce Volume 4 of eSimone and wish you a pleasant, informative and inspiring time reading!

- Michelle Lacombe
Events Coordinator & Info Officer

The Return of the Red Square!

A new and significant publication has recently settled into the Simone's Library collection. *Les femmes changent la lutte: Au coeur du printemps québécois* (Éditions Remue-ménage, Montréal, 2013) is an anthology which unites 30 varying perspectives on women's roles and influence during the student protest movement of 2012. The publication also includes the Simone de Beauvoir Institute's public statement on the tuition hike and its impact on women. The editors wrote a brief note before the SdBI statement to provide context, and this is what they say:

"C'est LA déclaration qui a campé, dès les débuts de la grève, le caractère sexiste de la hausse des frais de scolarité en démontrant l'impact négatif de cette décision politique pour les femmes. Ces bases théoriques et ces démonstrations limpides ont soutenu

l'analyse et l'action tant des étudiantes que du mouvement des femmes tout au long de la mobilisation. Déclaration phare qui appelle à la prise en compte de l'intersectionnalité des luttes pour une véritable transformation sociale" (p. 33).

A copy of the anthology is now available in Simone's Library. I thought it would be nice to bring this to people's attention, to remind us all of the leadership and vision of the Institute in the work of social change.

- Viviane Namaste
SdBI Full-Time Professor

Simone's Library is located in
MU-401 (2170 Bishop)

NEWS

Concordia's Sexual Assault Centre Opens

Following two years of diligent work by students, administrators and the Centre for Gender Advocacy, November 11th marked the opening of Concordia University's Sexual Assault Resource Centre (SARC). Currently funded entirely by the university's administration funds, SARC is committed to working towards the prevention of sexualized violence and harassment through education and awareness raising initiatives. The center also provides confidential and non-judgmental support to Concordia University students, staff and faculty of all genders and orientations who have been affected by sexualized violence and/or harassment. Jennifer Drummond, SARC coordinator, promises an approach that is survivor-oriented, inclusive, appropriate and relevant to a diversity of experiences. Recognizing the systemic presence of sexual violence on campuses across Canada, the SdBI is proud to see Concordia provide our community with necessary resources! Drop by the SARC to access services, to volunteer or simply to show your support!

The Concordia Sexual Assault Resource Centre is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm and is located in room GM-300.27 of the Guy-Metro Building (1550 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W.) on the Sir George Williams Campus.



At the 2012 *Take Back the Night* demonstration, Concordia students rallied around the need for a sexual assault centre. Photo Kieth Race

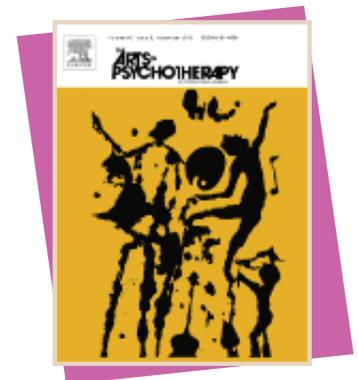
SARC services include:

- ★ Crisis intervention and support for individuals who have experienced, or been affected by, sexualized violence and/or harassment
- ★ Advocacy for survivors when accessing on- and off-campus resources for support and/or redress
- ★ Accompaniment for survivors who choose to involve the hospital or judicial system
- ★ Referrals to on- and off-campus resources for support
- ★ Educational outreach and awareness raising activities on sexualized violence, harassment and related topics
- ★ A resource center for information on sexualized violence, harassment and related topics

Fellow Guest Edits Journal's Special Issue

Sandi Curtis, a SdBI Fellow teaching in Concordia's Creative Arts Therapies Department, was guest editor for *The Arts in Psychotherapy* journal's special issue on Gender & the Creative Arts Therapies (Volume 40, Issue 4). The thematic issue contains a dozen peer-reviewed articles by professionals in the fields of mental health and education. Published in September, a digital copy of the journal can be purchased online at:

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/01974556/40/4>



Chinese Tea Salon at the SdBI

This summer, on a warm day in July, the SdBI classroom was transformed into a Chinese Tea Salon. The event, organized by SdBI members, brought together a dynamic group of Chinese Montrealers and academics to dialogue and meet with visiting scholar Olive Li Hui, who teaches about Chinese Canadian writers in China.

This gathering was inspired by Chinese tea houses, (茶館, cháguǎn or 茶屋, chāwū), spaces traditionally similar to the American café but centered on tea. Concretely, the Chinese Tea Salon was a potluck tea salon, a space to meet, eat, drink, and exchange about diverse projects in the cultural, community, and academic sectors. Amidst the informal conversations, brief presentations were also given by Tracy Zhang, Alice Jim, Alan Wong, Cheryl Sim, Chen Fang, Joanne Hui, Parker Mah and Leslie Cheung.

For those who were unable to attend, participant bios and video documentation of the presentations are now available online.

http://www.asiancanadianwiki.org/w/Chinese_Tea_Salon_in_Montreal



A hand drawn sign greets guest



Participants including Dr. Tracy Zhang (left), visiting scholar Olive Li Hui (center left) and Dr. Kevin Gould (centre right) enjoy some refreshments

RA Goes to Conference and Gets Involved

Syeda Nayab Bukhari, PhD Candidate at Simone Fraser University and Research Associate of the SdBI, presented a poster at the Pathways to Prosperity Annual Conference held on November 15-16, in Ottawa. The posters, titled *Building social capital: Lived experiences of skilled Immigrant women and men from South Asia*, focused on the sources of support – eventually converting into social capital – utilized by the South Asian skilled women and men immigrants who took part in her research. Examples were drawn from in-depth interviews of the participants who reflected on their lived experiences. An anti-racist and feminist lens was used to analyze the intersections of race/ethnicity, gender and family in the process of building social capital.

Syeda, an outstandingly active participant during the conference, was also elected by the Standing Committee on Student Engagement of Pathways to Prosperity to be the coordinator of the Quebec Node of graduate students/researchers. Congratulations Syeda, we look forward to seeing what you accomplish in your new role!



Syeda Nayab Bukhari stands next to her posters at the Pathways to Prosperity Annual Conference

NEWS

Congratulations!

MJ Thompson Gets Tenure Position

Dr. MJ Thompson was a Lillian Robinson Scholar at the SdBI in 2010-2011. Since then, she has been a SdBI Fellow and, more recently, was awarded a tenure-track faculty position at Concordia in the Faculty of Fine Arts. Congratulations!

For students interested in taking classes with MJ Thompson, she is teaching in the area of Interdisciplinary Studies and Practices in the Department of Art Education.



Sarah Morris, Aaron Lakoff and Former Dean, Brian Lewis



Prahst Award

The B.C. Human Rights Coalition, in conjunction with the United Nations Association in Vancouver, celebrates International Human Rights Day by choosing a recipient for the Renate Shearer Memorial Award in human rights. This year, the honor went to Indira Prahst, head of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Langara College and daughter of SdBI Research Associate Dr. Karin Doerr. This award speaks to her contributions in domestic human rights, best exemplified by her work with South Asian women and youth on issues of domestic and gang violence. Congratulations on your success!

Outstanding SdBI Students

This past fall, SdBI students Sarah Morris (Major in Sociology and Anthropology, Minor in Women's Studies) and Aaron Lakoff (Major in Communication Studies, Minor in Women's Studies) received a certificate of recognition by the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science for their exceptional academic performances. Both students had GPAs in the top 1% of their respective department and we are sure they continue to astonish with their academic aptitude. Keep up the great work!

YWCA Honors Dr. Linda Kay

Congratulations to SdBI Fellow Linda Kay for having been honored with the YWCA's Women of Distinction Awards in the category of Communications. Dr. Kay, Chair and Associate Professor in Concordia's Department of Journalism, was celebrated during a benefit evening at the Palais des Congrès in September that brought together a number of outstanding and distinguished women. The official press release, which wonderfully outlines Dr. Kay's life of professional accomplishments, can be read here:

<http://www.ydesfemmesmtl.org/documents/Press-Release-Linda-Kay.pdf>

Student Exchange in India

This past summer, SdBI student Trycia Bazinet (Women's Studies Major, Psychology Minor) attended IIT Madras (Chennai, India) as part of Concordia's student exchange program. While in India, she took a number of feminist courses including *Women in India: Problems and prospects* and *Postcolonial and new writings*. She also found time to travel to Ooty (Udhagamandalam), a capital town in the Nilgiris district in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu (bottom two images). She was so thrilled with her experience that she sent the SdBI a number of photos documenting her time abroad. While they clearly illustrate a wonderful escapade with new friends in stunning landscapes, she did also get a lot of scholarly work done. In fact, she noted in one of her correspondences to Dr. Rail: "[...] tell [Dr.] Gada Mahrouse that I am learning so much about postcolonialism here and that she would be proud!"

We thank you for sharing your experience with us and hope that your experiences in India continue to resonate and inspire you!



spotlight



Luisa Molino

Luisa Molino, the newest member of the SdBI team and a SdBI Research Associate, was hired as a full-time Research Coordinator to work with Principal Geneviève Rail on three CIHR-funded research projects: one is on health professionals and their views of the dominant obesity discourse, one is on discourses circulating around HPV vaccination, and the last one focuses on breast or gynecological cancer among queer women and trans individuals.

Luisa has completed an M.A. in Psychology at the University of Turin (Italy) and an M.Sc. in Transcultural Psychiatry at McGill University. Over the past three years, Luisa has built experience in qualitative research working on various large, multi-site global health projects ranging from women's reproductive health, to health promotion among youth, and mental health within Aboriginal communities. Luisa has a long-standing commitment to human rights and social activism so she fits right in at the Simone de Beauvoir Institute!

PAST EVENTS

A Look Back at the 35th Anniversary



During a health break, conference participants engage in informal conversation with peers and new acquaintances

While it may already seem far away, it is difficult to forget the SdBI's 35th anniversary conference *Rethinking Race and Sexuality: Feminist Conversations, Contestations, and Coalitions*. The event was an important milestone that mobilized our community and promoted the SdBI internationally as a convivial yet rigorous environment for feminist research in the intersecting areas of race and sexuality. Over the course of two days, 80 presentations were given and more than 200 scholars attended to learn, exchange and celebrate. We hope that the impact of this conference will continue to unfold and look forward to building on this experience for our next anniversary!

Photos of the conference and gala dinner can be perused on our website:

<https://35thanniversaryconference.shutterfly.com/4>

Journée des Magistrales Brings Together Feminist Scholars

At the end of the fall academic semester, the Réseau québécois en études féministes (RéQEF), in collaboration with the SdBI, hosted its third Master Class. Organizers Geneviève Rail and Chantal Maillé chose a less patriarchal title for the day: Journée des Magistrales. Graduate students, professors and scholars from McGill, UQÀM, Université de Sherbrooke, Université Laval, Université d'Ottawa, University of Toronto and Concordia gathered to critically review and comment on 8 graduate or postdoctoral presentations on feminist research related to representation and the body. The event not only speaks to an inspiring level of collegiality amongst Québec's academic institutions, but also to the care invested in supporting a network of emerging feminist scholars.

A New Lens on a Familiar Debate

In collaboration with The Center for Research Action on Race Relations, the SdBI hosted a community dialogue on Bill 60 in November. This event differed from the many debates polarizing Québec citizens on the subject of Québec's Charter of Values in that it proposed an opportunity to analyze the bill through a feminist lens of anti-oppression and intersectionality. The panel of speakers presented critical and refreshing points on the subject while placing their analysis within larger debates on nationalism, law and the historical fight for women's rights.



Dr. Sirma Bilge, Dr. Yasmin Jiwani, Cynthia Kelly, and Me Pearl Eliadis discuss the possible impacts of Bill 60 with members of the audience

PAST & UP-COMING EVENTS

A Full Winter Schedule



Dr. Maya Eichler gives a presentation to the SdBI community, initiating the 2013-2014 Feminist Café series

While the SdBI only supported a limited number of events last year to prioritize the anniversary conference, we are making up for it this year with a rich series of events and co-sponsorships. Most notably, the SdBI's Feminist Café lecture series has returned, beginning in November with a presentation by Lillian Robinson Scholar Dr. Maya Eichler (University of Toronto), who gave an overview of her research on gender and militarism. The second 2013-2014 Lillian Robinson Scholar, Dr. Dana Olwan, will present on her research in the early spring. In addition, a number of co-sponsorships are expected to pepper our calendar throughout the winter semester. While the details of our upcoming programming will only be finalized in January, we can confirm continuing partnerships with our student association, WSSA, as well as with Consordia's HIV/AIDS lecture series for an event with human rights expert Aziza Ahmed. Keep your eyes peeled for our event posters and some room in your busy schedules!

Undergraduate Students: Get Published!

As you may have seen, the SdBI student journal *Subversions* has put out its call for submissions. Founded in 2005, the student-run publication takes a new angle by proposing an intriguing theme: Renaissance: (be) coming to be. *Subversions* is a great platform to get your best paper or creative piece published and to share your work with your peer community in a recognized student journal.

Student Journals at a Glance



Subversions

Deadline: January 15, 2014

More information:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Subversions-A-Journal-of-Feminist-Queries/358532907625341>



Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies in Sexuality

Deadline: January 15, 2014

More information:

<https://www.facebook.com/CUJISS>

In addition, the SdBI is proud to support the very first edition of the *Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies in Sexuality*. Both deadlines for applications are January 15th, 2014 and we hope to see the works of our students fill the pages of both!

Submit to the eSimone

eSimone is a regular publication of the SdBI. Its purpose is to promote the institute and its activities in the community as well as to provide information about issues related to scholarship, collective movements, and opportunities rooted in, and stemming from, a pro-feminist perspective. If you wish to submit information, please email the Events Coordinator and Information Officer at:

events.coordinator.sdbi@gmail.com