

eSimone

CONNECTING TO
THE FEMINIST IN YOU...

OCTOBER 2018 • VOL. 8 • ISSUE 1

Welcome

For those of you who are coming back and for those of you who are just joining us for the first time we want to extend an especially warm welcome. If you missed our student orientation on October 3rd, please drop by and introduce yourself at the main office, and check out our library on the fourth floor.

There are many new developments in the works at the SdBI this fall:

First, in addition to our new faculty member Dr. Genevieve Painter, we are delighted to welcome Dr. Natalie Kouri-Towe. Interdisciplinary feminist and sexuality studies scholar Dr. Natalie Kouri-Towe has joined the Institute as an Assistant Professor and Program Director for the Minor and forthcoming Major in Interdisciplinary Studies in Sexuality. Kouri-Towe joins us after earning her PhD in Sociology of Education and the Collaborative Program in Women's and Gender Studies from the University of Toronto. Kouri-Towe's research interests include solidarity, kinship, and attachment in social movements; queer activism; and masculinity in conditions of war in the Middle East.

Secondly, as you may know, Dr. Kimberley Manning is currently on leave from the Institute. She is seeking the nomination of the Liberal Party of Canada in an upcoming byelection in the Outremont riding. You can find more information about her activities on her campaign website, kimmanning.ca. Kimberley, thank you for everything you have given to the Simone de Beauvoir Institute, and for demonstrating the power of your feminism by example. In Kimberley's Manning absence, I have agreed to step in as Acting Principal.

And finally, C-FAR, the Critical Feminist Activism and Research Project, is organizing a number of emerging events and projects, including offering the second iteration of WSDB 499/3, "The Feminist University Seminar". This year's seminar; *A Transformative Course in Equity and Inclusion*, will provide students with an opportunity to develop a social action research project focused on fostering inclusion in our educational and community spaces. And please see 'upcoming events' for further information about C-FAR's upcoming workshop series; *Activating a Peer-led Response System*.

Viviane Namaste, Acting Principal

Belinda Bowes, Student Advisor and Secretary to the Chair

Meghan Gagliardi, interim Communications and Events Coordinator

Honouring Linda Kay



The Simone de Beauvoir Institute is saddened to learn that one of our Fellows, Linda Kay, has passed. Linda Kay supported the work of the Simone de Beauvoir Institute in quiet and yet often invisible ways: helping out with committees, coming to our public presentations, making suggestions for invited speakers and administrative changes. As a journalist, she had an important public presence, and one which helped break down barriers for women in journalism. We celebrate that legacy, just as we also celebrate the quiet leadership she exemplified in her committee work and in administrative contributions here at the Institute.

The following links offer a glimpse into some of the many longstanding contributions of Linda Kay. Linda, we celebrate your life and your legacy.

<https://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/obituary-linda-kay-a-pioneer-for-female-journalists-and-her-concordia-students>

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-pulitzer-winning-journalist-linda-kay-broke-down-barriers/>

*Photo of Linda Kay at the San Diego Evening Tribune.
Taken from the Montreal Gazette, 2018. Courtesy of Emily Kay-Rivest.*

SdBI's 40th Anniversary



Keynote speaker Alanis Obomsawin surrounded by SdBI Principal Dr. Kimberley Manning (left) and new SdBI professors Dr. Natalie Kouri-Towe and Dr. Genevieve Painter (right).

40th Anniversary Conference & Feminist Summer Institute, *Unsettling Feminisms: Mobilisation, Résistance, Creation*

The SdB Summer Institute took place last May, developed by Dr. Geneviève Rail, in collaboration with graduate students, fellow SdBI professors, as well as representatives from community groups within and outside Concordia, it offered an outstanding program that also coincided with the SdBI 40th anniversary conference. During an intense week and alongside artists, activists, and academics, SdBI and other Concordia students and professors took part in the unsettling, undoing, protesting, and revising of feminisms. The 5-day Summer Institute encouraged conversations about Indigenous knowledge and research methods, the violence of white settler societies, anti-colonialism and antiracism, activism, art, and the creation of new knowledges. In total, 66 undergrads and 8 grads attended the 3-credit Summer Institute, which involved 6 workshops and 8 Indigenous scholars and community activists as invited or keynote speakers – notably Ellen Gabriel and Alanis Obomsawin. The Summer Institute also welcomed artists and activists from community organizations in Quebec, Ontario, the USA and France, and 51 professors and speakers coming from 20 different universities in Canada, France and the USA. In this feminist, multi-disciplinary event, students, artists, scholars and activists learned much from wonderful Indigenous speakers and were incited to establish initiatives between students, partner organizations, feminist activists, and members of the larger Montreal community. All and all, the 2018 Summer Institute was a wonderful experience, thanks to our great sponsors: RéQEF, the SdBI, the Faculty of Arts and Science, Alumni Relations, and Concordia University. The next Summer Institute (WSDB 398) will take place May 6-10 2019, and the theme and program will be announced soon (students may take as many Summer Institute courses as they want as the theme and curriculum vary from year to year).

Congratulations to the Program and Organization Committee and SdBI members: Geneviève Rail, Chantal Maillé, Rachel Thomas, Gada Mahrouse, Genevieve Painter, and Nènè Myriam Konate.

PAST EVENTS

/ Accessibility & the Concordia Student Experience

Session I: Introduction to the series, assessing accessibility, August 24th 2018

The SdBI was proud to co-sponsor Accessibility and the Concordia Student Experience, a C-FAR consultative series in collaboration with Peer Access Advocacy Service's Aimee Louw and Katie Jung (PAAS). Louw and Jung bring a rich and particular expertise to this project, as renowned activists, organizers, Concordia graduate students, and scholars in the field of critical disability studies. Louw and Jung facilitated this first community consultation to hear and document the needs of Concordia's disabled student community while also offering strategies, information, and education responding to and addressing institutional ableism on campus.

/ Orientation 2018

On October 3rd the Institute welcomed new and returning students at our student orientation, featuring presentations by the Women's Studies Student Association (WSSA), the Access Centre for Students with Disabilities (ACSD), the Aboriginal Students Centre, and the Sexual Assault Resource Centre (SARC). If you missed orientation and are looking for information about student and campus services or a tour of the department, drop by the events and communications coordinator's office at MU 201.

Co-Sponsored Events

The Institute was a proud co-sponsor of eight events initiated by community and University partners. These events engaged students and community members on a variety of current feminist topics, with formats ranging from lectures to performances.

The SdBI co-sponsored the following events:

/ M. NourbeSe Philip

Curated by Michael Nardone as part of ZUTIQUE; on March 15th 2018 Nardone brought M. NourbeSe Philip to the SBC Gallery to present "She, the many-voiced one of one voice" (a line taken from NourbeSe's book *She Tries Her Tongue, Her Silence Softly Breaks*).

M. NourbeSe Philip is one of the most important poets and essayists in North America. Her work primarily explores issues of race and gender, and the traces that imperialism and slavery have left and continue to leave on specific bodies. This event featured an extended reading from and discussion of *BLA_K* followed by a poetry reading with Cecily Nicholson and Mercedes Eng. To learn more about the author, watch the interview with M. NourbeSe Philip filmed following this event and produced by Concordia alum Chelsy Monie for her platform Ubuntu Talks.

/ Queer Performance Camp

The Institute had the pleasure of sponsoring a scholarship to Studio 303's third edition of Queer Performance Camp, an initiative which aims to create new ways to connect, grow and build community inter-generationally, while supporting the professional development of queer artists. The camp hosted 10 days of workshops, two Long Table discussions, two creation residencies and spontaneous participant-led events and presentations.

Co-Sponsored Events

/ Ginger Garden 2018

In collaboration with the SdBI, Asian Canadian Wiki presented this year's Ginger Garden – an intimate public potluck gathering to eat, drink, meet and discuss around informal presentations of arts, education, and community-based projects. Kevin Deer performed the event's opening ceremonies and presentations were moderated by Farah Fancy and featured:

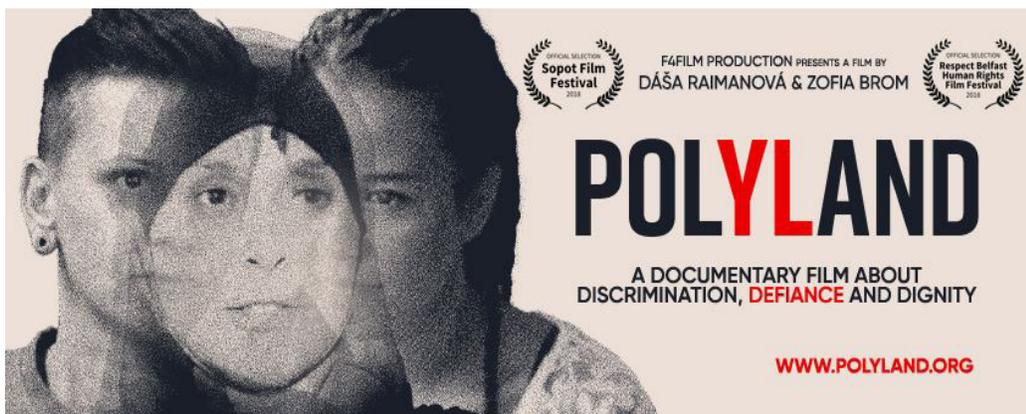
Himmat Shinhat
Marie-Leofeli Romero Barlizo
Vivienne Tam
Dawn Bramadat
Khosro Berahmandi
Naghmeh Sharifi
Maleesa Phommavongsay
Khando Langri
Kyungseo Min

/ Women & Homelessness Symposium

The *Women and Homelessness: Vectors of Invisibility* symposium took place on September 27th, this student-led event connected researchers, practitioners, policy makers and government representatives to discuss factors, conditions, gaps and obstacles contributing to women's hidden homelessness in Montreal. This event was made possible by coordinator Beatriz Hoffmann-Kuhnt in special collaboration with Logifem, and with the participation of the Native Women's Shelter, Chez Doris, Nazareth & Anne's House, and Shield of Athena.

/ Cinema Politica Screening of Polyland

The SdBI proudly co-sponsored the Canadian premiere of POLYLAND on October 15th at Concordia University, a personal and critical view on what it means to be part of a minority in today's increasingly hostile Europe. POLYLAND follows three women from minority groups in Poland as they critically explore what it's like to be Black, Muslim or LGBTQ+ in the increasingly hostile environment of Europe. Ania, Miriam and Elmelda seek to be seen, not as "the other", but as a part of Polish society.



Alumni Spotlight: Sarah

Since graduating from Women's Studies at the Simone de Beauvoir Institute in 2017, Sarah has been applying her intersectional feminist education to her work as Communications Officer at the Fédération des femmes du Québec (FFQ).

The FFQ is an independent feminist organization working to promote the development of the full autonomy of all women, representing the voices of over 700,000 women in Quebec. As Communications Officer, Sarah represents the needs and concerns of FFQ's members in public and political spheres, communicates the FFQ's democratically voted positions on issues, and promotes progressive feminist perspectives in Quebec.

According to Sarah, the critical feminist lens she developed at the Simone de Beauvoir Institute has been a crucial asset to her work with the FFQ, she says:

This is where my education at the Simone de Beauvoir Institute helped me really understand and do better at my current job; I'm coming from a perspective that 'women's issues' are not just the typical issues that only affect white, cis, straight women. And no matter where I go with my career; the knowledge that I've gained at the SdBI will always follow me and I'll always be able to have a critical lens to apply to patterns, or rules, that are presented to me uncritically. And I'll be able to say, wait a minute, how does this, that's written on paper, that seems neutral, really affect women? Or really affect different groups that are living through this rule, or this document, or this policy?

To foster this feminist lens, Sarah stressed the importance of engaging with the SdBI's feminist community beyond coursework, citing her involvement in the Women's Studies Student Association and the grassroots feminist media platform *Dragonroot Media* as formative and essential to her current feminist work:

The key thing is to get involved beyond classes. The different volunteer projects I engaged with, that were inspired in a sense by the SdBI, were what got me a job, concretely, but also what shaped my feminism in a way that wasn't just purely theoretical.

Finally, Sarah encourages feminists across the university, the city, and the province to become involved with the FFQ as members, as a way of working collectively:

I would encourage feminists of any age, and feminists at the SdBI to become members of the FFQ, because we don't necessarily realize this but the Federation is an amazing, important, immense feminist group that is supposed to collect feminists from all across Quebec. And if we were to get together and put our voices together, we could have a much bigger impact.

NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SPRING 2018 GRADUATES

Estefanía Alarcón
Brittany Brinkworth
Vanessa Caucci
Sabrina Clarizio
Kadine Cunningham
Sherrise Ettienne
Manon Arundhati Fabre
Gwendolyn Fox-Leblanc
Aurelie Frenette-Araujo
Melissa Granger
Remi Hazell
Nènè Myriam Konate
Karin Lampre
Nevada McEniry-Hatajlo
Aishwarya Nandakumar
Sarah Oliel
Vittoria Perrone
Karianne Pilote
Jessica Ramirez Jaschek
Jenna Rose



Dean of FAS Andre Roy (left) and Dr. Genevieve Painter (right) present the Scholar Award to Zackary Derrick (centre).

Students

/ Zackary Derrick was awarded the *Faculty of Arts & Science Scholar Award*. Zackary is a 4th year undergraduate student in the School of Community and Public Affairs and a member of the SdBI. Majoring in First Peoples studies and minoring in Women's studies, Zackary explains: "As a future social worker, I feel that decolonization, including in the academia, is an important process to be actively involved in. Being named a Scholar has significant meaning to me as a disabled student. This award encourages me to continue my educational career and believe in my accomplishments." Congratulations, Zackary!

/ SdBI student Candice Pye has just launched a podcast called *Gal Chat* where her and her guests give their feminist takes on everything from sex and dating, to politics and pop culture. Check it out on iTunes, Stitcher, or SoundCloud.

Research Associates

SdBI Research Associate Karin Doer published "Paul Celan's 'Aspen Tree' Poem in the Twenty-first Century." Apr. 2018. Website: Academia.edu.

NEWS

/ Announcing the Arpi Hamalian Fund

Established by the CKX (Community Knowledge Exchange, Ottawa), this fund recognizes and celebrates former SdBI Principal Arpi Hamalian's life-long and continued contributions to adult education and citizen participation.

Celebration and launch event will take place in Tiohtiá:ke/Montreal on November 22, 2018. We recognize the paradigms currently pushing the voices of BIPOC, women-identified, LGBTQ2S people to the margins. By emphasizing relational leadership and embodying the just world we strive for, we aim to push back against those paradigms.

We also recognize that barriers must be removed to do this well. To that end, we are thrilled to announce the creation of the Arpi Hamalian Fund, which will support efforts to make activities and programs organized by CKX accessible to people whose voices, lived experience and contributions are often pushed to the margins.

UPCOMING

/ C-FAR presents *Activating a Peer-Led Response System: Workshop and Training Sessions*

Facilitated by Annick Maugile Flavien and Meghan Gagliardi

Friday, November 2 2018

1-4pm HI267, Concordia University

Friday, November 16 2018

2-4pm HI271, Concordia University

We invite Concordia staff, students, and faculty to come together in collaboration as peers to activate a peer-led response system within your home departments and offices, designed to address conflict and foster engagement and support. This workshop and training session is the first in a two-part series of practical C-FAR workshops responding to the questions and concerns we've collected throughout our consultation sessions with you.

For questions or to RSVP email cfar@concordia.ca.

/ Chai Chats presents *Care Work with Leah Piepzna-Samarsinha*

The SdBI is proud to co-sponsor:

Chai Chats Presents: Care Work with Leah Piepzna-Samarsinha

Tuesday, November 13, 2018 6–9pm

2100 Rue Guy, Suite 205

Join us for the Chai Chats Podcast second annual live show in conversation with the one and only Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha who will be reading from her newly-released book *Care Work: Dreaming Disability Justice*. Following the success of her 2015 memoir *Dirty River: A Queer Femme of Color Dreaming Her Way Home*, Lambda Literary Award-winning writer and longtime disability justice activist and performance artist Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha explores the politics and realities of disability justice – a movement that centres the lives and leadership of sick & disabled QTBIPOC with knowledge and gifts for all.

Lillian Robinson Visiting Scholars

Dr. Julia Skelly

Redressing Canadian Art History: Sherry Farrell Racette's Indigenous-Feminist Textiles

In 1990, Métis artist and scholar Sherry Farrell Racette (Timiskaming First Nation) produced a painting entitled *Ancestral Women Taking Back Their Dresses*. In 2018, the painting was chosen as one of several artworks by Indigenous female artists to be part of the Resilience Project, a series of billboards positioned along a Canadian highway. This metamorphosis of media—a painting depicting textiles transformed into a billboard that is part of a political act concerned with violence against Indigenous women—invites a consideration of Farrell Racette's interdisciplinary practice as both artist and scholar. This talk will consider Farrell Racette's texts and textiles that function as interwoven parts of a formidable, ongoing Indigenous-feminist project.

Dr. Julia Skelly received her PhD in Art History from Queen's University. She recently completed a two-year contract as Faculty Lecturer in the Department of Art History and Communication Studies at McGill University. Julia is the author of *Wasted Looks: Addiction and British Visual Culture, 1751-1919* (Ashgate, 2014) and *Radical Decadence: Excess in Contemporary Feminist Textiles and Craft* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2017). She is the editor of *The Uses of Excess in Visual and Material Culture, 1600-2010* (Ashgate, 2014). Her current book-length project is entitled *Skin Crafts: Violence, Affect and Materiality in Global Contemporary Art*.

Please join us for Dr. Skelly's talk

October 31st, 2018 2-4pm

**Simone de Beauvoir Institute
(2170 Bishop), MU-101**

Refreshments will be served.



Sherry Farrell Racette, *Ancestral Women Taking Back Their Dresses*, 1990. Saskatchewan Arts Board.

And we look forward to welcoming
Dr. Nané Jordan
to the Simone de Beauvoir Institute
as our Winter 2019 Lillian Robinson Visiting Scholar.

Women's Studies Student Association

/ Callout for Curators

Subversions: A Journal of Feminist Queries is looking for creative folks to devise and organize our 2019 issue!

Tasks include choosing a theme, curating submissions and working on the design and layout of the new issue.

Please email subversions2018@gmail.com by November 9th.

/ WSSA Presents a Feminist Halloween Movie Night

Come watch *Alien*, eat takeout (on us!) and meet new folks!

November 1st 6:30pm | 500 Maisonneuve W suite 205

Please note that the building is wheelchair accessible, but may still have other accessibility barriers. If this is the case for you, email wssa.concordia@gmail.com and we will try to make accommodations.



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 Communication and Events Coordinator at:

sdbi.eventscordinator@concordia.ca