



Simone de Beauvoir
Institute



Concordia University
Arts and Science

MARCH 2010 VOL. 2 • ISSUE 2

eSimone

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THE "FEMINIST" IN YOU...

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THE SDBI COORDINATING COMMITTEE TAKES POSITION REGARDING CONCORDIA'S GOVERNANCE

The Coordinating Committee of the Simone de Beauvoir Institute is the highest decision-making body within the Institute and includes all faculty members as well as representatives from students, part-time professors, staff, Research Associates, and Fellows of the Institute. The following motion was discussed by members of the Coordinating Committee and was passed unanimously on January 20th, 2011:

"In view of the recent departures of senior administrators and the associated damage to the reputation of both Concordia University and Dr. Judith Woodsworth, the Simone de Beauvoir Institute: (a) conveys its serious concern about the Officers of the Board of Governors' lack of transparency and accountability; (b) expresses its loss of confidence in the Officers of the Board of Governors and calls for their resignation; and (c) calls for an immediate moratorium on the decision-making power of the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors pending a full review of the administration of Concordia University. This review is to be conducted by a Special Committee on University Administration struck by Senate and including stakeholders from the university community as well as external experts on university administration. The review is to be conducted and completed in the next

three months and, in the interim period, decisions normally taken at the Executive Committee level are to be made by the entire Board of Governors.

The current situation is regrettable and undoubtedly stressful for members of the Concordia community. However, it raises important questions about the administration of universities and thus provides a unique occasion to engage in a broad process of consultation across the university and the wider community regarding the best model of administration for a public institution such as Concordia University. The subject of university "governance" (a concept invented and used by those who promote neoliberal and corporate management practices) is currently under discussion in the Québec government (Bill 38) and Concordia has thus a great opportunity to make a significant contribution to a collective reflection in this domain. At the Simone de Beauvoir Institute, we believe that administrative models drawn from the corporate sector are not directly relevant to a free community of learning. We look forward to working with stakeholders of the university community to think seriously about Concordia University's administration and, in so doing, to strengthen an organizational culture that is participatory, diverse, and democratic."

Summer Courses in India

The Simone de Beauvoir Institute is eager to inform undergraduate students of a unique academic opportunity: the Concordia in India Summer Program. This exciting program provides students from Concordia the occasion to participate in an educational and cultural immersion in India while earning 12 Concordia undergraduate credits this summer.

The program, now in its second year, will be held from June 17 to August 12 at the Vivekananda Institute of Indian Studies (VIIS) in the city of Mysore. The VIIS was established for promoting the study, development and dissemination of Indian culture, spirituality, and the arts. Through these, the Vivekananda Institute seeks to augment holistic human development initiatives.

Five courses are available to prospective students, including a 3-credit course on Indian Perspectives in Gender and Sexuality. It is our hope that the inclusion of this course in the program will encourage all eligible Women's studies students to consider this unique cultural and academic opportunity.

For more information on the program and to find out how to apply, please visit :

<http://international.concordia.ca/academicprograms/fieldschools/concordiainindia/>



The Vivekananda Institute of Indian Studies (VIIS) is located in the city of Mysore, the cultural capital of Karnataka, India



New Women's Studies Graduate Opportunity

The Simone de Beauvoir Institute is proud to announce a new opportunity for graduate studies in Women's Studies. Offered as a cross-disciplinary Research Current within Special Individualized Programs (SIP), it allows graduate students to explore innovative and creative approaches to issues that are outside the normal boundaries of investigation of existing graduate programs.

Women's Studies at Concordia are interdisciplinary, drawing on faculty expertise in fields such as history, anthropology, sociology, community and public affairs, education, political science, and communications. This wide scope reflects the broad impact of feminism and the increasing attention paid to questions of social justice, which are at the core of women's studies. Women's studies, therefore, extends beyond the study of "the condition of women" to provide theoretical and methodological tools to better conceptualize a wide array of social issues as well as to fight for progressive change. The research strengths of Concordia's faculty cover such topics as reproduction, sexuality, violence, health, work, poverty, militarism, media and cultural productions, politics, community organizing, development and globalization.

For more information on the new Women's Studies Research Current, visit:

<http://graduatestudies.concordia.ca/SIP/researchcurrents/currents/womensstudies/>

NEWS

The Reading Room Returns!

Studious students, bookworms and bibliophiles will be pleased to know that the Simone de Beauvoir Institute's Reading Room is once again open! Newly hired Laura Copeland will take over the Reading Room until the end of term, providing the community with valuable access to the SdBI's collection of books, journals and coursepacks, as well as helpful writing and reasearch tips.

We are pleased to welcome Laura, a Concordia graduate, to the SdBI. Having been an active member of peer organisations such as Le Frigo Vert, 2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy and QPIRG, we are sure she will bring a wealth

of feminist knowledge and sensibilities to the position. Welcome Laura!

The Reading Room is housed on the fourth floor of the Women Studies building (2170 Bishop) in MU-401, and will be open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1pm to 7pm

Scholarships

The SdBI is proud of the students who were awarded the following academic scholarships:

Mair Verthuy Scholarship:
Kinneret Sheetreit

Lillian Robinson Scholarship:
Alex Kekesi

Provost Entrance Scholarship:
Annie Thompson

Provost In-Course Scholarship:
Pamela Lamb



Drawing by Lucy Smith

<http://www.etsy.com/listing/69187483/>

Congratulations!

Grants Galore!

Dr. Geneviève Rail, Institute principal, was recently awarded a \$43,850 operating grant from the Canadian Institutes for Health Research. With the support of co-investigators and postdoctoral fellows Shannon Jette, Moss Norman and Haifa Tlili, Dr. Rail will use this first year of funding to begin a research project titled "The weight of words: Discursive constructions of obesity and health among health professionals".

Founded on a radical critique of current obesity interventions and particularly those targeting women from marginalised communities, the main objective of this research project is to examine the connections between health professionals' discursive constructions of obesity and their stated health interventions. The research team plans to content-analyze cultural sites targeting obesity, as well as conversations with 120 local health professionals. Using a feminist poststructuralist discourse analysis method to examine both "obesity" texts and "conversational" texts, their analysis will focus on the ways in which health professionals' meanings about obesity are constructed in specific (gender, age, sexuality, ethnicity/race, dis/ability, class, obesity, pregnancy status) circumstances, and how health professionals' constructions of obesity are related to their health interventions.

CIHR

Congratulations to Shannon Jette, a Simone de Beauvoir Institute postdoctoral fellow who was recently awarded a CIHR postdoctoral fellowship to work with SdBI principal, Dr. Geneviève Rail.

SSHRC

Congratulations to Isabelle Perreault, who recived a SSHRC postdoctoral fellowship to pursue her research on the history of sexology with Dr. Viviane Namaste. Bravo et bonne recherche!

PAST EVENTS

A Winter of Art and Politics

Before many of us were back from our winter break, the Simone de Beauvoir Institute community was already fully engaged in supporting meaningful occasions for political reflexion and artistic expression. How To Build a Fire Queer Sans Fin Convergence, the first of this semester's SdBI co-sponsored events, set the tone for a series of activities linking arts, community organizing and feminist research methodologies.

How To Build A Fire (HTBAF) is a workshop/performance series which has been touring the USA and Canada since early 2010. The collaborative day-long events pair multimedia performances and workshops to spark political questions, and to explore strategies for creating answers using art forms such as storytelling, movement/theatre and multimedia. In Montreal--with support from Concordia's Fine Art Student Union, Sexuality Studies Department, Simone de Beauvoir Institute, and Queer Student Union -- L.A.'s Silas Howard teamed up with local event-producer/performance artists Jordan Arsenault and Laura Boo MacDonald to create HTBAF Queer Sans Fin Convergence.

As working artists who identify variously as working-class, anti-racist white people, sex workers, genderqueer, cisgendered, trans, femme and/or survivors, those involved were proud to include their necessarily politicized stories and viewpoints in both their art and their approaches to teaching.



Leah Lackshmi takes the stage at Il Motore to present queer and disability issues through poetry and performance

About 30 students and local artists attended a day of workshops, which included Fear Drag, Open Source for Performers, and Creative Strategies for Resistance. This was paired with an evening of performances followed by a Q&A session during which a discussion about the relationship between art and activism was held.

Similar manifestations of alternative politics and cultural production were showcased at Danger and Beauty, an SdBI event co-sponsored by ACCM, Ethnoculture, Queer McGill, QPIRG McGill, QPIRG Concordia and St-Emilie Skillshare. The evening brought together a video screening of works by local video artist Mihee-Nathalie Lemoine (a.k.a Kimura Byol), a reading by the talented Vivek Shraya from his book "God Loves Hair" and a performance by powerhouse Leah Lakshmi Piepzna. Similarly to HTBAF, Leah's performance was followed by an afternoon workshop examining the creation of cultural institutions as a valid form of community organising.

More recently, the possible political impact of artistic production was also presented in Valerie Behiery's Feminist Café talk titled "Imagining the Veil in Global Contemporary Art." While this event adopted a more scholarly approach, the examination of works that uncover the possible spaces of transnational communication rather than consolidate the notion of an East-West divide, spoke to art's powerful ability to spark political change through critical reflection and personal exploration.



HTBAF Queer Sans Fin Convergence workshop participants express their politics through performance

UPCOMING EVENTS

Workshop Dates

Thursday March 17th (2pm)
Tuesday March 22nd (3pm)
Wednesday March 30th (4pm)
Thursday April 7th (4pm)
Tuesday April 12th (2pm)
Wednesday April 20th (3pm)

Library Literacy & Essay Writing Workshops

Now that the SdBI Reading Room is once again open to the public, the Simone de Beauvoir Institute is offering a second round of hour-long workshops designed for those interested in becoming more familiar with accessing academic resources and writing essays. The workshops given by Laura Copeland will take place in the Reading Room (MU-401) throughout the semester.

For more information or to sign up for a workshop, drop by the reading room or contact Laura Copeland by email: laura.s.copeland@gmail.com

WSSA Elections

If you are looking to get more involved with the Women's Studies and Sexuality Studies student association (WSSA), look no further. WSSA elections are here and we encourage our student body, new and old, to get involved by voting for their WSSA representatives!

The campaigning period will occur from March 12th to March 21st. During this time, nominated students will boast their feminist commitments towards the WSSA community in hopes of encouraging students to get involved and vote.

Polls will be open from March 22nd to March 23rd from 10am to 5pm on the Mezz of the Hall building (1455 De Maisonneuve W.)

WSSA Positions

- Executive, Internal Affairs
- Executive, External Affairs
- Executive, Finance
- Executive, Communications
- Executive, Events Coordinator
- Executive, Ad-Hoc Position

Keeping in touch

eSimone is a regular publication of the SdBI. Its purpose is to promote the organization 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

New Online Monthly Event Calendar

Busy bodies will be pleased to learn that monthly event calendar containing all upcoming SdBI events can now be downloaded on our website. This new initiative gives a quick overview of the month's activities, allowing you to pencil them into your schedule ahead of time to avoid missing any of our events due to double booking.

<http://wsdb.concordia.ca/news-and-events/>